

tidings

DIOCESE OF TUAM, KILLALA AND ACHONRY



SUMMER ISSUE 2022



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tidings

SUMMER 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 Harvest Issue of Tidings, including advertisements, must be in by **Friday 2nd September 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

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THE BISHOP WRITES

Dear Friends,
Greetings of the great fifty days between Easter and Pentecost, the weeks of Alleluias and of hope! It is an auspicious time to enter upon a new episcopal task, and I am very grateful to many people for the warmth and helpfulness of their welcome, not least as I land liturgically in no less than six cathedrals.

I remain particularly grateful to the two Commissaries, Archdeacon Stephen McWhirter and Dean Niall Sloane, who 'held the fort' with such diligence and wisdom after the retirements of Bishops Rooke and Kearon, both of whom have offered me much encouragement themselves in recent times. I am beginning to find my feet in Kilbane House in Limerick (although at the time of writing a myriad of boxes have yet to be opened) and later in the summer I hope to be able to start using the apartment in Westport which is also to be made available to the bishop of this 'new', expanded and territorially exciting diocese. Indeed being seen to use, enjoy and offer welcome at the Westport base is I know an important matter for readers in the West.

I know I have much listening and learning to do as I strive to help the new diocese of Tuam Limerick and Killaloe to cement itself together with hope and joy over the coming years. I am very admiring of the courage and vision the two former dioceses displayed in taking the work of convergence so far already. I am conscious in seeking to further this process that it may be some advantage having already been a bishop for quite some time, but I also am aware that every diocese has a distinctive atmosphere and culture and therefore I must unlearn aspects of my own past and be highly attentive to the nuances that now surround me. I can only hope this diocese will not be too disappointed in not getting, as it were, a 'newly-minted' bishop at this stage, but I am certainly very moved and challenged to have been offered this new chapter in episcopal ministry after sixteen very happy years in Cashel, Ferns and Ossory. And already Easter Day in Galway, and the joyful enthronements in Tuam and Killaloe, have shown me clearly that 'the lot is fallen unto me in a fair ground'... as the Psalmist put it.

I think I perhaps have one particular advantage - having never served myself in either of the former dioceses I have no personal experience or memory of the operation of either of them. This means that, from the word go, I can treat Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe as being in my mind a veritable single unit in terms of oversight and care and the disposition of time. Obviously there will be much to be administered and organised at regional level with the help of our diocesan secretaries, but in my own mind I will be focusing on the possibilities, vision and self-belief of what is now truly a single bishopric.

Before saying much more about what lies ahead I must, like a new priest in a parish, get to know the terrain and the people. Over the coming months I shall of course continue to move about the parishes and to celebrate the Eucharist in every place. Completing this task in liturgical terms will demand many months and many Sundays, and I shall stick at it! But, additionally, I hope with the help of local clergy to visit every church building in a more informal and indeed sociable way, mostly on weekdays over the summer /early autumn. I would love to visit each place of worship briefly at a designated time, say a brief prayer in each place and meet perhaps a handful of local people who might be kind enough to appear at the appointed hour for a short hello, ideally over a cup of something if this is feasible. In terms of getting to know the diocese, it would be wonderful if by the autumn I had managed to cross the threshold of every church, rectory etc ...and in the autumn I will add the schools too.

So on we go! I hope it will not be long before I can recognise many faces, feel somewhat familiar with the West and mid-West and above all join with you in building a new diocesan configuration that is confident, purposeful and (especially) happy. I will be grateful for the support of you all, as together we strive to work fruitfully along with our ecumenical colleagues to live out the Gospel in this certainly vast but truly lovely part of our shared island home.

+Michael Tuam Limerick and Killaloe

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JUNE

Sun 12th

11.30am, Bluegrass service (part of the Westport Bluegrass Festival) Holy Trinity, Westport

JULY

Mon 25th

8.00pm Concert by the Summit Chorale from New Jersey, proceeds in aid of Church Funds. Holy Trinity, Westport

AUGUST

Sat 6th

8.00pm Concert by Louisburgh Music School, proceeds in aid of Church Funds. Holy Trinity, Westport

SEPTEMBER

Sun 25th

4.00pm, Holy Trinity, Westport 150th Anniversary service



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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TUAM ENTHRONEMENT

Bishop Michael Burrows was enthroned in St Mary's Cathedral, Tuam, on Sunday 24th April. As is customary, he knocked on the Cathedral door with his crozier to request admission and the Dean and Chapter welcomed him. The Bishop was led to the Cathedral Crossing where the Diocesan Register, Mrs. Audrey Shannon, read the Mandate from the Archbishop of Dublin. Bishop Burrows, Dean Grimason and Archdeacon McWhirter then went to the Sanctuary where the Archdeacon led the congregation in prayer for the Bishop who subsequently made the Declarations.

Taking Bishop Burrows by the hand, the Dean then led him to his Seat, his Cathedra, where he was Enthroned 'into the real, actual and corporal possession of the Bishopric of Tuam, with all the rights, dignities and jurisdictions thereto belonging.'



The Dean then offered prayer and blessing for the Bishop with the words,

'May the blessing of the Most High rest upon you to defend you this day and all your days to come.

May the people honour you.

May God help you and keep you.

Be worthy, just, patient and sincere as befits a messenger of Christ.

May God be your Father and the Angels of God protect you.

May the Church be your mother and The Blessed Virgin Mary, after whose name this Cathedral Church is called, with Jarlath and all the Apostles and Saints be your examples.

The Lord confirm and strengthen you in righteousness and holiness.

Peace be ever with you, through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.'





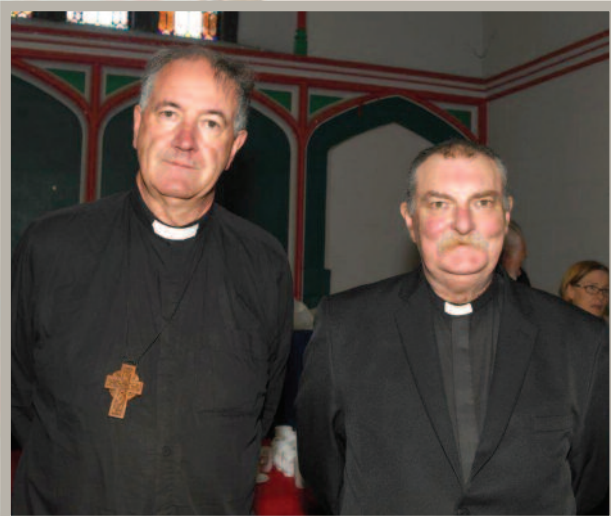
Archbishop of Tuam, The Most Revd. Francis Duffy. The Sermon was preached by Bishop Burrows. The intercessions were led by the Dean of Limerick, The Very Revd. Niall Sloane.

After the service, the congregation were served refreshments in the Synod Hall where the Bishop and Dean both thanked all those who had contributed to the occasion.



Bishop Burrows then went to the Chancel Steps where he was welcomed with applause and greeted by the congregation and ecumenical partners.

