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# tidings

HARVEST ISSUE 2022





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# tidings

## HARVEST ISSUE 2022

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

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## COPY DEADLINE

All submissions for the Harvest Issue  
of Tidings, including advertisements,  
must be in by **Friday 4th  
November 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](mailto:secretary@tka.ie)

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## THE BISHOP WRITES

Dear Friends

Not many weeks ago I found myself in a very hot Canterbury for the Lambeth Conference, that once-in-a decade (or so) gathering of the bishops of the Anglican Communion which is part of the rather elusive but nevertheless real cement of the Communion which holds us together across so many countries and cultures. In the times ahead I shall probably become tedious in sharing with the diocese insights and experiences drawn from a remarkable event which I nevertheless have to remember none of my patient hearers will have attended! Once again the Communion has proved more durable than the gainsayers and indeed the media might have expected. Vexatious issues particularly in the area of human identity and sexuality have not gone away, but there is a much deeper respect for the integrity of one another (the kind of respect that only face to face meetings can truly create) and perhaps even an increased understanding of why the church's very mission requires a different pastoral response in different cultures to evolving societal understandings of the nature of marriage.

---To put it in blunt terms. I had the joy of being the convener of a small working group within the conference. One of its members, a bishop from South Sudan with whom I went out to dinner one night in downtown Canterbury, would regard any redefinition of the nature of marriage not only as inconceivable, but as something which would expose the church to ridicule and actual physical attack. I endeavoured to explain how in my context and culture to continue to make no pastoral and liturgical response whatever to an expanded understanding of marriage- in civil law very often exposes the church to criticism and lack of credibility, and gives an impression to wider society that our pursuit of justice in many other contexts lacks integrity. And I endeavoured to explain in so far as I could something of the actual suffering that the official attitude of the church has caused for many LGBTQ+ people. Such conversations I have to say are precious pearls of great price. And despite such varied views which sometimes can even impair communion, Anglicans somehow know they must still

hang in together to be (to quote the Conference theme) God's Church for God's World.

One area where there was certainly no impairment of communion came in the conference's response to the crisis that is climate change. Indeed it can be said that in many ways the great issue texturing the gathering was not so much sexuality as the state of the planet and of God's creation. We know so much about this in theory, not least after a hot summer such as we have had, but there is still nothing to rival actually hearing the experiences of bishops from island states in the Pacific whose dioceses could literally be obliterated by rising sea levels, or from colleagues who know at first hand the disproportionate impact of dramatic weather events upon the very poor. To be honest I almost felt there will be 'naught for your comfort' as I return home and will find myself preaching at harvest tide in the coming weeks. I know all about issues in Irish agriculture concerning reducing emissions levels, about the threats to family farms and the best means to achieve a just transition to sustainable agriculture ...BUT ... the harsh fact is that making a due response to climate change will be costly and even distressing for us ALL whatever our role in life as producers or consumers, and it has to be placed in the context of the plight of the world's poor and of the planet itself - we just cannot postpone effective action. Our island home will not be the one that potentially vanishes beneath the ocean within a few generations. One of the 'Calls' of the Lambeth bishops to the people of God and to the wider world reads as follows and it hits hard ... '(we must) acknowledge that the scale and urgency of the climate emergency is such that politics must give way to action based on science and rooted in a moral call to recognise our interdependence with each other and the natural world'.

For many of the bishops, coming to Lambeth is a kind of a once in a lifetime pilgrimage, and indeed Canterbury has been one of the Christian world's great focal points of pilgrimage for many centuries. Chaucer spoke long ago of the variety of pilgrims coming to the shrine of Archbishop Thomas Becket, martyred in 1170 under

King Henry II. (Indeed it may well be that Henry's subsequent invasion of Ireland was partly an act of penance and reparation for what had happened, and part of what he saw as his purpose was the reform and reorganisation of the then Irish Church.) There is something timeless and valuable about the activity of pilgrimage, and it has regained new popularity in recent days in contexts such as the Camino. In our own diocese too, ancient holy places, islands ( perhaps notably Achill ), and the Wild Atlantic Way itself offer many rich possibilities for a ministry to pilgrims and this is something we need surely to develop even further. There is something wonderful about taking time to walk together, to focus on a goal, to punctuate the journey with prayer and enjoyment of the creation and to feel one shares in the footsteps and the witness of the saints who have travelled before us. Just before coming to Lambeth, I decided to prepare for my Canterbury pilgrimage by walking the mini-Camino that has been crafted using part of the Lough Derg Way between our cathedrals to the South in Limerick and Killaloe - leaflets that include maps and pausing points for prayer are available at both cathedrals. It is quite a walk (!) but I found it a wonderful and purposeful experience which I would commend to readers who might enjoy such a challenge. And I had such wonderful spontaneous conversations with people along the way too!

In September we will have some ordinations of Priests in the diocese, both around the Feast of St Michael and All Angels. On the Eve of that day, at 7pm in Tuam Cathedral, Alistair Doyle who is curate in Galway, and Andrew Pierce who has arrived among us to work as a curate based in Skreen in the north of the diocese will be ordained. Then on Michaelmas Day itself, September 29, at 6pm in (appropriately) St Michael and All Angels' Waterville, Barbara Irrgang-Buckley will be ordained priest for service in that area of the diocese based on Kenmare, in an Ordained Local Ministry capacity. We very warmly welcome Andy into our midst as he moves from Co Leitrim, and we surround all those to be ordained with our prayers, encouragement and great expectations for fruitful and happy ministries. (Andy has already learned that the way to win the heart of his bishop is by sharing photos of American railway locomotives!) We also give thanks for the faithful and fruitful ministry of Noel Regan in Skreen, to which he brought such gracious pastoral wisdom - embarking on a fresh chapter of ministry

there when others might have considered retirement and sticking with the task for significantly longer than he had originally promised.

More will be said in due course of news that has startled the whole diocese - namely the impending departure to Clogher of Archdeacon Stephen and Canon Jen McWhirter. Over and above the parochial work which has been at the heart of their ministries, Stephen has been a capable and enthusiastic archdeacon, not least during the recent episcopal vacancy, and Jen has poured her skills into a range of diocesan tasks, not least the editing of this very magazine. We feel we can understand the family reasons which take them back north, but the gap they will leave in our common life is simply immense. We wish them every blessing, and rejoice that at the invitation of its chapter Jen will continue to be a Canon of the national cathedral of St Patrick.

In a genuinely great wave, our prayers and concern across the whole United Dioceses have been with our colleague and friend Dean Alistair Grimason during recent times of unexpected and significant illness. We hold him and his daughters on our hearts with true affection and pray too for all who devote their skills to his medical care and progress. We pray too for another cherished and courageous colleague, Maebh O' Herlihy who has so much to face in these days in the medical context. We also think constantly of Isaac, son of one of our trainee Readers Rachel Kenny, continuing his recovery after a very serious accident. And you will all know of many others whose situations need to be entrusted to the healing love of the Lord in these days.

Finally, I would want to put on record the sadness of the diocese at the recent death of Denzil Auchmuty of Galway, and our gratitude for his great contribution. As an enthusiastic parishioner, committed Reader, member of many central church committees and above all a person of deep spirituality, Denzil epitomised all that is best in the service of the faithful lay person whose work truly is their prayer. As we send our sympathy to his family, we remember especially the wonderful tribute paid to his father by Canon John Auchmuty who preached at the crowded funeral.

