

EDITORIAL INTRODUCTION

Once again, it is time for the parish to publish its Christmas annual in which we look back over the past twelve months and on the many activities that took place as we begin to enjoy something close to normality following a long and disruptive crisis. This publication also affords an opportunity to mark significant events and people, especially in our parish and in our local area.

As usual, we commence with a round of the main events in the parish over the past twelve months. We welcome our new members who were baptized, as well as those who progressed to First Holy Communion and Confirmation. We remember especially all those who died since our last publication.

In our feature section this year, we are fortunate to have an excellent commemorative article to mark the centenary of the death of Dean Daniel Keller, parish priest of Youghal and indefatigable defender of his flock during the land war in East Cork.

Until the recent war in the Ukraine, few of us would have readily recognized places such as Crimea, Sabastopol, Odessa, Skutari or Kershon. However, they were very much to the fore in the public consciousness from 1853 to 1856 as the western powers fought out a bloody war in the Crimea – perhaps the first industrialized war. The Sisters of Mercy measured up to the needs of the time and were not slow in sending nursing sisters to the war zone, among them Mother Mary Joseph Croke, from Charleville. She would later found the Convent of Mercy in Buttevant which, ironically, is now occupied by the refugees from the present war in that same region. We are more than pleased to publish an account of the sisters' work during the Crimean War as we are afforded an opportunity to underscore the good and sometimes heroic work which they carried out in adverse circumstances and for which much gratitude was seldom shown – a phenomenon on which the chattering classes of 'modern' Ireland, despite appearances, do not have exclusive proprietorial possession.

Her brother, Archbishop Thomas William Croke, fortuitously features in a further article on the members of this remarkable family. He will need no introduction as he is well known in GAA circles, having been first patron of the organization, and after whom Croke Park is named.

In a more particular way, we mark the local connection of the Stubborn Juror in the Doneraile Conspiracy trials of 1829, immortalized by Canon Sheehan in his novel *Glenanaar* published in July 1905.

There follows an annual account of the many sporting, social and charitable groups in the parish. These afford a very good idea of the vibrancy of our community and its ability to swing back into action after more than two suspended years.

The great by-word during 2022 was undoubtedly 'synodality'. During the course of the year many have spoken and written of it. Few, however, seem to have understood the term's significance – and fewer still have grasped its meaning in an ecclesiastical or church context. Many have correctly cited its etymology as derived from two Greek words: 'σύν' and 'ὁδός', meaning 'together' and 'path', implying a basic meaning of two or more travelling in the same general direction or path. This basic level of meaning can signify various types of events ranging from two people out for a walk on mountain pathway up to and including a long army column heading for an invasion – examples of which we have seen in the Ukraine. Correct use of the term, in relation to the Church, requires distinctions and qualifications to be made if it is to aid and promote useful and rational dialogue.

Although the Church, both Greek and Latin, has used the synodal process since Apostolic times, its principles and procedures, as far as the Western Church is concerned, were not codified until 1748 when the great canonist Prospero Lambertini/Benedict XIV published his still valid work *de Synodo Dioecessana*. It is very regrettable that many of the recently published statements on synodality show no acquaintance at all with this important work and perhaps even less with the tenets of the Catholic faith as outlined in the

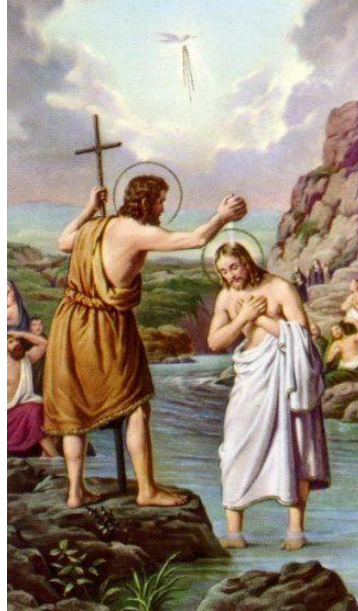
Catechism of the Catholic Church published as recently as 1992. It must surely come as a source of deep disappointment to Pope Francis that his cherished instrument for renewal of the faith should, instead, have been conceived by some as a vehicle for the promotion of dissent, political agendas, and internal disciplinary confusion. As the discerning process continued during the year we have seen the publication of diocesan statements in which the figure of Jesus Christ hardly appears at all, or if so in a very marginal fashion as though making a sentimental or amusing cameo appearance of little or no relevance to the central action of the Church's life. John Henry Newman is well known for efforts to envisage the Church without a laity and was left wondering at what a very peculiar sight it would make. We can only imagine how even more peculiar he would have regarded a narcissistic vision of the Church, beginning and ending with man, which has no room at all for Christ. While no one would believe for a minute that the Bishop of Rome was promoting a re-foundation of the Church which marginalized the centrality of Christ to the work of salvation, at the same time, there has been no shortage of dioceses publishing lengthy submissions on 'Church renewal'. One such document, seen by the present writer, ran to thirteen pages but only made fleeting reference to Christ on page 10. Perhaps we have come full circle, once again, in our flawed understanding of a fundamental tenet of the Christian religion and that it has become necessary again to emphasize our dependence on Christ for salvation. Should that be the case, not we before too long we shall see the publication of a contemporary take on Benedetto da Mantova's *Beneficio di Cristo* (1543). It is to be hoped that during the coming year a greater effort will be made to hear Pope Francis more attentively in his call for renewal and that the synodal process might discover Christ and thereby become more fit for purpose. Otherwise, St. Paul's cacophony springs to mind.

With every good wish for a happy and holy Christmas and every blessing during the New Year, 2023.

Parish News

Baptisms In The Parish

December 2021-November 2022



Baptisms

Michael Joseph Browne

Lilian Marina Waters

Eabha Augusta Waters

Jazmine O'Reilly

William Paul O'Reilly

Robyn Mami McGuire

Bella Pitman

Lacey Pitman

Madeline Pitman

Lucille Pitman

Noah McMahon

Hazel Eva O'Halloran

Ayda Isabelle O'Halloran

Kellie Mae Hartigan

Arabella O'Neill

Michael Martin McCarthy

Theodore Michael McAree

Róisín Mae Lyons

Hannah Riona Waters

Kenneth Liedham

Harry William Shanahan

Lucy Elizabeth Mortell

Johnny Anthony O'Neill

Susie Louise Morrissey



Confirmation in the Parish



*The Sacrament of Confirmation was administered in the Parish on
14th March 2022*

*Leon Barrett
Millie Curtin
Darragh Foley
Sophie Keane
Alan Krause
Muiris O'Riordan
Sarah O'Sullivan
Faye Ronan
Mary Bridget Lowell*

*Cathal Curtin
Aoibheann Fitzpatrick
Mike Hegarty
Barry Kiely
Danny McNamara
Thomas O'Riordan
Ronan Rea
Hiruth Stritch*



First Holy Communion in the Parish



The following children received First Holy Communion on 7th May 2022

*Sophia Carey
Bronagh Curtin
Lauren Cussen
Grace Holton
Holly Kennedy
Robyn Manning
Grace Mortell
Amelia O'Leary
Bella Pitman
Pippa-Rose Watson
Savannah Williamson*

*Jack Crowley
Jack Davern
Oisín Dick
Cillian Flynn
Harry Kearney
Noah Lilley
Patrick Moskal
Ryan Mulcahy
Michael O'Brien
Aiden O'Connor
Will O'Flaherty
Elliott O'Riordan
Gearóid O'Riordan
Shane Ryan
Francis Lowell*



Deaths from December 2021 – November 2022

Margaret Purcell, Ardnageehy,
Sr. Nora Wall, Limerick,
Marian Daly, Buttevant,
Maureen O'Leary, Newtown,
Maureen O'Shea, Raheen,
Michael Corbett, Ballyhay,
Dominic Dillon, U.S.A.
Willie Morton, Milltown,
Marin O'Donoghue, Beechwood Drive,
Thomas O'Sullivan, Ardglass
Olive Burdette, Limerick,
Mary Hobbs, England,
James (Jimmy) O'Brien Tenniscart,
Margaret Browne, Clonkeen,
Pauline Barrett, Ardnageehy,
Rita Yago (née O'Gorman, U.S.A.,
Michael Crowley, Bishopstown,
Peter O'Sullivan, Churchtown,
Eleanor Condon, Mitchelstown,
Noel O'Donoghue, Ardnageehy,
Jerry Barrett, Ardnageehy,
Patrick Carey, Bruree,
Jimmy Daly, Castleharrison,
Eamon O'Farrell, Shanagolden,
David O'Regan, Ballinadrideen

Michael Madigan, Boherascrub
Joan Treacher (née O'Connor) England
Tom O'Brian, Liscarroll
Thomas O'Connell, Ballylanders
Michael Madigan, Ballinadrideen,
Charlie Lydford, England,
Moira Fitzpatrick, Ferryfort,
Nellie O'Brien (née O'Callaghan) Castlewrixon
Sheila Kildea (née O'Hanlon) Swansea
Madge Roche, Doneraile
Elizabeth Ryan (née O'Connell) Limerick
Christy O'Connor Newtown Ballyhea
Peggy Quirké (née Greaney) Broghill,
Brenda Murphy, Castleharrison,
Michael McDermott, Castlewrixon,
John James Drinan, Ballinadrideen
Maria McCoy, Derry
Paddy Garvey, Tralee,
Willie Joe Crowley, Ballylopin,
Dylan McCarthy, Kilmallock,
Nora Drinkwater, U.S.A.,
Michael Roche, Charleville,
Charlie McNena, Melbourne,
Marie Mortell, Glanmore,

The Very Rev. & Venerable Gerard Archdeacon Casey, Doneraile, Mallow & Mitchelstown
Philomena Mahon (Née Linehan) broad Street Charleville, & Santa Barbara
Reidín O'Flynn, Newtown Ballyhea & New York

Requiem aeternam dona eis Domine et lux perpetua luceat eis

In Our Hearts

We thought of you with love today,
But that is nothing new.
We thought about you yesterday,
And days before that too.
We think of you in silence,
We often speak your name.
Now all we have is memories.
And your picture in a frame.
Your memory is our keepsake.
With which we'll never part.
God has you in his keeping.
We have you in our heart.



Chronical 2021-2022

December 2021

A copy of Rubens' (1620) conversion of St. Paul was hung in the Church.

The Parish took delivery of 100 chairs for the New Hall.

Ballyhea Child Care Group held an AGM.

Received notification from An Bord Pleanála that CIE had been asked to re-advertise their development proposal due to inadequate advertising.

Christmas was observed.

The Te Deum closed the year.

January 2022

6th The Solemnity of the Epiphany was observed.

February 2022

2nd The Solemnity of the Lord's Presentation (Purification of Our Lady) was observed.

3rd Throats were blessed.

17th The ESB installed new meters in the Church and Parochial House.

21st A new Vesting Bench was installed in the Sacristy. It was acquired at the Auction of contents of the Westbourne Mercy Convent, Limerick.



26th Fr. Faherty from the SMA Fathers in Cork preached on their missions in Africa.

March 2022

3rd Board of Management meeting.

4th The Lenten Stations began.

10th A practice for the Confirmation was held.

14th The Sacrament of Confirmation was administered by the Bishop.

17th St. Patrick's Day was observed and a parade held.

21st A public meeting was held in the New Hall to which the local County Councillors were invited. The meeting discussed a proposed inclusion in the County Development Plan advanced by the Planning Policy Unit of Cork County Council. Having heard the opposition of locals to the proposal the two major political groups indicated to the PPU that they would not support the proposal which was consequently withdrawn and excluded from the County Development Plan.

31st First Confessions were held.

April 2022

- 14th *Holy Thursday*
- 15th *Good Friday*
- 17th *Easter Sunday*

May 2022

- 7th *First Holy Communion*
- 11th *The Parish acquired an Italianate picture depicting Sts. Patrick and Bridget directing attention to Our Lady at auction at Clonliffe College Dublin.*
- 12th *Mass was celebrated at the Holy Well by Archbishop Crotty.*



June 2022

- 15th *The Parish acquired a copy of Murillo's Madonna and Child in the Pitti Palace. It was painted in Florence in 1864.*

July 2022

- 2nd/3rd *The XIV Fota International Liturgy Conference was held in the New Hall. The Conference was opened by His Eminence Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke.*
- 3rd *His Eminence Cardinal Burke celebrated Pontifical High Mass in the Parish Church.*



Mary Bridget Lowell and Francis Lowell after receiving the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion from His Eminence Cardinal Burke

August 2022

- 15th Solemnity of the Assumption of Our Lady into Heaven was observed*
- 21st Archbishop Crotty celebrated Mass in the Parish Church.*
- 31st Painting of the exterior of the Church began today.*



September 2022

- 2nd The Autumn Stations began.*
- 19th Meeting of the Board of Management of the School.*
- 22nd The President of the French Republic conferred the Légion d'Honneur on Monsignor Joseph Murphy, a priest of the Diocese.*
- 27th/28th An Bord Pleanála held an oral hearing into an application by CIE to close seven gates between Limerick Junction and Mallow. Ten submissions were made with regard to Ballycosgry.*

October 2022

The restoration, cleaning and polishing of the church brass was completed by the Cork Brass Company, Liberty Street, Cork.



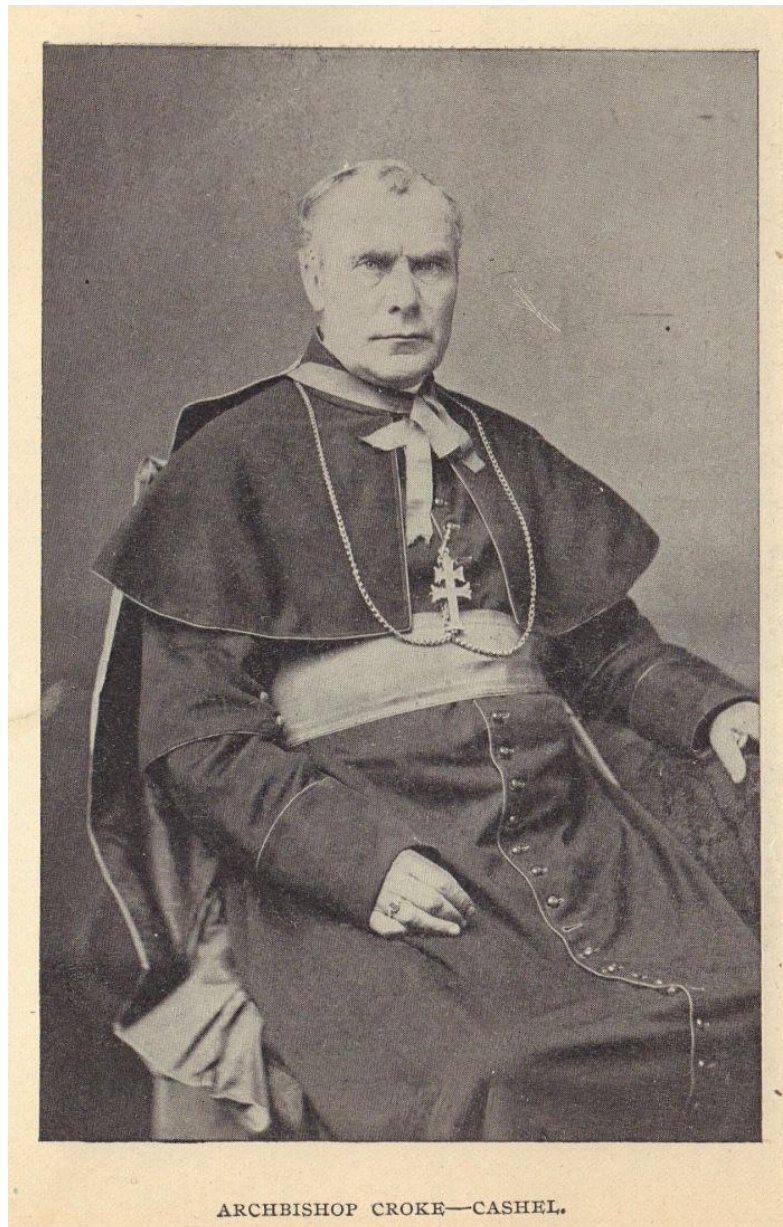
November 2022

- 1st The Solemnity of all Saints was observed.*
- 2nd The Commemoration of the faithful departed was made.*
- 6th Prayers were said in the Old Cemetery and at Cooline for the dead.*
- 13th Prayers were said at the New Cemetery and at Imphrick,*



Figure 1 Murillo Madonna Pitti Palace Florence

Archbishop Thomas William Croke of Cashel



DR. CROKE – MUNSTER’S ILLUSTRIOUS AND PATRIOTIC ARCHBISHOP

By Fr. Tom Looney

My personal interest in Archbishop Thomas William Croke (1823 – 1902) springs from the eviction of my widowed great grandmother and her family from their Crosstown holding in Glenflesk Parish. Her son Michael Looney departed their newly found home in Pig’s Lane, Killarney to join forces in the candlelit secrecy of the local railway gashouse to found one of Kerry’s first GAA clubs on November 2nd, 1886. These eighteen dangerous dreamers resolved to invite Dr. Croke of Cashel and Emly to become their Club Patron. He assented by return post although he declined to lend his name to many similar club invitations. That secret foundation was due to the intense police vigilance owing to major Land League agitation.

