Sheep may safely graze and pasture
In a watchful Shepherd’s sight.

J.S. Bach
Newslink is the diocesan magazine for the United Diocese of Limerick, Kilaloe & Ardfert, which also includes the historic dioceses of Aghadoe, Clonfert, Emly, Kilfenora and Kilmacduagh. For further information about the United Dioceses see the diocesan web site. Newslink also covers Methodist Southern District Circuits within the boundaries of the Church of Ireland Diocese.

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

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‘Coronavirus’ or ‘Covid-19’ as it is more properly called, came out of the blue to us all. Now we are all talking about it and experts have appeared in their hundreds!

There is little doubt that this virus will continue to have a major effect on all our lives for the coming months at least. Work, sports, medical services, even shopping are being affected in major ways. And of course parish and church life will be affected. Sunday services have been cancelled, and the celebration and marking of life’s major events – baptism, confirmation, marriage and funerals – will have to be reviewed. It may even affect and influence the process of forming a government.

There are two effects of Covid-19 that I wish to highlight. In recent years we have come to believe more and more that humans can do anything, that there is nothing beyond human capability and ingenuity. In part this assumption has led to the questioning of the basis of faith itself, for all religious faith rests on an assumption of the givenness of life and the belief that the source of that gift is God. The fact of God means we respect or worship the source of all that is given and created, but because this runs counter to assumptions about human ability and potential, many prefer to ignore or deny this otherness in the world, which we call God.

Covid-19 shatters this self-confidence. A simple flu-like virus is completely beyond our control and is affecting all of life. No doubt a control will be found and a vaccine discovered but the lesson should be learned – humans are not the masters of the universe. Just like the environmental crisis, the coronavirus demonstrates how vulnerable we all are.

Secondly, coronavirus shows that life is not just an economy; that human interaction and relationships are central to all that we are and far more important than anything an economy can give us. Covid-19 is isolating us all, we stay away from others, we self-isolate, we avoid work or sport or church, and that hurts badly because it is those interactions which show us what it is to be truly human.

Many are suffering because of this virus – some are very ill, or frightened, or bereaved because of this. They must be at the centre of all our Christian concern and prayer, and we should continue to do all that we can to support and help those hurt or made vulnerable by this virus.

With 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 six lambs were born on 28th December over a number of hours. After a number of days the mother looked after feeding four of the lambs without any bottles. She appreciated that two of her large family continued getting bottles four times a day until recently. In the shed she adopted one more lamb bringing her family to seven. The mother and her seven lambs are doing well in great outdoors. Owner of the mother and lambs is Mervyn Hardy – St Paul’s Parish Banagher.
**The big surprise lurking in your Granny’s chicken soup**

Granny always knew her chicken soup was good for you when you were poorly, but she did not realise quite how good.

Now research has found that the traditional hot broths used in many cultures to battle flu and fevers pack a bigger punch than even the cooks realised.

A range of soups, ranging from vegetable to beef and chicken, were discovered to have the power to interrupt the life cycle of Plasmodium falciparum, which causes 99 per cent of deaths from malaria. Some of them were actually as effective as a leading antimalarial drug, dihydroartemisinin, in fighting malaria.

No one particular ingredient was found to be common to the broths, but there certainly seems to be “evidence that they contain antibiotic properties”, according to one doctor. The study was carried out at the Imperial College London and Great Ormond Street Hospital.

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**Deadline Date for Submissions to Newslink**

All submissions for Newslink must be submitted by 11:59 pm on 15th of each month regardless of the day of the week. Therefore, all articles, photos and advertisements in the correct format, must be with the editorial team at newslink@limerick.anglican.org each month.

**Views Expressed**

The views expressed in the Diocesan magazine are those of those of the contributors and are not necessarily those of the editorial team.

**General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**

The editorial team is striving towards GDPR compliance, so all emails (notifications and/or reminders) are being sent as Bcc (Blind Carbon Copy).

**NB: Photographs for Newslink**

The following points must be observed if you wish the editorial team to include photographs of activities of your parishes, schools, congregations, organisations, etc.

All photographs must comply with GDPR (i.e. permission to include photos in the magazine with the person’s/people’s names in the caption).

**NEWSLINK ADVERTISING RATES FOR 2020**

(UNCHANGED from 2019, full page is A4 portrait, half page A5 landscape etc)

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**NEWSLINK ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR 2020**

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(contact: Janet Bray, 34 Abbeyview, Adare, Co. Limerick V94 XE3V.
Mobile: 086 399 6689. Email: newslink@limerick.anglican.org)

**Appointment To Castlecomer Parish, Ossory.**

‘Rev’d Edna Wakely, senior curate in Limerick City Parish, has been appointed Rector of Castlecomer in the Diocese of Ossory. Commenting on her appointment she said “Although I will be sad to leave Limerick City Parish, and the many wonderful friends I have made here, I am greatly looking forward to getting to know the people of Castlecomer Union of Parishes and serving them to the best of my ability.”

The Dean of Limerick, the Very Rev’d Niall Sloane said ‘we rejoice with Edna in her appointment she said “Although I will be sad to leave Limerick City Parish, and the many wonderful friends I have made here, I am greatly looking forward to getting to know the people of Castlecomer Union of Parishes and serving them to the best of my ability.”

The Dean of Limerick, the Very Rev’d Niall Sloane said ‘we rejoice with Edna in her appointment as Incumbent. Edna brought a variety of gifts and experiences to Limerick, which I know will be of great value to Castlecomer. We wish her God’s richest blessing in this new phase of ministry’
Partners in Prayer - April 2020
Each Sunday in April
Church of Ireland: Diocese of Down & Dromore and Bishop David McClay.

5th April, Palm Sunday, Red or Violet
Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean and Most Revd James Richard Wong Yin Song – Archbishop of the Province & Bishop of the Seychelles.
Diocese: The diocesan Safeguarding Trust coordinator Margaret Brickenden, Safeguarding trainers and members of Safeguarding panels in our parishes and diocesan organisations.

12th April, Easter Day – The First Sunday of Easter, White or Gold
Diocese: The Aughaval Union of parishes in the Diocese of Tuam, Rev Canon Jennifer McWhirter, and the congregations of Holy Trinity Westport, Christ Church Castlebar, St Thomas Dugort & Turlough Church.

19th April, The Second Sunday of Easter, White
Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of Ireland and Archbishop elect John McDowell, Primate of All Ireland.
Diocese: Limerick City Parish, Dean Niall Sloane & Rev Edna Wakely, and the congregations of St Mary’s Cathedral, St Michael’s Pery Sq, and St John’s Abington.

26th April, The Third Sunday of Easter, White
Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East and Most Revd Michael Lewis, Archbishop & Bishop of Cyprus and the Gulf.
Diocese: Members of Select Vestries throughout the dioceses.

3rd May, The Fourth Sunday of Easter, White
Church of Ireland: The Diocese of Connor and Bishop elect George Davison.
Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Nippon Sei Ko Kai (The Anglican Communion in Japan) and Most Revd Nathaniel Makoto Uematsu, Primate & Bishop of Hokkaido.
Diocese: Diocesan members attending General Synod.

A Prayer in the Time of the Coronavirus
Almighty and All–loving God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
we pray to you through Christ the Healer for those who suffer from the Coronavirus Covid–19 in Ireland and across the world.
We pray too for all who reach out to those who mourn the loss of each and every person who has died as a result of contracting the disease.
Give wisdom to policymakers, skill to healthcare professionals and researchers, comfort to everyone in distress and a sense of calm to us all in these days of uncertainty and distress.
This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord who showed compassion to the outcast, acceptance to the rejected and love to those to whom no love was shown.
Amen.
Archbishop Michael Jackson
Dublin & Glendalough

All in an April Evening
All in the April evening,
April airs were abroad;
The sheep with their little lambs
Pass’d me by on the road.

The sheep with their little lambs
Pass’d me by on the road;
All in an April evening
I thought on the Lamb of God.

The lambs were weary, and crying
With a weak human cry,
I thought on the Lamb of God
Going meekly to die.

Up in the blue, blue mountains
Dewy pastures are sweet:
Rest for the little bodies,
Rest for the little feet.

But for the Lamb of God
Up on the hill–top green,
Only a cross of shame
Two stark crosses between.

All in the April evening,
April airs were abroad;
I saw the sheep with their lambs,
And thought on the Lamb of God.

Katharine Tynan

Dean Of Killaloe and Dean’s Vicar
I very much regretted having to cancel the service of Installation and welcome for the new Dean and Dean’s Vicar of Killaloe. However, despite that, the formalities whereby The Very Revd Rod Smyth was installed as Dean of Killaloe and Revd Paul Fitzpatrick as Dean’s Vicar took place on Friday 13th March in a closed Cathedral.

While it’s not the best way to begin a new ministry for either Rod or Paul, I do wish them both every blessing and good wish for this next chapter in their lives and ministry.

Sincerely,
+Kenneth.