Evensong then followed. Mr. Ronan de Burca played the organ throughout. The Old Testament lesson was read by Clodagh Loftus, a member of Cong Sunday Club; the New Testament passage by Mothers' Union Diocesan President, Mrs. Myrtle Nairn; and Gospel Passage by the



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KILLALA ENTHRONEMENT



The third of Bishop Burrows' several Enthronement Services in the Diocese of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe took place in St Patrick's Cathedral, Killala, on Sunday 1st May. As the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral gathered at the west door, the Bishop struck it with his crozier to request admission. Bishop Burrows was then led to the chancel steps where the registrar read the Mandate from the Archbishop of Dublin. Archdeacon Stephen McWhirter led the congregation in prayer for the Bishop and administered the Declaration. Dean Alistair Grimason brought Bishop Burrows to his Cathedra where he placed

him in the Episcopal Seat with prayer and blessing. The legalities completed, the Bishop was greeted by the congregation and guests.



Evening Prayer followed, led by Archdeacon McWhirter. Mrs Daphne Higgins played the organ. The Scripture passages were read by Mrs Marian Edwards, Mr Peter Fleming and Canon Jen McWhirter. The intercessions were led by The Dean. The Bishop preached. At the tea after the service, Bishop Burrows and the Archdeacon, who is also Rector of Killala Union, warmly thanked all those who had contributed in any way to the occasion.





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E. Stanley Jones (1884-1973) was a Methodist missionary and theologian. He went to India as a young missionary when he was just 23 years old. He bought a one-way ticket to India and set sail from New York City to Bombay. In those days, the journey lasted six weeks. Upon arriving in India, he encountered a deeply religious culture and in 1919, he met and befriended Gandhi. He was sympathetic to India's struggle for independence and he participated at Round Table Conferences on Indian independence. This innovative approach to dialogue and conversation inspired him to use a method of evangelism which became known as 'Christ of the Round Table'.

Scripture encourages us to, "Always be prepared to give a defence to everyone for the hope that is in you, but respond with gentleness and respect." (1 Peter 3:15). This word 'defence' in the original Greek, means give an 'answer', from which we get the word

'apologetics'. Always be ready to give an answer, but do it with gentleness and respect. As people gathered around a table, the emphasis was on listening to others in an attitude of respect and avoiding arguments and battles for the supremacy of specific religious beliefs. Rather than arguing about ones' religious beliefs and doctrines, he facilitated meetings where people talked about the effect religion had in their lives. He focused on people's experiences and their personal stories.

We have been inspired by this method of engaging



with people and have recently begun our own 'Round Table Conversations' on various topics. All voices can speak equally and we also acknowledge that we can all learn from each other. Our first topic of conversation was about personal 'faith' or lack of it. Questions included, What have you found through your faith? What has your faith done for you? Has faith any relevance in your life? As we face the problems of life, what has religion brought to you? Is faith meaningful?



Our second conversation was on the topic 'Forgiveness'. Here we talked about the definition of forgiveness and we explored ways in which we have been wounded by others in life. We discovered that some people find it easier to forgive than others and for some it can be a very difficult and painful process. We also explored what it means to totally forgive ourselves for past decisions and choices made. Such an approach to engaging with others has proven to be both enjoyable and enlightening as we listen to peoples stories and experiences. People have 'big questions' and many have faced huge challenges in their lives. Does God, or faith in God provide adequate answers to our needs, intellectually, morally, spiritually and socially?

Further topics for discussion will include vision, unity, anger and righteous anger, gratitude, hope and guidance. Inspired by E. Stanley Jones, all voices can speak and contribute equally.

Pastoral care



Our pastoral care ministry continues in the community as we visit the elderly, the medically



vulnerable and people who live alone. We also support women and their families who are dealing with domestic violence. In conjunction with the St. Vincent de Paul, we visited and support others who struggle with mental health issues such as depression. This entails practical support, a listening ear and friendship. We continue to support women in the Traveller Community and we also visited Ukrainian refugees and their children at Easter time. Over the Easter holidays, we distributed Easter gift bags to families and their children in Mill View and Greenhill's Estates. Each bag contained Easter themed colouring pages and gifts. We also ran a Bible Club in Greenhill's Estate which involved chalk art, bible story-telling and face painting. We also continue to connect with many of the men who used to frequent the Big Blue Bus, as we

meet them for chats and cups of tea, in the town of Ballina.

Bible Study and meetings

Every Thursday night we gather for an on-line Bible Study. We are continuing our study in Discipleship and what it means for our lives as we seek to follow Jesus and serve him. We have studied the great commission, servant leadership, the role of women in ministry and the role of studying scripture as part of our worship of God. In reading and studying the Bible, we are seeking to learn more about God, but also seeking to see our lives transformed. Jewish Theologian, Abraham Heschel once said, that westerners read the Bible to understand God, but Jews read the Bible to honour God. Do we read the Bible to inform us or transform

us? On Sunday evenings, we continue to gather on-line to pray for the work of Ballina Churches Together, the work of the Dioceses, Church Leaders and the needs of individuals.

We also recently began gatherings in our homes. We will have these gatherings on a monthly basis going forward, as we seek to develop a worshipping and missional community.

Retreat at Holy Hill Hermitage



On Saturday 28th of May we will host a retreat at Holy Hill Hermitage at Skreen, Co. Sligo. This is a very special place! It is situated along a quiet country road close to the scenic area called Ladies Brae. The community at Holy Hill invite people of all faiths to, "Come away and rest a while" (Mark 6:31) in an atmosphere of solitude and silence. The hermitage is situated in an area of great natural beauty with gardens and woodland walks.

The retreat will provide an opportunity to come away from the busyness of our everyday lives and the theme for the day will be, "The Goodness of God". It will be a day for spiritual reflection, Christian community, art, music, round-table conversations and good food. We plan to celebrate all that is good in life! On the day, pilgrims will have an opportunity to visit one of the many hermitages which are located around this beautiful place.

Retreats at Holy Hill can be for a few days, a few weeks, or a longer sabbatical. Holy Hill is rich with possibilities and provides the opportunity to reconnect with yourself, nature and God. More information is available on their website at: www.holyhill.ie





Need some help with your children's school fees?

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

Register for the 2022/23 grant application process by 30th October 2021

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

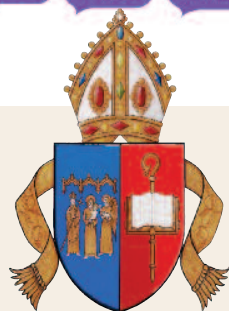
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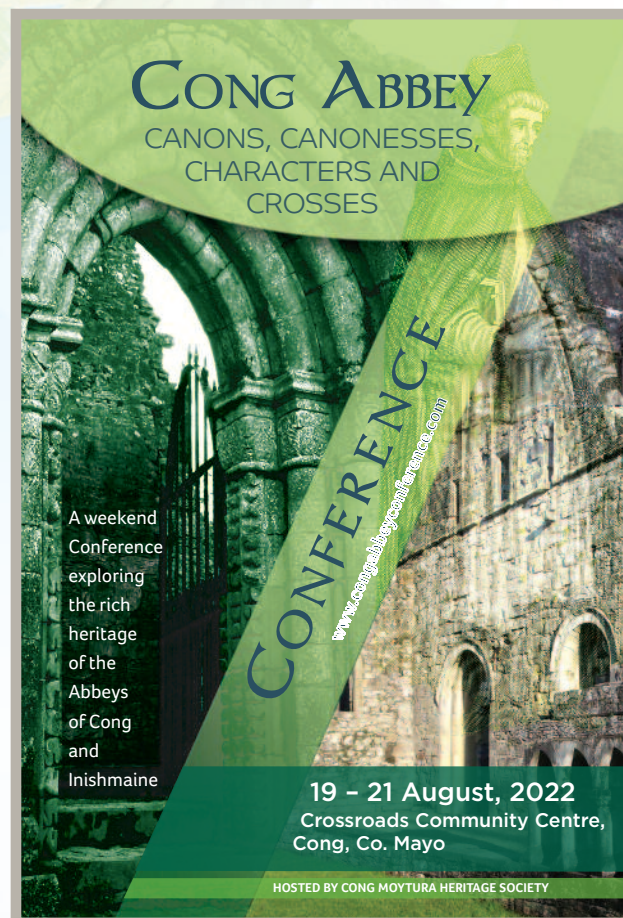


PARISH EVENTS

All parishes wishing to send stories of
parish events, pictures, history etc for
social media should send them to

HEATHER POPE:

secretary@tuam.anglican.org



CONG ABBEY CONFERENCE

A major conference examining the history and heritage
of Cong Abbey will take place in Cong this summer.

