

tidings

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LENT AND EASTER ISSUE 2020



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tidings

EASTER ISSUE 2020

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

www.tuam.anglican.org

COPY DEADLINE

All submissions for the Summer Issue of Tidings, including advertisements, must be in by **May 8th 2020**

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: Revd Dr Andrew Ison rev.andrew.ison@gmail.com

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THE BISHOP WRITES . . .



based on creation-centred scriptures which would have been familiar to Jesus and which the author, Margaret Daly-Denton sees as underlying the Gospel of John. She writes....'Down the centuries, followers of Jesus in very different circumstances from those of the early believers have found in John's gospel a template for their response to the challenges of their day. We pray that we too may discover in John's portrayal of Jesus, a Christian way of responding to the plight of our earth home.'

Welcome to the Lent and Easter issue of Tidings. During Lent, we are asked to set aside time for spiritual stock-taking so that we might be better equipped to mirror Christ's own spiritual journey. So how might we usefully avail of this opportunity in Lent 2020?

In addition to our special Lenten services and the traditional themes and music for each of the Sundays in Lent, the clergy and readers of Tuam, Killala and Achonry will have their Annual Lenten Quiet Day on Wednesday 4th March in St Mary's Cathedral, Tuam. The speaker this year will be the Bishop of Clogher, the Rt Rev John McDowell.

I am also encouraging clergy to use a Lenten study course with members of their congregations. One possibility might be a short course offered by the Biblical Association for the Church of Ireland. They have produced a helpful booklet which allows for five sessions on the theme 'Caring for the Garden of the Earth'. Given the climate-change crisis facing the world today, this is a most relevant topic and the course is

Some readers may find this helpful while others may simply wish to make more time for daily prayer and meditation or taking on something practical which will add value and integrity to their own wellbeing.

Personal wellbeing is at the heart of Lent and I am delighted that a Wellness Seminar has been organised for our Diocesan clergy and those in training for ordination. It is essential that we care for ourselves amidst the concerns of our everyday lives and, in order that the clergy can be most effective, they themselves have to be conscious of their own spiritual, physical and mental needs.

Finally, I congratulate Canon Jen McWhirter on her appointment as Rector of the Aughaval Group. I am sure the people of Westport, Castlebar, Turlough and Dugort will welcome her as their new Incumbent. The Institution will be in Holy Trinity Church, Westport on Friday 3rd April at 8pm.

+Patrick Tuam



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FEBRUARY

Tue 25th Joint Working Group, Ballinasloe, 11am
Tue 25th Parish Panel Training, Diamond Hotel, Enniscrone, 7.30 – 10pm
Wed 26th ASH WEDNESDAY
Fri 28th Clergy Bookclub, Foxford, 11am
Sat 29th OtherVoices Concert, St Michael's, Ballina, afternoon & evening

MARCH

Sun 3rd Claremorris Service, 12 noon
Wed 4th Clergy and Readers Annual Quiet Day, Tuam, 10.30am
Mon 9th RB Weeka, Dublin
Wed 10th Parish Panel Training, Salthill Hotel, Galway, 7.30 – 10pm
Thurs 12th Senior Clergy Meeting, Bishop's House, 10.30am
Fri 13th Wellness Seminar for clergy, Claremorris, 9.30am - 3.30pm
Sun 22nd MOTHERING SUNDAY
Sun 29th Summer Time begins
Sun 29th Mothers' Union Service, St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, 3.15pm

APRIL

Fri 3rd Aughaval Institution, Westport, 8pm
Sun 5th PALM SUNDAY
Sun 5th Claremorris Service, 12noon
Sun 12th EASTER DAY
Sun 12th Dawn Service, Dunmorán Strand, 7.30am
Thurs 23rd Diocesan Finance Committee, Claremorris, 3.30pm
Thurs 23rd Diocesan Glebes Committee, Claremorris, 5pm
Thurs 23rd Diocesan Council, Claremorris, 7pm
Sat 25th Diocesan Confirmation Day, Croagh Patrick, from 10am

MAY

Sun 3rd Confirmation in Ballina, 11am
Sun 3rd Claremorris Service, 12noon
Wed 6th General Synod Service, St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, 7pm
Thurs 7th General Synod begins in Dublin – finishes Sat 9th
Sun 10th Confirmation in St Paul's, Collooney, 10.45am
Wed 13th Joint Meeting of Diocesan Councils, Gort, 4.30 – 8.30pm
Sun 17th Confirmation in Cong, 10am
Sun 17th Mothers' Union Diocesan Service, Galway, 4pm
Mon 18th Clergy Bookclub, Galway 11am
Thurs 21st ASCENSION DAY
Tue 26th IDLE, for Alternative Pathways Group, Leixlip, 10.30am
Fri 29th Diocesan BBQ & Treasure Hunt, Bishop's House, 6.30pm
Sun 31st Confirmation in Galway, 11am

JUNE

Sun 7th Claremorris Service, 12noon
Thurs 11th Diocesan Board of Education, Claremorris, 2pm
Thurs 11th Diocesan Finance Committee, Claremorris, 3.30pm
Thurs 11th Diocesan Glebes Committee, Claremorris, 5pm
Thurs 11th Diocesan Council, Claremorris, 7pm
Sun 14th Confirmation in Westport, 11.30am
Sun 14th 350th Anniversary Service, Killala Cathedral, 4pm
Mon 15th RB Week, Dublin



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Uachtarán na hÉireann
PRESIDENT OF IRELAND

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT MICHAEL D. HIGGINS

I would like to send my best wishes to all those participating in this year's celebrations of the 700th anniversary of St Nicholas' Collegiate Church in Galway.

The history of St Nicholas' is a rich and distinguished one. The church has provided an enduring space of peace, comfort and worship for generations of Galway residents, and welcomed through its doors visitors from nations across the globe.

Today it is not only an integral part of Galway's story but also a profound connection to the very different city in which St Nicholas' was conceived and constructed. Throughout its 700 years St Nicholas' has witnessed the many changes and seismic events which have crafted the Galway we know today, while remaining true to the great spirit of compassion and care which defined the life of St Nicholas of Myra to whom the church is dedicated.

Today St Nicholas Collegiate Church continues to be a place of inclusion, solace and reassurance - welcoming all those who come to worship, and reaching out a generous hand of friendship to those who are vulnerable or in need. It is written into the fabric of Galway life, its shade falling on the centuries old Galway Street Market, its annual Carol Service a fundamental part of Christmas for the many who queue to gain entry.

I thank all those who, through their involvement with St Nicholas', work with dedication to create a fairer and better society. I wish you an enjoyable celebration of this remarkable and milestone anniversary, and every success as you continue to enrich the spiritual, cultural and community life of Galway City.

Michael D. Higgins
Uachtarán na hÉireann
President of Ireland

CALENDAR OF ST. NICHOLAS' 2020 EVENTS

March 14th Coffee Concert
Saturday at 11.00am

April 26th Earth Day Celebration
Earth day will be celebrated on Sunday April 26th. Tree planting ceremony on the grounds of the church after service. Launch of worldwide tree planting scheme. Eco congregation challenge to begin.

May 17th Mothers' Union Diocesan Service
The Mothers' Union Diocesan Service will take place in St. Nicholas at 4.00pm

June 11th Opera- Paper Boat
Music for Galway & Galway 2020 present Paper Boat in association with Irish national Opera. A new community opera for Galway, to celebrate 700 years of St. Nicholas' Collegiate Church. Tickets <https://musicforgalway.ie/event/paper-boat-saturday-13th-june-2pm/>

June 15th 'St. Nicholas' Collegiate Church, Galway and Beyond, 700 Years' exhibition.

July 13th This will feature old images, manuscripts and deeds, accompanied by information on some of the church's history.

Sept 11th Culture Night
6.00pm to 7.30 pm guided tours by parishioners in Heraldic Costumes. We are featuring the 14 tribes of Galway. Medieval Music Interlude 7.30 pm to 8.00pm provided by Galway Early Music Ensemble.

Sept 19th St. Nicholas – the first 700 years. Full day seminar entitled 'St Nicholas - the first 700 years'. The list of speakers is to be confirmed and includes experts on many aspects of the fascinating heritage of St Nicholas' church.

Dec 5th Christmas Fayre

Dec 6th St. Nicholas Day

The Parochial School plans a Pageant celebrating stories of St Nicholas's life. The pageant will take place during the Sunday Service

Dec 31st New Year's Eve Bellringing
Our 700 year celebrations come to a close with a Watchnight service, bellringing with answering from the boats in the harbour

Abendmusik A series of six Sunday evening concerts in St. Nicholas April 10th and 26th, May 24th, June 28th, September 27th and November 22nd. For more information see <https://musicforgalway.ie/abendmusik/>

We look forward to welcoming back some of St. Nicholas' previous ministers to preach at services during the year.

THE 700TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS AT ST NICHOLAS' COLLEGIATE CHURCH, GALWAY

9th February 2020

St.Nicholas' Collegiate Church, Galway is the largest medieval parish church in Ireland in continuous use as a place of worship. It is dedicated to St Nicholas of Myra, patron saint of children and of mariners.

The Church celebrated its' 700th Anniversary Service entitled 'Celebrating St. Nicholas' Past, Present and Future' on Sunday, 9th February 2020. The church is treasured by Galwegians and the anniversary service certainly reflected this in essence of the celebration and the attendance.

