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# tidings



SUMMER ISSUE 2023





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# tidings

## SUMMER ISSUE 2023

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

[www.tlk.ie](http://www.tlk.ie)

## COPY DEADLINE

All submissions for the Harvest Issue of Tidings, including advertisements, must be in by **Friday 1st September 2023.**

## 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)

## EDITOR

Canon Andrea Wills  
Assisting Editor: Heather Pope  
[tidings@tlk.ie](mailto:tidings@tlk.ie)

## DESIGN & PRINTING

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



## THE BISHOP WRITES

Dear Friends

It is quite a delight to be writing a single letter for a joint issue of Newslink and Tidings, and to thank the editorial teams of both publications for this initiative. It is part of a testing of the waters as to how, over time, our two diocesan magazines might perhaps appropriately converge into a single publication which could assist our now united diocesan family to feel truly one, its members mutually interdependent and well informed in prayer and conversation concerning the activities and needs of one another, from Tubbercurry to Kenmare and from Birr to Clifden.

So this is a good time to review some of the developments in life and ministry around our single family. And happily there is much to say.

We have three Institutions in the coming weeks. On Saturday, June 24 (the Feast of the Birth of St John the Baptist) at 1530 the Revd Keith Barry will be instituted in Nenagh. He comes to the shores of Lough Derg after a long effective ministry particularly in military chaplaincy in the context of the British armed forces. However, his home place is Kinsale in Co Cork and he is delighted to be returning to parochial ministry in his native land.

Then on Friday July 7 at 1930 the Revd Suzanne Cousins will be instituted in Westport. She comes to us from ministry in Benburb, Co Tyrone, but has an earlier professional background in teaching and has lived and worked in Down, Dublin and Donegal as well as for a time in South Africa. She has served the wider Church of Ireland most notably in the context of work in the area of inter-faith relations.

On Sunday July 9 at 1900 the Revd Canon Kevin O'Brien will be instituted in Adare. Kevin is already very much a part of this diocese, and Adare's gain will

be Ennis's proverbial loss as it must now seek a new priest. Many parishes have come across Kevin through his diocesan role with Safeguarding, and his skills in communications, especially in the visual area, are almost legendary. He recently was among new appointments to the diocesan chapter.

But we gain some and we inevitably lose some. In early July we will bid farewell to the Revd Paul Fitzpatrick who moves to the diocese of Cashel Ferns and Ossory to be rector of the vibrant parish of Carlow. Paul has contributed greatly to our diocesan life in Limerick, in Killaloe and in Nenagh - holding the fort mightily in both Killaloe and Nenagh since the retirement of Dean Smyth a year ago. His passion for improving awareness of mental health issues and making Mind Matters a priority in church life is well known.

With Paul's departure and the arrival of a new rector in Nenagh, Killaloe Group will before long we hope have again its own resident priest and Dean to reside in the splendidly refurbished deanery upon completion. That person will also, with others, have a significant role to play in delivering education and training across the dioceses. Meanwhile, we are grateful to the Revd Lucy Green for her services particularly in the period of transition.

Another fine priest whom we will soon sadly lose is the Revd Bernie Daly, who came in the autumn from her home in Dublin to look after the pastoral and liturgical needs of the vacant Rathkeale Group, intending to offer us three months of her presence, but in fact enjoying it all so much that she stayed considerably longer. The time has now come to return home, but we thank her for an 'interim' ministry where she has achieved more in months than many of us could manage in years.



A little later in the year, and more of this anon., we will say farewell to the Revd Olive Henderson as she concludes her ministry in Clonfert, based in Banagher. In that part of the diocese she has been greatly beloved and her understanding of the concept of part time ministry has been elastic indeed. Olive and I have crossed paths in so many contexts in ministry in three dioceses over many years, and like so many I will greatly miss her friendship as she returns to Athy.

So, amid all these changes, please also keep on your hearts the need of places not already mentioned where we are seeking to identify and raise up appropriate expressions of ministry, whether stipendiary or part-time, Ordained Local, or whatever is right in the context:

- a priest colleague for Tralee/Dingle, to be based in Camp. We very much hope that we will soon be joined in this role by an American priest who knows Ireland well, but first we must deal successfully with the modern complexities of immigration matters
- New ministry in Kilcolman (Killorglin etc) when the rectory is ready for occupancy
- A new incumbent for the large Killala and Kilmoremoy (Ballina) group
- A priest colleague to be 'on the ground' in the Omev/Clifden district of Tuam and Omev, once as we hope the deanery on Tuam has been filled

Ministry of course is not all about clergy (although where would we be without the continued generous involvement of so many of our retired priests, particularly in these days?), and the very production of this magazine, along with attention to our online platforms, is in itself an expression of ministry. So many needs of the church at times of change, already implicit

in the contents of this letter, could not be addressed without, in particular, the steadfast commitment of our Readers. In that context it was a joy to commission Rachel Kenny as a new diocesan Reader on April 30 in Ballinasloe - a number of other people are in various stages of training for such ministry and certainly two will be commissioned as Diocesan Readers in the course of the summer ... so watch this space.

One Reader whose own contribution to the pages of Newslink has been substantial and faithful for a very long time has been Mr Joc Sanders, who has compiled the monthly prayer cycle. He now wishes to hand on this task, but we thank him for a labour of love that has in itself been an expression of the man, and of his commitment to informed prayer and prayerful action as the bedrock of discipleship and a means of always lifting our eyes beyond ourselves.

Again our thanks to all concerned with this 'joint magazine' experiment and especially to the editorial teams, Ros Stevenson and Janet Bray at Newslink and Andrea Wills (in a very kind interim capacity) at Tidings all of whom work in consultation with our diocesan staff, Communications Officer and Diocesan Secretaries. In the next issue(s) I personally promise you some further reading material and initial plans concerning my late autumn scheme to visit every church in rapid succession on a hymn singing marathon to encourage awareness of and support for projects concerned with the empowerment of women through literacy in two contexts in infinitely poorer regions of the world. There will be much information to share; I am already excited and exhausted in equal measure at the very thought of it all!

+Michael Tuam Limerick and Killaloe

## TIDINGS – NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

You'll find Newslink Magazine at the back of this edition of Tidings - we hope you'll enjoy reading about the activities across our vast amalgamated diocese of TLK.

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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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- June 6th** Tuam Diocesan Council 7.30pm at the McWilliam Park Hotel, Claremorris
- June 9th** RCB Roadshow, Hotel Woodstock, Ennis from 10am - 4.30pm
- July 7th** Institution of Rev Suzanne Cousins as Incumbent to the Aughaval Group, Holy Trinity Church, Westport 7.30pm
- Aug 29th** Tuam Diocesan Glebes & Property Committee at 6pm - on Zoom
- Sept 1st** Tuam Diocesan Finance Committee at 6pm on Zoom
- Sept 12th** Tuam Diocesan Council at 7.30pm at the
- Oct 14th** TLK Joint Diocesan Synod at the Woodstock Hotel, Ennis 10.30am

## Holiday in Kerry?

Kilcolman Union is offering free usage of a luxury mobile home on the banks of the River Laune, Killorglin to Clergy and Diocesan Lay Readers and families in exchange for taking 2 Sunday services each week.



### Interested?

Contact: Ven. Simon Lumby  
Archdeacon of Limerick, Ardfert,  
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## CHURCH OF IRELAND GENERAL SYNOD WEXFORD 12TH – 16TH MAY 2023

The Church of Ireland General Synod began its 2023 meeting on Friday 12th May in Clayton White's Hotel, Wexford. Synod continued on Saturday 13th May, and then members met together online for the final evening session on Tuesday 16th May. This was the first meeting of the General Synod to be held in person since the pandemic and the first to be held in Wexford.

The primary purpose of the Synod is to enact legislation for the whole Church of Ireland. Bills, which are proposals for legislation, are considered and become Acts or Statutes if approved. Less formal proposals are submitted as motions which, if approved, become resolutions. The Synod also receives reports from various committees and boards, which are debated by the members.



The proceedings are chaired by one of the Bishops or Archbishops and Bishop Michael Burrows took his turn chairing the discussions on some of the proceedings with efficiency and a light touch as he steered the Synod briskly through the business with a twinkle in his eye!

Each day of General Synod began with a short act of worship. A Service of Holy Communion was held on the first day in nearby St Iberius' Church, with the bishops and clergy leading a procession from the hall to the church. The preacher was Bishop Adrian Wilkinson, the bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory

General Synod began at 11.00am on Friday with the Presidential Address by the Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, the Most Revd John McDowell who recalled the themes of reconciliation and gratitude on which he chose to focus in his first



General Synod as Primate of All Ireland in 2020. The Primate drew on the example of the humility and sacrifice of Senator George Mitchell when chairing the multi-party talks which led to Northern Ireland's peace agreement in 1998. Archbishop McDowell also reflected on the meaning of being a citizen. "Part of the purpose of Christian community," he said, "is to learn to treat people as capable of civic dignity and freedom; as people capable of contributing to their nearer and wider social and political environment by free decision taken in consultation." He highlighted the modern revival of pilgrimage as an opportunity for local churches to re-engage with people who may be distant from church life but who may also be receptive to what the Church has to say.