The League’s national founder and G.A.A. Patron Michael Davitt informed an 1886 Castleisland rally that some 1,600 East Kerry families had been evicted over the previous three years. Dublin Castle reported Kerry as “the most lawless county” in the land. Archbishop Croke proved a major figure in consolidating

the GAA, in The Land League, in the Plan of Campaign and Home Rule movement in the post-Famine Ireland. His remarkable legacy has endured over three centuries.

THE CROKE FAMILY

“The Crokes were Anglo-Irish and Catholic while the Archbishop’s mother Isabella Plummer was directly descended from the Knights of Glin who were Protestant. William Croke, son of a Tralee shopkeeper married the disowned Isabella in 1817 and their two eldest children were born in Tralee - the family business was sited in the Small Square where Ger Hogan’s store now stands.” (Fitzgerald 1986:25). I was successful in ensuring that an impressive memorial plaque is now seen there thanks to the initiative of the Kerry Archaeological and Historical Society together with Tralee U.D.C.



“William left his job in Lord Kenmare’s Limerick Estate to manage the Freeman Estate at Dromin, Castlecree near Kanturk where Thomas William was born on 19th May 1823 and baptized in Kilbrin Church. As a child he “picked up his West Kerry accent which he never lost” by spending his summer holidays with his grandmother in Tralee. The Crokes had eight children: three of the boys became Priests, the two daughters became Mercy Sisters while the three youngest sons emigrated to Australia, North America, and England. On the death of her husband in 1834 Isabella accepted the offer of Fr. Thomas Croke her brother-in-law to bring her young family to live in his parish of Charleville.” (Fitzgerald 1986:25.) Biographer Mark Tierney O.S.B. relates how the Plummers “repudiated their daughter who had disgraced the family.” (Tierney 1976:5). As she is by this time homeless, she might otherwise have approached her brother Rev. Richard Plummer the recently appointed Parson in Causeway, Co. Kerry.

STUDENT AND PRIEST

“Young Thomas received his early education at the Endowed School, Charleville, where he distinguished himself more in the playing field and at the boxing club than in the classroom. He was a student at the Irish College, Paris from 1840 till 1844, when, owing to alleged insubordination, which he, however, denied, and for which he declined to apologise, he had to leave the College. He then entered the Monastery of La Trappe, with the intention of becoming a monk, but a brief stay convinced him of his unfitness for the monastic life. Leaving there, he trudged friendless and penniless through various parts of France, taught English Literature at Menin, in Flanders, for a year and then, partly on foot, made his way to Rome, where he gained admission to the Irish College. Croke was then a young man of twenty one, of fine physique, tall and broad-shouldered, and of outstanding ability. He gained great distinction at his examinations and was ordained priest in May 1847, returning to Ireland the following October”. (Ó Ceallaigh 1977:23-4) His Paris Lecturer David Moriarty (later Bishop of Kerry) stated “I never met anyone with a quicker mind and more proficient on theology than he” (Tierney 1976:8).

This proved true as he excelled in his Roman studies obtaining both the gold and silver medals awarded to the Gregorian University’s top theology students. He attended the Requiem Mass celebrated in Rome’s San Andrea de la Valle Church for Daniel O’Connell who died in Genoa on May 15th, 1847. It is ironic to note that Fr. Thomas Croke who sold his medals in aid of Irish Famine relief should later lose his brother Fr. William to famine fever.

CLERICAL APPOINTMENTS

“His first appointment was to teach at St. Patrick’s College, Carlow and then at the Irish College, Paris, where he was in contact with the exiled James Stephens and John O’Mahoney who were to form the

Fenian Movement later. His uncle requested that Fr. Thomas William be recalled to his own parish of Charleville to replace his brother Fr. William who had died of famine fever in August 1849. For the next nine years he served there and in Middleton and Mallow until his appointment as President of the newly founded St. Coleman's College, Fermoy. Eight years later he became P.P. of Doneraile and Vicar General of Cloyne. He was summoned to Rome and ordained Bishop of Auckland, New Zealand on the 10th of July 1870. That Diocese was in need of organisation and good management and despite heavy debts and many obstacles the Irishman accomplished the task successfully. On his return to Ireland, he visited Killarney where he preached a charity sermon in aid of the local Presentation Convent in St. Mary's Cathedral on the 22nd of November 1874. Amid some controversy he was appointed Archbishop of Cashel and Emly on 24th of June 1875 – and served his people and country with distinction until his death on 22nd of July 1902". (Fitzgerald 1986:25).

A STORMY QUARTER CENTURY

Archbishop Croke defiantly strode across the stage of Irish Church, social, political and sporting life as a colossus over the final quarter of the 19th Century. Although at the outset the Cashel clergy did not openly welcome him, he proved an able pastoral shepherd and leader in that See. As a man well-schooled in European colleges and endowed with his acknowledged pastoral leadership success in New Zealand he was to prove more than able to meet and overcome many testing moments as he confronted many challengers locally and nationally, in Westminster and Rome itself.

During late 1880 Croke made his "ad limina" visit to Rome. His triumphal return to Cashel on Dec. 3rd was pained by his discovery "that he would have to face serious charges from the Roman authorities, relating to his involvement in the political and agrarian scenes in Ireland." (Tierney 1976:105)

"The British Envoy at The Vatican was working might and main to have Dr. Croke restrained and the clergy kept from supporting or countenancing the Land League. Political intrigue and mis-representation succeeded in having Dr. Croke summoned to Rome to explain his position. Without delay the great Prelate made the journey, and made a splendid presentation of the Irish Case to the Holy Father." (Ó Ceallaigh 1977:24). He quietly departed on April 23rd 1883 when "The Parnellite paper "United Ireland" told its readers Croke is to get a cardinal's hat." (Tierney 1976:147).

The eventual meeting with Pope Leo X111, on May 11th turned out to be a frosty affair. After an exchange of "hard words – have a ring of truth – the Archbishop of Cashel succeeded in convincing the Pope that the Roman authorities were relying too much on anti-Irish propaganda". (Tierney 1976:149). On his return trip, he told the students of the Irish College in Paris: "I came back unchanged and unchangeable" (Ó Ceallaigh 1977:24). Croke docked in Kingston on May 24th but without a red hat!

Dr. Croke sometimes hailed as "the Archbishop-King" remained humble but defiant and with a strong sense of humour as his own doggerel poem "A Bishop's Charge" reveals.

Said the Bishop of Cashel, renowned for his learning
 "It's meself that is pleased to be after returning
 To this ilegant island that's always onasy
 Bekase of them Saxons who're driving me crazy.
But ere long she'll be freed both from bondage and sorrow
For we'll soon have our Parliament back here begorra!
 Sure, I've been to the City that's called the Eternal
 To discourse with the Pope about dear Mr. Parnell,
 And Biggar and Hailywho've both got a mission

To be members of Donnybrook Fair the next sission.
 Than them three Broths of Boys, I explained to Pope Layo,
 No better you'll find between Dublin and Mayo.
 Arrah! Musha! Bedad! They are gentilmen splendid
 And I'll fight in their cause till my days shall be inded.
 His Holiness said he was sure they were beauties
 "But," he added, "dear Bishop, be true to your duties,
 Presume not with politics iver to palter
 Give the platform up and attend to the altar."
 So the Pontiff advised, and I wouldn't gainsay him,
 But you'll see, darling boys, how I mane to obey him.
 As for Bishopric's function, I own that I'm sick of it:
 Dissension I love, and I am now in the thick of it.
 Me and politics nothing on earth shall e'er siver,
 So hurrah for ould Ireland, now oulder than iver.

(Tierney 1976:179)

The rise and fall of Parnell, was to play a huge part in Dr. Croke's life. Biographer Tierney reflects "there was no bitterness left in Croke's heart, though there were undoubtedly certain regrets." (Tierney 1976:246). On December 29th, 1900, he announced his request to Rome to appoint his successor who was to be Fr. Thomas Fennelly. He died in Thurles on July 22nd, 1902.

SAMPLA DO CHÁCH D'UAISLEACHT AGUS NEART

The above is the legend carved on the Croke Memorial Statue on view in Thurles' Liberty Square a stone's throw from the Archbishop's House. Possibly with the exception of St. Patrick and Daniel O'Connell no other Irish personality has enjoyed over three centuries such popularity across the globe as Kilbrin's Thomas Croke. Consider all the GAA stadia in particular Croke Park, competitions and trophies (some 24 between 1897-1915 alone), streets and housing estates, cartoons and poems, portraits and banners, pubs and clubs, books and pamphlets.

In this vein I conclude my reflection as I began on a personal note. This refers to Kitty Dillon, my grandaunt who married Kerry football captain Dick Fitzgerald. In 1913 he led his Kingdom team to play Louth in the replay final of the Croke Memorial Cup. "The gate receipts, which reached £1,183, put the G.A.A. on a strong financial footing and they purchased the stadium at Jones's Road for £3,641 later that year 1913" (Looney 2008:84). Dick dedicated his 1914 classic "How to Play Gaelic Football to "Munster's Illustrious and Patriotic Archbishop, one of the First Founders of the G.A.A. and Patron of the Killarney Football Club". (Fitzgerald 1914: 5) Thanks to I.R.D. Duhallow the Croke cottage of Dromin in the parish of Kilbrin is to-day a lasting memorial to its famous son.

FOCAIL SCOIR-BALLYHEA G.A.A. GOLD MEDALS 1889

The 1889 Ballyheha hurlers are hailed in Jimmy Smyth's "In Praise of Heroes – Ballads and Poems of the G.A.A."

How Ballyheha Brought the Medals.

(Ballyhea v Kilfinane, Cork v Limerick, 1889) By Con O'Brien

(Source: Nan Casey, A History of Ballyhea GAA)

There are not in the county such hurlers I say

As those strapping young fellows from sweet
Ballyhea

Twelve teams they have conquered, they had a
good score,

And they brought the gold medals from
Shanballymore.

The struggle was fierce till their places they
maintained,

A goal and three points was the score which
they gained;

They beat their opponents without much delay,

“Twas then you’d hear shouts of “Well done,
Ballyhea!”

(Smyth 2007:106)

Fitzgerald, E. (1986) Dr. Croke’s Gaelic
Century, Killarney: Dr. Crokes GAA.

Ó Ceallaigh, S. (1977) Story of the GAA,
Limerick: Gaelic Athletic Publications.

Tierney, M. (1976) Croke of Cashel, Dublin:
Gill and Macmillan.

Looney, T. (2008) Dick Fitzgerald – King in a
Kingdom of Kings, Dublin: Currach Press.

Smyth, J. (2007) In Praise of Heroes – Ballads
and Poems of the GAA, Dublin: Geography
Publications.

THE CROKE MEMORIAL FINAL

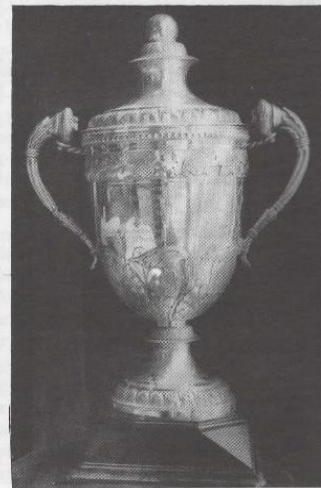
The Croke Memorial Tournament matches were played in 1913 to raise funds for the erection of a suitable memorial in Thurles to Archbishop Croke. Kerry and Louth (All-Ireland Champions, 1912) met in the final, which was played before an estimated attendance of 25,000, at Jones’s Road, now Croke Park, on May 4th, 1913. The match was drawn, Kerry 4 points; Louth 1 gl 1pt.

The replay took place at Jones’s Road on June 29th before an estimated attendance of 40,000 and Kerry won “the greatest encounter ever witnessed at the headquarters of the Gael” (Irish Independent) on the score, Kerry 2 — 4; Louth 0 — 5.

Dr. Croke’s, Killarney, the County Champions, represented Kerry. At the time the County Champions represented the county but they had the option of selecting the best players from other clubs. The Kerry team was:

R. Fitzgerald (Capt.), J. Skinner, P. Breen, D. Doyle, C. Murphy, P. Healy (Killarney), D. Mullins (goal) M. McCarthy, J. Lawlor, T. Costelloe, C. Clifford (Tralee), T. Rice (O’Dorney), P. Kennelly (Killorglin), J. Moriarty (Ballydonoghue), P. O’Shea (Castlegregory).

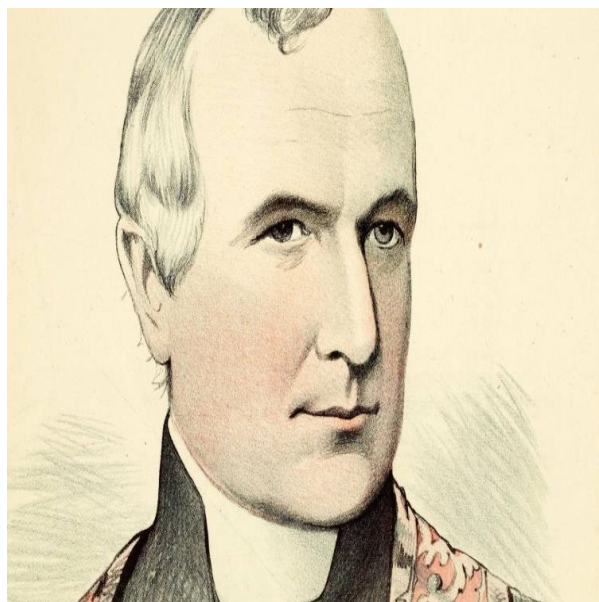
The trophy for the tournament was presented by the Great Southern and Western Railway on condition that it became the property of the 1st County twice winning the All-Ireland Football Championship. A Dr. Croke’s Selection won the title in 1913 and 1914 and the trophy became their property. The trophy is now a part of the G.A.A. Exhibition at Muckross House.



