INSTITUTION OF NEW RECTOR ON ZOOM

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- A VISIT TO THE ARCHIVES AND BOOK COLLECTIONS AT THE RCB LIBRARY
- COUNTRY CHURCH LAUNCHES NATIONAL APPEAL FOR RESTORATION

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Due to the restrictions enforcing social distancing and restrictions on people’s movements because of the spread of the Coronavirus (Covid-19), it has not been possible to print this edition of the Clogher Diocesan Magazine in the normal way and instead is available free for everyone to read online.

The magazine is published on the Clogher Diocese website and will be shared on parish websites and Facebook pages. If you know someone who cannot access the magazine this way, perhaps encourage a family member to share it with them or even print sections of the magazine for them.

For those who have taken out a subscription for the printed copy or those with a postal subscription, your payment will be frozen and will begin again once normal circumstances resume.

Views expressed in the magazine are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the Magazine Committee, the Diocese of Clogher nor the Church of Ireland. The Magazine Committee reserves the right to decline any material without assigning a reason. No correspondence can be entered into regarding nonpublication of material or advertisements. Names and addresses of contributors must be provided with material submitted and may then be published. The Magazine Committee accepts no responsibility for loss, damage or the return of material.

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Advertising rates are available upon request.
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Front Cover
A view of those attending the Institution of the Revd Elaine Dunne as incumbent of the Ballybay Group of Parishes held by Zoom and conducted by Archdeacon Brian Harper, Archbishop’s Commissary. See Page 50 for full details.
Donations for Frontline NHS and HSE Healthcare Staff

It was with great delight that the Vestry and parishioners of Clogh Parish Church, could donate these essential shower gels and ready food goods to the NHS and HSE Frontline Healthcare Staff of both Cavan General Hospital and South West Acute Hospital, Enniskillen, during the current COVID19 Pandemic.

Andrea Nelson, our Vestry secretary, put this together to show comfort and our thanks to these amazing healthcare workers for what they are doing. It is a difficult job and this was to show them God’s love irrespective of who or what denomination they are. Also at that time we needed to do this as quickly as possible.

In this unprecedented time, we were awaiting a surge in cases, so even with the challenge of not being able to meet to discuss as we would normally, we could still find a way to show the church’s presence and source of comfort in the community.

Andrea writes:

“In early stages of this pandemic, I was seeing and hearing how frontline healthcare workers were being affected, all who have families and loved ones of their own to protect. Having a young family, I could only imagine the sad scenes, difficult decisions, much altered routines and restrictions to work and family life, exposure to sad scenes, together with high levels of anxiety that these staff were potentially having to go through. I wanted to donate individually, and thought that as a church together we could possibly make a more meaningful donation together, that could bring some comfort and let these staff know that the church community cares for them and show this in some practical way.

“After agreement with the Vestry, thankfully we were able to make this donation.

“After contacting the hospital, I was put through to Ms Lisa McComb, secretary, secretary to the Manager of the COVID19 and A&E Departments, in order to seek how we could help purchase equipment or bring some comfort during this challenging times. I asked Lisa, if there were any special items or PPE items that they required or anything that would bring some essential comforts to their staff. Lisa was a great help, a number of days later on Good Friday, Lisa phoned back and explained that the staff would be most grateful for shower gels and ready foods and drinks, as these were items that would be greatly received as frontline staff need to wash out regularly, particularly, when returning home to their own families. Also staff are unable to easily leave the wards as normal.

“I also contacted Ms Lorraine Brady of Cavan General Hospital asking if such items would be useful and again these items would be greatly received and for the very same reasons. Lorraine was most helpful.

“As it was early in the pandemic, due to restrictions, with church gatherings and meetings ceased, rather than having
proper meetings or gathering, a lot of the discussions with the vestry and with local shop were carried out via phone and messenger. All hygiene precautions were taken especially with a newborn at home. Also given the fact of not visiting church members, collecting money or visiting we agreed an amount be donated from the church and a special collection afterwards by the church parishioners.

“I contacted a local store, O’Neill’s Mace Store, Dernawilt seeking if they could meet the order. Jim O’Neill was a great help in sourcing what I needed regarding the shower gel and ready food goods, which was split 50/50 between the two hospitals. “William(6) and Harvey (3) got in on the fun helping out dividing the goods, ready for delivery to hospitals. The essential comfort boxes were divided into the relevant wards/hospital etc, and packaged with a special message to the staff, with a comforting memory verse to provide comfort and the church contact details. These were delivered to the front door of each hospital on separate days in separate vehicles, phoning the necessary contacts before arrival and packed onto trolleys etc., with all hygiene and minimal contact restrictions adhered.

“These were delivered within essential travel outings and kindly received from the staff of each hospital. Clogh Parish Church with parishioners located on either side of the border, is a rural church located on the County Monaghan/Fermanagh border. We were very happy to be able to make this donation to the truly amazing healthcare workers within both Cavan General Hospital and Enniskillen South West Acute Hospital. “We thank them and wish them well in the days and weeks ahead.”

Rainbow of Shower Gels for NHS and HSE Covid19 Frontline Staff.

To: The HSE COVID 19 Frontline Staff of CAVAN GENERAL HOSPITAL

From: The Vestry and Parishioners of CLOGH CHURCH OF IRELAND, Rosslau, Co. Fermanagh.

THANK-YOU for all you are doing, stay strong.

“Cast all your anxiety on him for he cares for you” 1 Peter 5v7.

Signed: Andrea Nelson
Secretary

THE CLOGHER DIOCESAN MAGAZINE 5
SERVICES
Each Sunday our services are available online from 10.30am on both the following sites;
www.facebook.com/colebrooke
www.colebrookeparish.org/online-services
And also a local phone line service on 028 8927 0927.

If you wish to follow the service, but do not currently receive by email the order of service and the appropriate readings for each Sunday, please email me at the above address, and I will add you to our list.
Also, each morning of the week I read the weekday service of daily prayer (Page 139 BCP) at 10.30am, and I understand that many parishioners join with me spiritually, finding comfort in the fact that there is at least one other person praying the same service at the same time, and that we are not ‘alone’ during this time of confinement. If you would like to join me each morning, but don’t have access to a prayer book, please email me and I will forward you an order of service for daily prayer.

Colebrooke and Cooneen MU
The Diocesan Trustees send a May newsletter to all members via their branch leader. This included prayers, Bible reflections, a poem, Health and Wellbeing leaflet, a Bible books quiz, useful contact numbers as well as a recipe for an Apple and Date loaf. Members were encouraged to have a special time for tea during one weekend and remember MU Worldwide in prayer. Mrs Violet O’Malley, our Indoor Member, celebrated in her residence and Robert and Irene Boyd celebrated with a special birthday tea for Robert (photos attached). Many members have found the 30 Bible books in the quiz sheet, used the prayers and other information and also enjoyed eating the loaf they made. Since lockdown, members have prayed each Wednesday night for the work of MU and for the needs in the parish and the community. Wednesday 20 May would have been a MU meeting night when Irene was to lead a prayer walk. Instead Irene sent everyone a copy of a prayer walk around their own home which helped to focus prayers on specific needs. A copy of the walk is included below.

Sit, relax in your own home - take a walk – in your mind – or literally if you wish – around your house and garden as we pray together tonight Wednesday 20 May

1. Living Room
This is the room where we spend many hours, usually in a relaxed mood, watching TV, reading, talking with family. The Lord demonstrated his need for times of relaxation and family contact when he visited in his friends’ homes. There would not have been many rooms in these houses but he still understands our need for places where we can be at ease, quiet and refreshed.

Maybe it is the place where you read and pray – listening for Jesus teaching, listening to the Sunday services in these ‘lockdown’ times. Luke 10 v 38 – 42

Pray that we will be more like Mary – listening to Jesus. (I am still too much a Martha but pray I will use these days to grow more like Mary). Pray for MU members and parishioners who are finding it especially difficult because they have no ‘church services’ or technology to receive the services. Pray that we will all experience God’s presence in the days ahead. Jeremiah 33 v 3   Psalm 37 v 4

2. Kitchen
The hub of all homes and where we women spend many hours. Food and family meals were often the place where Jesus taught many truths and showed his love for all mankind. The meal did not need to be elaborate. Matthew 9 v 9-13

Pray that we will be generous, hospitable and open to help all those who are in need of food, shelter and a listening ear in our community and around the world. Remember areas of Africa where there are huge needs from hunger, flood and sickness (including the virus, MU Website explains more) Isaiah 40 v 31

Mr Violet O’Malley enjoying her special weekend tea.
3. Sitting Room – Maybe it’s your living room as well or you may have ‘The Good Room’ which is used on special occasions – celebrations, special visitors and sadly in times of sorrow. John 2 v 1 – 11 and John 11 v 17 – 37 Jesus was with people in their celebrations knowing their needs and providing for them. He was also with them in sad times and knew deep personal pain too. John 11 v 35.

Pray for those who are sorrowful and distressed because they cannot be with loved ones and bring physical comfort. Especially remember those in hospital who cannot have visitors and for those anxious at home.

Also remember couples who have had to postpone their weddings and who have faced much disappointment and distress. John 14 v 27 and John 14 v 2 and 3

4. Garden – We have been blessed in these past weeks to enjoy wonderful outdoor weather where we could get outside for some of the time to appreciate the wonder of God’s creation e.g. the busy tuneful birds, buds opening into leaf, shrubs and plants flowering, new animals born and some marvellous sunsets!

Genesis 8 v 21 and 22 and 9 v 12 - 17 As we think of the rainbow it reminds us that when God sees the rainbow he remembers his promise. When we see it we should remember his promises to us and seek to obey him. Give thanks for God’s goodness, faithfulness and provision for our safety and wellbeing. Pray for all who work to bring healing, care and support to those in need e.g. nurses, doctors, carers in nursing homes, emergency and essential services workers, those involved in the food industry etc.

5. Bedroom – a place to rest our weary bones, relax our bodies and enjoy sleep to refresh our minds in preparation for another day. Do you sigh as you stretch out and prepare for sleep – not in sadness but in gladness and thankfulness for provision of another day safely negotiated? The Lord Jesus often went to quiet places to be refreshed and pray. He also enjoyed deep sleep where he could shut out the world’s cares. He trusted in his Father’s provision. So should we. Matthew 8 v 23 - 27

Pray for family and friends. Trust God to hear and answer.

Hebrews 13 v 5 2 Corinthians 12 v 9

6. Sing ‘What A friend we have in Jesus’ - The Lord’s prayer and The Mothers’ Union Prayer

Thank you to those who organised the event, and to those who attended! Remember that we’ll be continuing to meet each Sunday, and all are welcome!

The service was the first step in returning to the normality of church, and we will be continuing to meet each Sunday at 11am. The service will also be streamed live on the rector’s Facebook page, and a link inserted to the webpage after its end.

Online Services
We continue the services each Monday to Friday at 10.30am and 5.30pm, using Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer, and a Celebration of Wholeness and Healing on
Wednesday evening. We have continued to pray for any and all of the requests we have been given – and we have been reassured that many of the names have had dramatic responses to their situations.

We continue to stream our services on Facebook, where they can be streamed at any time. If you have any prayer requests, you can send them via the Facebook page. The requests only need to include a name, no explanation is necessary as we entrust them into God’s hands, and he knows their needs better than we ever could!

Best Wishes
We wish Archbishop John McDowell God’s richest blessing as he begins a new chapter in his ministry.

Prayers
As Christ Church remains closed due to the coronavirus we continue to pray for all who are working hard to help fight this outbreak, we pray for the frontline workers who are putting themselves at risk each and every day, we keep in our thoughts the family and friends of those who have been affected by it.

It has been a very difficult time for all our students in the parish especially those sitting exams which now have been cancelled. We pray for all the parents are hope they are coping with the home schooling.

Our prayers and thoughts are with our parishioners who have been unwell in recent weeks and receiving treatment a very difficult time now for them with the country in lockdown.

God, the father of our Lord Jesus Christ, whose arms stretched wide on the cross to embrace us, by your spirit stretch us to welcome and embrace others more freely in our parish, our community and our land. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Thanks
Thank you to all our parishioners here in Christ Church who has really pulled together helping each and everyone out during this Covid-19 pandemic, helping to keep the elderly cocooned, checking up with their neighbours, baking and doing the shopping for others, making sure everyone was safe and keeping their distance. We would like to thank Revd Canon Berry for taking care of our group of parishes during our vacancy.

Service Of Institution
The Service of Institution of the Revd Elaine Dunne was due to take place on
Thursday, 4th June 2020 through a Zoom meeting.

Elaine has experience of working in Dublin and in the West of Ireland and will bring that experience as well as her many skills and qualifications to this new sphere of vocation. I know she will be welcomed by the people of Ballybay, Clontibret and Muckno when she arrives in early summer.

Revd Dunne stated: “I am delighted to have been appointed as Rector of the Grouped Parishes of Ballybay, Clontibret and Muckno. I am very much looking forward to getting to know all of the parishioners and to embarking on the next stage of my spiritual journey, as well as embracing the new opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.”

Prior to her ordination, Revd Dunne was a full-time student at St. Patrick’s College, Maynooth, and also at the Irish School of Ecumenics (TCD). Following her training at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute, she was ordained in 2005 and she has worked as curate–assistant in the Grouped Parishes of Castleknock and Mulhuddart with Clonsilla and as assistant–priest in the Grouped Parishes of Santry, Glasnevin and Finglas, both of which are in the Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough.

She has been Priest–in–Charge of Omey Union of Parishes in north–west Connemara in the Dioceses of Tuam, Killala and Achonry. She was appointed a Clerical Vicar of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, in 2006.

Revd Dunne, in her spare time, enjoys working with children and teenagers and she has gained valuable experience working with young people of various ages and backgrounds in many different settings. In addition, since her ordination she has particularly enjoyed working with children and teenagers in a faith context and undertaken a number of courses related to youth work and youth ministry.

With an involvement with the Scouts movement since she was a teenager and a leader for over 15 years, we in Christ Church realise these are difficult times for Revd Elaine Dunne with all the restrictions and lock down but we wish her all God’s richest blessings and look forward in meeting her in the very near future.

MUCKNO

The Select Vestry and Parishioners of St Maeldoid’s hope you are all keeping well and staying safe.

Who would ever of thought that things as simple as living our daily lives would be and could be changed forever; with cities, towns and villages on lockdown; people forced to cocoon, isolate and social distance themselves; just some of the new words we have come
to know over the past few weeks. Women giving birth alone, people dying alone with their funerals been streamlined on the web. Weddings, baptisms all put on hold. Church doors shut. Covid 19 has indeed made its mark on societies worldwide and has caused so much disruption and heartache.

Sympathy

One such family affected was our Church Secretary, Audrey Hill, who lost her brother-in-law Jim Greacen on 10th April 2020. To Audrey, Bert and family we send you our sincere sympathies.

Another family affected at this time was the Oliver family, Killygola. Lexie Oliver passed away on 23rd April 2020. Lexie was a true gentleman and a faithful Friend of St Maeldoid’s. Mourners lined from Muckno street to the Church as a mark of respect for a much-loved Lexie. Lexie’s funeral took place in First Castleblayney Presbyterian Church. We extend our sincere condolences to his family in Killylea, London, Guam and Antrim. Another loyal and faithful Friend of St Maeldoid’s, Mrs Susan McMullan passed away on Tuesday 5th May 2020. Susan was the wife of the late Revd Victor McMullan, Rector of the Ballybay Group of Parishes in the late 70’s. Her funeral service committal took place on Thursday 7th May with Canon Ian Berry and Mr Walter Pringle. Deepest sympathy to her son David, his wife Virginia and their children. Also to Susan’s sisters and brother.

“God is our refuge and strength a very present help in times of trouble”
Psalm 46 v 1

Friends’ Service
With the Covid 19 pandemic The Annual Friends’ Service will not take place. We believe this is the first time this service has ever been cancelled in over 50 years.

Thank You
We would also like to express a massive thank you to all frontline workers on both sides of the border who have been so diligent and caring in these difficult times.

Looking Forward
We all look forward to welcoming Revd Elaine Dunne to our group of parishes. Revd Elaine came to view the rectory on Tuesday 5th May. She will be taking up residency in or around the end of May (DV). We are presently installing an alarm system and putting blinds on the windows at the rectory. We hope and pray that Revd Elaine settles into the rectory and her new surroundings in Co Monaghan very quickly.

Thank Y ou
We would also like to thank all our parents for their continuous support at this time and wants to wish everyone well and to stay safe. See photos.

Get Well Wishes
We also want to wish our hardworking Churchwarden, John Montgomery to get well as he recovers from illness. And to all those who are ill and anxious at this time, tough times don’t last, tough people do! “God has a reason for allowing things to happen we may never understand his wisdom but we simply have to TRUST HIS WILL”. Psalm 37 v 5

The Rector Writes

Pentecost Sunday hailed the start of a new dawn of our faith as the church (somewhat) as we know it today began to grow and spread to many nations. We see a remarkable shift in the faith, courage and conviction of the disciples who are transformed from the ones who ran away, denied and cowered behind closed doors to inspire public preachers whose words bring many to faith. It seems almost impossible that this Peter who addressed the crowd that day in Jerusalem was the same Peter who retreated away from the courtyard at Jesus’ trial on hearing the cock crow for the third time. But for Peter, and the other disciples a lot has happened in those few short weeks. They have encountered the risen Jesus whom death could not hold. Peter has been re-united with his friend and saviour who rather than chastise him for his denial greets him with a rather different set of three – “do you love me.” The forgiven Peter is set free to carry on the work that Jesus has started as he is sent to “feed the sheep.” Yet the disciples have one more hurdle to overcome, Jesus ascends once again to be with the Father and the disciples are left alone to carry out the great commission “go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” But they weren’t to be left alone. Jesus promised he would be with them to the end of the age through the sending of the one who was greater than he. So here, on that birth day of the church, the advocate the Holy Spirit comes upon the disciples and they are transformed and the church begins to grow. What seemed impossible in human terms God makes possible.