+Michael Tuam Limerick and Killaloe

EDITORIAL NOTE



This issue of Tidings is somewhat different than usual. As we have begun to bring our two dioceses together we are starting to consider what a united diocesan magazine might look like. While this will be a process of bringing together our two publications we thought that it might be a good idea for people from both ends of the diocese to see what the 'other lot' get up to. So in this issue of Tidings we are carrying the September issue of Newslink. And the October issue of Newslink will carry this Autumn issue of Tidings. A small first step towards further unity, but a first step nonetheless. Enjoy!



OCTOBER

- Sun 2nd 4.00pm, Tuam Harvest Festival. Guest preacher Archdeacon Stephen McWhirter.
- Sun 9th Ven. Stephen's final services United Worship St Patrick's Cathedral, Killala at 11.00am
- Sun 9th 4.00pm, Cong Harvest Festival. Guest preacher Can Jen McWhirter.
- Sun 9th St Anne's Easkey at 7.30pm, preacher: Rev'd Andrew Pierce
- Fri 14th St John's, Ballycastle Harvest Thanksgiving service 7.30pm
- Fri 21st Killanley Harvest Thanksgiving service in Killanley at 8.00pm
- Fri 21st St Mary's, Crossmolina Harvest service 7.30pm
- Sun 23rd Ven. Stephen's final service in the Kilmoremy Union. United Worship in St Michael's at 11.30am
- Sun 23rd 12.30pm, Omev Group Harvest Festival. Holy Trinity Church in Errislannan

NOVEMBER

- Thurs 3rd Archdeacon's Institution as Rector to the Parish of Rossorry in Clogher Diocese, 7.30pm



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

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The work has been carried out over the last few weeks. The barge and corner stones were repointed and the cross placed back in situ. Other areas were repointed at various levels and lead flashing replaced. The rector climbed up once the work was complete to see the beautiful cross back where it belongs. Thank you to everyone who has been involved in this work.






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## TKA HELLO



and a very instructive term as a Deacon-Intern under Archdeacon Craig McCauley and the people of the Virginia Group of Parishes in County Cavan, the “formal” training has come to an end. We have a lot to learn and are grateful to Bishop Michael for placing his trust in the us (and in CITI’s work in preparing us), and to the people of the Skreen Group for making us so welcome. We look very much to serving them in the coming years.

I myself was born and raised in Kansas, USA and Jackie, is from Billis, Virginia, Co. Cavan. She and I met in England after I was posted to RAF Mildenhall, Suffolk, by the US Air Force in 1989. We have also lived in Germany, Ohio and Georgia (USA) prior to moving to Ireland in 2000 with our two youngest children following a twenty-year military career. We started building our own home near Carrigallen, Co. Leitrim in 2001 and since then I have been working as a business trainer and Human Resources consultant across Ireland, North and South. I began ministry as a parish reader in 2010 and was commissioned as a Diocesan Reader in 2014. In 2012 we opened an independent general store, J&B Hope Ltd. ‘keeping life simple’ on Bridge St, Cavan. The shop is now managed by our daughter Abigail. Our son Forrest works in Navan. We have two daughters and seven grandchildren living in the US, both near Louisville, Kentucky. I also have a sister and two brothers living in the US while Jackie’s parents and two sisters live here in Ireland.

Hello to all in the Diocese of Tuam, Killala & Achonry and more specifically to the people of the Skreen Group of Parishes (Christ Church, Kilmacshalgan and Skreen). It is both exciting and daunting for both Jackie and I as I take up the post of Bishop’s Curate with her at my side. After two years at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute

We are very excited to have the opportunity to learn more about the diocese and life in the West and to get to know and serve each of the people in the Skreen Group. In Christ,

Andy and Jackie Pierce.

## WELL DONE!

Well done to one young parishioner from the Aughaval Group of Parishes who had her hair cut for the Little Princess Trust. She has donated her hair to be made into wigs for children who lose their hair due to medical treatment and illness.

Pictured across the before and after photos!





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# BALLINA CHURCHES TOGETHER

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--The retreat provided an opportunity to come away from the busyness of our everyday lives. It was a day for spiritual reflection ... a quiet day for Christian community, art, music, journalling, creativity, round-table conversations and sharing, story-telling, good food, friendship and fun (laughter is good for the soul!). Artists produced beautiful installations on the day. We celebrated all that is good in life! There was also a tour of one of the hermitages.

## RETREAT at HOLY HILL HERMITAGE

On Saturday 28th of May, Ballina Churches Together hosted a retreat at Holy Hill Hermitage at Skreen, Co. Sligo. This was a day-retreat at the home of the Carmelite nuns which is situated along a quiet country road close to the scenic area called Ladies Brae. People gathered to focus on the 'Goodness of God', after a time when so many things in the world seem negative and people came from both Sligo and Mayo.



The world we live in is frantic ... chaotic ... and similar to Jesus time, we need to 'come away to a quiet place by ourselves'. It can be argued that - "An exhausted culture needs an alternative to itself – and not an echo chamber"! (Carey Nieuwhof). We learnt from the day at Holy Hill that a retreat is a very effective way of inspiring and encouraging people in their faith and the church can offer this alternative.



## SUMMERTIME GATHERINGS

Following on from the retreat, there was a great desire to gather together in community. Gatherings have included our popular Round Table Discussion groups – which included various topics, discussion and personal testimonials of God's goodness in people's lives. Summertime offers oodles of other ways to impact peoples' lives and we also invited people to join us for events which included food, song, games and laughter. We now gather on a weekly basis and our Community is growing in numbers. We are placing the emphasis on being together and having fun! With all the difficulties and challenges of the past few years the gift of being together is one we have all come to celebrate a little more this summer.

## MISSION EVENING

On Thursday 9th of June, we were invited to address the Limerick, Killaloe and Ardfert Diocesan Council for Mission at the Woodlands Hotel, Adare. During the evening, I (Marian) described the work of Ballina Churches Together in detail and the various ways we reach out into the community. Church Army as a mission organisation has been bringing hope to the streets, since 1882. We seek to serve and walk alongside those who are struggling, especially the marginalised. Our work includes pastoral care, home visits to the elderly and people living in isolation. We seek to support people through prolonged difficulty or immediate need.

## BALLINA HERITAGE DAY

The Ballina Salmon Festival is the longest running community festival in Ireland. This year it celebrated its 58th year and traditionally the National Heritage Day occurs in the middle of the Salmon Festival week. Heritage Day has been part of the festival for over 30 years and this year it returned after an absence of two years on the 13th of July. Several thousand people crammed into the town for an occasion to remember on a beautiful summers day. The past came to life and the streets of Ballina were transformed. Craftsmen and women demonstrated their traditional skills and the streets were filled with the sounds of music, song and dance. Young and old were involved, dressed in





costume and celebrating the time honoured memories of bygone days! This year, Ballina Churches Together had a stall which remembered various aspects of life in the past.

**YOUTH GROUP**

During the month of August we had two youth gatherings. On a perfect summer's day, we took a group of teens to Enniscrone Beach which is an idyllic location for surfing. Taking to the waves, the young people and their leaders enjoyed an exhilarating afternoon on their surf boards. On the last day of August we enjoyed an end of summer Back to School BBQ and celebration! We also ran KID'S CAMPS at Mill View and Greenhills Estates. This summer we were assisted by Stephen McCleery, who is studying for the ministry with the Presbyterian Church at Union Theological College.







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## IT'S NOT YOU, IT'S ME!

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Poverty, like a car accident or a serious illness is something that happens to other people...until that other person, is you. Let's be real, nobody likes admitting that they are short of money, that they cannot pay their electricity bill or that a restaurant meal is a distant dream. I'm

the first to admit that social media makes us all want to present the best of ourselves, a sunny holiday, a wonderful hotel stay or a perfect relationship – very often a veneer in an effort to portray a 'perfection' that can often be razor-thin.