On Saturday afternoon Lighten Our Darkness, a youth group from Mullingar Union of Parishes, earned a standing ovation from the Synod after they performed a drama to highlight the challenge of climate change. It was a presentation that looked at the stark challenges, but that offered a path of hopeful action. It was enthusiastically received by members of Synod. It marked another step in the commitment of General Synod to action in this area.

There were also fringe events carried out during the lunch breaks from synod business. One of those was a Mothers' Union a presentation by June Butler the All-Ireland President of the Mothers' Union on the theme of gender-based violence and domestic abuse and working towards its ending.

On Saturday lunchtime there was a talk from The Very Revd Maria Jansson the recently retired Dean of Waterford who spoke about how political systems and religions that feel under threat or feel their power is slipping can often create a scapegoat as an enemy figure to rally the troops. Today, in many Christian circles LGBTQI+ people are used to represent an

outside threat, a 'them' opposed to 'us', the 'outsider' who serve to define who therefore is an 'insider'. Outside the hall various organisations and charities had set up their stalls giving details of the services they offer, and it formed a relaxed venue to discuss and find out more about their work.



As this was the first proper in person General Synod since the pandemic it was so valuable to be able to meet colleagues from dioceses across Ireland and particularly chat for the first time with our colleagues from across our own huge diocese. We also had the opportunity to come together as a diocese for an evening meal after business on Friday evening organised by Heather and Lorna.

*Stephen Fletcher TLK Diocesan Communications Officer*







## MOTHERS UNION REPORT

Tuam Mothers' Union members are looking forward to getting to know, celebrate and work with fellow members and friends in Limerick and Killaloe as all that entails in the process of amalgamation progresses for the organisation in Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe. Close communication channels are being built and it is hoped to have a Service later in the year to which everyone will be invited to attend with fellowship and friendship uppermost in its purpose.

Closer in time, members and friends are happily invited to an All-Ireland commissioning of officers on Sunday 11th June in Armagh Cathedral at 3pm.

Mothers' Union has been highlighting the scourge of domestic abuse in this country for many years and is very happy to host two conferences in September, please see the notice.

For those who are invited to attend, the next All Ireland Council meeting scheduled for 21st October will be in Seagoe Parish Centre, Portadown.

The 2023 Getaway Away Weekend is scheduled for 6-7 October in The Kilmore Hotel, Cavan. As usual it promises to be a great time for fun, enjoyment and getting to know folk.

To a great extent the work of Mothers' Union slows down over the summer period but there is always something being planned or thought about and very often something being reimagined to do in a different way for the future.

Good wishes go to everybody, members and their families, friends and supporters for the holiday period as we look ahead to the future with hope in our hearts.

**'Changing the Story' Conferences**  
**#nomore1in3**

**Chapter 2: One-day Conferences**

To celebrate the launch of the Gender Justice programme - 'Equipping the Church to Take Action and End Domestic Abuse', and the formation of our 'Survivors Changing the Story' group, Mothers' Union All Ireland are delighted to host two 1-day conferences in September 2023.

Friday 15th September  
Seagoe Parish Centre,  
Portadown, BT63 5HS

Saturday 16th September  
Kiltiernan Parish Centre,  
Enniskerry Road, D18 ET99

The conferences will bring together agencies working positively to tackle domestic abuse across Ireland, along with two astounding guest speakers - **Bekah Legg**, CEO Restored and **Revd. Helen Paynter**, theologian and author.

For further information or to book a seat, please contact:  
[muchangingthestory@gmail.com](mailto:muchangingthestory@gmail.com)





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**-Ballina Centre of Mission**  
marian.edwards@churcharmy.org



The day incorporated 4 talks along with a visual depiction of the main storyline, events and characters. There were 3 different speakers – Marian and Dylan Edwards and Keilah Joyce. Rosemonde Adamson led the musical worship along with ladies from Sligo. Others contributed to the visual arts, which formed a visual display. We enjoyed a wonderful day of Christian fellowship, laughter and joy in a truly special place – Holy Hill Hermitage at Skreen, Co. Sligo.

### Retreats

On Saturday 25th of February, we gathered for a retreat at Holy Hill Hermitage. A group gathered from Mayo and Sligo. They came from all various church backgrounds and none!  
By request, the theme for the day was – ‘Journey through the Old Testament’.





Another retreat was held at the home of Bert and Val Verner in Ballycastle, looking out at Downpatrick Head on Saturday 25th of March. This time the theme was – ‘Crafting a Rule of Life to Stay Grounded’.

### What is a ‘Rule of Life’?

A rule of life was first developed by St. Benedict for monastic living. A ‘rule of life’ is a schedule and set of practices and relational rhythms that help us create space in our busy lives to live ordered lives. It is not a set of rules ... but a trellis on which we support our busy lives ... and looks at all aspects of ourselves and our relationships. It helps us to get our lives in balance, and makes us more intentional about what we do and how we choose to do it.

Topics which we discussed were;

**Self-care** Mind - Mental health, limiting device usage.

Body – Healthy diet, exercise and body-image.

**Rest** - What practices and rhythms of rest are built into your life? A weekly Sabbath, regular sleep, morning quiet time, silence and solitude.

**The Gift of Limits** and Learning the Grace to say No!

**Relationships** – What are you doing to create nurture and deepen relationships? You may need to think through the categories of relationships – family, friends, church and local community. Do you have an ‘anam cara’? Who is ‘community’ to you? Who can you serve?

**Work and Money** – what do we do with our time, money, resources and gifting? Generosity and how do you practice generosity?

**Hospitality** – When you consider hospitality, is there someone who comes to mind with whom you could practice?

**Devotional Practices** – Prayer, Scripture Reading, Taking a Retreat

**Creative Joy** – it is a deeply spiritual thing. We should seek to employ it more and more intentionally. Art, photography (Visio Divina), Gratitude Journaling, Cooking a meal ... What is your definition of creativity as a spiritual practice?

**Kinship with Creation** – Gardening and caring for the creation. The day was spent discussing these topics and much more!

Our next retreat will be on Saturday May 20th at the North Mayo Heritage Centre at Enniscoe. The ‘star’ of the show as Enniscoe House is the walled garden – so here the theme will focus on creation and the garden. God is the master artist and creator.

So on this day ... we will display art, flower arrangements, along with needlecraft and patchwork



displays. We will have a series of 3 talks – God the Master Artist ... ‘Consider the Lilies’ (Matt 6) and ‘Gardener or God – An extraordinary case of mistaken identity’. On the day people will have access to the beautiful walled garden of Enniscoe House.

On Saturday 10th of June, we will have another retreat at Ballycastle. Bert Verner has developed an amazing garden here over 20 years. The theme on this day will be ‘Prayer’ and the day will include a prayer walk ... which will incorporate various creative elements of the garden for reflection.

On Wednesday 1st of March, a group of us joined with Steve Hollinghurst to chat about ‘Forest Church/Wild Church’ on Zoom. Steve is a former Church Army lecturer and he has recently been announced at the





Mission Enabler (Environment/Creation Care) in the Hereford Diocese. We explored and chatted about – worshipping God outdoors into nature – throughout the various seasons of the year ... this could be in a garden, in woodland or on the beach.

### **Weekly Activities –**

Every Tuesday evening, we gather at Marian's home. For the past few months we have enjoyed the Alpha Course.

### **What is ALPHA?**

It is an evangelistic course which seeks to explore the basics of the Christian faith through a series of talks and discussion. It involves watching a video each week, followed by a time of discussion and reflection. We have a diverse group of people from various church backgrounds ... and Alpha beautifully holds what we have in common with other Christians ... while enabling others who are on the journey of faith. A retreat is also part of the Alpha Course.

We are beginning a new series as part of our weekly 'Gatherings'. Over the next few weeks we will explore topics such as Christian Hope, Peace (Shalom) and Purpose.

On Tuesday 25th of April, as part of panel, Marian was invited to speak at an Alpha Conference at the Star of the Sea Retreat and Conference Centre in Mullaghmore, Sligo, as a representative from Ballina Churches Together.



The aim of the conference was to explore how we can do 'mission' effectively in the West of Ireland - how we can build hope and bring restoration in peoples' lives, both practically and spiritually. We also explored how we can learn from each other. Alpha Ireland are seeking to encourage church leaders and lay people who want to reach out with the gospel and learn how to do it more effectively together. It facilitates discussion around questions of faith. It deepens friendships and builds Christian community over the weeks.

On Thursday evenings, Rosemonde gathers a group at her home for bible study. On Sunday evening, we continue to gather on Zoom for the Prayer Meeting ... We are a dispersed community in a wide geographical area.

Every Wednesday and Thursday - Marian and Rose usually work together. Our work together or individually involves Pastoral Care ... to the elderly, the sick and people on the margins ... people that we know from the streets of Ballina and women from the Traveller community. Every Monday evening, Marian works with the St. Vincent de Paul in the community.

For St. Patrick's Day and Easter, we distributed gift bags to children in Mill View and Greenhills Estates and also to Traveller families in the town of Ballina. This ministry enables us to stay connected to families and children in the various housing estates.



