



tidings

DIOCESE OF TUAM, KILLALA AND ACHONRY

HARVEST ISSUE 2020



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tidings

HARVEST 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 **6th November 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

EDITOR

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

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THE BISHOP WRITES . . .



With some 85 members, it will be very different sitting in our own homes but we are confident we can get the business completed in an orderly fashion adhering to our Diocesan Regulations. Two important resolutions coming before the Synod, if passed, will see the Tuam and Omey Groups amalgamated under the leadership of the Dean and the Killala and Kilmoremoy Unions re-united with the Archdeacon as Rector.

So too, in September we are preparing for three ordination services – I wonder when a Bishop of Tuam was last able to write that! Again, Covid restrictions will mean that no more than 50 people can attend any of these services. Six candidates in all will be ordained – Caroline Morrow and Clive Moore as deacons in St Michael's Ballina on Sunday 13th September, Paidi Delaney as a deacon in St Nicholas' Galway on Sunday 20th September and Karen Duignan, Maebh O'Herlihy and Carole Reynolds as priests also in Galway on Sunday 27th September. Please pray for them in their new ministry and for the people they will serve.

As we begin a new season of activities in our respective parishes, I trust the current limitations won't deter you from supporting and assisting your clergy and fellow parishioners in whatever way you can. The Church is people, not buildings, and the mark of a God-centred, caring, thriving church is determined not by architecture but by us, its members.

May God bless us all in these strange and uncomfortable times.

+Patrick Tuam

Covid 19 restrictions are having a big impact on all aspects of parochial and diocesan life. Parish clergy are having to re-think harvest thanksgiving and other annual arrangements. Currently, I am preparing for our Diocesan Synod on Saturday 19th September. It will be over by the time you read this but holding Synod via Zoom will be no small feat.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DUE TO CORONAVIRUS, ALL OF THE FOLLOWING ARE PROVISIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

OCTOBER

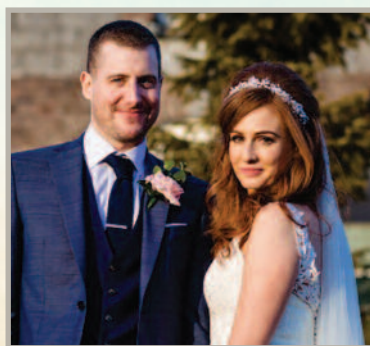
- Sun 4th** Claremorris Service, 12noon
Mon 5th Clergy Conference in Adare has been cancelled
Wed 7th Christian Aid Webinar, 'Economics and Debt', 2pm
Thurs 8th Diocesan Council Meeting, via Zoom, 2pm
Wed 14th Christian Aid Webinar, 'Inequality and Displacement', 2pm
Thurs 15th Institution of Canon Jen McWhirter in Westport, 8pm (by invitation only)
Wed 21st Christian Aid Webinar, 'Climate and Global Recovery', 2pm

NOVEMBER

- Sun 1st** Claremorris Service, 12noon
Thurs 5th Diocesan Finance Committee Meeting, via Zoom, 10.30pm
Thurs 5th Diocesan Glebes & Property Committee Meeting, via Zoom, 12noon
Thurs 5th Diocesan Council Meeting, via Zoom, 2pm
Thurs 5th Diocesan Board of Education Meeting, via Zoom, 4pm
Fri 6th Diocesan Schools Service, Tuam, 11.30am
Sun 8th REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
Mon 16th RB Week, Dublin/via Zoom
Sun 29th ADVENT SUNDAY - Services will be announced

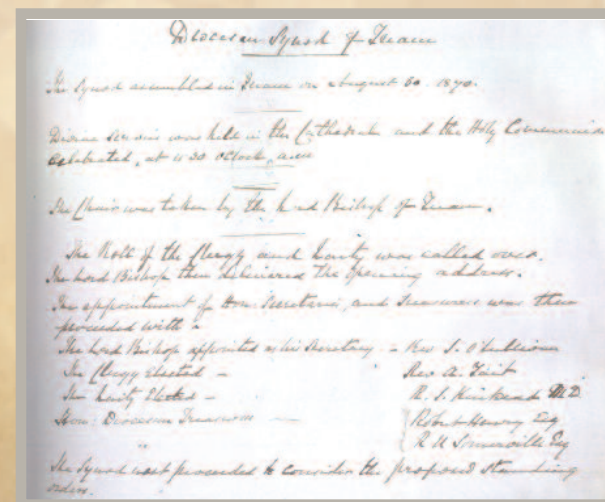
DECEMBER

- Sun 6th** Claremorris Service, 12noon
Sun 6th Service of Vespers in Galway
Wed 9th RB Meeting, Dublin/via Zoom



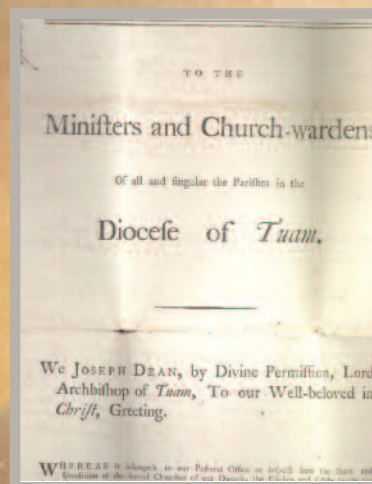
THE TUAM, KILLALA AND ACHONRY DIOCESAN ARCHIVE

The RCB Library has recently completed the cataloguing of the records of these dioceses and of others with which they were amalgamated in the past, that are held for safe-keeping by the Representative Church Body. It is wonderful to see so clearly the 'TKA Archive' catalogued in this way and it will undoubtedly enable historians, researchers and others seeking information in the future to locate the relevant documents, maps and plans with ease and integrity. This project was overseen by the Librarian and Archivist, Dr Susan Hood and she has contributed the following...



First Diocesan Synod

The Representative Church Body Library, is pleased to report that the voluminous and important historical diocesan archive for Tuam, Killala and Achonry has been arranged, listed and a detailed catalogue will soon be published online for public perusal. As soon as the current Covid-19 lock-down is lifted and when the



Visitation 1782

Library reopens to the public, the collection will become available for researchers, and is likely to be of considerable interest for the wider diocesan family, as well as a host of local historians, genealogists, and many others.

The project marks the culmination of a long process to make accessible the collection as a whole and to develop an ongoing records management programme to assist the diocesan authorities to know what the main categories of historical records. Ultimately this will allow organisation of what are current or semi-current papers in diocesan custody, to become integrated with the historical archive in the Library into the future.

Going back to mid-1980s, papers and volumes from the united diocese were gradually transferred from local diocesan custody into the Library which is the Church's record repository.



Famine petition of James O'Donnell

Many will be aware that along with most of the records of the Irish dioceses up to and including the 1860s, the bulk of the collection which had been transferred to the Public Records Office of Ireland, was subsequently and tragically destroyed by fire during the civil war of 1922. Thus, what survives is largely from the middle of the 19th century onwards, but with important pre-1860s survivals that provide a new and valuable body of evidence about how diocesan registries and their registrars conducted their business during the 18th and 19th centuries.

Following the appointment of Dr Raymond Refaüssé as the Church's first archivist in 1984, the diocese was authorised to transfer the first large tranche of diocesan registry materials to the Library at that time, on the recommendation of the Very Revd W.J. Grant (1929-2009) who was dean of Tuam and rector of Cong 1981-1993, and also served as archdeacon of the diocese from 1980. Dean Grant was encouraged and assisted by Mrs Brigid Clesham, a professional archivist based in Cong, whose interventions at local



Famine Labourers Returns

level helped to put some shape on a large and by then unwieldy accumulation of records and for making early lists and overseeing the safe transfer of several collections of the diocesan records between 1985 and 2000.

Early and invaluable attempts to group and list the growing and organic collection of diocesan records were made both by Mrs Clesham and Dr Refaüssé, and a valuable and complimentary set of architectural drawings, including several diocesan glebe houses, were added to the Library's digitized online catalogue of architectural drawings, available here <https://archdrawing.ireland.anglican.org/>

With each new cache of papers from a different location, the job became more complicated and needed focused archival attention. Now, thanks to support from central Church funds, the Library has been enabled to engage the services of professional archival company Arcline to systematically arrange the collection and build up a comprehensive picture of the record-keeping and archiving requirements of the diocese. Two Arcline archivists Alicia Cooney followed by Ciara Daly carried out this work from June 2019 and again in early 2020. They were supervised by the Librarian and Archivist, Dr Susan Hood, who also completed the work on the Killala and Achonry part of the collection. The work was further enhanced by a specific project to catalogue the maps and plans undertaken by Bryan Whelan, Assistant Librarian. The Tuam collection consists of 21 record groups, while the Killala and Achonry-specific materials are grouped at the end, as consisting of a further 13 record groups.

Thus spanning the course of 35 years, and involving several generations of professional archivists and librarians, the work truly has been a team effort to at last share the detailed catalogue list that has been long-awaited by the wider research community.



CHRISTIAN AID: IRELAND

Every two years Christian Aid Ireland holds a consultation with representatives from the sponsoring churches and church bodies to listen, share and learn from one another.