In a former life, I worked for a well-known (iconic!) postcard company – we produced over 100,000,000 postcards per year for many countries around the world until the advent of the smart phone (but that's another story). The postcards were shiny, the blues were very blue, the greens were even greener and as for the reds..... Ireland never looked better than on those shiny pieces of cardboard. But Ireland never looked like that at all – if you compared the original photograph to the finished postcard, there was barely a comparison. We were all part of an (admittedly innocent) 'big lie' in a desire to make the world look better than it actually was. These days, photoshop does a much more convincing job and we all play our part in uploading shots to various forms of social media in a mis-guided effort to portray the best of ourselves. We want to be perfect because we think society expects this of us – the truth is, it may be that we expect it of ourselves.

The problem with 'perfection' is that it is unforgiving about that pimple that has suddenly appeared on our face, it remonstrates with us about those few extra kilogrammes around our waist and, as for a financial struggle – nobody must know! In Protestant Aid we continue to receive General Grant Application from across a wide section of

our community. Traditionally, it was often a sudden and unexpected expense that caused the problem – a broken central heating boiler or house repair that disrupted the household budget. Today, the problems are more acute. "I simply can't manage"

I receive many 'phone calls from folk who are having difficulty, and really appreciate that it can be difficult for them to make contact. Last week, a lady called literally weeping in despair and frustration. "I'm so careful with household budgeting and try really hard, but with increases in everything I buy, I simply can't manage". That was one call that reflects the lives of so many families – perhaps not surprising when recently published government statistics tell us that 8.9% of the population are experiencing food poverty – that's 445,000 people who meet these criteria and often end up having to depend on the growing number of Foodbanks around Ireland.

Inevitable, children are especially vulnerable in this scenario. Notwithstanding state assistance (for which many do not qualify), back-to-school costs are hugely significant and can form yet another burden on hard-pressed households, resulting in stress that leads on to mental health difficulties.

The Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP) have advised that the number of people seeking help in the first half of this year was up more than 20 per cent on the same period last year; itself a record year in terms of the demand for its services. This mirrors almost exactly our experience in Protestant Aid – to the end of July, the increase in our General Grants was 29% compared to 2021 with a 22% increase in application numbers.

These are not applications from the abyss, they come from our town, our village, our neighbourhood. They come from our friends and our neighbours and maybe even closer to home. Many households and families are doing well but let's not lose sight of those who may need a discreet helping hand. No shame. No judgement.

Thankfully, those who donate so generously to Protestant Aid know the answer to the question "Who is my neighbour?" and for that, we are grateful.

Geoff Scargill  
Head of Charitable Services  
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## PARISH NEWS



### SKREEN & ACHONRY GROUP

Revd Andy Pierce  
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Tel: 086 1705888  
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### Skreen Group

In August the Skeen Group bid a very fond farewell to Canon Noel Regan on Sunday 7th August in Skreen Parish Church. Canon Noel had served the group faithfully as Priest in Charge for almost five years. He was very much appreciated across the group especially for his service to the parish throughout the Covid pandemic. He will always be remembered as someone who loved the parishes and the people. Later the same month the group welcomed Rev Andrew Pierce as their new "clergyman". Andrew had previously served as a Deacon-Intern in the Virginia Group of Parishes under Archdeacon Craig McCauley. Andy and his wife Jackie have been living near Carrigallen, Co. Leitrim for over twenty year and were members of the Killeshandra Group of Parishes, Co. Cavan. His wife Jackie and two children, their son Forrest with his fiancé Gemma Lee and their daughter Abigail and her husband Thomas Halpin, were introduced the following week. Andy and Jackie will be living in group while Forrest lives in Arvagh, Co. Cavan and Abigail lives near Carrigallen.

The group wishes to thank Rev Peter Norman, Rev Karen Duignan, Rev Martin Steele and Mr Norman Reid for providing cover over the summer. The churches were very blessed to be so well served.

### St. Mary's Kilmacshalgan news.

On 2nd July past, Yvonne Morrison, daughter of Rebecca and the late Ernest Morrison, Templeboy, was

married to Christopher Dempsey of Foxford. The marriage was solemnised by Canon Andrea Wills. The newly weds reside in Foxford. The people of the parish wish them well and thank them for bringing the joy of their wedding to the parish.



On Sunday 17th July, Anna Margaret Johnston, daughter of Alan and Deirdre Johnston of Dromore West and Andrew Deane Shaw, son of Derek and Gillian Shaw, Templeboy, were two young people of the parish were confirmed into the faith by Bishop Burrows, who was assisted by Rev Clive Moore. It was a wonderful day for the young people and their families as well as an opportunity for the people of

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Kilmacshalgan to meet Bishop Burrows. We pray that both Anna and Andrew will continue to grow in wisdom and in stature and ever and always grow in faith.



#### Blessing of new stands

Rev Andy, along with Fr Michael Gilroy and Fr Michael O'Hara, led prayers at the official opening of the new 70 seat stand at Seamus Donegan Memorial Park, at St Patrick's GAA Club, Skreen-Dromard Community Centre, in memory of Conor Brady, on Saturday 3rd September 2022. The event was attended by people from across the community including a delegation



from the Sligo Rugby club for which Conor Brady also played prior to immigrating to the US.

#### Skreen news.

Lily Greer, who lived to the wonderful and remarkable age of 101½ was interred at Skreen Parish Church on Thursday 11th August following a service at St John's Cathedral, Sligo. Lily had been living most lately in Summerville Nursing Home Sligo but was seen driving around the parish well into her 90s. Lily was delightful and an inspiration to us all. The members of the vestry and indeed all the church want to express their heartfelt thanks to Shirley Clarke for all the years she gave to parish as Honorary Secretary of the Select Vestry. Shirley, in her time as Secretary served alongside Canon Pasley, Canon Mitchell, Canon Ferguson, Archdeacon Synnott and Canon Regan. You are welcome to try and figure out how long that might have been. Needless to say it was long enough to deserve a well-earned break. Shirley's service to the church in Skreen has been and always will be very much appreciated.

#### Harvest services in the group are as follows:

**Kilmacshalgan:** Sunday, 9th Oct, normal service time.  
**Christ Church:** Dromard, Sunday, October 16th, 3pm.  
**Skreen:** Sunday, October 23rd, normal service time.

#### Achonry Group

Rev Andy Pierce has arrived in Skreen as Bishop's Curate and his details are printed in the magazine. He'll be providing pastoral cover for the Achonry Group of Parishes so please take note of his details. Our thanks to all who continue to help out leading worship Sunday by Sunday, and for warm and generous welcome they receive. It has been enormously important for weekly services to continue and we couldn't have done it without them.

Bishop Michael will be visiting Rathbarron and Tubbercurry on Tuesday 4th October. As has happened in other churches in the diocese this will be an opportunity for the Bishop to meet parishioners and have a chat over a cup of tea/coffee. Times will be announced locally nearer the time.

#### Harvest services in the group are as follows:

Rathbarron: Sunday...  
 Tubbercurry: Sunday...  
 Canon Doris Clements will be leading worship and Rev Andy Pierce will be preaching.

#### From the registers

##### Christian Burial

Carol Jane Wilson, Ballaghderrreen, Co Roscommon. Died Wednesday 10th August in Castlebar Hospice.



#### 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

#### Choristers from St Patrick's

We were delighted to welcome the choristers of St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, for the weekend of 21-22 May. They arrived with their Director, Mr Stuart Nicholson and their organist, Mr David Leigh and sang a short recital on Saturday evening followed by a Sunday Eucharist service on Sunday morning. The Dean's Vicar, Canon Charles Mullen, travelled with them and was the preacher on Sunday morning. My thanks to all who helped with arrangements that weekend, and to the choristers and their chaperones for coming west. It was a lovely weekend!

