



tidings

DIOCESE OF TUAM, KILLALA AND ACHONRY

SUMMER ISSUE 2021



THE
KING'S
HOSPITAL
SCHOOL

350
-1669 YEARS 2019-

Co-Educational,
Church of Ireland
Boarding & Day School.

WE ARE MORE THAN A SCHOOL

We are a close-knit, supportive community where everyone can thrive and flourish.

We are more than educators, we are here to lead the way into new worlds of experience through sports, the arts, global and local enrichment programmes, including hands-on work with charities.

Above all, we are focused on the happiness and wellbeing of every young person in our care.

New for 2019! Completion of boarding refurbishment and continuous sports campus upgrades.

Contact our Admissions Team today and experience the school for yourself with a guided tour.

T +353 1 643 6564
E khadmissions@thekingshospital.ie
W www.kingshospital.ie
A Palmerstown, Dublin 20,
D20 V256, Ireland



tidings

SUMMER ISSUE 2021

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

www.tuam.anglican.org

COPY DEADLINE

All submissions for the Easter Issue of
Tidings, including advertisements, must
be in by **4th September 2021**

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

DESIGN & PRINTING

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



THE BISHOP WHITES . . .



September and Tuam (Priests) on
Sunday 19th September can go ahead.

Our weekly Diocesan Virtual services have now been running for well over a year. The clergy and Diocesan Reader have played their part in organising and providing the recordings for the Dean to edit and produce. I am extremely grateful to all who have contributed in any way but not least to Dean Alistair who has given time and expertise each week to provide this service for us. The rota had been agreed until the end of August but with the opening up of worship in our churches, I think that these services could finish at the end of June. If the Dean, who monitors numbers who log on, indicates otherwise, we can review the situation – we have, after all, become quite adapt at changing course over recent months!

Reading the whole of the Bible in Lent was no small undertaking and I should like to express my thanks to all who contributed in any way to this effort to raise funds for the water project in our link Diocese in Kajiado, Kenya. People from far and wide sent contributions or chose to sponsor the reading of a chapter. The good news is that we reached our target of 11,500 euro (£10,000). What is even better is that Bishops' Appeal has agreed to match-fund our contribution. Hence, many congratulations to all; from the McWhirters whose idea it was, to the co-ordinators of the technology, the clergy who organised the readers, those who read, those who supported by attending or sponsoring. All in all, it was a wonderful team-effort that brought many people together during Lent to think of others while reading the scriptures!

Looking ahead we are hopeful of seeing Church life return to something akin to normal. Services over the Summer months should be possible in most places with congregations limited to 50. Fearful of post-Confirmation gatherings and possible spreading of the virus, the Government has advised against Confirmations taking place at this time. Respecting the advice, we have re-arranged our Confirmation services for the Autumn. The Institutions in the Omey and Killala Groups will also be delayed until September-October when it is hoped larger congregations will be permitted. We are also hopeful that the two Ordination services planned for Killala (Deacons) on Sunday 12th

There has been much speculation over recent weeks as to what 'Church' might look like when the pandemic passes. Undoubtedly, some things will be different. In our numerically small but geographically large Diocese, the skills learnt in availing of Zoom and other forms of virtual communications will cut down the hours many of us spend in the car – let alone the carbon footprint! Already we have taken the decision that most of our Diocesan meetings will be held virtually. I believe we have probably come to appreciate one another more and how we interact, when we do meet with each other, should also be different. So too, we have learnt to reach out to neighbours and others in our local communities and no doubt, other pioneering opportunities will have been spotted and will be seized upon in post-Covid Ireland!

My hope is that, whatever the long-term future holds, we will all be able to enjoy the summer and have a break of some kind. These have been trying times for us all and we long to break free and experience new routines and rekindle old friendships. May God bless you and all who, as visitors to our Diocese, seek refreshment and renewal at this time.

+Patrick Tuam



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DUE TO COVID 19 RESTRICTIONS, ALL OF THE FOLLOWING ARE PROVISIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

JUNE

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Thu 3rd | Diocesan Board of Education meeting, via Zoom, 7.30pm |
| Sun 6th | Claremorris Service, 12noon – to be confirmed |
| Mon 7th | Diocesan Finance Committee, via Zoom, 7.30pm |
| Tue 8th | Diocesan Glebes & Property Committee, via Zoom, 7.30pm |
| Thu 10th | Diocesan Council Meeting, via Zoom, 7pm |
| Mon 14th | RB Week, Dublin, via Zoo |
| Thurs 24th | Clergy Book Club, via Zoom 10.30am |

JULY

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Sun 4th | Claremorris Service, 12noon |
|----------------|-----------------------------|

AUGUST

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Sun 1st | Claremorris Service, 12noon |
|----------------|-----------------------------|

SEPTEMBER

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Sun 5th | Claremorris Service, 12noon |
| Fri 10th-Sun 12th | Ordinands' Retreat, Westport |
| Sun 12th | Ordination of a Deacon – Mr Martin Steele, Killala, 4pm |
| Sun 19th | Ordination of Priests, Tuam, 4pm |
| Mon 20th | RB Week, Dublin or via Zoom |
| Sat 25th | Diocesan Synod, Tuam or via Zoom, 10.30am |
| Sun 26th | Confirmation for Ballisodare and Achonry Groups, Collooney, 10.45am |
| Thu 30th-Sat 2nd | General Synod, via Zoom |

OCTOBER

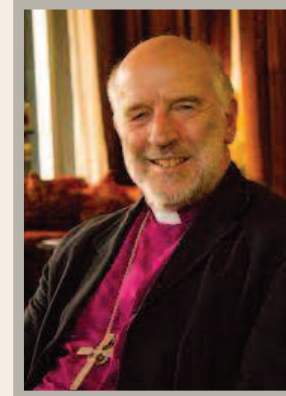
| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Sun 3rd | Confirmation for Galway Group, Galway, 11am |
| Sat 9th | Confirmation for Aghaval Group, Turlough, 8pm |
| Sun 10th | Confirmation for Aghaval Group, Castlebar, 10am |
| Mon 11th | Diocesan Finance Committee, via Zoom, 7.30pm |
| Tue 12th | Diocesan Glebes & Property Committee, via Zoom, 7.30pm |
| Thu 14th | Diocesan Council Meeting, Claremorris or via Zoom, 7pm |
| Sun 17th | Confirmation for Killala Group, Killala, 11.30am |
| Mon 18th-Wed 20th | Clergy Conference, Adare |
| Sun 31st | Confirmation for Tuam Group, Cong, 10am |



CLERGY & READERS QUIET MORNING

This was held via Zoom with 53 attendees. The former Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church and Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane, the Rt Rev David Chillingworth was the speaker. Bishop Chillingworth has his own blog 'Thinking Aloud' (www.bishopdavid.net) and after the Quiet Morning Bishop David reflected upon his time with the people of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe....

DREAMS DEFERRED



Langston Hughes' poem Harlem – written in the year of my birth 1951 – says this:

What happens to a dream deferred? Does it dry up like a raisin in the sun? Or fester like a sore—And then run? Does it stink like rotten meat? Or crust and sugar

over—like a syrupy sweet? Maybe it just sags like a heavy load. Or does it explode?

A comment in the Church Times from Canon Mark Oakley pointed me towards these lines and I used Dream Deferred as the title for a Quiet Morning last Wednesday. The poem seems to me to say something haunting about the experience – the constraint – of lockdown. And since a Quiet Morning seems to have plenty of talk in it, I had time to explore it.

I was with the clergy of the two Church of Ireland Dioceses of Tuam, Killala and Achonry and Limerick and Killaloe – two dioceses which will soon join together. Zoom in these moments is amazing. I was at home in Edinburgh – the clergy, lay readers and others were stretched all along the western seaboard

of Ireland from Westport in the North to Dingle in the far south west. There were 53 of them involved. Online meetings make sense when you consider the travel time and cost involved in moving from one end of the country to the other.

Much of what I learned from them had echoes in our experience in Scotland. We have similar challenges in sustaining a presence across huge geographical spaces and with relatively small numbers. We too have found that endless amalgamations and groupings don't necessarily achieve what is needed – better by far to identify and put in place some indigenous ministry presence in each place. So, I listened to people introducing themselves – a relatively small number of stipendiary clergy working with auxiliaries, lay readers and others. A real patchwork of committed ministry.

We talked of course about Covid, about lockdown – about how we have experienced the constraints of that personally. And we talked about how it has affected ministry. We talked about dreams deferred. The real challenge was to explore together how the pandemic will have changed our society – and there can be little doubt that it will be found to have brought fundamental changes – and how we in the church will need to respond.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU – LIMERICK AND KILLALOE THE KILLALOE/STRADBALLY GROUP AND NENAGH UNION

Continuing our feature of learning something about the diocese of Limerick and Killaloe which Tuam, Killala and Achonry will amalgamate with in due course we offer you a glimpse of another part of that diocese with thanks to Rod Smyth.

St Flannan's Cathedral, Killaloe



Killaloe, which means the Church of Lua, is mentioned by name in the Annals of Innisfallen under the year 991. Lua (or Molua) was a 6th century saint and a contemporary of St Columba, St Brendan and St Comgall of Bangor. It was St Comgall who was responsible for Lua's education after meeting him on a visit to Munster. Lua accompanied Comgall back to Bangor, and was ordained there, returning to Munster where he founded a monastery at Clonfert-Mulloe near Roscrea.

There is no evidence that St Lua personally founded any church in Killaloe. However, the earliest surviving church is, indeed, known as St Lua's Church. This is a little stone church which was built on Friar's Island nearby in the River Shannon. The building of the present cathedral was carried out between 1194 and 1225. It fell on dark times between the 13th and the 16th centuries, emerging into the light again in 1615 after John Rider became bishop. The story of the cathedral in the 19th and 20th centuries is best told through the eye of the beholder. Not only is it a

remarkable building, but it is a miracle of survival. The coming of the railway in the 19th century brought visitors attracted by the natural beauty of the scenery, to enjoy a simple holiday in such surroundings. In the Cathedral Church of St Flannan, Killaloe, the past is still very much cherished, but the life and witness of the Cathedral continues to thrive.

All Saints Church, Castleconnell



The grounds of All Saints Church Castleconnell hold an ancient and sacred history - the first known place of worship on this site was originally founded in the 6th century. After being destroyed by Vikings a second place of worship was erected between 1400 and 1410, part of the walls of this old church can still be seen to the rear of the present building. After the war of 1641, the old church was in such a ruinous state that it was rebuilt to the present building for the sum of 3 pounds 18 shillings and 10 pence Sterling. The church has been in full use since the end of the 1700s.

Today All Saints Church is also a unique entertainment venue, home to a range of concerts and events throughout the year, including the Autumn

Concert Series which takes place in September, Christmas Carol Service in December and Saints and Singers Festival which takes place over the May Bank Holiday Weekend.