Fr Daniel Keller:

'A pastor who went to prison for his people'

FELIX M. LARKIN



In the grounds of St Mary's Catholic Church in Youghal, there is an intriguing inscription on the monument over the grave of a former parish priest, Daniel Keller. It reads: "A priest who shed lustre on the priesthood / A pastor who went to prison for his people".

Born in March 1839 at Inniscarra, near Cork city, Keller was appointed parish priest of Youghal in 1885. After ordination, he had taught philosophy at the Irish College in Paris until it closed at the outbreak of the Franco-Prussian war in 1870. He later served as curate and administrator in St Colman's Cathedral in Cobh before going to Youghal. In Youghal, Keller found himself at the centre of a dramatic episode in the so-called Plan of Campaign – the second phase of the Land War, beginning in November 1886.

Simply stated, the Plan prescribed that landlords should be asked to reduce rents voluntarily to a level that reflected the fall in agricultural incomes in Ireland at that time. Where the landlord refused to do so, the tenants were to offer rents which they considered fair. If these were not accepted, the rents would be withheld, and the amount of the "fair" rents paid into an estate fund – under the control of a trustee – and the money used to assist tenants who might be evicted.

The tenants on the Ponsonby estate near Youghal were the first in the country to adopt the Plan of Campaign. They sought a rent reduction of 35 per cent. When that was refused, those tenants able to pay – and scores could not – placed the amount of the reduced rent in the hands of the trustee in accordance with the *modus operandi* of the Plan. The identity of the trustee was not revealed, so as to frustrate any legal action to sequester the funds. It was widely believed, though never proven, that the trustee was Fr Keller.

In March 1887, Keller was summoned to appear as a witness in a Dublin court seeking to identify the whereabouts of the funds. When he failed to appear, a warrant was issued for his arrest. This prompted a demonstration in Youghal which had fatal consequences. The police charged the crowd with fixed bayonets, and in the fight that ensued a young fisherman named Patrick Hanlon was stabbed to death.

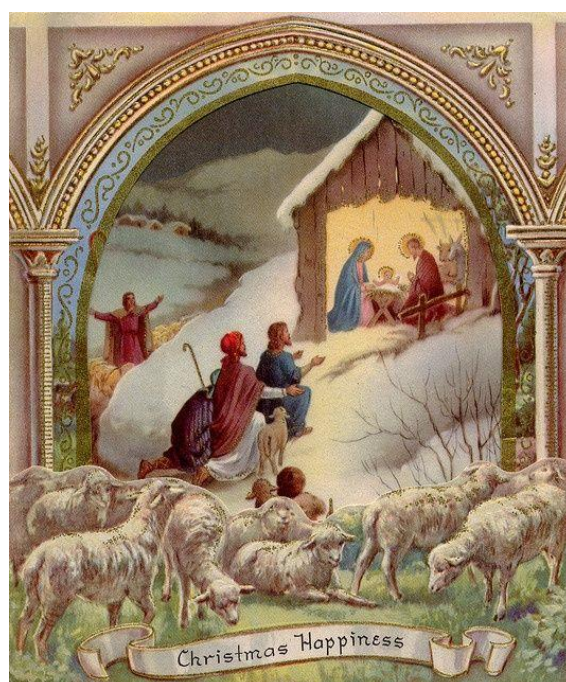
Keller was arrested on 18 March 1887 and brought to Dublin. He appeared in court on the following day. Predictably, he declined to answer any questions and was jailed for contempt of court – his imprisonment to last until he purged his contempt by answering the questions. He remained a prisoner in Kilmainham jail for over two months, until the Court of Appeal found at the end of May 1887 that there were irregularities in the papers issued by the court for his committal to prison and ordered his release. In declining to assist the court, Keller had the full backing of his bishop, Dr John McCarthy of Cloyne. Both Archbishops Croke of Cashel and Walsh of Dublin also publicly supported his stand.

Following the authorities' failure to break Keller, the struggle on the Ponsonby estate entered a new, and nastier, phase. Some of the larger tenants were evicted in May 1887 – and following the sale of the estate in early 1889 to a London-based syndicate headed by Arthur Smith Barry, the neighbouring landlord at Fota House, the remaining Ponsonby tenants were evicted in four stages between June 1889 and October 1890.

Ultimately, the Plan of Campaign was overtaken – in effect, derailed and the participating tenants everywhere in the country left high and dry – by the Parnell spilt, precipitated by the O'Shea divorce case in November 1890. The Plan, however, did not finally collapse on the Ponsonby estate until February 1892, when over 100 tenants accepted the syndicate's terms for settlement and returned to their holdings. The settlement terms were, in Keller's view, exorbitant. He opposed their acceptance, but to no avail.

Keller remained parish priest of Youghal until his death on 8 November 1922. When Bishop McCarthy died in 1893, Keller was the first choice of the priests of Cloyne to succeed him – but the president of Maynooth College, Robert Browne, was appointed instead, a mark of Rome's disapproval of Keller's involvement in the Plan of Campaign. The fact that his fellow-priests – his peers – did not share Rome's reservations about Keller indicates that he was perhaps a safer pair of hands than his record would have suggested, and Rome may have feared. He was no “turbulent priest”, but simply a churchman of strong political principles in the mould of Croke and Walsh.

When Keller died on 8 November 1922, he was given a handsome obituary in the *Freeman's Journal* newspaper. It recounted the facts of his involvement in the Plan of Campaign on the Ponsonby estate and went on to comment that the “deceased deplored the present condition of the country”. The country was then, of course, in the throes of the Civil War.





A Christmas Song.

Published 1853

How poor and mean this little bed
On which my Saviour lies!
Yet did he the vast ocean spread,
And paint the fair blue skies.

Ah, then how sweet shall be to me
The lot my Lord did share,
And dearer far his poverty
Than treasures rich and rare!

How helpless seems this Infant God,
How weak his little form!
Yet nature trembles at his nod,
He rules the wintry storm.

When I am helpless, weak, or low,
I will not grieve or sigh,
For I will think my Lord was so,
Though he was God most high.

Oh, let me love the paths he trod,
And strive like him to be;
Since he, although my Lord and God,
Has lov'd to be like me.



Monsignor Joseph Murphy



On September 22, 2022, at the Villa Bonaparte, the Ambassador of France to the Holy See, H.E. Mme Florence Mangin, presented the insignia of Officer of the Legion of Honour to Monsignor Joseph Murphy, Head of protocol of the Secretariat of State. In retracing Monsignor Murphy's career, distinguished by a Francophilia lived from within, and highlighting the excellence of his work, the Ambassador praised his role as an architect of dialogue with the diplomatic corps. For Monsignor Murphy, this decoration is a commitment to continue his mission in the service of the Church, the Holy See and the France. Several officials of the Holy See were present at the ceremony, including H.E. Cardinal Dominique Mamberti, Prefect of the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura, H.E. Cardinal George Pell, Prefect Emeritus of the Secretariat for the Economy, H.E. Msgr. Paul Richard Gallagher, Secretary for Relations with States, Ms. Barbara Jatta, Director of the Vatican Museums, members of the Protocol Office of the Secretariat of State and representatives of the Roman Curia. Ambassadors accredited to the Holy See and friends surrounded the recipient.

Remise des insignes de l'Ordre de la Légion d'Honneur
A Monseigneur Joseph Murphy
Villa Bonaparte, Rome – 22 septembre 2022
Eminences,
Excellences,
Messeigneurs,
Révérends Pères et Mères,
Bien chers collègues et amis,
Cher Monseigneur Murphy,

C'est un très grand plaisir de nous retrouver ce soir, dans ce beau cadre de la Villa Bonaparte, pour

célébrer le lien très fort qui unit Monseigneur Joseph Murphy à la France. Votre présence nous honore, ainsi que celle parmi nous d'éminents membres de la Curie romaine, que je salue respectueusement, et qui témoignent, si besoin était, de l'estime dont vous jouissez.

Permettez-moi de revenir un instant, comme il est d'usage, sur votre parcours et vos engagements, qui fondent l'éminente carrière que nous célébrons ce soir. Au Saint Patrick's College de Maynooth d'abord, collège pontifical centenaire et prestigieux, vous menez des études de lettres et de mathématiques. Vous intégrez par la suite le séminaire irlandais ici, à Rome, pour entreprendre un baccalauréat de théologie auprès de l'Université Pontificale Grégorienne. Huit années de travaux brillants à en juger par la licence de théologie dogmatique que vous obtenez, alors que vous faites vos premiers pas *via Santa Chiara*, au séminaire français. En parallèle, vous êtes ordonné prêtre sur les terres d'Irlande, près de Cork où vous avez vu le jour, et c'est également à la Grégorienne que vous décidez de couronner votre engagement académique en y défendant votre thèse de doctorat sur « la hiérarchie des êtres selon Saint Thomas d'Aquin ». Ce talent brillant est reconnu jusqu'à la Secrétairerie d'Etat où vous entrez au sein de la 1^{ère} section en 1997. Après y avoir assisté le Cardinal Angelo Sodano, alors Secrétaire d'Etat, pendant quatre ans, c'est en 2006 que vous rejoignez la 2^{ème} section où vous approfondissez la diplomatie du Saint-Siège. Les nombreux dossiers dont vous devenez spécialiste font de vous un observateur avisé de la vie du monde. De l'Asie méridionale à l'Europe orientale en passant, bien-sûr, par la France, on peut imaginer que cette ample connaissance des réalités de l'Eglise a plu au Pape François : en vous nommant chef du protocole en 2018, il vous a confié cette tâche indispensable d'artisan du dialogue avec le corps diplomatique, et permettez-moi de le souligner au nom de notre ambassade, d'artisan apprécié d'un dialogue généreux.

Au-delà d'une carrière éminente, c'est aussi un parcours distingué par une francophilie certaine que nous saluons ce soir. J'ai évoqué les premiers pas que vous faisiez au sein du séminaire français sans préciser que, à l'époque déjà, vous connaissiez la France, sa langue et sa culture. En effet, en ayant grandi au contact de deux tantes religieuses dans une congrégation française, Les Filles de la Croix, notre pays vous a été rendu familier, et ce depuis votre plus jeune âge, si bien que vos premiers pas vers la France n'ont pas été ceux du séminaire français, mais bien ceux de votre enfance irlandaise. Dès lors, la langue française n'a plus quitté votre engagement. La passion que vous y consacrez ne fait aucun doute, mais j'aimerais saluer la manière avec laquelle vous en faites une langue de travail et d'opportunités, pour vous et autour de vous. C'est en français que vous écrivez votre *Invitation à la joie* en conjuguant la rigueur intellectuelle de l'essai avec la lumière du message du Christ, belle preuve d'amour à cette langue française que vous portez jusque dans les couloirs du Saint-Siège. A ce sujet, j'aimerais exprimer ma plus vive reconnaissance à l'appui que vous avez apporté à la promotion des cours de français du Centre Saint-Louis auprès de la Secrétairerie d'Etat. Par son histoire, l'Eglise est aussi francophone. Et parce que beaucoup de ses fidèles le sont, notamment dans les espaces les plus dynamiques en Afrique ou en Asie du Sud-Est, sa diplomatie doit nécessairement l'être.

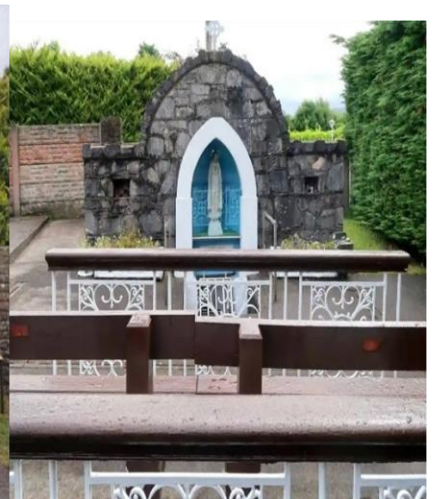
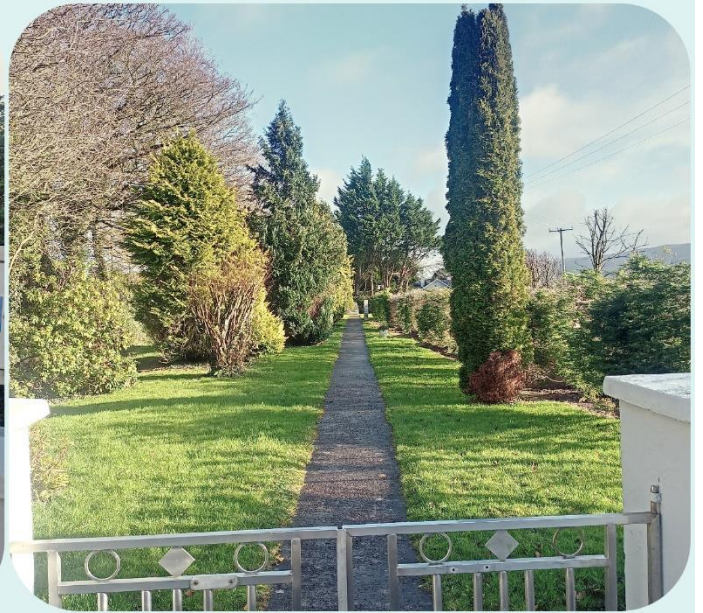
Pour ce qui est des relations diplomatiques, je veux saluer également la précieuse coopération que nous avons établie pour accueillir à Rome les délégations officielles françaises, et je formule le vœu de sa poursuite au service de cette relation si particulière entre la France et le Saint-Siège, dont vous êtes personnellement un expert. Soyez aussi vivement remercié pour le soin et la disponibilité dont vous avez fait preuve en favorisant les échanges et les riches découvertes au cours des visites officielles, et dont chaque délégation vous est immensément reconnaissante. Le dialogue généreux, que je soulignais, est celui que vous entretenez en fin avec les évêques français, et souvent parmi eux, vos camarades de séminaire avec qui vous êtes restés en contact, renforçant ainsi les liens qui vous unissent à la France.

C'est pour toutes ces raisons que la France a décidé de vous honorer de cette décoration prestigieuse que je m'appête à vous remettre maintenant.

« Monseigneur Joseph Murphy, au nom du Président de la République Française et en vertu des pouvoirs qui nous sont conférés, nous vous faisons Officier de la Légion d'Honneur. »

Our Lady's Holy Well

Well done to all the volunteers who helped with a huge clean-up of the grounds in the last few months. It is a credit to all the volunteers for it is one of the best kept Blessed Wells.



