



Anglican Communion – Church of Ireland – Diocese of Clogher

Carrickmacross and Magheraclone with Ardragh Group of Parishes



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



The Parish Monthly

December 2009

Worship

Crossduff Carols

This is the one service (apart unfortunately from funerals) which is held annually in this lovely little church, just off the Shercock Road out of Lough Egish. We would encourage people who have not made a visit to this church recently to come and join in the worship at this years Carol Service and encourage those who are caring for this closed church so lovingly. Service time is 3pm on the 6th December.

MU Carols

The Diocesan Mothers' Union are holding their annual Carol service in Newtownbutler on Sunday 6th at 7.00pm and would be very pleased to have support from our end of the Diocese. Newtownbutler is just a few miles beyond Clones and is really quite central for



people from both the northern and southern areas of the Diocese.

Ardragh Carols

The combined Carol Service and Christmas Communion in St. Patrick's Ardragh will be held on the Sunday before Christmas, the 20th December, at the usual service time there of 1.00pm.

Magheraclone Carols

This service will be held on Sunday the 20th December at 3.00pm and we look forward to the rare treat of live music and good congregational singing to lift our spirits at the end of this dreary

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

year of 2009. There will be no morning service that Sunday.

Carrickmacross Carols

There will be two Carol Services in St. Finbarr's this year. The first will be a family Carol Service on Sunday 13th at 10.30am when the Sunday School will be putting on a special Christmas Pageant. The second will be on the following Sunday, the 20th at 7.00pm when we will have a traditional Advent Carol service of Carols and Readings. There will be no morning service on the 20th.

Community Carols

We are all invited to a community carols service in St. Joseph's on Tuesday 22nd December at 7.30pm. Mrs Pat Cotter is arranging this and has asked us to provide a number of readers which we will arrange nearer the time.

Christmas Communion

There will be five Christmas Communion services in the Group. One of the guidelines in our church is that we should receive communion regularly but at the very bare minimum at Christmas and Easter and one other time if we wish to be regarded as still being in communion with our church.

The first Holy Communion Service for Christmas is on Sunday the 20th at 1.00pm in Ardragh which is combined with their Carol Service. The second is a midnight service in Magheraclone on the 24th at 11.30pm. Next is the 8.00am early Christmas Communion in St. Finbarr's followed by a 9.15am service in Magheraclone and finally the 10.30am again in St. Finbarr's

Prayer Meeting

This month's 9.00pm Prayer meeting will be on Sunday 13th. This time round we will vary the format and have a particular concern for Climate Change ahead of the Copenhagen Conference which will be held later in the month.

Midweek Communion

In December we will have our midweek service each Wednesday at 10.30am in St. Finbarr's.

Lutheran Service

The Saturday before Christmas is always busy but especially so this year. The Lutheran community in the area are holding their Christmas worship in St. Finbarr's at 6.00pm and all are welcome.

THIS MONTH

Sunday	6 th	3.00pm Crossduff Carol Service 7.00pm MU Carol Service, Newtownbutler
Monday	7 th	2.30pm Monaghan Orphans AGM, Clones 7.00pm Confirmation Class 8.00pm Select Vestry, Carrickmacross
Tuesday	8 th	8.00pm Hymn Rehearsal, Carrickmacross
Wednesday	9 th	10.30am Midweek Communion 8.00pm Bowls
Thursday	10 th	MU and friends Bowling night
Friday	11 th	7.30pm Junior Table Tennis
Sunday	13 th	10.30am Children's Pageant and Carols 9.00pm Prayer time, St. Finbarr's
Monday	14 th	7.00pm Confirmation Class 8.00pm Study Group, Parish Room
Wednesday	16 th	10.30am Midweek Communion 8.00pm Bowls
Friday	18 th	7.30pm Junior Table Tennis
Saturday	19 th	3.00pm Children's Christmas Tree Party 6.00pm Lutheran Service, St. Finbarr's
Sunday	20 th	Carol Services
Tuesday	22 nd	7.30pm Community Carol Service, St. Joseph's
Wednesday	23 rd	10.30am Midweek Communion
Thursday	24 th	11.30pm Christmas Eve Communion, M'Cloone
Friday	25 th	8.00am Christmas Communion Carrickmacross 9.15am Christmas Communion Magheraclone 10.30am Christmas Communion, Carrickmacross

NEXT MONTH

Friday	1 st	10.30am New Year's Day Communion, C'macross
Wednesday	6 th	10.30am Epiphany Communion, Carrickmacross
Tuesday	19 th	7.30pm Unity Week Service, St. Finbarr's

