



tidings

DIOCESE OF TUAM, KILLALA AND ACHONRY



HARVEST ISSUE 2024



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tidings

HARVEST ISSUE 2024

The magazine of the Church of Ireland
Diocese of Tuam, Killala and Achonry.
www.tlk.ie

COPY DEADLINE

All submissions for the Christmas Issue of Tidings, including advertisements, must be in by **Wednesday 6th November, 2024**

VIEWS EXPRESSED

Views expressed in Tidings are those of the contributors and are not necessarily the views of the Editor or the magazine committee.

DIOCESAN MAGAZINE

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THE BISHOP WRITES

Dear Friends

In the period between the start of 2024 and mid - October there will have been by my reckoning fifteen confirmation services across the diocese. They are all different ... numbers of candidates are very various in different places, and while most of those confirmed are 'young' there is an interesting sprinkling of people who decide to take this step of commitment later in their adult lives. At each Confirmation I enjoy the challenge of using the 'sermon' as a context in which to attempt to answer questions concerning faith and discipleship which the candidates have sent in to me in advance. This approach to Confirmation preaching really stretches my mind, and frankly has led me to preach much more theologically (!) at Confirmations than was the case when I simply tried to think of things to say myself ...

After the year's Confirmations end, with the very considerable assistance of the Diocesan Youth Council, I invite all those confirmed in the diocese to a residential weekend from the Friday afternoon to the Sunday afternoon of the October bank holiday weekend. This is an opportunity for fellowship and fun, an important bonding exercise across our large United Dioceses ... and it also provides a context in which newly - confirmed people can reflect on what they have experienced and discuss how they continue to grow in faith and follow through on the commitments which they have publicly made. This year the post - Confirmation weekend will be held in Birr... we hope to encourage participation by providing bus transport from a variety of centres and (thanks to diocesan subsidy) reducing the cost to participants to an absolute minimum. Clergy who presented candidates for Confirmation during the year have been asked to encourage involvement, and the final details of our plans for the weekend will soon be sent to parishes. We are also aware of the need to try to include young

members of this diocese who for good reasons were confirmed beyond its boundaries in 2024, for example in a number of boarding schools.

We are also conscious in the diocese that there is, so to speak an 'older' group of 'young' adults, not usually covered by the activities of the Youth Council, whose questions and concerns deserve priority. They may be aged between say 20 and 40 (using such numbers with very considerable elasticity), and their discipleship as participative Christian citizens and voters has its own distinctive challenges as they mould the future shape of our society. This is, after all, the age group to which people such as the present Taoiseach himself belongs. Issues facing these citizens include, for example, the future of agriculture from both an economic and ethical point of view, housing, the development of a fair and values - driven policy surrounding immigration, the priority of good mental health, and the putative nature of a future shared island.

In an attempt to address these issues, the Diocesan Council for Mission is planning an important seminar Community Futures in the Lady Gregory hotel in Gort on Saturday November 16 from 10am to 4pm....the aim is that several high - profile speakers, mostly themselves of the age group in question, will be gathered to address the type of issues I have mentioned from the perspective of Christian citizenship. We expect that there will be useful discussion that will inform future diocesan pastoral policy, and that much of what is said will be made more widely available whether through streaming or subsequent online publication. Again, full details of all of this will shortly land in the parishes ... and while the event targets issues particularly facing a specific age category, it will nevertheless be emphatically open to all.

The seminar, with its emphasis (amongst

other things) on social need in the areas of housing, mental health and combatting the experience of loneliness, will also we trust lead a little while later into prayerful generosity across the diocese on the last Sunday of the Christian year, this year Sunday November 24. For many years, the Limerick and Killaloe portion of the diocese observed on that Sunday a 'Mission Sunday', when overseas and home projects were supported in alternate years, and there was significant awareness - raising concerning areas of world and community need. Thus, last year the emphasis was very much on promoting women's literacy in two countries on the African continent. This year the emphasis will be on mental health and loneliness in our society, particularly amongst young adults. A number of appropriate charities will be supported, and the scope

of Mission Sunday will be extended, again with the driving force of our recently - constituted single TLK Diocesan Council for Mission, across the entire bishopric. We look forward to the involvement and support of you all as information concerning this initiative is rolled out in every place.

I look forward to seeing many of you, young and not so young, in the coming weeks in a range of locations, whether in Gort or in Birr or - of course - at our Diocesan Synod to be held in Ennis on Saturday 19 October.

Michael Tuam Limerick and Killaloe



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TIDINGS – NOTE FROM THE EDITORS

We are delighted to present the Autumn 2024 edition of Tidings. We are most grateful to all our advertisers.

Tidings is distributed free within the Tuam, Killaloe and Achonry area, however should you wish to consider making a contribution towards the production costs, as our advertising only partially covers these, that would be greatly appreciated.

If you are making a donation, please send a cheque to the Diocesan Administrator, Mrs. Heather Pope, 11 Ros Ard, Cappagh Road, Galway - payable to the United Dioceses of Tuam, Killaloe and Achonry Dioc Council No 1 a/c and write Tidings on the rear of the cheque. Or, alternatively via online banking using the bank account details below, with Tidings in the

notification section depending on how your bank does this. Thank you for your support.

Wishing everyone a wonderful Autumn 2024.
Canon Andrea & Heather

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Oct 3rd** 7-10pm Safeguarding Training for Parish Panels, Foxford Church
- Oct 16th** 7-10pm Safeguarding Training for Parish Panels, The Synod Hall, St Mary's Cathedral, Tuam
- Oct 19th** 10am-4.30pm Diocesan Synod (Joint with Limerick & Killaroe Diocese) Hotel Woodstock, Ennis
- 11th Nov** 7-9pm Safeguarding Training for Workers on Zoom
- 20th Nov** 6pm Diocesan Finance Committee meets on Zoom
- 21st Nov** 6pm Diocesan Glebes & Property Committee meets on Zoom
- 23rd Nov** 9.30-11.30am Safeguarding Training for Workers on Zoom

For Harvest Thanksgiving Services, please see individual parish pages

For Zoom Links to join the Safeguarding Training for Workers, please contact your Rector/Parish Panel Member or Damian Shorten by email on safeguarding@tlk.ie



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MOTHERS UNION REPORT

Children and Domestic Abuse – the unrecognised victims

The impacts of growing up in a household with domestic abuse are complex. Children do not have to directly witness the abuse to know that something bad is happening. They may overhear an argument or see their mother's injuries. Or, pick up on the tension between their parents, which is scary and confusing for children. Studies have shown that children who grow up in homes with domestic violence are up to 15 times more likely to be physically and/or sexually assaulted than children who don't.

Emotional impact

Children who have lived with domestic abuse may experience depression, severe anxiety, poor concentration levels and focus. They may have difficulty learning and limited social skills, exhibit violent, risky or delinquent behaviour.

Children often do not want to leave the adult victim during the day and may stay off school to reassure themselves that the parent is safe. Children have identified that their voices are not heard in relation to Domestic Violence and that their experiences are not being validated. Through the Barnardo's Empowering Kids project the following poster was produced identifying how we, as adults, can help them.

Further information: www.safeireland.ie;
www.womensaidni.org; www.barnardos.ie



Development

Children may react differently depending on their circumstances. Often, however, children will have a range of emotional, physical and developmental difficulties. As young children are developing their brains are creating the foundations for how they understand emotion and their role in society. Emotional stress caused by living with abuse can disrupt that development.

Child abuse

The impact of being physically abused by a parent goes beyond the physical injuries. It has huge implications for the psychological wellbeing of the child, with many children living in a constant state of fear and dread.



Save the Date

Friday October 18th

Meet Ish Lennox – MU's Faith and Church Relations Manager (MSH)

Tour of St. Brigid's Cathedral Kildare (11.15-11.45am)
Midday Prayer Service
Lunch in the Silken Thomas €30pp (12.45pm)

Gathering in the Cathedral from 10.45am for light refreshments

Booking for lunch is essential. Names to Sylvia at mkmotheruniondp@gmail.com by Friday 11.10.24

Optional ideas for things to do around Kildare town in the afternoon: shopping in Kildare Village, a visit to the National Stud and/or the Japanese Gardens.

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SAFEGUARDING REPORT To the Diocesan Councils September 2024

The responsibility of select vestries

I know from experience how hard it can be to keep clear in our minds all that needs to be done in terms of compliance and governance in parishes (which includes, but is not limited to, safeguarding). This is especially when parishes are joined together in groups (maintaining separate select vestries) as opposed to unions (sharing a select vestry). So, as a sort of aide-mémoire: according to Part 2 of the Church of Ireland Child Safeguarding Policy (Safeguarding Trust), it is the select vestry which is ultimately responsible for compliance with the Church of Ireland's safeguarding policies in its parish (including the appointment of the parish panel). Therefore, safeguarding should be a standing item on the agenda of every meeting of the select vestry.

Practically speaking, this means that for every select vestry: the completed safeguarding declaration of compliance must be submitted to the Diocesan Office annually as part of the Easter Vestry returns; an online safeguarding return must be completed annually; and the Assessment of Harm (necessary to display the essential Child Safeguarding Statement) must be undertaken every two years. In addition, all the policies connected with safeguarding (of which there are currently eight) must be adopted individually by each select vestry and reviewed at intervals afterwards.

If you have any questions related to any of the above, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me. I have met with several parishes in recent months (either online or in-person) to comprehensively work through all the above for their local context and would be very happy to do so with other parishes if that would be helpful.

Parish panel training

As announced at the meetings of the Diocesan Councils in June, on five evenings between 25th September and 16th October (inclusive), Dr. Niall Moore (Safeguarding Officer for the Republic of Ireland) will be delivering training for parish panel members at five different locations. These will take place as follows:

Wednesday 25th September: Randles Hotel, Killarney
Thursday 26th September: St. Michael's Church Hall, Limerick
Wednesday 2nd October: Birr Parish Room, Co. Offaly
Thursday 3rd October: Foxford Church, Co. Mayo
Wednesday 16th October: the Synod Hall, Tuam

Please note that some of the venues and dates have unavoidably had to be rearranged from those previously

announced to some of you – apologies for any inconvenience this may cause.

Each of the training sessions will begin at 7 pm and finish by 10 pm (including a break in the middle), and tea/coffee will be provided. Thank you to all those who are hosting these trainings! The venues have been chosen with panel members from particular parishes in mind, but please note that if one of the other training sessions would suit a panel member better in terms of time or proximity, they are free to attend that. If you are a panel member and haven't yet confirmed your attendance, please do so ASAP!

Worker training

Online "worker" training (for clergy, staff, and volunteers) will be delivered by Dr. Catherine Emerson and the Rev'd. Carole Reynolds in November – to both of whom may I take this opportunity to express our gratitude! As before, part 1 of the training is a pre-recorded video, which must be watched before anyone attends Part 2 to complete their training. The link to Part 1 will be circulated in the coming weeks. There are two dates on which Part 2 of the training will be delivered live on Zoom: Monday 11th November at 7 pm and Saturday 23rd November 2024 at 9:30 am. Those who have watched Part 1 and wish to register for Part 2 must register in advance by emailing me at safeguarding@tlk.ie.

