

ST. COLMCILLE'S PARISH KNOCKLYON

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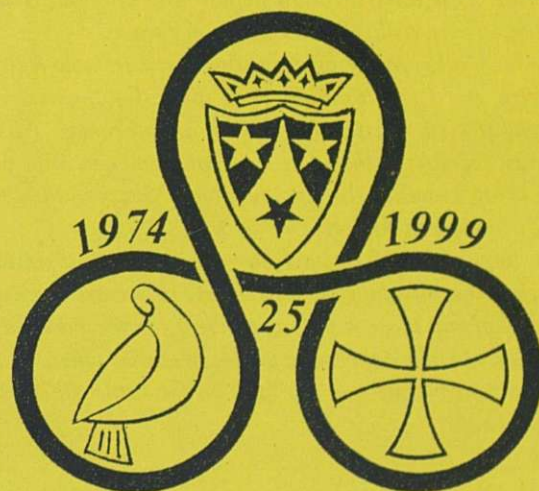
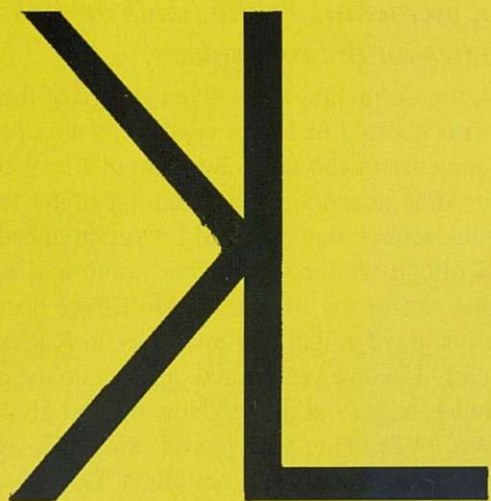
SILVER JUBILEE EDITION

KNOCKLYON NEWS

JUNE 1999

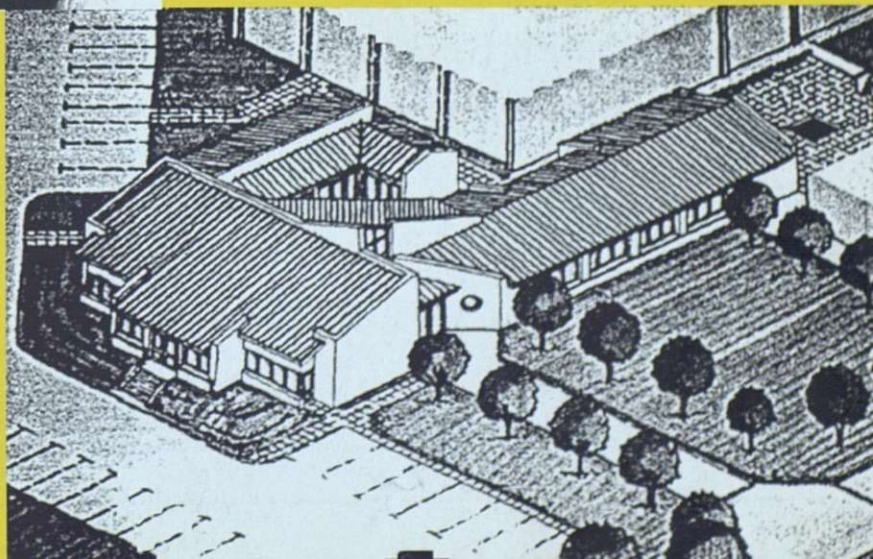
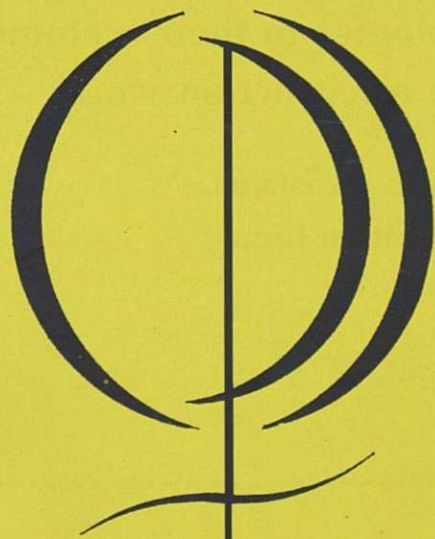
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Our Front Cover Shows

TOP RIGHT: Fr Paddy Staunton, the first Parish Priest in Knocklyon in the company of four young pupils of St Colmcille's School. In the background can be seen the "temporary" prefab Church alongside the present Church before the latter was opened in 1980.

