



Anglican Communion - Church of Ireland - Diocese of Clogher

## Carrickmacross, Magheracloone and Ardragh Group of Parishes



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



# Newsletter

November 2011

## Worship

### Remembrance Sunday

On Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November we remember those from our parish who died in the World Wars of the last century and in the service of the United Nations since then. We will observe two minutes silence and have special prayers.

### Midweek Communions

Each Wednesday at 10.30am in St. Finbarr's we have a said communion service. We have a particular concern for all that is going on in the community as we pray and for those who are not well.

### Crossduff Carols

The first of the Carol Services in the area is held in the church between Shantonagh and Lough Egish. It will be held on Sunday

4<sup>th</sup> December at 3pm and will be conducted by the Rev George Beattie of the Ematrix Group. The preacher will be the Revd. David Nesbitt of Ballybay. The soloist will be Ms Emily Fleming and the organist will be Mrs Wendy Sloane. All are welcome.

### Carol Services

Because we are rather 'short' of Sundays in December this year we will have all our Carol Services on the one day, the 18<sup>th</sup> December. Ardragh will be first at 1pm which will be a Communion Service followed by Magheracloone at 3pm and Carrickmacross at 7pm at which the young people are planning to do something special.

### Community Carols

All the churches in Carrickmacross will get together for a Carol Service in St. Joseph's Church on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm. We hope there will be a good attendance from our congregation.

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

## Christmas Communions

This year we are changing the arrangements a little with the 11.30pm Midnight Communion in Carrickmacross on Christmas Eve and a 9.15am Communion in Magheracloone on Christmas morning. There will be services in Carrickmacross at 8am and 10.30am on Christmas morning.

## Auction of Promises

On Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December we are having a fund raiser with a difference. In the Shirley Arms at 8pm we will be auctioning all sorts of novelty items. Cutting a lawn, making a Christmas Cake, people are offering to do all sorts of helpful promises and help the parish make money as well. We are fortunate to have Philip McElwaine as auctioneer. We are inviting every parishioner to try to donate one item/promise. Items already being mentioned include babysitting, a desert of the bidders choice, a collapsible wardrobe, a wooden advent calendar, items suitable for Christmas, a child's coat, a watch, a designer bag, decorating a room.

Magheracloone and Ardragh parishes are also taking part and will take part of the proceeds as well. We hope for good support

for this.

We will have another planning meeting on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November at 8pm in the Parish Room. Offers in by that date will be in the catalogue.

## Parish News

### Magheracloone S.V.

We will have a special meeting of the Select Vestry on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November at 8pm at which we will look at the background to the work of a Select vestry. This presentation went well in Carrickmacross and we hope it will be as helpful in M'cloone.

### Select Vestry

Carrickmacross Select Vestry will meet on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November at 8pm in the Parish Room. Please note the change of date.

### Confirmation Classes

These are being held in Castleblayney Church covering the whole Rural Deanery area. In November they will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Confirmation date is most likely to be the 11<sup>th</sup> March at 3.30pm.

### Study Group

We are moving along nicely through the Second letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians. In November we continue on

## THIS MONTH

Sunday	6 <sup>th</sup>	3.30pm	Clontibret Praise
Monday	7 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Study Group in Parish Room
Wednesday	9 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Midweek Communion
Friday	11 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Junior Table Tennis
Tuesday	15 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Magheraclaune Select Vestry
Wednesday	16 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Midweek Communion
		8.00pm	Auction of Promises planning meeting
Thursday	17 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Mothers' Union and Friends, Parish Room
Friday	18 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Confirmation Class, Castleblayney
		7.30pm	Junior Table Tennis
Saturday	19 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Youth Club in Parish Room
Monday	21 <sup>st</sup>	8.00pm	Study Group in Parish Room
Wednesday	23 <sup>rd</sup>	10.30am	Midweek Communion
Thursday	24 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Carrickmacross Select Vestry
Friday	25 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Junior Table Tennis

## NEXT MONTH

Thursday	1 <sup>st</sup>	8.00pm	Auction of Promises in Shirley Arms Hotel
Friday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	7.00pm	Confirmation Class, Castleblayney
Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup>	3.00pm	Crossduff Carol Service
Saturday	17 <sup>th</sup>	3.00pm	Children's Christmas Party, Jackson Hall
Sunday	18 <sup>th</sup>	1.00pm	Ardragh Carol Service
		3.00pm	Magheraclaune Carol Service
		7.00pm	Carrickmacross Carol Service
Saturday	24 <sup>th</sup>	11.30pm	Midnight Communion in Carrickmacross

Monday nights the 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> at 8pm in the Parish Room in Carrickmacross.

