

DIOCESE OF TUAM, KILLALA AND ACHONRY

tidings

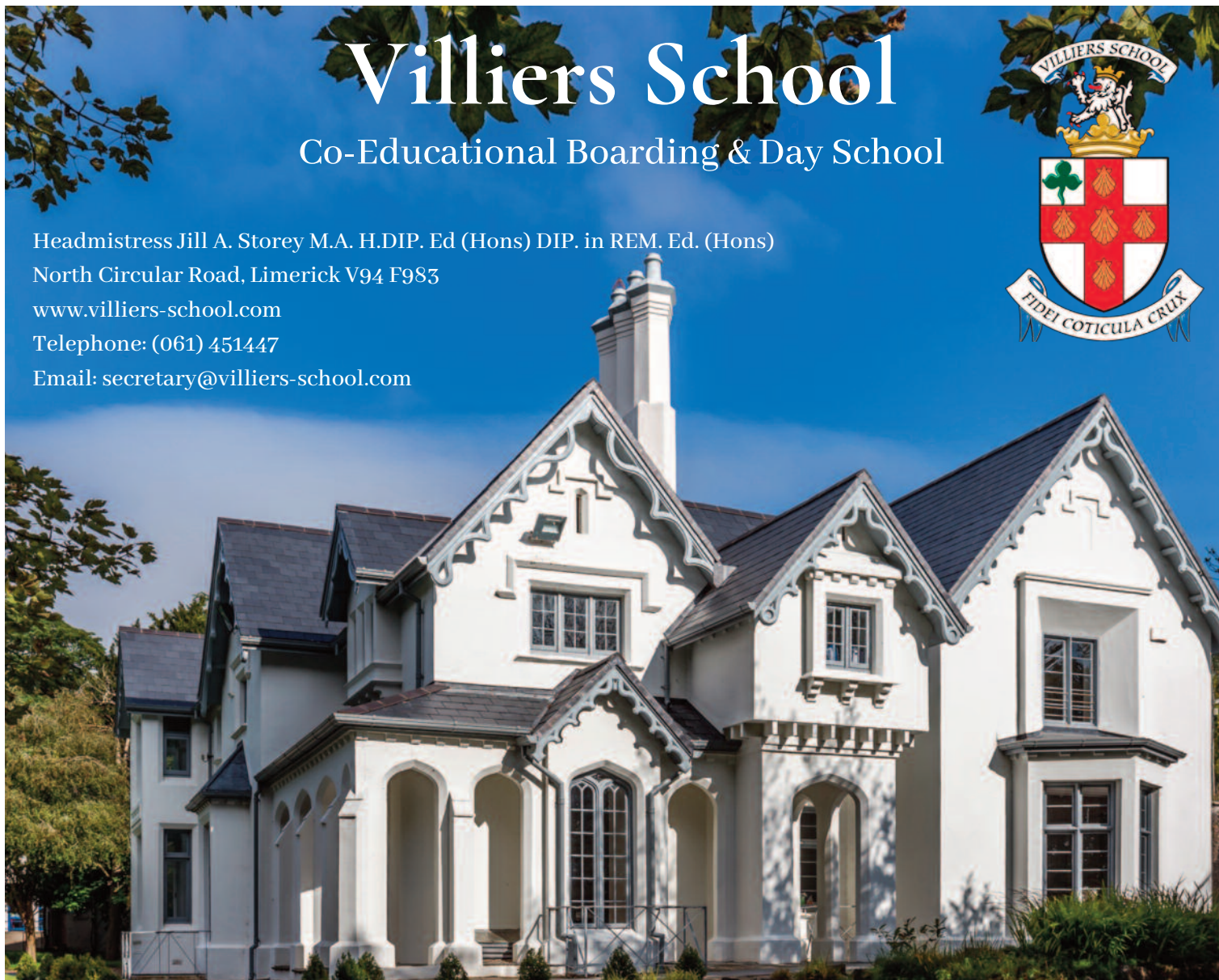


LENT AND EASTER ISSUE 2022

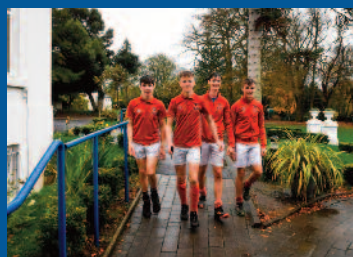
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tidings

EASTER ISSUE 2022

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

www.tuam.anglican.org

COPY DEADLINE

All submissions for the Summer Issue of Tidings, including advertisements, must be in by **6th May 2022**

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 made to the diocesan administrator, Mrs. Heather Pope, secretary@tka.ie

EDITOR

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FROM THE COMMISSARY...

As we gathered throughout the world for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we did so with great excitement in our own Diocese with the very recent announcement on Friday 14th January from the Electoral College in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, of the election of Bishop Michael Burrows as our new Bishop, indeed the first Bishop of the new United Diocese of Tuam, Limerick & Killaloe. This news was received with delight not only amongst ourselves but further extending through the whole Church and not least among Bishop Michael's Roman Catholic counterparts throughout this vast Diocese. As we turn with our usual great expectation to Easter, we do so with double excitement this year as we look forward to the Translation of Bishop Michael Burrows in Holy Week on Maundy Thursday, 14th April 2022.

Bishop Michael brings to his new role a long experience and insight to the uniting of our diocese. He would say himself that he is at heart a 'country Bishop' and we welcome him into plenty of that in the West. He has vast experience within the Church of Ireland and within the Church Universal, currently holding the position of chair of the Governors of the Anglican Centre in Rome. Bishop Michael is married to Claire, they have four grown up children, Henry, Andrew, Grainne and James. As they prepare to come among us so we wish them every blessing as they move. Please also remember in your prayers, at this time, the people of Cashel, Ferns & Ossory as they begin the process of election of a new Bishop.

Thanks

In these last months It has been my privilege to have been called to serve the Church, and indeed Archbishop Michael Jackson, as the Archbishop's Commissary in Tuam, Killala & Achonry, during this time of vacancy. This has been a time of great learning for me and an opportunity for personal reflection and growth. I would like to thank my colleague Dean Niall Sloane who supported the Diocese of Limerick & Killaloe as Archbishop's Commissary there; and of course to Dean Alistair and my fellow clergy, the diocesan staff and the lay ministers and laity of Tuam, Killala & Achonry, thank you for your prayerful and practical support throughout this time. To Kizzy, my Chief Advisor; and lastly to my wife, the Very Lovely Canon Jen who had to put up with an extra measure of grumpiness, a special and heartfelt thank you; it's soon back to fishing now!

A Prayer for Bishop-Elect Michael Burrows

Eternal Father, you tend your Church in many ways and rule over us with love. You have chosen your servant +Michael to be a shepherd of your flock in this diocese of Tuam, Limerick & Killaloe. As he prepares to come among us give him a spirit of courage and right judgment, a spirit of wisdom and love; by governing with fidelity those entrusted to his care, may he build your Church as a sign of Unity and Salvation to your world. Amen.

Ven. Stephen McWhirter



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MARCH

Sat 19th Concert for St Patrick, Holy Trinity, Westport, 4.00pm

APRIL

Wed 13th Translation of +Michael Ossory Island, Clareen, Co. Offaly (North of Roscrea) - 11pm

Sun 17th Easter Sunday, 17th April, 7.30pm - Dawn service on Dunmoran Strand

Sun 24th Enthronement Tuam - 4.00pm

Fri 29th Enthronement Killaloe - 7.30pm

MAY

Sun 1st Enthronement Killala - 4.00pm

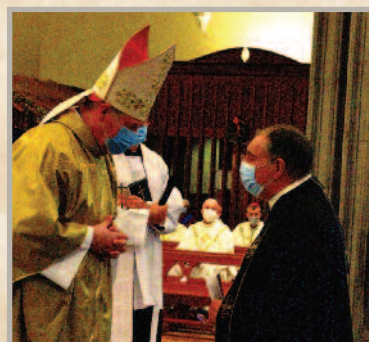
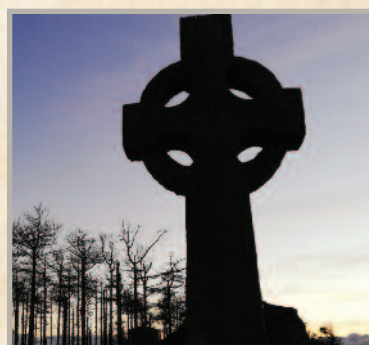
Sat 7th Enthronement Limerick - 3.00pm

Thurs 19th Enthronement Clonfert - 7.30pm

Sat 21st Concert by the Choristers of St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, in Holy Trinity, Westport, time TBC

Sun 22nd Choral Eucharist sung by the Choristers of St Patrick's cathedral, Dublin, in Holy Trinity, Westport, 11.30am

Sun 22nd Enthronement Kilfenora - 4.00pm



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.

