

## Foreword

Few, if any, will regret the passing of 2020 and 2021. These two years saw our society traverse the greatest religious, social, political and economic travails since the Great Famine and its devastating effects. Throughout the Spring of 2020, with a sense of incredulity, we watched devastating mortality rates throughout the western world to be followed by similar rates in Asia, the United States and in South America. While vaccination programmes have helped to curb infection rates, we have come to realize they have not yet succeeded in eradicating a ruthless killer disease. Ultimately, the tragic experience of the past two years forces us to rethink many of the assumptions underlying modern secularist approaches to society, life and religion. The events of the past two years certainly challenge the idea that man is the master of his own destiny and can direct and mould it according to his own lights and without assistance from, or reference to, any external entity such as God. If anything, the past two years have shown us just how utterly dependant man is, not only for his prosperity and well-being, but even for his very existence. That dependence was dramatically illustrated by Michelangelo in his fresco on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel of the creation of man. Sombre as the thought may be, it is precisely that very idea that we celebrate at Christmas as we prepare to welcome the Christ-child into our hearts and into our homes. For it is the Christ-child, born in Bethlehem, who is the source of our hope in trials; of our joy in adversity; and, paradoxically, of our strength when confronted by our existential weakness. It is to him that we turn for life, light and re-assurance. It is to him that we give thanks for our safe deliverance.

This edition of our parish annual is a double issue running from December 2019 to the end of November 2021. It resumes the parish chronicle which marks all of the major occasions celebrated or observed during that period of time. The most significant event was the completion and dedication of the new hall. It is a tribute to the entire community that such a major undertaking could be embarked upon and brought to conclusion without any significant difficulties. It is a source of continuing regret that the new hall cannot be used just yet for community and social purposes. We hope, however, to remedy this situation at the earliest possible opportunity. In the meantime, the hall provides valuable extra space for the school thus allowing it to function more efficiently and safely in the present climate.

This year's edition concentrates on holiness and the appropriation of a high degrees of sanctity by three notable Irish people: the Jesuit army chaplain Fr. William Doyle who was killed in the course of duty during the first World War; Catherine McAuley, foundress of the sisters of Mercy, whose work for the poor in education and health care made a profound impact not only in Ireland but throughout the English speaking world; and Edel Quinn, born outside of Kanturk, who became a lay missionary with the Legion of Mary and accomplished phenomenal works throughout East Africa while in the advanced stages of consumption.

Our local clubs and associations provide an account of their curtailed activities over the past two years while the local school and pre-school provide an insight into their activities during lockdown.

We also commemorate the local bard Con O'Brien and re-print some of his poetical works. The centenary of the death of An tAthar Peadar O Laoighre is recalled by a timely reminder of his life and times.

Many thanks are due to all who contributed articles, information, and guidance in the production of this volume. That is especially true of Geraldine Egan who edited the material and prepared the annual for printing and publication.

Finally, we wish all our readers and contributors a very happy and holy Christmas and brighter and better times throughout the beckoning New Year. May the joy and peace of the Christ child dwell in your hearts and homes throughout 2022.

# *Parish News*

## *Baptisms In The Parish*

*December 2019 – November 2021*



### ***Baptisms 2020***

*Molly Ruth Elizabeth Ring  
Beau Timothy Waters  
Davie Boy Casey  
George Patrick O'Reilly  
Paddy O'Donovan  
Abbie Molly Fitzgerald  
Magia Grace Cox  
Sara Adamowska  
Laura Mary Moloney  
Lorcan James O'Sullivan  
Brion William Crowley  
Jack Michael Shanahan  
Paudie Michael Morrissey  
Mae Nora Morrissey*

### ***Baptisms 2021***

*Austin James Lyons  
Jack Laurence O'Keeffe  
Harper Eileen Ducey  
Leigh Mary O'Shaughnessy  
Paddy Joseph O'Brien  
Morgan Casey  
Raya Mark Scannell  
Daniel Eugene O'Leary  
Fionn Hedderman  
Lily Rosie Levington  
Henry James O'Keeffe  
Bobby Michael Hartigan  
Jake Linehan  
Ruby Jane O'Riordan  
Doireann Máire O'Riordan  
Shay Thomas O'Riordan  
Josh Thomas O'Riordan  
Shane Noah Linehan  
Danny Fitzgibbon*



*Confirmation In The Parish  
28<sup>th</sup> September 2021*



*The Sacrament of Confirmation was administered 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils of Ballyhea National School on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2021 by His Excellency Archbishop Michael F. Crotty, Apostolic Nuncio to Burkina Faso and Niger.*

*The children who received the Sacrament are as follows:*

*Tiernan Mulcahy  
Cormac Crowley  
Tiernan Walsh  
Daniel Buckley  
Cathal O'Leary  
Alex Kennedy  
Jack Mortell  
Darragh Murphy  
Dara O'Sullivan  
Eoghan Horan  
Steven Mortell  
Diarmuid O'Riordan  
Daniel Mackessy*

*Ella O'Doherty  
Sophie Barrett  
Ava Mulcahy  
Cara Hickey  
Ruth Linehan  
Bláithín Fitzpatrick  
Irene O'Neill  
Margaret O'Donnell  
Flowery Hegarty  
Róisín Walsh  
Zara Barrett  
Cara Madigan  
Clare Hanley  
Sophie Kenny  
Valerie Boucher*



*First Holy Communion In The Parish 2020 & 2021*



*19<sup>th</sup> September 2020*

*Rhys Carey  
Nicole Carroll  
Páidí Curtin  
Emma Foley  
Jeffrey Foley  
Christopher Goold  
Connie Hegarty  
Evelyn Holton  
Lucy Keane  
Jennifer Kelly  
Adam Lilley  
Bronagh Linehan  
Eva Madigan  
Mark Madigan  
Hazel Mortell*

*Mia Moskal  
Katie Mulcahy  
Patrick Joseph  
O'Brien  
Emily O'Connor  
Jamie O'Donoghue  
Crockett  
Katelyn O'Gorman  
Katie O'Leary  
Saoirse O'Leary  
Jack O'Riordan  
Lily O'Riordan  
Darragh O'Sullivan  
Kate Ring  
Lauren Ronan*

*28<sup>th</sup> September 2021*

*Kate Barrett  
Oliver Buckley  
Joe Crowley  
Rory Crowley  
Harlowe Foley  
Hannah Goold  
Ave Gore  
Kate Kearney  
Cathal Keogh  
Sam McNamara  
Brian Murphy  
Aoife O'Flaherty  
Susie O'Neill  
Tommy O'Neill  
Elizabeth O'Riordan  
Harry Rea  
Daniel Ring  
Branagh Walsh*



## Deaths during 2020 & 2021

### 2020

*Kitty Daly (Neé Kennedy) England and late of Ardnageehy  
Carmel Conroy, Fermoy  
Garry McCarthy, Kilkenny and late of Milford  
Diarmuid Bradley  
Mary Riordan, Lisballyhea  
Carmel Morton, Milltown  
Noreen O'Connor, Newtown Ballyhea  
Archbishop Phillip Tartaglia, Archbishop of Glasgow  
Michael O'Callaghan, Rathnacally  
Sr. Ellen Morton, Mount St. Vincents Limerick, late of  
Ballinguile  
Pat Keane, Freemount  
Margaret Cagney, Charleville  
Frank O'Keeffe, Ballynoran  
Peter Heffernan, Dromcollogher  
Eva Aherne, Holland, late of Doneraile  
Tom Morrissey, Ballyhay  
Pat Joe O'Mahony, Cork  
John Joe Murphy, Buttevant,  
Bernie Collins, Buttevant  
Michael Philbin, Castlebar  
Bridget (Brid) McCarthy (Neé Foley) Mitchelstown, late of  
Ballylopin  
Frances Penny (Neé O'Donnell) Roscommon Town, late of  
Effin  
Maureen O'Keeffe, Athlacca, late of Velvetstown, Buttevant  
Jimmy Brennan, London late of Cooline  
Joseph Scarry, New Jersey  
Bertie Curtin, Charleville  
Paul Madigan, Buttevant  
John O'Callaghan, Cooleens  
William (Bill) Curran, Mallow  
Margaret Healy, Lombardstown  
Dodo Ryan, Dublin  
Patrick Joseph O'Sullivan, Knockardrum  
Patrick Brassil, Churchtown  
Kathleen Behan, Churchtown  
Patrick O'Connor, Newtown Ballyhea  
Claire McDermott, Charleville  
Mary Carroll, Cooleens  
Marian O'Callaghan, Castleharrison  
Willie Murphy, Newtown Ballyhea  
Margaret Nunan, Ballycosgry  
Catherine Daly, Coolcaum  
Sonya O'Keeffe, Lisballyhea  
John Lynch, Kiltass*

### 2021

*Donal (Donie) Waters, Cooleens, Charleville  
Elizabeth Todd (Neé Griffin) Tramore, late of Effin  
Kathleen Barry (Neé Purcell) Effin & Ardskeagh  
Michael Guiney, Richmond Street, Buttevant  
Kathleen Breen  
Kathleen Boyle, Donegal  
Martin Casey, Charleville  
Eily Collins, Buttevant  
Canon Michael Harrington, Buttevant  
Very Rev. Fr. Donal O'Brien, Ballyvourney  
Tommy Foley, Farran  
Anne Fitzgibbon (Neé Kelly), Ballylopin  
Catherine (Kitty) Curran, Mallow  
Very Rev. Fr. Jackie Corkery, Kanturk  
Patrick Moynihan, Mallow  
Tomek Krausse  
Madge Cowhey, Ballycosgry  
Helen Madigan (Neé Cole), Buttevant  
Fionn Patrick Barry, Newtown Ballyhea  
John Carroll, Charleville  
Anthony Purcell, England  
Delia Kelly, Gurrane  
Mary Morton, Milltown  
Josie McCarthy, Broadford  
Margaret Purcell, Ardnageehy  
Sr. Nora Wall, Limerick  
Joan Treacher (née O'Connor)  
Newtown House Ballyhea and England  
Marian Daly, Buttevant*



**The clock of life is wound but once  
and no man has the power,  
To tell just where the hands will stop  
at late or early hour.  
To lose ones wealth is sad indeed  
to lose ones health is more,  
To lose ones soul is such a loss  
and no one can restore.  
The present only is our own  
live, love, toil with a will.  
Place no Faith in to-morrow  
for the clock may then be still.**

# *Chronical 2019-2021*

## **December 2019**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting with engineer from CIE.*
- 11<sup>th</sup> Roofing of New Hall began.*
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of New Hall Committee.*
- 25<sup>th</sup> The Solemnity of the Lord's Nativity was observed.*

## **January 2020**

- 1<sup>st</sup> The feast of St. Sciath was observed.*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Slating of the New Hall began.*
- 9<sup>th</sup> Slating completed.*
- 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting with engineer re internal fittings for New Hall.*



## **February**

- 13<sup>th</sup> Building Committee meeting.*
- 26<sup>th</sup> Ash Wednesday.*

## **March**

- 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting with representatives of Community Council re New Hall.*
- 14<sup>th</sup> Covid-19 restrictions began.*
- 17<sup>th</sup> Public Masses were suspended; Private Masses continue.*
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Preparatory meeting with parents of First Holy Communion children were postponed. First Holy Communion postponed. First Friday Sick calls were deferred. Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes postponed. Religious inspection in school cancelled.*
- 28<sup>th</sup> Covid-19 restrictions became law.*
- 30<sup>th</sup> New Hall building site closed.*

## **April**

- 5<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday.*
- 10<sup>th</sup> Good Friday.*
- 12<sup>th</sup> Easter Sunday was observed.*

## **May**

- 18<sup>th</sup> New Hall building site reopened.*
- 18<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> Rogation Days.*
- 21<sup>st</sup> Solemnity of the Lord's Ascension.*

## **June**

- 11<sup>th</sup> Solemnity of Corpus Christi.*

## **July**

- 5<sup>th</sup> Public Mass resumed.*
- 16<sup>th</sup> Matthew Thompson, sculptor, erected a dedicatory stone in the New Hall.*

## **August**

- 4<sup>th</sup> Storage Shed for the New Hall was erected.*

5<sup>th</sup> Work commenced on the floor of the New Hall  
7<sup>th</sup> Kitchen installed in the New Hall



15<sup>th</sup> Monsignor Michael Crotty was consecrated Titular Archbishop of Lindisfarne at Cobh Cathedral



17<sup>th</sup> Grounds around the New Hall finished and laid out.

23<sup>rd</sup> New Hall was opened by Archbishop Crotty.



26<sup>th</sup> Final works were completed on New Hall.

## September

19<sup>th</sup> First Holy Communion was administered in the Parish.



Photographs courtesy of William Casey



Photographs courtesy of William Casey

## October

7<sup>th</sup> New Covid restrictions were introduced.

## December

1<sup>st</sup> The Church reopened for Public Mass.

7<sup>th</sup> Visit from CIE engineer re proposed closure of Railway Gates.

22<sup>nd</sup> Zoom meeting with representatives of CIE.

# 2021

## February

17<sup>th</sup> Ash Wednesday.

21<sup>st</sup> First Sunday of Lent.

On foot of a malicious telephone call, two Guards called to the Sacristy from Charleville Station in the belief that forty or fifty persons were attending Mass. None were present. A letter was subsequently sent to the Superintendent requesting consideration of prosecution under the terms of the Criminal Justice Act (1976) for wasting police time.

## March

11<sup>th</sup> Novena to St. Joseph began.

12<sup>th</sup> Pope Francis conferred the Bene Merenti medal on:  
Maurice O'Riordan, Michael McDermott,  
Tommy & Mary Moloney, Maria O'Hanlon McInerney  
and Ena O'Regan.