## Reports

### Ardragh Heating

The new heating radiators have been installed and while we have not had a real chance to test them yet they seemed to have worked

well at the Harvest Thanksgiving. We would like to thank Mrs Sadie Breaden who had a great deal of difficulty locating them and getting them delivered.

### Thanks

We would like to thank Herbert and Bill Kenny for their work on the church gutters at St. Finbarr's. They badly needed cleaning out

## Sunday Services

### *6<sup>th</sup> November 2011, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Advent, Proper 27*

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

### *13<sup>th</sup> November 2011, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Advent, Proper 28*

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

### *20<sup>th</sup> November 2011, 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday before Advent, Proper 29*

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

### *27<sup>th</sup> November 2011, Advent Sunday*

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

### *4<sup>th</sup> December 2011, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent*

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

## Parish Ministry Team

**Rector:** Rev Robert Kingston, 042 9661931, 087 6386463

Email: [rgk@eircom.net](mailto:rgk@eircom.net) Website: [www.carrickmacross.clogher.anglican.org](http://www.carrickmacross.clogher.anglican.org)

and are very awkward to work on so we are doubly grateful to them for taking the time to do this.

## Harvest Thanksgivings

We would like to thank our

special preachers, the Rev George Beattie in Ardragh, the Rev Canon Cecil Mills in Carrickmacross and the Rev Richard Moore in Magheraclone. As usual the churches were beautifully

decorated and we thank all the parishioners who prepared them.

## Anniversary

The Revd Canon Bertie Breaden celebrated 50 years in the ordained ministry of the church in Magheraclone on Sunday the 23<sup>rd</sup> October in the presence of over a hundred friends, family and parishioners. It was a most uplifting occasion and we are delighted that he chose to come back to his roots for it. We wish him many more fruitful years of ministry in Portree on the Isle of Skye.

## People

### Bereavement

We extend our sympathy to Eileen Whyte and her family on the death of Isaac on the 19<sup>th</sup> October. He was buried in Ardragh after the funeral service in St. Patrick's Church. Isaac was well known as a great character and able farmer as well as being the school bus driver in the area for many years. His many community contacts were borne out by the large representative attendance at his funeral. We pray that his family will find comfort in the Lord at this sad time of parting.

## Organisations

### MU & Friends

On Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> 8pm we will have a questions night. It is hoped we will share our thoughts, ideas and wisdom on various issues we have or are facing.

### Youth Group

Our new venture has begun and will be continued on the 19<sup>th</sup> of November at 7.00pm in the Parish Room in Carrickmacross. The opening nights have been great fun and we look forward to developing the programme as we go along.

## Article

### Bishops' Pastoral

October 2011

For some time the bishops of the Church of Ireland had planned to undertake a review of their Pastoral Letter of 2003 on human sexuality. The recent debate in the Church of Ireland on issues of sexuality has given added impetus to the bishops' process of reflection. We also hope, in a structured way, to engage the church at every level in this endeavour.

It is helpful, at the outset, to affirm clearly the teaching of the

church on marriage. The Book of Common Prayer describes marriage as ‘part of God’s creation and a holy mystery in which man and woman become one flesh.’ It is to be monogamous, with a publicly declared intention that it be life-long. The church’s teaching has been faithfulness within marriage as the normative context for sexual expression.

The state, in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, has provided in law for civil partnerships between persons of the same gender. Such partnerships are one means of conferring specific legal rights, but may not necessarily involve sexual expression. It is clear that they are not recognised by the church as marriage. Indeed they are not recognised by the state as marriage in either jurisdiction. However, because civil partnerships are narrowly limited to people of the same gender, they are often perceived as an equivalent to or imitation of marriage for same sex couples.

Recent well-publicised events within the Church of Ireland concerning the issue of serving clergy and civil partnerships have caused considerable hurt and

confusion to many. Others saw what had happened as a positive development. In the Church of Ireland as a whole, in consequence, this has led to a painful experience of disunity. We as bishops take very seriously our responsibility at this time to act in a way that will help to further the unity of the church in truth and love. These issues reflect the difficulties experienced within the wider Anglican Communion, which in recent years has found itself tragically divided by the debate concerning human sexuality.