So how do these events almost 2000 years ago relate to us in 2020 in a small group of parishes in rural Ireland where in human
terms, especially in the midst of a pandemic, growth seems impossible. Perhaps it feels easier sometimes to stay hidden away like the disciples after the crucifixion but that same Spirit lives within us and we too are called to that Great Commission. As we take the leap of faith of broadcasting our services online we have seen God work in a way we couldn’t have imagined possible with the numbers of people viewing services across our Diocese and across our land. The message of God’s love and hope reaching into homes where previously the doors have been closed.

Where we go from here is a challenge for all of us. Naturally we long to meet again in our church buildings and church will always be about worshipping together in person. But we cannot ignore, or be afraid of, new opportunities to spread the Gospel. God has opened doors for us, we must pray in faith for growth, we must be active in our community spreading the wonderful Good News of the Gospel and we must be open to the wonders of a God who can do more in Jerusalem, Carrickmacross and Clogher Diocese than we could ever hope to imagine.

**Online Worship**

During the restrictions on public gatherings we are worshipping together online. Services are broadcast on Facebook Live on our page Carrickmacross Group Church of Ireland. Due to lack of internet coverage in Magheracloone and Ardragh Sunday services will be streamed live from St Finban’s unless otherwise advertised. Services are on Sunday mornings at 11am and Thursday evenings at 8pm.

Sunday services are following a regular pattern:

- **Sunday 7th June** – Morning Prayer
- **Sunday 14th June** – Holy Communion
- **Sunday 21st June** – Arise and Shine
- **Sunday 28th June** – Holy Communion

**Daily Readings – Sacred Space**

Thank you to all who volunteered to record one of our Daily Readings over the past two months. The readings began before Easter and took us right up to Pentecost. It was lovely to see all the different faces as we sought to keep everyone connected while we remain physically apart.

**Hymns Of Praise**

Following the success of the daily Readings we will be starting a new initiative in May with parishioners bringing us their favourite hymns and why they mean so much to them. These will appear on our Facebook Page.

**Caring For One Another**

Revd Colin as well as a number of parishioners are available to collect and deliver groceries, medical supplies or any other essential needs to anyone who is cocooning or simply wary about going out to the shops. Please contact Rev Colin at any time if you need any help at all.

We encourage parishioners to continue to pray for one another and to keep in contact via phone or messages to encourage one another while we are staying at home.

We pray especially for the many from our...
churches who are in the frontline whether in the health service, carers, essential retail or essential services.

### Carrickmacross Food Bank

We have been overwhelmed by the ongoing support of parishioners for the Carrickmacross Food Bank which is reaching out to many more families than pre-covid-19. Currently people are able to drop donations off at the Rectory front steps. Thank you all for your continued support of the Foodbank.

### Sunday School And Youth Group

With both Sunday School and youth Group being unable to meet we have been producing a weekly resource which is emailed to parents and is also available via our Facebook Page. The Sunday School materials follow the same readings as we study in church each Sunday and contain activities, prayers and imaginative ways to look at the reading. Parents have been sending photos of the completed activities to Revd Colin to display on our Facebook page. Revd Colin is producing a weekly reflection for our young people using a movie theme each week. The reflections encourage the young people to keep praying as well as giving some ideas of activities during the restrictions.

### Condolences

Our thoughts and prayers are with Michelle McHugh following the death of her mother Margaret on 14th April.
Illness
Let us remember and pray for those who are ill at present either in hospital, nursing home, or at home. We especially remember those who are confined to nursing homes and are prevented from visits by their family and friends since the end of March. We remember Sylvia Thornton, resident in The Grann Abbey Home and Anne Burleigh in the Tiley Nursing Home.

Mullaghduin Car Park
Stage 1 of the car park is now complete which means the foundations are now ready for construction.

Bellanaleck Community Group
At time of writing all recreational facilities within the local area have been closed with the exception of the Bellanaleck Community Garden, and the Loughshore Path. The River Erne has now limited opening to pleasure boats and fishing. The Loughshore Path is widely used by pedestrians, for their daily exercise, running along the riverbank at its eastern side, and the main Enniskillen to Cavan/Dublin road on its western side. At time of writing work has commenced resurfacing the main road in Bellanaleck, which includes the length past the Church and Parish Hall.

All meetings are now suspended. Should any parishioner in Cleenish require assistance contact Owen Wilson 02866 349602, or Sharon Elliott 077325 21533.

Clones, Killeevan, Currin and Newbliss

Rector:
The Revd
Roy Taylor

The Rectory, Scotchhouse, Clones, Co.Monaghan.

E: clones@clogher.anglican.org
T: 089 2239646

As this period of lockdown has continued, parishioners have been taking advantage of the many opportunities for Sunday and weekday worship available on a wide variety of broadcast media. Television and radio broadcasts have been welcomed, as have the variety of online services. Interestingly, worship from cathedral churches seem to have been most mentioned in this respect – Christ Church in Dublin, Bangor, Armagh, Hereford, Salisbury, etc. – but the general feeling, understandably, is that we will be happiest when we can actually physically gather together again for worship in our own church buildings. However, in the meantime we have been keeping in touch a lot by telephone … and we have also had an active WhatsApp group where we have been able to share words of encouragement, information, teaching, and fun. All our parishioners are invited to join this group – and if you are not on it at present, just call the Rector on 0892239646 – but here are some extracts from our group exchanges so that you can see what sort of contributions we have:

- I hope you all found the list I sent of the services available this Sunday on TV/radio/online useful. Maybe we could share with each other any thoughts or messages that arise from those services?

I watched the service from Armagh this morning - very nicely produced Morning Prayer, with all the words of the service cleverly superimposed so that people could join in without having a service book.

Hi everyone. Following a recent recommendation, I watched RTE’s Sunday service yesterday - which you can still view at –

https://www.rte.ie/player/series/mass-on-sunday/SIO000003570?epguid=H000381234

The message resonated with me. Like lots of other people, I am alone in the house at the moment - with no opportunity to physically see my elderly father in his nursing home, my children, my new grandson, my brother, my friends, or even fellow parishioners in our own group of parishes. For all the physical isolation, though, I know that I am definitely not spiritually isolated in any way. The God who came to us in Christ is with me (and with each one of us) always in the power of his Spirit, and we are united with millions of other brothers and sisters in Christ across the world as we continue to offer our prayers and praises to God. Isolated, then?

Physically yes, but spiritually absolutely not! May God bless us all richly on this wonderful day that the Lord has made - let us rejoice together, and be glad in it.

- Do you have a favourite Bible verse? One of the most important verses for me in the Bible is from Romans 15:13 – “Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” It’s a really good reminder to us all that one key attribute of the God we believe in is ‘hope’ … and therefore hope is rooted deep into our own DNA, since we are all created in the image of God. As I contemplate the amazing people and environment around me each day, say my prayers, have conversations with others, and join in the worship of the church via TV or radio, I just can’t stop myself feeling that sense of hope again and again … and I ‘hope’ that the same is true for you as well. Our Lord Jesus was certainly rooted and grounded in hope, even though the odds were stacked against him, and he went out to transform the world. His work still goes on, the Holy Spirit is ever moving, and we are all invited to play our part – in hope. “Happy are those … whose hope is in the Lord their God” (Psalm 33:22). May God bless us all - and give us joy and peace in believing today.

- Yesterday we held the funeral of Rowena Mealiff in Killeevan Churchyard, and it would be good if we could all hold Jack and her entire family in our prayers as they mourn. Because of the current restrictions, we were not allowed to sing around the graveside. However, Rowena had chosen three favourite hymns that she wanted at her funeral, so we played them over an outdoor loudspeaker system … beautifully sung for
grandparents with your knowledge! If you can impress your mummies and daddies or – if grown from seeds or bulbs. Then you colours. Also find out where they come from at the moment. If you research the internet grandparents, whom you may not be visiting Easter painting for your parents … or indeed fingertips to do during Holy Week as an our children. A picture of tulips would be could I suggest a painting exercise to • As one of the Sunday School teachers, you today, so here is the link on YouTube, if you’d like to have a listen to the rendition by Glen Campbell: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EctBSwUHlxA • As one of the Sunday School teachers, could I suggest a painting exercise to our children. A picture of tulips would be a lovely painting using your hands and fingertips to do during Holy Week as an Easter painting for your parents … or indeed grandparents, whom you may not be visiting at the moment. If you research the internet you will discover that tulips come in many colours. Also find out where they come from – if grown from seeds or bulbs. Then you can impress your mummies and daddies or grandparents with your knowledge! If you have no paint I guess you can draw round your hands and colour in. You might also like to write the chorus of “All things bright and beautiful” underneath your painting – or, if making a card, in the inside. I can assure you, your painting will mean much more than all the flowers money can buy. Have fun.

• A publisher called ‘Kevin Mayhew’ is offering a free e-book of prayers in this time of coronavirus. It’s written by a well-respected author called Nick Fawcett, and the publisher says: ’This book contains 52 prayers written in response to the crisis, asking for strength, encouragement and support, as well as help for loved ones and the wider world. Honest, down-to-earth and heartfelt, it’s a resource written to help you articulate what you are feeling and bring you hope in these dark and difficult days.’ Anyway, it is totally free of charge – so if you would like to have a look and see if it’s helpful to you, go to the following link: https://mailchi.mp/kevinmayhew.com/forsuchatimeasthis?utm_source=KM+Cleansed+Audience+Jan+2020&utm_campaign=37e68b6460-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_01_15_04_23_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_9d7f6b05fd37e68b6460-192970503&mc_cid=37e68b6460&mce_id=50ef3d5b63

• Good morning parishioners! One of the many good things about lockdown is the gift of time! So in June I hope to tackle the mountain of years of photographs and put some up. This was one of our ‘dress in red’ rectory fun days! What a beautiful picture, especially of two of our great parishioners who are sadly no longer with us. But it brings back lovely memories of them both. Thank you.

• Try out today’s teaser! Count every “F” in the following text:

FINISHED FILES ARE THE RESULT OF YEARS OF SCIENTIFIC STUDY COMBINED WITH THE EXPERIENCE OF YEARS.

How many of the letter “F” do you see?

3...4...?

There are in fact 6! It’s because the brain does not process “OF”. Anyone who counts all 6 “Fs” on the first go is a genius. Three is normal, four is quite rare.

• If you see the moon … you see the beauty of God. If you see the sun … you see the power of God.

And if you see the mirror … you see the best creation of God.

So, have confidence. We all are tourists – and God is our travel agent who has already planned all our routes, reservations and destinations. Trust him and enjoy the “trip” called LIFE!

• Thanks for all the encouragement. Stay safe and stay well.

Condolences

Our condolences go to the families of George Crawford and Rowena Mealiff, both of whom have died recently. George and Rowena were much loved members of our community, and they will be sorely missed.
“When I was young and went to school, They taught me how to write, To take the chalk and make a mark, And hope it turns out right”. You kind of get a sense that’s how it is with the coronavirus and the easing of some of the measures, decisions are taken hoping that they will turn out right, given the limited knowledge we all have of the virus, regardless of what position we hold. Though, it is foolish just to ignore it, hoping it will eventually go away, for it appears we will be living with it in the months and years ahead. The ‘stay alert’ message seems in that instance perfectly logical now and for when we move out of ‘lockdown’, even as we await further direction and clarification. While we wait for that information, we can draw comfort and assurance as the Psalmist reminds of how God guides us, “I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with my eye.” Psalm 32: 8 God watches over us, guides us in the right way, and protects us from harm. “Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler, and from the perilous pestilence.” Psalm 91: 3 Trust in God, let Him be your guide, let Him instruct you and lean on Him, not on your own understanding and He will give You His peace.

**VE Day 8th May**
It was fitting that we paid tribute and commemorated the 75th Anniversary of VE Day with a reflection, silence and the tune of ‘The Battle’ Over’, finishing with the familiar tune associated with the Dam Busters. We extend our thanks to all who were involved on behalf of the parish family who contributed to this service. As with other churches in the diocese, the bell rang out at 7.00pm for peace. Canon Irwin in his message spoke of a time to give thanks, a time for celebration, a time for remembrance and a time to rebuild out of the devastation of war. In marking the 75th Anniversary of VE Day, he recalled the services of thanksgiving to Almighty God for the victory and deliverance in war. Services attended by the government and the people, a strong thread of faith that held the people together in times of great tribulation, a thread that in the present is frayed or broken. Of the celebration and relief of the people, that war was over, of the joy that it brought, but also of the sorrow of lives lost and the importance of remembrance of those who give so much for the freedoms we now enjoy. He emphasised a time to rebuild in union with God, to build on the peace won, and to take encouragement from the wartime generations resolve as we live in the present and look to future.

**Activities/planned events**
Due to the current restrictions in place around prevention and spread of the coronavirus – COVID 19 pandemic, these have been, either cancelled or postponed as per public health and Diocesan guidance. However, at the time of writing some relaxing of measures are taking place. As a parish, we will endeavour to inform you of any changes as they arise and these will be posted on Facebook Colaghty Parish Church Lack.

**Dates for your diary**

2020
- 18th July Bible Club posting on Facebook
- 25th July Parish Barbecue – Postponed
- 9th – 11th October Harvest weekend

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**Derryvullen North and Castle Archdale**

Rector: 
The Revd Canon Paul Thompson

The Rectory, Enniskillen Road, Irvinestown BT94 1BD.
T: 028 68621890
E: irvinestown@clogher.anglican.org

**Availability of Worship**

During this period, although public worship is not possible we are still able to follow the Biblical teaching found in the letter to the Hebrew 10:25 of “not neglecting to meet together” but we have to apply it differently given our situation.

Through our online services, wherever we are and whenever we share in them we are still united in worship and prayer. Since the beginning of this period the Rector had been able to upload recorded services to Facebook — to a page called “Paul Thompson, Rector of Derryvullen North and Castle Archdale”

There is a Service each Wednesday evening, which is usually the Late Evening Office from the Book of Common Prayer. This is a thoughtful way to end the day and receive some spiritual nourishment in the course of the week.

You will see with these notes some screenshots from these Services including some of the flowers that have featured. We miss seeing the lovely flowers that added so much to our weekly worship in Church but it is good to be able to see these online displays and scenes.
Shared Services
It has been wonderful to have so many people from each of our parishes take part in each of the Sunday online Services – with their lovely photographs of flowers and nature, by giving Bible readings and providing music. This is all valued and much appreciated.

It has been very helpful to have the videos also available on the Diocesan internet page so that those who do not have Facebook as still able to see them and also share in the worship. It has also been very helpful for others without internet access to have had radio services to share in.

While the church buildings are not open for public worship and we are unable to gather as we once did, each Sunday, in addition to the recorded services, the Rector currently goes to both Derryvullen North and Castle Archdale and makes a short prayer video outside each building so that we are able to continue to have a link with these special places and also so that the pattern of prayer at each church continues.

Confirmation
We think in particular at this time of the large group of young people who were due to have been confirmed on Pentecost Sunday, 31st May. The Confirmation Service will of course be held in the future for them but we are unable to give any timescale for this. It was greatly appreciated that Archbishop John wrote to each of the candidates to explain the situation and the need for a delay. It was also good that several of the young people were able to contribute to the online Sunday Service on what would have been their Confirmation Day.

The Foodback at the ARC, Irvinestown
The Foodbank is unfortunately needed throughout the year and in Derryvullen North and Castle Archdale we have been supporting it for some time. With the economic impact of the shutdown, need for the Foodbank has increased – before the covid 19 crisis about 55 were being supported and at the time of the previous edition of the magazine that number had risen to 133. At the present that has unfortunately increased again to about 170. Jenny and the team at the Arc Healthy Living Centre do a wonderful job, not only in the Foodbank but also in the Chit-Chat (telephone support) Programme and before the shutdown in many other community programmes too. The members of all the local churches, local businesses and individuals have been helping provide food and household items for the Foodbank. The number to either offer items/money for the Foodbank or to request help is 028 6862 8741

Pastoral Support
As pastoral visitation to people at home is not currently permitted, the Rector and the Diocesan Pastoral Assistants have been telephoning people instead and this will continue for the duration of the current crisis – it has been important to be able for them to talk, share and pray with people in this way so that the pastoral ministry of the Church continues. It has also been very encouraging to see so many agencies and individuals offering help and support in so many ways.

Bite Sized Bible Series
Each week the Rector has prepared and uploaded a short Bible Study – part of a Bite
Sized Bible Series. These sessions aim to offer a short time of spiritual nourishment each week. Each one only lasts about five minutes and are offered to encourage us to understand the Bible a bit better and through the words of Scripture to learn of him through the Word, Jesus Christ. Given all the worry many face in these times it is important that we keep strong and active - the Bible teaches we are body, mind and spirit and that each needs to be kept fit and well (see 1 Thessalonians 5:23). Learning from and about the Scriptures, as well as sharing in worship, is part of this spiritual nourishment and spiritual exercise. The passage of Scripture currently being studied is Matthew chapter 5, verses 1-11, the portion known as the Beatitudes.