Honoured guests included Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland and Mrs. Higgins, Mrs Manuela Breazu, Romanian Ambassador, Senator Alice Mary Higgins, Bishop Patrick Rooke, Bishop Brendan Kelly, diocesan clergy, previous rectors and curates, also civic leaders. In addition, other members of the clergy, diocese, parish, community, the school, the university, the port, the schola cantorum and city all took part.

The service was led by the rector, The Very Rev Lynda Peilow and sung by the Parish Choir and Choristers of St. Nicholas' Schola Cantorum, under the direction of Mark Duley. The service reflected on the church

as a house of God, and celebrated the communities connected to it and which have their home there. The service gave thanks for the building as a place of baptism, prayer, teaching and the Eucharist; and also the contribution of a variety of people and the communities connected to it and which have their home there.

St. Nicholas' is the home of the worshipping community of The Romanian Orthodox Church, the Russian Orthodox Church and Syrian Mar Thoma congregation. For some individuals, St. Nicholas' has provided safety, sanctuary, solace and its very presence has guided and comforted. The doors of the church all always open to those who seek refuge.

The church was used by the congregation of St. Augustine's Church during the refurbishment of their church between April and December 2005. This strengthened the already close relationship between the two churches. In gratitude for this the parishioners of St. Augustine's presented the Collegiate Church with a processional cross, which is used at every Sunday service. St. Nicholas' and the Augustinian Community join together to mark several services annually.

Choral worship in St. Nicholas' has its origins in the college of singing clerks established to serve the medieval establishment. The ancient college was revised in 2012, honouring the church's musical heritage, and in a new dynamic that reaches out to all the people of Galway. The Schola Cantorum enriches the regular worship, educates singers and promotes the arts.

To mark this 700th Anniversary Service the bells of St. Nicholas' rang out a full seven hundred times before the service. St Nicholas' had a very successful campanology school last year and new bell ringers were trained so that the bells could sound out through the city once again. The year of celebration began with a watchnight service, led by the rector. As the bells of St Nicholas rang in the New Year they were answered in unison by boats in the harbour, signifying the close relationship between the church and port through the centuries. The illuminated clock tower of Saint Nicholas was an aid to navigators. The alignment of Nimmo's Pier and the spire of St. Nicholas are the point to enter the shipping channel.

As St Nicholas' Collegiate Church celebrates its 700th anniversary this year, Galway also is named as 'European Capital of Culture'. Amongst many liturgical celebrations, the plans for the anniversary year include a banquet, an exhibition, Bach Abendmusik concerts, 'The Paper Boat Opera', seminars and seven hundred trees will be planted by parishioners at various locations and gardens. Later in the year the parish will launch their conservation management plan.



When the church was built Galway was a tiny, very new town, a sort of frontier settlement in the wild west of Ireland. The inhabitants, however, thought a lot of themselves and much as the current inhabitants had big ambitions - they built a huge church, bigger than many Irish cathedrals. Amongst the visitors to St Nicholas' over the centuries the most famous is probably Christopher Columbus, who likely prayed here during a visit to Galway in 1477. Less welcome were the Cromwellian troops who used the church as a stable for their horses after the siege of Galway in 1652.



tidings

DIOCESE OF TUAM, KILLALA AND ACHONRY

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	Single Issue	4 issues
Full Page	150	500
Half page	75	250
Quarter page	50	165
Single column	35	125

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MOTHERS' UNION DIOCESAN NEWS

2020 Theme: "Building Hope and Confidence"

Last year ended with an election process and 2020 begins with the results.

The four Diocesan Vice Presidents for the next triennium are:

Audrey Moore (Finance & Central Services Unit)
Mary Bourke (Faith & Policy Unit)
Canon Jen McWhirter (Fundraising & Communications Unit)
Heather Sherlock (Action & Outreach Unit)

The four Diocesan Unit Coordinators are:

Rose Carroll (Finance & Central Services)
Olive Maher (Faith & Policy)
Ann Nethaway (Fundraising & Communications)
Dawn Thomas (Action & Outreach)

A big welcome to those who are new to Diocesan Council. Congratulations and well done to those in new roles and also to those who continue to serve in former roles. Thank you to everybody for your time and efforts. It is confirmed that our Diocesan Festival with commissioning of officers will be on Sunday 17th May, 4.00 pm, in St Nicholas Collegiate Church, Galway.

The All-Ireland Membership Development and Leadership Training Conference, focussing on the 2020 theme of "Building Hope and Confidence", will take place in An Grianán, Termonfeckin, Co. Louth

from 27-29 March 2020. At present TKA will be represented at the conference by the Diocesan President, the four Unit Co-ordinators and the Diocesan Secretary. The Worldwide President Sheran Harper will be visiting and she will be addressing the congregation at the Evensong Service on 29th March in St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin at 3.15pm to which all are invited to attend.



Canon Andrea Wills with Avril Walker at MU Activism Against Violence Event

Diocesan Council is scheduled for 7th March, 10.30am in The Parish Centre, Chapel St., Castlebar.

An added option for Make a Mothers' Day Appeal this year is that seeded cards are available-plant a card and it will grow into wildflowers!!!! There's also a range of life-changing gifts that supporters can give to help communities around the world grow too!

Also released this year: "Praying in Every Season" a NEW Mothers' Union publication featuring a selection of prayers, which reflect the joys of significant times of year including Lady Day, Lent, Ascension, Father's Day, Advent and much more! Look

out for it online on MU Shop and in the Spring/Summer catalogue.

The first draft of the new All Ireland MU Cook Book is just about ready as this goes to print. It is hoped that there will be a demand for it at the General Meeting in Belfast 25th-26th September.

A great occasion was celebrated on 19th December 2019 in St Phelim's Nursing Home, Dromahair when TKA Indoor Member Dorothy Joules became 100!!!! Violet Lockhart, Mildred Gilmore and Myrtle Nairn were very happy to represent Mothers' Union in joining with family and friends at this special time. Dorothy originally from England, lived in Dublin before coming to live near her daughter Shelagh McCrea and family at Ballisodare, quite some time ago.

"Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence."



Dorothy Joules with her daughter Shelagh McCrea in St Phelim's Nursing Home, Dromahair

Helen Keller
"Blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made the Lord their hope and confidence. They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves stay green, and they never stop producing fruit."
Jeremiah 17:7-8 (NLT)



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Alpha

We had some very positive feedback after the Alpha course. The Alpha Course took place over ten weeks and we also held a Retreat day for participants at the Holy Hill Hermitage, Skreen, Co. Sligo. People found the course modern and engaging. They enjoyed the prayer and singing which gave some, a deeper love and understanding of Jesus.

In the feedback, people expressed that they had learnt so much. They enjoyed meeting different people from various church backgrounds and, no church background. They liked the meals, talking, open discussions and over the ten weeks where friendships were formed. People also found the prayer and singing very powerful, and their hearts were touched. In fact, we found that people had a desire to know more about scripture.

Two of the participants on the Alpha course are Religious Education teachers in local secondary schools. They are now exploring, how they can bring either the Youth Alpha Course or the NUA film series into their classrooms. These courses enable young people to explore the Christian faith, in ways that are relevant and accessible.

We began a 'follow on' group from the Alpha participants and some new people. The title of this course is- "HOW TO FIND THE SECRET OF

How to Find the Secret of Happiness: An Exploration of the Gospel of Matthew

A weekly gathering commencing
Wednesday, Jan. 29th 7-9pm
Family Resource Centre
All are welcome
Free admission charge
For information please contact:
Emma (087) 434-7612

HAPPINESS". We run this on Wednesday evenings in the Family Resource Centre from 7pm to 9pm. This is a time when we explore the bible and we began in Matthew's gospel. Each week we will be looking at a passage of scripture. We have times of prayer, worship and discussion. On average eighteen people participate.

We have found that people are keen to learn about the Bible, to discuss faith and make new friends. We also have prayer meetings for volunteers, twice weekly – on Monday and Friday mornings.

The Bus



The Gentlemen – We have a group of men who come to the bus at weekends. These men live alone and they are vulnerable and isolated. They enjoy the sense of

community on the bus and they look forward to it each week. They enjoy coming to the bus for conversation and a cup of tea ... rather than going to a pub. In the west of Ireland, in times past, there was the tradition of the 'Travelling House'. Here, people met in houses to chat, sing, share stories and drink tea. We provide on the bus a space where they feel welcomed and accepted. They can come as they are. They feel we listen to them and care about them when no one else does. These men are on the fringes of society and many of them don't have families around them and The Big Blue Bus provides a space where they can meet and chat. Creating community is important.

The Teenagers - We believe that we provide a 'Safe Space' for teenagers on the bus. These young people are on the streets of Ballina every weekend. Their parents see us as providing a safe place where the young people can go and some parents pick them up from the bus. These young people have many issues and challenges growing up. Many of them are illiterate, have low self-esteem and don't see any future hope of employment for themselves. It is also quite shocking the lack of basic life-skills these young people have.

Recently, we had a meeting with Darren Butler, who is employed as the national coordinator of the Irish Catholic Bishops Drugs Initiative (Roman Catholic) at St. Patrick's College, Maynooth. Darren visited us in Ballina and we discussed how we could devise a course in community drug- awareness for both young people and parents.

In April, we are organising Youth for Christ, to bring the Nomad soccer cage to engage with the young people of Ballina. The team will engage with the teens, through the universal language of football. In the coming weeks we plan to have the bus out in various housing estates for Kids clubs.

Pastoral care in the community

On a weekly basis, we visit and support individuals in the community. We visit elderly people who are living

alone. Many are vulnerable and feel isolated.

