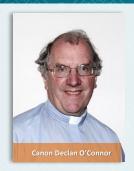


Introduction

Welcome to the third issue of our Parish Annual Newsletter Review, recording some events and happenings in our Parish over the past year. It also gives a brief account of the work of the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC), Finance Council and the various groups which work very effectively in this great parish. We can look back on 2013 and on the past twelve months with great signs of hope. The election of Pope Francis and our new Bishop Ray, our Parish Mission and seven more of our parishioners completing the course on Pastoral Ministry.



All of you have been a great support to me in guiding me - as I lead you as the Parish Priest of Listowel in these challenging and interesting times. A Parish is about its people — and Listowel is like most of the parishes in the Diocese of Kerry now - with one priest working in co-operation with the neighboring parishes within the Pastoral Area. I thank the retired priests who have helped me also. The Listowel Pastoral Area includes the parishes of Listowel, Lixnaw, Moyvane and Duagh.

I welcome you to visit us at the Parish Office, which is open Monday to Friday – 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.

This Newsletter gives some information about aspects of life in our parish and in our diocese. It also contains the financial statement for the year ended Dec 2013, with a statement of income and expenditure, produced by the Parish Finance Council. Despite the continuing recession you have been very generous to your parish and your priests. This is much appreciated.



Also included is a list of the baptisms, funerals and weddings which took place during the year 2013. When I stop and think about the various activities and the number of lay people already involved, in one way or another in our Parish, in our schools, hospital and nursing homes, I thank God for the honour and, indeed, privilege of working with you. It is important to acknowledge the rich and vibrant activities in the parish and some of the people responsible for them.

Can I take this opportunity to thank you sincerely, for all the support and generosity that you give to me personally. I wish you and yours every blessing.

Enjoy the read and join us in giving thanks for all that is happening in our great community of faith, joy and hope. May God bless you.

May God bless you.

Canon Declan

Parish Pastoral Council

The Parish Pastoral Council is a committee of people who work with the priest to oversee the life of the parish. Its role is to look at the needs of the parish and see how the parish can build on its strengths. It also addresses the different needs of different groups of parishioners e.g. the elderly, the sick, families and our young people. The PPC helps to bring the views of parishioners to the meetings. It has a consultative role but also helps in practical ways when needed. It is resourced by the Diocesan Pastoral Renewal Team based in Killarney.

Among some of the items that we have organised over the past twelve months:

Our Parish Mission: was conducted by the Redemptorist Mission team last October and it was a great success. There was a different theme each of the seven nights involving young and old.

Our 'Ministers of Prayer' continued to be involved in the Parish - leading the Stations of the Cross, Rosary, and Prayer Services. They also helped the priest at prayers services and at the reception of a remains at the church on the eve of funerals. This ministry will need to be developed further in the months and years ahead as the number of priests diminish.

Pastoral Ministry Courses: One parishioner has just been awarded a Diploma in Biblical and Theological studies having completed a three year course at The Dominican Biblical Centre. Limerick. And just recently seven parishioners were presented with certificates accredited by the Diocese of Kerry and presented by Bishop Ray Browne having graduated in the Pastoral Ministry Course which was run over a 20 week period which was run over the past academic year at Ardfert Retreat Centre. Most of these people are already involved in various ministries in the Parish and these courses have helped to deepen their faith and become more actively involved in our parish. It is hoped that another group of lay people will do a similar course in either Pastoral Ministry or Youth Ministry beginning next October.

Our lovely Parish Meeting Room adjacent to the church, has also been a great help and is available to Parish Groups involved in Church activities. Our sincere thanks to the ladies who took it upon themselves to provide a 'cuppa' to parishioners after the First Friday 10.30 a.m. Mass. The Parish Meeting Room can be booked through the Parish Office. Should there be any way you feel we can make our parish a better place, please feel free to contact us as we are only too happy to help.



Listowel Area Pastoral Council



Over the past five years, the Diocese has been implementing a Pastoral Plan 2008 – 2013. That plan is now being reviewed as we look forward and form a vision for the next five years. All parishes across the Diocese are being encouraged to work together in clusters of parishes called a "Pastoral Area". We have two clusters in North Kerry. Ballydonoghue, Ballybunion, Ballylongford and Tarbert work together as one cluster known as the North Kerry cluster and we are in the Listowel Pastoral Area which includes Listowel, Lixnaw, Duagh and Moyvane.