#### Parish Reader training

During May and June two new parish readers were

trained and two current parish readers took the opportunity to refresh their training. It is wonderful that people in the parish will offer themselves in ministry this way. They will begin taking on their role in the parish during the coming months.

#### 60th wedding anniversary

It was a pleasure to celebrate the 60th wedding anniversary of Richard and Betty Moore on Sunday 12th June. Prayers were said in thanks for their long and happy marriage. We continue to keep them in our prayers.



### Turlough kids outing

Turlough kids enjoyed a church outing to Turlough House on Sunday 26th June. We went for a walk and then had fun at the play area, finishing with a picnic. It was so lovely to be able to meet together, the first such outing since the beginning of the COVID pandemic. The kids enjoyed each others company and their parents enjoyed a chat.



was held on Sunday 12th June and we welcomed two groups - Long Way Down Duo and the Cornmaiz String Band. This is a long standing part of the Westport Bluegrass Festival and the full church attested to the the popularity of this event. We welcomed the Summit Chorale on Monday 25th July to Westport as they performed a concert to a much smaller, but equally as appreciative audience. This choir hailed from New Jersey, USA, and performed in Westport as part of an Irish Tour. Finally we welcomed the Westport Camerata who performed a concert on Friday 12th August as part of the 150th anniversary programme of events at the church. Proceeds on this occasion were in aid of church funds. This trio - Patrick Early, Pauline Graham and Michael Quinn- performed some pieces by Handel, Vivaldi, Corelli and Bach, amongst others and it was a very enjoyable concert. My thanks to all from the parish who helped 'man' the door on these occasions and made sure that everything ran smoothly.

### Outside service at Turlough

Saturday 13th August saw the Rector and congregation at Turlough parish Church move their service outside. The weather had been amazing that day and in the interests of trying not to overheat we held our service of Holy Communion in front of the church rather than in it. It was a joy to celebrate the Eucharist with the sun setting in the background over the Mayo landscape. We even enjoyed an ice cream once the service concluded!

### Music at Holy Trinity

Holy Trinity were pleased to host several concerts over the summer. The Bluegrass festival gospel hour

### Summer opening

Holy Trinity opens their doors on weekdays during the summer season to tourists and locals alike who wish to visit our beautiful church. The last two years





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have seen the church closed and locked during the summer season due to the pandemic and it was lovely this year to be able to open the doors wide for those who would enter therein. The visitors book is once again bursting with comments from those who ventured inside. Keeping the church open in this way means someone has to open, and lock, the door every day and I'd like to thank everyone who undertook that task at different times throughout the summer. As a parish that has relied on tourist income in the past it was wonderful to have the doors open again. My deep thanks to everyone involved.

### Tús workers

Holy Trinity is a parish that benefits from the Tús scheme in the town. Until recently we had two Tús workers. Mark's placement has come to an end and we wish him God's blessings as he looks to 'what next'. We are happy that Kenneth will be with us for a while longer. I'd like to thank them both for all their work over the past year.

### From the registers Christian Burial

Sally O'Malley, Lodge Road, Westport, aged 84. Wednesday 15th June at 11.00am in Holy Trinity, Westport, followed by cremation in Mount Jerome Crematorium.

Elsie Judge, Farnacht, Westport, aged 89 Sunday 21st August at 3.00pm in Holy Trinity, Westport, followed by burial in Knappagh graveyard. Service conducted by Canon Andrea Wills.

### Holy Matrimony

Stephanie Taylor and Paul Barlow, in Holy Trinity, Westport, on Wednesday 1st June at 1.30pm. Service conducted by Canon Jen McWhirter.



### Holy Baptism

Louis Robert McKeon, son of David and Lavinia McKeon, Leicnin Village, Turlough. Saturday 11th June at 3.00pm in Christchurch, Castlebar.

Tadhg Thomas Roy-Bennett and Evelyn Lily Roy-Bennett, children of Brian and Julia Bennett, Australia. Monday 25th July In Turlough Parish Church. Service conducted by Canon Andrea Wills.



Conor John Conroy, son of John Conroy and Aoife Hastings, Ayle, Westport. Sunday 31st July at 2.00pm in Holy Trinity, Westport. Service conducted by Revd Caroline Morrow



### 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  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/stnicholasgalway/](https://www.facebook.com/stnicholasgalway/)  
YouTube <https://youtu.be/0cpkIQfvlfA>

### Service Times Sundays

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

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

Everyone Welcome.



Rev Alistair Doyle

### Easter

Hospital Chaplaincy – If you or your loved one is in one of the Galway hospitals please let us know. Following the HSE cyber-attack, it has proved very challenging to get a chaplains list of Church of Ireland patients. Often patients are not seen by the chaplain and this is hugely frustrating due to circumstances beyond our control such as not ever knowing they were in patients or their ward being closed due to Covid. We apologise for any inconvenience or



confusion this may have caused. Please do not hesitate to contact Provost Lynda at any stage to let her know if you or your loved one is in the hospital.

### Good Wishes

We send our good wishes to Archdeacon Stephen on his appointment in Clogher Diocese. He has been a tremendous friend and guide to us all in the Galway group and has shown great dedication to his role and on the many committees, he has chaired and served on. We send him on in this new role with our prayers and support. We continue to pray for Archdeacon Stephen, Canon Jen, and Kizzy in the transitioning time and as they settle at different times into their new home.

### Ordination

Rev Alistairs has been our deacon for this past year, all his hard work with the dissertation has paid off, as the rector has appointed Rev Alistair as curate - assistant. We look forward to his ordination to the priesthood on Wednesday 28th September in St Mary's Cathedral Tuam. The following Sunday we will also celebrate with Rev Alistair as he celebrates his first Holy Communion. Please do support him in your prayers and by your presence.

### Summer and Autumn

At the time of writing Summer is coming to a close and the routine of school and college settles back into our city and community. We hope and pray that you all had some time for rest in the Summer and we wish

our young people very Blessing in a new term. A transitional phase in the city as the tourism becomes a little quieter making way for the third-level students. The clergy are working closely with the universities and we are delighted that some students will be joining us on placements in a variety of ways throughout the year.

### Confirmation

Congratulations to our young people who were confirmed on Sunday 29th May. We assure them of our continued prayers and are especially proud of every one of them.

### The Happy Hiker

We met again on Sunday 22nd May when we stayed closer to home and had a very pleasant afternoon stroll along the Corrib river walk through the NUIG campus. A BIG thank you again to John Patching for leading us.

### Medieval Church Fete

On Saturday the sun shone on St Nix as the parish family hosted a fete for the city and community. A light was shone on the church and the work we do and seek to do, also the work in terms of fundraising and restoration that needs to take place. However more than anything else it was a day of fun and laughter, old friendships strengthened and new ones created. We had Medieval Music and Dance, the community circus joined us and provided entertainment for all, Galway early music and the Medieval- enactments of Sword



Fighting, etc.! A huge thank you to the team, costume makers, crafters, and helpers, and all who donated produce, time, etc. At the feedback meeting, we were astounded that over thirty people attended and all were hugely supportive and plans are underway for next year.

### Chatty Crafters

Meet every Wednesday in the Church, and enjoy a craft, cuppa, chat, and share some ideas, following the 10.30-midweek service. The chatty crafters have continued to develop and the attendance is increasing



all the time, providing a splendid ministry of outreach and inclusion. Many of the crafters are also working hard on the heraldic costumes, each unique and representing the tribes of Galway. Great laughter can be heard coming from the church on Chatty Crafting days. The chatty crafters are delighted to be recipients of a recent grant which will enable them to invest in more equipment etc, which will interest, teach and continue the work of inclusion and outreach.

