



tidings

DIOCESE OF TUAM, KILLALA AND ACHONRY



SUMMER ISSUE 2017

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

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tidings

PENTECOST ISSUE 2017

The magazine of the Church of Ireland
Diocese of Tuam, Killala and Achonry

www.tuam.anglican.org

COPY DEADLINE

All submissions for the Harvest issue of Tidings, including advertisements, must be in by **September 12th 2017**

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

All advertising enquiries should be directed to: Provost Stan Evans
revdstanevans@gmail.com

EDITOR

Provost Stan Evans
revdstanevans@gmail.com

DESIGN & PRINTING

Design: Amanda Moore Design
Printing: KPS Colourprint Ltd
Knock, Co. Mayo



The Bishop writes . . .



Relieved of old ties and responsibilities there are possibilities for the churches to occupy new spaces. Perhaps to become churches transformed rather than facing gradual decline. We have new opportunities to grasp.

Much will depend on the choices the churches make. Certainly any of the growing parishes in the Church of Ireland are those with a social element attached to them. So there is a real task to be undertaken in connecting with people. We need to be imaginative – to see new ways of being church, learn to communicate in secular terms and so inspire people of all faiths and none. Can we let go of some of our structures and move from being an inward looking institution to an outward looking body ready to embrace all people? I believe this is beginning to happen in some places - the drift away from church attendance is challenging us to change or to die. So secularism can be viewed as presenting an opportunity as opposed to being something to fear!

On that more positive note, may I wish you a happy Summer and safe travels, and new experiences to those who are fortunate to get away for a break from normal routine.

+Patrick

The Chambers Dictionary defines secularism as 'the belief that the state with its morals, education etc should be independent of religion'. In the churches, this may seem negative for we value our influence over education and morals and so a secularist agenda represents a threat and a challenge. How far is this true?

We argue that Christianity and the churches in general have provided important foundations for a strong and stable society; much would be lost if we are to be stripped of our connections and influence. But perhaps it might also open up new opportunities for the churches. With a separation of church and state, or religion and political power, we could be freed to be the Church as it should be.





Whats On

MAY

- Thurs 4th** Saturday 6th, General Synod, Limerick
Sun 7th Service in Claremorris, 12noon
Sun 7th Confirmation in Skreen Group, Skreen 11.15am
Tues 9th Mothers' Union, Service and Tree Planting, Killala
Thurs 18th Wardens of Readers Meeting, Dublin, 11am
Sat 20th Fun day, Coole Park
Sun 21st Confirmation in Galway Group, Galway 11am
Sun 21st Licensing of Diocesan readers, Roundstone 4pm

JUNE

- Thurs 1st** Diocesan Board of Education, Bishop's House, 3pm
Thurs 1st Diocesan Finance Committee, Bishop's House, 4pm
Thurs 1st Diocesan Glebes Committee, Bishop's House, 5pm
Thurs 1st Diocesan Council, Bishop's House, 6pm
Sun 4th Service in Claremorris, 12 noon
Sun 4th Confirmation in Ballisodare Group, Collooney 11.15am
Sat 10th Diocesan Walk, Castle Coole, Gort, 11am
Sun 11th James Kilbane concert in Killala Cathedral at 6.00pm
 Tickets from Dolly McGreal at 086 3159138
Sat 17th Clergy & Readers Ministry Day, Glenstall Abbey, 10am
Sun 18th Confirmation in Ballisodare Group, St. Paul's church, Collooney, 11.15am
Mon 19th RB Week, Dublin

JULY

- Sun 2nd** Service in Claremorris, 12 noon

AUGUST

- Sun 6th** Service in Claremorris, 12 noon
Wed 16th Kenya Group Meeting, Ballina, 11am

SEPTEMBER

- Sun 3rd** Service in Claremorris, 12 noon
Sat 9th MU 'The Big Sing' at the National Concert Hall, Dublin, 3pm
Mon 18th RB Week, Dublin
Sat 23rd Diocesan Synod, Tuam, 10am
Sun 24th Confirmation in Foxford 11am



Message from the Editor



Provost Stan - Editor

With each issue of Tidings we strive to inform you in a fresh and lively way the news from across TKA. We also hope that we can bring you news from the wider Church of Ireland. We greatly appreciate your input and encourage you to submit comments and advice on how we can improve the publication.

We have tried to keep our costs as low as possible in the hope that our advertising revenue will cover most of our production costs. However, if you value Tidings and wish to make a voluntary donation we would be extremely appreciative, especially if you are someone who receives your copy by post.



Update on Samara's Aid Appeal

On 21 April Samara reported from Damascus that the empty container which had transported our aid to Syria from TKA was now on the site of the new hospital and was about to be converted to an operating theatre.

Samara witnessed and reported that some of the aid from TKA was distributed to help 52 families now living in a school.

Samara was devastated by the sad story of a woman who she gave a Moses basket and wheelchair to from our consignment. The woman had five children. Her husband died two years ago and she is left trying to support them alone. She lost her home and had to flee Damascus where she is now living in an unfinished building with bare breeze block walls. Two of her children have no legs. Her youngest son never met his father because he died while she was pregnant. In spite of these enormous challenges, her oldest son is at medical school, but she is carrying an enormous burden.

Please continue to hold Samara and her team in your prayers.

Provost Stan



Diocesan News

Diocesan Council Meeting 06/04/17

- Assessments – A review of the method of calculation is taking place. Priorities Assessment will remain unchanged for 2018.
- Church Fabric and Development Fund – The terms have been broadened to enable wider use of funds.
- CRA – Parishes with a CHY number must register their details. There is no change required in accounts reporting for 2016.
- Education – New SEC Grant forms available. BOM Training is on-going. Approval of 3 year lease of small portion of land at St. Paul's School, Collooney to St. Paul's Church.
- Generous Giving Programme – This is a 7-step plan to help parishes encourage generosity and enable fresh mission and ministry.
- Glebe/Property – Property matters are on-going. Properties vested in the RB should not negotiate leasing agreements locally. Approval given for investment of Achonry Hall (net) sale proceeds in the RB Unit Trust. Approval given to St Nicholas, Galway re works on Church railings and Church tower repairs. Parishes are reminded to check the fixture & fitting of memorials as they may become unsafe with age/time.
- Groups/Projects – Mission, Climate Change and BCT were all discussed.
- Mission – Sponsored walk 10/6/17 re MAJI funds. Parishes are asked to organise fundraisers for Phase 2 of the MAJI project. Climate Change - Survey results on parish energy requirements will be available in due course.
- Ballina Churches Together (BCT) – The 'drop-in' centre Bus has been purchased and will be 'on the road' shortly. BCT's on-going outreach is proving successful and Emma was commended for continuing to expand her areas of work. Year 1 of the 5 year pilot project has been completed.
- Limerick & Killaloe Discussions – Following a positive meeting with reps from both TKA and L&K, five options were arrived at. Further information will be available at Diocesan Synod in September.
- RB Unit Trust – It is recommended that Parishes avail of the RB Unit Trust as investment returns are very favourable.
- Resignation – The Diocesan Secretary has tendered her resignation which will come into effect after the Diocesan Synod in September.
- Website – The Church of Ireland Website has a new highly recommended 'Parish Resources' section. www.ireland.anglican.org/parish-resources
- Youth – The Inter-Diocesan Fun Day 20/5/17 will take place in Gort. Details are available from Clergy. The Confirmation Day at Croagh Patrick for candidates and the Easter Dawn Service were both successful and well attended.

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Church and Society Commission launches leaflet on spiritual care in dementia

The Church of Ireland's Church and Society Commission launched a leaflet on the spiritual care of people living with dementia at the Church of Ireland General Synod, in Limerick, on Thursday, 4th May. The leaflet is also available online at <https://www.ireland.anglican.org/resources/435/spiritual-care-in-dementia>



Speaking of the launch, the Revd Adrian Dorrian said: "Dementia continues to be an issue that impacts our Churches at every level. This leaflet provides some useful information for pastors, church visitors and family members. It's also a very real sign of the Covenant between the Church of Ireland and the Methodist Church. We are very grateful for permission to reproduce this material."

The Revd Adrian Dorrian, Chairman of the Church and Society Commission (centre), with Mrs Gillian Kingston, Methodist Church in Ireland representative at General Synod, and the Revd Bill Mullaly, President of the Methodist Church in Ireland.

Diocesan Secretary to step down after 23 years

Mrs Heather Sherlock has indicated her intention to resign from her position as Diocesan Secretary. She was appointed to this post in 1994 and succeeded the late Reverend Hugh Thompson. As the Diocese has no Diocesan Office, Heather created her own office in a room to the rear of her own home in Ballisodare.

Heather has been a very popular and efficient Diocesan Secretary and there was much sadness and regret when she informed members of the Diocesan Council of her decision at their meeting in April. Bishop Patrick said that no one knows the workings of the Diocese better than Heather. He spoke of the loss he himself would feel and of the difficulty the Diocese would have in finding someone to fill Heather's shoes.

A presentation on behalf of the Diocese will be made to Heather at the Diocesan Synod in September. As Prof Paul Ryan is also stepping down in September from his responsibilities as Diocesan Treasurer, the Bishop and Mrs Rooke will host a Fork Supper in honour of Heather and Paul for members of the Diocesan Council in June. It is hoped that a suitable candidate to fulfil the combined duties, a Diocesan Administrator, will be appointed over the Summer.



Mothers Union

Dear MU Members and Friends

I should like to congratulate the Galway Branch of our organisation for embarking on the Diocesan project of helping set up home for those families recently leaving the Women's Refuge in Galway City. The financing of this worthy initiative is provided from the 'Mums in May' Fund and we wish Galway branch well as they continue this work and indeed note their many other practical ways of reaching out to help those in the community.

