

Mullavilly News

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The Magazine
for Mullavilly
Parish

March/April 2008

HOLY WEEK

Monday 17th-Friday 21st March
Worship each night at 8 pm

One of the traits that I've inherited from my late father is a certain degree of tight-fistedness. I don't like to spend money on things that are of little use. This meanness has increased since I started earning the minimum wage as a waiter. Now, when asked to spend £25 on something, I'm thinking "That's a whole Saturday night's labour spent on a cinema trip, or a visit to the vet! However, I do get great pleasure from looking at a possession and thinking "That was well worth the money", especially if it seemed like an extravagance at the time. Such things include my indoor/outdoor thermometer, a desk bought with much anguish 23 years ago at £180, reversing sensors on the car, a digital camera, Ruby the daschund, and every holiday with the bundle of associated memories. Some of my favourite clothes are things that were picked up in charity shops or second-hand on e-bay. Of course, there have also been many wrong choices. Things have been bought that were never used and are now in a landfill or sitting in a dark recess of the garage. These include video tapes of movies watched once, music CD's which seemed like a good idea at the time, ornaments that collect dust, a gadget to help with press-ups and countless things long forgotten that have left no impression on my memory.

The death of Jesus on the cross is referred to as a purchase. With his blood, he purchased our redemption. He paid for our salvation with his life. In my imaginings, I wonder was that a "good buy"? Or was it a waste? Does God look at the world and think, "Why did I bother? I gave my son for these people who have continued to misunderstand, disobey and ignore me. They are just as selfish, just as arrogant, just as sinful as they always were." The thing that amazes me is that God still continues to love us, love me, despite my lack of appreciation and the poverty of my response! If it had to be done again (which it doesn't) God would make the same choice, the same sacrifice, knowing that many would still fail to respond. God considers that we are worthy of being saved. He wants to include us in his Kingdom. The price that he paid with the blood of his son was his choice, reflecting his love for you, whose salvation he purchased. I am truly glad that he chose to give us that gift. Accepting that gift costs us nothing in comparison. It is a gift that is undeserved. Yet we still complain about the cost. Accepting the redemption which he bought for us demands a response. A response of worship, a response of loving others, a response of being used by God, a response of some small sacrifice or challenge or persecution. These responses are very slight in comparison to his gift to us. Do I regret my choice to follow Christ? Do you? Is it something that you have already packed away in the darker recesses? For my part, it was the best decision I ever made. I cherish the old rugged cross as a symbol of God's love and of the price paid for me. It cost me nothing but cost Jesus his life.

*May Christ, who out of defeat brings new hope
and a future, fill you with his new life.
Have a joyful and blessed Easter Celebration*

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Luke 24 v 5-6 ...Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen.



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DATE	FLOWERS	CRECHE	SCRIPTURE	FLOWER OPPORTUNITY
March 9th	Helen McClenaghan			<p>The Mothers' Union meeting on March 11th will focus on everyday Flower Arranging under the instruction of Edith Willis. Bring a vase and give it a go!</p> <p>Be Prepared The Scripture Readings for each Sunday can be found in the Prayer Book on pages 27-70. We are currently using the set for Year A. Take a look at the readings and see if you can guess the content of the sermon or suggest any suitable hymns!</p> <hr/> <p>Crèche volunteers should contact Christine, Yvonne or Elaine if they are unable to help.</p>
March 16th	Valerie Milne	Julie Magowan Joanne Milligan	Jonathan Harper	
March 23rd	Daphne Milligan		Heather Harper	
March 30th	Margaret Neill	Karen McClelland Christine Neill	Ian Howard	
April 6th	Brenda King	Elaine Neill Yvonne Neill	Leslie Irwin	
April 13th	Betty Beattie			
April 20th	Ann Rafferty	Laura McMullen Amanda Stewart	Carolyn Mayes	
April 27th	Susan Ferguson	Gladys Shortt Judith Wilson	Helen McClenaghan	
May 4th	Pauline Jennett	Nicola Wilson Mandy Wright	Mary McKee	