15<sup>th</sup> Received a grant of €1000.00 from the County Council Covid  
emergency fund to install wireless receivers in a number of homes.

15<sup>th</sup> The Most Reverend Dermot Farrell, Archbishop of Dublin, gave a  
statue of Pope Pius IX to the Parish. The statue, by Filippo Matteani,  
had been in Clonliffe College Chapel since 1865.

### *April*

4<sup>th</sup> The Solemnity of Easter was observed.

19<sup>th</sup> A new Committee for the Holy Well was formed.

28<sup>th</sup> The Parish acquired a copy of P.P. Ruben's Conversion of St. Paul (1620) to be hung in the  
Church.

### *May*

10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Rogations.

13<sup>th</sup> Ascension Thursday was observed.

### *August*

15<sup>th</sup> Rosary was prayed at the Holy Well

15<sup>th</sup> Archbishop Crotty  
celebrated Holy Mass  
in Pontificals at  
11am.

28<sup>th</sup> Archbishop Crotty  
administered the  
Sacrament of  
Confirmation in the  
Parish.



Photographs courtesy of  
William Casey



*Photographs courtesy of  
William Casey*

*September*

*18<sup>th</sup> First Holy  
Communion was  
administered in the  
Parish.*



*Photographs courtesy of  
William Casey*

21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> The Parish was visited by two Russian Orthodox Nuns from the Convent of St. Elizabeth in Minsk,



### October

*Autumn Stations were held in the Church*

14<sup>th</sup> *A meeting of the Board of Management with Inspectors.*

### November

21<sup>st</sup> *Suffrage for the Faithful departed were said in Ballyhea Old Cemetary and Cooline.*

21<sup>st</sup> *Feast of Christ the King was held, with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 5pm.*

28<sup>th</sup> *Suffrage for the Faithful departed in St. Mary's Cemetary and Imphrick,*



# Feature

## Edel Quinn



*On December 15, 1994, Pope John Paul II declared Edel Quinn “Venerable” One more miracle attributed to her intercession is still required for her Beatification.*

*The Eucharist was the centre of her life.*

*She said she could not refuse Our Lady anything.*

*Many Children baptised in Castlemagner in the same Baptismal font as Edel bear the same name, be it a first name or second name.*

*In Castlemagner Church there is a Shrine erected in honour of Edel Quinn, and in the Church grounds there is a bronze monument set in Limestone.*

*Edel Quinn was born on the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, September 14, 1907 at Greenane in the parish of Castlemagner. Father Greene, the parish priest of Castlemagner, baptised Edel on the 18th. Her father, a bank employee, was transferred often. This meant many moves for Edel, her three sisters, and brother; the family finally settled in Monkstown, County Dublin in 1924.*



*Like the rest of her family, Edel adored sports. An avid rugby supporter, she played tennis and cricket. She loved to cycle, especially at high speeds – and to dance; many who knew her, spoke of her exuberant nature and cheerful outlook.*

*On completing her education in Ireland, she went to boarding school in England for a brief spell. On her return she undertook a commercial course. At age twenty Edel was working as a secretary proving to be most efficient and conscientious. At this time the spiritual side of her life was becoming more dominant. She joined the Legion of Mary in Dublin.*

*In 1932 when about to join the Poor Clare Convent in Belfast, an enclosed order, it was discovered she had advanced tuberculosis of the lungs. This would eventually end her life. An eighteen-month stay in a sanatorium followed. Towards the end of 1933 she went back to her office job and her beloved Legion. She spent time visiting the sick and the needy.*

*In November 1936, she arrived in Kenya. Within 14 days she had set up the first Legion group, called "The Immaculate Conception". Like everything else she had tackled previously, Edel threw herself into fulfilling her role, which was to bring Catholics of all cultures, languages and backgrounds to work together through Our Lady.*

*Sheer necessity brought about the purchase of a six-year-old Ford V8 coupe. When her newly acquired driver proved unreliable, in true Edel fashion she learned to drive. Harrowing journeys, in her "Rolls Royce" as she called it, were all part of the job – "She was utterly undaunted" Frank Duff, the Legion's founder once said of her, "Just laughed her way through obstacles that would have beaten almost anyone else."*



*In the period 1937 – 1940 she introduced the Legion to Uganda, (Tanzania), (Malawi) and Mauritius in the Indian Ocean.*

*She organised the translations and printing of prayers in several different languages and dialects. During her many hospital spells, she continued her work through correspondence.*

*By 1943, the tuberculosis was well advanced and even Edel had to admit she was slowing down considerably. Yet she still continued her travels.*

*By November 1943, her hard labour had paid off. Hundreds of Legion groups were thriving on African soil thanks to this single-minded Irish woman*



*Edel's grave in the missionary cemetery in Nairobi, Kenya.*

*The disease, fought for so long, finally defeated Edel on May 12, 1944. Receiving the last rites at the Convent of the Sisters of the Precious Blood in Nairobi, she spoke her last words: "What is happening to me? Is Jesus coming?"*

*She was 36 years old. Hence the Annual Novena in Castlemagner is held to remember and celebrate the Anniversary of her death.*

*In 1963 the process of her canonization was opened in Nairobi and Dublin. On December 15, 1994 Pope John Paul II solemnly proclaimed her heroic sanctity, declaring her "Venerable".*



## Our Lady's Well

Grove White wrote of our Lady's well in 1906

**"In Castleharrison Demesne, in front of the house near the road, is an interesting Holy Well.**

**It is kept in good order and is one of the most picturesque Holy Wells I have seen" also noting "it is a credit to the Parish of Ballyhea, for it is one of the best kept Blessed Wells in the South of Ireland"**

It's good to see that 115 years later these are the same sentiments echoed by Hundreds of visitors who travel from near and far to Our Lady's Well on an annual basis.

With people enduring a horrendous 18 months of Covid lockdown which saw our nation practically grinding a halt Our Lady's well has become a Haven for many a pilgrim visiting the grotto to pray the rosary while following the stations of the cross and drinking the healing waters of the well.

Through the lockdown nature still carried on its everyday duties at the well with Spring and summer bringing growth which needed to be curtailed regularly.

For over 40 years there was a well committee in place which up until May 2021 consisted of Tommy Moloney, Jerome O'Keeffe and Maurice O Riordan. This year there was not really a changing of the guard in terms of the committee but adding of the guard with up to 10 new committee volunteers being added to the ticket.

A huge thank you must go to Jerome and Maurice and especially to Tommy and his wife Mary who has been part and parcel the reason why Our Lady's Well has and is always looking so well. The time and effort Tommy has put in to the Well is greatly appreciated by everyone associated with it.



As a committee we would also like to Acknowledge and thank James and Aaron Dundon for the donation and supply of CPH equipment for a clean-up evening during the summer.

Another prominent member of the committee in the past was Michael McDermott.

Michael was Chairman of the Well committee when a lot of the present developments of the Well were carried out including the Stations of the Cross.

It was Michael who brought the present statue of Our Lady from Fatima. Mrs McDermott saw after the flowers in the well.

I would like to leave you with a prayer which is synonymous with Our Holy Well.

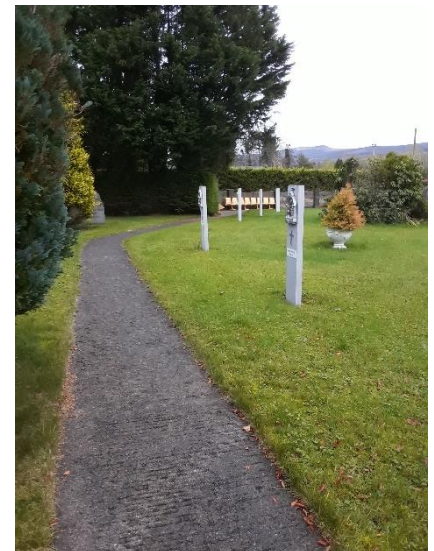
### Prayer To Our Lady



Take my hand, O Blessed Mother  
Hold me Firmly lest I fall,  
I am nervous when I am walking  
And on you I humbly call,  
Guide me over every crossing.  
Watch me when I am on the  
stairs,  
Let me know that your beside  
me.

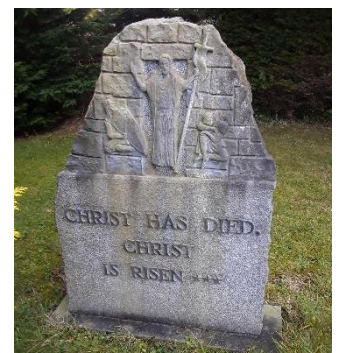
Listen to my fervent prayer.  
Bring me to my destination.  
Safely every single day.  
Help me with every undertaking,  
As the hours pass away.  
And when everything falls upon  
us

And I fear to be alone  
Take my hand O Blessed Mother  
And protect me and my home.



### The new committee

Monsignor O'Brien,  
Kevin O'Keeffe  
Tom Brassill  
Ger O'Shea  
Jim Codd  
James Dundon  
Martin Moloney  
Diarmuid O Riordan



## *Ballyhea Altar Society*

*It was with deep sadness on December 26<sup>th</sup> 2020, we learned of the passing of our dear friend Noreen O'Connor. Noreen was a wonderful gardener and flower arranger. Her beautiful Roses and Dalia's adorned the Altar at different times of the year. Noreen was in poor health for some time. Her dear husband Paddy passed to his eternal reward in the same year. I am sure now they are both united in the garden up above.*

*The past year and a half, we have lived with a different way of life, with Covid. Please God with all taking care, we will come through.*

*At Present we in the Altar Group, have seven doing the flowers. We would love if any one would give of their time only once in every two months.*

*The group at present are: - Angela Ryan, Bernie Leahy, Breda Crowley, Bernie Crowley, Triona McCarthy, Theresa O'Keeffe, Gretta Donegan Kenny.*

*Wishing every one in the Parish a very happy and holy Christmas and hoping for good health and happiness to all in 2022*

*Breda Crowley*



## *Fr. Willie Doyle SJ*

Fr. Willie Doyle SJ was born in Dalkey on 3 March 1873 to an affluent Catholic family. As a boy, F. Doyle was educated in Ratcliffe College in Leicester; after school, he considered his options for the priesthood. Initially, he was drawn towards becoming a priest of the Archdiocese of Dublin. Devotion was

encouraged in the home with Fr. Doyle and his two older brothers pursuing the priesthood and an older sister becoming a nun. Fr. Doyle's older brother, Charlie, had already entered the novitiate of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) in Tullabeg Co. Offaly. At the invitation of his brother, Fr. Doyle went to see the novitiate and his first response to Jesuit life was not positive, telling his brother he would: "never come back to this hole." Upon departing Tullabeg, he was gifted a book on religious life by St. Alphonsus Liguori. Reading this book helped Fr. Doyle to change his mind and enter the Society in 1891.



His Jesuit vocation was almost cut short by a fire that took place at the novitiate. The event traumatised Fr. Doyle, causing him to have a nervous breakdown, which forced him to return home to his family. Such an event would have normally spelt doom for a religious vocation,

but Fr. Doyle was encouraged to re-enter the novitiate after a period of recuperation. After taking vows, Fr. Doyle embarked on a period of Jesuit formation known as Regency. Fr. Doyle worked in two Jesuit schools Clongowes Wood College and Belvedere College. His time in both schools had a positive impact on the students' lives, and his legacy continues in the form of the Clongowes Past Pupils Union, the Clongowes annual musical, and the Old Clongowegian magazine.

Fr. Doyle continued his priestly studies and was ordained at Milltown Park in 1907. As it happens, he was ordained the same day as Blessed John Sullivan, whose ancestors have strong connections to Mallow. His prayerful nature took him in Retreat Ministry after ordination. The *Spiritual Exercises* of St. Ignatius of Loyola are a popular way of praying in our time. At the turn of the Twentieth Century, they were almost the exclusive preserve of priests brothers and religious sisters. The *Exercises* made such a profound impact on Fr. Doyle that he felt they should be available to the largest audience possible. He helped to make Retreats based on the *Exercises* widely accessible to laypeople, in particular working classes people, who normally could not have afforded to partake in such retreats.

Fr. Doyle was given money for sweets, he would seek out people that were in need and give the money to them.

This sense of charity continued into adulthood, where he played an essential part in the life of the soldiers he served alongside in the First World War. When his status as a chaplain would have meant that Fr. Doyle could have avoided the Front Lines, he chose instead to be with the men. On one occasion, he even allowed a doctor to sleep on his back to save the man from having to rest on the wet floor of a trench. Fr. Doyle's desire to be with the soldiers in these appalling conditions resulted in his eventual death. He regularly ventured onto the battlefield to try and rescue injured soldiers; it was on such a mission he lost his life.

His death in August 1917 came as a great blow to those who had known him. He died attempting to save injured soldiers from the battlefield at Ypres. His body was initially recovered, but subsequently obliterated by a German shell. Interest in his life was sparked by a book written by Professor Alfred O'Rahilly, which became a bestseller. The book went on to inspire future saints, like Mother Teresa and St. Josemaría Escrivà, the founder of Opus Dei. The desire to have Fr. Doyle declared a saint received much traction in the 1930s, but it lapsed as the Irish Jesuits preferred to give their energies to the cause

of Fr. John Sullivan. In recent years the cause has begun to get traction and a lay Association of the Faithful is working to have it promoted.