CENTRE: The Present Carmelite Team (L.-R.) Fr Tony, Br. Pat, Fr David, Fr Philip and Fr Arthur.

BOTTOM: An artist's view of our New Pastoral Centre - which we can look forward to seeing take shape.

A WORD

FROM THE NEWSLETTER TEAM

When preparing this special "Souvenir" Edition we considered how best to represent the essence of St Colmcille's Parish in this its 25th year - not an easy task you will agree! Knocklyon, undoubtedly as a location, has a great deal to recommend itself - "the country on your doorstep, the city at your disposal" - as one local Estate Agent describes it. It is also an area steeped in history, with more than its fair share of famous houses and notable personalities, both past and present. However it is the people of the parish (past and present), both clerical and lay, which we have chosen to focus on in the following pages, because, we believe it is only through people that community is built, visions are realized and real history made.

We have allowed the myriad of groups currently active at Parish and Community level to speak for themselves throughout - who better to tell their unique story? Their accounts, together with the photographic images, will, we hope, bring together the jig-saw pieces that combine to form the picture of Knocklyon Parish in 1999.

We hope the material presented will give readers an appreciation of just how far we've come in a short space of time, and permit those with long residency in the Parish an opportunity to take a nostalgic glance at earlier times.

So as "Gaybo" used to say "Put on the kettle, sit down, relax and enjoy".

Fr David Reflects

As a child growing up in the "forties", Knocklyon for me was a quiet, quaint place, wedged between the homes of three of my uncles, two of them living on the Firhouse Road and one on Stocking Lane, all of them dairy farmers. There was something remote and almost idyllic about Knocklyon. Perhaps it was because I only saw it at its best, on sunny Summer or early Autumn days, travelling in my Grandfather's pony and trap, picnicking in the fields or picking blackberries on the roadside.

In 1974, the Carmelites were given charge of the new Parish of Knocklyon. I had been vaguely aware of housing developments in the area. But school life was my focus at the time, teaching class, training rugby teams, producing the school play etc., and I was convinced that Terenure College would remain my home and workplace for the rest of my life. It wouldn't have occurred to me that one day I might live and work in Knocklyon Parish. Clearly I hadn't yet come to appreciate the depth of truth hidden in the old joke.: "How do you give God a good laugh"? "Tell Him your plans"! So, 1982 saw me pack my bags and head for the foothills of Dublin.


I'm now in my eighth year as Parish Priest in Knocklyon, (albeit with a nine year gap in the middle), and all of them have been good years.

So much for reminiscence! What are my thoughts about the Church in Knocklyon? To me the greatest positive feature is the quality of the Community, and the wealth of talent and numbers of people actively and cheerfully involved. It is indeed inspiring to see so many groups offering service and care. However, like all Communities, we have to wrestle with the negative forces of our time.

"Man does not live on bread alone" says Christ. There is the insidious danger of affluence and the cult of the material, as Shopping Centres take over from Churches as places of worship. Out goes spiritual sustenance and life is lived more and more on the surface.

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Then there are the pressures on and within family life. Our Parish abounds with truly model families: loving and enlightened parents; young people exemplifying all the best qualities that are the hallmark of youth – generosity, enthusiasm, vitality, a sense of fairplay; children coming to the Presbytery door, their faces shining with pleasure as they hand over the proceeds of a toy sale they have held at home for the poor people of Rwanda or Kosovo. Yet there is a tendency with so many of today's families to be very self-absorbed and self-focused; too much so, I think, for the good of the individual members; as charity rightly begins but unfortunately all too often remains in the home. In teenage years there is the sad spectacle of many young people losing their way in life as peer pressure takes over from parenting as the dominant influence. True freedom, arguably the most precious gift of adult life, needs to live in dynamic tension with real and challenging responsibility. Children, today, plainly cannot cope with the freedom that is too often accorded them, far too early and without the appropriate responsibility that ought to be meted out in equal measure.