It has been a busy time for those MU members in the Diocese. We welcomed Phyllis Grothier on her journeying around the 12 dioceses in celebration of the 13 decades of love and service of MU Ireland. Phyllis planted a beautiful flowering cherry tree in the grounds of Killalla Cathedral, kindly donated by Dangan Nurseries in Galway, at the beginning of our festival service and we wish her bon voyage as she continues her perambulations!

During the Festival Service Olive Maher was commissioned as Unit Co-ordinator for Faith and

Policy, Rose Carroll as Unit Co-ordinator for Finance and Central Services, Irene Swann as Diocesan Vice-President and Jen McWhirter as Diocesan Vice-President. The Reverend Jen McWhirter was also commissioned as PRO for the southern dioceses and was presented to the Bishop by the All Ireland President, Mrs Phyllis Grothier. We wish these members well as they undertake these important roles.

We look forward to the 'Big Sing' on September 9th in Dublin's Concert Hall and I fear this is already a sell-out event so tickets are indeed at a premium.

I hope this wonderful May weather will continue – the world is viewed in all its glory and we rejoice. May each of our members enjoy a peaceful and happy summer returning refreshed for another MU season in the Autumn.

Alison Rooke, Diocesan President

Festival Service

Killala Cathedral was the venue for the annual Mothers' Union diocesan service. It was held on Tuesday 9th May at 7.30pm and was preceded by the planting of a cherry tree in the graveyard to celebrate the 130th anniversary of Mothers' Union in Ireland. The tree was very kindly donated by Dangan Nurseries on the Clifden Road in Galway. We were pleased to welcome the All-Ireland President, Mrs Phyllis Grothier, who unveiled the tree plaque and addressed the gathering at the refreshments following the service. She has been travelling round Ireland

visiting each diocese on the 'MU Way,' a pilgrimage which has formed part of the anniversary celebrations. The theme for the service was "13 decades of love and service," and the preacher was the Revd Jen McWhirter who was commissioned by the Bishop as Diocesan Vice President and All-Ireland PRO for the southern dioceses. The Bishop also commissioned Irene Swann as Diocesan Vice-President, Olive Maher as Diocesan Faith and Policy Unit Co-ordinator and Rose Carroll as Diocesan Finance and Central Services Unit Co-ordinator. Thank you to all who had any part in the organisation and running of the service and those who travelled to attend.





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Commissioning Service in Roundstone



Maebh O'Herhily and Carole Reynolds with Bishop Patrick following their Commissioning Service in Roundstone. Supporting clergy were Canon Val Rogers, Carole Hennessy - Diocesan Reader who travelling from Glendalough, Fr Kieran Burke (Leenane) , Fr James Ronayne (Clifden) Revd Stephen McWhirter, Dean Alistair and Provost Stan.

Aleck Crichton

Registering Aleck Crichton's death meant ticking a box saying "Retired". Nothing could have been more inappropriate. For he never retired. There was always a fresh project, a new interest, or a duty to undertake. All his friends will remember his stream of energetic interests, and his keenness to pursue them, and to know whether they were shared.



This showed in how he talked and wrote. He could tackle any subject by asking questions to discover its motivating force. His writing was the same. He would send cards and letters to all sorts and conditions of people, from government Ministers downwards – sometimes brief, but always penetrating, and often giving warm encouragement, followed up with phone-calls. The subject could be personal, local or national. It might be the role of the Church of Ireland in ecumenical debate. Or funding for the Research & Education Foundation at Sligo University Hospital. His pertinacity would not brook being ignored. He was not a respecter of persons or rules for their own sake. He also had a feeling – almost a principle – that what was heartfelt mattered more than any outward show. One letter on his death quoted Pericles: "What you leave behind is not that which is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others."

He was fortunate in succeeding to ample opportunities, through the openings for him in his mother's family business (John Jameson), and through inheriting Carrowgarry, Sligo while still young. To some, so much so early might have meant never striving again. For him it was quite the contrary. Central to his middle life was the energy he devoted to John Jameson & Son. He developed the brand, making expeditions to the United States. He was the prime mover in forming Irish Distillers - the culmination of his modernising vision for the Irish distilling industry.

Then there was Sligo and sheep-farming - his main project on coming to live in the West. He enjoyed the whole business of raising sheep, buying and selling. Other projects could be the Sligo Feis Ceoil, chamber music in Dublin or Sligo, or the Beltra Show. His work for the Sligo Yeats Society began early, when Joan's uncle, Professor Tom Henn, set up the Yeats Summer School, staying at Carrowgarry. His devotion and generous sponsorship continued way past his retirement as President in his mid-nineties.

Above all he was especially fortunate in over 60 years of happy married life with Joan. Their home remained a magnet drawing in the whole family, welcoming visits from all the Crichton branches. He also enjoyed planning voyages with Joan - as far afield as their exploration of distilleries in China. Her death left a huge gap. But he did not let it curtail his interests. This owed much to the devotion of his two daughters nearby, and later to his carers, who helped organise his activities, outmanoeuvring those suggesting he should rest. And there was the faithfulness of so many supportive neighbours.

How to account for such undimmed energy? Much was owing to his parents and grandparents. From them he inherited an honourable conscience and sense of duty. But he also had a sense of what mattered and what did not really matter. He tended to say that this came from his war experience. He was aged 21 when his six years' service in the Irish Guards began. It was a formative time, taking him outside his close family and allotted path. He was thankful to have emerged alive. The War also lay behind his feeling for the European Community, and passion for how Sligo might benefit from it. In his 98th year his war service and his European interests happily came together. The French government recognised his participation in the Normandy Landings, appointing him a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour in a ceremony witnessed by his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

There were many other pastimes. He was a mountaineer, and a founder-member of the Irish Mountaineering Club. Sailing was a pastime shared with his grandchildren. Making music was a constant enthusiasm, inherited from his parents and grandparents and instilled in his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. A good pianist, he said that he would have liked to be an accompanist. He certainly had an accompanist's acute sense. His concern was to accompany and support others sympathetically in whatever bent they chose to follow. As Yeats said, we can all feel the glory of having had such a friend.

John Cooke 6 May 2017

A Life of Advocacy

The disability rights movement is a global movement to secure equal opportunities and equal rights for all persons with disabilities. Through policy frameworks like the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Irish Disability Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons with disabilities clearly have legal rights but often are not afforded equality and social inclusion.

As a person born with a disability, disability rights has been my calling, personally and professionally. I committed my decades-long work career to disability-related public policy with a focus on equality and social inclusion of persons with disabilities through employment and independent living. Now as a retiree, I continue to contribute as an international disability policy consultant with a broad range of global and US-based consultancies.

My husband (of forty-three years) is a dual citizen, both Irish and the US. We enjoy sharing our time between the Pacific Northwest (United States) and the community of Clifden in Connemara County Galway. Christ Church, its leadership, parishioners and community supporters have been most welcoming to us. We are committed to the on-going project to preserve the historic churchyard, a sacred place very special to us since my husband's family is buried there. During the Obama Administration, I was honored to serve as a Presidential appointee in three different roles that influenced disability policy and practice across the United States. As the Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration, it was my role to provide leadership to the public vocational rehabilitation system that provides employment services to 1 million individuals with significant disabilities every year. We demonstrated that persons with disabilities, when provided the appropriate services and supports, can and do contribute to the workplace as valued workers and taxpayers. But too often, they are not provided those opportunities due to stigma and low expectations. As a member of the National Council on Disability, my contributions focused on analyzing the employment and social inclusion needs of persons with disabilities, crafting policy solutions and advising the President and Congress. As a member of the Senate Commission on

Long-Term Care, my focus was on a systems approach to ensuring the availability of long-term services and supports for persons with significant disabilities to achieve and maintain meaningful employment in the community.

Since 2012, part of my international disability rights focus has been with an Irish-led international research initiative that has European Union, Irish and United States funding support for post-doctoral research programs in assistive technology, autism and intellectual disability. Our focus is on research that informs practice so that more effective policies and approaches are used in delivering services and achieving better outcomes for persons with disabilities. With more than 1 billion individuals with disabilities across the globe, my hope is that the growth of scientific and technological innovations will result in greater equality and social inclusion.

In 2015 and 2016, I was privileged to be an integral part of the global disability RightsNow!: Strong Communities through Enforcing the Rights of Persons with Disabilities team. Traveling to Vietnam in 2015, we worked alongside local disability rights leaders and provided a five-day intensive workshop and team-based training. Participants from across Vietnam represented disabled persons organizations, civil society and governments and were brought together to advance disability rights through effective implementation strategies. We examined national and international laws and policies, identified principles of effective legislation, explored tactics for advocacy and created collaboration plans to promote enforcement of laws to protect disability rights. The RightsNow! initiative has now implemented disability rights training with teams of local leaders in the disability community in Kenya, Armenia, Mexico, Peru and Guatemala.

In 2016, I planned and facilitated a program of intensive disability rights training for a 10-day Study Tour in Washington DC for a select group of Ministry-level representatives from Vietnam. Throughout the Study Tour, delegates engaged in professional meetings, interactive seminars and workshops, panel discussions, site visits and strategic planning sessions. As a result

of the Study Tour, the delegates were equipped for and well positioned to accelerate the rate of change and progress in assuring the rights of persons with disabilities in Vietnam.

For many persons with disabilities, spiritual and religious access is just as important as access to education, employment, health care, transportation and community service. Faith is a common thread among people of all backgrounds. We are all fashioned uniquely, each endowed with individuality of body, mind and spirit. Disability is simply a natural part of the human experience.