These parishes work together, e.g. to train ministry groups such as Eucharistic Ministers, Ministers of the Word, Choirs etc. They also support each other for parish programmes such as talks for Lent or Advent. Two such talks were organised this past Lent.

The priests also give support to each other when help is needed, especially during times of illness or holiday. We have a roster of cover for duty for weekdays and weekends. The mutual co-operation is to help strengthen the individual parishes while co-operating with each other too.

Each of the parishes has their own Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) which usually meets about once every six weeks. Two members from each PPC, or one from each church area, meet with the priests who form the **Area Pastoral Council**. They meet once a quarter- each of the four parishes hosts a meeting once a year. Listowel Pastoral Council is continually addressing such issues of concern as: 'Co-operation', 'How to engage more young people in Church life', 'How to engage those who don't connect with parish or church', and the 'Questioning of the Church's teaching on a range of issues'. It is our hope that, as a Pastoral Area, we would build on the positives of our parishes, use all the given talents already there, and reach out more to the alienated and our youth, and provide education and faith-training for adults.



Children's Liturgy Group: Mairead White, Collette Stack, and Siobhan Mahoney (Absent: Mary Frances Behan & Kay Murphy)

Children's' Liturgy Group

A new initiative commenced in the parish in December when a group of parents came together to help make the Gospel more relevant and meaningful for children attending mass. Once each month- at the Vigil massthis group took the children to read and discuss the Gospel of the day in the Meeting Room beside the church. The children and parents who wished to accompany their children were invited to join the leaders before the Liturgy of the Word and returned to join the congregation after the homily. A special children's leaflet is available for children at all masses and this is used in the children's Gospel group.

All children 5 and over are welcome. It will commence again in September, this time at the 11 am Sunday mass.





Groups involved in our parish

Mission Bazaar Group

The Mission Bazaar Group organise an Annual Bazaar which supports the missions and various local charities. The 2013 Bazaar took place once again on the first weekend of December. A total of €8,860.00 was raised and distributed among different charities or missionary groups. Well done to all involved and thanks for the support.

Saint Pio Prayer Group

The Saint Pio Prayer Group hosts a monthly Mass, which includes the Rosary and Benediction, on the fourth Thursday of each month. (7.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.). All are welcome.

Church Adoration Group

We are blessed to have a lovely Adoration Chapel adjacent to the church. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes places each Tuesday and Wednesday, beginning immediately after the 10.30 a.m. Mass and continues until 9.00 p.m. in Summer and 8.00 p.m. in Winter.

Divine Mercy

There is great devotion to the Divine Mercy. The Divine Mercy Prayers are said each weekday morning immediately after the 10.30 a.m. Mass. Once again a service was held in honour of the Divine Mercy on the second Sunday of Easter and it was most successful.

Lectio Devina Group

This is a group that is scripture based. It meets every Tuesday morning in the Parish Meeting Room after the 10.30 a.m. Mass (excluding the Summer months). They discuss and reflect on the scripture readings of the week ahead.

Vincent de Paul (SVDP)

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul meet regularly, and run the weekly Bingo, the St. Vincent de Paul shop, the 'Meals on Wheels' and help the poor and marginalised in our parish in so many ways. Unfortunately the severe storm which took place in February did severe damage to their Centre at the Plaza. Hoping it will be up and running again in the near future. Many thanks to for the great support you give the work of this group.

Medjugorje Monthly Prayer Meeting

The members of this group meet monthly in the Parish Meeting Room, on the second **Monday** night of each month, at 7.30 p.m.

Other groups involved in our church

- Parish Choir
- Parish Folk Group
- Eucharistic Ministers
- •Ministers of the Word (readers)
- Altar Servers
- Altar Society and
- Church Cleaners
- •Ministers of Prayer
- •'Do this in Memory of Me Programme' for First Holy Communicants and their parents
- Counters and Collectors

Parish Liturgy Group

The Parish Liturgy Group seeks to do two things: plan for the major liturgical celebrations in the life of the parish and ensure that our liturgies are celebrated well. Over the past year, the Group has been involved in planning for Christmas, Easter, St. Patrick's Day, the Corpus Christi Procession and the Annual Examination Mass. The Group meets regularly and is resourced by the Diocesan Liturgy Committee.