The parish seriously lacks, at community level, sufficient parental involvement and commitment to provide healthy structures, effective inter-communication and meaningful facilities, all of which are needed to help the young through their early teenage years. In an otherwise intensely active parish, it's sad to see, year after year, appeals for help in the Youth Club, Community Games and the like fall largely on deaf ears.

Church-going people are often heard to lament the

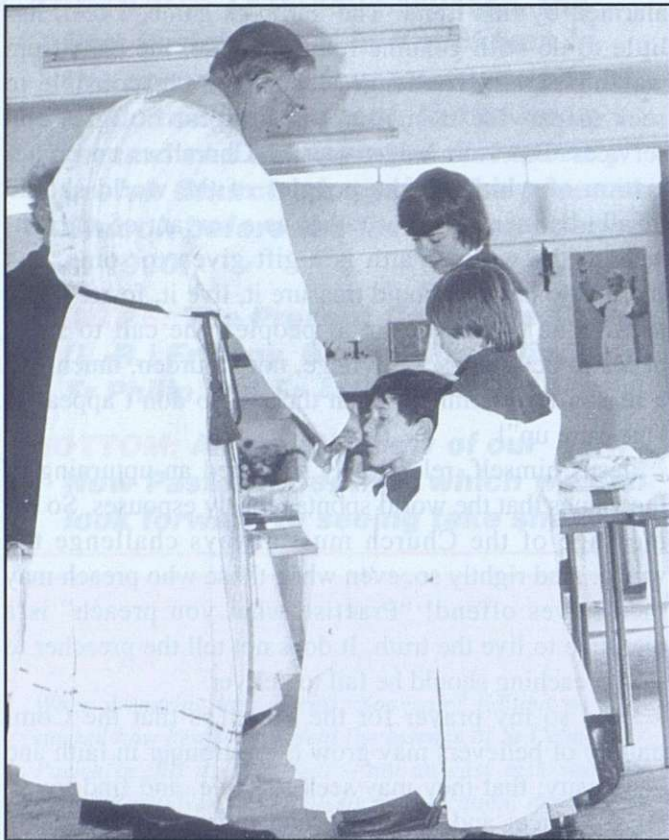
diminished attendances at Sunday Mass. I wonder would I be censured by my Ecclesiastical superiors, or indeed by my fellow parishioners, for being less than alarmed by this trend. The numbers game, I feel, has little to do with genuine religion. True, the drift from worship rightly challenges those of us responsible to seek to provide ever more meaningful liturgies and services. But I no longer see the Church as an organisation of which all the peoples of the world should ideally be members, but rather as a servant of and witness to the world. Faith is a gift given to some, and those who have it should treasure it, live it, foster it and seek to be of service to all people. The call to serve needs to be seen as a privilege, not a burden, much less a reason to recriminate with those who don't appear to "measure up"!

Jesus himself, relentlessly preached an upturning of the values that the world spontaneously espouses. So the message of the Church must always challenge the world. And rightly so, even when those who preach may themselves offend! "Practise what you preach" is a directive to live the truth. It does not tell the preacher to stop preaching should he fail to deliver.

And so my prayer for the Parish is that the Community of believers may grow ever stronger in faith and generosity; that they may seek to serve, and find joy in their service; and that more and more people may be drawn to follow Christ, moved by what brought so many converts into the early Church, namely, Christians loving one another.

David Weakliam

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Archbishop Dr Dermot Ryan at a Ceremony in the temporary Church

Eileen Casey (whose name will be familiar to regular readers) recalls for us the major landmarks in the history of the Parish over the last quarter of a century. Eileen, a resident of Knocklyon since 1974, is a long time member of the Newsletter Team.

In 1974 when building was still in progress on the new estates in Knocklyon, amenities were more or less non-existent – no street lighting, no shops, emergency phones only and a 49 bus that seemed to come when it felt like it. Shopping trolleys were the order of the day as one had to trek to and from Quinnswoth in Rathfarnham which was the main shopping venue. On Sundays, early residents went to Mass in the Carmelite Convent Chapel on the Firhouse Road, a beautiful little chapel but rather small and quite incapable of holding the overflow of people from the new houses in the area.