## INSTALLATION OF CANONS – SAINT MARY'S CATHEDRAL, LIMERICK

On Sunday 7th May, 2023 history was made when the Very Revd Lynda Peilow, Provost of Tuam and Rector of the Galway Group of Parishes was installed as Precentor of Saint Mary's Cathedral, Limerick – thus bringing Tuam, Limerick & Killaloe closer together as one diocese. You can read more about the event in the Newslink section of this publication. Tidings would like to congratulate the Provost on her appointment and wish her all the very best in this new important role.



### Need some help with your children's school fees?

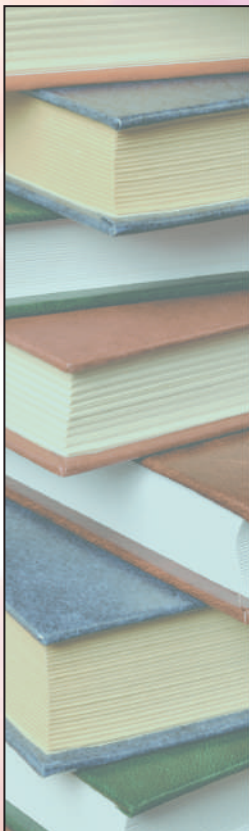
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# LONELINESS, CONNECTION, BELONGING, AND CHRIST'S HEALING

Lydia writes: "I've been thinking a lot about loneliness recently. How it feels. How it steals our sense of being content in our skin. How it's not about whether we're happy in our own company or not, because we've even lost that connection to ourselves. Loneliness can make us restless, desperate to be really seen. And loneliness can make us hopeless.



It can be difficult to tackle and to find connection and belonging because our starting point is one of feeling vulnerable, and maybe unloved or unlovable. And it's difficult to address because we can feel utterly alone even when we are surrounded by people. I don't think there's a single-step solution, because

the cure is found in a web of actors playing their part: for example, society as a whole and how it perceives and cares for different age groups and social groups - older people and minority groups can experience the most isolation but young people ages 16 - 24 are regarded as being the most lonely.

Then there is the role of the Church family and whether or not we create cultures and create spaces where people can belong rather than fit in. A sense of needing to "fit in" causes people to pretend in order to be accepted, which is no acceptance at all. One aspect of combatting loneliness is explored in an article my colleague Catherine sent me on a recent study exploring loneliness and how it is impacted by nature connection:

"The research found that feelings of overcrowding increased loneliness by an average of 39%. But when people were able to see trees or the sky, or hear birds, feelings of loneliness fell by 28%. Feelings of social inclusion also cut loneliness by 21%, and when these feelings coincided with contact with nature the beneficial effect was boosted by a further 18%." God is revealed in nature. Are you struggling to connect with others, or to find your tribe and feel like you belong? You are not alone. In 2019, it was estimated

that 400,000 people in Ireland were suffering as a result of loneliness. It might seem trite, but take one small step today, wrap up and go for a wander or a sit down in a natural space." Lydia Monds is Ministry Leader of the Church's Ministry of Healing: Ireland (CMH:I).

CMH:I? is a Church of Ireland charity founded in 1932, and dedicated to bringing Christ's healing and wholeness to all. CMH:I is open to any and to all who need rest, retreat, quietness, and help, whether they've ever been in a church or not, whether they have firm faith or feel uncertain, and whoever they are. We offer customised training for dioceses and parishes that wish to equip lay people for prayer ministry within Services of Wholeness & Healing. This training emphasises reflective listening. It's a wonderful ministry for those who may be exploring a vocation to serve Christ, or who are involved in prayer groups, youth ministry, pastoral visits, or other ministry.

As Ministry Leader, Lydia encourages and facilitates healing ministry. Recently, she qualified as a Forest School Leader, which focuses on engaging people in nature and all the benefits that brings. Since taking on the role in January of this year, Lydia has been invited by several parishes to help facilitate events under the MindMatters Col seed funding. She organises and facilitates quiet days, retreats, healing services, prayer groups, talks, and helps parishes to set up mindful nature walks and gentle healing times outside, whether in the heart of the city or the middle of nowhere! She is currently leading a series of Lenten mini-retreats, in collaboration with the National Bible Society of Ireland, called "Under the Tree". She says: "The weather was a little cold and rainy so after we had paused to cross the threshold from our busy lives into a quiet nature space, we snuggled under a tarp with throws and hot water bottles to explore the Bible passage together. A beautiful concept that was brought out was Tov, the Hebrew word for Good, which is the word of God that goes forth and is like a seed planted in our lives. Then we walked the beautiful garden noticing sounds and sights and focusing on our breath and on the breeze. We noticed the signs of new life all around us, where seeds that have been germinating are beginning to grow." Similar nature retreats will be held later on in 2023.

Contact Lydia at [lydia@ministryofhealing.ie](mailto:lydia@ministryofhealing.ie) or Catherine at [catherine@ministryofhealing.ie](mailto:catherine@ministryofhealing.ie) if you want to ask more, if you need healing prayer for yourself or someone else (first names only need to be given, to protect your privacy), or just get in touch to say hello!





## GIVING PEAS A CHANCE IN MALAWI

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- ensure they are not discriminated against for any reason
- stand up for equality for women, prevent gender-based violence and provide support for survivors
- become more resilient to disasters such as drought, climate change and hurricanes
- advocate in Ireland and overseas against corporate tax dodging and demand that companies pay their fair share.

Visit [caweek.ie](http://caweek.ie) to find out more about our family-friendly Big Pea Challenge. You can download a range of resources to help you knit, grow, crochet and cook your own peas to raise funds for farmers in Malawi and beyond.



## RCB ROADSHOW

### Woodstock Hotel, Ennis

The RCB Staff are undertaking a Roadshow which will be of interest to dioceses and parishes across the Church of Ireland. TLK's Day will take place on Friday, 9th June, 2023 at the Woodstock Hotel, Ennis from 10am - 4.30pm.

Topics covered will include Data Protection, Charities Finance and Property Protocols. The information will be useful for all Select Vestry members but is open to any interested parishioners.

Please let Heather Pope know if you or members from your parish are attending – lunch will be provided, so numbers are required for catering purposes – and let us know if you have any special dietary requirements. Email Heather at [secretary@tka.ie](mailto:secretary@tka.ie).



Bishop Michael encourages as many people as possible to attend.



## "SERVICE – A PERSONAL JOURNEY"

Christian faith and works are intertwined aspects of a believer's life. Faith serves as the foundation, acknowledging Jesus Christ as the source of salvation and the embodiment of God's love. However, true faith is not stagnant but manifests itself through works. Works, in this context, refer to acts of love, kindness, and service towards others, inspired by faith. In considering this I discerned a call to seek a charity that I could not only work with but broadly fitted with my own areas of interest. It's fair to say that I have a particular interest in all things tools: power or hand tools. Furthermore, I derive pleasure from repairing and refurbishing a range of things and this prompted a search for a potential charitable organisations that collect and donate unwanted tools to those who cannot afford them. Happily, in this search I came across Tools for Solidarity and subsequently spent time with them and was inspired by the great work they do:

Tools for Solidarity is a Belfast-based all Ireland charity that is dedicated to empowering communities in developing countries through the provision of tools and the promotion of sustainable development. With a mission to alleviate poverty and enhance self-reliance, Tools for Solidarity makes a significant and beneficial impact on the lives of marginalised people and communities.

The organization operates by collecting, refurbishing, and distributing donated sewing machines, tools and equipment. They operate out of a workshop in the North of Ireland which is staffed by a team of local and international volunteers with a varied age range. The volunteers are trained to painstakingly restore each tool to full functionality, ensuring they are in excellent condition before being sent to Africa and other destinations where they are distributed by partner organizations to community groups in need. By providing tools such as carpentry, blacksmithing, sewing machines and agricultural equipment, Tools for Solidarity enables individuals and communities to generate income, improve their living conditions, and gain valuable skills.

One of the key strengths of Tools for Solidarity is their emphasis on sustainability. They not only focus on providing tools but also prioritise the transfer of knowledge and skills to the recipients. Through training programs and workshops, they teach local people how to maintain, repair, and effectively use the tools, ensuring their long-term usefulness.

Moreover, the charity actively promotes environmentally friendly practices. They advocate for the reuse and recycling of tools and materials,

reducing waste and promoting a circular economy. This approach not only benefits the environment but also helps communities become more self-sufficient by reducing dependence on external resources.

The impact of Tools for Solidarity's work is undeniable. By providing tools and knowledge, they facilitate individuals to become self-reliant and transform their own lives. The organization has supported numerous projects, from setting up carpentry workshops to establishing tailoring businesses, all of which have had a positive ripple effect on local economies and livelihoods.

As mentioned above, I recognised the need to become more active in manifesting my Christian faith and involvement with a charity such as Tools for Solidarity satisfies this in several ways: First and foremost, Jesus taught us to love our neighbours as ourselves, and involvement of this nature allows me to put this teaching into action. By providing tools and skills to those in need, I can actively demonstrate God's love and compassion in a tangible way.

