# TO CESE OF TUAM, KILLALA AND ACHONRY

HARVEST ISSUE 2021





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**HARVEST 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 5th November 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.

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Farewell

This is the forty-first and final time I shall pen this Foreword for Tidings. What a privilege it has been to communicate with parishioners across the United Dioceses in this way and to many others, in various parts of the country whom I know are sent this publication.

I want to pay tribute to the various editors; Mrs Anne Walton, Canon Stan Evans and Canon Andrew Ison for their work over the years. Sadly, Andrew will be stepping aside after this issue as he and his parishioners move to Elphin Diocese as part of the amalgamation process. They will be missed in the Tuam Family as they have contributed in all kinds of ways. So we thank all in Ballisodare, Collooney and Ballymote and Canon Andrew, wishing them well for the future. While doing so we welcome Canon Jen McWhirter who has kindly agreed to edit and co-ordinate future Diocesan Magazines whether that be Tidings or a new combined magazine incorporating information from Limerick and Killaloe as well as from Tuam.

The announcement of my own retirement from 31st October has triggered these changes. The following day, the two united dioceses of 'Tuam, Killala and Achonry' and of 'Limerick and Killaloe' will be amalgamated, thus giving

# THE BISHOP WIJTES ...

birth to the new United Dioceses of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe. We have been working towards this for several years now and already new friendships have been made across diocesan boundaries. Interesting times lie ahead as the two united dioceses come together under a new bishop, elected by representatives from TKA and from Limerick and Killaloe. I look forward to watching from a distance and seeing how it all works out.

For me personally, and for Alison and Susanna, these last few weeks will be a time of mixed emotions. After ten fulfilling years in the West, we will be very sad to say farewell and leave this beautiful part of the country. Everywhere we have gone, people have welcomed us and encouraged and supported me in my ministry as Bishop. So we will be emotional but I am also looking forward, after forty-three years in the ordained ministry, to spending more time with my family both here in Ireland and across the water.

My closing words then in this final Foreword are words of gratitude to the people of Tuam, Killala and Achonry. You are a credit to the Church of Ireland. Small in number perhaps but large in spirit and in generosity and I have been the recipient of both. It has been an honour and a pleasure to serve as your Bishop since September 2011. I thank you for your kindness and your friendship. May God continue to bless you all as you move forward as part of a new Diocese under the leadership of a new Bishop.

+Patrick Tuam

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

#### **DUE TO COVID 19 RESTRICTIONS. ALL OF THE FOLLOWING ARE PROVISIONAL ARRANGEMENTS**

#### **OCTOBER**



#### **NOVEMBER**

Sun 7th Sat 27th Claremorris Service, 12noon Turlough 200 Anniversary, 8.00pm

DECEMBER

Sun 5th

Claremorris Service, 12noon









# PERSONNEL NEWS

#### Retirement

The Revd Peter Norman has announced that he will retire from stipendary ministry on Sunday 24th October. Coming to the West of Ireland after a long ministry in Devon must have taken some adjustment but Peter adapted well and after a few months in the pew was pleased to take on ministry responsibilities again. Since 2018 he has endeared himself to the people of Rathbarron and Tubbercurry and served them faithfully for three years as their Priest in Charge. We wish him and Helen every happiness in retirement and welcome the fact that Peter has indicated a willingness to provide occasional cover as needed across the Diocese.

#### **Appointments**

The Rev Canon Jen McWhirter has been appointed a member of the Chapter in both Diocesan Cathedrals. She will be Prebendary of Faldown and Kilmainemore in St Mary's Cathedral and Prebendary of Killaraght and Kilmovee in St Patrick's Cathedral. The Dean will install the new Canon at the Diocesan Synod Service in Tuam and on Sunday 17th October in Killala. Canon Jen remains a Canon of St Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin.

Two deacons have been appointed to the clergy team. The Rev Alistair Doyle has served his internship in Kilternan Parish in Dublin Diocese. He will work for a further year as a deacon in Galway and Kilcummin, Oughterard.

The Rev Martin Steele is from Belfast and he will be serving his internship as a deacon in the Killala Group of parishes. We welcome Alistair and Martin to the clergy team.

# TIDINGS - NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Tidings is distributed free within the Diocese of Tuam, notification section depending on how your bank does Killala and Achonry however, if you would consider this. Thank you for your support and stay safe. making a modest contribution towards the production costs we would be most grateful as our New Tidings Bank Account advertising only partially covers the costs. The bank details are:-

Name on A/C: TUAM KILLALA ACHONRY DIOC If you are making a donation, please send a cheque to COUNCIL NO I A/C the Diocesan Administrator, Mrs Heather Pope, 11 BANK OF IRELAND, MAINGUARD ST, GALWAY Ros Ard, Cappagh Road, Galway - payable to the ACCOUNT NO: 18315588 United Dioceses of Tuam, Killala and Achonry Dioc SORT CODE: 90-37-95 Council No 1 a/c and write Tidings on the rear of the IBAN: IE90BOFI 9037 9518 315588 cheque. Or, alternatively via online banking using the BIC: BOFIIE2D bank account details below, with Tidings in the

#### Leaffoney welcomes new Principal

Leaffoney National School has a new School Principal. She is Ms Karen Gainfort and she succeeds Ms Shauna Williamson.

Ms Gainfort graduated from the Church of Ireland College of Education with a Bachelor's Degree in Education and she also has a Bachelor's Degree in Law and Irish. She has a great interest in the Irish language and hopes to inspire the children of Leaffoney National School to enjoy learning Irish.

Karen has taught in and been principal in two small primary schools previously. As well as mainstream teaching she has many years experience teaching children with additional needs.

We wish Leaffoney every success under their new Principal.

The Bishop, as Patron, along with the Leaffoney School Community would like to thank and congratulate Mrs Chloe McGolderick who acted-up as Principal of Leaffoney for much of last year and has now been appointed Principal of Taunagh National School, Riverstown. Her contribution to Leaffoney was very much appreciated.

The Bishop has also asked that his deep appreciation be recorded of the work undertaken by Mr Robert Grier as School Manager over the past couple of years. His patience and understanding has been second to none.

Personnel Biography

# MARTIN STEELE BIOGRAPHY



Martin was born in Belfast and spent his formative years in Belfast and Bangor County Down. Educated at Gransha Boys High and The University of Aberdeen he is currently reading for Master's in Theology at Trinity College Dublin under the auspices of The

Church of Ireland Theological College. During his time in Scotland Martin attended the Scottish Episcopal Church and returned to Ireland after the completion of his studies. It was during this period that Martin joined the Church of Ireland and eventually found his spiritual home in All Saints' Eglantine. Throughout his life Martin has discerned the call of God to the ordained ministry which he committed to prayer and reflection. Having worked in hospitality, customer services and latterly BBC Audience Services he offered himself as a candidate for the ordained ministry in 2019. He enjoys reading, long walks, local league football and being out and about in the parish.



# ALISTAIR DOYLE BIOGRAPHY

#### Dear friends,

Hi; I am Alistair, it is with a thankful heart and great delight that I look forward to serving in Galway from September. I am really excited by the opportunity to join Lynda and the team in St Nicholas and Kilcummin



Churches and to serve the communities of NUIG and GMIT.

God the maker of marvellous things and of wonderful works, is also the God of surprise, what a beautiful surprise this is.

I am married to Cecilia and together with Toby our youngest child, we cannot wait to meet you. Dublin has been our home for most of our lives, our home parish is St. Matthias' Church in Killiney, South County Dublin. During the last 12 months I have been serving in Kilternan Parish, Co. Dublin.

We love to cycle and to walk, especially beside the sea. Cecilia is originally from Glasgow and I grew up in DunLaoghaire, so we are grateful that God's calling has been from coast to coast, from glorious sunrises to stunning sunsets.





# DISCOVER THE HISTORY of your family in Mayo



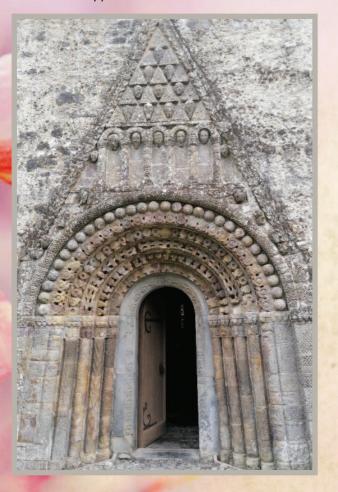
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### GETTING TO KNOW YOU – CLONFERT GROUP OF PARISHES

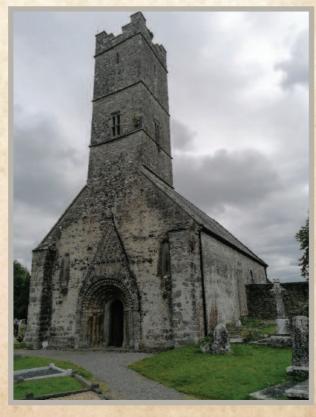
Continuing our feature of learning about our friends in limerick and Killaloe we now offer you a glimpse around the Clonfert Group.