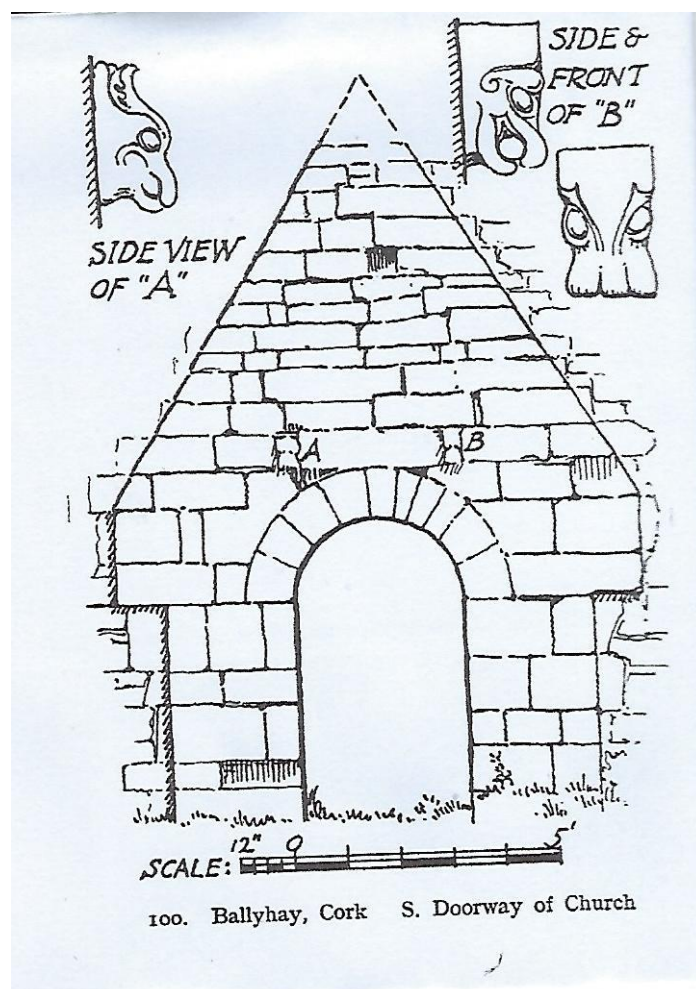
Harold Leask and the Medieval Parish Church of Ballyhea

Harold Leask (1882-1964) was born at Harold's Cross in Dublin into a Presbyterian family. He was trained as an engineer and architect by his father before taking up appointment in the drawings' office of an iron foundry in Waterford. In 1908, he was appointed a temporary assistant surveyor in the Board of Works and eventually appointed assistant architect. In 1923, he was appointed inspector of national monuments by the new Free State Government. He held the position until his retirement in 1949.

During his tenure of office, Leask was responsible for overseeing all national monuments and archaeological sites. Despite the penury of his department, he successfully scheduled numerous sites and monuments throughout Ireland.

Among many scholarly works, Leask published his *Irish Churches and Monastic Buildings* (1955) in three volumes in which he displayed a profound knowledge and appreciation of early ecclesiastical buildings and sites. Volume I of this work affords the following description of the medieval parish church of Ballyhea:

“Unusually sited in a south wall is the doorway of the church. It is without decoration to jam or arch but is given importance by its surround: a frontal of well-cut sandstone masonry projecting forward by 2 inches from the church wall, shouldered to the right and left at the level of the arch's springing and rising in a steep pitched gable to the wall top. The only ornamental features are two beast heads set over the arch. On the inner side the arch is provided with a hood-moulding over 8 inches wide and of as much projection: a curious and unnecessary provision in such a position. The lack of decoration suggests an early date, but the width of the opening (3 feet 3 inches) is unusual for early work. In both form and position this portal is exceptional and more probably late than early”.



Ballyhea National School



Big group Cork City sports

4th Ice Cream Day



*Ballyhea NS
JF Winners*

*Ballyhea NS St. Mary's sports4 all
runners up*



Confirmation Day



First Holy Communion Day

Seefin with Hospice cheque



Careers Day



Mini Science Week

Hannah Goold



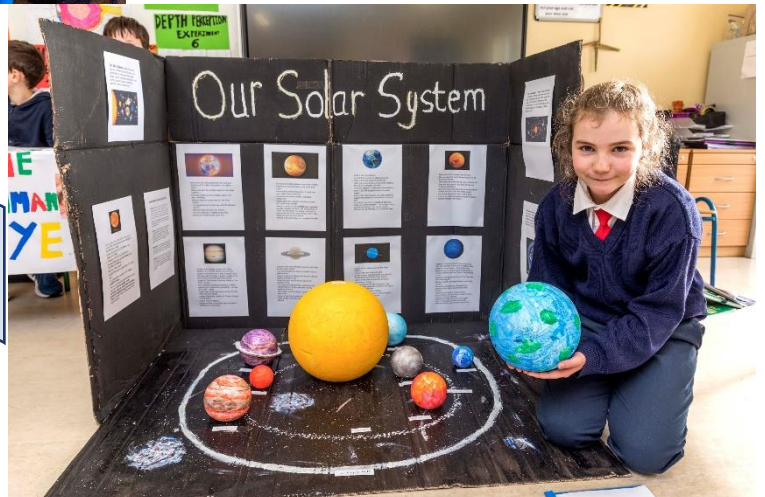
Ava Gore



Tommy & Susie O'Neill



Nicole Carroll



All photos on this page are courtesy of William Casey, Charleville

BALLYHEA SCHOOL

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.

A Little Bit of Poetry

The Burning Babe

As I in hoary winter's night
Stood shivering in the snow,
Surprised I was with sudden heat
Which made my heart to glow;
And lifting up a fearful eye
To view what fire was near,
A pretty babe, all burning bright
Did in the air appear;

Who, scorched with excessive heat,
Such floods of tears did shed,
As though His floods should quench His
flames,
Which with His tears were bred:
'Alas!' quoth He, 'but newly born
In fiery heats, I fry,
Yet none approach to warm their hearts
Or feel my fire but I!

'My faultless breast the furnace is;
The fuel, wounding thorns;
Love is the fire and sighs the smoke;
The ashes, shames, and scorns;
The fuel Justice layeth on,
And Mercy blows the coals,
The metal in this furnace wrought
Are men's defiled souls:

For which, as now on fire I am
To work them to their good,
So will I melt into a bath,
To wash them in my blood'
With this, He vanished out of sight
And swiftly shrunk away,
And straight I called unto mind
That it was Christmas Day.

Robert Southwell 1595

The Oxen

Christmas Eve, and twelve of the clock,
'Now they are all on their knees,'
An elder said as we sat in a flock
By the embers in hearthside ease.

We pictured the meek mild creatures where
They dwelt in their strawy pen,
Nor did it occur to one of us there
To doubt they were kneeling then.

So fair a fancy few would weave
In these years! Yet, I feel,
If someone said on Christmas Eve,
'Come; see the oxen kneel,

'In the lonely barton by yonder coomb
Our childhood used to know,'
I should go with him in the gloom,
Hoping it might be so.

Thomas Hardy published in *The Times*,
Christmas Eve 1915



Ballyhea Pre-School

For months, the Committee, Board and Parents of those attending Ballyhea Preschool have tirelessly fundraised to finance the construction of the new build. Construction is in full swing, as the block layers near completion, and the external shell of what will be a state of the art, purpose-built facility, begins to emerge. The community preschool is due to open in September. Time is of the essence.

For months, those concerned for the future of the preschool have fundraised for its success. Volunteers sold tickets at the agricultural show, outside shops, and within their homes, reaching out to anyone who would support the cause. Radio stations were contacted, and social media pages was created to raise awareness of the build.



Upcoming events include the 80's night, to name but a few. Tickets for the 80's revival on the 10th of December in the Charleville Park Hotel are available from eventbrite.ie, The Charleville Park Hotel and the Preschool. It promises to be a memorable night of dining and dancing, as DJ Nite Owl returns for one night only.

Volunteers will be selling tickets for the car raffle at various locations in Charleville in the upcoming weeks.

While fundraising efforts have been very successful to date, the committee is asking the public for their continued support.

Without the preschool, children will be forced to attend preschool outside of the parish. As parents strive to maintain the friendships forged at preschool, sporting and other extracurricular activities follow suit. The children are the life blood of any parish. The community preschool must be in operation in Ballyhea if the parish and its sense of community is to thrive in future years.

The build will not be completed on good will alone so we would ask for any support, whether it be financial, or the offer of your time, to meet the costs of construction and to ensure the preschools future success.



Mercy Sisters

The Charleville Connection to the Crimean War 1854-1856

In 2019 I wrote an article, entitled *A Tale of Two Sisters*, for the Ballyhea Parish Annual. In it you read a little about Sr. Joseph Croke from the Mercy Convent in Charleville and her mission to the wounded and dying soldiers during the Crimean War. Three years later, 2022, we often hear of the Crimea in the context of the recent Russian invasion of Ukraine, so this is perhaps an appropriate time to elaborate a little on the Charleville connection to the Crimea almost one hundred and seventy years ago.

The Crimean War broke out in 1853 between Russia and Turkey over access to the Christian shrines in the Holy Land. Also, Nicholas 1 of Russia wanted to conquer Turkey, annex it to his empire and establish a navy on the Black Sea. This would threaten the British Trade route to India. The war began. Britain and France supported Turkey. At the time, Ireland was under British Rule.

In the war zone, the French hospitals had obtained the services of Sisters of Charity to the great benefit of the sick and wounded. Following their example, the British War Office requested Archbishop Manning of England to procure Sisters to nurse the sick and wounded in the military hospitals in the East. There were thousands of Irish men in the British army at the time.

The first group of Sisters of Mercy went from England in October 1854. Florence Nightingale followed almost immediately and made it clear that the authority vested in her should be supreme and unquestioned. This urge towards absolute power was the keynote of her attitude all through the war.

The Irish sisters responded generously to the call and eleven in all ventured to work in a new field. Two from Charleville, Srs. Joseph Croke and Clare Lalor were among them. Many of the Irish sisters had nursed during the Cholera epidemic of 1832 and the Famine of 1846/47.

Some sisters kept diaries and Sr. Joseph Croke's is one of three that have survived. She made copies of the original diary on her return to Charleville, and we are happy to keep one copy on display in the Heritage Centre. All three diaries were edited in 2004 by Maria Luddy and published by MPG Books, in Great Britain. A copy of this book is available in Charleville library as well as online.

According to the Charleville Convent Annals, the war brought the Sisters of Mercy "*to work in a new field of action, and to walk in un-trodden paths*". They embraced their mission little knowing the fear, anxiety, joy, sorrow, and frustration they would almost daily experience in their work.

At the beginning, there was great excitement in Charleville as the two Sisters, Joseph Croke and Clare Lalor set off for the Crimea. The Convent annalist recorded: "*.... they left for Dublin on the 24th. October. The event caused a great stir in the town and the sisters going 'to the war' were accompanied to the train by a crowd of all sizes and classes*".

They spent some time in the Mercy Convent in Baggot St, Dublin where they joined the other Crimean-bound sisters, awaiting arrangements to be finalised between the War Office and the Ecclesiastical Superiors. They were instructed to attend to the spiritual and corporal needs of the Catholic patients and to scrupulously avoid any talk or controversy about religion to the Protestant patients.

In November, they set sail for England where they were joined by four British Sisters of Mercy. Having crossed the Channel to France, they travelled on to Paris, took a train through France and on the 6th of December, they boarded the 'Egyptus' at Marseilles to sail to Constantinople. The Egyptus was a rickety, unseaworthy mail boat which was also carrying about three hundred French troops as well as horses. Their quarters were among the steerage passengers. The voyage was rough and perilous as they ran into violent storms. One night the top was blown off the sisters' cabin. Their berths were swamped,

trunks submerged in four feet of water and pillows floated in the cabins. In Athens, a number of Athenians, dressed as Highlanders came on board and an Irish Sister of Charity gave the sisters a gift of oranges and flowers.



On 17th December they got their first glimpse of Constantinople with its marble palaces and domes rising out of the placid waters of the Bosphorus into the lovely blue of an eastern sky. They also had their first sight of the great hospital at Scutari in which, they hoped they were soon to nurse the needy.

To their dismay, they were told that Ms. Nightingale did not want them and that *their coming was a gross misunderstanding on the part of the War Office and that there was neither*



accommodation nor employment for them in the hospitals. She did not want "female ecclesiastics scampering about the place" and accused them of coming to proselytise. At this time there were about 4,000 patients needing nursing care and between 50 and 90 were being buried daily.

The Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul offered hospitality in their boarding school and after Christmas, Florence Nightingale decided to accept five Irish Sisters. The remaining ten were to return home or do what they pleased.

The five began work in Scutari early in 1855. Huge rat and vermin infested barracks had been converted into a hospital and double rows of mattresses were laid on the mile long corridors. A handful of surgeons, with no facilities for operations had to look after hundreds of wounded men arriving daily from the Front, after being carted in rough Turkish vehicles over roadless terrain or being tossed for days in the floating hospital ships. Much of the “nursing” was carried out by old pensioners, chosen because they were past any other kind of work.

The sisters expected to be sent to the wards but instead two were sent to a store to sort out clothes that had been eaten by rats and others went to the kitchen. They worked in dark, damp, gloomy sheds. Eventually they were permitted to serve a few gallons of soup each day and finally they were introduced to the squalor, misery, and despair of Scutari Barracks Hospital.



The troops were dying like flies in the bitter cold of a Crimean winter. They were malnourished, rations were short, fuel was scarce, medicine was not available, and clothing was unsuitable.

They suffered from cholera, dysentery, frostbite, scurvy and typhus. Antibiotics, as we know them today, were unknown. From the diaries we read the following: *The cholera was of the very worst type and when once attacked the patients only lasted four or five hours. Oh, those dreadful cramps, you might as well try to bend a piece of iron as to move the joints...The usual remedies ordered by the doctors were stuping, (a flannel or piece of cloth soaked in hot water, wrung out and applied to wounds), poultices of mustard etc...The doctors were very anxious to try chloroform but they did not trust anyone with it except the sisters....a preparation of chloroform sprinkled on and applied to the stomach; a spoonful of brandy and immediately after a small piece of ice, to try to settle the stomach, but very seldom it succeeded: rubbing with mustard and even with turpentine, but cholera is proof against all. Rarely, very rarely anyone got over it ...*

The men who came down from the Front had only linen suits, no other clothing to keep out the Crimean frost so the majority suffered from frostbite. When they were carried in on the stretchers, they often had to be laid on the floor and their clothes cut off. Flesh and clothes were frozen together; and as for the feet, the boots had to be cut off bit by bit, the flesh coming off with them, many pieces of the flesh remain in the boot. Poultices were applied with some oil brushed over them. In the morning, when these are removed..., the sinews and bones are laid bare...Many lose all the toes, many the whole foot and hundreds have died from this frightful frostbite.

To promote the ease, comfort and cleanliness of their patients who were in a dreadful state of dirt and neglect, the Sisters cut and combed their overgrown hair and beards, washed them cautiously as many were extremely weak and their thin, ragged clothes were black and crawling with vermin. Extermination of vermin went hand in hand with nursing duties.

Many of them required spoon feeding and there was invalid food in plenty. But the stores were in such a chaotic state, that the wine and arrowroot etc. could not be got at and the "Orderly" system so bad, that many of them died of starvation.

The graves were not made deep enough and the air was putrid. There were no coffins. Canvas and blankets had to suffice.

Florence Nightingale added to the confusion as she provoked the doctors, terrified the ladies, and brought out the worst in the nurses. She believed that only surgical cases needed nursing care and that special diet and fresh air was the main treatment for any other illness.