"Cong Abbey: Canons, Canonesses, Characters and
Crosses" will be hosted by the Cong Moytura Heritage
Society from Friday 19 August to Sunday 21 August and
will feature talks by leading archaeologists, art historians,
archivists and historians and guided visits to the abbeys
of Cong and Inishmaine. The Conference Introduction will
be on the night of 19 August in the village followed by a
social night of traditional music and craic. It is the first
major conference in Ireland to examine the rich cultural
heritage of Cong Abbey and the association of the Abbey
with the Augustinian order.

Supported by Mayo County Council, Galway County
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Tickets and further information are available at
congabbeyconference.com



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MOTHERS' UNION

The Mothers' Union Annual Gathering 2022 will take place at the Waterfront Hall, part of the International Convention Centre (ICC) in Belfast City on 23rd and 24th September, 2022.

The programme will be as follows:

Friday 23rd September:

4.30 pm & 7.00 pm: Services of Celebration, St Anne's Cathedral

Saturday 24th September:

10.15 am – 3.45 pm: Annual Gathering, Waterfront Hall (doors open from 9.30am)

7.30 pm – 8.45 pm: Evening Concert, Waterfront Hall (doors open from 7.00pm)

The link for further information and purchasing tickets is: <https://www.mothersunion.org/get-involved/events>

Bookings are encouraged before the middle of June if possible.

Save the Date - Mothers Union Womens Getaway!

The closing date for booking and payment is 27th June. The booking forms are available on [mothersunion.org](https://www.mothersunion.org) or please contact a branch leader for more information. There is the option for Saturday including lunch and workshops only as well as for the Friday night and Saturday option. This "Getaway" is very much for non-MU members as well as for members. The organisers will be delighted with your attendance!

EDUCATIONAL GRANTS

Diocesan Grants for pupils attending Protestant Managed Secondary Schools are available to those who are in receipt of Secondary Education Committee (SEC) Grants. Application forms are available from all Clergy and from the Secretary of the Diocesan Board of Education. Completed forms must be received by the Secretary by the 30th June.

There are some Book grants available for pupils attending local Secondary Schools. The application forms are available from the clergy. Receipts for the books must be submitted along with the Grant application form, to the Diocesan Secretary, by mid-September.

Some small Transport Grants, to assist parents in bringing their children to Church of Ireland Primary Schools, are available through the clergy. Parents need to apply, in writing, to their Rectors, stating the distance from the school. These grants are on a first received, first awarded basis. Applications should be received by mid-August.

There are no Diocesan grants available for 3rd Level Education but there are other Resources that may help towards this funding.

Contact the Secretary,

Rev. Canon Doris Clements, Doobeg House., Bunninadden. Co. Sligo. F56 CV63
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PAPER BOAT - A ST NICHOLAS OPERA

Our 700th anniversary opera Paper Boat finally set sail in Easter Week. It was commissioned by Music for Galway as part of its 2020 Soundscapes programme, to honour the church's septuacentennial and to celebrate St Nicholas' as a place of sanctuary throughout these 700 years. The libretto is by Dublin-based writer Jessica Traynor, and the music by Belfast-based composer Elaine Agnew. The story of the opera is a multi-layered one, looking back to events in the past as a prism through which to view our own time. Its themes of sanctuary and refuge could not be more pertinent to what is happening in the world right now, and the experience of rehearsing and performing this opera has been very moving for all involved. Our capacity audiences on 23rd April responded accordingly, and each performance was greeted with a standing ovation.

The story behind the opera is that on midsummer's eve, a young homeless man, and a mysterious mother and a child arrive in St Nicholas' Church to claim sanctuary from very different threats. But an army from the past is gathering outside the doors, threatening to repeat the destruction of Galway perpetrated by Cromwell's army centuries ago. Now the people of Galway are being asked to risk their safety to protect the strangers who have come seeking their aid, and the leaders of the fourteen tribes must decide.

Paper Boat is modelled on the community operas of

Benjamin Britten, with parts for local students and amateurs alongside a professional cast of singers and players. Elaine Agnew cast the net wide, including many different groups from around the city and county of Galway. With our own Schola Cantorum choristers and Collegium members as anchor ensembles, and our own Mark Duley as the conductor, the performances also featured youth orchestras and choirs from Athenry, Gort and Tuam, and the St Patrick's Brass Band representing the Cromwellian army laying siege to church and city. A notable element of the opera is the final chorus, a rousing version of "The West's Awake" to a new text - the Galway Blessing Song - which was sung by all present, including the audience, and was powerful, breathtaking and emotive. This song has also been aired on Lyric FM as choirs all around the country have recorded themselves singing it, in fact earlier that week everyone travelled to Limerick for a recording to be broadcast in the Summer on RTE Lyric FM.

Whilst Paper Boat did not escape the ravages of Covid - our performances were not staged but rather straight concert performances, and the number of performers much reduced - there is no doubt it has marked our 700th anniversary superbly, and given the church and parish the most fantastic exposure and publicity nationally, not least through a feature on RTE Nine O'Clock news! Well done one and all! This is the anniversary celebration that continues into its third year.



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PARISH NEWS



ACHONRY GROUP

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St George's, Tubbercurry
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Priest in charge:

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E-mail: m.steele.1662@gmail.com

Archdeacon Ven. Stephen McWhirter
Tel: 085 875 9921
E-mail: vensj@mcwhirter.ie

all times and in all places. I should also like to thank the clergy of Killala and Achonry who continue to provide cover during this time of vacancy.

Killoran (Rathbarron)

Birthday: On behalf of the parish, I should very much like to congratulate Arthur Livingstone on the occasion of his 90th birthday. Given Arthur's long years of service to the Guinness Company the birthday cake is most appropriate. "The pint of Guinness is a cake as he worked in Guinness for many years and travelled all over the world for them before he retired."