Moreover, the organisation's values and practices align with the biblical principle of stewardship. As Christians, we are called to be good stewards of the Earth and its resources. By refurbishing and reusing tools there is active participation in responsible resource management, as well as promoting sustainability and caring for God's creation. Engaging with Tools for Solidarity also allows me to cultivate a spirit of humility and selflessness. Jesus taught us to serve others and to consider their needs above our own. Through volunteering and actively engaging in this kind of work, I can set aside my own desires and prioritise the well-being of others. It provides an opportunity to follow the example of Jesus, who came not to be served but to serve.

The approach of Tools for Solidarity fosters a sense of community and solidarity and association with this allows me to connect with people from different backgrounds, cultures, and circumstances. By working together towards a common goal of empowerment and sustainable development, we can build bridges, break down barriers, and create a more inclusive and just society.

In conclusion, I welcome the opportunity to share an aspect of my personal spiritual journey and should the work of Tools for Solidarity resonate with others I am happy to provide more details.

Jonathan Weavers

Email: [jweavers@protonmail.com](mailto:jweavers@protonmail.com)





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## PARISH NEWS



### SKREEN & ACHONRY GROUP

Revd Andy Pierce  
The Rectory  
Skreen, Co. Sligo  
Tel: 086 1705888  
E-mail: revandypierce@gmail.com

Looking back on Lent and Easter in Achonry and Skreen, it's amazing to think of all the things that have happened in the parish since the last issue of Tidings. The Spring has been busy with hundreds and hundreds of lambs in the meadows, the cattle and calves are now back on the grass and the farmers are finally, hopefully, back to getting a good uninterrupted night's sleep. As the new Curate to these farming parishes the crazy business of lambing and calving was an eye-opening experience. The hours farmers put in, and the dedication they have to their flocks and herds demonstrates that farming—shepherding, dairying, and the keeping of livestock and land, truly is a vocation and their stewardship of God's creation has been richly rewarded with blessing of new life and the hope that comes with it. Now, with the longer days already upon us, we are very much looking forward to seeing what summer has in store for us here along the Ox Mountains and the sea.



### Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

As the kick-off for Lent, "Pancake Tuesday" wouldn't be complete without a community pancake supper. This year the supper was in the Beltra Community Hall. Rev Andy and his wife Jackie served up American style pancakes which were covered in everything from fresh fruit and cream, and all the traditional toppings, to American pancake syrup brought over from the US.



### Bishop's Appeal

The parishes joined together in response to the Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal for World Aid and Development call for donations to help the people of Turkey and Syria following the earthquake on Monday, 6th February, which has resulted in over 21,000 deaths. Parishioners expressed their support of the appeal through two activities. On March 25th a group





of parishioner participated in a sponsored walk on Dunmorran Strand from the car park to Aughris Head



and back. Alongside the walk, a Skreen Mothers' Union activity, "Art with Maggie Hedge", took an inspired turn and the group painted a three-meter banner and set up a display that represented the devastation and loss caused by the earthquake and yet also calls us to remember our Christian hope for God making all things new.

### Dunmorran Strand and Easter.

The Easter Sunrise service on Dunmorran Strand tradition continues on. Started years ago as an

initiative for young people in the diocese, it has since been scaled back to a local service and was well



attended by folks from Ballisodare to Ballina as well as the five parishes of Achonry and Skreen. It was led by the combined team of Rev Karen Duignan, Rev Caroline Morrow and Rev Andy Pierce and everyone met again in the Skreen Old Schoolhouse for tea, coffee, a sausage roll (or two) and a pastry. The early morning service was preceded by a lamplight watchnight service in Christ Church, Dromard which lasted from 11:30 pm on the night before until just after midnight. These were just two of the many special Passion and Eastertide services held across Holy Week and Easter Sunday where we reflect upon and rejoice at the passion and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and the good news of God's promises fulfilled through him.

### Skreen Parish Church - Baptism

We were very blessed to baptise Thea Louise Dawn Roberts on Sunday, April 16th in Skreen. Thea is the infant daughter of Carolyn Burrows of Templeboy and Ben Roberts of Anglesey, Wales. The family now resides in Templeboy. Family and friends from England,







Ireland and Wales gathered for the joyful event just a little over a week after burying Thea's paternal great-grandmother, Rita Burrows. Thea's maternal great-grandmother, Mrs. Rosalie Mitchell, wife of the late Rev Alfie Mitchell, was able to join the family following.

**St. Mary's, Kilmacshalgan, Dromore West**  
Margaret (Rita) Burrows, Templeboy, Co. Sligo, passed away on April 3rd, 2023, peacefully, at Sonas Ard na Gréine Nursing Home, Enniscrone, Co. Sligo. Predeceased by her beloved husband Robin. Dearly loved mother of Nigel, Elizabeth and Keith. Sadly missed -by her daughter-in-law Dawn, son-in-law David, cherished grandchildren Dean, Carolyn, Darelle, Samuel and Imogen, great-grandchild Thea, neighbours and friends. Rita's funeral service was held at St. Mary's

Church, Kilmacshalgan, Dromore West, Co. Sligo, on Wednesday, April 5th, at 2.00pm. Burial followed in Holy Trinity Church of Ireland Churchyard, Ballisodare, Co. Sligo where she was laid to rest beside Robin, Born on 20th September 1933 Rita moved to Templeboy in 1959 after marrying Robin. She started working in the Burrows' family shop and Post Office and continued in role of Post Mistress for Templeboy right up to 2015 when she finally retired. Known to all as a kind and generous woman, Rita was always willing to help her customers make ends meet and also gladly provided an opportunity for young people to make their first step on the employment ladder. A steadfast member of St. Mary's, Kilmacshalgan, Rita was also loved by many in the wider community. Fr John Judge (ret.) was very glad to share his memories of Rita and to speak of how she blessed so many in the community. Rev Caroline Morrow, who ministered to Rita in Ard na Gréine Nursing Home for the last two years, also assisted Rev Andy with the funeral.

#### **Rathbarron (Killoran) - Wedding**

Ruth Brett, daughter of Margaret and Henry Brett of Achonry, was married to Johnny Griffen, Co. Meath, on a bright sunshine filled December 21st, 2022, in the Cathedral Church of St. Patrick, Trim, Co. Meath. The wedding was conducted and marriage solemnised by the bride's uncle, the Ven John Murray (ret), former Archdeacon of Cashel, Waterford, Lismore and Offaly. The couple's infant daughter, Grace Ann, was baptised





following the wedding itself. The reception for the two An Garda Síochána detectives was held at Clonabreany House, Crossakiel, Kells, Co. Meath where family and friends celebrated the joyous events. All of us wish the couple a very long and happy life together and many blessings for them and their family.

Rathbarron Parish brought folks from the parishes together for a Beetle Drive and card bingo night. There were lots of nice prizes, good food and fun on a dark winter's evening. On Friday, March 3rd, Rathbarron hosted a World Day of Prayer Service, led by the Rev Doris Clements. Readings and prayers were read by participants from across the community. The theme for this year was "I Have Heard About Your Faith" and the corresponding service was prepared by

women from Taiwan, an island rich in natural resources and culturally diverse. Through the service the women of Taiwan shared the issues they face geographically, politically and socially and also their hopes for the future and encouraged people around the globe in our shared Christian faith just as Apostle Paul did in his letters.

Our "Buddies" from Rathbarron and some members from our M.U. Group joined the BEO befriending group from Sligo for an Irish Night in the Sligo Park Hotel on March 16th. This was the first night our members met their Buddies since Covid. A lot of catching up, chat, laughter, music and dance was had by all. "Buddies" are people from the local community,



## AUGHAVAL GROUP

Holy Trinity, Westport  
Christ Church, Castlebar  
Turlough  
St Thomas', Dugort  
Rector: Currently Vacant – Contact  
Rev Canon Andrea Wills (NSM)  
Tel: 094 9256403; Mobile 086 261 7572

The group of parishes were delighted to hear the news that the Revd. Suzanne Cousins has been appointed as Incumbent for the Aughaval Group of Parishes – Westport, Castlebar, Turlough, Dugort (Achill Island) and Inisbiggle in the Diocese of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe.

Suzanne, who comes from Newcastle, Co. Down, was ordained to the priesthood in 2016 and is currently Rector of the Grouped Parishes of Clonfeacle,

Derrygortreavy and Eglis, in the Diocese of Armagh. Previously she served as Bishop's Curate for the Moville Group (Moville, Donagh, Culdaff, Malin) on the Inishowen Peninsula, Diocese of Derry and Raphoe. She is married to Alan and they have three adult children, two sons-in-law and two small grandchildren. The family lived in Dublin for eight years (1997-2005) and for three in South Africa. Suzanne's background is education – in earlier years she worked as a primary school teacher in Ireland and Northern Ireland, and for several years as Special Educational Needs Classroom Assistant while studying







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Theology and preparing for training for ordained ministry.

Suzanne is Inter Faith Adviser to the Archbishop of Armagh and serves on the Church of Ireland's Inter Faith Working Group and the Commission for Christian Unity and Dialogue. She enjoys time with her family, reading, walking, and art history and appreciation, and occasional cinema and theatre trips. She enjoys friendships and the breadth of ministry in the Church and wider community. She loves visiting, prayer and pilgrimage, and especially enjoys ministry to children and families.

