

ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH

ENNISKILLEN

LISBELLAW



Volume I, Issue 2

NEWSLETTER

July 2013



"Being confirmed shows that I am becoming a young adult member of the church. I am now responsible for my own faith."

The Holy Spirit is there to guide us to the right path and help us."



Congratulations and 'Well Done!' to all who made their Confirmation or First Holy Communion recently. Congratulations and 'Well Done!' to all involved, particularly their families, their schools and the pre-sacramental group. Such days are so special because they make visible what we can't otherwise always see: love in action, family in action, parish in action and community in action. Much love and effort,

kindness and time, care and attention goes into forming the children for life in general and for days like these in particular. The children are not only the future of our parish and our local community: they are the present. In this way, our parish and community get built up.

Our parish meetings last year named our greatest need in the parish as 'energy for community building'. This is so important because parish and local community give us our sense of belonging. I know how important that is because in nearly thirty-five years as a priest I have lived in eight different places. I welcome a sense of belonging and I am grateful for the way that so many have fostered and continue to foster that sense of belonging here. Long may it last! May it develop and grow! It's great to see the large number of people attending daily morning Mass, for instance. It's great to see the work done for children in their homes and in our schools. It's great to hear about the drama and music groups, the sporting groups and the many others. It's great to have our Parish Pastoral Council. All these create a sense of belonging.

Our Parish Pastoral Council, commissioned by Bishop Liam MacDaid last March, continues to meet and to consider the provisions for the future of the parish. One of the gaps named early on in the parish meetings last year was the need for a 'community space' that is easily accessible. The local Community Centre beside the Clinton Centre has great potential in this regard. We are actively considering what to do with it. It will cost money, of course, and you will see elsewhere in this Newsletter a piece about the Parish Draw, which has served the parish so well over the years in its capital expenditure.

May the Risen Lord keep us together and at peace.



Canon Peter O'Reilly

Getting to knowFather David

Born in Dublin, I was raised in Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan. I am not sure I would believe this, but neighbours have suggested that I was a bit of a 'wild' child. Maybe growing up in a large family meant I had to work harder to make my presence felt!! In my last year in High School, in 1981, persuaded to consider the priesthood, I left home to study in Galway. I wasn't always convinced I should be a priest and didn't always want to be one so I left my studies and worked for a time in the restaurant at Clery's in Dublin. Later, I returned to Galway to work in a bar and nightclub. That was a very exciting time. I was young, working at a job I loved and surrounded by great friends. I was dating and generally having fun. Life was a party. **But, something wasn't fitting properly into place.**

The nightclub where I worked was a popular, busy and 'happening' venue. I had enjoyed my time studying for the priesthood but had listened to people who told me it was a waste, that I was throwing away my life, that religion was for old people, etc, etc... At that time a friend of mine was thinking about entering a monastery. Like those around me, I felt he was wasting his life, I bought into the whole notion of a life like that being a waste. Then, one night, looking out across the bar, it came to me that, although I enjoyed the life I had, I wasn't sure **if it gave me life**, if it was life fulfilling. I watched the people in this packed and very busy club and wondered what they were doing there. Had they just wandered in? What were they looking or hoping for? It struck me that everyone in the place was looking for the same thing. Some were conscious of it, others weren't. Some deliberately went out looking, others just went along with the crowd, but everyone wanted to be connected, to be recognised, to have their existence noticed and appreciated. I felt everyone was looking to be LOVED.

As social beings, making connections is important to us. It struck me that we chase after things we believe will make our lives better, and sometimes they do, but I knew someone who gave me life, someone who was Life.

We seek love and can make all sorts of sacrifices to find love, but I knew the One who is Love.

I could meet this person regularly through prayer. In the Eucharist I could receive the life and love He not only offered but the Life and Love He is. It was time to stop listening to others and to listen to the one voice that mattered, the voice of the one who was my life and who gave me the perfection of love.