### Patchwork Classes

Thank you to Mildred Keyes who has held Patchwork classes this Summer. They have been well supported and Mildred and her team have passed on their knowledge and shared ideas and designs. The group was run for enjoyment and encouragement.

### Ryan Tubridy



There was great excitement back in May as Ryan Tubridy made an unexpected visit to the church and tried his hand at playing the bells! He invited the rector on the following day to talk live on his show on RTE Radio 1 about ministry and St Nicholas. We were

thrilled with his support and encouragement as we embark on and plan many projects in the near future. The podcast is still available.

### Volunteer of the Year

Congratulations to Catherine Moore Temple who has been named the Galway Volunteer of the year at the Mayoral Awards on Tuesday, 24th May. Catherine has worked tirelessly in the Church for over 25 years, and Mayor and the city council celebrated her





achievements in making the church accessible for all; more recently championed the use of the Irish language; as bookings secretary; historian; tour guide; and dealing with our many concert/ arts bookings. At the awards ceremony, the Mayor said that there were many deserving candidates but Catherine won the vote of the City Council. Her friendly and approachable manner also makes her an ambassador for not only the Church but the city as she deals with many visitors and bookings from across the city, community, and world. There were almost 100 nominees, for nine categories. This is a huge honour for Catherine and the Church and she is a worthy and very popular winner. We are so very proud of her.

### Denzil Auchmuty

Denzil died surrounded by his loving family last July. Denzil was a committed parishioner who worked lovingly and served tirelessly at the parish, diocesan and central Church levels. We extend our deepest sympathy to Chancellor John, Claire and Dawn, and the wider family at this time. Denzil's funeral took place in St Nicholas on Tuesday 19th July.

### Leslie Hunt

Leslie Hunt died surrounded by his loving family last June. Les had been an active member of the parish and popular across the city and community. We extend our deepest sympathy to Christine, Trina, and Jon. Lesley's funeral took place in St Nicholas on Sunday 19th June, followed by private cremation in Shannon on Monday.

### Norman Wolfe

The Oughterard parish family and wider family and community were saddened to hear about the death of Norman Wolfe last month. Norman had been a great supporter of Kilcummin since moving there

many years ago. In his life wherever he went he became actively involved most especially in coaching sports. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Arlene, his children Colin, Guy, Richard, and Victoria, and their families at this time. Norman's funeral took place in Oughterard on 16th August, followed by a cremation service in Dublin at Harolds Cross.

Three stalworth members of our parishes at a time when their health allowed. We hold their families in our love and prayers at this difficult time and give thanks for their life, love, and example.



### 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](http://www.stmichaelsballina.killala.anglican.org)  
[www.kilmoremoy.killala.anglican.org](http://www.kilmoremoy.killala.anglican.org)

### Celebrations

As I sit to prepare these notes I can hardly believe that this will be my last submission to Tidings; and even as this edition is published I will already be making my round of final services to celebrate Holy Communion throughout each individual parish. I'm very much reminded of Raymond Chandler's, Philip Marlowe novel The Long Goodbye, this is how it feels for me and is certainly something I'm not looking forward to!

I have been here for almost eight years, all of them happy and fulfilling. This has been very much home to us and I feel this move very much for Kizzy who has truly grown up here and has known nowhere else as home. I remember with fondness, and your indulgence, celebrating Holy Communion with her in my arms on a Wednesday morning and watching the years slip by until she was peeking out from under the alter frontal at the same service. There were trying times for me yet how I missed them when she was grown and away to school.

Our congregations are small so each person is known, recognised and missed on Sundays if not there. As I stand week by week in each parish I often look down with sadness at the spaces left by good and faithful servants now gone from us and residing in that great promised



kingdom in heaven. My moving from the parish leaves them behind as well yet I am grateful for the time I had to share with so many parishioners now gone.

God's timings are not known or understood by us and it is a deep regret that I will not have longer in my Diocesan ministry to work alongside Bishop Michael. He has been a great support to Jen and I in these last months as I hope we have been to him; and in moving I will miss the role and function as an Archdeacon greatly. These are challenging times for the Bishop and the Diocese with a number of vacancies to fill, but fill they will and new chapters of life within these Groups and Unions will begin. I can say that I leave this Group happy in the knowledge that everything will tick along very well without me. Undoubtedly my greatest joy in my time here has been witnessing God's liberation of so many people into their own ministries. We have a great and supportive team of ministers both Lay and Ordained and it is a continued joy that some of my final acts as rector here will be the commissioning of two

new Parish Readers for the Group; Caroline Bournes for St Anne's and Barbara Payne for St Michael's. I wish them every blessing for these first days in ministry. As I would wish to thank you all for your prayers and support throughout my time I would particularly like to thank the army of the faithful who serve as Wardens and on the Select Vestries. These are challenging times and never have you shirked from your responsibilities in the maintenance and repair of God's Holy Church and have then so often gone further in the support of God's Mission here and throughout the world. Lastly and by no means least to my Parish Readers and OLM colleagues, you have offered me friendship and support without reserve and made my time here a joy, the memories of each of you I will treasure forever.

'The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord make his face shine on you  
and be gracious to you;  
the Lord turn his face toward you  
and give you peace'.

Numbers 6: 24-26



Bishop Michael visited the parishes of the Killala Group on the 4th & 5th of July. His visits were appreciated and enjoyed by all in attendance, we look forward in the coming months for his joining us again in worship.

### Dates for the Diary Harvest in Killala Group

Hard times are ahead of us all, not least in the expected rise in all types of fuel. In anticipation of these difficulties as a combined effort in the Group we are encouraging parishioners to bring along gifts of non-perishable foods that we can keep as hampers for any family who could do with a hand over the winter. If things are tough for you this winter please let a member of the clergy know so that we can arrange help through one of these hampers or through an application to Protestant Aid. Any help will be offered discreetly and confidentially. Please speak with a member of the clergy.

### Harvest Services

Kilglass Parish - Friday 23rd September 2022 at 7.30pm, preacher Ven. Stephen McWhirter  
St Patrick's Cathedral, Killala - Sunday 25th September 2022 at 4.00pm

St Michael's, Ballina - Friday 30th September 2022 at 7.30pm  
St Anne's Easkey - Sunday 9th October 2022 at 7.30pm, preacher Rev'd Andrew Pierce  
St John's, Ballycastle - Friday 14th October 2022, 7.30pm  
St Mary's, Crossmolina - Friday 21st October 2022 at 7.30pm  
Killanley, Castleconnor - Friday 21st October 2022 at 8.00pm

### Ven. Stephen's final services United Worship Sunday 9th October 2022

Ven. Stephen's final service in the Killala Union. United Worship in St Patrick's Cathedral, Killala at 11.00am

### Sunday 23rd October 2022

Ven. Stephen's final service in the Kilmoremoy Union. United Worship in St Michael's at 11.30am

### Rossorry Institution

Thursday 3rd November 2022

The date set for the Archdeacon's Institution as Rector to the Parish of Rossorry in Clogher Diocese is Thursday 3rd November 2022 at 7.30pm. All are invited and encouraged to attend this service.



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

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

On an unremarkable evening in mid-June Archdeacon Stephen told us the news that he would be moving to

a new parish before the end of the year. This announcement made me sad. I have worked happily with him for the past 3 years. While I wish him and his family all the very best in this new chapter of their lives, he will be a very hard act to follow. I want to thank him for all the help, training and support he has given me as I got to grips with being a newly ordained priest. Of course, he is also responsible for any bad habits I've picked up. I hope he realises for better or worse for the rest of my ministry I will be doing things 'his way'.



