

The Newsletter

May 2026

Rector:

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The Children's Easter Egg Hunt in Lacca Church on Easter Sunday

Image kindly provided by Joyce Lalor

Clonenagh Group of Parishes

Annatrim - Borris-in-Ossory - Lacca - Mountrath - Roskelton - Seir Kieran

Parish Notes

Baby Joy

We send our heartfelt congratulations to Philip and Chiara McKay on the birth of their daughter **Aoibheann**, a sister to Oisín. Congratulations to Grandparents Tommy and Margaret McKay.

Baptism

On Sunday 19th April, Baby **Olivia Hargroves** was baptised by Rev'd Helen Oxley in St Peters Church, daughter of Thomas and Julianna Hargroves.

Golf Classic

Clonagh Parish Fundraising Committee are holding the annual Golf Classic in Mountrath Golf Club on Friday 22nd May 2026.

If you are interested in sponsoring a hole at €120 or entering a team at €120, please contact Mrs Mable Peavoy on 086 2033720 or Mrs Evelyn Bennett on 086 7950502. It would be great to see some new parishioners entering a team!

There will also be raffle on the night and all your support would be very much appreciated.

The World Day of Prayer

...was held in Bloom HQ on Friday 6th March. The theme was '*I Will Give You Rest*' prepared by the WDP Nigeria. This service was kindly hosted by St. Fintan's parish.

The leader was Caroline Clegg and the readers were Kathleen Bennett, Florence Peavoy, Jean Treacy and Emily Jackson.

Thank you to Fr. Joe and his helpers who provided beautiful refreshments in the canteen after the service.

That morning, the children from Clonagh NS enjoyed the Children's Service in St Peters. Thank you to 3rd and 4th class and Miss R. Wheeler who led the service and decorated the church with their artwork. Thank you to all the children who enjoyed singing the hymns.

Mothers' Union News

Our next meeting is on Monday 27th April at 8pm in the Parochial Hall Mountrath where we will have a report on the **Diocesan Spring Council Meeting** which will have been held in Bagnelstown on Saturday 25th.

Reminder: This year's **Festival Service and Commissioning of new Trustee and Committee members** will be held in St. Canice's Cathedral, Kilkenny on Thursday 14th May at 7pm. Bishop Adrian will preside and Kay Clarke, All Ireland MU President, will be the special speaker.

Fellowship Service

The Fellowship Service takes place in Lacca Church on the second Thursday of every month at 8pm. All are welcome!

National Epilepsy Week 2026 takes place on 18th May - 25th May. For further information, please visit www.epilepsy.ie

Join **The Church's Ministry of Healing: Ireland** for a 4-week online series of reflection on the places we inhabit and a gentle exploration of our true belonging.

Carol Casey and Lydia Monds will lead these sessions through silence, prayer, scripture, and poetry. The sessions offer a time of wondering, prayer and rest, which we pray will be like a healing balm for your mind, heart and soul.

Online: Thursdays 11am - 12pm, on May 14th, 21st & 28th and June 4th. Book via www.ministryofhealing.ie

Aideen Phelan is raising funds for an incredible trip to Kolkata, India, where she'll volunteer with **The HOPE Foundation** and help children in need. Your support would help make Aideen's dream become a reality and her journey there possible.

Save this date: 9th May. Come along for a **10-Hour Badminton Marathon** filled with fun, rallies, and community spirit! Whether you play or just want to cheer us on, everyone is welcome.

Requiescant In Pace

Please remember in your prayers **Mary Chambers** (Lacca) and all the Chambers family on the death of **Sam Chambers**, late of Whitefields, who died on Monday 13th April and whose Funeral Service was held in Lacca Church on Thursday 16th.

May he rest in peace, and rise in glory



This victory marks a significant achievement for the Grade 4 squad, who will now go on to represent Laois - and their clubs, Mountrath and Portlaoise - on the national stage. They are set to compete in the All-Ireland final on Sunday 17 May at University of Galway, where they will aim to continue their impressive run.

The Laois Badminton Grade 4 team were recently crowned **Leinster Champions**.

(standing l-r) Kevin Grace, Adam Holden, Joe Hargroves, Brendan Byrne, Mick O'Brien, Hemanth Sundaran.

(kneeling l-r) Gouri Saha, Sarah O'Rourke, Noelle Clancy, Edel Clancy, Nicole Hargroves, Yvonne Hargroves.

Mountrath Badminton Club

...fundraising Table Quiz on Friday 22nd May in The Pub, Mountrath. €40/team of 4, registration opens at 7.30pm. Followed by music from 11.00. Contact Wendy on 087-1787245 for more information.

Clonenagh National School News

It has been a very busy start to the summer term here at Clonenagh NS, with lots of activity both inside and outside the classroom.