However, the Irish Sisters came not merely as nurses, but as nursing Sisters of Mercy and they continued to minister to the spiritual as well as to the temporal necessities of the Catholics and to the corporal needs only of Protestants.

The sisters lived in a room unfit for human occupation. The sole equipment was a bed, knife, spoon, bowl, and tin plate for each sister. There was neither a table nor a chair. Meals had to be taken picnic fashion on the floor. The unvarying menu was goats' flesh, and something called mutton- black, blue and green in colour; coarse sour bread, rancid butter and milk-less tea. There was chronic mismanagement of supplies, over which Florence Nightingale had total control.

The soldiers adored the nuns who sympathised with their sufferings, advised them, wrote letters to their families in Ireland and elsewhere and listened to them speak of their pain and troubles.

Florence N. then accused them of proselytising, and this became her theme song for the remainder of the war.

Sisters also nursed in the Barracks Hospital in Koulali, where the wards were filthy, the beds lice infested, sanitation faulty and medical arrangements inadequate. *Neither linen or lint could be found to dress the gaping wounds.* The sisters scrubbed and scoured for weeks and established a laundry which ensured a constant supply of clean clothes. Invalid food and special diets including milk, eggs, arrowroot, rice, sago, lemonade, and port wine were prepared.

Patients' ailments included dysentery, diarrhoea, fever, diseases of the chest and cholera. Their wounds gaped and their limbs were gangrenous. The most critical cases were assigned to the Sisters who administered stimulants and opiates faithfully.

Here Sr. Joseph Croke took over management of the provision store which was kept well stocked. There was careful attention given to diets, medicines and stimulants and sisters had the opportunity of seeing to the needs of each patient. Night duty was undertaken by sisters in pairs who watched over the very sick and dying men.

When the weather improved, flies, fleas, bugs and mosquitoes brought severe illness to troops and some of the sisters. Heat and drought played havoc with their health in summer. In applying themselves to multiple duties, the sisters won the respect of the doctors and in time this hospital became known as "The Model Hospital of the East".

The Irish Sisters moved to Balaclava in the Crimea early in October 1855. They found things even worse than they had anticipated: dirt, confusion, quarrelling nurses, hopeless provision for cooking and washing etc. Croke wrote: *Our only motive in exposing ourselves to the rigors of the Crimean winter is to work, to the best of our ability, the mission of Mercy on which we have come and to afford all the aid and comfort we can to our suffering fellow creatures.*

The Sisters lived in wooden huts on top of a hill, close to the harbour, overlooking the Black Sea. Conditions were appalling with shortages of food, water, medical supplies and severe overcrowding. Many soldiers suffered from frostbite, while rats infested the hospitals and living areas. Again, we turn to the diary and read *There were rats in droves, scraping under the floorboards, jumping on the shelves where the tin utensils were kept. They sucked 100 eggs before Christmas and killed a few chickens. Eventually Fr. Wollett bought a cat, which was tied to the leg of a chair, and that put an end to the reign of the rats.*

The sisters' huts had three beds and two backless chairs for thirteen sisters. Ten mattresses were placed on the floor. The rain and snow came through the roof and waterproof sheets had to be put on top of the beds. Cutlery was limited to three knives and three forks which, according to M. Croke they passed from one to another, forgetting squeamishness and trying to take all in the spirit of their vocation and with much good humour.

Sr. Clare Lalor whose ill- health caused concern due to the labours and fatigues of the hospital duties, had to return to Charleville.

Affection and respect for the sisters was expressed by patients and staff alike. Their experience in hospital management and nursing skill aroused the query as to how such skill and experience had been acquired.

An artefact we treasure in the Heritage Centre is seen here: a pencil sketch of the Holy Family given to Sr. Joseph Croke by one of the soldiers.

Early in 1856 there were signs that the Crimean War was coming to an end. During the sixteen months, difficulties and trials were many, often painful and perplexing. On March 30th the Peace Treaty was signed in Paris and thoughts of returning to Ireland were cherished.

Before the sisters left, Florence Nightingale visited them. In the Croke diary we read, *She entreated them in her sweetest tones to remain and prophesied that if not she would repent the day.*



She also took notes of their manner of nursing, and it was this careful nursing system that became the foundation for the development of modern nursing.

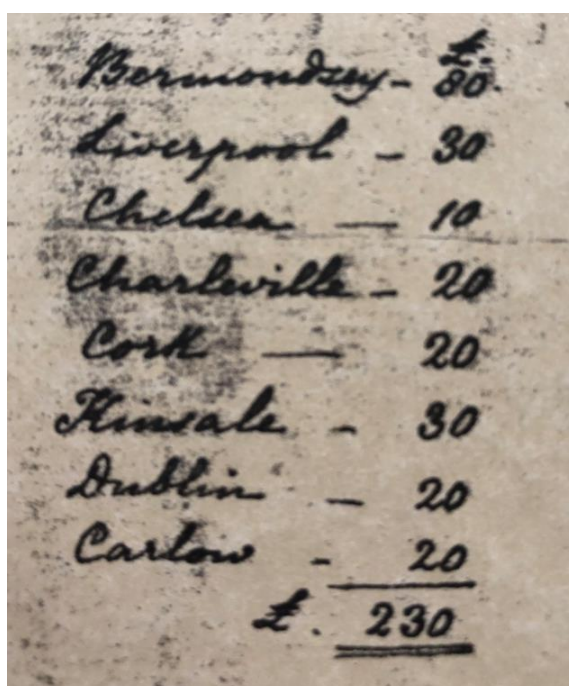
Yet, the work and dedication of the Sisters of Mercy appears only on the margins of all histories of the Crimean War period. The circumstances of the time did not allow for formal recognition of their contribution. The majority of historians erroneously assume that nursing originated with Florence Nightingale.

The Irish Sisters of Mercy left Balaclava in April 1856, taking with them the affectionate esteem and cordial good wishes of the sick and wounded soldiers, both Protestant and Catholic, the respect and warmest commendations of the medical officers of all ranks of the army, knowing they were valued and held in

high esteem. Their work in the Crimea was done. The soldiers vied with one another for the honour of bringing their luggage to the quay, where the Cleopatra awaited them. Priests, doctors, nurses and soldiers came to bid them farewell to wish them " God speed" on their homeward journey.

After a rough and tedious voyage, they anchored at Malta and reached Gibraltar at the end of April. Eight days later they arrived in London and headed for Ireland. Having visited the motherhouse in Baggot St., Dublin on the morning of Corpus Christi, the sisters headed for their convent homes. In Charleville, Mother Joseph Croke was welcomed with bonfires and blazing tar barrels which were posed at special vantage points to give a truly Céad Míle Fáilte to the " Russian Nun" who was happy in the knowledge that the difficult mission had been faithfully accomplished.

The names of the Irish Sisters were not recorded in the War Office, which sent them no decorations nor offered them a eulogy. They received no remuneration for their work, but the Turkish Sultan sent a total of 230 pounds to be divided between the eight convents that had sent Sisters on the mission, as a token of appreciation. This money was distributed among the poor.



Bermondsey	-	£ 80
Liverpool	-	30
Chelsea	-	10
Charleville	-	20
Cork	-	20
Kinsale	-	30
Dublin	-	20
Carlton	-	20
		<u>£ 230</u>

Our two " Crimean Missionaries", Srs. Joseph Croke and Clare Lalor are buried in the convent cemetery in Charleville. May they rest in peace. We wish and pray for peace for war-torn Ukraine today.

Many more details of the Crimean War are told in the Mercy Heritage Centre in Charleville and artefacts are displayed in a special Crimean cabinet. Tours can be arranged with me, Sr. Bernadette Maria, by ringing 087 9007225 and a warm welcome awaits you.





Adoration of the Shepherds is a late oil painting by Hugo van der Goes dating from 1480, now in the Gemäldegalerie at Berlin. He painted this picture before renouncing the world and becoming a lay brother at Rouge-Cloître Abbey near Brussels, a daughter house of the Windesheim Congregation in the strict tradition of the Brethren of the Common Life, part of the wider *devotio moderna* movement, whose most influential work was the *Imitation of Christ*.

The scene is flanked by two prophets from the Old Testament, shown half-length and holding up a green curtain, which they part to show the scene. Standing in front of the scene, they act as intermediaries between it and the viewer, with the right-hand one with his hand and mouth open as if to speak. The panel "is indeed a scene in the theatrical sense, as we see the curtains opening on the stable in Bethlehem as if the play is about to begin." The scene itself includes three shepherds as well as a background scene showing the angels announcing Christ's birth to them. The Christ Child looks out at the viewer and behind him, Our Lady and St. Joseph and a choir of angles.



St Vincent de Paul has been working in Charleville and other neighbouring communities for many years assisting people in need. A need can arise through ill health, education costs and unemployment.

Our Vincent's shop is located in Keating Lane, Charleville. The shop welcomes donations of clothes and household goods which we then sell to provide us with an income to do our work

In the coming months, the cost-of-living crisis will hit different household in different ways, particularly with the rising costs of food and energy prices.

Those hardest hit will be one parent families, low-income workers, households on fixed social welfare incomes and people with disabilities and their carers.

Christmas will be a difficult time for many. Please help us to help those requiring assistance at this time of year. We are asking people to please donate whatever they can spare to help those who are struggling through this winter and into the new year.

Many thanks for your assistance in previous years. We are most grateful.

Our helpline number is 083 4709147

Edward Morrogh The Stubborn Juror

On 12 May 1830, Daniel O’Connell rose in the House of Commons to move a motion “for the production of documents...[deemed] necessary in order to enable the House to judge correctly upon a matter of serious importance as connected with the administration of justice...[by] the Special Commission at Cork, [and specifically] for the depositions of but one witness, Patrick Daly; and, secondly, for the notes of the learned Judges who presided at these trials.” The Special Commission to which he referred was the



Figure 2 Baron Pennefather (1772-1859)

judicial commission established to try those charged in the Doneraile Conspiracy of 1829. His motion for the disclosure of papers relating to the depositions of Patrick Daly and the notes taken by the presiding judges in the special commission, Richard Baron Pennefather (1773-1859) and Robert Torrens (1775-1856), formed part of O’Connell’s wider campaign to impeach John Doherty (1785-1850), the Solicitor General (Ireland), for perversion of the course justice in the Doneraile Conspiracy trials due to his withholding of evidence from the trial judges as well as to his deliberate failure to circulate evidence to the defence counsel. Moreover, O’Connell openly alleged that Doherty attempted to secure the conviction of twenty-two accused persons on the purchased evidence of spies who had been in the service of the government since at least 1821 and who had retained their positions by supplying the government with convenient evidence as required by particular circumstances.

The Special Commission sat in Cork on 22 October 1829. The accused were to be tried in batches, the first of which consisted of John Leary, James Roche, James McGrath and William Shine all of whom were formally charged with conspiring to murder George Bond Lowe, Michael Creagh and Admiral Henry Evans. The solicitor for the accused raised the matter of their having no counsel to represent them where upon two barristers were appointed to their defence. An all-Protestant jury was sworn which delivered guilty verdicts on all four accused who were then sentenced to be hanged. The Special Commission adjourned until the following Monday.

In the interval, the accused secured the services of Daniel O’Connell as defence counsel. He arrived in Cork late on Monday morning 26 October 1829 for the second trial at which Edmond Connors, Michael Wallace, Patrick Lynch and Timothy Barrett were charged with conspiracy to murder. A second jury was empanelled, eleven of whose members were

Protestants and one Catholic, Edward Morrogh. The jury retired and deliberated for forty hours and was eventually discharged as it could not reach a verdict on the four accused with Mr. Morrogh, against much pressure, declining to convict any of the accused on basis of the uncorroborated evidence of a spy.

On 29 October 1829, two further accused were brought to trial: John Burke and John Shine. An all-Protestant jury was empanelled to hear the case. However, due to O’Connell’s cross examination multiple discrepancies appeared in the evidence supplied by the government spies. In the course of the hearing, Baron Pennefather called O’Connell to the bench and handed him a document that had been concealed from the defence. The document was an affidavit sworn by one of the spies but it contradicted the evidence which he had given in court. The jury retired and delivered verdicts of not guilty after twenty minutes. The verdict caused the collapse of the trials and the government indicated that it would not be proceeding with further trials.



Figure 3 Confirmation of Morrogh Arms 1861

In his speech to the House of Commons, O'Connell hailed the integrity of Edward Morrogh and his resolve not to be swayed by tainted evidence. He declared that "you Edward Morrogh are that man [who] steadily held out in your opinion, that no confidence was to be reposed in those informers; the eleven were of a different opinion, and you have been the honoured instrument of Heaven in saving many lives...Oh, Edward Morrogh, while trial by jury shall be respected throughout the world, your name will be revered, you will have your reward in the approval of every good man, the fathers, brothers, sisters, wives, children, at twenty, nay, fifty, will bless your name, and many an infant yet unborn will be taught to lisp the name of his father's, his grandfather's, preserver, Edward Morrogh." But who was Edward Morrogh and what was his connection with Ballyhea?



Figure 4 Four teaspoons made in Cork c. 1815 by Isaac Solomon bearing the crest of Morrogh

Edward Morrogh was born in 1785 into an old and well-established Catholic family extensively intermarried with other Catholic families in Cork and in the South of Ireland. His parents were James Morrogh (1750-1804) and Jane Morrogh (1761-1817), a cousin from the Kilworth branch of the family. Reflecting the family's international business interests, their marriage took place in Lisbon in 1780, probably in the church of the Corpo Santo.

His paternal grandparents were Edward (or Edmund) Morrogh (1724-1777) and Mary Nagle. His

paternal great grandparents were Henry Morrogh and Jane Gallway (1703-??), daughter of Henry Gallway (b. c. 1660) of Bantry and Mary Mellifont (b. c. 1670) of Ballingarry, Kinsale. Henry Morrogh and Jane Gallway were married at Cork in 1723. In 1729 Henry Morrogh married secondly to Frances Gallway. From both marriages, Henry Morrogh had ten children.

Edward Morrogh's maternal grandparents were George Morrow, of Kilworth, and his wife Mary Sarsfield. His maternal great grandparents were Henry Morrogh (1690-1744) and Anastasia Gallway of Kinsale. Henry Morrogh's parents were John Morrogh and Roynane. In 1738, Henry Morrow founded a trading house in Lisbon, Morrogh & Meade, which was closely connected with John Gallway's, his brother-in-law's trading house in Ostend in the Austrian Netherlands. Close collaboration between both trading houses led to the development of a very lucrative traffic in tea, wine, spirits, salt, tobacco, butter, West India sugar, hides, wool and beef. At its peak, Gallway's commercial network was serviced by a fleet of eighteen vessels plying the shipping routes from Ostend to Nantes, Bordeaux, Lisbon, Cadiz as well as the Channel Islands, London, Cork and Waterford.