Holy Baptism



The Sacrament of Holy Baptism was administered by the Revd Canon Doris Clements on Palm Sunday. Parents, Gael and Graham Poyntz, the

Godparents, Alice Goulden and Richard Poyntz, the Poyntz and Goulden Grandparents and Great-Grandmother Bright were all thrilled with the occasion. As we welcome Andrew Henry Stanley Poyntz into the body of Christ so we pray for all children. Loving God, We pray for all children. We pray that they know and feel the security that is their right. We pray that they know and feel the love that is theirs through you. Guide all who are a voice for children and young people to speak loudly and clearly so that

Alleluia. Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. In the midst of Eastertide, it is important we recall that the Church believes that every Sunday is an Easter day. Sunday is the first day of the week, the first day of a new creation. In that sense we hold that creation is constantly renewed. A common way of expressing Easter is to say that we 'keep' Easter rather than 'observe' Easter. The reason why we say 'keep' is because we live inside it. The nativity of Jesus Christ was an event and so was the crucifixion. Easter, however, is not an event. Easter is not history; Easter is the future and Easter is now. As we keep Easter we rejoice in seeing the truth of the living God and in doing so we are reminded of the Easter work which God has called each and every one of us to do. We are to tell the Good News of Jesus Christ; we are to baptise, and we are to teach the scriptures. That is how we all can keep Easter.

On behalf of the parishes of Rathbarron and Tubbercurry I would like to welcome our Father in God, Bishop Michael Burrows to the Diocese. We thank God that you have safely translated, and we look forward to your time among us. We are blessed to have you in our midst, and we pray that God will continue to grant you good health of mind and body to bear further, meaningful and effective witness to God's divine love at

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security and safety, love and hope might be the experience of all your children.

Tubbercurry (Saint George) **Bereavement**

The Coleman family – Gerard Coleman Tuesday 8th March 2022. The prayers of the parish and the support of the Church community are with Linda, Sara, Ellen, Gearoid, Aaron and the wider family circle at this time. The Harrison family – Violet Harrison Sunday 24th April 2022. The prayers of the parish and the support of the Church community are with Frances, David and the wider family circle at this time.

O Lord, as Jesus followers asked him to help their friends, so, we as a parish pray for our friends in the time of their grief. May they know moments of peace in their pain, moments of joys in their memories, and moments of hope in your love. Amen.

Mothers' Union

On the 25th March, The Feast of the Annunciation of our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary also called Lady Day, the Mothers' Union finally had a face-to-face service after the long hiatus during Covid-19 restrictions. The service was held in Rathbarron Church in which there was plenty of space. The service was led by the Revd Canon Doris Clements, during which the liturgy and hymnody focused on the theme of commitment. Canon Doris also gave an address in which she focused on the Blessed Virgin Mary and the founder of the Mother's Union, Mary Sumner. The service was followed by convivial hospitality with an excellent supper and a goodly amount of chatter. Everyone agreed that it was brilliant that the Branch could meet again in this way after a prolonged period of Covid isolation and 'stay at home' rules.



AUGHAVAL GROUP

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

Lent study group

It was lovely this year to be able to meet for study during the season of Lent. Though small in number this little group met in the rectory weekly as we looked at different works of art and what we could learn from them about the Easter story. My hope is that this little group got as much from these sessions as I did and I plan to run something similar during Advent later in the year.

Covid

During March all three of us in the rectory tested positive for covid within a week of each other. While none of us were very very sick it did give us pause for thought and I was extremely grateful for having had vaccinations and booster by then! I'd like to thank those who covered services while I was out of circulation, those kind souls who offered help and support with welfare packages of food and reading material and everyone who had messaged to say they'd be remembering us in their prayers. The care from the parishes at that time was gratefully received.

One covid casualty was a concert that was due to take place in Westport on 19th March, as both the pianist and conductor came down with covid. This will be rescheduled for later in the year.

St Patrick's parade

There was something of a holiday atmosphere in Westport for the St Patrick's Day parade around the



made from pool noodles. They looked great! My thanks to William Bourke who entered his bright yellow VW camper van, and Thomas Bourke who drove an Austin A35 as the entry for Holy Trinity Church. They were joined by Isa Bourke and Carol Stoney and the vehicles looked quite splendid!



town. People were grateful to be out and about for St Patrick's Day for the first time since 2019.

The theme for the parade this year was "Climate Change, Save Our Planet" and the children from Holy Trinity dressed as bees and carried flowers

Service of remembrance and reflection

A service of remembrance and reflection was held in Castlebar on the Mall outside the Mayo County Council offices on the afternoon of 20th March. It was attended by religious leaders from a range of world faiths and prayers were said for those who had been in any way affected by the covid pandemic. Although numbers attending were small it was an occasion well done.

Charlie Bird

Charlie and Claire Bird and their supporters descended on Westport on Saturday 2nd April as Charlie climbed Croagh Patrick in aid of the Irish Motor Neurone Disease Association and Pieta House. It was a wonderful day and the atmosphere was amazing. It's surprising who you met up a mountain. So many people arrived to climb the mountain to raise funds for these 2 charities. There was support from the Order of Malta, the Air Corps and other members of the Defence Forces and the impact of this event



can't be underestimated, both in terms of the over €2m raised for charity but also in terms of the awareness raising about Motor Neurone Disease that has gone hand in hand with the money raising. A truly inspiring day.

Easter General Vestries

My thanks to all those who attended the Easter General Vestries throughout the Group of Parishes and those who have taken on to be Churchwardens, Glebewardens, Secretaries, Treasurers, Governance Officers and Select Vestry members for the coming year. Your willingness is noted and appreciated.



150th anniversary celebrations

As part of the 150th anniversary celebrations in Westport there will be a summer of concerts held in the church. These concerts are not ticketed and all donations will go to church funds. Please do come along and support our church. Thanks to Philip Murphy for his design of the banner which is on the railings. Full details are elsewhere in this magazine but the dates are as follows:

Sunday 12th June, Bluegrass service

Monday 25th July, Concert by the Summit Chorale

Saturday 6th August, Concert by Louisburgh Music School

Sunday 25th September 150th Anniversary service, preacher - The Bishop.

From the registers

Christian Burial

Meike Blackwell, Ross House, Newport, aged 88. Monday 21st March at 2pm in Holy Trinity, Westport, followed by cremation in Lakelands Crematorium.

Holy Baptism

Marcel Bartusevics, son of Norberts Bartusevics and Laura Deegan, The Oaks, Castlebar. Saturday 9th April at 12.30pm in Christchurch, Castlebar.



Karl Adrian Shaw, son of Gordon and Karin Shaw, Ballyvary, Co. Mayo. Saturday 30th April at 6.00pm in Turlough Parish Church.



GALWAY & KILCUMMIN GROUP

Rector: The Very Revd Lynda Peilow
Tel: 091 521914

Email: rector@stnicholas.ie
Revd Carole Reynolds (OLM)
Tel: 087 6067848

Rev Alistair Doyle Tel: 086 608 1223

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Service Times

Sundays

8.30am Said Eucharist St Nicholas' Collegiate Church

I am Sung Eucharist – St Nicholas' Collegiate Church

I am Service in Kilcummin, Oughterard

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

Everyone Welcome.



Revd Carole Reynolds



Rev Alistair Doyle

Easter

After three years it was a great joy to journey together through Holy Week, and to celebrate Easter together. The emotions of so many were a gentle reminder of all the challenges and lessons that the last two years have taught and brought us. In the midst of this is, of course, our desire as the body of Christ to celebrate together and to be in community with one another. A special thank you to everyone in front and behind the scenes for their help in ensuring that this important season had the dignity and reverence, and joy and celebration it deserved.

Bishop Michael

It has been wonderful to welcome Bishop Michael to the diocese. We assure him of our prayerful support as he navigates his way around and settles in, whilst all the time meeting the clergy and people of the new united diocese. It was wonderful to have Bishop Michael with us on Easter Sunday.