Devenish & Boho

Diocesan Curate: The Revd Sampson Ajuka

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T: 028 66 341672  
E: devenish@clogher.anglican.org

Burials in Devenish Parish Graveyard

- 30th April 2020 Maureen Elizabeth (Mo) Cathcart, Carrickreagh House, Blaney, Enniskillen
We extend our deepest sympathy to Mo’s, sons, Richard and Matthew, daughter, Julie-Ann and the wider family circle.
- 20th May 2020 Violet Scott, 61 Levally Road, Enniskillen.
Violet made a great contribution to our parish life, a member of the choir for a long number of years, played a very important part in parish functions especially the Annual Sale and Auction where she managed the cake stall and contributed many prizes for competitions. She was a great baker and her scones were renowned throughout the area.

Violet was a deeply caring and kind person, who had a smile for everyone.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Violet’s husband, Wesley, her brothers George and Freddie and the wider family circle.

Message from Revd Sampson

My dear Brothers and Sisters, May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. I thank God who has kept us alive since the crisis of Covid-19, and I thank Him also for those who have fallen asleep as a result, for we are required to give thanks in every situation. It is true that tension is no more as it was initially but it seems we still need to be more patient. The good thing to know is that God is with us no matter what we are passing through. The gift of the Holy Spirit is a wonderful gift from God. Jesus promised not to leave us as orphans and for that reason He sent the Holy Spirit to be with us.

As we enter the Pentecost, the season of the Holy Spirit, it is a reminder that we are not alone in the situation we are in. We thank God the Father for giving us Jesus and allowing the Holy Spirit to be with us. He will continue to be with us until the end of this crisis. And I pray that He will restore everything we lost in Jesus name. Amen!

Mothers’ Union

Devenish and Boho Mothers’ Union and Devenish catering group have distributed some food and care parcels to the senior members of our parish. These have been received gratefully and we appreciate all who helped to organise and deliver these.

Two of our members have recently been bereaved. We offer our deepest sympathy to Alison Patrick on the passing of her mother, Mrs Marie Irvine and to Joan Cathcart on the passing of her brother, Derek Hassard. We also extend condolences to Wesley Scott on the passing of his wife Violet who was a good and helpful friend to our Mothers’ Union.

We hope all our members received the helpful correspondences that was distributed. We are grateful to our Diocesan President, Mrs Irene Boyd for the continuing contact during this period of ‘lockdown’. We hope and pray all our members are keeping well and safe but please if anyone wants help do not hesitate to contact me.

Freewill Offering Envelopes

There have been approaches from some parishioners regarding their freewill offering envelopes, due to our Churches being closed under COVID-19 restrictions.

There are various options available including posting in a cheque, bank transfer, or you may consider setting up a standing order. Alternatively you may wish to delay payments until restrictions are eased and we can hold services again.

Arrangements to suit your individual needs can be made by contacting your Hon Treasurer….Stuart Brooker (Devenish Parish) 07968 738491stuartbrooker@btinternet.com ....Enid Redmond (Boho Parish) 028 6634 1876enid.redmond@yahoo.com

In any event, please be aware of scams around Freewill Offering and ensure that you only pass any donation to the Hon. Treasurer.
Don't Give Up- Hope Does Not Disappoint!!

The tiny, invisible virus which has caused all of this panic has changed the world. We have become a terrified people. Everything that we have taken for granted has then suddenly gone. Many of us have lost hope. We often have more questions than answers. The shared disorientation we feel is probably unprecedented in our experience, and we are living in that disorientation trying to make it feel as normal as we can, but wondering ‘Is this really happening?’ And ‘How long, O Lord, how long?’ People are searching in a focused way for faith and the meaning of life. We want to know that someone cares for us at this time and indeed that our needs matter. I also think we deepen our dependence on the Lord, strangely, if virtually, draws us closer to our brothers and sisters in Christ, and prepares us for an unknown future. We realise that we need others and others need us at this time of crisis. We belong to a community – we have a common unity as we are all in this together. In the Gospel accounts we also see that the disciples experience a time of disorientation after Easter, even after the resurrection had taken place. Their leader whom they had followed had been crucified and suffered a horrific death. Their hopes are shattered and they are distraught and in fear. The disciples had experienced a faith-shaking body blow by seeing Christ die. Jesus was gone and that was the end of their confidence. Then they enter a new normal, the world of the risen Christ, which challenged them and yet they had joy and fear at the same time. In John 21 we read about the disciples in the period after Jesus has risen from the dead. They have seen the risen Lord, but then they go back to Galilee, and I guess it must have felt almost like they were in lock-down. Certainly in limbo. Not knowing what the next step would be or how life would ever get back to normal.

As I am writing, I am thinking about Pentecost. It is interesting that the first mention of the Holy Spirit in the book of Romans is tied up with the love of God. The book of Romans is considered foundational for Christians. Could it be that the first thing the Holy Spirit wants to do is to establish in
our hearts that God loves us? Many people think that the Holy Spirit has come to teach us about power. But the truth is that the Holy Spirit has come not to reveal the love for power, but the power of love! “Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.” (Romans 5:5). You may have experienced disappointed hopes, but there is a hope that does not disappoint when you are conscious of how much God loves you. It is a hope that springs from the heart of God, who loves you very much.

Today, we express hope as if we can’t be sure what will really happen. We say, “I hope I will win that prize. I hope it won’t rain tomorrow. I hope everything works out well.” In this context we mean “Hope” is commonly used to mean a wish: its strength is the strength of the person’s desire. But in the Bible hope is the confident and positive expectation of what God has promised and its strength is in His faithfulness and goodness. God wants you to have a confident expectation of good because as His child, He favours you.

N.T Wright writes in “Surprised by Hope”: “The point of 1 Corinthians 13 is that love is not our duty; it is our destiny. It is the language Jesus spoke, and we are called to speak it so that we can converse with him. It is the food they eat in God’s new world, and we must acquire the taste for it here.

Children enjoying craft and the outdoors during the Covid-19 lockdown period.
and now. It is the music God has written for all his creatures to sing, and we are called to learn it and practice it now so as to be ready when the conductor brings down his baton. It is the resurrection life, and the resurrected Jesus calls us to begin living it with him and for him right now. Love is at the very heart of the surprise of hope: people who truly hope as the resurrection encourages us to hope will be people enabled to love in a new way. Conversely, people who are living by this rule of love will be people who are learning more deeply how to hope.”

So, if you are discouraged choose to lean on the God of hope. God sees you in your brokenness and in all your struggles. He is the God who sees you (Genesis 16:13). He understands what you are going through and when He sees you He is always moved by compassion and tenderness. We can persevere through our most difficult trials and learn to lean on and trust in God during our darkest moments. Always remember it is the darkness part just before light dawns. But light always overcomes darkness.

**Facebook Services**

You can access Sunday services on St. Salvator’s Facebook Page. Thanks to all our musicians and singers who have sent in videos to include in the service: Alexandra, Colin, Diane, Emma, Ethne, Hallie, Jessica, Katherine, Kenneth, Lynne, Marina, Rebecca, Sophie and Timothy. Also thanks to Matthew for uploading the videos to Facebook. Thanks to our Sunday School children for sending in drawings, photos and videos. Thanks to all who have read: Hannah, Marina and Rachel. I am indebted to all your help - Team Donagh is working although the church building is closed.

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**Parishioners enjoying the outdoors.**

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**Dromore**

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**Sunday Services (June)**

**Sunday 7th June**

11.00am S o W, ‘The Power of Praise’ (Psalm 8)

**Sunday 14th June**

11.00am S o W, “As you go...” (Matthew 9:35 – 10:8)

**Sunday 21st June**

11.00am S o W, “Worth more than many sparrows” (Matthew 10:24-39)

**Sunday 28th June**

11.00am S o W, ‘Kindness will not go unnoticed’ (Matthew 10:40-42)

7.30pm  Praise & Ministry Service

S o W – Service of the Word

**Partial Obedience?**

‘Abram did not go directly from the land of Ur into Canaan. He made a 15-year detour in a place called Haran. Haran was not a bad place, but it was not the place God was calling him to remain. Haran is a symbol of compromise, of partial obedience. And it is a place with which most of us are quite familiar. How many of us have joined a church, gone through the motions of repentance and commitment, and stopped short of God’s destination for us? We’re living in Haran—not Canaan—and we may be satisfied, but God is not. We’ve exercised enough faith to make a start, but we are seriously lacking in follow-through. Maybe you are in Haran right now. You’ve made a break from an ungodly relationship, moved out of your cultural comfort zone—maybe even cleaned up your language or your lifestyle - but you are still in Haran. You’ve broken a few worldly habits, but you are still sold out to the world’s agenda. I have a personal theory that those who leave Ur and stop in Haran are more miserable than those who never left at all. How tragic to hear the call of God and obey it only partially! Compromise is the saddest place in the world to live, because it yields neither the fleeting pleasures of sin, nor the full-weighted blessing of complete obedience.’ (Day 92 of ‘Everywhere I Go Bible Reading Plan’, YouVersion)

‘So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.’ Romans 12:1-2 (The Message)

**Livestreamed Services**

We continue to livestream our Sunday Services through our Facebook Page each week, from 10.50am as well as uploading a pre-recorded service to YouTube to Premiere.
at 11am. These pre-recordings are what we use to produce the DVDs and CDs for the homes of those who don’t have access to online services. There has been a great response to these services, from both near and far and with the numbers tuning in each week, we are planning to continue to livestream when we eventually return to the church building. The Service on YouTube has sermon points within the explanation below the video, so that even those who watch the service on Facebook can go to YouTube after and copy the sermon points down (along with Bible references referred to). For those not used to YouTube, if you press on the down arrow to the right, just below the video (see picture below) this will reveal the notes relating to the video.

A number of parishioners have sent in videos of themselves saying the Lord’s Prayer in order that those from the parish get to see some familiar faces, finishing with a video collage of people saying ‘Amen.’ Instead of our Wednesday Bible Study, we have a Midweek Service, where we do a bit more Bible Teaching. This is followed by an online Bible Discussion later on (about 30 minutes after the service) on Facebook. The Midweek Service is then uploaded to YouTube later.

**Children and Youth**

Our GFS/CLB group continue to do ‘Monday is Funday Challenges’ and to send on photos of what they’ve been doing. Dads seem to particularly like it when it’s a cooking challenge! Ignite, our youth group, having been meeting up online through Zoom to have some fun and games as well as a short message.

**MU**

Our Mothers’ Union members have been phoning around to check on each other as well as others within the parish. Encouraging messages are shared through a WhatsApp Group and those not on WhatsApp have printed materials delivered to them.

**Website**

We hope to change the look of our website over the next month to make it much easier for our online services to be made available there, as well as an archive of sermons, etc. We’ll be building up helpful videos, showing how to get the most out of certain Bible Apps and highlighting other useful resources to help people to grow in their faith.

**Keeping up to date**

There are several ways that you can keep up to date with everything that is going on in the parish:

- Like our page ‘Holy Trinity Dromore’ on Facebook
- Watch our Live Streamed Services https://www.facebook.com/holytrinitydromore/live/
- Subscribe to our YouTube Channel https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwj585CXlqOq6W6h7_2AIyg/
- Follow us on Twitter @HTDromore
- Get a recording of the service on CD or DVD every week
- http://holytrinitydromore.sermon.net (to download and listen to sermons)
I have to admit that I have had to rewrite my introduction as I had written my notes before 18 May which is the date when our political leaders released the handbrake and allowed us to begin to move toward some form of normality.

Personally I am delighted that we are moving forward and while accepting we need to continue to be careful that we have to be balanced with the long-term damage that we risk by continuing to restrict people as it has been the case over recent months. I hope that when you read these words we will have had our first drive-in service and that before too long we will be back in church worshipping God together whilst accepting that we will have to take steps to minimise risk.

I want to turn to the psalms and reflect for a few moments on what these words from psalm 85 have to say to us in June 2020. Will you not give us life again, that your people may rejoice in you? Will you not give us life again, that your people may rejoice in you?

I hope that it is a fair comment to make that at present we feel that our lives are not our own. We still have restrictions placed upon us as regards who we can spend time with, where we can go and what we can do despite the good news that we received yesterday.

Yet I think the times we are living in has only shown us the truth of the matter – while we may plan and think we are in control our lives can change in an instant and in 2020 this change has had an enormous impact on how many people in the world live their lives.

Psalm 85 shows us that reverence leads to forgiveness and that reverence will restore our love and joy for God. The psalmist does ask that God gives life again so that his people may rejoice in him. I hope that each one of us who calls themselves a Christian has used these weeks and months as a time to draw closer to God in prayer and bible study with a yearning to know more about God. Our prayer should include the hope that God will intervene and that he will guide us the strength and courage to face these times without fear. We should ask God to continue to have mercy on each one of us and on those who we love.

We should listen to what God is saying to us during these challenging times and we should be ready and willing to respond to his call on each of our lives.

Finally we see that God’s salvation is near to those who fear him that his glory may dwell in our land. What a wonderful thought it would be to suggest that the times in which we live today could lead to a revival in our churches and in our lives.

I cannot predict if that will happen but if we ask God to send his Spirit into our lives and to fill us with his love then we will certainly be better equipped to serve him as individuals and if we can get that right it should mean that we will see growth in our churches as a result.

While life continues to be far from normal, I have tried to maintain some contact as I outlined last month. While I cannot ring everyone every week I continue to stay in contact with our older members as well as those who live alone.

I would ask that if there is anyone who would like a chat please let me know or if there is someone that you are aware would like to speak to me do not be afraid to let me know as the lack of interaction means that it is difficult to stay up to date with what is happening.

The Facebook page continues to offer encouraging to see the number of people who view it and who watch the services. I will continue to broadcast live on Sundays although I may not do so at the Drive-in Service this week until I see how it all fits together. I will also continue to post a daily thought and a service midweek until we are permitted to meet physically which I continue to pray will happen soon.

I continue to give thanks that we have not had anyone in hospital in recent weeks and I hope that continues to be the case.

Parish Register

Burial

Sadly, we said our farewells to John (Jackie) Simms who passed away on 24 April 2020 peacefully at his home at 219 Pettigo Rd, Tullyhonnong, Kesh.

Jackie was born at Belault and spent all his life in the Pettigo area and would on occasion recall his childhood during the war and would share memories of life in Pettigo at that time.

Jackie was the beloved husband of Elizabeth (Lizzie) and a dear father to Robert (Bobby), John, David, Mary, Caroline and Kathleen and a grandfather to Holly, Milly, Emily, Shannon, Gemma, Chloe, Shay, Cameron, Amelia, Stephen, Laura, Chloe, Sophia, Rua and Reion and a great grandfather to Maisie and Dylan.

Jackie will be sadly missed by his family and all who knew him, and I extend our deepest sympathies both personally and on behalf of Templecarne Parish to Lizzie and her family.

June 2020

Sunday 7 June
10.00 Morning Prayer Templecarne, 11.30 Morning Prayer Tubrid

Sunday 7 June
7pm Dernasesk

Sunday 14 June
10.00 Holy Communion Muckross, 11.30 Holy Communion Tubrid

Sunday 21 June
10.00 Holy Communion Templecarne, Morning Prayer 11.30 Tubrid

Sunday 28 June
10.00 Morning Prayer Muckross, 11.30 Morning Prayer Tubrid

Obviously, these services will continue to be online or in the form of car park services until current restrictions on worshipping together are lifted.
Enniskillen Cathedral

Rector: The Dean, The Very Revd Kenneth Hall
St Macartin’s Deanery, 13 Church Street, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh BT74 7DW
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OLM Deacon: The Revd Colin Brownsmith
Diocesan Pastoral Assistant: Mr Will Stevenson
Cathedral Office Secretary: Mrs Beth Rennick
T: 028 66 322917 E: enniskillen@clogher.anglican.org
W: www.enniskillencathedral.org

Christian Burial
- 4th May - David Cinnamon, Kings Lodge Care Home, Camberley formerly of Floraville, Enniskillen.
- 7th May - Ruth Kathleen Bailey, Boa Island, Co Fermanagh.
- 7th May - William Cyril Geddes, 10 Cherry Walk, Enniskillen.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.” Matthew 5:4

Live Link
We are now streamlining live every Sunday at 11.00am on the internet. We sincerely apologise for the failures of our recent broadcasts. This, no doubt was disappointing and embarrassing for us even though it was beyond our control.

Regarding our webcast woes over the weeks, and specifically the sound problem on Sunday 17th May, we have had the following communication from the company which set the system up:
“We recognise there have been several issues with the webcam service in recent weeks and sincerely apologise for this and completely understand the frustration of parishioners.

We use a number of streaming services on a regular basis without issue. With the massive increase in demand for streaming services due to the current pandemic, these popular and trusted services have become unstable, resulting in the stream failure witnessed on 3rd of May.

For this reason, we have built our own hosting servers which went live last weekend and have been problem free at multiple sites since.

The audio issue on Sunday 17th May, was down to human error where a technician mistakenly selected an incorrect protocol after some last-minute testing late on the previous Saturday night.

Our new player offers a range of useful features including full HD image and the ability to search back up to an hour should you have missed the start.

Once again, we offer our sincere apologies.”
To that, we at the cathedral add our own apologies and sincerely hope we haven’t

Ematris with Rockcorry, Aghabog, Aughnamullen and Drum
Pastoral Cover: Mr Walter Pringle, assisted by Canon Charles McColllum.

Chancellor Ian Berry is in charge.

Rockcorry and Dartrey Sympathy
We extend deepest sympathy to all the relatives and friends of the late Willie Norris who passed away in Cavan hospital on 9th May. We particularly think of his devoted sister Daisy Wilkin at this sad time.

Illness
Please remember in prayer those who are ill or recovering and those in residential care and their families.