Creating a welcoming and inclusive environment can and must include strategies for including persons with disabilities. Any decision to improve access to places of worship needs to be carefully balanced with maintaining the historical significance, the integrity and the sacredness of the church and its setting. There are examples across the globe where access has been respectfully created and persons with disabilities visit and participate with ease and dignity. Visitors frequently spend time at Christ Church in Clifden: they come to learn more about their history and cultural identity, they come to remember their loved

ones, they come to enjoy the hilltop view. Paths and elements of a living churchyard need to be considered and planned in a way which does not alter the historic fabric and character of Christ Church nor the sacredness of the churchyard. In some instances, it may not be respectful to provide access to all parts of the churchyard and suitable vantage points with accessible information could be provided as an alternative. From a disability perspective, that is a very acceptable and workable solution.

Since the beginning of my involvement in the disability rights movement, I have embraced the motto: 'We All Live Here.' I look forward to many more visits to Ireland and the very special place of Clifden and Christ Church. As a person with a disability, it is a most welcoming community and reflective of the values of an inclusive community.

Lynnae Rutledge is an international disability policy consultant and can be contacted at www.lynnaerutledge.com





Ballina Churches Together

I have been working now for over 12 months with Ballina Churches Together (BCT), the Church of Ireland and Church Army. In this time I have formed friendships with many individuals and have helped needy families and built up connections within the community.



In the last "Tidings Magazine" I mentioned that BCT were considering buying a Library Bus from Co. Derry for our project. I have good news – We have bought the bus and it has passed its roadworthy test and is now being fitted out with benches, tables and a sofa.

We are grateful to the local businesses who have kindly donated materials for this. We still are awaiting Insurance. We plan to use it for community outreach in the different parks and in the town centre as a chat room, children's club activities and a coffee/tea hub.



Many of us meet together weekly for Prayer in the churches where we pray for families and those needing our prayers. About 16 people in the group have now been Garda vetted with most having gone through the Child Protection course. Some have also trained with ASSIST (suicide awareness) which was run by the HSE.

We ran an Easter Craft day in the Millview Estate in the town the week before Easter where 17 children

attended. We were blessed with good weather so we were able to have time for outdoor games.

On Good Friday morning we held the 'first Messy Easter' at St Michaels Church Ballina. We had 28 children attend plus many adults. We had four tables with different activities based around the Easter Story, from edible tombs to craft crosses with nails, a memory game and a ping pong game. Donncha from the Methodist church played some children's hymns on his guitar and the Rev Stephen spoke about the meaning of Good Friday. It was very much a Ballina Churches Together event with some helpers from the Church of Ireland, Presbyterian and Methodist Churches. Many of the Children came from Ballina and the surrounding areas. All the children and their families enjoyed it.

We are still involved in weekly Futsal (indoor football) with some of the members now helping with BCT activities. I am have been able to make further connections within this diocese and in our neighbouring dioceses. Last week I spent time with Church Army in their base in Sheffield as I will start training part-time with them from September.



Ballina Churches Together will soon be organising a Skydive to raise money for the bus. Please support Caroline Morrow (Killanley Church, Church of Ireland), Rosemonde Adamson (Ballina Presbyterian Church) and Brother Thomas Crutcher (Holy Hill, Sligo).



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Sunday School teacher training day

We had a meeting of Sunday School teachers in the rectory in Ballina on 18th February and 5 teachers attended. We shared a host of resources which had been provided by Lynn Storey at the Sunday School Society for Lent and Easter and also explored the CMS Ireland children's resource. It was a useful morning and all who attended had an enjoyable time. I hope to have a similar day in October for Advent and Christmas resources so watch this space!

Confirmation candidates retreat



How do we do it!!! Another dry day for everyone taking the trip up Croagh Patrick. We all met at 10.30 a.m. in the car park with the sun coming out and sticks at the ready. It is quite a climb but the Confirmation kids accompanied by our scout Mark took the lead and never looked back. I, however, took

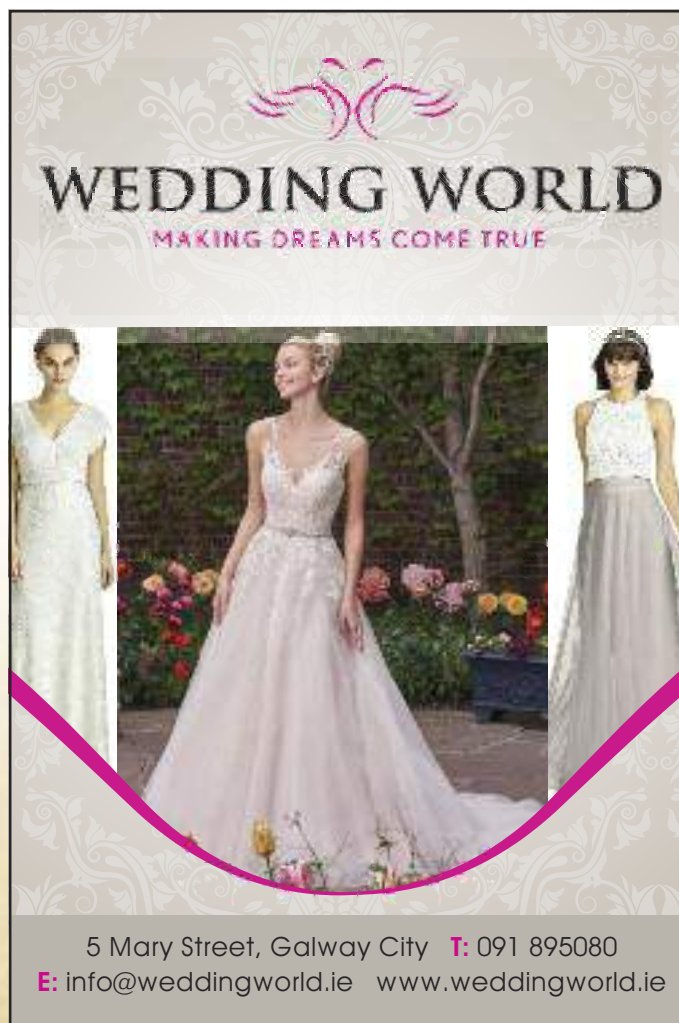


the steady option and along with Andreas and his daughter Hannah we climbed and talked and climbed our way up. Our plan was for everyone to meet at


Easter Dawn Service

Dates for your diary

Dahmedas0001: 13 February 2014



Ma ji kwa Maasai



The Diocese of Tuam, Killala & Achonry

A Sponsored Walk

from Ballintubber Abbey to Killawalla
and back

on the 10th June 2017.

Meet at Abbey at 10:30am for 11 am start.

Bring pack lunch.

Distance 10 Km.

Walk is easy to moderate.

The Diocese of Tuam, Killala & Achonry

[illegible]

Episcopal Ministry and Structures

Inter-diocesan conversations with representatives from the United Dioceses of Limerick and Killaloe

The following report was submitted by the joint Working Group to the recent General Synod....

In response to the Commission on Episcopal Ministry and Structure's Motion passed at last year's General Synod, the united dioceses of Limerick and Killaloe and the united dioceses of Tuam, Killala and Achonry have set up a Joint Working Group. This has met on several occasions and the representatives have kept their diocesan councils informed and will report to their diocesan synods in June and September respectively. Their hope is that it may be possible to bring proposals to General Synod in 2018.

The Joint Working Group is looking at three aspects of co-operation...

Joint events: In an effort to know one another better across diocesan boundaries, the two dioceses have agreed to share the following in 2017: a clergy and readers Lenten Quiet Day, a clergy Bookclub Meeting, a family Fun Day, a clergy and readers Ministry Training Day, a lay Conference and a clergy Conference.

Finance: Areas including financial schemes, accounts, assessment levels, strengths and weaknesses of each diocese, working methods and potential synergies have been compared. In broad terms there wouldn't appear to be a compelling financial reason to either amalgamate or stay separate apart from savings on episcopal costs. There will definitely be substantial work involved in the event of uniting two financial schemes. Realistically, there would need to be a long transition time in bringing the finances together and it is felt that it would be impossible to run a combined diocese of this geographic size with one finance

committee and hope to provide proper oversight and support to all parishes.

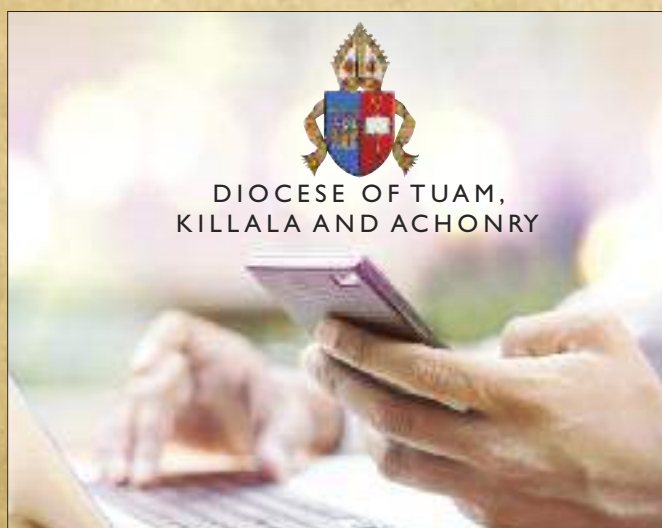
Both dioceses share common concerns regarding improving standards of parochial financial reporting and governance. Simplified and user-friendly financial systems are required and sharing of financial information between both dioceses is most helpful



and the on-going discussions are valuable.