The Parish was constituted on the 1st October 1974 and placed

under the patronage of St Colmcille. Fr Patrick Staunton was appointed Parish Priest and Fr Sean Dunne, Curate. This was the first landmark in the history of the Parish. The two priests moved into a rented house at 2 Firhouse Avenue (now Knocklyon Avenue). Ballyroan was designated as Parish Church for the area and Sunday Mass was celebrated at 10.30 a.m. Daily Mass was held in the new Presbytery and the priests also organised evening Masses in the homes of parishioners. This was a wonderful way of getting to know one another, both for priests and people. These evenings of prayer, budding friendships, were like gatherings of one big happy family. This was the start of a community that grew beyond anyone's wildest dreams.

However, there were many problems to be solved and the first and most important was to find a suitable place in the area to celebrate Mass. Only then could the community establish an identity of its own. A General Meeting was held in Terenure College in November 1974 which 70 people attended and the first Parish Council was elected. A committee meeting was held later that month and the main issues discussed were – a Mass Centre – a School – a Residence and Fundraising – a Mass Centre being the priority. The ideal solution was found when the Canteen of McInerney's Site Office was made available to the parish. The first Mass took place there on Sunday 15th December 1974 and this surely was the most important step in the building of this community. The Canteen was a rough wooden building. Early arrivals got a seat on one of the benches all squashed together. The rest of the congregation had to stand. Despite the heat and lack of air the congregation was very happy. This was a place of their own to which they could belong.

It was during this period that the first group of Church cleaners was established. They arrived at 2 p.m. sharp every Saturday armed with scrubbing brushes and mops, then together with the priests they set about cleaning the Canteen floor. Removing the ingrained mud left behind from the brickie's boots was a mammoth job, a task which had to be repeated every week.

The year 1975 came and week by week more residents arrived. Eventually, there were so many people, the congregation overflowed into the open space outside. The growing community needed a larger more comfortable Mass Centre. The Parish Committee decided to approach the Finance Committee at Archbishop's House and ask permission to erect a temporary Church. About this time an unexpected donation of £10,000 was received from a parishioner. The good Lord had come to the rescue again. The visit to the Finance Committee proved successful and permission was granted. The site was purchased and plans submitted for the temporary Church of St Colmcille.

On Sunday, 10th August 1975 the first Mass was celebrated in the new building. Wooden steps led up to the main door where Fr Staunton and Fr Dunne welcomed the congregation.

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the Milestones ~ ~ ~



*Our Youth and Community Centre
"in the making" in the mid 80s*

They knew everyone by name and it seemed as if they wanted to make sure all the family was safe inside.

The Church building served many purposes then. When the partitions were put up it became a very busy meeting place for the parish as a whole. Sometimes there would be three different activities in progress – the newly formed Folk Group Choir – a Speech and Drama Class – or a committee meeting for one of the various activities in this ever growing community.

St Colmcille's Primary School was purchased for the Parish by the priests of Ballyroan at a cost of £36,000, the sum of which became our parish debt. Government Grant and Approval was given and in September 1976 the school opened its door to the first pupils. Mr Patrick Kelly was appointed Headmaster. The total number of students on that September day was 86. Today the population has grown so large that the school has been divided into a Junior and Senior section.

Fundraising for Parish Development began in November 1974 when the Fundraising Committee launched the Envelope Collection which is still in operation. Volunteers agreed to collect envelopes weekly in different areas and as the community grew, more collectors were obtained to cover every household in the parish. This and many other funds raised by parish groups in various ways, contributed to the clearance of most of our parish debts.

In 1979, plans were well under way for the building of our permanent Church. It was also the year when Pope John Paul II came to Ireland and on the occasion of his visit to Maynooth, His Holiness blessed the Foundation Stone of our new Church. In April 1980 our beautiful new Church of St Colmcille was opened. *We belonged at last.*

1980 is also remembered for a very special event in our history. It brought Superquinn to Knocklyon – our very own Supermarket. With it came a small Shopping Centre. No more long car journeys. No more tired feet. Just up the road or the pedestrian way. Oh the bliss of it all! During the seventies and eighties many new Estates were established – Templeroan, Orlagh, Woodstock, Castlefield, Westbourne Lodge – to name but a few!