Suzanne says, "While I will miss the wonderful people of my present parishes, I am delighted and thankful for the opportunity to serve God in this beautiful part of coastal Ireland and in the Diocese of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe. Alan and I look forward with excitement and joy to getting to know and working with the people, parishes and places of Westport, Castlebar, Turlough and Dugort (Achill)."



#### ST. THOMAS, DUGORT

Achill Island  
Revd Maebh O'Herlihy (OLM)  
Tel: 087 2789912  
E-mail: maebhoh@gmail.com



These past few months have been moments of joy, and, sadly, moments of sadness. The first is of these joyful things.

We are delighted to have welcomed Maria, who has come from Ukraine, and is joining us for our Services. Also, we have been very happy to welcome Revd Caroline

Morrow, and offer her our gratitude for joining with me in leading our Services during the Vacancy.

Our most recent joy has been the wonderful announcement that Revd Suzanne Cousins is our new Rector. We are all really looking forward to meeting her, and welcoming her to St. Thomas'.

Our sadness came with the loss of two good friends, who both regularly attended our Services and events.

Tragically they both died in accidents. Cristiane Fries died on New Year's Eve, and Ann Shannon about six weeks ago. We miss them both, and their families and friends are very much in our thought and prayers. May they rest in peace.

#### Castlebar Notes

**Great News-** It was with great joy that we learned of the appointment of Rev Suzanne Cousins to the Aughaval Group of parishes. She is deeply committed to ecumenism and serves on the Church of Ireland's Inter Faith Working Group and the Commission for Christian Unity and Dialogue. Among the wide and varied aspects of ministry, Rev Suzanne especially enjoys ministry to children and families. We look forward with joyful anticipation to getting to know and working with Rev Suzanne when she and Alan come to live among us.

The following are the names of those elected at the recent Christchurch Easter Vestry meeting to various positions on the vestry:

Rectors Churchwarden: Robert Carson  
Peoples Churchwarden: Trevor Ardill  
Peoples Glebewarden: Tom Bennett  
Honorary Secretary: Trevor Ardill  
Honorary Treasurer: Trevor Ardill  
CRA Governance Champion: Caroline Boyle

#### Turlough Notes

On 6th May George Haydt Pierik was baptised in Turlough Church by Canon Andrea Wills during a Service of Evening Prayer. Congratulations to his parents Emile and Natasha Pierik. Godparents are Billy and Diane Pierik.



#### Upcoming Event:

In a very short period of time, and some during the pandemic, Turlough Parish lost a number of beloved members of their congregation. A special service to remember and give thanks for their lives will be held on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July at 8.00 p.m. to be conducted by Canon Andrea Wills.





## 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  
Email curateassistant@stnicholas.ie



Revd Carole Reynolds

Administrators: info@stnicholas.ie  
Facebook: www.facebook.com/stnicholasgalway/

### Service Times

**Sundays:** 8.30 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.



Rev Alistair Doyle

**Holy Week and Easter** – As we journeyed through Holy Week we did so with our ecumenical family. Each evening we gathered for service in St Nicholas, the Dominican Church on the Claddagh, The Augustinian Church, and the Presbyterian Church. Bishop Michael led us each day in a challenging and moving sermon series based on the stages of grief. Thank you to everyone who



supported these services. Robbie Howse made the cross which was carried through the church on Good Friday and across Shop Street to the Augustinian Church. A powerful symbolic reminder of all that Holy Week and Easter signifies. A special thank you to all our parish family who lovingly and carefully contributed through singing, reading, stewarding, serving, cleaning, decorating, those moving furniture, our AV technicians, acolytes, those who prepared the linen, music, instruments, and those who prepared the many orders of services.





**Summer Greetings** – We extend our warmest greetings to the distributors ( thank you Charles and Canon Andrea), contributors and all the Tidings readers.

**Confirmation Preparations** – At the time of writing our confirmation preparations are well under way. We assure all our candidates and their families of our thoughts and prayers at this exciting time. Confirmation Day is on Sunday 4th June.

**Easter General Vestry** – Our Easter general vestries took place on Sunday 23rd April in St Nicholas and on Wednesday 18th 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.

**Bring a Plant to Church Sunday** – In line with our 'city oasis' eco congregation, biodiversity project and stewardship of our grounds we are delighted to announce a bring a plant/bulb to church Sunday. Details, as in a list of suitable bedding plants/ biodiversity plants/bulbs etc., will follow in the weekly newsletter at the back of the Sunday order of service and will be announced at service.

**Gradam Awards** – We are delighted to announce that we are once again finalists in the Gallimh le Gaeilge Gradam Awards. This is a huge achievement to be shortlisted as we commit to be bilingual in our worship and daily life at St Nicholas.

**The Chatty Crafters** – The chatty crafters enjoyed a longer craft day with lunch in April as they learned needle felting. It was a wonderful success, and everyone got to bring home the little robin that they had created.

**Community Monuments Fund** – St Nicholas select vestry were thrilled to receive a grant of €100,000



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for work in the South transept. The work will take place in the coming months.

**Community Heritage Grant** – Wonderful news in Oughterard also as a grant of €25,000 was awarded from the Heritage Council for necessary work to windows.

**Medieval Church Fete** – Saturday 10th June from 10.30am – 2.30pm - Join us for Medieval Music and Dance, Medieval craft, and re-enactments of Sword Fighting and much more! There will be lots of fun and activities for children.

**'The Happy Hikers' trip to Cong** - On the 26th of March, the Happy Hikers, our informal walking group, set off after morning worship in a minibus to explore the beautiful Cong Forest walk. The minibus was funded by the Church of Ireland Mind Matters seed funding towards our 'City Oases project.' Our objective is to promote positive mental health spaces and activities for our church family and the local community and involves using our church grounds, outdoor activities, and singing events to create oases of calm for the body, mind, and soul.

The minibus was full and as always provided a great opportunity to chat and get to know people better. The walk commenced in the fabulous Cong Abbey,



there are many interesting features on the walk including 140-year-old trees, the monks' fishing house, the abbey bridge, "Teach Aille" which is a cave thought to be used by the monks as a fridge or larder and the pigeon-hole cave. There was time to explore the lovely Cong village and plenty more to chat about on the way back to Galway.

**'The Bible Course** - On Monday 6th of March, we started our Lent and beyond bible study. We used The Bible Society's wonderful resource, 'The Bible Course.' It is an eight-session course helping to explore the BIG story. Whether you are well-versed in Scripture or new to the Bible, this course offers a superb overview of the world's best-selling book. The course will increase your confidence, equip you to read the Bible better and help you to see its relevance to daily life. Over the eight interactive sessions, it combines video teaching, group discussion, personal reflection, and daily readings.

The best part has been meeting people as a group, where everyone shares their thoughts and experiences, this lies at the heart of The Bible Course as everyone learns from each other. We started with eight attendees but now have grown to a group of sixteen. Now that we have established the routine of gathering on Monday evenings, it is planned to follow this course with 'The Prayer Course' from Pete Greig and 24-7 Prayer, this is also an 8 Session course and follows the same meet, video, and discussion format.

### Funerals

**Linda Williams** - The funeral of Linda Williams took place on Monday 13th March. We assure her heartbroken and shocked family of our thoughts and prayers at this testing time, to her mother Violet, daughter Rachael, son Joshua, sister Samantha, family, and her circle of friends.

**Heather Percival** – On Monday 17th of April we gathered in St' Nicholas' Church to leave in God's gracious keeping Heather Percival. We send our prayerful thoughts and sympathies to her children John, David, and Sandra, her brothers Austin, Adrian, and David, and the extended Percival and Tuthill family, and many friends.

**John Clarke** – The funeral of John Clarke took place on Monday 20th March. We extend our prayerful thoughts and deepest sympathy to his wife Charlotte and his sons, John, James, and Charles as they come to terms with their loss.

**Sympathy** – We extend our deepest sympathy to Anne Grete and Peter Gormley and their family following the death of Anne Grete's Mum in Norway. We surround them and all those who are bereaved with our love, thoughts and prayers at a challenging 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 - *Currently vacant, please contact*  
Rev'd Karen Duignan on 087 2200 638



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

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

On 23rd March at 8 p.m. the Lady Day Service took place in St. Michael's conducted by Rev'd Karen Duignan. Mothers' Union members presented prayers and read. A poignant reflection on Jesus' last days on earth as seen from the viewpoint of His mother Mary was read by Rev'd Karen. The service concluded with placing blue and white flowers in a vase at the front of the church by all the members of the congregation, members taking the opportunity to place blossoms in memory of family members.



## Easter

It was lovely to be involved in the service of Tenebrae held in Killanley church on Wednesday, 5th April. It was a poignant way to approach the sadness of Easter before the joy of the Resurrection. On Maundy Thursday Diocesan clergy converged on St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick to take part in a Chrism Eucharist, celebrated by Bishop Michael. Opportunities to meet clergy from the wider Diocesan family need to be grasped eagerly. This kind of gathering helps us cement relationships even though we might not see each other very often in person. Later that same evening (Maundy Thursday) the Institution of the Lord's Supper was celebrated in St Michael's by Rev'd Karen, followed by stripping of the church in preparation for Good Friday.