If you are making a donation, please send a cheque to the Diocesan Administrator, Mrs Heather Pope, 11 Ros Ard, Cappagh Road, Galway - payable to the United Dioceses of Tuam, Killala and Achonry Dioc Council No 1 a/c and write Tidings on the rear of the cheque. Or, alternatively via online banking using

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

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GREETINGS FROM BISHOP-ELECT MICHAEL

Warmest greetings from Kilkenny, where I will continue to be based for some more weeks until my translation to the 'new' diocese of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe takes effect on April 14, three months after my election in January.

While leaving my present context after 16 fascinating years is inevitably a wrench, I am realising that there is indeed a certain rightness about the timing and the task, and I am genuinely looking forward with relish - the miseries of house moving apart - to a new chapter in my episcopal ministry. This greeting is not a proper Bishop's Letter, for you will receive plenty of them from me in times to come, but simply a request for your prayers and understanding as I make this transition and learn of the life of the Church in such an extraordinary variety of settings in the West and mid-West. I hope I can make some small contribution to helping the 'new' diocese gel together with both confidence and joy, and I also look forward to spending a significant amount of my time in actual residence in Co. Mayo, once the final details of the arrangements for the episcopal abode there are

sorted out. From afar, I have admired the courage, realism and vision of both TKA and L&K in themselves seeking out this new configuration, and I will be privileged to play a small part in diocesan history by being the first bishop of these newly United Dioceses.

In my sixteen years in the House of Bishops I have sat at the table with Bishops Neill, Henderson, Rooke, Mayes, Williams and Kearon so I have had some opportunity to absorb from them insights concerning their contexts and priorities. At present I am conscious of the burden of responsibility that continues to fall upon the Commissaries, particularly in the West Archdeacon McWhirter. I will continue to be highly grateful to them as I find my feet, and I look forward hugely to meeting you all around the parishes very soon.

Again, greetings from the South East - and soon I will have to practice writing my name differently!

Michael Cashel Ferns & Ossory

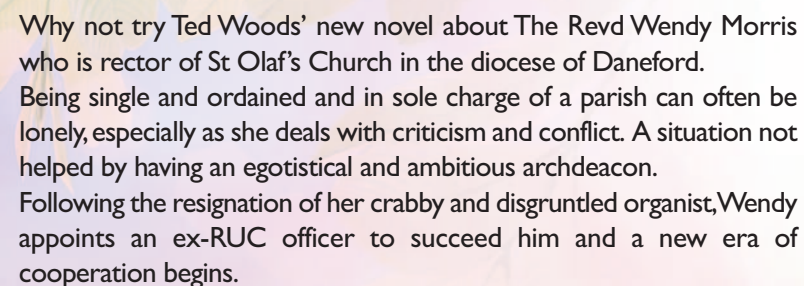
ABOUT BISHOP-ELECT MICHAEL

Bishop-elect Michael will be translated from the United Dioceses of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory to the United Dioceses of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe on Maundy Thursday, 14th April. Below a little information about him:

The Right Reverend Michael Burrows (born 1961) was ordained in 1987 after graduating from Trinity College Dublin. He initially served as Curate of Douglas with Frankfield, in the Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross (1987-1991). He was subsequently Chaplain of Trinity College Dublin (1991-1994), during which time he was also a Lecturer in Church History and Liturgy at the Church of Ireland Theological College. He returned to Cork, Cloyne and Ross as Rector of

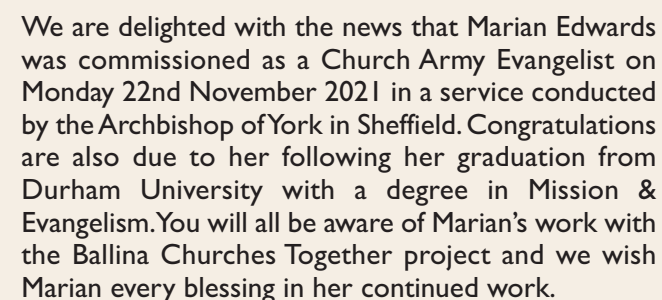
Bandon (1994-2002) before becoming Dean of Cork and Incumbent of St Fin Barre's (2002-2006).

He was elected Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory in March 2006 and consecrated as bishop in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, in July of that year. Bishop Burrows is Chair of the Church of Ireland's Commission for Christian Unity and Dialogue, Chair of the Board of Governors of the Anglican Centre in Rome, Co-Chair of the Church of Ireland-Methodist Covenant Council, and Patron of the Irish Guild of the Church (Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise). He is married to Claire with four grown-up children, Henry, Andrew, Grainne and James, and is a keen railway enthusiast and organist.



Published by Beaten Track – beatentrackpublishing.com.
Many of the characters will be familiar to readers of Bishop, Ted's first novel, also available from Beaten Track Publishing.

APPOINTMENTS



In November Provost Lynda Peilow was appointed by the House of Bishops as the Church of Ireland's Central Director of Ordinands. This is an important role within the Central Church to which Canon Lynda brings great experience from her own journey in ministry. We wish her every blessing in this influential role as she seeks to guide those who have responsibility for the encouragement of call and vocation.



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CHURCH ARMY

'What motivated Wilson Carlile?'

2022 marks the 140th anniversary of the founding of Church Army. Who was its founder and what motivated him to take the steps he took?

Wilson Carlile was a man who lived an interesting and colourful life. Prior to becoming a Christian, he was a successful businessman, importing cloth from Europe, where he spent much time travelling on the continent. This was not a risk-free adventure, as the Franco-Prussian war was raging during his travels and the sights that he witnessed left an impression on him. He had 'seen men march out, in all the glory of health ... to be mangled and killed.' This led him to search for some philosophy of assurance as to the meaning of life ... something to make sense of the pain and

destruction, which he has witnessed. He read philosophers, such as Kant, Descartes and Nietzsche. All was going well for him, until in 1873 his business was almost wiped out by crashes on the stock markets, reducing his personal wealth by 95%. This left him in a dark depressive state of mind: he had worked for many years to grow his business and it had almost been the sole focus of his energies. His aunt had written to him for years trying to persuade him of the value of Christianity and of his need for Jesus, but until now he had roundly rejected her assertion. Now, when he had lost all he had worked for, he saw how his energy had been misplaced, and became convinced



that he must give his life to Jesus, and work for the rest of his days for him.

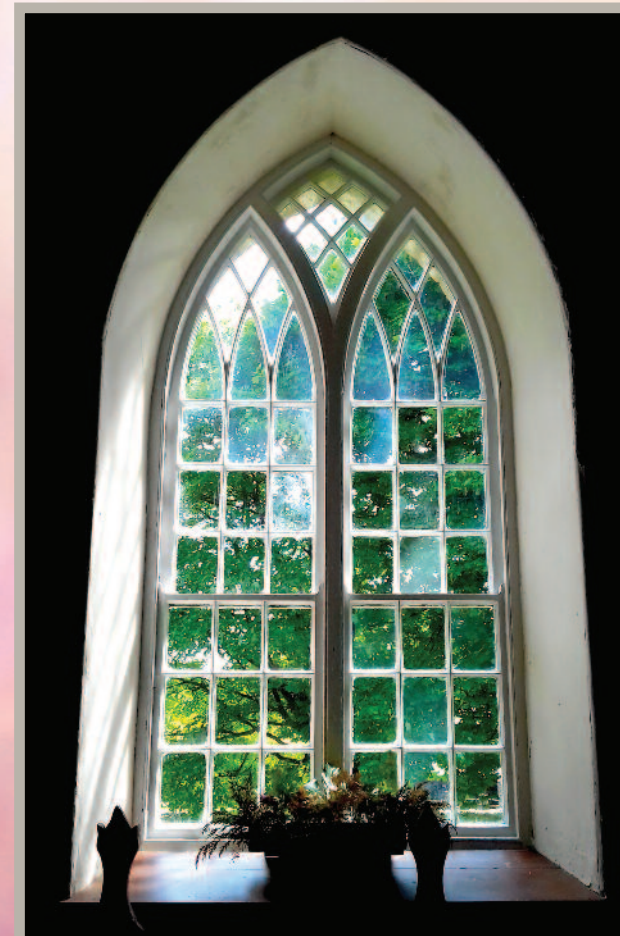
Wilson began to work almost immediately to bring others to faith, engaging in evangelism, youth work, service of others, and eventually came to the conclusion he was being called to ordained ministry. This early passion for evangelism returned during his curacy in Kensington (an area which included significant deprivation at the time), and with the

