



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

May 2011

Worship

Midweek HC

Please note that because the Rector has to attend the Episcopal Electoral College in Armagh on Wednesday 4th May there will be no midweek Communion in Carrickmacross on that day, the first Wednesday of the month. We will have the service every other Wednesday morning of the month.

Music Practice

Some people are not happy with the hymns we use. Some want more new ones, some want to hear the old ones more often. Part of the reason for our Hymn practices is that we can get reaction to the Hymns we have put on the half yearly list. If you want changes made come along to the rehearsals or even have a look at the hymn list on the Prayer desk and make your comments to the Rector. We would love more suggestions.

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

Confirmation

We hope to arrange a confirmation service with our new Bishop either late this year or early next year. It is likely that this will be organised with our neighbouring Ballybay Group of parishes as they have indicated they have a number of candidates for the laying on of hands. If anyone in the parish would like to be prepared for confirmation please let the Rector know.

Favourite Hymns Day

On the fifth Sunday in May we will have a Favourite Hymns service in Carrickmacross and Magheraclone. We want you to let the Rector know what your favourite hymn is and we will include the most popular. If anyone would be prepared to say a few words of introduction about their hymn it would push it right up to the top of the list and push you into introducing it on the day!

Parish News

Bishops' Appeal

We apologise for not distributing the Bishops' Appeal envelopes on Palm

Sunday. They are available in the churches now if anyone would like to make a contribution through this agency of our church for world aid, development and disaster response. Please do take one and hand it back on the plate over the coming Sundays.

Study Group

There is time to squeeze in four fortnightly meetings between now and the summer. We will have meetings on Monday's the 9th and 25th of May and on the 6th and 20th of June before we take a summer break. After our sessions on the Parables we will have a look at a series of short videos on the background to the New Testament called "Jesus in his world" made by Desi Maxwell. They should be a great help to allow us visualise the world of our Lord and if anyone is thinking of visiting the Holy Land these would be an excellent introduction to what you might look out for as of real importance.

Easter Vestries

Most of the eleven Easter Vestries we are responsible will be completed D.V. by the time these notes appear but we will still have Magheraclone on the 4th May and Carrickmacross on the 5th. This year is a triennial election year when we have to elect Diocesan Synod members and nominators so we would redouble our appeal for a good turn out. In the case of Carrickmacross we will also have a general discussion of Youth

Ministry in our area which has generated a good deal of interest recently. So come along and have your say.

Ardragh Barbecue

Following the great financial success of last years dance the newly formed Select vestry in Ardragh are planning a Barbecue and Fun evening at St. Patrick's Church on Saturday 30th July. Its still a long way off but if you are around at that time of the summer please make a note of the date and plan to come. There will be treasure hunt for young people before the cooking begins and we hope to have a display of information about this architecturally interesting and historic building.

C'macross Barbecue

A small committee is already making plans for another barbecue at the Rectory, this time on Saturday the 9th July in the evening. This year it will be on a smaller scale but no less fun for that and we are praying that we get the sort of weather we had last year! Further details later but please take note of the date now and keep it free.

Reports

Holy Week

We had a sort of mini-retreat with our 7am service each morning in which we followed the way of Christ's passion as a roadmap for our own spiritual journey's, as he enters our hearts, cleanses our sanctuary, teaches us the truth, calls us to pray,

THIS MONTH

Wednesday	4 th	8.30pm	Magheracluone Easter Vestry
Thursday	5 th	8.30pm	Carrickmacross Easter Vestry
Friday	6 th	8.00pm	MU Area Service, Monaghan
Sunday	8 th	9.00pm	Prayertime in St. Finbarr's
Monday	9 th	8.00pm	Study Group in Parish Room
Wednesday	11 th	10.30am	Midweek Communion
Thursday	12 th	8.00pm	MU & Friends Sli na Slainte Walk
Wednesday	18 th	10.30am	Midweek Communion
Sunday	22 nd	7.00pm	Installation of Canons in Clogher Cathedral
Monday	23 rd	8.00pm	Study Group in Parish Room
Wednesday	25 th	10.30am	Midweek Communion
Thursday	26 th	8.00pm	MU & Friends Meal out
Monday	30 th	8.00pm	Music Practice in St. Finbarr's

NEXT MONTH

Wednesday	1 st	10.30am	Midweek Communion
		2.00pm	Castleross Nursing Home service
Monday	6 th	8.00pm	Study Group
Wednesday	8 th – 15 th		Rector at wedding in Holland

COMING SOON

Saturday	9 th July	Barbecue at the Rectory
Saturday	30 th July	Ardragh Parish Fund raising Barbecue
Sunday	7 th August	St. Molua's Day, Open air service

invites us to share his real presence and brings us to a place a self-sacrifice and service.