St. Cronan's Church, Tuamgraney



St Cronan's Parish Church is a 10th-century church in Tuamgraney, County Clare. It is the oldest church in continuous use in Ireland. The Tuamgraney parish operates as a unit within the Mountshannon parish in the Killaloe Union of parishes. A wooden monastery was built at the site before 550 CE, most likely by Saint Cronan. Despite looting by Vikings in 886 and 949, the monastery thrived. The current stone church was built by Cormac ua Cillín around 949–964 CE. In 1012, the church was repaired by Brian Boru, High King of Ireland, whose brother Márcán was Abbot of Tuamgraney at the time. It is the only preserved building with a recorded link to Brian Boru. The building was extended in the 12th century. Archaeologically and architecturally, it is described as a Type 2 unicameral mortared pre-Romanesque church. One of the earliest records of tower building in Ireland dates to Ua Cillín's obituary in the Chronicon Scotorum, which notes: "he had built the 'great' church and round tower" at Tuamgraney. The church is referred to in the Annals of Clonmacnoise, and radiocarbon dating links it with Clonmacnoise, Dulane, Lorrha and Ardfert Cathedral.

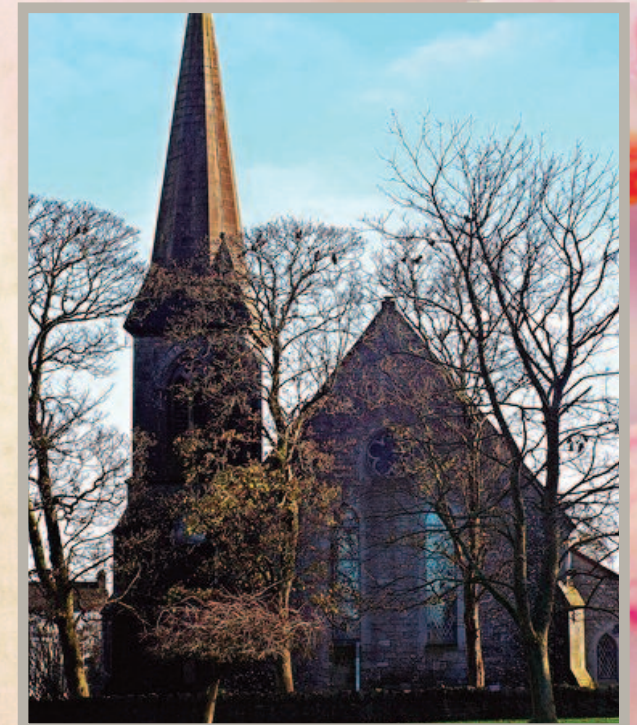
St Caimin's Church, Mountshannon

St Caimin's church was built 1789, comprising four-bay nave with single-bay three-stage crenellated tower added to left hand side, 1831, and single-bay single-storey lean-to vestry to rear. Pitched slate roof with cut-stone copings and cast-iron rainwater goods. Crenellated cut-stone parapet and corner pinnacles to tower. Single-pitched roof to vestry. Rubble stone walls with cut-stone quoins. Lancet windows with



cut-stone surrounds and replacement aluminium windows. Triple lancet leaded glass windows to chancel. Pointed arch door opening with timber matchboard door. Graveyard to site with various cut stone grave markers and mausolea. Wrought-iron piers with wrought-iron gates and railings.

St Mary's Church, Nenagh



St Mary's stands on Church Road, Nenagh. Consecrated in 1860, replacing the previous church in Kenyon Street which had become unfit for use, the tower of which still stands inscribed with the date 1700. St Mary's is undoubtedly an important element of the town's heritage, and as a building has many interesting features.

Templederry Parish Church

Templederry Church was built in 1828 comprising a



nave with a three stage tower attached to the north side with castellations and pinnacles. The church contains many flamboyant memorials to several generations of the Otway family of Castle Otway and there is a large vault below the church also belonging to the Otway family.

Killodiernan Parish Church

Built in 1811, comprising two-bay side elevations to the nave, with a tower at the west end with pinnacles and castellations. The church was built with help from the Board of First Fruits which was an institution of



the Church of Ireland that was established in 1711 by Anne, Queen of Great Britain to build and improve churches and glebe houses in Ireland. It is exceptionally well maintained by parishioners and is in constant use on two Sundays a month as well as other services during the year.

FAREWELL



As a Diocese, we bid farewell to Emma Rodrigues and her family as they leave us for pastures new in June. For the past five years, Emma has served as lead Evangelist with the Ballina Churches Together Project. Throughout, she has been supported by her husband Robson. As Emma hands over the reins to her colleague Marian Edwards, I pay tribute to her pioneering spirit and courage for the way she set about developing this new initiative which has brought support, comfort and reassurance to many in that community who are among the most vulnerable. We wish them every blessing as they head back to Cork and for the new challenges that, no doubt, lie ahead.

+Patrick

A CHANGE OF NAME BUT NOT PURPOSE

The County Sligo Protestant Orphans Society decided to change the name of the Charity in October 2015 and it has been a long road. However, permission has been granted by the Charities Regulator on the 1st of May 2020 and I quote 'The Charities Regulator consents to the change of name of the registered charity pursuant to section 42(2) of the Charities Act 2009.'

We have now formally adopted the name County Sligo Church of Ireland Family Fund as the new name for Co Sligo Protestant Orphan Society from the 1st

of January 2021.

The society, like in many other counties, was set up in the 19th century to care for the orphans of Protestant parishioners. Of course, in this day and age there are very few orphans so the society now seeks to help families in need of some financial assistance. The society has certain criteria that need to be met such as residency in the County of Sligo but if you are in need please do approach your minister who can make proposal to the Trustees.



Your Mortgage - Your Choice

For Independent Financial Advice

Contact Ciaran Pope on (091) 563400

Email: info@absolutemortgages.ie



Absolute Mortgages Ltd is Registered in the Republic of Ireland No. 365467
Registered Office: 78 Prospect Hill, Galway Directors Ciaran Pope & Heather Pope
Absolute Mortgages Ltd is Regulated by the Central Bank Of Ireland

DISCOVER THE HISTORY OF YOUR FAMILY IN MAYO



Open: Mon. – Thurs. 9.30 to noon and 2pm to 4.00pm and Fri. 9.30am to noon

Main Street, Ballinrobe | E: soumayo@iol.ie | T: (094) 9541214
www.mayoroots.com



Ballina Centre of Mission
bctballina@gmail.com
Tel: Emma Rodrigues 087 4347612



The Blue Bus

The pandemic has affected finances. Ballina Churches Together committee decided as the Blue Bus could not be used, there was no justification in keeping it running so it has now been sold. The iconic bus was a well-loved by those frequented it and news of its sale was met with sadness. Through the ministry of the iconic bus we came to know many people. Memories of the Big Blue Bus will stay with us for years to come. Many happy memories of friendships made, laughter and song, copious cups of tea and of winter nights in Tesco's car park!



Gift bags/care packages

The bags have helped us show God's love in a practical way. It has been a wonderful way of having conversations with folk – especially with families we connected with through the Bus ministry.

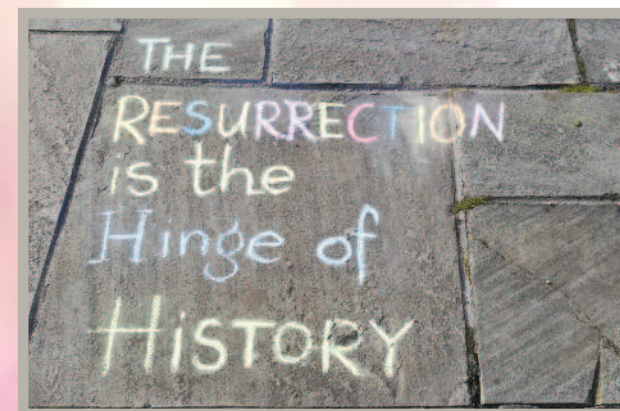
March – In the month of March, we once again



celebrated St. Patrick's Day. In Ballina, we sent out gift bags to the children of Mill View and Greenhills Estates. Through continuing connections, we have been able to keep contact with the children who used to come to our Kidz Clubs on the Big Blue Bus. One volunteer kindly crocheted shamrocks for all the bags. The St. Vincent de Paul and a local shop in Ballina contributed colouring books, calendars, playing cards and sweets for the children. A ceramicist from Sligo made Shamrock fridge-magnets. We also included scripture colouring pages and a copy of St. Patrick's Prayer in each bag.

April – During the month of April, we celebrated the joyful season of Easter. For Easter, we used the significant symbol of the butterfly to celebrate the resurrection. We filled the bags with easter eggs, gifts and Easter colouring sheets. We also added a new booklet from Ruth Gyves, entitled Joy for the Soul, which she had produced just in time for Easter. Ruth's resources are available at www.bringhope.ie. Ruth is a Diocesan Lay Reader in the Dublin and Glendalough Diocese of the Church of Ireland.

On this occasion, we distributed the bags of joy to the elderly, the medically vulnerable and carers in the community. A volunteer from Ballina Methodist Church also made flower posies, which we gave to neighbours and friends of Ballina Churches Together. We delivered flowers, chocolates, gospel cds and booklets. It was a joy to bless so many people, who were somewhat weary of lockdowns.



Pastoral care

Our work has continued in pastoral care. There are people who live alone, the elderly - isolated from family and friends, some of whom do not have a support network. We continued all through the lockdowns to reach out to them through various means: phone calls, messaging, post and doorstep visits to those who live alone in the countryside. We have

also continued to take elderly people for hospital tests to the nearest hospitals.

We have kept up contact with many of the men who used to frequent the Big Blue Bus. The prolonged period of lockdown and isolation has caused the vulnerable to experience loneliness and confusion. Sadly, for some, such as our friend K, he now requires hospitalisation at this time. He had attended our Bible study last September before another lockdown. His mental health continued to deteriorate over time. We have kept in contact with him by phone.

A good news story it that of A. It was in September of last year, that A first came to the bus. He really was in a terrible state. Just previous to first coming to the bus, he had attempted to take his own life. He was a very broken man and in his own words, he "lived each day with a bottle in one hand and a packet of cigarettes in the other". He is an alcoholic and he continued to drink whiskey every day. After Christmas, he became so ill that he required hospitalisation. The future looked very bleak for him and somewhat hopeless. We continued to pray for him. In March A's life completely changed. Today, he is completely sober and is almost unrecognisable in appearance, he a picture of good health in body and mind.



Those individuals battling with existing mental health issues and addictions have suffered – many who were previously coping are struggling and there has been limitations in support as home visits were not allowed.