blessing of his Vicar he started working to reach out to those with no interest in faith, religion, or spirituality. Out of this work Church Army was founded in 1882. It wasn't long after its founding, 1883 in fact, that Carlile began to formally recruit, train, and send out evangelists to work in the Church of England. He recognised the need in the wider Church for those passionate to share their faith to be suitably equipped to do so. The foundations he laid of evangelism, service to those on the margins, and of bringing the love of God to those who don't know it, are still the foundations of Church Army today, and can be seen in our mission statement:

We want everyone everywhere to encounter God's love and be empowered to transform their communities through faith shared in words and action. (Written by Jonny Price, published by Church Army and used by permission).

What we really want to be known for is how we walk alongside and love those who are struggling, especially the marginalised. Our continuing pastoral care work in Ballina involves connecting with people who struggle with loneliness and isolation. Others have to deal with debilitating physical and mental illnesses on a daily basis. We support women who experience domestic violence. We visit those living alone. We also connect with people every day on the streets of Ballina. Some of these people battle with alcoholism, drug addictions and have criminal records. Recently, we also received a request for a Life Application Bible from an inmate in prison. Charles Wesley's hymn is one of my favourites:

'Long my imprisoned spirit
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;



Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray,
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free;
I rose, went forth and followed Thee.

Amazing Love! How can it be
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me!

God's mercy is available to all, even 'the least of these'
(Matthew 25 vs 44-45).

CHRISTMAS TIME

At Christmastime, we distributed 'Good News' gift bags to 40 families in the community. Thanks to generous donations, we were also able to give Bibles to adults and gift bags to the elderly and their 'carers'. We also had an 'impromptu' Carol Service in one of the housing estates, which was attended by volunteers and local families. As we enjoyed a long spell of fine weather, we were also able to do 'Chalk Art' at St. Muredach's Cathedral. Two artistic teenage girls, who



attend Gortner Abbey in Crossmolina, joined in. It was their first time participating, and together, we hope to plan new artistic projects for 2022.

BIBLE STUDY



In January, we began a new Bible Study series in 'Discipleship'. Using a method called Discovery Bible Studies, we read the Bible passage several times and then ask people to retell the story in their own words. Once people are happy with the story, we discuss the following questions:

- What does this teach me about God?
- What does this teach us about people (about me)?
- Why did God write this?
- If this is God's word for my life ... how will I obey it?
- What does God want me to do?
- Who am I going to tell?

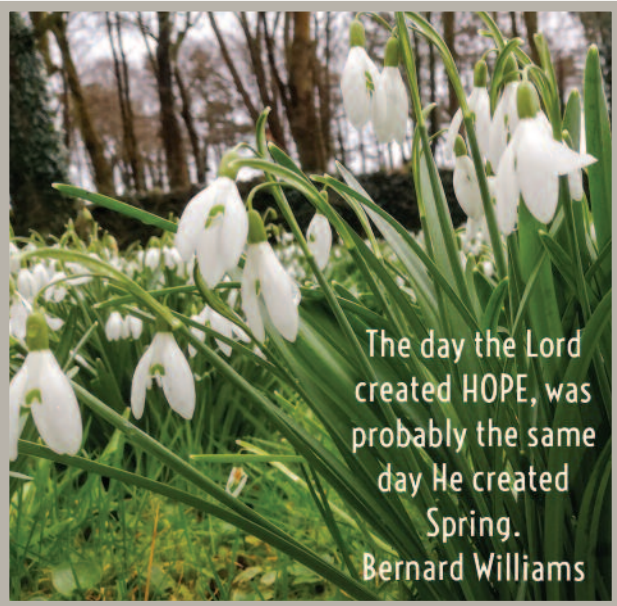
PRAYER MEETING

Every Sunday evening, we meet on-line to pray for the

work of Ballina Churches Together, the work of the Diocese and the needs of individuals.

COMMISSIONING of CHURCH ARMY EVANGELISTS

On Monday 22nd November 2021, Marian Edwards and Matt Gould were both Commissioned as Church Army Evangelists and admitted into the Office of Evangelist in Sheffield. The service was led by the Archbishop of York, the Rt. Hon. Stephen Cottrell and Ven. Peter Rouch, CEO of Church Army.



Matt Gould was appointed as Lead Evangelist and community leader at the Carraig Centre in Ballincollig. This appointment is part of the Partnership between Church Army, the Diocese of Cork Cloyne and Ross and the Carraig Centre/Carrigrohane Union of Parishes.







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ST PATRICK'S IN KILLALA

The Cathedral Church of St Patrick, Killala, which is not only one of Ireland's smallest cathedrals but also one of its oldest is situated on the west side of Killala Bay. The Episcopal See of Killala is said to have been founded between 434 and 441 by St Patrick himself. According to one tradition Patrick is said to have worked as a slave in the hills around Killala and here developed his love of the country, its people and its language. When he returned as a missionary to Ireland he is said to have landed close to Foclut (Foghill), near Killala.¹

Following the founding of the See here by St Patrick a monastic settlement grew and by medieval times Killala was a town, one of the oldest in the west of Ireland.

There has been a church on the site for centuries, evidenced by the 9th century souterrain in the graveyard which has several chambers contained

within. By the royal visitation in 1615 the cathedral was recorded as a ruin, which led to the current cathedral being built in 1670. The tower and spire were added in 1817 and a restoration carried out in the 1990s. The building is in the gothic style and has interior stone walls, box pews, and a gallery which houses a rare Telford organ, dating from 1838.



¹ MacNeill, Patrick, "The Identification of Foclut", in Journal of the Galway Archaeological and Historical Society, Vol. 22, No. 3/4 (1947), pp. 164-173.



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MOTHERS' UNION

Theme for 2022 “Transformation-Now”



We hope that you and your family are all well. Perhaps you are trying to adjust to the current Covid situation with fewer restrictions or perhaps all the restrictions will be gone by the time this current issue is in your hands but I hope you are still endeavouring to keep safe, especially if you did not contract the virus so far, a major triumph in itself!

We all had to adapt and change the way we led our lives in recent times and no doubt we will carry some of these changes into the future because of the benefits that they bring to ourselves, our families and our communities.

The Mothers' Union evolving response to the effects of a global pandemic combined with the start of a new triennium presents an opportunity to look to the future with fresh vision as we adapt and learn to thrive in these changing times.

Mothers' Union members, all over, have shown amazing

resilience, responsiveness and adaptability. Now is the time to build on this experience to:

- Transform ourselves, personally and spiritually, to live out our faith
- Transform the communities in which we work and of which we are a part to reflect Christ's kingdom
- Transform the organisation to be relevant for 21st century life.

When we start to think about any transformation - whether for ourselves, our families, a place of work or any organisation - we tend to approach this from our experiences and the way we have done things in the past and then we move forward with the intention to do better just as in the well-known television programme Operation Transformation!

During periods of lockdown and social distancing Mothers' Union reached out, operated and communicated as it never had before.

As we start a new triennium, it's a great time to look ahead at how we might meet, what we might do and how we keep in touch in 2022 and beyond.

“I know the plans and thoughts that I have for you,” says the Lord, plans for peace and well-being and not for disaster; to give you a future and a hope.”
Jeremiah 29:11

Her bed faces the door
My seat faces the window
We hold hands, warming mine

She is consumed by cramps
Oh God, Oh God, help me
What can I do, I hold on

Eyes closed, door miles away
Legs caught in the duvet
Maybe a little drink?

