

BALLYHEA

Rt. Rev. James Msgr. O'Brien, P.P.

063 81470

HOLY MASS

St. Mary's Church

Saturday and Eve of Holy Days

Vigil Mass:	7.30pm
Sundays and Holy Days:	8.30am 11.00am
Weekdays	10.00am (unless otherwise advised)
First Fridays	10.00am

Confessions: Saturday following 10.00am Mass, 7.00pm

Sacristy:

Sacristan:
All enquiries to
Email:

Geraldine Egan
Tel: 0863016859
geraldineegan@yahoo.com

Organist: Triona McCarthy 0868157784

SCHOOL

Ballyhea N.S. Tel: 063 81086
Principal: Mr. Paul Cronin

Mass will be celebrated in Latin according to the Missal of St. Pope John XXIII (1962) as follows:

Christmas Day 9am
Epiphany 9am
Candlemas (2 February) 12 noon
Holy Annunciation (25 March) 12 noon
Easter Sunday (21 April) 9am
Ascension Thursday (30 May) 12 noon
Corpus Christi (20 June) 12 noon
Our Lady of Mount Carmel (16 July) 12noon
St. Augustine (28 August) 12noon
Exaltation of the Holy Cross (14 September)
All Souls (2 November) 12 noon

INTRODUCTION

This Christmas Annual affords an opportunity to present a cross-section of our parish and of the groups and organizations that work throughout the year for the benefit of our community. It is intended for everyone in the parish and for our friends and relatives who are abroad so that they might be able to keep up to date with life in Ballyhea. While taking stock of our activities, it also allows us to say a very big thanks to all those in the parish whose voluntary work and community spirit keep the wheels turning and the home fires burning.

The following pages provide a chronicle of the parish for 2018, most notably the preparations which were made for the reception of Pope Francis in the Phoenix Park and for the welcome given to a large group of people from the Archdiocese of Toledo who had come to Ireland for the World Meeting of Families. Their enthusiasm and commitment were a source of inspiration to all who met them at Mass last August and at the reception held in the GAA hall for them.

The National School and the Ballyhea Pre-School feature their educational work over the past twelve months as well as their many sports and extra-curricular activities.

Several Clubs and Societies present in the community have sent in short notices of their work and of their contact details for anyone interested in joining them. Among them mention must be made of the Community Council, the GAA, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, the Gun Club, the Community Alert, Charleville Agricultural Show.

The Christmas Annual also affords an opportunity to remember and pay tribute to the many vocations to the priesthood and to the religious life with which this parish has been blessed in every generation. Of particular note are those priests and nuns who have worked selflessly on the missions, bringing the Gospel of Christ to the farthest end of the earth. They serve as an inspiration for the youth of our parish to follow in their footsteps. We express our gratitude to them and our appreciation of their efforts in Lord's vineyard.

As this year marks the centenary of the end of the Great War, the war to end all wars, we publish a brief account of the War Chaplains from the diocese of Cloyne who served in the trenches of Flanders and we try to ensure that they will not be forgotten. The horrors of the First World War should make us all the more conscious of the need to favour and promote peace efforts in our times.

Given the major works currently being carried out on the parish church this year, we present a short article on the architect who built the church and survey some of his work which still survives throughout the county.

We hope that you will enjoy the Christmas Annual and we wish all our readers the peace and happiness of the Christ Child at this time and throughout the New Year, 2019.



BAPTISMS IN THE PARISH

December 2017-November 2018



1. Sadie Margaret Waters
2. Havanna Sarah Hutcheon
3. Charlie Jack O'Riordan
4. Isobel Grace Kennedy
5. Lucy Kelly
6. Gemma Ellie Corbett
7. Emily Christina Fitzgerald
8. Kathleen Louise O'Reilly
9. Helen Lisa Marie O'Reilly
10. Alice Barry
11. Sienna Grace O'Halloran
12. Ava Marie Murphy
13. Brendan Noel O'Callaghan



Ballyhea Parish Chronicle 2018

DECEMBER 2017

The Advent meditations in preparation for the celebration of Christmas were preached by The Most Reverend Philip Boyce, Bishop Emeritus of Raphoe; Fr. Joseph O'Connell, Fr. Michael Burgess, OFM Cap.

We had the novena to the Immaculate Conception, started 30th November and finished on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

On Christmas Eve, the Holy Mass of the Lord's Nativity was celebrated in the parish church and was followed by a Nativity Play. On Christmas morning, Mass was celebrated at 8.30 am; in Latin at 9am; and again at 11am.

On St. Stephen's Day several groups of Wren Boys travelled the parish.

The Te Deum was recited in thanksgiving to God for all His blessings received throughout the year 2017.



JANUARY 2018

The Solemnity of the Epiphany was observed on 6 January. Holy Mass was celebrated on the Vigil; at 8.30 am; in Latin at 9am; and at 11am.

A committee was formed to begin parish preparations to mark the World Meeting of Families to be held in Dublin in August 2018. The committee was called *Family Matters* and was made up of the following persons: Gearoid O'Shea, Linda Shortt, Sheila Fennessy, Carmel Roche, Catherine Horgan, Jerome O'Keeffe, and Anna O'Shea. It was decided that an event would be organized every month from February to August.

The World Meeting of Families Congress is a gathering of Catholics that has occurred every three years since 1994. It is organized by the Curial Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life, which

"promotes the pastoral care of families, protects their rights and dignity in the Church and in civil society, so that they may ever be more able to fulfil their duties." It is the biggest gathering of Catholic families in the world. It was also decided that the parish would encourage one young person to go to Lourdes.





Dear friends,

2018 promises to be a special year of grace for the Church in Ireland. Since Pope Francis invited Dublin to host the World Meeting of Families we have been preparing to deepen our awareness of the experience of family life in contemporary Ireland. Rapidly changing social norms challenge us to find new ways to adjust to living the Christian life in a changed and changing environment.

Our experience of our families is our foundation. Our family is the privileged place in which we receive love and support, without conditions.

I welcome this magazine "Family Matters" as an instrument of good news and support for families over these coming months of preparation for the gathering in August next. I invite you to engage positively with the opportunities for discussion, reflection and prayer that will be offered.

With prayerful good wishes.

Yours sincerely,

+ Wm. Crean
Most Rev. William Crean, D.D.,
Bishop of Cloyne.

Letter from Bishop Crean to the Family Matters Committee

FEBRUARY 2018



As a first preparation for the celebration for the World Meeting of Families, a Holy Mass of healing was celebrated in the parish church for the sick on 11 February. It was celebrated by Canon Michael Fitzgerald, parish priest of Mitchelstown. He preached on healing.

MARCH 2018

St. Patrick's Day was marked by a parade which took place after second Mass. Representatives from several groups and clubs in the parish took part. Irish dancing was featured by de Staic Dancing School. On 10th March we had the novena to St. Joseph finishing on his feast day 19th March. A decision to replace all the nave windows in the church was taken since the existing windows had proved problematic for some time. It was envisaged that the new windows would revert to the style of windows originally installed in the church about 1831.



Photograph: William Casey

April 2018



The Solemnity of the Lord's Resurrection was celebrated with Holy Mass in the parish church at 8.30; in Latin at 9 am; and at 11.30 am.

A special Holy Mass was celebrated in the ruins of Ardskeagh church beginning at 6.30 am and concluding at sunrise at 7.08am when the sunrays came streaming through the east gable of the little church and illuminated the large gathering of people. The Family Matters Committee took care

of the arrangements and many thanks are due to John and Rosemarie McNamara who facilitated access to the little church. The novena to the Divine Mercy started on Good Friday and finishing on Divine Mercy Sunday.



St. Sciatha

St. Sciatha lived c. 540- 610 A.D. Her monastery at Ardskeagh was one of the earliest and one of the most important Christian foundations in North Cork.

She descended from the race of Conaire, monarch of Erin, who sprung from the seed of Heremon. Eilhue, daughter of Concraidh, was her mother, according to the O'Clerys. The Muscraighe Tri Maighe, or Muskerry of the Three Plains, in which the saint's place was situated, had been regarded as the territory of the O' Donnegan's. The Church of Fiort Sceithe, which is placed by the Calendars of Marianus and the O'Clerys at September 6th, in Muscraighetri-maighe, is known at present by the name of Ardskeagh. This is a small parish, in that part of the barony of Fermoy, bordering on the baronies of Orrery and Kilmore. In



the ancient taxation of the diocese of Cloyne, there is a rural deanery, called Muscry-donnegan. It contains the parishes now comprehended in the baronies of Orrery and Kilmore, with small adjacent portions of Duhallow and Fermoy. Among the Churches in this deanery is Fersketh, (i.e. Feart Skeithe). This is now known as Ardskeagh. Thus, the identity of Muscraighe-tri-maighe and the barony of Orrery is proved to a demonstration. Some remains of its old Church yet exist in the burial ground. In the Martyrology of Donegal, at this same date, the patroness is recorded as Sciath, Virgin, of Fert Sceithe, in Museraighe of the Three Plains, in Munster. This saint was venerated, likewise, in Scotland, and at the 6th of September, she is entered as

Scetthe, in the Calendar of Drummond.

We know that her relics were translated from Ardskeagh to the monastery of Tallaght, near Dublin in the year 830. The Life of St. Ailbhe of Emly mentions St. Sciatha in two places, chapter 35 and chapter 38.

Chapter 35 reads: *The most holy virgin Sciath daughter of Meachar sent a message to Ailbhe asking him to send her a scribe to copy the four gospels. He did so, and the scribe, having written two of the books, fell ill and died.*

Hearing that he was ill the blessed pontiff Ailbhe hastened to him but found him dead. Ailbhe and Sciath then prayed for him and Ailbhe said to him: Now rise, brother. God has granted your soul to us so that you may write the two gospels which you have not copied but know that immediately after that you will die'.

At this word the man rose up and, when he had copied those two gospels, he died there. Ailbhe's disciples, however, removed his body and buried it in Ailbhe's monastery, which is in Emly.



Chapter 38 reads: *Sciath daughter of Meachar requested two oxen of Ailbhe in springtime for the purpose of ploughing. Ailbhe then blessed a mountain and said to the two deer which came down from it towards him: 'Go to Sciath and, now gentle and tamed, plough the fields with her, and every year, at the appropriate time for ploughing, return to her'. The deer did as was said to them and came every year at springtime to plough but, after many years, the two came to Ailbhe to find out if from him whether it was time to remove the yoke of servitude removed from their necks. Ailbhe gently replied to them: 'Do not abandon your compliance but return to serve Sciath again and serve her for as long as she might wish'. They then returned obediently to Ardskeagh, with nobody seeing them on the way.*

MAY 2018

On 12 May, First Holy Communion was administered to 16 children from the second class in the school, prepared by Mrs. Curtin. Afterwards, refreshments were served in the school.

A procession in honour of Our Lady was held prior to the celebration of Holy Mass at the Holy Well. The children who had received first Holy Communion on the previous Saturday led the procession.

Music was provided by members of the parish choir under the direction of Triona McCarthy.



Photographer William Casey



JUNE 2018

A parish youth pilgrimage left for Lourdes on 1 June. The group travelled from Cork to Bordeaux and were then transferred by coach to Lourdes. While in Lourdes the young people registered as a parish *Accueil* and began the first phase of a four course which will eventually qualify them as guides and assistants in the Sanctuary at Lourdes. While in Lourdes, the parish pilgrimage also interacted with the diocesan pilgrimage which was also at Lourdes at the same time.



The members of the Youth Pilgrimage were:
Gearoid O'Shea, Jade Hooper, Riona Carroll,

Jenifer Moore, Leanne Coughlan.

Regrettably, Marie McInerney, youth officer with the pilgrimage, was unable to travel but was substituted by her sister Sheila Kildea.

The pilgrimage returned to Ballyhea via Bordeaux and Cork. Many thanks are due to all who helped with the fundraising efforts for the event.

"Jade Hooper writes" This June, five teenagers including myself, accompanied by Monsignor James O'Brien, the organiser, went to Lourdes as volunteers to help the sick, disabled and elderly.

This exciting new experience began with us working with the Hospitalité Notre-Dame de Lourdes. No special skills were required to work with this group, just a willingness to serve, and a desire to enter into the 'spirit of Lourdes'. The main aim and objective, as we learned through training modules, was to greet and welcome the pilgrims (to Lourdes). We got to experience a different side of Lourdes to what most pilgrims would. It allowed us the chance to work at the Piscines (Baths) which helped broaden our understanding of the countless reasons people come to Lourdes and the belief which they have in St Bernadette. By being part of the Hospitalité it gave us an opportunity to be hands-on and assist pilgrims of all nationalities. We helped at the train station, where we greeted everyone and assisted those who needed help, we were part of the candlelight processions, we helped keep organisation during Grotto masses, we assisted in the hospitals and most importantly we got the chance to brighten people's days by being friendly and welcoming.

This trip for all of us was extremely fulfilling and it was an eye opener to the struggles in life people may have. For me, Lourdes offered a blanket of hope, comfort and calmness as all people from different nationalities and backgrounds could pray as one. This could be seen clearly at the International Mass which we attended on Sunday morning.

I would sincerely like to thank Monsignor for arranging the trip and his enthusiasm for us to experience all that Lourdes had to offer, to Sheila our child welfare officer who took great care of us and to all those in the community who supported us.

Jade Hooper

(accompanied on the trip by: Gearoid O'Shea, Gennifer Moore, Leanne Coughlan, Riona O'Carroll)



A ceremony for the blessing of Babies was held in the parish church on Sunday 17th June.

On 29 June 2018, Bishop William Crean was present in the parish to present Bene Merenti medals on behalf of Pope Francis. The recipients were Margaret Hanley, Eileen Buicke, Geraldine Egan, The Bishop also made a special presentation to Tommy and Mary Moloney. A very successful parish hoolie was held afterwards in the GAA hall. The first of the new windows for the church was installed on 25 June.



Photograph: Michael McGrath

The Novena to the Sacred Heart was recited from 31st May to June 8th.

JULY 2018

The annual outing of the parish choir and of the altar servers took place to Gougane Barra.



After a long and fatiguing journey, on arrival, refreshments were immediately availed of at Cronin's Hotel. Fortified in body and spirit, the group then visited the Holy Island and saw the Beds of St. Finbarr. Prayers were said in the Oratory and the choir sang hymns and sacred canticles in honour of the founder of Cork. On the return journey, a visit was paid to the farm that produces mozzarella cheese at Tome's

Bridge. It proved nugatory as our arrival coincided with their day off. The group reached Ballyheia well before 7pm.



AUGUST 2018

The parish received a visit from 52 people from the Archdiocese of Toledo in Spain who had travelled to Ireland for the World Meeting of Families. Holy Mass for families was celebrated in the parish church on 18th August. An address in Spanish was given by Mrs O’Riordan.

