

# The Newsletter

July/August 2026

**Priest in Charge:**

Rev'd Richard Seymour-Whiteley  
Phone: 085-7564706

**Diocesan Reader:**

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*Golfers enjoying the recent Parish Golf Classic*

## Clonenagh Group of Parishes

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

# Parish Notes

## Priest in Charge

At the request of Bishop Adrian Wilkinson, the Rev'd Richard Seymour-Whiteley has kindly agreed to respond to all pastoral emergencies in the parish, offer essential pastoral care to the housebound and those in nursing homes, as well as chair vestry meetings for the foreseeable future.

~Diocesan Secretary

## Service of Healing

A Service of Healing for Canon Victor will take place in Lacca Church on Sunday the 12th of July at 3.00pm. The Service will be lead by the Rev'd William Bennett. All are welcome.

## Group Meeting

A meeting for Select Vestries or representatives, Lay Readers, and Diocesan Readers will be held on Tuesday June 30th at 7.30pm in the Parochial Hall. The meeting will be chaired by Archdeacon Mark Hayden.

## Fellowship Service

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

## Hospital Visits

Just a reminder to everyone, if you or a loved one are in Portlaoise Hospital and would like a visit from the Chaplain, Rev'd Janet Finlay, please let her know. Since the introduction of GDPR the only way she will know is if you contact her on 087-7598384.

~Rev'd Janet

## Golf Classic

Clonagh Parish Fundraising Committee would like to thank everyone who supported our Golf Classic and raffle on Friday 22nd May, it was a great success.

Thank you to all sponsors, to all who entered teams, to those who donated raffle prizes, and to anyone who contributed in any way to make it a great success.

A big "Thank you!" to Elizabeth who looked after the prizes and the ladies who helped check the cards on the night. To date we have no final figure as there are donations still coming.

Winning teams were:

1st Vinnie Hogan, 2nd Joe Hearn, 3rd Betty Thompson, 4th Dinah Kingsley, 5th Richard Maloney, 6th Liam Kirwan.

Non-golfers: Jerry Williams.

Juveniles: Charlie Peavoy.

Congratulations to all prize winners. Great fun was had by all and the weather was very good.

It was great to see such community spirit, so once again thank you to everyone for your continued support, participation, donations, and volunteer work before, during and after the event. It was all greatly appreciated

Next year's Golf Classic is planned for 14th May 2027.

## GFS News

The Annual Diocesan Service took place on Sunday 25th May in St. Canice's Cathedral Kilkenny, followed by a picnic.

Congratulations to all the girls for receiving certificates for completing Diocesan Bible Study and Handcraft competitions.

## Prize winners

*Bible Study:* 7-9 yrs, Zephra Burns 3rd place; 11-13 yrs, Paige Cullen 3rd place.

*Handcraft:* 7-9 yrs, Zephra Burns 3rd place; 9-11 yrs, Chloe Hargroves 3rd place; 13-15 yrs, Lucy Cullen 1st Diocese.

*Highly Commended in All Ireland:* 18-21 yrs, Jane Lalor 2nd place

Well done to all.

Many thanks to all the leaders Emily, Caroline, Jennifer, Avril and Jane for their leadership throughout the year. Enjoy the summer and we look forward to seeing all in September as well as some new faces.

**Maize Maze Laois** on Dealgrove Farm Shanahoe is reopening in a few weeks time. Further details on [maizemaze.ie](http://maizemaze.ie)

**Jane's Bakes Cake Shed** is now open in Camross, Co.Laois, R32Y2X2. Lots of tasty treats are on offer and orders can be taken for cakes. Jane will also be returning to the cafe at Maize Maze Laois this year!

Items for the September 2026 Newsletter need to be with the editor by Wednesday August 19th **AT THE LATEST**, so that the Newsletter can be assembled in time for the Fourth Sunday, August 23rd.

**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- [clonagh.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:clonagh.newsletter@gmail.com)

Otherwise to- Ivor Clegg, Cloncourse, Mountrath, Co. Laois. 087-2522162

# Clonenagh National School News

## End Of Year Report

As another busy and successful school year comes to a close, we were delighted to begin our summer holidays on Friday 19th June with many happy memories and achievements to celebrate.

All pupils thoroughly enjoyed their recent school tours, which provided wonderful opportunities for fun, friendship and learning outside the classroom.

One of the highlights of our final term was hosting the **Choral Festival** for six schools in St. Peter's Church, Mountrath, on Friday, 12th June. It was a beautiful occasion, filled with wonderful music and a great sense of community. Our pupils performed a drama based on The Prodigal Son, which was very warmly received. So much work had gone into both the singing and the drama that we were delighted to perform them once again at our End-of-Year Graduation Service.

Throughout the term, pupils also participated in a number of in-school competitions. Our **Biodiversity Slogan Competition** produced some fantastic entries, with Emily Armitage's winning slogan becoming our school's biodiversity motto:

***"More bugs and bees in Clonenagh, please!"***

Simple, memorable and perfectly suited to our school's biodiversity work.

We also held a **Gaeilge Handwriting Competition**. It was wonderful to see such pride being taken in written work and in the Irish language.

At our **Graduation Service**, several special awards were presented. Congratulations to Maeve Armitage, who received the **Sports Person of the Year Award**; Kevin Birney, who was presented with the **Environmental Awareness Award**; and Patience Elegbeku, who received the **Kindness Award**.

