



Anglican Communion - Church of Ireland - Diocese of Clogher

Carrickmacross, Magheraclone and Ardragh Group of Parishes



St. Finbarr's Carrickmacross, St. Molua's Magheraclone, St. Patrick's Ardragh



Newsletter

December 2010

Worship

Posada

In Mexico there is a Christmas Tradition called 'Posada' where people dress up as Mary and Joseph and visit each others homes during Advent as part of their preparation for Christmas. The Church Army took this idea and adapted it to have dolls of Mary and Joseph passed from house to house around the parish to underline the journey of Mary and Joseph as the true basis for our preparation for our welcoming of Christ into our parishes at Christmas. This year we thought we would 'Posada' two hand made dolls to help us focus on the spiritual side of our Christmas preparations.

At this stage Mary and Joseph have begun their journeys and we

*Notes for the newsletter should
be with the Rector by the last
Sunday of the month please*

have a short list of homes for them to visit. If you would like to join in the project please give your name to Rosemary. as soon as possible please so we can organise it.

Weather

It looks as if the severe weather may last for some time so we would encourage everyone to check to see if a particular service is on before setting out. We will obviously try to keep to the regular schedule and the special Christmas services but in severe conditions this may not be possible so do check.

Christmas Communions

Ardragh

Sunday 19th at 1.00pm

Magheraclone

Friday 24th at 11.30pm

Saturday 25th at 9.15am

Carrickmacross

Saturday 25th at 8.00am and
10.30am

Christmas Gifts

This year at the Carol Service in St. Finbarr's on the 19th December at 7pm we are inviting young people to give gifts of toys for other less fortunate young people to enjoy. They can be new or good second hand, but good enough for a child to feel that they are not just getting hand-me-downs. After the service they will be passed to needy homes and the Steadfast shop.

Midweek Communions

Our Wednesday service at 10.30am will continue all through December.

Morning Services

Because of the Carol Services please note that there will be no morning services in Magheracluone on the 12th December and none in Carrickmacross on the 19th.

Castleross

We hope to have a Christmas celebration there on the Wednesday before Christmas, the 22nd hopefully also at 2.00pm. Parishioners are welcome to come to these simple services and I know your presence would be appreciated.

Unity Week

Although it is some time away we just mention the service to be held

Carol Services

Crossduff

Sunday 5th at 3.00pm

Magheracluone

Sunday 12th at 7.00pm

CMX Community Carols

in St. Finbarr's on Tuesday 14th
at 7.30pm

Ardragh

Sunday 19th at 1.00pm

Carrickmacross

Sunday 19th at 7.00pm

in St. Josph's Church in Carrickmacross on Tuesday 25th January at 7.30pm during the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity. It often seems to get ignored after the Christmas rush. So please take note of it now and we hope there will be a good attendance from our parish.

Prayer Time

This will not be held in December as we have a Carol Service service on the same evening in St. Finbarr's

Hymn Practice

We will have a pre-Christmas music preview in St. Finbarr's on Monday 13th December at 8pm to look at the music for the Christmas and New Year period.

THIS MONTH

Sunday	5 th	3.00pm	Crossduff Carol Service
Monday	6 th	8.00pm	Study Group in Parish Room
Wednesday	8 th	10.30am	Midweek Communion, St. Finbarr's
Friday	10 th	7.30pm	Table Tennis in Jackson Hall
Monday	13 th	8.00pm	Hymn Practice in St. Finbarr's
Tuesday	14 th	7.30pm	Community Carol Service St. Finbarr's
Wednesday	15 th	10.30am	Midweek Communion, St. Finbarr's
Friday	17 th	7.30pm	Table Tennis in Jackson Hall
Saturday	18 th	3.00pm	Children's Christmas Party, Jackson Hall
Wednesday	22 nd	10.30am	Midweek Communion, St. Finbarr's
		2.00pm	Christmas Communion in Castleross
Friday	24 th	11.30pm	Christmas Communion Magheracloune
Saturday	25 th	8.00am	Christmas Communion Carrickmacross
		9.15am	Christmas Communion Magheracloune
		10.30am	Christmas Communion Carrickmacross

NEXT MONTH

Thursday	6 th	Monaghan Youth Council Outing to Belfast Panto	
Thursday	20 th	MU&Friends Pot Luck Supper	
Tuesday	25 th	7.30pm	Unity Week Service in St. Joseph's

Parish News

Christmas Party

Every year we have a party for all the children of the three churches in the Parish. This is not just for the Sunday School members or Carrickmacross children only but for everyone. This year it will be held on Saturday 18th at 3.00pm in the Jackson Hall. There will be games and refreshments and Santa will have presents for the children. If we get time we will send invitations to all eligible children but we would underline again that

this party is for everyone under confirmation age.

Panto

If any young people are interested in going with the Monaghan Youth Council group to a panto in Belfast on Thursday 6th January please let the Rector know. In previous years we have not been involved in this but it would be good for us to get involved.