Auditing of parishes

On the auditing front, I would like to acknowledge Mr. Bill Fennell for his years of service as the Diocesan Support Team Auditor for the parishes in Tuam, Killala & Achonry. Bill has now decided to retire from this role. I'm sure all those in the Dioceses – especially in the Tuam part of the Dioceses – will join me in thanking him for all he has done in undertaking such a vital part of our safeguarding responsibilities.

Over the coming months, I hope we can continue to build up our team of trainers and auditors, who will then be able to work across the Dioceses to provide coverage in a collaborative and collegial way. If there is anyone in your parishes who you think might be able and willing to consider becoming involved as a trainer or an auditor, please let me know.

That's all for now – see you all at the meeting of the Diocesan Synods, D.V!

Damian Shorten
 (Diocesan Safeguarding Compliance Officer)
 Wednesday 4th September 2024

INSTALLATION OF CANONS TO THE CHAPTER AT SAINT MARY'S CATHEDRAL, TUAM

June 16th 2024 at 5pm in St Mary's Cathedral, Tuam. Choral evensong with Chapter installations and the blessing of Abbey Trinity Well. The whole service flowed effortlessly under the guidance of Dean, Diane Matchett and beautifully accompanied by the joint choirs of St Nicholas Collegiate Church Choir from Galway and St Mary's Cathedral Choir from Limerick. The singing, as it were, symbolising the unity of our diocese, though many, we are one.

There was a strong ecumenical presence with Archbishop Francis Duffy and many of his clergy as well as a large representation of sisters from the local convents. It really was an uplifting experience and our own bishop, Michael Burrows too to flight when he rose to preach.

4 new canons were installed; The Venerable John Godfrey was installed as Archdeacon and led to his stall. Rev'd Canon Alex Morahan was installed as Prebendary of Balla and Killabegs. The Very Rev'd Canon Niall Sloane was installed as Prebendary of Faldown and Kilmainemore. And finally, The Very Rev'd Canon Richard Marsh was installed as Prebendary of Kilmeen and Kilmoylan. Following a prayer and blessing, each was led to his stall by Dean Matchett. The installation service concluded with the procession from St Mary's cathedral. At the front door, another service to mark National Holy Wells Day took place.

This service was conducted and led by both clergy and lay members of both churches. Rev. Pat Farragher gave some insight into the significance of Holy Wells and readings and prayers were led by some sisters from local convents as well as lay representatives of both churches and also representatives of the Eco Congregation.

A fitting finish to the whole occasion was the final hymn, 'O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder, consider all the works thy hands have made...thy power throughout the universe displayed.

How great thou art, indeed.

Our thanks to all involved but especially to Dean Diane and all who welcomed us and provided food and sustenance and to all who came along from various parishes to support us. To our bishop, our colleagues in the clergy and to our families. Míle búiochas.

Report by the Revd Canon Alex Morahan

Photo credit Jarlath Feeney – Caption LtoR The Very Revd Lynda Peilow, The Very Revd Niall J W Sloane, The Very Revd Richard S J Marsh, The Very Revd Diane Matchett, The Revd Canon Alex Morahan, The Venerable John Godfrey, The Rt Revd Michael Burrows.



VISIT TO ST. PATRICK'S IN IRELAND "GO MAIRE TU I GCOSAÍNT DE"



By Rev. Mary Donovan



For the past three summers I have been accompanying my husband Charles Linn, to Ballycastle, County Mayo, Ireland, where he takes painting classes at school called the Ballinglen Arts Center. Immediately adjacent to the school is an old Church of Ireland that only opens for services twice a month and has never

been open when I was there. In May, after hearing the former Archbishop of Canterbury speak about strengthening ties among the Anglican Communion, I tracked down the priest at that Irish church, Reverend Clive Moore, and emailed him to ask if we might meet while I was in Ballycastle, so that at least I could see the inside of the building.

Within a few weeks my casual email turned into an opportunity to preach and co-celebrate at two churches in the tiny Diocese of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe, out in County Mayo on the west coast of Ireland. In addition to Rev. Moore, I was warmly welcomed by the Canon Alex Morahan and Reverends Caroline Morrow and Karen Duignan. Those two churches were the Cathedral of St. Patrick, Killala, and the nearby St. Michael's Church of Ireland, Ballina. Seven churches are served by these priests.

These are some amazing (for me) facts about Killala. It was founded between 431 and 441 by St. Patrick as an Episcopal See. He then built a church at that site. In the folklore of the region the story is that thousands of Irish were baptized by St. Patrick at an old monastery on this site that no longer exists. The present Cathedral is Gothic, done in rough stone typical of a poor Irish congregation that could afford little but was still willing to give everything they had for their church. It is one of Ireland's oldest

Cathedrals. In the records, there are quotes about rebellions in the area and "repairs to bell broken by rebels..." The parish still uses the box pews from the 19th century. Entering this holy place is deeply moving; one can feel that though rough it is monumental, having been home to a congregation that has survived things most can barely imagine: wars, famine, attacks by multiple forces, even the loss of congregants whose fishing boats from Killala Bay, whose pier is just a two-minute walk from the front door, went down in storms. And of course, joy and renewal.

My sermon described the mix of joy and sadness Irish Americans like me sometimes have when we return to Ireland. I have a heritage of three Irish families, the Kanes, the Crowleys, and I married into the Donovan name. Here in America, we now have only the memories, the old pictures, the stories, of the life and families left behind in the 19th century. I think of myself as strong, but I am not sure I could have crossed the Atlantic, then landed and been inspected on Ellis Island, and then faced New York City, where the signs in almost all shop windows, declared- "Irish not wanted" or "Irish, Catholics, and dogs not welcome." Beginning in 1845, nearly 2 million refugees from Ireland crossed the Atlantic to the United States, trying to survive the Great Hunger.

I do know some of the stories of my grandfather, Mr. John Crowley but known to everybody as "The Guv". My grandfather left New York City and crossed America into the West. There he became a gambler and a card sharp, a poker player. My photograph of him, shows a small man wearing a cocked derby hat and a wry smile, with twinkling Irish eyes. Passing through Wisconsin, he met my grandmother Serena and asked the family for her hand. He was denied because her parents thought being a poker player was not good enough. She was 15 years old.

He did not give up. He got into a different kind of game, one where the house always wins: he became an insurance salesman and worked up and down the

Mississippi River. Once he was established, he went back to Serena's family, and this time they gave him the permission. John Crowley and Serena were married when she turned 17. They went on to have nine children. My mother being one of them.

This to me is a story of resilience and toughness. I grew up with 7 Irish uncles, all of whom graced our home with their wit, their humor, and their constant striving.

In the gospel reading for Sunday, June 23rd, Jesus was on the shores of a lake with his disciples. He then said, "come, let us go to the other side." And while a storm raged around the boat, he slept. Awakened by his panicked disciples he said directly to the sea, "Peace! Be Still!" And then he asked them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?"

I preached to that gospel because of the journeys our ancestral families made, and our current families still make to go back to the homeland. Among Irish Americans I always hear of the sense of longing for the homes they left behind, particularly if the ties to

our original family were lost when letters did not arrive, or telephone numbers changed. And no journey is without anxiety. Mark's retelling of the story intends to show us that whatever our journey is, it is our faith in Christ that gives us calm and peace wherever we go. I thanked the parish and the priests of Killala and Ballina for being my new family, who, through our common faith, our Book of Common Prayer that is almost identical to theirs, makes me safe. And I pray that the winds and the water that surround them in Killala Bay remain calm, to this day.

The morning I preached at St. Patrick's, Canon Morahan and Priest Clive Moore surprised me with my own copy of Irish Book of Common Prayer; it's text is so similar to ours, Americans would have no trouble recognizing it. Inscribed were the names of the priests that make up the Killala Group of Parishes, and a blessing in Gaelic, "Go maire tu i gcosaint De". After several questions, I found out this meant, "May you live in God's Protection".

What a wonderful blessing I received from that spot and those Irish priests.

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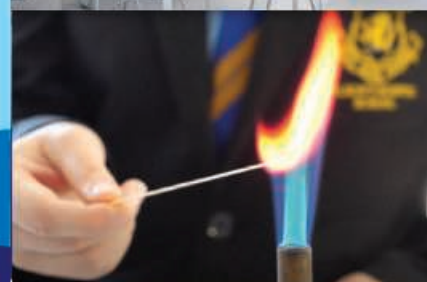
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UDCM - COMMUNITY FUTURES CONFERENCE



The United Diocesan Council for Mission is delighted to announce that, as its first project as a united diocesan body, it will be holding a one-day conference entitled

Speakers with significant expertise in the chosen topics will address the conference, and invite debate and discussion. Confirmed speakers so far include Pippa Hackett (ethical future of farming and mental health in the farming community), Lydia Monds (mental health, well-being and loneliness), the Mid West Simon Community (housing and homelessness) and Donnah Vuma (migrants and refugee victims of crime). Rev. Johnny Lowden (curate in Derry and Raphoe) will give a perspective from Northern Ireland and cross-border relations. The conference will encourage the Church to be transformed by the voices of young adults, while simultaneously providing a space in which these adults have an opportunity to realise the transformational potential of the Church in their own lives.

"Community Futures" on 16th November 2024, from 10am to 4pm in the Lady Gregory Hotel, Gort. This conference is aimed at the 20-50 year old age group, and will create a public forum in which ethical, spiritual, and political aspects of sociological topics that affect the young adults of the Church of Ireland are debated. Topics to be debated: mental health/well-being/loneliness; how the Church welcomes newcomers/immigration; shared island; housing/homelessness, ethical future of agriculture/environmental initiatives.

This conference provides a community-based space in which the Church may respond actively to challenging socio-political issues, raise questions, trouble received notions, disrupt established hierarchies, voice doubts, and develop its faith-based response to urgent social needs among the chosen age group in this diocese and at a national level. The event will be publicised on mainstream media and social media, as well as through our usual church channels. We encourage you to spread the word and ensure your parish is represented.



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MAP OF THE UNITED DIOCESE OF TLK

This is a map of our new united diocese of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe which has been prepared by the United Diocesan Council for Mission. The geographical area occupies approximately 24,283 sq. kms, (9,375 sq mls.) and comprises 22 parish unions and groups. The area of the whole island of Ireland is 84,421 sq kms (32,595 sq miles) which means our united diocese occupies approximately 28.5% of the island! We extend our thanks to Paula Kelly of The

Factory, Five Alley, Birr, 'Ireland's Leading Eco-friendly Graphic Design Studio & Printers' for doing such a good job on the design of this poster and to David Frizelle for making it happen. Copies may be ordered from David at davidfrizelle1@gmail.com or myself at michael.hanna4@gmail.com.