This approach to spirituality was influential in developing a future retreat ministry which saw the expansion of the *Spiritual Exercises* to the broadest possible audience. Fr. Doyle also had a great interest in vocations to religious life, and produced two bestselling pamphlets on the priesthood which were published by the Sacred Heart Messenger. Fr. Doyle loved practical jokes, and this resulted in mixed opinions of him. His students found him quite popular during his time as a teacher, appreciating his capacity for practical jokes. His Jesuit colleagues who were often the butt of his jokes were less enthusiastic. One of his recorded gags involved dressing up an object as a priest and allowing it to fall out a window, making those watching think he himself had an accident.

Despite his humour Fr. Doyle lived a rigorous life of penance. This was something he took on board personally but was not something he ever forced on others. To those who met him day-to-day, they generally only encountered his good humour, and it is from his spiritual writings that we know about the harsh treatments he put himself through. Fr. Doyle lived his life for other people. Even from his earliest days Fr. Doyle was always putting others needs before his own. He was born into a privileged family in Dublin and had access to many of the finer things which life had to offer. Despite this Fr. Doyle had a great interest in assisting those who were less well off. As a boy, he would get up early in the morning and complete work which was typically done by his family's domestic staff. When young



BI-CENTENNIAL HISTORY OF ALBANY  
HISTORY OF ALBANY, N.Y.  
FROM 1609 TO 1886  
HOWELL & TENNEY

MANUFACTURING INTERESTS OF ALBANY.

PAGE. 595



*Matthew Hawe*

**MATTHEW HAWE**

was born in Charleville, Ireland, October 18, 1814, and died in Albany, April 24, 1880, in his sixty-sixth year. He came to America with his parents in 1816, and was educated in the Albany Academy. Leaving school, he was interested in his father's (William Hawe's) extensive cooperage business until 1836, when he engaged in the same business on his own account, manufacturing beer barrels, half-barrels and hogsheads, a business which his widow, under the name of M. A. Hawe, has continued since his death. Mr. Hawe made the manufacture of his specialties in cooperage a study, and invented improvements in ale and beer casks which render the heads and other jointures with the staves as strong as any other part of the barrel, whereas, as they were previously made, the heads, however strong with the timber they were constructed, were always weak at their jointure with the staves. The advantages of barrels and other vessels constructed with Mr. Hawe's improvements are these:

1<sup>st</sup>. By a more obtuse angle of the bevel of the edge of the head, the quantity of material for resistance of all strain is increased. 2<sup>nd</sup>. The bevelling of the edge of the head, supported by the howel, prevents all crushing in of the head. 3<sup>rd</sup>. The manner in which the edge of the head is held in the croze, and supported by the howel, effectually prevents the wood in the head from splitting up. 4<sup>th</sup>. The convex form given to the head in one direction, makes the head itself as strong as the body of the barrel. 5<sup>th</sup>. The beveled jointing surface of the several pieces forming the head ensures the perfect tightness of all the jointures of the head, and counteracts all tendency of the end hoops to break in the chime. 6<sup>th</sup>. The head and its jointure, with the staves, are made as strong as the other parts of the barrel. 7<sup>th</sup>. Ample opportunity is afforded for the removal of sediment that may accumulate around the howel and the bevelling of the head. These improvements have been variously and severally tested, and in every case, they have been found to meet the utmost expectations of Mr. Hawe and brewers who have used them.

The loss of ten per cent., annually experienced by brewers, from the waste of ale and cost of repairs caused by the bursting of the heads, is effectually prevented by the use of barrels and other vessels constructed with Mr. Hawe's improvements.

These casks became very popular with brewers, and Mr. Hawe manufactured them under letters patent, and shipped them in large quantities to New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Buffalo, Rochester, and many other manufacturing centers. But no sooner had he succeeded in proving the superiority of his barrels than unscrupulous coopers began, in different places, to manufacture and sell similar ones in infringement of his patent. Suits were brought for damages and royalties, which are still pending in the courts, and which, promising to result favorably to the claims of Mr. Hawe, will undoubtedly bring to his heirs at least a portion of the legitimate reward of his ingenuity and enterprise.

In 1840 Mr. Hawe was married to Miss Mary A. Griffith, of New York. They have had fifteen children, thirteen of whom lived to be men and women, and nine of whom survived their father.

He was esteemed for his kindly nature, his dignified bearing, and his unquestionable business probity. This last-mentioned characteristic was so marked, that it was once said of him by Thurlow Weed: "Matthew Hawe's word was truly as good as his bond." An influential citizen, he was identified with many of Albany's most important interests, and counted among his warm personal friends such men as Mr. Weed, John L. Schoolcraft, William H. Seward, and others of equal note.

The formerly well-known Dr. E. B. O'Callaghan was his brother-in-law. For a time, Mr. Hawe was a partner in the flour business in Albany with his brother John, carrying on his cooperage business at the same time. He also dealt heavily in stoves, a branch of his business which is now carried on by his son. He was a business man in every sense of the word — energetic, original, honest, shrewd and successful. He never connected himself with secret societies, and, though he had pronounced convictions upon all public questions, never mingled actively in political life, always refusing to accept any office, though urged to accept many. In early life he was an old school Democrat. Later he became a Whig, and a second change to Republicanism was but natural. In religion he followed the faith of his fathers, and he was a Corporate Member of the Parish of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, and a Trustee of St. Agnes' Cemetery. He was prominent and liberal in support of the interests of the Cathedral, and his memory is preserved by inscription on the chime of bells belonging to that institution. He was generous to his fellow men and helpful to the poor. His life was upright in the sight of God and man, and he was beloved not only by those who enjoyed the happiness of sharing with him the blessings of his fireside, but by a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

His last illness was of long duration, but he bore his affliction with a Christian's fortitude. The sorrow at his death was general among the many who had known him. The Committee of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception met at the episcopal residence, April 25, 1880, to take action in reference to his death. There were present Rt. Rev. Bishop McNiemey, D. D. ; Very Rev. P. Ludden, V.G.; P. McHugh, John Connick, Michael Delehanty; P. J. Wallace, Treasurer, and Thomas J. Lanahan, Secretary.

The following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

"Whereas, Death has again, in the brief space of one month, removed from our midst another member of this Committee, Mr. Matthew Hawe, be it

"Resolved, that we deeply regret the decease of Matthew Hawe, who for more than twenty-eight years has been a member of this Board.

"That his long service in this Committee, marked as it was by a singleness of purpose, purity of motive and courteous bearing, has endeared him to us, and merits our highest consideration and respect.

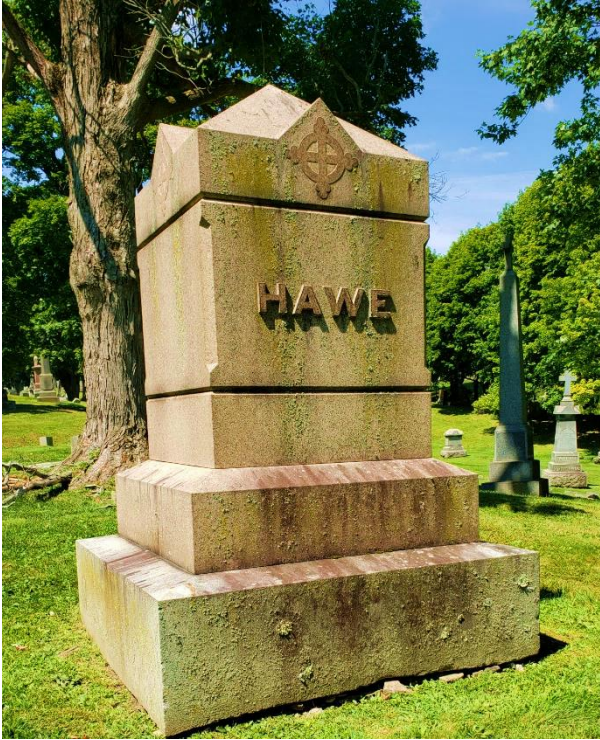
"That his constant and unremitting attention to his duties, his zeal and energy in advancing the interests of this Cathedral, is deserving of the pious remembrance of the congregation.

"That we tender to his family our sincere sympathy in their bereavement, and that the Secretary transmit to them a copy of these resolutions."

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees of St. Agnes' Cemetery, held Monday, April 26, 1880, to take action concerning the death of Mr. Matthew Hawe, Mr. John Stuart offered the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

"Whereas, Information of the death of our late esteemed associate, Mr. Matthew Hawe, has been communicated to this Board, and it is proper that, uniting in the regret occasioned by his loss, we should signify our appreciation of his many excellent qualities; therefore

*Resolved*, That in the death of Mr. Hawe, one of our Finance Committee, this Board loses an active and worthy member, who always manifested pride and zealous interest in the welfare of this organization, and who spared no exertion to secure its prosperity.



Tomb of Matthew Hawe at St. Agnes's graveyard, Albany, New York.



## An tAthar Peadar Ó Laoghaire, Comóradh 100 Bliain



Rugadh an tAthar Ó Laoghaire ar 30 Aibreán 1839 . Bhí sé ina gcónaí i Lios Carragáin, Co. Chorcaí. D'fhreastail sé ar Choláiste Cholmáin, Mainistir Fhear Maí, Co. Chorcaí agus Coláiste Phádraig, Maigh Nuad. Ba scoláire agus sagart é

Bronnadh saoirse Bhaile Átha Cliath agus Chorcaí air i 1912. I 1919 bhronn Ollscoil na hÉireann dochtúireacht air. Ainmníodh craobh de Chonradh na Gaeilge as chomh luath le 1900. Comharthaí iad ar an tábhacht a bhain leis lena linn. Ba é an scríbhneoir é is mó a mhúin an teanga agus is troime a d'fhág a rian ar scríobh na Gaeilge i dtús na hathbheochana.

Bhí Béarla agus Gaeilge “os cionn an chliabháin” aige. Go raibh 13 bliana aige bhí se ag fáil oideachais cois teallaigh óna mháthair. Bhí cuid de clasaicigh an Bhéarla sa teach le léamh aige. Ó 1852 go 1855 bhíodh sé ag freastal ar scoileanna Charraig an Ime agus Mhaigh Chromtha; ó 1855 go 1859 bhí sé ag foghlaim i scoileanna Laidine i Maigh Chromtha agus i gCeann Toirc; chaith sé dhá bhliain ansin i gColáiste Cholmáin i Mainistir Fhear Maí sula ndeachaigh sé go Maigh Nuad in 1861. Oirníodh é in 1867. Bhí sé i rang Gaeilge i Maigh Nuad (feic Doneraile, 1968, le Anthony Gaughan) agus bhuaigh sé an dara duais sa Ghaeilge sa bhliain deiridh. Deir Gaughan nach fíor in aon chor gur bhain sé duais aonair ná aon duais eile sa Bhéarla. Dúirt Ó Laoghaire gurbh í eachtra na duaisaiste sin a chuir cor mór i gcúrsa a shaoil (Mo scéal féin, 1915). Ní luann sé in MSF go raibh sé riamh in aon rang Gaeilge agus ní thugann sé aon chuntas ar conas a d'fhoghlaim sé léamh agus scríobh na teanga. Is ródhócha gurbh i Maigh Nuad a fuair sé an scil sin.

Bhí sé ina shagart cúnta sna paróistí seo: Cill Sheanaigh (1867–8); Cill Uird (1868–72); Ráth Chormaic (1872–78); Maigh Chromtha (1878–80); An Ráth (1880–82); Cill Uird (1882–4) – tamall den tréimhse ag feidhmiú mar shagart paróiste; Dún ar Aill (1884–91). Ceapadh é ina shagart paróiste i gCaisleán Ó Liatháin ar 10 Feabhra 1891. Bhí sé ina chathaoirleach sa Ráth ar chraobh de Chonradh na Talún.

I gCill Uird chuir sé rang agus leabharlann ar siúl do bhuachaillí an bhaile. Bhí obair staonadh ón ólachán i gceist. Bailíodh airgead chun uirlisí ceoil a cheannach agus fostaíodh saighdiúir i Mainistir Fhear Maí chun ceol a theagasc. Bhí rang aige i Ráth Chormaic freisin agus thug sé iarracht ghairid mhíshásúil ar Ghaeilge a mhúineadh ansiúd as leabhair bheaga Chumann Buanchoimeáda na Gaeilge. I Maigh Chromtha dó chuir sé litir chuig Aontacht na Gaeilge. Foilsíodh í sa Freeman's Journal (theip ar an Athair Ó Cuív teacht air agus é ag liostú saothar

Uí Laoghaire. Deir Brian Ó Cuív in *Éigse* 1960–61, 1. 247–51 gurbh í an litir a bhí i gceist an ceann a foilsíodh in *The Irishman* ar 4 Bealtaine 1878). De thoradh na litreach sin d'iarr ógánaigh sa bhaile, cainteoirí dúchais, air rang Gaeilge a chur ar siúl agus bhí siad ag foghlaim léamh agus scríobh na teanga uaidh. Thosaigh sé ag múineadh Laidine freisin. Níor thaitin sin leis an sagart paróiste. Aistríodh é ó thuaidh go dtí an Ráth mar a raibh sagart paróiste ar theastaigh scoil Laidine uaidh. I measc na ndaltaí a bhí ag an Athair Peadar bhí Daniel Mannix a bheadh ina Ardeaspag ar Melbourne.

