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Deadline for next issue: 28 **September**

Nenagh Union of Parishes September 2026

Sun 6 th	9:30am	Templederry, Morning Prayer 2, Trinity 14
	11:00am	St Mary's, Morning Prayer 2
Mon 7 th	11:00am	Killodiernan, St Brendan the Navigator - Joc Sanders
Sun 13 th	11:00am	Killodiernan, Harvest Festival, Union Service
Sat 19 th	7:00pm	Templederry, Harvest Festival
Sun 20 th	11:00am	St Mary's, Family Service, Trinity 16/St Matthew Transfer
Sun 27 th	11:00am	St Mary's, Holy Communion 1, Trinity 17/St Michael
	12:15pm	Killodiernan, Holy Communion 2 and All Saints transfer
Sun 4 th Oct	9:30am	Templederry, Holy Communion 2, Trinity 18
	11:00am	St Mary's, Holy Communion 2

Parish Prayer List

Andy, Arthur, Avril, Emma, Marjorie





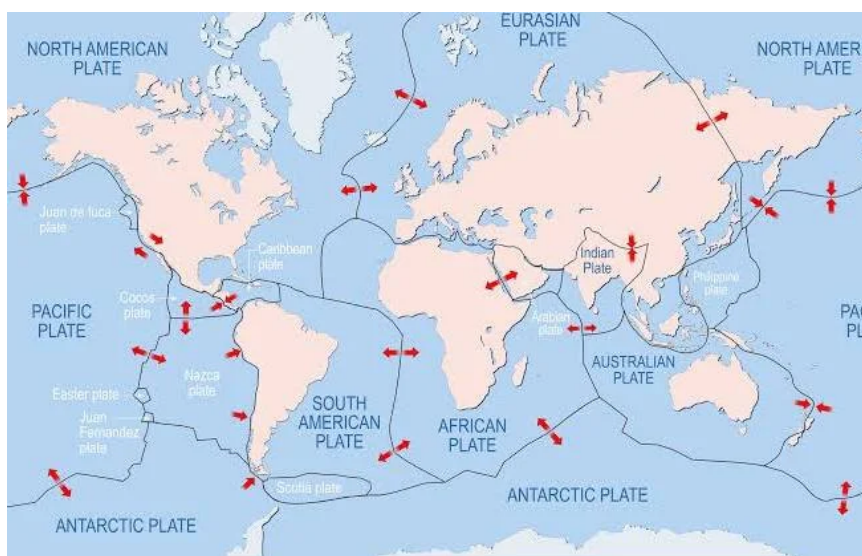
From the Rector

Africa is invading Europe.

I'm not talking about the migrant invasion of the Spanish colonies on the north coast of Morocco such as Ceuta but about *Geology* and Tectonic Plates.

The Earth's crust is divided into enormous plates that effectively float and slowly move over an incredibly hot fluid-like interior. The continent of Africa, sitting on the African Plate is moving north at a rate of about 2 inches a year, pressing up against the Eurasian Plate that we live on.

Eventually, this sort of movement builds enormous pressures that can thrust up mountain ranges as the Earth's crust buckles under the force like a rug being pushed from one edge. Alternatively the forces can build up and then the weaker side of the battle gives up suddenly as the tectonic plates slide past one another. This sudden release of force is what produces earthquakes.



And just as Africa butts into Europe, the Americas are getting further away from us every year by one inch! The Mid-Atlantic Ridge is a massive underwater mountain range and divergent tectonic plate boundary that splits the Atlantic Ocean in half from north to south. Here, the plates are pulling away from each other and the gap is being continuously filled in by magma, creating new crust for the Earth.

The Earth, which we like to think of as stable is not; it is changing everyday but at such a slow rate that we don't notice it until the massive forces involved suddenly release, often with dreadful loss of property and life. But we generally live in harmony with these forces. For instance, you might wonder why people live and farm around volcanoes such as Mt Etna in Sicily and Mt Vesuvius in mainland Italy. The answer is simple; although potentially dangerous, the rich minerals brought up from the interior of the Earth create soils of prodigious natural fertility.

The Earth is constantly changing, it is not in anything like its final state yet. And we are in flux too. We are still evolving. Only humans could be so blinded by our own pride at being at the tip of the evolutionary tree that we forget that we have a long way to go yet, should we overcome the technological hurdle of not wiping ourselves out with one of our own creations.