The following September, 1987, I entered a monastery and began my journey of discovering the love God has for me. I began a regime of silence, of manual labour, of study and of prayer. During the following years I had the joy of studying in Oxford and Rome. On January 6th 1993, I was ordained a Deacon by His Eminence, Pio, Cardinal Laghi, in St. Anselmo, a Benedictine monastery perched on the top of the Aventine Hill in Rome. I returned to my own monastery on June 29th of that year and was ordained a priest there on September 3rd by His Grace, Archbishop John Aloysius Ward.

In my time as a priest I had a number of roles in the monastery before taking up ministry in one of our parishes in South Wales, where, from 1999, I was a Parish Priest until my return to Ireland in 2012.

I enjoy what I do because I feel very much that God is close to all of us, seeking to become known to and by us. Our faith should bring fulfilment and joy, even in hard times. People sometimes dismiss faith as a crutch that the weak can lean on. We all know that no matter how good a relationship is it can be challenging. Good relationships are life enhancing and bring fulfilment but often require effort on our part. Those who understand

the nature of relationship know that faith is no crutch. It can be very challenging and sometimes painful but a relationship with God is not just life enhancing, it is life giving for it is a relationship with the one who is Life.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus says that He came "*so that we may have life and have it in all its fullness*". We can dismiss faith for all sorts of reasons, not always because we disagree with it but sometimes because, though very drawn to it, we fear what responding to the call of God can mean. We don't all have to join a monastery to discover the love of God and the life that belongs to us in Christ but we do all need to stop and listen, hear the voice of the One who doesn't just make our life better, but who is our life, hear the voice of the one who doesn't just offer us love but who is love and who completes us.

I surrendered to my vocation because I eventually realised what it was I wanted. Like those in the nightclub, I wanted connection, I wanted love and in God I found it in all its fullness. I found Life. I pray you will too.



St Benedict of Nursia (c. 480—543)
(from a fresco by Fra Angelico)



Our 2013 First Communicants



ADULT FAITH DEVELOPMENT GROUP ST MICHAEL'S PARISH YEAR OF FAITH 'COME ALIVE IN THE SPIRIT'

"Our Faith Development journey is a lifelong one. We see the home as the first Church, where children and youth experience God's love and presence through the family's care, values and prayer."



PENTECOST TO TRINITY SUNDAY 2013.

Our aim for the week was **"to help us strengthen and deepen our faith with God. It arose from the above quote from our Parish Adult Faith Development Mission statement.** The week included:

Praying with Scripture: _____

"Something very good created, by the groups who prayed together and bonded together."

Parish Pilgrimage to Lough Derg: *"Pilgrimage is a way of helping build our faith community."*

"It was good to meet with others from our own Parish and from beyond, who were on the same faith journey."

Celebrating Family in Faith:

Presented by Maureen Treanor, an excellent speaker who explored how we live our faith in today's culture and society, the evening began with the Prayer and readings recalling God's blessing to families on their faith journey. Symbols of Faith, reflecting family lives, were brought to the altar by Adult leaders of the St. Michael's Children's liturgy Group and by parishioners from St. Mary's Lisbellaw. Fr Noel blessed the water before asking God's blessing on all families.

Maureen Treanor spoke from her experience of family life and from her professional life as a family therapist. An inspiring evening in growing 'faith' in family was enhanced by music from the Saturday evening Vigil Choir, followed by tea, coffee, chat and sharing with Maureen in the upper room of the Parish Centre

The team recommends Bairbre Cahill's book ***"Family Spirituality; God among the Pots and Pans."*** - Available in the Parish Bookshop and from this team. We hope to hold a 'book club' night in Advent so that interested parents can explore this inspiring book.