I ndiaidh 1915 bhí meas cumainn polaitiúil aige ar Chonradh na Gaeilge agus dhiúltaíodh sé aon bhaint a bheith aige leo. Ní nach ionadh i gcás sagairt dá aois a bhí scanraithe ag Fíníneachas in 1867, bhí sé in aghaidh na láimhe láidre chun saoirse a bhaint amach. Bhí litir ag Stiofán Mac Enna in *An Claidheamh Soluis* 17 Meitheamh 1916 ag iarraidh ar an Athair Peadar bheith ina uachtarán ar Chonradh na Gaeilge, tharla an post folamh go fóill i ndiaidh don Chraoibhín an eagraíocht a fhágáil, agus tharla Eoin Mac Néill bheith i bpríosún. D'iarr sé freisin ar Chonraitheoirí scríobh chuig ardrúnaí an Chonartha, 'welcoming to the presidency of the Gaelic League the most fertile and varied author whom Gaelic Ireland has ever produced'.

Scríobh an tAthar Ó Laoghaire na leabhair seo a leanas; *Ar nDóithin Araon*, 1894 *Mion-chaint*, an easy Irish phrase book, compiled for the Gaelic League, 1899, *Eólas ar áireamh*, arithmetical tables in Irish, 1902, *An Soisgéal* as *Leabar an aifrinn*, 1902, *Irish prose composition: a series of articles*, including several upon the Irish autonomous verb, 1902, *Aesop a Tháinig go hÉirinn*, 1903., *Séadna*, 1904, *An Craos-Deamhan*, 1905, *An Bealach Buidhe*, a drama, 1906, *Tóruigheacht Dhiarmuda agus Ghráinne*, 1906, *Niamh*, 1907, *Eisirt*, 1909, *Seanmóin agus trí fichid*, 1909–1910, *An sprid: Bas Dalláin: Tadhg Saor*, three short plays, 1911, *An Cleasaidhe*, 1913, *Caitilina*, 1913, *Aithris ar Chríost*, 1914, *Sliabh na mban bhFionn agus Cúan Fithise*, 1914, *Lughaidh Mac Con*, 1914, *Bricriu*, 1915, *Na Cheithre Soisgéil as an dTiomna Nua*, 1915 *Mo Sgéal Féin*, 1915, *Guaire*, 1915, *Ag Séideadh agus ag ithe*, 1918, *Gníomhartha na nAspol*, 1921, *Lúcián*, 1924, *Scéalta as an mBíobla naomhtha*, 1924, *Críost Mac Dé*, 1925 agus *Aodh Ruadh*, 1929. Fuair sé bás ar 21 Márta 1920.

### **Bibliography:**

Diarmuid Breathnach agus Máire Ní Mhurchú <https://www.ainm.ie/Bio.aspx?ID=0210>

Scríofa ag Elaine Ní Chruaioi

## Catherine McAuley and the Charleville Connection

Those of us of a certain vintage might remember the Irish five-pound note which featured Catherine McAuley. She was also commemorated on a postage stamp in 1978.



### Who was Catherine McAuley?

Catherine Mc. Auley was born into a comfortable family in Dublin in 1778. Her father James worked in the building trade and was able to provide well for his wife Elinor and their three children. He was very generous to the poor in the vicinity and though he died when Catherine was only five years old his compassion influenced her for the rest of her life. In those early years she had become sensitive to and learned how to reach out to the poor.

After her father's death, her mother, Elinor and the family changed house many times, moving between several relatives and friends. One piece of property after another of the McAuley estate had to be sold to meet new needs and finally the family was penniless. Elinor gave up the practice of her religion and mixed with Anglo-Irish Protestants. Catherine was schooled in the courtesies and graces of this society and developed a love for music, dance, an appreciation for fashionable clothes, talents in crafts, lace making and needlework and her genius as a letter writer.



After her mother's death, a further separation faced Catherine. Her younger sister, Mary, and her brother James, went to live with their Protestant relatives, while Catherine opted to go to her uncle, Dr. Owen Conway, whose family were practicing Catholics. Catherine was able to visit the poor, tend the sick and teach children from her new home.

The Conway fortunes were reversed and when Catherine was in her twenties, she went to live with an elderly, childless, wealthy couple, the O'Callaghan's, in Coolock.



William O'Callaghan, a Protestant, took seriously his responsibility as a Christian gentleman to give ten per cent of his income to charity and he involved Catherine in the management of how this was done. That gave her the opportunity to follow the promptings of her heart, assisting the poor. She soon came to the conclusion that the poor needed more than alms. They needed to be given skills and power to help themselves out of poverty and they needed to be given dignity and a belief in their own self-worth. Soon she was addressing these issues in practical ways.

Living in a Protestant house, Catherine had access to an English translation of the Bible and was also keenly aware of her need to get instruction in the doctrines of the Catholic faith. Her shopping expeditions to the city provided an opportunity to meet priests who directed her and provided her with religious instruction. She felt a strong call to devote her life to the service of the poor, sick and uneducated.

Gradually she took over the management of the household at Coolock. This brought her into contact with the young servant girls and their friends who were Catholics. She liked to slip away quietly and pray with them. Soon they were pouring out their troubles to her. Many were girls from the county who had known better days. She offered advice and encouragement and resolved to find a way to help them find a better life.

After the death of the O'Callaghan's, Catherine inherited their fortune which made it possible for her to dedicate herself to the passion of her life – ministry among the poor. She had not the remotest idea of becoming a religious sister. Her main objection was that religious life in its then cloistered or semi-cloistered form would inhibit her wide-ranging activities on behalf of the poor.

She used her inheritance to build a House of Mercy on Baggot Street in Dublin.



This was opened in 1827. It became a home for working girls and orphans as well as a school for poor children. Other women joined Catherine and with her co-workers she attended to the sick and dying in their homes and in hospitals and walked the streets and laneways helping those in need. Archbishop Murray of Dublin encouraged Catherine to consider establishing a religious congregation, assuring her that she and her companions would be able to continue the work among the poor which had become so central to their endeavours. On 1830, Catherine and two companions entered the Presentation Convent in Dublin to begin formal preparation for founding the Sisters of Mercy.

### The Mercy Order begins.

Having professed their vows as the first Sisters of Mercy, in December 1831, Catherine and her two companions returned to Baggot Street and Archbishop Murray blessed the first Convent of Mercy.



Every day the sisters went into the hovels and streets caring for the sick and dispossessed. Before long hundreds of poor children attended the school in Baggot Street and countless women and girls were welcomed in the shelter.

In the ten years between the founding of the order and her death in 1841, Catherine founded nine Convents of Mercy. The first was in Tullamore and the second followed in Charleville.

### Charleville 1836

While Catherine was responding to human need in Dublin, John Clancy was doing likewise here in Charleville. He was a very charitable man who educated numerous poor children at his own expense. His daughter Mary was influenced by him in her desire to help the poor.



When she became a wealthy heiress, she looked for ways and means to help them. She heard about the work of Catherine McAuley in Dublin and during the summer of 1836 she visited Baggot St. several times and spoke with her. Her intention was to invite the Sisters to establish a branch of the Mercy Order in Charleville.

She offered a house as a temporary convent and £500 as an initial contribution for the poor of the town. When Fr. Croke joined his petition with hers and Dr. Crotty, the Bishop of the Diocese, made a formal request, Catherine McAuley yielded to their combined entreaties and the foundation was decided on.

Fr. Croke, P.P. also travelled to Dublin to meet with Catherine and arrangements were finally made for the foundation.

On 29 Oct. 1836, three sisters were selected to make the journey to North Cork. Sr. Mary Angela Dunne, one of the first seven to be professed in Baggot St. was to be the Founding Superior. Her companions were both novices - Sr. M. Joseph Delany and Sr. M. Elizabeth Hynes. Catherine McAuley brought Sr. M. Clare Moore as her travelling companion for the return journey.

The group of five started the 140-mile journey by canal boat. Canal travel, always slow and inconvenient, (about 6 miles per hour) was cold and in late October particularly uncomfortable.

They travelled all day and the cross-country boat stopped at Tullamore in the middle of the night. There the sisters were welcomed in the convent, the first outside Dublin and founded a few months previously. Fr. Croke had come from Charleville and awaited their arrival.



At midday next day they departed for Limerick and arrived about 9 p.m. They spent the night in the Presentation Convent in Sexton St.

The following afternoon, Oct. 31st. they arrived in Clancy Terrace, Charleville by stage coach.



The middle house in a row of brick dwellings that looked across Clancy meadows was their temporary abode. It appeared at its worst in the winter. It was a big disappointment, small and poorly furnished. A nearby stream made it uncontrollably damp.



A few days later His Lordship Bishop Crotty travelled from Cobh to welcome the sisters and to bless their undertakings. He left the management of affairs principally to Fr. Croke, the parish priest and was happy to note that the Sisters had a neat little chapel and daily mass.

They began the 30 days prayer on which Catherine leaned heavily for guidance, but day after day she and her companions returned from errands of mercy with their perplexity unrelieved. There was lots of work to be done and the amount of poverty seemed appalling.

She wondered how she could in conscience leave Mother Angela and two novices to face winter in a place where the threat to health was so menacing. So great was her anxiety about the health of the sisters that she considered returning to Baggot St. with the sisters. But Fr. Croke pleaded the cause of the poor so earnestly that she felt obliged to stay. One day, while on visitation of the sick a poor woman expressed her appreciation of the sisters by exclaiming "O, *it was the Almighty God, glory to Him that drove you in among us*". Those words touched Catherine so deeply that she resolved that they would stay with the poor of the town.

On Nov. 29th Catherine and her travelling companion Sr. Clare Moore returned to Baggot St.



The difficulties continued and Mother Angela made efforts to convince Catherine McAuley to dissolve the foundation. An extract from Catherine's reply in Dec. 1837 teaches us much: *Are not the Poor of Charleville as dear to Him as elsewhere? - and while one pound of Ms. Clancy's lasts ought we not to persevere and confide in His Providence. ...Put your whole confidence in God - He will never let you want necessities for yourself or the children - It would afflict*

*me, and it would be a disgrace to our Order to have a break up*".

Two years later we read a happy prophecy for the Charleville Convent: "I *expect we shall have a useful and flourishing institute in Charleville. I often lay out plans for it. P.G. they will succeed - it hitherto has been a sick branch, but it will be a strong one yet*".

For nearly four years the community numbered no more than three.

The sisters visited the National School daily.

It was conducted by a Matron and continued to be so for many years. The sisters also visited the sick poor for whom a monthly collection was made. Every family they visited got food which was brought in a basket. The sisters never visited without a ticket from one of the local clergy.



About a year after arriving, the foundation stone of the new convent was laid on a site secured from his Lordship the Earl of Cork by Fr. Croke. The inhabitants of the town and the youth of the parish, headed by the Catholic Authorities of the place, marched in procession to witness the ceremony which was performed by Rev. Fr. Croke. Catherine McAuley was present. The convent was completed in 1839 and was dedicated to St. Joseph.

Because the sisters had not yet got charge of the National School and as the instruction of youth formed one of the most distinguished features of the Institute, the sisters opened a pay school at the request of Fr. Croke and the approval of the bishop and Catherine McAuley. Children were educated in a room in the convent, at such terms as their parents could afford.

In the 1843 the National School was given into the care of the sisters. It was in good working order and about four to five hundred pupils attended.

Two years previously, Catherine McAuley had died in Baggot Street, Dublin and was buried close to the convent she founded. For a hundred and eighty years, pilgrims have been visiting her grave to pray, to be inspired and encouraged by the example of a woman who lived a truly Christian life.



In the Mercy Heritage Centre in Charleville, we are privileged to display a picture given to the sisters in the 1830s, by Catherine McAuley. At that time, she wrote to them and advised: *“Put your whole trust in God, He will never let you want”*: a message still relevant to us today in these times of anxiety and Covid.

## *Ballyhea Childcare Ltd*



### **Overview**

Ballyhea Childcare Ltd is a Community Based Preschool Service. It is a sessional service. Due to unprecedented demand for the coming years, the preschool will offer 2 preschool sessions. The opening hours will be 8:45am-11:45am (1st session) and 12:00-15:00 (2nd session) Monday – Friday. The service can accommodate 22 children per session. The age range that we cater for is 2 years 10 months to 5 years.

### **Mission Statement**

Our mission at Ballyhea Childcare is "to build a foundation for learning that will enable us to be life-long learners. To give opportunities to explore and discover the world around us that will develop a sense of wonder and respect for our environment. To foster meaningful relationships that will encourage empathy and an understanding that we are all created in our own special way."

We are committed to providing a childcare service of the highest standard. Trained, motivated and friendly staff is the cornerstone of our service. We encourage a strong teamwork approach to help build and support our shared objectives.

### **Curriculum**

We implement a quality, broad based flexible emergent play curriculum with adherence to the principles of Aistear and Siolta. Our curriculum is based on the emerging interests of the child which are evident through interactions, observations and documentation. Play is central to the wellbeing of the child and learning and development of the child. We believe that in promoting a play-based curriculum that we are providing a valuable programme of learning and education for the children

### **New Building**

A new building is on the way! We will have a purpose build preschool to replace our existing prefab building. This will be a fantastic development and will cater for the needs of children and families for many years to come.

### **Enrolments**

Due to increased demand, we advise parents to book their children in as soon as possible for upcoming years. Please check our Facebook page or contact the preschool on 063-89696.



*Ballyhea National School*



6th Class 2021 Mountain walk for Irish Cancer Society



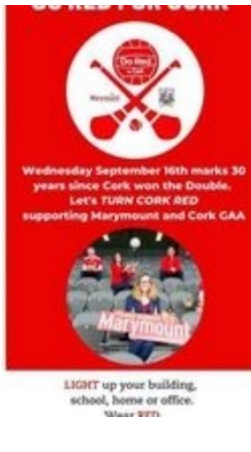
World book day 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020



World book day 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020



# Credit Union Quiz 2020



# Go Red for Cork





Cork senior hurlers Darragh Fitzgibbon and Tim O Mahony spent the day coaching all the children as part of Active Week 2021. A hugely enjoyable day was had by all with some great skills on show



Team up for Theo' jersey day held in the school.