On a happier note, Bishop Michael visited Easkey and Kilglass on 5th July, an absolutely lovely occasion. Members of the parishes came and welcomed him with tea, goodies and plenty of chat. In Easkey we talked about funerals, trains and other weird and wonderful clerical experiences and in Kilglass he gave an impromptu musical interlude. He is not half bad playing the organ!! This was a great way to get to know our new Bishop and I hope to have many more opportunities in the coming years.



Rev Karen Duignan and Fr John Kneafsey were also asked to bless new colours. The ceremony concluded with the words from the Kohima epitaph in India: "When you go home tell them of us and say, For your tomorrow we gave our today."

It was a tremendous privilege to be involved with this event.



### KILLANLEY - CASTLECONNOR

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

### Peace Park - Castlebar

Sunday 31st July marked the 100th anniversary of the disbandment of the Irish Regiments. The Connaught Ranger Association marked the occasion with a commemoration ceremony in the Mayo Peace Park in Castlebar. It was a beautiful and meaningful ceremony under the bluest of skies. Prayers were offered for the sacrifices made by so many. Wreaths were blessed and placed under the memorial wall where the names of hundreds of Mayo men who lost their lives during many conflicts over the years are inscribed. The Last Post was sounded and after a minute's silence, Reveille.



### "KIA ORA

Summer is over, well the best of it anyway. The evenings are starting to draw in and there is a definite chill in the air. By the time you read these notes I will have been to the other side of the world to visit my son in New Zealand. This is a delayed trip due to the pandemic so there is much excitement as I prepare to fly. The past few months have been quite busy with many different things happening throughout the area.

### RMSAR

On 7th May, I was asked to join with the RMSAR (River Moy Search And Rescue) as they launched their new craft on the river. The boat is called Dochas and on a beautiful afternoon I blessed the new craft and all the members who work tirelessly helping out in



A PRAYER FOR THE SEASON OF CREATION

Father of all,  
Creator and ruler of the universe,  
You entrusted your world to us as a gift.  
Help us to care for it and all people,  
that we may live in right relationship -  
with You, with ourselves,  
with one another, and with creation.

Christ our Lord, both divine and human,  
You lived among us and died for our sins.  
Help us to imitate your love for the human  
family by recognising that we are all  
connected — to our brothers and sisters  
around the world,  
to those in poverty impacted by  
environmental devastation,  
and to future generations.

Holy Spirit,  
giver of wisdom and love,  
You breathe life in us and guide us.  
Help us to live according to your vision,  
stirring to action the hearts of all—  
individuals and families,  
communities of faith,  
and civil and political leaders.

Triune God, help us to hear  
the cry of those in poverty,  
and the cry of the earth,  
so that we may together care  
for our common home.

Amen.

search and rescue missions. The highlight for me was a short trip down the river, which I have to admit was my first time ever on the river, as I do not have sea-legs!

ARD NA GREINE, ENNISCRONE



On Thursday 9th June I had the honour, along with my Roman Catholic colleague Fr. Gerry O’Hora, of blessing the new dementia wing at the Nursing home in Enniscrone. It was a wonderful afternoon spent with the

residents in the home where we all joined in with the singsong and ate all the fabulous food. The following day I was back there again to celebrate Holy Communion with some of the residents.



lime render to be replaced on both back and front gables of the church.

Due to the scaffolding, the only entrance to the church is through the Vestry door, where services are continuing every Sunday at 10.00am.

BISHOP MICHAEL’S VISIT

The week beginning the 4/5th July was a busy one for Bishop Michael as he arrived in the Killala Group to visit all the churches. His visit to Killanley was on 5th July, where he was welcomed by some of the parishioners and we all enjoyed an informal chat over a cuppa and some biscuits. We look forward to a repeat visit in the near future.

BAPTISM IN WESTPORT

During Canon Jen’s holidays, I was called upon to baptise a gorgeous little baby in Holy Trinity Westport. I am glad to report that wee Conor behaved impeccably. A beautiful ceremony on a beautiful day.

CHURCH RENOVATIONS

Renovations are continuing at the Church in Killanley. Presently scaffolding has been erected to allow for

  
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## HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE

The date for Harvest thanksgiving service in Killanley will be Friday 21st October at 8.00pm

## AND FINALLY

On behalf of parishioners of Killanley Church, we say goodbye to Archdeacon Stephen as he moves on to new pastures. Archdeacon Stephen will be moving to Rossorry Parish in the Diocese of Clogher in November. He has been with us for the last nine years and during his time, he has raised up 6 parish readers, two of which are now priests. Not bad going for a wee man from Bangor! Archdeacon, we will miss you and your quirky ways. Rest assured we will keep in touch. We wish you, Jen and Kizzy every blessing and thank you for everything.



## CROSSMOLINA AND BALLYCASTLE (KILLALA GROUP)

Revd Clive Moore (OLM)  
E-mail: [iclvmoore@gmail.com](mailto:iclvmoore@gmail.com)  
Phone: 087-6563238

By the time you read this we will be well and truly in the midst (and perhaps mists) of autumn. However as I sit down to write it August has just yielded to September and despite what the calendar might tell us, a spell of very welcome good weather prevails and the only sign of summer ending is the return of the children to school. I am not too familiar with what happens in school these days but many of us will recall writing an essay (or composition as we called them) in either English or Irish entitled "What I did during the summer." Now all these years later, I find myself doing more or less the same thing once more! I never realised just what good preparation those "compositions" were.

Preparation is a bit of a theme as I recall the past few months. One of the highlights for me was taking confirmation classes as I got to know five really great young people as they prepared for this very important step in their lives as disciples of Christ, taking on for themselves the commitments made on their behalf by their parents and godparents at their baptism. From St Mary's, Crossmolina, we had Andrea Cooke and Kate Jackson, and from St Michael's, Ballina, Reese

Norton who were all confirmed on the feast of St Thomas, 3rd July, in St Mary's, Crossmolina by Bishop Michael. Anna Johnston and Andrew Shaw from Kilmacshalgan, Dromore West, also joined us and Bishop Michael confirmed them on 17th July in St Mary's, Kilmacshalgan. It was wonderful to see the candidates so well supported by friends and family on their big days and I thank their parents for their willingness to help and co-operation, which allowed the classes to happen even when we had to revert to the dreaded zoom at one stage when I caught covid! I better make sure to also thank my betrothed, the lovely Grace, for helping me with the classes and making sure the candidates had some fun as we learned about the church and what it means to be confirmed Christians together.

We got to meet and chat with Bishop Michael in a more informal setting as he visited our parishes on Monday 4th July. It was great for him to get a chance to see us in our churches, meet, chat with and share a cup of coffee with us and get to know us a little. Equally so it was a very enjoyable experience for the parishioners who turned out on a Monday afternoon in both churches to meet our very busy Bishop and enjoy his good humour, his enthusiasm and zest for the task he is undertaking in shepherding his flock in these parts.

As I mentioned I succumbed to a bout of covid, which thankfully did not keep me out of action too long but did prevent me from taking services for one Sunday. I'm delighted to report that the services went ahead as Archdeacon Stephen and Rev Martin stepped in to take a very special service in St John's, and in St Mary's Alistair Cooke stepped in with little notice and preparation to lead the service of Morning Prayer, assisted by Monica Flanagan who did the readings and lead the Psalm. By all accounts, they both did an excellent job and we are very grateful to them for their willingness to ensure that worship went ahead on the day.