The penitential service of preparation on Spy Wednesday night in Magheracluone was not well attended. We do not seem to be good at moving around to services in other churches in the Group and the attendance at the Seder meal on Maunday Thursday night was twenty down on last year. Perhaps the late date of Easter this year was the

problem with people working late into the long evening. Someone once said that the true measure of a parishes spiritual strength is the way it observes Holy Week and in that case things are not looking too good here.

Kilanny Clean-up

Grateful thanks to Mark Tynan, Gerry Garland, Herbie Kenny and Trevor Merrin for the days work they put into getting the old church

Sunday Services

1st May 2011, 2nd Sunday of Easter (White)

Genesis 8.6-16, Psalm 16, 1 Peter 1.3-9, John 20.19-31

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

8th May 2011, 3rd Sunday of Easter (White)

Isaiah 43.1-12, Psalm 116.1-3, 10-17, 1 Peter 1.17-23, Luke 24.13-35

Carrickmacross	8.00am	HC	Rector
Carrickmacross	10.30am	MP	Rector
Magheracloune	11.45am	HC	Rector

15th May 2011, 4th Sunday of Easter (White)

Nehemiah 9.6-15, Psalm 23, 1 Peter 2.19-25, John 10.1-10

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

22nd May 2011, 5th Sunday of Easter (White)

Deuteronomy 6.20-25, Psalm 31.1-5, 15-16, 1 Peter 2.2-10, John 14.1-14

Carrickmacross	8.00am	HC	Rector
Carrickmacross	10.30am	MP	Rector
Magheracloune	11.45am	MP	Rector

29th May 2011, 6th Sunday of Easter (White)

Isaiah 41.17-20, Psalm 66.7-18, 1 Peter 3.13-22, John 14.15-21

Carrickmacross	8.00am	HC	Rector
Carrickmacross	10.30am	Favourite Hymns Service	
Magheracloune	11.45am	Favourite Hymns Service	

Parish Ministry Team

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grounds in Kilanny into good shape after the winter.

Easter Report

Our Easter Sunday worship was most uplifting. In Carrickmacross the Dawn service was again well attended and, perhaps as it took place in full daylight this year, it seemed to be easier to take part as everyone could see the words on the service sheet. The simple breakfast which followed went very well and we must think about other occasions on which we can get together like this.

It was special to have the organ played at the main morning service in Carrickmacross and we hope we communicated something of the special joy of the Good News that Easter brings especially now in a society that seems to be falling apart. Magheracloune and Ardragh also went well and we thank those who prepared the churches so lovingly and carefully for the worship.

Byrne Concert

On Friday 15th April during the Patrick Byrne weekend organised by Ceoltas Ceoltori Eireann in Carrickmacross we had the pleasure of hosting a Harp recital with Seána Davey and local harpers including Aine Flannigan and her sisters who are exceptionally talented young musicians. It was delightful to have had this concert in the church and in particular we look forward to finding another occasion on which we can have the Flannigan sisters back again.

Diocesan News

Ematrix Group

We extend a sincere welcome to the Rev George Beattie and his wife who took over responsibility for Ematrix on the 3rd May. We promise every and any help we can give and wish him well in his new ministry.

Bishops Election

On Wednesday the 4th May the Electoral College for the vacant See of Clogher will be held in Armagh. Because of resignations from the Diocese the Rector finds himself for the very first time on the committee. Please pray that the College will be able to agree on a candidate. If no one received two thirds of the votes after a series of rounds the appointment will fall back to the House of Bishops.

Synod in Armagh

Again because of clerical resignations the Rector has been elevated, if that is the word, to representing the Diocese on the General Synod. This is to be held in Armagh from Thursday the 12th to Saturday 14th May.

Canons

On Sunday the 1st May the installation of the Revd Canon Glenn West as Prebendary of Donaghmore will take place at 3.15pm in St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin. I have written to him to wish him well and explain that because the last of our services ends at 2pm there will not be enough time for us to

make the journey.

The on Sunday the 22nd May an installation Service will be held in Clogher Cathedral at 7.00pm. Those being installed include the Revd Canon Ian Berry, Revd Chancellor Stanley Bourke, the Revd Canon David Skuce and the Revd Canon Helene Steed. The Preacher will be the Very Rev. Dr. William W. Morton, The Dean of Derry.

People

Sympathy

Mrs Mary Smyth who was 89 years old was one of our most senior parishioners in Magheracloune and indeed in the Carrickmacross Group. She was born Mary Fisher and was brought up at near Killinkere. She married Jack Smyth and moved to Magheracloune many years ago. Among other work her husband was the sexton of St. Molua's church and Mrs Smyth helped him and was always deeply involved in the life of the parish. Until very recent years she was a regular church attender and even in the last year or so she was brought in a wheelchair to the carol service and Harvest Thanksgiving. We sympathise with her children Jimmy, Eric, George, Violet, Mary and Richard, and her grand-children and great grandchildren all of who she loved so much and was proud of. We thank God for all that has been true and good in her life and pray that her family will find God's peace and comfort in their time of loss.