The Rosary was recited at the Holy Well on the Solemnity of the Assumption of Our Lady.



Photograph: Michael McGrath



Photographer: William Casey

A reception was held in the GAA hall after Mass.

On 25 August a group of 45 people left Ballyhea for the Papal Mass in the Phoenix Park, Dublin. The pilgrimage was led by Bishop Padraig O’Donoghue, Bishop Emeritus of Lancaster. The group arrived in Dublin at 10.30 am and took up their places before 2 pm.

Triona McCarthy and Michael Madigan, members of the parish choir, sang with combined choir assembled for the Papal Mass.

The group returned to Ballyhea at 12.30 am.

Another window was installed in the church at the end of August.

This window, which is open to public subscription, will commemorate the Papal visit to Ireland.



SEPTEMBER 2018

The Autumn stations commenced and were held throughout the month.

A revision of the station areas was announced.

A planning application was lodged with Cork County Council for the building of a new general purposes room at Ballyhea National School. The new space will also act as a venue for parish events.

A Building Committee was established to oversee the building of the new facility. Its members are: Paul Cronin, Hilary Ryan, Diarmuid O'Riordan, Kieran O'Regan, Noel Hanley. The bicentenary of the foundation of St. Joseph's Presentation Convent, Doneraile, was observed at the nuns' plot in Old Court Cemetery. The relatives of several of the nuns who came from Ballyhea attended the ceremonies. The following address was delivered by Mrs. Norah O'Keefe:

Commemoration of the Bi-Centenary of the foundation of the Presentation Convent Doneraile'

Before the coming of the Presentation Sisters to Doneraile only a tiny minority of the population of Doneraile was educated. Education was denied to the masses of the people. All that changed when a well to do widow named Mary Ann Flynn entered the Presentation Convent in Cork. She made clear that she intended to found a convent in her native Charleville. The parish priest of Doneraile Or. O'Brien heard of this and persuaded her to locate her new foundation in Doneraile instead. A beautiful convent was built overlooking the town and in September 1818 Mrs. O'Flynn known in religion as Sr. Mary Joseph arrived in Doneraile with three other nuns. They were met with scenes of rejoicing and jubilation. A young 18-year-old girl Miss Marie Hennessy from Fortwilliam was very Impressed by the proceedings and she made a secret promise to herself that she too would join when she was older. In the meantime, the convent suffered a financial setback when the financier who was to look after their affairs failed to deliver. The convent then took in a paying guest who lived with the nuns and paid one 100 pounds per annum for her keep. This guest was Miss Hannah Gould who came from a very well-off commercial family from Cork. In the early 1820s Miss Hennessy entered the Doneraile Convent and took the name Sr. Mary De Sales Hennessy. She was a key recruit for the new convent as she lived to be 90 years of age, over 70 of them a member of the Doneraile Convent where she at various intervals held the position of Superior and Bursar. When she died in the 1890s a pamphlet was written on her life story and as she had spent her entire life as a member of the Doneraile congregation her history became the history of the convent as well. Joining the Doneraile convent with Miss Hennessy in the 1820s was a Miss Tuite who came from the West Indies. Her father had been the governor of Santa Cruz and his daughter was educated with the Ursulines in Cork. She also became a key figure in the history of the new foundation. In the meantime, Doneraile was about to get its most significant recruit to date. Hannah Gould had been in correspondence with her niece Angelina Gould who was living in Lisbon. She was so taken by life in the Doneraile Convent that she too decided to enter. She brought with her a fortune of over 60,000 pounds. Sr. De Sales Hennessy decided to decorate a parlour in the convent for their new entrant whom she knew was spoilt and indulged in her younger life, When Angelina arrived however, she made her remove everything that smacked of luxury and of the World. In the 1840s Angellna's money was used to build a substantial school still in existence and a very important building in the Doneraile landscape for miles around.

When the school was opened 750 pupils turned up to be educated. In the later 1840s bad times struck the country when the Famine reared its head Miss Tuite known in religion as Sr. Mary procured food like meal and biscuits from France and elsewhere. She herself got up at 4 o'clock in the morning to put on meal to feed the pupils when they came in to school. At this time over 950 pupils arrived to be fed and educated. Times improved for the Convent in the later 19th century when a new church and choir was built when Dr. Croke was Parish Priest of Doneraile. Mother In cousin of Canon Sheehan was an important figure in later times. She was confidant of the Canon's, and after his death looked after his affairs and provided material that was used by Dr. Heuser in his biography of the Canon. The later nuns will be remembered when various past pupils recall their many memories of their days at school. I want to finish up back where started with our foundress Mary Ann Flynn. A few years back I asked Miss Brid Lysaght could I look in the Nagle Rice library to see would there be any books from the old school. I put my hand on a very ancient prayer book that was printed in 1802. To my utter delight and amazement, I discovered that the name on the page of the owner was none other than Mary Ann Flynn. After all the disruption that moving a school from one building to another would have to entail the prayer book of the foundress had found its way into the library of the new foundation. I felt that in some way her spirit had travelled too to the new school and would be its guiding star.

The bicentenary of St. Mary's church, Mallow, was observed. Two further windows were installed in the church.

OCTOBER 2018

Work continued the installation of the new windows for the church. Fund raising plans to finance the building of the new hall were made. Part of the grounds of the church was resurfaced and beech hedging planted along the southern boundary.

NOVEMBER 2018

The commemoration of the dead was held on 2 November with Holy Mass celebrated at 10 am, in Latin at 10.30 am; and at 8 pm.

Prayers for the dead were said at Ballyhea Cemetery and Cooline cemetery on 4 November; and at the New cemetery and Imphrick on 11 November.

Compilation of the new Altar List of the Holy Souls began. The first of the Masses for those on the list was celebrated on 25th November. The remaining Masses will be offered on the first Friday of every month throughout the year.

Preparations began for the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation by the boys and girls of fifth and sixth class.

Preparations began for the reception of first Holy Communion and First Confession for the boys and girls in second class. These preparations are being guided by Canon Sean Cotter. The Solemnity of Christ the King was observed with a period of Eucharistic adoration which concluded with benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Two further windows were installed in the church at the end of the month. The remaining two windows are to be installed on 10 December.



Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious from Ballyhea Parish

Canon John J. Mortell.



Fr. John was born in Rathmorgan Ballyhea to John (Jack) and Stasia (Anastasia McAuliffe) Mortell. He was the youngest of a family of six. Two of whom became nuns Sr. Francis (Peggy) order of the holy family and Sr. Aloysius (Maisie) of the Nazareth order. Fr. John attended the CBS in Charleville before entering ST. John's Waterford. He was a member of the first minor hurling team in Ballyhea but once he joined the seminary his hurling days ended but not his interest as he was kept up to date by getting "The Corkman" posted to him weekly.

When he was appointed to ST. George's York his P.P. was Canon Matthew O Connell who hailed from Milford. In 1978 he returned near York and founded a new parish in Haxby. At first, he had no building and had to use his own house which at that time was an old farmhouse for daily Mass.

Word quickly spread that there were catholic ceremonies there and gradually the numbers grew to so many that he was no longer able to accommodate the numbers. The bishop agreed for Fr. John to secure a suitable site and fundraise for a church. The Church was built and dedicated to the local patron St. Margaret Clitherow (who was executed for harbouring priests during the reign of Queen Elizabeth 1 in 1550's) Today this church stands proud on Holly Tree Lane Haxby, built by a Ballyhea man. He died on August 21st 2005 and the parishioners commissioned a special stain glass window at the back of the church in his honour



Sr. M Cecilia McAuliffe

Sr. M Cecilia McAuliffe Coarliss, Charleville and Convent of Mercy Mallow entered the convent of Mercy in Cobh as a novitiate on September 1940 and was professed in March 1943. This year marked 75 years of her profession, a life dedicated served praying, working and teaching in the Mercy order. She picked the name Cecilia as it was the patron saint of music which was her passion

She had a great love for her family and knew all her family very well, keeping in contact with them by phone, text, email and frequent visits. She had 4 brothers and one sister, 17 nieces and nephews 39 grandnieces and grandnephews as well as her 13 great grandnieces and great gran nephews

She was a seasoned traveller and spent a term in Spain while studying Spanish. She visited Lourdes at least 24 times and twice to the Holy Land and 25 trips to America to visit her brother Gerald who lived in the West of the States.

Aged 96yrs she loved technology and had all the new books downloaded to her "kindle" in audio style to which she would listen each night. She also had an iPad which she stored all her morning and evening Vespers.



She had a great appetite for life but unfortunately on August 19th of this year she fell and broke her ankle and never recovered to full health and she spent her last few weeks in Bridhaven Mallow where she died on November 6th surrounded by her community family and her nieces and nephews she was 96years old and terrific at tracing relations and she was the glue that held our family together. R.I.P. she will be sadly missed.

Sr. Rose Catherine Fitzgibbon

SR. ROSE CATHERINE, S.M.G.(R.I.P.) - BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH



Sr. Rose Catherine (Margaret Fitzgibbon) was born in Ballyhea, Charleville, Co. Cork in 1934, the third child in a family of nine. She attended Ballyhea Primary School and later, the Mercy Convent Secondary School in Charleville. Tragedy struck early in her young life, when at the age of sixteen, her mother died suddenly on Christmas Eve. As the eldest girl in the family, Margaret had to assume responsibility early, and her willingness to do this was a source of great comfort to her father in his tremendous loss. He was very attached to her and yet, three years later, he put no obstacles in her way when she expressed a desire to join the Poor Servants of the Mother of God. She entered in September 1953, and from the start, impressed everyone with her solid faith, her devotion to Our Lady, and her practical common-sense attitude to everything.

On March 25th, 1954, Margaret entered the novitiate and was given the name of Sr. Rose Catherine. She made her First Profession on March 24th, 1956, as that year the 25th was on Palm Sunday.

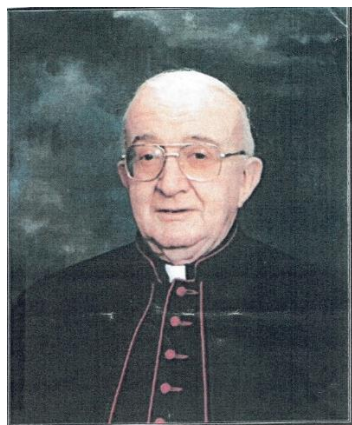
The following, September saw Sr. Rose Catherine in Carysfort Training College where she spent two busy years preparing, for her teaching apostolate. After two years teaching in Scoil Áine, Raheny, Sr. Rose went to St. Mary's, Roehampton for her Tenianship year, at the end of which, on the Feast of the Assumption, 1960, she made her Final Profession as an S.M.G. She then resumed her teaching ministry in Scoil Áine for some years, until circumstances necessitated her transfer to the Junior School in Manor House where she was Principal until its closure in 1975.

Sr. Rose was appointed Superior in Manor House the same year, a role which she fulfilled with great dedication, care and concern for each member of the community. Such was her giftedness in this role that she was re-appointed for a second term. Sadly, during this time, her health began to give cause for anxiety and necessitated surgery. However, her family, community, and the whole S.M.G. Congregation prayed her back to health. Sometime after her recovery. Sr. Rose was missioned to Carrigtwohill, where again, she made many friends. Her next appointment was to the nursery in Edenmore for another short spell, after which she found herself back in Scoil Áine. where she worked with her usual dedication until Easter 2000.

Fr. David Hawe

Fr. David Hawe was born in Ballinagrath, Ballyhea on 10th February 1915 Educated in All Hallows College Dublin Ordained for Rockhampton, Australia.

Canon David Fitzgibbon



Canon David Fitzgibbon
31st July 1930 – 21st January 2005.
R.I.P.
Ordained 12th June 1955

Fr. David Fitzgibbon, born in Ballylopin in 1930, went to Ballyhea National School and then to Charleville CBS. He studied for the priesthood in Thurles, and he was ordained there in 1955 for the diocese of Middlesbrough in England.

During his time in England, he attended to a wide variety of tasks, including being curate and senior curate, prison chaplain, chaplain to the scouts and girl guides. As Master of Ceremonies at the Cathedral in Middlesbrough, he was in charge of the Irish Centre in that city, called "Our Lady of Knock Centre" and before returning to Knock he was made Parish Priest of St. Anthony's Brotton on the outskirts of Middlesbrough where he served for 14 years the 1970s and early 1980s. Canon Fitzgibbon was Diocesan Schools' Commissioner. During that time, he was also a member of the Catholic Education Council for England and Wales

He came to Knock in 1985, to do what was different, much more spiritual, work ministering to the sick, celebrating Mass for the pilgrims, and hearing daily confessions. He loved his work at the Shrine: "Knock is a place of peace where people find spiritual and physical healing".

Canon Fitzgibbon was made an Honorary Canon of the Chapter of Middlesbrough Diocese in England in 1998. He received this honour because of his work in the Diocese of Middlesbrough for thirty years, and especially for his distinguished service in the field of education. He died in 2005 and is buried in Ballyhea Church grounds.

Fr. Pat Dillon

Fr. Pat Dillon was born on 26th July 1941 in Ballyhea. He went to primary school in Ballyhea. The family moved to Tipperary in 1953 where he went to secondary school as far as his intermediate cert. He joined the army in 1958 and was in the first batch of soldiers to go to the Congo with the 32nd Irish Battalion in 1960. The family moved back to Ballyhea in 1961 where Pat worked with the forestry and telecom Eireann before going to England in 1964.

He worked as a bus conductor in Leamington Spa for 3 years. He found a copy of The Word magazine on a bus and decided to join the Divine Word Missionaries to pursue a vocation. He went to Carrog in North Wales and then to Donamon in Roscommon and finally Maynooth where he and nine other students were ordained in Knock in 1975. He learned Portuguese for a year in Maynooth and went to Brazil in 1976 where he spent 41 years in many different parishes. He really loved his work and the people of Brazil but also loved returning to Ballyhea for his holidays visiting relatives, friends and neighbours.

He died in May 2017 in São Paulo and was buried in Brazil which was what he wanted.



Sr. Breda Madigan



Breda Madigan was born in Ballyhea and went to Primary school there and then was sent to Secondary school in Drishane Convent, Milistreet. She entered the convent there in October 1952,, was professed in 1955 and then spent 3 years in UCC.

Her first mission was to teach in Widnes, Lancashire, England in a Secondary Modern School, no easy job for a beginner! In September 1960 she made her perpetual vows in Paris, the mother house of the Infant Jesus Sisters. She then returned to Ireland to train as a teacher in UCD, after which she was sent to Liverpool to teach in a grammar school run by the Mercy sisters.