The Clonfert Group Parish lies on the north side of the River Shannon between Banagher which straddles the Shannon at the north easterly end of the parish and Portumna at the southerly end. Both towns have bridges across the Shannon and are sizeable towns. Population of Banagher is approx. 1,700 and Portumna is approx. 1,600. Both towns have Church



of Ireland churches. The Parish extends from Ferbane in the north down south to Portumna, at the top of Lough Derg. The River Shannon divides the Co. Galway parishes from the Co. Offaly parishes. The river crossings are in Banagher and Portumna. There is also a pedestrian walkway crossing the Shannon from Meelick in Co. Galway to Victoria Lock in Co. Offaly.

There are four church buildings in use in the Parish, St. Brendan's Cathedral; St Paul's, Banagher; St John the Baptist, Eyrecourt; Christ Church, Portumna. St Paul's parish hall and the rectory are in Banagher. There are three Select Vestries and at the time of writing discussions are taking place about becoming a Union of parishes with one select vestry. There are approx. 80 families in the parish and they have a part time priest in charge and a diocesan lay reader. Attendance at services of worship are mostly seniors and it is such a joy to see children at times, mainly in Eyrecourt church. Pre covid times many musical concerts and artistic events were held in the Clonfert Cathedral and Portumna church. Hopefully we will soon see a return of these well attended cultural events. There are no Church of Ireland primary or secondary schools in the parish. There are nursing homes in Ferbane, Banagher and Portumna where there is also a Retirement Village. Ecumenical relationships are good and in pre covid there were occasions for united worship in both churches.



Clonfert Cathedral of St Brendan is a heritage building. The current building was erected in the 12th Century. The Bishop's Palace adjoins the Cathedral

and was built in the late 17th Century. The Palace is now derelict and classed as a heritage building. The cathedral is open every day from May to September and numerous visitors pass through the doors. There are special pilgrimage events and a welcome for various organisations as a place of worship and meeting. Beside the Cathedral there is a beautiful, peaceful Yew walkway, ideal for meditation and reflection. There is a service of worship at 11 am on the 5th Sundays and a service of Wholeness and Healing at 11 am every first Friday of every month.

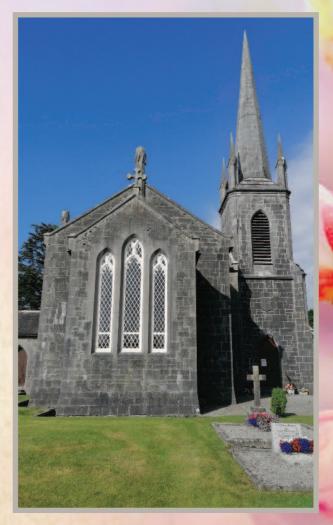


Banagher, St Paul's, is a First Fruits Church built in 1829. It is situated at the top end of the town. A service is held in this church every Sunday at 12 noon. Here there is a connection with Charlotte Bronte and the Reverend Arthur Bell.



Getting to Know You

Eyrecourt, St John the Baptist, is an Anglo Gothic Church and was built in 1867. It is in a rural setting in the village of Eyrecourt, situated between Banagher and Ballinasloe. Services are on alternate Sundays with Portumna. Here there is a connection with the Eyre family. The Church School was closed twenty years ago. The School is retained by the Church and is rented to the Community Library and used as a Hall by the parishioners.



Portumna (Christ Church) 1832 is a First Fruits Church. It is situated at the edge of the town. There is no parish hall and the church is used for refreshments when needed. Services are held on alternate Sundays with Eyrecourt.

Ferbane and Moystown Churches, in north Offaly, are now derelict. Burials still take place in the graveyards. Annually, there is an open air pet service in Moystown churchyard.

# BALLINA **CHURCHES** TOGETHER

**Ballina Centre of Mission** bctballina@gmail.com



The Ballina Centre of Mission and the appointment of a new Pioneer Evangelist. On June 22nd, we gathered at Jack Fenn's Café in Belleek to celebrate Emma and to say our goodbyes. As BCT volunteers and friends we gathered in the



court yard on a very pleasant morning. It was a very enjoyable occasion as people met, not having seen each other because of Covid restrictions for a considerable time. A joyful occasion full of conversation, good food, memories and fun!

In July, Rosemonde Adamson was appointed to the role of Pioneer Evangelist, to work alongside Marian Edwards in Ballina, Rosemonde is a native of Ballina and attends the local Presbyterian Church. As a child she attended Sunday School every week where her mother played the organ. Church life was very much part of Rosemonde's life as she grew up. In time, Rosemonde joined the Sunday School team as she particularly enjoys children's ministry. She also organizes a Light Party for the children at Halloween. Over a number of years, she studied with the Irish Bible Institute in Dublin and from here she achieved a Certificate in Applied Biblical Theology. Subjects included modules in Pastoral Care, Youth Ministry and Discipleship. Rosemonde first met Emma Bolster-Rodrigues in 2015 and soon she became involved in the Ballina Churches Together project as a volunteer. She also participated in Church Army's Xplore Course. This was a peer-led and innovative community which met weekly for on-line teaching

podcasts and discussion. Participants were encouraged to share Gods love in their particular context, in both words and deeds. Rosemonde has been involved with Ballina Churches Together now for several years and joined the BCT project in July to work alongside Marian Edwards.

Marian recently finished academic training with Our Church Army. Church Army has been training pioneer evangelists in the UK and around the world since Victorian times and it specializes in teaching and learning about mission and evangelism. Church Army Training is a part-time three-year program of terms, focused on formational learning and mission within a Following that, pioneering context. Some students work for the Certificate of Higher Educations in Theology, Ministry and Mission accredited by Durham University and others work for a Church Army award (churcharmy.org).



#### **Ministry of Presence**

As Marian and Rosemonde began working together this summer, much of their work focused on a Ministry of Presence on the streets of Ballina. In the words of Henri Nouwen, "It is a privilege to practice this simple ministry of presence. Still, it is not as simple as it seems."

My own desire to be useful, to do something significant, or to be part of some impressive project is so strong that soon my time is taken up by meetings, conferences, study groups, and workshops that prevent me from walking the streets. It is difficult not to have plans, not to organize people around an urgent cause, and not to feel that you are working directly for social progress.

But I wonder more and more if the first thing shouldn't be "to know people by name, to eat and drink with them, to listen to their stories and tell your own, and let them know with words, handshakes, and hugs that you do not simply like them, but truly love them." (Gracias: A Latin American Journal, 1983).

Each Wednesday and Thursday, we have been meeting with people for cups of tea and conversation.

first encounter with D. was when he taking was photos of the Chalk Art. we began to meet with him for cups of coffee, a listening ear and prayer.



Listen, listen, listen, listen. Active listening requires one's full focus and we need to listen to people more than they need to listen to us. D is often deeply stressed and anxious because of the circumstances in his life. We meet with him at a corner on the bridge over the river Moy. This became known to us affectionately as 'Wits End Corner'!

"Are you standing at "Wits End Corner" Then you're just in the very spot To learn the wondrous resources Of Him who faileth not; No doubt to a brighter pathway Your footsteps will soon be moved, But only at "Wits End Corner" Is the "God who is able" proved. --Antoinette Wilson

Similarly, M has also shared his story with us. He has lived a life of crime and his life is burdened with guilt and shame. Listening to his story earned us the right to speak. Human hearts have stories to tell and



emotions that need to be heard. Over several weeks we have been able to share with him, the 'Good News' of the "God who is able" and who invites all of us to - "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest ... and you will find rest for your souls" (Matt. 11:28-30).

#### Happy 90th Birthday to Sheilagh Groom

In July, we celebrated the 90th birthday of a very special person – Sheilagh Groom. Sheilagh came to live in Ireland from Wales many years ago. It was a great joy to us all to be able to celebrate her birthday with her. She is an avid supporter of the work in Ballina Churches Together. Her faith is vibrant and she is an inspiration to many of us. She also loves soccer, cricket, cake and good cup of coffee!



#### Friday Feasts (and Thursday too!)

The past eighteen months have been very hard for many people because of the coronavirus. People experience loneliness and isolation. This year at the Chelsea Flower Show, the Bible Society created a garden, which was inspired by Psalm 23, a garden for the pandemic. The garden was designed by Sarah Eberle to celebrate times of blessing, but also to remember the times of pain. Each week throughout the summer months, we have gathered people for a meal, conversation and friendship in my garden (Marian). We have conversations about faith, church and life. At one soiree, we had a service of Compline by candlelight! We've had laughter, dancing and bubbles, welcome relief from lockdowns and negative news feeds. People experience great joy in meeting together in celebration of all that is good in life. (www.psalm23garden.co.uk)





#### **Children's Ministry**

In June, we distributed thirty 'Good News' gifts bags to children in the Greenhills estates. In July, we ran Kids Clubs in both Greenhills and Mill View estates. The clubs involved games, bible storytelling, a quiz, chasing bubbles and dancing to 'Jerusalema'! The theme of our club was the Parable of the Lost Things - the lost coin, the lost sheep and the lost son (Luke 15). One boy from the Traveller community created art as he listened to the story of the Prodigal Son. This simple drawing depicts the lost son, the Fathers heart of love and the joy that all experienced when he returned home.

