



Church of Ireland
A province of the Anglican Communion

APRIL 2020

**South Donegal
Rural Deanery**

Newsletter

The Donegal Group of Parishes Donegal, Killymard, Lough Eske & Laghey

RECTOR'S THOUGHTS

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Take time over Holy Week and Easter to ponder these three great truths every day. These are the foundation stones of our Christian faith and they are full of comfort, hope and peace.

Wishing you a holy Lent and a happy Easter,

David

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Wed 25 Mar	Lent Service, 8pm Killymard
Fri 27 Mar	Messy Church, 6.30pm at Presbyterian Church
Wed 1 Apr	Lent Service, 8pm Laghey
Fri 3 Apr	BB Display, Laghey Hall
Sun 5 Apr	Contemporary Service, Methodist Church

EASTER VESTRY AND TRIENNIAL ELECTIONS

Our Easter Vestry dates are (all at 8pm):

Mon 20th April	Lough Eske
Tue 21st April	Donegal
Mon 27th April	Killymard
Thu 30th April	Laghey

All parishioners are invited and encouraged to attend these annual meetings. They are also the time for us to elect People's Churchwardens and Glebewardens, Secretaries and Treasurers, and Select Vestries. Every three years we also elect Parochial Nominators and Diocesan Synod persons. Parochial Nominators are involved in the appointment of a rector when a vacancy occurs in the parish. Diocesan Synod persons attend the annual Diocesan Synod held in October. They can be further elected to represent the Diocese on the General Synod which is a three day event usually in Dublin or Armagh.

DONEGAL PARISH

Our February **FAMILY SERVICE** saw the lessons and prayers led by Holly Browne, Michaela Oberholzer, Lewis McCalmont, Jack Cooke, Liana Given and Robert Harron. As always the children took part in singing the song 'How great is our God.' We have a great crop of young children coming through, which is encouraging to see.

The parish will hold a **DANCE** on Thursday 23rd

April from 9pm, with music by Country Traditions. Speak to William Jervis or any vestry member for a ticket.

ON THE MOVE

From 24-26th April our Group of Parishes will host the Derry and Raphoe Youth weekend 'On the Move' which will involve a team of 20 or more young people coming to Donegal to spend the weekend serving the community in practical ways. These teenagers will travel from across the diocese and hit the ground running as they fan out into Donegal Town and Laghey to pick litter, paint fences, tidy gardens and do whatever else needs doing around our area. Please listen out for further details of how you can be involved in this great project – we will need 'all hands on deck' and it will be great fun!

HOLY WEEK & EASTER 2020

Holy Week Services:

Wed 8th April 8pm	Donegal Methodist Church (Preacher Stephen Richmond)
Thurs 9th April 8pm	Donegal Presbyterian Church (Preacher David Huss)
Good Friday 10th April 11am	Donegal Parish Church (Preacher John Montgomery)
Good Friday 10th April 8pm	Killymard Parish Church

Easter Day Services (12th April):

Dawn Service @ the Old Abbey, Donegal Town (time to be confirmed)	
8.30am	Lough Eske
9.30am	Killymard
10.45am	Laghey
12.00noon	Donegal

ROTA

Flowers: E. Browne & N. Browne.

Brass: Vacant

SYMPATHY

We were saddened to learn of the death of Nicholas Davin, Donegal Town, and extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Liz, daughters Kay, Elizabeth and Eleanor and grandsons Colm and Liam and the extended Davin family.

KILLYMARD

The **KILLYMARD LADIES AND FRIENDS** enjoyed a lovely meal and evening out on Wednesday 4th in the Abbey Hotel. Thanks to Mandy Ellis for organising.

At the time of writing these notes, the Rector has already gone on his visit to Nigeria. We hope he has a safe journey and look forward to hearing about his trip on his return.

ROTA

Doreen Morrow and Kathleen Irwin

LOUGH ESKE

Work on our **CHURCH AVENUE** will commence after Easter. We are very grateful to all who helped raise money for this. We are taking names for our Mount Snowden climb. Please ask any of the Lough Eske church members for information.

LAGHEY

FAMILY SERVICE

Our February Family Service was as usual well attended with children and their families. The Lessons and the Prayers were as usual read by the children with Kyle Harron, Ciara McGroary, Leon Given and Casey Harron reading the lessons and Callum Harron and Kieran Given reading the prayers. The collection was taken up by Casey Harron and Kyle Harron and the children all sang together the song "How Great is our God" with their usual enthusiasm.