Notice Of Diocesan Synod - 2020
In accordance with Standing Orders, please note that the Annual Ordinary Meeting of the Diocesan Synod of the United Dioceses of Limerick & Killaloe will be held in Villiers School, North Circular Road, Limerick on Saturday 27 June 2020.
Registration from 10.00 a.m.
Synod Eucharist at 4.00 p.m.
A View from the Pew by Salters Sterling

Most else pales into insignificance in the presence of Coronavirus/Covid 19. Indeed, when partnered with the evidence of climate change words begin to fail. Taken together and, if truth were told, even separately, these phenomena bring us face to face with the uncomfortable realisation that the experiencing of creation still has the capacity to topple humankind from our twin pedestals of rationalist superiority and scientific enlightenment. When that happens we find ourselves possessed by the same fundamental emotions of fear and frustration, anger and anxiety, doubt and despair, as did our ancestors when they wrestled with ignorance and bewilderment.

Fortunately for us in Ireland, we have had demonstrated to us and for us a gleam of faithfulness. The professionals of our health service, the appropriate scholars in our universities and colleges, our leaders in the civil and public services, our politicians across all parties and our acting government have risen with magnificence to the challenges of their respective offices. Their performances on radio and television have been well-nigh perfect. They have spoken as folk having authority. Their information has been lucidly presented.

We can continue to give thanks with renewed vigour, and in the paragraph above there is much for which to give thanks. We can sometimes grow careless about the centrality of thanksgiving in our worship and even in the celebration of the Holy Communion – the Eucharist – which name itself means ‘thanksgiving’. This desire to give thanks comes to us from the work which our Creating God wrought as Saving God in Jesus of Nazareth who still comes to us as the Sustaining God whose work we recognise powerfully among us in all the activity being implemented to protect us, both as communities and individuals, and for which we must be continuously grateful. Both Lent and Easter are solemn and joyful reminders of that. Happy Easter Everybody!

Salters Sterling

Book Corner

‘Reverend Readers’ Book Club

The ‘Reverend Readers’ book club was started approximately 11 years ago in 2009 by the Rev Alan Matchett who was Rector in The Adare Union of Parishes and sadly died unexpectedly a year later. It is a tribute to him that we are still going strong after all this time.

We meet once a month except for July and August and membership numbers averaged approximately 10–15 people annually.

Every year usually in September a rota of members is drawn up so that each member has a turn to choose a book for us to read and review the following month.

Originally we chose 2 books a month to discuss but in recent years it was found more realistic to choose just 1 book each month (except for the summer months)

Each book is discussed in depth and given a score out of a maximum 10 marks

Over the years we have read and have had lively discussions and expressed controversial opinions on a wide variety of books such as fiction, non-fiction, poetry and prose from fairy tales eg Nutcracker, Alice Through the Looking Glass and to Classics eg Dickens, H.G.Wells and even the Book of Job in the Bible!

The authors or people closely connected with some of our books have attended our meetings also.

In addition we’ve had social events such as Summer BBQs, Christmas Parties and visits to the cinema and theatre to see films and plays that we have reviewed.

Our numbers can fluctuate from year to year as some members may have to drop in or out for a time for personal reasons. Many who cannot attend or have left the area keep in touch and follow our reading lists.

We are all ages and genders with many different cultural interests and backgrounds.

We are relaxed, have fun and often are challenged into reading material that may be outside of our comfort zone! To date we have read about 122 books

Also we really appreciate the support of our local libraries and their staff in sourcing books for us.

Currently we meet in the Woodlands Hotel Adare and each month our Secretary Liz Adam circulates the results of the meeting with the book’s mark and the new book choice plus the date of the next meeting.

Borrowbox

For those who may not be aware of it, your local library offers a download service to which it has subscribed. This Borrowbox “app” is designed and powered by Bolinda Digital.

You need to have a valid library card and a device (smartphone or tablet) onto which you download a free Borrowbox “app”. You can borrow up to five eBooks + 5 eAudiobooks at any one time. You may reserve books as well. There is an extensive selection of books, so if you want to listen to your favourite Dick Francis or Georgette Heyer novels, you just download and listen or read. You can select from a wide variety of genres, including children’s books – most applicable now that we have been asked to reduce our travelling and to stay indoors.

SUGGESTIONS TAKEN FROM BORROWBOX

- Guy Shrubsole, Who Owns England?, eAudiobook
- David Montero, Kickback, eAudiobook
- Flann O’Brien, The Third Policeman, eAudiobook
- Emilio Estевez & Martin Sheen, Along the Way, eAudiobook
- Caitriona Perry, In America, eBook
- Andrea Camilleri, The Other End of the Line, eBook
Diocesan Organisations

Mothers’ Union

OUR THEME FOR 2020
“Building Hope & Confidence”

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:
• April 2nd – Holy Communion Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin 11.15am. Limerick & Killaloe hosting with Derry & Raphoe Diocese
• April 18th – Diocesan Council/Trustees, Roscrea
• April 25th – All Ireland Council 10.30am, Christ Church Cathedral, Music Room

DIOCESAN NOTES:
By this time you will all be well aware of the effects of Covid 19 on our daily lives. It has also, unfortunately, been necessary to cancel our branch meetings for the foreseeable future, and indeed, the above dates will more than likely be changed or cancelled also. Hopefully, these measures will make sure that we are kept safe and in some way slow down and halt the progression of the virus. I hope that you and your families keep safe and well, and I suppose, on the up side, our gardens will probably be better attended and we will be able to catch up on all those things that we never seem to get time for!

LIMERICK CITY BRANCH:
At the end of February Edward Stokell, who is from South Africa, came to tell us what it is like to live in direct provision. Edward has been living here for quite some time and explained to us the reasons why he had made the decision to leave his home country, where he was running a business, to travel all the way to Ireland to seek a better way of life. Listening to Edward and his story it seems that Ireland would benefit greatly from the skills and knowledge that Asylum seekers bring. Edward explained the day to day running of the centre where he lives and the lengthy processes and many stages that he must go through before being granted leave to stay in Ireland, and this is not always the final outcome.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! At our branch meeting we all celebrated with Betty McGlone as she cut her birthday cake with the help of Vida Cowpar and Patsy Pomeroy. We wish Betty many happy times in the year to come.

BALLYCULLAH BRANCH:
“The Birds And The Bees”
The topic of the birds and the bees was up for discussion at the March meeting of St John’s Mother’s Union. However, not in the traditional sense! What to grow in your garden to encourage pollination and support the wildlife was the theme for our guest speakers. Beekeeper, Anne Towers, complete with a beehive (no bees of course), outlined the role of the various types of bees and how they use the hive. With a very intricate process and a delicate balance of nature, members were encouraged to grow flowers and shrubs to allow the bees to collect pollen and nectar to produce their sweet honey. Ness Porter Kelly, from the local Grow It Yourself group, gave sound advice on how and what to feed the birds including the best things to grow to bring birds into your garden. Anne and Ness were both presented with gifts, including a toy bumble bee for Anne.

The Branch is very grateful to the Ballinasloe Christian Fellowship for providing a venue for their meetings following a fire in our usual venue, Gullane’s Hotel.

With the concerns about the Covid 19 virus future Branch meetings have been cancelled for the time being and members will be advised as soon as the programme can be resumed.

WWDP PRESS RELEASE
“Take your mat and walk”
This year’s Women’s World Day of Prayer was hosted by Creagh Church and led by Maureen Casey. Prepared by the women of Zimbabwe, the theme for the annual ecumenical service was “Rise – take up your mat and walk” and based on the Bible reading in John 5:2. The readers came from Creagh, St Michael’s and St John’s Churches and a committee with Maureen Casey, Penny Kearney, Ann McCullagh, Agnes & Una Dignan, Muriel Duthie, Jackie Eastwood, Jane Treacy, Deirdre Lyons, and Valerie Swanwick had been meeting to share the Bible study and prepare the service.

Maureen Casey explained during the service that the Women’s World Day of Prayer is celebrated throughout the world in many churches, universities, organisations, schools and in people’s homes.

The altar in Creagh Church was decorated with the colours of the Zimbabwean flag together with a painting of their national flower, the flame lily, by local artist Jackie Eastwood. Music for the evening was provided by Nellie Hurley-Moclair accompanied by members of the Creagh Church Choir. Refreshments following the service were kindly hosted by the Parish Pastoral Council Hospitality Committee and allowed time for a chat and catch up among the congregation.
The 2021 service, to be held in St Michael's Church, will be prepared by the women of Vanuatu, an island in the South Pacific Ocean, and based on “build a strong foundation.” Anyone wishing to take part in next Bible Study Group should keep an eye on the Parish Bulletin for details at the beginning of the year.

Diocesan Council for Mission

REPORT ON ECUMENICAL EVENING in Lorrha Community Centre, Sat 29th. Feb.
In spite of atrocious weather conditions and local flooding, a large number of people attended. The speaker was George Harding, a native of Lorrha, and now in his second year of studies at UCD.

George Harding

In July 2019, after almost 12 months of preparation, ten students from UCD travelled out to Tamil Nadu, in Southern India as volunteers on a 4 week pilot project. Tamil Nadu has a population of 81.5 million people and is about 1.5 times the size of Ireland, which means the province is densely populated, allowing for a number of large cities and towns. Having already selected a local rural community in which to reside and, bearing in mind that they were on a pilot project to find out the specific needs and material requirements of the inhabitants, the volunteers set to work in three areas:

1. ‘Mother self-help groups’, which are broadly equivalent to our Credit Unions. It is traditional that the women stay at home to raise the family while the men-folk go off to the local cities or large towns to get work. George was impressed by the attitude to innovation and self-help which he found in the community, the ladies certainly do not let the ‘grass grow under their feet’!