On a monthly basis, we visit a local nursing home, where we engage with the elderly. There we sing hymns and ballads, as well as chit chat and a cup of tea. Singing and music brings great joy to the residents.

Marian works with the St Vincent de Paul's shop, food bank and visitation to needy families every Monday evening.

Some of the Syrian families are very isolated. Even with basic things such as form filling and finding out information. Families and children can feel excluded. We are helping them connect to the community in what ways that are inclusive. Ballina Churches Together has been invited by diversity Mayo to their refugee and migrant day on the 12th February in Castlebar.

Praxis Press Ireland

There are unique challenges facing the church in Ireland. The Irish church, in a land which was once filled with saints, scholars and profound faith needs to elevate its own voices and examine its own mind. Praxis Press is seeking to examine the context of Ireland as a place of mission and engagement with society.

We have been invited by Ruth Garvey William to write a chapter for a new book which she will edit. This book will explore the stories of Irish Christians, who are searching and finding God on the frontier of mission. It will explore the context of Ireland as a place of mission and engagement. Praxis Press seeks to share ideas, explore theological reflections and tell the stories of Christians who are involved in mission. We will write about our own experiences of doing mission in partnership, in the town of Ballina.

In a post-Christendom reality, the church must rise again to the challenge of mission and to see itself as sent, in love, to the world.

QUIET DAY

Wednesday 4th March at 10.30am

In St Mary's Cathedral, Tuam

Annual Lenten Quiet Day for all clergy and readers (Diocesan & Parish)

Led by the Rt Rev John McDowell, Bishop of Clogher.



Spring 2020

Over the next few months we will be looking at the youth and children's ministry in the diocese to explore new directions that we might take in this regard. Part of this will be identifying someone, or a couple of people, in each parish who might act as a 'champion' for this ministry. If you would be interested in this, please contact your rector. We are also exploring trying something a little different in terms of the youth and children's ministry programme, so if you have any suggestions for activities please let me know.

We are pleased that a group of Scottish young people will be visiting the diocese in early July, the return trip following our visit last year. It'll run along the same lines as last year, except we'll be hosting and they will be travelling. Anyone interested in spending a couple of days with the folk from Scotland and helping to host please let me know. There will be an associated cost but this will be less than last year. I'm hoping we can pull together and show off our wee diocese at its best.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

The following are dates for you diary throughout the course of this year as it stands currently:

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| 12th April | Easter dawn service 7.30am- Dunmorán Strand followed by breakfast in Skreen. |
| 25th April | Confirmation day - Croagh Patrick (see your Rector for registration form) |
| 29th May | 6.30pm Diocesan fun day - BBQ and treasure hunt, Bishop's House, Castlebar |
| Early July | Visit from the MRC youth group (dates and venue to be confirmed) |
| 6th November | Diocesan school's service - Speaker Matthew Briggs, Christian Aid |



More details about the above events will be advertised closer to the time.

We are still hoping to run a training day for all involved in youth and children's ministry in the area of disability at the McWilliam Park Hotel, Claremorris, at some stage later in the year. More details of this will be forthcoming soon.

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IN MEMORIAM - REVEREND CANON FREDERICK (DERICK) DAVID SWANN

Funeral address (abridged) given by the Rt Rev Patrick Rooke, Bishop of Tuam, Killala and Achonry in St John's Cathedral, Sligo— 23rd November 2019

From far and wide, we gather in this Cathedral with a mixture of sadness, gratitude and hope to bid our earthly farewells to Canon Derick Swann. Sadness, because all of us here, whether family, friends, colleagues, former parishioners or even fellow parishioners in this Cathedral will miss Derick's lively, energetic and engaging presence among us.

Gratitude because his life touched ours and so many others, and one quickly realised that though not one to draw attention to himself, he was a reliable, strong presence who imparted confidence. Not least Irene and the family will have reason to be grateful today for who Derick was and for all he meant to them.

But we are also hopeful for our faith assures us, as Derick himself knew and believed and demonstrated in the way he lived his life, that death is not the end but merely a comma on the road of life. Derick brought this message to so many in the course of his 50 years in the ordained ministry and those of us who have visited him during his illness have witnessed his courage and determination. Yes, he too was sad that his life was ebbing away but bravely and with trust, realism and his practical positivity, he assured us he was ready to move on – demonstrating that he truly believed that the Lord he put his trust in was watching over him in his going out as he had done in his coming in'.

Faith and loyalty to the Church of Ireland, was at the heart of who Derick was. He loved serving God as a priest of the Church and was utterly conscientious in his work. He was one of those priests who didn't really believe in retirement.

He was recognised as a first rate parish clergyman, but as a trainer of curates – many

parishes throughout Ireland are now benefiting as a result of that thoroughness and common sense Derick instilled in those who were his colleagues. He was also a diocesan man - serving as an Hon. Sec. of the Council and Synod in Armagh, as a member of various Diocesan committees and Boards of Nomination, as a valued Cathedral Chapter Member for ten years – the last five as Canon Treasurer, and, perhaps not least, was his service to education. He became an expert on all things to do with education. For many years he was a member of the Southern Education and Library Board in NI, he also had a close association with the schools in his respective parishes and latterly as Chair of both Riverstown National School and of St Paul's National School, Collooney. His knowledge of the schools system, north and south was immense. And I know that his respective bishops knew that if Derick was involved in such matters, all would run like clockwork. He could be relied upon and thrived on a challenge.

But behind all this was Derick, the family man although an annual visit to Old Trafford to see Derick's beloved Manchester United was always required. Derick loved all sport and in his last months, cricket, golf, rugby and football helped pass the time and provided a welcome distraction. David and Marina, Fiona and Stephen and grandchildren Andrew and James, Lara and Sophie, he took such pride in all your achievements and loved nothing more than to be surrounded by you – he was so proud of you all and what joy he and Irene have had in recent years in having family nearby and family to stay. And what a lot it also meant that he had his own private medical practitioner in David, with the wonderful support of his own GP.

Whether in public roles in church or community, or in the intimacies of family and personal life, such good men and women are a precious gift. It is when they are gone that we become keenly aware of the debt we owe to them. --



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PARISH NEWS



ACHONRY GROUP

St Crumnath's Cathedral, Achonry
St George's, Tubbercurry
Rathbarron
Priest in charge: Revd. Peter Norman
Tel: 071 9181685
E-mail: peternorman1959@gmail.com

'A light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.' Words uttered by the old man Simeon as the child Jesus is presented in the temple on the feast of Candlemas (February 2nd). But then Simeon turns to Mary and says 'a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

Candlemas comes midway between our celebration of the birth of Jesus and the events of Holy Week and Easter. We see Simeon take the child Jesus and declare who He is but then comes the reminder of what is to come – the pain that Mary will feel as she stands at the foot of the Cross.

Lent will take us up to that moment when we too will stand at the foot of the Cross with Mary the Mother of Jesus and when we will also visit the empty tomb

in the company of another Mary and witness the Resurrection.

During Lent the sermons will focus on our relationship with God exploring sin and reconciliation, how we view possessions, justice and the care of the poor, and our caring for God's world except on 22nd March when Bishop Patrick will be celebrating the Eucharist at Rathbarron.

The services for Holy Week and Easter will be as follows.

Palm Sunday (5th April) services at the normal time.
Holy Thursday (9th April) 8.00 p.m. Eucharist at Tubbercurry

Good Friday (10th April) 10.00 a.m. Rathbarron, 11.30 a.m. Tubbercurry

Easter Sunday (12th April) services at the normal time.

Holy Week is the most important week of the year and through it the drama unfolds as we participate in the event that is at the very heart of our faith. We are not spectators in all this, it is as though we are actually present in the upper room, at the foot of the Cross and in the Garden of the Resurrection. We are united



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through time with all who have shared these mysteries before us and with the disciples themselves. Easter Sunday will see a celebration of the Eucharist in both churches at the usual time. This is one of those Sundays when all communicants should, if at all possible, make their communion. Please let me know if there are any who are sick or housebound who would like communion at this time in their own home.

Candlemas, with which we began, looks ahead to Easter but it also looks back to Christmas. So looking back, a big thank you must go to those who were involved in any way with our celebration of the Christmas story. Special thanks to the children for their part in the Crib service at Rathbarron (see photo).

Funerals

Funerals have taken place in Rathbarron recently following the death of Shirley Goulden on 25th November (Select Vestry Member & former Churchwarden), Walter Livingstone on 26th December, Derek Middleton on 13th January (Select Vestry Member) and Edith Greer on 23rd January (Select Vestry Member who was also responsible for the music on Sunday mornings). May their souls rest in peace.

Mothers Union Notes

Our Christmas dinner in the Coach House Hotel in Ballymote was excellent if somewhat noisy as their big room hosted numerous office parties and community groups as well.

In late January we welcomed Mary Jones from the Cancer Support Group that opened in Tubbercurry

four years ago. It was very well attended. She explained how they offer many courses and healing therapies, some counselling, different workshops and also patient groups. Afterwards she joined us round the table as we enjoyed the delicious tea provided by the members.

AUGHAVAL GROUP

Holy Trinity, Westport
Christ Church, Castlebar
Turlough
St Thomas', Dugort
Tel: 098 25127

We are delighted with the news that Canon Jen McWhirter has been appointed as the new Incumbent of the Aughaval Group of Parishes and look forward to the Service of Institution on Friday 3rd April 2020 at 8.00pm in Holy Trinity, Westport. Canon Jen has been Priest in Charge of the Killala Union of Parishes for the past four years and during that time has enjoyed getting to know the people and ministering to them there. Speaking of her new appointment Canon Jen says, "I am honoured to have been appointed to the Aughaval Group of Parishes and look forward to getting to know my new parishioners over the next while."

