

Editorial Foreword

Once again, we come to begin our preparations for the celebration of the Lord's Nativity at Christmas wishing you all the grace and peace of this holy season as we remember our friends and families at home and abroad.

To add to the seasonal joy, we present the parish annual for 2023 which summarizes our activities, both happy and sad, over the past twelve months which mark and make our community.

This year's celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation by Bishop Crean marks a return to the usual practice of having confirmation every second year, on odd years, after a noticeable period of interruption. For this we are glad and we hope that it will continue long into the future.

In 2023, we were glad to see that our new community hall has finally begun to be used by various groups and organizations in the parish and by the parish itself. Noteworthy events were the teas served after the St. Patrick's Day celebrations; the Jubilee celebrations in June; the events to mark the changes in teachers in the national school held also in June; the Fota Liturgical Conference in July; the very successful traditional music night hosted by The Community Council in September; the collection of donations for the Cork Penny Diners in December; and the upcoming Christmas ceili night as well as many other events. All of these social interactions serve to consolidate and strengthen our identity as a parish and to build up our vibrant rural community.

This year's annual shines a light on some of the distinguished people who were born in or connected with the parish. We highlight the figure of Francis Slingsby, the son of an English planter who owned considerable property in the parish of Cooline. Following his conversion which provoked shock and consternation, he joined the very early band of Irish Jesuits and, in his short life, accomplished much in the Lord's vineyard, somewhat after the manner of his Jesuit brethren in contemporary Germany.

Continuing the theme of missionary outreach, we look at the life and times of Bishop Daniel Foley of Ballarat (Australia) who accomplished much in establishing the Church in Victoria and in promoting Catholic education which ensured that Catholics had the means of progressing in society and of making their contribution to the social, economic and political life of Australia.

We also look at some of the very interesting work conducted by the Sisters of Mercy particularly in trying to establish home based cottage industries producing

first-class examples of lace-making and fine needle work, characteristic crafts of the Irish Arts and Crafts movement promoted by the nuns not only in Charleville but also in Limerick, Carrigmacross, Youghal and Kenmare. So prized was the quality of the workmanship produced by this movement that it was much sought after in British and European high-society. When Princess Margaret of Connaught married Crown Prince Gustaf Adolf of Sweden in 1905, she was given a veil of Carrigmacross lace which she wore with a circlet of flowers. This veil has become an important royal heirloom in the houses of Denmark and Sweden and is still worn for the marriages of many of her descendants. In 2004, Queen Margrethe II of Denmark lent it to her daughter-in-law, Crown Princess Mary, to use on her wedding day. It is very encouraging to see a revival of interest in such a distinctively Irish creation.

Daniel Binchy should require no introduction in these parts. His contributions to the study of the sources of ancient Irish law and to the publication of Irish law texts remain classic reference points in Celtic studies. Less well known, however, is his diplomatic career spent in Berlin during the Weimar republic. Here he observed the collapse of a fragile and not much loved democracy and its replacement by the Nazis. His diplomatic reports and his writings during this period make for interesting reading and offer first-hand accounts of the events leading to Hitler's rise to power.

We also reproduce an important article on the late Cardinal Pell R.I.P. which explores the influence on him of Edmond Burke, the great eighteenth century statesman and political philosopher who, curiously enough, was born in Casteltownroche and was related to all of the Catholic families of the Blackwater Valley, including Nano Nagle, foundress of the Presentation Sisters, and the Hennesseys of Ballymacmoy and Cognac, as well as the Nagles. It amply demonstrates the late Cardinal's intelligent approach to modernism and the optic through which he offered an incisive critique of its shortcomings especially in relation to the free and unhindered development of democratic society, the fundamental importance of the family for all human, and humane, advancement; and the inalienable value of every human being regardless of class, colour, creed, or capacity. In a line going back to the late Archbishop Daniel Mannix, another mentor, he asserted the role of the Church in fomenting civil society and causing it to flourish while, at the same time, being conscious of its importance as a counter-balance to totalitarian trends that seek exclusively to arrogate all aspects of society to themselves alone and, in voltairean fashion, attempt to relegate the Church to the margins of society. While his religious, political and social pronouncements were always rational and resonated with a wide swath of intelligent society, it was remarkable that such rationality also generated, if not

drew out poultice-like to the surface, a very ugly form of irrationality and hysteria that lurks not too far beneath the surface of human nature which, if not restrained, leads to moral, social and political disaster. Aptly, he was borne to his rest in the crypt of Sydney Cathedral to the strains of the Pilgrims' Chorus from *Tannhäuser*:

Beglückt darf nun dich, o Heimat, ich schauen,
Und grüßen froh deine lieblichen Auen;
Nun lass' ich ruhn den Wanderstab,
Weil Gott getreu ich gepilgert hab'.

Vor Höll' und Tod ist ihm nicht bang,
Drum preis' ich Gott mein Lebelang.

Parish News

Baptisms In The Parish

December 2022-November 2023



*Tiffany Bridget O'Reilly,
Rían O'Sullivan,
Patrick Kevin Kinsella,
Cillian Maurice O'Sullivan,
Charles Thomas Cox,
Isla Grace O'Shaughnessy,
Bonnie Marie Stokes,
Harley Mae Herbert,
Callen Fionn Barry,
John Meehan,
Ellie Mae Christina O'Brien,
Trevor Tyler O'Neill
Mariana O'Reilly
George O'Leary*



Confirmation In The Parish

11th May 2023



*Páraic Crowley
Finn Curtin
James Drinan
Jack Foley
Keelan Foley
Jack Goold
Ross Manning
Harry O'Connor
Bill O'Keeffe
Ben Ronan
Fionn Ronan
James Ronan
Lorcan Williamson
Rhys Carey
Páidí Curtin
Jeffery Foley
Christopher Goold
Connie Hegarty
Adam Lilley
Mark Madigan
Patrick Joseph O'Brien
Jamie O'Donoghue Crockett
Jack O'Riordan
Darragh O'Sullivan*

*Hannah Buicke
Eppie Hanley
Grace Hickey
Emily Lynch
Saoirse Mulcahy
Katelyn Shortt
Nicole Carroll
Emma Foley
Evelyn Holton
Lucy Keane
Jennifer Kelly
Bronagh Linehan
Eve Madigan
Hazel Mortell
Mia Moskal
Katie Mulcahy
Emily O'Connor
Katelyn O'Gorman
Katie O'Leary
Saoirse O'Leary
Liby O'Riordan
Kate Ring
Lauren Ronan*



*First Holy Communion
In the Parish
13th May 2023*



*Rebecca Barrett
Ailis Crowley
Adelyn Foley
Harvey Goold
Denis Hegarty
Jack Keane
Robbie Keane
Grace Kelly
Conor Lynch
Ellie Moroney
Farrah Mortell*

*Emily Murphy
Thomas O'Connor
Sophie O'Halloran
Kaiden O'Leary
Annaleigh O'Neill
Ruth O'Riordan
Mia O'Toole
Hibba Rafaqat
Liby Kate Ryan
Michealla Williamson*



Deaths from December 2022 – November 2023

- Joan O'Donoghue, Ardnageehy
John (Jack) O'Sullivan, Milford.
David O'Regan, Ballinadrideen
The Very Rev. Venerable Gerard
Archdeacon Casey, Doneraile,
Mitchelstown & Mallow.
Philomena Mahon (Née Linehan) Santa
Barbara & Broad St. Charleville.
Reidin O'Flynn, New York & Newtown
Ballyhea
Teddy McEniry, Ballinadrideen
Pope Benedict XVI
Mary Tune (Née Mackessy) Knocklong.
May Quinlan (Née Sheehy) Kilfinnane.
Sheila Creedon Oranmore, Galway
Cardinal George Pell, Rome
Mary Jo Bradley, Rathmorgan
Robert (Bob) O'Sullivan, Fiddane.
Kathleen Doogan, (Née O'Donnall),
Donegal
John Walsh, Kilmeeady
Eliabeth (Betty) Cagney (Née Duane),
Newcastle West
Dermot & Julie Byrne, Dublin.
Kay O'Callaghan, Shinana
Kit Thompson (Née O'Connor) Churchtown
& Newtown Ballyhea.
Maureen Ryall (Née Daly) Doneraile &
Coolcaum
Jim Griffin, Ardpatrick & Gurrane.
John O'Sullivan, Freemount.
Sonny Breen, Knocknagree.
Jerry Brennan, Freemount & Kanturk
John Greehey, Fermoy.
Eddie Walsh, Kilmeeady & Kanturk
Timmy Griffin, Velvetstown.*
- Margaret O'Brien, Boherascrub, Buttevant
Lily Dundon, Beechwood Drive.
Eileen Buicke, Ballinadrideen.
Nora (Norrie) Brown, Rathnacally.
Kathleen Barrett, Charleville.
Michael Cahalane, Glanmire.
Peg Eyles (Née Quinn), London &
Ballycosgry.
Sheila Lyons, Bulgaden.
Bridie McDermott, Castlewrixon.
Michael Flemming, U.S.A. & Ballynoran.
Kenneth Deady, Cork,
Tony Lynch, Charleville.
Margaret (Peggy) Mackessy, Knocklong.
Joseph Kavanagh, Bray, Co. Wicklow.
Michael Shinnick, Fermoy.
Elizabeth McNamara (Née Healy), Newtown
Shandrum.
Sheila Rainsford (Née Morrissey), London &
Ballycosgry.
Brian Clogher, Boston U.S.A.
Helen Clynch.
Noreen Kirk, Burnfort.
Denis O'Regan, Tralee
Patrick Joe Walsh, Charleville & Ballyhea.
Eilish Ryan, Buttevant & Charleville
Sr. Assumpta Healy, Macroom.
Jimmy Crowley, Cooline.
John Dundon, Beechwood Drive.
Eily Flaherty, Ballylopin.
Donal Connery, Martinstown.
Ben Withers, Liscarroll
Kathryn Keane, Boolard.
Sr. Emmanuel Sherlock,
Billy Flemming, Ballynoran
Pakie Morrissey, Ballycosgry
Christine (Chrissie) O'Brien, Ballinadrideen*



Chronicle 2022-2023

DECEMBER

8 December: The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary was observed.

A new vestment honouring Our Lady was presented to the Parish.

10-11 December: Dry goods were collected in the new hall for the Cork Penny Dinners.

14 December: Ember days of Advent.

25 December: The Solemnity of Christmas was observed.

31 December: The Te Deum was prayed.

31 December: Pope Benedict XVI died. RIP



JANUARY

1 January: The Solemnity of the Holy Mother of God was observed.

6 January: The Solemnity of the Epiphany was observed.

10 January: George Cardinal Pell died. RIP

FEBRUARY

1 February: A meeting re. fundraising for new hall was held.

2 February: The Solemnity of the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple was observed.

3 February: The Blessing of throats took place.

10 February: The Lenten Stations began.

11 February The Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes was observed.

22 February: Ashes were blessed and distributed.

27 February: First Confessions were heard.

27 February: Alms for Burkina Faso amounting to €600.00 were taken up.

MARCH

1 March: A meeting re. fundraising for new hall was held.

9 March: A Board of Management Meeting was held.

11 March: A sound system was installed in the new hall with the aid of a grant from the Department of Rural Affairs' Community Centres Investment Fund.

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



24 March: Lenten Stations concluded.

25 March: With the beginning of Passiontide statues were covered.

APRIL

6 April: Dedicatory plaques for the donors of the new windows in the church were erected.

6 April: Holy Thursday was observed with the Coena Domini Mass followed by a procession to the Altar of Repose and a period of silent adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

7 April: Good Friday was observed with the Commemoration of the Lord's Passion at 3pm and with the Stations of the Cross at 8pm.

8 April: The celebration of the Lord's Resurrection was observed.

8 April: Easter house blessings began.

28 April: Confessions were held for the Confirmation class.

MAY



*Photograph courtesy of
William Casey*

11 May: The Bishop administered the Sacrament of Confirmation in the parish.

13 May: First Holy Communion was administered in the parish.

19 May: The Solemnity of the Ascension was observed.

28 May: The Solemnity of Pentecost was observed



*Photograph courtesy of William
Casey*

JUNE



*Photograph courtesy of
Michael McGrath*

9 June: A golf Classic was held in conjunction with the GAA to raise funds for the new hall.

11 June: The Solemnity of Corpus Christi was observed.



*Photograph courtesy of
Michael McGrath*

11 June: Celebrations to mark the ruby anniversary of the parish priest's ordination were held in the new hall.

21 June: A function was held in the new hall to mark the retirement of Miss Mary Byrne, vice principal of Ballyhea National School.



JULY1 July: The Fota International Liturgy Conference was held in the new hall.



2 July: His Eminence Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke celebrated the Pontifical High Mass in the parish church.

AUGUST

2 August: The parish acquired a votive lamp for the Blessed Virgin Mary.

8 August: Fr. Joseph Budds, a newly ordained priest celebrated a first Mass in the church.

15 August: The Solemnity of the Assumption of Our Lady into Heaven was observed in the parish and the rosary was recited at the Holy Well.

16 August: The parish acquired a copy of Ruben's Deposition from the Cross (1612-1614) to be hung in the church. It previously belonged to St. Jarlath's College, Tuam, Co. Galway.



20 August: The new pre-school building was opened and blessed. A reception followed in the new hall.

SEPTEMBER

8 September: The Autumn stations began.

13 September: A Board of Management meeting was held.



15 September: The Community Council organized a trad-night in the new hall in aid of Christmas dinner and other initiatives in the parish.

18 September: The lighting system was repaired and the emergency lighting replaced. The halo on the statue of Our Lady was repaired. The votive lamp for Our Lady was hung in the church. The picture of Ruben's Descent from the Cross was hung on the north wall of the church.

20 September: A number of Orthodox nuns from Minsk visited the parish.

21 September: A new Green Vestment for Ordinary Time was purchased.



OCTOBER

13 October: Elections for parents' representatives on the Board of Management were held. The presiding officer was Miss Mary Corbett, Commissioner for Oaths.

13 October: Autumn stations concluded.

NOVEMBER

1 November: The Solemnity of All Saints was observed.

2 November: The Commemoration of the Faithful Departed was held. The Indulgences applicable to the faithful departed were published.



4 November: The Episcopal Ordination of Monsignor Kevin Randall in Norwich, Connecticut. Titular Archbishop of Glenndálocha, Apostolic Nuncio to Bangladesh.

12 November: Prayers for the dead were held in Ballyhea Old Cemetery and at Cooline Cemetery.

16 November: The final meeting of the present Board of Management was held.

19 November: Prayers for the dead were held at Ballyhea New Cemetery and at Imphrick.



Cardinal George Pell: Man of the West

by Samuel Gregg

Sometime in the early 2000s, I was sitting in the office of Cardinal George Pell in Sydney. I don't recall precisely the topic that we were discussing. With Cardinal Pell, it could range from some obscure point of economic history to the internal factional machinations of the Australian Labor Party or the state of the European Union. I do remember, however, looking at the wall towards the end of the conversation and seeing a small portrait of an 18th century man that I vaguely recognized.

"Is that Edmund Burke?" I asked the Cardinal. "Indeed, it is," came the characteristically booming reply from the other side of the room.

For Edmund Burke, widely regarded as the founder of modern Anglo-American conservatism, to be on the wall of a Catholic cardinal's office, I'd suggest, is unusual. In one article, however, Pell describes Burke "as the great Irish statesman of the eighteenth century." Pell's understanding of the content of that statesmanship, I'd suggest, tells us a great deal about how the recently deceased cardinal thought about questions of politics and culture.

It's certainly true that Pell happily identified as a conservative. But his conservatism was of a particular type. In the first place, it wasn't party-political at all. Pell was always clear, for example, that there was a wide scope for political disagreement among Catholics on most issues. Indeed, he said many times that it

was important for practicing Catholics to be present in the main center-right and center-left parties in Australia.