Parish News

Confirmation Class

We have a very bright and lively

class this year who are making our sessions most interesting. We will soon be having a break over the Christmas period but please

Sunday Services

6th December 2009, 2nd Sunday in Advent,(Purple)

Malachi 3.1-4, Benedictus, Philippians 1.3-11, Luke 3.1-6

Carrickmacross	10.30am	HC	Rector
Magheracluone	11.45am	MP	Rector
Ardragh	1.00pm	MP	Rector

13th December 2009, 3rd Sunday in Advent (Purple)

Zephaniah 3.14-20, Song of Isaiah, Philippians 4.4-7, Luke 3.7-18

Carrickmacross	8.00am	HC	Rector
Carrickmacross	10.30am	Carols	Rector
Magheracluone	11.45am	MP	Rector

20th December 2009, 4th Sunday in Advent,(Purple)

Ardragh	1.00pm	HC & Carols	Rector
Magheracluone	3.00pm	Carols	Rector
Carrickmacross	7.00pm	Carols	Rector

27th December 2009, 1st Sunday of Christmas (White)

1 Samuel 2.18-20,26, Psalm 148, Colossians 3.12-17, Luke 2.41-52

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

3rd January 2010, 2nd Sunday of Christmas....(White)

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

Carrickmacross	10.30am	HC	Rector
Magheracluone	11.45am	MP	Rector
Ardragh	1.00pm	MP	Rector

10th January 2010, 1st Sunday after Epiphany (White)

Zephaniah 3.14-20, Song of Isaiah, Philippians 4.4-7, Luke 3.7-18

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

Parish Ministry Team

Rector: Rev Robert Kingston, 042 9661931, 087 6386463

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continue to pray for Linda, Lor a, Grace, Matthew and George as they prepare for this important decision. We are grateful to the parents who are sitting in on the items for the tea will be very welcome. The Parish would like to have a healthy eating policy but that may not work entirely on this occasion.

Select Vestry

There will be a meeting of the Select Vestry in Carrickmacross on Monday 7th December at 8.00pm. We have a number of important issues to sort out and we request a full attendance. We keep the number of these meetings to a minimum so it is important to have everyone possible in attendance when they are held.

Hymn Rehearsal

We are having an extra practice in St. Finbarr's on Tuesday 8th December to run over the Christmas music. We invite anyone interested in improving the singing to come along.

Children's Party

This party is for all the children who are members of any of the three churches in our Group. It will be held on Saturday 19th December in the Jackson Hall from 3.00pm to about 5.00pm. Last year a number of parents stayed which was a great help and we hope that the same will happen this year. The Parish will help Santa organise the presents but

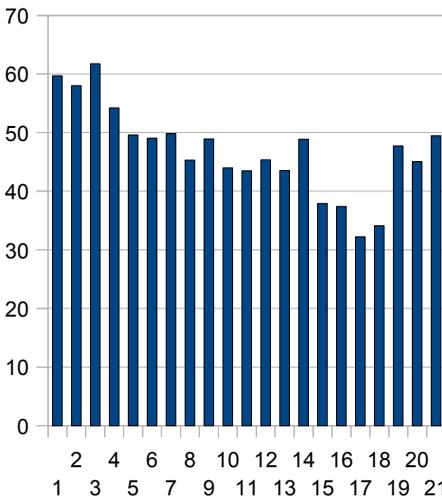
Monaghan Orphan AGM

The annual open meeting of the supporters and collectors will take place in the Clones Hall on Monday 7th December at 2.30pm. The accounts for the year will be presented and new officers elected. It is important that any committee charged with handling other peoples money should be elected with good support and it is important to have a good number at this meeting. Refreshments are provided by the host Parish and all are welcome.

Reports

Carrickmacross Church Attendances

We have just had a look at average attendances in St. Finbarr's over the last twenty one year period from 1988 to 2009. It is sad to see how numbers have dropped so dramatically since the 1980's, having been over 60 in 1990 they dropped to just over 30 in 2004, but it is good to see that there seems to be a gradual trend upwards, despite a drop last year, over the past four years.



We have sadly just said a final goodbye to Archdeacon Victor Foster who was a greatly loved Archdeacon of Clogher in the past and who died recently. When your Rector was Rector of Virginia in Co. Cavan he was also in charge of Bailieborough which had no rector at the time. After retirement Archdeacon Foster came to live part time in Bailieborough and assisted in the parish. Mullagh Church was almost unattended at the time but Victor had a wonderful technique of visiting, getting to know people and then asking the question “Tell me are you the kind of people who keep your promises?” Of course everyone would react strongly and say that of course they were. “Why is it then”, he would say, “that when you were baptised and

Confirmed you promised you would come to church but I never see you there?” Of course he also led worship beautifully and in no time he put Mullagh Parish back on its feet. I have always admired his technique but I have never had the courage to emulate it.

