

St Mary's Church, Magheraculmoney Parish, Ardess

*Act of remembrance & Service of
Commemoration for
The Great Famine (1845-1852)*



*Sunday 10th September 2017
at 7.00pm.*

Service of Commemoration for
The Great Famine (1845-1852)

Led by

The Rev'd Canon Henry Blair, Rector

featuring music performed by
Fermanagh Choral Society

Conductor

Sheena Rasdale

Accompanist

Caecilia Bastian

Congregational singing led by

Ardess Church Choir

Organist

Glenn Moore

Historical Reflection by

Dorothy Pendry

Organised by

Ardess Community Association

Magheraculmoney Parish and St. Mary's Church, Ardess

A brief History

The name, Magheraculmoney, has been translated to "the plain of the back of the shrubbery" and "the plain of the peaty angle." An Order of Council was issued on 27th February 1770, dividing the parish into two, with the second parish being called Drumkeeran.

The first rector of Magheraculmoney was recorded in 1439, and records state that the Church, also previously known as Templemaghery Church, was originally built during the fourteenth century and was subsequently burnt in 1484. Part of today's present stone built structure can be dated as far back as fifty years before the Reformation. In 1622 it was noted that the Church was lately roofed, but not glazed. It has since undergone extensive alterations and enlargements during the eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Ardess Church with its three stage tower now stands proudly as a distinctive landmark. Directly beneath the Church lies the family vault of the Archdales, once one of Fermanagh's significant plantation families.

The graveyard surrounding the Church is immediately recognisable as an ancient pre-plantation graveyard and it is estimated that there is a total of 433 marked grave headstones, flat slabs and crosses, with the oldest visible date being 1679. From 1608 until 1903 the graveyard served both Protestant and Catholic families in the district. All these graves face east with the exception of the priests' who, according to local folklore, face west reportedly overlooking their flock.

Running right across and dividing the pre-plantation graveyard in two is a huge fourteen foot wide trench grave. Described locally as the Famine Pit the huge long narrow sunken grave of 120 feet was used for burial during the Great Famine of 1845 - 1852. In 1997, Ardess Community Association marked the 150th anniversary of 1847 by restoring the unmarked famine pit and creating a sensitive memorial commemorating the many forgotten famine victims from North West Fermanagh, and in 2000 an ecumenical service of dedication and commemoration was held in the churchyard.

A former incumbent, the Revd Canon F.A. Baillie, Rector from 1979-1987, published *Magheraculmoney Parish: A Short History* in 1984.

Located across the road from the church, Ardess Parish Centre, which opened in 2001, provides excellent facilities to support the many activities which the parish run. The parish also have a small Church Hall which was established in 1957 in the townland of Mullaghfarne, located approximately five miles from Ardess.

A SERVICE OF COMMEMORATION
in the context of
A LATE EVENING OFFICE

Welcome by the Revd Canon Henry Blair, Rector.

Hymn *Be Thou My Vision*

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought in the day and the night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,
I ever with thee, and thou with me, Lord;
thou my great Father, and I thy true heir;
thou in me dwelling, and I in thy care.

Be thou my breast-plate, my sword for the fight;
be thou my armour, and be thou my might;
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower,
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,
thou mine inheritance through all my days;
thou, and thou only, the first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art!

High King of heaven, when the battle is done,
grant heaven's joy to me, O bright heaven's sun,
Christ of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

*Hymn 643 in the Irish Church Hymnal Fifth Edition.
Words: Early Irish translated by Mary Byrne (1880-1931)
and versified by Eleanor Hull (1860-1935) altd.
Music: Slane, an Irish traditional melody*

Ave Verum Corpus

Words from a 14th century Eucharistic Hymn, music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-91) edited by John Rutter (b.1945)

Performed by Fermanagh Choral Society

The rector: Blessed be our God for all time, now and for evermore.

All: **Amen.**

The rector: Glory to you, our God, glory be to you, Holy Spirit, Comforter, treasure of all goodness and giver of life, come and dwell in us, cleanse us from all sin, and in your love bring us to salvation.

All: **Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

Hymn *The Lord is my Shepherd*

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; He leadeth me
The quiet waters by.