As parishes we would wish to thank all involved in the appointment, but most particularly our own Group Nominators, Eamon, Tim, Steve and Charlie who committed so much time and effort in the process.

I wish to thank all involved in the running of each

parish during the period of vacancy. To all Wardens and members of the Select Vestries who have been meeting as a united vestry during the time of vacancy. These meetings have been taking part in the Travellers Friend Hotel in Castlebar and as well as conducting considerable work in a short period of time, they have also been meetings of good humour and a time for getting together over a cup of tea to catch up with old friends and perhaps meeting new people. In this regard I would wish to offer particular thanks to Mrs. Ann Bourke and Mrs. Fiona Kelly who are acting Vacancy Treasurer and Secretary, which has been considerable work.

Thank you also to the team of Clergy and Readers who have facilitated worship in the Group during the vacancy, the Bishop, Revd Dr. Richard Marsh, Canon Andrea Wills, Canon Doris Clements, Revd Maebh O'Herhily and Dr. Eamon Smyth. The task of drawing together rotas for worship was indeed an easy one to fulfill, so thank you all for your willingness and commitment.

Dates for the diary

St Patrick's Day
Celebration of Holy Communion, Sunday 15th March



at 11.30am, Holy Trinity, Westport
The institution of Revd Canon Jennifer McWhirter as Rector of the Aughaval Group of Parishes, Tuam. By Patrick Bishop of Tuam, Killala and Achonry on Friday 3rd April at 8.00pm. Guest Preacher Revd Alan Synnott.

Palm Sunday services

Saturday 4th April, 8.00pm in Turlough Parish Church
Sunday 5th April, 10.00am in Christchurch, Castlebar
- United worship with Holy Trinity for Canon Jen's first Sunday

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Conductor: Yvonne O'Connor

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Tickets: €10.00

Holy Trinity Church, Westport 7.00pm Saturday 25th April 2020

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Holy Week and Easter services

Maundy Thursday, 9th April Celebration of the Last Supper, 8.00pm, Holy Trinity, Westport
 Good Friday, 10th April Good Friday service, 8.00pm, Christchurch, Castlebar
 Easter Saturday, 11th April Easter Vigil, 8.00pm, Turlough Parish Church
 Easter Sunday, 12th April Holy Communion, 10.00am, Christchurch, Castlebar
 Holy Communion, 11.30am, Holy Trinity, Westport

Parish Registers

Christian Burial
 Walsh, Eileen Rosalie, Westport, on 13th December 2019 aged 79, in Holy Trinity, Westport followed by interment in Tourmakeady Cemetery. Service conducted by Dr. Richard Marsh.
 Wilkie, Ann (Gabriel), Lankill, Westport, on 4th January 2020 aged 72, in Holy Trinity, Westport followed by interment in the churchyard. Service conducted by Canon Andrea Wills.

On Tuesday 4th February, the Archdeacon, Ven. Stephen McWhirter accompanied by the Church Warden of St. Thomas crossed over to Inisbiggle Island to view the church and to celebrate a Communion Service there. It was an unseasonably sunny day and they had a good safe crossing. On the island they were given a warm welcome by a few of the locals who joined them at the church.

Dates for the Diary:

5th March: Ecumenical World Day of Prayer Service. 12 noon, St. Colman's
 5th April: Installation of Canon McWhirter as Rector of Aughaval Group. 7.30 pm in Holy Trinity, Westport.
 10th April: Good Friday Tenebrae Service, 7pm in St. Thomas'
 12th April: Easter Day. Holy Communion, 11.30 am
 15th April: West Coast Quartet Concert, 8pm, St. Thomas'

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 E-mail: maebhoh@gmail.com

**BALLISODARE GROUP**

Holy Trinity, Ballisodare
 St Paul's, Collooney
 Emlaghfad, Ballymote
 Rector: Canon Dr Andrew Ison
 Tel: 071 9133217
 Mob: 089 2221483
 rev.andrew.ison@gmail.com
 www.ballisodare.achonry.anglican.org

We welcome Canon Jennifer McWhirter as our new Rector, and congratulate her on her appointment as Rector of the Aughaval Group of Parishes. We wish her every blessing in her new post and look forward to our work together. Canon Jen's Installation will be on Friday 3rd April at 7.30pm in Holy Trinity, Westport. A sincere 'thank-you' to the Archdeacon who has looked after the group during the vacancy.

Our Christmas Carol Inter-Faith Service was held on Sunday 8th December. As in previous years we were very happy to welcome about fifty members of the wider Achill Community, despite the storm that was blowing fiercely on the day. This year the Service was held in conjunction with the Achill Says Welcome group and we were delighted that €300 was raised in donations at the refreshments gathering after the service. This money was used to buy some Christmas presents for the children of refugees in Direct Provision.

The problem of any magazine is that it is retrospective, reporting on what has happened and giving some clues to things that are coming up but it still seems odd to be thinking about Christmas at the beginning of February even if technically the season of Christmas and Epiphany has only just finished. Christmas seems to begin on November 1st and Easter begins the day after Christmas if the arrival of Easter eggs in the shops is anything to go by. I haven't looked but I suspect that hot cross buns are probably out there already.

It is good to look back and enjoy what has happened and to let it shape what is coming up. Indeed, many churches in our diocese are celebrating major milestones in history this year including our own St Paul's in Collooney with 300 years to look back on. Life is full of times and seasons. In fact, the Church of England has a worship book called just that. It leads us through the seasons of the church's year from Advent

through Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Passiontide and Holy Week, Easter, Trinity to All Saints and then back to Advent but it also adds in material reflecting the agricultural year. While these are part of the church's year and part of the farming year, part of the created order, God given, we also have times and seasons in our own lives, times when we feel like we are in spring but also times when it feels a lot like winter. But the seasons change, so wherever you are at the moment, just remember that spring will follow winter.

Ballisodare Branch Mothers' Union

The branch held its AGM and thanked outgoing honorary secretary Helen Clarke and outgoing honorary treasurer Joyce Bright for their work, time and commitment. The newly elected honorary secretary is Heather Sherlock and new honorary treasurer is Lynda Devaney. They are warmly welcomed into their new roles.

The following is planned for 8pm:

27th February: Canon Andrew when he will speak on Christianity and Veganism, also preparation of "Emergency Bags" for the hospital
 6th March: World Day of Prayer, St Paul's Church, Collooney
 26th March: Lady Day Service, Emlaghfad Church, Ballymote

30th April: CPR Training, Ballisodare (to be confirmed)

Members will be looking forward to the Diocesan Festival Service on 17th May in St Nicholas Church, Galway, 4pm.

St Paul's School

Christmas was a busy time at school but our play went off without a hitch and in fine style as the school brought us 'A Midwife Crisis' a new and novel look at the nativity story. This year the congregation watched a self-important midwife and her put-upon donkey, Steve, as they searched for a royal baby. Where else would you look but Bethlehem palace! Steve, her donkey had never heard of such a place but 'no one ever listens to a donkey' (recurring line in the play). However, with the help of singing angels and a bright star, she is led to a humble stable where the very special baby is waiting for her...a very thought provoking moment. Well done to all for a beautifully delivered nativity musical!

In February, we held our first multi-cultural day as parents come in to share with us about their home country. This was wonderful event of learning and sharing and we were all blessed by learning something about one another's culture.

And on Shrove Tuesday we all shared in a wonderful



pancake celebration something everyone looks forward to, I can't think why?

Alternative Pathways

In line with our diocesan goal we have started two new fresh expressions of church (which we as a diocese have named 'Alternative Pathways'. In December, we began opening Emlaghfad church, Ballymote on a Saturday morning once a month to provide what we call 'Sacred Space'. We have soft worship music playing and offer light refreshments to visitors. We have been pleasantly surprised to find people do wander in and it made me wonder how many more people we might encounter if we were open more. There is no pressure, no format just a welcoming face.

In St. Paul's, Collooney we have begun a Newspaper Club on a Wednesday morning once a month. Again, light refreshments and the newspapers provide the backdrop to fellowship for the whole community. If both continue as they have started we may need to open more frequently!

Registers

It has been lovely to recently, welcome two children into our community. On January 12th at Holy Trinity,



Ballisodare we baptised Chloe Isabella, daughter of Sandra and Declan and sister to Daniel. In addition, on February 9th at Emlaghfad, Ballymote Amy Helen was baptised, the third daughter to Sarah and Clive and a sister to Grace and Katie. Both events were lovely gatherings for the extended families many of whom had travelled long distances to be at these celebrations.



Special Events

Service of Celebration to

mark the 300th anniversary of St Paul's Church Collooney at 4.00pm on Sunday April 26th in church.

For Easter Services please check out the website for the latest service information.



GALWAY & KILCUMMIN

Collegiate Church of St Nicholas
Kilcummin Church,
Oughterard
Rector: The Very Rev Lynda Peilow
Tel: 091 521914
Email: rector@stnicholas.ie

Kilcummin News

Christmas Services – As always there was a great gathering for the community carol service on Monday 16th December. Afterwards everyone enjoyed a good catch up over mince pies and tea. A special thank you to Rev Anthony Previté who led the service on Christmas Day.