Its good to see that without such friendly persuasion more people do seem to be finding spiritual value in worshipping with us. And don't be saying that this is anything to do with the clergy it is to do with the warmth and friendliness of the worshippers and the quality of the worship offered.

Diocesan News

Team Ministry

The Parishes of Clones, Aghdrumsee and Ematris Groups will be ministered to by a team ministry until full time ministers can be found. In overall charge will be the Rural Dean, the Rev Helene Steed. In the Ematris Group Sunday services will be arranged by the Rural Dean and the Diocesan Office and regular visiting will be undertaken by Mrs Marie McCordick in Drum and Aghabog and by Mr Walter Pringle in Aghnamullen, Rockcorry and Dartrey. Both of them will also assist in Aghdrumsee and Clones. As well as his primary duties as Rector of

Carrickmacross Group in the Ematrix Group the Rev Robert Kingston will chair all Select Vestry meetings and arrange Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals. Canon Robert Riddle and the Rev David Skuce will also be part of the team assisting as required in this Group. It is hoped that this will give a sense of continuity and adequate ministry to the Ematrix Group during the ongoing vacancy.

Carrickmacross Leak

Sincere thanks to Mr Herbert Kenny and Mr Graham Howell for fixing a serious leak in the church tower during the recent storms. Water was penetrating the tower through a broken door at the base of the spire and if unchecked would have come right down to floor level. They tell us that more work will have to be done when the weather improves but we thank them both for the running repairs done at the height of the storm.

People

Sick

We continue to pray for all those parishioners who are currently unwell at home, in nursing homes or in hospital. Despite all the gloom that seems to surround our Health service it is good to hear so many testimonies to excellent and caring treatment from so many

health care workers.

Bereavement

We extend our sympathy to Mrs Shirley and her family and to his sister Mary, on the death of Major John Evelyn Shirley of Ettington and Lough Fea. He died peacefully at home on the Isle of Man on 7th November 2009 aged 86. When living in Lough Fea he had been very much involved in parish and diocesan matters.

Organisations

MU and Friends

In November members were privileged to be invited to O'Gorman's Supervalu at the Market Square for a Meat and Cookery demonstration. All involved went to endless trouble to make us feel welcome and it was a most informative evening. O'Gorman's ran a raffle for us and there were ample supplies of samples for tasting. It really was a most enjoyable event and our sincere thanks go to Mr Eugene O'Gorman for his generosity, his staff who stayed back for the evening and the professional food expert who combined to make it so enjoyable.

The December plan for a nights Ten Pin Bowling has been changed to a meal out in the

Riverbank Restaurant in Killanny on Thursday 10th December at 8.00pm.

Plans for January are a 'Pot-Luck' Party in Mrs Doreen Monahan's lovely new home on Thursday 14th January at 8.00pm. We hope there will be a good turn out of members.

Bowls

The Jackson Hall Bowling Club is going well this year having welcomed some new members as well as the familiar faces. There is a busy round of friendly matches in full swing with the bowling being matched by the fun and the excellent food provided for the suppers. In November we played away in St. Patrick's, Monaghan, in Aghabog and Billyhill. In December we travel to Castleblayney and welcome Billis. The first match of the new year is on the 6th January when Castleblayney make a return visit to us as do Ballyalbany on the 13th after which we travel to Bailieboro on the 30th.

Table Tennis

The junior club is really buzzing at the moment thanks to enthusiastic members and very supportive parents. Our Division 8 team won their match against

Bailieboro 22-12 and lost their match against the Drung Div. 7 team by a narrow margin. Our Division 7 team won 21-12 against Drung and lost against Bailieboro 23-10. During December there will be matches against Monaghan Newbliss and Corroneary and we wish our teams well in these.

The Senior club is also practising on Friday nights in the Jackson Hall.

Notices

Senior Helpline

A report on rural isolation was recently launched by Monaghan Integrated development. One of its recommendations is to promote a helpline which is available to older people.

Senior Help Line is a national confidential listening service which exists to meet the needs of older people. It received over 100,000 calls in 2008.

If you need someone to talk to ring LoCall 1850 440 444. It is open every day from 10am to 4pm and 7pm to 10pm, 365 days of the year.