Pell also held eclectic views on many policy issues. On several occasions, for instance, he stated that the market-liberalization reforms that Australia underwent in the 1980s and 1990s had been necessary and generally beneficial for the country.

That put Pell at odds with those clerics who imagined that the only economic position worthy of a Christian was some version of social democracy. But it was also a point of difference between Pell and his friend, B.A. “Bob” Santamaria, the most influential 20th century Australian Catholic conservative. The latter retained much of the hostility towards capitalism that characterized many Catholic intellectuals who experienced the Great Depression. At the same time, Pell thought it was important to have strong trade unions in modern capitalist economies. That was a topic that we occasionally argued about, including in one of our last conversations.

On social issues, Pell’s positions fell squarely into the socially conservative category. But this had less to do with Pell being a conservative per se than the fact that he was a Catholic bishop fulfilling his responsibility to uphold and preach orthodox Catholic teaching on such matters.

A better insight into Pell’s conservatism, I’d argue, emerges from recognizing that he was interested in some of the questions that came to preoccupy Burke.

Like Burke, Pell’s political opinions were not of the reactionary kind. Burke was after all a Whig and didn’t regard everything associated with the various Enlightenment as the spawn of Satan. On many political and economic issues, Burke’s views were those of Adam Smith and David Hume, even if Burke, a devout Christian, lamented the latter’s religious scepticism.

In a similar vein, Pell was conscious of the complexities associated with the Enlightenment period. In one essay, he pointed out that the Scottish Enlightenment could not be so easily segmented out from the theological disputes that characterized the Church of Scotland at the time. More generally, Pell saw modernity as something here to stay. He wasn’t in the habit of expressing nostalgia for pre-modern political, social, and economic arrangements, and found it difficult to take Catholic integralism seriously.

More broadly, Pell’s conservatism was focused on issues of philosophical, historical, and cultural import to Western civilization and the threats to it. This comes out in Pell’s reflections on the significance of 1968.

In the first volume of his *Prison Journal*, Pell observed that the 1960s' cultural upheavals had reconfigured the Western Left insofar as it led to the triumph of those fixated upon lifestyle questions over old-style social democrats who tended to focus on economic issues. The effects of this shift, Pell argued, seeped over into wider society after 1968 and helped facilitate attitudinal changes which undermined long-standing assumptions that Western culture had drawn from Greek, Roman, Jewish, and Christian sources.

Though Sir Roger Scruton's religious views were less definitive than Pell's, there were clear parallels in their understanding of these trends. For both men, 1968 was one of those defining moments in Western culture in a manner analogous to Burke's understanding of the French Revolution's significance. At some point, everyone had to choose where he stood vis-à-vis the ideas and movements associated with 1968, and both Scruton and Pell knew precisely where they stood.

Another major focus of Pell's civilizational conservatism concerned a debate that has divided Western thinkers going back to antiquity, but which made its way into the Catholic Church in the lead-up to and in the aftermath of Paul VI's 1968 encyclical *Humanae Vitae*.

This dispute concerned whether there are in fact acts which are intrinsically evil and therefore ought never be done. In other words: are there moral absolutes which forbid people from ever making certain choices? Or: is morality largely about intention, circumstances, and "lived experiences," and therefore essentially subjective and relative?

In 1993, Pope John Paul II issued an encyclical *Veritatis Splendor* (The Splendor of Truth). The very title threw down a gauntlet to Western societies in which moral relativism seemed to be gaining traction. Major newspapers covered *Veritatis Splendor*'s release and opened their pages to the encyclical's supporters and critics, with Catholics and non-Catholics found on both sides.

The fact that this division didn't break down along "Catholics-versus-everyone-else" lines was revealing. First, it underscored that some Catholic theologians had effectively rejected something which the Catholic Church has taught unambiguously from its beginning: that certain acts are intrinsically evil (*intrinsece malum*) and never to be chosen. Second, it became apparent that many non-Catholics understood how denying such moral absolutes struck at the roots of any society which aspires to be civilized.

No-one was surprised that Pell, then an auxiliary bishop in Melbourne, was among the encyclical's most vocal defenders. But Pell's concern wasn't just for the integrity of Catholic doctrine. It was also about combatting an on-going drift

towards utilitarianism as the default ethical position in Western societies—especially in the Anglo-American world, as personified by Pell’s fellow Australian, the philosopher Peter Singer. For Pell, the moment a society moved away from some degree of commitment to moral absolutes of the type affirmed in the Second Tablet of the Decalogue, but also knowable through natural reason, nothing was unthinkable.

Veritatis Splendor stressed that this debate had significance for issues that went beyond sexual morality and bioethical questions. It had implications, the encyclical maintained, for the workings of democracy. Moral absolutes, for instance, put limits on the will of majorities and thus inhibit democracies from collapsing into majoritarianism.

Even more fundamentally, moral absolutes are indispensable for the maintenance of the rule of law. The very idea of rule of law depends upon a non-negotiable commitment to due process and non-arbitrary behaviour. But if everything is basically relative, the administration of justice quickly collapses into whatever the powerful and influential want it to be.

Pell himself experienced the sharp end of a legal system in which the demands of rule of law were seriously fudged in order to realize a particular goal: that goal being, “Get Pell.” Some politicians, people in the legal system, and police officers in the state of Victoria in Australia decided that the end (in this case, an unjust objective) justified the deployment of unjust means. But such things happen when moral absolutes against violating principles of natural justice are cast aside.

The same concern, I suspect, shaped the argument—expressed in the now famed Demos memorandum which, at a minimum, reflects Pell’s distinct language and some of his known concerns about the trajectory of Pope Francis’s pontificate—that “The lack of respect for the law in the Vatican risks becoming an international scandal.”

The Demos memorandum lists specific and hard-to-deny violations of basic principles of natural justice within the Holy See since 2013. “Everyone,” the memorandum states, “has a right to due process.” That, it added, had been denied in several cases—including to senior Vatican officials who Pell plainly regarded as corrupt, but who he also believed were owed due process of law as a matter of justice. To that extent, Pell believed that lawlessness had come to characterize what I increasingly regard as “Buenos Aires-on-the-Tiber,” and lawlessness is the natural result of violating moral absolutes.

These were the type of questions around which Pell’s brand of conservatism revolved. Though he followed everyday politics closely, this was not where Pell

thought the main action lay. Like Burke—and John Paul II and Benedict XVI, for that matter—Pell’s political interests gravitated towards discerning which currents of ideas would exercise the most influence on the culture of the West. Some ideas, he believed, would magnify the achievements of that civilization—freedom from unjust coercion, rule of law, constitutionalism, the architecture of Renaissance Florence, the plays of Shakespeare, the writings of Aristotle and Aquinas, and so forth. However, other ideas—Marxism, fascism, and now ‘wokeism’ (a particular target of Pell’s in more recent years)—would undermine that civilization and thus merited strong resistance.

By no means did Pell think that Western culture was static. His civilizational conservatism was not of the frozen variety. Pell did, however, think that it was possible to distinguish developments consistent with the primary threads of that culture, from those changes that were not. It is not hard to see the analogy with another cardinal from the English-speaking world, John Henry Newman, with his understanding of how we distinguish authentic developments of doctrine from doctrinal corruption.

In what turned out to be his last public homily, delivered three days before he died on January 10, 2023, Cardinal Pell referred to the “heritage of Wojtyla and Ratzinger.” In addition to being courageous teachers of the Catholic faith, they were, Pell said, also “Europeans, examples of men with profound knowledge of the high culture of the Western world.”

Preserving and promoting that culture and the goods which it embodies was the essence of Pell’s conservatism: one that, like Edmund Burke’s ideas, transcended the particularities of the moment. Such a conservatism is not focused on winning elections or developing policies, as important as such things are. It is, however, a conservatism that seeks to sustain and deepen our understanding of those goods which make human life truer to what it is meant to be.

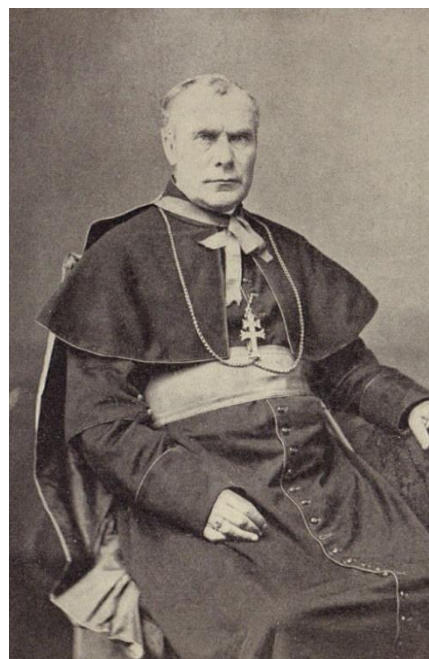
In that sense, Pell’s conservatism was one that extended far beyond Catholicism’s boundaries. It was in fact open to anyone—believer and non-believer alike—who understood that respect for the truth is the surest guarantee of our liberty. Civilizational conservatism of the type championed by George Pell thus turns out to be decidedly ecumenical and non-sectarian in nature. If only more conservatives understood that today.

Samuel Gregg is distinguished fellow in political economy at the American Institute for Economic Research and an affiliate scholar at the Acton Institute.

Article originally published in *The European Conservative*.

Archbishop Croke and the Kerry Connection

Dom Mark Tierney's biography of Archbishop Croke, published in 1976, made an important contribution to the historiography of nineteenth century Ireland and filled the glaring lacuna that no credible biography of a major figure in Irish history had been published since his death in 1902.¹ The book drew on heretofore unpublished material from several archives including the Croke papers, conserved in the archives of the Archdiocese of Cashel, which Fr. Tierney had catalogued.² At the time of its publication the biography was hailed as a paradigm of original research and a significant contribution to understanding one of nineteenth century Ireland's most significant religious, social, educational and political figures, whose career spanned most of that very long century and who, in one way or another, was often a primary player in its major events. Dom Mark's contribution was contrasted favourably with the fate of Paul Cardinal Cullen who, at that time, remained without a biography almost a century after his death notwithstanding his formative influence on post-emancipation Ireland and beyond.



The Croke family

Croke of Cashel contained a number of surprises for the general reader. Not least among them the claim that the Croke family originated in Tralee, Co. Kerry where they engaged in commerce and had a shop in the town centre. The biography relates that the Archbishop's grandmother was born Thompson³; that he spent much of his youth in Tralee and from an early age had acquired a Kerry accent. Dom Mark relates that after their marriage in 1817, William Croke (1797-1834) and Isabella Plummer (1795-1854)⁴, the Archbishop's parents, returned to Tralee. Their eldest child, Margaret Croke (1819-1905), in religion Sr. Ignatius,

¹ Mark Tierney, *Croke of Cashel: The Life of Archbishop Thomas William Croke 1823-1902*, Gill & Company, Dublin, 1976.

² Cf. Mark Tierney, A Short-Title Calendar of the Papers of Archbishop Thomas William Croke in Archbishop's House, Thurles: Part 1, 1841-1885 in *Collectanea Hibernica*. **13** (13): 100-138.

³ An obituary of Fr. James Croke of San Francisco, published in the *Freeman's Journal* in 1889 relates that 'through his mother's side, he was related to one of the most distinguished protestant families in Co. Kerry, the Thompsons. However, this does not appear to be the family of Peter Thompson of Tralee, previously of Clonfin, Co. Longford, that had extensive business interests in the town.

⁴ Cf. Grant of Administration to her son Thomas Croke made in Cork in December 1858. She died in July 1854 at Charleville and left estate valued under £450.

foundress of the Convent of Mercy in Bathurst, New South Wales, was born in Tralee.⁵ Subsequent children of the marriage were born in Cork (either in Mallow or Kilbrin): William (1821-1849), later curate of Charleville⁶; Thomas William (1823-1902), the future Archbishop; Isabella (1825-1888) in religion Mother Mary Joseph, foundress of the Convents of Mercy at Buttevant and Kilmallock;⁷ James (1827-1888)⁸, future Vicar General of San Francisco; David Plummer (1830-1878)⁹ who emigrated to Melbourne, Australia; Daniel Plummer Croke (1831- 1884),¹⁰ a surgeon who died in Kensington, London; and John (1831-1906), who emigrated with his brother David to Australia at the time of the Ballarat gold rush. On his return from New Zealand, Archbishop Croke travelled to Melbourne and sailed for San Francisco where he left his brother John. John died in San Francisco in January 1904.¹¹

From the births of his children, it is clear that William Croke's sojourn in Tralee was relatively short. It is suggested that, while there, he acted as land agent for Valentine Browne (1788-1853), 2nd. Earl of Kenmare, who was a Catholic.¹² Sometime between 1821 and 1823 he accepted the position of land agent for Edward Deane Freeman (1760-1826) of Kilbarry and Castlecor. As is clear from

⁵ Margaret entered the Convent of Mercy in Charleville in 1855 and was known in religion as Sr. Mary Ignatius.

⁶ William Croke, CC Charleville, 1821-1849, died of famine fever on 7 March 1849.

⁷ Isabella entered the Convent of Mercy in Charleville in 1849 and was known in religion as Mother Mary Joseph. She served in the Crimea during the Crimean War.

⁸ Mons. James Croke died in New York at the house of the Christian Brothers. His obsequies were held at St. Joseph's church followed by burial in Calvary Cemetery while awaiting instructions from the Archbishop of Cashel. Cf. transcripts of Croke letters to Bishop Blanchet in Library of the University of Oregon.

⁹ David Croke emigrated to Australia post 1851. He married Mary Kelly (1826-1901) in Melbourne on 17 October 1855. They had eight children. He died in Melbourne on 24 April 1878. *The Argus* of 27 April 1878 contains an account of an inquest held into his death which mentions three sons: John (14), James (10), William (8). The deceased worked as a lumber on the Melbourne docks and lived at Bismarck Square, Thistelwaite St., Emerald Hill, South Melbourne. Deceased was admitted to Melbourne hospital on 24 April following an accident.

¹⁰ Probate to his will was granted to his widow, Mary Margaret Croke, on 19 December 1884 with his estate amounting to £550-17-0. He resided at 12 Inkerman Terrace, Kensington, Co. Middlesex. He married Mary Margaret Carbery in 1879.

¹¹ Cf. *Roll of Honour of Irish Prelate and Priests of the Last Century*, published by CTS in 1904, article on TWC by MT Kelly. <https://archive.org/details/cu31924029419268/page/n343/mode/1up>. The *San Francisco Call* recorded his death: "In this city, January 22, 1904, John Plummer Corke, brother of the late Archbishop of Cashel, Ireland, a native of Mallow, Co. Cork, aged 65 years. Friends and acquaintances are respectfully invited to attend the funeral tomorrow (Sunday) at 8.30 o'clock from the parlor of J.C. O'Connor & Co., 767 Mission Street, thence to St. Mary's Cathedral for funeral service at 9 o'clock. Interment in Holy Cross Cemetery by electric funeral car from Eighteenth and Guerrero Streets." The announcement was also carried in the *New Zealand Tablet* "The death is reported of Mr. J. Plummer Corke who died in San Francisco on January 22nd. The deceased was a brother of the late illustrious Archbishop of Cashel, and of the venerable nun Mother M. Ignatius Croke, who is now the only surviving member of her distinguished family and foundress of the Bathurst Convent of Mercy". He was buried in Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery, Colma, San Mateo County, California.

¹² Tomas Looney, Ballyhea Christmas Annual 2022.

the entry in the Baptismal Register for Ballyclough and Kilbrin, the Croke family was already established there by 1823.¹³

By contemporary standards for Catholics, the Crokes were an affluent family and at least from the late 18th. century, they were comfortably positioned on the social scale. The Archbishop's grandfather, another William Croke (d.1828), was possessed of sufficient means to educate his son Thomas (1785-1873), subsequently Parish Priest of Charleville; and his son James (1789-1857), later Solicitor General for the Colony of Victoria and a member of its Legislative Council, and a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin, called to the Irish Bar in 1821. Given that this William Croke was buried in Killabraham, there is some reason to suggest that his economic base was located in or near the parish of Shandrum. *The Roll of Honour: Irish Prelates and Priests*, published by the Catholic Truth Society of Ireland in 1904, contains a sketch of Archbishop Croke by T. C. Kelly in which his father, William Croke, is described as a farmer. This could well be the possible as the position of land agent was often accompanied with a favourable lease from the landlord – as was the case, for example, with Archbishop Mannix's father.

