

ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH

ENNISKILLEN

LISBELLAW



Volume 1, Issue 11

NEWSLETTER

December 2017

I hope you will join the parish clergy in welcoming this edition of our St Michael's Parish Newsletter. Thank you to our editor, to our parish pastoral council communications team, to our contributors, and to all who have made this Newsletter possible in time for Christmas.

In the world of nature, there's a homing instinct: a coming back to a place of origin. Parish (buildings and people) can heighten people's pride in their home place, as when St Michael's Church hosted two different heads of state, affecting the whole town. Thus whatever you do in supporting our parish, you are ultimately supporting the town and the local community. Regular attenders at Mass and Eucharistic Adoration in our parish help to strengthen the base of the parish. Regular financial contributors to the parish do the same. So too do those who are faithful in Eucharistic Ministry, in the Ministry of Reader, and as Altar Servers. Similarly those who join our very good Parish Draw (which you can still join).

Home and family are the heart of the parish and the universal church. Family is celebrated in the parish church at the key times of birth, death and marriage. Every Sunday, family is celebrated at Mass in the words: *This is my body given up for you*. What other words could so succinctly sum up the living ideal of being a family. Pope Francis has asked Ireland to host the World Meeting of Families in 2018. Register online to be surer of getting a place when Pope Francis visits, as he intends.

In recent years, our parish is seeing a rejuvenation of its buildings: the façade of St Michael's Church, the grounds and exterior of St Mary's Church, the Parish Centre, the Crypt facilities, the Parish Shop façade, and most recently the Community Centre. Buildings provide space for people to be together. Buildings offer a public space for people to interact, for services to be offered, for reflecting on the present and planning for the future. By upgrading our parish facilities, we offer a better arena for the life of the parish and of the local community to flourish. In all this, the parish clergy are grateful for the donations of parishioners and for the professional support of Mullarkey-Pedersen Architects.

Our next parish gathering is planned for March, when it is hoped that the Community Centre, at Belmore Street, will be rededicated. This Newsletter contains quite a bit about its history. In giving it a future, we are shaping our own future.

Finally, please pray for vocations to the priesthood, the diaconate, and the religious life: we still need them for parish life. Pray too for your parish clergy and pray for our Diocesan Administrator, Monsignor Joseph McGuinness, whose service and wisdom are steering us through our time of waiting for a new bishop.

Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi Mhaise Daoibh go léir.

Monsignor Peter



A Happy Christmas from Father Raymond, Father Joe and Monsignor Peter. We pray that the light Christ came to bring will give you hope and courage in all the New Year brings.



"On this day of joy, we are all called to contemplate the Child Jesus, who gives hope once again to every person on the face of the earth. By his grace, let us with our voices and our actions give witness to solidarity and peace. Merry Christmas to all! "

Pope Francis, 2016



Serving the youth of our parish

At the Parish Gathering, the voices of the people spoke strongly of the need for more youth involvement in the parish. Many were unaware that our youth were already active, in activities such as the John Paul II Awards, Prayer of the Faithful, Second Readers and the Prayer & Pizza Night. Nevertheless, the Parish Pastoral Council formed a 'Youth Involvement' sub committee to carry out a needs analysis among the youth and to make further provision.



At the Siolta Retreat

It was decided to focus on a particular age-group for the research and the 12 -14 year olds of our parish became the chosen people! (The younger children are well catered for with the Children's Liturgy and the Do This in Memory programme whilst the older age groups have the opportunity to read at Mass, participate in other liturgies and to take part in the John Paul II Awards.)

The easiest way to access this group was through their schools, so the sub-committee, having drawn up a questionnaire, set up a gathering of our own parishioners from Years 8, 9 and 10 in each of the local schools. The response was extremely positive and very enlightening. Contrary to the general opinion that the youth are alienated from the Church., the overarching outcome was that our young people are interested in being involved in their parish. It was very interesting that many said they would come to church more often if their parents were

going; non attendance by parents was the major reason identified for non attendance by the young people. This of course opens up a whole other need; to reach out to our young parents.

Motivated by the results of the survey, it was decided to take action! We reduced the focus of the group to concentrate on those in Year 10 (the 14 year olds) as this was the group more likely to succumb to more secular activities. In April we enlisted the services of the Siolta Retreat Team to deliver a retreat for all Year 10 parishioners and a fantastic programme was delivered in a fun, vibrant and lively way in our recently refurbished Community Centre.

The theme was '*Our parish and what it can offer me*'. There was a recurrence of the answers given during the listening exercise: these young people want to be part of their parish; they would attend more of the activities provided but they are not being exposed to parish by their parents! A number were unaware of the opportunities already available and some put their names forward for reading and Prayers of the Faithful; the choir even recruited a new member!