There is a line of wisdom in a hymn: "God is working this purpose out, as year succeeds to year". Note that it doesn't say that he has worked his purpose out, but that he is still actively doing so.

So when we think that life is dismal or that our bodies are not exactly bringing the joy that we expected from the handiwork of God, always remember that we are in flux. We are part of a plan, but greater perfection will belong to those who succeed us generation after generation until new Adams and Eves live in complete harmony with God and Creation in a new Garden of Eden.

The Harvest Festivals for Killodiernan and Templederry are noted in the schedule but please be aware we will have the Harvest Festival in St Mary's on **18th October**.

All Souls' Day Gift Appeal

An appeal is about to be launched, asking people to make a monetary gift to the Union to be ringfenced for much needed repairs to the fabric of our churches. The appeal will be targeted for All Souls' Day, the 2nd of November, asking people to make a donation in memory of a deceased family member, loved one or friend. More information will be circulated once the Select Vestry have approved the wording of the appeal.

Wedding

It was a joy to witness and bless the marriage of Ben Arrowsmith to Sarah Cooney in St Mary's on Sat 4th July.

We wish them both the very happiest of futures together.

Choral Training

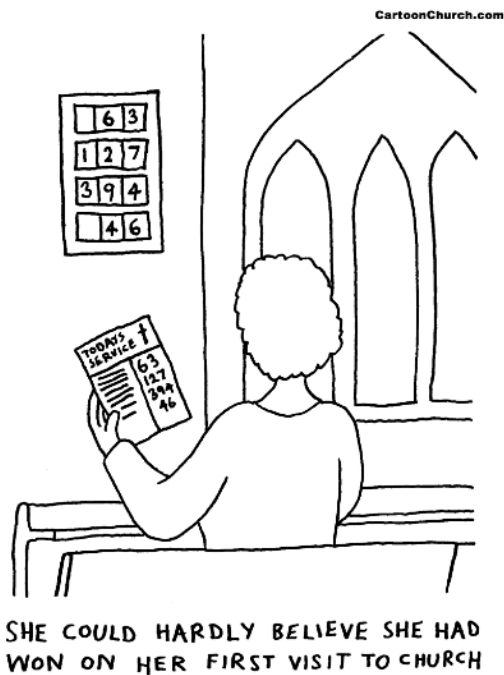
We have been invited to take part in an afternoon of Church Music training under the direction of Ian Callanan, musician and composer, at St Mary of the Rosary Church on Sat 19th Sep from 3pm, concluding with Mass at 6:15.

Unfortunately some of us will have to leave early due to the Harvest Thanksgiving in Templederry that evening but many will be able to stay too, I hope.

Whether you are part of a parish choir, folk group, youth choir, school religious choir, Gospel choir, contemporary worship group, or any other choir that sings in a faith setting, you are very welcome to join us. Come as a full choir, a small group or as an individual choir member.

This will be a wonderful opportunity for singers from different churches, parishes and Christian communities to come together as one voice, share in our common faiths and experience the power of praising God through song. During the workshop, we will also be learning a new Mass setting together, which we hope will enrich our celebration of the Eucharist and the music of our parishes.

Please do come along if you are interested in Church Music and singing.



Your Friend and Rector, Keith

Hello to you all!

I would like to express heart-felt thanks for the very warm welcome you've shown me. I'm delighted that Bishop Michael hatched such a good plan as for my internship to be here in the Nenagh Union of Parishes, and that the Reverend Keith was willing to bring me on board.



For the last ten years I have made my home in Killaloe, with my husband Simon and son Calder (and dog Dash). In 2016, we moved from Los Angeles to Simon's homeplace of County Clare. It was a good decision! I dearly love it here — the Shannon River and Lough Derg and hills and mountains and woodlands of Clare and Tipp are so very beautiful and have blessed me from the start.

I grew up in a town southwest of Houston, Texas, where my mother and brother (and his family) still live now. My background and education is in literature, creative writing, and teaching. I have taught in all kinds of settings — at universities, prisons, festivals, primary schools, and nursing homes. My own writing includes poetry, fiction, non-fiction, and songs; the intersection of art and faith is endlessly interesting to me, and I find the work of real expression vital for living life intentionally and for following Christ.