My mind floats ahead
Through the window
Spruce, tops swaying

TODAY'S ISSUE

Planted before her birth?
Have withstood gales before
These days, three in a row

She takes the drink in hands
It's all she takes this weather
Full of nourishment, calories

We resume holding hands
Now my hands are warm
Just about life in her today

The crows are returning
Floating around tree tops
She can hear their crackles

Her parents are long gone
She has no siblings, sadness
Soon be the end of her line

Cramps are today's issue
That's what the staff hear
Hers a lifetime of issues

Ninety three and
three months today

By Raymond Fox

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OLD SCHOOL



My eldest daughter Harvest, keeps telling me 'Dad get with it, you're so old school!' I'm choosing to take that as a compliment, I like being old school and I suppose I am. My desk phone is the first phone my grandmother had from the 1950's, I'll only shoot side by side and my personal preference is for Form One worship!

While I have a smart phone and use it every day, I'm not fussed on it; I'd prefer not to have one at all, I now mostly leave it in the car when I'm visiting or at a meeting. I've come to resent the constant buzzing in my pocket and the mild anxiety with not being able to answer or see who it is. If my daughter says I'm old school, my long-suffering wife says I'm a 'Luddite'. Until last year I simply refused to engage in social media, how I used to smile when she got irate because people tried to contact me through her Facebook! Although that all changed with the Covid-19 situation, I'm relieved I've now dropped back off the edge. My Facebook account was hacked and I was only too happy to let it go.

I never got past social contact being over the airwaves in the late 70's and early 80's with Citizen's Band Radios (CB's)! I can remember sitting in dad's car for hours talking to people throughout Bangor, and sometimes further afield when the skip was good. In the days of old glory these rigs were illegal sets brought in from the USA using the old 27 MHz. We used the lingo and handles made famous in popular culture through the great movies of the time such as 'Convoy' (Kris Kristofferson 1978) and 'Smokey and the Bandit' (Burt Reynolds 1977). Who could resist passing information driver-to-driver and getting one over Dirty Lyle (Ernest Borgnine) the crooked cop. I'm still at it!

In both cars Jen and I have modern CB's. Here in the West of Ireland you'll all be familiar with, and suffer from, local black spots with no mobile signal coverage; doesn't bother us! When Jen and I have to travel in the same direction in two cars, which can be quite often, we switch from mobile phone to CB. Holding a mic is still the only legal way to communicate while driving. In the old days Channel 19 was used to make a copy, we choose to use Chanel 22 and apart from us the air waves are completely silent. We do see others with antennas on the car roof, but most of those guys are

fairly heavy duty using both the regulated and free bands of the amateur (ham) radio frequencies! Have a look at just how many cars with an extra antenna you see, there's always a few round Achill! However when I wanted one I was able to get a rig from a guy, there's always a guy, an old enthusiast from the day so I was able to buy a radio here in Ballina!

When we are fortunate enough to hear others on the air waves most guys just chat now, but I'm a purist still using handles and the ten codes. Our handles are Sam Eagle, Long Tall Sally and Belfast Bap; I'll leave it to you to work out who's who, and, yes, even Kizzy can make a call!

Staying connected is a necessity in the 21st Century, as I've said I often find being constantly contactable tiresome and the expectation of so many people is an immediate response. Communication on the airwaves is relaxed, easy and Fun with a capital 'F'. There's no licence fee, no connection charge and no pay as you go or monthly bills. You buy a radio and you're connected for free for the rest of your life. You don't even need to be mobile you can have a rig set up as a base station in the house.

As I think of our small community of the Church of Ireland and the importance of staying connected and looking out for each other in isolated, rural communities I think the airwaves of CB radio as an underused and wasted resource. As I visit round my own parishes and further throughout the diocese I acknowledge one of the biggest problems for many people in this modern age are feelings of loneliness and isolation, which is hugely ironic in a world that is entirely connected. I dream of the old days and wonder how much fun it would be if we had radios, arranging meetings in car parks (eyeballs) for gathering socially at the weekends. Hearing each other on the airwaves and knowing we had something in common. It's a great way to stay connected, to pass on information and news and you can listen in just for the craic. Can you imagine driving along minding your own business and getting a call from the 'Big B' when he arrives!

This is Sam Eagle saying 10 - 10 till we do it again! Over and out.

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We are delighted to learn that Bishop Michael Burrows will be translating to the Diocese during Holy Week 2022, we will continue hold both +Michael and his family in prayer during this period of transition.

At the time of writing, we are about to enter a turning point in the Christian Year – The Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, also known as Candlemas. We have moved from Christmas and Epiphany and are at the point when we turn attention towards Lent and Easter. In many ways the readings within Luke's Gospel, rich in illustration and description, points us to a turning point. The two elderly people, Anna, and Simeon, who have waited for the fulfilment of God's promised deliverance meet the young couple with the Christ Child and their joy is complete. The words of Simeon, known to us in the canticle Nunc Dimittis, encapsulate the moment in its entirety and yet there is a note of solemnity in this meeting. Simeon tells Mary that a sword will pierce her own soul in line with the ultimate destiny of Jesus Christ. We are also at that point within our Christian year; the joy of the incarnation, the joy of 'God with us' has passed as we now focus on Lent, Holy Week and Easter.

Happy New Year!

May I begin by thanking all the clergy who have helped, and continue to help with the services in both Tubbercurry and Rathbarron during this time of vacancy. I should also like to thank the members of both St Georges and Killoran for the warm welcome which the visiting clergy have received, and for their continued patience during the vacancy.

A vacancy inspection was carried out by the Rural Dean and the Archdeacon on the 22nd November, which included the formal handover from the previous incumbent, the Rev. Peter Norman to the Rural Dean. I would like to thank the Rev. Peter Norman for his help in ensuring that the process was completed without let or hindrance.

Yet, there are turning points for all of us in our meeting with Jesus Christ and our life together. For our parishes there is the turning point of how our churches of St George and Killoran will be led going forward. There is the further turning point of how our diocese of Tuam, Limerick & Killaloe will be led by our



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new Bishop and then there is the turning point of the current world health crisis. With all this ahead of us, perhaps the example of Simeon and Anna can help. They waited patiently but they did not wait without expectation. As we go forward together, we shall

continue to wait patiently on all the turning points that we are due to encounter this year with Jesus Christ and his Church.



AUGHAVAL GROUP

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

Remembrance at the Mayo Peace Park

A wet 11th November saw a gathering at Mayo Peace Park for an Act of Remembrance. This was the first time since 2019 that this event had taken place due to COVID-19 and it was a suitably solemn affair. There was the reading of poetry, prayers and the Last Post and Reveille and it was an honour to take part.



200th Anniversary at Turlough

A very subdued anniversary service was held in Turlough on Saturday 27th November to mark the 200th anniversary of the consecration of the church.

Due to restrictions, and concerns about rising numbers, only a handful of invitations had been sent out, and many of those invited chose to stay away in order to keep safe. While it was not the way we might have chosen to celebrate this anniversary, nevertheless it was a memorable service, due in no small part to the Archdeacon's sermon and a helium balloon that is still to come down from the ceiling! Those who were there said it was a lovely occasion and while we couldn't have the usual refreshments afterwards we are exploring ways of coming together as a congregation over food at some stage this year.

Christmas

The Christmas celebrations in 2021 were a little subdued and also fraught with anxiety about what the government restrictions would be at the time. My thanks to all in every parish who decorated for Christmas, helped in other ways to prepare for the season and welcomed people at the door for our Christmas services. Your help and contribution was very much appreciated.

It was a pleasure to have the children from Holy Trinity National School use the church for their Christmas play this year. Although COVID meant that they couldn't have all their families in attendance it was lovely to see them enjoy the fruits of their own efforts as they performed their play for each other, their teachers and school staff, and a delighted Canon Jen!

Vigil for Ashling Murphy

There was a corporate feeling of shock as we learned



of the death of Ashling Murphy in Tullamore. As the mother of a child in 1st class I couldn't help but feel for all her wee pupils who lost their teacher that day. A vigil was organised in Westport and Fr Charlie and I were pleased to lead the collected folk in prayer. People lined the footpaths around the Carrowbeg running through the mall and it was humbling to see as the light of candles lit the river. Her family and friends remain in our prayers.