Baptism Anniversaries: (cards presented at Family Service)

MARCH: Molly Whiteman (1st); Ethan Topley (1st); Caitlin McCleery (1st); Holly Topley (3rd); Emma McDonald (4th); Grace Marion (4th)

APRIL: Jake Nelson (2nd)

From the Register:

Burials

January 31st David Purdy (to Ballymore)

February 22nd Sam Nesbitt (to Carnmoney)

March 1st Maurice Topley

The Caravan season is about to kick off and church attendance numbers will start to drop as the summer approaches. If you are away for the weekend, there are a number of good things you can do!

1. Attend a church near your caravan site. The Church of Ireland in Kilkeel will give you a very different experience!
2. Think about getting to Mullavilly whenever possible, perhaps the evening service or a mid-week Bible Study?
3. Make your Sunday special in some way. Read some Scripture, have a quiet moment in prayer, devote more time to your family.

COMMUNITY NEWS

The Fun Day at Chapel Lane raised over £5000 for an Aids/HIV orphanage in South Africa. The organisers have written thanking us for our support.

The Laurelvale Community Association has arranged a public meeting entitled "Improving Community Safety" All residents are invited to the Cricket Club at 7:30pm March 10th.

If you need an issue raised and cannot attend, please contact Donna Kearney (07765 884346) or Geraldine Thompson (3884 1491) in confidence.

A number of fun activities have been organised to raise funds and support for PIPS, a suicide awareness charity. This magazine is too late to highlight the Bed Push on March 1st, but there is also a charity football match on March 8th and a big Fun Day at the Cricket Club on March 22nd (Easter Eve).

Please support these events generously.

Every year, churches around the world take part in the Women's World Day of Prayer. Women of all Christian denominations meet together and participate in an act of worship and prayer drawn up by a particular country. This year, the women of Guyana have devised the service and Mullavilly is the host church for the Tandragee area. This is the first time we have hosted this service and it is a great privilege to be able to do so. The guest preacher will be the Revd Canon Liz McElhinney and we give her a very warm welcome back to Mullavilly.

If you fall into the right gender group (!) and want to share in prayer with women from almost every country in the world, then this is opportunity for you.

**FRIDAY MARCH 7TH
8 PM**

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

MULLAVILLY PARISH CHURCH

Our New Window

March 9th is the date set aside to reveal the new window in the church. The window, a gift in memory of the late Bobby McKinney, by his widow Sadie and daughter Valerie, depicts the words of the communion prayer "In communion with angels and archangels and all the citizens of heaven." The window will be dedicated to the Glory of God at the 9:30am service. This a major addition to our collection of stained glass and will prove to be an inspiration to worshippers for many generations.

Easter Vestry—April 1st at 8:00pm

This meeting is open to everyone and those who have registered as members are also entitled to vote. This year, all the posts to which people are elected will be open for re-appointment. These are:

NOMINATORS: 4 people are elected to represent the parish in the event of appointing a new rector.

DIOCESAN SYNOD MEMBERS: 4 people are elected to represent the parish at the Diocesan Synod which meets each year for a day in October.

PEOPLE'S CHURCHWARDEN: one person to serve for one year as churchwarden

PEOPLE'S GLEBEWARDEN: one person to serve for one year as glebewarden (i.e. management of building maintenance)

SELECT VESTRY: 12 people to be elected as members of the Select Vestry.

Anyone who has a vote may nominate anyone else who has a vote for any of these positions. Please ensure you have their permission to do so before proposing them.

The rector chooses and appoints one churchwarden and one glebewarden.

Overseas Link

When Billy & Jenny Smith returned home from Yei, we also discontinued our link with the Vocational Training College. In order to revitalise our interest in the area, David Gough will be our guest preacher on April 20th. David represents CMS in Egypt and Sudan. He will be telling us about his recent visit to the area. David will then return on the evening of Tuesday 22nd to discuss our involvement more fully. Please make a special effort and mark this event in your diary.