We are continuing to enjoy our **hurling and camogie blitzes**. We are especially thrilled with our girls' camogie team — the very first in the history of our school. We are incredibly proud of the girls and wish both them and the boys all the very best as they complete their blitzes by Friday, 24th April.

The school has also been a hive of activity with our **spring clean** and **gardening** efforts. The children have been working hard to tidy up the school grounds, and many have been busy planting flowers, which can now be admired in the beautiful planters at the front of the school. We are particularly proud that the compost used comes from our very own wormery, which the children have been developing over the past few years. If you spot the large wooden box near the infant collection doors, that is our wormery: where food waste is transformed into rich compost for our garden.

Our **biodiversity work** continues to flourish. We have recently purchased an edible native hedge pack, which we plan to plant along our new fence at the back of our extended grounds. This will help create an even richer habitat for wildlife. The children are also thoroughly enjoying exploring the large tree at the centre of the school grounds, discovering just how many living things depend on it as a habitat.

We are very fortunate that two of our teachers, Mrs. Cleary and Mr. Lanham, have been attending a **biodiversity course** and are bringing valuable knowledge and ideas back to the school.

Our **school garden** is also coming back to life, with Fifth and Sixth Class preparing it for the growing season. We were delighted to receive help from parents over the Easter holidays, who gave their time to tidy and refresh the space, this support is greatly appreciated.

Sincere thanks to our **Parents Association** for organising a very successful **Easter raffle**. We are also grateful to the many parishioners who kindly donated prizes. The funds raised will go towards resources requested by our various school committees. The **Student Council** and **Wellbeing Committee** are looking forward to new beanbags for classrooms, the **Active Schools Committee** is seeking additional equipment to support agility, and the **Green Schools Committee** will benefit from further composting and gardening resources. It is wonderful to see such collaboration and student voice in action.

At present, First and Second Class are attending **swimming lessons** each Tuesday morning and are thoroughly enjoying the experience. Once their block is complete, Junior and Senior Infants will have their turn: for some, it will be their first visit to the pool, which is sure to be a memorable experience.

All in all, it has been a busy and productive time in our school, with everyone working hard and making the most of the opportunities available.

Services & Readings

May

Sunday 3rd <i>The Fifth Sunday of Easter</i>	Jeremiah 31: 1-6 Easter Anthems Acts 10: 34-43 Matthew 28: 1-10	Roskelton 9.30am Holy Communion	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer	Lacca 10.30am Holy Communion	Borris-in-Ossory 11.00am Morning Prayer	Mountrath 11.30am Holy Communion
Sunday 10th <i>The Sixth Sunday of Easter (Rogation Sunday)</i>	Acts 17: 22-31 Psalm 66: 7-18 1 Peter 3: 13-22 John 14: 15-21	Annatrim 11.00am Holy Communion		Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer		
Sunday 17th <i>The Seventh Sunday of Easter (Sunday after the Ascension Day)</i>	Acts 1: 6-14 Psalm 68: 1-10, 32-35 1 Peter 4: 12-14; 5: 6-11 John 17: 1-11	Roskelton 9.30am Morning Prayer	Seir Kieran 9.30am Morning Prayer	Lacca 10.30am Service of the Word	Mountrath 11.30am Morning Prayer	
Sunday 24th <i>The Day of Pentecost (Whit Sunday)</i>	Numbers 11: 24-30 Psalm 104: 26-36, 37b Acts 2: 1-21 John 7: 37-39	Annatrim 11.00am Morning Prayer		Mountrath 11.30am Holy Communion		
Sunday 31st <i>Trinity Sunday</i>	Genesis 1: 1 - 2: 4a Psalm 8 2 Corinthians 13: 11-13 Matthew 28: 16-20	Mountrath 11.00am Morning Prayer				

PLEASE NOTE:

These dates and times are subject to change at short notice. Up-to-date information can be found on the Parish WhatsApp group or by contacting a Church Warden.

Parish Diary

April

27th Monday.....Mothers' Union Meeting

May

6th Wednesday.....Closing date for Diocesan Magazine Notes

9th Saturday.....10-Hour Badminton Marathon

14th Thursday.....Lacca Fellowship Service

14th Thursday.....Mothers' Union Festival Service

20th Wednesday.....Closing date for June 2026 Newsletter

22nd Friday.....Parish Golf Classic

22nd Friday.....Mountrath Badminton Club Table Quiz

Items for the June 2026 Newsletter need to be with the editor by Wednesday May 20th **AT THE LATEST**, so that the Newsletter can be assembled in time for the Fourth Sunday, May 24th. **PLEASE** make your item as ready for publication as possible, and please ensure that names are spelled correctly.
Ideally, items should be submitted by e-mail to- newsletter@clonenagh.com
 Otherwise to- Ivor Clegg, Cloncourse, Mountrath, Co. Laois. 087-2522162