The Last Three Hours in St Michael's on Good Friday: started at noon finishing at 3pm. Readings of Scripture, hymns, prayers and short reflections all made the afternoon solemn, yet beautiful. My thanks to Parish Readers, Barbara Payne and Caroline Bournes for their help. Thanks also to Anne Patterson-Timlin and John Timlin for playing hymns and providing tea and buns to keep us going. It is good to remember that before the joyous cry "Christ is Risen" can be sung in our hearts Christ suffered and died for us on the Cross. "Christ is Risen – The Lord is Risen Indeed"! Holy Communion on Easter Sunday was celebrated in St Michael's by Rev'd Caroline Morrow.

## President Joe Biden's visit - 14th April 2023

There was tremendous excitement around the town of Ballina. His visit turned the whole town into the centre of the universe for a few blissful hours.

**15th April 2023** – Launch of Ballina Rowing Club. Rev'd Karen Duignan, with Bishop John Fleming offered prayers for the safety of all involved with water and water sports. Several members of the Club demonstrated their hardiness by doing a 'row past' in the driving rain. Of course, they are involved in an activity wherein getting wet is fairly much expected. It was only the onlookers that were complaining!

## Kilglass

Congratulations to Jean and Tim Smith on the birth of their baby boy Alfie in NSW, Australia, a brother to Estelle and a new grandchild for John and Audrey Shannon of Leaffoney.

## Breaking News

As I write these notes there is Breaking News! Bishop Michael has announced the appointment of Rev'd Suzanne Cousins to be the new incumbent for the Aughaval groups of parishes. I want to welcome Suzanne to this Diocese and I look forward very much to meeting and working with her in the future.





### KILLANLEY – CASTLECONNOR

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



### CROSSMOLINA AND BALLYCASTLE (KILLALA GROUP)

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

### “Summertime and the living is easy”

so say the words of the song. But it's hard to imagine that indeed we are coming into the summer season. The weather has been strange to say the least. Although some days are warm, then we get some cold weather and the rain starts again. Roll on the sunshine..At this time of year, there are many jobs to be done as the long evenings arrive! Its bog season and the turf has been cut, so it now needs to be turned. By the time you read this, most of it will be made up if the weather is right! Its back breaking work but come next winter, it will be worth it. Its also time to plant up the garden with flowers and vegetables. A regular pastime for me. Nothing like the taste of home grown tomatoes and floury spuds!

### Service of Remembrance

On Friday 24th Feb I was invited to attend a very poignant and emotional service of remembrance for all babies and children who had died over the past three years.in Mayo University Hospital. The service was led by the staff of MUH and consisted of songs and readings. The hall was packed to capacity with parents and family members and everyone had the chance to record their babies name in a book of remembrance. It truly was a beautiful night albeit highly emotional. AS we left the hall after the service everyone was given a flower to plant in remembrance of their baby.

### Compline

Compline services continued throughout the Lenten season. We have now decided to hold one on the last Wednesday of every month beginning in May 2023. The first one will be at 8pm on 31st May and every month thereafter.

### Tenebrae

On Wednesday of holy week 5th April, we held a Tenebrae service. A very sombre occasion in which passages from scripture were read with reference to Jesus final week, ending with his burial. This service is held by candlelight and after each reading, candles are gradually extinguished, culminating with a “loud noise” taking place in total darkness at the end of the service.

As usual, I'm going to recount a lot of what happened since the last edition of the Tidings and remind you all about what you probably already know. Well, trying to write into the future is not easy you know! What I mean is the person I am writing this for (you the reader) know more than I do, and for me to pretend otherwise would be extremely foolish. As I write for instance, this summer is a tentative fledgling thing, barely begun, with an uncertain future. Whatever we might hope it will be, it may ultimately prove to be very different. It could be so much worse than we want, another dreary wet Irish summer, or it could be better than we dared hope for, it could be a real scorcher... you know a lot more about it than I do. Anyway, would that be a good thing, or an example of manifest climate change, which would ultimately be to all our detriment? That is the thing about futures, when they become the present they always seem to find a way to surprise you, they are rarely what you expected. The best we can do is look at the past and the present and try to determine from them what they are leading to next. I am writing this at a time in the church year that is between the bewildering joy of the resurrection and the compelling, interventional, energetic dynamism of Pentecost (you are reading it in what naturally follows these things, what the church calls ordinary time). Neither of these things were a future foreseen by the followers of Jesus. There were hints, and Jesus said some very strange things that no one really seemed to grasp properly, though they found them strangely compelling as they found all the things he said and did compelling, but who could have imagined a future like this? Followers followed for their own reasons, the one unifying thing about them perhaps was that each was putting their trust in, and finding hope in Jesus for some kind of better future. Trust and hope delivered, but not as anyone expected. It delivered much more than they bargained for. Perhaps this is the way it always is for Christians.

Christians live in the abundant consequences of trust and hope. The Church of England clergyman, Rev Dr. Sam Wells, has a wonderful phrase that you may come across in some of the many books he has written. The phrase is “living in God's future now”. For me that is



one of the most eloquent ways of describing the Kingdom of God I have come across. It is the way to live, the place to be, it is the consequence of all that God has done for us and the reality of what God is doing for us. It is greater than what we hoped God would give us. Once you see future of course, the present can never be the same again. You start living the future. So I guess now is the time to live God's future.

### **St. Patrick's Day service in Killala**

There are surprisingly few cathedrals in the Church of Ireland dedicated to our national saint! Luckily in Killala we have one of them (and as Bishop Michael pointed out in his sermon, it's actually in a location that St. Patrick probably was familiar with, unlike others whose association with him might perhaps be a little more



spurious!). All the more reason for us to celebrate the Cathedral's patronal day then, and we were delighted to have Bishop Michael preside at a wonderfully uplifting service which was very well attended by members of the congregations of all seven churches in the Killala Group, after which we all emerged in time to enjoy the parade.

### **Holy Week and Easter Services**

Throughout the Killala Group Holy Week was observed with the various services, each very special in their own unique and contemplative way. On "Spy Wednesday", it was wonderful for me to participate in a beautiful Tenebrae service in Kilanley Parish church (Kilmoremoy Union), which was led by Rev Caroline Morrow. On Maundy Thursday in St. Mary's, Crossmolina we observed the Institution of The Lord's Supper and the Stripping of the Altar. On Good Friday Rev. Caroline joined me in St. Mary's as we held services between 12 and 3pm on an hourly cycle. St. John's, Ballycastle were the first church in the union to celebrate Easter in an Easter Eve service and on Easter Sunday Morning we celebrated the resurrection of our Lord with services in St. Patrick's, Killala and St. Mary's, Crossmolina.

### **Service on Midwest Radio**

Members of the congregations of all three churches in the Killala Union participated in a service that was broadcast on Sunday the 23rd April by Midwest radio. I'm so grateful to all those who took part, especially Mrs Monica Flanagan and Mrs Viola Cooke who read





the New Testament and Gospel readings, and Alistair Carson, Ryan Murray, Aaron Carey, Adam Ryan, Andrea Cooke, Kate Jackson and Abbie Bourke who led us in prayers, the psalm and collects. They all did a really wonderful job and we are all of course very gratefully to David Cawley of Midwest Radio who put it all together for us and "worked the magic" in the studio!

### Christian Burial

We were shocked and saddened to hear of the death of Cecil Ormsby, a stalwart member of the St. Mary's, Crossmolina congregation. Cecil served in various ways including as churchwarden and organising fundraising socials in the past. He was well known and well regarded in the wider community as well as our own and will be very sadly missed. The service of thanksgiving was conducted by Rev Clive Moore and

Rev Caroline Morrow on 18th March in St. Mary's followed by internment in the graveyard. We continue to carry Cecil's wife Anne and their family Mark, Louise, Niall and Elaine in our prayers.

### BRING AND BUY SALE

St. Patrick's Cathedral, Killala will be having a Bring and Buy Sale every Friday and Saturday for the months of June, July and August from 11am to 5pm to raise much need funds for the upkeep of the Cathedral. If anyone has unwanted items or doing a clear out we will gladly accept them. We will also be selling raffle tickets. First prize will be a Patchwork Quilt which has been kindly donated by the Killala Quilters. More prizes will be added later. Contact Dolly on 086 3159138 or Gail on 086 1585871 for more information.



### 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

Solemn Liturgy of the Passion and death of the Lord took place on Good Friday when were joined by some of the Ukrainian people staying at Pontoon Bridge Hotel.

Easter Day was a glorious celebration of the resurrection with a well filled church and lovely decorations.

### Sadness

Betty Parker, originally from England came with her son and his wife to live at Summerhill, Foxford some years ago. She endeared herself to all in the congregation. However, in the last year she was cared for in the Sonas Moyridge Nursing home and died on 30th March in her 96th year. Her funeral took place in Foxford Church during HolyWeek. We stand firm with Martin and Elaine in their loss, giving thanks for her long and fruitful life lived in England, Portugal and more recently Ireland.

Patty Coss was a very vibrant person always helping others. She was the sister-in-law of James McGreal.

In her 60's she died very suddenly at her home in Foxford. It was such a shock for everyone. She was the first to hold the title of mayor of Foxford and often read the lesson at our Carol Services. We join with the wider community in mourning and keep in prayer, James, her brother Douglas and sisters Mary, Una and Bernie.