Sympathy to Roger and Hilary Thomas – We extend our deepest sympathy to Roger and Hilary, following the death of Rogers son, Wayne in England. As Roger was unable to attend the funeral, a special service was organized on the day of the funeral in Kicummin, so that members of the parish family and community could lift and support Roger and Hilary in their love and prayers on what would be a difficult and trying day. We extend our deepest sympathy to them both at this time.

Mr. Walter deLacy – After several years Walter has decided to retire as a parish reader. The parish hugely appreciate his contribution. We thank Walter for all his good work and devotion as he led several services in the parish.

Christmas Fayre – It was great to take part in the



Christmas Fayre by kind invitation of St Nicholas'. Those involved had great fun and it was real team spirit on the day.

Galway News

Ecumenical Service – This year the ecumenical service for the prayer for Christian Unity took place in the Cathedral on St Brigid's Day. The ecumenical service launched An Turas Naofa, a Journey through Galway's Christian Heritage. The Turas Naofa was organised by the ecumenical Galway Christian Heritage Group, which included the various centres of spirituality around the city together with St Nicholas and United Methodist Presbyterian Church. An Turas Naofa invites people on a journey to visit five of Galway's historic and iconic churches. Each participant will receive a journal which will not only contain information about each of the churches but also some points to ponder about the meaning of what they find there. The first Turas was led by Br. Colmán Ó Clabaigh from Glenstal Abbey. The next will take place on Saturday 4th April.

Holy Baptism - Joshua Mukomeza, son of Odile Uwamahoro and Jean Mukomeza was baptized on 24th November; Lloyd Isaac Don Pedro, son of Ipalibo Roseabella and George Don Pedro was baptized on 26th January, and Zoe Pauline Giovanna Merolla, daughter of Sarah Ellis and Giulio Merolla was baptized on 12th January. May they shine as lights in the world to the glory of God the Father.

Christmas – The Christmas Fayre once again was an outstanding success. It was such a joy to see the parish community work together so lovingly and tirelessly. A great example of teamwork and team spirit. We celebrated in joy and fellowship at our annual Civic Carols service on Sunday 22nd December. Blessings were bestowed upon our city by Bishop Rooke and Bishop Kelly, joined by church leaders of all the main Christian denominations on



Visiting Bishop Paul Colton in Galway

Sunday 22nd December. The service was attended by members of Galway City Council, led by Mayor Cubbard, and by officials of NUI, Galway. Choirs of our own Schola Cantorum did us proud.

Roots Children's Morning - Some of our young people gathered on a Saturday morning before Christmas and got busy crafting and making decorations for Christmas services. A long prayer chain together with some wonderful banners were lovingly created, whilst enjoying hot chocolate and treats! Well done to all who helped and participated. Afterwards six new acolytes were trained and prepared to take part and join the guild of servers. We owe a special thank you to Catherine Emerson for ensuring all our leaders, helpers and parents are 'Safeguarding Trust' trained.



Watchnight Service – After much planning, preparing and waiting 2020, the year of the 700th anniversary celebrations of St Nicholas arrived. We gathered at 11.30pm on New Year's Eve for a watchnight prayer service and proceeded outside just before midnight as the bells rang out 2019 and we welcomed in 2020. Our newly graduated campanology students under the direction of Dr Paidi Delaney did the parish proud. During all the excitement and celebrations, the boats in the port responded and it was a very touching acknowledgement to the year of celebration and the beacon of hope and light that the church is and has been to so many. The celebrations continued afterwards as we toasted the New Year.

Flower Arranging Classes – In the midst of the anniversary preparations a flower arranging school was set up. The group met over Wednesday evenings and enjoyed the fun and friendship whilst learning a new skill. Some of the arrangements were on display in the church over the Christmas season.

University Chaplains – St Nicholas' was delighted to host the university chaplains evening service and agm when the university chaplains were at NUIG for their conference.

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Sympathy

John Rotherham - We extend our deepest sympathy to family of John Rotherham, his wife Sheila, and their children Tracey, Colleena and Robert, and the wider family circle. John's funeral took place in St Nicholas' on Monday 16th December.

Mr. David McSweeney – The parish family were saddened to hear about the death of David McSweeney last November. David's funeral took place in Coolbanagher, Co Laois. We extend our deepest sympathy to Olive, Lynn, Ruth, David and Gwen, and the wider family circle.

Esther Okeke – Esther died prematurely and lovingly surrounded by her family on 8th January. We extend our sympathy and support to her husband Chris and her children Jessica, Lauren, Pamela, Emma and Samuel. Her funeral took place on Friday 31st January.

We assure all the bereaved families that our thoughts and prayerful support are with them at this time.

Dates for the diary

Every Wednesday at 10.30 am there is a service in the side Chapel.

Every Thursday—10.30 am—Chatty Crafters meet in the vestry. Everyone welcome to chat over a cuppa and craft.

the crows off them this time!) are starting to poke their leaves above the hard ground so something is afoot in the earth beneath.

So long, farewell...

As most of you will have heard, I have been appointed as the new Incumbent of the Aughaval Group of Parishes and will be moving to Westport. I am excited for the new challenges ahead, but am sad to be leaving you all in Killala Union. I have been very happy among you over the last 4 years and will miss you all. As I don't really like goodbyes, my last service in the Union will be a united service on 22nd March at 10.00am in Killala, for everyone. That way I only have to say farewell once! I hope to see you all there. I will be instituted into the Aughaval Group on Friday 3rd April at 8.00pm in Holy Trinity Westport and would be pleased if you felt able to come and support me as I begin the next chapter in ministry.

Confirmation classes

Confirmation classes are being run jointly with Kilmoremoymoy Union again this year. Classes will start during Lent and will be run at the rectory in Ballina on Sundays from 3.00-4.00pm and in St Michael's, Ballina on Good Friday, 10th April, from 4.00-5.00pm. Confirmation will be held on Sunday 3rd May. If anyone is interested in confirmation classes please see Canon Jen.

Easter services

We are pleased that Bishop Patrick will once again be in the Union on Easter Sunday. As there is no other priestly cover available, there will therefore be one united service for Killala Union on Easter Sunday at 10.00am in St Patrick's, Killala.

I would also encourage anyone interested to come to the Dawn Eucharist Service at 7.30am on Dunmorán Strand. This is a diocesan service and is well worth attending, and is followed by breakfast in Skreen schoolhouse.

Vacancy

Keep an eye on the noticeboards in the churches as posters will be displayed with important information about services and cover during the vacancy.

Dates for the diary

Lady day MU Branch service - Wednesday 11th March in St Patrick's, Killala at 8.00pm

MU Branch AGM - Wednesday 8th April in St Michael's, Ballina at 8.00pm

Messy Church - Good Friday, 10th April, in St Michael's,



KILLALA

St Patrick's Cathedral, Killala
St John's, Ballycastle (Dunfeeney)
St Mary's, Crossmolina
Priest-in-charge: Revd Canon Jennifer McWhirter
Tel: 096 60829
revjkmcwhirter@yahoo.co.uk

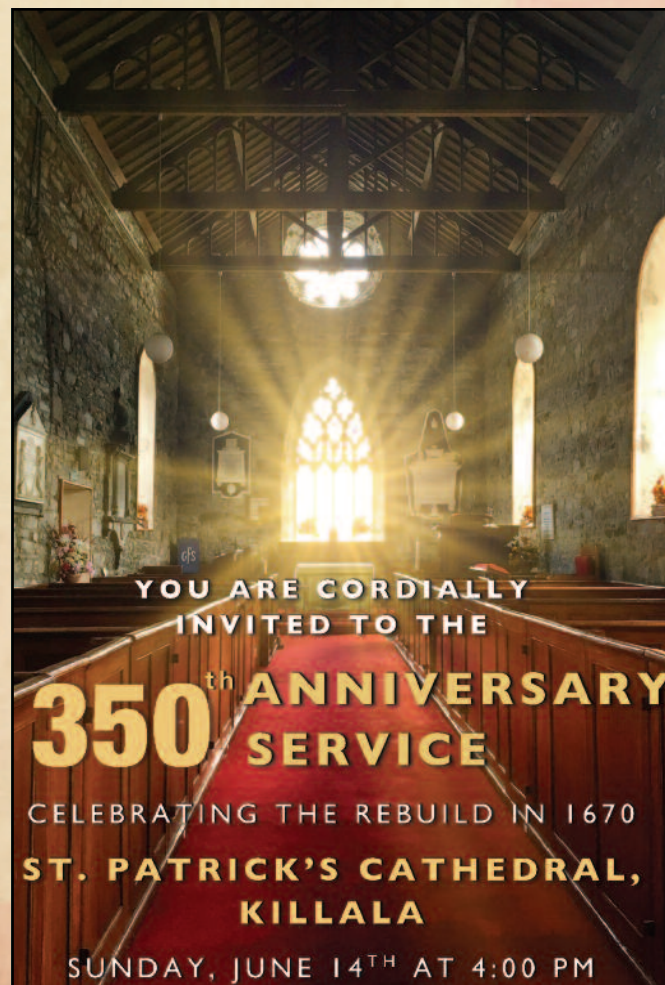
Thank you to everyone who came and supported the 2019 Christmas services in Killala Union. We were well supported in all three parishes, a reminder of how important the Christmas season is as an opportunity for families to gather together.

Writing these notes on a very windy Saturday afternoon (Storm Ciara is brewing apparently) I am hard pushed to feel Spring-like, however the bulbs planted in the borders last autumn (I managed to keep



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Confirmation (joint service with Kilmoremoy Union)
- Sunday 3rd May, 11.00am, venue TBC.