Parish readers

I am pleased to let you know that Parish Reader training/refreshing will be happening in Westport soon. Two parish readers will be refreshing their training and two new parish readers will be trained as we begin to move back into the leading of worship being shared in Holy Trinity.

150th anniversary celebrations in Westport

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the consecration of Holy Trinity in Westport. The Select Vestry are planning a series of events, which begins with a 'Concert for Saint Patrick' on Saturday 19th March at 4.00pm. This concert will include Westport Children's Choir, Westport Youth Choir and includes a new composition called 'Beo' by singer Breda Mayock. Tickets are available now from the Rector or members of Select Vestry.

New Bishop

We were pleased to hear of the election of the Rt Revd Michael Burrows as Bishop of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe. We look forward to his ministry here and will keep him, his wife Claire, and their family in our prayers as they prepare for the move west.

Easter services

The services for Holy Week and Easter in the Group are yet to be decided. Details will be sent out using the usual parish channels well in advance.

From the registers

Christian Burial

Sheila Kilkelly, Distillery Road, Westport, aged 89. Monday 10th January 2022 at 11.00am in Holy Trinity, Westport, followed by cremation in Shannon Crematorium.

Caroline Russell-Scarr, Newport, Co. Mayo, aged 70. Tuesday 25th January 2022 at 12 noon in Shannon Crematorium.

ST. THOMAS, DUGORT



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

New Year greetings to all our parish community, those of us here on the island and those always linked in with us from other towns and cities.

As I write this, the crocus blossoms have just come into flower outside in the garden. New life in springtime. So much to be thankful for. We re-opened on Sunday 23rd January for our first Service of Holy Communion in 2022. What a joy it was for us all to be gathered together again in prayer.

For the next two months up until Easter these are the dates of our Services:

Sunday 13th February	Morning Prayer
Sunday 27th February	Holy Communion
Sunday 13th March	Morning Prayer
Sunday 27th March	Holy Communion
Sunday 10th April	Morning Prayer
	Palm Sunday
Friday 15th April	Good Friday
	Tenebrae Service 8pm
Sunday 17th April	Easter Holy Communion Service 11.30am
Sunday 24th April	Holy Communion

We look forward to welcoming visiting parishioners over the Easter Feast.

Prayers and Blessings to everyone.



GALWAY & KILCUMMIN GROUP

Rector: The Very Revd Lynda Peilow
Tel: 091 521914
Email: rector@stnicholas.ie
Revd Carole Reynolds Tel : 087 6067848
Rev Alistair Doyle Tel : 086 608 1223
Facebook: www.facebook.com/stnicholasgalway/
YouTube https://youtu.be/0cpklQfv1fA



Revd Carole Reynolds

Service Times Sundays

8.30am Said Eucharist St Nicholas' Collegiate Church
11am Sung Eucharist – St Nicholas' Collegiate Church
11am Service in Kilcummin, Oughterard

10.30am each Wednesday, Service in St Nicholas' Collegiate Church.

Everyone Welcome.



Rev Alistair Doyle

Holy Baptism

We welcome Theodore Rhys Finn, son of Ella Tyrrell and Paul Finn, who was baptised into the fellowship of Christs Church on Sunday 16th December. May he shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father.

Congratulations

We send our good wishes to James McKin and Sarah Quinn, who were married at St Nicholas on Saturday

13th November. We wish them every joy and blessing in this new chapter of their lives.

Compline

Through February and March Compline returns on Thursday evenings at 8pm in St Nicholas'. These services may be attended in person and will also be livestreamed on facebook and zoom. If you would like a zoom link, please contact one of the clergy team.

Chatty Crafters

Chatty Crafters meet every Wednesday in the Church, socially distanced at 11am, following the 10.30 midweek Eucharist. Everyone is welcome.

Re-open at last!

We are delighted to that St Nicholas' has reopened to visitors, tourists and those wishing to say a prayer or light a candle. We are delighted that this is possible due to the appointment of Michelle Moore Temple, our new Tourism and Events Development Assistant, and the team of volunteers who are collaborating with her on the welcome desk.

For now the plan is to open the church Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10.00am to 1.00pm, then in the afternoon from 2.00pm to 5.00pm. However, as we move into spring and summer we hope to open the church supervised six days a week.

Conservation Management Plan

On 5th December, the eve of St Nicholas' Day the parish launched the Conservation Management Plan in St Nicholas' at the Sunday service. This plan has been in the making for a considerable time. It is fitting that the plan was launched in the Season of Advent,

the season of hope, new beginnings, and the promise of the light of Christ guiding our way forward. The CMP is the work of Margaret Quinlan, a conservation architect, the select vestries of recent years, and a team of experts. It encapsulates St Nicholas Collegiate Church past, present and future, enabling us to turn our gaze back to history, to celebrate who we are and what we have, whilst equipping those entrusted with our church in the future to plan so that we can continue to enrich the spiritual, cultural and community life at the heart of Galway City. Whilst not the intended launch with all the planned bells and whistles, there is no better place to launch a plan for the future of the church than in the Sunday Eucharist, as we gathered as God's people.

Select Vestry News

The Select Vestries continue to meet regularly to make decisions for the parish in relation to matters of fabric, finance, and compliance. We are served well by both vestries in Kilcummin and St Nicholas'.

Kilcummin has had a busy year in making repairs to the bell, the roof and interior ceilings and insulation. Challenging but necessary projects to embrace, the vestry showed great courage and determination. It is a testimony to the love and dedication they have for their church, and an investment into the future for Kilcummin Church of Ireland, Oughterard.

St Nicholas' similarly is faithfully served by a talented team of dedicated parishioners who serve on vestry with their wisdom, skill, and expertise, as we navigate a way forward with tourism, events, and the CMP. A particular word of thanks to Heather Pope who has decided to step down from her role as Treasurer in St Nicholas'. Heather has served the parish tirelessly

in the last 14 years, and has been a capable, diligent, and motivated Treasurer. We have been blessed with her gifts and abilities. We are all incredibly grateful to the work, time, love, and devotion she has shown St Nicholas'. Heather will step down as Parish Treasurer at the end of the year but will continue to serve on the select vestry. As we start a new financial year, we can report that Bridget-Anne Walsh will take on the role as Parish Treasurer in St Nicholas, and she will be assisted by Carol Stevens. We thank them both in advance for taking on the roles and they are already getting to grips with all the tasks in hand. We assure them of our prayerful support and are encouraged by their enthusiasm and willingness in their new roles.

MU

On Saturday 27th November, a group stood together in a global vigil against gender-based violence. We met outside St Nicholas' for 3 minutes silence at 1.03pm.



Christmas Services

This year our Christmas services were ticketed, because seats had to be limited and so we hosted a



second civic carol service on Sunday 16th December. A huge thank you to Mark Duley, the choir, the churchwardens, the stewards, the AV team and all who made sure that we could safely accommodate the congregations during the Christmas season.

The Christmas Fayre - was a wonderful success. A special thanks to everyone who donated, contributed, baked, made crafts, helped on the day, set up and cleared up. It exceeded all expectations. More than anything monetary there was great fun and fellowship, friendships old and new, whilst being especially carefully amid the pandemic.

Charities at Christmas – The St Nicholas' Giving Tree ran throughout Advent for in aid of Cope Galway's Domestic Violence and Homeless Services. Like last year we took the initiative online and had a great response. The Christmas Carol services collection was divided between UNICEF give a vaccine and Christian Aid's, Sandbags for Sudan.

Sympathy – We extend our deepest sympathy to Trevor and Marjorie McCamley and their family following the death of Trevor's brother Stanley in Dublin. We hold them in our thoughts and prayers at this sad time.

Our New Bishop

We are delighted that a new Bishop has been appointed and eagerly await his arrival.



KILLALA GROUP

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

In the Gospel story, once Jesus had established his own ministry and gathered his disciples around him, he begins the work of sending them out in his name; in the exercising of their own ministries and the very beginnings and patterns of the Church. As he sends them out he tells them:

'Take nothing for the journey—no staff, no bag, no bread, no money, no extra shirt'. (Luke 9: 3)
As they travel they are to preach the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick.