Reports

Sick

A number of parishioners have

Sunday Services

5th December 2010, 2nd Sunday of Advent Year A (Purple)

Isaiah 11.1-10, Psalm 72.1-7, 18-19, Romans 15.4-13, Matthew 3.1-12

Carrickmacross	8.00am	HC	Rector
Carrickmacross	10.30am	HC	Rector
Magheraclone	11.45am	MP	Rector
Ardragh	1.00pm	MP	Rector

12th December 2010, 3rd Sunday of Advent (Purple)

Isaiah 35.1-10, Psalm 146.4-10, James 5.7-10, Matthew 11.2-11

Carrickmacross	8.00am	HC	Rector
Carrickmacross	10.30am	MP	Rector
Magheraclone	7.00pm	Carols	Rector

19th December 2010, 4th Sunday of Advent (Purple)

Isaiah 7.10-16, Psalm 80.1-8, 18-20, Romans 1.1-7, Matthew 1.18-25

Carrickmacross	8.00am	HC	Rector
Magheraclone	11.45am	MP	Rector
Ardragh	1.00pm	Carols and HC	Rector
Carrickmacross	7.00pm	Carols	Rector

26th December 2010, 1st Sunday after Christmas (Purple)

Isaiah 63.7-9, Psalm 148, Hebrews 2.10-18, Matthew 2.13-23

Carrickmacross	8.00am	HC	Rector
Carrickmacross	10.30am	MP	Rector

2nd December 2010, 2nd Sunday after Christmas (Purple)

Jeremiah 31.7-14, Psalm 147.13-21, Ephesians 1.3-14, John 1.10-18

Carrickmacross	8.00am	HC	Rector
Carrickmacross	10.30am	HC	Rector
Magheraclone	11.45am	MP	Rector
Ardragh	1.00pm	HC	Rector

Parish Ministry Team

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been seriously ill over the month especially Isaac, and we hold them in our prayers. We give thanks to God for the remarkable recovery of Jerry and pray that all those who are sick will know the healing touch of the Lord with all the skill and care of the medical professionals.

Marriage

Matthew Norris who is originally from Aghabog Parish but who now lives at Coolderry and Jacqueline Cahill who comes from Co. Tipperary were married in St. Finbarr's on Friday 12th November. On the days before and after the ceremony it poured but they were blessed with glorious winter sunshine. Fr Tom Breen from Jacqueline's home parish took part in the ceremony which was conducted by the Rector. We wish them every blessing in their married life.

Sympathy

We express our sincere sympathy to Mgr. Vincent Connolly on the recent death of his sister Brid who lived at Bawn in Aughnamullen Parish.

Holy Baptism

Amy Jane Norris baby daughter of Jacqueline and Matthew was baptised in St. Finbarr's on Friday 12th November. We pray for her, her parents and godparents, as

Christmas Concert

Eimear Quinn

in

St. Finbarr's Church

on

Saturday December 18th

Tickets available from Keegans

they encourage her to grow in faith.

Congratulations

We have great pleasure in recording the awarding of a B.A. Degree to Mr Malachy Connolly by DIT, Dundalk. It takes great courage to return to education as a mature student and we express our admiration for his achievement and wish him well as he continues his studies in History at the College.

Official Opening

The official opening of the Castleross Retirement Village by Minister Mary Harney took place on the 5th November and it was good to meet so many of our residents at the event.

Organisations

Study Group

We bring our series on the Minor Prophets to an end on the 6th December and thank all those who have attended so regularly and made them such interesting sessions. We will take a break in January and recommence before Lent.

MU & Friends

The November meeting on Child Safety was well attended and we hope that it was a help in understanding our responsibilities in this area. The January meeting will be a 'Pot Luck' supper at the Rectory on Thursday 20th at 8pm. Rosemary would like to thank everyone who made her recent significant birthday so special!

Table Tennis

We have an extra team this year and the news is very good. Our Division 7a team drew with Coranearry 19-11 and the 7b team won their match 27-4. The new Division 9 team won 24-14 again against Coranearry. Unfortunately due to the weather matches had to be postponed last weekend and it looks as if this weekend will not be much better. Thanks to all those who are putting so much work into the club.

Thanks

Our magazines are printed every month in Keegans. We thank them for this continuing sponsorship which we greatly appreciate.

Parish History

This is our second instalment, working backwards, of the notes we have gathered about the parish. Commenting on the last chapter I was told that I had very little detail about the recent Rector's. This was precisely why I put it in because I was hoping people might give me far more detail. So if you can help please do. We pick up the story with the death of Mr Galbraith rector for a year or so having been curate for many years and author of a book called 'Blow the trumpet'.

Writing in the Parish Report of 1912 the then Rector, Canon Moffett, wrote

"On Ascension Day, May 16th at Kerrville, Texas, U.S.A., my predecessor Rev. Richard Galbraith, passed to his rest. Even after the lapse of 29 years there are many of all classes in this place who hold his name in affectionate remembrance. That he won a similar place in the hearts of the men of his adopted country will appear from a few sentences which I transcribe from the local paper of Kerrville: "No man could have exemplified the duties of the Christian religion better than he. He did not talk his religion, he lived it, and so his life became a power for good. After all this is what counts ... The light of his beautiful life shone as the light shines, naturally and noiselessly. He did not sound his 'trumpet before

him as the hypocrites do.' There are things he did and gifts he made that no one but God knows about.'”

