

ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH

ENNISKILLEN

LISBELLAW



Volume 1, Issue 6

NEWSLETTER

June 2015



Monsignor O'Reilly

The scaffolding is going up on St Michael's Church. If you look up at the small finials (the pointy bits) high up on the right of the façade, you will see where more than a few of the small pillars have fallen off. One of them fell during the high winds on the Wednesday before Easter Sunday. It was time to act: the crane was hired the stonework was surveyed and some more loose pieces removed. The street front of the church is the last portion of the exterior that needs to be checked, cleaned and, where necessary, replaced. This is expensive work - well into five figures. So please keep your donations to the parish coming in. Our parish draw next year will be important to help pay the cost.

The repair and maintenance of the church is a proud reflection on the parish. Of course, the parish itself also needs maintenance. For that reason, we are updating our parish census. The parish needs an up-to-date census. Otherwise we cannot plan properly for schools, liturgies, services, a potential parish mission, and so on. The census is required by our Bishop and by our Diocesan Office. So, if your house hasn't completed the census form yet, please try to make sure you do.

The spiritual building of the parish received a significant boost in the recent renewal of Eucharistic Adoration. We now have Adoration on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays (10am to 9pm) and on Friday from the 7.30pm Mass till 9pm.

I am happy also to see the Parish Fun Day going forward again this year. Last year was a start and this year will be something even more special. It's a marvellous way in which we as a parish can lead in the building of the town community, building the bonds of friendship among us.

Congratulations to Deacon Leo Creelman on the occasion of his Ordination to Priesthood on Sunday 5 July in St Macartan's Cathedral, Monaghan. We wish him well for the future as he responds generously to the call of the Lord.

I want to mention the parish gathering that the parish pastoral council has planned for September. We had a gathering last year, during which many parish groups, including the parish pastoral council, reported on their activities. This year, we hope to talk more about the next steps for the parish. It's different from the physical building of the church that needs the scaffolding at the moment. It's so important that we build up the life of the parish so that it can thrive into the future.



Some of the 75 boys and girls who received the sacrament of Confirmation in our parish in May.

A Red Letter Day for Clogher Diocese and St Michael's Parish

Deacon Leo Creelman will be ordained a priest for Clogher Diocese by Bishop Liam McDaid in St Macartan's Cathedral, Monaghan, on Sunday 5th July at 3pm. All are welcome to attend the ordination ceremony. If you wish to attend but have no transport, please contact the Parish Office and leave your contact details and transport will be arranged.

Leo will offer his First Mass of Thanksgiving in St Michael's on Tuesday 14th July at 7.30pm, followed by his First Blessing and refreshments in St Fanchea's College.

As a parish community, we continue to keep Leo in prayer.



Leo Creelman

I am a native of Coleraine in County Derry, one of nine children, five daughters and four sons of Harry and Philomena Creelman. Educated at Dominican College, Portstewart I then obtained a degree in Accountancy and Economics from Queens University Belfast.

I initially entered the family business but eventually branched out on my own into several various and unrelated entrepreneurial endeavours all operating at the same time. I set up a company, for example, which designed accountancy software packages specific for individual small businesses and also offered business consultancy. I travelled to Florida and, after study there, obtained my real estate licence and set up my own USA company which offered a complete package for potential European property investors including the sourcing and matching of properties for clients, financing, travel arrangements to and from Florida, as well as a web based rental booking service for those who invested in short term rentals in the Disney vacation areas.

I eventually owned several retail outlets including a *Mauds* Ice Cream shop in County Down but it was in the late 1990's that I came to Fermanagh to open up a *Dunkin Donuts* franchise on the main street in Enniskillen. I initially only

ever intended to be in Enniskillen for one or two days a week, travelling back and forward from my home base. However, I began to really warm to the lakeside county, its beauty and its people and I decided to make Fermanagh my new home and the administration hub for my expanding business enterprises.

Despite the busy, diverse and exciting commercial activities, the one thing that remained constant for me from my childhood and through to today was my faith. I was blessed to have grown up in a family where faith mattered. Educated in primary school by some wonderful Loreto sisters, the parish school and church was the centre of social life and a secure place to be especially at that troubled time in the North of Ireland. At our home, the parish priest lived on one side of us and three curates the other, so much so that a priest visiting our home was a natural part of family life.