The very special service that went ahead in St John's on that day (19th June) was a service of thanksgiving for the Wool Harvest and blessing of the wool. This most unique service is the result of a collaboration with the good folk of Killala Woolcraft, Anne and Matt Gambrill, who rent St John's Hall from the parish where they have classes and demonstrations on all the crafts and skills of spinning weaving, dyeing and everything else creative you can do with wool! After the service, which included a blessing of all the looms and spinning wheels, the congregation enjoyed a cup of tea and some baked treats in the hall and had the



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opportunity to listen to records on St John's parishioner, Cecil Jackson's gramophone which had been repaired by the talented Matt! Also present was the star of the show Lamberly the pet sheep! It was a great way to begin what we hope to make an annual event for St John's and Killala Woolcraft.

Although I was sad to miss such a unique service and occasion, I was pleased that Archdeacon Stephen was able to preside as the initiative for it all came from him and it was fitting that he was able to do so before he moves on to his new parish. We were all, of course, saddened to hear our Rector is moving to Rossorry Parish in Clogher Diocese, taking up his appointment there at his institution on 3rd November. We are very grateful for the time he, Rev Canon Jen and Kizzy have been with us, uniquely one spouse replacing the other as Rector of the Killala Union! They have enriched our parishes and parish life, and they leave us in a viable

position to continue to offer the unique richness of the Church of Ireland worship and rite in our communities into the future. We will continue to keep them all in our prayers and always have a welcome here for them in this part of the west.

O Holy Spirit, guide and strengthen our Rector Archdeacon Stephen as he prepares to announce the gospel and care for your people in the parish of Rossorry, in the Diocese of Clogher. We pray that in his new role your Spirit will further the good work begun in him by Christ. We give thanks for his time with us, for his leadership in parish life and worship and his pastoral care. Guide him at this time and bless him, Rev Canon Jen and Kizzy as they prepare to move to a new home. Hold them all securely in your hands and may they take with them hearts filled with your love and grace so that those whom they live and meet may see in them the face of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



#### 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

There have been many joys of ministry this summer and also some lows. The joys have been the weddings and baptisms.

Yvonne Morrison and Christopher Dempsey, Cashel, Foxford were married on 2nd July in Yvonne's home parish St. Mary's, Kilmacshagan, Dromore West on 2nd July. A wonderful special day among family and friends and an honour to officiate.

James Brabazon and Norah Perkins were married in Foxford church on 31st July. James' family have longstanding connections with the town of Swinford and Norah hails from Canada. The couple live in England. A most unique rousing wedding service ensued and the roof was raised with hymns and spiritual songs. The reception was in Enniscoie house. A memorable day.

I was pleased to baptise Lauren Gisele Rooney in



Cong Church on 3rd July, having a long connection with her parents Colin and Leah, resident in Virginia, USA since their marriage in Cong in 2015.

Also to be in Turlough Church for the baptism of Tadhg Thomas Roy Bennett and Evelyn Lily Roy Bennett on 27th July, children of Brian Bennett of Turlough and Julia Roy Bennett when they were home from Australia.

We also have had sadness. Ann Kivlichan lived outside Kiltimagh with her husband Joe and died peacefully on 24th July. When she arrived in Ireland in 1998 she became a founder member of the Mayo Society for the Prevention of Cruelty of Animals and with Joe improved the lives of many small animals. Her funeral took place to the rite of the Church of Ireland in The Church of the Holy Family, Kiltimagh, thanks to the kindness and welcome of Parish Priest Fr. Michael Quinn. We stand firm in love and prayers with Joe and remember her family in England, especially her mother Ann.

Esther van Luipen's dear mother Weiike died after a very short illness in Holland on Monday 15th August. All in Claremorris and the owners of Esther's patients send deepest sympathy. We stand with Esther in love and prayer.

Elsie Judge, Westport was called home suddenly on 19th August, her birthday, and I was pleased to be able

to assist Canon Jen by officiating at Elsie's funeral on 21st August with burial in Knappagh churchyard. Our prayers continue for her sisters and brothers in their sad loss.

#### Events:

Riverfest in Foxford this year saw the closure of the road to the Market Square and stalls and marquees set up for the afternoon of Saturday 20th August. We



were glad to be able to facilitate a marquee in the church grounds where children were safe and there were huge queues for face painting, games and hair braiding. The meaningful Candles to the Sea event took place the previous evening with prayers



conducted by Fr. Padraig and myself, and with appropriate traditional music as the lights floated down the river and under the bridge – each in memory of a loved one.



There has been a long association with the O'Dwyer Cheshire home in Bohola. Many years ago a monthly service used to take place there. At an O'Dwyer Foundation ceremony, which keeps alive the legacy of Paul O'Dwyer who was born in Bohola in 1925 and made such an impact in New York, for a ceremonial dedication of lands, a special ecumenical service with Fr. Stephen O'Mahony and myself was held at the home in the presence of many from America, friends, supporters and residents. It is hoped that future funding will secure this haven of residential living and respite.

Claremorris Historical Society and the Tidy Towns committee commenced restoration of the graveyard at St John's church, Claremorris which now serves as the library and cultural venue. It is probably the most iconic building in Claremorris and was built in 1828. The memorials are being documented and a biodiversity study has been undertaken. A very informative and

pleasant evening took place on 20th August organised by the two community groups in the town.

Patrick Browne, churchwarden, Trevor Wills and I travelled on a trip to the World War I sites in Flanders in June. He is pictured in St George's memorial church, Ypres. A window at the back of the church is dedicated to G.F. Thomas Odonel M.C. only and dearly loved child of Edwin and Milicent Thomas Odonel of Newport House, Co. Mayo.



Our parish (Foxford) has been chosen to go forward to fulfil registration with the CRA. We are so grateful to Sue Baird for her hard work and help with this task.

Fr. Martin Convey PP in Straide is moving to Collooney Parish, Co. Sligo. He will be so missed by his parishioners and I thank him for his friendship and welcome in his church and we wish him every blessing in his new parish.

We look forward to Bishop Michael's visit to the service in Claremorris on 2nd October and his meeting with us all at Foxford Church during the following week.



### 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

### The Dean

In July we had the very worrying and upsetting news that Alistair had found himself in ICU in Castlebar. We offer our continuing prayers for him and his family, and hope that we'll get some encouraging news before too much longer. He is so missed by his parish family.

### Denzil Auchmuty

We were also very sorry to hear of the death of Denzil Auchmuty in July. As a Diocesan Reader he and his late wife Brenda were very well known figures in the cathedral, where Denzil conducted a number of services of Morning Prayers as well as attending as members of the congregation, perhaps linked to a visit to their daughter Dawn who lives in Tuam. We extend our sympathies to his family and friends.

### Grass cutting

On the subject again of thanks, we would like to offer our sincere gratitude to the anonymous gentleman who came quietly and set about cutting the grass and

trimming around the gravestones in the cathedral grounds recently. This is by no means an easy task, and we are most grateful for his kindness and help. Thank you!

### Holy Wells weekend

The weekend of the third Sunday of June was designated 'Holy Wells weekend' this year. The last time we observed this tradition was in 2019, so it was good to be able to mark the occasion again, and to commemorate the 'Abbeytrinity Well' in Tuam. This year, because of the inclement weather, the Ecumenical service was held in the Synod Hall at St Mary's on 23rd June. Fr Pat Farragher from our sister Cathedral in Tuam, and Bill Fennell representing St Mary's, were among the 40 or so folk who attended. Dr Tony Claffey gave a lengthy history of Abbeytrinity Monastery from the 13th century and our sexton, Jarlath Carney, read the final prayer.