What of Dom Mark's contention that the Croke family came from Tralee? This would appear somewhat problematic since it seems to rely exclusively on an article published in the *New Bathurst Review* in March 1885. No further references are given in his biography to support what seems to be an assertion. He does, however, mention that the Archbishop's grandmother was named Thompson and kept shop in Tralee. What would appear to be, at first sight, a corroborating reference to a Thompson connection is to be found in an obituary for Fr. James Croke published in the *Freeman's Journal* of 23 January 1889. It reads "...he was descended from one of the most respectable Protestant families in Kerry, the Thompsons". However, the writer qualifies this statement by saying "...on his mother's side...", thus excluding a connection to his paternal lineage.

A survey of prominent Protestant families named Thompson in late 18th. century Kerry would point to Peter Thompson (1775-1849), originally from Clonfin, Co. Longford, who established extensive business interests in and around the town of Tralee in the early 19th. century, as well as occupying several local and political offices in Kerry, including that of Treasurer for Co. Kerry. He had come to Tralee following his marriage to Anne Blennerhasset in 1800 and by 1815 had acquired substantial land interests, by purchase, from the estates of the Earl of Glandore. In many respects, he mirrors the career of John Anderson in Fermoy and Buttevant following his acquisition of the estates of the Earl of Barrymore. But,

¹³ James Croke, Vicar General of San Francisco 1827-1888. Letters to Bishop Blanchet in University of Oregon.

this Thompson family had no links with the Croke family and, as far as can be ascertained, none with the Plummer or Fitzgerald families, with the possible exception of an unidentified Anne Fitzgerald who was buried in the Thompson crypt at Dromavalla, near Killorglin. Were this lady married into the Fitzgeralds of Glin, then it would establish a connection, albeit tenuous, with the Archbishop through his mother rather than through his father.

In addition to the absence of sources to support a Tralee origin for the Croke family, account must also be taken of several indications connecting the family with North Cork. For instance, Thomas Croke was ordained for the diocese of Cloyne in 1811. He was appointed curate in Fermoy and Cobh before his nomination to Charleville in 1827. Given the practice of the time, it would be highly unusual for someone born outside of the diocese to have been appointed to an important parish in Cloyne.

It is also interesting to note that the first item listed in the Croke papers in Thurles is a copy of the will of Bishop Matthew McKenna (1706-1792) who was born in Doneraile or in the parish of Ballahoura. The will is accompanied by a translation from the French made by Thomas Croke of Charleville. Bishop McKenna established a number of burses for clerical students at the Irish College in Paris which gave preference to his relatives. It was on the basis of this reservation that four of William Croke's five sons were successively educated at the Irish College in Paris on the McKenna burses as they became available. Effectively, the Crokes continually, and without interruption, occupied the McKenna burses for sixteen years from 1838 to 1854. William was at the Irish College Paris (1838-1842). He was succeeded by his brother Thomas (1839-1845) who, in turn, was succeeded by his brother James (1839-1850). All three were ordained to the priesthood. Although not ordained to the priesthood, David studied at the Irish College, Paris (1847-1851) and his brother Daniel from 1851-1854, after which he appears to have taken up medicine and was practicing as a surgeon in London by 1864. Their brother, John Croke, was the only one of the Croke children not to avail of the McKenna burses in Paris. While Bishop McKenna is described as a grand-uncle of the Archbishop, it is more likely to have been the case that Thomas Croke of Charleville was his grand-nephew.

The Croke family is further linked to North Cork by the burial of William Croke who died in 1828 at Killabraher. A monument in that graveyard indicates that it was erected by Thomas Croke, parish priest of Charleville, in memory of his father.

Other family connections in North Cork with the Crokes can be inferred from an item of correspondence between the Archbishop, while President of St.

Coleman's College, Fermoy, and Margaret Browne (d. 1878), mother of Bishop Robert Browne (1844-1935). The letter and envelope are conserved in the archive of the Irish Jesuit Province among the papers of Fr. Francis Browne SJ. The letter was an acknowledgement of receipt of fees for the young Robert, then a student at Fermoy. What is striking about the letter is its familial protocol, 'My dearest Margaret', which would be unlikely to have been used unless the correspondents were closely related. As far as can be ascertained, this aspect of the Croke family has been little researched to date.

The Plummer family

Isabella Croke's paternal family were seated at Mount Plummer, Broadford, Co. Limerick. They had arrived in Ireland at the end of the seventeenth century in the wake of the Williamite wars. As landowners they were minor players owning some freehold but they were also tenants of land held from the Lady O'Brien of Cahermoyle. In the larger county picture, as landowners they were not comparable with the Fitzgeralds of Glin or the Deane-Freemans of Castlecor.

Isabella's grandfather, Richard Plummer (1725-1797),¹⁴ was son of Daniel Plummer of Castle Quin, Co. Limerick, the son of another Richard originally from Bodwyn, in Wiltshire who settled in Ireland at the end of the 17th. century. Richard Plummer married Ellen Brudenell (17??-17??) of Ballinguile, near Adare in Co. Limerick. Her family was connected with that of the Marquis of Aylsbury. Their children were Brudenell (1762-1828), an only son; Mary of whom more later; and Elizabeth who married Roland Davies of Farthingville, Dromina.

Brudenell Plummer, Isabella's father, married Frances Fitzgerald in 1781. They had five sons; Richard, their eldest son who was rector of Killury, Co. Kerry; Brudenell who was county inspector of the RIC ; Thomas Fitzgerald Plummer, Rector of Mahoonagh, Co. Limerick who married his first cousin, Frances Lloyd, daughter of Thomas Lloyd and Elizabeth Fitzgerald, daughter of the 22nd. Knight of Glin; Charles, and Edward. Their only sister, Isabella Plummer, does not appear with them in the 1912 edition of *The Genealogy and Heraldic History of the Landed Gentry of Ireland*, having been excised from it.¹⁵

While the Plummer family had some connections with Kerry, these appear mainly to have come about through the Fitzgeralds of Glin and, as may be expected for

¹⁴ Death Notice - Clare Journal 29 June 1797

Limerick 28th. died on the 13th inst. at his seat at Mount Plummer in the Co Limerick, Richard Plummer Esq., one of H.H. Justices of the Peace for said co.

¹⁵ P.566.

a family or recent settlement in Ireland, they are not as extensive as a family such as the Fitzgwelds of Glin.

Notable, however, are the appointments of two of Isabella Plummer's brothers to vicarages in Kerry in the gift of the Fitzgerald family and of the Denny family.

To return to Mary Plummer, Isabella's aunt, who quite likely provides an explanation for William Croke's employment as land agent for the Castlecree estate for, in July 1781, she married Edward Deane-Freeman of Castlecree (1760-1826).^{16 17}

The Fitzgeralds of Glin

While *Croke of Cashel* rested Archbishop Croke's Kerry connection on the basis of his paternal lineage, quite remarkably, it contains nothing relating to the Kerry links deriving from long interactive associations with his mother's family, and particularly with his maternal grandmother, Frances Fitzgerald, daughter of Thomas Og Fitzgerald, 22nd. Knight of Glin.

Thomas Og Fitzgerald (1720-1781) was the fourth son of Thomas Geanncach Fitzgerald (1689-1730), 18th. Knight of Glin who had four sons, John, Edmond, Richard and Thomas Og. All four succeeded him as Knights of Glin: John (1730-1737), Edmond (1737-1763), Richard (1763-1775) and Thomas Og (1775-1781). As a fourth son, Thomas Og, originally, would have had little prospect of succeeding to the Glin title and estates. He, therefore, settled on land belonging to the Glin estate at Ballydonoghue, near Tarbert, Co. Kerry.

On 6 January 1754, he married Mary Bateman (1730-1790), daughter of Rowland Bateman (1705-1754) and Elizabeth Colthurst (1709-1781) of Oak Park Hall, Killeen, Tralee, Co. Kerry. Through this marriage, he was connected to several of the county families in Kerry, including the Crosbies, Chutes, the Stoughtons of Ballyorgan, the Dennys of Tralee, the Herberts of Cahernane, as well as the Smyths of Ballinatrane near Youghal.

When Frances Fitzgerald was born in 1766, her father had not succeeded to the Glin titles and estates. Also, Glin castle, at this time, was in ruins having been destroyed in the Confederate wars in 1642. The Knight of Glin lived near the castle at a house called Glin Hall and for much of the 18th. century was engaged either in fighting off challenges to the title to his estates mounted by a Dublin discoverer called John Forrest or in debt management due to extravagant

¹⁶ Marriage Notice - Dublin Hibernian Journal 25 July 1781: Edward Deane Freeman, Esq. to Miss Plummer, daughter Richard Plummer, of the county Limerick, Esq.

¹⁷ Death Notice - Cork Constitution March 28, 1826: "Yesterday morning the 27th instant, at his seat Castlecree in this County, Edward Deane Freeman, Esq. in the 66th year of his age."

gambling. Glin castle was rebuilt when Frances Fitzgerald's brother, John Bateman Fitzgerald (1765 -1803 in Mozambique), succeeded in 1781 as 23rd. Knight of Glin, who despite financial constraints, succeeded in rebuilding Glin castle as known today.

Frances Fitzgerald's elder sister, Catherine Fitzgerald, married a prominent landowner with extensive business interests in Tralee, Maurice O'Connor (d.1840). She died in Denny Street Tralee in 1833.

With the death of the 22nd. Knight in 1781, John Bateman Fitzgerald succeeded to the title and estates of the Knight of Glin as 23rd. Knight and his younger brother, Gerald, inherited the Ballydonoughue estate. Gerald Fitzgerald died 1806.

The Deane-Freemans of Castlecor

The Castlecor estate was granted to an undertaker in the plantation of Munster John Chinnery by letters patent of 16 August 1666. His grandson, another John, sold the estate to William Freeman (1666-1732) of Kilbarry. The Castlecor estate passed through his daughter, Jane Freeman, to the Deane family, with her son Edward Deane (1760-1826) taking the additional name of Freeman. The Deane family possessed extensive land holdings in Kerry, Cork, Tipperary and in Limerick. This family was connected through marriage to the Legers, the Fitzgeralds, Earls of Shannon, the Fitzgalds Knights of Kerry, the Fitzmaurices Earls of Kerry and Marquises of Lansdowne.

The unification of the Deane and Freeman estates in the person of Edward Deane Freeman was further consolidate on 25 July 1781 with his marriage to Mary Plummer of Mount Plummer, the aunt of Isabella Croke. It is not without the bounds of reason that Willian Corke's employment as agent by Edward Deane-Freeman came about through his wife's relationship with Isabella Croke, her niece.^{18 19}

¹⁸ *Dublin Hibernian Journal* 25 July 1781: Marriage Notice: Edward Deane Freeman, Esq. to Miss Plummer, daughter Richard Plummer, of the county Limerick, Esq.

¹⁹ *Cork Constitution* 28 March 1826: Death Notice: "Yesterday morning the 27th instant, at his seat Castlecor in this County, Edward Deane Freeman, Esq. in the 66th year of his age."

It would appear that not all members of the Plummer family shared Brudenell Plummer's attitude towards his daughter. Among them was Mary Plummer, Isabella's aunt, and wife to Edward Deane-Freeman. Had she approved of her niece's ostracization, it would not have been conceivable for William Croke and his young family to transfer to Castlecor.



*Grave of John Croke, Holy Cross Cemetery,
Colma, San Mateo, California*



*Croke monument in
Killabraham Cemetery*

Conclusions: From the foregoing a number of conclusions may be drawn.

Firstly, the present state of research affords no positive source material connecting the origins of the Croke family with Tralee or Co. Kerry. A North Cork origin for the family would seem more likely given family links with the area reaching into the early to mid-eighteenth century. That said, the possibility that the Croke family established a business interest in Tralee is not excluded but that, in itself, would not necessarily support a claim that the family came originally from there.

Secondly, while the Plummer family did have some connections with Kerry, these appear to have come about through the Fitzgeralds of Glin. Principal amongst those connection was the collation of two vicarages on Isabella Croke's brothers.

Thirdly, the Fitzgerald family of Glin had, as has been shown, significant land interests and extensive connections with the county of Kerry and had intermarital connections with several prominent county families. Indeed, it is likely that Frances Fitzgerald, Archbishop Croke's grandmother, was born at Ballydonoghue. Consequently, it would seem more likely that, in the main, his association with Tralee and Kerry come about through his Fitzgerald relatives.

From the foregoing, it can also be inferred that while Isabella Plummer was ostracized by her father, Brudenell Plummer, because of the social and religious implications of her marriage to William Croke, it would appear that that ostracization was not shared by all members of her family, particularly the Batemans and the O'Connor's of Tralee who seem to have taken in the newly married couple and found employment for William Croke.

THE TRIBUTE MONEY

Is it lawful to pay the tax tribute to Caesar or not? The Gospels of St. Mark and St. Luke both preserve the account of the trap set for Christ by the Pharisees and the Herodians. It was a very clever device and posed a dilemma if the question were to be answered. To see the full force of the problem it is necessary to read carefully the inscriptions surrounding the effigy of the emperor Tiberius as well as that on the reverse.

The inscription surrounding Tiberius on the obverse reads: TIBERIUS CAESAR DIVI AUGUSTI FILIUS AUGUSTUS (August Tiberius Caesar son of the divine Augustus) while the reverse the inscription reads: PONTIFEX MAXIMUS (Supreme Pontiff).



Figure 1 Denarius of the Emperor Tiberius

By use of the term 'divus' Tiberius claimed to be divine and the son of the divine Augustus. On the obverse, he claims to be High Priest of the religion of Rome, intermediary between God and man.

To reject the coin, on the one hand, would have implied denying that Tiberius was a god and thus give rise to a charge of treason. On the other, to accept the claims of Tiberius would amount to blasphemy for the Jews.

Christ answered the dilemma by ordering that what belonged to Caesar should be rendered unto him; but those things (including divinity and intercessor) should be rendered unto God.

Image Source: By DrusMAX - Self-photographed, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=24408884>

A Jesuit connection with north Cork in the early 17th century

Brian Mac Cuarta SJ

On Sat 30 September 2023, in St Peter's Square, Rome, a group of church leaders gathered with Pope Francis to pray for the Synod of the Catholic Church which opened the next day. Near the Pope stood the woman who is leader of the World Lutheran Federation; the archbishop of Canterbury, leader of the Anglican Communion was present, as was the Orthodox Patriarch of Constantinople. By their presence, they assured the Catholic world of the support of their prayers as the Synod began. We rejoice that relations between the Christian churches have improved greatly in recent decades; for the Catholic Church, this ecumenical engagement has been a priority since the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965). However, over the centuries there has been pain and division in our relations; our task is to recognize the hurts, and to seek a healing of memories, so that we may grow towards that unity among his followers for which Christ prayed. The story of Francis Slingsby, whose family lived in north County Cork in the 1630s, tells us about the divisions prevalent in that era.