Structures: The Joint Working Group has carefully considered five possible options as a way forward for the dioceses. These options can be summarised briefly as:

- No change – two separate dioceses each with its own bishop.
- Remain as two separate dioceses but with the Bishop of Tuam, Killala & Achonry also serving as an incumbent.
- Amalgamation of the two dioceses under a Diocesan Bishop but with the assistance of a Suffragan Bishop who would also serve as an Incumbent in what is currently Tuam, Killala & Achonry.
- Amalgamation of the two dioceses under one Bishop and transferring parts of either existing dioceses to a neighbouring diocese.
- Amalgamation of the two dioceses under



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one Bishop.

Among the Joint Working Group, there is a clear consensus in favour of either Option c or b, with very



Stephen Brickenden with the Editor lapping up the atmosphere at Thomond Park when General Synod members visited the venue for their reception.

little support for any of the other options.

The following Motion was also submitted and subsequently debated at General Synod

This General Synod....

(i) encourages the United Dioceses of Limerick and Killaloe and the United Dioceses of Tuam, Killala and Achonry (the two dioceses) to continue their talks and to bring proposals to next year's General Synod.

(ii) would be prepared to consider Option B (as indicated in the Report from the two dioceses) should this be their chosen option. This option would not reduce the number of dioceses.

(iii) would be prepared to consider Option C (as indicated in the Report from the two dioceses) should this be their chosen option. This option allows for the creation of a 'suffragan bishop' post.

In the debate at General Synod, it was emphasised that the purpose of the Motion was to establish if Options B and C can be included by the respective Diocesan Synods when they meet to consider the way forward. Reservations were expressed by some members about the possibility of a suffragan (assistant) bishop if Option C is chosen. However, in one of the straw polls taken, Option C proved twice as popular as Option B.

The Motion was passed and the two united dioceses commended for the courage they have shown in moving forward in this way. Limerick and Killaloe Diocesan Synod meets in June and our Diocesan Synod will be in September. Ultimately TKA Diocesan Synod will have to assent to an option of their choice and if it is c, d or e, the consent of Limerick and Killaloe will also be required. Only then can a Bill be



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Mothers' UNION
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Clergy and Readers Quiet Day

Since the decision last May to shelve (at least for the time being) any further investigation into the future of Diocesan Re-organisation, the neighbouring Dioceses of Tuam Killala and Achonry, and Limerick Killaloe and Ardferf took the initiative to sit down together to see whether there may be any merit in sharing various events and projects.

Representatives from these Dioceses met several times and came to the conclusion that, at certain levels of diocesan life, there would indeed be mutual benefit in engaging in several joint ventures.

The first of these was a Joint Quiet Day for Clergy and Readers which was held during March 2017.

The Quiet Day was held in Saint Mary's Cathedral, Tuam. Bishop Richard Henderson was invited to lead the day and over 50 participants from across the Dioceses attended.

The tone was set right at the beginning with the Eucharist celebrated by Bishop Rooke. From there Bishop Henderson guided our thoughts in his own inimitable reflective way on the broad theme of 'Wilderness'. Using a mixture of scripture, poetry and personal insight, listening flowed into contemplation. Silence was observed throughout apart from the time spent at the lunch tables in the Cathedral Synod Hall.

The day ended with a cup of coffee and words of appreciation by both Bishop Rooke and Bishop Kearon and an overall expression that this had been a most welcome day of 'time-out' for quietness and reflection during the season of Lent. It was, moreover, enthusiastically agreed by all that the experience of fellowship occasioned by this being a shared time with friends and neighbours from another diocese added a refreshing depth to our Quiet Day.



Educational Grants

Diocesan Grants are available to those who are in receipt of Secondary Education Committee Grants (SEC). Application forms are available from all Clergy and from the Secretary of the Diocesan Board of Education. Completed forms must be received by the Secretary by the 30th June.

There are no Diocesan grants available for 3rd Level Education but there are other Resources that may help towards this funding. Contact the Secretary, Rev. Canon Doris Clements, Doobeg Hse., Bunninadden. F56 CV63 Co. Sligo. Mob: 086-2497806: E-mail: dorisclements@gmail.com



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Quality time with a wonderful friend in her Cathedral

Having had it on good authority that Phyllis Furness had cornered the market in knitted nativity figures and scenes, I arranged to visit her on Wednesday 10th May at her beautiful home on the outskirts of Oughterard. I was also told that this dear lady was 102 years old (and as we go to press I pray that she has enjoyed her 103rd birthday party on 23rd May).

When I rang the door bell I waited, thinking that time might be needed perhaps for a zimmer frame or walking stick to get into gear; however, the murmurings from the hallway soon dismissed any such ideas!

There she was, this wonderful smiling, welcoming, gem of a woman. "Come on in, where do you want to sit? I am sitting in the sun" she exclaimed. So I sat beside her and we looked out on her beautiful garden.

Just as I was thinking of the first question I wanted to ask her she burst into verse – telling me that we were looking out on her 'Cathedral'.

*My Cathedral has a ceiling of blue
My Cathedral beneath the sky
Where I may lift up my eyes unto the hills
And hear music from a stream rippling by.*

*My cathedral has an altar of flowers their fragrant
incense fills the air. In my cathedral I am closer to
Him than I could be anywhere
For here I pray in a place so grand,
the carpet I kneel on was made by His own hand..*

*My cathedral has candles lighted by the stars and
mighty pillars of trees. No other cathedral is so
beautiful for God made my Cathedral for me.*

It was the most moving of moments. She went on to tell me that she was born in Newark, Nottinghamshire which made us even closer friends, as I was born close by. Then she recalled her early days when she moved with her parents to Sleaford in Lincolnshire and in the summer months would walk across the fields singing and listening to the church bells calling them to worship every Sunday morning.

Her husband John was a transport contractor and they moved to Ireland in the early eighties. Her only son died in 2012 but she has two grand-daughters – and an army of friends.

Then she proudly showed me the last set of nativity figures which she has just completed (see photo). With a twinkle in her eye she proudly announced – "and this makes 161 sets I have knitted!!"



I asked her if I might take a photograph for Tidings. "I would be delighted" she said. "Where do you want me to stand?" – and off she went to stand on the steps outside the front door of her immaculate home with the flowers as a back-drop.



To me this is what ministry is all about. The joy and privilege of sitting in her presence will remain with me for the rest of my life – whether I reach 103 years or not!!

Thank you Phyllis for lifting my heart and for sharing what were very special moments in your 'Cathedral'.

SE

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Parish News Digest



ACHONRY GROUP

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St George's, Tubbercurry
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Irish Stew Night (Rathbarron)

This event, held in the Mountain Inn, Coolaney on St. Patrick's Day, Friday, 17th March was very successful. We are very grateful to all those who helped to organise the evening and prepare and serve the food. The evening was thoroughly enjoyable and resulted in a much valued boost to parochial funds.

Social Evening (Tubbercurry)

A Social evening was held in 'The May Queen', Tubbercurry on Friday, 24th March. We are very grateful to all who helped with this event and particularly Henry Gawley who provided the music.

Cake Sale (Tubbercurry)

The Cake Sale, held in the former Vodafone shop in Tubbercurry on Friday 28th April was very well supported by the local community. We are very grateful to all who provided items for the sale and also to those who manned the stalls on the day.

Congratulations

Warmest congratulations to Alec Barber, son of Tom and Josephine who has been awarded a Scholarship in Trinity College, Dublin. Alec is in his second year of studies in Engineering.

New Churchwardens

Following the Annual Easter Vestries we were please to welcome two new Churchwardens in

each of our churches

Tubbercurry: Lena Gordon and Alison Taylor

Rathbarron: Hazel Clarke and Shirley Goulden

Uniformed Organisations Day at Skreen

Members of 1st Achonry Boys' Brigade joined with the girls of Achonry and Ballina branches of G.F.S. on Saturday, 30th April. The day began with a short service in which the boys and girls participated, Presentation of Awards and badges was followed by games in which mixed teams of boys and girls participated. This was the second occasion on which members of both organisations met together and it was a great success!

Rathbarron Annual Sunday Lunch

The Annual Sunday Lunch in Rathbarron is on Father's Day, Sunday, 18th June. There will be three sittings: 12.30pm, 1.30pm and 2.30pm. Booking is essential for this event and those wishing to book should contact Deb (0719189680).



Member of the Achonry Branch of the GFS recently completed their First Aid Badge. They enjoyed learning how to put on bandages, and had fun working in pair. They were encouraged to understand the importance of First Aid and learned how to perform CPR.

Philip Hall

The passing of Philip Hall, after a short illness, was a shock to his family and friends. The very large attendance at his Funeral Service was testimony to a well-known and much loved member of the community. Philip was born in the house at Templehouse Cross on the N17 on 9th. March 1927. He was one of a family of four children of Robert and Rebecca Hall. A sister and brother pre-deceased him and he is survived by an older sister Dorothy, who lives in England. Philip was always known as a very hard worker and he applied himself to the work of the farm. His love of animals was evident in his interest in sheep, cattle and horses. Even in his late eighties that interest continued. He loved growing things and took particular pride in his annual crop of potatoes. For a time he also ran a 'country shop' beside his home.

For almost thirty years Philip and his bus did the 'school run' first of all to Leyney and latterly to Collooney. Philip enjoyed it, because he had a great love for children. Despite his advanced years, Philip had a great memory and a sharp mind. He had a great love of local history. Philip was also a man of sincere faith with regular Bible reading and prayer every night. He was a faithful member of Killoran parish throughout his life. He served as a member of the Select Vestry for many years, for most of which he was Parochial Treasurer, and was a regular worshipper until recent years.