Michael Hanna
Hon Sec. UDCM

UNITED DIOCESES OF TUAM, LIMERICK & KILLALOE

MAP OF THE UNITED DIOCESE OF TLK



1. Achonry & Skreen Group
2. Adare & Kilmallock Group
3. Aughaval Group
4. Aughrim & Creagh Union
5. Birr Group
6. Clonfert Union
7. Cloughjordan & Borrisokane Group
8. Drumcliffe Union with Kilnasoolagh
9. Galway & Kilcummin Group
10. Kenmare & Dromod Union
11. Killala Group
12. Kilcolman Union
13. Killaloe & Stradbally Group
14. Killarney & Aghadoe Union
15. Limerick City Parish
16. Nenagh Group
17. Rathkeale & Askeaton Group
18. Roscrea Group
19. Shinrone Group
20. Straid Parish, Foxford & Claremorris
21. Tralee & Dingle Union
22. Tuam and Omey Group



THE UNITED DIOCESAN COUNCIL FOR MISSION OF TUAM, LIMERICK & KILLALOE

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**To provide opportunities
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Dioceses of Tuam,
Limerick and Killaloe.



There is a Church because there is a mission and not the other way round. God is a God of mission, calling people to an allegiance with Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit; God commissions his church to mission in partnership with Him.

The United Diocesan Council for Mission of Tuam Limerick and Killaloe tries to make parishioners aware of the work and needs of the Church. Each year we have a Mission Sunday appeal for special projects, at home and in developing countries, on alternate years.

We also hold one day conferences and mission evenings, based on the theme of participative Christian citizenship & witness in modern Ireland during a time of uncertainty and change.

Our aim is to have a representative on the Council from each parish group/union within the united dioceses. You will find information on the diocesan web site (details below); you are warmly invited to join us in our Christian mission of 'sowing seeds of hope: both at home and abroad.

<https://tlk.ie/find-a-parish-church/> <https://www.facebook.com/TLKDiocese> <https://www.instagram.com/tlkdiocese>
www.anglicancommunion.org/ministry/mission/fivemarks.cfm



UNITED DIOCESAN YOUTH EVENTS UDYC)

Senior Autumn Adventure Weekend

Burren Outdoor Education Centre,
Turlough, Co. Clare
13 plus (in Secondary School)
Fri 27th - Sun 29th September

Taking a Leading Role Part I

Django's Hostel, Cloughjordan, Co.
Tipperary
15 plus
Fri 4th - Sun 6th October

United Diocesan Confirmation Follow Up Weekend

Birr Outdoor Education Centre,
Roscrea Road, Birr, Co. Offaly.
2023 & 2024 Confirmation
Candidates Fri 25- Sun 27 Oct

Multi Activity Day

Limerick City
3rd - 6th Class National School Sat
30 Nov

Praise & Pizza Advent Worship Event

St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick City
All Welcome
Sat 30 Nov @ 7pm

Mega Christmas Day Trip to Dublin

Dublin
Sat 28 Dec

Please Contact your Rector/Priest-in-Charge if you are interested.

CROAGH PATRICK FUNDRAISING CLIMB In aid of Youth Suicide Prevention Ireland (YSPI)

On Saturday 12th October 2024, Rev. Alex Morahan, rector of Church of Ireland in Killala Group of Parishes, will be leading a climb to the summit of Croagh Patrick to raise funds for YSPI.

Details; Meet in the car park at 8.30am.

Depart on the climb at 9am.

Service in the chapel on top at 11-11.30am



This service is to remember people we have known and loved, who have died by suicide. All are welcome to join us on the day. Remember to wear appropriate footwear and clothing. The climb is weather dependent. If we cannot go that day we will have to do it another date. All sponsorship goes towards this wonderful charity who do great work to support our young people and to try to bring an end to youth suicide in Ireland.

<https://skydive.yspi.ie/rev>





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REMEMBERING PHYL WHO CELEBRATED HER 109TH BIRTHDAY

By Rev. Alistair Doyle



Phyliss Furness -
'Blessings all mine'

I was not expecting it when I received the call on my holidays, from the nursing home to tell me that our beloved Phyliss had left us. I had the joy of visiting her the week before I headed off and was confident that despite her great age, we would get to spend some more time together.

Spending time with Phyl was always a blessing, and the blessing was always on me. She was a woman of great faith, with a razor-sharp mind, an incredible memory, and a good sense of humour. After a chat and a laugh, we would pray together, and I would read to her from the Book of Ruth, her favourite book of the Bible. It was always a great joy for me to read this transitional text to

Phyl, even though I had to do it at the top of my voice, due to her poor hearing. I would giggle inwardly to myself, thinking of the entire nursing home hearing the story.

Phyl would close her eyes, and I am sure she was visualising the unfolding drama of each scene, moving her mindful gaze between the characters as they engaged in their dialogue. At the end of each chapter, I would ask; 'Shall I continue?' thinking that she may have nodded off. Then her eyes would open and she would say, 'Oh! Please do.' It is one of those books that you must get to the end of, otherwise it would be like switching the movie off halfway through. It has it all, showing how God's purposes are achieved, the goodness of God in his laws, and the personal kindness of his faithful people. However, I am sure for Phyl it was the redemptive fairytale ending that she loved, they all lived happily ever after. Perhaps like Naomi, the story that ends in the birth of Obed was to Phyliss a nourisher of her old age.

And so, it is with love that we said goodbye to Phyl. Confident in God's promise that she will continue to live happily ever after. We are all left grateful for knowing her and have been blessed by being in her presence. Thanks be to God.

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PARISH NEWS



SKREEN & ACHONRY GROUP

Revd Andy Pierce
The Rectory
Skreen, Co. Sligo
Tel: 086 1705888
E-mail: revandypierce@gmail.com

Service times: Skreen: 11.20am

Kilmacshalgan: 12.30pm 2nd & 4th Sundays; 7.30pm 1st & 3rd Saturdays. **Dromard:** 10.10am. 5th Sunday, united service as announced. **Tubbercurry:** 12.30pm 1st & 3rd Sunday; 7.30pm 2nd & 4th Sunday.

Rathbarron/Killoran: 9am 5th Sunday, united service as announced

What has happened to the summer? Every conversation since May seems to have ended with lament about the weather. Jackie and I were lucky enough to find some sun in Kentucky and Kansas. While travelling we learned that churches there share another similar lament with our own: "where have all the people gone, particularly the young ones." This conversation, like the weather, comes up at nearly every church gathering there, just like it does here. Interestingly, in both places the situation is commonly

blamed on a combination of a changing society and an unchanging church. I'm not sure either are the issue. While I'm not the greatest authority on the early church, I gather their services were very similar to our own: singing hymns, confession, reading scripture, hearing the Gospel or "good news" of Jesus Christ, prayer, and communion. Even after 2000 years there is a consistency in this format that refreshes, heals, encourages, and therefore defies change.

When it comes to music, our Church Hymnal does contain songs from as early as the 6th century (Hymn 410). It also includes lyrics attributed to St Francis of Assisi (12th c. Hymn 24), Martin Luther (16th c. Hymn 668), and many, many writers from the 17th to 20th centuries including Watts, Newton, and Wesley. Many of our favourites were written by Bishop Timothy Dudley-Smith who only died last March at the age of 97. Our Thanks & Praise supplement adds many more contemporary hymns to the mix. These hymns link our worship with Christians across the ages, and there are many young people who actually love and enjoy singing older hymns along with newer ones for that very reason. Our Bibles, also tend to keep up with the times. We use many current easily understandable translations including the New Revised Standard Version, The New International Version, the English Standard Version and at times even more colloquial



Achonry to Tubber



versions like The Message. While we could argue the merits of guitars and drums over CDs and harmoniums, or the benefits of PowerPoint and video, these are more matters of convenience than issues affecting church attendance as many church plants discover.

And what of our buildings? In the early church services generally took place in homes. At times of persecution Christians gathered where they wouldn't be found—these dark, dirty, and uncomfortable spaces only added to the experience. (Interestingly, whether looking at ancient Rome or modern China, persecution and inconvenience appear to drive church growth!) It was only when church attendance became expected, that purpose-built meeting places became the norm and we are blessed to have them. Another common complaint is that there is just too much competition on Sundays—people have too much other stuff to do. Here the facts are even more in our favour: there is no competition for Jesus Christ, the

one and only person to die and rise again, “for us and our salvation”; there is no competition for God, the “Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.” There is no better news than Christ “once for all” bridging the gap between humanity and God. My journeys have me convinced that cold, hard pews need not deceive us into thinking we have nothing to offer when, in fact, we have everything. This fact assures us that we have so much to look forward to! Andy.

Around the Parishes

Rathbarron's annual dinner returned to Father's Day this year and people from across the area came to enjoy good food and spend the day with family and friends. This year's event was even larger than last year and it was great to see so many from the parish, young and old, working together to make the day so enjoyable for their guests. The preparation and hard work both leading up to and on the day of the event is well worth it when you see the so many people enjoying food and fellowship in support of the church.





Tubber & Rectory BBQ's

Gillian Barber and Glen Byrne were married in Rathbarron (Killoran) Parish Church on Saturday, May 24th, with the reception following in the Radisson Blu Hotel, Rosses Point, Co. Sligo. Glen is the son of Larry and Maria Byrne, Dundrum, Dublin, and Gillian is the daughter of Tom and Josephine Barber, Coolaney, Co. Sligo. We wish the lovely couple a long and happy life together.

St George's Church, Tubbercurry, held their annual fund-raising BBQ on Sunday, July 21st. The event was blessed with good weather and lots of support from the local community. Nearly 200 people came out on the day to enjoy grilled burgers and sausages, a generous selection of sides and scrumptious desserts. The church would like to thank the local businesses that generously supported the event and all the

parishioners that worked so hard to make it happen. A week later the parish was once again providing hospitality by hosting a 5th Sunday United Service for the two groups of parishes. The parish looks forward to having Bishop Michael join us on the evening of November 9th to celebrate 25 years since the refurbishment of the church.

Skreen Parish Church sits on one of the oldest Christian sites in Sligo. Records tell of an early monastery sacked by Vikings and the ruins of a medieval church alongside centuries of grave markers attest to the its long heritage as a place of Christian life and worship. Some of this was brought to light as part of National Heritage Week in August. Our first event was held on Saturday, the 16th when author and historian, Michael O'Connor, introduced his soon to

be published book, *From Sligo to Stringybark*. This book details the Irish connections with the notorious Australian Bushranger, Ned Kelly, and the men who eventually brought him to justice. One of those men was actually married to the daughter of Rev William Crofton, a former rector of Skreen.