Holy Week Walk

Towards the end of last year the Kilmoremoy Union and Killala Union united to become the Killala Group. In celebration of this union, and as we approach Holy Week, Rev'd Martin and I will be walking (and maybe cycling a wee bit) the whole of the Parish from St John's, Ballycastle to St Anne's, Easkey, almost 50km. As we do this we'll be stopping at each Parish Church and holding a service, inviting parishioners and the wider community to gather to worship with us. Like those first disciples we will take nothing with us, rather we'll be relying of the generosity of

parishioners and strangers for all our needs. In being ministered to, and as we walk, we will share the Kingdom of God and will offer prayers of healing for the sick as we travel. Do look out for us along the route (detailed below), and do please come and worship with us and walk with us awhile.

Water Drops

We welcomed a visit to the diocese by Ronnie and Maggie Briggs, directors of the charity Water Drops, with whom we have been working in our water project which we sponsored last Lent with our reading of the Bible. Ronnie addressed the congregation of Kilglass and gave an update of the project. He was able to tell us that the drilling had to go much deeper than expected to find water and so had fallen short in funding by some €2000. Kilglass parishioner Catherine Walsh determined to help the project and, supported by friends and parishioners, held a Sale of Work. This was a great success and resulted in a final total of €3000.04 being raised, a fantastic effort and all of which goes directly to the project and completes the drilling of the bore hole. A huge thank you to Catherine and all who supported her. A simple act of witness that changes the lives of so many in Kajiado Diocese.

St Patrick's Day

The Cathedral Church of Killala has a long and fitting link and history with Saint Patrick. Within the Church of Ireland there are five cathedrals designated to the memory of Patrick, including the National Cathedral in Dublin and our own Cathedral here in Killala. As the whole world rejoices in their Irish roots on this special day it is my hope to have a celebration of Holy Communion beginning on Wednesday 16th March at 11.30pm as we become the first celebration on the Patron's Day within the Island. If you're feeling up for a late night do please come along to join us.

GFS Visit to Enniscoe

Following the closure of so many church organisations we were delighted that the GFS managed to take the girls to Enniscoe House on Saturday 18th December. The girls all visited Santa and enjoyed hot chocolate together and finished their day with a walk in the woods. This was a super opportunity for the girls to meet each other, to catch up and share in the excitement of Christmas. A huge thank you to all the leaders of GFS in their continued support of the girls. As we approach Easter the girls will be invited to Messy Church in St Michael's on Good Friday to hear the Easter story and enjoy some crafts and fun with Rev'd Martin.

Registers

The families of Richard and Julia Morrow gathered in St Michael's for the Baptism of their son William on the feast of St John the Evangelist, Monday 27th December. Everyone enjoyed the intimacy of the day at this special time between Christmas and the New Year. We thank the Rev'd Clive Moore for his preparation and conducting of the service.

It was with sadness that the community of Killala heard of the sudden passing of Violet Carroll. Violet was an active and supportive member of the congregation and had been out in church only a few weeks before and supporting Dolly in the shop over the summer.

We were also saddened to hear of the passing of June Jennings. Although she hadn't been able to attend in recent years she had long been a supporter of the cathedral.

A Prayer for Bishop Michael

We are looking forward to +Michael coming west to minister among us and as we wait, so we pray: Eternal Father, you tend your Church in many ways and rule over us with love. You have chosen your servant +Michael to be a shepherd of your flock in this diocese of Tuam, Limerick & Killaloe. As he prepares to come among us give him a spirit of courage and right judgment, a spirit of wisdom and love; by governing with fidelity those entrusted to his care, may he build your Church as a sign of Unity and Salvation to your world. Amen.

Dates for the Diary

Ash Wednesday
Wednesday 2nd March 2022
St Michael's, Ballina 11.00am
Killanley, Castleconnor: Service of Compline 8.00pm
St Anne's, Easkey: Service of Compline 8.00pm
St Mary's, Crossmolina: Service of Compline 8.00pm

St Patrick's Day

Wednesday 16th March 2022
The First Communion of St Patrick's Day, The Cathedral Church of St Patrick, Killala, 11.30pm
Thursday 17th March 2022
Killanley, Castleconnor: Holy Communion 11.00am
(Note change of time)

Holy Week Walk

Palm Sunday: Killala Cathedral 10.00am the walk begins.
Monday of Holy Week: St John's, Ballycastle 10.00am.
St Mary's, Crossmolina 8.00pm



Tuesday of Holy Week: St Anne's, Easkey 10.00am.
Kilglass Parish, Enniscrone 8.00pm
Wednesday of Holy Week: Killanley, Castleconnor,
Tenebrae 8.00pm

Maundy Thursday
St Michael's, Ballina. The Institution of the Lord's
Supper 11.00am
St John's, Ballycastle. The Institution of the Lord's
Supper 6.00pm
St Mary's, Crossmolina. The Institution of the Lord's
Supper 8.00pm

Good Friday
St Michael's, Ballina.
Messy Church for GFS & St Michael's NS
10.30am - 11.30am
The Last Three Hours 12noon - 3.00pm
St Mary's, Crossmolina. The Last Three Hours
12noon - 3.00pm

Easter Day - Holy Communion
St John's, Ballycastle 10.00am
Killala Cathedral 10.00am
St Anne's, Easkey 10.00am

Kilglass, Enniscrone 10.00am
Killanley, Castleconnor 10.00am
St Michael's, Ballina 11.30am
St Mary's, Crossmolina 12noon

Parish Registers
Holy Baptism
Morrow, William James Robert, son Richard and Julia
Morrow. Baptised in St Michael's, Ballina, on the feast
of St. John the Evangelist (27th December 2021)
Service conducted by the Rev'd Clive Moore.

Myles, Leah & Keira, daughters of Sarah & Paul Myles
of Easkey. Baptised in Kilglass Parish Church, on
Sunday 19th December 2021, service conducted by
the Rev'd Karen Duignan.

Smith, Stella Audrey, daughter of Tim & Jean Smith of
NSW, Australia. Baptised in Kilglass Parish Church on
Sunday 6th February 2022. Service conducted by Rev'd
Karen Duignan.

Burial of the Dead
Garwood, Evelyn Lillian Dorothy (aged 94 years) late
of Aclare and Riverview Nursing Home, Ballina. In

Killanley Church (Castleconnor) on Saturday 26th
January 2022, followed by cremation at Shannon
Crematorium. Service conducted by Rev. Caroline
Morrow and Rev. Karen Duignan.

Carroll, Violet (aged 87 years) late of Ballysokeery,
Killala. In the Cathedral Church of St Patrick, Killala
on Saturday 11th December 2021 followed by burial
in Gorey, Co. Wexford. Service conducted by Ven.
Stephen McWhirter.

Jennings, June Rita (aged 89 years) late of Meelick
Cottage, Crosspatrick, Killala. In the Cathedral
Church of St Patrick, Killala on Friday 11th February
2022, followed by cremation at Shannon
Crematorium. Service conducted by Ven. Stephen
McWhirter and Rev Martin Steele.



**ST ANNE'S, EASKEY
& KILGLASS PARISH**

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

baptism, so I took him at his word and got everyone
nice and soggy!



Despite Covid 19 restrictions we've had a busy
Autumn/Winter. On 21st November Kilglass parish
held a "Fair for Water Drops", to raise funds for the
clean water project in Kenya which our Diocese has
been involved with over the past number of years.
The sum of €3,000 was raised. Very well done to
everyone who donated their time and energy to this.



On the 19th December my Christmas celebrations
got a 'kick-start' when I conducted my first baptism
service. Leah and Keira Myles were baptised in
Kilglass. While I was in training one of my lecturers
said to throw lots of water on a child's head during a





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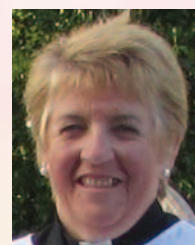
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E:rev.andrew.ison@gmail.com T: 89 2221483

Continuing onwards toward Christmas, we had lovely Carol Services in both Easkey and Kilglass. Thank you to everyone who read and helped to make the services special. The children of Leaffoney NS read lessons and sang for us in Kilglass. Kelly Greer also gave a wonderful display of her skill as she played a voluntary before the service.

On 6th February 2022, Stella Audrey Smith was baptised in Kilglass – yet another wet little girl! As I write these notes I feel a great sense of excitement. Our Diocese is moving into a new chapter moving forward, newly united, under our soon-to-be Bishop. I am very much looking forward to meeting and working with Bishop Michael in years to come.