Sincere sympathy is extended to Philip's wife Enid with whom he enjoyed 63 years of happy marriage, his children: Felicity, Hazel, Lester, Caroline, Suzanne and Robert, their partners, his sister Dorothy, and also to his 18 grand-children and one great grand-child and the wider family circle. We pray the God will strengthen and sustain the in the difficult days ahead

Bishop's Visit

Bishop Patrick will be with us on Sunday, 11th June. He will celebrate Holy Communion in Rathbarron at 10am and will be with us for Morning Prayer in St. George's at 11.30am.

Parish Registers

Marriage: 1st April 2017 in St. George's Church, Tubbercurry. Alan John Brennan, Moylough, Tubbercurry and Rachel Marie Elizabeth Brett, Carrowclare, Lavagh, Ballymote

Burial: (Rathbarron) 17th February 2017

Philip James Hall, Templehouse Cross, Sligo Road, Ballinacarrow

(St. George's) 24th March 2017

Kenneth John Matthews, 9 Mountain View, Tubbercurry



AUGHAVAL GROUP

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Springtime and Easter

The weeks of Easter trail wide-eyed behind the Day of Resurrection. Ascension and Pentecost are racing towards us.

Birth and Baptism

In Holy Trinity recently we baptised little Axel and Zak Kilroy, Valerie and James's twins; and a week or so later, lovely sisters Bella, Phoebe and Rosie Russell, and their cousin Alex Marks. The girls are the children of Philippa and Anthony, Alex the son of Tim and Katherine.

Rev Andrea will baptise Esme Shaw soon for me in Turlough, daughter of Gordon and Karin; I will baptise Adam Bennett McGreevy, son of Andrea and Damien, in Castlebar, and Owen Haugh, son of Catherine and Neil, in Dugort - all before the end of May.

Love and Marriage

Trevor and Isabell Bourke married in September, and Jonathan and Sharon Beckett in April. In May, Geoffrey Bourke will marry his Serena in Islandeady, and Stephanie Gilmore [daughter of Rev Harry Gilmore, former Rector of Castlebar and Turlough] will marry her Stephen in Turlough.



Trevor Bourke and his Isabell Sep 2016

Further Springtime renewal

On the 5th Sunday of Lent the people of Turlough, Castlebar and Westport came forward for the Anointing with Oil and the Laying On of Hands for



Jonathan Beckett and his Sharon, April 2017

themselves or for people they are concerned for, within special Healing Services. The Services hit a deep and true place in our minds and spirits.

An Easter death and burial

Kathleen McLoughlin of Castlebar died peacefully at home in her armchair on 11th May in her 93rd year. Kathleen was a pillar of the parish and town since she came to Ireland as a young married woman. Our prayers and sympathies are with her son Stephen and with all her friends.

The Inter-Diocesan Fun Day of May 20 and the Diocesan Pilgrim Walk of June 17...

...must not become confused in your minds, although having fun on the latter is not totally forbidden. Its personnel will walk a portion of the Tochar Padraig from Ballintubber to Killawalla, and back.

Our new Diocesan Readers

Congratulations to Achill's Maebh and Clifden's Carol, and assurance of our prayers and help, on their becoming Diocesan Readers in Roundstone on May 21st. Thanks from Achill parish and Aughaval Group to Rev Stan Evans and Roundstone for hosting the event.

Summer in Dugort

On June 04, the feast of Pentecost, Dugort's Summertime weekly 11.30am Sunday Services [Jun – Aug inc] begin.

Holy Trinity's 1852 Organ

John Dexter's and Steve Brickenden's sold-out concert in Holy Trinity in April gave a great start to our Organ Restoration Fund: over 2,600 euros were raised. Just about 8,000 to go. The organ stood first in the old church within the grounds of Westport House.



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Mayo International Choral Festival

The Opening Concert will be in Holy Trinity Westport at 8pm on May 25, and the Closing Concert will be in Christ Church Castlebar at 5pm on May 28

The Westport Folk and Bluegrass Festival
The Opening Concert of this Festival will be in Holy Trinity at 8pm on June 09, and some of its stars musicians and singers will be at the heart of the magical 11.30am Gospel Service on the Sunday of the Festival weekend, June 11

Westport 250

Westport Town is celebrating its 1767 establishment with a big programme this year. Holy Trinity will mesh with these 'Westport 250' events particularly with its Westport Flower Festival, July 01 + 02 [Details advertised in this issue of Tidings]

Westport's Harvest Thanksgiving Service, date yet to be fixed. Renowned naturalist and documentary presenter Colin Stafford Johnson, who lives locally, is keen to accept our invitation to be our Speaker; it's now a matter of finding and fixing a date.

John Speed's 1610 Map of Connaught

Here's my photo of a print of the map which hangs in Renvyle House. It has never been easy to portray the province accurately, as you can see.



Hooroo! Val



BALLISODARE GROUP

Holy Trinity, Ballisodare
St Paul's, Collooney
Emlaghfad, Ballymote
Rector: Revd Dr Andrew Ison
Tel: 089 2221483
rev.andrew.ison@gmail.com

Occasional Offices - Funerals

We have sadly had two funerals since the last edition of Tidings. The first just before Easter was that of Ronnie Browne at the age of only 56.

Ronnie was from a big family in the area being born in Ballisodare but living in Graniamore just south of Ballymote.

The second was just after Easter and also a shock. Sadie Martin, who similarly was well known in the area and a member of St Paul's, Collooney died suddenly at the age of 90. Our hearts, thoughts and prayers go out for the extended families of Sadie & Ronnie.

St Paul's School, Collooney

The school have been awarded a Green Flag as part of the Travel Project and will be receiving the award at a presentation in Claremorris on May 11th. Well done to all the school in this fantastic achievement.

Eggcellent Easter

We held our annual young people's event on Good Friday in the wonderfully large Parochial Hall in Collooney with 26 children of all ages coming



together to have fun (see photos). We jumped up and down to some action songs, joined in in singing others, played various games to let off some steam and did various craft activities related to the Easter theme. Towards the end of the morning Steve Brickenden gave a talk to everyone on the true meaning of Easter before we all went outside and hunted for the hundreds of chocolate Easter eggs hidden outside. We ended with some refreshments and all went home with the things they had made: decorated Easter Eggs, crosses, Easter cards and Easter lights along with goodie bag of the Easter eggs they had gathered in. A great time was had by all and a big thank you goes to



all those who made it possible.

Mother's Union

The Branch supported St Paul's School community by getting involved with their Green Travel Flag project and supplying "Tea and Toast" on the "Walk to School Day". A pleasure for all concerned!

It has also supported the World Day of Prayer at Emlaghfad Church, Ballymote.

A "Lady Day" Service was lead by our rector Rev Andrew in St Paul's Church, Collooney. During this service Teresa Neale of Ballymote Parish was welcomed and enrolled as a member. We are all delighted that she has made this choice. Afterwards Joyce Bright of Ballymote shared her recent experiences of a visit to the Holy Land. This was an interesting look at the places Jesus went and very much appreciated.

CPR Training led by Margaret Mitchell and Claire Heneghan of HSE was held in Holy Trinity Hall, Ballisodare. It was great that this was so well supported by non-members, male and female. Everybody is always welcome to events.

The members are very thankful to Rev. Andrew for his fulsome support and for working so cooperatively with them.

At the time of writing we are looking forward to celebrating 130 years of Mothers' Union in Ireland with All Ireland MU President Phyllis Grothier at the Diocesan Service in Killala on May 9th.

Up and coming events

Sponsored Cycle Ride

As a fundraiser for the churches the Rector, Andrew Ison is going to cycle from The Rectory and around Lough Gill on Saturday May 28th. It is a distance of some 50km. While Andrew loves cycling years of living in the Netherlands means those uphill sections are going to be tough.

St Paul's School Collooney

Sports Day will be held on June 2nd.

A Farewell Service for those moving to Secondary Education will be held in the church at 9.45am on Friday 16th June.



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Funerals

Bob Parsonson 18th March. Our sympathies are with his wife, Frankie, and all his family.

Denis Brosnan 22nd March, will be greatly missed by Josephine and his children.

Zoe Kennedy, 19th April, aged 13. Please keep a place in your prayers for John and Ulrika in their very sad loss.

Please also remember Jennifer Cunningham who lost her father Pádraig, and John Nethaway, whose mother Jo passed away recently.

Weddings

Holly Pasley and Eoin Larkin, 18th February.

Louise Holland and Michael Twomey, 11th March.
Go bhfeice muid liath iad is ag ciaradh a gclann.

Baptism

Allison Currah: 12th Feb in St Nicholas'. To be baptised as an adult is not just an act of faith it is an act of courage. We welcome her into the family of the church.

Prof. Steve Ellis was commissioned on 19th Feb as a Diocesan Reader for Limerick dioceses, as well as for our own dioceses, in St Mary's Cathedral. Congratulations to him as his sphere of influence increases! On 23rd Feb, the Anatomy Service was held in the Chapel in NUIG. This is about thanksgiving and recognition of those who gave their remains to medical science. A very moving event, taken by the students. On 26th Feb, we had a children's party in the school, which took the form of messy church, and a good time was had by all. Many thanks to Sally and the social committee for organising it. [And for organising a lot more than that besides!] The Quiet Day for clergy and readers was in Tuam Cathedral, taken by Bp Richard Henderson, and it was very good to see him again. This was an inter-diocesan event, together with Limerick dioceses, as was the meeting of clergy on 7th April. On 12th March, we

made a presentation at the end of the morning service to Holly Armstrong in recognition of many years in charge of the flowers. We are very grateful to her for all her work.