Undoubtedly, there was learning for the Parish Pastoral Council. We are delighted that the young people have expressed a desire to be part of their parish; the onus now falls on us to provide for them. The importance of listening to their needs and hearing how they would like to be involved were imperative. When the cart tries to lead the horse, chaos ensues! Successful market research ensures that the 'customer' gets the product they desire rather than what the producer thinks they might want.

Our parishioners have always been enthusiastic about praying for our young people at GCSE and A Level time. Traditionally we take prayer cards to the schools; the examinees write their name on these and they are returned to the church. Parishioners then take a card and continue to pray for the named student throughout the exam season. This is a lovely way to bring our youth to the minds of the other parishioners.

In May we invited all parishioners approaching GCSE and A level exams to an afternoon prayer service. A number of parents also attended. What a beautiful liturgy - facilitated by Fr Raymond and Mary McDaid. The young people who came played an active part in reading, singing and praying and were very appreciative of the opportunity.

So what does the future hold for Youth Involvement in our parish? Existing opportunities will continue and we envisage making Year Group Retreats an annual event. Given the fact that parental non attendance is a major factor, it appears that the parish schools are the best points of access to our young people and so future activities will be promoted via our schools in addition to the parish bulletin and website. Reaching to those on the margins with a hunger for inclusion is imperative!

Mary McDaid



The Cross prepared for the Exam Student Prayer Service



My Parish Involvement: *Auveen Shannon*

Religion and parish activity have always been present in my life, and for as long as I can remember, parish life has given me a sense of belonging; of community. St Michael's is a bright and vibrant parish, full of kind and enthusiastic people who give generously of their time, ensuring everyone is included and supported. Nevertheless, I sometimes felt that young people did not have a great role to play in the church and that it was, in many ways, an establishment for older generations. In signing up for the Pope John Paul II Awards, however, I came to realise that the Church has so much to offer us. The awards provide an opportunity for young people to play an active role in parish activity and to join in all of the events which take place within the parish, the Clogher Diocese, and the wider community.

When I was 15, there was a shift in how I viewed my faith. This happened when I travelled to Taizé with the diocesan youth group, Clogher Don Óige. Taizé, a small monastic community in France, attracts young people from across the world to come together in prayer. It was a week of singing together, praying together and working together, meeting people of all nationalities and all branches of Christianity. It is hard to describe the sense of peace and unity that Taizé gives, but I returned from that week with a renewed faith and willingness to become more active within the parish.

A few months after my second visit to Taizé, in 2015, I started my 6th year at Mount Lourdes, where I had an opportunity to participate in the Pope John Paul II Awards. As talk of personal statements and UCAS applications became all too frequent, I decided, along with several classmates, to sign up for the award scheme. Before then, I thought parish work simply included reading at Mass and serving as a Minister of the Eucharist; I had no idea of the extent of the work that goes on within St Michael's. I soon realised that the parish is for everyone; young and old and people of all abilities. It was overwhelming to see the gratitude people had for even the smallest things, from helping out at coffee mornings to attending Faith and Light meetings. Without doubt, my trip to Lourdes with Clogher Don Óige was the most rewarding and enjoyable experience last year. We spent our week assisting pilgrims, some who were elderly and others with disabilities, enabling them to make the most of their pilgrimage. Seeing their faith, trust in God and their enormous gratitude for the little we were doing for them, made me further realise the value of giving up my time for others. Now, a year on from completing my award, I try to inspire other like minded young people from my area and constantly challenge them to think about how they can play their part in parish life.

Visits to the Sick and Housebound

"I was sick and you visited me" (Matthew 25:35) Visiting and comforting those who cannot attend Mass due to age or illness is the heartbeat of our community. When we offer our support to the sick, elderly, housebound and those in any kind of need we are living out Jesus' teaching.

Each month, the priests of St Michael's parish endeavour to visit the housebound in their homes. Traditionally, this visit has been referred to as the First Friday call, connecting it with the tradition of First Friday Devotions. This devotion became a popular feature of Catholic life in the 17th Century as knowledge of the Lord's appearances to St Margaret Mary Alacoque became widespread. In 1673, just two years after joining the Convent at Paray-le-Monial, the young Sr Margaret Mary began to receive visions revealing the love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus for all humanity. The task given her by Christ, who called her the Beloved Disciple of the Sacred Heart, was to spread devotion to His Sacred Heart and to encourage regular reception of Holy Communion by all the faithful, especially the sick. For this reason, in parishes the world over, the tradition of priests bringing Holy Communion to the housebound on the First Friday developed.