#### Autumn 2021

At the Summer draws to a close, we look forward to Autumn winter season, as we begin once again our:

On-line Lectio Divina/Bible Study **Discipleship Groups** Children's Ministry Pastoral Care Ministry of Presence on the streets of Ballina **Develop a Youth Group** 

# MOTHERS' UNION

It was quite a pleasure to be able to hold the annual Diocesan Service at Holy Trinity Church, Westport led by our Diocesan Chaplain Canon Jennifer McWhirter, in May. During the service Ann Nethaway was commissioned as Unit Co-Ordinator for Fundraising and Communications, while two vice presidents Audrey Moore and Heather



Sherlock as well as the Diocesan Chaplain Canon Jennifer were also commissioned.

Every three years MU in Ireland has a countrywide fundraising campaign "Mums in May" when it endeavours to raise funds to support projects in the dioceses in particular. In the recent past our diocesan project which supports those who have suffered domestic abuse has



and to Westport Quay as well as a Belleek Greenway and Wood walk at Ballina. At the time of writing, she intends to do the Aughris Coastal Walk+ to fulfil the 7km. Each Prior to the first Tuam walk in Westport, outside Holy Trinity Church walk is preceded with a short Prayer Service such as in Holy Trinity Church, Westport, St. Michael's, Ballina and been upheld in the receipt of MIM grants from funds Skreen Church. Many thanks are due to Canon Jennifer raised. This year members were challenged to "Count McWhirter, Archdeacon Stephen McWhirter and Canon your Blessings" each day in May and make a daily perhaps Noel Regan for all their help and support, especially for small donation to the fund by way of dropping it into a leading the prayer services and to Revd Caroline Morrow box/jam jar in their own home. They could do a "21" for participating in the Ballina service. All are invited to challenge where they could do 21 of anything (bake cakes, attend whatever aspect that suits and not everybody has swims, walks, read books, sew, knit etc) and seek to complete the 7km. Of course, togetherness, fun, chat sponsorship for it. Donations can also be given online via and refreshments are all par for the course.



Prior to Tuam's second walk at Ballina, after the Praver Service in St Michael's Church

Go Fund Me. A cookery book "Mum's Marvellous Meals" has been produced for sale at €5. They are in the diocese for distribution. They will make excellent stocking fillers for Christmas or as a gift for any occasion.

To highlight the "Mums in May" campaign and to visit each diocese All-Ireland President June Butler is walking three 7 km distances in each diocese. She has already done a return journey through the Westport House Grounds



Tuam ladies starting the second walk along the River Moy

Annabelle Hayes is the lady who led the way for Mothers' Union in Ireland, about ten years after it started in England, she initiated the first branch in Raheny, Dublin. She was the wife of a rector. She died 100 years ago and was buried in Sutton Graveyard. Her grave was in ill repair and it did not indicate the significance of her contribution to life in Ireland. After doing the necessary research with regard to any family contacts, with the help of Fingal County Council and Heritage Grants, All Ireland MU had the grave restored. In August, this was marked with the rededication by Archbishop Jackson in Sutton



Graveyard after one of Dublin & Glendalough's 7km walks (Raheny - Dublin). The DP and Diocesan Chaplain were invited and they attended this event. Myrtle even did the 7km. Afterwards there was a service in memory of Annabelle Hayes at All Saints Church, Raheny, followed by a cup of tea in the parish hall, managed with socially distanced seating arrangements at tables. The sound of people chatting in the hall! A forgotten experience!!

Mindful of all Government and Church Guidelines as well as Health and Safety Issues we look forward to the gradual opening up of the organisation again. Branch Leaders have been issued with guidelines for consideration. We need our members to feel safe and be safe.

Every happiness is wished to Bishop Patrick, Alison and Susanna as they enter a new phase of life. A Big Thank You for all the wonderful hospitality that was offered to Mothers' Union in Bishop's House by all three of them. We very much appreciate Alison's kind and gentle leadership as a former DP as well as her support that continued. Everything that Bishop Patrick did for this organisation is appreciated including taking the time to attend MU organised services at which he was not even participating, such as Prayer Vigil services. His support was wonderful. We will miss them!

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# STEPHANIE BROOKS (1924 – 2021)

Stephanie Brooks of Errislannan Manor, who has died recently just a couple of months short of her ninety seventh birthday, will be greatly missed by the whole community of Clifden, Errislannan and the Omey Union parish.



Her funeral service was held at Holy Trinity Church on Errislannan, and despite the terrible Covid-19 restrictions, the church was as full as allowed and the service was also relayed by loudspeakers to many more gathered in the grounds. It was also streamed live around the world as many of her family and relatives were unable to travel as they would normally. The service was conducted by the Dean of Tuam and her remains were accompanied to Galway for cremation.

Stephanie Brooks was born in 1924, and grew up in the New Forest in Hampshire. She met her husband Donal Brooks whilst working for orthopaedic Professor Seddon in Oxford. Donal too specialised in orthopaedics, but his family was based in Dublin and he had previously holidayed at Errislannan Manor with his parents who rented the house from the Heather's.



They bought the estate from them in a rather rundown condition in the late fifties, but had fallen in love with the house and the area. Stephanie had been brought up around horses in the New Forest and set about looking for a Connemara mare with the help of red Martin King. However, she ended up buying his mare, and the start of the Connemara pony stud was established.

Around this time a group got together to restore and repair the little church (Holy Trinity) and many garden fetes were held on the lawns to raise money. The pony rides were very popular so she began collecting as many children as could fit in the Land Rover in Clifden and bringing them out to play ponies on a Saturday morning. Thus started the pony club!

Stephanie Brooks was the last founding member of the "Friends of St. Flannan" and has worked tirelessly over the years to maintain the church and keep it open for summer worship at no cost to the Omey Union of parishes, which they still do to this day.

Stephanie was very active in different parts of the community. She supported the Connemara pony show, supplied ponies and riders to the local races, participated in the book club, continued writing poetry, produced a book on Connemara ponies, researched a history of the Manor, and helped develop the walled garden.

Sadly, she was predeceased by her son Christopher but will be missed by her five children, Roiscin, Doon, Rory, Siobhan, Seamus and their partners, and her grandchildren and great grandchild and extended family and friends, to whom we offer our deepest sympathies on their loss. May she rest in peace.

GLB

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### **BISHOP PATRICK ROOKE - TRIBUTE**

Diocesan Council in June that Bishop Patrick will be retiring at the end of October. +Patrick has served this Diocese for a decade and in that time has drawn He also encouraged and initiated a Diocesan us together as parishes, groups and unions. We have benefitted greatly from his vision and commitment to the mission of the Church; and we look now at some of the highlights of his time here.

In his time and ministry among us no church has closed, indeed he supported a policy of the diocese never closing a church. This is a long way from the report of 1978 which recommended the closure of so many of our parishes; many of which are still thriving today. This has largely been achieved under his guidance and leadership as with his support the Diocese is resourced by a huge number of people who have been enabled their own ministries; as Parish Readers, Diocesan Readers and more recently the OLM ministry of which this Diocese was one of the pioneers for the wider church, offering more candidates in its first year than any other diocese. The Revd Clive Moore, recently ordained Priest by the Bishop, has said, 'In my journey in ministry Bishop Patrick's encouragement and very practical help was Lenini. This partnership has been enabled through our constant and most often demonstrated in genuine mission partners Ronnie and Maggie Briggs, formerly interest and regular meetings and support at every stage. For this I will always be grateful, it has been an Drops. Although we may not see it, his ministry has

We were all surprised at the announcement during example of pastoral care that will continue to influence my ministry'.

> partnership with Church Army and the establishment of the Ballina Churches Together project. Beginning with a trip to the Church Army headquarters in Sheffield with the Senior Clergy and developing to its present form, in which the four main churches within the town partner in projects of social outreach and reform. Bishop John Fleming has said, 'Bishop Patrick focused the minds of Ballina Churches Together when he came and gave us a sense of direction. Under his guidance, Church Army became involved and much of the good work of recent years can be attributed to him. His encouragement, guidance and support will be greatly missed by all of us'.