Dean Kenneth Hall who offered prayers for frontline workers at the County Care Home.
deterred people from coming back to us! We hope you can join in. Please inform other family members, other parishioners or neighbours who might like to join in?

The ‘Live link’ can be found on the home page of the Cathedral website www.enniskillencathedral.com. If you miss any service, you can watch it the following day – details are on the cathedral website. so hopefully all will be fine this Sunday.

Prayer Books
Some parishioners would like Prayer Books for use in their home.

a) If you want to purchase a new copy (blue cover) you can do so by collecting one from the table in the porch of the Deanery (outside the front door). Cost £25. Please put the money or a cheque in an envelope through the Deanery letter box.

b) If you want to borrow one of the Cathedral Prayer Books (green cover) just collect one from the porch of the Deanery. Please let the Dean know who has borrowed a book by putting your name on a piece of paper and putting it through the letter box.

Children and Youth
For young people, our Youth Ministry can be found on our Facebook page – Children and Youth at Enniskillen Cathedral. This can be accessed at: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1nDxZoBQus757nWwnLT0g5aNtLLpw5fX C?usp=sharing. The most recent additions to the Facebook page can be posted out by request if any young people do not have internet access.

Help or queries
Should you require anything please contact the Dean (028 66322465), or the Parish Secretary, Beth who is now working from home. The Cathedral Hall telephone number (028 66322917) has been diverted to Beth’s home.

FWO (Weekly envelopes)
Several parishioners have been asking what to do about their weekly envelopes. Please continue to fill them each week and if you are in town please drop them through The Deanery letterbox or the letter box at the Cathedral Hall. Unfortunately, even though the Cathedral is closed for services we still do have a considerable amount of running costs. Thank you for your contributions. If you wish to pay by standing order, this can be arranged through your bank. The account details are available from the Parish Secretary.

VE Day 75th Anniversary
Celebrations had to be mostly abandoned but lights shone in the night sky over Enniskillen as we remembered the enormous sacrifices that were made by so many during the Second World War and to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of Peace in Europe.

First Minister Arlene Foster also joined Brian Johnson and members from Lisbellaw and South Fermanagh World War Society on Thursday 7th May night as they sounded a WW2 air raid siren over Enniskillen in tribute to NHS and other key workers ahead of VE Day commemorations.

Showing Appreciation for our key workers
Prayers were said by The Dean in appreciation of front-line workers at the County Care Home on Thursday 14th May 2020.

Prayer
God of compassion, be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation. In their loneliness, be their Prayer God of compassion, be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation. In their loneliness, be their consolation; in their anxiety, be their hope; in their darkness, be their light; through him who suffered alone on the cross, but reigns with you in glory, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
Graced Waiting

Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

St Matthew 28:10

Somewhere tucked away in a shoe box of old family photos, there is one of a small boy, digging space for new plants in the garden. His dad is there, giving enough space for learning and independence, watching as a new gardening generation emerges. The memory of it comes back to me every year when I see the rows of seeds for sale in the garden centre. I scan along, looking for old favourites such as pom pom dahlias, poppy seeds of any kind, and always, always, rust coloured French Marigolds. This year was no different, except I had to order online.

The marigold seeds are a long cream and black husk, always bunched up until they are shaken into the hand; and I recall a great uncle's open palm showing me how to lift seeds out into the soil, one by one, without losing any.

And then the wait. Watching for the strike. Waiting for signs of growth. Willing them to soak in moisture, stimulate growth, push out of their seed husk, and up towards the light. Last weekend was the potting on. Loosening seed tray compost, teasing out groups of plantlets, and settling into the new pot is not to be rushed. This year, 51 little plants emerged. Not bad from a pack of 50 seeds.

Most evenings I pop in and out of the greenhouse. It's now part of a new routine. And each time, that familiar smell, a bit like tomato plants; a sour and starchy pungent smell catching the nostrils.

And still the wait.

There's nothing else for it, but to water, and mind the temperature, and watch for slugs, and wait. And if I do, roots will form, almost daily height will be gained, and flower buds will appear. And then, after last frosts, they can be carried out, and planted in the same way I've done for 40 years, or more.

The wait will have been worthwhile. They will grip the soil, and get away, showing off their rust and orange ruffles, just a few inches from the ground, until first frosts in October.

Learning to watch and wait.

Waiting came to mind this week as someone nearby mentioned ‘Graced Waiting.’

I think a typo, but the phrase set me thinking. Our very first brothers and sisters, themselves not more than young Christian seedlings, were set for a very particular planting out. They hadn't much time for hardening off, and potting on; the harvest was there in front of them, ready to be attended to.

They were only adjusting to the news of the Risen Christ, when he asks them to return to Galilee and wait. To wait until he would come to them. Both to minister to their confusion, and their questions and their doubt. And also, to get them ready for the times ahead.

The waiting must have been filled with questions: How could they relate to the resurrected Jesus? How long might He stay with them? Didn’t He speak of returning to His Father, and of sending a Comforter? Waiting can be endlessly frustrating. But sometimes there is nothing else for it. Some things have to be adjusted to, acknowledged and worked around.

The idea of Graced Waiting fascinates me, as I think about how to hand even the most difficult and seemingly insurmountable things over to God. At home, it might be about learning a new patience and acceptance, as we all adjust to these unexpected days. We could rail and complain, or take time to bring the needs we have before a listening Father.

One who gives enough space perhaps for learning and healthy independence. In ministry, it can be about bring those concerns and needs for church and parish and future, before the Lord and asking for His grace to help us wait until His time for renewal might come.

Graced Waiting. A patient time, a time of looking on, and trusting that the expected growth is making its way. At first underground, gaining from the Living Water, then bursting up and out, towards the Light, seeing growth day by day.

But for now, I must wait. Everything I can do has been done. The rest is up to Him.

I simply look forward to the planting out. Remembering my own father, and his wisdom in giving me space to grow. Amen.
St John 7
Holy Spirit sermon

On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

Today as a church we are beginning a new teaching series on the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit. I’ve no idea how many will engage or listen, how many might grow and progress in their Christian lives. Physically seeing people is what we’ve been used to. We could count how many came to services on Sunday mornings at Kiltermon or St John’s, or evenings at Breathe or the New Life evenings with our local Christian brothers and sisters. Today, it’s very different. At most, I see Likes on Facebook, numbers of Views, and the total who have looked at the sermon Blog page. 

But what does that mean? Does is show signs of growth? At home, we were glad to have very large conifers and laurels removed last year. Perhaps they would remember all of the signs and preparation that Jesus had made. He had been at festival in Jerusalem. Above the buzz of the crowd, He shouts out, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.”

Anyone may go to Him. He will quench the thirst in our lives. The scriptures have pointed to this. We will be changed as we encounter God, and something new will flow in our lives. St John helps us, in case there was ever any doubt, to understand exactly what Jesus meant. He writes, ‘By this, He meant the Spirit.’ God’s Holy Spirit would be given to any who come thirsting to Jesus.

I cannot count today how many will listen or engage. I’ve no idea how you might attend to God. But I do know, that if you go to Jesus, thirsting for His new life, and hope, and forgiveness and joy, He will pour His Holy Spirit into your life, refreshing you, and flowing from you like rivers, through your life towards others. This has been a funny old week. On Wednesday we were so privileged that the Archbishop of Armagh came to our little church at Kiltermon, to record services. Normally there would have been a great fuss. But not this week. I noticed that the doors could be doing with a lick of paint; there were no flowers, no churchwarden to carry his case, no supper afterwards. This time, I couldn’t even get a haircut, or put the car through the carwash.

It was such a privilege to have him there, in a small building tucked away at the side of a busy road. Because it is a place which matters to us here. Jesus did remind us that part of the measure of growth is seen in how we care for the small things, the things often overlooked.

The Archbishop said very kind words about us and the parish. It was recorded for the Church of Ireland, but also for BBC Radio Ulster. I had to get over my first time on radio nerves, made all the easier by the quiet and understated approach by all concerned. But an odd week, in which growth cannot be measured by numbers great or small. It cannot be seen in the output of ministries, or how many come or go. And in it, we greatly miss meeting together, and are trying to find meaningful ways to communicate with one another.

Small snippets of ministry are going on from Sunday School, Mums and Tots, Knit Pray love and others. And Jesus taught His church they when we are thirsty and go to Him, He will pour out His Holy Spirit, without measure into our lives. These are indeed very strange days, but as we get ready again to remember His returning to His Father, and the pouring out of His Holy Spirit as Living water into the church and world, let us open up our lives to Him. Let us notice the small things which come from the heart, and let us see growth as it occurs amongst us. God bless you in these days. Amen.
37 On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.”[c] 39 By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

New six-part sermon series on the Holy Spirit

Sunday 17 May
Ascension Thursday 21 May
Sunday 24 May

Sunday 31 May Pentecost
Sunday 7 June
Sunday 14 June Children’s and Youth Sunday
Sunday 21 June

Scripture is like . . .
the dawn—ever new in its light;
the air—ever fresh in its vitality;
spiritual food—ever nourishing to our soul;
the flowers—ever beautiful in their variety.

Our God and Father in Christ,
I thank You that You have given Your Holy Word for my instruction.
Enable me in the grace of the Holy Spirit . . .
to love Your Word supremely,
to believe it wholly,
to live it out truly,
to follow it earnestly,
to rest on it contentedly,
to follow it continually,
to practice it consistently,
to obey it unhesitatingly,
to hear its voice attentively,
to handle it reverently, and
to enter into its spirit devotedly.
In His Name, who alone is worthy, I pray.
Amen

Pastoral Message
My dear friends in Galloon, Sallaghy and Drummully.

As I write I am very much aware that life has changed dramatically for all of us and trust by the time you read this there will be more clarity as to what the days ahead may bring. Many of us benefit from regular contact with family and friends and it is most important that we as a church family keep in touch with each other in these testing days. None of us could ever imagine the situation we are placed in at this present time.

For me as your Diocesan Pastoral Assistant (DPA) I regret very much not being able to visit and whilst telephone calls are a means of keeping in touch the personal call is more rewarding.

I am aware that some of you have had recent bereavements, others have been in hospital and personal care being given to loved ones at home. I understand there are parishioners in SWAH and nursing homes at present unable to be visited by family. Be assured of my thoughts and prayers for you all at this difficult time.

Embodying sacrificial love in these difficult times
Putting the welfare of others before their own
Staying away from their family and loved ones
Comforting the concerned and bereaved
Reassuring the anxious and vulnerable
Working to heal and restore people who are ill
Be their guide, strength, wisdom and love.

Roy Crowe.

Prayers
God of heaven and earth
In these times of isolation
Apart from loved ones
Distant from friends
Away from neighbours
Thank you that there is nothing
In all of creation
Not even in coronavirus
That is able to separate us from your love

Restoring and healing God
Thank you for medical workers everywhere
As I write these notes, lockdown is easing in small ways, we pray that the number of Covid-19 cases will continue to decrease and that more restrictions will be removed as time goes on.

During the past two months I have become aware of many acts of kindness within our local community in Belleek and Garrison. Those who are shielding are able to get everything they need delivered to their door by very kind business owners and their staff. We thank the grocery shops, the butchers, greengrocer, and pharmacy staff for looking after everyone. Nothing is too much trouble as these individuals display faith in action. We applaud the NHS workers and all those working with patients. We assure them of our prayers for the safety of them and their families.

We have greatly appreciated the grocery parcels donated by SEFF. Thank you to Joy Graham for helping to coordinate the distribution. I have put up prayers on the Garrison group of parishes Facebook page each day and these have been well received by all of our community, reaching a huge number of people daily. Not everyone is on Facebook so I have been phoning around many of our folk to talk to them regularly. I know that other parishioners are doing this too and it is wonderful to see that not only are our parishioners keeping themselves safe but they are also concerned for the well being of others.

I have also called (social distancing) with parishioners who are not online and we have had a Holy Communion service with them providing their own bread and wine. It is very important to let me know of anyone unwell and in need of prayer at such an extraordinary time.

Mrs Eileen Kirkpatrick having Holy Communion at her home in Belleek.

"Jesus, where'er Thy people meet
There they behold Thy mercy-seat;
Where'er they seek Thee, Thou art found,
With grace and mercy to abound". (William Cowper 1769)

I think that these prayerful lyrics are so relevant today as we all had to find creative ways to seek Jesus. Jesus is present on the social media, in the car, or at the ‘Garden Holy Communion’. We shall continue to behold His mercy seat and pray for grace and mercy to abound in these difficult times. I would like to encourage all members of the Garrison group of parishes to look to our faithful God and He will see us through this pandemic.

Yours in Christ,
Canon Ngozi.
We congratulate Florence and Robert Earls on the birth of their grandson, the newest member of our Group of Parishes.

We congratulate Elizabeth and John Ovens (Slavin Parish) on the birth of their first granddaughter.

A new member of the McCordick family, Garrison Parish.

Keep Up To Date
Keep up to date with news for our Group of Parishes on: www.belleek.clogher.anglican.org.

The web manager is Jenna Earls. Photos & articles etc. for the website to be e-mailed to Doreen Earls. Follow us on Facebook using the name ‘Garrison Group of Parishes’. Simply ‘Like’ our page to receive updates on news.

Mothers’ Union
Our members have received reflections and prayers from the Trustee Body. These have encouraged us and have been appreciated. Dot, our Branch Leader has been in touch with members who do not have family nearby. We are doing all we can to fulfil this year’s theme, ‘Building Hope and Confidence’.

May Somerville is enjoying reading and is very pleased to have her Message from MU Diocesan Rev. Charles Eames delivered to her.

Dot Barlow is set up and ready to take part in the Clogher Diocese Mothers’ Union Weekend Tea Party, at her home in Garrison.

Mrs Sally Carson keeping busy during lockdown knitting the little Trauma Teddies for SWAH.
Mothers’ Union

We continue to forward thoughts and reflections to each of our members periodically and keep in contact with them, providing practical help if needed. During May, as part of the regular correspondence, a suggestion was made that members could hold a Weekend Tea Party in their own home, obviously without guests and share a photograph of the occasion. Another suggestion to be included in the Tea Party was to have a time of personal prayer remembering other Branch members and the wider Mothers’ Union circle across the Diocese and further afield. Our members entered into the spirit of this enthusiastically and we received some wonderful photographs. One of our members, Marion, received a photograph of her mum, Mrs Winnie Irvine (Garvary MU), who was also taking part in the Tea Party. Marion has not seen her parents since Lockdown began and felt that the Tea Party had brought them closer together. Marion included the poem entitled, ’Three Guests’ which she learned when she was little. She felt it had never been more appropriate.

Our Group was chosen to help distribute food parcels within the Community. Funding for these was secured by Mr Kenny Donaldson SEFF, Lisnaskea; via Fermanagh and Omagh District Council. These were very well received.

SEFF Project Coordinator, Jennifer Ferguson, one of our members, coordinated the distribution and these were delivered by Eileen and Laura.

A poem;

Three Guests

I had a little party,
This afternoon at three,
’Twas very small
Three guests in all,
Just I, myself and me.

Myself ate up the sandwiches
While I drank up the tea,
’Twas also I
Who ate the pie
And passed the cake to me.

Jessica Nelson North
Introduction

Another month has passed with growing hopes of a return to normality – which at present still seems some way off. It’s great to hear of a decline in cases and fatalities relating to the coronavirus but for many the doors remain mostly shut, family contact, extremely limited and our churches teetering on the edge of “private prayer”. In Acts 1, the disciples were given the instructions to stay – to wait – to not go anywhere – until they received the promise of the Father – the Holy Spirit. They had been told that they would be involved in going out into all the world, taking the Good News of Jesus Christ to the all nations of the world – but the timing for that was not yet. Until then they had to stay where they were – and wait.

When the Day of Pentecost came, they were all together in the one place when the Holy Spirit came in a manner that they had yet not experienced; the sound of wind and the appearance of fire - leading to the disciples being filled with the Spirit - and then bursting out of their room on to the street – and then the bursting out of their mouths - praises to God in other languages not learned. This pouring out of the Spirit in an upper room and this pouring out of the Spirit-filled disciples onto the streets of Jerusalem was just the beginning of the journey of a message of hope and freedom, of joy and forgiveness, of restoration and reconciliation that continues to this day.

What might this mean? Is there an increase in interest into spiritual or Christian things because for many people they have been faced with some of life’s ultimate questions as they hear night by night of the hundreds of people in the previous 24 hours who have been taken by the virus? Is there an increase in interest because people have had time and space to think and that when we have that time and space, might it just be that God speaks - and people have heard?

A Prayer to Know God

Lord Jesus Christ, I know I have sinned in my thoughts, words and actions. There are so many good things I have not done. There are so many wrong things I have done. I am sorry for my sins and turn from everything I know to be wrong. You gave your life upon the cross for me. Gratefully I give my life back to you. Now I ask you to come into my life, my heart, my soul, fill all of who I am with all of who You are. Come in as my Saviour to cleanse me. Come in as my Lord to lead me. Come in as my Friend to be with me. Come in Holy Spirit to fill me and empower me. And I will serve you all the rest of my life in complete obedience. Amen.

Whatever the reason, may we continue in this post-Pentecost period, to be like those disciples, probably not altogether but perhaps of one accord – positioning...
ourselves before the Lord, expectantly, hopefully, faithfully, asking that He might fill us with His Holy Spirit and in His timing allow us to go and share the Good news with those we have been kept from – or even pray, as many have been from 21st – 31st May, that the Lord God may touch hearts and draw people to Himself – into relationship with Him – into forgiveness – and onto the road that leads to everlasting life.