The priests visit the housebound according to a list provided by our parish office. The names on the list are usually given by family members with the expressed permission of those requesting the visit. Each priest is given a number of areas to visit during the particular month. At present, there are over ninety people receiving a visit, as well as residents in our nursing and care homes. As it would be impossible for the priests to see all on the First Friday, we visit over a two-week period each month. We are very grateful for the dedication of the team of Eucharistic Ministers who prepare the nursing and care homes for the visits, as well as preparing and assisting at the Christmas Masses each year.

When the priest visits, parishioners are encouraged to have a crucifix, candles and holy water on a table or sideboard, with a white cloth for the priest to place the pyx (small container used to reserve Holy Communion) on - thus setting a sacred space for prayer and the reception of Holy Communion. The priest begins with a greeting and then makes the Sign of the Cross, followed by a short Penitential Rite, a reading from Sacred Scripture, the Lord's Prayer and, finally, the reception of Holy Communion and a blessing. This visit is always an opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, if requested. Furthermore, it is possible, indeed encouraged, to request the Sacrament of the Sick (Prayer and anointing with sacred oil). Anyone seriously ill, frail and elderly, or expecting to have major surgery, should ask for this Sacrament. The anointing brings spiritual and sometimes physical healing.

It is both a privilege and a very humbling experience for us to minister to the sick and housebound.

Fr Raymond.

Prayer for the Sick: *Be with us Lord in our time of need. Heal us in body, soul and spirit that we may rejoice in your grace and blessings in this world and come to enjoy the fullness of your presence in the life to come. Amen.*

If you, a friend or relative would like visits, regularly or during temporary illness, please contact our Office with your details.

Presentation Brothers, Enniskillen

At the request of the Rt. Rev. Dean Smollen, Parish Priest of Enniskillen, and with the consent of the Most Rev Dr Richard Owens (1840 - 1909), Bishop of Clogher, the Presentation Brothers took charge of St Michael's National School, Enniskillen, in August 1900. For some time previously, there had existed what the Presentation Brothers Annals described as '*a very bitter feeling between the better class of Catholics and the Parish and Curates*'. The former were urgent in their demands for a secondary, or, as then known, an intermediate school, while the latter, who wanted Catholic boys to attend St Macartan's College, the Diocesan Seminary, in Monaghan, were strongly opposed to providing a secondary school in Enniskillen. About twelve months after the arrival of the Presentation Brothers, the Bishop and priests acceded to the demands of the people and St Michael's Intermediate School opened in a room attached to the Monastery, at the request of Bishop Owens. The founding community consisted of Brothers Stanislaus Kenneally, Superior and principal; Edwin Collins, Assistant, and Bernard Murphy, Bursar.

Both schools prospered, though the enrolment in each was modest. It was not until 1950 that the enrolment in the intermediate school exceeded 100 students, while that of the primary was about double that number. The Intermediate school set high academic standards, in no small measure due to the efforts of Brother Bede O'Donohoe, who joined the staff in 1914 and spent almost 40 years there, including 33 years as headmaster. The primary school also had a succession of very capable principals and both schools built up a group of loyal and devoted past pupils. In 1941, Brother Bede founded a popular school journal, *The Erne Echo*, the circulation of which at times reached a figure of 3,000 copies.

The Bishop and diocesan clergy, however, cast what might be construed as envious eyes on St Michael's Intermediate School and the Bishop devised a plan to take over the administration of the school. This did not mean that he did not want the Presentation Brothers playing a significant part in second level schooling in Enniskillen; he had other plans for them. It will be recalled that Northern Ireland had introduced the 11-Plus Secondary School Entrance Examination, following the passing of the Education Act of 1947. By this examination, students were divided into three categories - academic, technical and 'functional'. Students scoring highest in the examination were offered places in so-called Grammar Schools, to follow an academic course preparing them for entry to university and the professions. Those anxious to follow a technical course were assigned to Technical Schools, from where, it was hoped, they would go on to qualify as skilled workers in manufacturing and service industries. The remainder (the functional group), were to be offered places in Secondary Modern Schools, designed to give them a sound general education that would prepare them for work in the commercial and service sectors of society.

Before the implementation of the 1947 Education Act, the Presentation Brothers had accommodated all of the Enniskillen Catholic boys of the Grammar school category at St Michael's Intermediate School. The Bishop and the diocesan clergy, however, wished to have exclusive responsibility for the education of these students, who were regarded as the most intelligent and academically capable. In the new arrangements, St Michael's Intermediate School, under the control of the diocesan clergy, would be designated the Grammar School, while a new secondary modern school would be built to accommodate the academically less able students. The Bishop was content to allow the Presentation Brothers to take charge of a new co-educational Secondary Modern School and cater for these students.