> From mission at home Bishop Patrick recognised the danger in any diocese that is entirely inward focused and so engaged in a relationship and partnership far beyond our own boundaries, cementing our partnership with and the work of development and aid in the Diocese of Kajiado with Bishop Gaddiel of CMSI, and now working with the charity Water









+Patrick always seeks to encourage a depth of ministerial experience, offering fulfilment beyond impacted for the better literally thousands of people parish limits. His senior clergy team chair both the as we look beyond our own borders and see Finance and Glebes and Property Committee, and all ourselves as part of the one Catholic and Apostolic clergy are involved in leadership beyond the parish and Church. serve on Diocesan Council. He will be missed by the Ronnie says, 'Since +Patrick first became involved with senior clergy who enjoy a relationship with our the Diocese of Kajiado many years ago there has been Bishop in which we can be open and frank in our an incredible level of interaction between TKA and opinions and trust his judgment. To the wider clergy Kajiado. Development projects completed to improve who serve and staff of the diocese he offers an the quality of life for many people across Kajiado, availability we are sure is unrivalled by his episcopal emergency food distribution to those in dire need and colleagues. He has supported us all quietly, generously

above all many close relationships forged and

sustained. It is fair to say that if it were not for +Patrick and his enthusiasm Kajiado would not be where it is today. I remember asking him why there has been such a high level of concern for the work and ministry in Kajiado from TKA and he told me that it has allowed people to look outwards to those who are less well-off in material terms and that we as a Diocese can actually make a difference to the quality of their lives. In return we as TKA have been challenged by Kajiado to be more mission minded and to take our calling to share the Gospel much more seriously. +Patrick has also been a great encouragement to Maggie and I and we hope that we can continue sharing with him as he moves into this next phase of his ministry.'

With a small Diocese Bishop Patrick undertook many of the roles of chairmanship of varied committees on



behalf of the House of Bishops, something we are aware his episcopal colleagues were very grateful of. He has always played a progressive role within the Church and it was his proposal at the General Synod of 2019 that led to the possibility of Church of Ireland wedding services being performed outside church buildings, thus extending our pastoral response to the nuances of modern life and relationships and allowing the church to participate in the lives of ordinary people.



and without fuss in time of need, about which few others are ever aware. Canon Jen McWhirter says, 'Moving to Co. Mayo from Northern Ireland wasn't an easy decision to make, but Bishop Patrick was so welcoming and helped our family settle into life in the diocese. He has been a constant support throughout my time here and will be missed by us all.'

In all his travels within TKA we were so often delighted to see Alison and Susanna accompany

+Patrick to big services and events. Indeed, we thank Alison for her years of sterling service in this diocese as Diocesan President of the Mothers Union and her involvement with MU within the wider Church.

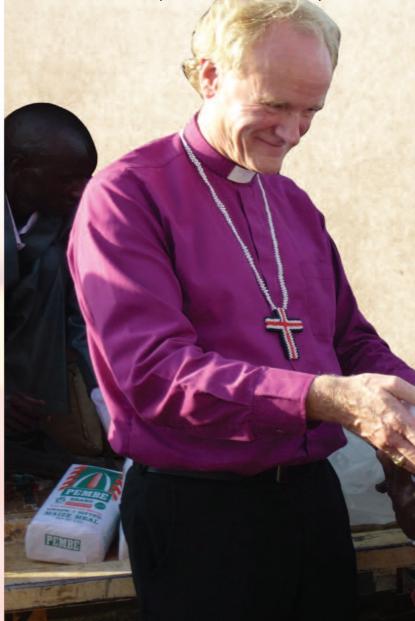
Lastly, along with Bishop Kenneth Kearon, +Patrick co-chaired the Inter-Diocesan Working Group that led us to the point of a united episcopal vacancy for the new Diocese of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe. This journey, although not one we may have taken without





necessity, is, however, one through which we find ourselves strengthened for parochial ministry in the twenty-first century. It was not an easy journey, but one which the two dioceses undertook to determine their own future.

As +Patrick retires we wish him and Alison and Susie every blessing and good wish as we bid farewell to the last Bishop of Tuam, Killala & Achonry.



#### A Prayer for Bishop Patrick

Almighty God, we thank you for the seasons of life, for the joy of childhood, the excitement of youth, and the stability of maturity. Thank you for the blessings that come with age, for all the happy memories to enjoy, for the wisdom that comes through experience, and for the freedom that is given with retirement.

Lord, we give thanks for the tremendous blessing that Bishop Patrick has been to this diocese, which has come from the work of many years, and thank you that you still anoint and use him always, in all seasons.

We pray that this would be a new beginning, may your hope arise, and your vision be the guide. May a new rhythm emerge, one that forms a beautiful balance between rest and engagement with life. And now, Lord, we ask for your blessing for Bishop Patrick. May there be good health, joy in abundance and peace in heart and mind, from this day forwards and each day that follows.

In Jesus name, Amen.



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# ACHONRY GROUP



St Crumnathy's Cathedral, Achonry St George's, Tubbercurry Rathbarron Priest in charge: Revd. Peter Norman Tel: 071 9181685 E-mail: peternorman 1959@gmail.com

#### On a personal note.

Almost three years ago Bishop Patrick came to hoped to get to know you better but again Covid-19 Tubbercurry to formally give me a licence as Priest in has prevented this. So, I wish you well together with Charge of the Achonry Group. It's been a rather the churches in the group as you go forward into a strange three years as to begin with I had to get to new phase in the life of the Diocese. grips with the way the Church of Ireland works! Despite thirty years of parish experience in the Confirmation Church of England there were differences and By the time you read this we will have had a long similarities which I had to get used to. After not much awaited Confirmation service and we wish every more than a year Covid-19 appeared and one blessing for those who will have been confirmed at St. lockdown followed another with long periods without George's Tubbercurry on 26th September. services in Church and numerous restrictions when there were. Other news

The parishioners of Rathbarron would like to say a Covid-19 has changed our lives in many ways and huge thank you to fellow parishioner Robert Davis continues to do so. Many of us have been reminded who donated a window in memory of the Davis family, of the fragility of life and begun to re-think how we Green Road, Coolaney. Congratulations to Dr. Gillian live and what we want to do with the rest of our lives; Barber who received her PhD in Immunology and Biothings to do and places to visit. With that in mind I Chemistry from Trinity College, Dublin. And finally have come to the decision that I would like to retire best wishes to Karen Clarke as she takes up a teaching from parochial ministry even though I have not quite post in Castleknock, Co. Dublin reached retirement age. Therefore, Sunday 24th October will be my last Sunday as Priest in Charge of

the Achonry Group and there will be a Eucharist in both churches on that day.

Helen and I will still be living in Banada and I have asked for a 'Permission to Officiate' which will allow me to help out with services in the Diocese should a need arise so I will still be around.

My thanks to you all for your welcome, friendship and patience during my time as priest in charge. I had



#### **AUGHAVAL GROUP**

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

#### **Restrictions lifting**

With the announcement of the further lifting of restriction over the next months we wait to see what changes this will bring to our church services. Certainly it would seem that our congregation sizes can increase, but we await further direction from the Church in this regard. My hope is that things might go back to 'normal' in our churches soon, bearing in mind the continued need to be vigilant against the spread of the virus. Our Harvest services this year will be held on the first weekend in October as part of the usual Saturday/ Sunday service in each church. More information about this will be given about these services over the next few weeks.

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.

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!

#### Parish picnic

On Sunday 11th July we joined the folk from St Thomas', Dugort for a picnic in the Ardagh garden of Carol Stoney and Fania Ellison. The weather stayed dry for us and Bishop Patrick, Alison and Susanna, who had been at church on Achill joined us too. It











was a lovely day and I would like to say a huge thank you to our very gracious hosts, and to those who had brought along goodies to share!

#### Confirmation

The date for confirmation in the Aughaval Group is the weekend of 9th/10th October. We are pleased to welcome Bishop Patrick to Turlough on Saturday at 8pm to confirm Nicole, Niamh and Lindsay, and to Castlebar on Sunday at 10.00am to confirm Leah, Lily and Narissa.

#### 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, the preacher for this occasion will be the Archdeacon. As we await for confirmation about the final lifting of restrictions, more information will be provided nearer the time for those who wish to attend.

#### Farewells

It is with sadness that we heard the announcement from the Bishop at the June meeting of Diocesan Council that he is retiring on Sunday 31st October this year. Bishop Patrick has led this diocese for the past 10 years and will be missed greatly. On behalf of our Parish Group I wish him, Alison and Susanna all God's blessings on his retirement. There will be opportunity to bid him farewell at a diocesan service in October and more information about this will be given nearer the time.

With Bishop Patrick's retirement, and the amalgamation with Limerick and Killaloe from 1st November, we also bid farewell to the Ballisodare Group as they go to be part of the diocese of Elphin. I would like to wish the parish, and their Rector Canon Andrew Ison, blessings as they make this change. Andrew will also be missed from the TKA clergy team.