We raised an incredible €760.00



First and Last day  
at school.



All socially  
distant!



Karen & Lauren  
Jersey day



6th class 2021

## BALLYHEA SCHOOL

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Established 1854 – Closed 1938

Deserted dwelling with cold gray walls!  
Relate what your lot has been :  
Is there no voice in your silent halls  
To tell me what you have seen?

“My years are numbered; my work is o’er,  
And I’m shaken and shabby and old,  
And no footstep halts at my mouldering door,  
And my heartstone is silent and cold.

My walls are crumbling and cracked and gray  
with the stress of the hard, long years,  
And I’m left with the rooks for my friends to-day  
And the thoughts of the past and my tears.

I’ll stand yet awhile by the cool hill-streams  
That sing as they wander along;  
And their murmuring music shall blend with  
my dreams  
Like the notes of a far sweet song.

I’ll rest in the calm of the mountain shade  
Where the dark-green pines look down,  
For the place has a magic that never shall fade  
In sunshine or Winter’s frown.

Fond memory brings me a vision sweet  
Of the days that have passed me by,  
When I welcomed the sound of young pattering feet,  
Though I think of it all with a sigh.

For I was a school when our Nation bled  
And young Ireland had struck in vain  
And the tyrants rejoiced that the Celts had fled  
And were never to rally again;

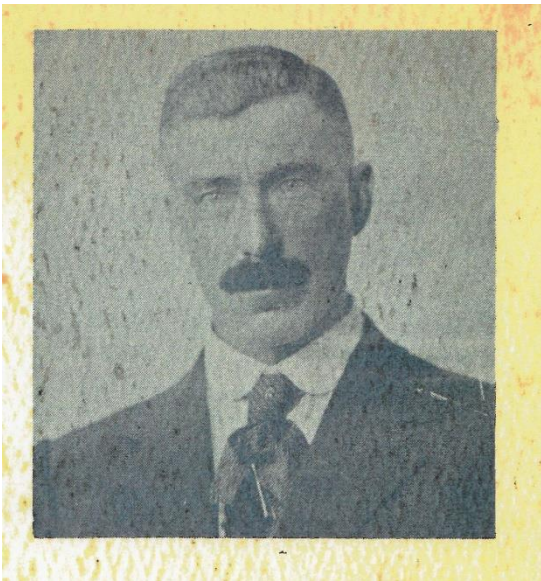
And I dream of the thousands who came and went  
In the passing of years long gone,  
For I followed their lives till their days were spent;  
And my own stealing on and on.

# CON O'BRIEN – THE BARD OF BALLYHEA: GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Down through the years the village of Ballyhea has produced many notable personalities in religion, in business and in sport, and none more so than Con O'Brien, who was also known as the Bard of Ballyhea. A prolific writer he has hundreds of verses to his name, that were captured in a book published in 1981 by a local committee, who rightly wanted to preserve the poems and writings of their kinsman.

Con was born in March 1883 to Patrick and Anne O'Brien in Ballinagrath, Ballyhea, one of a family of six boys and two girls. The baptismal record Ballyhea Church reads: "Cornelius, son of Patrick O'Brien and Anne Wigmore, baptised 29<sup>th</sup> March 1883."

Little is known of his early life, but in the aforementioned book 'The Poems of Con O'Brien,' published by the Oriel Press Charleville in 1981, the foreword was written by local historian, the late Jim Meagher,



who recalled that: "Around the 1920's and '30's the poems of Con O'Brien were almost a weekly feature in the 'Cork Weekly Examiner' as a contribution to the weekly paper's Humour and Poetry column. Each week there was a first prize of ten shillings, which Con, who was frequently referred to as the 'Bard of Ballyhea,' invariably won for his poetic contributions.

"Con was an outdoors man who loved shooting and fishing, coursing and anything to do with nature and this was reflected in some of his poems. However, he never discussed this aspect of his work. He was a wonderful story-teller, was well read and was ready to give his advice to children doing their school essays or history, and indeed literature.

"Gifted with his hands he manufactured many labour-saving devices at his own home in Ballinagrath, and he also mad

his own fiddle, which he would play at house gatherings, and he was always called to sing a song, his favourite being the 'Low backed Car.' Con emigrated to America for a period and when he returned, he lived for a while in Liscarroll and Buttevant before returning to his home in Ballinagrath."

Con was widely known and respected throughout his own local district and in the wider North Cork area, as is reflected in the amount of people who purchased a copy of the book when it was published. When Con died in 1946, he left a large body of work. Great credit is due to the local committee that got together in 1981 to assemble his writings and to assist in having them published, so that future generations could enjoy them, thus ensuring that this local poet would not be forgotten. Con O'Brien the Bard of Ballyhea lies at rest in the Abbey Churchyard at Buttevant, Co. Cork.

Below is one of Con O'Brien's poems:

## The Men of Ballyhea

In days of old when men were bold,  
They fought the Landlord strong,  
Men were bought and souls were sold.  
Not knowing right from wrong.  
The tenant farmer had no rights,

The labourer had no pay  
In front of all who fought their fights  
Were men from Ballyhea.

The toil that men must do to live  
Is good for heart and soul  
And charity that people give,  
Should be each persons' role  
To plough the fields and till the soil  
To fight for friends in fray  
No men will ever play or toil  
Like the men from Ballyhea.  
In the sports-field they always showed  
The might of brains and brawn  
Each record one by one they mowed  
Like grass mowed in a lawn.

And in Croke Park they did appear  
My god these men could play  
No team could ever kindle fear  
In the men of Ballyhea.



## *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

Of recent years we have had our meeting in the Corbett Court.

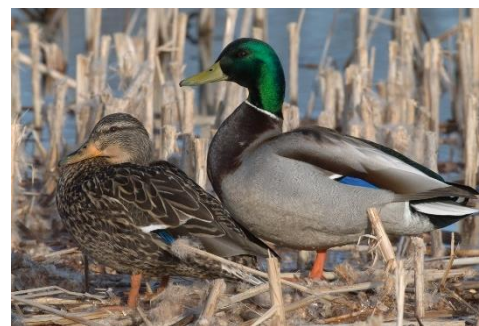
It has been very tough the past 2 years trying to secure funds for the survival of the club with the restrictions and Covid 19 regulations in place. As a club we are delighted to see things going slowly back to some normal which will enable us to get together again and have regular meetings and fund-raising activities for the club.

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 Jim Murphy  
Chairman Kevin Foley  
Vice Chairman Ray Ronan  
Hon Secretary Una Hickey  
Hon Treasurer U Hickey & K Foley  
Club Delegate Martin Lane  
Health and Safety Tim Dennehy

Ballyhea Gun Club would like to thank all the farmers for the permission to shoot over their land as only for them we wouldn't have a club.

Secretary  
Una Hickey



# *Ballyhea GAA*



## **Ballyhea 1980:**

Ballyhea was a deserted place on Sunday 24th of August 1980 as our hurlers won the county intermediate hurling title for the second time in our history in front of a large attendance at Fr Con Buckley Memorial Park Buttevant defeating Mallow 0-15 to 1-10. Mallow started well and led by 4 points after 7 minutes. This was reduced to a single point six minutes before half time. At the break Ballyhea were still a point down. A tremendous third quarter saw us edge 3 points in front. But with 6 minutes remaining Mallow had drawn level again. Ballyhea though finished the stronger with 3 unanswered points before Mallow had a late consolation score. After the game Derry Gowen vice chairman of the county board presented the cup to Ballyhea's captain Jack Russell amidst jubilant scenes.

The Ballyhea line out was:

Ben Dorney, Neil Ronan, Sean Curtin, John Carroll, Donal O'Flynn, Jack Russell, Phil Ryan, Connie Brassill, Kevin McSweeney, Willie Shanahan, Diarmuid O'Flynn, John Roche, Dave Ryan, Donie O'Sullivan, Johnny Ryan. Sub used: Mikey O'Sullivan.

### **Where are they now:**

The bulk of this team started off in 1967 winning a county u-14 title. The county junior hurling title was won in 1976. In 1984 the side reached the county senior hurling final going under to a star-studded St Finbarrs side. Many of this team has given so much back to the GAA and the Ballyhea club after their playing careers finished between coaching, administration and fundraising.

### **Ben Dorney:**

Ben a teacher now living in Dublin. Played senior c'hip in 1981 and 82 before moving to Dublin. He came back to play for our juniors in 1986. Ben managed Kildare senior hurlers in 2006 and 2007 and guided them to the Christy Ring final for the first time in 2007. Ben has coached a number of senior club teams in Dublin and also the Fingal senior hurling team.

### **Neil Ronan:**

Neil has given tremendous service to the club coaching teams in every grade from juvenile to senior. He was a selector with the 1967 county Winning u-14 team. He lined out at corner back in the 1984 county Senior final and was wing back in the county junior winning team 1976. Neil also had success coaching Kilmallock to county and

Munster titles and Freemount to a Duhallow junior hurling title. He was a deserving recipient of the club Hall of fame award in 2018.

Neil is still involved coaching our minor and u-16 hurlers and was a mentor with this year's u-17 C' ship winning team.

#### **Sean Curtin:**

Sean also manned the number 3 jersey for Ballyhea in the 1976 county junior victory. Sean served as selector with the 1995 senior team which reached the county final. He was a selector in the 80's with numerous victorious under age teams. Seanie Has done great work for the club and has been awarded the club person of the year award on a number of occasions.

#### **John Carroll:**

John a reliable corner back also won a county title in the right corner in 1976. Such was his dedication he was always one of the first at training, making the journey from Castlemahon, County Limerick, where he had moved to live. When he hung up his boots, he went on to spend many years as secretary of the Feohanagh Castlemahon club.

#### **Donal O'Flynn:**

Donal a flamboyant wing back was club Runai in 1982 and was a selector with a number of junior and u-21 teams. Has also been recognised for some excellent poetry publications.

#### **Jack Russell:**

An inspirational captain and was also a selector in 1980. Jack manned the number 6 jersey for many years. A holder of county medals at senior, intermediate and junior. Jack captained Cork seniors in 1967. In 1966 he won Munster and All Ireland U-21 medals, he also won Munster intermediate medals with Cork in 1967 and 1969. Jack won an all-Ireland club medal with Blackrock in 1972. After retiring he turned his hand to coaching with great success. In 1996 he led Avondhu to the county senior hurling title and Bride Rovers to County and Munster titles. Jack also coached the local team at senior and intermediate level winning a Liam Breathnach cup in 2007.

#### **Phil Ryan:**

Phil a stylish player was comfortable in attack or defence. He was captain of the county junior winning team in 1976 from centre forward. In the 1984 centenary county senior hurling final he received the man of the match award for his tremendous display at wing back. He was a selector in 1995 when our seniors reached the County final, and was a selector when Avondhu won the Munster u-16 B title in 2000. Phil also served as treasurer of the juvenile club from 1997 -2000.

#### **Connie Brassill:**

Connie captained the seniors to reach the 1984 County final. Connie also played in the 1976 county junior winning team in his familiar midfield role. Connie won an all-Ireland U-21 medal in 1976 and a minor in 1974. He was secretary of the juvenile club for over 20 years. He trained numerous underage teams to North Cork titles. The Avondhu juvenile GAA board recognised his efforts with the Administrator of the year award in 1984. He managed the Ballyhea minors to county success in 2001. Has also served as a senior and intermediate selector for the club. He received the club hall of fame award in 2016.

#### **Kevin McSweeney:**

Kevin originally from Castletownroche, now living in Charleville did the physical training with the team in 1980. He came back in 2001 to coach the senior team. Earlier in his career he won Munster and all Ireland u-21 titles with Cork in 1970 and 1971.

#### **Willie Shanahan:**

Willie scored 2-1 in the 1984 county senior final, and in the 1976 county junior final he scored 3 goals in a terrific win over Glen Rovers. He also has been a selector at all grades from senior down to under 10 in the club and was a selector with the county winning minor team of 2001. Willie served in the North Cork juvenile board and was chairman from 2004 to 2006. He was also a selector with Avondhu and Cork underage teams.

**Diarmuid O'Flynn:**

Diarmuid lined out at full forward in the 1984 county senior final and was also at the edge of the square for the 1976 county victory.

Diarmuid managed the Ballyhea seniors in 1999. He played on until 2013. He spent many years as a sport's journalist with the Examiner. He also has been PRO for Ballyhea GAA.

**John Roche:**

John captained Ballyhea to their first North Cork U-21 title on 1981, losing out to Na Piarsaigh in the county final. After retiring John was involved with various under age teams in the club and was Ballyhea juvenile club chairman from 2007-2009.

**Dave Ryan:**

Dave was corner forward in the junior county final in 1976 and also in the 84 team which reached the county senior final. He won an all-Ireland minor medal in 1974. Dave was Club chairman from 1998-2000. Has also served as selector and coach in every grade in the club. Dave is still involved with the club u-16 and minor sides and was a selector with this year's u-17 winning side.

**Donie O'Sullivan:**

A powerful forward with an eye for goal, another survivor of the 1976 county Junior winning team. A tremendous supporter of the club who has done brilliant work fundraising for the club.

**Johnny Ryan:**

Johnny a classy forward whose performance v Newtown in the 1977 intermediate hurling championship will never be forgotten. He now resides in Dublin but always returns home for championship games.

**Mikey O'Sullivan:**

Mikey played at wing back on 1976 junior winning side. He also has been a selector with almost every grade in the club. He was a selector with the u-16 team which won the premier county u-16 title in 2001. Mikey received the Ballyhea GAA club person of the year award in 2008.