Born in 1611, Francis Slingsby spent his first fifteen years living in Hawlbowlne Fort, Cork, where his father was commander. Sir Francis, his father, was a native of Yorkshire. Like many younger sons, Slingsby senior sought a military career, and came to Munster about 1599, in the closing stages of the Nine Years War (1594-1603). Captain Slingsby was involved in the siege of Dunboy castle, near Castletownbere. When crown forces took the castle, the Jesuit brother Dominic Collins (native of Youghal) was among those captured; some months later Dominic was executed at Youghal. About the same time Slingsby was also involved in conveying the captured Sugaun Earl of Desmond to Cork city. Afterwards, at the time of the Catholic revolt in the city on the death of Queen Elizabeth in 1603, he helped reinforce government control. Knighted in 1605, wartime service helped launch his

subsequent career as a provincial administrator, and in 1621 he was appointed to the Irish privy council. Marriage to Elizabeth Cuffe, daughter and co-heiress of the Munster plantation grantee Henry Cuffe, brought an estate in Kilmore north County Cork, and consolidated Slingsby's position with the Munster colonial elite.

Young Francis was the eldest son of Sir Francis and Dame Elizabeth and growing up was part of the tiny Anglican minority in a city dominated by Catholic merchant princes. He and his brother Henry (two years younger) were educated at home. In 1625, Francis (aged 14) and Henry (12) were sent to Trinity College,

Oxford - a college then comprising about 100, mostly adolescent boys and young men, plus a small number of fellows. Francis was a diligent student, and developed a passion for mathematics. The college was convulsed by the conversion to Catholicism of one of its fellows, William Chillingworth; conversations and discussions about the Roman church prepared the ground for Francis's eventual conversion.

In 1629, after graduation, the father sent Francis to France, to acquire additional social and language skills in preparation for the official career which the father intended for his son. Francis also travelled in Belgium, where he may have had contact with some of the many religious houses and colleges established for exiled English Catholics; his father's cousin, Lady Mary Percy, was founding abbess of the English Benedictine convent in Brussels.

Profiting from the departure of the French ambassador to the Holy See, in early summer 1633, Francis together with a group of young Englishmen joined the ambassador on the trip to Rome. After an initial reserve because of the religious difference, Francis became at ease with his countrymen at the Venerable English College. Fr John Gerard SJ (1564-1637), veteran of the English mission at the turn of the 16th century, became the young man's spiritual guide. In July and August, Francis struggled over his religious adherence, between the Anglican and Roman traditions. He decided to take the writings of St Augustine as his criterion; after personal study, towards the end of August, he finally opted for the Catholic

Church. He formally rejected heresy, as was customary, before the Roman Inquisition, and he was received into the Catholic Church on 8 September, feast of Our Lady's birthday.

He undertook an 8-day retreat (in the style of St Ignatius Loyola's Spiritual exercises) with John Gerard about this time. In the course of this retreat, he felt drawn to join the Society of Jesus; from then on, he resolutely pursued this calling. He had a particular devotion to Luigi Gonzaga (1568-1591), the young Italian noble who, like Francis in the 1630s, gave up position and wealth, and defied his father, in order to join the Society of Jesus (Jesuits); Gonzaga died aged 23 while helping cholera victims in Rome. Meanwhile Francis continued to enjoy the life of a cultured student in Rome, taking the leading role in the Latin drama presented at the English College for carnival in February 1634. Cardinal Francesco Barberini (1599-1679), the pope's secretary of state, was also protector of the English, and a patron of the arts, and may have attended the performance; the cardinal got to know young Slingsby, and was keen to promote him. However, some time afterwards, Slingsby fell seriously ill with gout, and moved into the English College.

The Jesuit leadership in Rome decided that Slingsby should return to Ireland, to settle his patrimony (he was the eldest son), and to seek the conversion of family members.

His life in Ireland, from July 1634 until his sudden departure once again in autumn 1637, was framed by his Jesuit vocation (though still a layman) and obedience to the Jesuit mission superior, Fr Robert Nugent, and by his personal zeal in seeking the conversion of Church of Ireland members to the Catholic faith. His first few weeks in Ireland involved a hectic round of visits. The 23-year-old called on Sir Thomas Wentworth, the lord deputy, in Dublin Castle. The Slingsbys and the Wentworths were Yorkshire families who were distantly related. In all settings however Slingsby was at pains to proclaim his Catholic faith, including at a gathering of nobles and courtiers at the viceregal court. About this time, too, he called on the Jesuit mission superior, Robert Nugent, by then established at Kilkea castle, in south County Kildare; Nugent's cousin, Elizabeth Fitzgerald, dowager countess of Kildare, had placed the castle at his disposal for use of the Jesuits. On that occasion it was agreed that Slingsby should proceed to visit his family, and seek their conversion.

Sometime after the early 1620s the Slingsbys had moved from Hawlbowlne fort to live in the castle erected on the plantation holding at Kilmore, in Orrery and Kilmore barony. Living arrangements were complicated by the fact that Sir Francis and Dame Elizabeth were estranged. However, it was in the family dwelling that over a course of a few days about late July 1634 that father and son had a series of conversations. Sir Francis sought to persuade his son to renounce his new-found Catholicism, highlighting the grave implications for career and prospects, not only for Francis, but also for the family, were he to persist in his recusancy (the word used to denote a refusal to attend the established church). A father's dreams for lucrative and distinguished careers for his family were at stake; being Catholic meant exclusion from public office. However young Francis persisted in emphasizing the primacy of spiritual considerations in his remaining a Catholic.

In these discussions, Francis's brother Henry, then aged 21 and recently graduated from Oxford, was also present, but as an observer. In these days, he intimated that he too wished to convert, moved more by the example of Francis's life than by his cogent arguments. On this occasion too Dame Elizabeth, their mother, and Ann their sister (married to Alexander Cosby, of the Elizabethan planter family established at Stradbally, Queen's County) also indicated their desire of embracing Catholicism. Sir Francis was furious. Conversion to Catholicism signified an end to his dreams of prestigious and prosperous careers

in government service for his sons. Francis's efforts at conversion in his family did not meet with universal success, however. His brother-in-law (either Alexander Cosby, or Sir Francis Willoughby, his sister Mary's husband) rebutted Francis's Catholic overtures.

In seeking conversions within his family, Francis was operating within the framework of the Jesuit mission. Shortly after these discussions in their home, the Slingsby family group – the two brothers Francis and Henry, together with Dame Elizabeth their mother, and Ann Cosby, their sister – travelled to Kilkea castle, located in south County Kildare – which from that year was the residence of the Irish Jesuit superior, Robert Nugent. Reflecting the importance, the Jesuits attached to conversions from among the social and political elite, Nugent himself was on hand to greet the party. William Malone, superior of the Dublin Jesuits, was also present. Within the Jesuit mission, Malone was tasked with accompanying young members of the elite who were contemplating conversion to Catholicism. In that capacity he

interviewed young Henry Slingsby, and judged that he was ready to be received into the Catholic Church, which duly occurred. Drawing on contemporary notions of feminine fragility, and on the dependence of wives on their husbands, the reception of the two women was deferred; conversion would imply a major rift with their husbands (both staunch Protestants), on whom they were dependent for their maintenance. After the death of Ann's husband Alexander Cosby in July 1636, Ann, together with their mother Dame Elizabeth were finally received as Catholics on 3 Dec. 1636.

To return to the summer of 1634. The two brothers proceeded from the Kildare castle to Dublin, where Sir Francis placed them in detention in their lodging. Wishing at all costs to draw young Francis from his new-found Catholicism, and realizing that a focus on the cost in terms of career, wealth and position had not worked, the father now changed to an approach based on the alleged theological flaws in Catholicism. Realizing that he himself was incapable of engagement on the theological level, on the advice of friends Sir Francis sought an encounter for his son with the leading Irish Anglican divine, James Ussher, archbishop of Armagh. This took place before a large crowd of the political nation (peers, and members of parliament), gathered in Dublin for the opening of the 1634 parliament. However, before the colloquy could get started, Francis made a dramatic gesture. He fell on his knees, and praying aloud, asked that whoever of the two was not speaking the truth regarding his religious denomination, that the floor would open and he would be sent to hell; he then asked the primate to make

the same prayer. This Ussher angrily refused to do, and left the encounter, leaving young Francis as the perceived victor.

One of the charges that led to the arrest of Francis in early November 1634 was that of gaining the conversion to Catholicism of certain young men. Among these was his own brother Henry. Another was William Burt, 18 years old, only son of a wealthy London lawyer. William arrived in Dublin in summer 1634, possibly with a view to conversion, where he met Slingsby and William Malone; he then was received into the Catholic Church. Robert Spreul, then aged about 25, was from outside Glasgow. Raised a Calvinist, like many young Scots he had served for several years as a mercenary on the Continent, most likely with the

Swedish forces in the 30 Years War (1618-1648). In Dublin in the service of his master, an aristocrat, about this time, he too encountered Slingsby. Inspired by Francis, Spreul also became a Catholic.

Francis was imprisoned in Dublin Castle for about four months over the winter of 1634-5. He suffered in his lower limbs because of the cold. A Dublin Jesuit visited him in disguise, noticed his plight, and arranged for suitable clothes and food to be brought to him. Many Catholics, and some Protestants, visited Francis. Among his visitors was James Tuchet, third earl of Castlehaven, then aged about 22. The Jesuits activated their Roman network to help liberate Francis from prison. Cardinal Francesco Barberini took up his case; he sent a message of support to Francis in detention, and a letter to Queen Henrietta Maria, Catholic wife of Charles I, asking her to intercede in Francis's behalf. She in turn communicated with Thomas Wentworth, the Irish deputy, and as a result of these interventions, about April 1634 Francis was released from Dublin Castle, but was not fully free of detention.

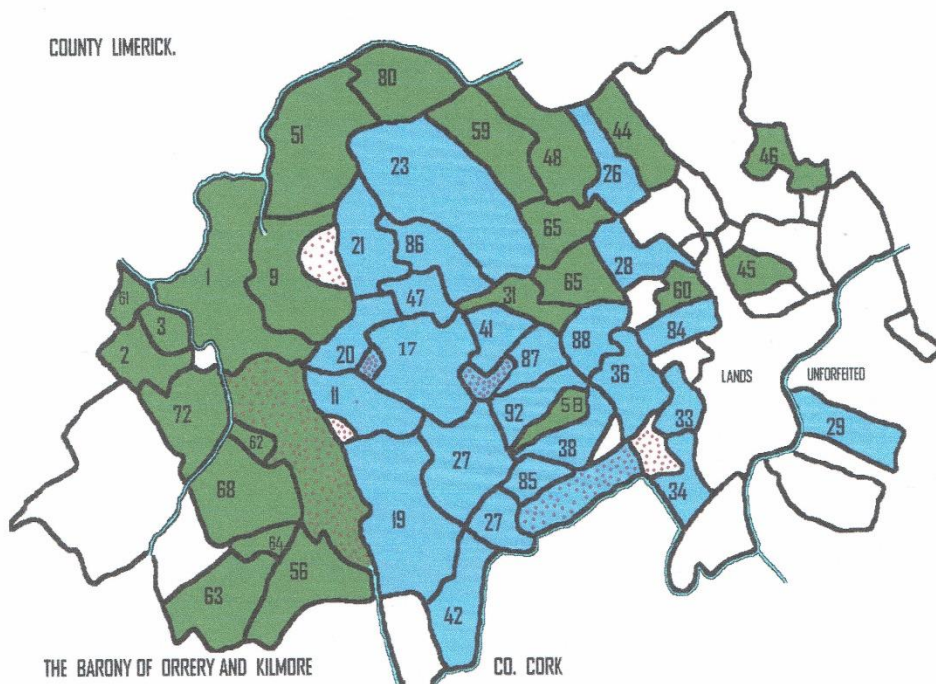
Francis was to be exiled, as happened with various Catholic ecclesiastics in the early seventeenth century. However, Castlehaven had lobbied the lord deputy, requesting that Francis be assigned instead to a form of house arrest in the earl's household. And so, Francis came to live with the earl and his young siblings, in their house in north-west County Kildare. Here Francis lived for some months, where he fostered a prayerful atmosphere among the young people and their friends; in addition, he stimulated an interest in mathematics in the young earl. However, Elizabeth countess of Kildare was also interested in getting to know Francis. She prevailed with the lord deputy that Francis would come to live in her castle at Kilkea, in south County Kildare, where her cousin the Jesuit Robert Nugent also lived.

Thereafter, fully liberated from detention, Francis moved to Dublin. There he sought to mend relations with his father by undertaking legal work regarding the family's north Cork lands. This entailed visits to the tenants in north Cork; on these occasions Francis brought rosaries, small pamphlets, and tobacco – this latter was a novelty at the time.

His mother and his sister Ann became Catholics on 3 Dec 1636. This placed them, and Francis, at risk of a summons before the court of high commission (a church court). Faced with the prospect of further imprisonment, and in response to Father General's letters calling him to Rome to begin his novitiate, in autumn 1637 Francis fled Ireland suddenly and began his journey to Rome. He was never to return. In Rome he was a seminarian at the English College, and was ordained; after some weeks in September 1641, he joined the Jesuit novitiate in the city. One of many students whose health suffered from the Roman summer, just over a year later, in the Jesuit college in Naples, where he had been sent with the hope of recuperation in the milder climate, he died on 6 December 1642. He was just over 31 years old. A gifted mathematician, his contemporaries recalled his zeal to awaken faith in those he encountered, his gracious personality, and his suffering for his faith.

END



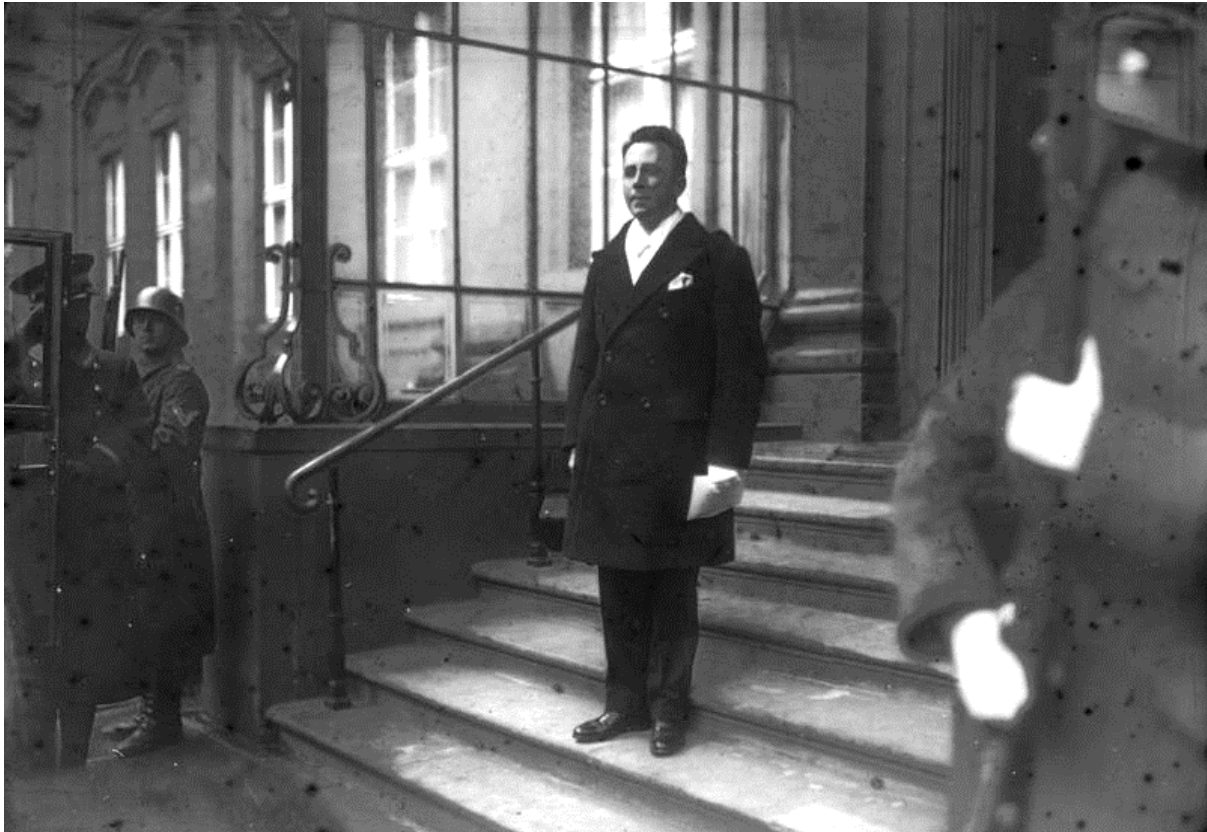


The above map copied from the Down Survey map of Orrery and Kilmore Barony in North Co. Cork shows Slingbys share of Cuffe's Seignory highlighted in Blue. Sir Williams Power's lands of Kilbolane are shown in Green. The Lands in White on the right of the map contain the lands Lord Audley bought from Cuff and later sold to the Earl of Cork. That's why the lands are marked 'unforfeited' and are poorly separated into Townlands.