Sermon Series
Through the month of May we spent a number of weeks thinking about Jesus words to His disciples in Luke 24:44 where He told them that He had fulfilled all that was written about Him in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms. We looked at examples of what He did fulfil through the lens of the possibility that within the fabric of the Jewish culture was evidence that could lead to the conclusion that Jesus was indeed the long- awaited Messiah.

Bible Study
For our midweek Bible study - we have been working our way through the Lord’s Prayer in recent weeks connecting it to the theme, “Finding Hope in the Lord’s Prayer”, trying to find within it reasons for hope in our current circumstances.

Bible Verses
Each week there are a number of items that go up on our Facebook page one of which has been a verse or two to reflect on over the coming week. Each verse appears on top of an image that is taken from one of the two churches.

Thy Kingdom Come
From 21st to 31st of May there was the opportunity to connect in to our Facebook page each day for a short time of reading, reflection, prayer and challenge – encouraging people to pray for 5 friends who don’t know Jesus, during this period.

The Journey Ahead
We may not know the future but may it be our desire to walk hand in hand with the One who does. We look forward to opening our churches again – to meeting again, in person – to worshipping the Lord in our buildings and praying together. Until then and until we know any better – may we do those things that we know we should be doing or can do. And may we dare to pray that in and through all that is happening that God will have the last word – which will not be a message of death or hopelessness – but a word of life and hope and joy and increase within us a determination to be active participants in doing our part to see His kingdom come and His will being done on earth as it is in heaven.
Veterans distribute food parcels
Lisbellaw Veterans have been giving food parcels to parishioners and also to families who would have normally received free school meals. (See photo).

Condolences
Sincere condolences are sent to the family and friends of the late Yvonne Marshall, formerly of Portadown; the late Robert Davis, formerly of Ballybofey; the late Bridget Murphy, formerly of London and the late Graham Brown, formerly of Antrim.

Facebook
You can keep up to date with information in the parish on the Lisbellaw Parish Church Facebook page.
The Weapons of our Warfare are NOT Carnal

"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds" (2 Corinthians 10:4)

The dictionary tells us that "carnal" refers to the physical.
As far as God is concerned
We are not meant to fight our battles with physical weapons

Now I am not referring to actual war
When real weapons are used
Like guns, bullets, tanks, missiles and the like
But battles where we may use our words

Or even our tongue, as the Bible would say:
"Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things.
See how great a forest a little fire kindles!
And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity." (James 3:5 - 6)

Fighting with physical weapons
Be it people throwing punches...
Or slinging words around...
Is NOT God's way

As it says clearly in 2 Corinthians 10
The weapons of our warfare
Are NOT carnal - NOT physical
BUT mighty IN God for pulling Down strongholds

So why do I mention strongholds?

We are living through a time

When we are faced with a stronghold
Not simply COVID-19 itself
But with the restrictions on movement
That have come with the virus

And how are we meant to cope with
These things, these changes in our lives?

Part of the answer
At least the Christian, biblical answer
Is to use the weapons of God

Some of these are found in Ephesians 6

The Whole Armour of God:
"Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth,
having put on the breastplate of righteousness,
and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;
above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.
And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;
praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit;" (Ephesians 6:14 - 18)

Most of us are familiar with this passage
But have we ever looked at it in this way?

Jesus said in John 14:6
I am the way, the TRUTH and the life.

2 Corinthians 5:21
Tells us that we are the RIGHTEOUSNESS of God in Christ

Isaiah 26:3 says:
"You will keep him in perfect PEACE, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You."

Ephesians 2:8 says:
"For by grace you have been saved through FAITH"

Now the helmet of salvation
May refer to Romans 12:2
Which talks about us renewing our mind
Since a helmet protects and sits on our head

All of these parts of the armour
Have been for defensive purposes
They protect us in our walk with God
Truth, Righteousness, Peace and Faith

But the change comes with Salvation
Which is both protective and aggressive
We use our minds for everything
No Head and we are truly LOST

Our brain tells us to take up our sword
The Word of God, the Bible
Not to attack people with
But speak out its truth

And again our brain motivates us to PRAY
And to pray specifically in the Spirit
Which includes praying in tongues

So whatever battles you may be facing...
Whatever strongholds may be against you...
Look to Jesus and put on His armour
Depend on Him and fight His way
Lean on Him and rest in His strength
And see an end to strongholds, God's way
Services
Along with many other parishes in the diocese, we are discovering new ways of doing things in Magheracross. Most of our Sunday morning services have been live from the rectory sitting room through Facebook. The Scripture readings have been pre-recorded by people with a link to the theme including Oliver Jennings, Mary Cashel (the Good Shepherd) and Roly Hurst (the Builder).

National Sports Sunday
We also celebrated National Sports Sunday with a pre-recording that included contributions from BUFC footballers, Richard Clarke, Jason McCartney, John Connolly and manager Harry McConkey. Dylan McCleery, a young fan read the psalm and Maxine Armstrong from Mallard Flyers Cycle Club read from John 15. Alastair Fisher, rally driver, led the prayers. Irish International hockey players (and twins) Bethany and Serena Barr from Dollingstown were interviewed about their faith and the legacy of their sister Charlene who inspired Charlene’s Project, providing schools in Uganda and Guatemala and, currently, providing food for families in an isolated hill village in Guatemala during the COVID-19 lockdown. These can be viewed on the Facebook page of Magheracross Parish Church.

Freewill Offering
The Select Vestry have been looking at various ways of gathering in the offering envelopes in a way that is accessible, secure and safe. At time of writing, we are establishing an offering point each Saturday at the church door with the necessary socially distant precautions. This will operate from 10am to noon. The offering, which also includes the regular Standing Orders, will symbolically be included in our Sunday worship as usual.

Monaghan, Tydavnet and Kilmore
We are now in week 9 (I think) of the restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic and a lot has happened and changed. Normally this time of year we’d be writing to those doing Junior and Leaving Cert exams but neither of these are happening in the same way this year. Those at college or...
For our Wednesday night Bible Studies (on Facebook live at 8pm) we have been working through the ‘I am’ statements of Jesus in John’s gospel. When we finish these we’ll go on to the Bible Study included with this pack. It is going through the Bible and looking at the crowns that God gives his people. As we think of coronavirus, so called in part because of how it looks like it has lots of little crowns, I thought it good to think of better and more long-lasting crowns that Christians have.

We are beginning to see our way out of this pandemic with its restrictions. With the hope and relief that brings please do keep in touch with each other, keep praying and reading the Bible, keep joining worship on Sundays and Bible Study on Wednesdays. This helps us to keep close to God as we seek what church and life will look like in the future.

Please do let me know if there is anyone in any particular pastoral or other need.

university as well have had to cope with doing exams and assessments differently. Please keep them in your prayers as they look to their futures and cope with these changes.

Being thankful
We have much to be thankful for as the lockdown restrictions are starting to ease. Even in the midst of sadness of the deaths of Phyllis Taylor and Phyllis Kearney we are thankful for their lives. In particular there have been many memories shared of Phyllis Kearney from church or bowls or Mothers’ Union. We pray for the comfort of those who have been bereaved and we are thankful for the memories that we have shared. As we get used to the way that funerals are now working it is still hard that we cannot visit, hug, shake hands with those who are bereaved so if you hear of or know about those who are bereaved please do consider calling, texting or writing to express your sympathy.

Congratulations
to Mark and Amanda Hall on the birth of Damien, a brother for Nathan and Aidan.

Being prayerful
We continue to pray around the effects of this pandemic. We have sent out and uploaded to the parish facebook group some prayers and forms of prayer to use which I hope have helped to give a focus to your prayers. Do keep praying. We have seen so many answers to prayer, not least in the prayer that our leaders would have wisdom beyond their own wisdom, something I believe they have had.

Thinking of the roadmap for church
Since the last letter the first part of the roadmap to lifting restrictions has happened and if circumstances continue as it is hoped they will we probably be looking at being back in church in late July. We will have to work out how this will happen and it is going to look a bit different. At the very least we will still have to do social distancing, something we are getting used to in everyday life. We are blessed in having space in our buildings so we will think of how best to use this to our safety and advantage. The Archbishops of Armagh and Dublin did include the words ‘risk assessments’ in their most recent statement and though these are words that normally strike me with a sense of fear and annoyance, in this case they haven’t. There is a real incentive that we can look to see what we can do to get back to being in the church buildings again.

Sunday and Bible Study
Until we get back into the church buildings we continue meeting via Facebook live. Sundays seem have gotten a bit harder even as we’ve grown used to a new Sunday morning routine. I have to confess that I do keep forgetting that you all won’t be there in the pews on Sunday and only remember this on a Friday or Saturday with a sigh of sadness. It is good that so many can tune in to Facebook live at www.facebook.com/stpatsonaghan for Sunday worship at 10:30am. There is something good and comforting about coming together on a Sunday morning at the same time, we can still feel a sense of belonging, and sing as loudly as we want! My thanks to Gayle, Arran and Kate for their playing the songs and hymns and being the voices for congregational responses. If there is anyone who would like a CD of the service please let me know and I can deliver one to them.
Rossorry

Rector:
The Revd Canon
Dr Ian Ellis

Rossorry Rectory, Kinarla, Enniskillen,
Co. Fermanagh. BT74 5PX
T: 028 66 320239
E: rossorry@clogher.anglican.org
Parish Office: T: 028 66 329889
Diocesan Pastoral Assistants:
Mrs Sue Hogg & Mrs Joan Nelson

A note from the Rector
Rossorry through the lock-down!
At this time of year in normal times we would be reporting that the Parish organisations are winding down and that everyone is looking forward to the summer holidays. The reality this year due to the coronavirus pandemic, organisations have been closed down since early March and due to restrictions, there will be very little travel abroad this summer. However, in the next few weeks, we will most likely be moving to a period of an easing of restrictions, but it will be months before anything like normal life returns. Throughout this period Rossorry has been trying to respond positively to this crisis. Our online Sunday services have been well received and amazingly have achieved a wide audience - much wider than the average Sunday morning service! These simple videos have been important though in keeping contact with parishioners and providing an opportunity for worship week by week. We have tried to include a wide range of people in each service and provide a variety of interesting themes. We have also tried to respond to needs in the parish and wider community in practical ways. Last month the Vestry was

Week commencing Sunday 24th May 2020
The Seventh Sunday of Easter

JESUS PRAYS FOR US

FREEDILL GIVING
Because we have not been permitted to hold Sunday services in church for some weeks, now, many of you have been asking how you can contribute your weekly collection envelope and other donations. We would like to let you know that we have devised a way of doing that.
This Saturday—23rd May from 10am to 12noon—and the following Saturday—the 30th May from 10am to 12noon—you will be able to bring your envelopes or send them with a friend to the church door and two members of the Select Vestry will be there to receive them. We plan to have a system in place where you can drive up and drop off your donation and at the same time observe social distancing.

Throughout the period of the Pandemic, the Parish continues to have ongoing costs and your contribution is vital in sustaining its work and ministry and we hope to have a similar system in place on 1 Saturday per month.
If you wish, you may set up a Standing Order with your Bank or Building Society to deal with this matter. If you have online banking, you can do this without even visiting your Bank. The information you would need is:

Account name: ‘Rossorry Parish Christian Stewardship’
ULSTER BANK Ltd.
Sort code 98 06 50
Account number 47986357

You may also drop envelopes off at the Parish Office letter box or consider a bank transfer—mention the Reference “PPSO2021 + your envelope number”—so we know who has sent it for recording purposes.
Thank you so much everyone.

Visit Our Website
able to make a charitable donation to the Rotary Club of Enniskillen’s Covid-19 Fund. This Fund seeks to address a variety of needs including donations to Foodbanks, providing PPE in Care Homes and well-being support for domiciliary care workers. We have also through two local schools been able to support initiatives providing help to needy families within their school communities.

The parish office although closed to visitors has been active, we have been able to keep the wheels of parish life turning, produce Sunday News and service sheets for the online service, as well as post out CDs of services to those with no internet access. Many of you were asking about how to contribute your FWO weekly envelope and we devised a way of allowing you to bring that to the church on a designated Saturday for collection at the church door. Thankfully there has been a very good response to this and is a welcome boost to our depleted income over the time that services have not been possible.

Over the summer it may be possible to open our church to resume services but this will be in a limited way governed by the restrictions of social distancing and hygiene requirements. We will keep parishioners informed of any changes to the present pattern as these arise. Thank you all for your patience and encouragement as we move through this challenging period and with God’s help to hopeful brighter days.

I leave you with a hopeful scripture text for this season of Pentecost:

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. Amen.

Romans 15: 13

Your friend and Rector,
Revd Canon Dr IW Ellis

How is the Parish keeping its work going?

The current emergency has changed the way we work - indeed the way we must work. In spite of this we are managing to keep the work of the Parish moving, as best we can. Below are details of the various methods we have devised to provide some level of services and pastoral support to you, the parishioners.

Online services

The Rector prepares and publishes, on Facebook, weekly services of Morning Prayer or Holy Communion as appropriate. These services will continue to be prepared and placed online for Sundays into the foreseeable future.

He will, also, continue to provide occasional short ‘Reflections’ aimed at the children of the Parish and he encourages families to allow their children to view these, as they are surely missing Sunday School!

Parish Website (rossorryparish.com)

The website is still up and running and will contain the Rossorry Weekly News sheet and usually the printed text for upcoming Services which will appear on Facebook.

Rossorry Weekly News

The weekly News Sheet is still being produced. It will contain useful information on Parish life and how we are trying to keep things ticking over.

It also contains useful contact information for goods and services, as well as some useful advice and guidance on keeping well.

CDs for Parishioners

CDs of prepared online services are being prepared and posted out to parishioners who live alone or unable to receive the online postings. These contain two services (Morning Prayer or Holy Communion) and a Children’s video and a copy of The Rossorry Weekly News. These have been well received and are a source of solace for the parishioners who feel isolated and a bit cut off from our Parish life.

Freewill Offerings

Because we have not been permitted to hold Sunday services in church for some weeks now, many of you have been asking how you can contribute your weekly collection envelopes and other donations. We would like to let you know that we have devised a way of doing that. This took place on Saturday, 23rd May from 10am to 12noon and the following Saturday, 30th May from 10am to 12 noon when people were able to bring their envelopes or send them with a friend to the church door and two members of the Select Vestry were there to receive them. We plan to have a system in place where you can drive up and drop off your donation and at the same time observe social distancing. Throughout the period of the Pandemic, the Parish continues to have ongoing costs and your contribution is vital in sustaining its work and ministry.

*We then hope to have a similar
arrangement on one Saturday per month.* Alternatively, you can send in a cheque with a note of your envelope number and it can be lodged.

You may wish to consider setting up a Standing Order and you can do this online with your Bank if you have online banking. The details you need are attached below, for information.

Account name: ‘Rossorry Parochial Christian Steg
Sort code 98 06 50
Account number 47986357

You may also drop envelopes off at the Parish Office letter box or consider a bank transfer—including the Reference "FREEWILL + your envelope number"—so we know who has sent it for recording purposes.

The Parish Office
The Office is still working, (9am-1pm, Monday to Friday) keeping the day to day machinery moving.

Please don’t visit
but I will delighted to chat on the ‘phone, take emails or a note through the door or in the post, etc—if there is anything I can do to help.

Tel: 02866 329889
Email: rossorryoffice@btinternet.com

The End of year Parish Accounts and The Select Vestry

The accounts have been completed with the Auditors and sent out by email or post to Members of the Select Vestry for approval. You would normally expect to receive a copy of the accounts about this time of year. However, we cannot ask our Admin Team to meet or the volunteers to go around doing deliveries. It will be later in the year before we can send you a copy for your own information.

Equally, the Select Vestry is unable to meet in person and we have not been able to hold our Easter General Vestry. In accordance with the advice we have received from the Bishop, the Select Vestry will remain in post until matters are resolved and will meet by using a ‘ZOOM’ video conference, should it be required.

Rossorry Mothers’ Union

Meetings in the Hall are currently cancelled due to Covid 19 concerns and you will be notified when these can restart.

Rossorry Mothers’ Union prepared a News Sheet for May 2020 and sent it out to all their members. As well as messages from their All Ireland President, June, and their Chaplain, Rev. Charlie Eames, there were poems, prayers, puzzles, recipes and lots of useful contact information. Thank you Rossorry MU for your thoughtfulness.

SERVICES for June 2020

The Rector continues to prepare and upload video Services for Sundays and short Reflections for the children.

Text of the services— you will find on our Website (rossorryparish.com) and a link to the recording of the Service.

Video of the services— you will find on our Facebook page (Rossorry Parish Church)
Please keep an eye on Social Media / Website for any changes to our scheduled Services

PARISH REGISTER

Bereavement
Over this past number of weeks we have lost an ‘old friend’ of Rossorry. We extend our sincere sympathies to his family and assure them of our prayers at this difficult time.

PYNE, Henry Denning (Denzil), Omagh. Died peacefully on April 24 2020 – following a long illness. Loving and faithful husband to Heather. His funeral Service was held with current restrictions at St. Columba’s Parish Church, Omagh on Sunday 26th April 2020 with interment following at Rossorry Parish Church in their family plot.