The group consists of: Canon Declan, Helen Moylan (Parish Sacristan), Mary Walsh (Secretary), Julie Gleeson (Treasurer), Sr. Consolata (Organist), Kara Loughnane, Martha Wolfe, Donal O'Sullivan, Liam Brennan and Billy Moloney.





Fáilte! - Welcome! - Zapraszam! - Bienvenue! - Willkommen

We welcome into our Parish Community the following who were paptised in St. Mary's Church in 2013

Aideen O'Connor, Lartigue Village.

Grace Heaphy, Skehenerin Lower.

Lily Hudson, Bunaghara. Cassie Enright, Cois Baile.

Ellie Groarke, The Meadows.

James Sheehy, Dromin Green.

Orla Lyons, Shrone Middle.

Katie Lyons, Stokers Lawn.

Kevin O'Keeffe.

Stephen Carey, Fourhane.

Madison Carter, The Writings.

Amy Heffernan, Ballygologue Rd.

Aoife Hickey, The Writings.

Louise O Connor, Cluainin.

Seán Kelly, Lartigue Village.

Aoibhínn Daly, Meelish Close.

Jake O'Brien, Drumclough. Eoin Griffin, The Paddocks.

Kelsey-May Blackburn, Lartigue Village.

Adrian Robert, The Paddocks.

Trey Sheahan, Lartigue Village.

Lidija Samaskaite, Beech Grove.

Brandon Sheehy, Woodford.

Cerys Harteveld, The Meadows.

Bridget Dillon, Cluainín.

Bree Dillon, Cluainín.

Sarah Walsh, Curragh Close.

Tadhg Brennan, Forge Rd.

Jessie Flannery, Woodford.

Olivia Winfrey, Cluainín.

Padraig Finnerty, Banemore.

Adam Stack Holly, Duagh.

Layla Barry, Feale Drive.

Sophie O'Driscoll, Sli Na Speire.

Katelyn Joy, Gortnaminch.

Joules Pierce, Track Rd.

Aoibhe O'Brien, Meen.

Kyle Curran, Ballygologue Pk.

Jack Grant, London.

Jack Flavin, Bedford.

Darren O'Connor, The Forge.

Amy Foley, Coolagown.

Sofia Stack, Woodford.

Jake Moloney, Knockane.

Tyler Enright, Beech Grove.

Ava Kennelly, Greenville.

Alexia Flanagan, Golf View.

Dominik Sekowski, Dromin Green.

Sean Kissane, Cloontubird.

Amelia Foley, Charles St.

Ella Rodgers, Beechgreen.

Joshua Buckley, Tanavalla.

Jamie Doyle, Cois Baile.

Oliver Lukowski, Beechgrove.

Aisling Moloney, The Meadows.

Robbie McCool, Feale Drive.

Cara Yates, Curragh Close.

Elsie Mai Murphy Norgrove, Liosarda.

Iveta Tomkova, Dromin Green.

Martin Tomko, Dromin Green.

Teagan Mulvihill, Derry.

Róisín Stack, Moyessa.

Sadie O'Sullivan Leahy, Kenny Heights.

Ryan McDaid, O'Connell's Ave.

Ellie Beth Barrons, Courthouse Rd.

Cormac Scanlon, Bridge Rd.

Shauna Toomey, Feale Drive.

Grace Leahy, Bedford.

Oliver Canty, St. Brendan's Tce.

