

Caring for the Pastoral Life of the Community

FR. TOM HEALY

One of the parish groups that I work alongside on a continual basis is the Pastoral Council of our parish. The council comprises a group of parishioners who meet with the Priests and Parish Sister every two weeks to reflect on and plan the pastoral life of the parish.

Once a year the Council take the opportunity to away for an overnight which we feel allows us extended time to give thought and consideration to the year ahead in peaceful and quiet surroundings.

While other groups look after different aspects of parish life such as communications, liturgy, finance, etc the particular focus of the Pastoral Council is to be concerned about the pastoral life of the community.

Most of the weekly life of the parish is organised by the Pastoral Council and among the issues addressed over the past year were: Parish Visitation, Youth Mass, Bereavement Ceremony, Cemetery Sunday, Children's Liturgy, celebration of Marriage Jubilees, Music in Church, All night vigils, Healing Mass, Reflective day for Parish groups, Reconciliation Services, African Masses, Live Crib etc etc.

Current members of the Pastoral Council are: Sr. Angela Clarkson, Deirdre Dalton, Colm Dardis, Tommy Dolan, Fr. Thomas Healy, Fr. Padraig Kelliher, Stefan Macko, Anita Mollaghan, Bernice Mulligan, Teresa Neville, Fr. Tom Murray, Therese O'Shea, Fr. Brendan O'Sullivan, Colette Skelly, Christine Treacy and Kevin Victory.

These are changing and challenging times for the Church in Ireland and as we look to the future it is well acknowledged that the Church will



Pastoral Council Members bid farewell and say thanks to Fr. Nigel Charles and Fr. Merlyn Kenny as they departed Longford for new parishes last September. Pictured l to r: Fr Brendan O Sullivan, Tommy Dolan, Sr. Angela, Fr. Merlyn, Kevin Victory, Fr Nigel, Anita Mollaghan and Fr. Tom Healy ADM.

Farewell to Fr. Merlyn and Fr. Nigel

The diocesan appointments of 2011 saw us bid farewell to Fr. Merlyn Kenny and Fr. Nigel Charles. Fr. Merlyn has been appointed to Carrick

on Shannon, Co. Leitrim while Fr. Nigel has been appointed as Administrator of Killashee and Clondra. We thank both of them for their

commitment to Longford parish over their three year term with us and wish them God's blessing in their new pastures.

have to rely more and more on the involvement of its lay community. I am very grateful to all our members for the generosity of their time and talent over the years.

Parish ministry is vast and varied and we

meet many new challenges in our changing Longford. I and my colleagues at the Presbytery are delighted to have the input and support of the Pastoral Council members as we gather for our fortnightly meetings at the Family Centre.

Welcome to Fr. Tom Murray



We say a warm welcome to Fr. Tom Murray who was appointed to the parish in Sept last. Fr. Tom is no stranger to us having spent many years teaching at nearby St. Mel's College. Fr. Tom is a native of Clondra. We wish him many happy years of ministry among us in Longford parish.

Priests Areas

Longford Parish has grown hugely over the years. We now have in excess of 4,500 homes in our parish community. Now that we have four priests instead of five it is quite a challenge for the priest's to stay in touch and get to know the people and the homes of our parish. We find it helpful to sub-divide the parish for our ministry. Our working areas are as follows:



Fr. Tom Healy:

Dublin St., Convent Rd., Anneville Court, Grian Ard, Ardri, Ardeevan, Cluain Ard, Palace Crescent, Palace Drive, Templemichael Glebe, Ard Michael Avenue, Cloncoose, Coradoey, Carriglass, Kiltybegs, Kiltyreher, Knockloughlin, Derryharrow, Melview, Knockawalky, Clonrollagh, Foynes Court, Clonbalt Woods, Bo Dearg, Aghadegan, Clonbalt, White Linen Woods, Battery Road, St. Alban's, Tennis Court Lane, Church St., Fee Court, Abbeycartron, The Belfry, Woodlands, Brickfield.

Fr. Brendan O'Sullivan:

Park Close, Park Court, Park Corner, Park Road, Park View, Park Villa's, Legion Tce., Clabby Drive, Canal Bank, Canal Court, Canal Walk, Ferefad, Ballymakeegan, Lisduff, Clonkeen, Trillick, Crockaun, Trillick-a-Curry, Trillick-a-Temple, Garvagh, Farnagh, Prospect Woods, Campbell's Lane, Farnagh Glebe, Mullaghavourneen, Aughafad Heights, Shannon Vale, MacEoin Park, The Hollows, Glebe View, Ardan Alainn, Earl St., Deanscurragh, Butterfield, Springlawn, Ardnacassa Avenue, Oakvale.