Perhaps because of that contact, priesthood fascinated me from an early age. My first memory of wanting to be a priest was as a ten year old serving at a priestly ordination in our parish. Seeing the young Rev. Charles Keaney lying prostrate before the altar, (now the current parish priest in that parish), I remember thinking to myself; *someday I'm going to be a priest like him*. It took a bit of time, in fact well over 30 years before I eventually took the step to enter St Patrick's Seminary Maynooth in August 2009.

St Michael's Parish in Enniskillen played a big part in tearing me away from the world of commerce and into the priesthood. One of the advantages of having my business on the main street was that I was only minutes away from the beautiful church. I was able to attend daily Mass but, more significantly, I was able to drop in most afternoons and just spend quiet time in prayer in front of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Throughout my life I had continually prayed; *Lord if you want me to be a priest then show me a sign*. Looking back I had so many, I either just didn't see them or ignored them.

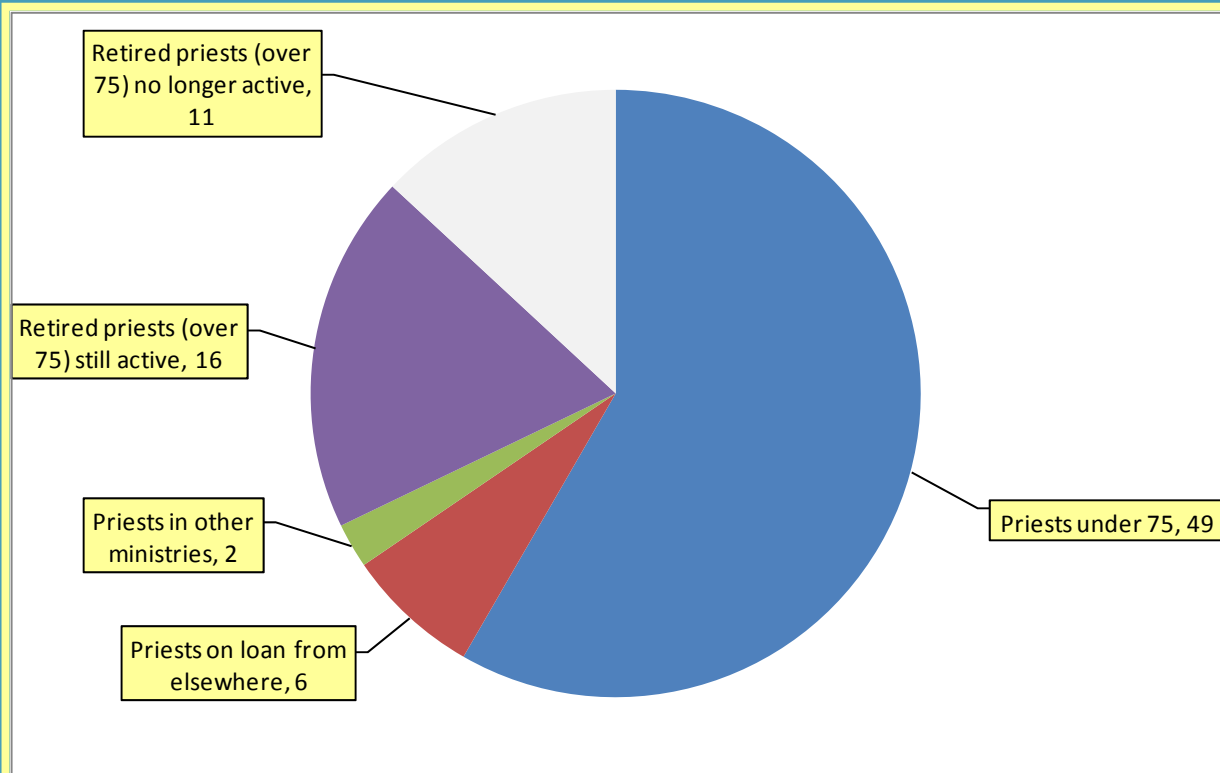
In and through prayer the call got stronger and eventually I had to tell somebody. Monsignor Cahill had just then retired from St Michael's as parish priest and he told me that he had been appointed the new vocations director for the diocese.