Why do we bother? Faith and Spirituality:

Sean Goan posed the following thought provoking question, "Are we spiritual beings in a human body or human beings in a spiritual body?" He went on to tell us that ***"Faith is a willingness to trust that God IS and that He is revealed through Jesus with us."*** Sean's talk helped us to realise that it ***is 'worth bothering.'*** As he said, ***"Our truest and deepest happiness lies in knowing our spiritual identity and living it in all the ups and downs of life."***

Sean called to mind the tiny yellow mustard seed, which can grow to a massive tree providing shelter for many creatures. (Luke 13:18.). **The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed, both gift and challenge to us. The infinite God is present in the smallest seed of faith.**

Jesus' words and deeds are presented as works of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, 'The Spirit of God in upon me.' We too need to pray for and await to be clothed with the Holy Spirit and take up our Christian challenge. With the gift of the Spirit we can become faithful followers of the Christian Way.

The sacrament of the Sick and Holy Anointing. What is it?

What is a sacrament? A sacrament is the gift of Christ given to us in signs and symbols that reveal to us the reality of God, whom we cannot see, present to us in the person of His son, Jesus Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Essentially, celebrating any sacrament is about us meeting Jesus. Sacraments are about God becoming available to us in a very tangible and real way.

Sometimes we can be very uncertain about how to approach a particular sacrament. We are not always sure how some sacraments are meant to be administered or used. One such sacrament is The Sacrament of the Sick.



Because we often look for the Sacrament of the Sick when someone is ill, we can approach this sacrament feeling vulnerable or anxious. This can mean that our expectations are not always in tune with what the sacrament is all about. The sacrament of the sick is sometimes also called the '**Last Rites**' or '**Extreme Unction**'. It can be divided into two parts: the **Anointing of the Sick**, with prayers for healing, and the **Commendation of the Dying**, the final prayers of preparation and farewell for those who are being called from us. These latter prayers are meant to reassure those who are dying, and their family, of the nearness of God.

How is it best used? When someone we love is ill we want to do everything possible to give them proper care, emotionally, physically and spiritually. If the sick person has been devout during their lifetime we want to make sure that they have the Sacrament of the Sick because we know it is what they would wish for themselves. If someone has not been practising their faith, we can be very worried for their spiritual well being and be even more keen to get the priest so that things can be 'put right', especially if it is likely the illness will end with the death of our loved one.

(In an ideal world we would all prepare to meet our Maker by living our lives on earth well, through expressing a lively faith and by giving the gift of selfless love to ourselves and our neighbour in the name of God. We don't always manage this, even when we want to!)

So, what ought we do? We must remember that sacraments do not change the will of God. Instead, they should strengthen us to accept God's will, whatever it may be. When someone is ill and it is thought that a priest is needed, the permission of the sick person should be sought. If the individual is not able to give permission then it should be gained from the next of kin, if available. Ideally the priest should be asked for when the sick person is still conscious.

Once the priest has been and the sacrament administered, the person concerned has had the opportunity to accept Christ fully into their lives, to accept God's will and to trust that Christ will be with them in all things. If it is the will of God that the person prayed for will be healed that is what will happen but, if the Lord wishes to call the individual home, the Sacrament, hopefully, will bring peace and help him or her know that God will be with them in the experience of death in order to bring them into His life. It is a final opportunity for an individual to acknowledge Jesus as Saviour and Lord and a chance for loved ones and the Church to pray for a sister or brother so that they may know God's presence and be welcomed into the mercy and peace of God's kingdom. The ministering of the Sacrament can bring peace not only to the person being prayed for but also to family and friends.

This sacrament should, and need, only be administered once. There is no need to call the priest again once the Sacrament of the Sick is administered or when the prayers for the Commendation of the Dying have been said. People can often be worried, if the priest is not present to pray at the time of death, that the salvation of their loved one may be less assured but there is no need for concern in a situation like this. It is Faith that saves us. Family and friends need only offer prayer for their loved one and should, indeed, be encouraged to do so.