2. Education and technical training. There is an emphasis on learning English, which is essential if a young person is to find long term employment, whether in local government or in one of the large co-operations as Indian society rapidly becomes more industrialised. Over the four weeks, the volunteers renovated a number of class rooms in a local secondary school.

3. Agriculture, which is the back bone of the rural community, bearing in mind the size of the population. While they were there, they visited paddy fields, met many cows! (which are still sacred in Indian society), seen the key role horticulture plays in feeding the local community and assisted in the construction of a poly-tunnel.

Even though it is illegal under the constitution, the ‘caste system’ still plays an important part in the lives of people living in rural communities throughout India.

As a result of their endeavours, it is quite likely that there will be a long term project relationship between the Society for UCD Volunteers Overseas and the people of Tamil Nadu in South India. Funds permitting, George hopes to return as a volunteer for a longer period before he completes his studies at UCD.

NEXT MEETING OF THE DCM COMMITTEE IS SCHEDULED FOR SAT. 4TH. APRIL IN THE WOODLANDS HOTEL, ADARE AT 10.45 A.M.

Dorothy Brislane Communications Officer
David Frizelle Secretary

United Diocesan Youth Council

PAST EVENTS
Fundraising Coffee Morning with Cake & Home Produce Sale
On Saturday 7th March our Fundraising Coffee Morning with Cake & Home Sale took place at Adare Methodist Hall. It was great to see so many people come together, some familiar faces with many new faces. All had a great chat over a lovely cup of coffee or tea with a scone. There was a great variety of cakes, marmalade, cupcakes, biscuits, eggs, rhubarb, flowers, apple juice etc. We wish to thank everyone who came to support us and who brought lovely produce to sell. Also thank you for everyone involved in organising this event, it was a great success.
Our Annual Fundraising Draw also took place where 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes were announced. The winners were as follows: 1st Prize – Hilary Park – Limerick, 2nd Prize – Jackson Family – Aghancon and 3rd Prize – Eleanor Wakefield – Shinrone. Again, a massive thank you for everyone who sold and bought tickets.

APPEAL FOR INDIVIDUAL & PARISH DONATIONS
We simply would like to also record a huge THANK – YOU to every individual, family, group and parishes for all of the donations received to date. All of these donations have absolutely helped to make a huge difference to UDYC finances.

FUTURE EVENTS
Annual General Meeting
Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday the 4th of April 2020 at 2.30 pm for Refreshments with meeting commencing at 3 pm in Basement Meeting Room, Richmond Terrace, Henry Street, Limerick City. We would appreciate attendance from as many people as possible.

For more information on any of our events or activities, please contact Edward (087) 2907553/ edhardy70@gmail.com or Valerie Walker 085 2832487/ vwalker@tcd.ie or myself. Please see UDYC Facebook & Instagram page.

Until next time;
Kate O’Brien
0867303268/ kateobrien1706@gmail.com

SCHOOL NEWS

St. Nicholas’ National School, Adare

Our annual Prize Day took place on Friday 28th February with Mayor Michael Sheahan as our invited guest. This was the first time a mayor had visited the school so it was a special occasion. We were not disappointed as Mayor Sheahan wore his chain of office and told us all about the work of the mayor. He brought along his bodyguard to mind the chain of office! He also brought his ‘everyday’ chain and the youngest and oldest pupils in the school were allowed to try it on! He presented every pupil with a prize for their efforts in 2019. Following the prizegiving, parents and friends were invited to the senior classroom where 6th class pupils served tea and coffee and lots of home-made treats. The money raised, €340, has been given to the Make a Wish Foundation and Animal Shelter. Well done to the pupils in 5th and 6th classes for all the delicious treats and for their organisational skills.

We were delighted to welcome Gareth and his team from Postal Bible Times for our annual prizegiving in early March. As usual there was lots of singing, stories and games before everyone was presented with their prize.

Our Gaelic football skills are being honed at the moment as Jerome Stack visits the school every week to teach us new skills. He works with all age groups and all the pupils look forward to his coaching classes.

The senior pupils were invited to sing at the Women’s World Day of Player in Embury Close on Friday 6th March.
As we come to terms with the closure of all schools until the end of March, teachers will engage with pupils via e-mail and send work home until we re-open. This is a very difficult time for everyone and we hope and pray that all our staff, families and friends remain safe and healthy.

**St. Mary’s National School, Nenagh**

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.
*William Wordsworth – “I wandered lonely as a cloud”*

The longer days and dancing daffodils are here again. This spring time sees a host of activities at St Mary’s.

A huge thank-you is offered to Our Parents’ Association who organised the Valentine’s raffle. 160 euro was raised towards funding part of our school tour this summer term. Thanks are also due to the families who supported the Cash4Clobber initiative at school.

World Book Day took place on 5th March and every pupil had the chance to visit Nenagh Bookshop to choose a free book. It was a lovely experience for all and we thank Nenagh Bookshop for their kindness, warm welcome and patient answering of many, many questions!

On 12th March we braved the elements for our school sponsored walk. The pupils greatly enjoyed the activity and it was for a great cause, so thank you to everyone, pupils, staff and parents, who donned their trainers to facilitate the event.

Our school Aquatics programme takes place at Nenagh Pool on 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th of March.

Wellbeing Wednesday will take place on 25th March and 29th April. On Thursday 2nd April the boys and girls of the Senior Classes will run a school Mini-fair. There will be a cake stall, book stall and some fun activities for all. As ever, we are grateful to our dedicated parents who help and support these events.

On 3rd April the entire school community will don old clothes for our annual ‘Spring-Clean’ of our school grounds.

School will close at 12.00 on 3rd April and 12.30 on April 29th to facilitate Staff Training.

**Saint Michael’s National School, Limerick**

**SAINT MICHAEL’S CHOIR**

Christmas wouldn’t be the same
If Saint Michael’s Choir never came,
But faithfully they come each year
And fill our hearts with Christmas cheer.

They all walk down – hail, rain or snow
And give us all a lovely show,
With songs we’ve heard from long ago
And new ones too that we don’t know.

Enthralled we listen, ah the bliss
X-Factor’s not a patch on this!
*(Rose O’Connor, Richmond Terrace resident)*

The school received this beautifully worded poem from a resident in Richmond Terrace, Limerick, when our school choir paid their annual Christmas visit to bring festive cheer. What a heartfelt compliment and show of appreciation, linking the school and the older generation in the wider community.

Our pupils in Saint Michael’s NS are very privileged to have opportunities to participate in Dance and Music Generation classes. Junior, and Senior Infants and First Class have enjoyed six weeks of wonderful dance classes with Angela. The obvious progress from the first class to the last has been amazing! Boys and girls alike have adored learning new ways to dance and the freedom to use our precious Hall for indoor pursuits is so welcome. Pupils from Second to Sixth Classes have equally enjoyed musical education with Steve every Friday this year. They are composing, listening, responding and performing musical activities within their own peer age setting. For those pupils who take music lessons outside of school hours, it has been a great opportunity to share their own talents and instruments with their classmates.
We celebrated World Book Day on Friday March 6th by inviting all pupils and staff to dress up as favourite book characters. The response was inspiring and very imaginative! A makeshift catwalk in the Hall allowed each class to model their costumes and share their ideas with other classes. We feel that this celebration of World Book Day greatly heightens the awareness and magic of the importance and delight reading gives each of us.

As per usual here in Saint Michael’s NS, we go on our school trips out of the usually busy summer term. Fifth and Sixth Classes kickstarted this year’s tours with a visit to Mitchelstown Caves, Cahir Castle and the Rock of Cashel. The bus journey alone is a delight for pupils to enjoy. The mix of the ancient world of underground cave formations as well as the real-life experience of spending time in very old buildings and ruins, had a memorable impact on all who attended. We were blessed with a dry, sunny day in the midst of our incessant wet weather of late!

We were delighted to welcome Gareth, Margaret, Noel and Anne from the Postal Bible School to our school for the Annual Presentation and Prize giving. This was a great occasion when pupils received prizes for the work they carried out during the previous calendar year. We are very grateful to the Postal Bible School not only for the wonderful array of prizes, but also for all that the Postal Bible School does for us throughout the year.

Well done to our teams who took part in the FAI Primary School 5s Competition at Ballmackey FC. The girls were in action first and put in tremendous performances on the day. Congratulations to both teams and especially to Aimee, Tabitha, Erin, Ella, Olive and Alina on Team B who got through to the final, won the final and progress to the next round. Unfortunately the competition for the boys was called off on the day due to inclement weather conditions. Thank you very much to James Scott, Football Development Officer North Tipperary and to his team of helpers, for all their work organizing these events.

To mark World Book Day 2020 all classes enjoyed a visit to Sheelagh na Gig bookshop in Cloughjordan where they got a chance to use their World Book Day vouchers.

Thank you very much to Declan Gaffney, once again, for his weekly visits to our garden tunnel, showing us all how to plant and care for our plants. Due to the sudden closure of schools the children brought home their plants sooner than expected – a surprise early gift this year for Mother’s Day!

We were delighted to welcome Richard Clarke and Leroy Kuleczynski to school to teach a Safe Cycling Course to our 5th and 6th Class pupils. We are very grateful to An Taisce for part subsidising this course. Unfortunately the course has been affected by school closure, we hope it can be completed at a future date.