KILLANLEY – CASTLECONNOR

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

As I write it's 1st February and Christmas seems as far away as ever. There's a grand stretch in the evenings. Spring is around the corner and all the bulbs are starting to emerge from the ground. At present there are plenty of snowdrops and crocus in flower and the daffodils are beginning to emerge. By St Patrick's day, I hope to see some daffodils in flower.

Restrictions are lifting slowly and although we still need to mask up, things are slowly returning to a new normal! Singing has resumed along with the lesser need for social distancing. Hopefully we continue to move on in a positive way and finally see the back of these past two years of the pandemic.

It has been announced that we now have a new bishop-elect. The Right Rev Michael Burrows will be installed as Bishop of this new amalgamated diocese of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe during the month of April. I look forward to working alongside him and can't wait to welcome him back to Killanley.

Christmas Day Service

Christmas services were able to resume albeit with a small attendance. Unfortunately, due to the Omicron

variant, many were unable to attend. I had been to visit Ard na Greine nursing home in Enniscrone in mid-December where I had the privilege of celebrating communion with some of the residents. I hope to make this an ongoing monthly service.

Bereavement

We extend our sympathies to Anne and Mick Collins on the death of Anne's mum, Evelyn Garwood, formerly from Aclare, Co. Sligo, at Riverview Nursing Home, Ballina on 26 January 2022.

Her funeral service was held at Killanley and then her remains were brought to Shannon Crematorium. Her ashes are to be interred at a later date in Spain, alongside her husband Albert and her granddaughter Victoria.

Congratulations

Great excitement in our own house as we received the news from New Zealand that our son Richard had proposed to his girlfriend Kryselle Koopman on 8th January 2022. The wedding will take place in New Zealand, so let's hope restrictions are lifted soon!

To keep up to date with all that's happening in the church, why not check out our Facebook page; Killanley Church.



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

Christmas Services

Carol Services were held in all three churches on the Sunday before Christmas. We were unable to hold a united service but really appreciated the effort made by everyone to make Christmas a time of celebration and goodwill. Our churches were so tastefully decorated which brought a lightness and an atmosphere to the occasion. Well done and thank you to those involved and also to those who came out to the services on Christmas Eve and Christmas morning.

Baptism

Sunday 12th December was a very pleasant occasion in Skreen Parish Church as family and friends gathered for the baptism of Evelyn Carter, daughter of Mark and Katherine of Dromard, Skreen. Our prayer is that parents and godparents and all those who supported them will honour their pledge as found in the Baptismal Service.

Bereavements



The funeral service of Mr. Ernie Morrison of Dunowla, Templeboy took place in St Mary's, Kilmacshalgan, on Tuesday 7th December. Ernie was a quiet hardworking man who, to support his family and augment the farm income, worked in a number of different places. A highly regarded neighbour who was always willing to lend a hand and help out where needed. His motto was time was never an issue, "the man who made time made plenty of it". His family have wonderful memories of their Sunday outings in the car being regaled with his many stories. To his wife Rebecca and

family, Aileen, John, Marie, Emma, Yvonne and Pam we extend our very sincere sympathy.

On Sunday 30th January we learned of the passing of Mr. Billy Martin of Lurgan, Co. Armagh. Billy practiced as a veterinary surgeon in Ballina and covered a big area including Skreen. He had a great regard for the area and its people and was a frequent worshipper in Skreen Parish Church. He expressed his affection for the parish by being a generous benefactor, a gesture which was much appreciated and continues to help in ways. To those who will mourn his passing we extend our grateful appreciation and our sincere sympathy.

Candlelit vigil

This community joined with the rest of the country in the outpouring of revulsion and sadness felt at the murder of Ashling Murphy in Tullamore, Co. Offaly. A candlelit vigil was held at Skreen, Dromard Community Centre. The proceedings were led by Canon Noel Regan and Fr. Michael Gilroy.

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As we gathered word was spreading that one in our community, Mr. Tom Niland, had been very badly injured in an aggravated burglary at his home. Tom has been in our prayers as he is now for some time in intensive care in Sligo University Hospital. We remember all who are in hospitals and Nursing Homes and pray that they will know God's goodness to us through the healing hands of those who care for them. May the Spirit of the living God fall on all who seek His presence with them.

Lenten and Easter Services

2nd March Ash Wednesday
Christ Church 8.00pm

17th March St. Patrick's Day.
10.00am. H.C. Skreen Parish Church.
14th April, Maundy Thursday.
8.00pm H.C. St. Mary's Kilmacshagan.
15th April Good Friday.
8.00pm Skreen Parish Church. Reading of the Passion.
17th April Easter Day.
H.C. in all three churches at usual times of 10.00am,
11.00am, and 12noon.



CROSSMOLINA AND BALLYCASTLE

Revd Clive Moore
E-mail: 1clvmoore@gmail.com
Phone: 087-6563238

Change is upon us as I write this. The lengthening days, the various hints of transforming hope we enjoy in the natural world around us, point to a shift in season. In our post vaccination society the freedom from the more rigorous restrictions we endured because of the pandemic that we are now enjoying surely adds to our sense of change, though we still carry a sense of caution with us as we keep the welfare of the most vulnerable among us in mind.

In our churches as well as enjoying more freedom in our worship and liturgies, we are also getting used to the idea of being in a new diocese. We have entered a new 'season' of a different kind. This can be an

opportunity for reimagining how we can, in our way and our tradition, demonstrate the transforming presence of Christ in our world and make the reality of the Kingdom of God obvious in the here and now.

We have a new bishop to lead us in this adventure and we look forward to Bishop Michael leading us in worship and joining us in fellowship in both St Mary's and St John's in the future. We will continue to keep him in our prayers, that he may have God's guidance and strength in all that he undertakes as he leads us in this diocese of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe.

All of this occurs as the liturgical season changes. Lent and Easter plans are to the fore as I write and there is going to be a lot going on in our churches. There will be an Ash Wednesday service in St Mary's Crossmolina at 8p.m. Then during holy week Archdeacon Stephen and Rev Martin will be walking between all our churches in Killala Group. This will bring them to St John's, Ballycastle on Monday 11th April at 10.00am and later that day to St Mary's, Crossmolina at 8.00pm. We look forward to joining them in worship then in both churches. On Thursday 14th April (Maundy Thursday) I will be leading a service at 6.00pm in St John's, Ballycastle and 8.00pm in St Mary's, Crossmolina.

On Good Friday between 12noon and 3.00pm there will be a cycle of short reflective services, each beginning on the hour which people are invited to attend (you are not expected to stay for the three services!). Finally of course on Easter Day I will lead services in both St John's and St Mary's at the usual times of 10.00am and 12noon respectively. I look forward to meeting you all at as many of these services as you can attend, as together we pray, reflect and worship and emerge into the transforming reality of Easter!

Confirmation

If there are any candidates for confirmation please let me know as soon as possible if you haven't already done so, in order that confirmation classes can be organised.



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 look forward to the translation of Bishop Michael Burrows as bishop of our new Diocese. He is fondly remembered in Foxford from his visit when the House of Bishops' visitation took place in November 2019 and he met with some parishioners. I was sorry to be away that day. I have known him as a friend for many years and am delighted and confident that his wealth of experience and wisdom will help us to fuse the two identities into a new vibrant vision.

Claremorris

The first monthly service in the McWilliam Park Hotel took place on Palm Sunday 2012. This service was encouraged by Bishop Patrick when I explained to him about the vast area, particularly in east Mayo, where there was no Church of Ireland presence. The existing church building of St John's in Claremorris had closed

in 1960's and is now the town Library. Over the years there were many highs and a lovely group of people met month by month and refreshments after the service were a very important time for catching up. We reached out to people in Direct Provision in Ballyhaunis. We had baptisms at the service and sometimes Holy Communion. Even though a sterile hotel room, God's presence was tangible and manifest.

We had a harvest thanksgiving service one year in the old church building courtesy of the Librarian and Mayo County Library. A group with Foxford recorded a service for RTE in June 2019. Some joined Foxford parish outings and the fellowship was great.

In December 2019 we had a lovely Christmas lunch with Bishop Patrick. He joined us again on 2nd March 2020. Little did we know how our lives would change after that date. Bishop Patrick has retired and we have not been able to have a service since because of the pandemic and when restrictions lifted a little I could not get the large conference hall for our service as it was used for breakfasts to ensure social distancing, and the other rooms were too small. In March (exactly two years later) a motor rally means the roads around the hotel are closed.