#### From the registers Christian Burial

Kenneth Yardy, Kilsallagh, Westport, aged 96. Tuesday 18th May 2021 at 9.30am. Service of removal in the chapel of Mayo University Hospital followed by cremation in Dublin.

Marguerite Elizabeth Stephen, Murrisk, Westport, aged 71. Saturday 5th June 2021 at 11.30am in Holy Trinity, Westport, followed by cremation in Shannon Crematorium.

Michael Karl, Lower Carrowbeg Estate, Westport, aged 62. Monday 28th June 2021 at 10.00am in McGing's Funeral Home, followed by interment in Aughavale Cemetery.

Sophie Hunt, Knockaphunta, Castlebar, aged 93. Thursday 12th August at 11.30am in Christchurch Castlebar followed by cremation in Shannon Crematorium.

#### Holy Baptism

Sarah Frances McNally, daughter of Rory McNally and Rachel Bourke, Knappagh, Westport. Saturday 3rd July 2021 at 2.30pm in Holy Trinity, Westport.

Avril Maria Bourke, daughter of Trevor and Isabel Bourke, Clogher, Westport. Saturday 7th August 2021 at 2.00pm in Holy Trinity, Westport.





#### ST.THOMAS, DUGORT

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

The beginning of our joy at churches reopening was a small but we had a very joyful wedding on 24th May. The few guests in the church were joined on a live stream from Finland by the bride's family. - the local parishioners, parishioners from Inisbiggle Island, and some of our distanced parishioners who had returned for the Service. The Good family from Inisbiggle had done a wonderful job on restoring and rebinding the very old Bible from Inisbiggle Church. They brought it that morning and presented it to Bishop Patrick. After the Service we joined with our friends from Holy Trinity Westport for a delightful Parish Picnic in Carol Stoney's beautiful home and garden.



We have been blessed with an average of over twenty attending our Services across the summer season. It is so nice to greet familiar faces returning each summer and also to greet any new families visiting for the first time.

Our Service schedule is now changing to the winter timetable which from this September is changing to a morning time of 11.30am. This will now be the time for all services throughout the year.



#### 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

Our churches have been fully open since the last edition of Tidings and we have managed to maintain our services in all three churches although we have ceased our online contribution as a result. The routine has gradually been brought back although Holy Communion is still a challenge and our monthly informal service recommenced in August. It is unfortunate that we haven't been able to undertake our Sunday Club for our young people as they would all come from different school pods and that has made it impossible to do. However, we hope to undertake Muddy Church in the not too distant future.

It was lovely to welcome Bishop Patrick, Canon Ronnie Bourke and Canon Doris Clements to share in various services in July.

The announcement of Bishop Patrick's retirement means that this is the last edition of Tidings the Ballisodare Group will appear in. It seems strange to be moving to a different diocese but then we all are and the future will be different for everyone. While we are sad at leaving TKA we recognise that this is actually happening to everyone and we will all have to





Nathan Bourke and Corine Oggel

find our way. We will all have new friends to make and we wish everyone success in their new home. We wish the Bishop and his family all the best for their future!

#### St Paul's School

The school year has begun and it is very different to last year when we had to decamp to the community centre while the toilets were being refurbished. While our special needs teacher, Zara Browne is on maternity leave we welcome back Gemma Sherlock as cover for the year.

We are delighted to welcome 11 new Junior Infants to the school and we hope they settle in well with our community. Our thanks go to Daniel and his family who minded Shadow and Buttons, our school rabbits, over the summer holidays. They even managed to tame them!

Some areas of the school received a face lift as Simon Taylor exercised his paint brush, so a big thank you!

#### Marriages

We have had three weddings from the parishes, which have all been, what I could describe as, away weddings.

On June 11th in Dublin, Karen Williams, daughter of Errol and Maura Williams was married to Boriss Virsinin. We wish Boriss and Karen a wonderful future together.

On June 26th family and friends of Nathan Bourke and Corine Oggel gathered to share in their wedding. The venue was Limerick Baptist church. Guests gathered



Karen Williams and Boriss Virsinin

in the car park after the service for refreshments, cake cutting and the speeches. They moved on to Killaloe for an outdoor meal at "Flanagans by the Lake". Modern technology allowed over 100 guests from all over Ireland and across the world to join via Zoom but they had to provide their own menu! We offer them every blessing for their future.

On July 10th Sheila Phibbs, daughter of Eccles and the late Frances Phibbs married lain Mounsey at St Columba's Church, Drumcliffe. Sheila is a parishioner of Collooney but the wedding took place in Drumcliffe due to family connections and that this was the church in which Sheila was baptised.



# GALWAY & KILCUMMIN

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

#### **Good Wishes**

As Bishop Patrick prepares for his retirement, we wish him, Alison and Susannah every blessing and good wish as they prepare for this new



wish as they prepare for this new stage of life. We look forward to hosting a service for him on 24th October in St Nicholas'. We say a diocesan family farewell also to Canon Andrew Ison, and parishioners of Ballisodare Group as they join the Diocese of Kilmore,

Ardagh and Elphin diocese.

Revd Dr. Paidi Delanev

#### **Rev Alistair Doyle**

Rev Alistair will be joining the rector as a colleague in the parish in the Autumn. He will work at NUIG as part time chaplain, while also assisting with liturgical and pastoral duties. We look forward to meeting and welcoming Rev Alistair, his wife Cecelia and their son Toby in the coming weeks.

#### **Holy Baptisms**



Evan Michael Larkin, son of Holly and Eoin, was baptized on Sunday 13th June. On Sunday 27th June, we welcomed Elijah David Phillips and Isaac Matthew Phillips, sons of Matt and Lori Phillips into the fellowship of Christ's Church. May these three boys shine as lights in the world to the glory of God the Father. In addition, Isabelle Heppell, daughter of Sarah and Gary was baptized into the fellowship of Christs Church on Sunday, 5th September.





#### Holy Matrimony

It has been a busy wedding season at St Nicholas. Heartiest congratulations to Shane Maher and Thelma Stell, married on 29th July, Emma Pope and Enda Conway who were married on 14th August, and to Avril Donlon and Gary Harrison who were married on 28th August. We wish all our newly weds every blessing this new chapter or their lives together.







#### Live Stream



We are currently trialing a new camera system which enables our Sunday and Compline services to be viewed on Facebook live and zoom. It has been а great opportunity of experimentation but also an amazing

outreach ministry. Our worshipping community, as a church without walls spreads across Europe and into the USA. We are fortunate to have been the recipients of donations and grants making it all possible, and to the team of parishioners who are broadcasting and directing the cameras each Sunday.

#### Compline

In line with guidelines we were able to livestream sung compline service on Weds nights, with a small choir. As we gathered for the last compline before the exhibition entitled 'St. Nicholas' Collegiate Church and Beyond -700 Years', by Christine Hunt, has finally been erected on the railings along Church Lane. Christine

summer break, the government guidelines had changed and we were delighted to have a larger choir singing behind closed doors but broadcasting on Facebook live. St Nicholas is strongly immersed in our musical tradition and it was a great boost to everyone involved in the Schola Cantorum to be reunited albeit socially distanced to take part in these complines. They will resume in the winter.

#### Mini Fete

A very successful mini church fete was held on Saturday 21st August. It was an opportunity, after 17 months to gather and work together safely outside. A special thanks to Catherine Moore Temple, and the team for guiding everyone and keeping the momentum going. The chatty crafters had been especially busy. Everyone worked well, and it was great to see new parishioners



involved. It generated much needed funds, but also great fellowship and community spirit!



#### **Teddy Bears Picnic**

Last May a raffle fundraiser entitled' the teddy bears picnic' was launched, which was supported by local businesses who generously contributed hampers for our prizes.

#### **700th Anniversary Exhibition**

has been a parishioner of St. Nicholas' Church since arriving in Galway in 1981, and many may know her through guided tours, concerts or exhibitions in the church, over the years. This exhibition involves old photos about the church, some previously unseen, and copies of old documents, alongside general information. Over many months, beginning in 2018, Christine's research was aided by staff of The Special Collections Library at NUIG, Galway City Museum, Kennys Bookshop, Island House Library, The Church of Ireland Representative Church Body, and by The Harbour Master, the Museum Curator of Renmore Barracks, plus former Rectors and the Very Revd. Lynda Peilow, the Select Vestry of St. Nicholas' Collegiate Church alongside numerous other individuals, Gaillimhe Le Gaelige and the 700th Committee. A very special mention has to be made regarding the late Caitriona Hastings, who very kindly did the Irish Translation.

#### **Chatty Crafters**

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. It has been a blessing to many and broken through the isolated feelings of lockdown strengthening friendships old and new.