As these notes are being submitted school closure announced by An Taoiseach has just commenced. We hope that all will stay well during this outbreak of Covid-19 and that people will look after each other as best they can during this time of uncertainty.
LEAF PROGRAMME
As I mentioned in last month’s notes we in Rathkeale 2 NS are taking part in An Taisce’s LEAF (Learning About Forests) Programme. Part of the programme involves some classroom work on forests or trees. We’ve discovered that according to the Celtic horoscope everyone has a birth tree, similar to a star sign, depending on which month you were born in. They believed that a person’s birth tree influenced their personality. We had fun looking up our birth tree and reading about the various personality traits.

The second part of the programme involved a visit to Curraghchase Forest Park with two members of the LEAF team. Our visit took place on Wednesday 26th February. After some warm up games in the car park we divided into two groups. The groups separated to explore different parts of the forest. Children got the opportunity to examine the forest floor, searching the habitat for mini beasts, using magnifying glasses and eye lenses. They were reminded of the importance of the decomposers and also of the vital role trees play in producing oxygen. We spent some time estimating the age of trees by measuring the circumference of the tree at a height of 1.5 metres. We also spent some quiet time simply listening to the sounds of nature.

While the weather was not exactly spring like there were some signs of spring coming to Curraghchase. We discovered several different types of tree seeds which had begun to germinate. We located a giant redwood tree and were all amazed at how soft and spongy the bark is. This helps prevent the tree from burning in forest fires in its native California. Finally we stopped at the ruins of Curraghchase House which is now the home to the lesser horseshoe bat, one of Ireland’s protected species.

We look forward to one of the LEAF team visiting our school in May for a school based day.

WORLD BOOK DAY
We marked World Book Day in early March. Pupils in the junior classroom brought in some of their favourite books and pupils from the senior classroom took turns to read from them. All pupils received a World Book Day book voucher.

OPEN HOUR
Our Open Hour, giving new pupils an opportunity to see the school took place on Wednesday 11th March. We are now taking applications for September 2020. Please contact the school for an application form. The closing date for receipt of applications is March 31st 2020.
Villiers School

Congratulations to Bryan Smyth, Jack Haverty and Aaron Maunsell who collected their national student awards today for achieving joint 1st place in Junior Cert HL and OL Technology respectively.

Rugby: Great result for Villiers School rugby when our Senior Boys progress to the Mungret cup semi-final following a 13-13 draw vs Middleton CBS in a Titanic battle (2T vs 1T decided the game). However, it was hard luck today for our SCT who were knocked out of cup action today by Middleton College on a scoreline of 22-5. We are proud of this young team who represented the school so well this year. Thanks boys.

Hockey: An unfortunate result in the semi-final as our seniors lost out to Newtown but thank you to all our wonderful students, parents and past pupils who supported us - best of luck to Newtown School in the final.

Villiers are very proud of Tiarnan Gaffney who was capped as an U16 Irish Hockey International player - fantastic achievement Tiarnan

Congratulations to all those who took part in the regional finals for Junk Couture. We had 4 teams representing Villiers. A wonderful achievement.

NEWS FROM THE VILLIERS SANCTUARY

It is with some regret that we have had to cancel our upcoming Camino trip due to the Covid19 Virus. A lot of disappointment in the air but we went back to our original purpose for the trip which was to raise funds for disabled children in Uganda and this has been a wonderful success. All is quiet here in Villiers as I write this due to the school closure but I am certain that all will be well once again.

It is time to talk calmly to our students, particularly those in exam years and not get too anxious about current events. I have been giving a message to all our community in the last few days and weeks, which is based on that wonderful piece of scripture;

‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself! There is no other commandment greater than these." (Mk 12:30-31).

I think that this is such an important message particularly at the moment in our society. Our behaviour towards others and our concern for others is an attitude that we need to practice now more than ever. Young people learn from the way that we behave so we should be modelling good behaviour not only in regards to our health but also in our everyday lives. There are many reasons why people behave in particular ways. We often learn our behaviour from those around us, whether they are family, friends or peers. In some cases, this can be a good thing, but at other times, it can lead us into doing things that are not acceptable, and that we would not normally have considered taking part in. So rather than seeing images of panic shoppers wouldn’t it be wonderful to see images of people looking out for the vulnerable, the elderly and each other. After all, as Christians that is precisely what we are called to do! How do we behave? Let’s think carefully about the way in which we behave today. How does our behaviour affect others? Try to understand the effect that your actions might have on those around you as well as on yourself. Does your behaviour help others or hinder them? Do we listen to advice? Let’s aim to take advice respectfully when it is given. Try and stay safe and remember to love each other, even those we don’t know.

Prayer

Dear God, Thank you for Villiers school and all in our community. Thank you for those who care for us and advise us on our life’s journey. Please help us to think about the effect that our actions have upon other people. Help us to think of others before ourselves.

Amen

Until next time,

Blessings and peace

Chaplain Jackie McNair

Praise God... and wash your hands!

Public health advice is to wash our hands often with soap for at least 20 seconds during the Corona virus emergency. As an alternative to singing “Happy Birthday” twice to time your handwashing, why not try singing the Doxology?

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Listen to it at: youtu.be/sEjc2esWNAs

Choristers singing the Doxology
**Who moved the stone?**

Frank Morrison was an investigative journalist who was a sceptic when it came to religion. He decided to write a book to disprove the claims of Christ, specifically focussed on the last week of His life.

However, when he came to consider the evidence for himself, he was drawn reluctantly to a different outcome than he had imagined. He found that the evidence proved the story to be true, including the fact that Jesus not only died but rose again. In the end he wrote a different kind of book called ‘Who Moved the Stone?’ with the first chapter entitled, ‘The book that refused to be written.’

The veracity of the Christian faith is grounded on historical fact. Not only was Jesus a real person, a figure of history, but His death was real, and so was His resurrection. Examine the evidence for yourself. Read the gospel accounts openly and honestly and see what happens. The truth is there for anyone willing to consider the facts.

Easter reminds us that our faith rests on solid ground. It is why we celebrate Easter Sunday with such gusto. The Resurrection proves that Jesus was who He said He was (the Son of God) and that He did what He set out to do (save us from our sin). But more than that, it reminds us that He can deliver what He promised and help us today because He is alive for evermore.

Jesus is not a figure of history, locked away in the past. No, He is a risen Saviour who is alive today and who invites each of us to receive the gift of salvation, and to live a new life in fellowship with Him.

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**Passionflower**

Why is the passionflower called the passionflower? This beautiful climbing plant that grows in many of our gardens, was discovered in South America by Spanish missionaries centuries ago. Drawings were sent back to Europe and in 1609 an Italian priest interpreted the flower to represent the crucifixion, otherwise known as the Passion.

The five petals and five sepal represent the 10 disciples who remained steadfast (Judas and Peter both abandoned Jesus). The corona is the crown of thorns. The stigma is the cross or nails, and the five stamens are the number of wounds Jesus received.

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**Easter: the most joyful day of the year**

Easter is the most joyful day of the year for Christians. Christ has died for our sins. We are forgiven. Christ has risen! We are redeemed! We can look forward to an eternity in His joy! Hallelujah!

The Good News of Jesus Christ is a message so simple that you can explain it to someone in a few minutes. It is so profound that for the rest of their lives they will still be ‘growing’ in their Christian walk with God.

Why does the date move around so much? Because the date of Passover moves around, and according to the biblical account, Easter is tied to the Passover. Passover celebrates the Israelites’ exodus from Egypt and it lasts for seven days, from the middle of the Hebrew month of Nisan, which equates to late March or early April.

Sir Isaac Newton was one of the first to use the Hebrew lunar calendar to come up with firm dates for Good Friday: Friday 7 April 30 AD or Friday 3 April, 33 AD, with Easter Day falling two days later. Modern scholars continue to think these the most likely.

Most people will tell you that Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox, which is broadly true. But the precise calculations are complicated and involve something called an ‘ecclesiastical full moon’, which is not the same as the moon in the sky. The earliest possible date for Easter in the West is 22 March, which last fell in 1818. The latest is 25 April, which last happened in 1943.

Why the name, ‘Easter’? In almost every European language, the festival’s name comes from ‘Peshach’, the Hebrew word for Passover. The Germanic word ‘Easter’, however, seems to come from Eostre, a Saxon fertility goddess mentioned by the Venerable Bede. He thought that the Saxons worshipped her in ‘Eostur month’, but may have confused her with the classical dawn goddesses like Eos and Aurora, whose names mean ‘shining in the east’. So, Easter might have meant simply ‘beginning month’ – a good time for starting up again after a long winter.

Finally, why Easter eggs? On one hand, they are an ancient symbol of birth in most European cultures. On the other hand, hens start laying regularly again each Spring. Since eggs were forbidden during Lent, it’s easy to see how decorating and eating them became a practical way to celebrate Easter.

**Easter faith**

Three years after the Russian Revolution of 1917, a great anti-God rally was arranged in Kiev. The powerful orator Bukharin was sent from Moscow, and for an hour he demolished the Christian faith with argument, abuse and ridicule. At the end there was silence.

Then a man rose and asked to speak. He was a priest of the Russian Orthodox Church. He went and stood next to Bukharin. Facing the people, he raised his arms and spoke just three triumphant words: ‘Christ is risen!’