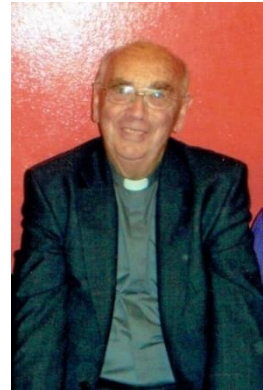
In 1965, she opted for a mission in Penang,,Malaysia where she taught until. 1972 when she had to leave because the Muslim Government did not want Christian teachers.

After training as a counsellor, she went to Singapore which became her home from 1974 to 1987 counselling in our 4 Secondary Schools and helping with aftercare of drug addicts.

After that she felt called to a third world mission and was sent to Nigeria - a great change from the culture and education in Singapore and Malaysia. There she helped in the Parish until she was called to Rome to spend 2 six-year terms on the General Council. Back in England for 9 years and finally ended up in Mallow, Co. Cork

Fr. Tom O’Keeffe

Fr. Tom a thorough Corkman, born in Ballydesmond, Co. Cork. Educated in St. Colman’s College Fermoy and ordained in Clonliffe College Dublin. He served in the Dublin Diocese as is now Parish Priest in Cabinteely Fr. Tom concelebrated and officiated on many occasions here in Ballyhea Church. He was always very proud to be a Corkman and also has a keen interest in the activities of Ballyhea GAA club.



Fr. James Byrne



Fr. Jim Byrne, Gurrane received his early education at Ballyhea N.S. and completed his secondary education at CBS Charleville. Following his ordination at All Hallows College, Dublin in 1943 he was assigned to the diocese of Salford, Manchester.

In 1946 Fr. Byrne and 12 other priests travelled to Australia on board the British aircraft carrier H.M.S. Victorious to minister in the diocese of Sandhurst in Bendigo. He served in various parishes before being appointed to the parish of North Fitzroy, on loan to the then Archbishop of Melbourne, Most Rev. Dr. Daniel Mannix. In 1958 Fr. Byrne was requested to establish a new parish in the city of Wangaratta where over 42 years later he finished out his priestly mission.

Fr. John O'Mahony



Fr. John O'Mahony was born in Ballyhea in 1886, he attended school in Ballyhea, St. Colman's College, Fermoy and St. Patrick's College Maynooth.

He was ordained on 19th June 1910 for the Diocese of Cloyne by Archbishop William Walsh of Dublin.

After his ordination he was on loan to Glasgow until 1918

At St. Mirin's Fr. O'Mahony worked especially with the ... "Women's Temperance Society which he founded and the Men's Sacred Heart Association. In the words of an address 'he was the embodiment of the highest ideals of the Soggarth Aroon". (Glasgow Observed, 21 December 1918, p.2)

The Parishes that Fr. O'Mahony ministered in are as follows

Kilnamartyra	1918–1922	Iniscarra	1922-1924
		Fermoy	1924-1927
Killeagh	1927-1929	Shandrum	1936-1940
Kildorrery	1929-1931		
Kilavullen	1931-1936		

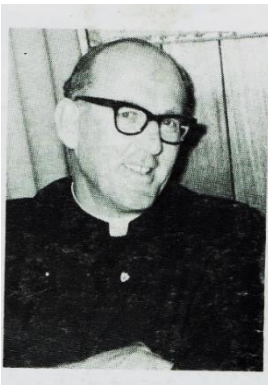
During his time in Shandrum the foundation stone for St. Peter and Paul's Church in Dromina was laid

Fr. O'Mahony was Parish Priest of Kilnamartyra from 1940 -1946 and from 1946 to 1951 he was Parish Priest of Rathcormac.

Fr. O'Mahony died on 8th March 1951 and is buried in Rathcormac Churchyard

Fr. Peter McDermott

Father Peter McDermott was born in 1920. Was educated in Ballyhea National School, Charleville C.B.S. and St. Colman's College Fermoy. He entered seminary in Saint Patrick's College Maynooth and was ordained there in 1947. He served as chaplain in Mallow, having returned from a brief appointment in the UK. He worked in Araglin, Lisgoold, Castlemartyr, Coachford, and Mitchelstown. He died in 1979. And is buried in the grounds of St Mary's Church, Ballyhea.



Father Tom McDermott

Father Tom McDermott, son of James McDermott and Claire Cowhey was born in 1970. Educated in St. Joseph's Infant School, and C.B.S. Charleville. He received a National Diploma in Business Studies in Cork Regional Technical College before discerning a vocation to the priesthood. He entered St Patrick's College, Maynooth as a seminarian for the Diocese of Cloyne in 1989; where he received a Diploma in Philosophy and Arts and a Degree in Theology. Father Tom was ordained on 2nd July 1995 in Holy Cross Church, Charleville. He has worked in Milford



Parish from 1995 to 1998, Castlelyons from 1998 to 2001, Downpatrick (Diocese of Down and Connor) from 2001 to 2003, Churchtown and Liscarroll from 2003 to 2013, Inniscarra Parish from 2013 to 2017. He is currently appointed as Curate in the Cathedral Parish, St Colman's Cathedral, Cobh. Fr. Tom has worked with Cloyne Diocesan Youth Services, as Diocesan Representative for Trócaire, and as a facilitator with ACCORD Catholic Marriage Care Service.

The McDermott Sisters

Sr. M. Augustine McDermott



Sr M. Rosario McDermott was baptised Bridget, Educated in Ballyhea National School, and Saint Mary's Secondary School, Charleville. She entered the Mercy Sisters in Cobh. Trained as a national school teacher, and taught in Saint Mary's Primary School, Cobh. After retirement she served in Middleton Convent before returning to Cobh. She dies in 2011.

Sr. M. Rosario McDermott

Sr M. Rosario McDermott was baptised Bridget, Educated in Ballyhea National School, and Saint Mary's Secondary School, Charleville. She entered the Mercy Sisters in Cobh. Trained as a national school teacher, and taught in Saint Mary's Primary School, Cobh. After retirement she served in Middleton Convent before returning to Cobh. She dies in 2011.



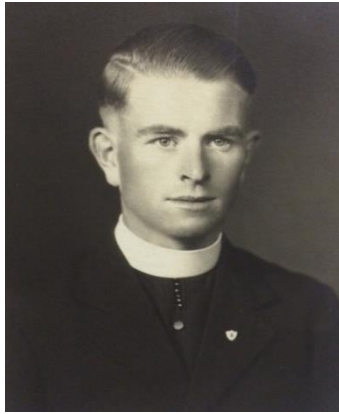
Fr. Gerard Coleman



Fr Gerard Coleman. Son of Stephen & Nora Coleman, Cooline. Studied in St. Colman's College, Fermoy and St Patrick's College Maynooth. Ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Cloyne at Church of the Resurrection, Mallow on 7.06.1980. Served as curate in Fermoy 1980-1985; Freemount 1985-1988; Liscarroll 1988-1991; on loan to Middlesbrough Diocese 1991-1994; Fermoy 1994-2004; Macroom 2004-2008; Parish Priest Castlelyons 2008-



Fr. Michael Coleman



Fr Michael Coleman. Born 20.03.1920. Son of Stephen & Mary Coleman, Cooline. Studied in St. Colman's College, Fermoy. Ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Liverpool at St. Kieran's College, Kilkenny on 10.06.1945. Served in nine parishes: Christ the King, Childwall and St Gregory's Chorley 1945-1957; St Alphonsus 1948-1957; St. Anne's, Liverpool 1957-1960; St Margaret Mary's 1960-1966; Our Lady's Eldon Street 1966-1967; St. Mary's Blackbrook 1967-1970; English Martyrs, Kirkby 1970-1975; St. Francis' Hale Road 1975-1978; St. Paschal Bayldon 1978-1983. Died on 27.04.1983. Buried in churchyard in Ballyhea.

Fr. Michael Walsh

Fr. Michael Walsh was born in 1955 in Knocklong, Co. Limerick. Ordained in 1980 in Dublin for the Augustinians

Fr. Michael spent a number of years in the Augustinian Friary in Cork before going to Nigeria in the early 90's to work on the missions.

Fr. Michael celebrated Mass in Ballyhea on numerous occasions as he had 3 Aunts living here.

(Mrs. Peggy Walsh R.I.P. Castledodd. Mrs Eilish Foley, Ballynoran and Mrs Ann Goold, Cooline)



Monsignor James Sheedy



Monsignor James Sheedy – Sorrell was ordained in June 1906. He dies in May 1967 as Parish Priest of Mallow, Vicar General and Dean of the Diocese of Cloyne. The first nine years after his ordination – he spent in Southwerk in the UK.

He brought the first sliothar into Maynooth College, it was made by Bill O'Connell – father to Tyler O'Connell

Bishop Daniel Foley

Daniel Foley (Newtown Ballyhea) went to Maynooth the same year as his two first cousins – also called Dan – two Dan Foleys and one Dan Mannix. Dan Mannix became Archbishop of Melbourne. Daniel Foley became Bishop of Ballarat. While the other Daniel Foley was Parish Priest of Lisscarroll. Fr. Foley had a splendid tenor voice and his favourite song was The Snowy Breasted Pearl. He was an uncle to Tom & Dan Foley of Lower Newtown Ballyhea



The Cowhey Sisters



Louise Cowhey was born in September 1913. She, like the rest of her sisters was educated in Ballyhea National School, and St Mary's Secondary Charleville. She entered the Mercy Congregation in Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick taking the name Sr M. Louis. She studied in Carysford College and opened a new secondary school in Abbeyfeale in 1947. She taught there until retirement and died in the year 2,000.

Mary Cowhey, born 1915, took the name Sr M. Finbarr when she entered religious life in Athy Co. Kildare. She trained as a nurse in The Mater Hospital, Dublin and worked in the County Home in Athy. She died in 1998.



Nora Cowhey was born in 1918. She took the name Sr M. Dolores when she entered the Mercy Convent in Athy. She studied to become a primary school teacher in Carysford College and taught in The Mercy Primary School in Athy. She was very involved in the Wheelchair Association and went on many trips with them as a helper. She engaged in many fundraising activities including a walk in the Holy Land with Donncha Ó Dúlaing. She died in 2009.

Eileen Cowhey, born in 1922 entered the Poor Clare Monastery in College Road, Cork in 1942. Her name in religion was Sr M Paschal. In 1952 she went with four others to Scotland to open a foundation there. She died in 2012 and was buried in the Monastery she helped establish in Bothwell, Glasgow.



Esther Cowhey was born in 1926. She took the name Sr M Germaine on entering The Mercy Order in Bristol, England. She worked with pre-school children until her retirement. She moved from Bristol to Clevedon, and in 1983 she again moved to Poole, Dorset. On retirement she moved again to the Mercy Convent in St Albans, and finally moved when that convent closed its doors to St. Michael's Retirement Home and Convent in Clacton on Sea. She died there in 2016

The O'Brien Sisters



Sr. Alphonsus, Sr. Liguori, St. Philip, Mother Zoila, sister of Daniel O'Brien, Ballycosgry

Sisters of St. Paul, Kilfinane and St. Paul's Convent, Selly Park, Birmingham

Sr. Philomena Hawe

Sr. Philomena Hawe (1910-2000), St. Joseph's Presentation Convent, Doneraile.

Born in Ballinagrath, daughter of Matthew Hawe and Catherine Duane.



Canon William Rea



Canon William Rea, Ardnageehy

Sr. Mary Agatha Carey

Sr. Mary Agatha Carey was born in Bruree, Co. Limerick and attended the Local Primary School there.

Entered the Convent of Mercy in Brentwood, Essex 1949 and spent 40 very happy years there.

Trained as a teacher in the Sante Union College in Southampton and taught in the local primary school for 35 years and for short periods in the Mercy private schools at Frinton-on-sea, Colchester and Romford.

After taking early retirement was appointed Community Leader in the Convent in, and again three years later again Community Leader in the Convalescent Home in Hosford, Leeds.

Next appointment was to Swanbourne Rd., Sheffield for Parish work and Chaplin in the Northern General Hospital for 7 years.

(Loved all of it)

Following major surgery was invited to the Convent in Frinton-on-Sea, Essex for the next 14 years and continue to do Parish visitation and Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist.

Sr. Agatha spends her holidays in Ballyhea with her sister Joan O'Mahony and her son Michael.



Fr. Tom O'Connor



Fr. Tom O'Connor was born in Newtown Ballyhea in 1915 and entered the Capuchin Franciscan Order - 1937. Received a bachelor's degree from the National University of Ireland in 1941.

Was ordained a priest in 1946 and received a master's at from Immaculate Heart College in 1952.

Fr. Tom taught at St. Francis High School for 18 years.

In the years prior to his death in 1966 he was pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel Church Fort Bragg.

He was also archdiocesan and state chaplain of the Knights of Columbus and Crescenta Valley Council and Cabrillo General Assembly, Fort Degree.



Picture of Fr. Tom with his father and mother Michael O'Connor and Alice O'Connor (nee Ryan) after his Ordination in 1946

Sr. Cyprian (Eileen) Coleman



Sr. Cyprian (Eileen) Coleman. Born 16.11.1928. Daughter of Stephen & Mary Coleman, Cooline. Entered Mercy Convent Westbourne, Limerick in 1947. First Profession on 29.08.1950. Trained in Institutional Management in Cathal Brugha Street Dublin. Worked in University Hospital Limerick from 1955-1993. She spent her final years in Catherine McAuley House, Bishop Street. Limerick. Died on 23.09.2013.

Dean Edmond Fox. Born Ballyhea. Ordained on 14.06.1908 at the Irish College Paris. Served in Inch 1923; Fermoy 1927-1934; Youghal 1934-1937; Admin. Fermoy 1937-1945; Parish Priest Macroom 1945-1954; Parish Priest Middleton 1954-1968.

Fr Matthew Burke. Born in Ballyhea in 1872. Ordained for the Diocese of Cloyne at St Patrick's College Maynooth on 28.06.1897. On loan to Glasgow 1897-1900 serving at St Patrick's Anderston Glasgow 1897-1898 and St John's Uddington 1898-1900. Died 8.08.1901. Buried in churchyard in Ballyhea. Brother of Fr John Burke, St Colman's College Fermoy. (Could this John Burke be Canon John Burke PP Charleville 1935-1960?)

Canon Michael Barrett. Born Ballyhea in 1867. Ordained 3.6.1891. Taught in Carlow 1892-1893. Professor of Philosophy at St Patrick's College Maynooth 1893-1901. President of St Colman's College Fermoy 1901-1916. Parish Priest Blarney 1916-1930. Parish Priest Macroom 1930-1945. Died 26.07.1945. Buried in churchyard Macroom.