The fact that the Bishop virtually controlled the Board of Governors, with one of his clergy holding the position of secretary,

and another chairperson, made it possible to achieve this objective quietly and deftly. As a first step in the strategy, the Bishop insisted that a diocesan priest be allocated a teaching post. This appointment was made effective at a meeting of the Board of Governors on 10 July 1954. On 15 July, Brother Alphonso Mitchell, Superior General of the Presentation Brothers, had a meeting with Bishop O'Callaghan, during which the latter revealed his intention of seeking the appointment of one of his priests to the post of principal. However, by way of recompense, the Bishop was prepared to offer the administration of a new proposed secondary modern school to the Presentation Brothers. Though the Brothers expressed disappointment at the loss of the administration of St Michael's Intermediate School, and initially threatened to leave Enniskillen, they eventually fell in with the Bishop's wishes. They continued teaching in St Michael's National School and agreed to assume responsibility for the new co-educational Secondary Modern School.



St. Joseph's staff in September 1967

Front (from left): Tom Cooney, Br. Hillary, Jack Keenan, Br. Osmond, Br. Adrian, Br. John and Larry Murphy
Back: Sean O'Hare, Paddy McGilly, Paddy Maguire, Tom Morris, Dermot Lunny, Frank McManus, John Vesey, Gerry Magee and Eamon Dolan

In 1957, Rev Fr Mulligan became principal of St Michael's Secondary School. Five other diocesan priests were appointed as teachers. The remaining Presentation Brothers had earlier resigned from the staff. The building of the new secondary modern school got under way. It, St. Joseph's, was completed in 1960 and a Presentation Brother, Osmond Greene, was appointed principal. He was joined by two other Brothers, Adrian Lavin and Fachnan Duggan. Brother Osmond continued as principal for nine years. In 1969, he was succeeded by Brother Damascene Tobin, who finished his term in 1974 and was the last Presentation Brother to be principal. Jack Keenan, then became the first lay headmaster. Some Brothers continued as members of staff until 1988, when the 'new' monastery, which had been built on Chanterhill Road in 1963, closed. The last Presentation Brother to be Principal of St Michael's National School, Brother Peter Twiss retired from his post in 1983. Over the years, sixty one Presentation Brothers served in Enniskillen.

Brother John Guinane, F.P.M.

The unveiling of Plaque at the Old St. Michaels

Good afternoon to all who have come to this historical event. My name is Brother Raymond Dwyer and I am the Province Leader of the Presentation Brothers.

I am delighted to be here today as this Plaque is being unveiled to recognise the contribution that the Presentation Brothers made to education here in Enniskillen from 1900 to 1988. I am delighted to see Brother Joe Gilleece, a past pupil of the school, and Brother John Guinane who taught here until the Brothers left Enniskillen. It is wonderful to see so many old boys here, recognising the contribution that the brothers made to education in Enniskillen for nearly 90 years. I want to especially thank a few who were involved in this project - Alphie McCaffrey, the Hoy Family, the late Richard Treacy and the Treacy family and I want to thank Rt. Rev. Mgr. Peter O Reilly for giving permission for the plaque to be placed here.

The mission of the Brothers was to pass on to those who were in their care a good education and provide them with the skills that they would need for their future. This plaque will be a testament to the Brothers who taught in St. Michael's. They were part of the education history of this wonderful town and the surrounding area. We remember them but we also particularly remember the students who went through the doors of St. Michael's - those here today and those who have gone to their eternal rest.

Finally, on behalf of the Brothers, I want to sincerely thank all here today for this recognition of the Presentation Brothers. I will cherish this moment.



November 6th 2017: *"In gratitude for the dedicated service of the Presentation Brothers to the youth of Fermanagh on this waterside site 1903 - 1988"*



Community Centre

Work is currently underway to modernise the Community Centre. A new kitchen has been fitted, the hall has been repainted, its curtains replaced and the floor restored. The toilets have been refurbished and work is underway to extend the carpark.

Over the years, the Centre has served the community well, facilitating many group activities, and it continues to be used extensively – for Irish Dancing, Bowls, by the Enniskillen Light Operatic Society and the Parent and Toddler Group. It is a venue for the local Faith & Light group and the young people participating in the John Paul II Awards meet there. Once the current work is completed, the Parish Pastoral Council intends to develop the usage. One of the parish initiatives for which it will be ideal is 'Autumn Days' – a group for retirees.