Marriages

We congratulate those who were married in our Parish in 2013

Thomas Enright & Susan Slemon

Karol Clancy & Lindesy Doolan

Joseph Cooley & Caroline Hennessy

John Enright & Patrice O Sullivan

John Hennessy & Catherine Pierse

Eugene Moriarty & Iris Simon

Patrick Upton & Sarah Wallace

Kevin Lyons & Catherine Nolan

David Williams & Louise Treacy

Kieran O Mahony & Elaine Carty

Tadgh Hogan & Judith Cox

Hubert Servignat & Niamh Kissane

Robert Tubridy & Noelle Buckley

Victor Morkan & Karen Carmody

We remember in sadness (RIP)

Our prayers are with all those whose funeral masses were celebrated in our parish during the year 2013

JANUARY

Peggy Moloney, Charles Street Hannah McCarthy, Woodford Kathleen Hartnett, Clieveragh George McEneaney, Gortacrissane Phyllis McKenna, Ballyhadigue Mary Regan, Dromin Winifred Millward, Lartigue Village

FEBRUARY

Miriam Carey, Convent Street
James Flahive, Church Street
Sr. Austin Brosnan, Presentation Sisters
William Harnett, Church Street
Maureen Lyons, Derry
Margaret Enright, Courthouse Lawn
Margaret Gordon, Kilmorna

MARCH

Jack Carmody, William Street
Christopher Porter, Fourhane
Sr. Gemma McGrath, Presentation Sisters
Mary Doyle, Coolnaleen
Nora Sheehy, Bedford
Peggy Dore, Lartigue Village
Dan Guiney, Gurtcreen
Ann Kerins, Bedford
Anthony Greaney, Ballygologue Park
Eileen Relihan, Bedford

APRIL

Tim O Carroll, Charles Street Anthony Curtin, Dromin Tom Carey, Duagh Nick Roberts, Clieveragh Downs Jacqueline Sheehy, Woodlawn Teresa Holly, Convent Cross

MAY

James Cronin, Cherrytree Drive Kathleen Curtin, Bridge Road

JUNE

John Browne, Killocrim Margaret Murphy, Clieveragh Park Jim Cogan, Cherrytree Drive

JULY

Kevin McCarthy, Coilbee Donal Griffin, Ballygologue Road Elizabeth Barry, Clieveragh John McEnery, Woodview Maurice McAuliffe, Courthouse Road Isabel Fitzgerald, Cahirdown

AUGUST

Brigid Ross, Woodlawn Elizabeth Moran, Colbert Street Nora Kissane, Gortnaminch

SEPTEMBER

Michael Lynch, Liosarda Philomena O Connor, Market Street Cornelius Hickey, Colbert Street John Joe Stack, Bedford Mary Keane, Ballygrennan Margaret Buckley, Clounmacon

OCTOBER

Dick O Flaherty, Woodview
Mary Moroney, Ballylongford
Peter Dowling, Courthouse Road
Paddy O Sullivan, Meen
Mary Stack, Clieveragh Park
Marguerite Clancy, Ballybunion
John Neville, Ballinruddery
Patrick Lane, Coolnaleen

NOVEMBER

Patrick Murphy, Bedford Maureen Hayes, Gortacrissane Maurice Molyneaux, Woodford Eva Murphy, Church St Patrick Devey, Willow Place Mary Skehan, Clounmacon Ann Sloan Andrews, O'Connell's Ave.

DECEMBER

Elizabeth Gillespie, Dirha East Claudia Costello, Coolaclarig Eileen Moriarty, William St. John Joseph O'Connor, Ballybunion Rd.

Baptisms: 69 First Holy Communions: 83 Confirmations: 88 Marriages: 14 Funerals: 69

Parish Financial Council

The Parish Finance Council is made up of a committee of people from the parish that help the Parish Priest in the administration of the goods of the parish and oversee its finances. The-members meet regularly and are governed by universal law and the Kerry Diocesan Administration Finance Regulations of 'Best Practice Guidelines'.

The members are: Canon Declan O'Connor P.P., Jim White (Chairman), Maura Joy (Secretary), Mike O'Sullivan (accountant), Shane O'Donoghue and Margaret Broderick.