At once the entire assembly rose to their feet and gave the joyful response, ‘He is risen indeed!’ It was a devastating moment for an atheist politician, who had no answer to give to this ancient Easter liturgy. He had not realised he was simply too late: how can you convince people who have already experienced God, that He does not exist?
God in the Garden – Death stalks the garden

Murder was done in my garden a few days ago. The wings and feathers of an unfortunate wood pigeon lie strewn over the flowerbed beside the water-filled famine pot where pigeons often come to drink. And I think I know the culprit: next day I spotted the feral cat we often see skulking close by, no doubt hoping for another meal. I wrote murder, but that is the wrong word. The cat was simply doing what God has created cats to do, and deserves no moral blame. Cats kill to eat, and God feeds cats as well as people.

We all know that a different killer is stalking God’s wider garden just now – the Covid-19 corona virus – and we human beings are its prey. It appears that for most the disease is quite mild. It kills a proportion of both older people like me and those with pre-existing conditions, though even for these 90% or so will recover. The Chinese and the Koreans seem to have brought it under some control, and we can pray that we in Europe will do so too, but I think most of us will be infected eventually. Lives can be saved if we succeed in reducing the rate that it spreads (‘flattening the curve’), so that the health service is not overwhelmed, and those who need intensive care can get it. This is why it is so important for us to follow official public health guidance. Let us be the good people God has made us to be by doing so, showing God’s love to our neighbours.

I do not fear death, though I hope to stay around to see the grandchildren grow up, and perhaps to welcome their children. I am apprehensive about dying, dreading indignity and suffering, but perhaps Covid-19 is not the worst death.

The way I see it is this. My life from birth to death is like a 3 dimensional string in the 4 dimensions of space-time, starting at birth and ending in death. My life-string twines around the life-strings of every other person I encounter along the way, including family, friends, neighbours and strangers. God is not constrained by dimensions and sees the whole of my life-string, from birth to death. God judges me as a function of the love I show, both for him and for every person my life-string touches, summed over the whole of my life-string, because love is what pleases God. And despite the times I have displeased him, I believe that God is forgiving and will always love me, always love the whole of my life-string, just as he sees and loves everyone else’s. This, to me, is eternal life, why I do not fear death.

And God’s garden is full of life as well as death. While we worry about Covid-19, the natural world burgeons and unfolds as the days lengthen, this year as every year. The buds of Magnolia stellata in my garden have opened already. The pussy willow is yellow with pollen for the bees. And other pigeons are billing and cooing, getting ready to raise a new generation.

www.greenhouseireland.ie or www.polydome.ie
We welcome John Jarvis back, fully recovered after a nasty health scare.

Finally, we wish Tom Tyrell well, as he continues his treatment and removed copious bags of debris.

In every parish there are people who take on responsibilities for the smooth running of all the unseen and thankless jobs that are part and parcel of keeping a community running smoothly. Audrey O’Brien is Secretary of the select vestry and for years she has done so much thankless work. From organizing meetings, printing forms, recording minutes, notifying members, compiling data and general secretarial jobs. On top of this she participates with all the other ladies, in the church cleaning, the tea and coffee, served every Sunday and takes her turn providing flowers on her allocated month.

Thank you Audrey for all that you do for this parish.

While we are handing out accolades, we are also indebted to Paul Butler and Leslie Hartigan who repaired a number of the worn under his pew…may not be rugby boots!

of the Manseragh Cup 1970. Rumour has it he still keeps his boots receiving an All-stars award for captaining the rugby team winners until Covid-19 put paid to the whole enterprise.

NEW ARRIVALS!

Congratulations to Dermot and Lorraine Burke on the birth of their daughter, Emily, and to Roy and Claire Gill on the birth of their son, Conor. Both are grandchildren of Henry and Anne Gill. Congratulations, too, to Ross and Amy Jackson on the birth of their son, Luke, a younger brother for Adam, and a grandson for Barbara and Arthur. Much continued growth for Dorrha and Lockeen parishes!

LENIENT SERVICES

On Wednesday evenings during Lent, we had been planning a series of celebrations of the Holy Eucharist in the homes of parishioners. Many thanks to Suzanne Corcoran and Whitten and Linda Gill, who hosted the first two evenings which were comprised of the Eucharist and a short Bible Study. We were due to visit Diane Dagg, David and Joy Frizelle, and Lord and Lady Rosse for the next three Wednesdays, and a short Bible Study. We were due to visit Diane Dagg, David and Joy Frizelle, and Lord and Lady Rosse for the next three Wednesdays, until Covid-19 put paid to the whole enterprise.

New Stars Award 2020 Congratulations to David McCorduck on receiving an All-stars award for capturing the rugby team winners of the Manseragh Cup 1970. Rumour has it he still keeps his boots under his pew…may not be rugby boots!
A NEW INITIATIVE A get-together and chat with Roscrea and Dunkerrin Asylum Seekers takes place on Wednesdays 11.00 till 12.00 noon. Everyone is welcome to join in the activities in the Youth centre opposite the Old St.Cronan’s School, Gaol Rd.

CONGRATULATIONS to Revd. Rod Smyth rector on Nenagh Group of Parishes on his appointment to St.Flannan’s Cathedral Killaloe as Dean and to Priest-assistant to Revd. Paul Fitzpatrick who will work with the new Dean in Nenagh and Killaloe.

WELCOME Revd. Olive Henderson to Banagher and as Priest-in-Charge of Clonfert Group.

ST.BRENDAN’S SOCIETY whose emphasis is all things Celtic came to visit St.Cronan’s Church on Sunday March 8th. as part of their pilgrimage to Seir Ciarán. The small band of pilgrims led by Revd. Martin Hanly, rector of Baltinglass, were addressed by Mr. Adrian Hewson on the Celtic roots of St.Cronan and his move to Roscrea.

WOMEN’S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER took place in St.Cronan’s (COI) on Firday March 6th. 2020. The service was prepared by the women of Zimbabwe and led by Pam Troy Co-leader of the Elam Pentecostal Church in Roscrea and herself a native of Zimbabwe. The service included all four denominations in Roscrea taking part in an energetic liturgy not least because of Pam’s special gift of singing. Mai Phelan was at the organ and Elam Oasis Roscrea, provided the African drums. The order of service offered suggestions for native food which Pam also supplied. Her native huts made of cake though,... no one had the heart to actually eat. The service moves on to the Methodist Church next year.

Covid -19 prevents notice of any near future dates with any certainty. Like everywhere else restrictions are in place. We look forward to the time in the not too distant future when our land will have beaten the virus.

Nenagh Union of Parishes
Nenagh, Templederry, Ballymackey & Killodieran
Rector: Rev Rod Smyth
Tel: 067 32598 Mob: 087 970 6479
eMail: rsmyth6582@btinternet.com

GFS DIOCESAN SERVICE
Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 crisis the Diocesan GFS service which had been scheduled to take place in St Mary’s Nenagh, on Saturday 21st March had to be postponed. This came as a great disappointment to all concerned, but it is hoped that, once we get through this immediate period of social distancing, the service will be rescheduled so that we can all celebrate the achievements of the girls over this past year.

ECO CONGREGATION AUDIT
During this winter, the Select Vestry asked a small working group to carry out an eco-congregation audit for the Nenagh Union. The working
group reported back to vestry with a very full report highlighting both strengths and weaknesses. The steering group identified three things on which to concentrate during the next year; firstly an ecumenical service to take place as part of Creation Tide, secondly an audit of what steps we might take to make reduce the carbon footprint of our Union and thirdly, an ‘eco tip’ section in each edition of the parish newsletter. In addition, during Lent, and linking in with our Lenten bible study on ‘Caring for the Garden of the Earth’, a detailed leaflet was issued with the March newsletter detailing how parishioners might seek to use less plastic during Lent as part of their Lenten discipline.

INSTALLATION IN KILLALOE
The Installation Service of Rev’d Rod Smyth as Dean of Killaloe and Priest-in-Charge of the Killaloe and Stardbally Unions of parishes, and the Rev’d Paul Fitzpatrick as Dean’s Vicar to serve in the Killaloe, Stardbally and Nenagh Unions had to be cancelled due to the present government restrictions. The necessary formalities, whereby the Very Rev’d Rod Smyth was installed as Dean of Killaloe and Rev’d Paul Fitzpatrick as Dean’s Vicar, took place privately.

A particular set of circumstances very often calls for thinking outside the box, and that is what has been taking place over the last twelve months in Killaloe. The result is what one might describe as a novel arrangement, as two full-time clergy take up the challenge of ministry in a larger ministerial area, stretching all the way from Mountshannon to Templederry.

The simple fact of the matter is that, across the diocese, the effectiveness of rural ministry is being challenged by decreasing numbers and the considerable distances involved. Indeed, at Diocesan Council level, there is now a working party drawing up a strategic plan for ministry across the whole Diocese for the future. The days of one Rector leaving there is now a working party drawing up a strategic plan for ministry across the whole Diocese for the future. The days of one Rector leaving there is now a working party drawing up a strategic plan for ministry across the whole Diocese for the future. The days of one Rector leaving there is now a working party drawing up a strategic plan for ministry across the whole Diocese for the future. The days of one Rector leaving there is now a working party drawing up a strategic plan for ministry across the whole Diocese for the future. The days of one Rector leaving there is now a working party drawing up a strategic plan for ministry across the whole Diocese for the future. The days of one Rector leaving there is now a working party drawing up a strategic plan for ministry across the whole Diocese for the future. The days of one Rector leaving there is now a working party drawing up a strategic plan for ministry across the whole Diocese for the future. The days of one Rector leaving there is now a working party drawing up a strategic plan for ministry across the whole Diocese for the future.