St Michael's Parish Youth Club



After all of the students of St Michael's College transferred to the new school at Drumclay, the building became the parish Community Centre and St Michael's Parish Youth Cub operated from there for many years. In 1978, it became full-time with grant aid from the Western Education and Library Board, enabling the payment of a full-time staff salary. The first full-time youth worker was Gerry Devine. He was succeeded by Hugh McCabe (RIP), assisted by Carmel Colgan. They ran the club until 1986 when Hugh left. He was replaced by Margaret Collins who was leader-in-charge for eight years, assisted by Jacqueline Acheson (now Love,) who replaced Carmel. Jacqueline ran the club until 2002. When she left, the club reverted to part-time status.





St Michael's Youth Cub offered a wide range of social and sporting opportunities for the young people of Enniskillen from age 5 to 20, including an annual summer-scheme in partnership with the Enniskillen Gaels, trips to places near and far, including Gortatole Outdoor Education Centre, Manchester United, Alton Towers and Holland. Many men and women from Enniskillen assisted as part-time youth workers, in both paid and voluntary capacities, to run the programmes in the evenings and additional premises were used to facilitate the sports, including the Fermanagh College and St Fanchea's in Mill Street. The photos are a blast from the past. Recognize anyone? *Margaret Collins*

Prizegiving Day in Willowbridge

In October, I was invited to Prizegiving in Willowbridge School. Towards the end of the ceremony, Canon Ian Ellis of Rossory parish and I were invited to lead a short prayer service. It was a wonderful, most inspiring occasion. I enjoyed being there and hearing the pupils singing and playing different musical instruments. It was a truly happy occasion.

Willowbridge, on the Lough Shore Road, has 60 staff and 140 pupils, aged 3 - 19, with moderate, severe and profound learning difficulties. The pupils have a range of different abilities and talents and are encouraged and helped to develop their talents and abilities. Many receive individual attention because of their additional needs. On Prizegiving Day, their achievements were recognised and praised. Students were awarded certificates and prizes to recognise their wonderful achievements. A highlight for me was when a former pupil, Mark, now at university, made what was an inspirational speech. He spoke of how he had progressed at the school and how he was now studying at Ulster University. He encouraged all to use their talents and achieve their full potential. This young man is a great example of a young person achieving his full potential. He is grateful for the encouragement and care he received in Willowbridge. He certainly made good use of his time there.

What I saw in Willowbridge School was real love and kindness in action, the great love of teachers and staff for pupils



and of pupils for teachers and staff. The pupils are loved and cared for at home by their parents, many of whom were present on the day, and the school is an extension of the home. Love, as I understand it, is first of all about caring. It is also about commitment and it is about respect for others who are different in any way, like strangers who come to live among us. All of us could learn about caring for one another and about respect from the example of this school. We could learn a big lesson about accepting people as they are and about being considerate and kind to all.

I am grateful to the committed teachers and staff in Willowbridge who care for each pupil with love and sensitivity. That love and sensitivity should be the marks of every Christian community and of every family.

Fr. Joe McVeigh

A Belmore Street Senior: *Tom Palmer*



I started school in the convent primary when I was three years old. After three carefree years, reality set in on transfer to 2nd class in the Presentation Brothers' St Michael's Primary, an all-boys school. Br. Adrian, a native of Carrick-on-Shannon, taught 2nd class. Although small in stature, he had a great presence, was a keen golfer and had a love of wildlife. Master O'Harte was in charge of 3rd class for most of my year until replaced by Jack Keenan. Michael Farrell from Derrygonnelly was in 4th and Br. Louis taught 5th class. He was also a great golfer and played with Dr. Brady in Enniskillen Golf Club (then situated at Killyhevlin). I haven't good memories of Louis; he was fond of the cane. Gerald Farrell taught 6th Class. He was one of the best teachers I ever met. Few people then holidayed abroad; he would paint a picture of his travels in such detail that we all thought we were there with him. The Principal, Br. Boniface, took 7th class. He was the image of the film star Spencer Tracy. A very strong swimmer, he would swim from the Weirs Bridge up past the Killyhevlin and back to Derrychara. He was a very modest man and told us that if he had to leave the monastery he would lodge amongst the poor. Facilities were basic. Football was played in the school yard and handball in the alley close to the river. There was a small toilet block in the yard. In winter, classes were

heated with stoves fuelled with coke, sticks and coal. Great friendships were established which remain to this day.

The move across the yard after the 11+ was another milestone. In many ways it was a new beginning. Pupils came from all over the county and it took some time to get used to the new regime. Brothers there then were Alfred, Damisine, Damian and Eoghan. Facilities were no better than the primary. Classes were bigger and space was limited; 1st and 2nd years were taught in the same room. In years 1-3 we had football on Wednesday afternoons on the GAA pitch, situated where Waterways Ireland now have their HQ. In senior years the football was on Thursdays. No transport, we all walked! We sat the Junior Certificate examination in Year 3 and the Senior two years later.