The Slingsby Townlands are:-

	<u>Old Spelling</u>	<u>Modern Spelling</u>	<u>1668 Acreage</u>
11	Castle Nekylly.	Farthingville	344
17	Clonnybro.	Curragh Cloonabro	537
19	Dromyna.	Dromina	799
20	Craghlas.	Curryglass	224
21	Cloyntaghe.	Cloonleagh	430
23	Ballinekylly.	Ballynakilla.	955
26	Lyssyhollane.	Liscullane	
27	Kylbra.	Kilabraher	183
28	Ballynygronon.	Garrynagronoge.	
29	Ballehosgorogh.	Ballycoskery	
33	Ballenowran.	Ballynoran	161
34	Kulcam.	Coolcaum	
36	Kullynagh.	Cooliney	259
38	Nefeddane.	Fiddane	184
42	Nomoyge.	Moyge	359
47	Kilmagoragh.	Kilmagoura	169
84	Rathnecally.	Rathnacally	158
85	Cloonkeene.	Cloonkeen	159
86	Newtown.	Newtown	283
87	Claderagh.	Clyderragh	147
88	Ballinvollin.	Milltown	Chief rent only.
92	Killieshane.	Ardglass (part of)	180

Professor Daniel Anthony Binchy (1899-1989)



Bundesarchiv, Bild 102-08594
Foto: o. Ang. | Oktober 1929

Tom Garvin, Professor of Politics at University College Dublin, published *Lives of Daniel Binchy: Irish Scholar, Diplomat, Public Intellectual* in 2016. The book was one of a series of works on figures who helped define the new Irish state in the aftermath of independence. The work was much acclaimed and its originality of research brought to public attention the more than significant contribution of Daniel Binchy to medieval Irish history, to the nascent Irish diplomatic service and to Celtic Studies through the publication of Irish medieval legal texts.

William Anthony Binchy was born on 3 June 1899 to William Binchy and Anne Browne of Main Street, Charleville. He was educated by the Jesuits at Clongowes Wood College (1910-1916) before entry to University College Dublin where he took a BA in legal and political science in 1919 and an MA in 1920. Subsequently, he studied for a doctorate in philosophy at the Ludwig-Maximilian University in Munich. He completed this work in 1924. He continued studies at the *École Nationale des Chartes* in Paris, the French institute for the study of historical sciences founded as a constituent college of the Sorbonne in 1821.

He began his academic career in 1924 with an appointment as Professor of Roman Law, Jurisprudence and Legal History at University College Dublin. For a short

while he also covered the chair of History. His career at UCD came to an abrupt end in 1929 when he was requisitioned by the Department of External Affairs and appointed envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the Irish Free State (or Ambassador) to Germany with residence in Berlin. Having presented his credentials to Paul von Hindenburg in October 1929, he remained in Germany until 1932 during which time he closely followed the political collapse of the fragile Weimar Republic and the brutal rise to power of Adolf Hitler and the *Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei*, aka the Nazis.

As ambassador in Germany, his official briefing obliged him to emphasize to the German government and its political and administrative establishments the sovereign status of the Irish Free State and its independence from the British Foreign Office. While he worked hard on this aspect of his mission, he found that German officialdom was not particularly interested in the relatively unimportant state that was Ireland. Having no territorial border with Germany and not being an economic or military competitor it fell outside of official German interest and political calculation.

With major infrastructural projects undertaken by the Free State government during the 1920s and 1930s (Shannon hydroelectric Scheme and the construction of beet factories), much of the technological and engineering expertise to bring these to completion depended on Germany engineering companies, such as Siemens, and on their personnel. The Irish ambassador was charged with developing contacts with the German industrial world and to expand contacts with the captains of Germany engineering and industry. He lectured extensively on economics and Irish current affairs during his mission to Berlin.

Binchy left the diplomatic service in 1932 and returned to University College Dublin. Within a number of months, the Nazis became the second largest political party in Germany and by February 1933 Hitler had been appointed Chancellor of Germany. A month later, in March 1933, Binchy published an article on Hitler's character and political policies in *Studies*.²⁰ It was an incisive article and clearly demonstrated that Binchy had clearly understood the personal enigma of Hitler, a 'strange mixture of intellectual inferiority, slatternly appearance and rhetorical genius...His countenance was opaque, his complexion pasty, his hair plastered down with some glistening unguent, and – as if to accentuate the impression of insignificance – he wore a carefully docked 'toothbrush' moustache.' At first he was inclined to dismiss him as a harmless lunatic with a flair for oratory. He quickly revised that view.

²⁰ *Studies: An Irish Quarterly Review*, Vol. 22, No. 85 (Mar., 1933), pp. 29-47

More importantly, he understood the political programme being enunciated by Hitler, based as it was on racial purity that had to be protected at all costs from the contamination of inferior races and most of all from any admixture with Jews. Binchy already saw the lunacy of a pseudoscientific theory that served merely as a wrapper for overt racial hatred. Moreover, he realized very early on just how far this version of racial hatred could go and what its consequences were likely to be. Before leaving Germany, he had warned the Irish government in his diplomatic reports to avoid Hitler and his Nazi ideology. After his return to Ireland, he continued to warn Irish political parties, not least the Fine Gael party of the dangers of even remote flirtations with the German Nazis or the Italian fascists. It is perhaps ironic that while engaged in warning off Irish political groups from association with the Nazi party a rally was held in April 1934, on his own doorstep in Charleville, during which many of the participants gave the Nazi salute on several occasions.

It was unfortunate that both of his successors in Berlin, Leo McCauley and Charles Bewley, failed to comprehend political developments in Germany from 1933 to 1939. In the crucial period to 1939 the Irish Ambassador to Germany was an avowed Nazi supporter who was eventually dismissed from his post by the Irish government.

Daniel Binchy's return to academia came as a relief as he did not consider himself temperamentally suited to the diplomatic life-style. From 1932 to 1945 he taught law at UCD. In 1946, he became a senior fellow of Corpus Christi College, Oxford and began the project of compiling all extant early Irish law texts which was finally completed in six volumes as the *Corpus Iuris Hibernici* in 1978.

In 1950, he was appointed Senior Professor at the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies from which he retired in 1978. He died in 1989.



The Descent from the Cross

by

Peter Paul Rubens (1577-1640)

The Descent from the Cross is the central panel of a triptych painted by Rubens on commission from the Confraternity of St Christopher for the altar maintained by them in Antwerp Cathedral, where it remains *in situ*. The contract was signed in November 1611 and the picture was painted over two years 1612-1614. The Confraternity of St. Christopher was made up of the city arquebusiers or muskateers, an armed guard with responsibility for the defense of the city – a body not dissimilar to that painted by Rembrandt in his *Night Watch* – whose captain, Nickolaas Rockox (1560-1640), a humanist intellectual and devout Catholic, is depicted behind the figure of Simeon. Rockox spent his vast fortune on the relief of the poor of Antwerp.



Figure 2 The open triptych of the Descent from the Cross by Peter Paul Rubens.

The central panel of the Descent from the Cross is flanked by two half width panels, one depicting the Visitation of Our Lady, the other the Prophecy of Simeon at Our Lord's presentation in the Temple. On the back of the side panels are painted an image of St. Christopher and an image of the hermit who inspired his conversion to Christianity. These are visible when the side panels are closed.



Figure 3 The Closed triptych of the Descent from The Cross.

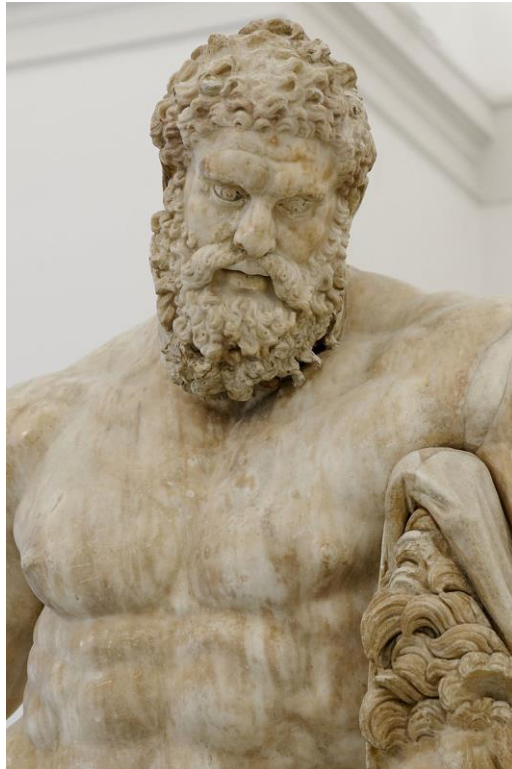


Figure 4 The statue of Hercules in the Farnese originally in the palazzo Farnese in Rome.

The dimensions of the picture are monumental. It is almost 14 feet high and 11 feet wide. The central panel was erected for 14 September 1612, the feast of the exaltation of the Holy Cross.

Although not immediately obvious, all three of the main panels as well as those on the closed flanking panels are united by a common theme: those who have received the body of Christ: Our Lady who bore him in her womb; Simeon who took him into his arms in the Temple; those to whom his body was given at the foot of the cross; and St Christopher who bore the infant Jesus on his shoulders to bring him safely across the river. Thus, the composition has a distinctly Eucharistic theme typical of Counter Reformation Catholicism.



Figure 5 The Laocoon in the Vatican Museums and the figure of Nicodemus in the Descent from the Cross.

In terms of art history, this is regarded as one of Ruben's most important compositions and marks the introduction of the Italian baroque into the Low Countries. The painting reflects an original composition by Daniele da Volterra of 1545 in the church of Santissima Trinità ai Monti in Rome but completely re-imagined by references to Michelangelo as well as to the tradition of classical antique sculpture and especially to the Laocoon discovered on the Colle Oppio in 1506. The massive figure of St. Christopher is clearly modeled on the statue of Hercules in the Farnese collection while the figure of Nicodemus is a direct quotation from the Laocoön, redolent with its unsurpassed image of human pity.

From Ballyhea To Ballarat



Ballyhea native Bishop Daniel Foley pioneered education in the State of Victoria, Australia.

The parish of Ballyhea has given many of its sons and daughters to the Catholic Church to spread the faith throughout the world. Perhaps, the most senior of these was Most Rev. Dr. Daniel Foley who was the Bishop of Ballarat in Victoria, Australia for twenty-five years from 1916 to 1925.

Dan Foley was born in Newtown, Ballyhea in 1865 to Maurice and Elizabeth (nee Cagney) Foley. After his initial schooling in Ballyhea National School he received his classical education at Mount Mellary, Co. Waterford, after which, he attended the Cloyne Diocesan St. Colman's College in Fermoy. The young Dan Foley then proceeded to St. Patrick's College in Maynooth, Co. Kildare, to pursue his studies for the priesthood where he was ordained on the 8th December 1886.

He arrived in Ballarat to begin his ministry in the Australian mission in March 1890, and was appointed to the parish of Inglewood, for a period before being moved to Bungaree and from there to Hamilton. He also served in Nhill, Warracknabeal and Creswick. In 1910 he was appointed Rector of Terrang. Six years later he was appointed Bishop of Ballarat and was consecrated in August

1916, by Archbishop Carr of Melbourne, two years after the start of the First World War in 1914.

When Archbishop Carr died in 1917, he was succeeded as Archbishop of Melbourne by Bishop Foley's first cousin, Charleville native, Dr. Daniel Mannix. Bishop Foley accompanied his cousin Dr. Mannix on his ad limina journey to Rome, which took in America, where he met up with his friend Eamon de Valera. Among the places they visited was Boystown in Omaha, Nebraska, which was run by Monsignor E. J. Flanagan.

Bishop Foley had an intimate knowledge of his diocese of Ballarat having already spent twenty-five years ministering in various part of the territory. By all accounts he was not given to the flamboyant or the spectacular, rather he was a steady hand at the tiller, who had laid solid foundations. In spite of the war and the depression, he fostered the progress of education in the diocese, and in the following years he established convents of religious to care for schools in the remote areas of the vast country.

Lay teachers had charge of eighteen schools in 1917 and ten convents involving Sisters from various Orders including the Mercy Sisters, the Brigidine Sisters, the Sisters of the Good Samaritans, the Presentation Sisters, the Sisters of St. Joseph and the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions. The spread of the religious congregations had a huge effect on education in the diocese, as most towns of importance had a Convnet Secondary School, and a Girls Boarding School.

The boys were not excluded, and now had access to secondary education as day pupils and could aspire to become boarders with the Christian Brothers at St. Patrick's Ballarat. This was an educational institution renowned for its splendid scholastic achievements, that was also famous for its prowess in Australian football.

Dr. Foley was the fourth bishop of Ballarat diocese, which was founded in 1874. He succeeded the late Dr. Higgins as bishop in 1916. Bishop Foley was highly popular with laity and clergy, and he was an able administrator and theologian, and he placed a huge emphasis on education, which encouraged throughout his diocese. He celebrated the Golden Jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood in 1939.

Bishop Daniel Foley died, aged seventy-six years in 1941 in Kotoit, Victoria. He is buried at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat. This sterling son of Ballyhea lies at rest among the people, and the diocese he served so well for over fifty years.

RUBY ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Monsignor James O'Brien, Parish Priest of Ballyhea, Charleville was the guest of honour at a function in their new community hall recently to mark the ruby anniversary or fortieth year of the ordination of Monsignor O'Brien to the priesthood in 1983.

A lone piper piped the Monsignor into the hall to loud applause from the attendance. He was welcomed by Kieran O'Regan of the Ballyhea Community Council who organised the event. A video record of his ordination along with other events he was involved over the past forty years was then viewed by the appreciative attendance. A poem in his honour were read by were read in his honour by Geraldine McNamara and young Ailish Crowley recited verses on his love of bees.

Ms Nora O'Keeffe of Doneraile drew attention to the fact that Monsignor O'Brien was of tremendous help to their committee when it was set up to commemorate the memory of the famed parish priest and author Canon Sheehan of Doneraile in the town in 2013.



*Photograph courtesy of
William Casey*

Monsignor O'Brien is of course an authority on the life of the Canon and has written two books on the life and literary works of Canon Sheehan entitled 'Canon Sheehan of Doneraile 1852-1913', published in 2013, and 'Correspondence from the Papers of Canon Sheehan of Doneraile' published in 2017.



*Photograph courtesy of
William Casey*

Glowing tributes were paid to Monsignor O'Brien since his appointment as parish priest of Ballyhea by a succession of speakers that included Con Walsh of Ballyhea community council, and from members of parish organisations. His achievements include the replacement of the windows and the installation of a new bell in St. Mary's Church. He was also the driving force in the building and completion of the new community hall,

where the celebration took place, as well as acting on the committee to put in place the pre-school for children, which is due to open in September.

Present at the celebration were Rev. Martin Heffernan, and Very Reverend Donal O'Mahony, P.P. Charleville, Kieran O'Regan of the Ballyhea community council was the very efficient mc for the afternoon. Members of the local dancing troupe, were on hand to provide entertainment and catering was provided by the local ladies committee



Photograph courtesy of William Casey



Photograph courtesy of Michael McGrath

Lace and Fancy Needlework on display in the Mercy Heritage Centre in Charleville.