Another person we have supported is E. Emma met her a few years ago and has continued to meet her for walks. She has suffered much tragedy in her background and used to be part of a cult. She has struggled with anxiety and abuse from neighbours where she lives. Emma has been able to pray and counsel her. E is grateful for a listening ear and prayer as she feels God is helping her and bringing her into a good place within herself.

Traveller family

We have befriended several Irish Traveller Families in the town of Ballina. A very difficult situation arose in one family which crossed borders and the kind of behaviour you hear about but struggle to imagine exists. In what looked like a desperate situation we kept in touch with the family and kept on praying for them and the situation. The prayers paid off and the situation resolved but many more are trapped in dreadful situations. We continue to be friends with this family and every day her Father, sends inspiring messages, bible verses and gospel songs by text. They are a God-fearing family.

Missional community

Our post Alpha Bible study has continued on Zoom



on Thursday evenings throughout the lockdowns. Everyone has appreciated the meetings. Our weekly prayer group on Sunday evenings has also continued. We will continue the online groups until restrictions are lifted and we can all meet in person again.

Chalk art evangelism

The art messages have been very well received by so many people, who have appreciated the messages of hope, joy and peace which they give. One lady, C approached recently and expressed her gratitude for the chalk art. She is interested in knowing more about Jesus and asked for a Bible. She had been looking in the shops for one and could not find one. We were able to give her a New Testament. She loves to sew and now she is making gift-bags so we can continue to bless people in the community.

Farewell

A few weeks ago, we said goodbye to Fabiano (from Brazil) who came as a volunteer with Ballina Churches together back in 2017.

This is my final time (Emma) writing in Tidings as my position as Lead Evangelist at Ballina Centre of



Mission/Ballina Churches Together finishes at the end of June. I would like to thank the Diocese and everyone for your support over the last 5 years. The project will continue with Marian Edwards and a part-time worker. It is their role to raise up more people in the community to carry on the mission work.

A TRIBUTE TO EMMA AND ROBSON (AND FABIANO)

Ballina Churches Together (B.C.T.) began in September 2010. The vision of the project was to address social needs and to bring Christian hope to the Community. Ballina Churches Together is largely volunteer-based organization. In April of 2016, Emma Bolster Rodrigues was employed as a Community Evangelist. Born in Cork, Emma had worked in various projects in Ireland, England and Brazil. Emma is married to Robson and they have two children. Robson, who is from Brazil is soccer mad and he gave underage Futsal coaching in the local sports halls and in GAA grounds. Robson was assisted by Fabiano Macario, who with his agility and silken samba skills played a pivotal role in a very successful period for Ballina Town F.C. During this time Ballina won three Super Cups, one league cup and the Super Cup title in 2018. Fabiano recently returned to his home in Brazil. These Brazilians brought soccer flair and much enjoyment to the people of Ballina!

In 2016, Emma began working in the community. She became involved in various support organizations such as the Ballina Training Centre (Mental Health and Disabilities), MABS (the Money Advisory Budgeting Service) and Diversity Mayo (supporting refugees and migrants). Emma also built connections with the Irish Bishops' Drugs Initiative, a Catholic Church agency providing educational programmes about the dangers of drugs and alcohol misuse. She also collaborated with the HSE in training volunteers in suicide prevention skills (ASIST Programme). Emma forged many links in the community.

Throughout 2017, Emma searched for a space that B.C.T. could use for outreach in the town, but to no avail. That is, until the day that she saw a library bus for sale in Co. Derry. Following discussion, B.C.T. decided to purchase the 'Big Blue Bus', and the vision was to use it as a mobile drop-in-centre. From the spring of 2018, the volunteers lead by Emma began utilising the bus for various purposes. We had 'Cuppa & Chat' in Tesco's Car Park on Saturday and Sunday nights. On those nights, we gathered to drink tea, chat, laugh and sing songs. Friendships were made and community established; the bus was a happy space where all were welcomed. We also visited various housing estates and ran Kidz Clubs much to the joy of the children who tumbled onto the bus! On special occasions, such as the Salmon Festival, the bus was parked outside the

Jackie Clarke museum. Here volunteers face-painted for children and enjoyed the party atmosphere on the streets of Ballina.

Emma, through her tireless efforts forged many relationships with the people of Ballina and its environs. Along with her team of volunteers, she also worked to bring a Christian witness through the faith discovery series – Alpha during the autumn/winter 2019 at the Mercy Convent secondary school. For a retreat day, we organised a bus to bring everyone to the beautiful and peaceful Holy Hill Hermitage at Skreen, Co. Sligo. During that time, as we gathered people enjoyed the videos, food, singing and discussions. One of the most striking things from the Alpha Course was how quickly strangers became friends and how much people appreciated being able to talk and discuss the Bible together.

With the arrival of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, Emma led her team in caring for people in the community. The work never stopped and it became even more vital than ever. Emma cared for the elderly, the isolated, the medically vulnerable and those in need. She continued to bring Christian hope through the months through Lectio Divina on Zoom weekly, through Pastoral Care and prayer support for individuals. If the pandemic taught us anything – it taught just how important people are and we can all make a difference in people's lives. Fred Rogers wrote – "Try your best to make GOODNESS attractive. That's one of the toughest assignments you'll ever be given".

Emma has completed her assignment in Ballina and she has made her 'goodness' attractive in so many peoples' lives. As Emma and Robson head off on a new adventure, the team at Ballina Churches Together would like to say thank you for the ways in which you have blessed so many lives. Our thoughts and prayer go with you.

Slán agus Beannacht.

Marian Edwards

EMMA AND ROBSON - A TRIBUTE FROM A BCT PROJECT VOLUNTEER



Emma and Robson Rodrigues had heard the call of God, to return to Ireland from Brazil, many months before the door opened. Through a job offer with BCT, Emma accepted the position of lead Evangelist ---and so it was - the calling, position and location were now all clear.

In 2016 Emma, Robson, Aaron and Kristen set up home in Crossmolina on the shores of Loch Conn. Emma immediately set to work to gather together a group of volunteers to assist her in her calling. I had the privilege and pleasure of being one of those volunteers and walking alongside Emma these past five years.

Emma has that God-given ability and talent to befriend all - the marginalised, the lonely, the hurting, the wounded, the misfit. Within literally days she had made numerous friendships. Her charismatic nature and gentle smile drew people from all churches and ranks of society. When her vision sought out a bus, it was then that the friendships grew, blossomed, developed and solidified.

The Big Blue Bus was a tremendous asset and blessing to Ballina and its' environs. It proved to be a vehicle of opportunity, a safe haven, an open door to meet and gather and get to know both young and old in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. The cupan tae and singalong were always welcome and many emerged from that bus both refreshed and invigorated. This work will continue under the very capable and able hands of Marian Edwards.

Emma had that gentle quality of emphasising the importance of each individual - their unique value and acceptance in society, ALL WERE OF IMPORTANCE.

I, as a volunteer have learned and gleaned so much during the five years. I will never forget the wonderful fellowship,

times of prayer, times of laughter, times of fun. Times of excitement, times of expectancy and last but not least - times of sensing God's Holy Presence.

I thank Robson, Emma's husband, for his dedicated involvement, a truly diligent worker behind the scenes. Thanks, Robson for the many tasty pizzas you cooked but most of all I thank you for sharing God's Word and covering us all in prayer.

I thank Emma for her tremendous input into the project in Mayo. The long hours of mundane office work, the many reports, the unending phone calls. You have sown the seed. My prayer is that one day you will return and see some of the fruits of your labour.

I'll end with some words written by the poet Robert Frost.

"The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep".

Miles to go Emma - other towns, other souls need a touch of God's love and an open ear to hear their cry. May you hear His Voice clearly in the days ahead as He leads you into new pastures.

Thank you for coming and walking with us on our journey in BCT. Through the Barony of Tir Amhlaidh from Lacken and Killala to Foxford.

Go meadaigh Dia do stor agus go dte sibh o neart go neart. Always in our hearts and prayers.

Eithne, a BCT volunteer



FOR GREAT MOWMENTS

**FROM
€1995**



**FULL RANGE OF
LAWNMOWERS &
TRACTOR MOWERS
IN STOCK**

DAVY'S LAWMOWER & TOOL HIRE, BEHY ROAD, BALLINA, CO. MAYO
PH: 096 77989 E: INFO@DAVYSTOOLHIRE.COM
W: WWW.DAVYSTOOLHIRE.COM







With its origins as a family run company, all at Wills Bros take pride in the standards we achieve in our projects, which culminate in numerous repeat contracts with our clients.

Wills Bros Ltd Civil Engineering Contractors
 Ballylahan Bridge, Foxford, County Mayo
 T: +353 94 9256221 | E: info@willsbros.com | www.willsbros.com

BACK TO CHURCH? A REFLECTION

by Revd Peter Norman

Restrictions have been lifted and now we can go back to Church. But do we need too? From time to time over many years suggestions have been made that we don't really need our Church buildings and that they can hinder our mission as well as drain our finances. And haven't we managed perfectly well without going to Church during the past year when we've been in lockdown? There are services on Zoom, live streamed services from churches all over the country that we can watch and of course the videos posted on our own Diocesan website. And as we know the 'Church' is not a building but the body of Christ, you and I through our Baptism. So why go back?

Whilst it is true that we can worship God at home and indeed in all sorts of places and have had to do so for months at a time over the past year we have not been able to receive the Sacrament of Communion nor have we been able to share the fellowship of worshipping together which technology like Zoom cannot give.

We often speak of a return to church. Our Roman Catholic friends speak of going back to Mass. Perhaps we need to think in terms of both – fellowship with one another by worshipping together in church and sacramental fellowship with the risen Christ in Communion. And for both of those we need to meet in person and preferably in a building of some sort (we don't have the weather

for all year round outdoor gatherings).

In the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 2:42-47) there is a wonderful picture of the early church. There, we are told that the people devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to fellowship and the breaking of bread. They met in the temple courts and broke bread together in their homes. And they also helped those in need.

Of course, they didn't have the option of using Zoom but that's not the point! The Acts of the Apostles gives a picture of what the church as the body of Christ should look like. And although they met in their homes initially churches were built as places set aside for worship. So, whilst we might or might not need to think about the buildings we have, a place to worship is important but it goes alongside being the 'Church' outside of it as well as inside. Our fellowship with other Christians and our privilege of receiving the body and blood of Christ together in Communion are important in strengthening our resolve to be the body of Christ in the world.

So, we need to go back to that, gathering together and receiving of communion which we haven't been able to do but also to remember that that isn't all there is to being part of the Body of Christ.



Belleek Castle

Bespoke weddings in our unique and intimate castle setting, County Mayo, Ireland.