Canon Willie Ryan. Born Cooline. Ordained 1937 (Uncle of Jack Russell)

Sr. Máire O'Driscoll

Sr. Máire O'Driscoll was born in Kilcoe, Aughadown, West Cork in 1935, moved to Ballyhea with her family in March 1952. She entered the Ola Sisters Convent in Blackrock Cork in 1957. After her final profession and getting her B. Sc. Degree she travelled to the missions in Ghana, West Africa and took up her post teaching in a girl's boarding school. She remained there until the 1980's and then went to Rome for a few years to further her studies before returning to Ghana when she became the Bishop's secretary in Accra. She stayed there for a number of years and then returned to teaching. She spent just over 50 years in Ghana where she celebrated her Golden Jubilee in the nuns. She came home on holidays in the summer of 2012 to attend the Eucharistic Congress in Dublin. She became ill thereafter and spent the rest of her time in the Convent in Cork and she died on 1st April 2013



Sr. Margaret Mortell. Date of Birth.: 2nd April 1947. EDUCATIONAL RECORD. 1951-

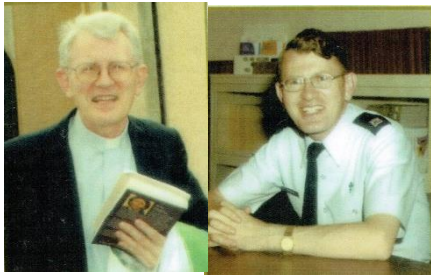


1954 -1960. Ballyhea, Charleville Co. Cork 1960 -1963: St. Joseph's Convent Cork (Australian Order) 1963 -4. Assistant Housekeeper to Fr. James Rice P.P. Ballyhea Charleville Cork, 1964 - Entered the Bon Sauveur Convent, Carriglea Dungarvan Waterford. 1968- 1 Yr. Domestic Science Course. St Joseph 's College Carrick-on – Suir. 1974- Spiritual Formation Year, in Normandy France (Motherhouse) 7th of August 3 yrs., State Registration Nurse (RNID) Reg. Nurse for Intellectual Disability) 1975-85 Senior Staff Nurse in Residential Centre in the care of the Bon Sauveur

Sisters 1922, PRH 5day course on Personality and human Relationship (Edward Farrell) Mercy Convent Charleville Co. Cork. 1993. Senior Nurse Management Course WIT Waterford. 1995 Certificate for Pastoral Counselling Course Marianella Dublin 1995. 16 wks. Parish renewal course St. John's Pastoral Centre W/ford. 1998. Post -Grad. Qualification Cork School of Chiropody 2004 Spiritual Accompaniment Course Manreasa Centre 1 yr. 2004-6 Appointed as Spirituality Coordinator Catherine McAuley Centre D.4. 2003. Diploma in Theology and Spirituality Pastoral Care in Milltown Institute, (Awarded a Degree by the University of WALES) 2006 -15. Worked in St. Mary's Parish Haddington Road D.4 for 15 years Dublin as Parish Pastoral Sister. I have returned to my own community in Carriglea, happy to have achieved so much in the service of the Lord and his people.



Fr. Jeremiah O’Riordan



Fr. Jeremiah O’Riordan was ordained to the Priesthood on June 10th, 1967, he was ordained for the Diocese of Paterson, New Jersey, USA. He served in different Parishes in the Diocese of Paterson. He was also Chaplain to the U.S. Air Force for 20 years. He travelled to different U.S. Airbases around the world. He said his first Mass in St. Mary’s Church, Ballyhea on June 11th, 1967. He played hurling with Ballyhea while studying in

St. Colman’s College, Fermoy, Co. Cork. He sadly passed away on January 15th, 2012 R.I.P. His funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Mary’s Church, Ballyhea and he was laid to rest in Rockchapel, Co. Cork with his parents and family

Rev Daniel Foley

Rev Daniel Foley was appointed Parish Priest of Churchtown and Liscarroll in March 1925. He was born at Coolcaum, in the Parish of Ballyhea. He was ordained at Maynooth College on August 12, 1880. Fr Foley ministered in the Parishes of Middleton, Cloyne and Killeagh before coming to Churchtown as PP in 1925. Rev Daniel Foley was first cousin to Archbishop Daniel Mannix of Melbourne, Australia and Bishop Daniel Foley of Ballarat, Australia. He was a fine singer himself and his favourite song was “The Bonny Bonny Banks of Loch Lomond”. Rev Daniel Foley died on March 27, 1945 and was buried in the grounds of Liscarroll Church.

Sacred Heart of Jesus,
I place all my trust in Thee.

IN LOVING MEMORY
of
Sr. Frances Cabrini O'Connor

Birth: Ballyhea, Co. Cork:..... 19.11.1931
Religious Profession:..... 05.05.1954
Death:..... 11.09.2011
Rest in Peace

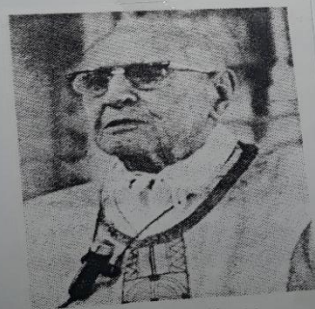
Fr. John Clancy

Father John Clancy, a native of Ireland, was born on June 24th 1866 in the parish of Ballyhea and the townland of Ballinadridden. He started his education in Ballyhea old school and he took his preliminary studies for the priesthood at St. Patrick’s College, Carlow. He went to the USA in September 1889 and completed his theological studies at the seminary of Our Lady of the Angels, Niagara, New York and St. Viators College, Kankakee.

Fr. Clancy was ordained in the Cathedral of Ss. Peter and Paul, Alton on August 15th 1891. He was then assigned to further studies at the Catholic University of America. Returning to his diocese he was the first resident priest of Sacred Heart Church in Dalton City. He served as Pastor of St. Catherine’s Church, Verden and St. James Church, Riverton, before he was appointed Pastor of St. Francis, Jerseyville on October 1st, 1914.

During his 52 years at St. Francis, Fr. Clancy observed his Silver, Golden and Diamond Jubilees in the priesthood. A Mass of Thanksgiving was offered by Fr. Clancy on August 16th marking his 75 years in the priesthood and celebrating his 100th birthday.

Clancys have long gone. Michael Thomas and Helena have been interred in Darragh Cemetery in County Limerick, near Glenroe on the Kilfinane to Mitchelstown road.



Father John Clancy

Riordan Priests from Pruntus, Ballyhea

The Pruntus farming family of Thomas and Bridget was devoted to the church. The day started with the 'morning offering' and ended with the family reciting the rosary by lamplight around the table in the parlour. Bridget was also determined to have her children educated. Primary schooling was under master Tom Fox at the Ballyhea N.S and secondary schooling at the Christian Brothers in Charleville. Michael and, later, Francis went to the junior seminary of the Southwark Diocese, that stretches from the Thames to the Kent coast. They then progressed to Wonersh, the diocesan seminary, to complete their studies and were ordained for the priesthood in that diocese. However, their Bishop, Bishop Amigo, suggested that they changed their name to O'Riordan to ensure that parishioners would see them as fellow Irishmen.

Fr Michael was ordained in July 1921 and started his ministry in the Thames-side London



parish of Greenwich. After ministering in four other parishes he was appointed Parish Priest of Dockhead in the heart of London's docks. He arrived there in June 1935, a time of poverty and hardship for his parishioners. Many of the men were just hired by the day and there was little work as England was emerging from the 'Great Depression'. From 1939 World War II brought more work but also intensive bombing of the docks. Fr. Michael's parish church was destroyed by bombing on 8th December 1940. He wrote to his brother, Fr. Francis, saying how he was prepared to be bombed too. His presbytery was indeed destroyed by a V2 jet propelled rocket bomb on 2nd March 1945. He was killed instantly as were two of

the curates, Frs. Stephen Spillane and Finbarr MacCarthy, R.I.P. A pictorial account is at <http://www.dockhead.com/march1945.htm>. His Obituary ended with the words 'he was there with his flock and among them he died.'

Fr Francis followed Fr Michael to England where he was ordained in 1927. He too



was in several parishes before being appointed parish priest of Chatham and Rochester. Seized by the need for a church in Rochester he established a twinning arrangement with the Diocese of Rochester in upstate New York, whose patron saint is St John Fisher, Bishop of Rochester executed in 1535, during the Reformation in England. The people of that Diocese were generous in supporting the building of a new church for Rochester, the first since the Reformation. The foundation stone was laid on 6th July 1952 with the participation of priests and people from Rochester N.Y.

Sadly Fr Francis was not to see the completed church as he died suddenly of a stroke on 2nd May 1954 aged 52 years. RIP. At his funeral the Bishop of Southwark said that Fr Francis was indeed a good shepherd to his flock.



Fr. Francis Browne SJ (1880-1960) in the uniform of a military chaplain.

Fr. Francis Browne, S.J. (1880-1960)

Fr. Francis Browne, SJ, was born in Cork on the 3 January 1880, the youngest of eight children born to James Browne and Brigid Hegarty. His mother came from a distinguished Cork family counting amongst its members Sir Daniel Hegarty who became first Lord Mayor of Cork in 1900 and received Queen Victoria on her second visit to the city. His father was James Browne, a successful businessman, born in Charleville in 1841 to Robert Browne and Margaret Mullins who conducted a business situated on the corner of the Main street and Smith's lane - and who are laid to rest in the old cemetery at Ballyhea.

Fr. Browne's mother died shortly after his birth. His father died in a swimming accident off of Crosshaven on 2 September 1889. Orphaned at the age of nine, he was reared by his uncle, Robert Browne, who became Bishop of Cloyne in 1894. His childhood was spent at the Bower Convent in Athlone and subsequently at Castleknock College from where he graduated in 1897.

Returning from a tour of Europe, he joined the Jesuits at Tullabeg in September 1897. At University College, Dublin, one of his fellows in the class of 1902 was James Joyce who featured Browne in his novel *Finnigan's Wake*. Fr. Browne's moment of fame came in April 1912 when he sailed from Southampton to Queenstown via Cherbourg on the *Titanic*. He had been given a gift of a first-class ticket by his uncle, the Bishop of Cloyne, who had received substantial damages for defamation in an action taken by him against the *Dundee Courier*. While aboard, Fr. Browne took numerous photographs of the ship and of its passengers. Following on the sinking of the *Titanic* these photographs were published in newspapers around the world and remain an important documentary archive of the ship.

On 31 July 1915, Francis Browne was ordained at Milltown Park, Dublin, by the Bishop of Cloyne. Six months later he was one of group of Catholic chaplains sent to Flanders to minister to the troops fighting in the trenches. Fr. Browne was chaplain to the Irish Guard 1916-1920. The work of the Catholic chaplain began at the clearing-line. He accompanied the men into the thick of battle at the front-line and was there to administer the last rites, comfort the dying, bury the dead, attend to the wounded and write letters of condolence to bereaved relatives at home. Fr. Browne was wounded on five occasions during the war including sustaining mustard-gas poisoning which left him with respiratory difficulties for the rest of his life.

Writing after Christmas 1916 to Fr. Nolan, his superior in Dublin, he recounted:

"On St Stephen's Day the men were engaged in a football match when the Germans saw them. They sent over a lovely shot at long range which carried away the goal-post and, bursting in the middle of the men, killed three and wounded seven. The wounded were bandaged up and carried away to hospital and the dead were carried away for burial. Then the ball was kicked off once more and the game went on as if nothing had happened. The Germans must have admired the cool pluck of the players for they did not fire any more".

In another letter, he told Fr. Nolan:

"Chaplains -that is RC- are wanted here. We are kept going night and morning, and there is plenty of room for more. ... A short time ago we were witnesses to a horrible sight. One of our observation balloons broke loose in a high wind and began to sail towards the German lines. The thing rose rapidly the while and the two occupants had to get out. We saw one man drop with his parachute. For about 500 feet he seemed to fall like a stone: then the parachute opened and he fell fairly rapidly a little less than a mile from us. He must have got a good shaking for he was flying very fast as he approached the ground. He was about 1000 feet from the ground when we saw another black object fall from the balloon. No parachute appeared and we thought it was a box ... suddenly the CO (who was using his glasses) exclaimed 'Good God, it is a man'. We all looked and could not see him falling, hoisting and fumbling. It was sickening -down down down - ... Most of us are pretty well accustomed to queer sights, but this was too much". He saw action at the Battle of the Somme and at Loivre, Wytschaete, Messines Ridge, Paschendaele, Ypres, Amiens and Arras but this was too much".



Fr. Browne's World War I decorations.



Attending to the wounded in the Irish Guard at Wytschaete, June 1917.

He received the Military Cross for valour and the Croix de Guerre of both France and Belgium. Although less famous than his *Titanic* photographs, he also made an extensive photographic record of life in the trenches during World War I.

After the war, Fr. Browne returned to Dublin where he was superior of the Jesuit Community at Gardiner Street and was responsible for parochial missions preached in Ireland. He died on 7 July 1960 and was buried at Glasnevin in Dublin. Since the rediscovery of his photographs in the 1980s, Fr. Browne is recognized as one of the great photographers of the twentieth century.

Chaplains in the first World War from the Diocese of Cloyne

The First World War saw over 5,000 chaplains serve in the British forces of whom more than 800 were Catholic priests who had exchanged their normal routine for theatres of one of the bloodiest wars ever fought which produced casualties and deaths on an industrial scale. The chaplains lived in the same conditions, experienced the same dangers, and witnessed the same carnage as the men they served. They celebrated Mass, administered the sacraments, tended the wounded and dying, buried the dead, brought spiritual comfort, and wrote letters of condolence and comfort to mothers and wives at home.

Their commitment earned them respect and admiration. Some chaplains were killed, others were wounded, gassed, or died of natural causes, or during the Spanish 'flu epidemic of 1918. Many were decorated for bravery. It was not a ministry for the faint hearted and their wartime accounts and post-war reflections bring home the true nature of their apostolate. Nine priests from the diocese of Cloyne served as Military Chaplains in World War I:

1. **FR. JEREMIAH PIGOTT (1892-1976)** was born at Lisscarroll, County Cork, Ireland in



1892. He died on May 12, 1976 as a result of being hit by a passing car near Dalgan. Fr. Jerry received his secondary education at St. Colman's College, Fermoy. After his ordination to priesthood at St. Patrick's College, Maynooth in 1916, he joined the British Forces as chaplain during the first World War. He served at Salonica and was awarded the Military Cross for bravery. After the war he was appointed to the teaching staff of St. Colman's College, Fermoy. He joined the Society in 1922 and was

appointed to Hanyang, China. He was a delegate at the 1931 Chapter. Returning to Hanyang he was appointed vicar-General of Hanyang and later pro-Director. He was visiting Ireland when World War II broke out and, unable to return to China, he joined the Royal Air Force as a chaplain. Returning to China in 1946 he led a group of Columbans to the new mission area of Huzhou. He remained in charge there until forced to leave China in 1952. Japan was the next country in his varied career; he worked there from 1953-61. He served in the Philippines [1961-75]. Fr. Jerry is buried at Dalgan.