Figure 5 Mother Mary Joseph Arsenius (1842-1932)

In 1814, Edward Morrogh married Mary Bernard (1786-1869) at Clifton, Gloucester. They had four children, three girls and a boy, John Morrogh (1819-1866), who assumed the name of Morrogh Bernard when he inherited his mother's estates, much of which were located in and around Killarney amounting to seven thousand acres. In turn, John Morrogh-Bernard married Frances Mary Blount (1819-1888) of Hustbourne Tarrant, Hampshire, at Cheltenham in 1841. They had ten children among whom were their eldest child, Agnes Mary Morrogh-Bernard (1842-1932), who joined the Sisters of Charity and made profession in 1866 as Sr. Mary Joseph Arsenius. She subsequently founded the convent of the Sisters of Charity at Foxford, Co. Mayo and began the famous Providence

Woollen Mills. Her sister, Gertrude Alice Morrogh-Bernard (1848-1945), married a distant cousin, Michael Russell (1846-1912), of Ballynaboola in the parish of Ardskeagh. This family was

responsible for the decoration of the sanctuary and High Altar of the parish church in Ballyhea c. 1889. Their daughter, Frances Russell (b.1881) gave a monstrance and pyx to Ballyhea church in 1903 both of which are still in use. She was a great granddaughter of the stubborn juror.



Figure 6 Ballyhea Parish Church with sanctuary decoration c. 1889

While it was unusual to find a Catholic on a jury in pre-emancipation Ireland, Edward Morrogh's appointment to the Doneraile conspiracy trials can perhaps be explained in terms other than his having been a token Catholic to lend credibility to the jury. While he had very substantial business interests, practically unheard of at the time, he was also a substantial Catholic landowner at least from the early part of the 19th. century – as appears from the Tithe Applotment Books and later in Griffith's General Valuation. Among his land interests were the parishes of Ardskeagh and Kilquane as well as the townlands of Rathglassane and Rathmorgan – all of which he owned. This may well have been a consideration determining his inclusion on the

second jury of the conspiracy trials given that as a substantial landowner in close proximity to the setting of the Doneraile Conspiracy it may have been hoped that he would have had sympathy for the fears of Protestant landowners affected by the land disturbances forming the back-drop to the conspiracy. As it transpired, however, as a man of principle he was unswerving in his refusal to convict anyone on the basis of uncorroborated accusations supplied by spies in the government's service.



Figure 7 Ballyhea Church pyx given by Frances Russell 1903



Figure 8 Ballyhea Church Monstrance

given by Frances Russell 1903



Ballyhea Parish Choir

Dear Readers,

The Ballyhea Parish Choir has been in existence for a long number of years. We regularly sing at the weekly 11am Sunday Mass and the occasional Funeral Mass when requested. We also sing for Adoration and Benediction every Thursday morning at 10am.

To give a flavour of what the Choir means to our members, the following is a personal account from one of our 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".

A further testimony from another of our members – Anastasia Lowell:

"My sisters (Justina and Mary) and I joined the choir over a year 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.

Sadly, we had to say goodbye to one of our well-established and seasoned Members, Michael Madigan, on 13th January 2022. Michael was a stalwart Choir Member who was there from the outset. Michael had a powerful voice and was a gifted tenor in our choir. Michael was synonymous with many songs and

hymns but the most notable for us was his rendition of “Oh Holy Night” which he performed every Christmas morning at the 11am Mass as a reflection hymn after Holy Communion to which he always received a well- deserved rapturous applause afterwards. In most recent years, Michael had introduced his grandchildren to the Choir. We were very lucky and blessed to have had Michael as long as we did as a very valued member of the Choir.

On a personal note, I had the privilege of travelling to Pope Frances’ Mass in Phoenix Park Dublin with Michael in August 2018. Michael and I were both involved with the Choir for the Mass and travelled to Cobh together for several rehearsals that summer.

Thank you, Michael, for your considerable contribution to the Ballyhea Choir all through the years.

May you Rest in Peace.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of my fellow Choir Members for their continued dedication and commitment to the Ballyhea Parish Choir. Without you we wouldn’t have a Choir so thank you for your time and dedication.

Best wishes for a happy and holy Christmas 2022, and love and Joy in 2023 full of song, laughter and cheer!

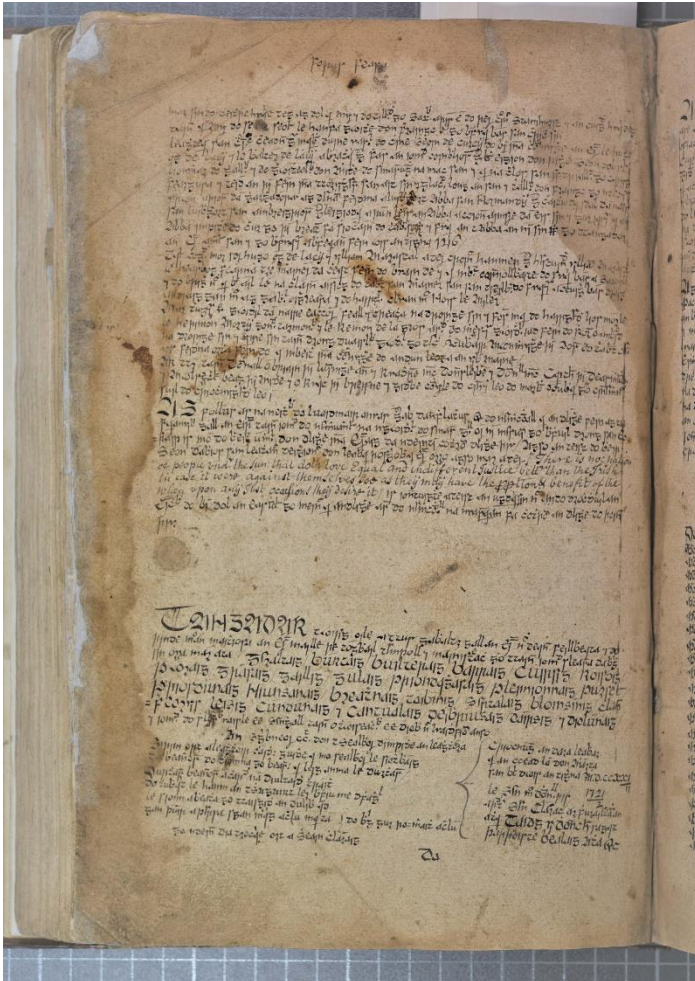
Sincerely,

Triona Crowley, Organist and Choir Co-Ordinator



Seán Clárach Mac Domhnaill

Rugadh Seán Clárach Mac Domhnaill 1691 i mBaile an Teampaill in aice le Ráth Luirc i gContae Chorcaí. Dá bhrígh sin baineann sé le ceartlár an tríomhadh ré de stair filidheachta na Núa-Ghaeilge maidir le “saol” na Muimhneach. Fear ana thábhachtach i stair na scoile sin ab eadh é. Bhí sé ina cónaí i Rathluirc ar feadh tamaill fada agus fuair sé oideachas maith. Do bhí saoghal níos fearr aige ná mar bhí ag formhór filí na haimsire sin. Do bhí a bhformhór go beo bocht, ag stracadh leis an saoil ag casadh le n-a mbuaidirt do mhúcadh le hól is ragairne. Maidir le Seán Clárach, bhí feirm agus muilleann aige i gCill Tuathaigh, in aice le Ráth Luirc, agus chaith sé súairce go léir i gcomparáid leis na filíbh eile. Fuair sé bás sa bhliain 1754 agus ta sé curtha i Holy Cross i Ráth Luirc.



This photo is part of the only surviving manuscript of Seán Clárach Mac Domhnaill, which was written in Charleville in 1721

Donncha O Dulaing standing at the grave of Seán Clárach in Holy Cross Charleville

Photographs courtesy of Michael McGrath



Ballyhea GAA

2001 a historic juvenile County double for Ballyhea.

21 years ago, proved to be a remarkable year for Ballyhea juvenile GAA club winning the County U-16 Premier and Minor hurling double in the space of two weeks.

On the Bank Holiday Monday 29th of October the minors drew with Watergrasshill, 5 days later though they made no mistake winning comprehensively and bringing a minor county title to Ballyhea for the first time. Two weeks later the 17th of November, history was made when our u-16 hurlers captured the Premier County hurling title defeating famed Glen Rovers at Fermoy.

Our minor mentors were Connie Brassil, Willie Shanahan, Tadhg Mortell, Maurice O'Riordan and John Mortell. The u-16's guided by Mike Morrissey, Mikey O'Sullivan, John O'Brien, Eamon Dundon and John Coleman. First aid was John Mortell Kilmallock. The minor hurlers also added the county league title played in January 2002.

Reports from the Examiner:

29/10/01:

County Minor A Hurling Final: Ballyhea 1-6 Watergrasshill 1-6

At Pairc Ui Rinn.

Just when it seemed that the coveted County Minor A hurling championship title was on its way to Ballyhea for the first time, a point in injury time earned Watergrasshill a replay. To be fair on the day a draw was a fair result.

Ballyhea started brightly and led 0-2 to 0-0 after 10 minutes with points from Conor O'Riordan and Barry Coleman. But points for the East Cork lads in the 11th, 13th and 16th minutes put them ahead and when they goaled in the in the 20th minute, Ballyhea were in big trouble. Maurice O'Sullivan pointed a free in the 26th minute but they still trailed 1-4 to 0-3 at the break.

Watergrasshill added another point to go 5pointsclear. Timmy Shanahan pulled one back in the 36th minute. Conor O'Riordan had a shot saved in the 40th minute before he pointed 2 minutes later. Tim Shanahan pointed in the 48th minute to put just two points between the sides. Maurice O'Sullivan broke through in the 51st minute only to see the Watergrasshill keeper pull off a magnificent save. Three minutes later though Maurice made no mistake to put Ballyhea in the lead, which they held until the dying seconds.

Scorers:

Maurice O'Sullivan 1-1 (0-1 fr), Tim Shanahan 0-2, Conor O'Riordan 0-2, Barry Coleman 0-1.

Team:

Danny O'Donoghue, Michael Morrissey, Kieran O'Leary, Colm Hawe, John O'Riordan, Tim Shanahan, Trevor O'Sullivan, Liam O'Connor, Owen O'Sullivan, Barry Coleman, Sean Coleman, Edward Rea, Maurice O'Sullivan, Conor O'Riordan, Neil Buckley.

Subs: Cian Ryan, Mark Curtin, Hugh O'Leary, Stephen O'Sullivan, John William O'Brien, Frank McNamara, David O'Riordan, Martin O'Keeffe.

3/11/01: County Minor A hurling championship final Replay:

Ballyhea 4-15 Watergrasshill 2-3 at Fermoy.

Ballyhea at the second time of asking, proved too strong for Watergrasshill in this replayed Cork County Minor A hurling championship final at Fermoy on Saturday. In a game which was slow to settle, Ballyhea opened the scoring with a point from Trevor O'Sullivan in the sixth minute. They doubled their advantage with a similar score from Edward Rea in the 20th minute. In the 22nd minute Ballyhea broke through for their first goal when Maurice O'Sullivan's perfect pass found the unmarked Neil Buckley who finished to the net and followed this with a point. A brilliant first-time goal and a point from Conor O'Riordan saw them going in at the break leading 2-4 to 0-1 with the Watergrasshill point coming from Eoin O'Reilly. Any hopes of a Watergrasshill come back were dashed in the second half with points from Maurice O'Sullivan (2) and Conor O'Riordan.

Kieran O'Leary, Colm Hawe, Barry Coleman, Edward Rea, Maurice O'Sullivan, and Neil Buckley were now inspiring their colleagues to greater heights, resulting in another brace of points from Conor O'Riordan to see them leading 2-9 to 0-1 by the end of the third quarter. To their credit, Watergrasshill kept battling and had 2 goals but with the aid of further goals from Neil Buckley and Conor O'Riordan, Ballyhea raced ahead to gather their first minor county championship title.

After the game County minor board chairman, Sean Keohane presented the cup to Ballyhea captain Tim Shanahan.

Team:

Danny O'Donoghue, Michael Morrissey, Kieran O'Leary, Colm Hawe, John O'Riordan, Barry Coleman, Liam O'Connor, Owen O'Sullivan, Edward Rea, Sean Coleman, Tim Shanahan, Conor O'Riordan, Trevor O'Sullivan. Maurice O'Sullivan, Neil Buckley.

Subs: Cian Ryan, Mark Curtin, Hugh O'Leary, Stephen O'Sullivan, John William O'Brien, Frank McNamara, David O'Riordan, Martin O'Keeffe

17/11/01:

Cork County u-16 Premier hurling C'shipfinal.

Ballyhea 2-9 Glen Rovers 2-5 at Fermoy.

These are good times for a Ballyhea. Already Cork County Minor "A" champions, their u-16's won the Premier title for the club in Fermoy on Saturday, beating Glen Rovers in a game contested with great passion throughout. Full credit to both sides for a super game of hurling. No question though, but Ballyhea deserved their triumph despite a battling show by the Glen in the second half. In centre back Barry Coleman, Ballyhea had a mighty leader, but they also had strength in depth right down the middle, with the full back Michael Morrissey, midfielders Eddie Rea and Owen O'Sullivan, centre forward Maurice O'Sullivan, and full forward John O'Riordan all hurling superbly to keep Glen at bay.

It was 0-5 to 0-1 to Ballyhea after the opening quarter, Maurice O'Sullivan getting 3 of these points and Owen O'Sullivan another after superb combination play. But it was O'Riordan's 15th minute goal that did the damage. Glen improved somewhat in the second quarter, but despite a late dust up in which a couple players were booked, Ballyhea were looking good at the interval with that six-pointlead. The Glen thundered into action in the second half. A penalty goal in the 44th minute left just 2 points between the sides entering the final quarter. That's as good as it got for the Glen. Edward Rea scored a brilliant goal in the 48th minute for Ballyhea when he connected with O'Sullivan's free and although the Glen goaled in the 52nd minute Ballyhea held firm.

After the game Michael McSweeney, County Bord Na nOg Runai presented the cup to Ballyhea's captain, Maurice O'Sullivan amidst great scenes of jubilation.

Team:

Mark Curtin, Martin O'Keeffe, Michael Morrissey, Hugh O'Leary, Frank McNamara, Barry Coleman, Trevor O'Sullivan, Edward Rea, Owen O'Sullivan, Danny O'Donoghue, Maurice O'Sullivan, John William O'Brien, Stephen O'Sullivan, John O'Riordan, Neil Buckley.

Subs: Gavin Morrissey (used), David O'Riordan, Donal Linehan, David Garvey, James Morrissey, David Duane, Kevin O'Connor, and Dermot Hawe.



Maurice O'Sullivan with the County u-16 cup.



Ballyhea U-16 hurlers 2001



Timmy Shanahan receiving the county minor cup from Sean Keohane.

Ballyhea minor hurlers 2001.





Ballyhea 2022:

This has been a great year on the playing fields for the wearers of black and white with 3 county titles coming back to the parish in the space of 3 weeks in a wonderful November.

Our juniors after defeating Newtown in the Avondu final went all the way to win the County title defeating St Finbarrs in an thrilling final 5-10 to 4-8 on November 19th. Before this our u-15 hurlers had paved the way defeating a strong Clonakilty side after a replay. A week later the u-16 camogie side recorded a remarkable comeback trailing by 7 points with 7 minutes to go, scoring 2-2 in the closing stages for a famous victory on a very well prepared Ballyhea pitch.

Our seniors despite an indifferent league campaign but in some very good C'ship performances and popular opinion would be that they should have advanced to at least a county semi-final.

The C'ship campaign opened on July 30th in Grenagh v Ballymartle. Producing a clinical performance Ballyhea emerged victorious on a 1-22 to 0-12.