When Catherine Mc. Auley founded the Mercy Order in Dublin in 1831, one of her many aims was to provide textile training for women. She believed that this would be a gateway to alleviating poverty. In 1836, three sisters came to Charleville from Dublin and some years later they recognised the need to enable women to help themselves and to earn a living without depending on charity.

In 19th century Ireland, many women worked at home and were employed in spinning and weaving. As this work was irregular, their capacity to remain economically independent was limited.

In the following decades, Industrial training departments were set up in many convents, including Charleville.

The earliest reference to Charleville's Industrial Female National School can be found in the District School Inspector's report written in May 1851. In it he, James Mc. Lochlin, wrote that the school had been placed by the patron, the Rev. Thomas Croke, under the sub management of the Sisters of Mercy. He writes: "It is very satisfactory to state that in addition to the attention devoted to literary attainments, ample means have been provided for the instruction of the children in the ordinary branches of knitting and sewing; and also, in the more difficult process of crochet and fancy needlework".

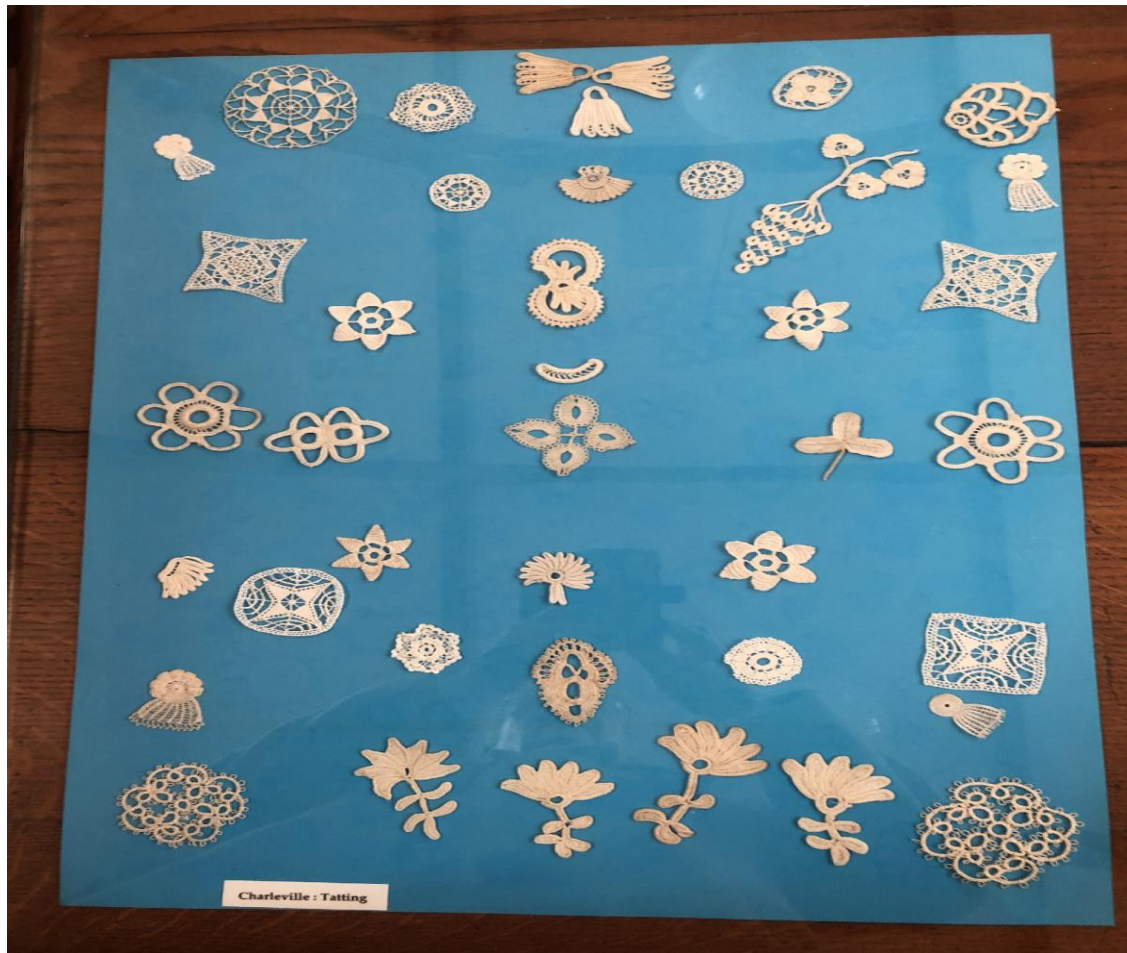
Seventy-two pupils were engaged "producing every kind of plain and fancy work; including embroidery on muslin and on cloth, knitting, netting and crochet; in all of which they have become proficient". They executed extensive orders for Messrs. Wallace of Glasgow and for the Queen's Old Castle Company in Cork. Products were also exported to North America through the auspices of a Mr. O'Brien of Charleville who lived in Cork. Payment for these goods prevented many from becoming inmates of the Poor-house.

At that time the industrial department attached to the Charleville Mercy Convent was placed under the immediate charge of two assistant teachers who were selected solely on the basis of their "superior qualifications in the art of embroidery". The Education Board granted each of these teachers a weekly salary of eight shillings.

The following year, John Maguire, MP, Mayor of Cork wrote that ninety pupils were daily engaged in industrial employment at Charleville Industrial School.

When the Fever Hospital was closed, around the mid 1850's, it was then used as an Industrial School. In the Convent annals we read "Many sorts of work had been tried in this school, under the direction of a paid mistress, but none were so quickly learned by the pupils nor so lucrative to them as the Crochet work, which

at that time was in full course of fashion. Between sixty and eighty girls attended this school daily and several young matrons worked for it. From seven hundred to a thousand pounds have been paid out yearly to the pupils of this school and those who worked under it.”



Samples of some practice pieces from the 1850s currently on display in the Mercy Heritage Centre.

In a newspaper article in *The Nation*, July 1860, the Sisters of Mercy in Charleville were praised for the aid given to the poor and provided statistics concerning the payment girls received for their work e.g. in 1857 they received £1, 240-16s-5d. An online calculator shows that in today's money that amount would have a purchasing power in the region of between £170,000 and £180, 000.

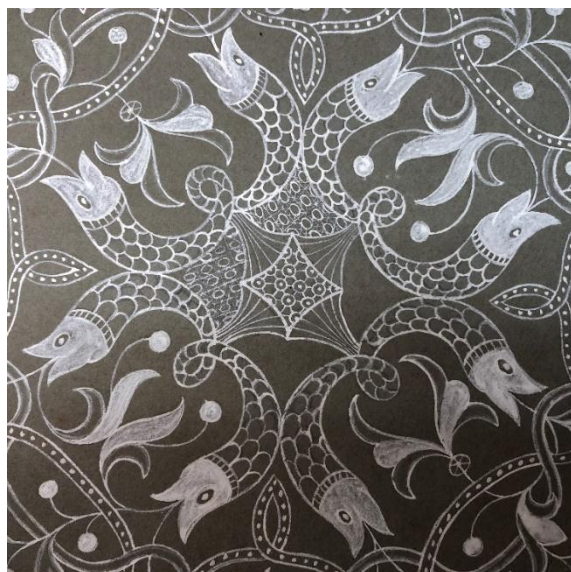
The American Civil War 1861 disrupted the trade link that Charleville had with North America and sales of crochet and other types of needlework declined. The Sisters tried to provide employment by teaching the girls how to make silk and cotton hair nets but financially this new venture wasn't viable and had to be discontinued.

The Industrial School was gradually phased out and with the onset of World War 1, it declined until it ceased altogether in 1915.

These are a few of the beautiful patterns on display in the Mercy Heritage Centre in Charleville:



Detail from the above





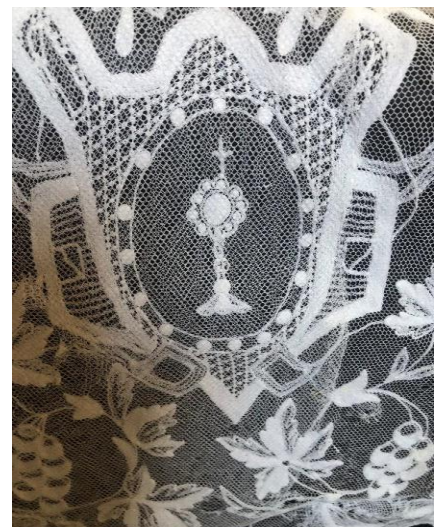
Currently, there is a resurgence of interest in lace, crochet and embroidery and some of the leading world's fashion houses are again turning to these crafts to enhance their unique creations.

The displays of crochet garments and patterns in the Mercy Heritage Centre in Charleville are much admired and valued by the many lace makers who come to visit. Recently a two-day event highlighted many treasures which are a legacy from the days of lace making in the town and beyond.

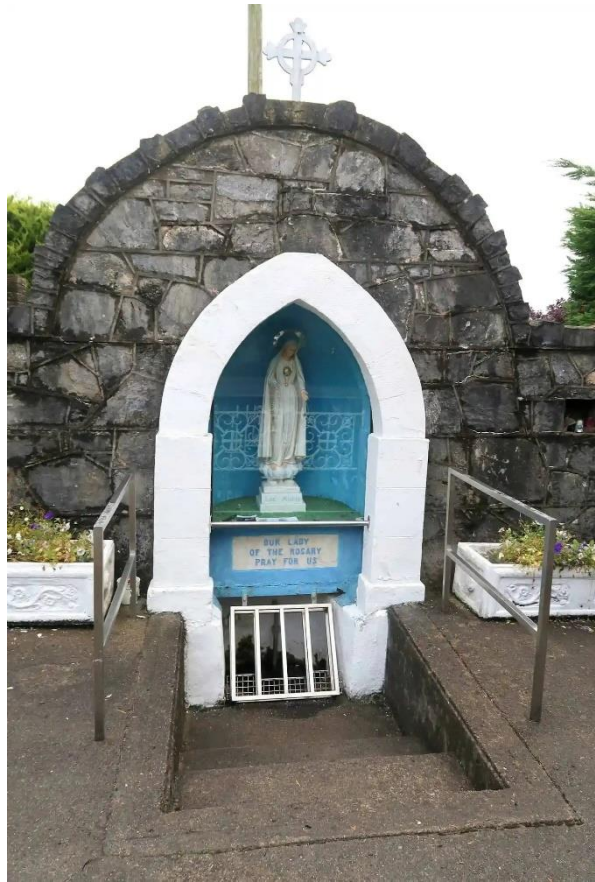
Some examples of crochet and fancy needlework currently on exhibition.



Visitors are welcome to come and feast their eyes on the large collection of fabrics and crafts, including Charleville pieces dating to the mid 1850's. Appointments can be made with Sr. Bernadette Maria on 087-9007225 and a Céad Míle Fáilte awaits the visitors.



Our Lady's Well



Well done to all the volunteers who help to maintain the holy well. It is a credit to all the volunteers for it is one of the best kept Blessed Wells. It is kept in good order and is one of the most picturesque Holy Wells in Ireland. Many people come to Ballyhea Lady's Well to pray their devotions on the different festivals dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. Recently Author Amanda Clarke released a Book called Holy Wells of County Cork and Ballyhea was featured. Amanda has spent 7 years seeking out, visiting, recording and researching holy wells in County Cork.

Ballyhea Gun Club.



Ballyhea Gun club is a small club in the Parish
It has been in existence for 48 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 Rugby World Cup draw most recently. Fund raising is essential for the club to survive.

All these have a limited time and new ideas have to be sought. Hard work by dedicated members and support from their families was and is needed.

Popular venues were the Deer Park, Greenwood Inn, Barrett Lodge, Buttevant Community Hall, Bridge Bar and Harp Bar.

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

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

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

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

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 their land as only for them we wouldn't have a club.

Secretary *Una Hickey*



Ballyhea National School



Pupils who took part in the Credit Union Quiz



Safety Awareness Week



School Camogie Team



School GAA teams with their trophies



Sr. Bernadette for St. Bridget's Day

4th Class

Ballyhea National School 1920



1 Jim Linscott 2 Paddy Gars 3 Ned Brassil 4 Michael Kelly 5 Mick Gormus 6 Aill Khoo 7 Tom Cusby 8 Nick Puggie
 9 Jim Murray 10 Patsie Murray 11 Mick Buxant 12 Jim McNamee 13 Joe Gormus 14 Matt Khoo 15 Jack Murray 16 Don Murray 17 Patsie Khoo
 18 Maurice Nicholas 19 Tom Connell 20 Francis Gormus 21 Jim Nicholas 22 Patsie Cusby 23 Patsie McNamee 24 Mick Shanly
 Ballyhea Boys School Group I 1920



1 Mossell 2 Bill Murray 3 Tom Gars 4 Eddie Kelly
 1 Jim Connell 2 Mick Moulton 3 Ned Ryan 4 Tom McNamee 5 Jim Cusby 6 Joe Brassil 7 Tom Cusby
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
 Jack Connell 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
 1 Maurice Sargent 2 Jimmy Ross 3 Mick Ross 4 Tom Murray 5 Jim Cusby 6 Jim Ross 7 Mike Sargent 8 9
 Ballyhea Boys School Group II 1920

THE OLD SCHOOL ROAD

(The Short-cut through Ballycosgry.)

How oft remembrance loves to dwell
On scenes fond Memory traces;
How strong the everlasting spell
Of old-time hallowed places.

Full forty Summer suns had blessed
The fields with Natures Glory,
And many a friend had gone to rest
In country Churchyards hoary.

I wandered down a sleepy lane
When vesper bells were ringing,
And wild flowers bloomed in fields again
And song-birds all were singing.

The hawthorn Scent perfumed the air
And violets dim were peeping
From mossy borders here and there
And drowsy herds were sleeping.



Ballyhea Preschool

Building for the future generations



Blessed Times for the new Preschool

Board Members with Monsignor O'Brien - 20 Aug 2023

Ballyhea Community Preschool is an organisation created by parents for the parents of the area, for the purpose of providing a range of Quality Childcare education. The organisation was founded in 2001, and has nurtured many a preschooler through their first steps into education. The voluntary board of management undertook to create a permanent modern block structure and with enormous thanks to the Ballyhea community and its surrounding area, the project was completed successfully.

Enrolments : 087 7662303

Limited spaces available for coming years, please enquire above

Free government ECCE program
Subsidised NCS program (now available, children >2yrs 8 months)



Sensory Play

Sand pits, play dough, messy play enhance child motor skills

Inclusion...

To support full inclusion, student teacher ratio may be reduced if required through AIMs program. The full facility is wheelchair accessible

Outdoor Play

Modern, safe playground and covered pergola enable year long outdoor learning to make the most of our weather

Baking

With a new canteen space, the school has introduced a weekly baking lesson engaging students in fun learning

Manager : ballyheapreschool@gmail.com

Board : ballyheapreschoolboard@gmail.com

Ballyhea GAA

Once again it was a busy year on the playing fields for our teams. Also, our referees were kept busy with Ciaran O'Regan officiating in the Cork County Senior hurling final, the Kerry County Senior hurling final and the Avondhu Junior hurling final.

Seniors:

Our senior hurlers were in the division 4 of the county league and finished 4th after a mixed league campaign. In the C'ship they maintained their Senior status with a 5-point victory over Courcey Rovers in Mallow 1-20 to 1-15 on the 5th of August after a fine display.



Ballyhea Senior hurlers 2023





Ballyhea u-10 hurlers forming a guard of honour for our senior hurlers prior to first round matches of the C'ship in Mallow.

The line out was: Mikey Browne, Adam Barrett, James Hennessy, Luke Hanley, Tiernan Hanley, Tom Hanley 0-1, Jamie Copps, Maurice O'Sullivan, Cailean Cox 0-1, Gavin Morrissey, Pa O'Callaghan 1-9 (5fr), Dion Curtin, Dean Copps, John Morrissey 0-1, Eugene O'Leary 0-6.