Leaving aside the journalists slight misquotation of Scripture and the implication that Mr. Galbraith had left his trumpet behind him in Ireland, Mr. Galbraith seems to have had a better relationship with the wider community in Texas than he had in Carrickmacross. After Mr. Galbraith's sudden departure in 1883 the Rev. Benjamin Moffett was instituted to the parish on the 20th June.. He was son of a John Moffett of Merville in Sligo and he was educated in T.C.D. He was made a Scholar of the house in 1864 and was awarded his B.A. (with a Senior Moderatorship in Classics) in 1865. He was a teacher, for a time in Portora School in Enniskillen and then as Headmaster of Foyle College, although he was ordained during this time. He was instituted as Rector of Carrickmacross in 1883 and served here until 1914. As well as being Rector he was also made the Chancellor of the Diocese in 1904. He never married and died at the Glebe House at Derryolam in Carrickmacross on the 2nd February 1914, aged 69. He was interested in local history and published “A List of the Pupils of Visct. Weymouth's Grammar School, who entered T.C.D. from 1706-1909, with Notes, &c.” published by Tempest Press in Dundalk in 1911.

Canon Moffett presented the current graveyard known as God's Acre to the parish as by that stage there was little space left for new graves in Magheross Churchyard. Canon Moffett had apparently bought some land at Drummond Otra in a beautiful, if rather

steeply sloped location overlooking Lisanisk Lake. On the 5th of April 1892 part of this land, to be known as God's Acre, was conveyed to the Trustees of the Church of Ireland, the R.C.B. And was consecrated as a burial ground by the Bishop of Clogher on the 22nd of May 1894. The Moravian Church, with which the Church of Ireland is now in full communion, has always called their graveyard's 'Gottes Acker'. Originally from what would now be the Czech Republic Moravians had separated from the Roman Catholic Church in the late 1300's, long before the Reformation, and survived despite severe persecution. There are no other graveyards called God's Acre as far as we can ascertain outside Moravia and other places where Moravian missionaries worked and we still do not know why Canon Moffett attached this name to the new graveyard in Carrickmacross.

In contrast to Dr. Robinson Canon Moffett seems to have been an incredibly diligent pastor. During his time the parish produced an annual report in which he wrote a long commentary on the life of the parish. We have the 1912 and 1913 editions to hand still. In this report the round of worship is listed. There was an 8.30am Holy Communion service every Sunday and Holy Day. Morning Prayer was read every morning at 9.30am and on every Sunday at 11.30am It was followed on the second and fourth Sunday's by Holy Communion. There is Evening Prayer every day at 5.30pm and on Sundays at 7pm. The Litany was read every Wednesday night at 8pm and was followed by a Lecture. There is Sunday

School every Sunday at 10.15am and regular Bible classes and he kept a Library from which parishioners could borrow books every Saturday from noon to 1pm. Spiritual Counsel was offered after every service and by appointment.

The 1912 Parish report which he dated June 21st tells us that there were two hundred and seventeen church members “including a few accustomed worshippers from neighbouring parishes and some members of other communions who are at present practically identified with us”. He states there were 53 communicants at Christmas and 54 at Easter and an average of five on other days - figures not very different from those of 2010. Some people are obviously opposing his celebrating Holy Communion so often, as he points out “These figures ought to be noted by those who doubt the advantage of increased opportunities for approaching the Holy Communion. In the year ending April 1884, when the celebrations were little more than monthly and when we had a larger population the average was 16.” In this report he encourages parishioners to more generous financial support and complains about new a new Insurance Act which is going to increase costs. He commends the men of the Men's Society who visit the old and infirm, collect money for the School and the Missions, distribute the Parish Magazine and managed “a Rifle Class, which for some weeks in the winter served a good purpose among the young fellows of the town! In comparison our Table Tennis club looks very tame.

The 1912 Report also mentions that major work had to be done on lopping the very tall trees which stood alongside the Church. The work was very expensive and in the process a workman was injured almost fatally, though it is noted that has since returned to work.

The next year's report tells of how worshippers increasing but income is dropping complaining that “it is simply a dishonourable position for any one to avail himself of religious ministrations to which he contributes nothing.” In that year they are discussing getting a new clock because the old one has not worked for many years and the Bishop and local opinion are constantly 'remonstrating' about it. He gloomily expects it will cost over £100 and they will have to have a special Sale of Work to raise the money. He holds forth for three pages of the Report about the importance of Baptism and the fact that the average delay between birth and Baptism in the parish is 41 days. The reason given for delay he says is the time it takes for women to recover after childbirth, but bachelor that he is, he cannot understand this quoting a missionary to the Inuit at Hudon Bay in Canada where mothers think nothing of carrying babies 150 miles on their backs to have them baptised. He seems to reckon Christians in Carrickmacross have it too soft.

Despite the somewhat nagging tone of his Reports a successor, the Rev Richard Whitehead, speaks of Canon Moffett as being universally loved by his own parishioners and the wider community.