This year St Patrick's Cathedral, Killala is celebrating the 350th anniversary of its rebuilding and there will be a celebration service on Sunday 14th June at 4.00pm, followed by refreshments in Killala Community Centre. We are hoping as many people as possible will come from the surrounding churches to help us to celebrate. More information will be notified nearer the time.

From the registers

Christian Burial

William James (Billy) Carson, Ballintean, Killala, aged 90. Saturday 25th January at 1.00pm in St Patrick's, Killala followed by interment in Mullafarry Graveyard.

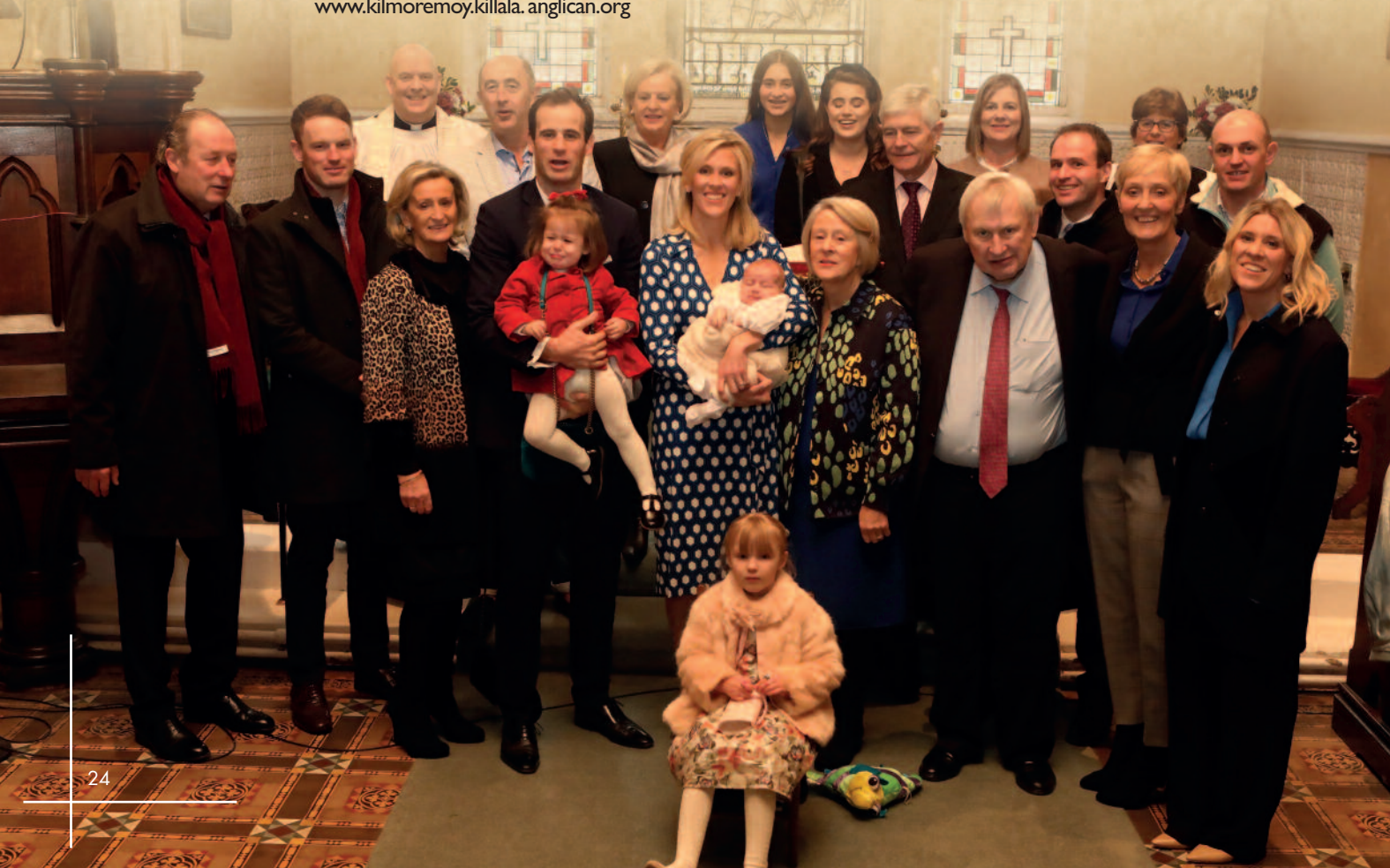
As we look forward to spring so we anticipate the celebration of Easter and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In his resurrection we find our salvation and as Christians we have responsibilities to not only love and care for each other but to the very creation itself; to play our part in being good stewards of the earth. As part of our Lenten journey and preparations for Easter we will be holding a mid-week Lenten Service in St Michael's on Tuesday nights at 8.00pm. As part of this service we will be working through the bible study 'Caring for the Garden of Eden' from The Biblical Association of the Church of Ireland, written by scripture scholar Margaret Daly-Denton. We will also, of course, continue to hold our mid-week Holy Communion Service in St Michael's on Wednesday mornings at 11.00am. At this service we pray for those who are sick or in need and we will continue to reflect on the Lenten theme of caring for creation. This is a good opportunity, for those who are able, to draw aside from the busyness of life on a regular basis in a short service of only half an hour.

We also have a full programme of services, catering for all ages, throughout the Union over Holy Week, and again I would encourage you to engage with whatever services you can. I will, as usual, be having my regular 'sit in' in St Michael's between Good Friday and the Dawn Service at Dunmorán Strand. Over that time I look forward to parishioners and the wider community dropping in to enjoy a chat and some peace and quiet



KILMOREMOY UNION

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



in Church. As we travel through Lent together I encourage you to commit to either or both of these services and studies. This is a small commitment of only six weeks and ensures that we get the most out of our preparations for and celebration of Easter and the risen Jesus.

Baptism

At the end of November it was a delight for the Rowe family to join together with family and friends for the baptism of baby William, a brother for Alex, in St Michael's. The party continued in the home of William's grandparents, Michael and Rosemary Rowe. Philip, Sarah, Alexandra and William live in New York and we look forward to seeing them in St Michael's when they are home again later in the year.

Canon Jen and the Aughaval Group of Parishes

In the Kilmoremoy Union we wish Canon Jen every blessing as she prepares to join the people of the Aughaval Group. Over the five years we have been here, and the four that Jen has ministered to the Killala Union, we have built up strong relationships between the parishioners and readers in both unions, sharing in activities and services together as families of parishes. We hope that these links continue and grow.

Confirmation

Classes will start during Lent and will be run at the rectory in Ballina on Sundays from 3.00-4.00pm and in St Michael's on Good Friday, 10th April, from 4.00-5.00pm. Confirmation will be held on Sunday 3rd May. If anyone is interested in confirmation classes please speak to the Archdeacon.

Parish Register

Holy Baptism

Rowe, William Maurice Michael, son of Philip and Sarah Rowe on 30th November 2019 in St Michael's Parish Church, service conducted by Ven Stephen McWhirter and Canon Andrea Wills.

Christian Burial

Morrow, John, Glen Cottage, Farrangarode, Enniscrone on 18th November 2019 aged 90. Service in Killanley Parish Church, followed by interment in the Church Yard. Service conducted by Ven. Stephen McWhirter and Canon Percy Walker.

Dates for the Diary

St Patrick's Day Tuesday 17th March Holy Communion in Killanley Parish 11.00am

Sunday 29th March, United worship in St Michael's, Ballina 11.00am

LENTEN SERVICES

Lenten Services will run weekly throughout the season in St Michael's, Ballina beginning on Tuesday 7th April and continuing until 31st March when there will be a Service in each Parish Church throughout the Union.

HOLY WEEK

Tuesday 7th April Service in each Parish 8.00pm led by Rector and Readers.

Wednesday 8th April, Tenebrae, St Michael's 8.00pm
Maundy Thursday 9th April St Michael's 8.00pm

Good Friday 10th April St Michael's

Messy Church 10.30 - 11.30 am

Service of the Last Three Hours 12noon - 3.00pm



ST ANNE'S, EASKEY & KILGLASS PARISH

Revd Karen Duigan
Phone: 087 2200 638
E-mail: karenduignan@eircom.net

Christmas was a lovely time in Kilglass. It was my first time to be left alone to carry on the Communion Service once the elements had been blessed by a 'flying' Archdeacon. Such a dignified disappearance as he left to carry out the same in the next church on his list!

I am very much looking forward to the visit Bishop Patrick to Kilglass on Sunday 15th March. The service will be at the slightly later time of 10.30am. This will be the first time the Bishop will see me in the role of Deacon (my knees will not be knocking at all, at all).

And here is a little of my story

I love making things. I can knit, sew, turn wood, crochet, and am willing to give anything a try - perhaps with greater or lesser results, but I will still give it a go. In the early part of the creation process it is usual that the finished result cannot be even hinted at, it may just look a terrible mess.

I've been thinking about this over the course of my studies and am wondering, if God has looked at my life and moulded it in the same way I use raw materials. When the time comes for me to go to my

eternal rest perhaps I will get the chance to stand and look over his shoulder and see the final result of what he has done for me and I will be able to see the final result. That which has looked messy and incomplete will be there for me to see and hopefully it will look okay.



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

Visit of Bishop Burrows to Foxford Church

Bishop Michael Burrows, Bishop of Cashel and Ossory visited Foxford Church on 16th November during his tour of much of the Diocese. Parishioners greeted him with tea and coffee and as no visit to Foxford is complete without a gift from Foxford Woollen Mills, Patrick Browne, churchwarden presented him with a Foxford rug to mark his visit.