I have mixed memories of school life and the teachers. Br. Alfred was a very gentle man and a great teacher. Br. Damisine instilled in us a love of the Irish language and organised scholarships to Rannafast. Br. Damian was very tall and it was said that he shaved twice daily. Br. Eoghan was another who was fond of caning. Lay teachers I remember were Tim Kinealy (Science), Dominic Nicolson (English) and later Mr Keavney, who came from Galway and had lodgings with the Misses Kavenagh in Belmore Street. Miss Mahon came in once weekly to teach choral singing.

Priests from the Diocese took over the school in 1957. I fondly remember Frs Clerkin, Gilsenen, Marron and Mulligan (later Bishop Mulligan), who remarked that our class weren't the brightest but most certainly the best craic. We were the last senior class to be taught in Belmore Street. We left in 1958 and the school relocated to Drumclay.

As in primary school, lasting friendships were formed. Many pupils from that time have now departed this life and I think the only teacher still with us is Fr Paddy Marron in Fintona. I meet with some of my old school pals occasionally and we reminisce. The narrative seems to change from time to time, maybe it's an age thing!



Senior class, 1957.

Front, from left: P Hughes, C Farmer, J McPhillips, T Shepherd, J Gallagher, Fr. Mulligan (later Bishop Mulligan), P McManus, C Murphy, D Nolan, J Cassidy and J Campling

Middle: T Murphy, B Smith, M McManus, B Keogh, S Flanagan, J Drumm, D McElroy, S Magee and T Palmer

Back: P Drumm, W Maguire, B Burns, S Meehan and J Cullen,

World Meeting of Families - Ireland 2018

"Does the family continue to be news for today's world? I am sure the answer is yes! And this yes is firmly based on God's plan." Pope Francis.

This major international event brings together families from across the world to celebrate, pray and reflect upon the importance of marriage and the family as the cornerstones of our lives.

The World Meeting of Families has occurred every three years since 1994 and is organized by the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life, which promotes the pastoral care of families.

Ireland was personally chosen by Pope Francis to host the 2018 meeting. The land from which so many missionaries set forth to bring the light of Christianity to every corner of the world now invites families and individuals from every part of the world to come and join us for this amazing event to take place in Dublin from the 21st to the 26th August. Over the few days, there will be an Opening Congress with guest speakers, a Children's Programme, a Youth Programme, a Festival of Families Celebration and Mass.

In preparation for the event, there will be many opportunities in our parish to engage with preparatory materials and catechesis. For example, one such programme, called *"Let's talk Family! Let's be Family!"*, is an interactive multimedia teaching resource for families, individuals and groups - more information about this in the near future.

Personally, I am really looking forward to World Meeting of Families 2018. I am hoping that it will be an occasion to strengthen the place of the family in handing on the faith in the face of many new challenges. The family in Ireland is strong and the Church is called to take up the challenge of ensuring that future Catholic generations are prepared to live marriage as an itinerary of faith.

At the closing of the last meeting in Philadelphia, Pope Francis said: *"What God most wants from us is to knock on the doors of families and to find people who love each other, who bring up their children with love and who contribute to a society of truth, goodness and beauty."*

We look forward to the World Meeting of Families 2018 and to the possibility of Pope Francis coming to visit our country. For more information on how to get involved: www.worldmeeting2018.ie

Fr. Raymond

Official Family Prayer for World Meeting of Families 2018

God, our Father,
We are brothers and sisters in Jesus your Son,
One family, in the Spirit of your love.

Bless us with the joy of love.

Make us patient and kind,
gentle and generous,
welcoming to those in need.

Help us to live your forgiveness and peace.

Protect all families with your loving care,
Especially those for whom we now pray:

[We pause and remember family members and others by name].

Increase our faith,
Strengthen our hope,
Keep us safe in your love,
Make us always grateful for the gift of life that we share.

This we ask, through Christ our Lord, Amen

*Mary, mother and guide, pray for us.
Saint Joseph, father and protector, pray for us.
Saints Joachim and Anne, pray for us.
Saints Louis and Zélie Martin, pray for us.*



Pauline Dunbar

A dedicated parishioner who has made a wonderful contribution to the life of the parish over many years, Pauline Dunbar (nee Campling) born in 1932, is proud to be a true Enniskillener, born between the bridges in Queen Street, later moving to Castle Street. Pauline is a hugely talented singer and actress, who used her skills to enrich the lives of the people of the town. During the late 1940s, and in years afterwards, Pauline took part in many musicals to raise much needed money for the school building fund. She performed in the Townhall, Regal Cinema, Saint Michael's Community Centre and Mount Lourdes, participating in various productions and in many cases playing the lead role. Even after Pauline married and had seven children, she still managed to continue this invaluable voluntary work.