2. **Dean CHRISTOPHER SHEEHAN (1890-1978)** was born in Mallow in 1890.



Educated at St. Colman's College Fermoy and at Maynooth, he was ordained in 1915. Fr. Sheehan was awarded the Military Cross on 14 November 1916 for gallantry shown during the Battle of the Somme in July 1916. The Citation read: "For Conspicuous Gallantry and devotion to duty when hearing that there were a lot of wounded in the front trenches, he came up and remained with one the battalions for three days.

His conduct was most conspicuous, in attending to the wounded and burying the dead, particularly so when, on hearing that some men of another battalion had been killed in the front-line trenches, he proceeded there under very heavy fire and carried out the burial service for these men."

He was appointed Assistant to the Principal Chaplain in May 1918. After the war, Fr. Sheehan remained in the service of the Chaplains' Department of the British Army and saw service during the Second World War.

On return to the diocese in 1947 he was appointed administrator of the parish of Youghal and eventually succeeded Canon Dineen as Parish Priest in 1951. He remained in office until his death on 26 of October 1978.

3. CANON MAURICE O'CONNELL (1872-1963) was born at Castlemagner, educated at St. Colman's College, Fermoy and Maynooth College where he was ordained in 1897. He was appointed chaplain to the military establishment at Fermoy. In November 1914, he re-assured his troops before leaving for the front and told them that he would accompany them wherever they went – even into danger. Fr. O'Connell embarked for the front in September 1915. He crossed to France with the 16th. Division and saw active service. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Order on 1 January 1917. On his return to the diocese in 1922 he was appointed curate in Mitchelstown. In 1936, he was appointed Parish Priest of Cloyne and was transferred to Doneraile in 1942. In 1958, he retired because of ill health, partly due to his having been gassed during World War I, in 1918. He died in 1963.

Fr. JAMES ALOYSIUS COTTER died Parish Priest of Kildorrery.

Fr. JEREMIAH O'LEARY was born in Mallow and served on the Western front.

Fr. DAVID FRANCIS LEAHY born in Charleville. He joined the military chaplaincy in 1916 and served on the Western front.

Fr. D. AHERN from Fermoy.

FR. E.H. COLLINS born in Youghal and served in Egypt and east Africa.

FR. WILLIAM FORREST. Appointed to the Department of Military Chaplains on 25 March 1898 and served as a chaplain in South Africa during the Boer War and again during the First World War. He was awarded the Order of Companion of Sts Michael and George.



Fr. JOHN GWYNN, SJ was born in Youghal on 12 June 1866 and joined the Jesuits at Tullabeg in 1884. Having studied in Louvain and in Austria, he taught at Mungret, Belvedere and Clongowes, and was a member of the governing body of University College, Dublin.

As soon as the war broke out, Fr Gwynn volunteered to serve as a chaplain on active service, even though, as he often said afterwards, he had no idea what his work would be. In the first week of November 1914 he was assigned to the 4th class attached to 1st Battalion of the Irish Guards.

When the battalion was in the trenches or in action, Fr. Gwynn stayed with the Medical Officer at the Battalion Regimental Aid Post – the place where wounded soldiers are taken for first dressings. He would share the Medical Officer's dugout so that he would waste no time in getting to an injured man, if need be, day or night. During the day, heedless to his own danger, he would constantly go round the trenches to talk to the men, even if they were being shelled.

Writing from the trenches he said, "the best tip for a chaplain in the firing zone is to keep a cool head, warm feet, and be ready to be blown to bits any moment".

Fr Gwynn also undertook all the normal work of a Jesuit, saying Mass, hearing confession, administering Extreme Unction whenever it was necessary and invariably reading the burial service over men who were killed, even if it meant that he would have to stand up at night in an open battlefield swept by bullets.

Fr. Gwynn was fatally wounded in action near Vermelles, Northern France on 11 October 1915 and he died the next day at 50 years old. It was said that he would have been happy to die as a 'soldier of God'. The following account of his death was relayed to Fr. William Delaney, SJ, Rector of University College Dublin by Lord Desmond Fitzgerald, a captain in the Irish Guard: "No words of mine could express or even give a faint idea of the amount of good he has done us all out here, or how bravely he faced all dangers and how cheerful and comforting he has always been. It is certainly no exaggeration to say that he was loved by every officer, N.C.O. and man in the battalion. The Irish Guards owe him a deep and lasting debt of gratitude, and as long as any of us are left who saw him out here, we shall never forget his wonderful life, and shall strive to lead a better life by following his example. The unfortunate shell landed in the door of the Headquarter dug-out just as we had finished luncheon, on October 11th. Father Gwynn received one or two wounds in the leg, as well as a piece of shell in his back through his lung. He was immediately bound up and sent to hospital but died from shock and his injuries at 8 a.m. the next morning, October 12th. [1915]. He was buried in the cemetery at Bethune, at 10 a.m. on October 13th. May his soul rest in peace".

The Architect for St. Mary' Church, Ballyhea

The *Visitation Register* of Bishop Michael Collins, Coadjutor of Cloyne and Ross (1780-1832) for Friday, 25 June 1830 notes "the chapel [in Ballyhea] was in a very neglected state, condemned another chapel then being built in a remote part of the parish on a very narrow scale and with very bad materials... recommended the erection of one central chapel for the accommodation of the whole parish which is very small, having been much diminished in extent and numbers by the reunion to the parish of Charleville of several townlands which had formerly belonged to it but were for some years attached to Ballyhea". He probably also recommended his preferred architect to build the new church for the parish priest, Fr. John Power.

From his appointment in 1827, Bishop Collins pursued an energetic programme of church building throughout the dioceses of Cloyne and Ross whose object was to replace as many as possible of the penal chapels with more worthy places of worship. In 1826, as parish priest of Skibbereen, he had built a new pro-Cathedral church for the diocese of Ross availing of the services of Brother Riordan. From about 1811, Br. Riordan had conducted extensive work in the building of schools and churches for Bishops Francis Moylan (1735-1815) and John Murphy (1772-1847) of Cork, and for Bishops Coppinger, Collins and Crotty in Cloyne and Ross.

Ballyhea church is one of a small surviving group of early nineteenth century country churches built in a classical idiom. Of this group, St. Barrahan's (1840) at Castlehaven best conserves much of its original interior as well as the altar designed by Br. Riordan for the pro-Cathedral in Skibbereen which was installed here in 1883 following the enlargement of the sanctuary in Skibbereen by G. C. Ashlin. St. Joseph's (1832) at Castletown Kinneigh, near Enniskeane, affords documentary evidence linking it to Br. Riordan. During the construction of this church, its walls were blown down in a great storm and had to be rebuilt. Accounts of the event were reported in contemporary newspapers which mentioned that Br. Riordan was the architect and supervised works.



St. Barrahanes, Castlehaven.

Michael Augustine Riordan was born in Doneraile in 1783. He was educated locally and learned the arts of drawing, mathematics and mensuration. Sometime around 1798 he went to Cork to study architecture most likely in the successful practice of Alexander Deane where he learned the elements of a classical Italian style which prevailed in Cork City since the erection of the Exchange Building 1705- 1710. He was also surveyor for the Doneraile estate which commissioned a map of Doneraile town from him in 1809.

Sometime around 1811, he abandoned his career and joined the Society of the Presentation Brothers at the North Monastery in Cork and made final profession in 1814. In the schools of the brothers he taught mathematics and mensuration.



St Joseph's, Castletown Kinneigh

He oversaw much of the expansion of the church and school systems throughout all three dioceses in Co. Cork. Between 1815 and his death in January 1848, Br. Riordan had built churches in Millstreet (1811), Blackrock (1824), Bantry (1825), Skibbereen (1826), Doneraile (1827), Dunmanway (1831), Kinsale (1832), Castletown Kinneigh (1832), Castlehaven (1840) as well as convents for the Ursuline sisters in Blackrock (1824) and for the Presentation sisters in Clonmel, the North Presentation and South Presentation, as well as schools on the Douglas road in Cork and in Cobh.

Br. Riordan built in an Italianate classical style. While its roots can be traced to the writings of the classical author Vitruvius (80 BC -15BC) as mediated, however, by the Venetian architects Sebastiano Serlio (1475-1554) and Andrea Palladio (1508-1580). The style emphasized elegance underpinned by proportion, symmetry, and harmonization of the

elements of a building between each other. Palladio church facades were much influenced by the Pantheon in Rome and his altar pieces, beginning with the church of the Ospedaleto (1575) in Venice, were based on the arch of Constantine in Rome, which first figured in Christian art in Botticelli's 1482 fresco on the wall of the Sistine Chapel depicting the punishment of the sons of Corah. The Palladian style arrived into the British Isles in 1619 with building of the Queen's Chapel in St. James's Palace in London by Inigo Jones. It was much popularized by the writings of Colin Campbell (1676-1729) and James Gibbs (1682-1754).

In Cork the Italianate style was introduced in 1708 with the building the new Exchange Building as part of the re-construction of the city in the aftermath of its bombardment during the Williamite wars. It was followed with a Customs House in 1724 and a Market House in 1739. The reconstruction of Anglican churches in Cork also tended to favour the Palladian style. St. Mary's, Shandon, was rebuilt in this idiom in the 1720s and acquired its iconic tower in the same style in the 1750s. In 1730 old St. Finn Barre's Cathedral was rebuilt in the Italian style.

By the time Br. Riordan began building in the first quarter of the nineteenth century, his style was somewhat old fashioned, having been overshadowed by an interest in Greek revival architecture promoted in France since the 1780s by architects such as Chalgrin and Peyre. In Germany the Greek revival style held sway in Berlin with architects such as Schinkel and in Munich with von Klenze. Nevertheless, the Italianate style predominated in



St. Patrick's pro-Cathedral,
Skibbereen (1826)

the United States and was much promoted by Jefferson as the official style of the new republic for civic and educational buildings. The first Catholic cathedral in the United States, St. Mary's in Baltimore was built in this style.

With the economic improvements of the nineteenth century, much of Br. Riordan's work was replaced by more opulent churches which were practically all built in the neo Gothic style which had entirely supplanted classical models. As it stands to-day, no intact church interior by Br. Riordan survives.



Doneraile (1827)



St. Michael's, Blackrock (1824)



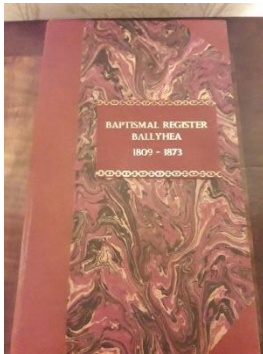
Dunmanway (1831)



Chapel of the Ursuline
Convent, Blackrock
(1824)

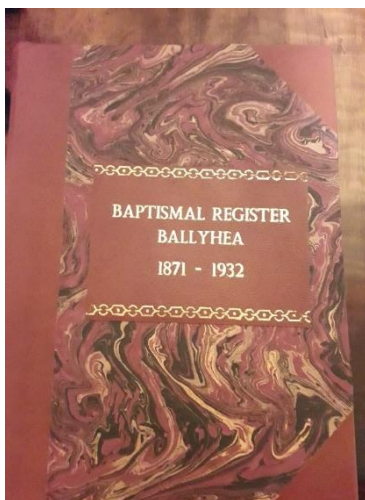
Projects Completed in 2018

Restoration of the historical registers of the parish

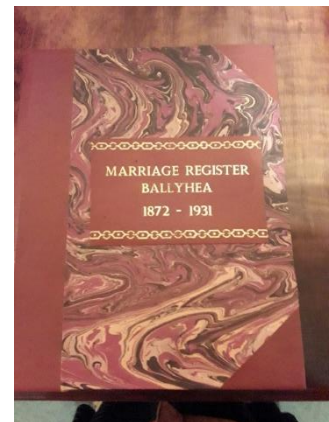


In May, Muckross House Bookbinders returned the historical baptismal and marriage registers of the parish after more than a year of cleaning and conservation work. The registers were in a frail condition and suffering from the effects of damp staining. The restorers disbound the registers and separated each page

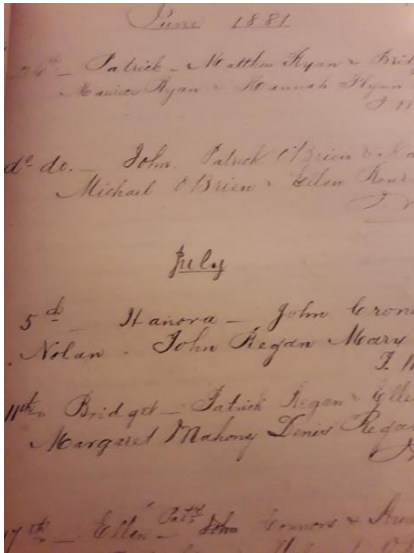
which was then washed to remove damp stains. In the second part of the operation repairs were made to torn pages before they were re-stitched and rebound.



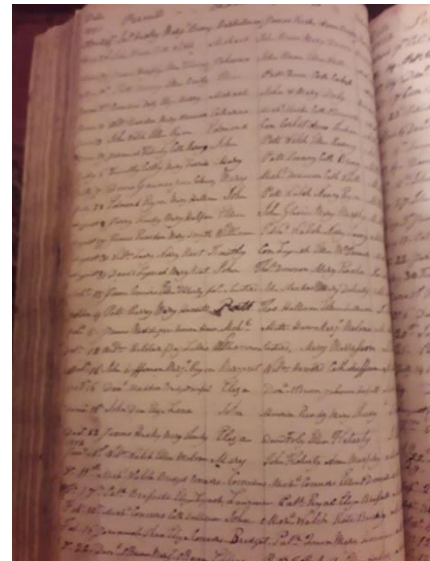
which was then washed to remove damp stains. In the second part of the operation repairs were made to torn pages before they were re-stitched and rebound.



The baptismal and marriage registers of the parish begin in 1809. Bishop Collins in his Visitation Register of 1828 mentions that earlier register dating to the 1780s were then extant but not in the possession of the parish priest. These earlier registers do not appear to have survived.



Sample of handwriting from the Registers



Improvements to the church grounds

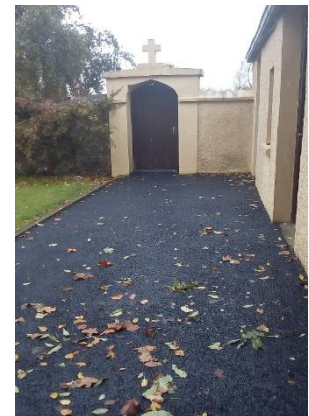


In October, work began on replacing the pathway on the north side of the church leading to the sacristy, toilets and storehouse. The work was carried out by Pat McCurry and Kilmallock Tarmac. In laying the new pathway, easier access to the wheelchair ramp was incorporated into the works.