**COMING SOON: SHADES MOUNTAIN CHOIR
MAY 28th**

We are greatly privileged to be able to host a concert in May by the Shades Mountain Choir. This 400 strong choir is based in an American Baptist Church (only a small section will be visiting us). If you remember the visit by American trio "Selah" a few years ago, you know that we are in for an inspirational treat. This is one not to be missed.

MARCH

Mon 3rd	6:30pm Rainbows, Brownies & Guides 8pm Bowls
Tues 4th	10:30am Holy Communion 8:00pm Select Vestry
Wed 5th	6:30pm Boys' Club 7:30pm Choir Practice 8pm Badminton
Thurs 6th	8pm Bowls
Friday 7th	8pm The Fridge
Sunday 9th	9:30am Holy Communion & Dedication of Window 11am Family Service & Baptism 7pm Evening Prayer 8:15pm Youth Fellowship & Confirmation Class
Mon 10th	6:30pm Rainbows, Brownies & Guides 8pm Bowls
Tues 11th	10:30am Holy Communion 8pm Mothers' Union
Weds 12th	6:30pm Boys' Club 7:30pm Choir Practice 8pm Badminton
Thurs 13th	8pm Bowls AGM
Friday 14th	8pm The Fridge
Sunday 16th	9:30 & 11am Holy Communion 7pm Evening Prayer 8:15pm Youth Fellowship & Confirmation Class
Mon 17th	8:00pm HOLY WEEK SERVICE
Tues 18th	10:30am Holy Communion 8:00pm HOLY WEEK SERVICE
Weds 19th	8:00pm HOLY WEEK SERVICE
Thurs 20th	HM Queen Elizabeth II to visit Cathedral 8:00pm HOLY WEEK SERVICE
Friday 21st	8:00pm HOLY WEEK SERVICE
Saturday 22nd	Fun Day at Cricket Club 11pm: All Nighter for Youth Fellowship and Confirmation Class
EASTER DAY	Dawn Service at Argory 9:30am Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion & Baptism 7pm Easter praise
Sunday 30th	9:30am Holy Communion 11:00am Morning Prayer 7:00pm Evening Prayer

APRIL

Tues 1st	8pm Annual Easter Vestry
Sunday 6th	9:30 & 11am Holy Communion 10am Sunday School re-commences 7pm Evening Prayer 8:15pm Youth Fellowship & Confirmation Class
Monday 7th	6:30pm Rainbows, Brownies & Guides
Tues 8th	10am Prayer Meeting 8pm Bible Study
Wed 9th	6:30pm Boys' Club 7:30pm Choir Practice 8pm Badminton
Thurs 10th	Ramblin Rose lunch
Friday 11th	8pm The Fridge
Sunday 13th	9:30am Holy Communion 11am Family Service and Baptism 7pm Evening Prayer 8:15pm Youth Fellowship and Confirmation Class
Mon 14th	6:30pm Rainbows, Brownies & Guides
Tues 15th	10am Prayer Meeting 8pm Mothers' Union
Weds 16th	6:30pm Boys' Club 7:30pm Choir Practice 8pm Badminton
Friday 18th	8pm The Fridge
Sunday 20th	9:30am Holy Communion 11am CMS Visit 7pm Evening Prayer 8:15pm Youth Fellowship and Confirmation Class
Mon 21st	6:30pm Rainbows, Brownies & Guides
Tues 22nd	10am Prayer Meeting 8pm CMS Visit
Weds 23rd	6:30pm Boys' Club 7:30pm Choir Practice 8pm Badminton
Friday 25th	8pm The Fridge
Sunday 27th	9:30am Holy Communion 11am Morning prayer 7pm Evening Prayer
Monday 28th	6:30pm Rainbows, Brownies & Guides
Tuesday 29th	10am Prayer Meeting