In 1989 we had the opening of The Youth and Community Centre. This was surely one of the most important additions to our community. It was opened as a result of a large Fundraising effort by a dedicated committee, spearheaded by Liam Mongey and assisted by Paddy Collins, Cormac Nagle, Michael Coleman and Con O'Grady, among others. The Youth Club, which was founded by Tony O'Connell and Liam Mongey in 1977 (with twenty members) now had a permanent home. The Centre has proved to be a wonderful asset to all the people of Knocklyon – young and old. It also caters for such Groups as K.A.I.E.S. (a great centre for Adult Education), Speech and Drama Classes, The Social and League Badminton Groups, The Lyon's Den – after school Childcare Service, The Active Retirement Group, and many more social activities – there is even a Coffee Dock.

No one can say that Knocklyon is short of amenities. In 1991 we welcomed the Post Office to our midst. 1990 saw the first double decker bus route from Scholarstown Road to the City Centre. 1993 heralded the opening of our own Credit Union.

Now in 1999 we are happy to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the foundation of our Parish. Looking back it is hard to imagine how quickly the years have slipped away since the first Carmelite priests came to Knocklyon. We are very grateful to them and their successors, and to all the people who have worked so hard to build Knocklyon into the community that it is today.

Eileen Casey



*Fr Paddy Staunton and Liam Mongey at the Official Opening
of the Youth and Community Centre – 29th January 1989*



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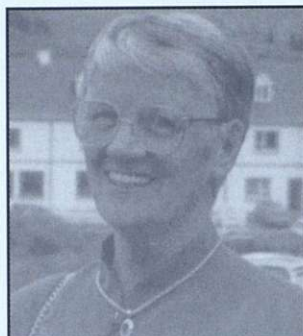


Back Row L.-R.: Brother Pat Mullins, Fr Philip Brennan, Fr Tony McDonald
Front Row L.-R.: Fr David Weakliam P.P., Fr Arthur Fitzpatrick.

- ☛ **Bro. Pat Mullins** joined the Carmelite team in Knocklyon in 1994. He is employed as a Lecturer in Theology in Milltown Park. He is mainly involved with parish administration and finance.
- ☛ **Fr Philip Brennan** served in Knocklyon for some time prior to his Ordination here in June 1997. He continues to be involved in many areas of pastoral work in the schools, among altar servers, Church Art Group, Baptism Team etc.
- ☛ **Fr Tony McDonald** joined us during the summer of '97 from Beaumont Parish. He previously served in Whitefriar Street and for many years prior to that in Zimbabwe. He has a particular interest in visiting parishioners in their homes and is involved in a variety of parish activities.
- ☛ **Fr David Weakliam** has been Parish Priest in Knocklyon since 1994, a position he previously occupied between 1982 and 1985. He has a very wide interest in all matters pertaining to the life of the Parish and occupies the post of Chairperson of the Junior School Board of Management.
- ☛ **Fr Arthur Fitzpatrick** has served in Knocklyon for more than twenty years. For six of those years he was Parish Priest. He retired from this position in 1994 and continues to serve here, maintaining very close links with all parish activities. He currently chairs the Senior School Board of Management.

Some Familiar Faces

Callers to the Presbytery here will usually be greeted by one of these friendly faces:



Nuala during one of her visits to Donegal

NUALA CARROLL, who is a native of Donegal has worked with the Carmelite Community since '74, and has lovely memories of her involvement over the years. She did take a year off which she spent in her native County and is now back on a part-time basis, cooking and caring for "these boys".



Cora takes time from the kitchen

CORA JENKINS, who lives locally, has been full-time housekeeper for some years, having been trained in by Nuala! Cora and her husband Damien are the parents of three grown up sons and a daughter.



June smiles for the camera

JUNE KEENAN-HEAVEY – Parish Secretary, has worked in the Parish for almost fourteen years. She is married to Tony, with two teenage daughters Aileen and Karen. A native of Dunmore, County Galway, June and her family now live in Dargle Wood.

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~ ~ ~ Best Wishes to Knocklyon Parish on its Silver Jubilee ~ ~ ~

We invited some of our priests who spent time here to share their thoughts with us on their time in Knocklyon.

Fr Alan writes as follows:

Greetings from Whitefriar Street to Knocklyon on this your Silver Jubilee Year. Who am I and why am I writing? Well I was asked by the Newsletter People to scribble a few lines for this special occasion. Also I spent 12 years in the Parish, 1982 - 1994, and during that time I was involved in the production of the Newsletter. I gloried in the title of Editor when in reality the real work was done by the "Newsletter People" of which a little more anon. And who am I? Well the signature at the bottom will remind those of you who knew me. And why not use this occasion to say to such good people, thanks for the kindness and support during my time in Knocklyon. I do remember you with gratitude. Some have gone to the Lord and those I remember too.