Another event, a walking tour of the box tombs of the Skreen graveyard brought to life by the Skreen group's own noted author and journalist, Barbara Bierach: "An outing to Skreen Parish Graveyard with researcher Mary Timoney: revealed treasures of national importance on our doorstep "These box graves are in terrific shape, given their age, and should be cherished. Not only locally, but nationally", said Mary Timoney, a Research Archaeologist, when giving a talk for "History Week 2024" at Skreen Parish Graveyard on August 31st this year. More than 25 attendees did exactly that: cherish the incredible skill of the three principal local mason families Diamond, Flannelly and McGowan and their legacy. Out of the 10 noticeable

box graves in Skreen Parish Graveyard, Mary Timoney zoomed in on 4 particularly stunning examples, all produced by the Diamond family. The morning light helped to highlight even the most intricate carvings on the tombs of the Reverends Charles Hawkes (d. 1788) and Martin Sherlock (d. 1797), and on those of James Wood (d. 1795) and Alexander Black (d. 1810). Timoney has researched grave memorials of Counties Sligo and Roscommon since 1984, finalising a master's degree on them at University College Cork in 2001. At her presentation in Skreen, she pointed out how the design on the graves changed from heads and swags with Greek frets at the bottom in the first phase (1780 to 1805), to winged heads with flowers in the second (between 1815 and the 1850s). The graves in phase one represent mostly members of the Protestant gentry; in phase two Protestant and Catholic gentry and also members of a rising middle class.

Particularly intricate is the Black family grave, carved with ploughmen, horses, farming tools, skull and crossbones. The point of these box graves, though, was not to please the eye, but rather to say: "We were here, we still are here and we will remain here", explained Mary Timoney.

The Diamonds traditionally came from Derry where they were involved in the building of the Guildhall, locally they produced box graves at 18 sites, from Drumcliffe south to Ardcarne and from Kilross westwards to Knockaculleen in Co. Mayo. On the day, Peter Diamond, descendant of a long line of masons, represented the family. He remarked that nowadays the marble, sand and limestones used by our



Skreen Tombs



Tubber to Kilmactigue

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ancestors seem to be much out of fashion; the material for today's tombstones mostly comes from China and a lot of carving is done by machines. Still, John Higgins, Johnny Grier, the Vestry Committee and 'Old Frank Diamond' had the foresight to ensure the protection of these remarkable memorials in Skreen."

St Mary's (Kilmacshalgan), Dromore West was blessed to have a group of young people from Portadown



Holiday Bible Camp



Christian Endeavour lead a three day Holiday Bible Camp in the Magee Hall in July. As a parting gift, Marian Edwards (CA), of Ballina Churches Together, put us in touch with the group who were coming to run camps in Ballina and Claremorris. Eight of the team of 30 came to Dromore West for three days. They were a great inspiration to us and we look forward to developing the relationship and the impact of the camp over the coming years.

Olive Harte and Brendan Finnerty were married in St Mary's (Kilmacshalgan), Dromore West on Saturday, August 17th, with the reception following in the Radisson Blu Hotel, Rosses Point, Co. Sligo. Olive is the daughter of Jack and Noelle Harte, Dromore West, Co. Sligo. Brendan is from Enniscrone, Co. Sligo. The marriage was solemnised by the Rev Canon Noel Regan, longtime friend of the Harte family and former priest in Charge of Skreen Group of Parishes. We wish the happy couple a wonderful life together.





Olly & Ashling

When Anne Shaw's daughter Ashling and her husband Olly came to visit over the summer they hardly imagined they would be leading a "pop-up" Songs of Praise event in the group of parishes. Olly and Ashling are very active in their church in

Kent, especially in working with music and children. In 24 hours we were able to organise and present "Sing to Him a New Song" in Skreen Parish Church. Olly led us in singing familiar hymns, taught us new ones, and shared stories about how God brought Ashling and Olly together to serve him. We are greatly looking forward to their return in February.

Over the summer we completed over 50km of our sponsored walk linking the parishes of Achonry and Skreen. 12th May 13.3km from Rathbarron to former Cathedral of Achonry. The route took us past the ruins of the medieval Killoran Parish Church and along the foot of the famed Knocknashee. We were met at the former cathedral by members of the local community group taking the lead on an initiative to preserve the building, who on this day provided all the

walkers, including their own Parish Priest, Fr Peter Gallagher, with sandwiches, treats and coffee. On 26th May we walked 8 km from former Cathedral of Achonry to St Georges in Tubbercurry where we were again greeted with treats, tea and coffee by a few St. George's parishioners. On 30th June, following the United Service in St George's we walked 18 km (in the rain) from there to the ruins of the old church in Parish of Kilmactigue (now part of Tubbercurry) just outside the village of Aclare. There, Henry Gawley, the last member of the Parish, and his wife Patricia, greeted the soaked walkers with hot soup and sandwiches. On the June 9th we walked another 15.3 very scenic kilometres from Kilmactigue, via Bealanassa Waterfall, to the council amenity on Lough Easky. On this day we were met again with food and drink provided by a group of very kind parishioners from Rathbarron. The 11th of August found us walking down off the mountains from Lough Easky to St Mary's (Kilmacshalgan) in Dromore West. Leaving the



Kilmactigue to L. Easky



lake we could look out over Enniscrone and the sea to Killala while at the bottom of the Ox mountains the 11.2 km walk took us past modern wind turbines and the old rectory for St Mary's. When we arrive at St Mary's we jumped in our cars and headed to the rectory where Rev Andy and his wife Jackie had organised a pot-luck BBQ for all the parishes. More than 50 people gathered for ribs, burgers and lots of salads and desserts. The weather, though windy, held up and we all were able to enjoy each other's company, a bit of cornhole (an American game akin to horseshoes) and a go at a lucky dip provided by Reuben Higgins.

On the 2nd of September the ashes of Brigid Timothy (nee Crichton), youngest sister of the late Aleck Crichton and aunt to Mary Willis and Barbara Rolleston, were interred following a short service led

by the Rev Karen Duignan at Christ Church, Dromard Parish, Beltra. Brigid had lived in England for many years. Her family were grateful to be able to bring her home to be with her ancestors in a place she loved so well.

Audrie Kee, her daughter Lesley and other members of the Ladies Brae Women's Group from Beltra, undertook to clear the weeds, shrubs and trees which had overgrown the Skreen Monument down from Skreen Parish Church and Bradley's Well at the entrance to Christ Church. Skreen monument, erected c. 1825, bears a stone with the carved inscription in Latin translated 'Eugene McDonnell vicar of this district had me erected 1591'. Many thanks to all the people who are willing and eager to help make these important parts of our heritage accessible to everyone once again.



AUGHAVAL GROUP

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Rectory: 098 25127
Mobile: 083 800 3233
Email: aughaval@tuam.anglican.org

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Service times: Saturdays - Turlough, 8pm.
Sundays - Castlebar, 10am; Westport 11.30am; Achill, 3pm (April – Sept inclusive)
Inishbiggle services are occasional and as announced.
Turlough all-age services – are generally on the first Saturday of each month. Monthly Sunday Club in Holy Trinity Westport, 11.30am. The second Sunday Club session will be on 6 Oct.

Developments: A positive and exciting development in the parishes this September has been the launch, on 8th September, of a new 'Sunday Club' (Sunday school) in Holy Trinity Westport, for children of primary school age. For now this will be a monthly gathering, with dates as on the poster.

New Mid-week Service of Holy Communion: A second exciting development has been the addition to our schedule of a Mid-week Service of Holy Communion, taking place each Wednesday at 10:30 am in Holy Trinity Westport, followed by tea and



coffee. This more intimate service is open to everyone. On the first week, the 4th of September, after the service the group retired to the Rectory for coffee and conversation.

Summer on Inishbiggle: It was a joy to return to Holy Trinity Inishbiggle on the 30th of July, with a small group from the mainland parishes, plus Bishop Michael and our ecumenical partner, Ballycroy Parish Priest, Fr

Chris Ginnelly with whom it was a pleasure to share fellowship. On this occasion we sailed from Ballycroy, and we were blessed again with fine weather. This made the walk to the church from the pier very pleasant. How lovely it was then to gather in the little church for a short and meaningful service and then to admire progress on the work to restore the church and churchyard, work funded by the proceeds from May's fundraising concert on Achill Sound by James Kilbane and guests. At the service, Bishop Michael preached a sermon with reference to the Olympics, which was most engaging and relevant following the controversy that had surrounded the content of the recent opening ceremony of the Olympics in Paris.

National Heritage Week: On the 21st of August we were delighted to be able to host a Talk and Tour of Holy Trinity Church Westport for National Heritage week. There was great interest in the event and in the church and its special architectural and decorative features and its fascinating history. Our thanks to everyone who came along as a visitor and also to those members of the parish who assisted with hosting and helping on the day.

Songs for a Summer Night: On the 23rd and 24th August we were delighted to host two beautiful concerts, with the title, Songs for a Summer Night. The musicians were the Rev. David J. Bell from Co Tyrone. Janet Dowd (Armagh) was the vocalist, and Colin Henry (Down) played the dobro. These concerts were generous offers by these friends to raise some fun some money, towards parish funds in Castlebar and Westport.

Gentle Friendship walks: Earlier in the summer we enjoyed a number of gentle friendship walks in the Castlebar Westport and Turlough areas. These were enjoyed not only by our own Church people but by friends, including a number from the Ukrainian refugee community.



Gentle Friendship Walk, Castlebar 23 May 2024

Five Marks of Mission and Eco Congregation status

From time-to-time in the churches The Five Marks of Mission of the Anglican Communion are mentioned, as reminders of our 'mission' in the parishes, that is, of what we are about. They are as follows:

The mission of the Church is the mission of Christ

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
3. To respond to human need by loving service
4. To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation



5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth
(See <https://www.anglicancommunion.org/mission/marks-of-mission.aspx>)

In our efforts to do our part in caring for God's creation and to "strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth", the parishes have been taking small steps to support biodiversity and the pollinators, in our churchyards and graveyards, and also in the Westport Rectory garden. We see this as important and as part of our mission and witness. We are very pleased and encouraged as a result to have had our eco-congregation status and membership confirmed in the last short while.

Farewell: In the parishes we are blessed with a strong team of parish readers. It was with some sadness in August that we said farewell to one member of this important team, Pip Murphy. Pip has lived in the Westport area and served in the parish for over 20 years, including as a Select Vestry member, parish reader, and as a faithful and efficient manager of rotas. We wish Pip every ongoing blessing as she adjusts to

her new life, close to her family and in her home parish on the island of Guernsey.

Harvest Thanksgiving and Advent: The Harvest Festival is just around the corner as I write, with dates as below. In the Church calendar, we will then be looking towards Advent. This year we have invited representatives from Christian Aid and Tearfund to help us mark the beginning of the season and to reflect outwardly and charitably on how at this time of year we might (- to employ the third Mark of Mission) "respond to human need with loving service" in a fresh way.

Harvest 2024 in the Aughaval Group, with guest preachers: Achill - Sun 15 Sept, 3pm, Canon Cecil Mills
Turlough - Sat 21 Sept, 8pm, Canon Andrea Wills
Castlebar - Sun 22 Sept, 10am, Canon Cecil Mills
Westport - Sun 29 Sept, 11.30am, Fr John Kenny, and 8pm, Canon Alex Morahan

Assistance in Castlebar: In Castlebar Parish we are blessed to have our very own John Wesley, an ordained minister from the Church of South India. John and



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Anitha and their children have settled in Castlebar. They bring much to the church and community, and we are delighted that John is able to assist with services, with our bishop's permission and blessing.