Pauline played a key role in the hugely successful play, *"How Short the Time"* a tribute to the life of Venerable Mother Catherine McAuley, the Irish nun, who founded the Sisters of Mercy in 1831. She often laughed at the title of the play, as the performance each night took around four and a half hours!

Pauline has been an invaluable member of Saint Michael's Choir from its inception, under the late Fr Eddie Murphy, and for many years was the lead soprano. She first climbed the spiral stairwell to the church gallery when she was nine years old, to hear her older sister, Teenie, sing. Those first steps were the start of a long and fruitful relationship with both the choir and parishioners, creating and strengthening friendships that would last a lifetime. We will be forever in debt to Pauline and the many other parishioners, who shared their time and talents selflessly, contributing so significantly to parish life.

Chubby Fitzpatrick



Pauline's son, Adrian, a successful actor and theatre director, has become very well known over the last five years as a star of the popular TV series *Line of Duty*. He is a frequent visitor to Enniskillen. Here he recalls his young days (and makes a few suggestions).

We lived in Castle Street when I was small. I remember the back streets that ran down to the Lough shore and boys walking across the frozen river in the early 1960's. I remember the grand houses in Wellington Place, the Bakery, the RUC field and the grandstand where you could go and watch Corinthians. I remember the walk to the Gaelic field passing the Scotch Store where Joe McGurn seemed to need a JCB on permanent standby to keep the place drained. I remember the lovely interior of Jimmy Burns's pub and Reilly's wonderfully stocked shop with its glass fronted boxes of biscuits from Jacobs and Frys. I remember the excitement of watching Cavanacarragh Pipe Band crossing the top of Queens Street playing *'Kelly the Boy from Killan'*. All this comes back when I recall those early days and especially my little attic room in Castle street. I would go to sleep and awake every day surrounded by the regimental colours of the Inniskillings. Large framed Union flags some with bullet holes and blood stains and embroidered with strange foreign place names like Salamanca and Crimea and Ypres and Mons. My uncle Freddie would later present these flags to the Regimental museum, in Omagh where my great grandfather William Campling had been Regimental Sergeant Major. My Colour Sergeant Grandfather, Earnest Campling, had held them in trust. Sadly those

flags have disappeared, some people say they have slipped into private hands.

Many things have changed in the town since then. A bypass plan first seen in the town hall in the 1970's looks like it might just happen. Many of us have felt the town has been destroyed by our love affair with the car. Indeed I have heard it referred to as 'Car Town'. I have often watched young mothers with prams run the gauntlet at the East Bridge where the pavements practically run out. The appalling orange lighting over the town at night is now universally recognised as doing little or nothing for vision in fog. Most towns in England have returned to white light, much softer and showing off the beauty of places. Still, it was a wonderful place to grow up in the 1960's before the gates and roadblocks of the Troubles. I'm glad to think it might return to some of its former glory. We could start by returning the Castle Barracks to the town and building a new Police HQ outside the town, possibly near the new Hospital. The gifting of Ebrington Barracks back to the people of Derry has been a huge success.

Parish Pastoral Council

On the same day that the Queen 'crossed the street' in Enniskillen, we had a meeting of a new parish pastoral council. The new council emerged from a series of six parish meetings held in March and May 2012.

At the invitation of the parish priest, and in collaborative reflection with about twelve parishioners, Mr Martin Kennedy led those who attended these six meetings to reflect on the following themes:

- What would be an ideal parish?
- What is our parish like in reality?
- What is the gap between the ideal and the real for us in this parish?
- What Parish Ministry Groups do we have at present to address this gap?
- What new Parish Ministry Groups should we introduce?
- What is a Parish Pastoral Council? How might it address the gap between the ideal and the real in our parish?

At a final meeting to review the process, new groups and a new parish pastoral council were set up.

In terms of the ideal parish, the document from the Irish Bishops Conference entitled '*Share The Good News*' named four 'pillars', which are (1) Building Community; (2) Developing Faith; (3) Attention to Liturgy; (4) Reaching out to those in need. These 'pillars' gave the process a practical way of assessing the present situation and deciding on the developments that might be progressed.

Since then, the parish pastoral council has met about ten times annually. When it started out, the focus was on three main things: forming a 'Parent-&-Toddler' group; reviewing our parish space; and establishing a parish census. Over time, as these matters were explored as far as was possible, new topics that emerged for consideration included faith development for younger parishioners, parish events, and linking senior citizens. This newsletter - published two/three times a year - was itself an outcome of parish pastoral council discussions.