Elegant Castle
Gothic Styling
Renovated & Restored
Great Ambiance
Up to 200 Guests
Mediaeval Banquet Hall
Ancient Woodlands

belleekcastle.com
t +353 (0)96 22400

"We had our fairy tale wedding in Belleek Castle. To say we were treated like kings & queens would be an understatement. It was the most beautiful venue with the most fantastic staff."













Turlough Nursery



Growers of Top Quality Trees, Shrubs & Hedging Plants | Department Registered.

'Plants Grown In The West Of Ireland For The West Of Ireland For Over 30 Years'

Open Mon-Sat 9am-6pm

CONTACT US
Turlough, Castlebar, Co. Mayo, F23VN59
T: (094) 9022310 W: www.turloughnursery.ie





TIERNAN BROTHERS

— FOXFORD —

FISH n TACKLE

We can supply with all the Equipment to Catch them, but if that fails, You can get the finest quality Fish at Tiernan Brothers Foxford

CONTACT US
T: 094-9256731 E: tiernanbros@eircom.net
W: www.the moy.com

LENT BIBLE FUNDRAISING PROJECT

This Lent saw TKA undertake a marvellous challenge - that of reading the whole Scriptural canon from beginning to end. We started on Ash Wednesday and each Group or Union of parishes took turns in supplying readers.

We were joined by ecumenical guests at times from Ballina, Westport and Galway and finished on Friday 26th March with the Bishop's reading of Revelation chapter 22.

Altogether we have raised €11,640, and this has been match funded by a donation of £10,000 from Bishops' Appeal, which means that the total project is only short by about £4000.

The following information has come from Ronnie Briggs, who is the project co-ordinator:

Imaroro, the site of the borehole which we as a diocese are supporting, lies about 50 miles east of Kajiado Town in south east Kenya and is set amongst rolling hills and open savannah grassland. The community historically belonged to a Group Ranch which is a designated area where people lived a semi nomadic lifestyle moving their families and livestock annually in search of food, water and grazing land. Over the last few decades, the Group Ranch has been sub-divided into individual farms with families now holding title deeds to personal land that allows them to settle into permanent dwellings and a stationary lifestyle. This now means the Imaroro community has around 500 households with about 3,000 people requiring access to clean and safe water.

There are normally two rainy seasons with the long rains running from March to May and the short rains during October and November. Over the past number of years, the rains have been intermittent at best so any personal water storage that families have is quickly depleted. There is a nearby river which only flows during the rainy seasons and dries up completely when the rains stop. This is often the only place the community can access water. When the river is flowing it can carry all manner of debris including animals that have fallen into it but the families in Imaroro have no other choice but to use it. When the river is dry people dig in the sand near the edges of the riverbank to find the water level which may be up to 6 metres deep. Using this contaminated water over a long period of time has real detrimental effects on the health of everyone in the area and traps people into a cycle of poor health and stagnated development.

An added pressure on the community this year has been swarms of locusts infesting the area, destroying all vegetation including any crops that have been planted – this season there will be no harvest.

The few people in Imaroro who can afford to buy water do so, however it is very expensive due to the water source being 15kms away and is not always clean. All other members of the community have to rely on the irregular rainy seasons and the contaminated water that comes from the river. In traditional Maasai culture the search for water is mainly the responsibility of women and young girls. Fetching water for their family and livestock often takes all day, therefore directly affecting the time these girls spend in school. This stops them from having the life opportunities that most young people deserve and should expect. In order to keep young girls in school on a regular basis, a water supply that is clean and safe – and also nearby – is vital.

This supply of water will have a ripple effect on the whole community:

- Clean water enables healthy children attend school regularly
- Clean water supports healthy adults to work productively
- Clean water results in better health for all.



The photos show Grace (in the red top), who has 5 young children and lives in the Imaroro area, collecting water from a shallow well dug into the sand of the dry riverbed. The water is not clean, is not in sufficient supply and will eventually dry up completely. By providing a borehole for this community Grace will



be able to collect all the water she needs for her family – and it will be clean!

Our fund-raising effort might have felt 'at a distance' from the project we are supporting, but this information and these photos show that we will have made a real difference in the lives of real people like Grace.

A huge debt of gratitude is owed to everyone who had any part in the project. To Heather who set the zoom meetings up in advance and those who hosted the zoom meetings day by day. To Alistair who updated the website each week with the zoom links. To the clergy who mustered readers from their parishes and who read themselves. To everyone who read and came to support those reading, to those who contributed financially in every way, big or small, and to those who held us in their prayers - THANK YOU!!

PROTESTANT AID MOVES OFFICES

(New address – same compassion!)

After many years in 74 Upper Leeson Street Protestant Aid has now moved office to 202A Merrion Road, Dublin 4, D04 R9W8. Head of Charitable Services Geoff Scargill confirmed that the charity continued to operate through the pandemic (within government guidelines) so as to meet the continuing and increasing needs of those who were affected by Covid-19 and the resulting fallout. "We are grateful to so many clergy members

who, despite the challenges of these difficult times, continue to submit General Grant Applications to us on behalf of their parishioners who are experiencing financial difficulty" advised Geoff Scargill "and we are pleased to continue helping from our new abode".

Protestant Aid Contact details are:

PH: **01-6684298** or

email info@protestantaid.org.

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.

Or, alternatively via online banking using the bank account details below, with Tidings in the notification section depending on how your bank does this. Thank you for your support and stay safe.

New Tidings Bank Account

The bank details are:-

Name on A/C: TUAM KILLALA ACHONRY DIOC COUNCIL NO 1 A/C

BANK OF IRELAND, MAINGUARD ST, GALWAY

ACCOUNT NO: 18315588

SORT CODE: 90-37-95

IBAN: IE90BOFI 9037 9518 315588

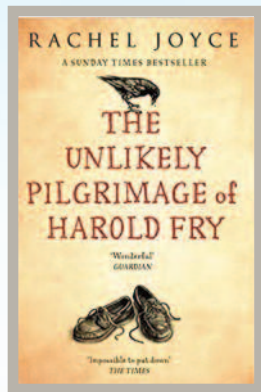
BIC: BOFIE2D

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.

LOCKDOWN READING

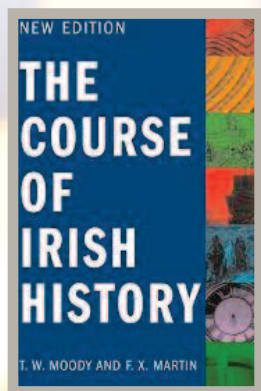
Lockdown threw most of us as our routines were cast into turmoil as we didn't know what to expect. This time we had a bit of a clue as we escalated from Level 3 to Level 5. However, in lockdown I discovered more time to read and clear the in tray of books that always seemed to have existed on the shelf. It was a very fruitful time and I thought I would share with you some of a summary of what I managed to read.

The range was varied as it included novels, history, biography and political commentary. I hope that you will find at least one of the books of interest.



My first foray was the novel picked by Andrea Wills for our clergy book club at the start of lockdown. This was "The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry" by Rachel Joyce. As the title suggests it was reflection on Harold's journey to from the South West of England to Berwick on Tweed on the Scottish borders. It is a spontaneous decision but as you might expect it is a journey of

discovery, not least for Harold. It is a delightful story with Christian overtones and I do not know if they are intended or not. It is classic holiday read and very sweet although you might ask why he didn't take the train but if that is the case you miss the point.



"The Course of Irish History" edited by T.W. Moody and F.X. Martin was next and a very different book. It is an updated version of a book first published in 1967 and as far as I can work out coming from or spurred from an RTE television series. Maybe you remember something in the back of your mind. The book covers all aspects of Irish history from Prehistoric

Ireland to the Celtic tiger years and the changes of the 21st century. While I enjoyed it I have to be honest and say it seemed a bit light on perhaps the most important decade of the Irish state, 1915-1925.

"The Nile in the Netherlands" by Brian Lea is a book I have had so long I don't even remember buying it. I bought it because Brian Lea was chaplain in the Hague, a place I have know and been a part of since



1987 and I knew his daughter, who was a curate when I was a vicar in Nottingham. The book essentially charts Brian's life in ministry from ten years of ministry with the mission organisation CMS to chaplaincies in Barcelona, Paris and the Hague as well as spells in parish ministry in England. It is a very frank tale of his experience. While he has some lovely

memories to share there are also times when things are absolutely ghastly and people are truly behaving badly. I can through my own experience empathise with both the joy and the heartache.



"The Good Doctor of Warsaw" by Elizabeth Gifford was my next outing. I initially thought it was just a novel but soon discovered it was based on a true story. It is one of those compelling and moving stories of the plight of Jewish people in Warsaw in the Second World War. I have read many books on this theme and I never tire of sharing in their agony. We have to keep reading books

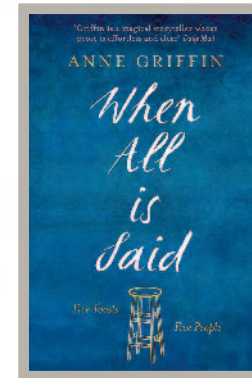
like this to keep their memory alive and stopping it ever happening again. Essentially a love story against this awful backdrop it is a fantastic read.



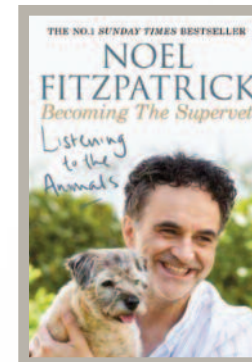
"Closer still" by Scott Evans is a very short book and very different to anything in this list. Evans is an Irish youth minister and in this book he takes a look at and challenges the Christian faith suggesting that it might have lost its' way. By looking at parables among other texts

Evans gives us a refreshing wake-up call to re-examine what Christianity means in the present age.

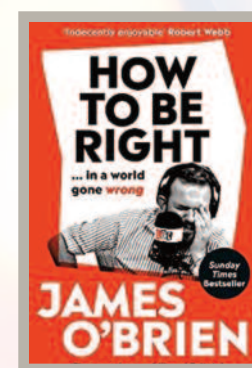
Bishop by Ted Woods was brought to my attention by the author himself, a retired Church of Ireland clergyman living in England. I thoroughly enjoyed the book. While completely fictional but in an Irish setting the beauty of it for us here in Ireland is that we can all see people we know in the characters of the book, for good or ill. Great fun read!



interesting and it makes you realise that everyone's life is influenced by others even if they don't know it and it doesn't change the world but they do have an effect.



"Listening to the Animals" by Noel Fitzpatrick was a present bought for my birthday. If you don't have a dog you probably won't know that Noel is known as the Supervet as a result of a Channel 4 programme showing the unbelievable operations he performs when no other vet knows what to do. This book tells of his journey from living on the farm in Ballyfin to the multimillion pound operation he runs in Surrey, England. It is easy to see the success but Noel is honest about the path that has brought him to where he is now. He talks of his study and the bullying he received from those he calls the Men with no Name and the struggle with relationships and finding solace in the animals. While the TV show has brought his skills to the masses and what the world would call great success it is easy to forget it is all still on a knife edge as he owes millions to the banks which naturally also takes its' strain.