In a roundabout way and in the third person I asked him all the questions I needed answered about how one could join the diocese as a clerical student. Finally, feeling ready, I confessed to the Monsignor that I thought I had a calling to the priesthood. The surprise at the time for me was that it didn't surprise him. Strangely enough, I got the same reaction from my family and friends; it transpired that it was not a surprise to them either!!!

As I begin a new phase in my life, I ask your prayers for me in my priestly ministry, that it may bear much fruit and that I may always remain close to and imitate Jesus Christ the Good Shepherd. Please pray also that many more men, young or old will hear and have the courage to respond to the call of the Lord when he personally invites them to *Come, Follow me*.

For me becoming a priest is by far the most exciting and fulfilling decision I have ever made in my life so far. Many thanks for the continuing support and prayers of St Michael's parish.

May God bless you all, Leo.



Priests of Clogher Diocese

Assuming that the Catholic population of the Clogher Diocese is now the same as in 2010 (84,384), there is currently one priest for every 1,189 parishioners. If we discount the 16 priests who are continuing with parish duties despite being 'retired' because of their ages, the number is 1,534.

Thirteen priests work in the four most populous parishes (four in Enniskillen and three in each of Monaghan, Castleblaney and Carrickmacross). This leaves 42 priests under the age of 75 to serve the other 33 parishes.

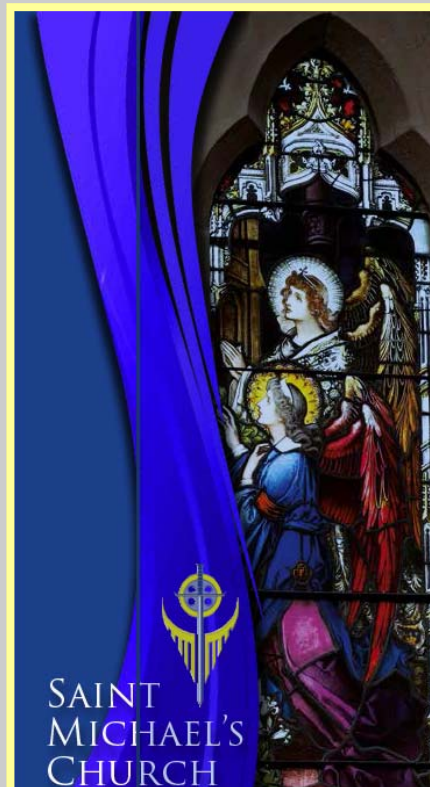
There are seven students preparing for priesthood in the diocese of Clogher. This year one, Leo Creelman, will be ordained. In 2016 there will also be one ordination. In the past 20 years there have been just four ordinations for Clogher.

The above is based on data provided by Fr Joe McVeigh, from research by Fr Sean Clerkin.



“Wherever there are men and women who have consecrated their lives to God, there you find joy”

Pope Francis



I had the experience of doing Confirmation this year on behalf of Bishop MacDaid. It meant a lot to me. I was conscious of all the life that was gathered for the ceremony. There were the children, the parents and guardians, the grandparents, the sponsors, the brothers, the sisters, the uncles and aunts, the cousins and the family friends. So much life! I found myself with a sense that it had taken so much to get the children to where they were: so much to bring them to life, to give them a home, to give them an education; so much work to support all this.

The Holy Spirit is described as the Spirit of Truth. In the gathering for Confirmation, I felt enveloped in a sense of truth. I felt myself caught up in what makes life tick. There's a love and a mattering, a meaning, that can get obscured or lost from time to time... but it's still there. And what was so lovely for me was that I found myself able to feel that this is where God is, even if I don't always feel God present so clearly.

Mons. Peter O'Reilly P.P.