DEEPEST SYMPATHY

Martha McElhinney nee Scott

Martha McElhinney nee Scott, Drumlask passed away suddenly on Sunday, 16th February. Her funeral service in Rathneeny Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, 18th was followed by burial in the adjoining graveyard. To her husband David and family and the Scott family circle, Trummon, deepest sympathy is extended.

Naomi Lynn

The thoughts and prayers of the parish are with Margaret Love and her family, Copany on the tragic death of her granddaughter, Naomi following a car accident in Northern Ireland. Naomi was twenty one years old at Christmas and was going to graduate from college in June. To her mother, Barbara Love, sister Jenna, Grandmother Margaret, aunts, uncles and cousins, great-grandmother Gretta and all the Johnston and Love family circle deepest sympathy is extended.

ROTA

Cleaning: Margaret Love, Joan Johnston

Flowers: Margaret Love

Marriage

Benjamin Cohen & Rebecca McClean

Donegal, 29th February 2020

Archdeacon David Huss

Tel: 074 9721075

The Group of Parishes of Ardara, Glenties, Glencolumbcille, Inniskeel, Lettermacaward

ARDARA

THOUGHTS FROM OUR BIBLE STUDIES

Psalms 56:3 says, "When I am afraid, I put my trust in thee." Notice it does not say, "I never struggle with fear." Fear strikes and the battle begins. So the Bible does not assume that true believers will have no anxieties. Instead, the Bible tells us how to fight when they strike.

For example, 1 Peter 5:7 says, "Cast all your anxieties on him, for he cares about you." It does not say, you will never feel any anxieties to cast onto God.

Trusting in God is our ultimate remedy for fear. Yet, that sometimes seems easier said than done. In fact, the more consumed with fear we become, the more distant God seems to be. That's why, when anxiety grips your heart, you should make a concerted effort to stand on the promises of the Bible and claim them as pledges from God to you personally. Look up the following scriptures:

Proverbs 3:5,6 - "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight."

Isaiah 40:31, "But those who trust in the LORD will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint."

INNISKEEL

EASTER SUNDAY

Service on Easter Sunday morning will be Holy Communion at 10.45am.

VISITORS

We look forward to welcoming our visitors back again. Easter marks the beginning of the other life of our community. We hope the weather is favourable for them.

LETTERMACAWARD

CHURCH DANCE

Our annual Church Dance planned for the 21st of March is postponed because of Coronavirus precautions.

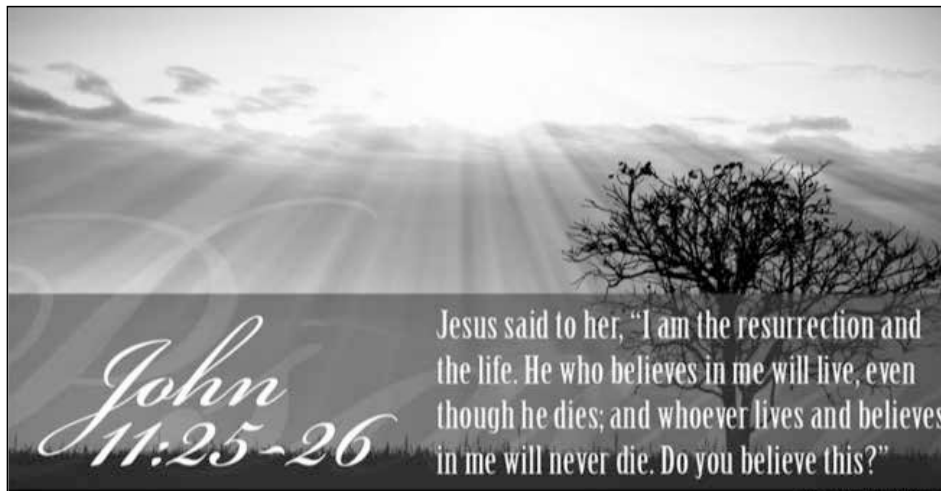
In Memoriam

BARRETT (Inniskeel) 16th Anniversary

In loving memory of John Barrett, Portnoo who died 25th April 2004.