#### 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.

#### Kilcummin Church, Oughterard.

It is hard to believe that we are now facing into Autumn and the summer is all but behind us. 2021 seemed to move by very quickly. The schools have reopened and we are getting back to some kind of normal, for a lot of people, it will be a new normal. Some will return to their jobs on a full-time basis others will continue to have a mixture of working from home and working in their offices. Whichever is for you, please continue to keep safe and well.

After a delay of some weeks, Kilcummin Church reopened for services on 25th July 2021. Some work on the ceiling and roof had to be completed before we could safely do so. Our services continue at 11am each Sunday morning with a celebration of the Eucharist on 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. Work is continuing



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Contact: Revd Andrew Ison E:rev.andrew.ison@gmail.com T: 89 2221483 on the roof and the bell is also being restored. We are very grateful to the Heritage Council for a grant to complete the work and we look forward to hearing the bell again call people to worship in the near future.

#### Congratulations

Three of our parishioners celebrated significant birthdays in recent months:

Phyllis Furniss celebrated her 106th birthday in May. Is it possible that Phyl is the most senior member of the Diocese? Maureen Fitzmorris celebrated her celebrated her 92nd birthday in June and Norman Woulfe celebrated his 90th birthday, also in June.

We must also congratulate Heather and Walter De Lacy on celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary on 27th August, may they both have many more happy years together.



#### KILMOREMOY AND KILLALA UNIONS

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

As we go to press we are still unsure just how we will be celebrating our Harvest this year. Last year these services were much reduced. However as we look forward to and acknowledge the lifting of government restrictions towards the end of October we enter a season of new hope as we the Church, along with all society, live alongside the Covid-19 virus. We are grateful to be at this point and take time to remember all those who are bereaved due to the terrible toll this pandemic has taken throughout our country and the world. We can, however, once again look forward to a time when we will be able to come together in fellowship as well as worship and we give thanks to God for his goodness and providence.

"The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it." Psalm 24: I

#### **Trinity to Trinity**

In this year, as we returned to in-church worship and as the Kilmoremoy Union and Killala Union unite as the



#### **Parish Register**

On Sunday, 29th August, we welcomed Brody Van Der Merwe into the family of God by celebrating his baptism. We look forward to Brody, his brother Chase and sister Dakota, along with his Mum, Kirsten and Dad, Munnik, joining us on many more Sundays to come.

Killala Group, the staff of the unions have committed to pray for each and every parishioner for a year from Trinity Sunday 2021 to Trinity Sunday 2022. As we do so we invite you to pray for us.

We are delighted to welcome the Rev'd Martin Steele into the life of our Group, and particularly to his duties and responsibilities among the parishioners in St Michael's. Martin is settling in well to the Kilmoremoy Rectory and has already met a number of parishioners. Although Martin's chief responsibility is to the congregation of St Michael's he will be participating and preaching throughout all the churches within the Group. It is our hope that this great breath of experience and exposure to the different characters of each of our parish churches will be of great benefit to his first days of formal ministry. In welcoming him we wish him every blessing as he lives and works among us. As we look forward to Martin's ordination so to we also look forward to the ordination to the Priesthood of Revd Caroline and Revd Clive. Both have settled well into parish life and have been well supported by their respective congregations and we wish them every blessing as they each exercise their new ministries.

#### **St Michael's Redecoration**

The Select Vestry of St Michael's took the decision to re-decorate the interior of St Michael's during the period of lockdown and we are delighted with the result. The interior is much lighter now and we are grateful to Mr. David Hicks who advised us on an appropriate and historically correct colour scheme. The entirety of the work was carried out by one man, Mr. Albert Patterson, who took great care in all aspects of the project.We are grateful to them for their commitment and to all those who worked so hard in cleaning and the moving of furniture in time for the opening of churches in May.

#### Killala Shop

The Cathedral once again opened it's Bring & Buy shop over the summer. We are especially grateful to Dolly McGreal for all her work in the organising of the event each weekend. Dolly was assisted by a team of willing



volunteers and we wish to thank Dolly, Enid, Gail, Lesley and Yvonne. The team raised somewhere over €5800, a great effort which helps substantially with the Cathedral funds. Thank you also to the parish and wider community in both bringing and buying and to all who came along each weekend and supported the shop.

#### **Pastoral Services**

After such a long period of Lockdown how good it is to enjoy the first of our pastoral services in a long time; even in the midst of restrictions families have been able to join together for intimate celebrations of life and baptism. So we have been able to welcome into the wider group Sophie McShane into the family of Killala Cathedral and cousins Harry Hicks and Sophie Walsh into the family of St Michael's, Ballina. All celebrations enjoyed the benefit of the great weather of the early summer and the families involved enjoyed their days. As restrictions further ease we look forward to these young members being introduced to their wider congregations.

It was also a pleasure to preside at the wedding of Neil and Valerie Dawn of Enniscrone; another intimate event of only six of a congregation including Norman Reid and myself. We enjoyed a touching and warm service, it was a pleasure to have Norman conduct worship with me and we wish Neil and Valerie every blessing in their new life together.

#### **Retirement and Departure**

As we prepare to say goodbye to Bishop Patrick, Alison and Susanna, we are very aware that the vacancy of the Diocesan See brings about the departure of the Ballisodare Group as they become part of the diocese of Elphin.As we wish them every blessing so we do too to Canon Andrew, Julie, Emma and Clare. In his five years with us Andrew has been a friendly addition to our clergy team, on a personal level I will miss Andrew greatly, as Archdeacon and Rural Dean Andrew and I often worked closely together especially during vacancies in groups.

We were all surprised at the announcement during Diocesan Council in June that Bishop Patrick will be retiring at the end of October. +Patrick has served this Diocese for a decade and in that time has drawn us together as parishes, groups and unions. We as a Diocese have benefited greatly from his vision and commitment to the Mission of the Church, in his leadership and practical involvement in missional projects as diverse as Ballina Churches Together and the work of Development and Aid in the Diocese of Kajiado. Although we may not see it, his ministry has impacted for the better literally thousands of people as we looked beyond our own borders and saw ourselves as part of the one Catholic and Apostolic Church. On a personal note I would wish to thank +Patrick for his encouragement and goodness to me in my ministry, which has allowed me experience ministry in Parish, Diocese and the wider Church.We wish Bishop Patrick, Alison and Susanna every blessing in this new chapter in their lives.

#### A Prayer for Bishop Patrick

Dear Father God, Thank you for the seasons of life, for the joy of childhood, the excitement of youth, and the stability of maturity. Thank you for the blessings that come with age, for all the happy memories to enjoy, for the wisdom that comes through experience, and for the freedom that is given with retirement. Lord, we give thanks for the tremendous blessing that Bishop Patrick



has been to this diocese which has come from the work of many years, and thank you that you still anoint and use him always, in all seasons. McShane, Sophie first daughter of Brendan and Edith McShane, Mullafarry, Killala, in Killala Cathedral on 29th May 2021.service conducted by Ven. Stephen McWhirter

We pray that this would be a new beginning, may your hope arise, and your vision be the guide. May a new rhythm emerge, one that forms a beautiful balance between rest and engagement with life. And now Lord, we ask for your blessing for Bishop Patrick. May there be good health, joy in abundance and peace in heart and mind, from this day forwards and each day that follows. In Jesus name, Amen.

#### Parish Register Holy Baptism







#### Holy Matrimony

Dawn, Neil and Valerie née Locke, Enniscrone, in Kilglass Parish Church, on 26th August 2021. Service conducted by Ven. Stephen McWhirter and Mr Norman Reid.



#### Dates for the Diary Institution

Institution of Ven. Stephen McWhirter as Rector of the Killala Union on Sunday 17th October in the Cathedral Church of St. Patrick, Killala at 10.00am.

#### Confirmations

The confirmation of Matthew and Emily Ryan on Sunday 17th October in the Cathedral Church of St. Patrick, Killala at 11.30am.

The confirmation of Ross Rolston and Dedication of Gifts for Kilglass Parish on Sunday 17th October in Kilglass Parish at 4.00pm.

Harvest Services To be confirmed.



**ANNE'S, EASKEY KILGLASS PARISH** 

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

Soon after the churches opened up in May we had a visit from Bishop Patrick in Kilglass. In his address he said it was the first time he has worn his robes since Christmas! The children of Leaffoney presented such wonderful prayers that I completely abandoned those I'd prepared. The children were also able to give the Bishop a presentation at a lovely 'socially distanced' cup of tea, held outside in the church carpark. The sun obliged by putting in an appearance and it gave us all a chance to catch up.

We are sad that Chloe McGoldrick, who has done such sterling work in Leaffoney NS has moved on to pastures greener. She is going to be Principal of Taunagh NS. Wishing her every blessing in her new position.

We welcome new Principal Karen Gainfort to Leaffoney and hope she is equally blessed in her move to be with us.