### Marriages

On Saturday 6th August Emma Hannigan married John English in St Mary's, Cong. And on Friday 12th August Sorchá Finnegan and Leo Convey had a service of blessing for their marriage in St Mary's, Tuam. Both services were conducted by Canon Jen McWhirter. Both couples were blessed with beautiful weather and we wish each of them a long and happy life together.

### Summer opening in Tuam

We are delighted that our sexton, Jarlath Carney, has again been able to open the cathedral on certain



weekdays during the summer months. It is so good that visitors from all parts of the globe are able to see around this glorious and historic place of worship, and that Jarlath is there to answer all their questions. Thank you Jarlath!

#### Visit of Bishop Michael

We were surprised and delighted to have Bishop Michael in St Mary's, Tuam, on Sunday 21st August. It was so good to be able to have a Communion Service after a number of weeks when a priest wasn't available. It was also a great pleasure to have the chance to chat over coffee/tea after the service.

#### Aasleagh summer services

Our thanks to everyone who came and covered services in St John the Baptist over July and August. While we miss the Dean it was lovely to be able to have services as usual for the summer months. We appreciated all who came to conduct worship for us.

#### Harvest Festivals

The Harvest Festivals this year are as follows:

**Tuam** - Sunday 2nd October at 4.00pm. Guest preacher Archdeacon Stephen McWhirter.

**Cong** - Sunday 9th October at 4.00pm. Guest preacher Can Jen McWhirter.

#### OMEY

##### Marriage

On Saturday 10th September the marriage took place of Brandy Dallas and Michael Hession. The weather behaved itself and the couple enjoyed a lovely day. We wish each of them a long and happy life together.

#### Visit of Bishop Michael

Christ Church Clifden was delighted to welcome the Bishop Michael on Sunday 17th July. This was a joyous occasion and a welcome opportunity to meet our new Bishop, who gave an enlivening and spirited sermon.

#### Clifden Arts Week Festival

Christ Church is currently preparing for a busy schedule of concerts as part of the 45th Clifden Arts Week festival, which will run from 15th - 25th September. There will be thirteen concerts taking place in Christ Church, combining readings with a wide variety of classical and folk music.

A special fundraiser concert will take place on Sunday September 25th at 1pm, courtesy of the multi-talented Cork Students Ensemble. These students are

completing their Bachelor of Music and have performed all across Europe. Their concert will include works by Schubert and Delibes.

Local historian, Kathleen Villiers-Tuthill will continue her much loved walking tours of Clifden during arts week. Christ Church is the resting place of many historical figures of interest, not least of whom is John D'Arcy who founded Clifden in 1812. Details of these tours and the full line up of concerts can be found on the festival website at [www.clifdenartsfestival.ie](http://www.clifdenartsfestival.ie)

#### Peggy Shepherd



The parishioners of Christ Church would like to pay a special tribute to the late Peggy Shepherd who was a tireless and devoted servant of the Church during her lifetime. A small brass plaque was installed on one of the new chairs in her honour.

#### Moyard

St Thomas's church, Moyard has received a generous gift of a new carpet in memory of the late Elisabeth Culley. The pews have been rejuvenated with oil and wax by a group of St Thomas' parishioners and these efforts combined with the new carpet, have given a new lease of life to the interior. There are plans to continue the programme of tree and bulb planting around the church to encourage the habitat of the red squirrels that have been spotted on the grounds.

#### Dean Alistair

Our entire parish group was deeply shocked to learn about Dean Alistair Grimason who has been seriously ill for the last number of weeks. We offer him our sincere thoughts and prayers and we wish him a full recovery.

#### Harvest Festival

The Harvest Festival for our group of four Churches will take place in Holy Trinity Church in Errislannan this year on Sunday 23rd October at 12.30pm. We look forward to this time of thanksgiving after a long and busy summer season.



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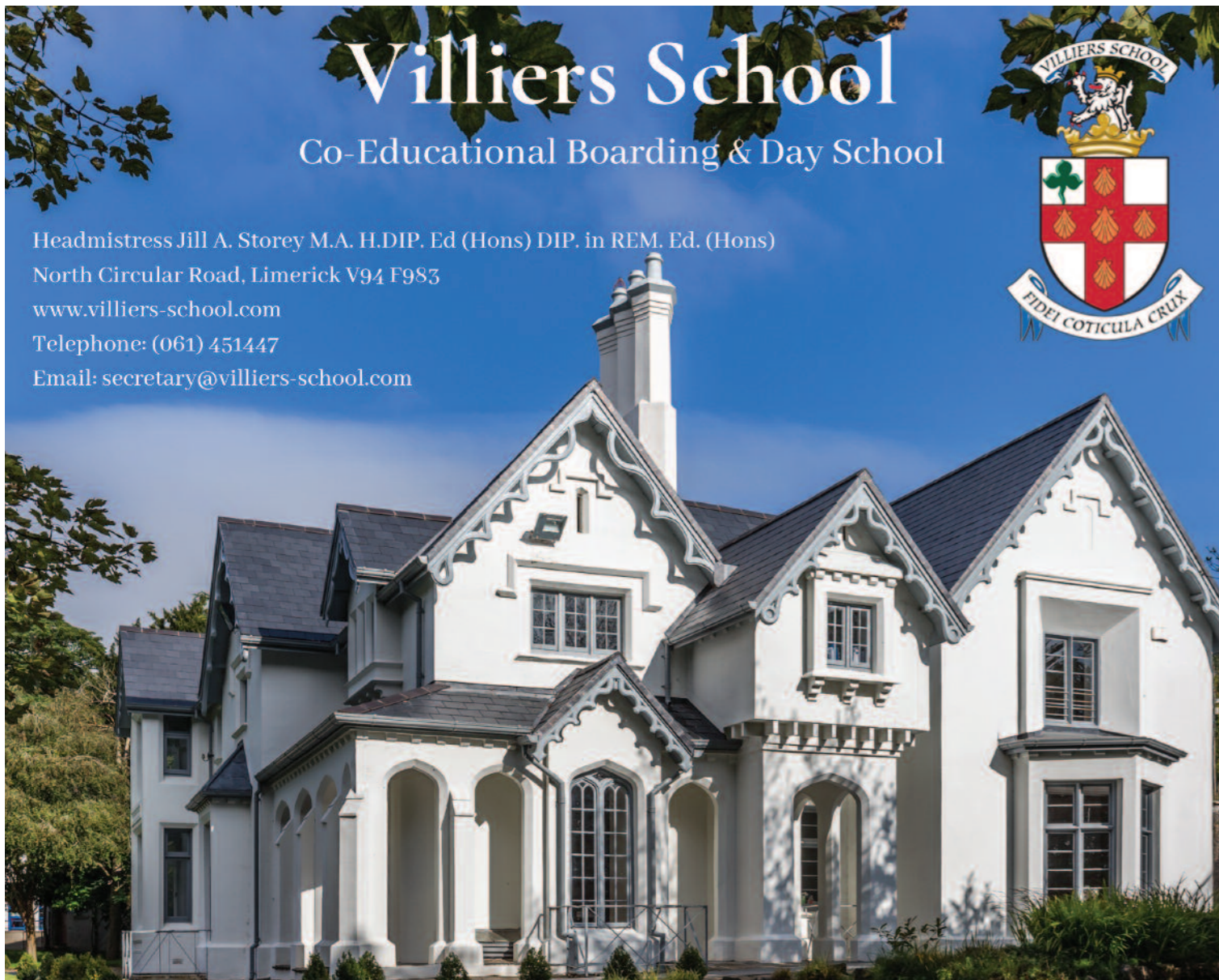
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