Next up was Bride Rovers in Kildorrery. In very warm conditions Ballyhea put in a tremendous display with the East Cork side snatching a draw in the 9th minute of injury time to leave a final score of 2-14 to 1-17.

Our final game in the group was in Ballyanly against another East Cork side Carrigtwohill. After another nail-biting hour, the sides finished level 0-18 each.

This result saw Ballyhea advance to a county senior 1/4 final for the first time since 2019. Played in Pairc Uí Chaoimh on sat sept 10th we went under by the narrowest of margins to Courcey Rovers who scored two points from questionable frees in injury time.

Team: Mikey Browne; Adam Barrett, Michael Morrissey, Luke Hanley; Cailean Cox, Tom Hanley, Tiernan Hanley; Jamie Copps, Maurice O'Sullivan, John Morrissey, Pa O'Callaghan (capt), Dion Curtin, Jack Morrissey, Chris Hanley, Eugene O'Leary.

Subs used: Gavin Morrissey, Dean Copps, Luke Crowley.

It was a great night for the under 9's who played at Half time. Despite defeat hopes are high for 2023 that further progress can be achieved by our seniors. The team were looked after by John Mortell, Noel Hanley, Darren Ronan, and Dominic Foley. Also in the backroom team were Pat O'Callaghan, Ian Mortell, Danny McAuliffe, Helen O'Sullivan, Deirdre Duane, Alan Mortell, Dylan Barret, Sean Byrne, Patrick Daly, Eoin, and Tom Horgan.

Juniors

What a wonderful year for our juniors. A solid league campaign saw us reach the final v Araglen. It was another memorable championship campaign. The semi-final was played on the 14th of August at Castletownroche with a comprehensive win over Kilworth 1-24 to 0-7.

This set up a final meeting with our rivals Newtown who defeated us in last year's semi-final. Ballyhea though were determined to win back the Foxie O'Leary cup and made no mistake with a fine display to run out winners 0-23 to 2-11 in Charleville on the 8th of October.

This victory put us back on the county trail. Having lost 2 finals in recent years this group of players were determined to go the whole way this time.

Our quarter final opponents were Freemount. Played in Meelin on 22nd of October we came out on top after an exciting game 2-12 to 0-13.

Our semi-final clash saw us face Randal Og from West Cork, but our lads went on a goal scoring spree to win 8-14 to 2-13 on the Astro at Pairc uí Chaoimh on Sunday Nov 6th.

So, a third county final appearance in 4 years saw us come up against St Finbarrs on November 19th at Pairc ui Rinn.

Putting in a tremendous performance the Dan Hoare cup was heading to Ballyhea for the first time 5-10 to 4-8. Wonderful servant to the club Neil Ronan received the man of the match award.

Congrats to captain Owen O'Sullivan and his panel of players and mentors Darran Ronan, Eamon Morrissey, Jonathon O'Sullivan, Michael O'Mahony and Audrey Morrissey (First Aid) who had suffered the pain of 2 county final defeats in recent years but got their deserved reward. The players and mentors returned to a wonderful homecoming in the village and a deserved meal at the Corbett Court.

Best wishes to Sean O'Kelly who picked up a nasty injury during the game.

Team:

Gearoid O'Shea, MarkCrowley,
Cathal Crowley,

Owen O'Sullivan (capt), AdamHoran, KevinHanley, Will Shanahan,
William Carroll, JordanMorrissey, Liam O'Connor, Mikey Mortell 1-0, Eamon O'Sullivan, James Horgan 1-1, Neil Ronan 2-8 (1-0 pen, 0-6 fr), Sean O'Kelly,

Subs: James O'Leary (used), Kevin Copps (used), Stephen Walsh(used), Michael Mortell (used),
Stephen Dennehy (used),

John Horgan, Liam O'Shea, Diarmuid O'Shaughnessy, Evan Copps, Michael Mackessy, OisinKerins,
Thomas Crowley, Dylan O'Donoghue, Harry Duignan, Dylan Browne, Charlie Duignan

Junior b Football:

Adult football returned to the club for the first time in almost 20 years. Despite defeat in both C'ship games v Abbey Rovers and Doneraile, there was some very good performances.

Juveniles:

It was another hectic year for our juvenileclub. Tremendous work is going on coaching at all grades both hurling and football. The highlight of the year was the u-15 hurlers county final replay over Clonakilty on the Astro turf in Bishopstown 3-10 to 3-4. Earlier in the year Kilshannig were defeated after a replay in the league final at Kilbrin and in the C'ship final on a scoreline of 2-23 to 0-15 at Mourneabbey. Na Piarasigh was defeated in the county semi-final also at Mourneabbey. Well done to the mentors, Johnny O'Sullivan, Michael Mackessey, Eoin Walsh, and Brendan Barrett for the many hours put in coaching the boys. After the game Sean Byrne received the county cup and gave a rousing speech much to the delight of the huge Ballyhea support. Later that evening the team and selectors were given a great homecoming back to village.

Team: Tiernan Walsh, Cormac Crowley, Alex Kennedy, Leon Barrett, Eoghan Horan, Dan Buckley,
Fionn O'Beirne, Sean Byrne 0-8(7Fr, 1x 65), Donal Lynch, Jack Mortell, Daniel Mackessy 0-1, Patrick Daly 0-1, Diarmuid O'Riordan, Andrew Buckley 3-0, Dara O'Sullivan.

Subs: Darragh Murphy, Finn Curtin, Harry O'Connor.

Our U-17 footballers won the

League Shield defeating Kilavullen 3-11 to 0-7. After the game captain Darragh Crowley was presented with the trophy. Well done to all the players and mentors, Ray Ronan, Neil Ronan, and Denis Daly.

Team: Cormac Crowley, Rory Buckley, Conor Horan, DanBuckley, Fionn O'Beirne, Darragh Crowley,
Daniel O'Donovan, Fionn O'Sullivan, Donal Lynch, Daniel Mackessey 0-1, Joseph Hickey 2-6, Chris O'Donovan 0-1, Patrick Daly 0-2, James Mackessy, Dylan Barrett 1-1.

Sub: Tiernan Walsh, Jack Mortell, Darragh Murphy, Diarmuid O'Riordan, Dara O'Sullivan, Eoghan Horan.

Under 17's

Our u-17's's also reached the C'ship shield hurling and football finals but had no joy. Our u-13's contested shield finals in both hurling and football but lost out to St Marks and Kilavullen respectively.

The juvenile club also held 3 very successful blitzes near the end of the year.

The inaugural Richie Murphy memorial u-9 hurling blitz took place on October 1st. Despite a damp start 8 teams took part. Ballyhea topped Group 1 with a narrow victory over Bruff also defeating Charleville and Garryspillane. Granagh Ballingarry came out of group 2 with a 3-point win over Shandrum. Also in the group were Buttevant and Cois Laoi Gaels.

After a thrilling final Ballyhea were 2-point winners over a fine Granagh Ballingarry side. Well done to the players and mentors. After the game Patricia Murphy presented the Richie Murphy memorial shield to Ballyhea captain Ryan Mulcahy. Darragh Fitzgibbon presented both finalists with their medals. Thanks to

all the teams that took part. Thanks also to the parents for providing refreshments. Thanks to our referees Tom Crowley, Dave Copps, Adam Barrett, and Mike O'Kelly. Well done to Everyone who organised the event and to anyone that helped in any way to make it a great day. Ballyhea panel: Jack Crowley, Jack Davern, Oisín Dick, Harvey Gould, Denis Hegarty, Jack Keane, Robbie Keane, Harry Kearney, Cathal Keogh, Noah Lynch, Conor Lilly, Ryan Mulcahy, Michael O'Brien, Jack O'Callaghan, Aidan O'Connor, David O'Connor, Thomas O'Connor, Will O'Flaherty, Elliott O'Riordan, Gearoid O'Riordan and Shane Ryan.

The inaugural u-13 competition in memory of Mikey O'Callaghan was held on October 8th in perfect conditions for hurling. Sarsfields defeated Mallow in the cup final while Cloney Quin of Clare beat Ballyhea in the Shield final. Johnny O'Callaghan on behalf of the family presented both trophies to the winning captains and medals to all finalists. Thanks also to St Finbarrs, Na Piarasigh and Donoughmore for taking part. Thanks to our organisers, parents who looked after the catering, referees, stewards, the O'Callaghan family, everyone that turned up to support and anyone that helped in any way in making the occasion such a wonderful success.

The Jack O'Sullivan Memorial U/11 hurling blitz was held on October 22nd.

Castlelyons became the 9th winners of the competition after a cracking final against a very determined Ballyhea side.

Thanks also to Patrickswell, Croom, Na Piarasigh and Charleville for participating. Thanks to refs Tom Crowley and Dave Copps. Thanks to our organisers and to the parents for their wonderful refreshments. Thanks To Dawn Meats and the O'Sullivan family.

Ballyhea team:

Mark Madigan, Derek Daly, John O'Riordan, Darragh O'Sullivan, Patrick O'Brien, Bríon Murphy, Chris Gould, Paudie Curtin, Bill O'Keeffe, Connie Hegarty, Daniel Daly, Rory Crowley, Jack Crowley, Adam Lilly, Ryan Mulcahy, Gearoid O'Riordan, Oisín Dick, Tommy O'Neill, Cathal Keogh, Will O'Flaherty.

Thanks to All teams in the club who gave many hours entertainment during the year and all the coaches and parents for their tremendous dedication.



County junior b hurling champions 2022

Owen O'Sullivan lifting the Dan Hoare Memorial cup.





County u-15 Div1 hurling champions

Ballyhea u-17 footballers league shield winners 2022.



Sean Byrne with the county u-15 cup.

Johnny O'Sullivan presenting Jack O'Sullivan memorial cup



The O'Callaghan family at the Mikey O'Callaghan memorial blitz

Patricia Murphy presenting the Richie Murphy memorial shield to Ryan Mulcahy.



Pa O'Callaghan in action in senior C'ship 1sr round v Ballymartle.

Ballyhea junior b footballers 2022.



*Our Club President Jerome O'Keeffe and his wife Joan,
admiring all the trophies won by Ballyhea this year*



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, the support is greatly appreciated. We will host a 25-year anniversary in the Corbett Court in the 28th of December to celebrate our success since the foundation of the club. All are welcome to attend.

Team Reports 2022

Trainers U6: Damien O Gorman & Ian Ronan.

Our U6's started training on the 31st of March 2022. We had an enjoyable season with these little troopers, who trained bright and early on Saturday morning. Throughout the season, we played a number of matches and participated in local Blitzes. The U6's first match was out against Newtownshandrum, followed by a challenge game against Milford. The girls took part in a Blitz, which was hosted in Ballyhea and played against local teams including Buttevant, Effin and Charleville. Training finished up on the 14th of October. The girls were invited to play in the half time of the Junior B County Final on the 20th November, in Páirc Uí Rinn. They enjoyed every minute, and no doubt did our club proud. We had a great season with these girls. Their camogie skills, social skills and team bonding have developed immensely. We look forward to coaching these girls in the new year and to continue with developing their skills. I would like to thank all the parents for bringing them to all the matches and training sessions throughout the season, they are a credit to you all.

U8 Trainers: Aoife O 'Flynn, Deirdre Ronan, Jade Hooper, Darren Ronan.

The U8 girls returned to training on 2nd April and continued to train every Saturday morning throughout the summer months. They played numerous home and away challenge matches against local teams including Charleville, Newtown, Mallow, Milford, Effin and Buttevant. We hosted a very successful blitz in Ballyhea. Effin, Buttevant and Charleville attended. Training finished in early October. Along with the U6's, our girls also had the honour of playing at half time of the Junior B hurling championship final in Páirc Uí Rinn on Saturday 19th Nov against St. Finbarr's. I would like to thank all the parents who helped with training and for bringing them to matches and training sessions.

Trainers U10: Gary Gore, Geoff Watson, Claire O Doherty.

The U10 team trained twice weekly, on a Wednesday evening and Saturday morning. This group of girls participated in several challenge games and blitzes throughout the season. Training commenced early March and they played against many teams including Newtownshandrum, Milford, Charleville, Fermoy, Mallow, Kileedy, to name a few. This group of girls also participated in a number of Blitzes during the season, including one hosted in Kildorrery and played against other teams including Kildorrery, Kilworth, St Fanahans. They put in some cracking displays, coming out on top in most, if not all matches that they played. The coaching team of Geoff, Claire and myself are extremely happy with the progression the girls have made through the season. We would like to thank all the parents for their support, and we are looking forward to teaming up with them again for the 2023 campaign, in the hope they will progress even more.



U11 and U12:

The U11 and u12 girls were trained by Dinny, Sheila and Marie this year and were joined by Chloe Keogh as the season went on. The U11 and u12 teams started back training on the 24th February 2022. Both age groups played a big number of games throughout the season, with many wins under their belt. Before the season commenced, both the U11 and U12 age groups had to take part in minimum of two Blitzes before they could participate in their respective leagues. The U11s Blitz were held in both Ballyhea and Milford, and the u12s in Newtownshandrum and Charleville.



The U11s participated in the Avondhu League and were drawn in a group with Mallow, Charleville, and Milford. These super bunch had victories over Mallow on two occasions and Charleville along with defeats to Milford and Charleville. This team qualified for the Plate final against Mallow, which was played on 5th November in Charleville, Mallow was too strong this time round, in a game played in very wet conditions. Our U11s also took part in the O'Callaghan Cup Blitz in Inniscarra on 3rd September! They played brilliant to top their group and qualify for the final but unfortunately, we were beaten by a very strong Inniscarra team.



Our U12's had a very successful and enjoyable season. They played a total of 6 matches in Phase 1 of the league and after winning all 6 were graded in the A2 the Championship! For the Championship, we were grouped with Barryroe, Newcestown and Eire Og and had to play each team home and away. The girls won 5 games and with a draw against Barryroe meant they topped the group and qualified for the County Semi-final. On this occasions, St Flanahans were the opponents, which was held on the 9th October in Ballyhea. After a very exciting game the girls were victorious and our U12s had made it through to the County final for the 2 nd year in a row. This was a great achievement for our players and Club. Our opponents in the final were neighbours Milford and it was played on 15th October



Our opponents in the final were neighbours Milford and it was played on 15th October

in Dromina. The match was played in terrible wind and rain but both teams produced a draw in front of a large crowd. The replay took place on 22nd October in Charleville but unfortunately this time it wasn't our day but a Milford win. After playing 15 matches between League and Championship and with only losing one match all year, this bunch of girls can be very proud of their achievements and hopefully their day will come. The U12's, were invited to play during the half time of the Intermediate Semi Final in Nowlan Park in July. This was a very exciting day for our girls, and an honour to be there and watch Rachel Harty and Kate Kilcommon represent our club and play for county. Thanks to the club for treating the girls to a meal in Corbett court after the final and to all the parents for driving the girls all around the county this year! And a special thanks to our first aider Louise Keane.