Plans for this year's Churches Consultation

The theme for this year's Churches Consultation is 'Building Back Better' following the Covid-19 pandemic. Christian Aid wishes to engage with their sponsoring churches about how to build a sustainable and resilient organisation which can continue to serve those suffering injustice, inequality and poverty. Three interactive webinars are planned with representatives from the sponsoring churches. These will focus on Christian Aid's 3 Ps from its

Standing Together Global Strategy – Power, Prophetic Voice and Poverty.

The dates for the webinars are as follows:

1. Wednesday 7th October, 2.00-3.30pm 'Economics and Debt'
2. Wednesday 14th October, 2.00-3.30pm 'Inequality and Displacement'
3. Wednesday 21st October, 2.00-3.30pm 'Climate and Global Recovery'

If you might be interested in taking part in the Consultation, you are asked to speak to your Rector/Priest in Charge and they will pass your name and email address to Bishop Patrick.

COVID-19: WHERE DOES IT HURT?



When reading the various reports on poverty in Ireland and how Covid-19 has exacerbated financial challenges for those already struggling, I am reminded not just of the latest startling statistics on poverty, but also of the voices

and stories behind those figures.

As Head of Charitable Services at Protestant Aid, I regularly talk with distraught family members, who attempt to relate their particular situations while endeavouring, but usually failing, to fight back tears - tears that seem to flow with more vigour when met with a word of kindness or reassurance. The core emotion being expressed is often one of frustration. Frustration at not being in a position to pay a utility bill, make a mortgage repayment, pay rent or even fund a food shop. The next emotion expressed is usually fear..... what does the future hold for me and my family?

The pandemic has been for some, nothing more than an inconvenience – the inability to dine in a favourite restaurant or a missed foreign holiday. For others, it is yet another obstacle on an already bumpy path of deprivation, hitting those on low incomes with vindictive indifference. Poverty Focus 2020 published last May, advises that 'when recovery comes, it is likely that many low income workers, and employees with precarious employment conditions, will be the last to experience it', with those who are unemployed due to illness or disability having one of the highest poverty rates - almost one person in every two (48%) of this group are struggling below the poverty line.

In January of this year, the IMF (International Monetary Fund) expected global income to grow 3 percent. Compare that to their current forecast of a 3 percent fall, significantly worse than during the Great Recession of 2008-09. Behind this dire statistic is a more depressing scenario: if past pandemics are any guide, the toll on poorer and vulnerable segments of society will be hit worst of all.

Basic deprivation rates (the ability to afford rudimentary goods and services) have soared during the pandemic, again hitting those who are most financially susceptible, including pensioners, of whom over 11% live in poverty. Children are also vulnerable at this time and it is difficult to comprehend why almost 200,000 of them appear to be collateral damage in an

economy that was, until recently at least, thriving.

The 'working poor' is an increasingly used phrase and not without reason. Many of the General Grant Applications we receive on a daily basis are not from those who are on benefits, but from those who have full-time jobs yet, continually struggle to make ends meet. Poor and declining health is also an issue, as well as unexpected expenses, all of which can throw a family's finances into disarray.

The subversive nature of COVID-19 meant that some families were hurled into deprivation with some velocity and it was this which prompted our Emergency Response Initiative. Situations of need were identified by Rectors and some interim help (in the form of vouchers) was provided discreetly and quickly.

This initiative was instigated as a complimentary addendum to our General Grant Programme and over 100 families have benefitted to date – the funds allocated for this were in addition to our General Grant budget so none of our current programmes suffered as a result of this additional expenditure. We continue to be grateful for so many Rectors around the country who help identify situations of need within their congregations and are happy that they choose Protestant Aid to be their partners in ministry.

Protestant Aid has been in operation since 1836 but we haven't allowed the cobwebs or dust to gather as we continue to seek and implement progressive ways of assisting those in financial distress. The passing of time has not dimmed our determination or vision to bring help where it is most needed. Of course, that vision is not unique to us but is shared by our many generous and loyal donors who don't wait for a pandemic to demonstrate their compassion or their desire to lessen the hurts and suffering of individuals and families.

And that care and compassion is the light of hope... .. for us all.

Geoff Scargill – Head of Charitable Services (Protestant Aid)

MAYO ROSCOMMON HOSPICE

The Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation is 25 years old this year. Before the Foundation was established there were no specialist services for terminally ill patients in Mayo or Roscommon. In 1992 thanks to the foresight and dedication of a small group of people, the Foundation was established as a voluntary organisation to help provide Hospice Palliative Care Services in the two counties.

Since then it has gone from strength to strength with the building of the Mayo Hospice Palliative Care Centre at Knockaphunta, Castlebar, within walking distance of the town. The commencement of work on an 8 bed inpatient unit with full day-care facilities adjacent to Roscommon University Hospital should be completed in 2021.

The Castlebar facility has 14 inpatient beds, and will provide day care and community care, symptom control support, respite and end of life services. It will be shared and supported by the HSE, the Home Care Team, Administration Section and Central Support services.

A café, shop and reflection room will be publicly accessible, which will add vitality and increase awareness of the hospice work in the community. The grounds are beautifully landscaped.

The Foundation affirms life, respecting the uniqueness of each individual, with care and support to meet the physical and emotional needs of patients and their families living with life threatening illnesses. It enables patients to live out the remainder of their lives in comfort and dignity. The Palliative Care Service is provided free of charge to all.

Each year among the many fund-raising efforts is the Shine A Light initiative. It begins with an ecumenical tree lighting ceremony on the first Sunday in December in Knock. A light on the tree can be sponsored for €5. On the third Sunday each January there is a special ecumenical service in St. John's Rest and Care Centre in Knock. This lovely service is to commemorate all friends and loved ones remembered during the Shine A light campaign.

It is my honour to support the team at opening ceremonies and sod turnings and at the ecumenical services and we congratulate CEO Martina Jennings on being awarded the Mayo Person of the Year carrying on the wonderful work and vision of former CEO Cynthia Clampett who retired in 2017.

Andrea Wills





Need some help with your children's school fees?

The Secondary Education Committee (SEC) grant is available to help Protestant families attend Protestant Secondary schools. We can help with tuition and boarding fees.

2021/22 grant application process opens October 2020

For eligibility and how to apply see www.secgrant.ie

Queries? Call or email our grant advisor

info@secgrant.ie **01 5514693**





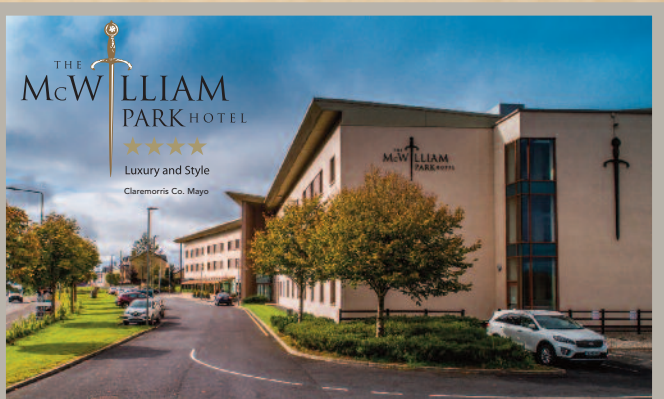
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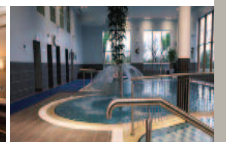


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BALLINA CHURCHES TOGETHER

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Pastoral care and supporting others

We continue to respond by bringing pastoral care and support to people in the community. This work involves home visitations while physically distancing, along with meeting people who come regularly to the Big Blue Bus. We give practical support in shopping and running errands for the elderly and those who exercise caution because of Covid-19. Because of the pandemic, the way ahead in the coming autumn/winter season seems uncertain but we are adapting the best we can with all the restrictions.

Big Blue Bus and our Blue tent- Emma purchased a Blue pop up gazebo to use beside the Blue Bus. Since



restrictions have been lifted, we started using this tent on Friday and Saturday evenings. Many of the regular men and teenagers have come to this in a socially distant manner. We have also started using the blue tent for pop up kid's clubs in some of the

housing estates. We will need to adapt this through the winter months as COVID restrictions mean the Blue Bus cannot be used on the inside.

Missional community- We hope to run two groups on Wednesday and Thursday evenings (due to COVID restrictions) one group will be with the men who come to the bus, and the other group is our post Alpha group. We hope we can bring these two groups together for worship once or twice a month. We are still finalising arrangements where we will meet. The Men's group already started on the 2nd of September.

Marian continues to work on Fridays with the St Vincent De Paul foodbank and shop. She also mentors a teenager in Foroige.

Prayer meeting- We have continued with our weekly prayer meeting with our volunteers on Sunday evenings (on zoom) for our work with Ballina Churches Together.

Traveller families - Over a period of months, Marian had developed relationships with several Traveller Families. All these families have suffered trauma and tragic loss of one kind or another. Traveller women have been left as widows through devastating circumstances or abandoned by their husbands. Life is difficult for them. Through friendships, we work to bring them hope and practical care. One lady is illiterate, but she loves art and finds it therapeutic - so we bought her art materials.

The Syrians - Emma has helped one Syrian family along with Leslie (volunteer). This family consists of a young mum and two young daughters. She said this week we are the only people helping her. The Syrian community have shunned her as she is divorcing her husband. She is very isolated and alone and needs support with form filling and knowing what resources are available to her. She is grateful she is here and safe from war. Her story is a traumatic one.