We join also with the wider community in mourning the loss of Kevin Reape, who ran the local garage in Foxford and was known far and wide for his helpfulness. We stand with his family, and with the Tiernan family, known so well in fishing circles, on the loss of Michael Tiernan Jnr. These two men were called home far too early and we continue to remember their families in our prayers.

As we go to print it is with great sadness we learn of the sudden death of Stuart Gallagher aged 53, on 17th May, in Co. Wicklow, son of Ethel Gallagher. We embrace Ethel in love and prayer.

### Confirmation:

We look forward to Bishop Michael being with us in Foxford Church on Sunday 25th June for a service of Confirmation. We continue to pray for Amelia and Juliette as they prepare for this very special day.

### Parish Outing:

On 21st May the Parish Outing took place to Florencecourt Estate and the Marble Arch Caves near Enniskillen, via Rosses Point, Co. Sligo where we were entertained to refreshments courtesy of Rev. Stan Evans and his wife Rosie, visited the church for some



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short prayers, and also the Lifeboat Station. It was a wonderful day. Thank you to Sue Baird and Beverley Stafford for their help in organising this trip.

### Baptism

On 30th April Daniel Ernest Dempsey, son of Yvonne Morrison and Christopher Dempsey was baptised in St. Michael's Church, Foxford by Fr. Padraig Costello assisted by myself.





### Claremorris

On Palm Sunday it was 11 years since the first service was held in the McWilliam Park Hotel, Claremorris and it has gone from strength to strength. Bishop Patrick Rooke encouraged me to set it up and was a great support during his time with us. The liturgy is



a Service of the Word and fellowship is palpable and enhanced by the tea and home cooked goodies which appear. Thank you to everyone for their continued support and help.

We congratulate Rachel Kenny, who has always been part of the little family in Claremorris, on her commissioning as a Diocesan Reader by Bishop Michael on 30th April in Ballinasloe Church.

### TUAM & OMEY GROUP

St Mary's Cathedral, Tuam  
St Mary's, Cong  
St John the Baptist, Aasleagh  
Rector: Vacant. All queries should be directed to  
The Rural Dean, Provost Lynda Peilow  
Tel: 091 521914  
Email: [rector@stnicholas.ie](mailto:rector@stnicholas.ie)

### Tuam

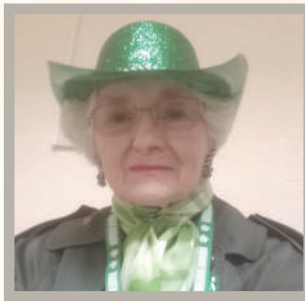
#### ASH WEDNESDAY.

At 7pm on Ash Wednesday, Bill Fennell conducted a service of 'Compline' in St. Mary's Cathedral – a service much loved by members of the congregation. Canon David Williams had hoped to conduct this service, but unfortunately, was unable to get to Tuam that day.

#### ST. PATRICK'S DAY.

A service of Morning Prayer, with Readings and prayers for St. Patrick's Day, was held at 12 noon in St. Mary's, conducted by Bill Fennell. The writer of these notes went on to join other members of Tuam Active





Retirement Association (TARA), who take part every year in the annual Parade. The day was slightly marred by a fall en route from St. Mary's to the Assembly Point, but rescue and help was quickly at hand, thanks to two lovely local

schoolgirls (afraid I didn't get their names). They helped me up, checked that I was alright, and asked if there was anyone they could call for me. They were on their way to watch the Parade, so walked with me the rest of the way to the Assembly Point where I joined up with my friends in TARA. Thank you again, girls, you are a credit to your school!!

occasion, Mattie Masterson, our Rector's Warden, had arranged for a beautiful Baptism Cake to be made. It was covered in 'blue-for-a-boy' icing, and on the top was a large gold cross. It was very impressive, and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Thank you Mattie!

### GOOD FRIDAY

At 12 noon on Good Friday, St. Mary's parishioners met in the cathedral for a service of Morning Prayer and 'The Litany'. As noted in the last issue of 'Tidings' under 'Dates for the Diary', the service was followed at 1pm by a combined gathering of parishioners from both cathedrals for 'The Way of The Cross', a procession to the Stations, with prayers and readings organised by the Transition Year students. We began with some prayers and a reading in the Roman Catholic Cathedral, where The Archbishop, The Most



### MOTHERING SUNDAY.

During our Holy Communion Service on this day, we welcomed young Arthur Gondokono into God's family. The Baptism was conducted by Canon David Williams, who always brings something different and memorable to the service. Afterwards, tea and coffee were served in the Synod Hall, and to mark the



Reverend Francis Duffy, and our Lay Reader Bill Fennell, took up the huge wooden cross, which they proceeded to carry at the head of the procession, leading us to each of the Stations, and into St. Mary's Cathedral for the final reading and prayer at the 14th Station. At the conclusion, Dr. Mark Keane, (Organist & Director of Music at the Roman Catholic Cathedral in Tuam) accompanied one of his young choir men, Daithi Quinn, in the beautiful and well-known Taize Chant, 'Jesus, Remember Me, When You Come Into Your Kingdom'.

At the point of dismissal, Bill Fennell took the opportunity to thank Archbishop Duffy for inviting St. Mary's parishioners to join with them again in this way, as had become the custom over the past few years, and for his help and support during Dean Alistair's time at St. Mary's. Bill also acknowledged and thanked both Archbishop Duffy and Father Pat Farragher again, for their beautiful Tributes and messages of sympathy on hearing of Dean Alistair's sudden death.



### EASTER GENERAL VESTRY.

It was a very different EGV for all parishes this year, during the Interregnum, where 6 separate Vestry Meetings would have been impossible to organise and chair. Because of this, Bishop Michael arranged for The Archdeacon, The Venerable John Godfrey, to chair one combined meeting in Cong, when all the usual business of an EGV could proceed under one roof, for the Tuam and Omev Group. Select Vestry Members and other interested parishioners met in St. Mary's Church at 2.30pm on Saturday, 15th April, where they were very warmly welcomed with tea, coffee and beautiful refreshments, which were much enjoyed and appreciated by all, but especially by those who had travelled the longest journeys. After prayers and a Welcome, John moved the meeting along quickly and easily, with each parish's Elections and Triennial Elections proceeding in the usual format. Each parish's 2022 EGV Minutes and their Annual Accounts to 31st December, 2022 were signed by the Chairman.

After the closing prayer and a 'thank you' from The Archdeacon for our attendance, interested persons were invited to look round The Deanery and grounds, so that we could see how much work had already been done by the parishioners in Cong, and how much of a job still needed to be done by professional tradesmen, in order to get the place ready for a new incumbent. This was very interesting and informative.

### Sunday, 30th APRIL – COMMISSIONING of RACHEL KENNY as a DIOCESAN LAY READER.



At 10.30am on Sunday, 30th April, a Tuam Parishioner Rachel Kenny from Milltown, was commissioned as a Diocesan Lay Reader by Bishop Michael in St. John's Church, Ballinasloe. Also assisting in the service were The Archdeacon, (who preached the Sermon), and The Provost of Tuam, The Very Rev. Lynda Peilow, Rector of St. Nicholas' Collegiate Church, Galway.



Rachel was also supported by her family, as well as by parishioners from all 6 churches in the Aughrim Parish, and from her home parish of Tuam.

Rachel and her husband Michael were married in St. Mary's Cathedral by our late Dean and Rector, Alistair, and their children, Isaac, Hannah and Johnathan were also baptised in St. Mary's. We extend our congratulations to Rachel, as well as our love and very best wishes to her and her family.

### NOTE FOR THE DIARY.

Thursday, 18th May, 2023 - ASCENSION DAY.

A service of Holy Communion will be held in St. Mary's at 12noon on Ascension Day, with Bishop Michael as the Celebrant.

We at St. Mary's are always grateful to our visiting priests, who come when they are free to conduct a Holy Communion Service for us, so our renewed thanks and good wishes to Canon David Williams, and The Reverend Patrick Towers. We are also very grateful to our own Lay Reader, Bill Fennell, who continues to minister to 'his flock', and hold us together at St. Mary's every Sunday, as well as keeping us informed, and offering a great deal of help and guidance on matters needing to be dealt with by the Select Vestry during this Interregnum. Thank you Bill!!!

### Cong and Aasleagh

The vacancy left by Dean Alistair Grimason's passing has galvanized much unaccustomed activity in the parish, but which has resulted in a growing measure of 'unity in adversity'. The Deanery/Rectory became vacant in March and many parish 'workdays' have been held to begin the task of refurbishment and preparation of the house and grounds for a new incumbent.

Moreover, a landmark joint Easter General Vestry meeting involving Select Vestries from all four parishes in the group (Tuam, Cong, Omev and Roundstone), chaired by Archdeacon Godfrey, was hosted by St Mary's Cong in April. It was also a welcome social



gathering for one of the largest parish groups in the Diocese - and the triennial elections went smoothly!

Meanwhile, the parish of Cong-Aasleagh has been loyally supported by William Fennell as lay leader and by Canon David Williams and Rev. Patrick Towers for whom the parish remains ever grateful. The parish also enjoyed a wonderful concert in St Mary's given by the Ballinrobe choir and a traditional quartet in collaboration with Ashford Castle, being a celebration of spring and a 90th birthday.