Subs: Joseph Hickey 0-2, Luke Crowley, Mikey Mortell (all used), Niall Crowley (blood sub).

Unfortunately, though we went under to eventual finalists Newcestown and Blarney in rounds 2 and 3 both played in Mourneabbey.

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, Roisin Murphy, Jonathon Linehan, Deirdre Duane, Alan Mortell, Dylan Barret, Sean Byrne, Patrick Daly, Darragh Crowley, Eoin and Tom Horgan.



Ballyhea junior hurlers prior to first league game this year.

Juniors Our juniors were back in Div 1 of the North Cork junior hurling league and in the Hibernian junior A C'ship this year after last year's wonderful exploits. In the C'ship we lost to Clyda Rovers 4-14 to 1-14 in the first round at Ballyclough on August 6th.

Our team was Gearoid O'Shea 0-1 (fr), John Horgan, Cathal Crowley, Niall Crowley, Kevin Hanley, Conor Horan, Michael Morrissey 0-1, Michael Mortell 0-1, Fionn O'Sullivan, Stephen Walsh 0-1, Adam Horan, Kevin Copps, James Horgan Liam O'Shea 1-0, Sean O'Kelly 0-8 (6 fr, 1 x 65, 1 x sideline).

Subs: Eamon O'Sullivan, Will Shanahan, Ryan Hanley 0-2 (1 fr), Timmy Shanahan, James Mackessey (all used), Michael Mackessey, Tomas Crowley. In round 2 we went under to Liscarroll / Churchtown Gaels on a 4-20 to 2-14 scoreline at Milford on August 13th.

Football:

Our footballers reached the North Cork final this year after defeating Grange 3-16 to 1-7 in Ballyclough on the 10th of September in the 1/4 final and Milford 1-7 to 0-9 in the semifinal at a very wet Churchtown on the 24th of September. In the final played in Buttevant on the 8th of October we went under to 1-12 to 1-7 to a Shanballymore side who were winning their 3rd title in 4 years. The lineout was,

Team: Mikey Mortell, Michael Mortell, Cathal Crowley, Kevin Copps, James Hennessy 1-0, Adam Barrett, Sean O'Kelly, Cailean Cox 0-1, Dion Curtin, Joseph Hickey, Stephen Walsh 0-2, Eamon O'Sullivan, John Morrissey 0-2, Pa O'Callaghan 0-1, Jamie Copps 0-1.

Subs: Fionn O'Sullivan, Luke Crowley, Maurice O'Sullivan, Tiernan Hanley, Gearoid O'Shea, Gavin Morrissey, Adam Horan, Luke Hanley.



Ballyhea junior B footballers North Cork finalists 2023.

This was our first appearance in an adult football final since 1990 when we went under to Churchtown in Charleville 1-6 to 0-8. The line out on that occasion was: Denis Mortell, Phil Ryan, Mike Morrissey, Tom Brassill, Donal O'Riordan, Sean Crowley, John Mortell, Eamonn Crowley 0-1, Diarmuid O'Flynn, Ian Ronan 0-

2, Mikey O'Callaghan, Alec Morrissey 0-4 (2fr), Mike Ryan 0-1, Liam Crowley, Johnny O'Sullivan.

Subs: David Capps (used), Tim Dennehy (used), Peter O'Sullivan, Tomas O'Riordan, Richie Murphy, John Mortell, Anthony Quinn, Tom Gleeson.

Ballyhea have won the North Cork junior B title on 3 previous occasions.

In 1949 with the divisional junior hurling title safely tucked away Ballyhea defeated Funcheon Vale after a bruising encounter. The line out was Miko O'Connell, John Quinn, Mick Quinn, Mick Coughlan, E O'Connor, Alec "Lack" Morrissey, John Joe Purcell, Tom Morrissey, Mikie O'Brien, Ml. "Dicko" Mortell, Jim Walsh, Joe Walsh, Paddy Byrne, Garda Devanney, Ned Rea. **Subs:** Dan O'Keeffe, Mick Daly, Mick "Dodo" O'Connor. Our second title came 2 years later in 1951 when Kildorrery were defeated in the final. The team on that occasion was Mick Daly, Pat O'Brien, Mick Quinn, D Hartnett, Paddy Byrne, Alec "Lack" Morrissey, Ml. "Dodo" O'Connor, Tom Morrissey, Ml. "Dicko" Mortell, C O'Connor, S O'Callaghan, J O'Keeffe, J Behan, E Morrissey, J O'Sullivan. Sun J Barrett.

Our last victory in 1983, the line out in a 0-4 to 0-2 victory over neighbours Newtown in Buttevant was:

Liam O'Connor, Billy O'Connor, Dave O'Keeffe, Eamon Crowley, Connie Brassill (capt), Mike Morrissey, Johnny O'Callaghan, Diarmuid O'Flynn, Alec Morrissey, Ger O'Connor, Phil Ryan, Paul O'Halloran, Liam Crowley, Tim Dennehy, Liam O'Halloran.

Subs: Dave Ryan, Henry Greensmith, Donal O'Connor, Frank McCarthy, John McCarthy, Billy Curtin, Pat Walsh, Sean Curtin, Tom Gleeson, Mick Butler.

Thanks to Tim Dennehy coach, John Mortell, Noel Hanley, Eamon Morrissey and Darren Ronan for looking after the side this year.

Joe Walsh R.I.P.

Vice President of the club Joe Walsh passed to his eternal reward in September. Joe was a very talented hurler in his youth winning a county Junior medal in 1955. He also won 5 North Cork junior medals in his beloved Black and White as well as a junior B hurling (novice) in 1944 and a junior b football (novice) in 1949. In his later years he helped to coordinate the Cork GAA clubs draw for Ballyhea with the past players committee which helped raise very much needed funds for the club's development. Joe also had an avid interest in the history of the club and the parish. He was a member of the club history committee which compiled the club history book "From Scoubeen to Centenary in 1984 and "Keeping the Flame Aglow" in 2010. Two publications he took great pride in. Joe also was a recipient of the Ryan Memorial Hall of Fame award in recognition of his services to the club, an award which was richly deserved. The respect that Joe held within the

club was evident at the large turnout for the guard of honour at his removal. May he Rest in Peace.

Joe Walsh R.I.P. with Michael O'Regan and Bernie Leahy at the GAA club rooms.



John Dundon R.I.P.

John Dundon former FAS worker with the club was laid to rest in October after a long illness.

John took great pride in helping maintain our grounds and keep them in fine order during his time in the role.

In his youth He played u-12 hurling and football in 1983. In 1984 u14 football C'ship he played all 4 games at left half back losing out to Kilavullen in the semi-final. The hurlers went on to win the North cork where he featured at corner forward in a number of games. In 1985 he was full forward for the u-14 footballers who lost to Doneraile and fullback in defeat by Buttevant in the C'ship. In the hurling he featured at corner back. When he finished playing, he remained a great supporter of Ballyhea hurling and camogie teams. Large crowds turned out for John's funeral and a very well attended Guard of honour by club members was held in the church yard at his burial.

May he Rest In peace.

Pakie Morrissey R.I.P.

The club's third Vice President to pass away this year, Pakie in his 91st year was called to his eternal reward on November 15th. One of the remaining members of the legendary County junior hurling winning team in 1955. He was corner forward on the Ballyhea minor team in 1950 which were defeated in the North Cork final by Fermoy in Doneraile. Pakie went on to win 5 North Cork junior hurling medals with Ballyhea in 53, 55,58,59 and 65, as well as the coveted County medal in 1955 lining out at corner forward before featuring at midfield in

1958 and 1959. Pakie went on to win a North Cork junior B medal with Churchtown in the twilight of his career in 1969. Huge crowds attended Pakie's removal and burial with a guard of honour taking place outside the church.

May he Rest in Peace.

Billy Fleming R.I.P.

Billy Fleming, Vice President of the club passed away on November the 12th. A wonderful supporter of all Ballyhea teams. He had a great interest in the history of club and helped compile the clubs first history book 'From Scoubeen to Century' giving invaluable information on the early years of the club which he had heard from his late father. Billy also served on the club juvenile committee for many years helping out fundraising and driving players to matches. A guard of honour was held for Billy outside St Mary's Church Ballyhea and members of the club carried him to his final resting place in Cooline cemetery.

May he Rest in Peace.

Ballyhea Juvenile Club 2023.

Once again, our juvenile teams had a very good year and were rewarded with some excellent performances and results, the highlight being the u-13 victory in the premier 2 shield final in November.

The under 13's had a great year winning the Carrigoon and Mikey O'Callaghan blitz's before defeating Carrigtwohill in the Rebel Og shield final 9-10 to 5-3 at the Pairc ui Chaoimh Astro.



Ballyhea u-13 hurlers winners of the Rebel Og Premier 2 hurling shield

Team: Mark Madigan, Ross Manning, Pauric Crowley, Derek Daly, Ben Ronan, Harry O'Connor 2-2 (1-0 pen, 0-2 fr), Chris Gould, Fionn Ronan, Alan Krause 1-

0, James Ronan 0-6 (4fr), Muiris O’Riordan 0-1, Bill O’Keeffe, Páidí Curtin 1-0, Finn Curtin 4-1, Brion Murphy. **Subs:** Adam Lilly, Rory Crowley, Gearoid O’Riordan 1-0, Patrick O’Brien, Jack O’Riordan, Danny Daly. This panel also reached the u-13 Football final but lost out to Mitchelstown at Mitchelstown 3-10 to 6-7 after an excellent contest.

Our u-17 hurlers defeated Ballygiblin in the plate final in Shanballymore 0-19 to 1-9 on the 30th of August.

*Ballyhea U-17 captain
Darragh Crowley receiving
the Div 1 hurling plate.*



Ballyhea u-17 hurlers winner of the Rebel Og North Div 1 hurling plate.

Team: Tiernan Walsh, Leon Barrett, Alex Kennedy, Darragh Murphy, Dan Buckley, Darragh Crowley, Daniel Donovan, Patrick Daly 0-3 (1 x 65), Fionn O’Beirne 0-1, Jack Mortell, Andrew Buckley 0-1, Sean Byrne 0-9 (7fr), Eoghan Horan, Daniel Mackessey 0-5, Diarmuid O’Riordan. **Subs:** Dara O’Sullivan.



Alan Krause receiving the U -13 Rebel Og Premier 2 hurling shield.

The u-18 hurlers reached the shield final but lost out to Grenagh 1-19 to 1-11 at Grenagh on the 5th of July.

Leon Barrett receiving the Rebel Og North Div 1 u-14 hurling



Our U-14 hurlers reached the C'ship shield final and came out on top 8-14 to Kilavullen 2-6 at Kilavullen.

The Team was: Danny McNamara, Ross Manning, Barry Kiely, Chris Gould, Ben Ronan, Leon Barrett 1-1, Pauric Crowley, Fionn Ronan, Harry O'Connor 2-8 (1-5 fr), James Ronan, Muiris O'Riordan, Alan Krause 0-1, Cathal Curtin 0-4 (1 fr), Finn Curtin 5-0, Bill O'Keeffe.

Subs: Padai Curtin., Rory Crowley, Adam Lilly, Brion Murphy, Patrick O'Brien.



Ballyhea u-14 hurlers winners of the Rebel Og North Div 1 u-14 hurling Plate.

We reached the U-14 hurling league final but went under to Liscarroll / Churchtown 1-13 to 2-7 after a thrilling game in Ballyhea on the 26th of May.

Mikey O'Callaghan Memorial U-13 hurling blitz.

The second annual Mikey O'Callaghan U-13 hurling blitz took place on Saturday November 4th with 8 teams taking part.

In group 1 Ballyhea and Sixmilebridge won both their opening games over Bishopstown and Lisgoold to set up a winner takes all final group game. After a very tight game where the Clare side led by 4 points at half time, Ballyhea managed to equalise late in the match to qualify for the cup final on score difference. Group 2 was also very tightly contested with Cloney Quin advancing to the cup final after early victories over Cloughdubh and St Finbarrs and a dramatic late equaliser v Bride Rovers in the third game. The final game in the group was St Finbarrs v Cloughdubh with the winners advancing to the shield final. The Barrs prevailed by 4 points after a very close contest.



The shield final was a cracking clash with the Barrs edging out Sixmilebridge after extra time 1-5 to 1-4. After the game Mossie O'Callaghan and Brendan Barrett presented the St Finbarrs team with the medals and captain Cian Healy with the Mikey O'Callaghan memorial shield. The cup final then followed with Ballyhea coming out on top over Cloney Quin thanks to a very strong first half performance against the wind where we led 3 points to 1. A fine goal from Finn Curtin and excellent long range frees from Harry O'Connor ensured there was no way back for the Clare champions in the second half. After the game Mossie O'Callaghan presented the Mikey O'Callaghan Cup to Ballyhea captain Alan Krause.



Mossie O'Callaghan presenting Alan Krause with the Mikey O'Callaghan Memorial Cup with club chairman Brendan Barrett

Thanks to everyone who helped make the tournament a huge success again this year. Special thanks to all the parents for the fantastic catering. Also, thanks to the referees Tom Crowley, Dave Copps and Mike O'Kelly. Thanks to CPH for sponsoring the medals and to Sean Curtin and his team for having the pitches playable after the recent very poor weather. Thanks to everyone that showed up to support and anyone that helped in any way in making the day work so smoothly.

Ballyhea Panel: Mark Madigan, Ross Manning, Muiris O'Riordan, Paraic Crowley, James Ronan, Paudi Curtin, Alan Krause, Rory Crowley, Harry O'Connor, Finn Curtin, Ben Ronan, Bill O'Keeffe, Fionn Ronan, Christopher Gould, Connie Hegarty, Patrick O'Brien, Brion Murphy, Derek Daly, Danny Daly, Adam Lilley, Jack O'Riordan, Darragh O'Sullivan.

Jacko Sullivan Memorial Biltz

The Jacko Sullivan Memorial cup returned to Ballyhea this year after a great morning's hurling. Ballyhea advanced from a group featuring Na Piarsaigh and Cois Laoi Gaols. The holders Castlelyons overcame Blarney and Charleville to reach the final. The decider was a cracking contest with our boys coming out on top 2-4 to 0-4.

After the game Johnny O’Sullivan presented the Jacko Sullivan memorial cup to the Ballyhea joint captains Brion Murphy and Rory Crowley. Thanks to all the teams that took part, to referees Tom Crowley, Dave Copps and Mike Keogh. Thanks to the groundsmen who had the pitches in splendid order. Thanks to all the parents and everyone who helped with refreshments and to Dawn Meats for sponsoring the medals. This was the 29th running of the competition which is one of the highlights of the year for the club.

Ballyhea U-11 panel: Brion Murphy, jc, Rory Crowley, jc, Patrick o Brien, Sam McNamara, Danny Daly, Michael o Brien, Gearoid O’Riordan, Jack Crowley, Ryan Mulcahy, Aidan o Connor, Cathal Keogh, Harry Kearney, Will O Flaherty, Thomas O Connor, Liam Finn, Darragh O’Sullivan.



Johnny O'Sullivan presenting the Jack O'Sullivan Memorial Cup to Ballyhea u-11 captains Brion Murphy and Rory Crowley



Ballyhea u-11 hurlers winners of the Jack o Sullivan memorial cup.

Richie Murphy Memorial Blitz. The 2nd annual Richie Murphy blitz was held this year for u-10 hurling. Congratulations to Blarney who won the competition defeating Fermoy in the final. After the game Patricia and Liam Murphy presented the Richie Murphy memorial shield to the winning Blarney team. Thanks to all who took part, referees, those who provided refreshments, organisers, grounds men and anyone that helped in anyway.



Ballyhea u-10 hurlers 2023 at the Richie Murphy Memorial blitz

The annual Dicko Mortell memorial Puc Fada will take place on St Stephen's Day. Thanks to all our mentors, players and parents for their time and dedication to the club.