**David O'Keeffe:**

Dave made his senior debut in goal in 1983 and played in the 1984 County senior final. He went on to shine for many years between the sticks with some excellent displays.

**Johnny O'Callaghan:**

Johnny was wing back in 1984 and later moved in to the centre back role which he filled with distinction. Johnny has coached our seniors as well as other clubs. He won an all-Ireland senior medal in 1986, the first Ballyhea man to achieve this. He won Munster senior hurling medals in 1985 and 1986. He also played minor and u-21 for Cork. Johnny was a selector with Cork minor hurlers from 2008-2011 winning a Munster title in 2008.

**Dominic Dillon:**

Dominic now resides in the USA. He was half forward on the Ballyhea u-14 team which won the clubs first underage county title in 1967. His grandson, Adam Barrett features on the current Ballyhea senior team.

**Patsy Hartnett:**

Patsy is now in Malaysia where he moved to working with the Kerry Group. Patsy spent a few years playing in Kerry with Lixnaw before leaving. Was midfield in the county junior winning team in 1976. Patsy was also very dedicated to the club and during this time was based in Listowel through work but never missed a session and was one of the first at training every night.

**Liam O'Halloran:**

Liam one of the youngsters in the panel, lined out at wing forward in the county senior hurling final in 1984. He also gave some tremendous displays at full back during the 1981 under 21 campaign which ended up in the county final losing out to Na Piarsaigh.

**Henry Greensmith:**

Henry was corner back in the 1976 county junior winning side. Henry was club secretary in 1978 and 1979. He was selector with the county winning intermediate team in 2014. Henry was coach to the Ballyhea Camogie team which reached the county intermediate semi-final in 2019.

**Mike Morrissey:**

Current club chairman, was full back in the 1984 County senior final. Has served as chairman of the juvenile club from 2005 -2006. Also has been a selector in every grade in the club. He managed the u-16's to the County premier title in 2001. He was also a selector in 2014 when the club won the county premier intermediate title.

**Mike Copps:**

Mike has spent many years training our underage teams with great success. Was trainer with our U12 county winning side in 1985. He has served as a selector with Cork and Avondhu underage teams and was a mentor with the Tony Forristal all- Ireland u-14 winners in 2008. His 3 grandsons played with our seniors this year.

**Mossie O'Sullivan:**

Mossie also gave fantastic service to the club as a player and coach. Was inspirational at corner back in the 1984 team which reached County final. He has been involved at every age from u-10 to senior and has also coached the minor Camogie team to county success in 2002. Has also received the club person of the year award.

**Eamon Dorney:**

Eamon's brother Ben was the goalie for this team. Eamon also played in goal for the clubs U-21 team which won the North Cork title for the first time in 1981 and reached the County final.

**Management:****Jerome O'Keeffe:**

Current club President of Ballyhea GAA has been a great servant for the club and the parish. A stylish defender in his playing days which saw him win 5 North Cork junior hurling medals in 1953,55, 58,59 65 and a county medal in 1955. He served as treasurer of the club from 1957 to 1964. As well the 1980 county title Jerome led Ballyhea to the county Junior victory in 1976 and also to the county senior final in 1984. Jerome coached the u21's to the north cork title in 1996 and the juniors to an O'Leary cup and Autumn league double in 1995. He then turned his hand to our school teams with again great success. Jerome was also a mentor with the Ballyhea u-12 county winning teams in football 2006 and hurling 2007, under 14 football in 2009. He was awarded the North Cork juvenile board hall of fame award in 2006.

**John Quinn:**

Affectionately known as JP. He passed away to his eternal reward in 2018. John spent many years as vice chairman of the club and also selector for many years with our adult teams. John was a brilliant club man and excellent fundraiser, travelling far and wide selling tickets for the club. He became President of Ballyhea GAA club in 2002 and carried out the role with distinction. John received the "Ryan Memorial Hall Of Fame Award" in 2003 a deserving recipient for his dedication to the club.

**Tom Morrissey:**

Tom served as Vice President of Ballyhea GAA club, before passing away earlier this year. He won North Cork junior hurling medals in 1949 and 1950. He also played Senior and junior championship with Cork in 1950.

Tom was chairman of Ballyhea GAA club from 1982-1985. He was also a selector with the senior hurling team which reached the county final in 1995.

Tom's grandsons Tom and Tiernan Hanley are on the current Ballyhea senior team.

**Billy Fitzgibbon:**

Bill won a county senior medal with Avondhu in 1966. He captained Ballyhea to the North Cork junior hurling title in 1965. He won a Munster intermediate medal with Cork in 1967. Bill is also a Vice President of Ballyhea GAA club.

**Club officers in 1980:**

President: Johnny Rea

Vice President: Mike O'Connell

Chairman: Patrick McCarthy  
Secretary: Dan Casey  
Treasurer: Mick O'Connor.

**Ballyhea Victorious 1980:**

To mark the victory one of the teams' supporters Tom Casey, whose brother Dan was secretary of the club at the time, penned this poem.

By Mulla's gentle stream tonight,  
The bonfires are again a light.  
As Ballyhea's famed Black and White,  
Is raised aloft once more.  
In proud salute to her hurlers bold,  
Who a great tradition now upholds,  
As their fathers did so oft of old.

By Mulla's gentle stream tonight,  
To bonfires are again a light.  
As Ballyhea's famed Black and White,  
Is raised aloft once more.  
In proud salute to her hurlers bold,  
Who a great tradition now upholds,  
As their fathers did so oft of old,  
With victories galore.

In Buttevant's famed "Barrack Square",  
Thousands now assemble there,  
And watch their heroes do and dare,  
With magnificent display.  
And from that lovely little town,  
As Mallow gallantly went down.  
We bore away, the county crown,  
To storied Ballyhea.

For those who live beside that river,  
To describe the game is vain endeavour.  
As on their hearts 'twill live forever,  
To be kept in memory bright.  
They danced around the blazing fire,  
Maid and Matron, Youth and Sire,  
In their keen and wild desire,  
To celebrate that night.

And as the embers slowly died,  
Hands are clasped with surging pride.  
And tears are shed, as old men cried,  
Who'll write our hurling story,  
Where is the man with gifted pen?  
Who'll tell of other days and men  
Who for Ballyhea went out to win,  
A name enshrined in glory.



## *Ballyhea GAA 2020-2021:*

### **Jack O'Sullivan Memorial Cup 2021:**

Ballyhea came out on top after a thrilling final v Kilara Og by 4 points to 2 on the 31/10 to bring the cup back to Ballyhea for the first time since 2013. After the final Donie O'Sullivan presented the cup on behalf of the O'Sullivan family to Ballyhea captain Muiris O'Riordan.

Thanks to Ian Ronan, Darren Ronan, Aidan O'Connor and Ian Curtin for the time and effort they have put in all year coaching this group.

### **Scores:**

#### **Group 1:**

Ballyhea 7-1 Na  
Piarsaigh 0-0.  
Bruff 3-3 Na  
Piarsaigh 0-0,  
Ballyhea 3-5 Bruff  
0-0.

#### **Group 2:**

St Kevin's 1-5  
Kilmallock 0-0.  
Kilara Og 5-5 St  
Kevin's 0-0  
Kilara Og 1-7  
Kilmallock 0-0.

### **Finals:**

Ballyhea 0-4 Kilara  
Og 0-2  
St Kevin's 1-5  
Bruff 0-0.  
Kilmallock 4-0 Na  
Piarsaigh 3-1.



### **Ballyhea panel:**

Muiris O'Riordan, Derek Daly, Adam Lilley, Ben Ronan, Finn Curtin, Ross Manning, Mark Manning, Páidí Curtin, Paraic Crowley, Christopher Gould, James Ronan, Rory Crowley, Fionn Ronan, Bill O'Keeffe, Jack O'Riordan, Bríon Murphy, Darragh O'Sullivan, Danny Daly, Patrick O'Brien, Harry O'Connor.



## Rebel Og North U-13 HL final.



Ballyhea 1-12 Bride Rovers 1-7 at Ballyhooly.9/10/21.

Our u-13 hurlers captured the league title with a tremendous display of guts and skill at Ballyhooly. Bride Rovers opened brightly and looked very impressive in the early exchanges. After 10 minutes we trailed 1-3 to 0-2 but a brilliant goal from Finn Curtin had us level at the first water break 1-3 each. The remainder of the first half was a titanic tussle with points from Eoghan Horan, Daniel Mackessey and a mighty long-range effort from centre back Cormac Crowley helped Ballyhea to a one-point interval lead 1-6 to 1-5. The second half saw Ballyhea gradually getting on top of a physically stronger Rathcormac side and actually held them scoreless for 27 minutes. At the final water break we had stretched our lead to 4 points 1-9 to 1-5 with points from Dara O'Sullivan and Daniel Mackessey (2). Bride did not lie down though, but goalie Tiernan Walsh and excellent full back Alex Kennedy, aided by a brilliant defence, refused to wilt. Further points from Daniel Mackessey (2) and a beauty from Harry O'Connor ensured there would be no come back. As the final whistle sounded great celebrations ensued as this team got the victory they deserved. After the game outstanding Captain Dan Buckley was presented with the trophy much to the delight of the large Ballyhea support.

Thanks to Johnny O'Sullivan, Michael Mackessey, Brendan Barrett and Owen Walsh for all their work with this age group during the year.

### Scorers:

Daniel Mackessey 0-7 (2 fr), Finn Curtin 1-0, Dan Buckley 0-1, Eoghan Horan 0-1, Cormac Crowley 0-1, Dara O'Sullivan 0-1, Harry O'Connor 0-1.

**Team:** Tiernan Walsh,

Jack Mortell, Alex Kennedy, Muiris O'Riordan, Darragh Murphy, Cormac Crowley, Leon Barrett, Eoghan Horan, Dan Buckley, Finn Curtin, Daniel Mackessey, Dara O'Sullivan,

Tiernan Mulcahy, Harry O'Connor, Diarmuid O'Riordan. **Subs,** James Ronan, Ben Ronan, Cathal Curtin, Fionn Ronan, Pauric Crowley.



## Rebel Og North U-17 hurling C'ship final:



### Ballyhea 2-13 St Kevin's 0-8 at Freemount .25/10/21:

Our under 17 hurlers captured the Rebel Og North C'ship on October Bank Holiday Monday on an excellent Freemount surface defeating St Kevin's after a fine tussle well handled by referee Dwayne Collins. Scores were hard to come by early on with Evan Copps opening our account from a free in the 9th minute. Ballyhea gradually edged ahead and at the end of the first quarter we led 4 points to 2 thanks to pointed frees from Evan Copps and Sean Byrne and a fine solo effort from captain James Mackessey. By half time the lead had stretched to 5 points 9-4, Sean Byrne unerring from placed balls and a fine long-range effort from Fionn O'Sullivan. As expected, St Kevin's came back strongly early in the second half. The comeback was halted though in the 39th minute when Conor Horan netted the crucial opening goal of game which helped Ballyhea to lead 1-12 to 0-7 at the second water break, with the points coming from Patrick Daly and a brace of frees from Sean Byrne. Ballyhea maintained the lead in the final quarter and when Conor Horan was on hand to score his second goal with 5 minutes remaining there was no way back for St Kevin's.

After the game John O'Flynn presented the cup on behalf of Rebel Og to the Ballyhea captain James Mackessey much to the delight of the large Ballyhea following. Thanks to mentors Noel Hanley, Dave Ryan, Neil Ronan Snr, Christy Hanley and Jim Dundon for the tremendous work they have put in with u-17's and 18's this year.

### Team:

Dylan Barrett, Donal Lynch, Joseph Hickey, Thomas Crowley, Dion Curtin, Darragh Crowley, Dylan Browne, Conor Horan 2-0, Fionn O'Sullivan 0-1, Evan Copps 0-2 (2 fr), James Mackessey 0-1, Patrick Daly 0-1, Sean Byrne 0-8 (8fr), Andrew Buckley, Karl Mulcahy, Charlie Duignan.



## Ballyhea junior hurlers 2020:



Our junior hurlers retained the North Cork junior B title in 2020 and went on to reach the County junior B final going under narrowly to Midleton in the final which ended up being played on the 11/7/21 due to the Covid lockdown.

### **North Cork Junior B hurling C'ship final: 3/10/2020.**

Ballyhea 1-15 Kilworth 1-9 at Ballyhooly.

Ballyhea are Avondhu junior B hurling champions for the second year in a row and the 7th time in our history. This was a cracking contest between two very committed teams.

Kilworth started well and led by 4-1 at the first water break. Ballyhea also lost Timmy Shanahan with an injury early in the game but inspired once again up front by Neil Ronan we gradually got into the game and at half time we led 0-7 to 0-6. Playing some very determined hurling we led 1-11 to 0-9 at the final water break. Although we had a let off just before the break when once again Gearoid O'Shea saved a penalty in a final. Kilworth did grab a goal early in the final quarter but Ballyhea answered back with a fine Jordan Morrissey point and finished the game stronger with some three more points to ensure a well-deserved victory. After the game Jack Barrett received the man of the match award. Barry Ahern chairman of the Avondhu board thanked both teams for a fine sporting game and due to the Covid regulations could not present the cup so he asked Ballyhea captain Stephen Dennehy to lift the Foxie O'Leary cup.