I Claim Sanctuary

After two years of a delay the I Claim Sanctuary audio installation has arrived at St Nicholas. They are designed and created by artist Philip Fogarty. Philip's work takes a closer look at the communities and individuals that have received shelter and that worship



in this church. It combines insight, meditation, and reflection and affords a glimpse into the enormous spiritual and historical richness of this place.

Weaving sounds from past, present, and future, and featuring material from the opera Paper Boat, a cast of Galway voices, and original music, the 12 part sound installation takes the themes of this production to new places, marking a defining moment in the seven-hundred-year history of Saint Nicholas' Church.

Confirmation Preparations

At the time of writing our confirmation preparations are almost coming to an end. We assure all our candidates and their families of our thoughts and prayers at this exciting time.

Easter General Vestry

Our Easter general vestries took place on Sunday 3rd April in St Nicholas and on Tuesday 26th April in Kilcummin. There was a terrific turnout of parishioners and congratulations to all those who will serve this coming year on the select vestry. A presentation was made to Heather Pope on the day to thank her for her contribution and work as treasurer for the last fourteen years. Heather has brought much time and energy to the role and the workload of the treasurer to St Nicholas. The select vestry and parish wanted to show their appreciation and thanks. Part of Heather's presentation was a bowl made from a branch of the elm tree at the front of the church.

St Pauls visit Kilcummin

On Tuesday, 5th April, some 1st Year Students from St Paul's Secondary School, Oughterard came to visit Kilcummin Church. They were accompanied by their



RE Teacher, Joseph Merrick and the Deputy Principal, Micheal O'Frighil. We spoke about the history of the Church and as the visit was before Easter, the significance of the Lenten Season and Holy Week. None of the students had visited the Church before and had various questions with regard to how the Anglican religion differs from others.

Chatty Crafters: We meet every Wednesday in the Church, socially distanced at 11 am, following the 10.30am midweek service.

Liturgy Trials

There are exciting times ahead at St Nicholas as we currently are working our way through layout trials which we had to abandon with the onset of the pandemic in St Nicholas'. These are part of the process of renewal and reimagining - St Nicholas for the next 700 years - as we take on board the Conservation Management Plan, and aim to have our worship at the very centre of the decisions to be made about the church interior as we move forward.

The Happy Hikers

Our new informal walking club 'The Happy Hikers' met for our first walk on Sunday 13th March in Rinville Park, near Oranmore. It was a great opportunity to walk, talk, and get to know each other better. Our next outing was to Coole Park Nature Reserve, near Gort, on Sunday 10th April. We look forward to meeting again in May when we will be staying closer to home and doing the Corrib river walk.

Baptisms

Alanna Zsuzsanna Maxwell, daughter of Christina and Robert Maxwell was baptised into the fellowship of Christ Church on Sunday 6th March.

Oscar Albert Kingston, son of Sally Kingston and Leon hickey was baptised into the fellowship of Christ Church on Sunday 27th February.

May they shine as lights in the world to the glory of God the Father.

Tyrrell Family

The parish family was shocked and greatly saddened to receive the news of the sudden and untimely death of Luke Tyrrell in Dublin. Luke, son of Val and Johanna Tyrrell, husband of Christina, and Daddy to Millie and Ollie, brother of Maeve, Emer, and Ella will be hugely missed by all. At this deeply shocking time, we hold the Tyrrell family and Lukes's many friends in our thoughts and prayers as they come to terms with the shock and great loss. The rector conducted the funeral which took place in Castleknock, Dublin, on Friday 18th March.

David Hall

The funeral of David Hall took place on Monday 2nd May at St Nicholas. David was a parishioner of St Nicholas' all his life, and had a great love and interest in the church. We extend our deepest sympathy to his children Andrew and Grace; his fiancé Noreen; and to his sister Sheila Murphy and her husband Michael, and their family at this time.

Carol Coogan

The funeral of Carol Coogan took place at St Nicholas on 14th March. We extend our deepest sympathy at this time to her adored family her husband Fintan and children Sinéad, Saoirse, Catriona, and Fintan Jnr together with the wider family circle and circle of friends.

Daniel Monaghan

On Saturday 12th March St Nicholas' Collegiate Church was filled to thank God for the short life of Daniel Monaghan. Daniel had tragically died in a road traffic accident that shocked and saddened all who knew him. He grew up around St. Nicholas' working with his parents and many other stallholders in the weekend market. We extend our deepest sympathy to his parents Keturah and John and his brothers Michael and Jack, the wider family circle and the many friends, and the St Nicholas market family.

Jean O'Connell

Jean O'Connell died surrounded by her loving family on 20th April. Jean was a parishioner of St Nicholas' and she attended many MU events and was an avid fundraiser through the years for the parish. Jean was a very popular member of the community and we extend our sympathy to her family. Jean's funeral took place in Shannon.

We extend our deepest sympathy to all the families in the parish who are bereaved. We assure them of our thoughts, love, and prayers at this difficult time.



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

Celebrations



new Diocese. The enthronement in Killala Cathedral took place on Sunday 1st May at 4.00pm. The service was supported by a large congregation with representatives from all parishes from Westport towards the northern end of the diocese. Thank you to all who prepared for this service and especially to the Mothers' Union who provided the refreshments following the service in the Killala Community Centre. This was a time of great celebration which was enjoyed by all present.

Easter is, of course, our greatest festival when we celebrate the risen Jesus and what a delight it was to worship, once again, in person following an absence in church for the past two years. The day began with our first celebration of Easter at Dunmorán Strand at 7.30am. Over 50 people gathered for the service and I thank the Revd Noel Regan for his welcome into Skreen parish and his assistance in leading worship. The period of Easter has been a time of celebration for us as the enthronements have taken place throughout the



Return to the Cup

We continue to celebrate that congregations are now able to receive Communion in both kinds; this is now being offered to those who would wish to receive. This happened during Easter in most churches throughout the Union and those remaining will offer it in the near future. While this is now available we would still actively encourage those who remain wary of sharing the cup to continue receiving the bread alone for now and whenever you would be comfortable to begin to take the wine as well. This does, however, represent a huge step forward for which we are thankful.

Holy Week & Walk

I would like to thank the Readers and Clergy of the Group for the creative leading of worship throughout Holy Week and Easter. There was plenty going on and all services were supported well. We were all blessed in the journey towards Easter. The children from GFS and St Michael's NS enjoyed messy church on Good Friday in the school and my thanks to all involved.

Revd Martin and I walked and cycled the boundaries of the parishes during Holy Week. We were joined by parishioners and friends on each leg of the journey. It was tough going during the week but we were both grateful for the support offered and the hospitality shown, especially the breakfast offered by Betty Jackson and later in the week by Carmel Johnston. I can't remember the last time I enjoyed a fresh duck egg for my breakfast! We thank all those who supported us and in particular, Karen, Caroline and Arthur who provided back up support and the moving of bicycles throughout the journey. The weather was

kind in a not particularly good week, and we enjoyed the company of others throughout the journey and the opportunity to worship in each of the churches as we passed them. We finished our walk on the morning of Maundy Thursday and immediately joined a service for the diocesan clergy and staff led by Bishop Michael in his first morning of translation.