Service and a saying: Lastly, a saying, attributed to the original(!) John Wesley (1703-1791) – clergyman, theologian, preacher and revivalist, and accidental founder of Methodism – to spur us on in our Christian service, our love for God and one another,

and to encourage us to keep going and to make every day count:

Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.



GALWAY & KILCUMMIN GROUP

Rector: The Very Revd Lynda Peilow
Tel: 091 521914
Email: rector@stnicholas.ie
Revd Carole Reynolds (OLM)
Tel: 087 6067848
Rev Alistair Doyle Tel: 086 608 1223



Email curateassistant@stnicholas.ie
Lori Phillips, Administrator –
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Service Times

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11 am Sung Eucharist – St. Nicholas' Collegiate Church
11 am Service in Kilcummin, Oughterard

10.30 am each Wednesday, Service in St Nicholas' Collegiate Church.



Rev Alistair Doyle

Baptisms – Hannah Violet Catherine McKim, was baptised in the fellowship of Christ's Church on

Sunday 23rd June. May she shine as a light in the world.

Confirmation - We were privileged to witness the Confirmation of six of our parishioners. Blessings on each of them and their families. A special thank you to our curate Rev. Alistair for the wonderful and creative way he approached their preparation. We continue to remember and be encouraged by the examples of each of them.

Wedding Bells – Congratulations to Jennifer Thomson and Conor Lally who were married at St. Nicholas' on Saturday 24th August. We wish them both every happiness in their future life together.

Story Keepers- We are happy to be back to Sunday School (Story Keepers) 22nd September. We have an exciting term planned. All primary school-aged children are welcome to the Side Chapel at the beginning of service for a lesson followed by games, crafts, and songs. Thank you to our dedicated group of teachers and helpers who make Story Keepers such a wonderful experience for all.

Evensong- The first Evensong service of the autumn term will be held on Sunday afternoon, 29th September at 4pm. All are welcome to have a moment of rest and reflection during this sung service of



school choral day

prayer. This service will also be live-streamed on Facebook and YouTube. Further Evensong services will take place on 20th October and 10th November.

Coffee Concerts- The autumn/winter term of our much loved Coffee Concerts return on 21st September at 11am. This is a lovely way to experience local, live music along with delicious baked goods and tea & coffee. All proceeds go toward our own Schola Cantorum. Additional Coffee Concerts will take place at 11am on 5th, 19th October, and 2nd, 16th November.

Eco-Congregation- St. Nicholas' Church is proud to be an Eco-Congregation, working to make our church environmentally friendly by recycling, composting, and taking measures to help make our space sustainable.



Some members of the St. Nicholas' Collegiate Church Eco-Congregation Team (L to R) Janet Vinnell, Rev Alistair Doyle, Olive Maher, Eli Phillips, and Dr. Catherine Emerson.

As a part of Eco-Congregation Ireland, we were thrilled to host the Climate Justice Candle in our church, and we hope it sparks interest and discussion on how we can all become better stewards of God's

creation. Eco-Congregation Ireland encourages churches of all denominations to adopt an eco-approach for worship, lifestyle, property and finance management, community outreach, and contact with the developing world.

Chatty Crafters – Our Chatty Crafters group continues to meet each Wednesday after the 10.30am service, from 11-1. They have been busy making Heraldic costumes for Culture and Heritage Day. All are welcome to join for a chat, craft, or both.

Volunteer Appreciation Tea – In May, Provost Lynda, Rev. Alistair, and church staff hosted an Appreciation Tea for our Welcome Desk Volunteers. These are the people who greet our visitors and are the first smiling faces to welcome people into our church. The group



played games, ate delicious food, and most importantly got to know each other better. Their role is invaluable to opening the church daily, keeping it safe, and welcoming everyone. They volunteer willingly and joyfully, and the church is all the richer for their presence.



Volunteer Appreciation Tea



Grants- We are pleased to announce the award of a Failte Ireland grant of €200,000 to cover works inside the building. We are also grateful to have recently received a Galway Arts Council Grant to help fund our Schools Choral Day, the Community Monuments Fund Grant to pay for continued restoration of walls in the South Transept, and a Local Communities Festival Grant to help fund our recent Culture and Heritage Day. All these grants go toward continued maintenance and the financial support of keeping our historic building a functioning and safe space for our parish and our local community.



Conservation Works –The South Transept works, removing damaging wall plaster have begun, thanks to a grant of 100,000 euro from the Community Monument Fund. This is the next step in the process

of restoration begun last year. A special word of thanks to Fin Garvey who is carefully and skilfully directing the process.

Harvest Thanksgiving – The Harvest Thanksgiving service for St. Nicholas' will take place on Sunday 13th October at 11am. The preacher will be the Very Rev. Niall Sloane, Dean of Limerick.

The Choristers – As we prepare for a new term we must also report that our Choristers excelled themselves last year. We were able to show our appreciation at their final service in June, when they also received their awards. They will soon be starting back to practise and auditions for new choristers are currently taking place. In June, the choristers took a trip to Mullingar to sing at the Cathedral of Christ the King along with the Cathedral Choristers at Vigil Mass. The two groups enjoyed a fun time together bowling and having a meal before singing practice and mass.

In July, the choristers met for summer camp where they enjoyed two days of singing and fun activities around Galway. At the end of camp, the students performed a short concert for parents, including new pieces of music learned over the course of the two day camp. Thank you to Mark Duley and Dottie Knauer for leading our Choristers in excellence and by example, and to our chorister parents who help organize activities and volunteer so faithfully throughout the year.

C3 – In July, the Collegiate Church Choir, under the direction of Mark Duley, travelled to Norwich Cathedral where they were warmly welcomed for a week of singing. Our choir sang at the nightly





Evensong service at the cathedral. We are looking forward to the return of the Collegiate Church Choir here at St. Nicholas'. They have been missed during the summer months as they took their well-deserved break.

Schools Choral Day- In May we were delighted to host students from four local schools as well as our own St. Nicholas' Choristers for a Schools Choral Day. Students spent the day with our Organist and Director of Music, Mark Duley, honing their musical skills and learning two songs, which they performed as a group at the end of the day.

St. Nicholas' Parochial School- Our parish primary school is now taking enrolments for the 2024-2025 school year. As school begins for the new term, we are looking forward to being back to hosting school assembly with Provost Lynda and Rev. Alistair. Our school pupils are involved in the church throughout

the year in many ways, including the upcoming Back to School Service on 8th September. We are incredibly blessed by our school- staff, students, and families as we are brought together in community.

New Appointment – The select vestry recently appointed John Kennedy as church operations manager. John will be tasked with the day-to-day operations of the church and its events offerings.

Heritage Week – We were delighted to host Culture and Heritage Day in August as part of National Heritage Week 2024. We had reenactment groups, live medieval music and dancing, crafts, children's activities, lace demonstrations, and so much more. Thank you to Catherine Moore Temple for her excellence in planning this event and to the many local artists and crafts groups who participated. A special thank you to the Representative Church Body Library



for loaning us a copy of the 1712 Revised Edition of the Book of Common Prayer that is on display in the church for a limited time.

Open to tourists- The church is open daily to tourists, with three guided tours daily. We have a very exciting new offering as part of our self-guided tour- a fully narrated, immersive audio guide, written and narrated by our staff. There is so much to learn about our historic building from over 700 years of history and we are excited to be able to share this with the public who come through our doors.

Sympathy

Gerry Flynn - The funeral of Gerry Flynn took place in St. Nicholas' on Wednesday, 22nd May. We extend our deepest sympathy Gillian, Rosie, and Molly.

Ronnie O'Gorman - The funeral of Ronnie O'Gorman took place in St. Nicholas' on Tuesday, 28th May. We extend our deepest sympathy his family.

Helga Leonard - The funeral of Helga Leonard took place in St. Nicholas' on 25th June. We extend our deepest sympathy to her daughters Ingrid and Heide.

Phyllis Furness - The community in Oughterard was

sad to hear about the death of Phyllis Furness, who was 109. Phyllis was Ireland's oldest person when she passed away on 12th August. She was a wise and good friend to all and a beloved parishioner of Kilcummin. We extend our deepest sympathy to Judy Flaherty at the passing of her husband Richard.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Rosabella whose husband George's Service of Song will take place on 21st September.

Phyllis Furness

On behalf of the entire community here at Kilcummin it was with great sadness that we have learned of the passing of one of our parishioners Phyllis Furness. Phyllis Furness, the oldest woman in Ireland at 109 and a long-term member of the Oughterard community, passed away on 12th August. Her family and friends, and the broader Church of Ireland community, came together to celebrate her life on 21 August.

Phyllis lived an amazing life of some 109 years. Born in 1915 in Newark, Nottinghamshire, she moved to Oughterard in 1981 and through the Kilcummin Parish family was immersed into village life, composing poems such as "When I Wake Up In The Morning":



**If you hope for change
in the world...**

Will it.



**Hope is an
unstoppable force.
Hope unites us.
Hope fuels action.
Hope makes
change possible.
Turn your lifetime
of hope into the
change you want to
see in the world with
a gift in your Will.**

I hope it. I Will it.

Our free resources will make leaving
a gift in your Will easy. Visit: caid.ie/giftsinwills



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Friday: 9.30am - 5.00pm
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Esther van Luipen, DVM
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OFFICE: 094 937 3955
Email: info@petclinic.ie
Web: www.petclinic.ie

Unit 12, Lakeside Retail Park, Ballindine Road, Claremorris, F12 Y398

When I wake up in the morning, I look up to the skies,
Is it going to rain or will the sun get in my eyes?
If it rains there's knitting I can do.

Nativity sets, Dickensian Mice or maybe a doll or two.
But if the sun decides to shine what pleasure there
will be! I can sit and warm my ancient bones beneath
my tall lime tree. And while I'm there give thanks to
God for what he has given me.

Over the years many churches and families received
crochet nativity sets intricately handmade, and these
are testament to her many skills. Her loss marks the
end of an era, leaving behind very happy memories and
certainly she will be sadly missed by all who knew,
remembered and cherished her.

Kay Dunne

All associated with Kilcummin Church were deeply
saddened by news of the death of Kay Dunne in Galway
University Hospital on Friday 23rd of August. We
extend our deepest sympathy to her son, Paul, to her
many friends and neighbours and to all who were
lucky to know or meet her. She will be greatly missed.

In telling of Kay's retirement in 2018 Leslie Lyons,
Rector's Churchwarden at the time, wrote as follows
in the Kilcummin Notes for Summer edition of Corrib
News: Kay Dunne, a gifted musician, who has faithfully
played the organ for us for the past 16 years, has
decided to call it a day. We thank her for her fantastic
work over those sixteen years and wish her well as
she takes a well-earned break from needing to be
present every Sunday morning, for playing at
numerous Carol Services, concerts and weddings and
for entertaining everybody with wonderful music
including, of course, the rousing 'Killaloe' by
'Ballyhooley Bob', otherwise known as Robert Martin
of Ross.