U13:

Our U13 Avondhu fixtures were challenging this year due to the large number of extra U12 matches being played throughout the league & championship and due to our limited U13 squad numbers. As a result, we brought a few players up from U11 to help and had planned to play our Avondhu semi-final v Kilworth on 02 Oct. Unfortunately, this was cancelled by Kilworth at very short notice as they got dates mixed up and this U13 Avondhu semi-final could not be fulfilled due to the U12 run in the championship. Our U14s kicked off the league fixtures with a big win away to Mallow, followed by defeat to Newtown. They then narrowly lost out in a very close fixture at home to Enniskeane and had to concede our last league fixture away to Castlemartyr due to late availability of players. We commenced the U14 championship in the A division and lost out very narrowly to Enniskeane in our first championship fixture after a spirited comeback from the girls. This was followed by a loss at home to a very strong Killeagh outfit but concluded with a big win at home to Clonakilty in our final championship fixture. Page 6 | 10 During the year the girls also said an emotional farewell to Aoibheann Fitzpatrick at our friendly match at Newcastle west. Aoibheann played with Ballyhea Camogie Club for a number of years and was presented with some Ballyhea gear and a Ballyhea jersey signed by all her U12 & U14 teammates.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers who provided tea, sandwiches and refreshments to our visiting teams throughout the year. And a special thanks to our first aider Gabrielle Walsh

U16:

Trainers: 20 Eamon Morrissey, Neil Ronan, Deirdre Duane, Chloe Keogh. Ballyhea U16 Camogie team played in the B Grade of League and championship. In the League we had wins at home to Carrigaline and away to Youghal and lost 2 games away to Milford and home to St Catherine's. We missed out on qualification for League semi-final on scoring difference. In the



Championship we were in a Group with St Vincent's, Castlelyons and Bandon. Our first championship game was away to St Vincent's on 24th August which we won 6:05 to 3:10. Our 2nd Game was at home to Castlelyons on Sept 2nd which we won 8:11 to 4:09. Our 3rd Game was at home to Bandon on 14th September which we 5 12 to 2 03. 3 wins from our group games qualified us for semi-final of the Cup v's Kinsale in Ballyhea which was played on Saturday 15th of October. After a massive game between 2 very even teams and trailing by 2 points with time nearly up, the girls kept battling and scored 2 goals in last few minutes to win 3:08 to 3:05. This qualified us for the U16 County Final vs. Valley Rovers which was originally fixed for Saturday 5th November @ 11.30am in Castle Road. There was a great buzz in the lead up to the final but to everyone's disappointment the game was called off on the Friday 4th @ 5pm as Castle Road was unplayable and no other venue could be found. Both teams offered to toss for home venue, but the board would not agree to same. The final was rearranged again for Sunday 13th November. Again, no neutral venue could be found so under duress the board agreed to toss for home Venue. Ballyhea

won the toss, so the match was fixed 12 noon in Ballyhea. The weather was poor on the day but that didn't deter the great Ballyhea crowd that turned out to support the girls. The game was a terrific battle between 2 very even teams. At half time the score was 4 points each. A Goal just after half time gave Ballyhea the advantage but Valley Rovers scored 2 quick goals and with 7 minutes to go they lead by 7 points. Our Ballyhea Girls never gave up and showing great fight and determination, in what was surely one of the best and most exciting comebacks in Ballyhea Camogie history. We scored 2 goals and 2 points in the final few minutes to win the County final on a score of 3 06 to 2 08. There was tremendous excitement as the County cup was presented to joint captains Aishling and Clodagh Crowley. We would like to thank CPH, Cavanagh's of Charleville and Plate Tek Engineering, who sponsored tops and socks for the girls and to Anna in the Corbett Court for sponsoring a meal. Many thanks to Audrey Morrissey who was First Aid for the Team.

Minors:

Ballyhea fielded their own minor camogie team for the first time since 2015. We had a panel of 16 players to pick from and entered the C Grade in League and Championship. In the League, we had wins vs. Dungourney at Home 8:08 to 4:04 and away to Bride Rovers 6:06 to 2:11 and lost to Kilworth and Nemo Rangers so we did not qualify for League semi-finals. In the Championship we were in a group with Brian Dillon's Kilworth and Nemo Rangers. The first game was away to Brian Dillon's on Friday 23rd Sept which we lost 3:06 to 0:11. Our 2nd game vs.

Nemo Rangers was fixed for Sunday 16th October in Ballyhea just 24hrs after the U16 semi-final as Nemo Rangers and the Board would not agree to defer the game. The game eventually was postponed due to torrential rain on that Sunday. The Board then sent an email to all clubs saying all games in the group stages of the minor competition had to be completed by Wednesday 26th October. They looked for us to play our 2 remaining games on Monday 24th vs. Kilworth and Wednesday 26th vs. Nemo Rangers while we were still waiting for a fixture confirmation for the U16 county final which was originally down to be played on 30th October. After offering several alternative dates to the Board and Nemo Rangers which were all refused Ballyhea played Kilworth on Monday 24th in Kilworth and lost by 4 points. Having lost 2 games we informed the Board that we would not be playing again on the Wednesday night and conceded the game. Thanks to all the parents who drove their daughters to the games. Thanks to Audrey Morrissey for doing first aid for the team.





Intermediate:

Trainers: Pat Ryan (manager), Elaine Crowley, Luke Hanley, Mike Keogh, Marie Harty. Our Intermediate team had a successful year and reached the county semi-final once again. At the beginning of the year, they were on the search for a new trainer and were extremely lucky to get the experienced Pat Ryan on board. along with Luke Hanley and Mike Keogh. The management team led by Pat, left no stone unturned and were extremely organised throughout the year. They played a pre-season tournament against Kileedy and a five

tournament also to help their championship preparations. A team bonding trip to Scariff, Co. Clare also proved important in their training programme which was enjoyed by everyone. After many challenge matches and training sessions, they began their championship campaign against Charleville in Buttevant. We had a comprehensive win against our near neighbours. Our second game was against Brian Dillons in Castle Road, which was a tough encounter up until half time. We came out all guns blazing in the second half and in the end we won comfortably. The third game was against Blackrock and was played on a Tuesday night in Whitechurch. We played outstanding throughout the game and showed great grit and determination. Unfortunately, we lost by a single point in the end. Our next game was against Newtownshandrum in Charleville, and they made it a dog fight in the first half with many stoppages. Once again, we proved we are a second half team and won well in the end. Our final group game was against Valley Rovers and this win ensured we reached the county semi- final against Aghabullogue.

The semi- final was played on October 8th in Banteer. This was always going to be a tough encounter as Aghabullogue have been in the county final regularly in recent years. We showed great heart, spirit, and skill throughout the game. There was very little between the sides at half-time, but Aghabullogue showed their experience in the end and pulled away.



Well done to everyone on a fantastic year. A big thank you to the management team led by Pat Ryan who all put in a magnificent effort all year ensuring the girls were so well prepared for every game. And to our first aider Breda Dundon. Looking forward to next year already.

Ballyhea Community Council



Ballyhea community council have had another busy year. Our St. Patrick's Day parade was able to go ahead this year. It was a great success, and was very well supported by our local school and all our local organisations and businesses.

Our Active Age party will be held on Saturday 14th January 2023 in the Corbett Court. Our tractor run will go ahead this year on Sunday 8th January 2023. This is a fundraiser, all funds going to both Milford and Marymount hospice. Maintenance in the heritage graveyard and the Holy well continued throughout the year. Ballyhea Parish held a collection for Cork Penny Dinners. Thank you to everybody who donated so generously and gave of their time for this very worthy cause.



Ballyhea Gun Club

Ballyhea Gun club is a small club in the Parish
It has been in existence for 47 years.

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

The purpose then was to found a gun club and develop game stocks on the preserved areas and this purpose remains as is today.

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

The words Bio-Diversity and Eco Systems are much used nowadays but gun clubs including Ballyhea have been practising them for years. We have been restocking birds for years. Lots of trees have been planted many hedgerows are there as a result. These provide habitat for wildlife and routeways for movement. Food is provided by the berries of some hedges. Thus, other birds apart from game birds' benefit. Patches of ground are used for Game Crop/Grain which provides food and cover for birds and wildlife.

Of course, all of this would be impossible without the goodwill of farmers. For this we are grateful. We have strict rules about behaviours and limited times for shooting. Predators are kept under control.

All our members have to be members of the NARGC compensation fund. This ensures that farmers are covered for any damage. Members and gundogs are also covered. The NARGC cover applies to the Island of Ireland and Europe.

As well as the goodwill of farmers the club depends on the effort put in by dedicated members. These have never been lacking.

Covid upset a lot of sports but hopefully weather permitting will be back to normal.

New members are always welcome but they must abide by club rules and code of conduct.

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 and Grand National draws and fund raising is essential for the club to survive.

All these have a limited time and new ideas have to be sought. Hardwork 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.

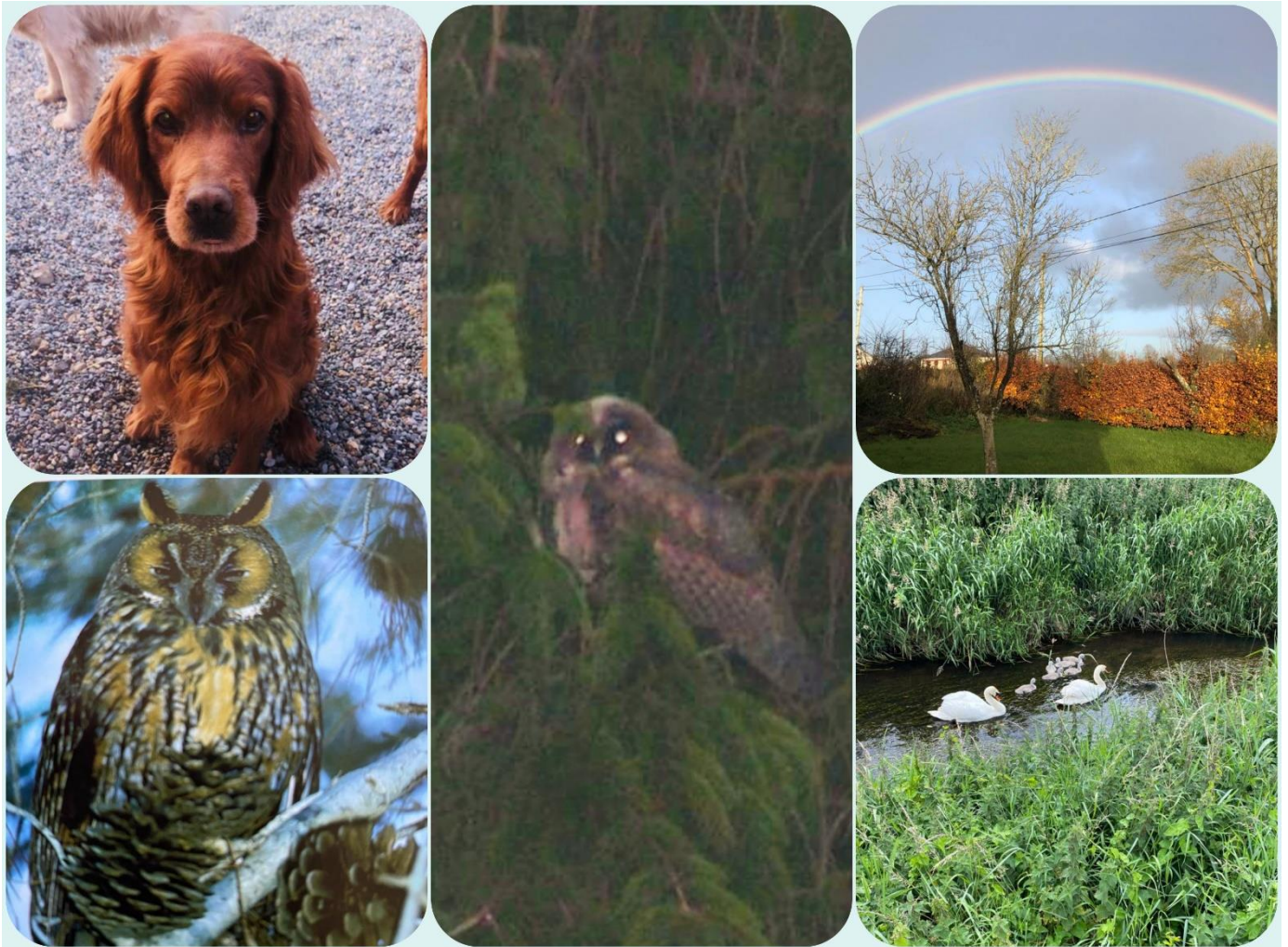
A most popular musician was the late Johnny Barrett. Young and old enjoyed his singing and company.

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



Duck shooting opens 1st Sept and pheasant on 1st Nov the shooting season for game birds ends 31st Jan. 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 there land as only for them we wouldn't have a club.

Secretary

Una Hickey

Ballyhea Community Defibrillators

Our defibrillators are situated at the outside of the National School and just inside the GAA field.

In case of an emergency, we advise you to ring 999 or 112. Ambulance Control will give you the code number to open the boxes, as there is a code to open them.

We had a very successful training evening held in November, we thank the trainers and the people that attended. It was held in the New Hall.

We thank the National School and Monsignor O'Brien and the GAA for their donations in keeping the upkeep of the defibrillators. It is very much appreciated.

We thank everyone for their contribution on the night of the training.

The machines are checked every week.

Breda Duane



A Smile

*A Smile cost nothing, but gives so much.
It enriches those who receive, without making poorer those who give.
It takes but a moment, but the memory of it sometimes lasts forever.
None is so rich or mighty that he can get along without it,
And none is so poor but that he can be made rich by it.*

*A smile created happiness in the home, fosters good will in business,
And is the countersign of friendship.
It brings rest to the weary, cheer to the discouraged,
Sunshine to the sad, and it is nature's best antidote for trouble.*

*Yet it cannot be bought, begged, borrowed, or stolen,
For it is something that is of no value to anyone until it is given away.
Some people are too tired to give you a smile,
Give them one of yours, as none needs a smile so much
as he who has no more to give.*



Around the Boree Log and Other Verses

AROUND THE BOREE LOG

Oh, stick me in the old caboose this night of wind and rain,
And let the doves of fancy loose to bill and coo again.
I want to feel the pulse of love that warmed the blood like wine;
I want to see the smile above this kind old land of mine.

So come you by your parted ways that wind the wide world
through,
And make a ring around the blaze the way we used to do;
The "fountain" on the sooted crane will sing the old, old song
Of common joys in homely vein forgotten, ah, too long.

The years have turned the rusted key, and time is on the jog,
Yet spend another night with me around the boree log.*

Now someone driving through the rain will happen in, I bet;
So fill the fountain up again, and leave the table set.
For this was ours with pride to say-and all the world defy-
No stranger ever turned away, no neighbour passed us by.

Bedad, he'll have to stay the night; the rain is going to pour-
So make the rattling windows tight, and close the kitchen door,
And bring the old lopsided chair, the tattered cushion, too-
We'll make the stranger happy there, the way we used to do.

The years have turned the rusted key, and time is on the jog,
Yet spend another night with me around the boree log.

He'll fill his pipe, and good and well, and all aglow within
We'll hear the news he has to tell, the yarns he has to spin;
Yarns-yes, and super-yarns, forsooth, to set the eyes agog,
And freeze the blood of trusting youth around the boree log.

Then stir it up and make it burn; the poker's next to you;
Come, let us poke it all in turn, the way we used to do.
There's many a memory bright and fair will tingle at a name-
But leave unstirred the embers there we cannot fan to flame.

For years have turned the rusted key, and time is on the jog;
Still, spend this fleeting night with me around the boree log.