Hospice

Hospice Shine A Light ecumenical ceremonies took place in Knock with the lighting of the Special Shine a Light Tree in December and then the special service in January in St. John's Rest and Care Centre with the Rejoice Choir from Ballina.

Carol Service

The church was full for the community Carol Service with the Foxford Brass and Reed Band on December 22nd and so began the real anticipation of the celebration of the birth of Christ. The support from the wider community is much appreciated and from Fr. Padraig who read the Christmas Gospel. The church was beautifully decorated and all the help was much appreciated.

Claremorris

On 1st December Bishop Patrick preached at the service in Claremorris. This was followed by a Christmas lunch for all and I appreciated the gift of flowers. Thank you to Mattie for all the arrangements, and thank you to everyone for the support during the year.



Christmas Eve

The service of Holy Communion on Christmas Eve in the McWilliam Park Hotel, Claremorris has become very special. We were joined by some visitors to the hotel and we had a beautiful candle arrangement supplied by Catherine.

Broadcast on Midwest

We had a fun day recording the Carol Service at Midwest Studio for broadcast on December 23rd with a wide variety of voices and also Bishop Patrick's service for Christmas Day.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

This year in the Cluster Group in Achonry Diocese which includes Foxford, the service took place in Bonniclon Church on Friday 25th January kindly hosted by Fr. John Geelan. The theme was "They showed us Unusual Kindness" from Acts 28:2 prepared by the Christian Churches in Malta and Gozo. Bishop Patrick and Fr. Dermot Meehan, Achonry Diocesan Administrator both gave powerful addresses.

Many Christians in Malta celebrate the Feast of the Shipwreck of St. Paul on 10th February marking and giving thanks for the arrival of the Christian faith on those islands and this is the text they chose.

There was a very good congregation on a winter's night, the choir were wonderful and sang a special anthem entitled "Unusual Kindness" and we were warmly welcomed and treated to a spread of homemade cakes after the service courtesy of the local branch of the ICA after the service.

Baptism:

On 14th December Theo Pierce Smyth was baptised in Foxford Church. Congratulations to his parents

June and Brian. A joy to welcome the Petrie family and the Smyth family who travelled from Enniskillen to Foxford. The family currently reside in Dubai



New bishop for Diocese of Achonry

We send prayerful warm wishes to Fr. Paul Dempsey on his appointment as Bishop of Achonry.

New ideas

Members of the congregation came together recently to see the film 1917.

Parishioners also gathered for lunch in the Foxford Woollen Mills after church on 9th February.

Upcoming Concert

The concert in aid of the restoration of the church with the choir Bellacappella and friends takes place in the church on Friday 25th March at 8.00 p.m. The date is changed because of the institution of Canon Jen McWhirter as Rector of Westport on 3rd April. We congratulate her on her appointment.



OMEV UNION

Christ Church, Clifden
St Thomas', Ballinakill
St Mary's, Roundstone
Interim Priest: Revd Elaine Dunne
Tel: 091 21147
elainedunne@oceanfree.net
www.omevgroup.ie

The last month of 2019 was filled with seasonal events in Omev Union of Parishes. Carol services were held in each of our churches while the annual ecumenical carol service traditionally shared between St. Joseph's R.C. Church and Christ Church was held in St. Joseph's in Clifden and was very well attended by all members of the community.

A Christmas lunch was held in the Station House Hotel on 8th December and was greatly enjoyed by parishioners. The last monthly coffee morning of 2019 was also held at the Station House Hotel.



All of the services during the Christmas period were well attended and it was lovely to welcome family and friends of parishioners, as well as visitors, to our churches. Many thanks to all those who assisted at the liturgies.



On 28th December, Jack Villiers-Tuthill was baptised by Rev. Carole Reynolds (in the absence of Rev. Elaine Dunne who was on holidays). This was Rev. Carole's first baptismal service since her ordination last September. Jack's parents and grandparents were joined in the congregation by family and friends.

The funeral service for Halbert (Hal) McNall of Ardbear, Clifden, was conducted by Rev. Carole in Christ Church on Friday 10th January. We extend our sympathy to Hal's family and friends and assure them of our support and prayers.

St. Patrick's Day 2020 will mark the opening of Errislannan church after the seasonal winter closure. Two new information boards detailing the background and recent history of the church have been erected in the new car park to enhance the facility. Friends and parishioners of Errislannan look forward to welcoming visitors in the year ahead.

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ROUNDSTONE



St Mary's Church
Moyrus, Roundstone
Revd Carole Reynolds, OLM
Phone: 087 6067848
Email:
revdcarolereynolds@gmail.com

As I write this we are in the middle of an orange weather warning, it's cold, windy and we could quite possibly have snow!

We have settled back into our winter schedule after a busy Christmas and New Year period.

Our Christmas Eucharist Service was well attended with some visitors joining us from Dublin and further afield.

On Sunday, 29th December 2019, our Service of Carols and Lessons was enjoyed by all and some of the local community joined us also. I'd like to thank Sue and Terrence Forsyth for hosting everyone for refreshments in their home after the service. January and February have been quiet months but we look forward to March when Bishop Patrick will join us on Sunday, 8th for a Service of Holy Communion.

At Easter, we will welcome our usual visitors back to us with our Easter Sunday Eucharist at 10am.

SKREEN GROUP



Skreen
Christ Church, Dromard
St Mary's, Kilmacshalgan, Dromore West
Priest in Charge:
Canon Noel Regan
Phone: 071 9166253
Mobile: 086 8875714
Email: revnoelregan@hotmail.com

On Candlemas day, otherwise known as The Presentation of Christ in the Temple we are encouraged to take a look back at Christmas and the Incarnation and to look ahead to Lent, Holy week and the cross. As we look back we recall the events leading up to Christmas be they within the family or in the Church. We thank The Rev Peter Norman of Rathbarron who very kindly conducted the Advent Carol Service in Skreen Parish Church on the second

Sunday in Advent. Canon Noel was unavoidably absent due to the recording in R.T.E. for Christmas Day. The service in Skreen suffered to some extent due to a severe storm coming in from the West. To those who decorated and made the effort to be there and also the organist on that occasion Barbara Roulston, we say a big thank you. We are so accustomed to the prevailing westerly wind we are not deterred.

The united Carol Service in Christ Church Dromard saw the church packed to capacity. Thanks to Canon Doris Clements who conducted the service as Canon Noel and Joan had started their trip the day before. Canon Doris was joined by Fr. Michael Gilroy the new P.P. who read the Gospel. The church as always was beautifully decorated and a great deal of effort had been put in to arrange lighting outside to allow parking. A big thank you to the readers, the organist Barbara and the stewards who were on duty outside. The congregation retired to the "Red Hall" where they partook of hot mulled wine and mince pies. Again thank you to all who manned the hall. There were many glowing comments of what a wonderful atmosphere there was at the event.

Holy Communion was celebrated in all three churches on Christmas Eve and morning. Again thank you to Canon Andrew Ison and Canon Val Rogers who presided. Canon Noel conducted H.C. on Christmas Morning on the high seas. This was an unexpected pleasure and really made Christmas special.

On the Sunday after Christmas the United Service in Dromore West was conducted by Mrs. Shirley Clarke and Clive Moore presided on 5th January. Thank you both Clive and Shirley for your help.

Bereavements:

The early days of January took its toll when Skreen lost two of its oldest parishioners, Mrs Molly Dorran



nee Unkles and Mrs. Maud Unkles. nee Morrison. Mary Elizabeth or Molly as she was affectionately known passed away in the Solus Nursing Home in Enniscrone surrounded by her family on the 30th Dec. She had been a resident of the home for approx. four years and was in her 98th year. In her young days she joined the Royal Navy and served as a nurse in both Malta and Italy. This was a period of her life of which she was very proud and the Great Hymn "Eternal Father strong to save" was always one of her favourites having been sung every Sunday at base. The last line "Oh hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea" was and is always very poignant and had significant meaning for her given the dangers many of her colleagues worked under. Having come back to Ireland she met and married Harry Dorran of High Park. They raised six children, Elizabeth, Irene, Margaret, Annette, Barbara and Jim. She was actively involved in parish and community life. Her funeral service in Skreen Church on 4th Jan. which was large and representative was conducted by Canon Doris Clements. Fr. Michael O'Hora who had known Molly for years was present for the service. To her children, grandchildren and extended family we extend sincere sympathy at this time.

On Monday 27th January Mrs. Maud Unkles passed from this life in the home of her daughter Olive and son-in-law Edric Carter. Ballybeg, Knocknahur, Strandhill. She had reached her 90th year and until recently had been mobile and able to be productive in the home. Maud had been a hairdresser and on her marriage to Bertie carried on the business at Marshreagh, their home in Skreen. They raised three children, Audrey, John and Olive. Life changed dramatically on the death of her husband Bertie and from then on she found it difficult to be on her own and so moved around on the family. She had been with her daughter Olive for a number of years. During this time she had the company of her contemporary Marie Carter, Edric's Mum. This meant a close relationship with her grandchildren, Mervyn, Rachael and Amy and also Lesley. Dean Arfon Williams was a regular visitor and provided pastoral care which was very much appreciated.

The funeral service in Skreen Parish Church was conducted by Canon Noel who was joined by Dean Arfon Williams and Archdeacon Stephen McWhirther who represented the Diocese. The organist at both funerals was Mrs. Daphne Higgins. To Maud's family and grandchildren and extended family we pray they will be comforted by the knowledge she lived a long and

full life and left this world believing in the resurrection to eternal life.