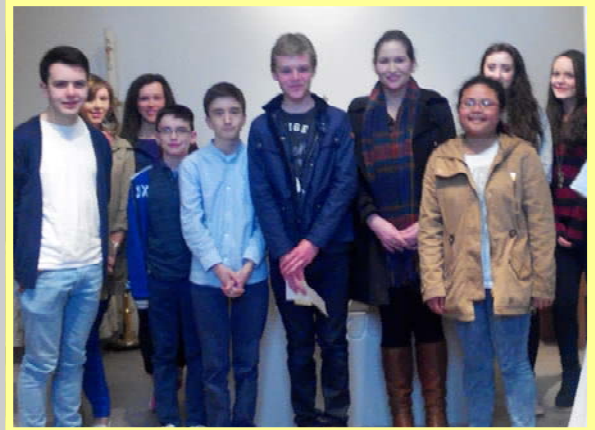
Beware the Monstrance

A-levels were looming and my plate was full. The last thing my parents wanted for me was another commitment, this time for an hour on a Sunday evening in the form of a Prayer Group for 11 to 18 year olds – in the crypt of St. Michael's Church. I imagined how productive I would be at home in that hour. I might complete an entire maths test. I may be a devout Christian but, balanced with what some people might call 'realism', it seemed that praying in the bowels of the church would amount to pouring precious time down the drain.

Being honest with myself, however, I would not, realistically, be so productive in one hour and if there is one thing I know for certain it is that prayer benefits us in ways so great and profound that they cannot be measured in terms of grades, prizes, money – or even time. It provides an added dimension that allows us to see our lives from a new perspective. Everyone who attends the prayer group is relatively young and we are still finding our feet – and prayer is part of the developmental process. It is communal, shared but at the same time deeply personal and independent, because we are all different and we are given time to consider scripture in light of our own circumstances. In this sense we aren't told what conclusions we should necessarily reach – after hearing a Bible passage, for example – but rather, in the spirit of what is known as *Lectio Divina*, we listen to scripture and interpret it prayerfully – making it more than mere Bible study. Meditating on some scripture is one of various forms of prayer that the group explored on a Sunday evening. Particular emphasis was given to music – including Christian rock and Taize chant which gave some members who had been to Taize an opportunity to relive their experiences. We also engaged in some petitional prayer, drawing on some ideas put forward by Pope Francis as well as catechesis on themes such as confessions, the lives of saints, and Our Lady, which shed light on the significance of the myriad of traditions and beliefs that the church holds dear. Among these is the practice of Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction, which few of us in the group had experience of. Talk of an ominously named 'monstrance' playing a part did not allay our fears. Perhaps, indeed, the aim was to instil some fear (a theologically legitimate concept to some) but nevertheless we grew to be comfortable in the awesome presence of the Body of Christ in this special way – an obvious example of how we developed spiritually over the course of the months. At the end of every meeting Fr. Raymond treated us to pizza, also giving us a chance to socialise and form bonds across a wide age range and with people from different schools and walks of life.

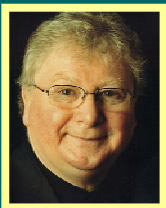
The world needs confident Christians – Christians who are in touch with themselves, with the world around them and with their beliefs and traditions. The Youth Prayer Group, and especially Fr. Raymond, helped us achieve this in no small measure, by cementing our bond with He who is "the way, the truth and the life."

Matthew Murphy



The St. Michael's Church Youth Prayer

A Friend called Finbarr



I had a friend one time called Finbarr. He came from Glenullin in south County Derry. He died some years ago from cancer in a hospice in his native Derry. We were in Maynooth College around the same time though he was a few years older.

Finbarr was highly intelligent and could speak several languages including Latin and Greek. He left Maynooth before being ordained, went home to Derry and got a job teaching. There he got involved in the Civil Rights movement in 1969/70. Present on Bloody Sunday in the Bogside, he was traumatised by what he saw that day. He left Derry after that and went to the USA where he enrolled in Drew University in Madison, New Jersey and, quite by chance, in 1980, I bumped into him in Madison New Jersey. We spent long hours talking. He was a really interesting man. He had read so much of Irish literature and Greek and Latin and all the great philosophers. He could quote the great philosophers. He was probably the most learned man I ever came across, a bit eccentric but also very funny. But the person he was most fond of quoting was his mother. In his lovely South Derry accent he would often say something like: "*Aye, and as my mother used to say, 'you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear'...*" or "*as my mother used to say, 'there's a long road but has not a turn on it'...*" and lots of old sayings like that. Clearly, his mother was his favourite philosopher and she was an ordinary country woman, living near Glenullin in South Derry, whom he remembered fondly for her love and wisdom.