*Those we love don't go away,
They walk beside us every day,
Unseen, unheard, but very near,
Still loved, still missed, still very dear.*

Lovingly remembered by all his family.



All the concerns about the Coronavirus and the impact on our daily life should not bury all our Christian ideas and behaviour.

Best wishes from all our parishioners

The best wishes of all parishioners go to our Rector who is off sick at present. Our thoughts and prayers are with him. We hope it won't be long until he is back with us again. We are very grateful to Canon Brian Russell for his help and support at this time. We also appreciate those who are filling in taking services during the Rector's illness namely; Rev. Ian Henderson, Canon John Deane, Canon Stanley Johnson, Esther Russell, Nuala Dudley, Georgina Armstrong, Rita Morrow and Helga Barsch.

Church of Ireland Guidance in relation to Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

The following advisory guidelines for the Church of Ireland's response regarding the novel coronavirus (Covid-19) reflect previous advice provided by the Church as a response to pandemic flu. The guidelines offer a general framework to parishes, subject to further approval or other advice that may be considered appropriate by the diocesan bishop.

1. Follow all public health guidance provided by state authorities – the Health Protection Surveillance Centre in the Republic of Ireland (www.hpsc.ie).
2. Physical interaction during services, including the Sign of Peace, should be suspended. Clergy may choose to give the congregation permission to carry out an alternative Sign of Peace that does not involve hand contact (e.g. a smile, nod or bow) if so wished. Shaking hands on greeting and departure at religious services / gatherings should be suspended. Observe good hand and general hygiene – thorough hand-washing with soap or sanitisers and disposal of tissues.
3. Stay at home if you feel ill and display influenza-like symptoms. The symptoms to be aware of in the case of the coronavirus include cough, shortness of breath, difficulty in breathing, and fever. Do not come to church services until you feel well.
4. The Church's duty of care extends to members of the clergy. If you have influenza-type symptoms, do not call the clergy for pastoral visitation. Pastoral support for parishioners who are unable to attend church services should be provided by telephone or online (e.g. Skype).
5. Everyone administering Holy Communion should wash their hands or use alcohol-based hand gel before beginning. Holy Communion should be administered only in one kind (bread) and placed into the hands only and not onto the tongue. Only the celebrant should drink from the chalice. Holy Communion is normally received in both kinds separately – bread and wine – but may be received in either kind, and those who are incapable of receiving the sacrament are to be assured that they are by faith partakers of the body and blood of Christ and of the benefits He conveys to us by them (Book of Common Prayer, p.440). Intinction should be avoided.

The Inver Group of Parishes

Inver, Mountcharles, Killaghtee & Killybegs with Kilcar

SERVICE SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Location	Service	Readings
Sunday 5th April (Palm Sunday)	9.15	Killybegs	HC	Isaiah 50:4-9a
	10.45	Killaghtee	HC	Matthew 21:1-11
	12 noon	Inver	MP	Psalms 118:19-24
Wed 8th April	8pm	Mountcharles	Compline	
Thurs 9th April (Maundy Thurs)	8pm	Killybegs	Wholeness & Healing	
Fri 10th April (Good Fri)	8pm	Killaghtee	EP	
Sunday 12th April (Easter Day)	9.15	Mountcharles	HC	Acts 10:34-43
	10.45	Killaghtee	HC	John 20:1-18
	12 noon	Inver	HC	Psalms 118:14-24
Sunday 19th April	9.15	Killybegs	MP	Acts 2:14a, 22-32
	10.45	Killaghtee	FS	John 20:19-end
	12 noon	Mountcharles	FS & HB	Psalms 16
Sunday 26th April	9.15	Killybegs	MP	Acts 2:14a, 36-41
	10.45	Inver	MP	Luke 24:13-35
	12 noon	Mountcharles	MP	Psalms 116:1-7

Last month we were reflecting on the arrival of a storm, and this month our storm comes in the form of the Coronavirus. These are uncertain times, and as more is revealed in news bulletins about the progression of the virus, we can become understandably increasingly anxious. Our call as followers of Jesus Christ is to put our trust and our hope in him, as the rock of our salvation. When troubles rise on all fronts, we know that having Christ as the captain of our ship will see us safely through. As the virus takes a firmer hold on our island, we must stand together as brothers and sisters in Christ bringing words of support and comfort. We must remind those who are anxious of that still small voice which has the power to calm the most ferocious of storms. We must remember that we are Easter people, who do not cling to the despair of the cross on Good Friday, but instead rejoice at the glorious resurrection of our Saviour on Easter morning; and we gain reassurance and comfort for ourselves as we hold onto that steadfast hope for us too. Whatever storm you are facing at the moment, hold fast to the rock of our salvation, keep firm your hope in Him and remember the words of psalm 30 'weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning' *Lindsey*

CONGRATULATIONS:

To Shane Given and Kerri Maxwell on their engagement. We wish them God's blessing as they begin this new chapter together.