Confirmation classes began in March with 9 candidates, confirmed on the 21st May. Many of them, attended the Diocesan Day for Confirmation Candidates, climbing the Reek! On St Patrick's day we had a bilingual eucharist, and an evensong on the following Sunday. My personal thanks to the Choral Scholars for their complines, our Choristers, and to the parish choir during Holy Week, and all the other weeks they sing as well, and many thanks to Mark, Ronan and Dottie besides. The inter-church Way of the Cross with the Augustinians was a very moving experience, and a new, slightly more informal service on Easter Eve seemed to go down well enough, with a good attendance. On the 19th March, we rang our bells [thanks to Paddy and Alice in Galway, and possibly Iris in Kilcummin?] together with other churches throughout the country and the world, as a sign of welcome and inclusion to all the displaced people amongst us and against xenophobia and intolerance.

We have erected a stone collection box just inside the door of St Nicholas'. This is obviously to collect money, but it is also an attempt to stop the thieving from the other collection boxes in the church. So far, so good! The rectory sewers and drains were repaired/ replaced, a great relief to all concerned! On 22nd March, we had a Lady Day service for the Mother's Union, after which refreshments were served, and toiletries for Osterley Lodge Women's Refuge parcelled up and dispatched. MU also organised a Bake Sale on 12th Feb for Mothers Union Overseas Fund, and were further involved in the Famine Lunch on 2nd April. This latter raised over €800 for the famine in the Sudan. On 31st March, the rector was involved in the blessing of the Gaelscoil in Oranmore, having, together with Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh agus an tAthair Micheál Mac Gréil, blessed and opened the original building in 1993. The three of us came back again, and are now immortalised in a plaque outside the new building! Fame at last— my name up in stone, and not a grave!

General Vestries came and went without tears, and once again, thanks to all who give their time on vestries, and on all the work and jobs associated with

them. We now have a new group in St Nicholas', 'Chatty Crafters'. They meet on Thursday mornings between 10.00 and 12.30 in the side chapel to do their craft work in company and with tea and coffee supplied. Our Welcome Desk volunteers had a night out: a tour and talk in Galway museum, with refreshments afterwards. If you would be interested in getting involved with the Welcome Desk, please get in touch with Mary Liddy or Rachel Latey. We would be very glad of the help! ... And while we're talking about help...

The Garden Fete is upon us shortly, [10th June] and we would be very glad of all the volunteers we can get for that as well. It's a big part of our fundraising, and any assistance you can give is greatly appreciated and necessary. Galway Flower and Garden Club had a massive Flower Festival in St Nicholas', 'Jewels of the West Festival of Flowers', the proceeds going to the

as righteousness.

ST NICHOLAS SCHOLA CANTORUM

St Nicholas' recently fielded four candidates for the prestigious Bronze Award examination of the Royal School of Church Music. Choristers Emily Rooney, Leasha Garvey and Sorcha Carrick, and Maria Tuohy from the Parish Choir, all passed with flying colours, and with commendations all round.

There have been and will be several highlights in the Schola Cantorum Lent and Trinity terms. The Choral Scholars' second semester included a Lenten series of sung Compline in the church, as well as several singing engagements elsewhere, including a special guest spot at the prestigious NUI Galway Alumni Awards dinner. The St Nicholas Singers presented a concert Journey into Light for the feast of Candlemas, featuring different settings the Nunc Dimittis canticle as well as John Rutter's challenging motet Hymn to the creator



Galway Hospice. It was a great success, the official opening was on Friday 4th May, and it was closed with a concert on the Sunday evening. Congratulations to them, and especially to our own Lorna MacMahon, one of its designers, who is now probably still a very tired lady.

Don Tallon is organising a survey of all the males in our church to see if there are any activities which they would be interested in doing together. Perhaps to form a loosely made up Men's Group. Just so you know if he would speak to you, or contact you at some stage. The rector's thanks to Provost Stan Evans, Rev'd's David Williams, Maureen Ryan and John Godfrey, Archdeacon Previte and the Dean of Tuam, not forgetting Paddy, Steve and Denzil, Leslie and Walter for their oversight and assistance in the parish on various occasions. May it be counted to them even

of light.

The chamber choir Collegium presented a concert of Passiontide music on Good Friday as part of the Music for Galway series, entitled Popule Meus and attracting a capacity audience. The Parish Choir, in addition to their demanding regular schedule of services, sang Evensong for the Feast of St Patrick, and including a good deal of challenging new music in the parish's Holy Week liturgies. The choir brings its official Trinity Term schedule to a close with Evensong on Saturday 17th June. The Choristers are to take part in the closing concert of the Galway Early Music Festival, sing in a Saturday morning coffee concert together with St Patrick's Intermediate Band, and their annual final service of the season with prizegiving, admissions and valedictions will be on Sunday 18th June.



KILLALA

St Patrick's Cathedral, Killala
St John's, Ballycastle (Dunfeeney)
St Mary's, Crossmolina
Priest-in-charge: The Revd Jennifer McWhirter

Tel: 096 31384

Ash Wednesday

I was pleased to be so well supported during my Ash Wednesday 'sit in' around the Union. I spent several hours in each church and was joined by parishioners in all three churches for the scheduled services. There was something quite lovely about being in the stillness of each church as prayers were offered for the parish, the community and our link diocese of Kajiado in Kenya. The day finished with the Ash Wednesday penitential service in Crossmolina which was well attended by people from all three churches. While fundraising wasn't the primary goal of the day, we raised €75 for the Maji appeal.



Lent jam jars

Thank you to the many people who filled jam jars with loose change during Lent and brought them back to church over the following weeks. I have quite a collection of jars of all shapes and sizes and will be having the money counted very soon once the last few jars promised are returned. It was a great effort made by such a small Union so thank you.

MU tree planting

The Mothers' Union festival service was held in Killala on Tuesday 9th May. There's more about the service elsewhere in Tidings, however I wanted to thank Derek and Dolly McGreal who came a couple of weeks previously to dig the hole and plant the tree. Ably helped by Kizzy who wanted to water everything in sight!

James Kilbane

There will be a concert by the singer James Kilbane held in Killala Cathedral on Sunday 11th June at 6.00pm. Anyone interested in tickets should contact Mrs Dolly McGreal on 086 3159138.

Children's day

On Saturday 24th June there will be a children's activity afternoon at Ballina Rectory for all children from both Killala and Kilmoremoyle Unions. The activities will run from 2.30-5.00pm and weather permitting we'll have games outside followed by a BBQ. If you could let me know if you're coming that'd be a great help with catering. Please let me know by Sunday 18th June.



KILMOREMOY UNION

St Michael's, Ballina (Kilmoremoyle)
Killanley Church, Castleconnor
Kilglass, St Anne's, Easkey
Rector: The Revd Stephen McWhirter
Tel: 096 60829 & 085 875 9921.
www.stmichaelsballina.killala.anglican.org
www.kilmoremoyle.killala.anglican.org

As we go to print we have been enjoying some unseasonably good weather, and while this has been a time to spend outdoors working in the garden, youngsters playing, we do hope that it's not all we will see of summer. Jesus tells us in John 10:10 that we are to live life in all its abundance. I guess that means

enjoying what we have while we have it. This certainly doesn't mean just the weather and the relief that brings, but also all the situations we meet in life. We must be thankful for, and enjoy, our health while we have it. A highlight for me over these last months has been the increase in worshippers at our midweek Communion service at 11.00am on Wednesday mornings. Many people throughout the Union, and further afield, committed to coming along to these services during Lent and some have continued to come now that Lent is over. It is our habit and practice during these services to focus on healing prayer and as we draw to the end of these services for this season we are currently praying for 53 people. Some are from our own community, but many are simply known and cared for by the congregation who attend. I would like to thank all those who come to



this service in response to the many messages of thanks we have had from those for whom we pray.

The Kilmoremoy/Killala Mothers' Union branch had their day trip to Mount Falcon estate on Wednesday 10th May. We enjoyed lunch followed by a talk from Martin ?? about one of the owls that is part of the falconry on the estate and then a tour of the kitchen garden by the Head Gardener Alex ?. Thank you very much to Valerie Wilson for organising the day.

Womens' world day of prayer

This year it was the turn of St Michael's, Ballina, to host the Womens' World Day of Prayer service on 3rd March in the town. The theme this year was "Am I being fair to you." We thank Revd Jen for being our preacher on that occasion. We were joined by a good crowd of women representing all our neighbouring churches and were delighted to see so many staying after the service to enjoy fellowship over a cup of tea. A huge thank you to all involved in the running of this service, and especially Helen O'Connor, the WWDP co-ordinator for St Michael's.

Lady Day Service

The Mothers' Union branch held its annual Lady Day service in Kilglass on Wednesday 8th March. I was sorry that I was unable to attend due to a prior engagement, however Revd Jen stepped in and conducted the service and preached. The service was followed by supper in the McFibis Hall and proved to be a very enjoyable occasion.

Confirmation

A large crowd gathered to support 3 young people and one adult as they were confirmed on Sunday 30th April. The candidates were Lee-Anne Clark, Iefan Greer, Ciara Murray and Charleen Petrie. Bishop Patrick confirmed the candidates and celebrated Holy Communion and was assisted by Revd Stephen and Parish Readers representing each church in the Union. This was a great occasion enjoyed by all who attended, with most people staying behind afterwards for the customary cup of tea. Two brothers from St Michael's, Robbie and Blair Norton, were unfortunately unable to be present at this service and they were confirmed the following week, Sunday 7th May, in Skreen. We are most grateful to Archdeacon Alan for accommodating the boys along with his own candidates.

Easter Vestry

A thank you to all who took time to attend Easter Vestry and in particular those who hold office in Select Vestry for the coming year. I am very aware of the time spent by so many that allows this Union to function so smoothly. In our Triennial elections I would like to make particular mention of Robert Morrow and Ivan Gawley who both decided not to stand for re-election to Diocesan Synod. We are most grateful to them for the many years of sterling service, not only to their own parishes and our Union but to the diocese.