Chalk Art - During the lockdown we felt everyone needed encouragement. We met a few times to work on the pavement opposite St. Muredach's Cathedral, on the banks of the river Moy. This is a popular walking spot and these easy creations were messages of hope and inspiration for anyone who passed by. One such person who did stop, was a man called D. He was taking photos of the chalk-art, which he was sending to his sister in the UK. She has battled cancer and was going into hospital for more major surgery. He was concerned about her and he was hoping that the photos from Ballina would lift her spirits.

Pilgrim paths - walks and reflections- As part of our ministry going forward, we plan to take people on monthly walks during the Autumn/Winter. These 'pilgrim walks' which will take place in the environs of north Mayo, will include a series of reflections and scripture readings. In October we will visit Beleek Woods.

Fundraising - We have not been able to do our usual fundraising for Ballina Churches Together this year. Emma has spent a considerable amount of time filling out grant forms for trusts and foundations in Ireland

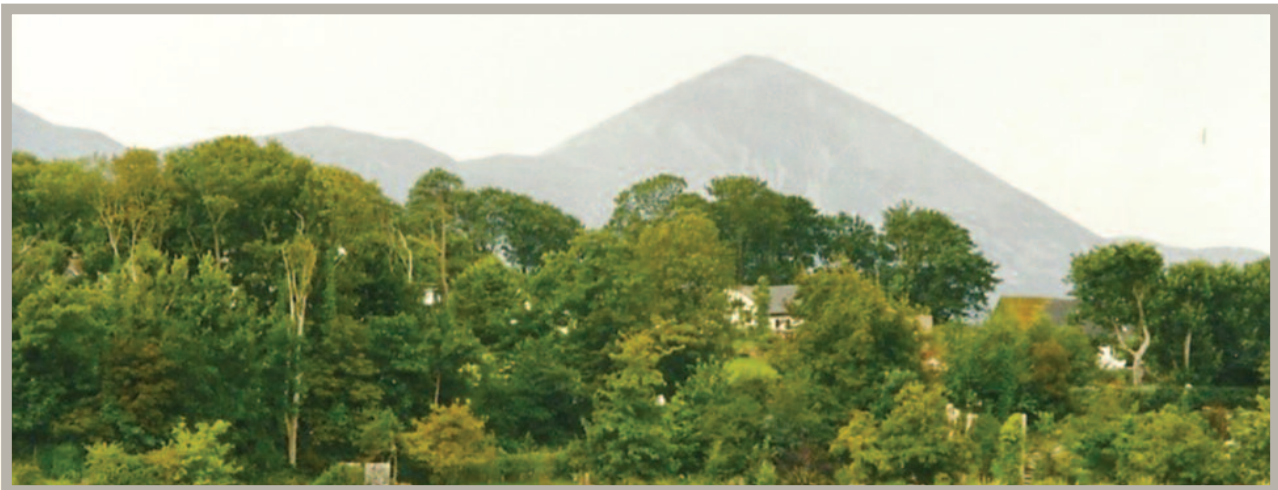


and the UK. We hope we will receive grants to help in the running costs of the project for the rest of the year. We did receive a generous donation of €500 from the national committee of the Women's world day of prayer and we recently received a grant for €1,900 from the Anchor foundation in Scotland.

We hope on September 12th to climb Nephin to raise funds for Ballina Churches Together. This will of course depend on the weather! If you would like to donate towards our fundraiser, please go to our facebook page: BallinaChurches Together@ballinabus and click on <https://donorbox.org/nephinhike>



REFLECTIONS ON A PILGRIMAGE TO CROAGH PATRICK 1994



Our first trip to Ireland coincided with that wonderful year of peace, 1994. Team member Mike and I took the night boat to Rosslare for a weekend recce of the pilgrimage area - Counties Mayo and Galway. Spurred on by a phone call from T.V. producer, Jeffrey Milland, saying that he would like to film our Irish journey; we dashed across Ireland to the west in my old estate car, avoiding pot holes and trying not to disturb the otherwise tranquil Irish scene.



Hostels, pubs, points of interest, walks and boat connections were checked in record time, ensuring both of us arrived back in England on Monday morning, ready for work commitments that afternoon.

Later that month, producer, pilgrims and leaders were packed into a minibus and heading for Pembroke Dock and the early morning ferry to Rosslare in Ireland.

Sweeping down the road that leads from Castlebar to Westport, Co. Mayo, the pilgrim group caught its first glimpse of Croagh Patrick, Ireland's foremost Holy Mountain and our objective for the following morning.

We unpacked and settled into Westport Hostel. Things were still a little formal. Conversation at the

evening meal, although interesting, was not yet flowing. However, with pudding over, the film crew pointing cameras at views and not people, and the first 'chore group' busy in the kitchen (sharing the washing up is a great way to make friends and break barriers) things began to feel more relaxed.

"How's the pain?" someone asked a pilgrim midway up the mountain. "What pain, what pain?" came the reply. Exhilaration, expectation, determination!

Whatever the pull, we made good progress in the early morning sunlight – the sliding final haul was yet to come! One hundred meters below the summit of Croagh Patrick there begins a daring scramble over endless mounds of scree – small rocks that move with each foot fall. And to think some folk manage this in their bare feet! Pilgrim leader, Richard, nearing the top; "I've heard comments like, 'is it halfway to heaven or half way to hell!'" Only one had to turn back. The joy of reaching St Patrick's Chapel on the summit was tremendous. All signs of tiredness vanished in the moment... "However, no sooner were we on the top" Audrey, a many times Pilgrim Adventurer, exclaimed "than they said, right that's it then, it's time to go back down!" Well, to be fair, the



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weather was turning and Richard, an experienced mountain walker, knew that ten minutes on the top was all that we could reasonably afford.

Leaving the summit in what might have seemed a hurry, illustrated for me something that we had been discussing earlier – the relative importance of ‘journey’ and ‘destination’ in pilgrimage. In other words, was the point of pilgrimage best seen in the fellowship and toil of the journey or in the emotion and sanctity of the eventual destination?

Sister Irene, a hermit living close to the holy mountain, mused similarly over journey and destination during her own spiritual quest. Sister Irene’s revelation was to know that for her the journey was the destination.

The misunderstandings and loneliness during her search for vocation were in fact the very formative experiences of a hermit.

We joined Sister Irene, a remarkable woman in her early thirties, for evening worship in the almost finished Chapel at the hermitage she had started to build a few years before. Sister Irene’s re-founding of the hermit life in Ireland, and the story of the building of Mount Tabor hermitage, made fascinating listening and an inspiring end to the first stage of our pilgrim journey through West Ireland.

Marooned on a tidal island; rescued by a minibus driven through a rapidly rising tide; becalmed on a ferry without fuel; towed to shore by the rival firm! The second part of our journey was to prove to be a time of high adventure, and, incidentally, great camaraderie - many had arrived on their own but found companionship and community in the shared challenge and uncertainties of the journey.

David Gleed

WINDOWS UPDATE

Don’t worry, you’re not getting a warning on keeping your computer’s software up to date! Rather you might be interested in a wonderful resource developed by the Representative Church Body Library. It has been available for some time but now, as many people become more familiar with the online world it’s certainly worth checking out! Thanks to the diligent work of Dr David Lawrence you can find stained glass windows from across Church of Ireland parishes on the island of Ireland. Having spent over twenty years visiting hundreds of Churches across the island you can now view the windows of Armagh Cathedral from the comfort of your home whether that is in Ballina, Dromard or anywhere in the world. Stained glass windows can often tell us about the history of a local church so you can even do some genealogical research if an ancestor has had the funds to pay for one.

The website allows you to search different themes so it is a great way to grow your Bible knowledge or teach your children or grandchildren stories about Jesus. You’ll be surprised at the number of biblical characters who are depicted in stained glass. You’ll find the famous King David, Ruth and Moses and many more that will cause you to reach for your Bible. Parables too can be found depicted in vibrant colour so if you’re looking to brush up on your New Testament knowledge there’s no better place to start. Stained glass windows also teach us about Church

History, depicting Saints of old who sought to proclaim the Good News of Jesus, including St. Patrick. You’ll find lots of Bible verses too and if you’re trying to memorise scripture you might find these a helpful prompt. In addition to family history and enhancing your knowledge of the Bible you can also teach yourself Greek! Well, that might be a slight overstatement, but you can be sure that if you spend a little time exploring the wonderful artistry you’ll come across the symbols for Alpha and Omega. These symbols are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. They reference the book of Revelation in which Jesus declares ‘It is done. I am the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life.’ Hopefully too the beauty of the windows will encourage you with the truths contained within.

The website can be accessed at; www.gloine.ie

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SURVIVING COVID-19



We are gradually learning to live with the changes that have taken place in society and realising the importance of protecting ourselves and also protecting others. It is undoubtedly a stressful time and for some, also a sad time. Little things that can irritate us

like arriving at the door of the supermarket, shop or office and suddenly realising you have forgotten your mask then having to return to your car or venturing into an office barefaced and enduring the hostile glances of disapproval. This is something we are all guilty of as we encounter those whom we believe to be flaunting the advice given by the government and the WHO.

Foreign holidays have had to be deferred and one of the positive aspects of this is that people are in some cases starting to appreciate the beauty we have on our own doorstep and in our own island.

Weddings; for some the big wedding has had to be pared back to no more than fifty people attending. However, it means there is an intimacy that would not have been possible with a larger crowd.

Funerals too are different, and people miss the comfort of large numbers attending. Strangely we are getting used to the new way of doing things and extending condolences online.