### **Scorers:**

Neil Ronan 0-6 (4 fr, 1 x65), Diarmuid O'Shaughnessy 1-2, Jack Barrett 0-2, Ryan Hanley 0-2, Christopher Hanley 0-2, Jordan Morrissey 0-1,

### **Team:**

Gearoid O'Shea, John Horgan, Stephen Dennehy, Cathal Crowley, Owen O'Sullivan, Luke Hanley, Niall Crowley, Jordan Morrissey, William Carroll, Diarmuid O'Shaughnessy, Neil Ronan, Christopher Hanley, Jack Barrett, Timmy Shanahan, Ryan Hanley. **Subs:** Trevor O'Sullivan (used), Mikey Mortell (used), P J Trant, Damien O'Gorman, Liam O'Shea, Will Shanahan, T J Garvey, Jack Lynch, James Horgan, Dylan O'Donoghue.

### **Co-Op Superstores 2020 County Junior B hurling semi-final:**

Ballyhea 4-19 Belgooly 1-9 at Pairc Ui Rinn. 4/7/21:

Ballyhea qualified for the county junior b final after this excellent victory at Pairc Ui Rinn. Starting well we led 0-5 to 0-2 at the first water break. With our defence in fine form Belgooly were finding it hard to get through. James Horgan poached 2 goals to leave us leading 2-10 to 0-5 ahead at the break. By the third quarter we had stretched 3-15 to 1-8 ahead with Ryan Hanley getting the third goal with a long-range effort. Our final goal came in injury time when the Horgan brothers combined for John to finish to net.

### **Team:**

Gearoid O'Shea, Niall Crowley, Stephen Dennehy, Cathal Crowley, Owen O'Sullivan, Kevin Hanley, Luke Hanley, William Carroll, Trevor O'Sullivan, Jordan Morrissey, Neil Ronan, Christopher Hanley, Jack Barrett, Mikey Mortell,

James Horgan. **Subs:** Ryan Hanley, Diarmuid O'Shaughnessy, Liam O'Shea, John Horgan, Dylan O'Donoghue and Damien O'Gorman.

### **Co-op Superstores 2020 County junior B hurling final:**

Ballyhea 1-12 Midleton 2-10 at Pairc Ui Rinn .11/7/21:

Heartbreak for our junior hurlers after a tremendous effort in the 2020 county junior B final. In what was a cracking contest the East Cork settled quicker as Ballyhea were dealt a blow having to start without the injured Owen O'Sullivan and then the loss of Mikey Mortell also through injury. Midleton had 2 early points before Ballyhea settled to lead 0-4 to 0-3 at the first water break. Ballyhea were in control heading towards half time before a Midleton blood sub struck for the opening goal. The response though was immediate when a mazy James Horgan run set up Jack Barrett for a goal to leave a solitary point between the sides at the break 1-6 to 1-7 to the Imokilly reps. They had stretched the lead to 3 points entering the final quarter 2-9 to 1-9, But Ballyhea rallied again with an inspirational score from Neil Ronan reminiscent of his County semi-final winning point in 1995 lifting the crowd. James Horgan followed with another sensational point after one of his now trademark runs. Throwing everything on the line Ballyhea had drawn level entering injury time before a softish free was converted by the East Cork magpies and despite our best efforts this proved to be the crucial score. Despite defeat the lads put up a great show but didn't get the breaks they deserved. Special thanks to Darran Ronan, Michael O'Mahony, Eamon Morrissey and Jonathan O'Sullivan for the tremendous work they put in with the side reaching back-to-back finals

**Scorers:** Neil Ronan 0-10 (7fr, 1 x65), Jack Barrett 1-0, Diarmuid O'Shaughnessy 0-1, James Horgan 0-1.

**Team.** Gearoid O'Shea; John Horgan, Stephen Dennehy, Niall Crowley; Kevin Hanley, Cathal Crowley; William Carroll, Trevor O'Sullivan; Jordan Morrissey; Neil Ronan, Christopher Hanley, Jack Barrett; Mikey Mortell, James Horgan.

**Subs:** Diarmuid O'Shaughnessy, Ryan Hanley, Dylan O'Donoghue, Liam O'Shea, Will Shanahan, Damien O'Gorman, Owen O'Sullivan

### **Avondhu U-21 A hurling C'ship final:**

Ballyhea 0-13 Kilshannig 0-5 at Ballyclough.

Ballyhea captured the North Cork U-21 A hurling title for the first time in 9 years at Ballyclough on November 21st. Well, done to all the panel for their efforts and to mentors Sean Curtin, Darren Ronan, John Mortell and Mike Morrissey.

#### **Scorers:**

Jack Morrissey 0-9(0-7 fr), Jamie Cops 0-2 (1 x 65) Michael Mortell 0-1, Dylan O'Donoghue 0-1.

Team: Gearoid O'Shea, John Horgan, Cathal Crowley, Adam Horan, Dion Curtin, William Carroll, Tiernan Hanley, Jordan Morrissey, Jamie Cops, Harry Duignan, James Horgan, Dylan O'Donoghue, Jack Morrissey, Stephen Walsh, Michael Mortell. **Subs:** Jack Barrett, Will Shanahan, Evan Cops, Michael Mackessey, Tomas Crowley, Dylan Browne, Oisín Kerins.



## **Ballyhea Camogie Club:**



Ballyhea Camogie club had another successful year both on and off the pitch. We had a lot of new members this year and new parents who came on board to offer their help and support. A huge thank you to all who help out in the club in any way during the year; committee members, sponsors, coaches, selectors, covid officers, parents and supporters yer support is greatly appreciated. As part of the 2021 Ballyhea Camogie Club main Fundraiser, the club held an end of year raffle on 26th November where first prize was €1000! All proceeds went towards the ongoing expenses associated with running the club and giving our girls the very best support for the coming year. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to this fundraiser.

### **U6 camogie:**

Our girls first match was against Charleville and the girls won they played very well. Then we played Milford and we saw huge progress with the girls. Then we played in the Eilís Dillane tournament back in Milford where they gave a great display of camogie. Finally, we topped off the year with a fun day with games and the highlight for the girls was the ice cream van. We saw huge progress with the girls throughout the year they are a great bunch.

### **8 camogie:**

The u8s were trained by Gary Gore, Geoff Watson, Elaine Crowley, Lauren Dillon O'Toole and Áine O'Sullivan. They had a good season, played plenty of matches against Charleville, Effin, Milford and Newtown. The girls enjoyed it and they are progressing well. They finished off their season with a fun day and each child received an ice cream which they were all delighted with.

### **U10s/U11s:**

The u10s and U11s were trained by Dinny, Sheila and Marie. The U10s had 16 girls registered and played 6 matches and took part in 2 blitz's in Newtown and Milford. The U11s had 21 girls registered this year and took part in the Avondhu league and played 5 matches and qualified for the B final. Charleville were our opponents in the final which was played on the 9th of October in Ballyhea. Ballyhea were victorious and captain Sophie Keane received the cup amid great excitement. We finished up for the year with a morning of fun and games on the 16th of October. Thanks to all the girls and their parents for their efforts and co-operation during the year.

**U14s:** The u14s were trained by Eamon Morrissey, Neil Ronan and Kate Kilcummins and Audrey Morrissey was first aid. They played league matches against Bishopstown, Watergrasshill,

Rockban, & Clouhdub in the plate semi- final. In championship they played Aghada & Douglas but were beaten by two stronger sides. Well done to everyone for their commitment during the year.

**U12:** U12s played St Finbars, Enniskeane, Millstreet, Sarsfield, & Inniscarra in groups stages. Then in the quarter final against Ballinora and the semi- final against Ballinhassig.

Well done to the team on reaching the County final against Cloughdub. Some great skill and determination was seen by both teams. What a great achievement to reach a County final. Unfortunately, it wasn't to be our day as we lost out to stronger team. Well done to all involved.

**Team:**

Millie Curtin, Sophie Keane, Isabelle Barrett, Róisín Walsh, Faye Ronan, Hiruth Stritch, Aoibheann Fitzpatrick, Sarah O' Sullivan, Zanaib Rafaqat, Grace Hickey, Emily Lynch, Katelyn Shortt, Hannah Buicke, Saoirse Mulcahy, Lauren Ronan.

**Mentors:**

Neil Ronan, Steve Keane, Marie Foley, Catherine O Sullivan (Covid officer), Edel Barrett and Gabriel Walsh (First Aid).

**U16/U15:** Both the U16's and U15 in 2021 were coached by both Andrew Walsh and Ger O Donovan and assisted by the teams Covid officers Gabrielle Walsh & Una Hickey, without their help we would not been able to train or play matches. Over the season we trained over 40 times.

In our league U16 matches we were drawing in the group stages against Kilworth, Brian Dillions Kinsale & Charleville. We won our matches against Kilworth, Brian Dillions, & Kinsale, then Charleville conceded the game to us, so we topped the group. In the League cup Semi unfortunately, we lost to Watergrasshill by a small margin and the girls played their heart out. Then in the championship we played Fermoy in 1/4 final and won with ease. In the semi-final we played Kinsale and lost, who eventually went on to win the Championship. Over the season we also played 3 U16 challenges, Newtown twice, & Granagh Ballingarry.

The U15 are in the Avondhu final against Mallow. The Final was played in Mallow on the 20<sup>th</sup> October and finished a draw after extra time. In the week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> November the replay was played.

We finished training on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November.

Team: Avabha Clifford, Aisling Walsh, Aishling Crowley, Clodagh Crowley, Clara Crowley, Emma O' Donohue, Sarah Lynch, Lorna Shortt, Irene O' Neill, Saoirse Morrissey, Aoibheann Morrissey, Ella Doherty, Ruth Linehan, Cara Hickey, Ava Mulcahy and Katelyn Daly.

Mentors: Ger O'Donovan, Andrew Walsh, Elaine Crowley, Gabrielle Walsh (first aid), Úna Hickey (Covid Officer).

**Ballyhea/ Milford minor team:**

What a fantastic year for the Ballyhea/Milford minor team.

We started the year on the 28th of July playing the 2020 County Minor A semi-final against Enniskeane. Unfortunately, after a hard battle Enniskeane won by 5 points.

The 2021 Minor A Championship started in August against Sarsfields, resulting in a win for u 4-8 to 3-6. We went on to beat Bishopstown 15 pts to 10 but were unfortunately defeated by Newcestown 8 pts to 6 pts.

In October we beat Kilbrittain 2-14 to 13 pts after extra time.

The County Quarter final was played under lights against Mallow in Mallow resulting in a win for our girls, 4-5 to 8 pts.

A very exciting County Semi-Final was played against Glen Rovers in Milford on the October Bank Holiday Monday resulting in a draw after extra time, 1-19 to 3-13.

On the 31st of October we travelled to The Glen for the replay of the Semi-Final. Under terrible conditions and with sheer determination and hard work the girls won 1-5 to 6 pts. What a proud moment for all the team.

On Sunday November 7th, we all travelled to Na Piaras in Cork for the Minor A County final and we had great Ballyhea/Milford support. Unfortunately, the Cloughduv team lifted the cup but our girls played out of their skins and never gave up. Final score was 5-8 to 4-6.

All the team were given a fabulous meal in the Corbett Court on the way home. Thanks to Anna Corbett.

Great thanks to all the team for playing and training so well and their parents for supporting them and driving them. Also, a huge thank you to John O'Sullivan and Colman Long for their relentless passion and coaching.

Thanks also to Sinéad Foley, Marie Harty and Catherine and Cathy in Milford for all their help.

Team: Eadaoinn Goggin, Kathlynn Daly, Lauren Dillon O'Toole, Kayleigh Gilbourne, Yvonne Stack, Olive Linehan, Clodagh Buckley, Caoimhe Sheehan, Saoirse McCarthy, India Hanley, Jane Foley, Áine O' Sullivan, Avabha Clifford, Caoimhe Morrissey, Orlaith Murphy, Aisling Crowley, Clara Crowley, Caoimhe Stritch, Lorna Shortt, Alison Donegan.

### **Intermediate:**

This was our second season in the Intermediate grade and we began training in the spring time. The girls were delighted to get back on the field and training again after the long winter and global pandemic. They played league matches against Newtown, Carrigaline and Na Piaras. After a successful enough league campaign, the girls trained hard before the championship.

Our Intermediate team got their season off to a fantastic start against old rivals Watergrasshill on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September in Castle Road. Ballyhea led throughout the game and there were some fantastic displays of skill and determination shown throughout the field. Final score was Ballyhea 3-14 to Watergrasshill 0-8. **Scorers:** Rachel Harty 2-4, Elaine Crowley 1-3, Kate Kilcummins 0-3, Tara O'Sullivan 0-2, Avabha Clifford 0-2.

Having one our opening game were placed straight into the quarter final of the county. We were beaten by Blackrock in the Quarter final of the county in October. Well done to all of you for your efforts during the year. Thanks to Ollie Morrissey and Ger McNamara for their commitment also.

Team:

Chloe Keogh, Lauren Dillon O'Toole, Mary Claire Carroll, Annie Cronin, Isabel Mortell, Róisín Killeen, Jade Hooper, Kate Kilcummins, Jane Foley, Elaine Crowley, Rachel Harty, Chloe Dundon , Tara O'Sullivan , Áine O Sullivan, Ciara Harty . Gráinne O' Leary, India Hanley, Caoimhe Morrissey, Clara Crowley, Katelyn Daly, Avabha Clifford.

### **Dawn Meats sponsorship:**

Our Intermediate team were presented with a lovely new set of O'Neills jerseys from a representative of Dawn Meats, Charleville in September in Ballyhea GAA grounds. Many thanks to Dawn for the kind sponsorship and no doubt the girls will wear them with pride in every game they play. Thanks to Liam Crowley and Marie Harty for organising this for the girls.

### **Photographs:**

Ballyhea U11 camogie team who beat Charleville in an Avondhu final.