In the same project some two hundred beech hedging plants were planted along the south and part of the west boundary walls. When mature, the beech hedging should do much to camouflage the concrete installations of the 1970s and mitigate their characteristic

brutalism.

These works continue improvements to the church grounds carried out in 2017 by extensive repairs to and restoration of the public lighting system in the church grounds.



Since 2017 some Euro 6,000 has been expended on improving the church grounds. The parish was greatly assisted in both projects by grants from the Castlepook Wind Farm Community Development Fund Totalling Euro 5,000.



Subject to funds being available, it is hoped to continue these works next year by completing the planting of beech hedging along the remaining section of the west wall and by resurfacing the church yard from the wheelchair ramp to the main gate.

Replacing the nave windows of the church

By far the most extensive project undertaken in 2108 was the replacement of eight windows in the church nave. For some time, difficulties had been experienced with the functionality of the PVC windows installed about twelve years ago. As the impact of water ingress began to affect the internal fabric of the walls and plaster, it became imperative to take action to avoid more serious structural difficulties.

The PVC windows were the third set of windows to be installed in the church. The original sash windows, made in the 1830s, were replaced in the renovations carried out in the 1970s. At that time, the then Bishop recommended that the new windows be made of teak. The windows were installed but in a teak substitute which proved to have been susceptible to deterioration due to climatic conditions.

When considering various options for the new windows, the original solution for the church windows employed by the architect, Br. Michael Augustine Riordan, was given priority on a number of grounds, both stylistic and practical. A survey was carried out of surviving windows installed by Br. Riordan which are still to be seen in his churches at Kinsale, Dunmanway, Skibbereen and Castlehaven.

In March 2018, the windows at St. John the Baptist's church in Kinsale were surveyed and it was discovered that the lateral windows on the entrance facade of the church had the same dimensions as the nave windows in Ballyhea. Careful measurements and drawings were made of these windows and note taken of their construction details.

It was decided that the new windows would be built in pitch pine, a sufficient quantity of which was purchased in Belfast thereby allowing work to begin after Easter. The first of the new windows was installed on 22 June 2018. Works continued throughout the Summer with further windows being installed on 23rd August; 4th September; 5th November; 23rd November; 10th December.

The new windows are sash windows with a central sash and flanking lateral sashes – all of which are fully operational. Each window contains fifty-five panes of glass. This is double-glazed and supplied by a firm of glass specialists in Carlow.

The windows were made by Sean O'Keeffe at the O'K Woodcraft workshops in Doneraile. One window, which is open to public subscription, will act as a commemoration of Pope's Francis' visit to Ireland in August 2018.

It is expected that the new windows will restore something of the original luminosity intended by the architect to the church



Throughout 2019, it is hoped to continue the project by installing wood panelling to the reverses of the windows.



Ballyhea Preschool

Our mission at Ballyhea Preschool is to provide a high-quality education for children in a safe, stimulating and developmentally appropriate environment. Our vision is to develop a service where each child will feel valued and nurtured. The children are afforded the opportunity to holistically grow and develop within a warm and caring play environment, with adults that respect, recognise, follow and build on their needs and interests. Ballyhea Preschool integrated various early education methods including Síolta and Aistear. Our aim is to help every child to grow and develop as a competent and confident learner.



We recognise that children learn best in a safe and encouraging atmosphere. At Ballyhea Preschool

your child will experience a warm and stimulating environment in order to facilitate a gentle transition into a world of new friends and activities. Each child is encouraged to progress at their own pace. Our highly qualified staff are committed to ensuring that each child realises his/her full potential and develops a positive attitude towards him/herself and others.

Our classroom is divided into different areas of interest: Art Area, Construction Area, Home Corner, Sand/Water Area, Pre-reading and Writing Area and a Sensory/Relaxation Room for rest and quiet time. Each area is designed to support particular aspects of development – Social, Emotional, Intellectual, Language, Cultural and Physical.

Ballyhea Preschool is a community preschool. This means that it is run by the community for the children and families of the community. The staff in the service consist of a Preschool Leader, 2 Preschool Assistants and an Aim (Access and Inclusion Model) Assistant. Having the preschool near the school grounds makes the transition to junior infants a very easy and natural step. Our service is committed to



working together with parents to ensure quality care and learning. It is our policy to be open, inclusive, welcoming, accepting and respectful of all parents/guardians using the service. The service acknowledges that parents are the primary educators of the child and as such have a pre-eminent role in promoting his/her wellbeing, learning and development.

Ballyhea Preschool offers the 2 year ECCE (Free Preschool Year) Scheme which offers preschool children 15 hours of free preschool per week for 2 years. The preschool also offers the Community Childcare Scheme (CCS) which offers a tiered payment system.

The service offers both a morning and afternoon session.

Preschool Session 1: 09:00am-12:00pm (Monday – Friday)

Preschool Session 2: 12:15pm-15:15pm (Monday – Friday)

The preschool will be holding an Open Night on Monday 28th January 2019 at 8pm at the preschool. This will be an information session for prospective parents over the coming years. This will be an opportunity for parents to gain an insight into the operation of the preschool and view the service. There will be an opportunity to meet the staff and learn more about our work. For more information, please contact the preschool on 063-89696.

Ballyhea National School

New Junior Infants
September 2018



First class enjoyed
maths activities
during maths
week.



Girls from 4th Class,
winners of the County
Indoor Hurling
Championship



All smiles from the
children who are proudly
displaying their
Valentine's Day crafts.



4th Class boys, winners of the
County Indoor Hurling
Championship



Children all dressed up in
fantastic costumes for World
Book Day 2018.



Cork Senior Hurler/All Star winner, Darragh Fitzgibbon came to school on a visit



Great excitement for the visit of Darragh Fitzgibbon to the school



6th class would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Irish Cancer Society fundraiser. A total of 1200 euro was raised.



Winners of the Sciath na Scoil North Cork Hurling Final with their teacher Mr O'Flynn



'Sé mo laoch (1746)

By

Seán "Clárach" Mac Domhnaill (1691-1754)



Seal da rabhas im' mhaighdean shéimh,
'S anois im' bhaintreach chaite thréith,
Mo chéile ag treabhadh na dtonn go tréan
De bharr na gcnoc is i n-imigcén.

'Sé mo laoch, mo Ghile Mear,
'Sé mo Chaesar, Ghile Mear,
Suan ná séan ní bhfuairéas féin
Ó chuaigh i gcéin mo Ghile Mear.

Bímse buan ar buaidhirt gach ló,
Ag caoi go cruaidh 's ag tuar na ndeór
Mar scaoileadh uaim an buachaill beó
'S ná ríomhtar tuairisc uaidh, mo bhrón.

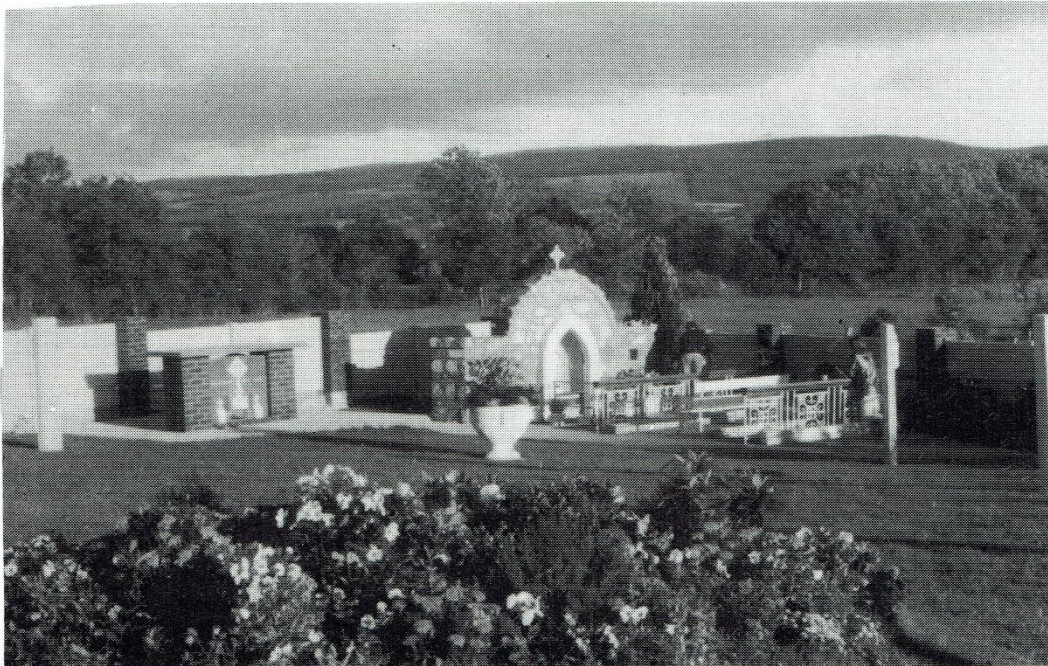
Ní labhrann cuach go suairc ar nóin
Is níl guth gadhair i gcoillte cnó,
Ná maidin shamhraidh i gcleanntaibh ceoigh
Ó d'imthigh uaim an buachaill beó.

Marcach uasal uaibhreach óg,
Gas gan gruaim is suairce snódh,
Glac is luaimneach, luath i ngleo
Ag teascadh an tslua 's ag tuargain treon.

Seinntear stair ar chlairsigh cheoil
's líontair táinte cárt ar bord
Le hinntinn ard gan chaim, gan cheó
Chun saoghal is sláinte d' fhagháil dom leómhan.

Ghile mear 'sa seal faoi chumha,
's Eire go léir faoi chlócaibh dubha;
Suan ná séan ní bhfuairéas féin
Ó luaidh i gcéin mo Ghile Mear.

Our Lady's Well



The traditional round dates back to the dimness of history. It consists of three visits to the Well, saying a rosary each time, beginning at the Grotto and continuing the round to complete the Rosary. While doing the round the pilgrim is carried back in thought by the stations of the cross to Calvary where the right to God's help and favours was earned for us, and where Christ put everybody (in the person of St. John) under the protection of his Holy Mother. Having completed the rosary the ceremony ends in the drinking of water from the well and a private resolution made to receive at an early opportunity Holy Communion, which our Lord described as "a Well of living water" which would benefit in this life and in the next.

While drinking the water from the Blessed Well the tremendous religious significance attached to water is recalled by the Pilgrim. Going back to the chosen people of God in the Old Testament of the Bible we find that they had strongly in their minds that God brings life out of waters and saves people by the waters. Moses led his people out of slavery in Egypt and they escaped from their pursuers through the waters of the Red Sea.

Our Lady's Well has a long tradition, over a hundred years of people coming to the well to pray the Rosary and drink the water.

We are delighted that this tradition is still being upheld.

During the past year great numbers again visited, especially at the Annual Mass, celebrated by Monsignor James O'Brien P.P. when the parents and the children who made their First Holy Communion read the reading and the Prayers of the Faithful. On August 15th (pattern day) pilgrims attended to recite the Rosary led by Fr. Joseph Hamilton.

We are so thankful for the donations received for the upkeep of the grounds and the lay-out of the well.

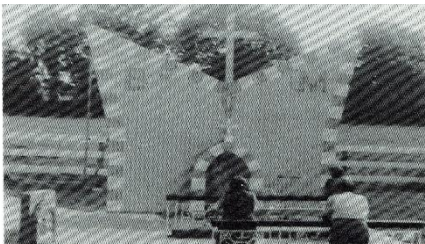
During 2019, we hope to do a major work of hedging and landscaping, and would be delighted with any help



OUR LADY'S WELL, BALLYHEA

This is a picture of the Well as it was up to the Marian Year in 1954. The old Hawthorn tree mentioned at the start of the article can be seen in the background. It has been handed down by tradition that the well was originally nearer the roadway but moved when its waters were defiled. It is also stated that when a person, not of the Catholic persuasion, took water from the Well to boil for tea the water refused to boil.

26



The first major development work on the Well was carried out in the early 1960's. This picture shows the new background on the Well - shaped as the letter "M" and painted blue and white.

Ballyhea Camogie Club



In the 2017/ 2018 Camogie Season our underage teams played in several matches, with our U11 winning the Avonduh Final against Millstreet, and our U12 getting to the county semi-final, losing out only by a point to Fr O' Neill's, our U13 got to the Avonduh final against Newtown. Our U6, U8 & U10 teams have had a busy year playing lots of matches. The committee led by Liam Crowley, Marie Harty and Andrew Walsh also held many

successful fundraising events during the year such as a 5k run/walk event, a pub quiz and a Church gate collection huge thanks to all the volunteers that helped with these events. The Minor A team had a successful year in getting to 2017 (played in June 2018) county final against Ballygarvan where they just came up short in the end. The Junior A team reached another county final against an experienced Watergrasshill team. This was the 3rd county final in 4 years for our Junior team where they had won 2 county finals in a row, in 2015 and 2016. From the above evidence it is clear that Ballyhea camogie club is in a healthy position as many teams reached the business end of the championship.



The committee led by Liam Crowley, Marie Harty and Andrew Walsh also held many successful fundraising events during the year such as a 5k run/walk event, a pub quiz and a Church gate collection.

The committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all involved with the club in 2018,



especially the people that give their time to train the different age groups and the parents for encouraging your daughter's to play Camogie, and for making the effort to bring your daughter's to training and to matches all over the county during the year. Without this the club would not survive. We look forward to 2019 season and would like to encourage new players and parents to get involved in any way with the club. it's a great opportunity to spend some quality

time with your family.

The club would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a sporting New Year!!


Merry
Christmas

Ballyhea G.A.A.

Ballyhea GAA 2018.



Ballyhea competed in the senior hurling championship again this year and were drawn against Sarsfield's in the first round. After a brave second half performance we went under narrowly by 4 points 1-18 to 1-14 to the East Cork side on the 29th of April. The inter county scene now took centre stage. 4 League games were played during this period where we won 3 and lost one and after a decent league just missed out on a place in the

quarter finals. We also played in the inaugural Effin 7 a side tournament. We came out on top defeating neighbours Charleville in the final 5-8 to 1-3 to win the Cavanagh's of Charleville cup. The second round of the county Championship was played 3 and half months later, on August 12th, against Ballymartle but we went under on a 5-13 to 0-20 score line. We were now back in the dreaded relegation play off. On the 15th of September we defeated Killeagh 3-19 to 2-13 at Fermoy to retain our senior status.

Our junior hurlers had a very good league campaign reaching the league final but went under to Kilavullen in the decider at Buttevant. In the championship we were defeated by Mallow, 2-22 to 3-20, in a nail-biting semi-final after extra time at Doneraile. Mallow went on to reach the county final but lost out to Watergrasshill after a replay.