Increasing Demands for Catholic Chaplaincy in our local Hospital

The present model/management of our parish hospital chaplaincy arrangements date from the 1970's. While the number of beds remains the same (approximately 300), the throughput of patients has almost doubled. A hospital stay is now typically four days, whereas ten years ago it was likely to be eight days. The catchment area for the hospital has increased significantly too. Years ago, it was a county hospital: today, it serves an area that includes Tyrone and Derry. The professional demands on staff have increased very significantly. Nurses, in particular, are extremely busy people. Where once they might have had time to stop and chat, now it is more likely that they have to attend to their increasing levels of professional duties. Consequently, there isn't the same time for meeting a patient's spiritual needs. Moreover, the faith dimension of life is not quite what it once was for many: patients, families and staff alike. Both these latter points have increased the extent and the intensity of dependency on the priest. Furthermore, the new hospital design entails much more walking, as anyone who has been there will know. That said, walking is good for our health!

Photo to be added

The Parish Draw



The Draw Committee with some promoters

Back Left to Right: John McManus, Celia Burns, Patricia Elliot, Peggy Lilly, Gerry Elliott, Julia Hughes and Davy Bannon
Front: Maura McGrail, Mark Potter and Mary McCaffrey

No one is quite sure when our Parish Draw began. It has certainly been going since before the time of the wonderful refurbishment of St Michael's Parish Church, completed in 1995. This, one of the first major capital expenditures in the parish that was funded by the Draw to such significant effect, gave the town another worthy landmark and the parish a wonderful place in which to worship God and mark the births, deaths and marriages - the key events of life. Since then, the Draw has enabled other work to be carried out, inside and outside St Michael's Church. There was the repair of the exterior stone work on the side walls, the repair of all the stained-glass windows, the restoration of the paintings and the upgrading of the lights in the body of the church. It has also enabled work to be carried out to St Mary's, Lisbellaw, most recently in renewing the carpet, installing the statue of St Mary, discovered in the basement of St Michael's Church, and the upgrading of the grounds outside. It has also enabled work to be carried out in the Parish Centre, most recently the damp-proofing of the rooms upstairs. Work

has also been done to the Convent of Mercy Chapel, repairing the plasterwork, fixing/replacing the stained-glass windows, where necessary, upgrading the lighting and damp-proofing the walls. It is great to see the Convent Chapel in its present condition, as it is also an architectural gem.

In short, the Parish Draw has made a deeply significant contribution to the present condition of the fabric of the parish buildings. In that way, it has contributed to the town and to the parish community.

The lifeblood of the Parish Draw is the local promoter: our sincere thanks to all those who, over the years, have been promoters for the Draw. The result of their work has been the success of the Draw. It is no small thing to have made such a contribution. They have also brought a bit of fun to the life of the parish, with the many wins over the years. Nowadays, there is £2000 in prize money for each of the monthly draws, which compares well with the monthly subscription of £5. Sometimes people have been pleasantly surprised to win because their draw number had been a gift to them from someone else.

If the lifeblood is the promoter, then the 'beating heart' of the Parish Draw is there to see on the second Monday night of the month, above the Parish Bookshop, when the draw takes place. The team of Draw Organisers has done untold good work in their faithful attendance and willingly-given help. There's a lot of craic as the subscriptions are logged, counted, prepared and later lodged with the minimum of fuss.

At one time, the draw brought in about £100,000, annually. Nowadays, not surprisingly in these challenging economic times, the amount is rather less. However, there is no doubt that the people of the parish continue to be willing to support a good cause when they see it.

With that confidence in the people of the parish and beyond, the Parish Pastoral Council has been discussing the need for an easily-accessed Community Space - something identified in the discussions at the parish meetings last year. For example, we need a space for a parent-toddler group and we need a place for an after-funeral group to gather if desired. The local Community Centre beside the Clinton Centre has great potential in this regard. The Parish Pastoral Council is actively considering what to do with it. It will cost money, of course. In this regard, the Parish Draw offers our best possibility for this sort of capital fundraising. It has served the parish community well in the past: it can continue to serve the parish community well and make a key contribution to setting up a suitable provision for the years ahead.