The point I am making is that there is a lot of wisdom in our parents that we often do not appreciate enough when we are young. Their wisdom comes from experience and from their parents and their parents before them; thus showing the importance of the family and the community. It is there we learn a lot about life and about living and we should always appreciate it...and be grateful for the richness and the joy of family life and the love of mothers and fathers. It does not mean we accept and repeat exactly our parents –but we use the wisdom and grace and love they showed and their generosity of spirit in our own time and place. We recreate what we received and we make it new and fresh to be handed on to another generation...and then on to another generation.

Never underestimate the power and influence of mothers and fathers.

Fr Joe McVeigh

St Michael's Parish family Fun Day



Many will recall the wonderful time that was shared by over 3,500 people at the hugely successful 2014 'Family Fun Day'. The major venture, which featured a feast of activities and attractions, including a popular train ride, brought a smile to many a face, both young and old. The "amazing turn-out" was a delight to the clergy of the parish and to all who helped organise the event, one of whom enthused it "was way beyond what we expected. There were really big numbers; it was great".

The afternoon began with the clergy from St. Michael's Church and St. Macartan's Cathedral being brought by train from Darling Street, accompanied by Fireman Sam and Peppa Pig. An enthusiastic crowd

welcomed them and Hugo Duncan, who provided a great musical soundtrack to the day, to the former St. Fanchea's site in Mill Street.

As well as the train there were many other great attractions including a donkey and cart, bouncy castles, giant slides, face painting and sports activities. Many entertainment characters were sighted including Woody, Buzz Lightyear, Peppa Pig, Barney, Mickey Mouse and Minnie.

Refreshments were on sale: tea and tray bakes proved popular and the barbeque never stopped during the entire three hours of the event. There was a "brilliant atmosphere" throughout the afternoon, despite the weather. Everyone seemed thrilled with the fun day's success and felt it demonstrated community relations at their best. Over 76 volunteers lent their support to the widely attended and fun-filled occasion.

True to the commitment made last year, preparations are well underway for this year's Fun Day. It will be held on Sunday, July 5th, beginning at 2.00pm and finishing at approximately 5.00pm.

As last year the Fun Day will be hosted at the Mount Lourdes sports field (entrance via Mill Street). Again, there will be a BBQ with hot dogs and burgers and tea and tray bakes for those with a sweeter tooth. It should prove to be an even greater occasion this year with a much greater variety of activities planned, including:

Zorbing ball – an exciting sport, which involves rolling in an inflatable ball.

Bubble football – this game sees 10 players encased in inflatable bubbles and then encouraged to bounce into each other as they look for possession of the ball.

Foam Party pit, 4 bed mobile bungee trampoline, Kiddies carousel, 9 hole crazy golf, Last man standing (have a go against your friends - you need to be able to think fast as the arm can swing up and down and knock you off the podium), Adult Rodeo Bull (see how long you can stay on) and much more.

Mary Gordon



Mary's Meals 3rd Annual 100 Mile Walk from Enniskillen to Knock: 9th to 15th August.



Candlelight Procession a huge success



1950's



2015

It was suggested earlier this year that a number of initiatives should be organised to mark the 140th anniversary of the consecration of St. Michael's church. One such initiative was the production of the very beautiful and informative tourist guide to St. Michael's. This prompted many people to share memories of parish life from years past and many spoke of the May Procession in honour of Our Lady. A photograph was produced of what many believe was the last such procession, approximately 50 years ago. Moved by this, it was suggested that a procession should take place this year, as part of the 140th anniversary celebrations.

A number of people came together to offer their time and their talents and on Sunday 31st May the parish held a very successful candlelight procession in honour of Our Lady. Parishioners came in their hundreds to take part in the event. A magnificent 4ft statue of Our Lady, surrounded in beautiful flowers, was carried along the designated route, finishing at the Lourdes Grotto at the Convent of Mercy. On both sides of the statue parishioners proudly walked wearing blue sashes emblazoned with the words, 'Guardians of Mary'.