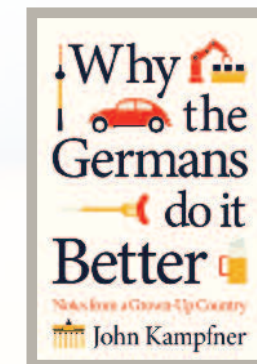
"How to be right in a world gone wrong" are the reflections of James O'Brien who is a talk show host on LBC radio in London. I think this was picked up in a charity shop. If you look him up on YouTube you will get a feel for the kind of phone in show he presents. In this book he covers topics like Brexit, Trump, Feminism, Political Correctness among others. While you may not always agree with him he argues the points well and isn't too heavy. It is a light and amusing read.

"The Badly Behaved Bible" by Nick Page is a great

book and was a complete surprise to me. Essentially he looks at the Bible from two standpoints: what we have been told to believe about the Bible and what we actually read for ourselves. Some may think it irreverent but I see it as just challenging the norm. This is a book to really make you think about what you read in the Bible. It doesn't seek to negate or put it down but just seeks to allow the reader to engage with it in a different way and perhaps have their view changed. Great book!



"The Secret Speech" by Tim Rob Smith was a book I picked up in Dealz. Of those on offer it seemed the most appealing as a novel to a person who doesn't read that many novels. Set for the most part in post Stalin Russia in the 50's it is an intriguing novel set against the backdrop of all those things we knew were happening in the USSR at the time, people disappearing for just saying the wrong thing, the Gulags and the privileged elite. A thriller with lots of twists and turns without being too heavy a read. I enjoyed it.



And then there is "Why the Germans Do it Better" by John Kampfner. I bought this one on the back of a piece on Newstalk where Sean Moncrieff interviewed the author. The author is a British journalist born to a Jewish father who escaped Bratislava and came to England. As a journalist he seems to have spent many years in Germany and I guess the book was inspired by Brexit which he covers in the book. It is really up to date taking in the Coronavirus pandemic. It is a plot of Germany history and essentially the point is that Germany has grown up since the Second World War. It wants to atone for its past and it wants to do the right thing now. In contrast, he believes (and I agree with him) Britain still lives in the war and harks back to those days and hasn't moved on whereas Germany has. My favourite quote that sums it up is from a previous chancellor who said the end of the Second World War was Germany's liberation day. Interestingly Germany still has no national day of celebration and for the most part plays down its' successes. It doesn't like ostentation and has a great sense of community. Now, this is not to say there are no problems and Kampfner highlights these too. For me a great book about a country which has grown up!

NICHOLAS PRINS

BUILDING CONSERVATION

Carpentry
Cast iron
Leadwork
Limework
Masonry
Sash windows

HISTORIC ROOF REPAIR

Ballinlig, Beltra
Co Sligo

M: 087-2447542
E: nicholasprins@gmail.com

LESTER HALL & SONS

AGRICULTURAL CONTRACTING/
PLANT HIRE



Silage making • Round Bale Silage
Whole Crop Silage • Ploughing /re-seeding
Slurry/Muck spreading • Lime Spreading
Tree Felling • Hedgecutting
Tree surgery • Plant Hire

Mobile: 087 2644518
087 9254255 087 2679919



Appointment Only

Monday-Thursday: 9.30am-6.30pm
Friday: 9.30am-5.30pm
Saturday: 9.30am-12.00pm
Closed for Lunch: 2.00pm-3.00pm

Esther van Luipen, DVM
VETERINARY SURGEON

OFFICE: 094 937 3955
MOBILE: 087 911 4628
PARK HOUSE, THE SQUARE,
CLAREMORRIS, CO. MAYO



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

By the time you read this we will be back in Church for our services although with the restrictions that we had before such as social distancing, hand sanitising and mask wearing. This applies to everyone, vaccinated or not.

The only thing I can say at the moment is that our pattern of services will continue as before, in other words 10.00 a.m. Rathbarron (Communion on the 2nd and 4th Sunday, Morning prayer on the 1st and 3rd) and 11.30 a.m. Tubbercurry (Communion on the 1st and 3rd Sunday and Morning Prayer on the 2nd and 4th)

Many thanks to those who joined the Easter Vestry meetings on Zoom and to those who were appointed or elected for the next twelve months. Apologies again to those who do not have internet access or are not able to use Zoom for one reason or another. We will resume face to face meetings when that is both permitted and safe. We still need to be cautious as regards the spread of the virus especially now that some restrictions have been lifted, perhaps a little too soon in some instances.

Confirmation

Those wishing to be Confirmed this year should let me know as soon as possible. There is a Confirmation planned for September 26th. Depending on numbers this could be at Collooney at 10.45 a.m. or Tubbercurry at 4.00 p.m. Of course, this will still depend on any restrictions in place at the time.

Clarkes
FUNERAL SERVICES LTD

All aspects of funeral care provided

Funeral Home Facilities
Cremation / Repatriation / Embalming
Irish Association of Funeral Directors Member
Professional & Dignified 24HR Personal Service

Chapel Road, Foxford, Co. Mayo
086-1700068
michaelclarkefd@eircom.net

ARE YOU...
suffering from financial difficulties which are causing hardship and distress?

Help is at hand
Talk to your Rector about what relief Protestant Aid can provide, or contact Protestant Aid directly on
01 668 4298

www.protestantaid.org

Protestant Aid
CARE AND COMPASSION IN ACTION SINCE 1836



AUGHAVAL GROUP

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

Return to church

As I write these notes, the government has just announced that a return in in-church worship is permitted from 10th May, allowed us to open our doors for worship on Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th May. The same safety precautions will be in place as before - masks must be properly worn and sanitiser used and social distancing regulations must be adhered to. The congregation will still only receive Holy Communion in one kind and this will be brought to you in the pews. It is my hope that, given time, these restrictions may be relaxed but, for now, it is my joy to be able to worship with you together once again. Having said this, my podcasts will continue twice weekly until at least the end of June to allow for any parishioners who are nervous about attending church, and to allow for the congregation limit of 50 people. I look forward to seeing you again soon.



Confirmation dates amended

With advice being that confirmations shouldn't proceed at this stage in the year, the Bishop has kindly offered dates to parishes for the autumn time. The date for confirmation in the Aughaval Group is now, therefore, the weekend of 9th/10th October. If there are any candidates who haven't yet let me know their intention to be confirmed, please do so as soon as possible.

Lent Bible fundraising project

While there is a write-up elsewhere in this issue of Tidings about our Lent Bible reading project, I wanted to say thank you to everyone from the Aughaval Group who supported 'our' week. From those who read, to those who came to support us, to those who contributed to the appeal, thank you so much!

200th Anniversary in Turlough

Turlough Parish Church celebrates the 200th anniversary of its consecration on 25th November. We will therefore have a celebration service on Saturday 27th November at 8.00pm. I'm not sure what, if any, restrictions there will be at that stage of the year, but more information will be provided nearer the time for those who wish to attend.

From the registers

Christian Burial

Robert William Fair, Keelogue, Ballyvary, aged 78. Monday 1st March 2021 at 2.00pm in Turlough parish Church, followed by interment in the adjoining graveyard.

Violet Elizabeth Potter, Leckneen, Turlough, aged 94. Saturday 3rd April 2021 at 2.00pm in Turlough parish Church, followed by interment in the adjoining graveyard.

Both Robert and Violet gave a lot of service to Turlough Parish Church over the years and Robert served on Diocesan Council in the past as well. They will both be sorely missed, not only by their families but also by the family of the church they served so well in their lifetimes.



ST. THOMAS, DUGORT

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

With the start of the third lockdown we really began to miss the connectiveness of gathering together in church for worship. As so many of us had become familiar with Zoom, and how it can unite people even

at a distance, we decided to use it to reconnect with each other for worship, prayer and chat.

In keeping with our winter schedule, every two weeks we host a Sunday short Morning Prayer on Zoom. This has brought together not only those of us actually resident here on the Island, but also our Vestry members who have been unable to travel to their Achill homes during the past four months. With the hoped for easing of restrictions to allow Churches to re-open, we hope to move on to our summer schedule and re-open for in church worship from the first Sunday in June. Should this not be quite yet possible, we will continue with our Zoom services. Meanwhile, as a parish community we keep in touch and continue to hold everyone in thought and prayer.



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

May 16th was the day we could come together for worship for the first time in 2021. Since the easing of restrictions on May 10th this was our first service in church as we kept Ascension day as an online service so that we didn't need to do a thorough clean. While it was new, in many ways it was just what we left behind. Social distancing, no singing, sanitisation on entry and exit and the customary face covering still a part of church life. The only difference now was that some of us were vaccinated, some with just the one shot, others having had two. However, that does not leave any room for complacency we must still take care in what we do for the sake of each other and the community at large. Still, it is great to be back and making eye contact with everyone at least.

Rainey

**HISTORIC BUILDING SPECIALISTS & AWARD
WINNING CHURCH RESTORERS SINCE 1918**

www.jrainey.com

Steeplejacks

Ireland's longest established fully insured steeplejack company, our rope access techniques have evolved from old traditional steeplejack skills.

Roofing

Roofing contractors with over 60 years experience specialising in restoration of high architectural buildings.

Lightning Protection

We are the largest installer of lightning protection and earthing systems in Ireland.

Conservation

Our stonework expertise and extensive history of restoration has earned us many conservation accolades.



Dublin Office: Balheary Road, Swords, Dublin, Ireland. Tel. +353 (1) 840 1515 Fax +353 (1) 840 2919 Email: info@jrainey.com

Belfast Office: 3A Upper Dunmurry Lane, Belfast, N. Ireland. Tel: +44 2890 351515 Fax +44 2890 351991 Email: jrainey1@btconnect.com

Marriage

On Friday March 5th at Emlaghfad Church in Ballymote we were able to celebrate the wedding of Georgina Maxwell and John Cawley. The wedding had been delayed from 2020 due to Covid-19 but even though this was at the height of the restrictions John and Georgina decided to proceed. It was a joyous occasion shared with the many who watched the service online and for those who were able to participate in the church or outside following the service. It was a pleasure to share the service with the local parish priest, Father James McDonagh.

St Paul's 300 Year Anniversary

Long before Covid-19 was heard of we began planning for the celebration of 300 years of St Paul's Church in Collooney in 2020. However, due to the pandemic most of that had been put on hold but we had begun to collaborate with Sligo Grammar School to create some artwork for a display of the church's history later in 2020. This still remains on hold but the artwork went ahead. The students have produced work through among others, the medium of Batik and ceramics.