Magdalen at the Feet of Our Lord
One of the beautiful, restored paintings

In September, students from the Parish will be invited to design posters about the St Michael's Draw. There will be three entry levels, Primary, Post-primary (up to GCSE) and Post-16, and two classes of entry - posters designed by hand and those design by computer. Prizes for each category will be £50 and £20 vouchers.

Posters will be expected to focus on (a) beneficial work already done through our Parish Draw (b) the need to make an accessible community space in our Parish or (c) the excellent value of the draw (£5.00 for £2000 in prizes). Application forms will be distributed to schools and the final date of entry will be Monday 7th October.



Mary Mc Manus: born on May 8, 1913.

One Hundred Years Young.

Mary Maguire, born at Glassdrummond in the Parish of Aghalurcher, the second daughter of Paddy and Rose, had four sisters and one brother and lived most of her childhood in Rossbeg just outside Lisnaskea. She recalls her early life as physically hard; walking to school barefoot in summer, helping at home and in the fields.

Everyone had great respect for the Church and Clergy and Mary tells of a day when her mother spotted the priest on his way up the lane. "Mercy God" she exclaimed and quickly set everybody to tidying, ready to receive him. Then, all seated, they awaited the knock on the door but no knock came, just the sound of music. Eventually, they peeped out and nearly convulsed in laughter: instead of Fr Donnelly, they saw an old tramp. Mary's son, Ronan, has composed a tune entitled "The Tramp in Fr Donnelly's Clothes"

Mary remembers that even when shoes were not worn to school, they wore shoes to Mass and dressed in their Sunday best. In her early days they walked to Mass but later went in a donkey and cart. On special feasts like Christmas there would have been three Masses one after another. Generally, the men stayed on one side of the Church and the women and children on the other. There was also segregation during the Missions which took place every three years: one week for men and one for women and real "fire and brimstone" preachers.

Another incident often recalled was when a large number awaited First Friday confessions and, having heard Jimmy Mc Phillip's confession, Canon Maguire enquired how the Council meeting had gone. It had been an important meeting when a number of houses were to be let. Sadly, no Nationalist had been successful. As Jimmy left the box, the Canon leaned out and bellowed for all to hear "That's the worst I ever heard!" Jimmy hurried out red-faced.

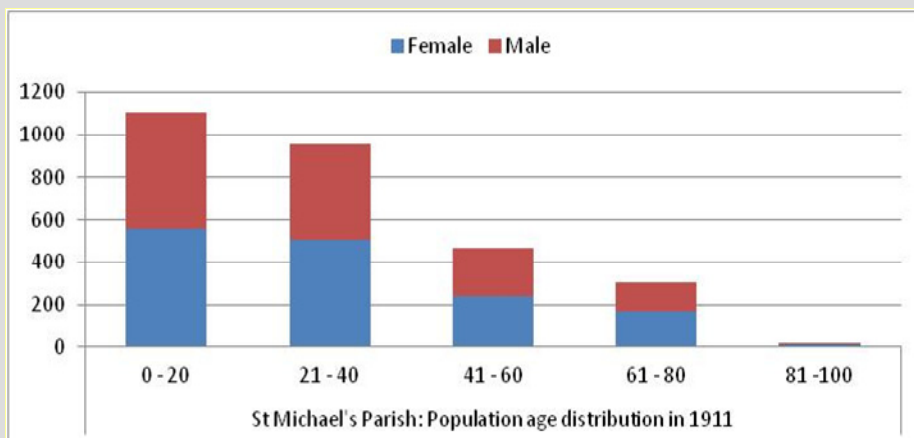
Mary worked as a shop assistant and later in the Creamery. She very much enjoyed ceilidhing with her cousins in the Donagh area. There was a house of music and dancing and plenty of craic. However, such pastimes were frowned on by the clergy and many sermons were preached against boys and girls being out running the roads at night!!