U11 Avondu trophy being presented by Andrew Walsh to Sophie Keane (joint captain). Missing from team photo is Sarah O Sullivan (joint captain).

Here are images from the training fun day which took place at the end of the season in Ballyhea.



Under 8 camogie girls:



U6 camogie girls:



U16 Camogie team  
Ballyhea/Milford Minor team after  
the county semi- final:





Aisling Walsh after receiving her Cork All Ireland U14 medal in Castle Road.

Ballyhea Milford captains Lauren Dillon O' Toole and Clughdub captain prior to the Minor County final with referee Cathal McAllister:



Intermediate team with their new jerseys sponsored by Dawn Meats:

## **FAITH, HOPE AND CHARITY: THE MANY MINISTRIES OF ST ELISABETH CONVENT**

The Sisterhood, in honour of the Holy Martyr Grand Duchess Elisabeth, was established in 1994. We began with only a small group of lay sisters visiting the patients of the National Psychiatric Hospital. Twenty-six years later, we have over 300 lay brothers and sisters of Saint Elisabeth Convent and conduct multiple ministries following the example of their Patroness.

### **The beginnings of St Elisabeth Convent**

Our beginnings start with Father Andrey Lemeshonok, Spiritual Father of our Convent, who used to serve at a historical church in Minsk - the Cathedral of Saint Peter and Paul. He and several parishioners started to visit people with mental disabilities at the Psychiatric Hospital. Five years later, the Sisterhood was born and Saint Elisabeth Convent was established in 1999.

The sisters chose Saint Elisabeth as their heavenly patroness and intercessor because they were inspired by her feat. She dedicated her life to helping the poor and the sick, so the sisters wanted to follow her footsteps.

Saint Elisabeth once wrote:

“True happiness is something that neither men nor events can take from you. You will find it in Faith, in Hope and in Charity. Try to make those around you happy, and you will be happy yourself.”

The sisters believe in these words. This is why the three components of happiness - Faith, Hope and Charity are at the very centre of the Sisterhood.

### **The St Elisabeth Convent today**

Today, the lay Sisterhood is a part of Saint Elisabeth Convent. It is a community of God-loving Orthodox Christian women who desire to help those who need it the most - the sick and the poor, the homeless and the disabled. Sisters are distinguished by white habits that they wear above their clothes. The right to wear the habit is given by the Senior Sister with the blessing of the Spiritual Father of the Convent.

Every lay sister has obedience that best suits her abilities and talents. Some people like to work with children, others may prefer to help the elderly. Any help is much appreciated and welcomed.



The Gospel says:

“Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you.” (Matthew 5:42)

This is exactly what the ministries of St Elisabeth Convent are all about. There are people out there who need help. And our sisters are there to provide that help with the best way they can.

### **The ministries conducted by lay sisters of St Elisabeth**

First of all, the sisters help the homeless, poor and disadvantaged men and women. Saint Elisabeth Convent has established:

the Rehabilitation Center for men

and a separate Rehabilitation Center for women.

There those people can rebuild their lives by learning to work and finding God along the way.

Secondly, the sisters visit:

mentally challenged children

as well as mentally challenged adults and elderly who live at special boarding homes.

We call them God's People because their pure hearts are always ready to get to know Christ and follow Him.

And, of course, we make sure to help those who are suffering from illnesses. We have:

### **A Visiting Nurse Service to help bedridden elderly people.**

Our lay sisters also visit the patients of the Minsk City Clinical Hospital #2, providing psychological and spiritual help.

Those many ministries are possible through the prayers of our heavenly intercessor Saint Elisabeth and the continuous support and generosity of our friends from all over the world.



## *Ballyhea Parish Choir*

Dear Readers,

The Ballyhea Parish Choir has been in existence for a long number of years. In Ordinary times we regularly sing at the weekly 11am Sunday Mass and the occasional Funeral Mass when requested. Since Covid, I have been singing and playing for Adoration and Benediction every Thursday morning at 10am. However, since the Covid rules have relaxed in the Churches I have recently been joined by some new Choir Members on Thursdays. Mentioning new Choir Members, I am delighted to welcome 5 new



Cantors that have joined our Choir in recent times, namely – Gerard Wall from Dromcollogher (Tenor) Anastasia Lowell, Justina Lowell, Mary Lowell and Valerie Boucher (Sopranos). It is a



wonderful combination of new voices singing in unison with our well established and very valued familiar voices of Michael Madigan, Michael Foley, Breda Clifford and Michael Madigan's Grandchildren, Cara, Eva and Mark whom we are delighted to have, along with Carl McCarthy who joins us on guitar at Christmas and Easter and occasionally throughout the year.

To give a flavour of what the Choir means to our members, the following is a personal account from one of our seasoned Choir Soprano's Mrs. Breda Clifford:

**"I enjoy coming to the Choir. I find it Mentally, Emotionally and Spiritually uplifting. Praising God through Music is good for the Soul and Body. Meeting Choir Members, learning new**

**music and giving joy to others brings new life to the Church".**

Valerie Boucher, one of our New Members has contributed the following statement of what singing in the Choir means to her:

**"It is a real challenge to try and reach the highest notes but if it is to worship God, then I am willing to give my best because we owe Him so much! I love singing out loud how wonderful He is. The beauty of Christian songs illuminate my life and gives me hope and joy. We count on each of the members to deliver where we can't, which is fantastic as we can manage as a team. It is a fantastic experience and I hope it is also an enjoyable one for you too".**

A further testimony from another of our New Members – Anastasia Lowell:

**"My sisters (Justina and Mary) and I joined the choir three months ago. We consider time spent at Mass to be time well spent. We value the Sacred liturgy very highly and appreciate its solemn celebration. Music and singing has a great influence on our daily lives, and we understand how sacred music elevates the liturgy. Our formative years in the Church have been spent attending the liturgy celebrated in the extraordinary form, where music and singing are often at the forefront. We have found that Sacred music helps one better admire the liturgy. Plain Chant and the use of the Church Organ lead the listener to contemplation, and give one the time to appreciate the beauty of God's creation and order. Sacred music elevates the soul by ordering the emotions and enlightening the intellect, and in so doing enables one to assimilate the ethos of the church.**

Human beings normally strive to be better, or for excellence. Christians have always strived for excellence in the liturgical arts. We see this sentiment prevailing even in our own little parish. We have kept our Church clean, arranged the flowers, replaced the windows, and added paintings to the walls. The Altar Servers assist the priest and the Choir tries to give expression to the ideas and sentiments conveyed through the liturgical texts. We agree with St. Augustine, to sing is to pray twice. We sing because we enjoy singing. We sing because it helps us pray. We pray to give God his due and conform ourselves to Him”.

So, if you find these personal reflections inspiring, please do not hesitate to join us. We love to get new members and expand our Choir, which then enables us to broaden our repertoire.

Finally, it is my great privilege and pleasure to thank all of my fellow Choir Members for their continued dedication and commitment to the Ballyhea Parish Choir.

Best wishes for a happy and holy Christmas 2021 and a vibrant New Year 2022 full of song and cheer!

Sincerely,

Triona Crowley, Organist and Choir Co-Ordinator





### *Charleville Agricultural Show*

*As you are all aware we have had no Agricultural Show for the past two years due to Covid and indeed our annual two-day event was greatly missed and for us as a committee we really missed all the planning and excitement coming up the last weekend in June every year and people talking about it in the street and asking what are the highlights this year*

*Anyway, we are now starting to plan our 2022 Agricultural Show and fingers crossed it will go ahead as normal but we would anticipate that there will be still some restrictions in place for outdoor events next year as we cannot foresee Covid going away anytime soon.*



*In 2019 we celebrated our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and little did we know that we would not have another Agricultural Show for another two years at least, we still have some of the books available that we produced that year and I think they are more valuable now because of the fact that we did not have a show for two years. If anyone is still interested in purchasing the History of Charleville Show you can purchase it from Billy*

*Biggane PRO for €5 maybe a stocking filler for show patrons this year?*

*Billy can be contacted on 087 2519683*

*We are all hoping that 2022 will be a better year for us all and that please God we will be able to go ahead and run our show as usual and give us something to look forward to for the new year.*

*Good luck and Good Health to all our show patrons for 2022*



*Billy Biggane  
PRO  
Charleville Show*



## *Ballyhea Defibrillators*

*We have two defibrillators in Ballyhea, one is at the National School,  
2<sup>nd</sup> one at the GAA grounds.*

*They are checked every week by either*

*Anne Reidy  
Audrey Morrissey  
Breda Duane.*

*They are opened by a code number. If a defibrillator is needed.  
Please ring 999 or 112 to Ambulance Control, they will then give you the code to open  
the box.*

*It would also be of help when ringing for an Ambulance, that each house would know  
their postal code, to assist Ambulance to get to the house*

*Wishing everybody a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.*

*Breda Duane.*



## *Ballyhea Community Council*



*The Community Council have had a busy year.*

*Some of our work has been delayed due to Covid 19 restrictions.*

*Maintenance in the Heritage Graveyard continued throughout the year. Since September a permanent person has been appointed for maintenance in the Graveyard through the Rural Social Scheme.*

*In the new Graveyard there has been some new trees planted e.g., Magnolia (heaven scent) and Lilac.*

*Virginia creeper has been planted along the boundary wall. It is hoped to have new seating installed early in the New Year.*

*We will also have some extra Christmas lights on the tree for Christmas.*



*Wishing you all a very happy, holy and peaceful Christmas, and every blessing for the New Year.*

*Carmel Roche*

## *Ballyhea Parish Lenten Campaign*



NONCIATURE APOSTOLIQUE  
AU BURKINA FASO

Ouagadougou, 25 November 2021

N° 878/21

Right Reverend and dear Mgr O'Brien,

I acknowledge receipt of the generous offering of €800 from the 2021 Lenten campaign of the parish of Ballyhea in favour of a work of Evangelisation in Burkina Faso.

I am pleased to inform you that the parish donation has been forwarded to the *Soeurs Marie Etoile du Matin (Sisters of Mary, Morning Star)*, a semi contemplative community, who are building a new Monastery at the Diocesan Marian Shrine of Our Lady of Yagma of the Archdiocese of Ouagadougou. Please find attached some photos of the new monastery which is still in the process of being built (enclosed). For more information about the Sisters, please visit their website <https://mariastellamatutina.org>

In accepting the generous gift of the Parish of Ballyhea, the Sisters have asked me to extend their gratitude for this greatly appreciated donation which will help them to complete the building of their new Monastery.

Entrusting you and your parishioners to the maternal intercession of Mary, the Morning Star, please be assured of my prayers and blessings.

Yours in the Lord

✠ Michael F. Crotty

*Titular Archbishop of Lindisfarne  
Apostolic Nuncio to Burkina Faso*

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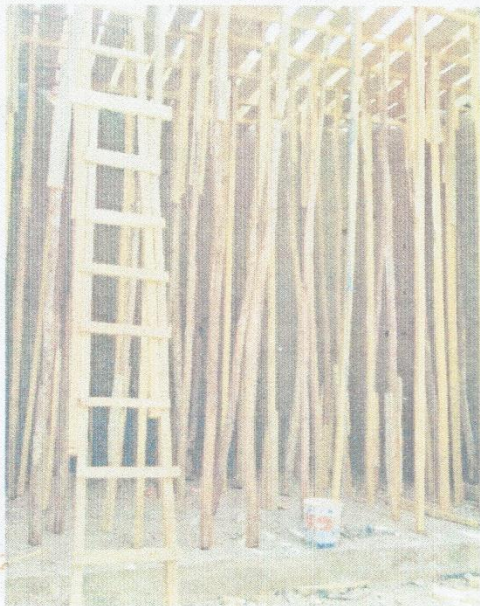
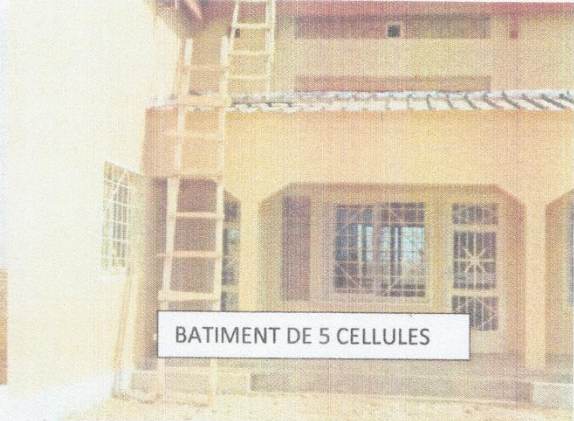
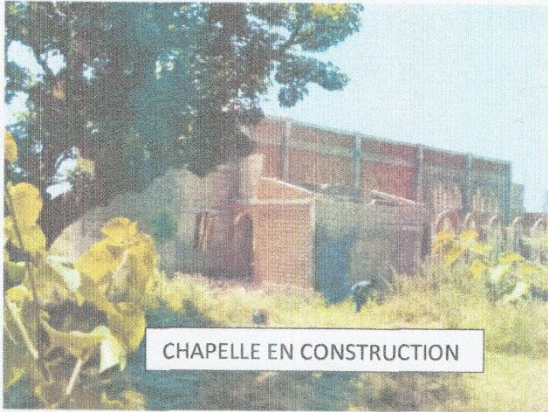
The Right Reverend  
Monsignor James Canon O'Brien, P.P.  
Ballyhea  
CO. CORK

(Enclosure)

## Photos

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### Le Monastère des sœurs de Maria Stella Matutina



La Communauté des Soeurs de Maria Stella Matutina à Ouagadougou





*Conversion of St. Paul*