Whilst Mr. Pyne was not a Parishioner of Rossorry, he is fondly remembered as a friend of many in the Parish and a supporter of Rossorry. His wife is the daughter of the late Canon Howe, for many years the rector of Rossorry.
chapter 2. How does this apply to us? First, preparation for Pentecost is fulfilled in Acts. This account of the ascension and the ends of the earth. To go out and by His witnesses from there to the ends of the earth. The disciples were not only to make others about Jesus during Jesus’ ministry on earth. The disciples had been His pupils and had hands-on experience telling others about Jesus during Jesus’ ministry on earth. The disciples were not only to make disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the gift of the Holy Spirit to empower and equip them. Disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the gift of the Holy Spirit to empower and equip them. Finally, when we trust in Christ as our saviour he gives us the gift of the Holy Spirit to understand and remember His teaching in order that we can tell others about Him. The same Holy Spirit living in our lives will grow the fruit of the spirit in our lives (Gal 5:22). Are we fully committed disciples of Jesus Christ? Are we living genuinely for Jesus every day? By our words and by our character are we living witnesses for Jesus Christ each day?

Church during Coronavirus
In Tempo and in Clabby Parishes we began using podcasts for our Sunday services and our midweek devotional thought from the outset of the lockdown. Recently, we have moved onto live stream for the Sunday services, podcasts on the church Facebook for the Sunday sermon only and for the midweek devotional thought. We have also introduced a dial-in service within the past four weeks. This has enabled us to reach more people and make our services more accessible to the wider public. This is especially the case for those who are housebound. If you wish to use this service or would like to encourage others to listen to the Sunday service then you can ring 028 89270880 anytime from 10:30am on Sunday mornings to the following Saturday evening. Calls will be charged at the usually standard rate or if the user has a personal charge rate setup.

Funerals
■ 29/4/20 – Martha Vivian Bottom, Tempo Road Tempo, Mrs Bottom moved with her husband, Walter, from Newtownhamilton around 12 years ago to be nearer their family who lived locally. She had been a teacher in Newtownhamilton prior to her retirement. She had been very actively involved in the work of Newtownhamilton Parish as its organist for many years until she suffered a stroke and could no longer play the organ. She also had a great interest in her church, especially in the children and young people of Newtownhamilton Parish, helping them prepare for services which they took part in. This interest in young people was also evident when she attended church in Clabby. Mrs Bottom was caring, encouraging and personable. She had reached the great age of 93. Although unable to attend church for nearly two years due to advancing years and declining health she still remained interested in all the activities of the parish and its people. Our sympathy and prayers are extended to her husband, Walter, daughters, Kathryn, Stella and Lynn; and son, Connel, and all the family circle.

■ 30/4/20 – Patricia Elizabeth Foy, Main Street, Tempo We are all shocked and saddened by the sudden passing of Mrs Foy. She had reached the great age of 92 and had been in the Grain Abbey Care home recently. She had been a regularly attended church until recent times. She had been the longest serving member of the Mothers’ Union, for nearly 70 years, again attending until recently. Mrs Foy was a gracious, welcoming and caring person, deeply interested in people and their family. Our prayers and sympathy are with her children, Avril, Linda, Susan, Alan and son in law, David, and the rest of the family circle.

■ 19/5/20 – Maureen Elizabeth Jean Trimble – Pubble Road, Tempo The family, church and community were shocked by her sudden death in hospital. Maureen had been in poor health since her heart attack last September, but she bravely sought to live life as normally as possible. She had been a hard worker as a carer for the elderly housebound within the community as well as being a wife and mother. Maureen was a regular attendant at church and the Mothers’ Union. She also played a supportive role in all the events, including catering, within the church. Our sympathy and prayers are with her husband, Johnny, her children, Elaine, Diane, Jill, Jonathan and Malcolm and all the family circle.
DATES FOR THE DIARY

June 2020

• Sunday 7th June – Online service from Magheracross Parish Church, Ballinamallard with Archdeacons Brian Harper and Liam Thallon at 11am posted on the parish Facebook page.
• Sunday 7th June – Sunday service from St. Patrick’s Church, Monaghan at 10.30am led by Chancellor Ian Berry streamed on Facebook Live; www.facebook.com/stpatsonmagh for Sunday worship.
• Sunday 7th June – Livestream of Sunday service from Tempo and Clabby parishes with Canon Maurice Armstrong with podcasts on the parish Facebook page for the Sunday sermon and also a Dial-In Service by phoning 028 89270880 anytime from 10:30am on Sunday mornings.
• Sunday 7th June – Sunday service online from St. John’s Parish Church, Fivemiletown with Kiltermon led by Precentor Kyle Hanlon. This is available at; https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsFivemiletownwithKiltermon/
• Sunday 7th June – Weekly online services from Rosoxy Parish Church with Canon Ian Ellis, featuring music and readings with video broadcasts available each Sunday morning on the Rosoxy Parish Church Facebook page and text of the services available on the website; www.rosoxyparish.com
• Sunday 7th June – Sunday service online from Donagh Group of Parishes, Co. Monaghan with Revd Lorraine Capper and posted on the St. Salvator’s Facebook page.
• Sunday 7th June – Online service from Grouped Parishes of Maguirebridge and Derrybrusk with Revd. Abraham Storey.
• Sunday 7th June – Sunday service from Clogher Cathedral Group of Parishes with Revd. Olivia Downey at 11am available on the Clogher Diocese Facebook page and Clogher Cathedral Official Facebook page.
• Sunday 7th June – Online services from Aghalurcher Parish (Coblebrooke) each Sunday from 10.30am with Revd John McClennagh, on both the following sites; www.facebook.com/ coblebrooke www.coblebrookeparish.org/online-services There is also a local phone line service on 028 8927 0927.
• Sunday 7th June – Drive-In Service at Aghavea Parish Church at 11am led by the Rector, Revd Johnny McLaughlin. The service will be streamed live on the rector’s Facebook page, and a link inserted to the webpage after its end.
• Sunday 7th June – Online service of Morning Prayer from St. Finbarr’s Church, Carrickmacross at 11am led by Revd Colin McConaghie broadcast on Facebook Live on Carrickmacross Group Church of Ireland page.
• Sunday 7th June – Weekly online services each Sunday from the Cleenish Group led by Canon Geoff Bridle. They are available on the Cleenish website; http://cleenishparish. weeby.com.
• Sunday 7th June – Online service from Colaghty Parish Church each Sunday led by Canon Alan Irwin posted to Colaghty Parish Church Facebook page.
• Sunday 7th June – Online service from Grouped Parishes of Maguirebridge and Derrybrusk with Revd. Abraham Storey.
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• Sunday 7th June – Drive-In Service at Aghavea Parish Church at 11am led by the Rector, Revd Johnny McLaughlin. The service will be streamed live on the rector’s Facebook page, and a link inserted to the webpage after its end.
• Sunday 7th June – Online service of Morning Prayer from St. Finbarr’s Church, Carrickmacross at 11am led by Revd Colin McConaghie broadcast on Facebook Live on Carrickmacross Group Church of Ireland page.
• Sunday 7th June – Weekly online services each Sunday from the Cleenish Group led by Canon Geoff Bridle. They are available on the Cleenish website; http://cleenishparish. weeby.com.
• Sunday 7th June – Online service from Colaghty Parish Church each Sunday led by Canon Alan Irwin posted to Colaghty Parish Church Facebook page.
• Sunday 7th June – Online service from Derryvullen North, Irvinestown and Castle Archdale parishes led by Canon Paul Thompson. This can be found at; https://www.facebook.com/Paul-Thompson-Rector-of-Derryvullen-North-Castle-
Johnny McLoughlin. The service will be streamed from St. John’s Church, Fivemiletown with Chancellor Ian Berry, featuring the ‘I am’ statements of Jesus in John’s gospel.

- Sunday 21st June – Online broadcast of Sunday service from Derryniven North, Irvinestown and Castle Archdale parishes led by Canon Paul Thompson. This can be found at; https://www.facebook.com/Paul-Thompson-Rector-of-Derryniven-North-Castle-Archdale-10047239933207. (Service will also be available on YouTube from Thursday (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCw585CxiQo6w6N7_2AYgj)).

- Sunday 21st June – Online broadcast from Magheracross Parish Church, Ballinamallard with Archdeacon Brian Harper at 11am posted on the parish Facebook page.

- Sunday 21st June – Online broadcast of Sunday service from St. Patrick’s Church, Monaghan at 10.30am led by Chancellor Ian Berry streamed on Facebook Live; www.facebook.com/ stpatmonaghan for Sunday worship.

- Sunday 21st June – Livestream of Sunday service from Tempo and Clogh parishes with Canon Maurice Armstrong with podcasts on the parish Facebook page for the Sunday sermon and also a Dial-in Service by phoning 028 89270880 anytime from 10:30am on Sunday mornings.

- Sunday 21st June – Sunday service online from St. John’s Church, Fivemiletown with Kiltermon led by Precentor Kyle Hanlon. This is available at; https://www.facebook.com/ StJohnsFivemiletownwithKiltermon/.

- Sunday 21st June – Weekly online service from Rosshory Parish Church with Canon Ian Ellis, featuring music and readings with video broadcasts available each Sunday morning on the Rosshory Parish Church Facebook page and text of the services available on the website; www.rosshoryparish.com

- Sunday 21st June – Sunday service from St. Patrick’s Church, Monaghan at 10.30am led by Chancellor Ian Berry streamed on Facebook Live; www.facebook.com/ stpatmonaghan for Sunday worship.

- Sunday 21st June – Weekly online services each Sunday from the Cleenish Parish led by Canon Geoff Bridle. They are available on the Cleenish website; http://cleenishparish.weebly.com.

- Monday 22nd June – Clogher Diocesan Magazine deadline for submissions for the July/August edition.

- Wednesday 24th June – Wednesday night Bible Studies on Facebook Live at 8pm from St. Patrick’s Church, Monaghan with Chancellor Ian Berry featuring the ‘1 am’ statements of Jesus in John’s gospel.

- Wednesday 24th June – Live streaming of Sunday worship from St. Macartin’s Cathedral, Enniskillen at 11am with Dean Kenneth Hall. The Live link can be found at; https://www.cathedralwebsite; www.enniskillencathedrical.com.

- Sunday 21st June – Online worship from Kilskeery and Trillick parishes with Revd Phillip Bryson.

- Monday 22nd June – Drive-in service from Colaghty Parish Church with Chancellor Ian Berry featuring the ‘I am’ statements of Jesus in John’s gospel.


- Saturday 28th June – Online service of Holy Communion from St. Finbar’s Church, Carrickmacross led by Revd Colin McConaghy. The service is broadcast on Facebook Live on their Carrickmacross Group Church of Ireland page.

- Saturday 28th June – Weekly online services each Sunday from the Cleenish Group led by Canon Geoff Bridle. They are available on the Cleenish website; http://cleenishparish.weebly.com.

- Sunday 28th June – Online service from Colaghty Parish Church each Sunday led by Canon Alan Irwin and posted to Colaghty Parish Church Facebook page.

- Sunday 28th June – Online broadcast of Sunday service from Derryniven North, Irvinestown and Castle Archdale parishes led by Canon Paul Thompson. This can be found at; https://www.facebook.com/ Paul-Thompson-Rector-of-Derryniven-North-Castle-Archdale-10047239933207.

- Sunday 28th June – Online worship from Aghalurcher Parish(Colebrooke) each Sunday from 10.30am with Revd John McClenaghan, on both the following sites; www.facebook.com/ colebrooke www.colebrookeparish.org/online-servicesthere is also a local phone line service on 028 8927 0927.

- Sunday 21st June – Drive-in service from Aghavea Parish Church at 11am led by the Rector, Revd Johnny McLoughlin. The service will be streamed live on the rector’s Facebook page, and a link inserted to the webpage after its end.

- Sunday 21st June – Online service of Arise and Shine from St. Finbarr’s Church, Carrickmacross at 11am led by Revd Colin Conaghy. The service is broadcast on Facebook Live on their Carrickmacross Group Church of Ireland.

- Sunday 21st June – Weekly online services each Sunday from the Cleenish Group led by Canon Geoff Bridle. They are available on the Cleenish website; http://cleenishparish.weebly.com.

- Sunday 21st June – Online service from Collaghty Parish Church each Sunday led by Canon Alan Irwin and posted to Collaghty Parish Church Facebook page.

- Sunday 21st June – Online broadcast of Sunday service from Derryniven North, Irvinestown and Castle Archdale parishes led by Canon Paul Thompson. This can be found at; https://www.facebook.com/ Paul-Thompson-Rector-of-Derryniven-North-Castle-Archdale-10047239933207.

- Sunday 21st June – Monday Prayer on Facebook from Aghadrumsee and Cloghparishes with Captain David Hamilton and Dean Raymond Ferguson. Click on the following links;Aghadrumsee https://www.facebook.com/ St-Marks-Aghadrumsee-1532417755876 and Cloghhttps://www.facebook.com/cloghchurch?ref=bookmark

- Sunday 21st June – Online Sunday worship with Service of the Word ‘Kindness will not go unnoticed’ from Holy Trinity Church, Dromore at 11am led by Revd Andrew Quill with a livestream through their Facebook Page each week, from 10.50am as well as uploading a pre-recorded service to YouTube to Premiere at 11am.

- Sunday 21st June – Drive-in service at Aghavea Parish Church at 11am led by the Rector, Revd Johnny McLoughlin. The service will be streamed live on the rector’s Facebook page, and a link inserted to the webpage after its end.

- Sunday 28th June – Online service of Holy Communion from St. Finbar’s Church, Carrickmacross led by Revd Colin McConaghy. The service is broadcast on Facebook Live on their Carrickmacross Group Church of Ireland page.

- Sunday 28th June – Weekly online services each Sunday from the Cleenish Group led by Canon Geoff Bridle. They are available on the Cleenish website; http://cleenishparish.weebly.com.

- Sunday 28th June – Online service from Colaghty Parish Church each Sunday led by Canon Alan Irwin and posted to Colaghty Parish Church Facebook page.

- Sunday 28th June – Online broadcast of Sunday service from Derryniven North, Irvinestown and Castle Archdale parishes led by Canon Paul Thompson. This can be found at; https://www.facebook.com/ Paul-Thompson-Rector-of-Derryniven-North-Castle-Archdale-10047239933207.

- Sunday 28th June – Online prayer on Facebook from Aghadrumsee and Cloghparishes with Captain David Hamilton and Dean Raymond Ferguson. Click on the following links;Aghadrumsee https://www.facebook.com/ St-Marks-Aghadrumsee-1532417755876 and Cloghhttps://www.facebook.com/cloghchurch?ref=bookmark

- Sunday 28th June –Online worship from Kilskeery and Trillick parishes with Revd Philip Bryson.
Some birthday celebrations as well as tea parties were held throughout the Clogher Diocese recently to give thanks to God for his goodness and to pray for the work of Mothers’ Union locally and worldwide. Gladys Armstrong (pictured above) from Trory and Killadeas Branch, has continued faithfully knitting and is pictured with the teddies and blankets as she celebrated her 90th birthday. Congratulations and well done Gladys.

Mothers’ Union members regularly demonstrate their faith in many ways – through daily midday prayers for members around the world using their prayer guide, Families Worldwide, as well as through a prayer chain linking members from branch to branch around the diocese and by using their practical talents knitting and sewing items for hospitals and the community e.g. trauma teddies for children, baby bonnets, cardigans and cot quilts for new born and neonatal, fiddle blankets for dementia patients and knee blankets for the elderly. When the Coronavirus crisis came some members have diverted their talents and efforts to make scrubs, face masks and scrub bags for NHS and community workers and staff in nursing homes.

The Trustee Board members have regularly compiled information and resources to send to members via their branch leaders. These resources include reflections, prayers, poems, recipes, puzzles as well as health and wellbeing materials. There are many more resources listed on the MU website www.clogher.mothersunion.ie and on the Facebook page. All information is aimed at helping members through the present crisis when regular monthly meetings, outings and social events have been cancelled.
Mouse Makes

When Nehemiah heard that the walls of Jerusalem were in ruins he sat down and wept. For days he fasted and prayed before God.

Finally the opportunity came for him to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls, but it was not going to be easy...

READ Nehemiah’s story in the Old Testament book of Nehemiah, chapters 1-7

Here is Nehemiah’s list of all the things that needed to be done to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Fill in the missing gaps on the tower to help rebuild the wall.

- Pray
- Rubble
- Repair
- Restore
- Build
- Work
- Stone
- Timber
- Walls
- Floor
- Roof
- Celebrate

- Gate
- Beam
- Bolt
- Bar
- Step
- Tower
- House
- Pool
- Finish
- Dedicate
- Door

How many gates were repaired? Who re-built them?

How long did it take to finish the walls?
**Bible Bite**

**A short story from the Bible**

The Philistine and Israelite armies faced each other. For 40 days, the gigantic Philistine champion, Goliath, taunted them.

I will fight the best soldier in Israel’s army and if I win, you will be our slaves.

David’s brothers were in Israel’s army. He came to bring them food, and he heard Goliath.

He is insulting God!

David’s brothers were not happy.

You just came to watch the fight, go back to your few sheep.

But David didn’t stop.

We shouldn’t be cowards. I will fight him!

I have killed lions and bears with God’s help.

Then go ahead.

You don’t stand a chance.

You can wear my armour.

and King Saul heard what he said.

I can’t move with all this on!

So David took it off.

He took his sling and chose 5 stones from the stream bed.

Goliath couldn’t believe what he saw.

Do you think I’m a dog that you have come with a stick?

I have come to fight you in the name of the All-powerful God. The Lord always wins His battles.

As Goliath came forward...

David slung his stone and hit him on the head.

Goliath fell down dead.