While we are adjusting to our new way of living, we are constantly being reminded of the importance of tending to our physical and psychological needs. The HSE website gives the following advice:

How to mind your mental health during this time

Keeping a realistic perspective of the situation based on facts is important. Here are some ways you can do this.

- Stay informed but set limits for news and social media. The constant stream of social media updates

and news reports about coronavirus could cause you to feel worried. Sometimes it can be difficult to separate facts from rumours. Use trustworthy and reliable sources to get your news.

- On social media, people may talk about their own worries or beliefs. You don't need to make them your own. Too much time on social media may increase your worry and levels of anxiety. Consider limiting how much time you spend on social media.
- If you find the coverage on coronavirus is too intense for you, talk it through with someone close or get support.

Keep up your healthy routines

Your routine may be affected by the coronavirus outbreak in different ways. But during difficult times like this, it is best if you can keep some structure in your day. It's important to pay attention to your needs and feelings, especially during times of stress. You may still be able to do some of the things you enjoy and find relaxation. For example, you could try to:

- Exercise regularly, especially walking
- Keep regular sleep routines
- Maintain a healthy, balanced diet
- Avoid excess alcohol
- Practice relaxation techniques such as breathing exercises
- Read a book
- Search for online exercise or yoga classes, concerts, religious services or guided tours
- Go to any classes where it's possible to keep a distance of 2 metres between you and other people
- Improve your mood by doing something creative

Stay connected to others

During times of stress, friends and families can be a good source of support. It is important to keep in touch with them and other people in your life. If you need to restrict your movements or self-isolate, try to stay connected to people in other ways, for example:

- e-mail • social media • video calls
- phone calls • text messages

Many video calling apps allow you to have video calls with multiple people at the same time. Remember that

talking things through with someone can help lessen worry or anxiety. You don't have to appear to be strong or to try to cope with things by yourself.

Try to anticipate distress and support each other
It is understandable to feel vulnerable or overwhelmed reading or hearing news about the outbreak. Acknowledge these feelings. Remind yourself and others to look after your physical and mental health.

Smoking, drinking and eating for comfort
If you smoke or drink, try to avoid doing this any more than usual. It won't help in the long-term. Eating habits can often be linked to your emotions. You may turn to food for comfort during this pandemic. Long-term comfort eating can lead to weight gain and affect your

health. It's important to be able to recognise and separate out your emotions from your eating.

Don't make assumptions

Don't judge people or make assumptions about who is responsible for the spread of the disease. The coronavirus can affect anyone regardless of age, gender, nationality or ethnicity. We are all in this together.

Online and phone supports

Face-to-face services are limited at the moment because of the coronavirus outbreak. But some services are providing online and phone services.

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'COVID - GONE SOUTH IN SOUTH AMERICA'



Things have not gone well in Latin America. A region which is under resourced in health care provision, has struggled to cope with the surge in demand due to the Covid pandemic. At one time on the black market, canisters of oxygen were trading

for \$1,000 USD in the Amazonian region of Perú. This was one of the extreme measures people were taking in order just to breathe. With 80 percent of the regions sparse intensive care beds being taken up looking after the Covid patients, South America is about to head into the height of the winter flu season, which will bring an extra unwelcome dimension to the unfolding catastrophe. If things weren't bad enough, some high ranking officials have been accused of the misuse of emergency Covid pandemic funds. It seems that corruption is still around every corner. Society and the economy appear to have well and truly - gone south.



However, in this gloomy picture, there is light. Along with the rest of the church around the world, South American pastors and congregations have been learning to adjust and find new ways of doing church. In a region noted for placing a

high value on interpersonal relationships, these new 'at a distance' relationships appear to be functioning

well in the various church settings. Zoom and WhatsApp have taken on a new relevance with many people as they actively participate in church life through the week. Various digital platforms have enabled Sunday worship and allowed mid week gatherings to continue. Even new Alpha courses have started up on-line in places like Buenos Aires, where 50 participants had signed up. Many Latin American countries were applauded for their quick reaction to the threat of Covid-19, with swift lockdowns and the closing of borders to limit the spread of the virus. However, the general lack of social security has meant that many citizens have had to look for work otherwise they might starve. This has caused a new surge in cases observed during the start of July. Even Brazil Premier, Mr. Bolsonaro has succumbed to the virus which for weeks he famously dismissed as a trifling cold.

Contrast this with Paraguayan Premier, Mario Abdo Benítez who at the beginning of the crisis encouraged the nation to turn to prayer. The recent Paraguayan statistics are remarkable. Nineteen people have died, out of around 2,100 cases, in a population of 7 million (about 2 people per million inhabitants). Neighbouring Bolivia had more than 31,000 cases and over 1,000 casualties among its over 11 million inhabitants. The Paraguayan President Benítez was a past pupil at St Andrew's College, where SAMS Ireland has had a long association. Many SAMS sponsored volunteer teachers have travelled from Ireland to work at this school over the years.

South America needs to continue to be a focus of mission more than ever. It may have a reputation for being at the ends of the earth, but the region should not be far from our hearts and minds. SAMS continues to have many strategic Gospel partnerships with church leaders and practitioners of social change. Your prayers and ongoing support is greatly valued. For further information and interviews please visit the SAMS Ireland webpage (www.samsireland.com) or the SAMS Ireland Facebook page (www.facebook.com/samsireland).



GETTING TO KNOW YOU!

St Columba's church, Ennis, with Christ Church, Spanish Point and Kilnasoolagh



As part of the preparation for the amalgamation the Diocese of Tuam, Killala and Achonry with the Diocese of Limerick and Killaloe Tidings brings you the second look at a group from Limerick and Killaloe, namely the Drumcliffe Union (editor).

Drumcliffe Union

Drumcliffe Union covers from Shannon Airport in the South of Clare to Galway Bay in the North and Kilkee and Spanish Point in the West, taking in the Burren plateau with the 12th century St Fachnan's Cathedral Church at Kilfenora in the centre.

The parish grouping of Kilnasoolagh and Drumcliffe sits amid a network of historical and ecclesiastical sites on what is part of the western Celtic strip, with increasing prospects of becoming key centres for the

growing walking activity, including the 'Camino' pilgrimage and retreat pursuit, taking in the riches of the county's past and present — with its inspirational old monastic and archaeological sites as well as all the dimensions of the Burren with its limestone and basalt geology, its flora and fauna, and unique farming and conservation practices, making it a European Conservation Area, as well as the Atlantic Coastal scenery. (See details on St Flannan's Killaloe, sitting on the River Shannon and St Caimin's, Inniscailte and St Cronan's (of Brian Boru fame), Tuamgraney, both near Holy Island, Lough Derg.)

St Fachnan's, Kilfenora with its Celtic High Crosses is a key hub on such a historical sweep.

Ennis Town

Formed from the medieval parish of Drumcliffe, 'hill of the basket', Ennis ("Inish-Cluain Raamh-fada, meaning 'meadow of the long rowing'), the present Drumcliffe Church is the centre of the Parish Group. The modest but active congregation of eclectic mix enjoys good relations with its neighbours, St Peter & Paul Cathedral and its surrounding 'Cluster' parishes and the nearby Franciscan Church Community, as well as more recent Protestant Pentecostal and Evangelical Christians.

St Columba's Church

This church is located in Ennis, principle town in County Clare.



There is an excellent two manual pipe organ in the church, fully exercised under the skilful and long-standing organist Mr. Nigel Bridge. This beautiful instrument inspires weekly worship and the naturally excellent acoustics of the church also allows for occasional other musical and cultural events.

The church hall is accommodated in the rear of the building. This was constructed around 1982-3 during the ministry of the former Dean of Limerick Maurice Talbot. A foyer and meeting hall, with kitchen and toilets are more recent additions to the Church. These were constructed from space at the rear of St Columba's, adding to, rather than taking away from the ambience of architect Francis Bindon's compelling design.

Ennis is the administrative town for County Clare and the municipal offices for the county are based here. The population of the town is 25,000 plus which makes it a busy town with expanding commercial enterprises. Ennis hosts major festivals and events making it a thriving outgoing community and throughout the year Ennis has a reputation for traditional Irish music in its pubs and other venues second to none. Fringe events and recitals during these festivals are welcomed in the church. The town is centrally located not too distant from Limerick City to the south and Galway City to the north. Shannon Airport is only 28km away. In recent times St. Columba's has been host to persons doing community service who have been referred by the district court. They work with church representatives

to clean, maintain and refurbish areas of the church. This has been a beneficial development for the church, and we hope for those who visit us to work.

Kilnasoolagh Church



Located in the village of Newmarket-on-Fergus about 12 miles from Ennis this ancient Christian site dates back at least to 1256.

Within the church and to the left of the chancel there is a large baroque monument to Sir Donat O'Brien of Dromoland who was instrumental in constructing the second church on the site around 1686. The present church was built in 1815 by ecclesiastical builder James Pain Esq. Dromoland Castle Hotel is close by the church on the fringe of the village and in the same grounds is the popular hotel The Inn at Dromoland.

Christ Church Spanish Point



This small but beautiful Spanish style church is located on the western seaboard of the county in Spanish Point.

To the side of the church there is a small pre-fab building which is used for parish meetings and gatherings, and a cup of tea after service from time to time. This has been of huge benefit since its construction.