We look forward to having an exhibition later in 2021 but here are some photos of their work. Each of the hangings depicted are 100cm by 50cm and reflect the church building and the graveyard. A wonderful contribution to anniversary and we look forward to displaying it all to the public in due course!

Confirmation 2021

Due to Covid-19 confirmation in 2020 had to be cancelled. For 2021 the date for confirmation in the Ballisodare Group is now September 26th in St Paul's church, Collooney at 10.45am.

St Paul's School

In the first part of 2021 school has been very fragmented as we responded to the various



regulations on who and who cannot attend. However, the phased return to school went very smoothly and everyone has thankfully settled into the new routine.

Diocesan Lent Project

Elsewhere you can read more about our mammoth Diocesan Bible reading effort through Lent. It may seem a long time ago as we were the first group of parishes to read. Our thanks go to all those who read or contributed to the success of this project.



GALWAY & KILCUMMIN GROUP

Rector: The Very Revd Lynda Peilow
Tel: 091 521914
Email: rector@stnicholas.ie
Revd Carole Reynolds Tel : 087 6067848
Revd Dr. Paidi Delaney Tel : 089 9779649
Facebook: www.facebook.com/stnicholasgalway/
YouTube <https://youtu.be/0cpklQfv1fA>

Summer Greetings

We extend our warmest greetings to the editor, contributors and all the Tidings readers, as we journey through the season of Easter there is a wonderful sense of hope as we move out of this most recent lockdown into summer. May you all be safe as you reunite with family and friends.

Re-opening

In this roadmap we are allowed to have 'in church' services once again.

This is wonderful news as we have all missed being physically present for worship. Yet Zoom for all its challenges gave a different perspective to worship in the midst of the lockdown, and as someone described a new 'intimacy'. It has enabled us to welcome a congregation across the community, country and further afield. Be assured that this community will still be able to join us as we will be continuing to zoom but from the church and the new AV system will be installed over the coming months and in operation. The AV system is largely being funded by a number of successful grants. As we adhere to government guidelines, numbers attending the services in the church building will also be limited.

Holy Week

We journeyed virtually through Holy Week with our ecumenical brothers and sisters, it was a very powerful and humbling week. We were joined by Fr Thomas McCarthy, Fr Sean MacGearailt, Rev Helen Freeburn and Fr Ben Hughes who along with our own clergy led us through each evening, and at 12 noon on Good Friday. Thank you to all those who contributed and attended. A different Holy Week for us all, but we were thankful for this virtual opportunity to gather with several of our neighbouring Christian churches.



Revd Carole Reynolds



Revd Dr. Paidi Delaney



Songs of Praise

Missing singing in church? Then here is a chance to get together online and sing along with some of your favourite hymns - and find out a little about them along the way. Songs of Praise, hosted by St Nicholas' organist Mark Duley, will take place on Thursdays from 7.30-8.20pm, finishing in time for Compline. If you've a request for a personal favourite, do send it to Mark directly at organist@stnicholas.ie

Desert Island Anthems

Our organist and director of music Mark Duley has started a Zoom meeting with choir members in which he introduces some favourite choral pieces (anthems) from the sacred repertoire. We'd be delighted to welcome anyone who'd like to join us and find out more about these beautiful gems from the across the church year. Some you might be familiar with from services in St Nicholas', and others you most certainly won't have heard before...singing not essential, feel free to join us and have a listen! Email Mark for the zoom link -everyone is welcome from across the diocese.



Bible Reading Project

Galway group took up the baton for the Diocesan Lent Appeal, the 'Water Drops' Bible reading project. The final chapters of the Old and New Testament were read by parishioners of St Nicholas' and Kilcummin, St Nicholas' Parochial School, The Schola Cantorum, our ecumenical brothers and sisters, friends far and near, the NUIG Chaplaincy team, clergy from the Diocese of Limerick and the TKA Diocesan family. In all over 70 readers read in our allotted week, some more than once. A real team effort working together for the good of the community and those for whom the waterhole in Kenya will impact for good.

AV System

While we continue to be restricted with the number of people attending worship we will continue each Sunday to Zoom from the church. At times it can be challenging and unpredictable especially in a building that is 701 years old! A very particular word of thanks to our AV team - Catherine Moore Temple, Mark Duley, Maria Tuohy, Dave Brandt and Matt Phillips, along with the zoom hosts - Matt Phillips, Rachel Kenny and Kishanth Nelson Sigamoney. They have guided patiently and supported us tirelessly and adapted to service needs as they arose.

Chatty Crafters

This group continues to meet on Zoom every Thursday at 10.30pm. As the group meet virtually it enables not just those living in the community to participate but a wider audience. It has been a blessing to many and broken through the isolated feelings of lockdown strengthening friendships old and new.

Diocesan Lay Readers in Training

We hold Bill Fennell, Rachel Kenny and Helena Harlowe-Lewis in our prayers as they continue in their preparations to become diocesan lay readers.

Confirmation

Currently, the Bishop is hoping that we will be able to join us for confirmation in October. While it is difficult to know and plan ahead, the Rector would like to hear from those who would like to be confirmed later this

year so that a plan can be put in place for preparation and classes. It has been a difficult time for our young people, as confirmations have been postponed more than once.

Easter General Vestries

We are grateful to and wish the select vestries every good wish in the coming year and hold them in our thoughts and prayers. There was no change to either vestry this year from last year. The past year has been a year of Zoom only meetings and we hope this year that at least one meeting will be 'in person'.

Kilcummin Roof

At last we have begun the much needed work at Oughterard on the roof. The situation was worse than expected, however we are grateful that we can proceed and safeguard the building for the future. A particular word of thanks to the vestry and most especially Leslie Lyons for his tireless and dedicated work. Some of the continued work at Kilcummin is grant aided.

Sympathy

Across the parish there have been many bereavements and we hold all the families in our loving thoughts and prayers as they navigate through this sad time, not least made all the more difficult because we are not able to be physically present with our family, friends and neighbours in their grief.



KILMOREMOY AND KILLALA UNIONS

St Michael's, Ballina (Kilmoremoyle)
Killanley Church, Castleconnor
Kilglass, St Anne's, Easkey
St Patrick's Cathedral, Killala
St John's, Ballycastle
St Mary's, Crossmolina
Rector: Ven. Stephen McWhirter
Tel: 096 60829 & 085 875 9921.
www.stmichaelsballina.killala.anglican.org
www.kilmoremoyle.killala.anglican.org

Returning to worship

At last we can look forward with the hope of returning to in-church worship and by the time you receive this edition of Tidings my hope is that many of you will be receiving it in the pews once again. Certainly, this return isn't as daunting as it was in July 2020, most of us are used to the restrictions which will still be in place and we can look forward to their relaxation over the coming months. However, if you are still considered in a vulnerable category or if you are as yet unvaccinated please do not feel that you must return to worship in church until you are entirely comfortable to do so. The worship resources available through the Diocese and Union will still be available for use at home over the coming weeks.



Redecoration

All this time of lockdown has not been wasted. The Select Vestry of St Michael's took the opportunity to redecorate the church, a task I very much hope to be completed by the 16th May when we reopen. The church is looking well and we look forward to sharing in this together.

Killala

There will, of course, be changes in worship with the Ordained Local Ministers leading services on a regular basis. I will be leading worship in Killala Cathedral as well as St Michael's on a weekly basis and traveling throughout both Unions on a monthly basis and I thank my clerical colleagues and parish readers in facilitating this. After such a break it will be good to fall once again into regular patterns.

Last summer Dolly McGreal did significant fundraising for the Cathedral and will be continuing these endeavours this year; her shop in the Cathedral will be open on Fridays and Saturdays throughout June, July and August. Please do go along and support her; she has some great items, and I've already done very well buying

a box of Dean Ashton's books reflecting his eclectic interests. You'll also be able to keep up with what Dolly has and the items that are available through Facebook as well.

Martin Steele



We have much to look forward to in the coming season, not least the Ordinations in September. The parish of Ballina look forward to welcoming Mr. Martin Steele who will serve with them throughout the coming year as a Deacon. While Ballina will be Martin's chief posting he will be traveling through the Union gaining

experience of the rural church and getting to know people. Martin introduces himself by saying:

*Dear friends,
I am very much looking forward to serving among and with*

you during my Diaconal year. I am delighted and consider it a real pleasure and privilege to know that I am coming to the Diocese and the Union. By way of an introduction and as a foretaste of things to come I thought that I would write a brief outline of my journey so far. I originally come from Belfast, born and raised under the shadow of the Shipyard. I attended secondary school in Bangor County Down, (one of the school's old boys is the Archdeacon of Killala!) I left Ireland to read Divinity at the University of Aberdeen. I lived in Aberdeen City and Peterhead and then I returned to Ireland after finishing in 2012. Having attended the Scottish Episcopal Church, I joined the Church of Ireland. I am typing this from Dublin with the prospect of moving to the West of Ireland. A friend once said that I suffered from 'itchy feet' and that I could never stay in one place long enough! My home parish is All Saints' Eglantine which is near the Sprucefield Shopping Centre on the motorway to Dublin. I have completed two years residential in the Church of Ireland Theological College in Dublin. It has been wonderful to walk and explore the city and I hope to do many of the wonderful walks in and around the Union. I have been told that I tend to 'blather' so I will not go into specifics in the space allotted, but I would say that my journey has not ended and by God's grace I will continue to grow in faith, learning and ministry during my time with you. I hope that by being with you I will be strengthened for the task ahead and I know that as I minister to you that you will also minister to me. I am looking forward to meeting you and sharing in our mutual faith and our journey together in beautiful County Mayo.

Ordinations

Martin will be ordained on September 12th in the Cathedral Church of St Patrick and the following week, September 19th, we can look forward to the Ordination to the Priesthood of Revd Clive Moore and Revd Caroline Morrow. Please remember them all in your prayers in these significant days in their lives and the lives of our congregations. Delighted to say that Revd Karen gets to sit back and enjoy the show this year!

Dates for the Diary

Ordination of Deacons, Sunday 12th September 2021, The Cathedral Church of St Patrick, Killala at 4.00pm
Ordination of Priests, Sunday 19th September 2021, Tuam Cathedral, 4.00pm
Confirmation for the Kilmoremoy & Killala Unions, Sunday 17th October.

Parish Registers

Bourke, Ruth, St Michael's, Ballina, interment in the Churchyard, Service conducted by Ven. Stephen McWhirter



ST ANNE'S, EASKEY & KILGLASS PARISH

Revd Karen Duignan
Phone: 087 2200 638
E-mail: kgduignan@gmail.com

As I write, signs of summer are approaching, it is wonderful to see better weather and long days. And in-church worship has returned. My first service was Morning Prayer in Kilglass on 16th May. It was really great to see everyone and I look forward to being allowed to visit in your homes. On 30th May (a fifth Sunday) Bishop Patrick is planning to visit Kilglass to celebrate Holy Communion. His last two attempts to visit were prevented by various lockdowns and I sincerely hope he will not have that effect on us this time!