Therefore, the earliest we can have a service is Sunday



3rd April at 12 noon when I look forward to welcoming people back.

Christmas Services

It was good to be able to hold a Carol Service this year albeit without the Brass Band and invites to the wider community. The church was beautifully decorated and we had a special advent wreath. May thanks to all those who worked hard on this – all to the glory of God.

Christmas Day was wonderful with Holy Communion and a goodly congregation – so much so we had to use the gallery.

Sympathy

Katherine Anne Pantland née Howard lived in the Old Schoolhouse in Toomore, Foxford and was well known in the area as a carer. Katherine was born in Surrey, England, but had lived for over 40 years in Ireland, some of the time near Tralee. Her very sudden death on 8th January stunned everyone and our hearts and prayers go out to her two sons Robert and Will, and also to daughter-in-law Kelly, grandson Sam, step-grandson Reece in their great loss. A memorial service for Katherine was held on 29th January with a full church. A fitting tribute to a unique, special person.

We stand firm in love and prayers with Yvonne Morrison and all her family on the death of her dear father Ernie, Templeboy, Co. Sligo after a short illness. Ernie was laid to rest following funeral service in St. Mary's Church, Kilmacshalgan on 8th December.

Deepest sympathy and prayers to Mitch Commene on the death of his eldest brother David in London on 13th January. Interment of ashes to take place in his home town of Tralee on 12th February.

Baptisms

As we look forward to some re-scheduled baptisms that were postponed at the end of December, we did take joy in the baptism into Christ's kingdom of John Dale, April Mae, and Aidan Matthew Regan, on 5th December during morning service. The children of Kirsty and Gerard. They were encircled with love and care by the congregation as family members were unable to attend due to Covid.



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

New Bishop

We extend a warm welcome to The Rt. Revd. Michael Burrows on his appointment as our new Father in God. Bishop Burrows will be translated to Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe on the Thursday of Holy Week and we look forward to welcoming him and his wife Claire in person in the months ahead.

OMEY Christmas

With the community's concern about Omicron, and in common with all parishes across the Cure, Christmas celebrations were slightly haphazard. We managed a muted Carol Service in Moyard. However the Ecumenical Carol Service which Clifden was due to host this year had to be called off at the last minute. On Christmas Day itself there was a single service of Holy Communion in Clifden. We thank Rod, Frankie and Canon David Williams for all their willingness and hard work not just during the Christmas period but also throughout the year.

Funerals

We extend our heartfelt and prayerful sympathy to the families and friends of Paul Passemard whose funeral took place in Christ Church, Clifden, on 15th November and Desmond Hickey whose funeral was held in the chapel of Carna Nursing Home on 6th January. May they Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory.

Errislannan

Storm Barra in late December did significant damage to the roof of Holy Trinity. Thanks to the timely efforts of Andy Higginson and Roger Bewley this was put right before any further damage was wrought.

Building Work

There are no more major works being undertaken in Omev, the bulk of what was in hand having been completed in both Clifden and Moyard. While the erection of a toilet at St Thomas' is still outstanding, we hope that it will be finished early in 2022.

A gift of chairs for Christ Church Clifden has been received and we want to record our thanks to the anonymous donor.

Service for The Feast of St Patrick's
Sunday 20th March, Roundstone 10.00am

Good Friday, Clifden 11.30am

Easter Day Services, 17th April
Roundstone 10.00am
Moyard 10.00am
Clifden 11.30am

EGVs

Omev Union, 5th April, 6.00pm in Christ Church Clifden
Roundstone TBA

CONG Christmas

We managed with care, caution and social distancing to have a muted Carol Service in St Mary's preceded by a restrained gathering of the All Stars (our children's ministry group). The children read shortened versions of the traditional lessons but read them magnificently. Our thanks to all those involved and especially to Erin and Paul for their organisation. Christmas Day itself was quiet enough. Omicron was raging in the village of Cong during the Christmas period with several businesses having to close their doors entirely. Nonetheless we did our best to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord.

Funerals

It was great sadness that we gathered to give Elizabeth Ormsby into the nearer presence of God on 16th November. Liz was a gentlewoman, loved by all, and we will miss her greatly in St Mary's. Our prayers are with the whole family and Liz's considerable circle of friends.

Also, on 16th January we heard that Ginger Aaron's mum had died in Oregon, USA. May God bless Ginger and the family at this time of sad loss.

Baptism

On 20th November The Dean baptised James and Isabel, the children of Kirstie and Frank Costello, and Katie Louise, daughter of Adrian and Claire McDonagh in St Mary's in a necessarily small setting. We wish parents and children every blessing for the future.

Dates

St. Patrick's Day, 17th March, HC 10.00am

Thursday of Holy Week, HC 7.30pm
Good Friday, Litany and Passion Narrative, 10.00am
Easter Day, HC 10.00am

EGV

Saturday 23rd April, Cong Church, 7.30pm.

TUAM Christmas

It is becoming repetitive when we say that Christmas was restrained and constrained. But in Tuam Cathedral, as with our other churches, this was the case. We hope and pray for better days to come. Many thanks to all those who contributed to and participated in our enforced gentle celebrations.

Funeral

It was a sense of deep shock that we learned during the week of 10th January of the tragic and untimely death of David Forde. David was the organist in St Mary's Cathedral and was part of our family since he started playing the organ last September. Words cannot express our sadness at his death.

David's funeral was held in the RC church in Glenamaddy, The Dean and a number of cathedral parishioners being in attendance. May God love his parents and family in their sorrow.

New Archbishop of Tuam

On Sunday 9th January, in the Cathedral of the Assumption, The Most Revd Francis Duffy was installed as Archbishop of Tuam. The Dean was present to welcome the Archbishop on behalf of the people of St Mary's Cathedral and our own Diocese of TLK. May God bless Archbishop Duffy in his new sphere of ministry.

Dates

Ash Wednesday, 2nd March, Compline, 7.30pm
St. Patrick's Day, 17th March, HC 12noon.
Wednesday of Holy Week, 13th April, Compline 7.30pm
Good Friday, 15th April, Litany and Passion Narrative, 12noon.
Easter Day, 17th April, HC 12noon

EGV

Sunday 24th April, after The Eucharist.

GENERAL

The Dean Writes:

The lifting of most of the Covid restrictions in January was a most welcome and long awaited thing. At the time of writing the only limiting restriction which



remains for us is basically the wearing of masks in church. God willing and with a good following wind, this too may be gone by the time you read these notes.

With that in mind, and in hopeful anticipation of no more bumps in the road, I want to turn our thoughts to re-establishing the reception of wine at the Holy Communion.

I haven't quite decided how best to do this. However, I understand that folk are still nervous, and will be for some time to come, so it seems sensible to very reluctantly rule out the Common Cup for the foreseeable future and to offer individual small portions of consecrated wine to those who wish to receive it at the time of the communion. In many ways this is foreign to our Anglican understanding and doctrine of what 'Communion' means.....Communion both with God and with each other. However, we cannot continue forever in offering the sacrament in one kind only.

To that end I see the intention of the use of individual cups as being a necessary and circumstance-driven provision. Further, it is my intention to engage in this practise only for so long as it is absolutely required so that we can receive in both kinds. I do not like it, but I like even less communion with consecrated bread only. So this will be a lesser of two evils.

I will let you know the practical side of how this will be done in due course.
Alistair.

A note from Roundstone

The burial of Francis Ashe took place in Roundstone on 25th November. Due to shortage of space, he was buried in the grave of his great-grandfather, Canon James McCormick DD, who was rector here for forty years and built the tower, chancel, porch and rectory.

Francis, or 'Flash', as he was known, was a great supporter of the village, particularly the regatta, where his generous appearance money, donated to visiting sailors, soon found its way into local pubs. He leaves two sons, Nicholas, and Simon who lives in Clifden.

The pointing of the west wall has been temporarily suspended and the scaffold removed to facilitate a wedding, but will resume shortly. For the first time a lightening conductor has been installed on the tower. The Catholic church in Roundstone was struck by lightning a few years ago, and considerable repair work required, so it was felt that St Mary's tower, which is higher, should be protected, although it had survived unscathed for over a century.



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