He showed pictures of how the cocoa pods grow, about 40 directly up the trunk of the cocoa tree. During the harvest women harvest about 600 cocoa pods by hand with machetes. These are then chopped open to reveal about 30 beans in a sweet-tasting, jelly-like substance. The beans are then dried over about a week. The empty pods are used for making soap.

Most of the producers live in extreme poverty, on less than a €1 a day. Ten really powerful companies control the world’s cocoa plantations, explained Peter Gaynor (CEO of Fairtrade Mark Ireland), with child labour and an estimated 30,000 people in slavery in the West African cocoa industry.

"Most of the world’s chocolate is eaten in the EU, so we need human rights standards to be put in place for chocolate," he said. “Our Government must join with other EU governments to put in place accountable standards. In 2018 there were chocolate sales here of €615 million so the Irish Government earned €115 million in VAT on the back of the poorest in the world."

He urged people to press our political representatives to push for such standards, in addition to taking responsibility as consumers by choosing Fairtrade products, which are available in many shops.

He encouraged Cloughjordan to consider becoming a Fair Trade town, whereby the local community commits to buying Fair Trade and raising awareness of how it benefits the world’s poorest. The evening finished with a tasting of Fair Trade tea, with three different teas from Aldi, Lidl and SuperValu Own Brand Fairtrade. And despite it being Lent, there were Fair Trade chocolates on offer too.

(Emma Pocock)

Unfortunately, we have had to cancel our Confirmation Classes and ecumenical Lenten Bible Study due to the coronavirus. The Confirmation Service has been postponed to November. We have also had to cancel Church Services for the rest of March and will advise congregants about services in April in due course.
Shinrone Group of Parishes
Aghancon, Dunkerrin, Kinnity & Shinrone
Priest-in-Charge (Part-time): Rev Charles McCartney
Mob: 087 709 4468
eMail: dunroamin.mccartney@btopenworld.com

SUNDAY SERVICES
We will advertise this month on our parish notice sheet due to the present national emergency and changing situation.

EASTER VESTRY
We had plans for Easter Vestry meetings and again we will advertise on our own notice sheet when the guidelines for meeting become clear.

EASTER SERVICES
We will advertise locally.

We have plans for our Youth group and the Select Vestries treated us to a very nice lunch out, the theme “you are important to us”. Bishop Kenneth joined us for lunch and discussion, we look forward to a pet service and more integration of our youth. Plans are being developed, but again we must support the authorities as they fight Corona virus, this must be our main effort also. We have a photo of the group and we really do look forward to better times.

Shinrone Youth Group with Bishop Kenneth and Rev Charles. Cecilia hiding behind Charles!

We where very sorry to loose Rebecca Johnston 14th February 1925 - 3rd March 2020. The Funeral service was in Dunkerrin Church and we assure Daphne and her husband of our sorrow with them as a Church and also to the family circle.

The Rev Janet White-Spunner provided the Tribute and the Rev Terry Mitchell a Bible Reading and Sermon. The Rev Charles Mc Cartney led the service and family members Great Grand Daughter Emma and Mum Amanda read from the Bible and a prayer poem.

Just as we go to press Dunkerrin has been notified of another funeral. We again are sorry to loose another member Sarah Clarke, who passed away this morning Sunday 15th March and the Funeral planned for St Patrick’s Day. We will be working with the Family to meet changing guidelines due to the present situation and a fuller report next month.

Again our prayers and support to both family connections at this sad time.

Very Sincerely
Thank you. Charles

Drumcliffe Union of Churches with Kilnasoolagh
(Ennis, Spanish Point, Newmarket on Fergus).
Priest-in-Charge: Revd Kevin O’Brien
Tel: 076 622 4784 eMail: fkevinobrien@me.com
Parish Website: www.churchofirelandclare.com

CAMINO INGLÉS PILGRIMAGE
This is a longer term project, as it can take a year to plan such a group event, but we are looking to guage interest in walking the Camino Inglés, one of the routes to Santiago de Compostela. It is 118 km long and takes around 8-10 days if we start from El Ferrol. Alternatively, we may be able to complete 25km on Irish pilgrim walks that qualify towards the final certificate (see www.pilgrimpaths.ie ) and then complete the final 75km from A Coruña (direct flights from Shannon). The way is relatively easy going (no mountains), it very much looks like Ireland, and we would cover around 15kms per day. There will be a presentation about the walk that gives more information after Easter, so at present we are only looking to have general expressions of interest from our people, rather than a firm commitment. We would probably look to walk in spring/early summer of 2021. Doing so as an ecumenical pilgrimage would be well worth considering. To whet people’s appetite we shall be showing the movie ‘The Way’ starring Martin Sheen, which is about the Camino walk to Santiago de Compostela. It is a moving and inspiring film – although we hope that our own pilgrimages won’t be quite so dramatic!

THE BIBLE CHALLENGE
One way people might like to keep Lent and beyond is to commit to read the Bible from cover to cover. We have produced an easy to use reading scheme where with three short readings each day you can complete the Bible in a year. Any Bible can be used although this particular scheme includes the Apocrypha readings. It also allows for people to start at any point in the year and progress at their own pace – if they miss a day or two, that is fine, as they can pick up where they left off. We are so used to Bible readings in church, but far fewer worshippers have ever read the Bible ‘cover to cover’. This gives them a chance to do so, that is sustainable and achievable.

ONLINE SERVICES
Whilst our church services are temporarily suspended during the coronavirus preventative measures, we have started online services sooner than we had expected. We were already planning to develop live streaming of services in due course, but for the immediate need we are putting a simple weekly service on YouTube, based on the Service of the Word format. Each service will run for around 20-25 minutes and there will be a service sheet and pew sheet that people can either print or

Camino Ingles map
view on their computer screen at the same time as the service runs. As time goes by, we may be able to add music and hymns, although there are copyright issues and we don’t want the service to be too long. On the first weekend the Facebook posting received around 400 hits with nearly 200 views on YouTube — so that is a great encouragement to develop a proper fuller social media and web presence. We shall also be producing short talks and video clips to have regular reasons to ‘tune in’. To that end we shall be integrating the various online channels with a ‘branded’ feel but also be aware that different people use online media in different ways and for different reasons. That means trying to anticipate why people might visit us and why. Certainly, in such a widely spread parish the use of modern communications may well be one of our key tools for the future.

We offer our deepest sympathies to Mary Clegg, of Andrahan Church, on the death of her sister Phyllis.

The baptism of Zoey Onyia took place in a private service on March 15th in Holy Trinity Church, Aughrim. We wish every blessing upon Zoey and her parents Ogechi and Emmanuel.
Keepers' Association, Anne Towers, on March 10th.
We were most grateful to Bishop Patrick Rooke and Dean Alistair Grimason for the invitation for the clergy and readers to attend the annual Lenten Quiet Day in Tuam Cathedral on March 4th, which was led by the Bishop of Clogher. Such opportunities for our dioceses to grow together in faith and fellowship are a source of great joy.

World Book Day was celebrated in style in The Glebe NS, Aughrim, where parents were invited to visit the classroom throughout the day to read to the children, and to enjoy the dioramas which the children had created about their own favourite stories.

The theme of this year’s Women’s World Day of Prayer service, prepared by the women of Zimbabwe, was ‘Take up your mat and walk!’ Sincere thanks go to the enthusiastic team who met over a number of weeks to pray and prepare for the ecumenical service held in Creagh Church on March 5th.

In response to the health measures announced by the government on March 12th to contain the spread of the Covid-19 Coronavirus, all services and parish events here have been cancelled for the coming weeks. We hope that by working together to maintain such social distancing measures, vulnerable people in our community can be protected from the disease.

Clonfert Group of Parishes
Confort, Banagher, Eyrecourt & Portumna
Rector: Rev. Olive Henderson (Institution on Friday, 6th March, 2020)
Mob: 086 142 3922     eMail: oliveernest@hotmail.com
Priest-in-Charge: The Venerable R. Wayne Carney
Tel: 057 912 0021     Mob: 087 786 5234
eMail: mapleire@gmail.com

Limerick City Parish
Saint Mary’s Cathedral, Saint Michael’s & Saint John’s Abington
Dean: The Very Rev’d Niall J. Sloane
Tel: 061 310 293     eMail: dean@limerick.anglican.org
Curate Assistant: Rev’d Edna Wakely
eMail: curate@limerick.anglican.org
Tel: 061 302 038     Mob: 086 357 4917

Parish Website: www.lcp.limerick.anglican.org
www.facebook.com/limerickcp/

Saint Mary’s Cathedral:  www.cathedral.limerick.anglican.org
www.facebook.com/stmaryscathedrallimerick/
www.twitter.com/stmaryslimerick
Saint John’s, Abington: www.facebook.com/AbingtonChurch/

‘Newslink Distributor’: Gillian Cheatley

FROM THE DEAN
Clerical Moves
By the time we go to press, the Rev’d Paul Fitzpatrick will have been installed as Dean’s Vicar in Killaloe. We thank him for his ministry amongst us and wish him well in Nenagh & Killaloe.