Ballyhea Camogie Club

Officers: 2022-2023

Edel Barrett –Secretary

Steve Keane- Chairman

Treasurer- Elaine Crowley

U6s

Trainers: Claire O’Doherty, James O’Shaughnessy, Ian Ronan

Our U6's started training on the 25th March and continued to train bright and early on Saturday mornings. A total of 16 girls joined of age for the 2023 season and all were eager to have fun while also learning the fundamental skills of Camogie.

Due to the changes in GO Games rules which were implemented by Camogie Association, we were unable to participate in U6s match like previous years. To be eligible to take part in local Blitzes, we formed an U7 team. In June, some of the girls played a blitz hosted in Ballyhea, against U7 teams from Charleville, Milford and Ballyagran. All the girls showed great skills and determination throughout the games.

In August, they took part in a blitz hosted in Ballyagran, where they played teams from Charleville, Newtown and Ballyagran. Once again, the girls put what they had learned in training to the test and did really well.

The season finished with a little party where the girls had some treats and received certificates to show that they had done so well throughout the year. We could see that each of the girls had improved greatly since the beginning of the season, and we are very thankful to the parents for bringing the girls to training each week. We look forward to coaching these girls in the new year and to continue with developing their skills.



U8s

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

The U8's started training on the 25th March and continued to train every Saturday morning throughout the summer months.

The girls played numerous home and away blitzes against local teams including Charleville, Newtown, Mallow and Milford. On the 3rd September, we hosted a very successful blitz in Ballyhea against local clubs - Effin, Buttevant and Charleville. A total of 86 children attended the day and was one of the biggest blitzes attendance this year.

We concluded the year with a Halloween party in school hall to celebrate a wonderful season of camogie and friendship.

Plenty of music, art and junk food. A special thanks to the intermediate players, who came and helped train our lovely girls when they could.



U10s

Trainers Gary Gore and Goeff Watson.



U10 Training resumed in March 2023, twice weekly on a Wednesday evening and Saturday mornings. 21 girls were registered the U10s group. The girls participated in local blitzes every second weekend against many teams including

Newtownshandrum, Milford, Charleville, Fermoy, Mallow, to name a few. All the girls had plenty of game time during these blitzes and improving from week to week. The girls were very keen to learn and we saw a lot of improvement along the way.



U11s

Trainers; Gary Gore and Goeff Watson.

U11 camogie had a panel of 16 girls this year and trained along with the U10s twice weekly. This group participated in a number of matches including Avondu blitzes arranged throughout the summer months. In early September, our U11's took part in a county blitz hosted in Kinsale, where they came out on top in all their games. A very committed group of girls that should have a lot of success going forward together. 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.



U12s and U13s

Trainers; Dinny Mortell, Marie Foley, Sheila Lenihan.

The U12 and U13 girls started back training on 25th February. For the U12s to be eligible to participate in the County League, they must have played in three blitzes before the League commenced. However, due to pitch closures in March we only managed to play one blitz in Mallow on 3rd April.

This year saw the implementation of a new format for the U12 county competition with no Knock-out matches allowed. In Phase 1 we were drawn in a group with Bandon, Banteer and Newcestown! We won all 3 matches so as a result we were graded in a very strong group for phase 2. Unfortunately, we lost our 5 matches, so we were finished in the county competition for 2023. Our U12s finished their season with a challenge match against Newtown on 11th September.

Our U13s participated in the Avondhu League and our first game was a defeat to Newtown in Ballyhea on 8th April! To get back in to the competition, we played a qualifier match v Mallow and won 7-4 to 4-7.

After a long break we defeated Kilworth in the quarter final on 8th August. We faced Milford in the semifinal on 18th September and after a great game and a great performance by our girls we were beaten 3-4 to 2-2.

We would like to thank the girls for their efforts and commitment all year and also the parents for their cooperation and for driving the girls all over the county again and thanks to our first aid Louise Keane.



U14s

Trainers: Steve Keane & Neil Ronan. Mentor: Chloe Keogh

The U14 girls kicked off in the U14A League in April with a very strong win against Bishopstown, Blarney & Newcestown. The girls then defeated St. Vincent's in the quarter final, Courcey Rovers in a tight semi-final but unfortunately just lost out in a very close league final to Ballinhassig after a great performance. In the U14A championship the girls defeated both Ballinora and Bishopstown in the group stages followed by a great win against Youghal. Courcey Rovers were again the challengers in the county semi-final and again Ballyhea were victorious in extra time having fought back from 5 points down.



Onto the county final against our old foes Cloughduv. Once again, the girls showed fantastic team spirit having gone a point down with 10 mins to go and rallying back to win the county final by 2 goals. The fight and teamwork shown by these girls throughout the year was a pleasure to see and they had some great team bonding days out karting, attending the intermediate match and celebrating their county final win on the bus journey home.

Thanks to Gabrielle Walsh for providing First Aid throughout the season. We would like to thank the following sponsors whom helped with the cost of the bus to the final, also with providing refreshments for our girls. Costello Quarry LTD, O'Keefe Auctioneers, O'Riordan Sheds, Supervalu Charleville.

Our U15 girls campaign started this year with Feile. We hosted Ballygarvan, Rockban & Bishopstown in Ballyhea coming out victorious in all 3 matches and travelled onto Kilworth for a quarter final match v Killeagh. Unfortunately, we just lost out in the quarter final but was a great day out for the girls.

Huge thanks to everyone who helped out on the day. Too many names to mention from co-ordinators to those who managed parking/signage, setup the field and of course the super spread of food and refreshments. A huge club effort, a brilliant day and well appreciated too by visiting clubs!



Our Avondhu U15 campaign started with a victory away to Newtownshandrum just a few days after the Feile event. Competition was then postponed due to exams & start of league & championship.

We are still awaiting to hear of our opponents for the semi-final.

U16s:

Trainers: Eamon Morrissey, Neil Ronan, Deirdre Duane Mentor: Chloe Keogh

The U16 team were grade A for both the League and Championship in 2023. In the league wins at home to Killeagh and away to Cobh and Valley Rovers,



qualified us for a league quarter final at home to Cloughduv. After a hard battle we ended up losing by 4 points.

In the championship we were drawn in a tough group with St Fanahans, Castlemartyr, Killeagh and Newcestown. We suffered losses to St. Fanahans, Castlemartyr and Killeagh but won our final game against Newcestown. Just to note from our group St Fanahans ended up winning the Cup final and Castlemartyr contested the Plate final.

Thanks to Audrey for doing first aid and the parents for bringing the girls to training and matches.

Minors:

Trainers: Deirdre Duane, Eamon Morrissey, Neil Ronan, Andrew Walsh

Our minor team were graded B in League and Championship for 2023. In the League we were drawn away to Newtown and at home to Youghal. On the 19th of April we travelled to our near neighbours and were well beaten by a much stronger and on age team. Youghal who were also well beaten by Newtown and decided not to travel to play us in our final league game. Newtown went through from the group.

In the Championship draw we had Ballinascarty, Coursey Rovers, Milford, Killeagh and St. Catherine's. Our first game was due to be at home versus Ballinascarty on July 21st, however, on July 20th Ballinascarty withdrew from the competition unable to field a team. Our next game was away to Coursey Rovers Sunday the 30th July. After a hard battle in terrible conditions and a team of fifteen, we came out the wrong side of the game with a score line of Coursey's 5-5 to Ballyhea's 2-7.

Monday the 7th August Milford travelled to Ballyhea, the score line of 5-16 to 1-7. Milford came out on top a much stronger team. Like some other teams in the competition, we went to the County board and advised them that we would not be able to field for our final two fixtures versus Killeagh and St Catherine's. Many thanks to all the parents over the season and to Audrey Morrissey for first aid.

Intermediates:

Trainers: Pat Ryan, Mike Keogh, Luke Hanley, Marie Harty, Ian Mortell, Ed Allen

Our Intermediate team had a successful year and reached the county semi -final once again. The management team led by Pat Ryan left no stone unturned and were extremely organised throughout the year. To help their Championship preparations, they played several pre-season games including a tournament against Adare in Adare and also a five-side tournament amongst our Intermediate panel members which also consisted of some members of the U16 panel.

Many thanks to the sponsors of these tournaments and to the parents and members the Ballyhea U10 team who played at half time in the tournament against Adare.

The team was led on the field by our captain Mary Claire Carroll, although there were many other leaders among the panel of 28 players. In the league, our Intermediate team reached the final against Blackrock on the 28th May. Blackrock made the better start on the day and were 8pts up at half time. A much-improved performance in the 2nd half by Ballyhea saw the girls get that lead back to 2 before striking the post with a goal bound shot. At the end of the game Blackrock emerged victors but there was plenty of encouragement that the Ballyhea group could take from the display.

Ballyhea were drawn in Group C of the Intermediate Championship. They began their championship campaign against Newtownshandrum in Charleville with Ballyhea coming out on top with a scoreline of 5.11 to 9pts. Our second game was against Carrigaline in Blarney. Once again Ballyhea emerged victorious on a scoreline of 2.17 to 1.9. The third game was against Ballinhassig. We showed great grit and determination to come out on top of a very tough game by 2 points. Final score was Ballyhea 2.8 to Ballinhassig 2.6.

Our final group game was against Clonakilty in Castle Road, where Ballyhea raced into a commanding half time lead but as expected from a tough Clonakilty team they cut into the lead in the 2nd half. Drawing on great heart and determination Ballyhea girls repelled them to come out the right side of a 1.13 to 2.8 scoreline.

This result ensured we topped the group unbeaten and set up a semi-final against Watergrasshill. This was played in Castle Road on the 7th of October and unfortunately it was not to be for the Ballyhea girls on this occasion as Watergrasshill emerged victorious on a scoreline of 1.7 to 8 points. Thanks Breda Dundon and Gabrielle Walsh our First aiders for the season.

A special thanks and well done to Marie Harty and the panel who organised the bake sale and the fun quiz night fundraising initiatives. A special thanks to James Dundon, Charleville Plant Hire who gave a donation that ensured that the girls were appropriately togged out in the black and white of Ballyhea. Other sponsors Idle Hour Bar and Greta from Forget me Not florist in Mallow who sponsored the panel with gear bags.

A special thanks to the Ballyhea Camogie Committee especially Stephen and Edel who left no stone unturned to provide anything that was requested for the panel throughout the year.

Many thanks to Ballyhea GAA for use of the facilities throughout the year especially Aine O' Shea who always facilitated the team with a pitch for training or a match. Also, to Sean Curtin who always had the pitches in tip top shape.

A very special thanks to the people of Ballyhea (young and not so young) who travelled the FOUR corners of Co. Cork in support of the team. Any match we played no matter the time, venue or the weather the opposition were always outnumbered on the bank or stand of any venue. This support gave the team a lift on many occasions throughout the year and was appreciated more than you can know numerous times.



On behalf of the management team, I would like to thank the Ballyhea camogie panel for their efforts throughout the year. They started on Friday January 13th in the gym and never let up on the dedication and effort throughout the year. They were a fantastic and united group who did everything they could for the Ballyhea jersey throughout the year.



Ballyhea Parish Choir

Dear Readers,

It is both my privilege and pleasure to present to you this year on behalf of our Parish Choir. We have been in existence for a long number of years and I have been the Church Organist for 25+ years. We sing at the 11am Sunday Mass every week from the first Sunday in October to the last Sunday in June each year including both Christmas and Easter Ceremonies. We also sing for Funeral Masses when requested and sing for Adoration and Benediction every Thursday morning at the 10am Mass.

We are a small choir, presently consisting of Michael Foley, Gerard Wall (who is also a member of the Duhallow Choral Society and travels from Dromcollogher every week to sing with us and be part of our Choir), Breda Clifford, Bernie O’Keeffe and our newest member Mary Cott who joined us on Palm Sunday.

Inevitably, there will be people coming and going throughout the year because some people join us and after a while realise that it’s not for them or isn’t what they thought it would be. Also, there is a time commitment involved that may not suit people’s lifestyle.

One of our seasoned Choir members, Mrs. Breda Clifford, gave a testimony last year as to what it means to her to be part of the Ballyhea Parish Choir. I decided to include it again this year to help encourage anyone who might be contemplating joining us.



This is her personal account:

“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”.

So, I would urge you, the reader of this article, to consider coming along to one of our Choir rehearsals if you have an interest in singing and would like to be part of our group. We meet every Wednesday night at 7.45pm in the Church for practice.



O Come, all ye Faithful!

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my Choir Members for their continued dedication and commitment to the Ballyhea Parish Choir, without whom we wouldn't have a Choir so thank you for your time and effort.

Wishing you all a very happy, holy and blessed Christmas 2023.

O Come All Ye Faithful

Ludwig Van Beethoven

(Ode to Joy)

John F. Wade
Michael D. Young

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'O Come All Ye Faithful'. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

O come all ye faith ful — joy ful and tri ump — phant, O come ye O
Sing ye choir of an — gels Sing in ex ul ta — tion! O sing ye —
Yea, Lord we — greet thee born this hap py mor — ning, O, Je sus to

6
come ye — O come ye to Beth le hem Come be hold Him Come be — hold Him
sing ye — O sing ye in heav'n a bove. Glor y to God, glor y to God
be — Un to thee all glor y giv'n. Son of Fath er, Son of the Fath er,

Sincerely,

Triona Crowley (McCarthy), Organist and Choir Co-Ordinator

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



Ballyhea Community Council

Ballyhea community council had another busy year. We had a food collection for Cork Penny Dinners which was a huge success. In early January we had our annual tractor run all funds raised go to Marymount and Milford hospice. Our active age party was also held in January in the Corbett Court. This was a lovely afternoon enjoyed by everybody. Our St. Patrick's Day parade was a great success and was very well supported by Our local school and all our local businesses and organisations. In September we held a traditional music night in the new parish



hall. It was a great success with all local musicians and Irish dancers. The talent in our parish is something to be very proud of. Maintenance work in the holy well and the heritage graveyard continued throughout the year, A huge thank you to everybody who help out in any way during the year.

Huge thank you to everyone who supported our Evening of Trad, Country, Folk Music, Song & Irish Dancing which was a huge success.

Special thanks to local musicians

Ceoltóirí Clárach, Cairde Ceol, Margo & Friends, Triona & Carl, Ballyhoura Ramblers & local Irish Dancers Bronagh Walsh and Katelyn Shortt with the Lorraine Duggan Academy. Huge thank you to all groups for outstanding performances.





Thank you so much to Pat McAuliffe for the absolutely wonderful job you did as our MC and to your daughter Tina for your support helping us prepare for the night.

Huge thank you to Tomas Walsh (Hear It Sound & Lighting) and Mikey Moran Photographer.

Specials thanks to Abbey Printing for printing tickets and posters.

A big thank you to all to Jim, Martin and all at Charville Plant Hire for sponsoring light for car park.

Special thanks to Bridget's, Ballyhea Shop, Dicks Supervalu, O Riordan Sheds and Committee members for sponsoring spot prizes.

Thank you to the Vale Star and William Casey for their coverage and support always to the Community Council.

Huge thanks to Committee Con Walsh (Chairperson), Mike O Kelly (Vice Chairperson), Billy Morrison (Treasurer), Carmel Roche (Secretary, Committee members: Isa O'Leary, Maria Russell, Denis Egan, Breda Duane, Willie Meaney, Linda Shortt, Kevin Greaney, Tommy Moloney, Bernadette Moloney, Tom O Regan, Michael O Regan and Maurice O Riordan. Huge thanks to Heather Tan, William Ryan, Seamus Fitzgibbon, Geraldine Egan, Catherine Horgan, Demi Moloney, Daniel and Jason Greaney for helping us on the night. Special thanks to Monsignor James O'Brien and local school principal Paul Cronin for all your support and guidance booking Ballyhea Community Hall.

Thank you to everyone who supported us. A great night was had by all who attended.





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