Annual (Easter) General Vestry

Thank you to all who supported the meetings of the Annual (Easter) General Vestry. There have been some changes in both Union Vestries and we welcome those for whom this is their first time serving. There are two significant changes in personnel, with the standing down from active duty of two treasurers, Mr Robbie Bourke (Ballycastle) and Mr Ivan Gawley (Killanley) who between them have served over a century. Although Robbie officially stepped down last year he has continued actively in the role until changes in accounts could be made. We are grateful that both men continue to serve on their respective Vestries and thank them for their remarkable dedication and service.

The Bishop Visits

On Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th July, Bishop Michael will be visiting the parishes of the Killala Group he will be in Killala Union on Monday and Kilmoremoy on Tuesday. It is his hope to be in all churches and available to meet people for a cup of tea or coffee. This is a great opportunity to meet Bishop Michael at home! Times for each church are published and will be announced closer to the time and I would

encourage you to make time to meet the Bishop. I'll be fishing in the afternoon though!

Dates for the Diary

Sunday 29th May. Mother's Union Diocesan Service, Skreen Parish Church 7.00pm guest preacher Bishop Michael Burrows.

Sunday 3rd July. Killala Group Confirmation Service, St Mary's, Crossmolina at 4.00pm.

Monday 4th & Tuesday 5th July, Bishop Michael visits the Killala Union:

Monday 4th July:

St Patrick's, Killala - 11.30am

St John's, Ballycastle - 1.30pm

St Mary's, Crossmolina - 3.00pm

Tuesday 5th July

St Michael's, Ballina - 11.30am

St Anne's, Easkey - 2.00pm

Kilglass Parish - 3.00pm

Killanley, Castleconnor - 4.30pm

I'm definitely fishing in the afternoon!

Parish Registers

Burial of the Dead

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



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

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

During Holy Week I drove support as Archdeacon Stephen, accompanied by Rev Martin, walked/cycled his parish bounds. With such an undertaking it is always useful to have someone in a car to retrieve the walkers from ditches and sides of roads and carry their bikes, phones and other accoutrements! I got all the fun without the sore feet – go me! On Tuesday 12th April I welcomed them to Easkey at 10am for a

short service, waved them off as they set off walking. At 8pm we had a short service of Compline in Kilglass.

This was the first year I've been able to celebrate Easter properly since taking Holy Orders. It was glorious to stand at the front of my churches and declare "The Lord is Risen!" Alleluia!

As I write these notes we are in the middle of the series of enthronement for Bishop Michael. It has been wonderful to attend services that are so similar, yet so very different. I am really looking forward to welcoming our Bishop when he gets as far as us in the Kilmoremoy Union.



**KILLANLEY –
CASTLECONNOR**

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

"Oh, fragrant is the breath of May
in tranquil garden closes,
and soft yet regal is her sway
among the springtime roses."
-William Hamilton Hayne.
American poet (1856-1929)

Here we are in the month of May. The beginning of summer and as we look around us, the weather has yet to improve. The apple blossom is in full bloom, so let's hope we don't get any unruly storms! Whilst it is the transitional period between spring and summer, I can hear the old saying "Ne'er cast a clout til May is out". So hang on to the woolies for a while yet!

Easter

We have just celebrated Easter and what, for me, is the most poignant time of the year. At the beginning of Lent, on Ash Wednesday we had a Compline service, which this year I decided to continue every Wednesday during Lent, culminating with a beautiful Tenebrae service on the Wednesday of Holy Week, also known as "Spy Wednesday".

Going forward it is my intention to hold a Compline service on the second Wednesday of every month beginning this May. It will be at the usual time of 8pm.

Enthronement

It was a privilege and an honour to attend the enthronement of the Right Revd Michael Burrows in both St Mary's Cathedral, Tuam, and St Patrick's Cathedral, Killala. We look forward to worshipping with him in Killanley in the near future.

Our young people

By the time you read this the exam season will have started. We ask for prayers for Jennifer Blakeney (Junior cert) and Jack Gawley (Leaving cert). We also remember all those who are sitting house exams this year in both secondary and third level institutions.

Nursing Home visits

During Holy Week I went to the nursing homes to celebrate communion and continue to visit with them

on a monthly basis. It is heartening to hear all respond to the prayers. This is indeed a precious time for me and I so look forward to the visits.

Easter Vestry

The Easter Vestry meeting was held on Tuesday 26th April and was indeed a bitter sweet day for all of us in Killanley. After an extremely long period as treasurer of the church, Ivan Gawley has relinquished the role. He told me that he held the office over a considerable number of years (60+ years). I am led to believe that there was a short spell during that time when he had to have a stand in! We thank him for his devotion to the role and we are happy to report that his son John will now step into the role. We wish him every blessing in his retirement.



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

Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe

The translation of Bishop Michael Burrows from the Diocese of Cashel, Ferns and Ossary to the new Diocese of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe has taken affect with the six enthronements already conducted. For many the loss of the old Titular Diocesan titles is regrettable. Killala and Achonry have been the interface with Elphin and Ardagh for decades. The Diocese of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe is now one of the eleven Dioceses of the Church of Ireland on the island of Ireland. It represents Tuam, Killala, Achonry, Limerick, Ardfert, Aghadoe, Killaloe, Kilfenora, Clonfert, Kilmacduagh and Emly. The largest Diocese by area in the Church of Ireland, it covers all of the counties, Clare, Galway, Kerry, Limerick and Mayo plus parts of Cork, Sligo and Tipperary. This gives us an idea of the vast area to be covered by the Bishop. It's about rationalisation and difficult as it may be it reflects where we are in the history of our church.

Easter

It was lovely to be able to celebrate Holy Week and

FELLOWSHIP OF CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

The Fellowship of Contemplative Prayer, Ireland, has organised two Retreats this year at the Dromantine Retreat & Conference Centre, near Newry, Co. Down.

The MIDWEEK RETREAT
Tuesday 14th - Thursday 16th June 2022

The WEEKEND RETREAT
Friday 2nd - Sunday 4th September 2022
The WITNESS will be Mrs Sylvia Armstrong.

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Cost: £175 stg.



The Junior Archdeacon of TKA and the Junior Dean of Limerick in deep discussion at Bishop Michael's enthronement in Limerick

Easter properly, to meet face to face and above all to sing the great Easter Hymns. We had forgotten that it was actually three full years from we had Easter Services. The Dunmoran Holy Communion was down numerically but there was a sense of getting back to a degree of normality. At the church services we introduced the common cup for the first time for those who felt comfortable participating. Many spoke of what a joy it was to have the Holy Communion in its traditional and full form.



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Joy and sorrow

On the 22nd April Skreen Church was the setting for a service of celebration of the marriage in 2020 of Jamie and Rachael Coyle. This proved a lovely event which was similar but yet different. We used, with little alterations, the service of blessing on a civil marriage from the Book of Common Prayer. This worked very well. It was wholesome and meaningful and on this occasion there was not the legal requirement as all of that had been dealt with at the wedding proper. The church was beautifully decorated and the organist was the bride's Aunt Mrs. Beatrice Newton, Ballinasloe.

On the 23rd April a memorial service was held in Skreen Church and a committal of ashes of Mrs Myra Moody nee Higgins originally of Leekfield, Skreen. Mrs. Moody was a sister of the late John Higgins and also Frank Higgins who lives in Sligo. Refreshments were served in the church hall immediately after the service. We extend sympathy to Mrs Moody's daughters, Diane and Debra who had travelled from the States for the service and to the extended family on Myra's passing.