In 2014 the spire of Christ Church had to be restored and fund raising was commenced in early summer. Due to the enormous generosity of all the friends and neighbours and the whole parish of Miltown Malbay enough funds were raised and the work on the spire was completed within the year. This expression of support is an example of the neighbourly assistance given to our small parish from the wider community and an approval of our reaching out to them.

St. Fachtnan's Cathedral Kilfenora

This ancient building is located in the centre of the village of Kilfenora in the north of County Clare. There is no indigenous Anglican congregation in the area but the Cathedral is still a consecrated building. In recent years there has been discussion about Celtic Spirituality and 'Camino' walks and the development of these pilgrimages. These are eminently suited to the area and could be linked with the ancient and historical building which is St. Fachtnan's Cathedral. Pilgrim paths are already operational in the county and more are being planned.



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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

done that in July and August I was confident that we could go back to a service every Sunday from September which was my original plan. Coronavirus has not gone away and we still need to be on our guard and who knows what restrictions might or might not have to change and how that might affect our regular worship. But for now, and to those who have felt able to return to church, Welcome Back!

In my last set of notes I made reference to the fact that I couldn't give you a list of what was to come because I simply didn't know what would happen. The situation is not much different now except that we are at least able to worship in Church though it is somewhat different to what we have been used to. And on that note I would like to say thank you for the way that parishioners have adapted and continue to observe all the guidelines that we've had to put in place. We may not like this new normal but at least we can do something. Just having one service each week and alternating between the two churches was helpful in getting used to the new regime and having

Harvest Festival

Normally at this time we would be thinking about Harvest Festivals. It is right to give thanks for the gifts of the harvest, to remember those who go hungry and to pray for those who produce the food we eat. However this year we are being encouraged to simply remember the harvest in a Sunday service around the time that we would normally keep this festival. Limits on numbers will prevent us attending each other's harvest celebrations. With this in mind, Harvest Festival will be remembered in both churches at the usual times on the morning of Sunday October 11th and we will be joined by Bishop Patrick.



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Ordination

Congratulations to Karen Duigan who is to be ordained priest in Galway on Sunday 27th September. She will continue to serve in the parishes where she is at present.

Funerals

Since the Coronavirus restrictions were put in place back in March funerals have been very different to what we have been used to in the past, and in our group we have had two at the graveside only and three in Church with limited numbers. Please pray for the souls of those who have died recently, Clyde Carroll, Robert Middleton, Elizabeth Matthews, John Connolly and Ivy Cuffe. Pray too for their families and all who mourn their death.

Art Exhibition

There will be a small exhibition (compliant with all the Covid-19 restrictions and guidance) in the Church Hall (Old Schoolroom) at Tubbercurry from 9th to 17th October, entitled 'As Tree'. It is being organised by Shane Finan, a visual artist, who uses video installations for his work. He will be joined by two other artists using painting/drawings and a short film. Numbers in the hall, though expected to be small at any one time, will be limited and it will be possible to 'book a slot'. Look out for more details.

new systems will be with us for a while to come. For anyone who might be interested Mrs Dolly Temple from Westport has been busy making face masks and they are available from Holy Trinity for a donation of €10, which will be split equally between Christian Aid and Holy Trinity's restoration fund.

Return to school

Kizzy was among the excited children who started school for a new year in Holy Trinity National School on Thursday 27th August. A huge amount of work has gone on behind the scenes in order to prepare for the return to school of all our children and I would like to say a huge thank you to our Principal, Mrs Orla Brickenden, and her team of staff for their huge efforts on behalf of our children. I wish them all God's blessings for the year ahead.

Ordinations

It is my fervent hope as I sit in my study at the beginning of September that by the time this issue of Tidings is being read the anticipated September ordinations will have gone ahead, Covid restrictions notwithstanding. As they begin new chapters of their ministry I would ask your prayers for our three new deacons - Paidi Delaney, Clive Moore, Caroline Morrow and our three new priests - Karen Duignan, Maebh O'Herlihy and Carole Reynolds. As DDO I wish them every blessing on their ministry.

From the registers

Christian Burial

William Maurice Bennett, Plovervale, Breaffy, Castlebar, aged 86. Friday 3rd July 2020 at 2.00pm in Turlough Parish Church followed by interment in the adjoining graveyard.

Michael (Mickey) Palmer, St Patrick's Terrace, Westport, aged 90. Monday 6th July 2020 at 11.00am in Holy Trinity, Westport, followed by burial in Aughavale Cemetery.

Peter Close, Sheeaune, Westport. Wednesday 22nd July at 1.00pm in Holy Trinity, Westport, followed by cremation at Shannon Crematorium.



AUGHAVAL GROUP

Holy Trinity, Westport
Christ Church, Castlebar
Turlough
St Thomas', Dugort
Priest-in-charge:
Revd Canon Jennifer McWhirter
Tel: 098 25127
E-mail: revjkmcwhirter@yahoo.co.uk

At the time of writing this, we have been to worship in church for 9 weeks. I would like to thank everyone for being so patient as we begin to get to grips with a new way of 'doing' church. The new system might feel strange but I am grateful that we have been able to return to worship in church. Thank you, too, to the diocese, and our diocesan administrator, Heather Pope, who sourced and supplied every parish with the necessary PPE for us to reopen. It seems that these



ST. THOMAS, DUGORT

Achill Island
Ordained Local Minister:
Revd Maebh O'Herlihy
Tel: 087 2789912
E-mail: maebhoh@gmail.com

As the pandemic is still with us we continue to pray for all in the parish, and also for all in the wider community.

Just before the church re-opened for a few summer services, we had the very sad passing of our dear Tim Stevenson. Tim had been very ill for some months but passed peacefully in Wicklow, surrounded by his daughters Lucy and Emily. Tim was the life and soul of St. Thomas' church for many years, holding the posts of Church Warden, Glebe Warden and Treasurer while also working endlessly on all things, historical and practical, to help maintain our church. Our thoughts and prayers and sympathy are with his family as they grieve for Tim. We hope, restrictions permitting, to have a Memorial Service for Tim in May 2021 to which

his family, parishioners, neighbours and friends will be very welcome.



Tim Stevenson

Church services will resume on the winter schedule on Sunday 11th October. This will be the first Communion Service led by Rev. Maebh following her Ordination as Priest on 27th September.

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Coming out of lockdown for church was full of anticipation and preparation. Having watched many webinars and read lots of documentation for schools, community groups and churches as the minister I felt well prepared when the day actually came. I had meetings with the church wardens prior to the big day and we managed to iron out most of the anticipated issues so that in the end it was all quite smooth and ordinary and I would like to thank all parishioners for their assistance in adapting to the new way of doing things.

We have settled into our new routine including the latest change of having to wear a face mask to the service. On the whole I would say most have returned but the real casualty has been our work with children. My wife Julie who usually ran our once a month Sunday Club has been inventive in creating short YouTube clips, of 10 minutes or so, with a story and craft activities. These have been videoed and pieced together by Clare, our youngest daughter who has done wonders with the technology. In addition, those who have yet to return have underlying conditions and we have done what we can to keep our online versions going alongside the services themselves. As someone pointed out to me, I therefore, do the service four times!

However, confidence in our procedures has meant that we have begun to be more inventive and our informal Powerpoint led service returns to our churches in September. While not being able to have the usual fun and interaction we will at least have a variation on Morning Prayer and it will be a lot more visual!

As for most churches there have been casualties of the pandemic not least harvest services which will be scaled back taking place just on a Sunday this year. And in the case of St Paul's Collooney it has meant cancellation of our 300 year celebrations but maybe we can celebrate our 301st!

We had a couple of break-ins at St Paul's Church more than likely as a result of the long summer and young people with time on their hands.

We have had two funerals since the last publication of Tidings. The first on June 8th was for Muriel Lawson. Muriel had been a resident in Bailey's nursing home in Tubbercurry for some years but was always positive about life whenever I went to see her. She was 93 years old and sadly, pre-deceased by both her sons. As we were still in lockdown the funeral was held in St Nathy's cemetery in Collooney and everyone adhered to the guidelines in these most unusual of circumstances. However, the weather was kind to us and the service memorable because of the restrictions and we hope to have a memorial service for Muriel when restrictions have eased.

Our second funeral was on July 16th for Myrtle Clarke, when we were allowed to hold the service in St Paul's Collooney. Myrtle was 88 years old and was the last person I visited in their home just before lockdown. Like Muriel, Myrtle was always upbeat and will be missed.

Our thoughts and prayers are with both families and all those who have lost loved ones since the pandemic hit.

St Paul's School

The school year ended, as it did for many, online. The last few weeks had been school online and our usual leaver's service had to be online this year and with only the leaver's themselves present. However, it was fun and parents had played their part in keeping up the traditions taking secret deliver of hoodies and the like. We were able to enjoy a guest speaker this year with children's author, Sarah Webb sharing words of encouragement with our leavers. We wish them all the best in their new adventures at secondary school.

There was no down time in the summer with the process of appointing a Special Needs Assistant for the school, working out what to do for the reopening of school all wrapped up in an attempt to get the toilets refurbished! Cutting a very long story short building work starts on September 7th which has meant half the school being moved offsite for the two month period. Our thanks go to the Teeling Centre, Collooney for facilitating this and allowing school to reopen on time. We are also grateful to everyone, BOM, staff and parents for enabling this all to happen under what were already difficult conditions.