On 7th February I was saddened to hear that Mary Ferguson passed away in her sleep. Archdeacon Stephen and Revd Karen were able to join the mourners to represent the Parish and the Diocese at her funeral held in St James Church, Easkey. After the service the family travelled to Lakelands Crematorium, Co Cavan for cremation. We continue to pray for Canon Aean and his family on the loss of Mary.



CROSSMOLINA AND BALLYCASTLE

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

"O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together!" Psalm 34: 3

I haven't an awful lot to report on from the parishes of St. John's and St. Mary's since the last Tidings as you may guess. The big story was of course our Lent Diocesan Bible reading project about which you will have read elsewhere in this issue. It was wonderful to be part of it and I would like to record my thanks to Viola, Alistair and Sharon Cooke as well as Laura Jackson who all read when it was our turn. They did a great job and helped make the project the great success that it has been.



- Most suitably Appointed Funeral Parlour Facilities Available
- All Preparations & Arrangement Made
- Repatriation to and from Ireland
 - Cremation Service
 - Member of I.A.F.D.

Telephone (091) 582349
Fax (091) 584469
Funeral Parlour:
Munster Avenue, Galway



DIOCESE OF TUAM, KILLALA AND ACHONRY

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS WITH US

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

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

As I write this I am eagerly looking forward to the re-opening of our churches for worship, by the time you read this it will be a reality. What joy! It seems like such a long time since we were able to do this and I searched the Bible for some suitable verse about returning to worship (Okay, I used Google to do this, it is the quickest way!). I decided against Colossians 3: 16 because it talks about singing, psalms and hymns and spiritual songs and we aren't quite there yet, though we will be listening to them. For now, we will in the manner of Ephesians 5: 19, be "singing and making melody to the Lord" with our hearts. I haven't found any Bible verses that mention social distancing or wearing masks, and the Pharisees seemed to be the keenest exponents of hand sanitising, but even so we'll continue doing all those things for safety of all. If we do these things well we can all look forward to not only continued public worship but eventually we hope a return to all the elements of it we enjoy. Even though Hebrews 10: 25 talks about "not neglecting to meet together" I fully realise that many may still feel uncomfortable about attending our Sunday services yet, perhaps because they are still waiting for a vaccine or for whatever reason. Although I look forward to meeting and worshipping with all of you as we normally would, when you are confident the time is right, no one should feel under any pressure to do so until then, and please remember I continue to be available pastorally, for a chat, a prayer or just to listen over the phone. As we look forward to carefully, but we hope steadily, reopening our society while continuing to care for each other the verse I am finally going to settle on directs us to the source of all our hope:

"Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful." Hebrews 10: 23



**KILLANLEY –
CASTLECONNOR**

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

As I sit here contemplating what brief notes there are for Tidings this quarter, I cannot help but remember some of the lines from Philip Larkin from the Poem "DAYS"

*What are days for?
Days are where we live
They come, they wake us
Time and time over.*

These past few months since we last met together as a congregation seem a lifetime away, Christmas Day to be precise. And yet our lives trundled on. One day rolled into the next and now here we are, ready to come together again. By the time you read this, we will hopefully have met in our church buildings and Sunday Worship will once again become our focus. During the lockdown, worship continued online and one of the exciting projects that took place was the World Day of Prayer. I want to take this opportunity to thank all who helped out with readings. It was truly an ecumenical service. A huge thank you to Valerie Wilson for all her help in getting people onboard and to Dean Alistair for all his help in putting it together and editing it.

The month of June will see some of young people sit their Leaving Certificate exams. We wish them good luck, especially Emily Gawley, Daniel Boland and Matthew Blakeney.

For the foreseeable future, Diocesan Services will continue online. These can be accessed at: www.tuam.anglican.org and also on Killanley Church Facebook page.

OMEY GROUP

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

Church Reopening

It has been a long and wearisome 14 months. During this time of repeated lockdowns many people have faced severe personal and community challenges. Not least among these has been the enforced closure of our church buildings which has resulted in us in Omev having no in-church services on two successive Easter Sundays and one Christmas Day, not to mention all the 'regular' Sundays when we were left with only virtual worship.

Thankfully, that came to an end on Sunday 16th May when we were able to resume in-church worship,

albeit in a slightly different way to our normal practise owing to ongoing work being done in both Moyard and Clifden (see below).

During May there will be one service every Sunday at 11.30am in Errislannan. And it will be a delight to use this beautiful little church outside of its' normal period of usage of July August. For June (as far as we can predict) there will be a joint service on Moyard on 6th June and 13th June at 10am. Then on 20th June there will be a service in each of Moyard (10am) and Clifden (11.30am) and finally on 27th June in Clifden at 11.30am with no service in Moyard that day. For July and August it is hoped to revert to the normal practise of weekly services at the normal times in Moyard, Clifden and Errislannan.

We extend our grateful thanks to all the Readers and Clergy who will generously make themselves available to conduct the worship of the parish.

Moyard

As we write, Moyard is being redecorated internally, hence its' closure during May. Much work has been done on the church during lockdown and we want to acknowledge the time and effort expended on this by so many, not least Lesley who has shown such devotion and not a little patience! Permission has been granted to proceed to planning for the much needed toilet block at Moyard. This has been an uphill battle for quite a long time but thankfully we are now able to take the next step. Please God it will come to fruition.

Clifden

As with Moyard, a lot of people have done sterling work at Christ Church during lockdown, both to the grounds and the building itself. The retaining wall of the churchyard was of particular concern, being in places not alone unsightly but also unsafe. Now, while there is still some more work to be done, the wall is in fine fettle. Several people were involved in all the work but we must thank Isobel for her oversight. The current project at Clifden is the replacement of



the floor. When some of it was visibly seen to be sagging and even giving way in places, an inspection was undertaken by an architect and the whole floor deemed to be unsafe. As we write, the pews have been removed and stored in a safe place and the old floor has been taken up to reveal the joists and timbers to be totally rotten. The new floor will be laid with due regard to modern standards, conservation principles and in a manner which will be sympathetic to the overall architectural ambiance of the church. This is a major undertaking and means that the church will be closed, as far as we can predict, until at least 20th June. Our thanks to Brian and Charlie for overseeing this project.

Catherine Nee

It was with profound sadness that we learned of the untimely death of Catherine at the end of March. Catherine's funeral service was held in Christ Church Clifden on Saturday 2nd April. As with so many funerals during the Covid restrictions, this was an especially tragic day. While many friends and sympathisers gathered in the churchyard, only immediate family were able to be in the church itself. The Dean read the Funeral Office assisted by Frankie Thornburgh and Alannah Robins who played the organ. One of Catherine's daughters, Ciara, bravely read a tribute to her mother. Our prayerful and heartfelt condolences go out to all the family and friends, but most especially to Ciara, Eimear and Aoifa.

Stephany Brooks

Literally on the day when these notes were being written, we heard the sad news that Stephany had died peacefully after a long and full life. Stephany was synonymous with Errislannan and was known and loved far beyond the Peninsula and, indeed, the region. Her death will leave a huge hole in that part of the parish. We cannot help but feel that something almost unreplaceable has passed. We extend our sympathy to her many children, grandchildren, family members and friends. A proper tribute will be paid to Stephany in the next issue of Tidings.

Easter Vestry

Omev EGV was held, perforce, by Zoom this year. It was a most unsatisfactory way to do our business, but we got it done and thus satisfied the legal requirements. We want to record our thanks to the outgoing members of the Select Vestry and to those who agreed to extend their tenure of office into 2021. Special mention must here be made of Alannah Robins who, over a period of six years, has been a most excellent, dedicated and efficient Parish Secretary and who decided to stand down this year while remaining a member of the Select Vestry. We thank Alannah for all her diligence and hard work. In the same vein we

welcome Frankie Thornburgh as our new Parish Secretary and assure her of our support during her tenure of office.

Roundstone

The Easter General vestry was held by Zoom on April 19th. Richard and Linda Stephens and Rob Johnson were elected to the Select Vestry. Work is still in progress on the west end of St Mary's, having been held up due to Covid. The plan is to be hold services on the 6th and the 20th June, and every Sunday in July and August.



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

This past year has been a challenge for everyone. Regardless of what part of the world we live in, what profession or form of employment we are engaged in or where we are in the age profile everyone has been affected.

We have had the comment especially from those of more advanced years that a year has been stolen out of our lives. Perhaps, but if we reflect on it, no, we lived through 2020/21 and it was different. We had to do things differently and it challenged us and, in many cases, forced us to have a look at how we are living, what the priorities were and how in fact it is possible to survive on a great deal less. Economists and those who track our spending/savings patterns tell us many people have made considerable savings as a result of a simpler way of life.

The adjustments that had to be made have undoubtedly caused stress and there is big emphasis now on people's mental health. We may think we are fine and that we are coping very well thank you! Or we will make sure we portray the image of confidence and being in control of our lives when, in fact, some people may be struggling desperately. Many people that I speak to admit that their sleep pattern has changed. They no longer get the desired eight hours. In many cases half that would be the order of the day. There has to be consequences in such circumstances.

The lack of physical contact even with our own family has been difficult and I wonder what the affects of that will be for the future. How will the sudden withdrawal of tactile affection by grandparents be reflected in the next generation. Again, there has to be consequences. There is a resilience in human beings which enable us to come through difficult situations and bounce back even though it is a different age and people have become very sophisticated, that basic instinct is always there. It is the driving force that propels us to survive.



As we go to press there is optimism and you can hear and feel it as you listen to the car radio and watch the news reports. People are so looking forward to meeting again with their families, friends and their communities.

Church Services

Services are as usual with Dromard at 10 am, Skreen at 11 am and Dromore West at noon. Please observe the Covid-19 policy and rules, i.e. social distancing, masks to be worn and no singing. Bishop Patrick will visit all three churches on Sunday 27th June.

Easter Vestries

As per the resolution the Select Vestries in all three churches were elected in block. The meetings were held via Zoom.

Weddings

A look back at the last wedding held in St. Mary's Church Kilmacshalgan, Dromore West before the Covid-19 Pandemic hit Ireland. The Harte Family



celebrated in style as their daughter Caroline married Mr. Robert Martin of Ballymote, Co. Sligo. Wishing Caroline and Robert Martin a Happy Wedding Anniversary.



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

We had a short service of Morning Prayer on 16th May, the first Sunday after the lifting of restrictions on

worship in Church. It was the first service since Christmas Day. It has been a testing time. It was wonderful to welcome people back still mindful that we must keep up all the safety protocols and that not everyone yet feels able to attend.