Mother's Union:

The Mother's Union Council meeting is scheduled for 7th March 2020 in the Parish Centre, Castlebar at 10.30 a.m.

Sunday 29th March Evensong in St. Patricks Cathedral, Dublin at 3.15 p.m.

Sunday 17th May, T.K.A. Diocesan Service in St. Nicholas Church, Galway at 4.00p.m.

The Annual Mother's Union parish lunch was held in the Riverside Hotel, Sligo on 12th January. A very good number attended and the food was appreciated. Many thanks to those who made the effort to attend and also organised the event. This was not a fundraiser, simply a social gathering.

Clothing Collection:

Clothing Collection was supported by parishioners from Skreen, Beltra and Dromore West and also by people from the community. Thanks to all who supported this collection. A total of 449.50 euro went to the Skreen schoolhouse fund. Also 10 Christmas shoe boxes were organised and sent to children abroad. This is always appreciated.

Treasure Hunt:

The Annual Treasure Hunt was held on St. Stephen's Day with about twenty cars taking part. They commenced at Skreen school/hall and on their return were served hot food, tea, tray bakes etc. Proceeds were towards the hall. Thanks to everyone who supported it and to Tom Barber and to the Moore family for organising such an enjoyable event.

Christmas Party:

This year it was the turn of Skreen to host Santa and the children's party. This was for the three parishes in the group. Santa came and everyone was very happy. Even though Santa was present and he can perform miracles, nevertheless there are details which have to be organised and to those involved Santa says "Thank you".

Stokes Lecture:

On 6th December a lecture was delivered by Professor Alistair Wood at the I.T. in Sligo. The subject obviously was Sir. George Gabriel Stokes. This was a most interesting lecture and attended by approx 90 people. It would appear that momentum is gathering and that at last Stokes is being recognised as a Sligonian and worthy of celebration alongside Yeats and many more. The plan is that the Stokes Summer

School will be revived and that the I.T. in Sligo will be the promoter of this event.

St. Patrick's Day 17th March.

Songs of Praise in Skreen 8.00p.m.

Holy Week.

Palm Sunday 5th April. Dromard M.P. 10.00 a.m.

Skreen H.C. 11.15 a.m.

D. West M.P. 12.30 p.m.

Wed. 8th April D. West 8.00p.m. Compline

Thurs 9th April Dromard 8.00p.m. H.C.

Good Friday 10th April Skreen 8.00 p.m. Reading of the Passion.

Easter Day. Dromard 10.00 a.m. H.C.

Skreen 11.15a.m. H.C.

D. West 12.30p.m. H.C.

Dunmorán Strand 7.30 a.m. H.C. Cooked breakfast in the hall afterwards.

Sunday Services as normal March and April.



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: deantuam@gmail.com

Bishops Mission Weekend

The bishops of the Church of Ireland, or at least most of them, descended on the quietude of TKA and our now sister diocese of L&K in the middle of November. We in Cong and Tuam didn't actually 'see' a bishop on 'our' patch but it was good to know that one was 'floating about the place', mostly in Galway. It was also good to be able to join with our brothers and sisters in Limerick Cathedral for Choral Evensong on 16th November.

Mid West Radio Service

This is a nice wee 'thing' that we do in TKA. A service that we provide in grateful partnership with MWRFM (96.1fm on your radio). On the fourth Sunday of every month at 10am a service of worship is broadcast by one of our parishes. In later years it has been the pattern that The Dean does an Advent Reflection accompanied by suitable music and readings for

Advent. Such was the case at the end of November 2019. We encourage parishioners who can't, for whatever reason, get out to church on the fourth Sunday to tune in to MWR.

Advent Sunday

Our thanks to the parishioners of St Patrick's Cathedral Killala for hosting our TKA Service of Carols and Readings for Advent on Advent Sunday. Always a lovely occasion and one that reminds us of this very important season.

Carol Services

Songs of Praise the Angels, Parishioners and Friends sang in both Tuam and Cong on the Sunday before Christmas at our Carol Services. Many thanks to all those who helped or contributed in any way to the celebrations. A special mention must be made to the children of Cong who largely ran the show there. It was excellent to have so many of them, and their parents, in St Marys. Our thanks to Lorraine Ormsby who organised the readers in Cong, to Judith Hesford who did likewise in Tuam, and to all, in both cathedral and church, who provided the teas afterwards.

Christmas Day

We celebrated the Nativity of our Lord with Eucharist and much joy. As always it was a happy occasion when we greeted friends and family and annual visitors that were home for the Great Festival. The Dean would like to thank Canon David Williams for sharing the Holy Mysteries in Cong.

Congratulations: Our warm wishes to Frank and Kirsty Costello on the birth of their twins! After a slightly anxious period, it is marvellous to know that all are doing well. May God's blessing rest upon the whole family.

Epiphany: As is our custom in Tuam, the Cathedral Family gathered in Gathers Restaurant (pun intended) for lunch on the Feast of The Wise Men. There was food, fellowship and fun around the table and a deep conversation about Veganuary! Many thanks to Judith Hesford for making all the arrangements.

Good Health: Our most excellent and dedicated organist in the cathedral, Rachel Pike, was stricken by flu during January and had to take several Sunday's off. We sorely missed her playing! Thankfully Rachel has recovered and (at time of writing) will return to the organ loft soon. It will be outstanding to have her back and we wish her many years of good health and ivory tickling in St. Mary's.

Unity Week: We marked the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Tuam with a Service of the Word in The Cathedral of the Assumption. Many thanks to Fr. Pat and Archbishop Michael for being hosts and welcoming us once again. The preacher this year was Fr Gerard McCarthy SVD. Bishop Patrick led a reflection and Mattie Masterson and Judith Hesford read from Acts. The Dean led the intercessions.

Lent, Holy Week and Easter

Each Wednesday in Lent we will meet in the Chapter Room of the Cathedral at 7.30pm! (PLEASE NOTE THE TIME) for Compline and Study. We will finish each evening 9pm at the very latest! That's a promise. Notification will advance so please put it in your dairies now.

Wednesday 8th April, Compline, 8.00 pm Tuam

Thursday 9th April, HC, 8.00 pm Cong

Good Friday, 10th April, Litany and Passion Narrative, 10.00am, Cong: 12 Noon Tuam

Easter Day, 12th April, HC 10.00am, Cong: 12 Noon Tuam.

Confirmation

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated by Bishop Patrick in Cong on 17th May next at 10.00am. The Dean already knows of a few folk who want to be confirmed. If anyone is even considering confirmation and wants to have a chat about it, please contact Alistair ASAP.

AllStars!

Philippians 2:15 '...blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, in which you SHINE LIKE STARS in the world.'

We were scrabbling around for an inspirational name



for our Sunday School; long story short, we hit on the above verse from Paul's (and Timothy's) letter to the Church at Philippi and came up with the name ALLSTARS. Cong AllStars. Ashford AllStars. Take your pick. But AllStars it is.

Under the leadership of Erin and Cris and various parents by rota, the young members of St Mary's meet, normally on the last Sunday of the month, for fun and learning in The Cabin. AND they attend church and help with worship.

We had our Christmas Party of games and goodies on the afternoon of the Carol Service where the youngsters decorated the Cabin with a large Nativity Scene Mural before heading to the church for singing. It was a 'YEEHO!' sort of occasion.

Another couple of YEEHO! Occasions will be coming up around Easter for the AllStars.

On Palm Sunday we will 'build' the Calvary at the front of St Mary's. And then on Easter Day we will have the traditional 'Rolling of the Eggs' down the aisle and an Easter Egg hunt in the grounds of the Church. And let's not forget the Confirmation Day. That'll be another YEEHO! occasion.



APPOINTMENTS

The Reverend Jennifer McWhirter, Priest in Charge of the Killala Union of parishes to be Incumbent of the Aughaval Group of parishes. Institution Friday 3rd April at 8pm – Preacher: The Reverend Alan Synnott. All Welcome

The Very Reverend Lynda Peilow, Rector of Galway & Oughterard, to be also Rural Dean of the parishes in Tuam Diocese – from 1st April.

The Reverend Elaine Dunne, assistant priest in the Omev Union to be Rector of the Ballybay Group of parishes, Co Monaghan, (Diocese of Clogher).



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The school takes full advantage of all the beautiful North West coast has to offer. As well as going on field trips to experience the history, geography and ecology of the area, students are encouraged to make use of the river, lake and ocean through timetabled and extra curricular activities. We have a kayaking club and a rowing club, while surfing is part of our TY programme. Other sports offered include rugby, hockey, soccer, basketball and athletics.



Sligo Grammar School offers over 20 subjects at Leaving Cert. level with consistently excellent academic results. In 2018 over 60% of our students were offered University places both at home and abroad.

Sligo's rich cultural heritage is reflected in extra-curricular activities such as debating and public speaking, music, choir, chess, and evening trips to the theatre.

Throughout the year lunchtime concerts, public debates, the school musical and focus events such as Wellbeing Week, and Seachtain na Gaeilge allow our students to develop their skills and grow emotionally and intellectually.

Sligo Grammar School offers a rounded education which values all intelligences. We pride ourselves on our friendly, family atmosphere. The wellbeing of our students is important and our pastoral care team includes a Transition Year, Junior and Senior School Co-ordinator, Guidance Counsellor, Chaplain and Matron.



Bursaries, scholarships and grants are available.

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

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