The Bishop of Cashel, Ferns & Ossory has appointed the Rev’d Edna Wakely to the incumbency of Castlecomer in the Diocese of Ossory. This group of 4 parishes is situated in County Kilkenny. Edna will finish her ministry here in the coming weeks and suitable opportunity to acknowledge her ministry amongst us will be organised. A date for Edna’s institution will be announced shortly. Please do pray for Edna at this time of transition.

COMMUNITY AWARDS
The Annual Community Awards took place in the Cathedral on Sunday 16th February. This year’s recipient was Mrs Veronica Rowe whose contribution to the cultural life of the city was acknowledged. At the service the Dean presented some €10,000 in donations to local charities arising from fundraising activities within the parish in the latter part of 2019.
Community Awards

NICHOLAS ST AWARD
Now in its 14th year, the 2020 All Ireland Community and Council Awards presented by IPB Insurance and LAMA took place on Saturday 15th February 2020 in Croke Park Stadium. These awards recognised and celebrated community and councils working together. They provide a great opportunity to highlight and celebrate the work done within our communities, to reward our unsung heroes and recognise the phenomenal contribution they’ve made to our lives. We were delighted that the Nicholas St Painting Project (featured last month) was nominated for an award.

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

WHIST DRIVES
As another season draws to a close, we thank all those who support the Whist drives. In particular, we thank Tracey Lyttle, Noreen Johnston, Gillian Cheatley, Margo Marsden and Margaret Brickenden who look after proceedings in Saint Michael's.

FROM THE REGISTERS
Sunday 23rd February in Saint John’s, Abington – Caoilinn Rachel Hayes, daughter of Amy & Peter, and granddaughter of Joe and Lucy Kavanagh.

SYMPATHY
We extend our prayers and thoughts to all those who have recently been bereaved, among them Richard and Margaret Brickenden who have both had the bereavement of an aunt in the last month.

CHAPTER NEWS
We welcome the Very Rev’d Rod Smyth to the joint chapters of Limerick, Killaloe & Clonfert.

Adare & Kilmallock Group of Parishes
Adare, Croom, Kilmallock & Kilpeacon
Rector: Canon Liz Beasley
Tel: 061 396 227 Mob: 087 719 9750
eMail: revlizadare@gmail.com
Parish Website: www.adarekilmallock.org
As we all know, events are changing daily, even hourly, because of the virus Covid-19. So what is written here — in mid-March — might be completely changed by the time this issue appears at the beginning of April.

In the Adare & Kilmallock Group of Parishes, we held a service in Adare on 15 March, but cancelled services in the other three parishes. Worship and prayer are crucial during difficult times such as this, and so worship was held for anyone who wished to attend. We had 21. We all figured that in St. Nicholas Church, it is easy for people to sit a metre apart, and we were not going to run the risk of having more than 100 people in attendance!

As of this writing, the plan is to continue having worship in Adare

40 THOMAS ST
LIMERICK
TEL: 061 ~ 414967
FAX: 061 ~ 415365

Thompson Undertakers
Limerick
on upcoming Sundays, but this remains open to change, depending on advice and regulations coming from the government and the Church of Ireland. If we do continue with worship, it will be held at 10.30am, as this is a time more suitable for a wider number of people in the Group.

We do have some cancellations. The concert of the Mustang Chorale, from Wyoming in the USA, scheduled for 1 April and announced last month, has been cancelled.

All updates are posted on the parish website: www.adarekilmallock.org or www.adaregroup.org.

EASTER VESTRY
Again, this date may need to change so check the website. Currently the Easter Vestry is planned for Sunday, 19 April at 11.30am, following a joint worship service of all four churches at 10.30am. Venue to be announced. This is the triennium Easter Vestry, at which we will elect Parochial Nominators and Representatives to Diocesan Synod. We will also recommission our Parish Readers.

CONGRATULATIONS
Congratulations to Hugh Lillingston of the Kilmallock church on the occasion of his confirmation, which took place at Eton College on 8 March.

PAST EVENTS
Before the cancellation of various gatherings came into effect, we were able to participate in two celebrations of the Women’s World Day of Prayer on Friday, 6 March. One was in Adare at Embury Close, and the other in Kilmallock at Sts. Peter and Paul Roman Catholic Church.

Rathkeale and Kilnaughtin Group of Parishes
Rathkeale, Askeaton, Castletown and Kilnaughtin
Priest-in-Charge: Revd Canon Patrick Comerford
Mobile: 087 663 5116 email: revpatrickcomerford@gamil.com
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/RathkealeGroup/

We have moved from Ash Wednesday through Lent into Passiontide and Holy Week, and are looking forward to the hope of Resurrection and Easter Day.

But in the in-between time, the Corona Virus or Covid-19 pandemic first closed the school gates and then shut the church doors.

As we prepare in hope towards Easter, it is worth reminding ourselves of Christ’s promise that he has come so that we may have life, and have it abundantly (John 10: 10).

The present restrictions are so that all may look forward to sharing an abundant life when this pandemic has passed.

Meanwhile, Patrick is available on his mobile ‘phone, and continues to pray – in an empty church in Askeaton Sunday mornings – for parishioners, the parish, the Church and this land.

The services and Easter Vestry meetings listed here are tentative – and hopeful – but are subject to change given present circumstances. The parish Facebook page is being kept up-to-date with any changes.

MINISTRY, MISSION AND HOSPITALITY
The Anglican mission agency USPG (United Society Partners in the Gospel) had to call off Patrick’s planned to visit Myanmar to represent USPG at the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the Anglican Church in the country once known as Burma.

But the Rectory in Askeaton is the venue for another Ministry Training Day on 19 May.

EASTER VESTRY MEETINGS (SUBJECT TO CHANGE):
• Castletown and Askeaton: 29 April, 8 pm, the Rectory.
• Kilnaughtin (Tarbert): 19 April (after the Parish Eucharist).
• Rathkeale: to be arranged.

It is sad to see these notices outside empty churches on Sunday mornings in Lent, Photograph Patrick Comerford
The weekly “Jesus Prayer” Liturgy at 6pm on Fridays is cancelled.

Regular updates can be expected:

and the following applies at the time of going to press, though Rev. Simon has been very pro-active to-date with text alerts, etc.

CHURCH EVENTS & SERVICES:

be affected in any way by the current situation.

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My own daughter works seasonally guiding tours both here and in Europe and she’s estimated that she’s going to lose €20,000+ this

Coronavirus strain. The effects of the virus are many fold, varying from fear, a sense of isolation, actual illness to varying degrees and as we have already seen, even death. Whereas the foregoing is in itself a tragedy, there are particular effects in a community like ours which can also last a lifetime leading to completely different health outcomes. Being Killarney, of course these outcomes are inevitably linked to the tourism industry and the current prognosis – even in the short-term – looks very bleak.

Thousands of local jobs and the vast bulk of commercial activity revolves around tourists visiting the area annually. Already in St Mary’s we’ve had all of the foreseeable concerts – our major fundraising revenue stream – cancelled. We will urgently need to review this in light of planned projects in the church, many of which will need to be shelved immediately. If there was a factory closure, or a weather event which affected the farming community, we would expect, and usually get, a government response fairly quickly. But the prospect of dozens of jobs being lost across scores of hotels, gift shops, restaurants and pubs is unlikely to meet with anything other than acceptance whilst the government do all that they can to control the virus. Behind all of these job losses will be families dropped unexpectedly into a financial abyss with the attendant worries of mortgages, college fees, etc.

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COVID-19:

As with all other parishes in the diocese the congregation at St Mary’s are trying to come to terms with the impact of the covid-19 Coronavirus strain. The effects of the virus are many fold, varying from fear, a sense of isolation, actual illness to varying degrees and as we have already seen, even death. Whereas the foregoing is in itself a tragedy, there are particular effects in a community like ours which can also last a lifetime leading to completely different health outcomes. Being Killarney, of course these outcomes are inevitably linked to the tourism industry and the current prognosis – even in the short-term – looks very bleak.

The children, young and older adults at St Mary’s were delighted to give thanks for all that the Living God has given us.

Meanwhile, Isabel and I have decided to use these strange days of concern about the world heath situation to savour every single moment of the gift of life. To savour even the wind and rain on our faces, and to glory in the moments when the sun breaks through as we watch the sleet slant across our windows and the clouds come across the Slieve Mish mountains, from the Atlantic estuary and of course no wine at the Communion Service. A reminder that the Living God cannot be tied down to material things.

During the second week of Lent we learned from our wonderful little Kiltallagh school to deliver Confirmation work sheets to our Confirmation candidates at home alongside the work the school also sent them to work on during their break from school attendance. On the third Sunday of Lent we have two Baptisms as cousins born within a week or so of each other will be received into the Christian Community in for the first time at a private ceremony and assured within a week or so of each other will be received into the Christian Community in for the first time at a private ceremony and assured of the Living God’s enduring love surrounded by their close family members.

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The first Sunday of Lent began in a truly Lenten manner in Kilcolman Parish where we had a special Remembrance Service. A reminder that the Living God cannot be tied down to material things.
Firstly, a big Thank You to Barbara, Brian and Marjorie for covering the full programme of services in the Kenmare & Dromod Union while Michael was away.

Michael took the opportunity to spend a little time in a ‘God Pod’ at Glenstal Abbey (look them up on Google) as well as attending the Dublin Theological Institute to hear past Archbishop Rowan Williams deliver a lecture titles ‘Faith in Democracy’, a short summary of which follows.