A WORD OF THANKS:

Thank you to all who have been helping with our various fundraisers across the parish group. These are an important part of our parish life and enable us to work together to build

one another up in the love of Christ. Thank you to all who give so freely of their time and talent – it is very sincerely appreciated.

SICKNESS:

We continue to pray for those who are in any kind of suffering; those who are recovering from surgery, those who are awaiting test results, those who are ill at home. We also remember in prayer those in hospital, especially where visiting is restricted.

SYMPATHY:

We extend our sincere sympathy to the McElhinney and Ritchie families on the sudden passing of Martha. We also extend our sympathy to all within our community who have been bereaved recently. 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.' Matt. 5:4

LOOKING AHEAD:

BIBLE STUDY was paused during Lent but continues again on Friday 24th April, and every Friday morning at 11am in the Rectory. This is an informal time of reading and reflecting on God's word. It lasts about an hour, with tea and coffee. Everyone very welcome.

'ON THE MOVE' takes place this year in Donegal Town from Friday 24th to Sunday 26th April. This is a wonderful opportunity for young people in 6th class and above to serve locally in their community alongside their peers. It would be great to have a group from our parishes attending, especially as the event is taking place locally.

GIDEON BIBLE SPEAKER: Mr Eric Borland will be coming to our United Service at Inver on 29th March at 11am. This promises to be a very uplifting and encouraging talk. Please come along and hear about the great work being carried out by this charity.

KILLYBEGS EASTER GENERAL VESTRY MEETING in the Church on Thursday 2nd April at 7.30pm.

KILLAGHTEE EASTER GENERAL VESTRY MEETING in Killaghtee Hall on Friday 3rd April at 7.30pm.

INVER MOUNTCHARLES EASTER GENERAL VESTRY takes place on Thurs 23rd April at 7.30pm in Inver Church.

MOTHER'S DAY VINTAGE TEA in Killaghtee Hall on Saturday 21st March at 2pm

EASTER BIBLE CLUB – takes place in Doorin Hall (kindly granted) from Wed 8th April to Friday 10th April from 10.30am to 12noon. All young people of National School age are very welcome.

EASTER TROLLEY DASH: The draw for this Inver Mountcharles Fundraiser takes place on Tuesday 7th April – with the dash taking place on Saturday 11th April – don't miss out!

KILLAGHTEE CAR BOOT SALE: Our first car boot sale of the year takes place on Easter Monday, 13th April from 10am until 2pm. Don't miss out on a bargain, and our famous coffees and bakes!

'FREEZER READY LAMB': Lines are being sold in Killaghtee for a freezer ready lamb, kindly donated by one of our Select Vestry Members – €5 per line or 3 lines for €10. Don't miss out on your chance to win a whole lamb for Easter.

WIN A FREEZER READY LAMB

Kindly donated by a member of the Select Vestry



€5 per line or 3 lines for €10

All proceeds go to Killaghtee Hall repair fund
Draw to take place in time for Easter.

INVER MOTHERS' UNION

Our branch made up 33 Emergency Toiletry Bags for the use of those who find themselves suddenly in hospital either as the patient or their next of kin. These have been delivered to Letterkenny Hospital and a lovely note of appreciation was sent to the branch from the A&E Department. Our Bring & Buy/Beetle Drive scheduled for 16th March was postponed due to the continuing concerns regarding the possible spread of the coronavirus.

INVER UNION GFS

Our joint 'Games Night' with Dunkineely BB & Ardara GFS was thoroughly enjoyed by all in attendance. It was a wonderful opportunity to help our young people form links and develop friendships across our parishes. Our Festival Service this year is being hosted by Drumholm GFS on Sat. 9th May in Drumholm Parish Church at 12noon. Family, friends and parishioners are all encouraged to join with us on the day.