The funeral service of Elizabeth (Liz) Hegarty nee Cornwall, late of Boyle, took place in Dromore West on Thursday 28th April. Liz had passed away peacefully in Sligo Hospice surrounded by her family. The burial was in Churchhill Cemetery. A big thank you to all the parishioners for their help in preparation for the service and providing the refreshments afterwards. It was much appreciated. To her son, Aaron, daughter Caitlin, husband Aiden and her brothers we extend sincere sympathy at this time.

Mother's Union

A Mother's Union Festival Service will be held in Skreen Church on Sunday evening 29th May, at 7.00pm. This will be a United Service for the Group on that day. The preacher will be Bishop Michael Burrows. Supper will be served in the church hall.

Confirmation

Dromore West on Sunday 17th July. Time to be confirmed.

We continue to both privately and at our services pray for the people of Ukraine and all who are affected by the situation there, the politicians who endeavour to bring influence to bear in the name of peace.

We think of our own parishioners, some of whom are undergoing treatment and those in nursing homes who

miss their own homes and whose visits are still restricted by covid.

Sunday services continue as per normal.

10.00am Dromard

11.00am Skreen

12 noon Kilmacshalgan.



CROSSMOLINA AND BALLYCASTLE (KILLALA GROUP)

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

What joy it was to celebrate Easter as a congregation in our churches in both St John's, and St Mary's this year! Holy Week seemed extra special as we made up for two years of not being able to gather for worship, beginning on the Monday of Holy Week with a service of Morning Prayer in Ballycastle as we sent Archdeacon Stephen and Revd Martin onward in their journey to all the churches in the Kilmoremoy and Killala Unions of Parishes. Along the way they enjoyed the hospitality of Betty Jackson as she provided much appreciated refreshments for their journey to Crossmolina by bike. In Crossmolina we had a service of Compline that evening to welcome the pilgrims!

On Maundy Thursday there was a service in both St John's and St Mary's for the Institution of the Lord's Supper and our worship in both of these services was wonderfully enhanced by Revd Martin singing the Sanctus. On Good Friday there was a cycle of readings, reflections and prayer from 12 until 3 in St Mary's. The varying and various services enhanced our Holy Week worship and were excellent "stepping stones" through this time of prayerful contemplation of what God has done for us and how God is with us in Christ through our darkest moments; before bursting into the exuberant joy of the reality of the risen Christ, at work in our lives still, in Easter glory.

The retirement of Mr Robbie Bourke as Treasurer.

The remarkable service of Mr Robbie Bourke of Ballycastle on the vestry was marked at a service in

St John's. Over a period of 57 years he served as Treasurer on the vestry but of course undertook many other tasks during that time, ensuring the repair of the building as well as the financial needs of the parish were maintained. We were informed one of the first tasks he had to undertake was to replace the rope for the bell in St John's. There is surely a cautionary tale there for that rope tied Robbie to many tasks that had to be undertaken since! But all this remarkable service was undertaken effectively and very willingly, so it was only fitting that on behalf of the parish and vestry, the occasion be marked by a presentation to Mrs Heather Bourke, Robbie's wife, and Abbie Bourke his granddaughter who deputised for Robbie who unfortunately was unable to attend the service on the day. We thank Robbie again for his service and also gratefully thank Mrs Vanessa Carey who is undertaking the task of Treasurer on behalf of Ballycastle for her willingness to take up the role, and the efficient manner in which she does it.



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Bishop Michael

Following Bishop Michael's enthronement in St Patrick's Cathedral we look forward to having him preside at our worship in St Mary's and St John's when his busy schedule permits. In St Mary's we are particularly looking forward to him presiding at a confirmation service for three candidates on Sunday 3rd July.



STRAID PARISH, FOXFORD & CLAREMORRIS

Priest-in-charge: Canon Andrea Wills (NSM)
Tel: 094 9256403; Mobile 086 261 7572
Foxford: 10.00 a.m. every Sunday
Claremorris: 12 noon in McWilliam
Park Hotel – 1st Sunday of the month
andrea.wills@gmail.com

It is with joy that we greet the arrival of our new Bishop Michael among us. He hopes to visit us in October. Since the last issue of Tidings it has been a busy time. The monthly Service in Claremorris in the McWilliam Park Hotel recommenced on 3rd April. It was lovely to gather again for worship and see old friends greeting each other after the long absence due to the pandemic. People travel from different parts to attend this service and the encouragement I received and the support is so affirming.

Baptisms

Aoibhín Judy Mitchell was baptised into the church of Christ on 19th February in the presence of her family

and assisted by Fr. Padraig Costello in Foxford Church. Her godparents are Peter Ryder and Sinead Mitchell Peyton. Congratulations to Aoibhín's parents Jennifer and Sean. A special day for grandmother Eleanor Ryder and grandfather Johnny Mitchell.



Alexandra Teresa Wills was baptised by her Nana on 19th March – a wonderful day of celebration for the Wills family and to welcome Alexandra's other grandparents Pat and Teresa Jones from Cork to Foxford Church. Her godparents are Melissa Jones and Trevor Wills. Congratulations to Alexandra's parents Amanda and Timothy, based in Dublin, and big brother Charles Jacob.

May these two little girls, who are related, grow in strength and faith all their lives.

Wedding



Leuween Beattie and Thomas Skelly

17th February was a date surrounded by days of wet windy and uncertain weather. However, as the bride and groom emerged from a spectacular wedding service, with beautiful music, the sky cleared and they could greet their guests outdoors. The church was beautifully decorated with so many flowers and greenery, some specially grown, from the bride's mother Jean's garden, specifically early spring flowers. A fine reception was held in Markree Castle. We wish Leuween and Thomas God's richest blessings in their life together as they return to their home in Canada.

Mothering Sunday

It was wonderful to have a special service on Mothering Sunday, not having had one since 2019, a huge gap in the lives of young people, and to get lots of help with readings and distributing flowers and a good congregation.

Death

On 1st April Ruth Neill died in Abbeybreaffy Nursing Home. She grew up almost in the shadow of Foxford Church and it was very much part of her life in her early years. Her mother Kathleen Neill played the harmonium. Sadly much of Ruth's life was spent in St Mary's in Castlebar where she enjoyed craft making. Older people in Foxford remember Ruth as a stunning, stylish dark-haired young woman who always

had a new outfit for Easter Day. She continued her love of fashion and make-up all her life. She was laid to rest in Craggagh graveyard after funeral service in Foxford Church on Sunday 3rd April and the support from the wider community at that service was so much appreciated by the family and us all. Deepest sympathy to Ruth's brother Harry who also resides in Abbeybreaffy and to her sister-in-law Netta and Ruth's nieces Ramona and Lavinia and nephew Reuben, who were so good to her, and their children who meant so much to her. Ruth rests in perfect peace with her parents James and Kathleen.

Prayers for Ukraine

Each Sunday at the start of the service we have special prayers for the people of Ukraine. We have a permanent display of blue and yellow flowers at the front of the church to remind us of their plight. Everyone is assisting in whatever way they can and we await word of some people from Ukraine arriving in our midst.