My soul He doth restore again,
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness,
E'en for His own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
Yet will I fear no ill;
For Thou art with me, and Thy rod
And staff me comfort still.

My table Thou hast furnished
In presence of my foes;
My head Thou dost with oil anoint,
And my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me,
And in God's house forevermore
My dwelling-place shall be.

A Reading from the New Testament

Matthew chapter 25 verses 31 - 46

Read by Revd Philip Bryson, Curate-assistant, Ardess.

For the beauty of the earth

by Rutter

Performed by Fermanagh Choral Society

Poem: Ardess Sorrows

by Jim Ledwith

Read by Jim Ledwith

Alleluia

by Mozart

Performed by Fermanagh Choral Society

Poem: The Scar

by John Hewitt

Read by Neville Armstrong

Prayer

Reader 1: Let us pray to the Lord with all our heart and with all our soul.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Reader 1: Let us pray for all Christian people, that they may live in love and truth.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Reader 1: Let us pray for all ministers of the Church, and for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Reader 2: Let us pray for peace throughout the world, and for all governments.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Reader 2: Let us pray for our neighbours and for all our friends.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Reader 2: Let us pray for those who hate us as we pray for those who love us.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Reader 3: Let us pray for refugees and prisoners,
and for all who are exposed to the
dangers of travel.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Reader 3: Let us pray for all sick people, for the
sorrowful and the dying.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Reader 3: Let us pray for the abundance of the
fruits of the earth, and that the poor and
hungry may receive a just share.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Reader 4: Let us remember our brothers and
sisters who have entered into eternal
rest.

All: **Blessed are the dead who die in the
Lord.**

Reader 4 Lord, in your mercy

All: **hear our prayer.**

Collect for Rogation Days

Almighty God, whose will it is that the earth and the sea should bear fruit in due season: Bless the labours of those who work on land and sea, grant us a good harvest and the grace always to rejoice in your fatherly care; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

Collect for St. Macartan's Day

Heavenly Father, we thank you for Macartan, faithful companion of Saint Patrick, and builder of your church in Clogher: Build up your church through those whom you call to leadership in this generation, and strengthen your church to proclaim the gospel of reconciliation and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

Prayer for the hungry today

Loving God, we thank you for the rich blessings you have given us. You created a world with enough food for everyone. We are sad that many families still struggle with hunger. We pray that you would be with children all around the world who are hungry today and be with us as we learn how we can make a difference in your name. Teach us to share with one another so everyone has enough. Inspire us to share our abundance with others, and prepare us to help those who are hungry. Fill the stomachs of your children who are hungry, and guide us to change the world so that all children will have enough to eat. In Jesus' name we pray.

All: **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Rector: As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

All: **Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass
against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
The power, And the glory,
For ever and ever. Amen.**

Common Collect

Rector: We say together:

All: **Lord Almighty, come and scatter the
darkness of our hearts
by the light of your presence;
that we may know you
the Light of the world
and the one true God,
bless us this night and for evermore.
Amen.**

A Gaelic Blessing

music by John Rutter (b.1945)

Performed by Fermanagh Choral Society

Steal Away to Jesus

An American Negro Spiritual, composed by Wallace Willis arranged by Brian Trant

Performed by Fermanagh Choral Society

Blessing

Rector: Let us bless the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Rector: May the Almighty and merciful God,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
bless us and keep us.

All: **Amen.**

May the Road rise to meet you

Arranged by J Moore

Performed by Fermanagh Choral Society

The Lord bless you and keep you

music by John Rutter (b.1945)

Performed by Fermanagh Choral Society

Closing remarks

by the Revd Henry Blair, Rector

Hymn

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide;
when other helpers fail and comforts flee,
help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
change and decay in all around I see;
O thou who changest not, abide with me.

I need thy presence every passing hour;
what but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless;
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;
heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows
flee;
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

*Hymn 62 in the Irish Church Hymnal Fifth Edition.
Words: Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847)
Music: Eventide by William Henry Monk (1823-89)*

*Everyone is invited after the service to the church hall for
some light refreshments.*