### OMEY Clifden and Moyard

A plaque-laying ceremony took place in Christ Church, Clifden on Friday 17th February in memory of Gert and Brigitte Rosenfelder. Gert and Brigitte were much loved members of the parish and the wider community during the many years that they lived in Connemara.



In April, Christ Church played host to another 'Just a Collective' gathering of craft, vintage and local produce. This regular market-style event is both



eclectic and enterprising and it has gathered positive and enthusiastic support from the locality



The Coillte scheme to plant native Irish trees in community areas has allowed Christ Church to replace some old trees and share trees among the Omev Union. Gary Brow, Gerard Folan and Brian Thornburgh are pictured carrying out some planting in the grounds. The churchyard has looked lovely in the Spring months.

Christ Church will be open every day from 1st May until the end of the Summer and judging by the visitors book, it is a source of quiet and reflection for many.

Parishioners came together ahead of the Easter Sunday service to decorate the church. The service was taken by Rev. Mike Roemmele and the building was packed to capacity which is a welcome sign of summer. Our thanks go out to Rev. Roemmele, Canon David Williams, Rev. Denis Sandes, Rod Teck and Frankie Thornburgh for insuring that worship can take place every Sunday in the absence of a rector. We continue to grieve for Dean Alistair and give thanks for his dedication to us.

St. Thomas's church in Moyard boasts a spectacular display of daffodils and spring bulbs this year. There is also an abundance of cherry blossom on the grounds which makes the setting all the more beautiful. There were many visitors to St. Thomas's during April and all were complimentary on the restoration work achieved to date.

On Monday April 24th, the ashes of the late Peter Fairhurst were interred in the family grave in St. Thomas's churchyard where his parents are both buried.

We look forward to welcoming old friends and new in our churches over these next months. It is a joy to share our worship and the post service cuppa with all who come to visit us.



**Roundstone**

St Mary's held a service on Good Friday to remember the Passion of Christ as recorded by St Matthew. Alannah came to play the organ and the chief celebrant was The Rev. Michael Roemmele.

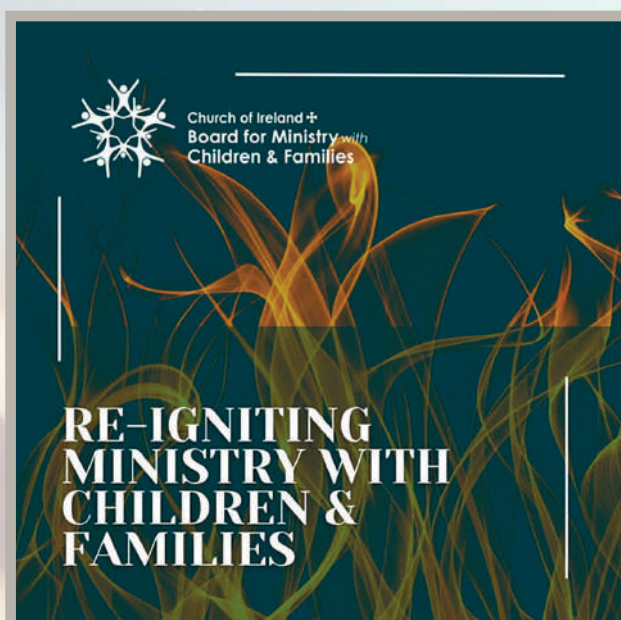
There was a well-attended service on Easter Sunday taken by the Chaplain of St Columba's College, Rev. Daniel Owen.

It is intended to start regular Sunday services for June, July and August.

As there is now no place with sufficient depth to bury a coffin, the intention is to open a garden of remembrance for the burial of ashes. An area to the North East of the church is now being cleared to provide this.

## RE-IGNITING AND RE-IMAGINING MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

On Thursday, 4th May, the Board for Ministry with Children and Families held its first online seminar for volunteers, staff and clergy looking at the challenges of re-igniting ministry with families following the pandemic.



Over 50 people attended the seminar representing all the dioceses and a broad spectrum of church situations – from the large churches with established programmes of activities, to the smaller churches who are keen to start or restart their children and families ministry.

The talk was given by Development Officer Rachael Murphy, who hopes that these online events will become a regular fixture in the Church of Ireland calendar, will cover a variety of topics, and involve different speakers over the coming year.

During the evening the group considered recent changes in society and how these have impacted the relationship between church and families, explored the CFM Health Check app (which is a new way for parishes to review the ways they engage with children and families), and looked at current research findings and considered the ways in which our churches might respond. The attendees also broke into groups based on geographical similarities, and shared ideas that they had tried or wished to try in order to establish and develop relationships with parents and carers. The feedback on the event was very positive, and some of the responses given regarding the 'take aways' from the session included the following comments:

1. 'That instead of worrying about numbers, we should concentrate on the children and families that we have and build strong relationships with them.'
2. 'There were lots of ideas that we could adapt to suit our community.'
3. 'I'm reminded again how Children and Families Ministry is responsibility of the whole church.'
4. 'A great new resource to the Church of Ireland. Looking forward to the next one.'

Information on the next training event will be given over the CFM social media pages and via email to those who sign up for the CFM newsletter on the website: [www.cfm.ireland.anglican.org](http://www.cfm.ireland.anglican.org)

You're welcome to check out the HealthCheck app at <https://cfm.ireland.anglican.org/audit-children-families-ministry>





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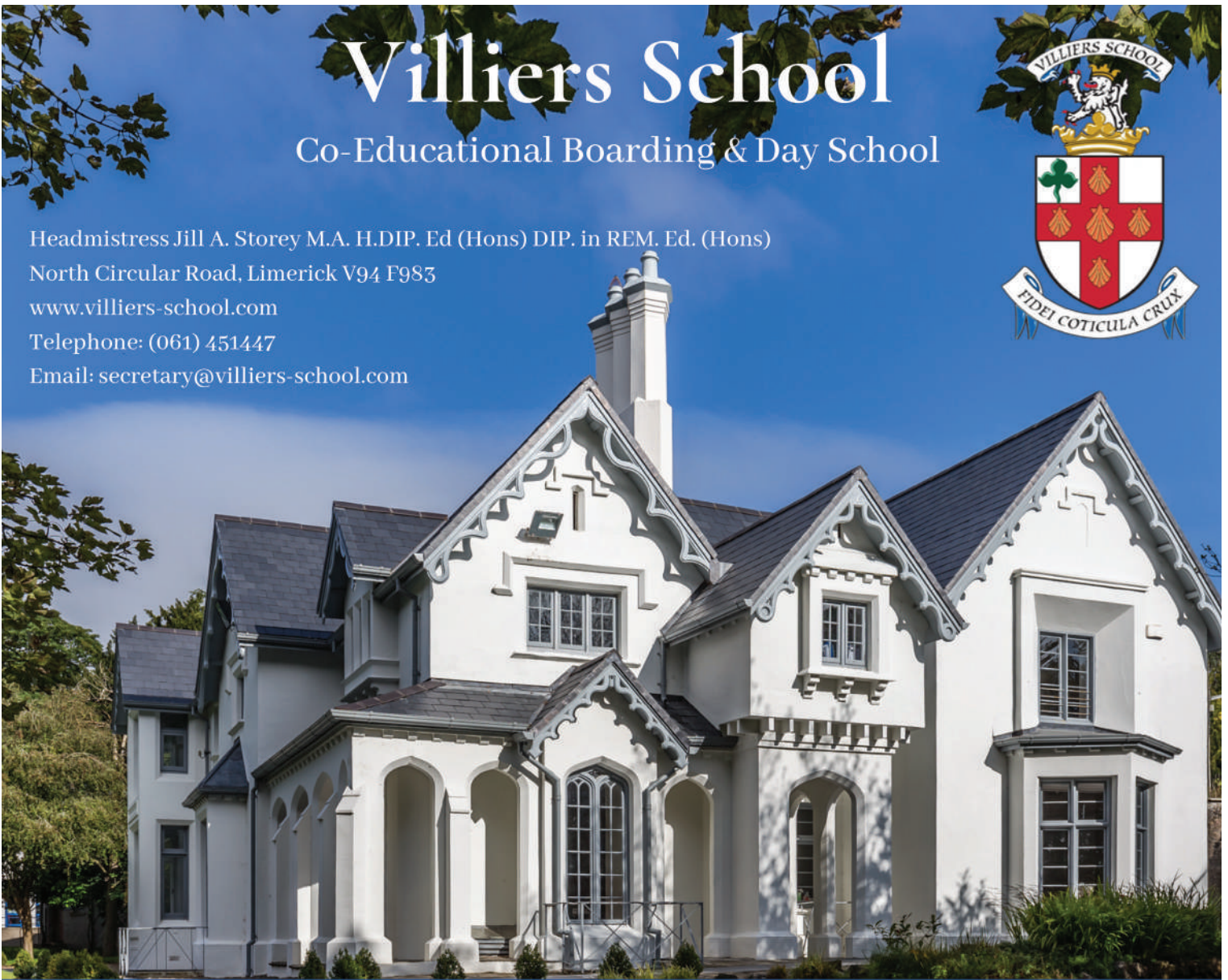
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