Many volunteers, including Scouts, John Paul II Youth and the Knights of St. Columba, walked behind the procession awaiting their turn to carry the beautiful statue. They too wore personalised medals commemorating the event. Between decades of the rosary, Attracta Flanagan and Galy Quinn led the singing of hymns in honour of Our Lady. Two boxes of petitions (over 1,000 in total) were carried in the procession and placed on the grotto. These will now be sent to the grotto in Lourdes where special candles will be lit for those who submitted petitions.

It was a delight to see children who made their First Holy Communion this year come along wearing their Communion outfits and walking in front of Our Lady while three older youths strew petals along the processional route. This sight in particular brought back many happy memories to some who took part in the procession, including a number of people

who had walked in the last one over 50 years ago.

It was a wonderfully moving event and very emotional for some. The procession concluded at the magnificently refurbished grotto on the Convent grounds, which had also been beautifully lit up for the event.

The evening finished with hot tea and homemade tray bakes in the Community Centre where many sat to share their experience of the evening and hear reminiscences of previous processions from over 50 years ago. It was clear that many were overwhelmed by the event and that all enjoyed the evening. It is hoped that this will become an annual event.

Fr David



May Day Procession:, Convent of Mercy, 1950's

Right: Imelda McLernan, Margaret Hynes and Valentine Flanagan.

Left: Rosaleen McCaffrey, May Gillen and Margaret Kearney.

Congratulations: You're Getting Married - *Paperwork for a Church Wedding.*



If you or a friend or someone in the family is thinking of getting married in a Catholic Church (either here or abroad) then this article might be for you. There is more to it than marking the day in the parish diary and then turning up.

Both parties (even a non-Catholic) to a wedding in the Catholic Church need fresh evidence of their baptisms (a certificate from the parish, dated to within six months of the wedding day). If they were confirmed, they need evidence of that (usually a Confirmation Certificate from the place where it took place). Individuals also need evidence of being free to get married. (Usually you apply for a certificate from any parish you lived in for more than six months after you finally-and-completely left home and after you became old enough to marry.) Then, there's a pre-nuptial form that you fill in with the priest. Finally, there's the Pre-Marriage Course Certificate of Attendance. (Please attend this course about a year before you marry).

Further paperwork is required if you are getting married in a Catholic Church abroad or if you are marrying someone from another faith tradition (or none). So, contact your parish office earlier rather than later. Do not depend totally on a local wedding planner when abroad. You can be let down with insufficient or inadequate information.

You do not have to remember all this detail if you are from this parish. Here, we ask people to hand in to the Parish Office a completed, signed, Marriage Booking Form (available either online from the parish website or from the Parish Office itself). That helps us to know what is needed in every case... and every case is different! And we will help you through the process.

And if you are the groom getting married elsewhere this applies to you too. Usually it is the groom who might not realise that he is supposed to get his paperwork done in his home parish and then it can become a big pressure for him (not to mention the local priest and parish office!) at the end!

If you are getting married in Fermanagh, you must speak to the Registrar for Marriages at the Town Hall here. (Telephone 028-6632-5050 and ask to be put through.) Make initial contact one year beforehand. Do not leave it later than 28 days or your marriage might not be recognised when necessary. If you are planning to get married on the other side of the border in Ireland, take a look at the Castleblayney Parish website. If you are thinking of getting married in Italy (especially Rome), take a look at the website of the Irish College in Rome.

St Michael's Parish

www.st-michaels.net

Rev. Monsignor Peter O'Reilly, PP

Telephone : 028 6632 2075

Email: pp@st-michaels.net

Rev. David Donnelly CC

Rev. Raymond Donnelly CC

Rev. Joseph McVeigh CC

Telephone : 028 6632 2075

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Enniskillen, County Fermanagh

St Michaels Parish Centre

28 Church Street, Enniskillen

Open: Monday to Thursday: 9:30 – 4:30
Friday: 9.30 – 2.30

Tel: 028 6632 2075

Email: parishcentre@st-michaels.net



St. Michael's Parish

FAMILY FUN DAY

At Mount Lourdes playing fields, Mill Street

(Site of old St Fanchéas College)

Sunday 5th July 2pm - 5pm

- Kids Carousel • Huge Zorbing Ball
- Donkey Rides • Rodeo
- Foam Party • Inflatables
- Bungee Trampolines
- Bubble Football • Gyroscope

BBQ tea and tray bakes and much more.....