A few rhyming couplets which Leslie composed for
her retirement party at Power's Bar might be
appropriate here:

Kay on the Organ

*To tinkle the ivory Kay is renowned.
On piano or organ her talent is found.
No matter what piece on the stand we would place
She mastered it quickly with talent and grace.
And to transpose some tune to a different key
Was no trouble at all as for you or for me.
Ashokan Farewell and Bob's Killaloe
Were always enjoyed as we sat in the pew,
Also some classical pieces well chosen*

By Mozart, Vivaldi or Bach or Beethoven.

*Hymns, canticles, psalms were no trouble to Kay
As we all joined in when she started to play.
There were also great songs of Irish renown
Which were heard when a concert was held in the town.
On a cold winter's morn it was not always fair
When a heater was needed to warm up the air.
Better indeed was a warm cosy bed
Than to sit on a stool while playing instead.
Kay, we thank you sincerely for sixteen years past
You deserve a good rest and good health that will last!*
Leslie Lyons

Ongoing works: The Parish would like to extend their
thanks to all the CE scheme workers for their
maintenance of the graveyards and a big thank you to
them all for painting all doors and windows in the
church. This was greatly appreciated by all
parishioners.

Recent visits: On Sunday the 28th of July we
welcomed Bishop Michael. The Bishop held a service
of Holy Communion and his sermon drew on
memories of epitaphs seen over the years of which
one came to his mind. It featured in a church in
memory of a woman long, long ago, who was simply
remembered by the lines "she made life a little less
difficult for those around her". The Bishop reflected
on how people of various generations will be
remembered into the future. An interesting service
indeed and also an excuse for an exercise of
philosophical thought down the road; perhaps the
next time one is walking through a church or
cemetery pay attention to the epitaphs of old and new
for much can be learned from them of the
personalities and kindness of the past, as we of our
time wonder and ponder at how we may be
remembered in the future.

Services:

People of all faiths and none are most welcome to
attend our Sunday service at 11am every Sunday. We
are lucky that our late 19th century Connacher Organ
is working perfectly and is used regularly, so if anyone
is interested in joining us to listen to the music feel
free any time. Most services are followed by tea and
coffee which is an excellent opportunity for all people
of the community to join together in this increasingly
busy world. Everyone is most welcome.

Notes compiled by Liam O'Connor, Rector's
Churchwarden and Leslie Lyons.



Rev Canon Alex Morahan



Revd Caroline Morrow (OLM)



Revd Clive Moore (OLM)

KILLALA GROUP

St Michael's Ballina (Kilmoremoy)
Killanley Church, Castleconnor
Kilglass, St Anne's Easkey
St Patrick's Cathedral, Killala
St John's, Ballycastle
St Mary's Crossmolina
Rector: The Rev Canon Alex Morahan
T: 085 888 6036
E: killala@tuam.anglican.org

Revd Caroline Morrow (OLM)
Phone: 087 2053996
E-mail: cmorrow1963@gmail.com

Revd Clive Moore (OLM)
E-mail: lclvmoore@gmail.com
Phone: 087-6563238

Service times:

St Patrick's Cathedral, Killala:
10.00am (2nd Sunday Holy Communion, 4th Sunday Morning Prayer)

St Michael's Ballina: 11.30am (1st

and 3rd Sundays.

Morning Prayer, 2nd and 4th Sundays Holy Communion)

5th Sunday United Worship around the Union

Killanley Parish Church: 10am (1st Sunday Holy Communion, Other Sundays Morning Prayer)

Ballycastle (Dunfeeny): 10.00am (1st Sunday Morning Prayer, 3rd Sunday Holy Communion)

St Mary's, Crossmolina: 12 noon (1st Sunday Family Service, 3rd Sunday Morning Prayer, 2nd and 4th Sundays Holy Communion)

St Anne's Easkey: 10am (2nd Sunday Morning Prayer, 4th Sunday Holy Communion)

Kilglass Parish Church: 10am (1st Sunday Holy Communion, 3rd Sunday Morning Prayer)

Hi everyone and welcome to the Killala Group of Parishes report. As it happens, I didn't manage to post photos of our confirmation group in the last issue and I want to show them off to the world this time!

It has been an interesting summer, and I don't want to say that I am looking forward to the autumn. Let's just say, I hope that we have some sunshine in the month of September and perhaps even October. We could do with some. The Salmon Festival in Ballina was a great week and the Heritage day was absolutely fantastic. The streets were buzzing with stalls and

crafts and men, women and children were excited and buzzing all day long. I saw a couple who teach people how to make their own coffin, weaving with willow. It certainly is something I can see myself doing. Hopefully I won't need it for a long time though!!

As I write I can hear the school children in St Michael's in Ballina. They're back as are the children in Leaffoney. It has hardly been two months since they took leave of us!! Time is flying. As in every parish and group of parishes, we have happy reports and sad ones. But our hearts are with all our parishioners, those who are ill, at home, in hospital, in homes or even away from home. Harvest Thanksgiving festivals are planned, and we are looking forward to seeing everyone who can come to these special occasions. Times, dates and preachers are listed below.

Rev. Karen Duignan

One of the big movements among our group of parishes, is the change of status for our beloved OLM, Rev. Karen Duignan. Karen has decided to take a leap into training as a full-time stipendiary priest. So, after many farewells and much sadness, we bade farewell to Karen and will truly miss her with and wisdom about our parishes. The people of Easkey and Kilglass will especially miss Karen. Rev. Caroline, Rev Clive and myself meet regularly for 'planning purposes' and we



Photo of Rev. Karen and her colleagues in Killala Group of Parishes. Rev. Canon Aeon Ferguson is also in the picture as a friend and colleague of Rev. Karen.



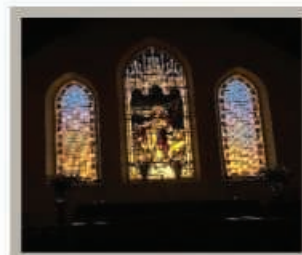
Some parishioners who spoke and presented gifts to Rev. Karen, from Easkey and Kilglass Churches

feel like we're missing a limb since Karen left the group. But our prayers and good wishes will go with her as we follow her journey over the coming years. Every blessing Karen and remember, you are always part of our family here in Killala Group of Parishes.



Confirmation 2024

The 4 young candidates from our group of parishes. Meika was confirmed in Cavan, as she has only recently moved to this part of Ireland. Rosa, Abbie and Robert were confirmed in St. John's Church in Ballycastle. A wonderful time of celebration for them and their families



Concerts in St. Michael's Church A beautiful photo of the window in St Michael's Church, taken by Rev. Caroline Morrow at the concert given by David Lynn and his wonderful singers and musicians.

St Michael's Church in Ballina is becoming quite the place for live music. We have had a number of concerts there over the summer months. Frank McNamara and his ensemble treated us to a magnificent combination of concerts and the audience at both were enthralled. Following this, we had our own local band, Billow Wood who treated us to a wonderful and exciting night of music and fun. They were supported by a young man from Clare Island, Niall McCabe and it was a night to remember. They treated us to beautiful songs, mostly written by themselves and great energy.

Youth Weekend in Pietersburg



Finally, in the past number of weeks, local man and professional singer and teacher, David Lynn and his team put on a magnificent show of Irish, classical and a host of favourites as we basked in the beauty. We want to thank all the artists for their care and attention whilst playing in our church. And we especially want to thank them for bringing large crowds to St. Michael's Church and showing it off in splendour. Here's to many more nights of music and happiness.

Youth weekend in Pietersburg: A number of young people and adult leaders/supporters attended a Youth Weekend in Pietersburg Centre, in Galway just at the start of the summer. We believe they had a wonderful weekend, and all enjoyed the fun and games and making friends. Thank you to all who attended and to the Youth Leaders who make such activities a possibility. This picture says it all!

Killanley Church: Killanley Church was damaged and closed for a number of months. This photo shows the lovingly restored interior where so many people from



the community and other churches gave their time and love to restore, repair and re-open the lovely church, after more than 6 months of closure. Special thanks to Rev. Caroline and John Gawley who nurtured the whole process of repair. A great service of re-opening took place, led by Rev. Caroline and attended by parishioners and a large group (full church) of friends and neighbours. It was a special occasion with beautiful harp music by Megan Morahan and beautiful singing by David Lynn. We are so lucky to enjoy the support and encouragement of so many wonderful friends and neighbours in all our churches. Long may it last.

Wedding Congratulations: Sharon Cooke & Michael Cahill on their wedding day. Their wedding was conducted by Rev. Clive Moore in St Mary's, Crossmolina. We wish Sharon and Michael every happiness and blessing in their life together.

Mark and Linda were married in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Mulraney. Fr. Judge and Rev. Clive Moore united to share the blessing and celebration of their special day. We wish Mark and Linda a lifetime of happiness and good wishes for their future together.

St Patrick's Cathedral, Killala.

This is festival season throughout Ireland. One of the liveliest and best attended festivals happened in Killala in Mid-August. There were many activities and events and practically everything was free. Saturday 17th August, Sue Zajac gave an archaeological talk in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Killala. 'What Lies Beneath' This



Mark Ormsby & Linda Phelan



Sharon Cooke & Michael Cahill

talk was based on the results of an archaeological dig and was greatly appreciated and supported by many. After Sue's talk there was a special performance by Students of Centre Stage Vocal Academy and local artists. This is not to be missed and we hope to see many of you there for the occasion. It is inspiring and amazing to see such a wealth of local talent. We look forward to hearing more of their song and music in church through the year ahead. There are videos and pictures from this event on the Killala Group of Parishes Facebook Page.

A Time of Sadness. Our Sympathy.

No matter what the age or whatever a person has gone through, a death and the time that goes with it can be a really heartbreaking and lonely time. We remember all who have died and all who are in grief and sadness. We would like you to know that we care and offer our support and prayers in your sadness. In the past few weeks we have said goodbye to people who are dear to us and to our wider community.



Fred Perry was from Leaffoney, Kilglass and had been struggling with health for a few years. Rev. Karen led his funeral service and we offer our prayers and love to Fred's wife, Teresa, his children, Caroline, Freddie, David and Suzann. The church was packed with family, friends and neighbours and

many visiting clergy from our neighbouring church. Go dtuga Dia suaimhneas síoraí dó



Donal McCormick had his life celebrated and honoured in Ballina Methodist Church on July 23rd. Rev. Dr. Daniel Randall, the local Methodist minister, led the prayers and tributes. Donal was from Carramore, Lacken and was in his 96th year. He is missed by a large family circle and a larger

group of friends and neighbours. Our thoughts and prayers are especially with his sister, Heather (Bourke) who attends church in Ballycastle. May Donal be at rest and may God bless all those who mourn. Solas Chríost ar a anam.