On 15th May 1935 Mary married John Mc Manus, a baker, in Holy Cross Church, Lisnaskea and they set up home in Enniskillen, in a flat above Dick Naan's shop and tea-shop in East Bridge St. Later they relocated to the Lisbellaw area, where most of their children were born; Louis, Sean, Seamus, Brendan, Bernie and Jas. Meanwhile, John continued to work in Whaley's and later the Co-op bakeries.

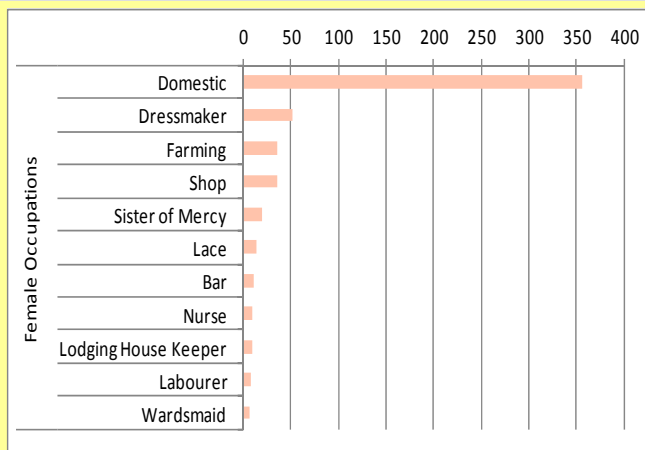
In 1954, a new home in Cornagrade, with running water, an indoor toilet and electricity, seemed like pure luxury. This has been the family home ever since and Ronan was born there. Though most of the family have continued to live in and around Enniskillen, Sean emigrated to Canada where he had a successful music career and Jacinta, a nurse, settled in Downpatrick. Louis, Seamus and Brendan worked as electrical contractors, while Bernie was a teacher in St Michael's College and Ronan enjoys playing music in a number of local bands. Sadly Mary has been pre-deceased by her husband, John and her sons, Louis, Sean and Seamus.

A faithful Parishioner of St Michael's, with great devotion to Our Lady, Mary has visited most major Marian shrines: Knock, Lourdes, Fatima and Medugorje. For many years she hosted a Rosary group in her home and was a long-time member of the Graan Prayer Group. Mary greatly appreciates Holy Communion being brought by the Ministers of the Eucharist and the monthly visits by the priests of the Parish and still occasionally manages to get out to Mass.

Two years before Mary was born, 73% of the population of the parish were under 40 years. Only 1% (14 women and 7 men) were 81 or older. Two parishioners were aged over 90: Sarah McDonagh, of Lisbellaw, was 98 and a female inmate of the Workhouse, registered only as B. M., was 92. The oldest man was 88 year-old James Drumm. He was also from the Lisbellaw area—the townland of Lisreagh



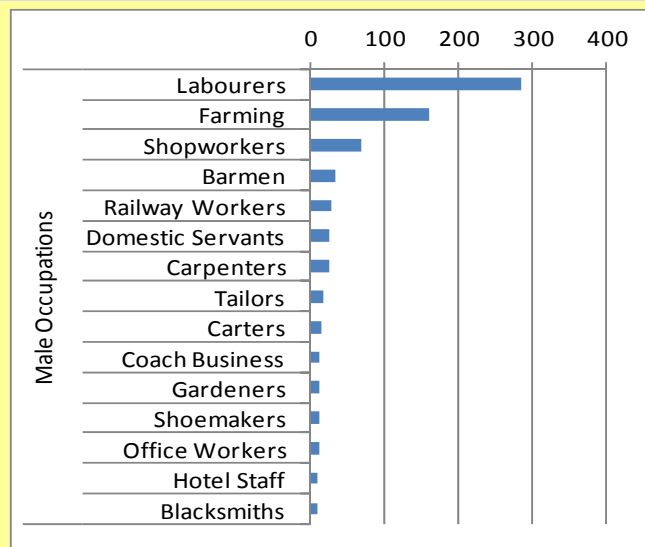
St Michael's Parish 100 years ago.