Our u21 hurlers after victories over Doneraile, St Kevin's and Buttevant reached the North Cork final. Kildorrery though were victorious with a late surge in poor weather conditions at Mourneabbey, 3-11 to 2-15.

The Cork GAA clubs draw is a major fundraiser for the club and congratulations to Seamus Fitzgibbon who won €1000 recently in the draw. If anyone wants to join, cost €10 per month, please contact any committee member.



Our annual awards were held at the Idle Hour Bar with Denis McNamara receiving the coveted Ryan Memorial Hall of Fame award. Sean Curtin Junior was the club person of the year recipient.

Two of our club referees took charge of the main hurling finals in the division this year. Dave Capps refereed the Hibernian Hotel JAHC Final on Sept 1st between Shanballymore and Ballygiblin in Fermoy and Ciarán O' Regan was the man in the middle for the Country Clean u21 AHC Final between Fermoy and Kilshannig. Ciaran also refereed the Munster junior b football final at Knockaderry.

Our senior coach Jimmy Quilty and video analyst Seanie O'Donnell were involved with the Limerick senior hurling team who won the All Ireland title in great style this year and the bus

driver was Kevin Griffin from Gurrane whose family have spent many years driving Limerick teams all over the country .

John , Mikey and Ian Mortell were involved with the Cork under 21 hurlers who won the Munster title this year .

The annual puck fada takes place on St Stephens day for the Dicko Mortell Memorial Shield . During the year the club lost a number of great stalwarts . Life President John Quinn and 3 of our Vice Presidents, Mick Ryan, Dan Casey and Thade Mortell all passed to their eternal reward. May they rest in peace .

Adult club officers 2018:

President : John P Quinn (R.I.P)

Vice Presidents : Jerome O'Keefe , Tom Morrissey , Dan Casey (R.I.P), Joe Walsh , Christy O'Connor , Tadgh Mortell (Snr)(R.I.P), Tom Crowley , Billy Fleming , Mick Ryan (R.I.P), Jack Kelly , Billy Fitzgibbon, Pakie Morrissey, Michael O'Sullivan , Breda Crowley , Mick Copps , Tommy Moloney , Pat O'Brien , James Browne .

Chairman : Michael Morrissey vice chairman : Noel O'Riordan Secretary : Ger O'Shea.

Asst secretary : Michael O'Mahony .

Treasurer : Jim Codd

Asst Treasurer: Martin Hanley Registrar : Mike O'Kelly

P.R.O: John Mortell .

Children's Officer : Orla Kelly.

Insurance Officer: John McCarthy.

Coaching Officer : John Mortell .

Cultural Officer : Ciaran O'Regan.

North Cork Board Delegate : Michael O'Mahony .

County Board Delegate : Michael Byrne .

Executive Committee: Denis McNamara , Pat O'Callaghan, Dave Garvey, Dave Copps, Breda Crowley, Tadgh Mortell , Tom Crowley, Helen O'Sullivan, Maurice O'Riordan , Ray Ronan, Kieran O'Regan, Ber Moloney .

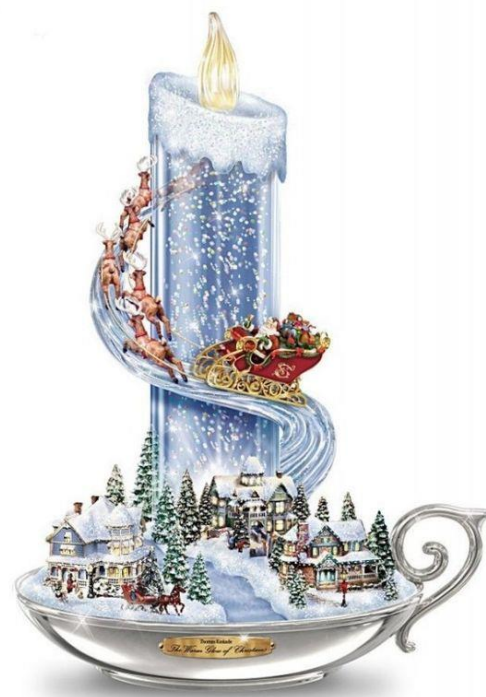
Senior hurling : Sean Curtin Jnr (manager), Jimmy Quilty (coach), Adrian Gilligan (trainer), Eamon Morrissey .

Junior Hurling : Mike Morrissey ,Darran Ronan, Alec Morrissey, Michael O'Mahony .

U21 hurling :

Sean Curtin Jnr, Eamon Morrissey, Aidan O'Connor

Thanks to all our sponsors and especially our main sponsor Hanley Group for their continued kind sponsorship. Thanks also to all our players, mentors, officers, committee, supporters and friends for all their efforts and support during the year.



Ballyhea juvenile GAA club 2018:

2018 was another busy year for the juvenile club with a number of teams going very close to honours but only to go under after extra time on 3 occasions. The Minor hurlers won the Northern region league but were defeated by county champions Kiltha Og in the county semi-final. In the championship Cuchulainns came out on top in the semi-final after extra time at Glantane, 3-18 to 2-22. Our u-16s had a very good run in the league and reached the league semi-final. After a great effort the lads were beaten in extra time by Kilara Og at Kilworth. In the Championship Clyda Rovers knocked us out in the quarter final at Charleville.



The u-14's took part in the 13 a side competition due to a small panel but lost out to a strong St Kevin's side in the Championship. Our u-12's reached the league final but were defeated by Lisscarroll Churchtown in the final. During the year out, U-12's played in Semple Stadium Thurles in the Munster GAA activity day blitz.

At u-10 level the highlight of a busy year was the 25th running of the Jack O'Sullivan Blitz

where our boys reached the final of a very well-run competition, but we lost out to Shandrum in a terrific final by a goal after extra time 1-5 to 0-5. Our under 8's and



6's were also very busy during year playing numerous games and blitz's and also played in the new Astro turf in Pairc Ui Caoimh.

The club also held the annual Kellogg's Cul Camp during the summer with over 100 kids taking part. Cork All-star Darragh Fitzgibbon called out to the camp during the week much to the delight of all present. We also held a very successful Halloween coaching camp during the Halloween break. The Mick Quinn Memorial u-12 Blitz was also held during the break with victory going to Ashling Crowley's team.

The club achieved the silver bench marking award from Rebel Og for the second year running last year and have applied for silver bench marking again this year.

Jim Codd received the 2017 Kieran Murphy Memorial juvenile club person of the year award earlier this year.

Thanks to Mr Paul Cronin and especially Mr Danny O'Flynn for all the work they do promoting hurling and football in the local school.





Officers

Juvenile officers 2018:

Chairman: Tom Crowley

Vice Chairman: John Foley

Secretary: Ger O'Shea

Treasurer: Jim Codd

PRO: John Mortell

Children's Officer: Orla Kelly

Board Delegate: Liam Crowley

School liaison officer: Oonagh Horan

Committee: Michael Mackessey, Jeremiah Browne, Jim Horgan, Dave Hickey, David Copps, Dimitri Van Dalen.

Team management:

Minor: John Mortell, Ray Ronan, Tom Crowley, Jim Horgan, Ian Mortell, Ger O'Shea.

U16: Noel Hanley, Neil Ronan snr, Dave Ryan, Christy Hanley, Jim Dundon.

U14: Dave Copps, Mike Mackessey, Dave Hickey.

U12: Tom Crowley, Liam O'Shea, John Foley, Mikey Mortell.

U10: Mike Mackessey, Johnny O'Sullivan, Alan Mortell.

U8: Ian Ronan, Aidan O'Connor, Ian Curtin, Darren Ronan, Paddy O'Riordan.

U6: Pat Murphy, Sean Crowley, Liam O'Connor

Thanks to all our players, mentors, officers, committee, parents and supporters for everything during the year.



Ballyhea Community Council



Photograph: William Casey

Activities Which Ballyhea Community Council Are Associated With:

- Senior Citizens Party
- All Collections associated with Retired Priests, Community Alerts, Flower Club, Defibrillator, collection for playground in Charleville, Traffic Calming, Cemetery, Ballyhoura Walking Tours and a host of other activities associated with the Parish.
- Provided 2 defibrillators and training for same.
- 24 hour opening of the Railway Gates at Ballycosgry.
- Wheelchair access to the Church in association with Ballyhoura Failte.
- Bus Stop in Ballyhea
- St. Patrick's Day Parade
- Tractor Run to raise funds for Marymount Hospice and Milford Hospice
- Christmas Lights outside the Church
- Traffic Calming
- Radar Controlled Speed Signs in the Village
- Since Muintir na Tire finished, various meetings with Cork Co. Council, re: different problems in the community such as road lighting and cleaning grave yard. We were also instrumental in getting the new grave-yard and car park.
- The Community Council have long term dealings with Cork County Council and Irish Rail regarding the railway bridge, school safety and the M20.
- This in only an outline of all activities we are associated with.



Photograph: William Casey



Scoil Rince Staic:

Scoil Rince Staic Irish Dance was established in 1991 under the direction of Gerard Stack A.D.C.R.G. Since its foundation Scoil Rince Staic has achieved great success in passing on the Irish dance tradition to many children and families in the Limerick and North Cork areas.



Scoil Rince Staic was invited to Charleville by Sheila O Connor - Rea, R.I.P in 2010. Sheila was an established and renowned teacher / adjudicator having had great success down through the years with her dancers from Charleville and surrounding areas. Sheila's love and commitment for Irish dancing brought her great success having won numerous Oireachtas Rince Na Mumhan, Oireachtas Rince Na hEireann and Oireachtas Rince Na Cruinne titles and placings.

Success at Scoil Rince Staic has also been achieved by the commitment of the children and their families for their love and passion given to Irish dancing.

The classes at Scoil Rince Staic consist of fun, team work, friendships, and a positive environment which has been the foundation for success over the years.

From this success the dancers have won numerous Irish dancing titles and placings at feiseanna including Oireachtas Rince Na Mumhan, Oireachtas Rince Na hEireann and Oireachtas Rince Na Cruinne. Notable achievements for the dancers was the appearance on the Tg4 Program "An Jig Gig" and when asked to perform for President Kennedys family when they visited their homestead in Bruff, Co Limerick in June 2013.

Dancers from Scoil Rince Staic, have given back to the community by providing and participating in charity fundraising events, Nursing Home visits and other celebrations throughout Charleville and surrounding areas including the Ballyhea and Charleville St Patricks Day Parade and Old Folks party in the Corbett Court in Charleville.

Gerard Stack A.D.C.R.G

Contact Details: scoilrincestaic@gmail.com

Ballyhea Gun Club



Ballyhea Gun club is a small club in the Parish

It has been in existence for 43 years.

It came about from a meeting of 7 landowners in the Ballyhea Hall on the 12th October 1975

The purpose was to found a gun club and develop game stocks on the preserves.

A chairman John Leahy RIP and secretary Jerome O'Keeffe were elected.

Another meeting would be held on the 28th of October 1975 for game license holders and the election of further committee members who were Vice Chairman John Ronan and Hon Treasurer

Michael O'Keeffe RIP the president of the club was Tom Leahy RIP

Restocking has been the main object.

Vermin control is essential and helps preserve stocks

Fund raising through the years has taken many forms e.g. clay shoots, dances, chicken suppers, raffles and in most recent year's poker classics.

All these have a limited time and new ideas have to be sought. Hard work by dedicated members and support from their families was and is needed. Popular venues were the Deer park, Greenwood Inn, Barrett Lodge, Buttevant Community Hall, Bridge Bar and Harp Bar.

A most popular musician was the late Johnny Barrett. Young and old enjoyed his singing and company.

Meetings were held in the Ballyhea Hall until it was destroyed by fire. The GAA Hall was our next venue then we moved to the Barrett Lodge kindly made available by Joan Barrett and the late Dan Barrett.

Later we moved between the Lodge, The Bridge Bar and the Harp Bar

Nowadays we have our meeting in the Corbett Court.

Pheasants is the main release. Sometimes we release duck. Other birds are woodcock and snipe.

Duck shooting opens 1st Sept and pheasant on 1st Nov. the shooting season for game birds ends 31st Jan

What most people do not realise is that a plentiful supply of bird life hasn't come about by chance. Release of birds and feeding by gun club members has achieved this.

To be a member one must have a gun license for game. Apply for membership and if accepted pay an annual club sub, NARGC fund and abide by all club rules.



Our most famous gun club member involved with gun club activities, with Ballyhea, County Cork Federation and Nationally, was the late Michael O Keefe

With the club he graduated from Hon Treasurer to Chairman. He became chairman of the County Cork Federation of Gun Clubs and then the National Chairman

These were great achievements for a very hard working and most unassuming man.

There are too many people who have been officers of the club or members of the club to mention by name. But for them the club wouldn't have a past. The people of the present Are continuing

their good work today. Though the club is not large there is a hardcore of hard working and dedicated officers and members who continue the ideals of the founder members of the 12th Oct 1975.

Current Committee

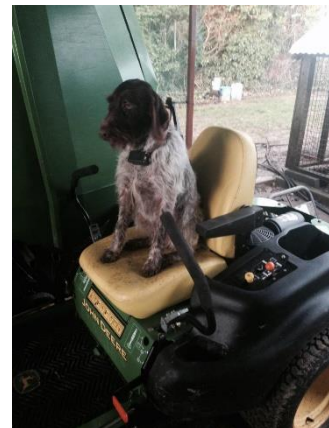
President and Hon Treasure Jim Murphy

Chairman Kevin Foley

Vice Chairman Ray Ronan

Hon Secretary Una Hickey

Club Delegate Martin Lane



Ballyhea Neighbourhood Watch / Community Text Alert Scheme

What is Community Alert? Community Alert is a community safety programme for rural areas with an emphasis on older and vulnerable people. It operates as a partnership between the community, An Garda Síochána and Muintir na Tíre. It works on the principle of

shared responsibility for crime prevention and reduction.



What is Text Alert?

Text Alert enables communities to set up a Group to receive alerts advising them of suspicious or criminal activity in their area. As well as ensuring awareness among users of the service, it can also lead to them reporting suspicious activity to Gardai.

Sending the information by text means that it can be disseminated rapidly to a large amount of people in a cost-effective way.

Each Text Alert group must satisfy certain scheme protocols before they can formally register with An Garda Síochána, and they may also have to raise finance to allow for dissemination of the received Garda Text through the employment of a Service Provider.