St. Mary's Parish Listowel Income and Expenditure Account

t. Mary's Parish Listowel Income and Expenditure Account			
For the year ended	31/12/2013	31/12/2012	31/12/2011
INCOME			
Offertory Collection	140659	149579	144730
Shrines, Cribs	18178	21851	9677
Donations	1885	6640	1544
Bank Interest earned	245	1004	912
Sundry	3619	3139	3212
Tax rebate	15999	7020	0
TOTAL	180585	189233	160075
EXPENDITURE			
Wages,Paye,Prsi, Sacristan and Secretary	33077	37609	31489
Rent and service charges	768	921	768
Insurance	7618	8709	7727
Light and heat	15156	13736	13498
Repairs and maintenance	32703	66520	96811
Telephone	2138	2838	3015
Printing, postage, stationery	7611	9246	7329
Altar requisites	8667	9749	10688
Courses/ Meetings	3950	3864	3033
Professional fees	511	431	1773
Diocesan Administration levy	22437	21710	18915
Sick & Retired Priests Fund	2200	2200	2100
Bank charges	1253	1392	1140
Missalettes	4424	6381	5208
education/pastoral/misc	6710	100	1399
New equipment	27767	7611	21800
TOTAL	176990	193017	226693
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Offertory Collection

The weekly Offertory Collection is taken up during Mass. It is the cash you put on the Offertory Plate and the regular, weekly, white envelopes. It is used for the day-to-day expenses and the capital expenditure of the parish which includes: the Diocesan Levies / Staff Wages / Insurance & Security / Light & Heat / Routine and Capital Expenditure / Telephone / Printing / Postage / Stationary / Altar Requisites / Missalettes. The total amount raised in 2013 was €176.990.00.

The priest's income is separate and is not paid from this collection and it is dealt with under its own heading.

Parish Envelope System:

The Parish Envelope System was introduced in March 2011. The 'envelope system' is the norm in all the parishes of the Diocese nowadays. The box includes all the envelopes used for the different offerings at various times of the year. The weekly and special envelopes can be placed on the Offertory Plate or in the Offertory Basket, or dropped into the Parish Office. Some parishioners chose to pay once a year by cheque or pay by direct debit. There are many benefits to using the 'parish envelope system' as we record in a confidential manner (known only to the Parish Secretary) the offering that you give to your parish and priest throughout the year. Should your total offerings in a calendar year for everything be in excess of €250.00, and you are a tax payer the parish can claim a tax rebate currently 31%. A total of €15.999.00 was raised in 2013. Sincere thanks to you all who returned your forms. The envelope box also includes the 'Priest's Offering', which supports your priest or assisting clergy throughout the year. These envelopes have replaced what was traditionally known as the 'Station Dues' for Spring and Autumn & Christmas & November offerings.

Priests Income

The priest's income (salary) comes from two sources, firstly, the Special Collections held in the Spring and Autumn, and the November and Christmas Offerings and, secondly, the offerings given for Baptisms, Funerals & Weddings. The priest is considered as self-employed by the Revenue Commissioners and he pays his own income tax directly each year. The salary was €36,620.00 and €10,000.00 was given to the Diocesan Fraternity Fund which supports the priests of poorer parishes within the Diocese. Also €3,500.00 was given to the Diocesan Multiple Stipend Fund from Mass Offerings, which goes to the Bishop's charity. The Parish pays half of the priest's VHI and half of the Presbytery heating oil. Your generosity and support of your priest(s) is very much appreciated.

Some notes on our Financial Statements:

Over the past 12 months we continued various repairs and maintenance works to our parish buildings Last Autumn, we installed a 'CCTV system' into the church for health and safety reasons and a 'Loop System' for the hard of hearing. We also up-graded and replaced much of the electrical lighting. Our immediate concern now is addressing the church floor problem. Much of the church floor is as when the church was built and it has become worn, unsightly and uneven. If only for health and safety reasons alone we had to address it. That is our big project for this Summer. We appreciate that it will inconvenience people but it will be fabulous when completed. It is scheduled to start at the beginning of June and completed before the end of July. It is a much bigger project than we initially thought as on further investigation we discovered that under much of the floor there was no foundation. The marley tiles going up the aisle were put down in 1958 and have served us well. It will add greatly to our beautiful church. Later this year we will look at the prospect of broadcasting our liturgies on line. Also, there are many of the stained glass windows buckled and that problem will have to be addressed sooner or later. All of these things can only be done if we can afford them. We are conscious of the recessionary times in which we live but we are also conscious that it pays to keep maintaining everything regularly.