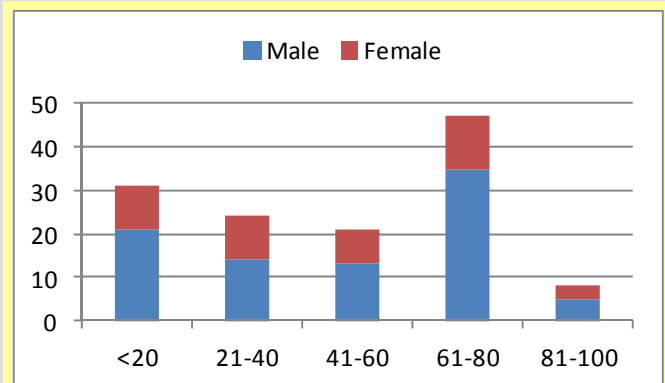
The following is based on the government census of 1911. The parish boundaries have changed in the years since but the data is taken from the returns for the towns of Enniskillen and Lisbellaw and those townlands that are part of the present parish.

The population of the parish in 1911 was 6,804, of whom 2,858 (42%) were registered as Catholic. The Enniskillen town area had 2,246 Catholic inhabitants, 48.6% of the entire population of 4,624. Some of the main occupations were not very different from those of today, though 61% of the female workers being in Domestic Service is a surprisingly high figure as is the fact that 8 women described themselves as "Labourers" (agricultural). The railway was a significant employer and the parish had 51 dressmakers, 19 tailors, 14 lace workers and 14 shoemakers. Additional footwear was provided by 2 clog makers and among other occupations and trades that have disappeared or become rare were coopers (5), telegraph workers (8), messengers (4), fowl dealers (4) and tea agents (3).

The parish was served by 4 priests, Canon Keown and Frs McManus, Furney and Gormley, all but the latter, who was from Tyrone, being Fermanagh natives. There were 20 Sisters of Mercy and 6 "Christian Brother" teachers (3 from Kerry, 1 Cork man and 2 from Limerick).



Cornagrade is the part of the parish where the contrast with the present is greatest. There the Catholic population was 162 (84%), almost all of whom were associated with the Workhouse. Of the 152 inmates, 86% was Catholic. Of those, 34 who were adult could not read or write.



Catholic inmates of the Workhouse in 1911

Our 2013 Parish Census

During the month of June a 'pilot' exercise was carried out in the parish as preparation for a full parish census, which is planned for the autumn. The exercise involved 10 volunteers delivering census forms to some 200 homes and collecting them, on completion, a few days later. Currently, the returns are being checked to see if the form is fit for purpose and a database is being designed and tested, using the initial information.

The census will assist the parish team in bringing parish records up to date. Recent amendments to addresses and postcodes and the movement of families in the area have resulted in a lot of change within our parish. In order to nurture our sense of parish (and our sense of communion as a parish), communication is vital. Improving our administration will help us to improve our pastoral outreach and to build up the parish.

The information in this census will be treated with confidentiality, in keeping with Data Protection legislation, and will be available only to the priests of the parish and, with the authorization of the Parish Priest, to those other members of the parish team who need to access it in the service of our parish. Completed forms will be stored in locked cabinets and the computer system onto which the data will be copied will be password protected.

The census process, a major undertaking, requiring the assistance of many volunteers and the co-operation of all our parishioners, will create an up-to-date database that will then be maintained as accurately as possible, on a weekly basis, until the next major review of parish information in 2018. It is hoped that this will provide one of the practical means for fostering a spirit of co-responsibility among us, making a positive difference to the lives of both clergy and laity in our community.