In Memoriam

PEARSON (KILLAGHTEE):

Remembering George, dearly loved husband, father and grandfather, and great grandfather, who died 13th April 2016. Always remembered by Mabel, family and friends.

"Years go by but memories stay"

DOBBYN (KILLAGHTEE):

In Loving Memory of Catherine died 5th April 2018
Loved and missed each day by family in Killaghtee, Ramelton, Belfast and Kent.

"You gave us many things in life.

Gifts both great and small.

But most of all you gave us love

The greatest gift of all"

KIRK (INVER):

In loving memory of our dear father Daniel who died on 3rd April, 1980, our dear brother George who died on 9th April, 1980, also our dear mother Lily who died on 21st April, 2008. Always remembered and sadly missed by William, Edwin and Phyllis and their families in Mullinboys, Donegal and Bruckless.

"Those who mean the most to us

Are never really gone

For in our thoughts and in our hearts

Their memory still lives on"

EASTER Supermarket S.W.E.E.P.

Lines for sale at €2 each or 3 lines for €5
Draw 7th April
Dash 11th April

2nd Prize: Hamper sponsored by Karen's Hair Boutique, Donegal Town

3rd Prize: €50 voucher for Londis, Mountcharles sponsored by Karen & David Graham

4th Prize: €40 voucher donated by the Market House Restaurant, Donegal Town

5th Prize: Afternoon Tea for Two in The Central Hotel, Donegal Town

Star Prize: Trolley Dash in Londis, Mountcharles

T&C Apply

In aid of Inver & Mountcharles Church Funds

All notes for the Newsletter should be with Dorothy Jervis by the 10th of the previous month. Email: dorothyjervis@gmail.com



The Methodist Church in Ireland



DUNKINEELY & ARDARA CIRCUIT

There will be no Sunday Services until further notice, indeed there will be no activities at all until further notice.

These are different and strange times that we are living in. One thing that we know that our God is in control, Romans 8:28 says this, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who[i] have been called according to his purpose."

This is a time to take stock of where we stand before our God. The two questions that I would ask myself, do I know Him personally as a friend and am I walking with Him on a daily basis, these two will give me an assurance of salvation and a deep sense of peace.

A few practical things, please follows the directions from the Government and the HSE website, these are reliable, there is a lot of fake news out there. Please isolate as much as you can, clean hands.

Youtube offer great Christian animated videos for kids from Saddleback Kids, Friends and Heroes.

For those who are thinkers, I would recommend Rave Zacharias, he is a very good apologist.

Please think about creative ways of keeping contact with those who are in Nursing Home settings or who are house bound. Phone calls and cards.

I will give you further details on how we proceed as a church in the coming days.

Psalm 23

¹ *The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.*

² *He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,*

³ *he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.*

⁴ *Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.*

⁵ *You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.*

⁶ *Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.*

The Psalms are great for reflection

In closing remember this, that when problems come there are always solutions. Our God is a good God and he is in control. I leave you now with this blessing.

*"The LORD bless you
and keep you;
the LORD make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the LORD turn his face toward you
and give you peace."*

BALLINTRA, DONEGAL & INVER CIRCUIT

All services and meetings in Donegal, Ballintra and Inver Methodist Churches have been suspended until further notice.

In these days of Covid-19 we pray for healing and protection and inner peace that only God can give.

Thank you to all who came along to our **Table Quiz**. Even though the numbers were small it was a good night. Lots of fun and a great supper provided too. It was good to get together one last time before the restrictions to meeting were brought in. On behalf of the Ballintra congregation we thank you once again.

Rev. John is posting short (6 minute) reflections on YouTube almost daily while we are in social isolation. They are called "Reflections through Covid-19" and are posted by Rev. John. They can also be accessed through our Facebook page, Donegal Ballintra and Inver Methodist circuit.

We are hoping to welcome a young couple, Christian and Elisabeth Arnold, and their son, Caspian, to work with us as Youth Pastors for the next number of years. Visas permitting they will arrive in the summer from Florida. We look forward to welcoming them into our community and into our churches. We look forward to what they can bring in ministry to our young people and young adults. So we pray for them in their preparations, in their fundraising, and in their visa application. Please join us in those prayers. Thank you.

Information regarding how we will worship together online on Sundays, pray together midweek, and access youth and children's materials and resources will be posted on Facebook in due course. In the meantime, let us do what we are asked to do as we pray.