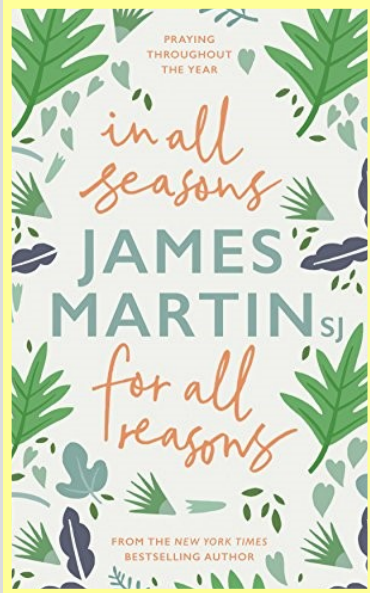


Members of St Michael's and Tempo Parish Pastoral Councils at their joint meeting in June

Links have been made with Tempo Parish Pastoral Council. There was a joint meeting last June at which news of developments by each council was shared. The Tempo parish priest, Father John Halton, said that the importance of the parish pastoral council couldn't be overestimated. Clearly, the councils are different between town and country. However, in both instances, the creating of connections is equally important. It is important to link people together. God has done this through the Good News of Jesus Christ and so the call to be a parish community is something for all parishioners. It is one of the main gifts a parish has to offer

Members of council are Mgr. Peter, Fr. Raymond, Fr. Joe, Martin Donnelly, Owen Curry, Maria Quinn, Michelle McKenna, Sr. Rosa, Maurice Collins, Gerry Elliott, Brian Treacy, Martha Smyth, Mark Curry, Mary McDaid, Jenny Hughes and Marian Haggins

‘in all seasons – for all reasons’



As I get older, or should I say as I become more aware, I have discovered that there are many ways of praying (personal or communal) apart from the reciting of traditional prayers. Most of these are still useful but they are, in a sense, only a starting point for prayer. They should lead us to contemplation.

Prayer is about listening and becoming aware of God's intimate presence in our lives and in our wonderful world. I can listen to God speaking to me in the words of the Scriptures, in the words of the Mass and in Creation – at the sea, in a forest or in a beautiful garden. I can listen to God on my own or in the company of others. These are precious moments for us in the midst of our ordinary and sometimes busy lives – because we are all spiritual beings and God is part of our lives. We sometimes call that part ‘the soul’.

Fr James Martin, an American Jesuit, has published a little book of reflections about Prayer titled ‘in all seasons –for all reasons’. He tells, in one of his reflections, how once when giving a Retreat someone came to him for spiritual direction. Fr Martin asked her if she had prayed the previous day. She said she definitely had prayed and it was wonderful. ‘How did you pray?’ he asked; ‘I hugged a tree’. She said it brought her in touch with God the Creator of All. She encountered God through Creation.

You will know from experience how a beautiful sunset or other beautiful scene touches you at a deep level. You will be deeply affected by these because then God is speaking to you and touching you deep inside – in your soul. God is speaking to God in us. God speaks to us in many ways. We need to keep our eyes and ears open for the time when God is speaking to us and that is for us a time of joy and growth.

Most often people pray in words beseeching God for something or other, especially when they are desperate and their backs are to the wall. Prayer is our response to the God of All when we put our faith and trust in him, when we ask, or indeed cry out, for help in order to cope or deal with suffering, with loss and with death. That is what we humans do because we know we are not in charge and we are totally dependent on God and that is why we pray with the Holy Spirit and through Jesus Christ. Jesus himself felt the absence of God and still trusted. Mother Teresa and many saints speak about the dark night of the soul when they felt God was absent. Prayer is about being faithful at all times – even when God does not feel that close. Try hugging a tree!

Pope Francis reminds us that we, the baptised, are all Missionary Disciples by virtue of being baptised. We cannot be missionaries without a life of continual prayer. The only way to achieve peace, happiness and purpose in life is through meditation/contemplation/prayer



Fr. Joe McVeigh



“The power of this Child, Son of God and Son of Mary, is not the power of this world, based on might and wealth; it is the power of love. It is the power which created the heavens and the earth, which gives life to all creation: to minerals, plants and animals; it is the force which attracts man and woman, and makes them one flesh, one single existence; it is the power which gives new birth, pardons faults, reconciles enemies, and transforms evil into good. It is the power of God. This power of love led Jesus Christ to strip himself of his glory and become man; it led him to give his life on the cross and to rise from the dead. It is the power of service, which inaugurates in our world the Kingdom of God, a kingdom of justice and peace.

For this reason, the birth of Jesus was accompanied by the angels’ song as they proclaimed:

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased”

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