So, this is my fourth and final year of study at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute. This year is about writing our dissertation and our internship (though I'll still be going up to Braemore once a month to learn some practical ropes, like conducting weddings and church insurance!). My internship with you allows me to get 'stuck in' to parish work and rhythms, procedures and gatherings, and try out an event or two.

One idea brewing is a Thursday Song Circle — a time to sing songs together, practice chants for Sunday, share a beloved poem or two, and end with the Late Evening Office. Informal and gentle-going. I'm thinking this could kick off mid-September. It will also fit right in with the singing workshop at St Mary's of the Rosary on the 19th if we can have at least one session first.

I'm thankful for this moment-in-time in my training towards ministry, and to be with you across the year. I'll certainly be learning along the way, and hope to give and help how I can.

Every blessing to you,

Jessica

Giving thanks in the Season of Creation

I am writing this on 1st September, the first day of autumn in the meteorological calendar. We are in the season of 'mists and mellow fruitfulness', as John Keats put it in his Ode to Autumn.

It is my favourite season, I think. The garden is adorned with fruit and nuts, more than I can possibly eat, so I shall have a surplus to give away to family and friends. The apples have rosy cheeks, the pears are golden, the wild damsons in the roadside hedge have gone blue, and the filbert nuts are ready for picking. Such a harvest of good things, thanks be to God!



1st September is also the first day of the Season of Creation, which lasts right through to 4th October, the feast day of St Francis. It is a special season where we celebrate God as Creator, and acknowledge Creation as the divine continuing act that summons us as collaborators to love and care for the gift of all that is created.

Celebration of the Season has its roots in the Eastern Orthodox church, but has been taken up in recent years by all the major Christian traditions, including Roman Catholics, Methodists and our own Anglican Communion, through the efforts of the World Council of Churches. This year the theme of the liturgy they have developed for us is 'Living Water' based on the text Ezekiel 47:9,12.

⁹Wherever the river goes, every living creature that swarms will live, and there will be very many fish, once these waters reach there. It will become fresh; and everything will live where the river goes. ¹²On the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing."

Here in the Church of Ireland we have, of course, a long tradition of celebrating Creation and thanking God for feeding us through our Harvest Festivals. We will do so again this year, bringing into our churches the best fruits of the harvest. Wouldn't it be marvellous if we could also join with Christians of all traditions in an ecumenical celebration of Creation on the banks of the Shannon, our own Living Water?

We have seen both damaging droughts and floods this year, a result of global heating we have caused ourselves by burning fossil fuels and foolish land use. As we give thanks for the blessings we have received, and pray for the good earth and all its creatures, we should also lament and repent of the damage we are doing to its ecosystems, including Lough Derg.

Joc Sanders



Living Water

Season of Creation 2026

Immersion in Living Water

Ezekiel 47:9, 12

September

St Mary's, Nenagh

Cleaning volunteers:

Names currently on list: Jack Bayly, Kirsten Bayly-Parker, Lisa and Ciara Drummond, Caroline Hayes, Yvonne Hayes, Lyn Kelly, Helen Leo, Hillary Percy

4 Sept Helen Leo, Yvonne Hayes
18 Sept Lyn Kelly, Hilary Percy
25 Sept Jack Bayly
2 Oct Lisa and Ciara Drummond



Reader rota:

Names currently on list: Jack Bayly, Kirsten Bayly-Parker, Audrey Clarke-Gordon, Rose Langley, Lyn Kelly, Ann McKee,

6 Sept Rose Langley
20 Sept Audrey Clarke-Gordon
27 Sept Ann McKee
4 Oct Lyn Kelly

Flower rota:

Names currently on list: Audrey Clarke-Gordon, Yvonne Hayes, Caroline Hayes, Rose Langley

Yvonne Hayes
Audrey Clarke-Gordon

Yvonne Hayes

Killodiernan

Reader rota:

Names currently on list: Laura Clarke, Sarah-Jane Clarke, Catherine Lidwill, Mary Ryan, Adrian Gordon

13 Sept Sarah-Jane Clarke
27 Sept Adrian Gordon

Templederry

6 Sept Albert Lewis
19 Sept Frieda Powell
4 Oct Hilary Lewis

Nenagh Union of Parishes

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Dr. Jessica Brown, Interim Minister

Diocesan website - <http://www.limerick.anglican.org>

NUP website - nenaghunion.com