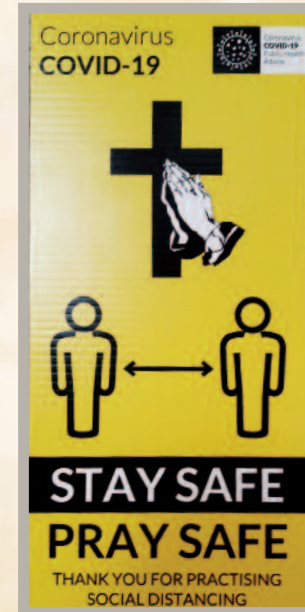
GALWAY & KILCUMMIN

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As I write, I am reflective of all that has happened in the last six months. There have been great challenges, enlightening moments and a new normal. As we have carefully moved forward, we have adapted to our new normal, we consistently adhere to the government guidelines clearly set out; keeping one another safe, and ultimately showing solidarity with all front line workers. St Nicholas' Collegiate Church re-opened for worship on Sunday 5th July at 11am. Due to the restriction on numbers we have continued to zoom the services live from the church. Oughterard made the decision to remain closed until October.

The experience of church is very different but there is a relief and joy in being gathered together physically in the church, and parishioners have shown great patience and understanding as we navigate a safe way forward.

Thursday compline via zoom at 8.30pm will continue with the assistance of Paidi Delaney and Bill Fennell.



We are very fortunate to have Olive Maher as our health and safety officer, who has been central to the reopening and planning. Several people volunteered to work as stewards on a rota basis which ensures that each service runs safely and smoothly.

St Nicholas' News

Easter General Vestry – The Easter General Vestry took place after the Sunday service on Sunday 19th July. The Select Vestry of St Nicholas 20/21 are:
Mr Glenn McCullagh – Rector's Churchwarden
Ms Roxanne Duncan – People's Churchwarden
Ms Helena Harlowe Lewis – Rector's Glebewarden
Mrs Olive Maher – People's Glebewarden
Mrs Heather Pope - Hon Treasurer



Mr Paul Hardy - Hon Secretary
 Mr Ray Plummer
 Mrs Catherine Moore Temple
 Mrs Grainne Walshe
 Mr Bill Fennell
 Mr Adedotun Adekeye
 Mr John Patching
 Mrs Maria Tuohy
 Mr Matt Phillips
 Mrs Sinead Anthony
 Mrs Anne Grete Gormley

We thank the outgoing wardens and vestry we send our good wishes to the new vestry. There will be a



commissioning service for the new vestry in October.

Railings - After four years, the final phase of the painting of the railings around the church has been completed. They look fantastic and lift the surroundings of church lane. We were fortunate that this work was aided by the Built Heritage Investment Scheme.

Ordinations – September will be a busy month as we prepare for Paidi's ordination on 20th September. The following Sunday we will be hosting the ordination to the priesthood. We pray for Paidi, Clive and Caroline who will be ordained deacon, along with Carole, Maebh and Karen who will be ordained priest this Autumn.

Mrs Ann Walton At the Easter General Vestry, we had an opportunity to thank Ann, as she retired having served on the vestry since 1984, and since 1993 Ann served as Hon Sec. A bouquet of flowers and a gift of a bowl and candlestick were presented to her to honour the work she has done. The gifts were carved from a branch which fell from the Elm tree in the church grounds over three years ago, which indeed is a unique gift to be treasured and very suitable and apt for Ann who worked so hard in the church and for the church. A vote of thanks and good wishes were also passed to Philip Walton, for all his work.



St Nicholas' Parochial School – Thankfully a new school year has begun. We are mindful of the particular challenges faced by so many of our teachers and school staff. Our prayer is that everyone settles safely into a routine, new friendships will be made, lessons learned and the sound of children's laughter and voices will resound in playgrounds across the country. Good wishes to Principal, Wendy Lynch and her staff as they re-open our school.

Heritage Week – Our own Catherine Moore Temple, adorned in her special medieval costume became Lady Catherine, as she recorded virtual tours and historical talks during heritage week. It was a wonderful success.

Funeral

The funeral took place of Mary Brigid Adams on Wednesday 5th August. We extend our deepest sympathy to her family and friends at this difficult time.

Kilcummin News

Times of Service:

We will be re-opening for worship at the beginning of October. We will also be welcoming Rev Carole Reynolds as OLM. Whilst there is some anxiety about re-opening there is also excitement in having Rev Carole, who has been a familiar face and good friend to us all in Kilcummin through the years. We assure her of our thoughts and prayers, and our support and encouragement in this chapter of her ministry, and we are privileged and delighted that she will be part of the parish family. Services will be at 11am each Sunday going forward as Carole joins us.

Churchyard

During the lockdown the grass and weeds continued to grow. Many thanks go to Craig McCleane who helped to tidy things up and, more recently, to the CE workers who have everything under control.

A remarkable achievement

Congratulations to Phyl Furness who celebrated here her 105th birthday on Saturday 23rd May. Phyl continues to enjoy good health, is well looked after by neighbours and carers. While she insisted having no great fuss to mark the occasion she has now received her fifth medal from the President and looks forward to a proper party when lockdown is over!

Condolences

The Rector and all parishioners would like to take this opportunity to extend deepest sympathy to the family of Dorrie Faherty. Dorrie always made a special effort to attend the annual Carol Service and any concert taking

place in the church. She is fondly remembered by all.

Easter General Vestry took place on Tuesday 28th July, and the elections were as follows:

Rector's Churchwarden - Leslie Lyons
 People's Churchwarden - Iris Joyce
 Glebewarden - Steve Ellis
 Select Vestry
 Joy Buckley - Hon Secretary
 Caoimhe Buckley - Hon Treasurer
 David Faherty
 Heather DeLacy
 Walter DeLacy
 Maren Ellis
 Craig McCleane.
 Trevor Goodbody

KILLALA

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 Priest-in-charge: Vacant
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During these uncertain times the familiar words from Paul's Epistle to the Philippians 'the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus' has both challenged and given me great strength. When I focus on the circumstances of these turbulent times they quickly overwhelm me. When I reorientate my focus on Jesus I find a resilient hope marked by a peace surpassing all understanding. The old hymn 'What a Friend we have in Jesus' puts it simply 'O what peace we often forfeit... Take it to the Lord in prayer; In His arms, He'll take and shield thee, Thou wilt find a solace there'.

COVID-19 Heroes:

Killala Union erected a banner outside Killala Cathedral to show support and recognise our incredible Frontline

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Contact: Revd Andrew Ison
E:rev.andrew.ison@gmail.com T: 89 2221483

Heroes. We also felt it was important to recognise all the Stay At Home Heroes for what was a very difficult and isolating time, but undoubtable saved many lives through their self-sacrifice.

In Memoriam:

Sue Fair (nee Maxwell) passed away peacefully on 11th June 2020 in the Moyridge Nursing Home, Ballina. Due to the restrictions in place for the coronavirus, Sue's funeral was service took place graveside in Mullafarry led by Canon Andrea. Friends and Neighbours lined the roads for her last journey, and a lifelong service to her Saviour and beloved St. Patrick's Cathedral was recognised with a special guard of honour from the Mother's Union joined by many parishioners. Ellen Fair, Sue's granddaughter, sang the hymn 'Abide with Me', which was one of the most poignant moments of the service. A celebration of Sue's life will take place at a later date. We extend our deepest sympathies to Sue's loving children Kenneth, Derek, Marina, Norman and Mervyn; her brother Alfie; and all the extended family.

Holy Baptism:

Robyn Willow, daughter of John and Vanessa Garvin, Belmullet, was baptised on 25th July 2020 in a service at the family home conducted by Ven. Stephen McWhirter.

Thanks:

Special thanks to the Rev. John Farr leading us in the Service of Holy Communion once a month around the Union during the vacancy.

Congratulations and Welcome:

Rev. Clive Moore has assumed liturgical and pastoral responsibility in Ballycastle and Crossmolina Parishes. Please keep Clive in your prayers and he navigates his new journey in Christ.

Finally:

Most know that I have started training in Dublin for full-time stipendiary ministry in the Church of Ireland after selection this past summer. I am overwhelmed with the support and love that I've experienced from throughout the diocese and forever grateful. When I get asked the question 'what diocese are you from?' my answer 'Tuam, Killala, and Achonry' bursts out with pride. I will endeavour to honour your investment and trust to the best of my ability and ask for your continued prayers as I navigate this new path in Christ.

Your brother in Christ,
Arthur Sweeney



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

Back to Church

It's hard to believe we've been back to in-church worship for some three months now, I'd like to thank everyone involved in the opening of churches and to the entirety of our congregations for their willingness to adapt and change as restrictions have demanded. It does feel as if we are now becoming used to what so many are calling the 'new normal'. It does strike me that we could be worshiping like this for some time to come.

As we prepared to return, significant work went in to preparing for worship and I should like to take this opportunity to thank the Bishop for the supply of all the PPE equipment and the sanitisers that we were all assured we were opening our doors with all the safety procedures in place. Thank you to the diocesan administrator, Heather Pope for the sourcing of all the equipment needed.

Masks

In our own Union a big thank you to Valerie Wilson and Revd. Karen Duignan for sewing so many masks for the use of the Select Vestry and parishioners, they certainly added not only to our safety but also to the colour in church.