The Diocesan Levies go towards the administration costs of the Diocese and are used solely for this purpose. The Parish Finance Council expresses sincere thanks to you for your financial support. Your generosity is much appreciated and makes it possible to run the parish and undertake these structural activities when necessary.



Corpus Christi Procession

Our annual Corpus Christi Procession in 2013, took place on Sunday, May 26th and began and ended in the Square, after the 11.00 a.m. Mass. We were blessed with a lovely day. This year, it takes place on Sunday, June 22nd (Feast of Corpus Christi) It will be a little different this year as we will begin in St. Michaels' College after the 11.00 a.m. Mass - go up Cahirdown, over John B. Keane Road and finish in the Green, at top of Ballygologue Park with Benediction. The Parish Liturgy Group wishes to thank everyone for their help, support and co-operation with the Procession.



Billy's Retirement:

Our Parish Sacristan for the past 29 years has just retired. Billy Moloney and his family have served our Parish well. The role of Sacristan over Billy's time has changed a lot. When Billy replaced the late Timmy Lawlor (RIP) he did more than Sacristan – The role was known then as Parish Clerk – which included many of those services now provided by the Parish Office. He literally was the Priest's 'right hand man'. On behalf of the parish community and all the priests who worked with him, we want to thank Billy, and indeed all his family, for his kindness and dedication to our parish. There will be a party in the Listowel Arms to mark Billy's retirement on Friday, June 13th. We hope that he enjoys his retirement and we welcome his replacement, Helen Moylan of Cherry Tree Drive. We wish Helen every blessing in her new role with us.



Trip to Prague

On 22nd April, 15 members of our Parish Choir left Listowel to visit Prague. Four glorious days of sunshine helped us to absorb this vibrant city of history, architecture, and culture. We had a wonderful trip and got to see and experience the beauty of Prague, A great time was had by all.





Diocese of Kerry Website

We bring your attention to our Kerry Diocesan Website at www.dioceseofkerry.ie. It contains all the up- to-date news and happenings in the Diocese including our Parish Newsletter each weekend. Just click on the icon for Listowel and then open the 'Parish News'.

We also bring your attention to Horizons which is produced by the Diocese and is broadcast on Radio Kerry each Sunday morning, from 9.00 a.m. to 10.00 a.m., or you can listen to it from the Diocese of Kerry website.



Child Protection – Şafe Guarding Children Parish Policy Statement

Our Parish has adopted the Kerry Diocesan Child Protection Policy. We, the Parish of Listowel, value and encourage the participation of children and young people in parish liturgies, and in activities that enhance their spiritual, physical, emotional, and social development. We recognise and the dignity and rights of all children and young people and we are committed to their protection and support. In keeping with this, we undertake to do all in our power to create safe environments for children and young people in order to secure protection and enable their full participation in the life of the church. Our Diocese is currently undergoing a National Audit for safeguarding children.

Contact Information: For further information about Parish Policies, please contact our parish representatives at: 0877614289 or 0876562353 or 0871642868

Holy Days of Obligation

There are six Holy days of Obligation during the year. January 6th - Feast of Epiphany March 17th - St. Patrick's Day

August 15th - Feast of Assumption of Our Lady November 1st - Feast of All Saints

December 8th - Feast of Immaculate Conception

December 25th - Christmas Day

PARISH OFFICE

(located adjacent to the Presbytery)

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday - 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.

Denise Moran, Parish Secretary, The Parish Office, Listowel.

Tel: 068-21188. The Parish Emergency Mobile (for sick calls outside of office hours) is 087 0908949

Fax: 068-23655. E-mail: listowel@dioceseofkerry.ie

Kerry Diocesan website:
www.dioceseofkerry.ie, where you can check out the link to Listowel Parish and includes the weekly Parish Newsletter.

Parish Sacristan: Helen Moylan, Phone

068-21188

Parish Priest: Canon Declan O'Connor

P.P. V.F.

Design: Stephen Behan

Printing: Listowel Printing Works Pictures: John Stack, Brendan Landy, Mary

F. Behan, Marie Reen and Denise Moran.