The bishops’ Pastoral Letter of 2003, appended to this statement, ended with the following words:

‘This is an area of life where deeply held views, powerful emotions and the potential for causing great harm hold sway. We may have to learn how or whether we will be able to live peaceably and with integrity with very different viewpoints within the family of the Church and the household of faith.’

While the 2003 Pastoral Letter laid out the situation, it did not put in place a means by which the church could adequately engage with the challenges expressed in the document, and find a way

forward. We are now commending a means by which the church can work through these issues and hopefully come to a common mind. This will involve sustained and committed work for the bishops and for the entire membership of the General Synod in particular.

We plan to organise a major conference in Spring 2012, to which members of the General Synod and some others will be invited. The purpose of the conference is to discuss the content of this Pastoral Letter, to assist the church in becoming more fully informed, and to explore wider issues related to human sexuality. In preparation for this conference, we commit ourselves, as bishops, to additional meetings, including a retreat, where we will study and pray together. The conference is not envisaged to be an end in itself. Study in biblical, theological and legal issues, both before and after the conference, needs to be encouraged and undertaken.

We urge people of all shades of opinion within the Church of Ireland to refrain from any actions or the use of emotive or careless language which may further exacerbate the situation within the

Church. Such restraint will greatly facilitate the work ahead.

We commend this entire process to the prayers of the Church.

The Archbishops and Bishops of  
the Church of Ireland:

The Most Revd Alan Harper,  
Archbishop of Armagh

The Most Revd Michael Jackson,  
Archbishop of Dublin &  
Glendalough

The Most Revd Richard Clarke,  
Bishop of Meath & Kildare

The Rt Revd Harold Miller,  
Bishop of Down & Dromore

The Rt Revd Paul Colton, Bishop  
of Cork, Cloyne & Ross

The Rt Revd Ken Clarke, Bishop  
of Kilmore, Elphin & Ardagh

The Rt Revd Ken Good, Bishop of  
Derry & Raphoe

The Rt Revd Michael Burrows,  
Bishop of Cashel & Ossory

The Rt Revd Alan Abernethy,  
Bishop of Connor

The Rt Revd Trevor Williams,  
Bishop of Limerick & Killaloe

The Rt Revd Patrick Rooke,  
Bishop of Tuam, Killala &

Achonry

The Rt Revd John McDowell,  
Bishop of Clogher

## JOKES THAT COULD BE TOLD IN CHURCH

Provided by a Parishioner

Two boys were walking home from Sunday school after hearing a strong preaching on the devil. One said to the other, 'What do you think about all this Satan stuff?' The other boy replied, 'Well, you know how Santa turned out. It's probably just your Dad.'

~~~~~  
 Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, 'Why is the bride dressed in white?' The mother replied, 'Because white is the colour of happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life.' The child thought about this for a moment then said, 'So why is the groom wearing black?'

~~~~~  
 A little girl, dressed in her Sunday best, was running as fast as she could, trying not to be late for Bible class. As she ran she prayed, 'Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!' While she was running and praying, she tripped on a curb and fell, getting her clothes dirty and tearing her dress. She got up, brushed herself off, and started running again! As she ran she once again began to pray, 'Dear Lord, please don't let me be late...But please don't shove me either!'

~~~~~  
 An elderly woman died last month. Having never married, she requested no male pallbearers. In her handwritten instructions for her memorial service, she wrote, 'They wouldn't take me out while I was alive, I don't want them to take me

out when I'm dead.'

~~~~~  
 A police recruit was asked during the exam, 'What would you do if you had to arrest your own mother?' He answered, 'Call for backup.'

~~~~~  
 A Sunday School teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem .. A small child replied, 'They couldn't get a baby-sitter.'

~~~~~  
 A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to 'Honour thy father and thy mother,' she asked, 'Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?' Without missing a beat, one little boy answered, 'Thou shall not kill..'

~~~~~  
 At Sunday School they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings. Little Johnny seemed especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs. Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and she said, 'Johnny, what is the matter?' Little Johnny responded, 'I have pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife.'

~~~~~  
 You don't stop laughing because you grow old.. You grow old because you stop laughing! Take heed and pass these along to people who need a laugh. I thought you would enjoy this....times are tough right now...for all of us... so we need something to make the day a happy place. "They" haven't found a way to tax you for laughing yet.