The Archbishop began by asking whether, given what many would describe as a ‘Global Political Nervous Breakdown’, do we live in a democracy or actually a ‘tyranny of the multitude’, when perfectly valid minority opinion is ignored and dismissed. A democracy, he argued, is only working when it is possible to carry on arguing.

He believes it good for society to include awkward and difficult people, and that an ethical society is much more than simply consensus – religious freedom of belief allows freedom of conscience, which in turn is the cornerstone of political freedom. So no matter if I believe that I am totally right, my act of faith must allow different opinions – I need to understand why my neighbour disagrees – and that this is the necessary first step towards seeking goals to which we both can agree.

In essence, faith in democracy is faith in the power of human argument, accepting that although we disagree, we are mutually dependent as the Body of Christ.

Quoting Roger Lipsey’s biographical summary of past-UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld’s views, he listed the virtues that underpin a fully ethical democracy: The need for awareness of the source of your convictions: the imagination needed to empathise with and understand my opponent: a strategic understanding of what actually works in the real world: the patience and courage to sustain opinion and he ability to see beyond the next corner: and finally, self-respect – believing myself to be accountable for my actions. These are the virtues on which religious communities underpin a fully ethical democracy: The need for awareness of the source of your convictions: the imagination needed to empathise with and understand my opponent: a strategic understanding of what actually works in the real world: the patience and courage to sustain opinion and the ability to see beyond the next corner: and finally, self-respect – believing myself to be accountable for my actions. These are the virtues on which religious communities need to act, participating in the prevailing culture in a faithful, democratic way.

Bishop Rowan’s thoughtful presentation was very positively received by his (almost universally sympathetic) audience of students, clergy and others; however, it has to be said that the people who most needed to hear it were nowhere near. His views and well-constructed argument would readily be accepted by people of good will – but it was hard to imagine autocrats and dictators (without naming any names) giving it any credence at all.

“The rain it raineth on the just
And also on the unjust fell;
But chiefly on the just, because
The unjust hath the just’s umbrella.”

Charles, Baron Bowen

What a difference a month makes; what a difference a day makes! I write this wondering when, or even if, you will be reading it! We don’t know what this next week with bring as the coronavirus continues to spread. The one thing we do know (or at least think we know) is that things will get worse before they get better. As I write this we have another day with an increase in diagnosed cases, although, thankfully, no increase in the numbers of fatalities. Both, I am sure, will increase again.

But there is great light to see in the darkness of this global situation. God is love, He is never changing, He is with us still, and He will give us the strength and patience to get through the days, weeks, and months to come. I don’t know what we will be doing when I am due to write the notes for next month, I don’t know if we will even be able to remember the sacrifice of Jesus in our churches on Good Friday, I don’t know if we will be able to celebrate the Risen Christ with dawn services on Easter Sunday; what I do know is that Christ will still have died and risen for us, He is still alive and seated at God’s right hand, and eternity with Him is still available to all who call on this name.

Let us live following the advice of our government and health system, and even more importantly let us live in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ our Saviour. And let us live loving and caring, in whatever way we can, for our families, friends and neighbours as Christ would have us.

SERVICES FOR APRIL:
Please see our facebook page for information on future services because at this point only God knows what will be happening. FaceBook page name: Adare and Ballingrane Methodist church

Christ Church, Limerick (United Presbyterian & Methodist Churches)

Vacant
Minister-in-Charge: Jackie Mc Nair
Mob: 087 776 5973

It is with great sadness that we have decided that Church Services will be cancelled until 29th March. This is in line with the Government regulations on public gatherings. Please keep all in your prayers as we will hold everyone before God. Many of the events which were due to take place in Christchurch have been cancelled due to Covid-19 concerns. We apologise for any inconvenience. Thank you for your support.

• Christ Church AGM planned for Sunday 5th April following Sunday Service
• Church Council – Next meeting Monday 6th April in CB1
Go the extra mile for World Development & Relief's 50th Anniversary! Join WDR at the Belfast Marathon on 3 May 2020 and raise money for our partner in Lebanon, Father Andrew Institute for the Deaf. There are various walking and running events to choose from, something for all ages and abilities! Visit the website for more info: www.methodistworlddevelopment.org

WHIST DRIVES VILLIERS SQUARE
Monthly on Saturday's: March date to be advised: at 7:30pm sharp, admission €6 – Contact Hilyar Park

WOMEN’S MORNING COFFEE – (Meet fortnightly) Please contact Jean Webster for further information.

GET INVOLVED - Take a look at Christ Church Central Building’s or CB1 Facebook page and add a comment or picture or simply just 'like' something. Come and have coffee and enjoy the art in CB1 Coffee Dock and Gallery.

HELPERS – VOLUNTEERS – SUPPORTERS – If you are interested in using your gifts or trying something new or becoming more active in Christ Church (please speak to Andrew Roulston) or Central Buildings Community Project, (please speak to Rev Vicki Lynch)

CB1 OPEN MONDAY TO FRIDAY 11AM – 5PM
- Knitters for Life CB1 Monday and Tuesday mornings – all welcome
- Community Art Group Church Hall Tuesday 2-4pm – all welcome
- Babies, Toddlers & Parents Group Church Hall Tuesday 10.30am – all welcome
- Free English Conversation Classes Church Hall Wednesday 10am–12pm – all welcome

During the Ministerial Vacancy please contact the Rev. William Hayes for all Pastoral matters 085 1476929 william@tullamorepresbyterian.org

Blessings
Jackie McNair

Killarney, Kenmare & Millstreet
Methodist Churches
[part of the Cork South & Kerry Circuit]
Minister: Rev Karen Spence
Tel: 064 6631613
Email: karen.spence@irishmethodist.org
Website: www.irishmethodist.org/kerry
Facebook: Millstreet Methodist Church
Facebook: Killarney Methodist Church.

No notes submitted

North Tipperary Methodist Circuit
Roscrea
Minister: Rev. Steven Foster Tel: 0505 21 670
eMail: steven.foster@irishmethodist.org
Website: www.irishmethodist.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/northtippmethodist

No notes submitted

Statement from the Archbishop of Dublin and the Archbishop-elect of Armagh
The Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson & The Rt Revd John McDowell

The people of the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland are passing through a period of considerable distress as the effects of the coronavirus are felt throughout the whole island. We wish to add our voices to those of so many others to encourage a sense of solidarity and responsible citizenship as we help our Governments and our communities to plot a path through the various challenges which lie ahead.

We are confident that the people of the Church of Ireland will do all they can to act in the interests of the common good by following closely the guidance being issued, and regularly updated, by public health authorities in the respective jurisdictions.

Preparations in parishes
In doing so, we would urge parishes to do all they can to ensure that the necessary practices of self-isolation and social distancing do not leave already lonely and vulnerable people feeling abandoned. That will require some ingenuity on the part of clergy and laypeople but may well be made easier by the many virtual ways of being alongside and remaining in contact with others that technology affords. It will also provide an opportunity for a younger generation of tech-savvy people to reach out to those who are more immediately affected by isolation.

There will also be many new opportunities to do practical things for one’s neighbours. Parishioners who have more freedom of movement may wish to volunteer to help out in practical ways. Neighbouring parishes should consider how they can work together to best serve all those who will need assistance.

Above all, as people of faith, we should both pray and maintain a sense of balance and proportion. There is every reason to believe that, by acting together in solidarity, this challenging period can be humanely and effectively negotiated. We are confident that God, in the words of the Collect for Ash Wednesday which we use so often in Lent “who hates nothing that he has made,” will be present through his Church and in the gentleness of the Spirit to be a comfort and strength to all who are in need.

A Prayer for Peace of Mind
You will keep them in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you Heavenly Father, in your love and wisdom you know the fears and anxieties of all your children. Your Son, Jesus Christ, said to his disciples: “Do not be afraid, It is I,” and to the tempest: “Peace be still”.
We ask, not only for ourselves but for all others, especially our healthcare workers, that we may cast all our cares on you, for we know you care for us.
Give us peace of mind and unshaken trust in you and guide us into perfect peace. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen
• Caring “family” environment with dedicated staff.
• Consistently excellent academic achievement.
• Promotes the holistic development of your child.
• Broad range of sports available: Rugby, Hockey, Basketball and Athletics.
• Modern facilities.
• Comprehensive Transition Year Programme with wide ranging opportunities.
• Varied and multi-cultural society.
• Protestant ethos.
• Reasonable fees.
• Grant assistance, bursaries & scholarships available.

Bursaries & Discounts
In addition to the SEC and other grants available Villiers School offer the following assistance with fees: Hannah Villiers Bursary, Governors’ Bursary, Villiers School Bursary, Sibling Discounts.

Scholarships
Four Academic Scholarships, currently €1,000 per year, are awarded based on the results of the scholarships exams set each May for students entering Form I. These are awarded to the best Day Girl, Day Boy, Boarding Girl and Boarding Boy.

Prompt Payment Draw
All families who pay before a specified date each semester are entered into a draw for a refund of their net fees for that semester.

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

Weekend bus service - Killaloe, Ballina, Nenagh, Borrisokane, Birr, Roscrea.

VILLIERS SCHOOL
FOUNDED 1821
CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL
Headmistress - Jill A Storey M.A. H.DIP. Ed (Hons) DIP. in REM. Ed. (Hons)

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