Parish register

Holy Baptism: Faith Eve Buchanan, daughter of Edward and Vivienne Buchanan, Roselea Road, Easkey, Co. Sligo, on Saturday 6th May 2017 in St Anne's, Easkey.

Christian Burial

Saturday 4th March 2017

Baby Buchanan, still born, daughter of Edward and Vivienne Buchanan, Roselea Road, Easkey, Co. Sligo. Service conducted by Revd. Stephen McWhirter.

Saturday 1st April 2017

Ireneé (Reneé) Beatrice Dorran, age 75, St Patricks Ward, Peamont Hospital Dublin formerly of Tulla Road,

Carlow. Ashes interred by Revd. Stephen McWhirter.

Dates for the Diary

RTE Radio Broadcast Rehearsal, Sunday 28th May 2017, in St Michael's Ballina at 10.30am for 11.00am start.

RTE Radio Broadcast Recording, Friday 2nd June 2017, in St Michael's, Ballina at 7.30pm.

Mothers Union Afternoon Tea, 14th June 2017, in St Michael's Rectory at 3.00pm.

RTE Radio Broadcast Sunday 18th June.

Kilglass BBQ Sunday 16th July at Kilglass Parish Church beginning at 1.00pm. All welcome.



STRAID PARISH, FOXFORD & CLAREMORRIS

Priest-in-charge: Canon Andrea Wills
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

Crowds lined the streets in support of this relatively new event in the town calendar. People worked really hard to make this a success.

Mothering Sunday

There was lots of help with distributing the posies on Mothering Sunday and a family/children's service is becoming a regular feature at church.

Blessing of the Moy

Fr. Pdraig Costello and myself took part in the annual blessing of the Moy on Saturday 8th April in weather which whetted the appetite of the anglers for gorgeous fishing days ahead. Prayers of thanksgiving for God's creation and safely for all who use the waters were offered.

Congratulations:



Congratulations to Peter Ryder who was recently awarded a Ph.D in Plant Genetics and Biotechnology, at National University of Ireland, Galway. The title of his Research Project

is Molecular genetic investigation towards functions of imprinted genes in reproduction and seed development in *Arabidopsis thaliana*. A wonderful achievement for someone so young.

Trevor Wills, BBS(Law), Solicitor recently was awarded a MBA with distinction from Trinity College Dublin.



St. Patrick's Day Parade

The parade this year took place on Saturday 18th March and a wide variety of floats passed the church in reasonable weather.



Very Rev. Dermot Burns



It was with great sadness Fr. Dermot former Parish Priest of St. Peter and Paul Church, Straide was laid to rest in the grounds of that church on Saturday 1st April. He retired in 2011 due to ill-health and continued to live in the parish until his death on 29th March. I

could see his house from my window. I miss the light. When I was at Theological College he was a great support and often called to see what module I was studying and often lent me books he thought would be of assistance to me. May he rest in perfect peace.

Visitors:

We welcome back Dorothy Strong and her husband Seifu from Dallas for an extended stay. We are most grateful to the Strong family for the gifts we received for Foxford Church in memory of Dr. Trevor Strong who was called home last September.

Peter and Carole Jackson from Northamptonshire have become firm friends of Foxford Church and their support and encouragement in financial terms and their presence in church during their visits to Ireland is very much appreciated.

Remembering Margaret

It is hard to believe that it is two years since Margaret McGreal left us. A short service of memorial was held on Friday 31st March and there was time afterwards for many friends and family to meet again at refreshments in the Mayfly Hotel.

Claremorris:

Bishop Patrick celebrated Holy Communion in the McWilliam Park Hotel in March. We look forward to him joining us again in October. The service on the first Sunday of the month at noon continues to be well supported and often residents of the hotel join us.

Run for Boylo:

The 6th annual 10km/5km organised by Jean and Ollie Boyle in memory of their son Martin who died in a traffic accident just outside the town in 2009 aged 26 took place on 23rd April. A terrific turnout ensured his memory endures in the funds raised for local charities. Foxford Church restoration fund was included last year for which we are very grateful.

Baptism:

It was a joy to officiate at the baptism of Esme Louise Shaw in Turlough Church of Saturday 13th May. Congratulations to Karin and Gordon & big sister Mona.



OMEY GROUP

Christ Church, Clifden
St Thomas', Ballinakill
St Mary's, Roundstone
Priest-in-charge: The Very Revd
Stan Evans
Telephone 095 21147
Mobile: 087 636 9473
revdstanevans@gmail.com
www.omeygroup.ie

Wedding

On Friday 19th May in Christ Church – Kevin Byrne and Champagne Chamberlain – we pray God's blessing for their future years together.

Easter

Our services throughout the group were so well attended with our usual influx of visitors. Special thanks go to all those who prepared our churches and also to our organists Alannah Robins and Damien Duffy.

Visitation by Bishop Patrick

On Friday 28th April the Bishop spent the day in the parish and was delighted to see our progress on



Christ Church and Moyard churches. He was particularly encouraged with the extra services planned for St Thomas's & looks forward to being with us on July 16th. During the afternoon the Bishop visited the Nursing home in Carna where he spent time with Des and Pauline Hickey and also Stephanie Brooks who was recuperating after a fall in which she broke her ankle. From Carna he travelled to Moyard where he called in on Jan and Willie Barry who had just had a double celebration – 60 years married and Willie's 90th birthday.

Commissioning of Diocesan Readers

A special commissioning service was held in St Mary's Roundstone for Maebh O'Herlihy and Carole Reynolds. We give thanks and pray for them as they begin this next important stage in their ministries. Special thanks to all who were involved in preparing the church and also for all who made sure that our guests were well catered for following the service at the Roundstone hotel.

Christ Church Conservation

Phase Two of the conservation work has now begun. The cost of this Phase is 70k. The chancel and vestry roofs have to be replaced and the internal works in the chancel are essential as the D'Arcy memorial plaque is in danger of collapse. Funding applications are already thankfully bearing fruit.

Moyard

As we move into the summer we look forward to welcoming visitors and it is good to see new life being breathed into this community. The tower has been re-roofed and the work completed. The next urgent step is to restore the roof to the nave and again applications are submitted with some positive signs. Conservation Letterfrack are helping us to create a small gathering area at the west end of the church by turning pews. This will enable small gatherings and also meetings to take place.

Creating a Living Churchyard

The Management Plan has been prepared which will be the template for preserving the past for the future. The Churchyard sub-group with support from the wider community have worked together with Marie Louise Heffernan to compile the plan. The church and graveyard is a Recorded Monument under the National Monuments Acts and this plan will ensure the preservation of this sacred and green space which is cherished by so many locals and visitors alike.

Easter Vestries

Omev Union Easter General Vestry was held in Christ

Church on Thursday in Easter week. Wardens appointed were:

Christ Church – John Villiers-Tuthill (Rectors) and Charlie Bourke (Peoples)

Moyard, St Thomas's – Lesley Van Hoey-Smith (Rectors) and Jan Barry (Peoples)

Roundstone, St Marys held their Easter General Vestry on Monday 24th April in St Marys:

Wardens: Dr Rod Teck (Rectors) and Margaret Freeman (Peoples)

Bring and Buy Fundraiser

The Town Hall Clifden was the venue for a Bring and Buy sale in aid of Church funds on Saturday 22nd May. It was a happy day and yielded some 1600 and more such days are planned. Well done to all for a wonderful effort. Special thanks for Lesley van Hoey who managed supervision in spite of having a knee replacement and being on crutches – just wait until she is on two feet!!

Date for your Diary

40th Clifden Arts Festival – 14th – 24th September

This year is a very special year for Clifden Arts Festival – stay in touch through www.clifdenartsfestival.ie – for this is a world renowned Festival – do not miss it.



SKREEN GROUP

Skreen
Christ Church, Dromard
St Mary's, Kilmacshalgan, Dromore West
Rector: The Ven. Alan Synnott
Phone: 071 9166941
Mobile: 083 118 7105
Email: alanpsynnott@gmail.com

Life in our parish group continues to serve up the normal round of happiness as well as sadness as we meander through the seasons.

Aleck Cochrane Crichton 9th May 1918 – 18th April 2017

Aleck Crichton departed this life on Tuesday 18th April 2017 just three weeks before his 99th birthday. Aleck's life was long and lived out with a determination and strength of character that is rare, he was so talented at and was interested in so many things and his sense of duty marked him out from the crowd. The extended Crichton family gathered from across Ireland and around the globe for the funeral on

Saturday 22nd April and Christ Church was full with up to one hundred more people in the churchyard. The gentle heat of the day, the budding of spring and the birdsong gave the gathering a special warmth, as if the place itself was marking his passing.

We were most grateful to John Cooke, Aleck's, son-in-law, for giving a most wonderful eulogy at the funeral, we were taken on a journey through Aleck's life that was as inspirational in the delivery as it was about the subject. The rector was joined by Father Michael O'Horro in leading the service and this too was a tribute Aleck's place in the local setting, in the tradition of his fathers Aleck was a good neighbour, committed to enriching the lives of everyone around the parish and encouraging us in our ecumenical endeavours.