Sick

Quite a number of people have been sick or have had accidents or have needed operations during the past few weeks and we wish them well and pray that they will soon be restored to full health.

Organisations

MU & Friends

We have a busy month ahead of us.

The Area Service is in Monaghan on Friday 6th at 8pm.

On Thursday 12th we will meet at the Church and do the Sli Na Slainte 3km walk. (people can also just do part of it). We will probably order ourselves supper from Gino's when we get back to the meeting room.

On Thursday 19th MU Council starts at 8pm, but at 7.30pm there is a Bring and buy sale.

On the 26th we will be having our meal out.

Table Tennis

The annual Presentation of awards of the Churches League took place at a Dinner Dance in the Lavey Inn on Friday 8th May. The Carrickmacross Club was well represented and featured prominently in the awards. In Division 6 the Individual Runner-up trophy was awarded to Patrick Murray. In Division 7 the Individual Winner was Sam McCullagh. There was great excitement connected with Division 8 as the Individual Winner was Andrew Hill, the Individual Runner-up was John McCullagh and the Division 8 team made up of John

McCullagh, Linda Merrin, Andrew Hill and Leon Keegan won the League. Congratulations to everyone involved.

Notices

Sponsored Cycle

Local man Shane O'Hanlon is taking part in a 5 day 600 km sponsored cycle through the Alps (the highest mountains in Europe) in July in aid of The Irish Hospice Foundation. Fund-raising in Market Square Centre Friday 6th and Saturday 7th May. All donations greatly appreciated.

Facebook

We remind you that we now have a Facebook page for the parish. It has the login name 'Finbarre Carrick' and is open to all parishioners and friends to get information about what is going on in the parish or to make comments and suggestions. If you want to know how to get in please contact the Vestry Secretary, Philip Keegan. Any information on the site will be more up to date than in this magazine or on our website www.carrickmacross.clogher.anglican.org.

Articles

THE NAIL

As the story goes, they built a new church building and people came from far and wide to see it. They admired its beauty! Up on the roof, a little nail heard the people praising everything about the lovely structure-except the nail! No one even knew he

was there, and he became angry and jealous. "If I am that insignificant, nobody will miss me if I quit!" So the nail then released its hold, slid down the roof, and fell in the mud.

That night it rained and rained. Soon, the shingle that had no nail blew away, and the roof began to leak. The water streaked the walls and the beautiful murals. The plaster began to fall, the carpet was stained, and the pulpit Bible was ruined by water. All this because a little nail decided to quit!

But what of the nail? While holding the shingle, it was obscure but it was also useful. Buried in the mud it was just as obscure, but now it was useless and would soon be eaten up by rust!

The moral of the story-**EVERY MEMBER IS IMPORTANT TO THE CHURCH!** You may, like the nail, feel obscure at times, but just like the nail, your absence is felt. When you are not present for worship, in some way the body of Christ hurts. We are **ALL** a part of the Lord's ministry.

A STORY TO MAKE US THINK
Two men, both seriously ill, occupied the same hospital room. One man was allowed to sit up in his bed for an hour each afternoon to help drain the fluid from his lungs. His bed was next to the room's only window. The other man had to spend all his time flat on his back. The men talked for hours on end. They spoke of their

wives and families, their homes, their jobs, their involvement in the military service, where they had been on vacation. And every afternoon when the man in the bed by the window could sit up, he would pass the time by describing to his room-mate all the things he could see outside the window.

The man in the other bed began to live for those one-hour periods where his world would be broadened and enlivened by all the activity and colour of the world outside. The window overlooked a park with a lovely lake. Ducks and swans played on the water while children sailed their model boats. Young lovers walked arm in arm amidst flowers of every colour of the rainbow. Grand old trees graced the landscape, and a fine view of the city skyline could be seen in the distance.

As the man by the window described all this in exquisite detail, the man on the other side of the room would close his eyes and imagine the picturesque scene. One warm afternoon the man by the window described a parade passing by. Although the other man couldn't hear the band - he could see it in his mind's eye as the gentleman by the window portrayed it with descriptive words.

One night the man beside window died. As soon as it seemed appropriate, the other man asked if he could be moved next to the window. The nurse was happy to make the switch, and after making sure he was

comfortable, she left him alone. Slowly, painfully, he propped himself up on one elbow to take his first look at the world outside. Finally, he would have the joy of seeing it all himself. He strained to slowly turn to look out the window beside the bed. It faced a blank wall.

The man asked the nurse what could have compelled his deceased room-mate who had described such wonderful things outside this window. The nurse responded that the man was blind and could not even see the wall. She said, "Perhaps he just wanted to encourage you."

Epilogue. . . .

You can interpret the story in any way you like. But one moral stands out: There is tremendous happiness in making others happy, despite our own situations. Shared grief is half the sorrow, but happiness when shared, is doubled. If you want to feel rich, just count all of the things you have that money can't buy.

Stories provided by Rosaleen Coleman