The Philistines ran away, chased by Israel’s army.
Across
1  See 23 Across
3  Where the thief on the cross was told he would be, with Jesus (Luke 23:43) (8)
8  Invalid (4)
9  Blasphemed (Ezekiel 36:20) (8)
11 Adhering to the letter of the law rather than its spirit (Philippians 3:6) (10)
14 Shut (Ecclesiastes 12:4) (6)
15 ‘This is how it will be with anyone who — up things for himself but is not rich towards God’ (Luke 12:21) (6)
17 Mary on Isis (anag.) (10)
20 Agreement (Hebrews 9:15) (8)
21 Native of, say, Bangkok (4)
22 Deaf fort (anag.) (5-3)
23 and 1 Across ‘The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of — to work it and take — of it’ (Genesis 2:15) (4,4)

Down
1 Struggle between opposing forces (Habakkuk 1:3) (8)
2 James defined this as ‘looking after orphans and widows in their distress and keeping oneself from being polluted by the world’ (James 1:27) (8)
4 ‘The one I kiss is the man; — him’ (Matthew 26:48) (6)
5 ‘Be joyful in hope, patient in — , faithful in prayer’ (Romans 12:12) (10)
6 St Columba’s burial place (4)
7 Swirling current of water (4)
10 Loyalty (Isaiah 19:18) (10)
12 ‘God was pleased through the foolishness of what was — , to save those who believe’ (1 Corinthians 1:21) (8)
13 Camp where the angel of the Lord slew 185,000 men one night (2 Kings 19:35) (8)
16 ‘There is still — — Jonathan; he is crippled in both feet’ (2 Samuel 9:3) (1,3,2)
18 David Livingstone was one (4)
19 Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (1,1,1,1)
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Crossword Puzzle solution on page 63
Institution of new rector by Zoom is a first in Clogher Diocese

It was a first for Clogher Diocese on 4th June when the institution of a new rector was performed online through Zoom. The Revd Elaine Dunne had been appointed as the new incumbent of the Group of Ballybay, Clontibret and Muckno in Co. Monaghan in February and her date of institution was set for Thursday, 4th June in St. Colman’s Church, Clontibret. However with the Coronavirus Covid-19 pandemic spreading and the restrictions placed on churches and people’s lives since then, a normal institution was impossible. The institution did go ahead on 4th June but by an online service through Zoom. Those attending included the new incumbent, the Revd. Elaine along with the Archbishop’s Commissary, Archdeacon Brian Harper who conducted the service as well as the Provincial Registrar, Canon Colin Moore and Chancellor Ian Berry, Rural Dean, who presented Revd Elaine for institution. It also included neighbouring rectors, Revd. Colin McConaghy, of the Carrickmacross Group; Revd Roy Taylor, from the Clones Group of Parishes; Revd Lorraine Capper from the Donagh Group of parishes; Mr. Glenn Moore, Diocesan Secretary and representatives from the three parishes in the Ballybay Group from Christ Church, Ballybay; St Colman’s, Clontibret and St, Maelidoid’s, Muckno. These included churchwardens, parish secretaries and Sunday School teachers. A total of 24 people joined on the Zoom service which began with the Collect for Trinity Sunday.

After Chancellor Ian Berry presented Revd Elaine for institution, she replied and signed the official document. Archdeacon Brian Harper welcomed Revd. Elaine on behalf of the Diocese and there was an opportunity for representatives from the parishes to welcome Revd. Elaine to the area. A number of them said they looked forward to the day when churches re-opened and she would be conducting Sunday worship for them. Others extended Revd Elaine best wishes in her new group of parishes. Chancellor Ian Berry welcomed Revd.

Elaine on behalf of the Rural Deanery of Monaghan and said it was great to see the vacancy filled so quickly and to see the answer to prayers of people from the three parishes. Revd Elaine, thanking everyone for their words of welcome and encouragement, said the institution was not what everyone had anticipated but nevertheless she was now in her parishes. She asked everyone to be patient and said she would work behind the scenes during these uncertain times until restrictions eased.
75th anniversary of VE Day marked in Diocese

Online church services across Clogher Diocese on 8-10 May marked the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe either through prayers or appropriate hymns. One of those marking the event was Dean Kenneth Hall, of St. Macartin’s Cathedral, Enniskillen where the service was streamed live during Sunday worship at 11am through their website, www.enniskillencathedral.com. Seventy-five years ago the bells of St. Macartin’s Cathedral rang out to announce to the people of Enniskillen that the Second World War had ended. Sadly however, the bells could not be rung this time as it required a team of bellringers and it was not possible because of the current restrictions over Coronavirus. During the live streaming of the service on Sunday, Dean Hall made reference to the VE commemoration in his greeting, in prayers and in his sermon. During the service there was a message from Her Majesty’s Lord Lieutenant for Fermanagh, Right Honourable Viscount Brookeborough KG. Hymns sung by Jayne McKinley at Sunday’s service included; “Praise my Soul, the King of heaven,” “I vow to thee my country,” “Lord of the church, we pray for our reviewing” and “Nearer, my God to thee.”

At Colaghty Parish Church, Lack, the Rector, Canon Alan Irwin in his message, spoke of the time to give thanks, a time for celebration, a time for remembrance and a time to rebuild out of the devastation of war. He recalled the services of thanksgiving to Almighty God for the victory and deliverance in war. The bell rang out at 7pm for Peace.

New online course in Christian discipleship

The Church of Ireland Theological Institute has announced a new initiative aimed at offering resources for Christian discipleship to lay people.

Over four weeks in June, institute staff will offer a one-hour virtual class online. This four-week course offers resources for your spiritual life and opportunities to learn new practices of Christian discipleship to ressource your faith during social distancing. Weekly meetings through Zoom led by members of CITI’s academic staff will include a presentation and interactive discussion about practices of Christian spirituality and will conclude with an exercise or activity for you to try at home. By gathering, praying and learning with the same group of Christians weekly, you will also receive encouragement and fellowship and offer these gifts to others. The course will take place on Monday mornings between 11am and 12 noon beginning 8th June. For those interested, email admin@theologicalinstitute.ie to sign up. When you sign up, you will be given an easy link to enter the online classroom. The class is free during Covid 19 restrictions but is limited to 25 participants. The subject areas covered are as follows;

- **8 June:** Knowing God: An Invitation to the Journey of Discipleship led by Revd Canon Dr Maurice Elliott
- **15 June:** Spirituality in a time of abstinence: lockdown with Mary Magdalene led by Dr Brigid Nichols
- **22 June:** Spirituality and Failure: Seeing Ourselves in a New Light led by Revd Dr Patrick McGlinchey
- **29 June:** The Psalms: Biblical Company for the Journey of Faith led by Dr Katie Heffelfinger.
On this great Feast of Pentecost, when all Christians celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Church, we send our warmest greetings to all the people of the Diocese of Clogher. In doing so, we pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide and renew us in love and fellowship as we journey together on the way.

For nearly 20 years now, our Churches have marked this great feast by coming together for an Ecumenical Service of Prayer, usually held outdoors at a site associated with the earliest days of Christianity in these parts. By doing so we give thanks and praise together to God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and our joint prayer acknowledges and draws from the tradition of Christian faith that we in these parts have inherited from the time of St Patrick and St Macartan.

Sadly, this year the onset of the Coronavirus Covid-19 has forced us to postpone our coming together in the physical sense. It is our intention, however, with God’s help, to hold our service at a venue in the northern end of the diocese later in the year. Despite all this, our prayer is as intense as ever as we place before the Lord our needs and the needs of the world at this time of great distress for so many. We remember especially those who have died, those who mourn their loss and those who are ill or have been affected in any way by this terrible virus. We also give thanks to God for the gifts and work of so many who work in healthcare, other frontline workers – including clergy - and the many people of all ages in our community who, through their generous self-giving at this time, give witness to the living power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our midst.

This time of isolation also enables us to prayerfully reflect on what we share. Our baptism brings us into the very life of God in Jesus Christ, enabling us to share in his divine love, ‘marking us with his seal and giving us the pledge, the Spirit, that we carry in our hearts’ (2 Cor. 1:22). As Christians, we have been trying our best to do that in many respects and in different ways over recent months; through our online celebrations and worship, our outreach to the vulnerable and those who mourn and the shared voice of the leaders of the main Churches in Ireland, working together. This time also allows us to appreciate still more the gift of creation, our common home, and to see and experience how nature is praying with us, through the singing of the birds, the flowing of the waters and the beauty of the flowers and plants all around us. We are all connected. God rejoices in us!

As we mark the end of the Season of Easter, let us remind ourselves that, in the recent words of the Archbishop of Canterbury, ‘The good news of the resurrection of Jesus Christ pierces the darkness of despair and solidifies our hope in eternal life in Him.’ May we always give thanks; may we always allow ourselves to be renewed and to shine through the love of God that is patient and kind, and may we continue to do all we can ‘to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together’ (Eph. 4:3). Peace be with you! (John 20:19).

+Larry Duffy
Archdeacon Brian Harper
Co. Monaghan parish seeks funds for repairs and new memorial area for Senator Billy Fox

One of the beautiful churches in Clogher Diocese, Christ Church, Aughnamullen, which is part of the Ematris Group in Co, Monaghan has a major restoration project ahead.

The parish with a very small congregation has embarked on a major fundraising exercise. Two years ago, the parish repaired the belfry at a cost of €30,000, and now they need to re-roof the building at a cost of at least €300,000.

With a congregation of 12–15 people active in the church, this is a mammoth task. A spokesperson stated; “However, we intend to create a memorial interactive area in one third of church, in memory of the late Senator Billy Fox who was the only Oireachtas member to lose his life during Troubles, and whose remains are buried at the church.

Senator Fox was a Fine Gael member of Dail Eireann from 1969-1973 and of Seanad Eireann from 1973 until his death in March 1974 when he was shot by gunmen who were carrying out a raid on his girlfriend’s farmhouse.

Also buried in the churchyard are remains of Cromwell’s soldiers and monks dating back to 865. “We are applying for Leader funding and, if we are successful, we will receive 75% of the cost – and we are asking Church of Ireland members nationally if they could donate a minimum of €5 to this cause, on our Gofundme page. All donations will be gratefully received,” the spokesperson said.
Keeping people safe from scams

The Church of Ireland is backing the Scamwise NI campaign to keep people safe from scams. In any year, most of us will be targeted with an attempt to scam us out of money but if you can spot a scam, you can stop it too.

The following resources, including advice from An Garda Síochána, seek to help parishes to equip parishioners and their family, friends and neighbours so that they can prevent scams and seek assistance if they become a victim of a scam.

Coronavirus scams
Scammers will continue to target vulnerable people during emergency situations. Police have warned that cold callers and others are taking advantage of the Covid–19 pandemic and are advising householders to be cautious when considering offers of help. Common coronavirus scams are highlighted here by Scamwise NI, including advice on how to protect yourself and what to do if you think you have been scammed. An Garda Síochána has warned of three types of scams through which criminals are using the pandemic to exploit others:
1. Phishing / Smishing / Vishing – a company or person receives an unsolicited email, text, WhatsApp message or telephone call claiming to be from a legitimate organisation;
2. Social engineering scams – criminals exploit the charitable nature of people via social media or in person asking for donations to so-called charitable causes;
3. Fraudulent selling and trading – of in–demand medical supplies or everyday household goods that may be in short supply.

A three–page leaflet with advice on tackling these scams is available here.

Anyone who has been a victim of fraud or cyber–crime is encouraged to contact their local Garda station.

Scams cross borders
The Scamwise NI campaign relates to Northern Ireland but, as many scams cross borders, members of the Church who are living in the Republic and elsewhere may also find this advice helpful.

While there is no public campaign on this issue in the Republic at present, An Garda Síochána has provided a listing of local crime prevention officers who will be able to assist with this and other policing matters. The Garda National Economic Crime Bureau also provides guidance on preventing and tackling fraud.

The scam test
One of the best tools for tackling scams is to remember the four–point ‘scam test’ which anyone can use if a cold caller gets in touch, or if they receive suspicious post or online messages:
- Seems to be good to be true,
- Contacted out of the blue,
- Asked for personal details,
- Money requested

Getting help from your Post Office
Through its Scam? Ask Us initiative, the Post Office is encouraging anybody to ask counter staff if they are concerned that they are falling victim to a scam. Staff can then advise them if they think that the request is unusual, or if it is a scam that they have come across before.

Four videos from the Post Office outline some regular scenarios in which people may find themselves as targets of scams and how people can get help from staff.

Resources for parishes
Parishes can download resources for displaying or sharing in your parish (e.g. with food parcels or at events for the community) such as;
- PowerPoint slide (e.g. for use as part of church announcements or a presentation);
- one–page leaflet for printing (PDF);
- two–page leaflet for printing (PDF) – this includes advice on information that will neverbe sought by a range of organisations which scammers will claim to represent;
- a listing image and a larger online graphic which can be used on church websites or social media.

All of these resources show the scam test. More information is available on Scamwise NI’s website and Facebook page.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland has also published the Little Book of Big Scams which outlines many of the most frequently used types of scams.

Remember: If you can spot a scam, you can stop a scam.

The four main Churches and the Irish Council of Churches are supporting Scamwise NI through the Church Leaders Group.
Church of Ireland Board of Education (Northern Ireland) pays tribute to Mrs Helen McClenaghan

The Church of Ireland Board of Education (Northern Ireland) has paid tribute to Mrs Helen McClenaghan, who died on 4th June following a lifetime of service.

Bishop Ken Good, who worked closely with Mrs McClenaghan while chairing the Board of Education, remarked: ‘Helen McClenaghan’s contribution to education in Northern Ireland has been quite exceptional. Her influential work as Chief Executive of the Southern Education and Library Board was widely admired and respected. Both before and after her retirement, she was particularly generous to the Church of Ireland with her time and expertise, serving on diocesan and central Church boards of education and other committees.’

The Archbishop of Armagh and Chairman of the Board of Education, the Most Revd John McDowell, said: ‘With the death of Helen McClenaghan, the education sector and the Church of Ireland have lost a great critical friend and source of encouragement. Helen has been at the centre of education policy and practice for many years, and shared her enthusiasm and knowledge with a very characteristic directness and verve. I join with all those who knew and worked with Helen in offering my personal sympathies to those who are most sorely bereaved of her.’

Dr Peter Hamill, Secretary to the Board of Education, said: ‘Helen’s wisdom and knowledge of education in Northern Ireland was unsurpassed. She will be sadly missed by all members of the Board of Education.’

The Transferor Representatives’ Council also paid tribute to Mrs Helen McClenaghan. The Chair of the TRC, Miss Rosemary Rainey OBE, said: ‘I have known Helen McClenaghan for many years as a person of integrity, faith and professionalism.

‘Her knowledge, experience and insight, her resilience, her sterling service and contribution to the field of education and her concern for people were legendary. She was never too busy to make time for people and their problems, as a mentor inspiring and influencing many during her lifetime both within education and the women’s sector. She will be greatly missed by all who knew, admired and worked with her.

‘We thank God for Helen’s life of service, her dedication and commitment, her wise counsel and her genuine sincere friendship.

She is now at peace and “with Christ, which is far better,” (Philippians 1:23) and in that we rejoice.’

Mrs McClenaghan worked as a teacher in Portadown College before serving with the Southern Education and Library Board from 1979 onwards, including as its Chief Executive from 1998 until her retirement in 2009. She was awarded an OBE in 2006 for services to education in Northern Ireland.

She was a member of the Board of Education from 2010 onwards and was a longstanding member of the General Synod.

She also served as the Vice-Chair of the Church of Ireland’s Select Committee on Human Sexuality in the Context of Christian Belief, as a member of the Armagh Diocesan Board of Religious Education, and as a lay Honorary Secretary for the Diocese of Armagh from 2017 onwards.

Irish Blessing online viewed almost 400,000 times!

One of the YouTube sensations in recent days has been the Irish Blessing where for the first time in history, over 300 churches and Christian organisations from every county in Ireland joined together online to sing the ancient Irish Blessing.

The team behind the initiative have sent the following message;

The Irish Blessing Team owes each of you a huge THANK YOU!

Just five days since it was released, The Irish Blessing has been viewed more than 390k times on our YouTube Channel and the response to it has been overwhelmingly positive. This could not have happened without your participation.

Whether you submitted a recording, subscribed to our mailing list, shared The Irish Blessing with friends, or followed us on social media, you have helped The Irish Blessing to have the impact it has had and continues to have. Most importantly, you have encouraged people to pray for the key-workers in their local area, which was the whole purpose.

We have now added an Irish Sign Language version of the video to our YouTube Channel, which you can view by clicking the link below: The Irish Blessing - Irish Sign Language Version

We invite you to share this with friends and family.

You are welcome to use The Irish Blessing videos or audio in any Christian worship service or gathering, whether online or hopefully in the not too distant future, in person. There is no need to seek additional permission from the team. It was always our intention to share this as freely and easily as possible for the glory of God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

If your church or group has recorded its own version of The Irish Blessing, you may now share it on your own social media platforms. Please use the hashtag #TheIrishBlessing if you are posting a version and let us know by emailing: info@theirishblessing.com

If your church or group hasn’t yet recorded its own version and would like to, you can email us at - info@theirishblessing.com - to receive the Resource Pack, which contains the sheet music and backing tracks.

Finally, we want to express our gratitude to you for making this historic collaboration possible. It has brought Christians of many denominations together, across the whole island of Ireland, united in one voice, with Christ, our vision.

We echo the prayer of Jesus in John 17:20-21...

“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.”

May you be blessed, The Irish Blessing Team
The RCB Library in Dublin is a fabulous resource not only serving the needs of those in training for ministry in the Church of Ireland and assisting clergy and laity, but it also acts as a reference facility and provides a repository for archives and manuscripts.