Ruth Balbernie (Johnston) was a true blue Dub who loved Killala and Knockmore. Her heart and her family lived in Mayo. Ruth died in Mayo Roscommon Hospice and her funeral and her vibrant life was



celebrated in St. Patrick's cathedral in Killala on July 24th. Our thoughts and sympathy go to all Ruth's family and her many friends who loved her greatly. We think especially of her children, Róisín, Seán, Conor and Robert and her grandchildren.

I líonta Dé go mbeadh sí ar a suaimhneas

Harvest festivals for our Churches

It's that time of the year again and we are looking forward to celebrating harvest in all our churches. Thanks to all who have agreed to preach and support us. Thanks to the farmers and those who care for the earth for keeping us fed and nurtured. And thanks be to God, despite the lack of sunshine, that all that we need is gleaned from the earth and appreciated.

Let us celebrate in style and remember, always, to thank God for what we receive daily.

- Friday 20th September at 8pm. St Anne's Easkey. Preacher: Rev. John Farr
- Friday 27th September at 8pm. St. John's Ballycastle. Rev. Adam Norris OLM, Sligo
- Friday 4th October at 8pm. Kilglass Church. Rev. John Addy. OLM Sligo
- Saturday 5th October at 7pm. Belmullet Church of Ireland. Preacher Rev. Alex Morahan
- Sunday 6th October at 4pm. St Patrick's Cathedral, Killala. Rev. Diane Matchett. Dean of Tuam & Killala
- Friday 11th October at 8pm. St Mary's, Crossmolina. Rev. Carole Reynolds OLM.
- Friday 18th October at 8pm. Killanley Church. Rev. Alex Morahan
- Sunday 20th October. St Michael's Ballina. Rev. Rob Jones (Church of Ireland Pioneering Ministry)

Belmullet Church of Ireland

In recent weeks we have been making connections with members of the Church in Belmullet and the Erris peninsula. There are a number of families there who sometimes journey into Crossmolina for church services. We are planning to hold a harvest festival in the beautifully preserved Church of Ireland church in Belmullet on Saturday 5th October at 7pm.

The hope is that this will grow and increase to a regular Saturday evening service. Of course we are always delighted to welcome visitors as well as new church members to our church in Belmullet. If you are interested, please contact Rev. Alex Morahan on

085 8886036 or Rev. Clive Moore on 087 6563238.
(See pictures below)

This webpage gives the story of the war graves and how these people ended up being buried here. It's very interesting; <https://adriantinniswood.com/2017/11/10/a-small-act-of-remembrance/>

Ballina Churches Together (BCT)

The coordinator of Ballina Churches Together has finished her time among us. We said farewell and thank you to Marian over the summer months. We are deeply grateful to Marian Edwards for the vast amount of work that she has done in the few years she has been in Ballina.

Some of the many volunteers who were journeying with Marian have taken up the baton and continue to meet and look for ways of bringing the message of Jesus and sharing it in a meaningful way with everyone we meet. We are exploring ways of continuing to work together as Christians and to build up a world that sees what it means to be Christian.

Visit by Rev. Mary Donovan

This photo shows Rev. Mary Donovan, who visited us from the Episcopal Church in Kansas. Mary joined us for church in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Killala and St. Michael's Church in Ballina.



Mary has written a piece on her experience, which we hope to share with this edition of Tidings. It will explain a little more about who she is and how she has come among us/ It was good fun and a pleasure to have her join us for a number of different activities, whilst in Ireland.

(see article on Page 8 written by Rev. Mary Donovan for her own diocesan magazine in Kansas. The Episcopal Diocese of Kansas. Magazine named, The Harvest. August 2024)



Rev. Clive with John Gawley (Diocesan reader) and some of the people who attended the Killanley church service. Can you spot my daughter and my wife?!!



Rev. Caroline Morrow with Diocesan Reader, Mr John Gawley and Valerie Wilson from Ballina



Rev. Karen and her daughter, Stef and Rev. Canon Aeon Ferguson

St Anne's Church, Easkey has been undergoing some major upgrades in recent weeks. New windows are being installed and we are very grateful to all who have supported this great work. We are especially thankful to Wendy Lyons who is offering professional advice and guidance on all matters related to architecture and heritage. We also thank Sligo Co. Council for the

Community Heritage Grant which is essential in this work. Our contractor, Paul Carrabine has worked along with us to ensure compliance and the best quality windows. And Miriam Carnegie is the driver behind the whole project. Thank you to all in Easkey and indeed to all those, in each of our churches, who do the things that people never see and rarely get thanked for. We are nothing without you!

YSPI Youth Suicide Prevention Ireland is as the name says, an organisation, based in Kerry, which works with young people to help prevent suicide. It is something I am proud to support and something I hope that we as a country will work hard to achieve. Young people are very vulnerable and need supports, many of which are not readily available to them.

I, the rector of Killala Group of Parishes, had decided to take a leap for this charity. I planned to jump from 30,000 feet, with a parachute to raise funds. However, my doctor intervened and pulled the plug on my plans. So, I am looking for a new challenge to 'repay' those who have sponsored me, and also to continue to raise funds and awareness for this wonderful charity.

I will let you know, in the next edition of Tidings, what I have done or planned. Sadly it cannot be as exciting as a skydive. But let's wait and see.

To all who have supported me, I say a big 'Thank You' and I know that the money will do great work for young and vulnerable people.



Rev. Alex Morahan laying some flowers on the graves of the War dead in Belmullet Church of Ireland



STRAID PARISH, FOXFORD & CLAREMORRIS

Priest-in-charge: Canon Andrea Wills (NSM)
Tel: 094 9256403; Mobile 086 261 7572
Foxford: 10.00 a.m. every Sunday
Claremorris: 12 noon in McWilliam
Park Hotel – 1st Sunday of the month
andrea.wills@gmail.com

Service times: Straid Foxford 10.00 a.m. each Sunday, First Sunday of the month Service in the McWilliam Park Hotel, Claremorris at 12 noon

Lita Victoria Davis-Maloney:

For our church family, for Lita's husband Hughie, her children Amelia, Juliette and Hugo, the wider Foxford community and Lita's family in Co. Meath, especially her Mum Ada with whom she was particularly close, her brothers and sisters and her many friends, Wednesday 12th June was the saddest of days as Lita was called home to her Lord and Maker surrounded by family



members at Mayo Hospice in Castlebar. Lita was the most beautiful person you could imagine, inside and out. We are all heartbroken.

Lita attended church every Sunday and even did so in recent times when she was able. She touched many

lives and was a person with the purest Christian characteristics I have ever met. She was greatly loved by all the parishioners. During her trying times she never complained; keeping optimistic. She was so brave.

Lita and I had a lot in common. She was also my friend. We both came from the east coast, and came to live in Co. Mayo where we didn't know anyone. But Lita soon formed friendships, helped out with school events; joined the Tidy Towns Committee. Most of all she dedicated herself to her family and what an amazing mother she was. And her legacy lives on through her beautiful children, Amelia, Juliette and Hugo.

At her funeral the hymns and scripture readings reflected her great faith and love of church. The reading from Paul's letter to the Colossians encapsulated all that was Lita. She radiated goodness, kindness, humility, patience; she never judged. She was caring, always thinking of others. Lita's funeral was one of the hardest days of my life. I was grateful for the support of Canon John Clarke, Navan who had married Lita and Hughie fourteen years ago and Fr. Padraig Costello, PP in Foxford. Fr. Chris Ginnelly, a family friend, was sorry not to be able to attend. Bishop Michael's support was so much appreciated at that time. Lita rests in perfect peace; she made a difference in this world and her spirit will live forever in Foxford church. Our love, prayers and support continue for Hughie and the children and all who loved and miss Lita so much.

Andrea Gornowicz: On 16th May a collision occurred on the N17 just past Claremorris at Castlemagarret and Andrea Gornowicz, aged 57 and originally from Germany, was killed. She had lived in Ireland since 1983 and had no family living here. She worked in Tesco, Claremorris and her colleagues got together and arranged a funeral for her. It was my privilege to conduct it at the Church of the Sacred Heart, Crossboyne near her home on 26th May, and my deep gratitude goes to P.P. Fr. Quinn. The choir sang, her friends from Tesco carried her coffin, and formed a guard of honour and paid tributes to her during the service. It was such a wonderful example of the Irish way – a way of treating people with dignity; of caring at the last. Andrea, my namesake, loved the outdoors, animals and nature. She was a good and kind neighbour. We sympathise with all who knew and miss Andrea.

Wedding: On 27th May there was a day of joy when I conducted the marriage of Runa Hanaghan and Nicholas Robert Myatt in St. Mary's Church, Cong with sincere thanks to Dean Diane. Runa was my vet with a practice in Ballyvary before she took up a new appointment in England. Her dear friend from Veterinary College in Bristol Rev. Sarah Batchelor, having recently been ordained in the Church of England, also took part in the service. Runa especially remembers as a child attending services in Cong with her grandfather, Dr. Jim Houston, who died last year. We wish Runa and Nick every blessing in their life together in London.



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Confirmation: 2nd June was a red-letter day in Foxford Church when Bishop Michael confirmed Ben and Robyn Ryder-Fitzgerald. Their Mum Jean and grandmother Margaret Ryder were joined by many of Ben and Robyn's friends on this special day and Bishop Michael really held their attention.



Parish Outing: On 29th June we sent off for Arigna Mines in Co. Roscommon where we had a special guided tour and then on to Lough Key Forest Park for a lovely boat ride with a running commentary on all the history of the area. Some of the birdwatchers spotted a buzzard on the lake. The weather was perfect.

We then had a short service conducted by the Rev. Edward Yendall at Boyle Parish Church and returned

for dinner to the Moy Hotel in Foxford. Thank you to Beverley Stafford and Sue Baird for making all the arrangements. It was lovely to have some members of the congregation who attend our monthly services in the McWilliam Park Hotel, Claremorris join us.



Confirmation



where children's activities take place. We had a rota of parishioners who welcomed the huge number of people who came through the door of the church to view it and hear the history. Thank you to everyone who helped.



Riverfest: This festival week-end in Foxford 23 -25th August goes from strength to strength. This year was the 10th anniversary. We are pleased to be part of it and tents are pitched in the grounds of the church



The Candles to the Sea event on the Friday night is very poignant as candles in memory of loved ones glide down the river past the bridge as darkness descends accompanied by prayers said by Fr. Padraig and myself and the dulcet voices of the choir BellaCapella, under the baton of Sarah Lawrence. The Foxford Brass Band entertained us at the opening of the proceedings and also during the festival.

Farewell:

Shirley Parker joined our little parish family during



Covid. She rented a house just outside Foxford. She is the sister of Barbara Payne who was a parish reader in St. Michael's, Ballina. She was so helpful and supportive of everything in the parish. She undertook all the cleaning every week and how we miss her. A presentation was made to Shirley on behalf of all the parishioners. She and Barbara have now moved to France. Shirley will not be forgotten in Foxford and we wish her and Barbara every blessing in their new home.

Parish Readers: Patrick Browne has been a Parish Reader in Foxford for many years. He is also churchwarden and is such a support to me. We are delighted that Beverley Stafford has also been appointed a Parish Reader and look forward to her help with services.