Patience had even more reason to celebrate, having achieved third place in the prestigious **Junior Bishop's Medal RE Examination**. Canon Harvey informed us that the standard of marking was exceptionally high this year, with only a very small margin separating the top candidates. We are immensely proud of Patience's achievement and hope to encourage many more pupils to participate in the competition in the years ahead.

We were also delighted with our success in this year's **Bishop's Art Competition**, which focused on the theme of the Parables. Congratulations to LJ Madden, who achieved third place in the Senior Infants category with his creative work based on **The Wise and Foolish Builders**. Congratulations also to Ava Hensch Clancy, Melissa Fordjour and Alex Moise, whose wonderful construction of **The Prodigal Son** earned them first place in their category.

Our annual **Talent Show** once again proved to be a tremendous success. Pupils from Third to Sixth Class were invited to showcase their talents before the entire school. A judging panel, which included representatives from the senior classes, had the difficult task of selecting the winners from an extremely talented group of performers. First place was awarded to Emma and Martha Lalor for their beautiful performance on traditional Irish instruments. Their musicianship was exceptional and greatly enjoyed by everyone present.

As we reflect on another wonderful year, we are incredibly proud of all our pupils for their hard work, enthusiasm and achievements. We wish all our families a safe, happy and restful summer and look forward to welcoming everyone back for another exciting school year in September.

## Parish Diary

### July

**6th Monday.....Closing date for Diocesan Magazine Notes**

11th Thursday.....Lacca Fellowship Service

### August

**6th Thursday.....Closing date for Diocesan Magazine Notes**

11th Thursday.....Lacca Fellowship Service

**19th Wednesday.....Closing date for September 2026 Newsletter**

# Services & Readings

## July

<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup></b> <i>The Fifth Sunday after Trinity</i>	Genesis 24: 34-38, 42-49, 58-67 Psalm 45: 10-17 Romans 7: 15-25a Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30	<b>Roskelton</b> 9.30am Morning Prayer	<b>Seir Kieran</b> 9.30am Morning Prayer	<b>Borris-in-Ossory</b> 11.00am Morning Prayer	<b>Mountrath</b> 11.30am Holy Communion	
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup></b> <i>The Sixth Sunday after Trinity</i>	Genesis 25: 19-34 Psalm 119: 105-112 Romans 8: 1-11 Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23	<b>Annatrim</b> 11.00am Morning Prayer	<b>Mountrath</b> 11.30am Morning Prayer		<b>Lacca</b> 3.00pm Service of Healing	
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup></b> <i>The Seventh Sunday after Trinity</i>	Genesis 28: 10-19a Psalm 139: 1-11, 23-24 Romans 8: 12-25 Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43	<b>Roskelton</b> 9.30am Holy Communion	<b>Seir Kieran</b> 9.30am Morning Prayer	<b>Lacca</b> 10.30am Holy Communion	<b>Borris-in-Ossory</b> 11.00am Morning Prayer	<b>Mountrath</b> 11.30am Morning Prayer
<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup></b> <i>The Eighth Sunday after Trinity</i>	Genesis 29: 15-28 Psalm 128 Romans 8: 26-39 Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52	<b>Annatrim</b> 11.00am Morning Prayer		<b>Mountrath</b> 11.30am Morning Prayer		

## August

<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup></b> <i>The Ninth Sunday after Trinity</i>	Genesis 32: 22-31 Psalm 17: 1-7, 16 Romans 9: 1-5 Matthew 14: 13-21	<b>Roskelton</b> 9.30am Holy Communion	<b>Seir Kieran</b> 9.30am Morning Prayer	<b>Lacca</b> 10.30am Holy Communion	<b>Borris-in-Ossory</b> 11.00am Morning Prayer	<b>Mountrath</b> 11.30am Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup></b> <i>The Tenth Sunday after Trinity</i>	Genesis 37: 1-4, 12-28 Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b Romans 10: 5-15 Matthew 14: 22-33	<b>Seir Kieran</b> 9.30am Holy Communion		<b>Annatrim</b> 11.00am Holy Communion		<b>Mountrath</b> 11.30am Morning Prayer
<b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup></b> <i>The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity</i>	Genesis 45: 1-15 Psalm 133 Romans 11: 1-2a, 29-32 Matthew 15: 10-28	<b>Roskelton</b> 9.30am Morning Prayer	<b>Seir Kieran</b> 9.30am Morning Prayer	<b>Lacca</b> 10.30am Service of the Word	<b>Borris-in-Ossory</b> 11.00am Holy Communion	<b>Mountrath</b> 11.30am Morning Prayer
<b>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup></b> <i>The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity</i>	Exodus 1: 8 - 2: 10 Psalm 124 Romans 12: 1-8 Matthew 16: 13-20	<b>Annatrim</b> 11.00am Morning Prayer		<b>Mountrath</b> 11.30am Holy Communion		
<b>Sunday 30<sup>th</sup></b> <i>The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity</i>	Exodus 3: 1-15 Psalm 115 Romans 12: 9-21 Matthew 16: 21-28	<b>Mountrath</b> 11.00am Holy Communion				

### PLEASE NOTE:

At time of printing, 26th June, the Services listed above for July are confirmed and correct.

The listing for August is for an 'ordinary' 5-Sunday month as was usual over the last few years, and is provided here ONLY as a rough guide to how the Services might actually transpire.

The Archdeacon and others work on putting together a schedule of Preachers and Services for each month, but this will only be finalised towards the end of the previous month and is liable to be further amended during the month.

**Therefore, these venues and times are subject to change, or even cancellation, at short notice!**

**Up-to-date information can be found on the Parish WhatsApp group or by contacting a Church Warden.**