On the 17th October in Kilglass the Bishop will be with us to dedicate gifts, given in memory of two well-loved parishioners, Belle Carneige and Brenda Reid. Also on that occasion Ross Rolston will be confirmed. This will be an opportunity for us to say a proper farewell to **Bishop Patrick.** 

The guidance I have received from Archdeacon Stephen and the encouragement and support I have received from the congregations of both parishes have made, what could have been deemed a very problematic and frustrating year into a memorable and (dare I say it) uplifting one as we emerged out of lockdown into patterns of worship again. Large chunks of the church year are called Ordinary Time and we learned what a joy it is to do the ordinary things, or perhaps how wonderfully extraordinary the ordinary can be! I look forward so much to continuing my ministry in Ballycastle and Crossmolina as a priest (but always I hope with the heart of a deacon). Thanks to the blessing of the Covid-19vaccine we look forward to perhaps even greater freedoms to resume more fully the services, the worship, the liturgies and the ways of being community that we have enjoyed in the past, but we will always be doing all that we can to ensure the safety and well being of all. Good to remember then that Christians are a people who always carry the gifts of hope and compassion with them, and good too to thank God for these gifts and the gift of times that are wonderfully ordinary.

#### **Christian Burial**

A service of thanksgiving for the life of John McNeilly McKeag was held in McGowan's funeral home, Ballina followed by burial in Glenamoy Cemetery on 15th June. We keep John's wife Karen, daughter, Lizzette, sons John and Robert, sister Louise and George, grandson John and extended family and friends in our prayers, trusting in the merciful love of God that will not be separated from us in life or death.



#### **CROSSMOLINA AND** BALLYCASTLE

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

As I write this I am conscious that I am just two weeks away from my ordination to priesthood and it is perhaps understandable that a lot of my focus is on that as I look forward to this important step in my journey in discipleship and response to the call to ministry. However, it is also a good time to look back. Reflecting back on the summer of my deaconate year in the parishes of Ballycastle and Crossmolina I have to say it has been a hugely positive experience for me.



LLANLEY -ASTLECONNOR

Revd Caroline Morrow Phone: 087 2053996 E-mail: cmorrow 1963@gmail.com

#### "Summertime And the Living Is Easy"

We are in the midst of an Indian summer and as the long nights approach, we cannot help but wonder what this winter will bring. My first year as a deacon has come to an end and as I approach ordination to the priesthood, I ask for your prayers as I continue on this journey.

#### **Refurbishment Works**

During the month of June and July, works commenced it to its rightful place. We owe a great deal of gratitude on the refurbishment of the church. This included to Hanne for her work in restoring the Bible and I restoring both windows on the south side of the hope to use it at some of our services in the future. church along with drainage works being done around the church. The guttering and downs pipes were also Back to School restored, also a retaining wall inside the gate on the By the time you read this, our children will have all right-hand side and steps leading up to the gravesides. returned to school hopefully after a long summer This is works that have been on the back burner for break and for some it is still uncertain times. To our many years and thanks to the generosity of an young people starting college, we wish them well and anonymous benefactor to whom we are hugely will continue to hold them in our prayers as they begin indebted, we now have a warm cosy church. There are the next stage of their life journey. still many works to do to restore Killanley to its former glory, and in due time, these will happen, but for now we give thanks. A huge thank you goes to Martin Wilson who carried out these works so professionally.

#### **Bishops Visit**

At the beginning of June Bishop Patrick came to Killanley to celebrate the eucharist with us. For me personally it was a huge privilege to work alongside him, not realising at the time that it would be his last time with us as Bishop. On behalf of all the parishioners of Killanley Church, I wish Bishop Patrick every joy and blessing as he retires at the end of October.

#### **Revd Stock Bible**



It was with great excitement that on 28th July, the Bible left in Killanley Church by Revd. Samuel Stock came home to its final resting place. This Bible had been found a few years earlier during a clean-up in the church with a hand written note inside from the aforementioned Revd

Stock. It was in bad condition, so a year ago, Archdeacon Stephen gave it to a lady in Dublin to restore it. The lady in question, Hanne O'Rourke along with her husband Andrew arrived at the church with



Rev. Caroline and Hanne O'Rourke, Gourlay, Fairman (rectors warde Andrew and Hanne O'Rourke, John Gawley (parish reader)

the Bible on Wednesday afternoon 28th July to return

#### **OMEY GROUP**

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

#### **Church Reopening**

The community of Christ Church Clifden were delighted to reopen their doors in August following







the recent replacement of the old floor. The floor boards had deteriorated to a serious extent, posing a safety issue to our parishioners and visitors. The new floor is constructed with warm oak timber boards with a carpet centre aisle. It was engineered with a concrete base which was

overlaid with insulation and radon and damp-proof barriers. Given that this was a once in a lifetime opportunity, an underfloor heating system was incorporated which will allow an air to water heat painting of the interior in a clay paint, which will pump to be installed at some point in the future. An unexpected boon of the works was the uncovering of the tile and terrazzo floor in the sanctuary which had been hidden for many decades. These were brought to life following careful and meticulous cleaning.

Recent improvements at the rectory at Christ Church have allowed the building to be leased to a tenant this year, an arrangement which is working very satisfactorily. The income is an invaluable support to the parish sustentation fund. We offer thanks to our contractor Mr. John O'Flaherty and to our consulting architect Mr. David Harris. The flooring and carpet were installed by the excellent team at Lydon's Carpets and Flooring of Moycullen. We give special thanks also to the late Martha Ladly who was a lifelong parishioner at Christ Church. Martha left a legacy which enabled this important restoration to be undertaken as well as significant renovation works at the Rectory. We are also very grateful to the friends of St. Flannan in Errislannan who facilitated the use of Holy Trinity Church during the period when the renovation work was taking place.

It is with sadness that we record the death of Willie Barry who passed away on Wednesday the 4th of August. His wife Jan is a long serving member of Christ Church and Moyard who has cared for Willie for many years. A funeral service was held for Willie at Ballinakill R.C. Church with a cremation ceremony at Shannon. Our thoughts and prayers are with Jan at this difficult time and we also remember their family in England.

We are also greatly saddened to learn of the death of Heinz Scheele who passed away in Germany on the 2nd of July. Heinz and his wife Marianne have lived between Germany and their holiday home in Rossadillisk in Connemara for many years. We think of Marianne and their daughters especially at this time and we hold them in our prayers.

Our community was saddened to learn of the death of Alan Stephenson who fought a long battle with illness. Alan passed away at his home on the Beach Road, Clifden on Tuesday 3rd August. Alan was a dearly loved brother of Jane, John and Bill. He will be sadly missed by his relatives and large circle of friends. A memorial service was held at Christ Church on 13th of August and the celebrant was the Very Rev. Lynda Peilow.

St. Thomas's Church at Moyard have enjoyed a busy summer season of worship with visitor numbers

exceeding all expectations, even allowing for the restrictions still in place. The restoration of the building is finally nearing completion with the recent ensure the newly lime rendered walls will remain dry. The windows have been restored and the nave roof has been repaired. Our thanks to the many private individuals and charities who have made this mammoth project possible, as well as Galway County Council Heritage who have provided much needed grant aid. Our thanks also to Kevin Coyne who continues to look after the grounds so well.

Holy Trinity Church at Errislannan held a full summer programme of Evensong services kindly facilitated by the Dean of Tuam. We are immensely grateful to all our clergy and lay preachers, many of whom made the long journey out to the peninsula on a Sunday evening.

The friends of St. Flannan were deeply saddened to lose Stephanie Brooks on Sunday 9th of May this year. Stephanie was a lifelong supporter of Holy Trinity and one of the original founders of the Friends in 1962 along with her husband, the late Dr. Donal Brooks. Stephanie's Obituary can be found elsewhere in this edition.

The Friends and all the parishioners of Omey bade farewell to Bishop Patrick Rooke who is due to retire at the end of October this year. Bishop Patrick has provided Evensong at Holy Trinity on the August Bank Holiday Sunday for the last ten years. We wish to join our sister churches in thanking Bishop Patrick for his wise council and support over the years, especially in difficult times. Geoff Brooks, Chairman of the Friends



of St. Flannan, presented the Bishop with a framed photograph of Holy Trinity following its restoration. We regret that we are unable to give the Bishop a more traditional farewell celebration but we thank him sincerely for the time he has spent with us and we wish him and his family every happiness for the future.

At St Mary's Roundstone we are very grateful our We also wish to thank Canon Andrew Ison for his parish readers, Rod Teck, Ted Sherwood and Frankie guidance as rural dean over the last number of years. Thornburgh, who took weekly services throughout May I personally and on behalf of all of us in the July and August, and to Daniel Owen, the chaplain from Skreen Group of parishes thank Bishop Patrick for his St Columba's College and the Bishop, who gave us pastoral oversight during his bishopric and wish him, communion on two occasions. his wife Alison and their family every blessing as they take leave of the West of Ireland.