Kizzy back to school

In the Rectory we were very excited at the end of August when Kizzy started Senior Infants in a new school, Holy Trinity, Westport. She has already settled in and made new friends. We are only sorry that she had no opportunity to properly say goodbye to Mrs Cooke and her friends in St Michael's NS. Mrs Cooke did make contact with her via WhatsApp which Kizzy was very excited about. Jen and I would like to thank Mrs Daly and Mrs Cooke for the great start to school she received in Junior Infants in St Michael's, even if it was only for one and a half terms.

So we wish all our children and young people every blessing as school starts again.



Higgins Wedding

Many family and friends gathered together to celebrate to marriage of Jonathan and Laura Higgins at the beginning of February with the ceremony taking place in the Church of the Most Holy Rosary in Abbeylisk and afterward at a reception in Castle Durrow. Ven. Stephen was delighted and privileged to have been invited to take part in the ceremony. Who could have imagined such a day two years earlier when Jonathan received such horrific injuries after a motorcycle accident in Dubai. On the day of their wedding Jonathan was able to leave his crutches with his best man and he was able to walk down the aisle unaided. This was an emotional day for everyone, not least David and Daphne, the day was a double celebration of life and love, thoroughly enjoyed by everyone present. We wish Jonathan and Laura every blessing and happiness in their life together.

Ordinations

As we go to press we have been privileged to celebrate as a Union and Diocese both the making of deacons and the ordination of priests. We are particularly pleased to witness the service of the making of deacons of Clive Moore for ministry in Ballycastle and Crossmolina and Caroline Morrow for Killanley. This was a happy occasion for all involved, marred only by the fact that it was a closed service due to the current Covid-19 restrictions. We do all, however, wish them every blessing along with Paidi Delaney, Carole Reynolds and Maebh O'Herlihy. May they be blessed in their life and ministry in the parishes they have been called to serve.

Canon Jen and the Aughaval Group

We would also like to remember in prayer Canon Jen as she prepares for her institution as Rector of the Aughaval Group. Jen has been ministering there since the beginning of April, but again was unable to be instituted because of the restrictions. Sadly this service of Institution is also a closed service.

Dates for the Diary

The harvest services throughout the Union will take place during a normal Sunday service for each congregation, notice of these will be given in each parish.

Parish Register - Christian Burial

Madeline Close, Leaffoney Enniscrone, 24th May 2020, aged 91, Kilglass Parish Church, service conducted by Ven. Stephen McWhirter and Revd. Karen Duignan.



ST ANNE'S, EASKEY & KILGLASS PARISH

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

It's almost a year since I was ordained Deacon. During that time I've learned an awful lot about myself and about the people around me. I consider it a privilege to be entrusted with Easkey and Kilglass and I am happy that I have been given to opportunity to continue. I've enjoyed the past year very much. However, with the Covid-19 restrictions I have not been able to visit and get to know people properly. I never wanted to be the kind of cleric, 6 days a week invisible/1 day a week incomprehensible, that Rev Canon Dr Maurice Elliott, the preacher at our Ordination, spoke about. I very much hope that as things settle and we learn to live with this virus I will be able to get back to visiting people.

One of the parishioners I did get to meet a couple of time was Madeline Close, a parishioner of Kilglass. We had a couple of great conversations about farming and God as she sat looking out her front window surrounded by newspapers and her Bible – a wonderful combination! Madeline died peacefully in her own home, on her own terms, on Friday, 22nd May and was laid to rest on Sunday, 24th. The Archdeacon and I conducted her funeral service. She was a wonderful lady and I'm sorry not to have had more time to get to know her.



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

It was wonderful to be able to worship in church again on 5th July after four months absence and love to see people again. It is so hard and thank you to everyone for their support. A special thank you to the churchwardens. We have tried to make the church a comfortable as possible following all the HSE and Church guidelines and service has taken place each Sunday since. I know not everyone is able to attend yet and with the current guidelines it has not been possible to resume the monthly service in the McWilliam Park Hotel in Claremorris either. I hope to do so as soon as is possible.

We have service leaflets each Sunday in Foxford with all the readings and sit and listen in quiet contemplation to two hymns. Our prayers over the summer have followed a similar pattern. We prayed and continue to, for those who lost loved ones during this difficult time; for the Taoiseach and cabinet that they might have courage and wisdom; for all those on the front line in our hospitals and nursing homes; for those who are sick or anxious; for the gift of knowledge and skill to scientists working on a vaccine.

We have missed the children at service and look forward to a time when they can return. We remembered them especially in prayer as they returned to school.

Those whom we remember....

Seamus Ryder died on 15th May in the arms of his loving family. He was often in our prayers. His funeral, conducted by Fr. Joseph Gavigan, took place on Tuesday 19th May. The steady drizzle reflected the huge pall of sadness that had descended on the town of Foxford since his death was announced. People lined the streets as his coffin was borne to St Michael's Church, Foxford. Seamus was a larger than life character whose strong faith remained no matter what life threw at him. He had high integrity and no prejudices. "The Man upstairs" as he called God, did look out for him as he was cared for with such love by his devoted wife Eleanor ably assisted by Jennifer and Peter, his daughter and son, who made sure he got every chance to enjoy life as best as possible since he acquired a brain injury 25 years ago. Before that he was a builder full of strength and vigour. He was laid to rest in Craggagh Cemetery, Foxford in his 79th year. He is so sadly missed by Eleanor, Jennifer and Peter, son in law Sean and beloved dog Mollie.

Sue Fair was so well known throughout Church of Ireland. She was involved in everything from Mothers' Union to Diocesan and General Synod. Some of her relations are buried in Foxford churchyard. She died on 11th June in Moyridge Nursing home, Ballina and I had to officiate at her funeral at Mullafarry Graveyard, as the Archdeacon was indisposed. It was an honour

Churchwardens Patrick Browne and Charles Wills who worked hard to put all precautions in place.



and privilege. It was the heights of the restrictions and we look forward to a special memorial service for Sue in Killala Cathedral, which she loved so much, when the time is right. We stand firm with all her family in love and prayer.

John Spencer died on 28th June at the Sonas Nursing Home, Knock. I conducted a short service for family in the Funeral Home in Knock and he was laid to rest in Knock cemetery. A gentle man in every sense of the word he lived for many years in Balla before moving to Carrowmore Meadows in Knock. He is sadly missed by his wife Mary and his brother David in England and the wider family circle. We extend our deepest sympathy.

Catriona Canning is well remembered in Foxford church as she attended Harvest Thanksgivings and Carol Services in her wheelchair. We often remembered her in prayer at church when she had to go into hospital. She was my next door neighbour and was the bravest, strongest, most positive person I know. She was 40 and lived with Spina Bifida but it did not define her. Her funeral mass took place on 9th July at Straide Church conducted by Fr. Martin Convey and I was honoured to be able to be in the church too. We continue to remember her parents Kathleen and Denis, brothers Martin and Joseph, sister Denise and wider family circle in our prayers.

We also stand with Laurie O'Kane in love and prayers as she mourns the sudden death of her dear brother David, during lockdown, in Canada.



On Sunday 30th August I was pleased to represent Bishop Patrick at the Episcopal Ordination of Fr. Paul Dempsey as Bishop of Achonry in St. Nathy's Cathedral, Ballaghaderreen. It was a very uplifting occasion, with a wonderful homily from Fr. Vincent Sherlock. We look forward to ecumenical events with Bishop Paul.

On Saturday 5th September the bell of the church rang out at 3 p.m. on National Services Day in solidarity with and appreciation of all frontline, emergency and security services.

On a happy note we are thrilled to welcome our first granddaughter, Alexandra, born in June to Timothy and Amanda in Dublin.

OMEY UNION

Christ Church, Clifden
St Thomas', Ballinakill
St Mary's, Roundstone
Priest in Charge: Vacant
Tel: 091 21147
www.omeygroup.ie

The four churches in the Omev Group of parishes are delighted to welcome back parishioners and visitors alike. It has been a carefully managed process and many are understandably still tentative in these strangest of times. The Covid-19 protocols are adhered to meticulously in line with all churches. Christ Church Clifden has sealed off every second pew to allow for social distancing. Masks are worn by everyone and hand sanitising and contact tracing systems are provided at the entrance. There are no hymns or teas. While all of this seems strange, people have adapted to the new practices in a caring and respectful way that has allowed us to come together safely.

Meanwhile work has continued in the grounds of



Ongoing repairs to the boundary wall at Christ Church Clifden

Christ Church. A tree surgeon has removed some of the older more dangerous trees and the boundary wall is being repaired by a stonemason where it has become damaged over the years. This process has allowed us to forge new and positive relationships with our nearest neighbours.

Christ Church looks forward to the 43rd Clifden Arts Festival which will go ahead on a greatly reduced scale. It will take place over a period of five days instead of the usual ten from 17th to 22nd of September 2020. There will be just a small handful of performances in Christ church and audiences will be limited in line with indoor gatherings nationally.

St. Mary's Church in Roundstone and St. Thomas's in Moyard have also resumed Sunday services since late July. Roundstone welcomed Bishop Patrick Rooke on Sunday the 2nd of August and the Bishop also presided over a service at Holy Trinity in Errislannan.



The lime rendering of the walls at St. Thomas's Church Moyard

The exterior of St. Thomas's Church has undergone considerable work over the last few months and the lime rendering is progressing well. The north wall of the nave is complete and two coats of render have been applied to the east wall. The lack of a water source at the site has been overcome with the use of a pump and a generator which has brought the necessary supply up to the churchyard from the local river. Parishioners look forward to the finished project and to restoring the grounds to the peaceful haven they have always been.