Fr. Padraig Kelliher:

Killashee St., Harbour View, Harbour Point, Market Square, Canal Close, Fair Green View, Fair Green Lodge, Harbour Row, Annaly Crescent, Annaly Park, Garvey's Close, Garvey's Yard, St. Brigid's Tce., St. Michael's Rd., Annaly Gardens, Lanna Aoihbhinn, Congress Tce., O'Connell Tce., Ward's Terrace, Athlone Rd., Royal Canal Park, Railway Meadow, Western Park, Camlin Meadows, Farnyhoogan, Ballyminion, Gleann Riada, Clonterm, Cartrongeeragh, Knockaboy, Clonturk, Clooneena, Gowlan, Aughantrough, Churchlands, Canal Line, Stonepark, The Rocks, Ballagh Road, Dunbeggan, Silver Birches, Danesfort, Curry, Caldramore, Ballinamore, Corlogan, Caramanagh, Gurteenboy, Newtown, Brickeens, Knockatarry, Meelick, Doonameeran, Knockagowry, Clonany, Willow Park, Demesne, Rugby View, Pearse View, Lisbrack, Pearse Drive, Lisbrack Downs, Iron Roid, Cartron Breac, Richmond St, Mullagh, Aughterea, Lisanurlan, Mullollogher, Cartronleabagh.

Fr. Tom Murray:

St. Patrick's Tce., St. Mary's Tce., Dublin Road, Leader Park, Dun Darrach, Viewmount, Knockahaw, Ardnacassa, Ardnacassa Manor, Ardnacassa Lawns, Midara Gardens, Teffia Park, Kennedy Drive, Kennedy Parade, Glack View, Glack, Golf View, Pauric Columb Heights, Kilnasavogue, Cooleeney, Whiterock, Lisardowling, Aughtarickard, Cartronbig, Toorafin, Clonahard, Freeholman, Currabawn, Clonahard,

Lisfarrell, Clonahussey, Lisnamuck, Coolnahinch, Allenagh, Lisnamuck, St. Emer's, Minerocks, Oaklands Avenue, Oaklands Drive, Oaklands Grove, Oaklands Green, Oaklands Dale, Laurel Avenue, The Laurels, Geraldine Tce., Chapel St., St. Mel's Road, St. Mel's View, St. Mel's Court, Bannon Tce., Templemichael Tce., Connolly Crescent, Camlin Mews, Camlin View, Camlin Court, Connor Park, Riverside Court, Water St., Main St., Ardrum Court, Cameron Gate, Midland Court, College Park.



Pupils of Scoil Eimear pictured on a Nature Walk for Environment Week 2011.



Trick or treat for Temple Street.

Active year at Scoil Eimear 2011

TRICK OR TREAT FOR TEMPLE STREET CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL: On Friday 28th October all was not as it usually is in Scoil Eimear! Both teachers and pupils alike donned costumes ranging from Witches and Vampires to Princesses and Kings, we even had a Banana for good measure!! It was all done in aid of the very worthy cause - Temple Street Children's Hospital. As a result of our 'Trick or Treat' for Temple Street we raised over €700 and we would like to extend a huge thank you to all who were involved in making the day such a huge success. We all had a 'Frightfully' good time.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MRS. NOELEEN ROONEY:

The whole school community joined in a number of celebrations in June to congratulate Mrs. Noeleen Rooney on her retirement, to thank her for her hard work and dedication over her years in Scoil Eimear and to wish her every good wish and blessing for the future.

STAFF NEWS:

As we bid a fond farewell to Noeleen, we welcomed Martina McCormack to her new position as principal. We also welcomed a new member to our staff in the form of Linda Hayes from Cornamaddy who is doing trojan work in 4th class. We congratulate Mrs. Annabelle Gacquin and her husband Jimmie on the birth of baby Isobel and also Mr. Roger Ward and his wife Linda Hackett on their wedding during the Summer. We remember in a very special way staff members who have lost loved ones in the past year, Mrs. Sinéad



Longford Slashers Dermot Brady and Brian Farrell visit with the Sean Connolly Cup.

Smith and her husband Frank who lost their son Cian and also his granny Dorrie Flynn and Ms. MaryJo Devine and her husband Matt who lost Frank Devine. May they rest in peace.

SILVER JUBILEE AND BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS:

We in Scoil Eimear are very lucky to have Fr. Thomas Healy so involved in our school life. Every year we enjoy fantastic First Communion and Confirmation celebrations, but this year it was Fr. Tom's turn to enjoy a few celebrations of his own! On 8th June he celebrated his Silver Jubilee and both staff and pupils joined him in a celebratory prayer service, while October brought a very significant birthday. We thank him most sincerely for all his wonderful work in the school and wish him continued health and happiness in the future.

CONGRATULATIONS:

Congratulations to our pupils who excelled

in the following areas: Swimming: Ronan Kenny has reached the U.11 All-Ireland Swimming Finals. They will take place on 11th December 2011. Good Luck Ronan.

Scór Winners: Aiden Skelly, Sarah Devine, Clodagh Lee, Sarah McCauley, Adi Barry, Seyi Omotosho, Shauna Tarmey, Laura Kenny and Davidson Moses.

Gaelic Football: The Scoil Eimear Team who have reached the Division 1B Final of Cumann na mBunscol League. This final took place on Wednesday 23rd November 2011 in Pearse Park and we won!

Congratulations to Longford Slashers who won Senior Championship: Scoil Eimear students were delighted when some members of the Longford Slashers team arrived into school to show off the 'Sean Connolly' Cup.