We continue to keep the members of the Cabinet, Nephth, those in the HSE and all front-line workers in our prayers as important decisions for the good of people everywhere still have to be made.

Some very special people have been lost recently. Richard Ireland came to live in Claremorris 7 years ago. He endeared himself to many in the town and he and his family often attended the monthly service in the McWilliam Park Hotel. His death on 23rd April was sudden and a shock. I said prayers in the funeral home in Claremorris and Richard was then brought to his home parish of Kilcooley, Co. Tipperary for funeral and burial with his parents in the adjacent graveyard. We stand firm in love and prayer with his wife Olive, daughter Donna in Claremorris and Laura, Marie, Jill and John and the wider family circle.

Robert Fair, stalwart parishioner of Turlough Parish but a great friend and supporter of the service in Claremorris and all church occasions in Foxford and beyond died on 27th February after a short illness. His funeral in Turlough Church on a bright sunny day, held under Covid-19 restrictions, was poignant as Robert was so well known and a great multitude of people would have been present in normal circumstances. I was honoured to take part in the service conducted by Canon Jen McWhirter. His wife, Olive and all the family continue to be in our prayers.

Mrs. Violet Potter another faithful parishioner of Turlough and Charles' aunt was called home on 1st April in her 94th year. I was pleased to be part of that service too conducted by Canon Jen as "Auntie Violet" always gave me great encouragement. Church meant everything to her. Our thoughts and prayers are with James and Ros Potter, and Violet's daughters, Emily, Eva, Sylvia and Olga.

We send deep sympathy to Revd Gary Hastings on the death of his dear wife, Catriona. Catriona had lectured in GMIT in Castlebar and a number of people from this area spoke to me of their sadness at her passing and how much she meant to them when they were studying.

We are so sorry that Emma Rodrigues of Ballina Churches Together is leaving. She touched many lives in her time as Lead Church Army Evangelist and people with whom she interacted are genuinely heartbroken. Some Traveller lads stopped their car in the middle of the street and shouted to tell her how much she would be missed. We wish her and her family godspeed as they embark on the next stage of their journey of serving God and helping people.

We have received a grant €6,500 from Mayo County Council Heritage Dept. towards work on the tower of the church. We hope to be able to get the necessary work done over the summer.

We hope to be able to return to the monthly service in Claremorris when indoor gatherings resume.



TUAM GROUP

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

Back into church

By the time you read this issue of Tidings we will have been back into our churches for a couple of weeks. Belated and all though it might be, could I say how great it feels to be back and assure everyone who is either back already or considering coming back that we continue to observe every health protocol for the wellbeing and safety of worshippers. We understand that not everyone will be able to return immediately and that is fine. You will get back in your own time and at your own pace when you feel it appropriate for you.

In the meantime, while we can't continue with online live streams of a Sunday morning (the Dean hasn't yet learned to be two places at the same time) online recorded worship will continue on the diocesan website (www.tuam.anglican.org) until the end of June. With regard to the live stream services Sunday by Sunday, while the Dean has found it a very strange experience indeed to spend his Sunday mornings talking to a mobile phone, nonetheless technology filled a gap in this instance

and we would have been the poorer without it. Some may not be aware of the fact that, during the live stream, a little picture of everyone who was 'present' appeared at the top of his phone screen and he was able to see your comments in real time as the service went on. This was a real support and helped him feel that he wasn't talking to himself. So to everyone who 'tuned in' the Dean says 'THANK YOU!' It was truly a real encouragement to him as he engaged in this very odd type of ministry.

Tuam

The Dean has been able to drop in to St Mary's Cong on a reasonably regular basis during lockdown because Cong's St Mary's is on his doorstep and has always within his travel restriction reach. The same cannot be said for St Mary's Cathedral Tuam. This has always been outside the scope of his travel permit while the various lockdowns were in force. So the Dean would like to thank all those, notably Jarlath and Mattie, who kept an eye on the Cathedral during the darkest days. In fact, we understand at one point mountains of pigeon droppings were cleared from the tower and netting erected to keep these pests out. Many thanks to those who did this work.

Our Roman Catholic colleagues and friends in Tuam have resumed their weekday use of the Cathedral while their own Cathedral is being renovated and we are delighted to be able to help them in this way. This will not impact on our own Sunday Holy Communion Service as all necessary cleaning procedures are in place between services.

Easter Vestries

These were very strange affairs this year. Zoom is grand for some things but it is most unsatisfactory for EGVs. However, we did it and held all of them and ticked all the boxes that legally had to be ticked. There are still some items outstanding but these will be addressed in the coming weeks.

Many thanks to all who attended online. Many thanks to all who served the parish in 2020. And many thanks to all who agreed to serve in the current year. To those who would normally have attended the EGV but were unable for whatever reason we say 'Sorry'. There's always next year....God willing and Covid-19 (or anything else that comes our way) permitting.

Lent Project

You will read elsewhere in this issue that our Bible Reading Project during Lent was a great success. Not only did it keep us together as a diocese and help us with our Lenten Observance, it also more than raised the target sum for our friends in Kenya, which sum was then matched by Bishops' Appeal. We in our small corner did our bit to

participate in the project and to all who read or tuned in online or donated we say a huge Thank You and well done!

Parish Finances

In common with just about every parish in the country, lockdown has put us to the pin of our collars financially. That said, we managed reasonably well and better (it has to be said) than many parishes. This is in no small part as a result of the generosity of some people who were able to make donations while we didn't have income from regular Sunday services.

Now, we understand entirely that many people and families themselves went through, and are still going through, financial hardship and were unable to contribute in this way. Indeed, it would have been quite wrong for them to even consider putting themselves in deeper hardship by giving much personally needed cash to the parish. But equally we want to offer our gratitude to those who WERE able to support the parish in monetary terms during the past 14 months or so. Hopefully calmer waters and brighter days lie ahead for all of us.

Aasleagh

God willing, services in St John the Baptist, Aasleagh will proceed along the normal lines this summer. 7pm each Sunday in July and August. It is a lovely setting and a grand, gentle way to finish off a Sunday and we hope that many will take a run down and join us.

Confirmation

Because of ongoing Covid restrictions and the summer holidays, Confirmation in Cong will not take place until Sunday 31st October. The Dean has had a few enquiries about confirmation already but asks that anyone even contemplating confirmation would get in touch with him in the next few months. The sooner the better to be honest.

And finally, the Dean Writes

As we slowly and carefully, with all due circumspection, begin to emerge from the pandemic, let us not forget those who still struggle with Covid-19 and all the frustrations, hardships and heartbreaks that it brings. Not every country and not all people are as fortunate as we are.

In the same way, let us not forget those who have been deeply wounded by the pandemic and who will take a long time to emerge from its effects. I think particularly of those who have lived in isolation, those who have lost livelihoods and especially those who have had to experience the death of a loved one in indescribably painful circumstances.

There will be a lot of rebuilding to do in the days and months ahead. This isn't over yet and in some ways our work as the People of God founded on Love is only beginning. May God bless you all in the journey ahead.

The Sacred Path

CENTRE FOR SPIRITUALITY

The Sacred Path had been closed since the beginning of the pandemic and unable to host people coming on retreat or to take part in courses. In January as the restrictions were extended the Sacred Path decided to open up an Alternative Pathway to running the courses. Using Zoom, with additional materials sent by email, the Centre has run two separate courses on Mindfulness. This was chosen as so many of us have experienced loneliness and lack of real contact during these pandemic times. Two further courses are currently running. The first, called 'When Loss and Grief Strike' has been designed to support and care for us as individuals in these times when funerals cannot be attended, or final goodbyes said in person. It discusses ways in which

we can understand the stages of grief, how to support ourselves and how to be supportive and caring to others who may be grieving the loss of a loved one. The fourth course, which started on May 4th, and runs for five Tuesdays is an Introduction to Celtic Spirituality.

These Zoom courses have had the joy of including parishioners from all around TKA, but also from many other Dioceses, and from the wider community. It may be that we will have to continue working in this way for a little while longer, or indeed that there may be a combination of on-line courses and actual 'live' ones into the future once we have reopened the doors of the Sacred Path.

UNDERSTANDING MENTAL HEALTH: TAKE THE MINDMATTERSCOI SURVEY



The MindMattersCOI project wants to hear from members of the Church of Ireland about your understanding and awareness of mental health and mental health problems.

MindMattersCOI is the Church of Ireland's mental health promotion initiative and the research team is currently seeking people throughout the Church, both clerical and lay, to take part in a short survey. The survey is anonymous and completely confidential and will take about 15 minutes to complete. To take part in the survey, just click here: <https://mindmatters.ireland.anglican.org>

The MindMattersCOI team is also looking for people to take part in focus groups. These interviews will last about an hour and will give an opportunity to explore understanding and attitudes to mental health and mental health problems in more depth. This information will also be treated confidentially. If you would like to join a focus group, please leave your contact details at the end of the survey, contact the project at mhp@rcbdub.org or call + 353 (0) 1 4125 660 and leave your name and contact details.

The findings of the research and surveys will support the development of a Church of Ireland Mental Health Promotion Strategy. This will include a mental health awareness training plan that will be rolled out across the Church of Ireland.

Launched on World Mental Health Day last October, the three-year project aims to raise awareness of and respond to the mental health needs of communities across the island of Ireland. It also hopes to transform how we understand attitudes towards and responses to mental health within the Church of Ireland and the

wider community through gathering evidence and looking at how the Church can promote good mental health.

You can learn more about the project on the website: <https://mindmatters.ireland.anglican.org>



Bishop Pat Storey chairs the Project Team and Advisory Group for MindMattersCol.



SLIGO GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Celebrating 450 years of teaching and learning on The Wild Atlantic Way



450 years of tradition

450 years of quality

450 years of caring

The Senior Management Team produces effective leadership for learning and teaching and does so in a collaborative and collegial manner. There is a strong reciprocal relationship of care and respect in Sligo Grammar School. (WSE; MML 2020)

Bursaries, scholarships, and grants are available.

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

Headmaster: Mr Michael Hall



Villiers School

Co-Educational Boarding & Day School

- A broad and balanced education within a caring community.
- Traditional values that promote students' holistic development.
- Modern, state of the art educational facilities.
- A vigorous academic programme, combined with an extensive range of extracurricular activities.
- Multicultural, diverse and inclusive school environment.
- Protestant ethos.
- Weekly and fortnightly boarding options.
- Grant assistance, bursaries and scholarships available.

Headmistress Jill A. Storey M.A. H.DIP. Ed (Hons) DIP. in REM. Ed. (Hons)
North Circular Road, Limerick V94 F983 | www.villiers-school.com
Telephone: (061) 451447 | Email: secretary@villiers-school.com

VILLIERS 
a family since 1821