This is not the place to list Aleck Chrichton's achievements, indeed it would require a hefty tome to do him justice, rather as his rector may I say it is an honour to have known him and ministered to him, to have prayed with him and shared our thoughts and insights together. When we first met him he prayed with us and that will remain with Anne and me for a long time. It is in the context of his home and family, church and community that we remember him now, others may write of him more fully. Aleck loved Carrowgarry, his family and his parish and had a deep and somewhat enigmatic faith, his life was rich and full, he was an honourable man of great virtue and

Christian humility. We continue to reflect on these words from Aleck's service:

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things". Phil4:8

Holy Matrimony

Let us now reflect upon the happiness we shared as we celebrated the marriage of Aileen Morrison and Declan Fehily in St Mary's Kilmacshalgan on Friday 21st April 2017. We had a joyous celebration together in the church as they made their vows and signed the register, committing to each other in the presence of God and his gathered people. We had some grand little ones at the front who helped out and conducted themselves with real dignity and pride. When I congratulated Aileen and Declan on making it out to church on the Sunday I was told "We just wanted to thank God for the lovely day we had on Friday." What a perfect way to start out on the journey of marriage together.

As I write we anticipate the marriage of Helen Higgins and Dean Connaughton at the end of May, even though you won't have received tidings till after the fact.

Skreen Parish Lunch

We look forward to welcoming our usual crowd of supporters to our annual lunch in Skreen/Dromard



Community Centre on Sunday 6th August 2017. There will be three sittings at 12:30pm, 1:30pm & 2:30pm. We will forward posters to our neighbouring parishes in due course.



Easter Eucharist

Bishop Rooke celebrated Holy Communion on Dunmorán strand at 7:00am on Easter day. Over 100 attended and we were pleased to welcome everyone back to Skreen School House for a full Irish afterwards. Thank you to the small band of helpers who turned out to prepare the hall on Saturday and to make the breakfast at early o'clock on Sunday.

Helpers

As a parish group we are indebted to all those who give their time and energy to cleaning setting up our churches on a weekly basis and for the major festivals of the year. We are grateful too for the work you do in getting our buildings ready for the occasional offices of the church such as weddings and funerals. Flower arrangements enhance or worship and thanks are due to those whose talents lie in this direction too.

Our musicians and all our parish officers also deserve great praise for all the time given voluntarily to the running of our churches. Thank you all.

Confirmation

On Sunday 7th May 2017, Gary, Noah and Adam were ordained in Skreen Parish Church by Bishop Rooke. They were joined by Blair and Robbie from the Kilmoremoy group making up the only all male confirmation in the parish in living memory. Our prayers go with the lads and we commend their parents for fulfilling the promises they made on their behalf in baptism.

Anniversary

Arthur and Jenny Golden recently celebrated fifty years of married life together. We wish them a sense of God's continued presence and blessing in their lives and rejoice with them and their family.



TUAM GROUP

St Mary's Cathedral, Tuam
St Mary's, Cong
St John the Baptist, Aasleagh
Rector: The Very Revd Alistair Grimason
Tel: 094 9546909
Mob.: +353 85 2821073
Email: deantuum@gmail.com

BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION AND MARRIAGE

We welcomed Callum McQuilkin, son of Jennifer (nee Clesham) and Derek into the Household of Faith in Saint Mary's Cathedral, Tuam on 4th March. It was especially good to have so many members of the Scottish side of the family with us. We wish the little lad and his mum and dad every blessing as he grows into Christ.

Kate Ormsby was confirmed by the Archbishop of Dublin in the chapel of The Kings Hospital School, Dublin on Sunday 14th May. The Dean was present to bring the good wishes of all at Saint Mary's, Cong to Kate as she embarks on the next stage of her journey of faith.

The Dean took part in the marriage of Louisa Kelly and Patrick Nwaokorie in Wicklow on 29th April. We take this opportunity to wish every blessing from The Cathedral Family to the happy couple and their families.

The Dean would like to record his thanks to Canon David Williams who covered services while he was absent for the wedding and confirmation.

LENT, HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Our Lenten Study Group, held in Saint Mary's Cathedral, Tuam and focusing on The Nicene Creed (or should that be the Constantinopolitan-Nicene Creed) raised quite a few interesting discussions. Well done to all who attended.

Holy Week was observed in both Cong and Tuam. There was a particular occasion in the Cathedral on the Tuesday of Holy Week, more of which anon. Many thanks to all those who helped with the liturgies

during this special time of the year. Most especially a hearty thanks to the folks who arranged, contributed, assisted and took part in Cong for the Family Service on Palm Sunday and 'The Rolling of the Eggs' on Easter day. To Ros for the Calvary, Lorraine for all her help in organisation, Vicky for stepping into the breach with music oversight, Canon David for helping the Dean once more on Easter Day and the biggest shout-out to the children for bringing their special brand of joy to the whole thing.

CATHEDRAL CONCERT

On the Tuesday of Holy Week we welcomed to Saint Mary's Cathedral a Choir from Guilford, Connecticut for a concert of Spiritual and Reflective Song appropriate to Holy Week in aid of Western Alzheimers Association.

The evening began with the full, 100 strong, High School Choir singing pieces from one of Mozart's Short Masses, traditional Spirituals and established American composers. The senior members of the choir, The High School Singers, then took over and performed several more pieces as an ensemble.

Many thanks to all who arranged the event, and particularly to Judith Hesford who looked after things from the cathederal end.

BISHOP'S VISIT

As always, we were delighted to welcome Bishop Rooke to Cong and Tuam for his annual visit. Bishop Rooke celebrated Holy Communion and preached in both Saint Marys and was able to find time to have a short chat with folks after each service.

NEW DIOCESAN READERS

The Dean, as Warden of Readers, was delighted to present Maebh O'Herlighy and Carole Reynolds to be Commissioned as Diocesan Readers in Saint Mary's Church, Roundstone on Sunday 21st May. We in this Group of Parishes wish every blessing for them as

they begin their ministry among us.

EASTER GENERAL VESTRIES

These are now completed in both Cong and Tuam. The Dean and parishioners would like to thank all those who gave of their time and talents in the past year on our two Select Vestries. In similar vein, we thank those who have offered their services for posts for the coming year and trienium.

CONG FETE AND OUTINGS

The Annual Fete in the grounds of Saint Mary's, Cong will be held this year on Saturday 9th July.

A date for the parish outing has not yet been set (ears to the ground for details) but this year we hope to visit Scattery Island off the coast of Clare at Kilrush to have a look around the ancient Cathedral of Saints Mary and Senan.

Deep Sea Anglers please note that the fishing outing will be arranged for a day in late July/early August, depending on the weather. Places for this trip will be limited so listen out for announcements closer to the time.

AASLEAGH

Our summer season of services in Saint John the Baptist's, Aasleagh will resume again on the first Sunday in July and will continue through July and August. These will be held every Sunday evening at 7.00pm and will start with a Celebration of the Holy Communion on Sunday 2nd July and thereafter alternate between A Service of the Word and Communion. Bishop Rooke intends to be with us on Sunday 20th August and that service will be Holy Communion.

Our evening services in St John the Baptist's are quite special. A gentle atmosphere in tranquil surroundings. So if you're out for a wee drive in that part of the world, do drop in to us. You'll be warmly welcomed and will find it a perfect way to end the Lord's Day.



SLIGO GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Church of Ireland Co-educational Boarding and Day School

home from home

Sligo Grammar School, on the banks of the Garavogue river in Sligo, brings together pupils from all over Ireland and abroad. At present there are 450 pupils comprising 330 Day pupils and 120 boarders.



The school library,
open every day



First years in Spain on a cultural
exchange



Second years enjoying the sun



Playing football on the astro-turf
pitch during break

- A broad range of subjects is offered at Sligo Grammar School with a choice of over 20 subjects at Leaving Certificate level.

- Students enjoy excellent academic results at Leaving Certificate with the vast majority progressing to third level, including Universities and Colleges throughout the world such as Oxford, Yale, Groningen University, Netherlands and Boston College.

- A new extension to the school opened in 2013 including a flood-lit Astro-Turf hockey pitch and a newly laid rugby pitch.

- Our pastoral care team, including a matron, is on hand at all times to care for and offer guidance and help to students.

- Transition Year offers exciting and challenging opportunities. In addition to sampling all Leaving Certificate subjects offered at SGS, students experience a diverse curriculum ranging from Forensic Science to Surfing.

- Students are encouraged to get involved in the extra-curricular activities offered in Sligo Grammar School. They include a wide range of sports as well as Debating and Public Speaking, Drama, Chess, Choir and Music



Left: Eoin
Lennon, receiving
his award
for First in
Geography in
Ireland at
Leaving Cert
level

Left: Students selected by the Dept. of Education and Science to attend the Science Olympiad on the strength of outstanding Maths and Science results at Junior Cert.



Above: Senior rugby team - Connacht League Champions 2015/16

Senior Debating Team - West of Ireland Debating Competition finalists 2016

Below: A wide variety of extra curricular activities include kayaking and drama



All this is offered in a school with a pleasant, caring and family-like atmosphere.

Bursaries, scholarships and grants available.

Contact the school for details at: admin@sligogrammarschool.org or phone 071 9145010.

Visit us at www.sligogrammarschool.org

Headmaster: Mr Michael Hall, M.Sc B.Ed



- Caring "family" environment with dedicated staff.
- Consistently excellent academic achievement.
- Promotes the holistic development of your child.
- Broad range of sports available- Rugby, Hockey, Basketball and Athletics.
- Modern facilities.
- Comprehensive Transition Year Programme with wide ranging opportunities.
- Varied and multi-cultural society.
- Protestant ethos.
- Reasonable fees.
- Grant assistance, bursaries & scholarships available.



Bursaries & Discounts

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

Scholarships

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

Prompt Payment Draw

All families who pay before a specified date each semester are entered into a draw for a refund of their net fees for that semester. Please contact our School Bursar for specific information on all our grants, scholarships and bursaries. All enquiries are dealt with in the strictest of confidence - bursar@villiers-school.com

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



VILLIERS SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1821

CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL

Headmistress - Jill A Storey M.A. H.DIP. Ed (Hons) DIP. in REM. Ed. (Hons)

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