Dr. Susan Hood, Librarian and Archivist, leads tours of the library facilities at Braemor Park, South Dublin adjacent to the Church of Ireland Theological Institute. I joined her on a visit there earlier this year, before the onset of the Coronavirus restrictions. Sadly the Library remains closed to the public for the foreseeable future on account of the Covid-19 situation and anyone looking for updates and likely timelines for re-opening will be posted through their website; https://www.ireland.anglican.org/about/rcb-library

However online resources are still available and they also welcome queries by email to; library@ireland.anglican.org

Guiding me through their website, Dr. Hood said those looking for specific information can browse through a huge amount of information from the comprehensive catalogue of listings, original architectural drawings of churches and every copy of the Church of Ireland Gazette digitised up to 1949.

The library is a network of specialised rooms with various book sections, some according to age. In normal circumstances, members of the public could arrive at the Library’s reception and become a reader, asking for specific book titles for research or education. With the Theological Institute adjacent, there are usually plenty of such requests from theological students for books which will assist them in their studies.

With a huge interest in genealogy now, archives such as the Library or Public Records Office NI are in constant demand. With 70,000 books within the Library, Dr. Hood gives me a flavour of them including a Book of Common Prayer from 1549. It is one of those in the Watson Collection, when the Books of Common Prayer written for the Church of England were translated into English.

The vast collections of diocesan magazines are held by the Library.

Some of the early collections of books at the library came from Rosamund Stephen,
a member of the Church of Ireland and founder of the Guild of Witness in 1901. With her Guild’s collection of books and resources ever growing, she donated the entire works to the Representative Church Body, the charitable trust which has managed the Church of Ireland since 1871, and which formed the basis of the RCB Library established formally in 1932.

Dr Hood says the future is digitalisation of records but it is expensive. There have been some grants available to encourage those records of heritage value to be preserved and accessible for future generations. The RCB has appealed to parishes, especially since Data Protection measures were introduced, that they can donate early minute books and other valuable archives to the library for safe-keeping rather being kept in cupboards in a church or rectory. If parishes do choose to retain them, Dr. Hood advises they are kept in fireproof safes or store rooms where temperatures should range from around 15-20 degrees C and at the appropriate humidity.

“We have the system and the protection mechanism for these and we control the access to readers,” said Dr. Hood.

Dr. Hood said it was a credit to all the generations of clergy and parishes who have kept registers and archives safe. If it had not been for their contributions and keeping the faith, people could not trace their ancestors.

Before the restrictions placed by the Coronavirus, the RCB Library was visited by between nine and 20 people daily. Opening hours were 9.30am-1pm and 2pm -5pm Monday to Thursday.

“In terms of outreach, it is a privileged role which we play to facilitate people’s needs and their rich tapestry of identity,” said Dr. Hood.

The recommended type of storage boxes for archives for parishes.
GUIDELINES for the Safe Custody of and Permissions for Copying from Parish Records & Memorials in Burial Grounds

Arisining from some recent situations involving copying and/or publication of parish registers and other records held locally, the Library and Archives Committee has been prompted to issue the following Guidelines.

These are designed to:

1. Assist members of the clergy and select vestries with the care and custody of records held in parishes;
2. Raise awareness about the legal restrictions in place concerning copyright in the text of parish records and in inscriptions on memorials, with particular reference to publishing such data on the internet or in printed formats.

PARISH REGISTERS

Church of Ireland parish registers (for baptisms, marriages and burials) are unique resources for determining family relationships as well as a variety of other legal, medical or social purposes. Church of Ireland parish registers are the oldest church records available on the island of Ireland and many contain personal data not recorded anywhere else.

Keeping the records safe

It is thanks to the diligence of previous and current generations that parish registers survive to the present day. This collective rich legacy of keeping records safe is something to be cherished and continued. When members of the clergy enter new details into registers, they should do so using permanent black ink. Good quality black ink roller-ball pens are satisfactory; pencils or low grade pens and any ink colour other than black, should not be used. When registers are not in use, the Constitution of the Church of Ireland (ch. 3, sec. 24.(7), in tandem with the laws in both jurisdictions) expects the registers to be stored in “an adequate safe” (i.e. a locked, fireproof safe). The Representative Church Body Library, the Church’s principal repository for records, actively encourages the transfer of all non-current parish registers to its safe, secure and permanent custody where the environmental and fireproof conditions are controlled. If such conditions cannot be guaranteed at a local level, then the registers (along with other non-current records) should be transferred to the Library.

Permissions

Reproduction rights of parish registers are subject to certain legislation, and pre-1871 registers resides with the relevant state. In Northern Ireland, any reproduction of registers of baptisms and burials up to 1871, and marriages before 1845, is subject to the Public Records Act (Northern Ireland), 1923. In the Republic of Ireland, any reproduction of registers of baptisms and burials up to 1871, and marriages before 1845, is subject to the National Archives (Ireland) Act, 1986. All post-1845 registers of Church of Ireland marriages are subject to the Civil Registration Act, 2004 in the Republic of Ireland and the Marriage (Northern Ireland) Order, 2003 in Northern Ireland. Copyright (and thus reproduction) of all registers of baptisms and burials from 1871 onwards is held by The Representative Church Body, subject to the regulations in the Constitution of the Church of Ireland.

Access

The Church’s Constitution (ch. 3 sec. 25.(2), in tandem with the laws in both jurisdictions) makes provision for access to data held in parish registers. Where parish registers are retained locally, the law requires that members of the public be afforded access to the data contained in the registers. This access must be supervised. It is the responsibility of the member(s) of the clergy in a parish to ensure that the parish registers are treated with respect and due care. When being consulted by members of the public, no markings whatsoever should be made on the registers. The registers should be supported and pages turned carefully. No photography should be permitted.

Copying and/or publishing records

From time to time, members of the clergy shall need to make certified copies of entries in parish registers to facilitate family research, applications for passports or other lawful purposes. This is permitted under the terms of the legislation referred to above. Furthermore, members of the public (including parishioners, genealogists and other researchers) may be permitted to transcribe or copy out the content of registers by hand but are not permitted to publish that information without permission from the copyright holder. Details from entries for marriages, baptisms or burials created more recently than 100 years should not be posted on the internet or published in any other formats.

Carte blanche photography of registers either by parishioners or researchers is prohibited: any electronic recording of images requires the appropriate permission from the relevant copyright holder. Any breach could render the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, the National Archives of Ireland, the respective General Registrars in the Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland, and/or The Representative Church Body subject to prosecution. The Representative Church Body Library can provide advice about seeking relevant copyright permissions. The Library will also be glad to take custody of all non-current parish registers. Contact information for the Library is provided at the end.

VESTRY MINUTES AND OTHER PARISH RECORDS

Generally the copyright of other Church records, including vestry minutes, created within parishes by churchwardens, select vestry members or parishioners, is held in trust by The Representative Church Body or by other Church trustees. Members of a select vestry must ensure that key information discussed, and decisions made, at select vestry meetings is accurately recorded in the vestry records (‘the minutes’). The minutes should be carefully retained for future reference. The secretary to the select vestry takes responsibility for drafting the text of the minutes for approval by the members. Select vestry minute books are important records which need to be maintained and preserved as an historic record of the long-term value of local parish life and evolution of the Church of Ireland as a whole. Whilst copies of minutes may be shared electronically between members, a master set of printed or handwritten records must be maintained in a bound volume. The secretary to the select vestry should be responsible for printing (or writing out by hand) a master set. In the case of printed pages, these should be secured into a hardcopy volume. It is this hardcopy that should be signed and dated by the chairperson of the meeting at which the minutes are considered and agreed. The Representative Church Body Library is the official place of deposit for all non-current
Church of Ireland records and welcomes transfers of select vestry minutes, records of general vestry meetings and related parish records including accounts, preachers’ books, maps, plans, drawings, photographs, the records of parish organisations and/ or any other parish records. Records are held permanently in the Library’s safe and secure facilities and retained in perpetuity. To preserve confidentially, a forty-year closure rule is applied to all select vestry minutes; it is only with the permission of the officiating member of the clergy or the secretary to a select vestry that access may be granted (either in the Library or in parish custody) to records within the forty-year period.

MEMORIALS AND THEIR INSCRIPTIONS IN BURIAL GROUNDS
A number of recent worthy projects at local level have involved members of the community carrying out maintenance and repairs to burial grounds and recording information inscribed on memorials, including headstones and plaques erected at graves. This work is to be commended and encouraged but members of the clergy, select vestries and third parties do need to be mindful about copyright restrictions and aware of the sensitivities surrounding publication of images or details of memorials in burial grounds. Memorials are usually erected by the family or persons connected to the deceased, who bear the costs of the memorial. Both the memorial and the information inscribed thereon, belong to the person(s) who erect the memorial and/or their descendants. As the parties responsible for the management of burial grounds, members of the clergy and select vestries need to proceed with caution where there is any proposal that a parish should publish details relating to graves in a burial ground or where there is an approach from a third party wanting to publish such information. Any proposal should be scrutinized carefully by the select vestry which should obtain full details of the content of the intended publication, the form it would take and what exactly is being sought from the vestry. These enquiries are to allow vestry members to take an informed decision whether a proposed publication would, or would not, be in the best interests of the parish (or the wider Church). It is strongly recommended that neither images nor details of inscriptions on memorials erected within the past forty years ever be uploaded to the internet or published in any other formats. It is hoped that these Guidelines will facilitate clergy and select vestries to deal sensitively and sensibly with information in their custody, know what rules to apply, and KEEP THE RECORDS SAFE!

ANGLICAN COMMUNION NEWS

Archbishop preaches at Anglican Communion service for Pentecost

The Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, the Most Revd John McDowell, was the preacher during the Anglican Communion’s service for Pentecost which was broadcast on Pentecost Sunday, 31st May. Archbishop McDowell preached from Acts 2:1 to 21 on the work of the Holy Spirit. The service is available at www.anglicancommunion.org/worship

The opening hymn was Thy Kingdom Come by Pete James. The Church of Ireland is among the 40 member Churches making up the Anglican Communion in more than 165 countries worldwide.

Major new resource equips churches to tackle Covid-19-related domestic abuse

A major new resource by the Anglican Alliance and Anglican Consultative Council will equip churches to recognise and take action to prevent domestic abuse. The resource, Domestic Abuse and COVID-19: How Churches can respond, says that lockdown measures and restrictions on movement can have an impact on the prevalence and severity of domestic abuse and gender based violence, and adds that the increased fear, tension and lack of money can worsen a toxic environment where abuse can thrive unchallenged. It goes on to say that the Church is well placed within communities to be a light and refuge in times of need and can reach into communities where governments cannot. Our Christian call is to love one another as Christ loved us and not to turn away from our own flesh and blood.

The resource includes sections on what the Bible says about abuse, what domestic abuse is, and how big an issue domestic abuse is. It looks at the impact of Covid-19 on domestic abuse sets out practical action for church leaders and good neighbours; advice for victims and survivors; and challenges for perpetrators. The resources author is Mandy Marshall, who recently joined the staff of the Anglican Communion Office as Director for Gender Justice. She said: “During the Covid-19 pandemic we have seen a rise in domestic abuse around the world. Now, more than ever, it is vital that we, as a church community, are equipped to recognise the signs of abuse and respond appropriately. “This key resource assists the churches in responding well and in line with good practice to domestic abuse. I recommend reading it, sharing it and acting on it.” In preparing the report, Mandy Marshall was supported by a large number of contributors around the world, including Rob Dawes and Naomi Herbert from the Mothers’ Union in the UK and Provincial Community Development Co-ordinators from members of the Mothers’ Union worldwide. The Chief Executive of the Mothers’ Union, Bev Julienne, said: “This is a timely resource addressing the very real issue faced and addressed by Mothers’ Union members around the world. This will provide an excellent framework for a practical response. The resource, Domestic Abuse and COVID-19: How Churches can respond, is available to download free of charge from the Anglican Communion website: www.anglicancommunion.org/genderjustice.
Church of Ireland members throughout Clogher Diocese have been prominent supporting food banks, care homes and domiciliary care sectors during the Covid-19 pandemic. Those parishioners who are also members of the Rotary Club of Enniskillen and Masonic Order Provincial Grand Lodge of Tyrone and Fermanagh formed a Covid-19 Steering Group to act for those care sectors. Personal gift packs were prepared for domiciliary care staff as a way of saying thanks for their devotion to visiting people in their own homes, PPE was procured for the staff of care homes and cheques were presented to local food banks. Biscuits were also shared among the Food Banks. Foxes Biscuits donated two pallets of biscuits to the project.

Kenny Fisher of Rotary Club of Enniskillen handing over donations to Jenny Irvine from ARC in Irvinestown.

A group from the Rotary Club of Enniskillen with supplies handed over to the Drumcoo Centre.
National Sports Sunday on 17th May was marked in Clogher Diocese with an online service led by the Venerable Brian Harper, Rector of Magheracross Parish Church, Ballinamallard. Archdeacon Harper is Chaplain to Ballinamallard United Football Club and in his pre-recorded service, he had contributions from various sports personalities with links to the area.

These included footballers with Ballinamallard United FC; Richard Clarke, Jason McCartney, John Connolly and their manager, Harry McConkey. Also featured was a young fan, Dylan McCleery, who read the Psalm.

Maxine Armstrong from Mallard Flyers Cycle Club read from John 15 while Alastair Fisher, a noted rally driver, led the prayers.

Irish International hockey players and twins Bethany and Serena Barr from Dollingstown were interviewed about their faith and the legacy of their sister, Charlene who inspired Charlene’s Project, providing schools in Uganda and Guatemala and which is currently providing food for families in an isolated hill village in Guatemala during the COVID-19 lockdown.

National Sports Sunday was organised by Sports Chaplaincy UK and Ireland, a Christian organization committed to initiating, nurturing, supporting and resourcing sports chaplains.
COMMUNITY NEWS

Mental and emotional health programme

AMH Mindset Programme Mindset is a Mental and Emotional Health and Well-being Awareness programme for adults and young people aged 14-17 years. Its aims are:
- Raise awareness and increase knowledge and understanding of Mental and Emotional Health and Well-being
- Raise awareness of signs and symptoms of mental ill health
- Promote self-help/resilience techniques and how to maintain a safe level of positive mental and emotional health and well-being
- Promote self-care
- Information and/or resources on mental health support organisations available (locally and regionally)

The Mindset programme from Action Mental Health is moving to online delivery! Mindset is funded by the Public Health Agency. In response to Government guidance, the programme will not be available for face to face delivery but will be delivered online and is open to youth and community groups for groups of 6 to 12 people.

The online programme can be delivered in a format to suit participant needs and will be agreed prior to booking confirmation.

It can be delivered as 1. one-off interactive workshop - the full Mindset programme - Duration: 3 hours (with breaks); or 2. Mindset sessions - The full Mindset programme in bite size - Duration: 2 or 3 sessions over separate days.

For more information or to register your interest contact: nimenssana@amh.org.uk or Tel: 07740 403724

NEWS FOR VESTRIES

Crosslinks Summer Series: Love Thy Neighbour

Crosslinks is hosting an online summer series over three evenings in June. We will be encouraged by mission stories from church leaders, supporters, partners and those recently return from the field. Rev Nick Jones will open God’s word for us as we think of how we can ‘Love Thy Neighbour’.

The Summer Series will be premiered on the Crosslinks in Ireland Facebook [LINK:https://www.facebook.com/Crosslinks.in.Ireland] page on Monday 8th June, Tuesday 9th June and Wednesday 10th June at 7.30pm. For further details contact ireland@crosslinks.org or call 028

Dial-a-Service now being used by some parishes

An alternative way of getting an audio broadcast of a church service to householders has been used in Clogher Diocese. The ‘Dial-in Service’ has been used in Tempo and Clabby parishes where members of the public, especially those who are unable to access online material can now hear the weekend service which has been going online by Rector, Canon Maurice Armstrong.

The services can be heard by phoning 028 892 70880 in order to listen to parish information and the weekly Sunday service.

A useful webpage with advice on how to set up this facility has been made available by Revd Andrew Irwin in Diocese of Dromore at https://medium.com/@andrewirwin_6116/online-church-setting-up-a-dial-in-phone-service2c99c3bc75ab

Canon Armstrong says it has been going for over a month and this service has enabled them to reach more people and make their services more accessible to the wider public.

He said; “This is especially the case for those who are housebound. If you wish to use this service or would like to encourage others to listen to the Sunday service then you can ring 028 89270880 anytime from 10:30am on Sunday mornings to the following Saturday evening. Calls will be charged at the usually standard rate or if the user has a personal charge rate setup.”

This system which has been used in other churches in Northern Ireland uses a software system called VOIPfone. There is another telephone system that is being used in parts of the Church of England called Twilio.
Your story from Covid-19 restrictions

Fermanagh and Omagh Council is keen to collate the various ways that individuals or community groups have responded during the Coronavirus pandemic. The Council is now seeking community groups and individuals to share their story COVID-19 has seen our community pull together & respond to these exceptional circumstances by:

- checking on the elderly
- holding sponsored events to raise money
- delivering food parcels and medication
- and so much more

FODC is keen to capture the experience of people from across the district. The information will be collated and showcased demonstrating how individual and collective action has supported people through one of the most challenging crises of our generation. For further information, click on bit.ly/2ysw4YI

CROSSWORD ANSWERS from page 48

ACROSS:
1 Care, 3 Paradise, 8 Null, 9 Profaned, 11 Legalistic, 14 Closed, 15 Stores, 17 Missionary, 20 Covenant, 21 Thai, 22 Trade-off, 23 Eden

DOWN:
1 Conflict, 2 Religion, 4 Arrest, 5 Affliction, 6 Iona, 7 Eddy, 10 Allegiance, 12 Preached, 13 Assyrian, 16 A son of, 18 Scot, 19 DVLA

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