The plasterwork on the interior of the west wall is now complete and painted, and the whole interior of St Mary's looks much better. Work will continue on the parts which cannot be seen, as time and money allow.

# SKREEN GROUP



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

The retirement of Bishop Patrick Rooke, Bishop of Claremorris: 12 noon in McWilliam Tuam and Killala and Bishop Ken Kearon, Bishop of Park Hotel – 1st Sunday of the month Limerick and Killaloe triggers a series of events that andreajwills@gmail.com changes the face of the Church of Ireland, both locally and nationally. As these two bishops step down and Sunday 4th July was tinged with sadness as it was the the huge geographical spread comes into being under last official visit of Bishop Patrick, Alison and Susanna one Bishop, it changes the landscape. Nationally as a to Foxford Church. We will miss them all so much. No Church the house/bench of Bishops is reduced from farewell in Foxford church is complete without a the historical twelve to eleven. While it bore no presentation of a Foxford rug. Thank you to Amelia and significance really, however there was something Juliette and Patrick for helping with the presentations. biblical about the number twelve. It seemed right and We were fortunate with the weather and were able to there was a comforting and reassuring echo taking us have a cup of tea outdoors after the service. right back to the time of our Lord.

On a local level the departure of Ballisodare, Collooney and Ballymote to Elphin severs a link that has existed for generations. Naturally in the Skreen Group there is a sadness that the long established links within the Mothers Union, Diocesan Council, Diocesan Synod and the rural Deaneries ceases to exist. It is like an old friend emigrating to another country. We know they are there but contact is significantly reduced. The decision is a very understandable one. The proximity to the Diocesan structures in Elphin, the Cathedral and various committees and of course Sligo Grammar School makes a great deal of sense. As you take your leave we wish you all every blessing for the future and pray that the friendships that have existed over generations will continue to bring joy and happiness to our peoples.

As we go to print the government has announced a reduction in covid restrictions. This gives some degree of freedom and yet there is an understandable reticence by people as they embrace the new norm. We will continue with the present arrangements until further notice regarding church services.



#### STRAID PARISH. FOXFORD & **CLAREMORRIS**

Priest-in-charge: Canon Andrea Wills Tel: 094 9256403; Mobile 086 261 7572 Foxford: 10.00 a.m. every Sunday





Bishop Patrick called to see Yvonne Morrison and Chris Dempsey and family. Baby Neil had been rushed to Temple Street Hospital with high very temperature. It was a tough time and we all had Neil in our prayers. Thankfully after a week he was able to go home with

am so grateful to Patrick Browne for taking the service on three Sundays in August when I stood in for Canon Stan Evans at the Chaplaincy in Lanzarote when he returned to Ireland to see family for the first time since taking up the position as chaplain of the Anglican Parish of St. Laurence in April 2019. His ministry there has had a significant impact and he now has a proper Chaplaincy House and Centre. Already on the terrace

Spanish classes take place and a Knit and Natter group meet doing craftwork, and knitting squares at the moment for blankets for charity. When restrictions allow an aqua aerobics class takes place in the pool. I was assisted by the Church Worship Leader Sunny Schwarz. I received such a warm welcome and it was a privilege to meet all the members of the church community there. It was a lovely experience.

During the really hot spell of weather in July Finn, the dog, joined the congregation as it was too hot for him to stay for the full service in the car. He was accompanying Sue on a trip afterwards. He was really good and no one knew he was there until after the service! We were delighted to welcome visitors to services in Foxford during August and look forward

to the return of some regular visitors in September.

Ruth Houston had been attending Foxford Church for over 50 years when she spent time at her holiday home in Pontoon. She died in Co. Down in November 2020 aged 98 in the midst of lockdown. A special garden party was held to remember her at Terryduff, Pontoon on Saturday 28th August. It was a beautiful day and her daughters Sally and Noelle carried out her wishes to the last by serving a delicious hot buffet. She had said she wanted those who attended her funeral to have a hot meal.

We were grateful to Davy's Tool Hire for their generous help in solving the problem of unsightly shrubs growing on the tower of the church. Work should begin very shortly on the tower.

We hope to have a Harvest Thanksgiving Service this year at 4.00 p.m. on Sunday 17th October.

Charles and I are pleased at the safe arrival of another grandson, Senan, on 12th July. A second son for Jonathan and Fiona in Waterford.

In conjunction with McWilliam Park Hotel, Claremorris, as restrictions lessen, it is hoped to resume the monthly service.

In our prayers especially are those who are sick, undergoing treatment or awaiting surgery. Thank you to everyone for the continued support.



#### TUAM GROUP

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

#### **Bishop Patrick's Retirement**

Well, we we're not expect that, not yet anyway. The news was delivered to the Diocesan Council on Thursday 17th June and after a moment of deathly silence punctuated by sharp intakes of breath everyone wished the Bishop and his family well for the future, thanking him for his years of ministry among us. And we in Tuam Union echo those sentiments entirely. May God bless Patrick, Alison and Susanna and grant them long years of peace and rest in retirement.

#### Cong

It has been a quiet enough summer at St Mary's Cong. As we emerge from the worst effects of the restrictions caused by Covid-19, things are only gradually returning to anything like normal. Folk have been reluctant to get back to church and while we have had a few visitors, their numbers are nothing like what we might have expected in pre-Covid-19 times. And this is all very understandable. Our hope is that when things increasingly settle down and the children return to school that parishioners will begin to filter through the doors of St Mary's again. We continue to observe all the precautionary protocols which make St Mary's a safe place in which to be and that, coupled with the high level of vaccination up-take in the community should, we trust, encourage folk to return to Sunday Services.

#### **A**asleagh

It has to be said that the summer season of evening worship in St John the Baptist's held up very well this year in comparison to last year which was close to a wash-out. People from all over seem to feel comfortable at Aasleagh and enjoy the quiet services of a Sunday evening. Bishop Patrick made his annual pilgrimage to the head of the Killary in 15th August when he preached and celebrated the Holy Mysteries for the last time as our bishop. We couldn't have our usual 'hoolie' after the service but we did share coffee and cakes outside the church with the midges buzzing around our ears. As ever, our deep thanks to John and Bernie Clesham for all the work they do at Aasleagh, not just during the summer season but throughout the year. The Dean would also wish to thank Rev Maebh O'Herlihy for her assistance on the Sundays he was unable to be at Aasleagh.

#### Tuam



It is sad and not a little irritating to have to record a spate of vandalism at St Mary's Cathedral during the summer. Several windows (thankfully none of them stained glass!) have been broken and have had to be replaced. This has led to the cathedral community moving to erect grills on all

Cleaning the cathedral gutters

the windows and having to consider putting security cameras in place. What a shame. What an expense! All because of a few.....well, we can't use the word we'd like to use: not in a church magazine anyway.

The major undertaking which is the cleaning the cathedral gutters was completed on 23rd August. Quite how some of the rubbish (plastic bottles) get 'up there' is a complete mystery. We thank Mattie and larlath for overseeing the job.

Our Roman Catholic friends and neighbours have now moved back into the Cathedral of the Assumption fulltime. It has been an absolute joy for us at St Mary's to have been able to extend hospitality to them during their period of renovation. We wish them every blessing in the years ahead.

#### Confirmation

As things stand, and God between us and all harm, the bishop will be with us in Cong on 31st October at 10am to celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation. We don't yet know what, if any, restrictions on attending numbers will be in place at that time so please bear with us and an announcement will be made closer to the day to clarify this. At the time of writing these notes there are four potential candidates. We would also like to bring to the attention of parishioners that 31st October will also be Bishop Patrick's last visit to Cong as our diocesan bishop. Numbers restrictions notwithstanding (Covid-19 is really making planning very difficult) it would be great if we had a large turnout to offer bishop Patrick our best for his retirement.

#### **Bishop Patrick's Final Service in TKA**

At 4pm on 31st October, bishop Patrick will attend his last service in the diocese as our bishop. What with the amalgamation with Limerick etc. taking effect the following day, 1st November, this will also mark the end of an era when TKA as a distinct diocese of the Church of Ireland will have it's own bishop. So this will be a significant, indeed historic, occasion. St Mary's Cathedral, with the Synod Hall, can accommodate a large congregation. So the Dean and Chapter would encourage as many as would like to attend, to be there for this service. If, God forbid, anything were to change regarding numbers, restrictions etc. in respect of Covid-19, an announcement will be made.

#### Harvest Thanksgivings

In the last two Harvest Seasons, we in Cong and Tuam have combined our Harvest Celebrations with ordinary Sunday Morning Services. It is to be PROFOUNDLY hoped that this year we can return to the normal practise of having those services of a Sunday afternoon. But at this juncture, we just do not know whether this will be possible or permitted. So, in the hope that clarity will emerge in the coming weeks the Dean intends to hold off announcing the dates and times of Harvest Services until we hear from Government exactly what is and what is not allowed.



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