Ryan McCluskey, Captain of the Fermanagh Gaelic Team.

Did you know? - More than 20 Sisters of Mercy work in the parish. No longer involved in teaching, they are very active on many committees and projects - in the Marriage Tribunal, on Boards of Governors and in the Faith and Light Programme. They are members of bereavement, baptism and liturgy groups, Ministers of the Word and the Eucharist and are involved in a wide range of counselling and support work.

ST MICHAEL'S PARISH

Very Rev. Canon Peter O'Reilly, PP

Telephone : 028 6632 2627

Email : pp@st-michaels.net

Rev. Martin O'Reilly CC

Rev. Noel McGahan CC

Rev. David Donnelly CC

Telephone : 028 6632 2075

Presbytery, 4 Darling Street,

Enniskillen, County Fermanagh

St Michaels Parish Centre

28 Church Street , Enniskillen

Open Monday to Friday: 10:30 – 2:30

Tel: 028 6632 2075

Email: parishcentre@michaels.net

www.st-michaels.net

**The webcam can be accessed at
www.saintmichaels-parish.com/webcam.asp**

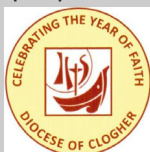
My Enniskillen Home

I have always been very proud of where I have come from and where I have grown up. I've often said that I'm a townie, and proud to be one!

Growing up in the community and the parish has made me who I am today and I'm absolutely delighted to have a job working within the community with the Devenish Partnership. My job is funded through Children In Need and it is great for me, as a local lad, to have the opportunity to work in the local parish and community. Through my job I provide activities to cater for the needs of all teenagers in the area and any activities that we do are inclusive for all members of the parish.

I come from a close knit family who have always given me great support in everything I have done which is very important. My love for sport came from my family, the community and parish that I was brought up in. We live quite close to Brewster Park and my mother always had us down at the club. My love for the GAA grew from that and to have played for Enniskillen Gaels and Fermanagh is a great honour for me. Indeed, I really looked forward to leading Fermanagh out on my home pitch against Cavan in the Ulster Championship.

I may not be overly religious although I'm of the belief that you don't have to be to be a good person. I do, however, attend Mass before any of our big championship matches. (Maybe I'm looking for divine intervention!) My mother though is a regular at mass and at the church and I know how important her faith is to her and to so many more people in the parish.



Year of Faith 2012-2013



In this Year of Faith, Lord, I affirm my belief.

Help my unbelief, those times when I struggle to trust You.

I stand before you conscious of my sinfulness, but trusting in Your great mercy.

I know You love me and that You walk with me daily.

Remain with me, enlighten my heart.

Give me light and strength to know your will, help me make it our own, and to live it in my life.

Grant that I may please You in all I say and do.

Guide me by your wisdom, support me with your power, for you are the One God, living and true, source of all that is live in me.

Arise with me each morning, travel with me through each day and grant that I may rest in You each night.

You desire justice for all: enable me to uphold the rights of others; do not allow me to be misled by ignorance or corrupted by fear or favour.

Unite me to yourself in the bond of love keep me faithful to all that is true May my life be a constant act of worship given to You.

May I temper justice with love, live a lively faith, and one day be blessed with the reward promised to good and faithful servants.

You live and reign Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen

Parish Mission Statement

We are called by our baptism to be disciples of Jesus; to love God and our neighbour. We seek to live our lives as faithful witnesses to Gospel values and to spread the Good news in a joyful, simple way, bringing hope, healing and support to each other along life's journey. We are a worshipping Christ-centred Community. We value respect and promote the dignity of others. We embrace difference and diversity rejoicing in the unique giftedness of every human person

Please let us know what you think of the Parish Newsletter by contacting the Parish Centre (parishcentre@st-michaels.net).