Memorial Service

A poignant memorial service and Mass for the late Argentinian Ambassador Laura Bernal who died at the beginning of the pandemic was held in Foxford on 26th April in the presence of family members and members of the Embassy. It was celebrated by the Papal Nuncio Archbishop Okolo and I was pleased to



attend. Laura was exceptionally fond of Foxford and attended the events each year of the Admiral Brown Society when they commemorated Admiral William Brown who was born in Foxford and founded the Argentinian Navy. It was fitting that her funeral, only able to be attended by a handful of people because of restrictions, took place in Foxford and that she is buried in Craggagh graveyard in a beautiful setting at the foot of the Ox Mountains. I had the privilege of sitting with her at lunch on a number of occasions and had interesting conversations with her. May she rest in perfect peace.

River Blessing

Fr. Padraig and I were pleased to be again able to have the blessing of the River Moy at the beginning of the

fishing season when we pray for safety for all who enjoy the river which flows through Foxford.

Good Wishes

Bishop Brendan Kelly was a very good friend to us when he was Bishop of Achonry and we now wish him well as he retires as Bishop of Galway.

Tragic Accident

The Church of Ireland community is greatly saddened by the death, in a traffic accident on Monday, 2nd May, of Paddy Kelly. Paddy did the electrical work at the church, was always on hand in an emergency, and gave of his time generously. Our sympathy and prayers to his wife Margaret, his daughter Elaine and her family.



TUAM GROUP

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Tuam

Lent, Holy Week and Easter

Spring, with its observance of Lent, Holy Week and Easter, is always a busy and blessed time in the life of the parish.

Saint Mary's Cathedral in Tuam was the primary focus for much of our observance. Ash Wednesday was marked there with a service of Penitential Compline and we celebrated Holy Communion in the Cathedral each Wednesday during Lent.

We had our customary parochial acts of worship in both Cong and Tuam during Holy Week.

On Easter Day we greeted the Risen Lord with celebrations of the Holy Communion in Cong and Tuam, with many visitors swelling our numbers in both churches. In Cong our young folk participated enthusiastically in the traditional 'Rolling of the Eggs'.

Good Friday in Tuam

After an absence of two years, this year we were once again able to join with our friends in the Cathedral of the Assumption for the 'Walk of the Cross'. We gathered at the Catholic Cathedral at 1.00pm and



proceeded through the town to St Mary's, stopping at various and several stations for scripture readings and reflection. The scripture was read by members of St Mary's Cathedral family while the reflections were

read by young folk from the Cathedral of the Assumption. The cross itself was carried along the route by the Dean and Fr. Sean.

Our journey ended in St Mary's Cathedral where the Dean led the congregation in a portion of The Litany and pronounced the Passiontide Benediction with a soloist singing 'When I Survey the Wondrous Cross'.

Easter Day baptism

Although, going way back, Easter Day was (and in some traditions still is) a specific day for baptisms, the Dean, in all his years, had never celebrated a baptism on this major festival day. So this year was a first as we welcomed Darragh Timothy John McQuilkin into the household of faith in St Mary's Cathedral, Tuam. May God bless him and his parents, Derek and Jennifer (Née Clesham) in the years ahead.

General Vestries

All the Easter Vestries were completed within the statutory time. In this 'Cure' that means all four of them! Very many thanks to all those who have served in parochial positions in the past year and similarly to those who offered themselves for service in the year ahead.

Weddings



On 2nd April the wedding of Mark Jenkins and Jordan Reilly took place in St Mary's Church, Cong. It was a tremendously joyous occasion and we wish the couple every blessing and happiness in their lives together.

Enthronement

A full account of the Enthronement of Bishop Michael Burrows can be found elsewhere in this issue of

Tidings. From the perspective of the Cathedral Family we would like to 'officially' welcome Bishop Burrows to the Diocese, to say what a privilege it was to host such an occasion and to thank all those who helped in any way with the arrangements. A particular word of thanks to the ladies and gent from St Nicholas' who helped with the teas after the service.

Omey

Christ Church, Clifden is delighted to welcome parishioners and visitors in greater numbers now that Spring has arrived and the church is open on a daily basis. The comments in our visitors' book reflect the peace that people find in the tranquil beauty of our church and its surroundings. The church grounds have come into their own in the past few months, thanks to successive years of bulb planting by Isobel Marinot-Wood and Gary and Pearl Brow. Climbing roses and Boston ivy have also been planted and Gerry keeps the grass areas nicely under control. The carefully positioned benches around the churchyard allow for some very special views of the town and Clifden Bay.

Some memorable services this Spring include Mothering Sunday, led by Frankie Thornburgh with readings by Debbie Watkins and Pearl Brow. Charlie and Andy took over tea duties and Charlie's warm apple crumble and cream was delicious! Nicola Musgrave made some beautiful posies for the ladies to take home. Earlier in February, we saw the wedding of Vicky Dunne and Alan O'Neil from Dublin, which was a joyous occasion for their friends and family. On Good Friday, there was a short service, followed by the playing of Bach's Saint Matthew Passion from noon until three o'clock when people came quietly to pray. Easter Sunday was a wonderful celebration, led by Canon David Williams and shared by a full congregation.

Forty new chairs have been delivered to Clifden and they are both comfortable and beautiful pieces of furniture. We are grateful to our generous donors who have made this possible. Special thanks to the co-operative participation of our parishioners in all matters organisational and especially to our Church wardens Isobel and Charlie. Plans are afoot already for some exciting summer projects and the annual Clifden Arts Festival in September.

St Thomas's in Moyard was truly saddened to lose a loyal and devoted friend in Elizabeth Culley, who died on 23rd April. Elizabeth was a lifelong member of Moyard church and she was dedicated to maintaining and keeping it alive through her many and varied activities as fundraiser, jam maker, flower expert and



of course as a member of the select vestry. Her sudden passing surprised us all and she was working in her much loved garden the night before. Her many friends are happy that she was spared a prolonged illness but will nonetheless miss the joyful presence of Elizabeth and her dear dog Hooch at every church service. Elizabeth led a long and rich life with her husband Christopher in England, India, Africa and finally Connemara. In the past few months she has seen all those closest to her and this included a solo trip to Zambia. She arrived home just in time to attend the first Easter Sunday service in Moyard for over thirty years, which gave her enormous pleasure. Elizabeth was laid to rest in the church grounds beside her beloved husband Christopher and following a funeral that was over flowing with friends and neighbours.

St Thomas's hosted its first 'Raise the Roof' concert this March, the first of its kind since the outbreak of Covid in 2020. These concerts draw together a host of young musicians from across the community. We were thrilled to be joined on this occasion by Sarah Perricone from the Royal Scottish Orchestra, as well as Sr. Karol from Kylemore Abbey, Luke Gannon and the renowned Kane sisters from Letterfrack. It was a joy to see a packed church and we were delighted to raise €1800 for the work of Unicef in Ukraine.

Building works have recommenced in St Thomas's which we hope will soon see the lime render put onto the nave walls as well as a new bathroom which should be in place by the summer. This will facilitate the use of the church for a variety of activities and fundraisers into the future.

Holy Trinity Church in Errislannan is very happy to be open again for visitors. This summer renewed efforts will go towards the preservation and restoration of the church graveyard. The gravestones include those belonging to a number of local dignitaries, two Church of Ireland priests as well as two original members of the Friends of St Flannan and the local community. Sadly, there are no longer any Church of Ireland parishioners living on the Errislannan peninsular, but the church maintains a special place in the hearts of all of those who visit it. The Sunday evening service held during the summer months is very well attended by locals and visitors alike.

HOLY WEEK WALK



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