St. Thomas's churchyard has become home to an important colony of native Irish honey bees. The colony has been incorporated into a study being carried out by the National University of Ireland, Galway and is being led by Professor Grace McCormack. This nationwide project recognises and champions the importance of our native honey bee as a vital part of an ecosystem that sustains humankind.

Holy Trinity Church was pleased to welcome visitors to the church on Errislannan peninsula this August. Following the restoration of the building last year, Holy Trinity has been short listed for the John Betjeman Award for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB). We await a visit by the SPAB along with just two other churches in Ireland, when the award committee will make the final choice.



ROUNDSTONE

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

Roundstone is saddened to be losing Rev. Carole Reynolds who is moving on to a new post in Oughterard. She has been a tremendous support to everyone in the parish and we will miss her compassionate pastoral care. We wish her well in her new position. St. Mary's will open seasonally from here on and Christmas, Easter and the holiday season will be covered by a combination of parish readers and visiting clergy.



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

Bereavements

The funeral of Mr. Henry Brett took place in Skreen Church graveyard and was done in accordance with the guidelines as issued by the Church of Ireland bishops. This meant no funeral service in the church. However, the service at the graveside was really very meaningful and all involved appreciated the effort of

the rector and parishioners in showing respect for a man who was very much loved and admired in the community. Henry died at the University Hospital, Sligo on May 16th after a short illness. His young life was in France where his father was a banker, then to Kings Hospital, Dublin and eventually back to the family farm at Ardgevena, Skreen. He was predeceased by his wife Broda nee Coulter. They were faithful parishioners who took an active roll in the life of the parish and the community. We extend sympathy to his son Eric, daughters Barbara and Sandra and their spouses and also his sister Mrs. Elizabeth Birch and her husband.

Mr. Joe Coulter was bereaved by the death of his sister Irene Mary (Irma) in Liverpool. From an early age she had worked on the managerial staff of Tesco. She has been widowed for twenty five years and is survived by two sons. She was a member of R.B.L. who took a prominent roll in her funeral service. Because of coronavirus brothers Joe and William were unable to attend the funeral but were able to follow the service on line. They both had the comfort of knowing they visited her before lock down.

Accident

We were all concerned for Mrs. June Coulter who had a most unfortunate fall on the stone steps leading up to the church in Skreen. June was taken to hospital by ambulance but is convalescing satisfactorily having been very well cared for during her stay with her son Jason, his wife Caroline and grandchildren Lucy, Ryan and Dara. Granny June was the centre of attention!

Improvements

Skreen Church hasn't looked as well in quite some time. All thanks to the hard work of a number of people. The windows have been repaired and sashes replaced in all the windows. This work was executed by Mr. Nicholas Prins and looks very well.

Mrs. Audrey Kee generously gave of her time and painted the entrance gates, the railings up the steps and the main door. This was in appreciation of the support of the parishioners at the time of her mother, Mrs. Uncles death. It has made such a difference and brightens the place. Thank you Audrey.

As a parish we have been so fortunate in having the grounds maintained through a Social Employment Scheme. The place is in pristine condition and our thanks and appreciation is due to Mr. Chris Rushe who works so hard to maintain a very high standard.

Wedding

Friday 28th August was a red letter day for the Moore family as their only daughter Rachel married Mr. Jamie Coyle of Athy, Co. Kildare.

The church was magnificent and the improvements as mentioned and the wonderful floral displays set the scene for this very happy occasion. The numbers attending was obviously in line with regulations and social distancing was observed. However, it didn't in any way take from the importance and enjoyment of the occasion. The organist was Mr. Tristan Clarke, cousin of the bride. The reception was held in a marquee at her parent's residence at Masreagh,



Skreen. We were all so pleased to welcome the bride's grandmother Mrs. Hazel Moore to the service and the reception. She too had left that home to be married in the parish church.

Harvest Services will this year be incorporated into the morning services in all three churches

And finally on the return to church, can I say it is gratifying to see the members attending as strong as they are given all that is going on.

Blessings to all and please keep safe and remember "this too will pass".



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

Back to Church

The title of these few words as per the above are misleading. We never 'left' Church. We just did it differently. So I guess that here, in these few paragraphs, we should more properly be saying 'Back to In-Church Worship'. Way back when, when I last wrote the Tidings notes, we were aiming to be 'back' on 26th July. As things turned out, the pace accelerated and we had our first Sunday Worship in both Cong, Tuam and Aasleagh since March on 5th July. It was nervy day. Would we do it right? Would we have everything in place for social distancing and sanitising and contact tracing recording? In the event, it all went smoothly, even though the services all had a very different and even odd feel to them.

We started gently with simple Ante-communion: no hymns and just one reading. But as the weeks went by and we grew in confidence so we began to spread our wings. Holy Communion (in one kind only) reasserted itself as our main Sunday worship. And now, at the time of writing, we are back to near normal. Oh, we still only receive in one kind. And we can't sing the hymns, though I know some folk softly 'hum' into their masks. And it still

'feels' strange. But attending church is no longer a cause for nerves.

There are still those who, for very good reasons, feel unable to come to church and that's fine. We are by no means at the end of this pandemic. Covid-19 is still active as is demonstrably clear in the recent rise of infections. So it is entirely understandable, and even in some cases commendable, that folk are 'minding' themselves. Indeed, we ALL need to be 'minding' ourselves, and each other, in different ways as we head into autumn and winter when colds and flus are at their most rampant. Suffice it to say, when folk are ready to restart their church attendance, the church will be ready with a welcome. May God Bless and Keep You All

Hilary Cooke

It was with great sadness that we laid to rest the mortal remains of Hilary Cooke in St. Marys' Cathedral churchyard on 15th June. Hilary died quite suddenly and her death took us all unawares. This happened at the very height of the Covid-19 restrictions so it was a small gathering who bade her farewell. We couldn't even hold a service in her beloved cathedral where she had served God and Parish for so many years so the Dean read an abridged Funeral Office at the graveside as we commended to her to God's gentle and loving care. Hopefully we can gather for a more fulsome remembrance and celebration of her life later in the year. To all her family and friends we extend our prayerful sympathy.

Lesley Lanigan O'Keefe

Lesley had been ill for quite some time, residing latterly in Swinford Nursing Home where she died peacefully on 24th June. After cremation, Lesley's ashes were brought to St Mary's Church, Cong where a short service was held, led by the Dean, who told the small number who were able to attend because Covid-19 restrictions that Lesley had given him strict instructions some years previously regarding the content of her funeral service. Above all, said Dean Alistair, Lesley had been very firm that her funeral should be as brief and free of fuss as possible. So in a perhaps perverse way, Covid-19 had caused Lesley's wishes to come about. We will all miss Lesley and her quiet service and presence in Cong. We extend our sympathy and prayers to all the circle of family and friends, especially John, Siobhan and Randal.

Brian O'Loughlin

The mortal remains of Brian O'Loughlin, who died in Spain in March, were laid to rest in St Mary's Cong graveyard after Funeral Mass. The Dean was honoured

to be asked to take part in the funeral and to perform the Order of Committal. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Jill and David, Brian's children, and the whole family circle and pray that, after such a long Covid-caused trial, they might now find peace and closure.

Baptism



It was great joy that welcomed a new member of God's family into the household of faith in St. Mary's church, Cong on 2nd August. Jamie Michael Gannon (who happens to be the grandson of the Dean) was, and is to date, the only Covid-19 era baby to be baptised in the parish.

We wish him and his parents every blessing for the future.

Aasleagh

The summer season at St John the Baptist's Church, Aasleagh was completely observed this year despite Covid-19. Every Sunday evening at 7pm during July and August we had at least a few folk to worship the Lord God Almighty in this beautiful place. When the bishop visited on 9th August there was quite the turn-out. Visitors numbers were, as one might expect, down compared to previous years but some hardy annuals did still return. As always, we need to record our thanks to John and Bernie Clesham for all they do in this little outpost.

Harvest Thanksgiving Services

As things stand, and assuming that they get no worse, the Harvest Services will take place during normal morning worship in both Tuam and Cong. Because of the various restrictions we cannot safely decorate either church on the eve of the services. Some other arrangements may be made but at the time of writing nothing has been decided.

Notwithstanding adverse events, Harvest will be kept at 12 noon in Tuam on 4th October and in Cong at 10.00am on 11th October. Any changes to these, good or bad, will be announced as appropriate.

TIDINGS – NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Tidings is distributed free within the Diocese of Tuam, Killala and Achonry however, if you would consider making a modest contribution towards the production costs we would be most grateful as our advertising only partially covers the costs.

Also, at this time we are looking to centralise the administration and in future Tidings finances will be run through the Diocesan Council account. So, if you are making a donation, please send a cheque to the Diocesan Administrator, Mrs Heather Pope, 11 Ros Ard, Cappagh Road, Galway - payable to the United Dioceses of Tuam, Killala and Achonry Dioc Council No 1 a/c and write Tidings on the rear of the cheque. Or, alternatively via online banking using the bank account details below, with Tidings in the notification

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Thank you for your support and stay safe.

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SLIGO GRAMMAR SCHOOL

One Body, One Spirit

Home from Home

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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.

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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



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

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E-mail: secretary@villiers-school.com Web Site: www.villiers-school.com