Monitored Alarms

Personal alarms for elderly people are used for any situation at home when you need help and cannot reach a telephone. They are one of the most effective ways to keep you or your loved ones safe. They are simple to use, easy to install and increasingly affordable to everyone. The most common types of elderly alarms are those worn as a pendant or wristband. For information on becoming a member of the Text Alert group, information on Monitored Alarms or indeed becoming a member of Ballyhea Neighbourhood Watch please contact one of the members below:

Chairman: Phil Ryan -- 087 293 7465

Secretary: Pat Daly — 087 122 0114

Treasurer: James Horgan – 087 257 2271



St. Vincent de Paul Society



"Whenever two or three are gathered in My name there am I in the midst of them". This is the prayer said at every St. Vincent de Paul meeting since its foundation by Blessed Frederick Ozanam.

St Vincent de Paul society is a lay Catholic organisation with over 10,000 members nationally. The ethos of the society is to seek out those who are forgotten and bring help to those in need.

Holy Cross Conference was established in the Charleville area over 100 years ago to help

people in need in our locality. We are part of the North Cork Conference which includes Ballyhea, Churchtown, Newtown and Charleville.

Our aim is to alleviate poverty in terms of fuel, food, advice and education grants to people in our conference area.

Over the years we have developed a shop and Resource centre working with MABS and Citizens Information to help people cope with modern day pressures.

But for the generosity of the Mass going public we would not be able to continue the work of the Society. We would like to thank the people of Ballyhea for their continued support and encouragement.

Should you have any queries or needs please do not hesitate to call us on 063 32883 and leave a message. All requests are treated with complete confidentiality.

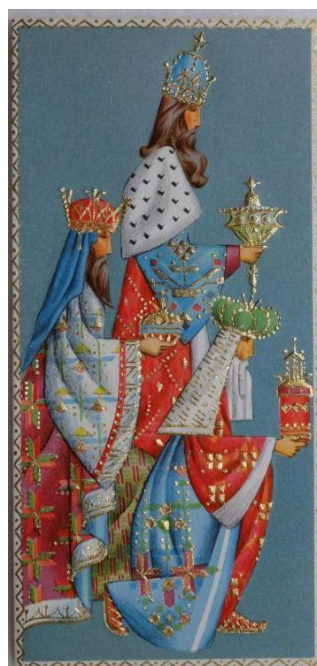
Thanking you, and wishing you all a very happy Christmas

Ian Doyle

President,

Society of Vincent De Paul,

Holy Cross Conference.



Christmas In The Country

By Con O'Brien

The good old hallowed Christmas time
Is here with frost and snow
And Santa Clause is coming as
He came long years ago;
And happy hearts will hear with joy
The Angels' message still
Of "Peace on Earth and Happiness
To men of true good-will".

How solemn seems the Christmas Day
And yet so full of cheer,
With greetings o'er the ocean wide
From friends who hold us dear,
And hearty salutations at
The Parish chapel gate;
"A happy Christmas, Mrs. Mac", "and
Many of them Kate."

The loaded postman on his rounds
With letters by the score
To meet with hearty welcome at
The humblest cottage door;
"Come in and take a little drop, you
Won't be long I know;
A letter from New York, thank God,
And five pounds here from Joe".

The good old hallowed Christmas time
Is here with frost and snow
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"Come in and take a little drop, you
Won't be long I know;
A letter from New York, thank God,
And five pounds here from Joe".

And, Oh! Tha welcome holidays,
With Tommy home once more;
'Tis he that's looking fine and strong
And smarter than before,
And, Oh! the Christmas turkey and
The good plumpudding too,
And brandy sauce and dainties
That we never can get through.

"Now make the fire of good ash logs
With joyous dancing blaze
And brew strong punch to stir our hearts
To tell of bygone days,
And let us hear a tune and song
From Willie, Pat, and May,
To pass in homely happiness our Irish Christmas Day

St. Stephen's Day! the little wren
Is chased and captured too,
And bound upon a holly bush
With rags of every hue
And bourne around from door to door
By youths who sing and play
And boast of how they "Kilt the wran"
Upon St. Stephen's Day.

'Tis hard on other countries where
The Winter comes in May
And Summer in December;
How can they keep their Christmas when
They get no frost or snow?
And can they have their Santa Clause
In baking heat? Oh, No!

How can they eat plumpudding when
They're melting in the sun?
Or drink a glass of steaming punch,
A thing that's always done?
Or sit around a blazing fire
At Perth or Table Bay?
Or can they even find a "wran"
To hunt on Stephen's Day.



Ballyhea Church Choir



The choir sings at 11am Mass from the first Sunday in October until the last Sunday in June.

We meet every Monday night at 7.30pm upstairs in the Church Sacristy and practice for an hour, from 7.30pm to 8.30pm

We are constantly looking for new members to join us, young and old, so please, I would urge you to come along and give it a go. You

would be most welcome!

Music is a valuable gift in our lives. It has the power to uplift and comfort, and to inspire.

There is a saying "whoever sings, prays twice".

So, whatever your singing ability may be,

SING AT MASS - Remember, you are praying twice!

Thank you

Triona McCarthy

Church Organist



Ballyhea Folk Group

Ballyhea Folk Group is now entering its 20th year. Founded in 1999, at the request of the parish priest, the late Fr. O Shea and the curate Fr. Kelleher, its role was to enhance the 7.30 Mass on Saturday evening. Almost half the current members of the group have been involved since its inception. The group has been very fortunate to have added more talented singers and musicians during the intervening years.

If any singers or musicians would like to join the group, please contact any member.

Nativity Play

As we are now approaching one of the most important festivals of the Churches calendar, Christmas. The first story of which was told over 2000 years ago. Has been told so many times since and will continue to be told forever.

The story of the Nativity in Bethlehem and the birth of Jesus in a stable.

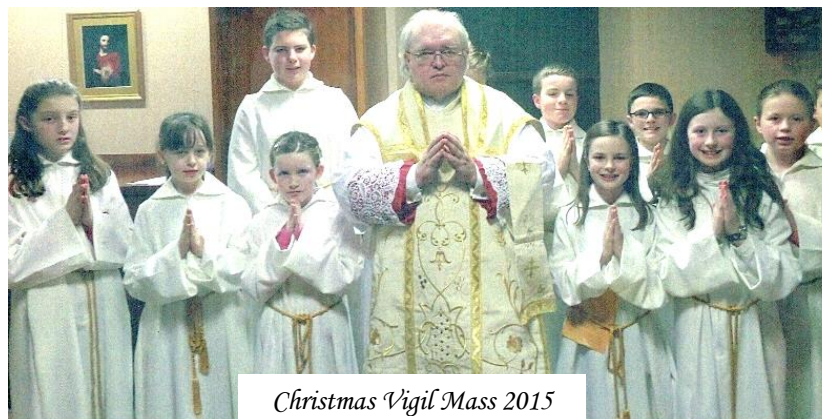
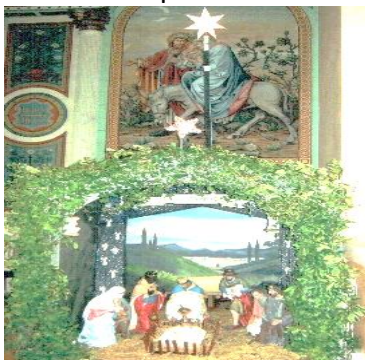


The feast of Christmas may be said to have become much more commercialised. I am sure that all faiths and none will at some time during the festival reflect on that 1st Christmas.

In our Church in Ballyhea we will again hear the story in the Gospel, in the singing of Hymns, we will also see a re-enactment by the local children under the guidance of Mary, Geraldine and Jerome, with the back up help of Phil and Dave, tell the story of Mary and Joseph call to the Inn, where no room is available and are directed to the Crib, where the Babe is presented.

The re-enactment has now been staged for nearly 20 years and is greatly appreciated.

The Crib has been erected by one member of the community for near on 50 years and now with the help of others.



Christmas Vigil Mass 2015

Charleville Agricultural Show

The History of Charleville Show so far.....



Time has rolled on but 30 years later we are still looking good and feeling good.

Charleville Show was founded in 1979, the driving force behind this venture was the late Canon Donal O'Driscoll. He called a meeting of a small number of interested people

together, they met at Cronins Hotel in November 1978.

He put forward a number of reasons why Charleville should have its own show. A lot of negative opinions were voiced on the night, as there was no tradition of a show in Charleville or the surrounding areas.

Jerry Lyons clearly remembers him saying *"Forget about Tradition - Charleville is the centre of one of the best agricultural areas in the country and should have a show"* After a long discussion it was agreed to support the idea and a date was fixed for the first formal meeting to form the show society. This meeting was held soon afterwards, and in addition to the original group that met, a number of good prospective members turned up to the initial meeting. The officers for the first show were elected at this meeting with Dr. O'Driscoll unanimously appointed as Chairman and the late William Biggane as Vice Chairman, Maura Sheehan was appointed as Secretary, Dan Murphy was appointed Treasurer and Pat O'Riordan was appointed P.R.O.

In 1982 Jim O'Callaghan succeeded Maura Sheehan as secretary, and he is still a hard working secretary today.

The first task of the newly elected committee was to acquire a site for the show. The Late Mrs. Joan Binchy very kindly offered the use of her lands to hold the show. A date was then secured from the Irish Shows Association which was the last weekend in June 1979. This weekend became the traditional weekend of the show.

Good support was forthcoming from existing shows in surrounding areas such as Paddy Luke Ryan from Cappamore Show, gave great guidance to the committee on their first venture.

A good cross section of interests were represented on the general committee such as the late Jim Berkery from Kilmallock and the Late William Fitzgerald from Effin. The show got off to a good start when the first schedule was issued and circulated; this resulted in good entries in all classes, which vindicated Dr. Q'Driscolls prediction. This was particularly evident in the Dairy section where there was very good entries in the premier classes including the All Ireland Maverick Junior Cow.



In the horse and pony section very big entries were received from all over Munster. The central location of Charleville was attractive to a wide range of exhibitors. It must be stated that the success of the show was also due to the very generous sponsorship which was forthcoming with Golden Vale as the main sponsors, and also the goodwill of the traders in the town.

The amount of voluntary help that was forthcoming for the first show was very encouraging. The preparation of the ground entailed all manual labour and there was no shortage of same. On the night before the show the weather was very unfavourable, the site became a quagmire, as late as 12.00 o'clock on the Friday night the committee was undecided whether to go ahead with the show or not. Dr. O'Driscoll called a meeting of a small number of the committee who were still on the grounds, and against all the adverse conditions it was decided to proceed.



Great difficulties were experienced on the first morning of the show getting exhibitors into the field, despite all this the programme went ahead according to plan. Thankfully on the Sunday the sun shone all day and there were great drying conditions, by early afternoon the grounds had completely dried up and the Sunday programme was a great success.

A number of novel attractions including sulky racing which was a new experience for the locals and proved to be the highlight of the show. Also in the early years there were Tug o War competitions and Sheaf tossing. Charleville Show was the first to introduce a musical programme for the Sunday afternoon, very well-known acts such as the Bairds, The Dublin City Ramblers, Louise Morrissey, Kathy Durkin, Johnny Barrett to name but a few were very attractive performances at the show.

Over the years the show committee introduced Novel Attractions such as Lawn Mower Racing, Formula One Cars, Saving The Hay, Exhibitions of Rare Breed Animals, and from



the start there was a vintage section which has grown from year to year. The visit of the Duchess of York in 1993 drew widespread publicity and she proved to be a major attraction.

The Famine Pageant was the best novel attraction presented by the show, it was initiated by the Late Michael McCarthy (The Hiker) from Buttevant. The purchase of the permanent grounds in Ballyhea in 1991 was a major achievement for the show committee. In order to help meet the cost of this investment a

new share register was opened at £100.00 per shareholder. The most gratifying aspect of the shareholding drive was the excellent support we got locally and also from a very widespread area. Over the years a lot of development has been carried out in the new grounds and as can be seen today would match any show grounds in the country.

Charleville Show today boasts it is the largest two-day show in the country, it is also fortunate as members retired there have always been very enthusiastic member ready to take their place. Six members of the present committee were members of the first committee, and they are Jack Binchy, Dick Bradley, Ian Doyle, Nora Leahy, Jerry Lyons and Pat O'Riordan.

This bodes well for the future of the show, and its success can be contributed to the fact that all the members give their time and efforts on a voluntary basis. It is a Labour of Love for everybody involved.



The Kerry Christmas Carol

Brush the floor and clean the hearth,
And set the fire to keep,
For they might visit us tonight
When all the world's asleep.



Don't blow the tall white candle out
But leave it burning bright,
So that they'll know they're welcome here
This holy Christmas night.

Leave out the bread and meat for them,
And sweet milk for the Child,
And they will bless the fire, that baked
And, too, the hands that toiled.

For Joseph will be travel-tired,
And Mary pale and wan,
And they can sleep a little while
Before they journey on.

They will be weary of the roads,
And rest will comfort them,
For it must be many a lonely mile
From here to Bethlehem.

O long the road they have to go,
The bad mile with the good,
Till the journey ends on Calvary
Beneath a cross of wood.



Leave the door upon the latch,
And set the fire to keep,
And pray they'll rest with us tonight
When all the world's asleep.

-- Sigerson Clifford (1913-1984)

Names of those who died during the year

Tom Walsh, Dublin late of Knocklong
Antonia Murphy, Shinana
Bridget O'Callaghan, Rathnacally
Donal Morrissey, Carrigaline and late of Ballycosgry
Michael (Mick) Ryan, Dublin and late of Shinana
Ellen (Nellie) Pyne, Castlewrixon
Patrick Curtin, Ballinadridden
Hannah O'Regan, Shinana
Mary Kiernan, Buttevant and late of Shinana
Sheila O'Flynn, New York and late of Newtown Ballyhea
John (Jack) Fitzgibbon, Ballylopin
Mary Roche (nee O'Connor) Doneraile and late of Newtown Ballyhea
Mary Kathy Crowley, Martinstown and late of Ballyhigh
Paddy Moloney, Clare
Seamus Kiely, Dublin
David Daly, Dromahane and late of Castleharrison
Dan Casey, Farran
Peggy Cagney, London, Liscarroll, Charleville
Rev. Fr. Martin O'Callaghan, Down and Conon
Maeve Dunne, Cork
Maureen Lowry, Charleville
Donal Buckley, Newtown Shandrum
William Hawe, Liscarroll
Very Rev. Fr. Pdraig Keogh, Milford
Tim Kenneally, Charleville
Catherine (Kit) Egan, Buttevant
Richard (Dick) Kiely, Cooleens
Erick Keane, Milltown
John Murphy, Roscrea
Dan Murphy, Ballinagrath
Peggy Keane, Freemount
Monsignor Norbert Nauthe
Patrick (Tommy) Greaney Oxford and Broghill. Charleville
Thady Mortell, Ballyhigh
May Fitzpatrick, Dromina
Robert (Robbie) Walsh, Loughlea
Deborah Moriarty, Sorrell