Harvest Thanksgiving: The Harvest Service will take place on Sunday 20th October at 4.00 p.m. We are pleased that Fr. Joseph Gavigan will be our special preacher.

Everything in our church is done voluntarily and it is really appreciated.



TUAM & OMEV GROUP

Incumbent, The Very Revd
Diane Matchett,
The Deanery, Deanery Place,
Cong, Co Mayo.
Ph: 087 1857213
Email tuamandomev@tuam.anglican.org

Service times: Tuam 12 noon

Cong/Aasleagh: 10am

Clifden/Moyard (Omev Group): 11.30am Christ Church Clifden, Sundays 10am July & August Rest of year 10am on 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month in Moyard

Roundstone: Sundays 10am June, July & August, Easter Day; Sunday after Easter & Sunday after Christmas other days announced

Errislannan: As announced during July & August

TUAM AND OMEV GROUP

I will lift my eyes to the Maker
of the mountains I can't climb
I will lift my eyes to the Calmer
of the oceans raging wild

I will lift my eyes to the Healer
of the hurt I hold inside
I will lift my eyes, lift my eyes to You

Extract from Bebo Norman's song I Will Lift My Eyes

Sitting down to write in the Autumn edition of Tidings I was drawn to this song. I love Bebo Norman, and this song was simply on my heart – the chorus says it all.

St Mary's Cathedral Tuam

Since writing in the Summer Edition of Tidings, we have had many lovely and fruitful experiences in and





around St Mary's in the city of Tuam. In early June we had volunteers from around the city come and help us do some necessary maintenance in the graveyard and I want to thank all who were involved, especially the Lion's Club, the Rugby Club and friends of the Cathedral. We had lots of good work achieved and great fun and fellowship. June 16th was a particular joy as I welcomed and installed 4 clergy to St Mary's, Tuam Cathedral Chapter, Archdeacon John Godfrey, Dean Niall Sloane, Dean Richard Marsh and Canon Alex Morahan. I very much look forward to working alongside all our Cathedral Chapter. We are so grateful to have also experienced the beauty and power from the choirs of St Nicholas' Collegiate and St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick. I was also in awe of both Mark Duley and Peter Barley who were magnificent. Thank you to our own Bishop Michael Burrows who captivated us as he preached on this occasion. It was a well-attended service with our own parishioners, visitors and our brothers and sisters from other traditions including Archbishop Duffy. It was a truly blessed occasion with a mighty sequel as we gathered outside the west door to share in the short service during which Abbey Trinity Well was blessed. It was a privilege to be part of such a special service and I want to thank all who joined us at both services.

We also had our 2 Euro Jumble Sale in Tuam on August 24th, and it was a huge hit in the community and beyond. We did raise some much-needed funds, but it was the sense of community that made all our hearts sing. Thank you to our big team of help and support and for Gerry's Butchers in Tuam for his generosity in helping us with our BBQ, very tasty. It was also wonderful to have lots of folks (over 120) through the

Cathedral during National Heritage week as Jarlath shared his extensive knowledge of our beautiful historic Cathedral.

St Mary's Cong

St Mary's 2 Euro Jumble Sale in Cong Community Hall was the first of 3 Jumble Sales around my huge Parish. This certainly was a first and whilst it was indeed hard work it was so very well supported by the community, the fellowship and good will was tangible and we want to thank all who worked so hard and those who donated. We were delighted with so many happy smiley faces leaving the premises that day. De-cluttering can be cathartic. We might even see a domino effect around the Diocese of 2 Euro Jumble Sales. Thank you to Tom and Michelle Ryan for their lovely generosity to us for our BBQ, it was really appreciated. Again, we did raise a healthy amount for Church Funds. In our Parishes there is always moments of joy and of sadness and that was the case in my first baptism and first funeral. Peggy Clarke was an extraordinary person who was so very well-known and respected throughout the area. Peggy just loved St Mary's, Cong and was a life-long member of the same. I was honoured and privileged to have been her rector.

Roundstone

From June we had Sunday Services each week and that was ably laid by our team, thank you to Rod Tech and Ted Sherwood who led the services when I was in the other part of the Parish.

We were delighted to be one of the venues for celebrating the 200-year anniversary of the founding of Roundstone Village and Ted organised 3 lectures

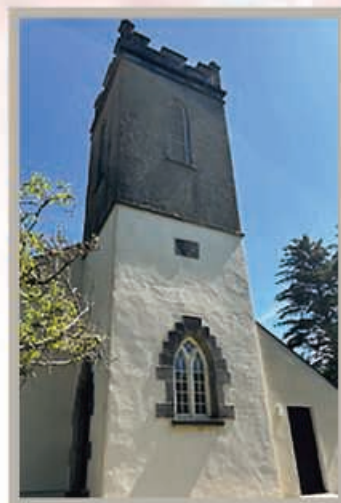


that were held on Wednesday evenings in the Summer. All 3 events were so well attended by the local community and were all so different and so interesting, thank you to all the speakers. The first lecture was about Kate O'Brien by Don Thornhill number 2 was the famous Bill Whelan and finally Kevin Cronin. Thank you so much and a special thank you to Ted for all the work that was put in to make this happen and to the team in Roundstone.

Omey

We had the 2nd of our 3 Jumble sales in Clifden on August 17th and again it was a fantastic event with such good humour and good will. Lots of happy smiley faces and generous donations before, during and after with such a lovely amount raised. We are so grateful. I want to thank everyone from the Grouping for all their hard work and for the turning up and showing up. We are so grateful to Moran's Butchers, Main Street, Clifden, for their generosity to us, thank you so much. It will be a very busy September with all sorts happening throughout the Clifden Arts Festival 18-29 September, check this out online. Christ Church

will also be a venue for various aspects of the festival, and we have the pleasure of welcoming the Rosemount Singers from Co Meath on September 28th who are doing a fundraising Concert for Christ Church. It has been a very special experience to welcome summer visitors to all of our churches over this period – thank you for your partnership in God's Kingdom. To have our Bishop Michael Burrows visit the Omey Parishes on the first weekend of August was a great joy – I joined our Bishop in Aashleagh and Errislannan and as always he gave us so much food for thought, thank you.



Aashleagh Falls

It was lovely to be able to have services in the beautiful Aashleagh Church at 5pm each Sunday night over July and August. The numbers fluctuated but certainly it was so worthwhile. I want to thank John and Bernie Clesham for all their dedication and hard work for this beautiful church. I felt so blessed to have spent time in God's house in



such a magnificent location. It was also wonderful to welcome families deeply connected with Aashleagh's past and Fr. Keiron Burke who attended on a number of occasions of the summer.

Errislannan

Over the summer we had two services in the stunning Holy Trinity Errislannan. I feel genuinely humbled and delighted to have had those times with the faithful supporters of this gorgeous place of worship on the equally majestic Errislannan Peninsula. We enjoyed hospitality provided by the lovely people there and indeed the warmth of God's presence was very special indeed. Thank you for all your love and support for the very special Errislannan. This is a little glimpse of the happenings in the beautiful West of Ireland and



there is so much more that I could share for example the visit to Inchagoill Island on Lough Corrib and the visits to Kylemore Abbey to share in the celebrations of the opening of the new Benedictine Monastery to name a few.

Thank you so much for taking time to read from us and I trust you feel the strength of the maker of the mountains we can't climb.

With love
Diane, Dean of Tuam

NEARTU CONFERENCE FOR ALL INVOLVED IN CHILDREN AND FAMILIES MINISTRY

Have you heard about Neartu? A conference for all involved in Children and Families Ministry, with keynote speaker Rachel Turner (Parenting for Faith), a marketplace and workshops. November 9th in Portarlington.

Rachel Turner
Keynote speaker.
Author of books including 'A Faith for Parents', 'A Faith for Children', 'A Faith for Families', 'A Faith for Schools', 'A Faith for Churches', 'A Faith for Communities', 'A Faith for the World'.

Neartu (Irish for Strengthen)
A conference for all involved in Children and Families Ministry.
Mount St Annes, Portarlington, Co. Laois.

Saturday November 9th
10.30 am - 4 pm
€25 (inc. lunch)

Workshops, Marketplace, Worship, Yummy food! Scan QR code to book:

Check out the afternoon workshop list!

During the morning we will have a wonderful time of worship, followed by the amazing and inspiring Rachel Turner. After a time for Q&A's we will enjoy lunch together, take time to look around the marketplace and the beautiful grounds of Mount St Annes. Followed by a fantastic range of workshops in the afternoon. You will have the opportunity to choose two workshops to attend. Take a look at this wonderful line up...

Workshops



Father Connections - Rob Fraser Binns, Legacy

We live in an under-fathered society, and we worship in an under-fathered church. This workshop will inspire and equip you with ideas to effectively reach fathers in your parish and empower them to have the defining voice in the lives of their children and be disciple-makers in their own homes.



Praise Connections - Millie Bellew & Charlene Harwood, BCFM

Answering all your questions about how to run a Praise Party in your Parish from 'what if I've only got a handful of children?' to 'How do I make it spiritual AND fun?' with the inevitable question of 'what is it and why run one?' You will also receive a ready-to-run pack, so your next (or first!) Praise Party is sure to be a hit.



School Connections - Scripture Union NI & Ireland

Schools play a vital role in our communities, giving us many opportunities to engage with the pupils & staff to share God's love with them. With the challenges of today's educational landscape in mind, how can we best serve our local school communities in spiritual, pastoral and practical ways that are effective & appropriate to the context?



Christmas Connections - Julie Currie, Building Blocks

Christmas isn't just for children! This workshop will give you practical inspiration to engage the whole church family with Christmas through services and events. Packed with great ideas all organised and ready to go for a fun interactive way to reach out to families inside and outside the church at Christmas.



Refugee Connections - Emma Lutton, CMS Ireland

As the face of Ireland changes, there has never been a greater need to help children and families understand the challenges faced by global refugees and to consider all we can learn from each other. In this workshop CMS Ireland will talk through the ways we can inspire children to lead a life of love and generosity both locally and globally. With free resources to take away.



Communion Connections - Melanie Cave, Roots

How can we better include children & families in communion? Fresh ideas, case studies and prayers to suit even the most traditional of churches. Need ideas for seniors and all age services? If you have never explored at that Roots can offer, or it's been a while since you took a look at this amazing resource, then join this workshop - you'll be SO glad you did!



Intergenerational Connections - Heather Baillie, IMYC

Intergenerational worship can have the greatest impact on all members of our Church families. Do you run, or are you wanting to run intergenerational services? What are some of the challenges and how can they be overcome? This workshop will explore all the ins and outs and inspire you with some creative ideas.



Gender Connections - Sheena McCartney, Love for Life

In a culture where gender and sexuality seem to impact every aspect of life, it can be challenging to know how to respond to our children's questions. This workshop will offer guidance on how to create space for honest conversations about authentic relationships, offering a positive approach that will keep the conversation open and celebrate your family values.

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