While in Knocklyon even then the original parishioners were bemoaning that the Parish had become too big and the sense of community and intimacy was being eroded. At that time Templeroan was still a football pitch, if you get my drift! Today the Parish has increased greatly in size and numbers. The "originals" must yearn more and more for the pioneer days. But life and people move on, but not to worry (spiritual plug coming in here!), "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and for ever".

To come back to the "Newsletter People" the core group are still there. Given the now size of the Parish the Newsletter is more important than ever. Kind regards, God bless and prosper Knocklyon and its people, on this your 25th anniversary.

Pat Alan Fitzpatrick



Fr Alan making the cut

Showing Appreciation



Junior School Principal Paul Dalton making a presentation to Fr Joe on behalf of the children.

I am delighted to have this opportunity to congratulate the people of Knocklyon on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of the Parish. I was privileged to work in Knocklyon Parish from 1986 - '87 and again from 1988 - '97 and I have many fond memories of my time with you. During those ten or so years, we saw the number of homes in the Parish almost double and yet Knocklyon always seemed to retain a great sense of community and of togetherness which is a great tribute to all concerned.

I remember being struck when I first came to the Parish by the great involvement of people in different groups and activities and I know that Knocklyon continues to be a very active and lively place where so many people give a tremendous witness of commitment and service.

I am very proud to have been a part of this story. I remember with great affection St Colmcille's Schools, both Junior and Senior and the great welcome I always received from both pupils and staff. I think also of the many groups with which I had involvement, the list is quite long, but I always felt I was part of a team and that we were working together which gave me a great sense of support for which I want to thank you all.

I also have very happy memories of dropping into people's homes and of simply walking around the Parish, and the great hospitality and friendship I received, and indeed continue to receive whenever I get the opportunity to return to the area. So once again congratulations, and every good wish for the future.

Fr Joe

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A Note from Fr Chris

From the mountains of Peru to Knocklyon at the foothills of the Dublin mountains – What a change. “You’ll have to get used to walking on carpets here”, was how one woman greeted me after Mass on my first Sunday in the Parish. But I soon learned there was more to Knocklyon than walking on carpets.



I was overwhelmed by the number of children and young people. This was only to be expected in a parish that was just eleven years old. All the Sunday Masses were overcrowded and the noise level from the children was deafening. Someone suggested that I ask the parents not to bring their children to Mass. This would have defeated the whole purpose of being there. I realised that the problem would solve itself in time. In the meantime we had a special children’s Mass at which the children re-enacted the Gospel message in drama. An abundance of altar boys surrounded the altar like a choir of angels. Soon the girls wanted to be angels too. My confrères in the Presbytery warned me of the danger and thought I might be heading for a belt of a crozier. Knocklyon was one of the first churches in Ireland to have altar girls. On the morning after their first appearance I had a call from John Bowman who suggested they would look lovely on television. I didn’t take the bait!

The primary schools in the parish were filled to capacity with more than 1500 pupils and growing every year. After primary school they scattered in all directions. There was a great need for a Community school in the parish. We had the land off the Scholarstown Road for years but nothing had been done. I paid a visit with Mary Muldoon to Dáil Éireann to have a word with Mary O’Rourke, the Minister for Education. I tried to convince her that Knocklyon could have one of the finest secondary schools in the country if we were given a chance. But all to no avail. Her mind was made up. She pointed out that there was sufficient room in the surrounding schools. Little did she see the problem of transport that would arise in the coming years.

I also began a youth group for teenagers which I hoped would be the future leaders of the parish. I’m sure that those young boys and girls look back with as much pleasure as I do on the times we had together. I wonder whatever happened to the band?

Many other wonderful things happened during my time in Knocklyon which was far too short but I have very happy memories.

*Whoever we are we hold in our hearts
the memories of the times we have lived and loved.
Today is more meaningful for it is built on who we were,
Where we have been and the paths we have travelled.*

Fr Chris

Fr Chris Conroy was Parish Priest from 1985 - 1988.

A WORD FROM FR ARTHUR



Aileen Millane (Delaford) pictured with Fr Arthur on the occasion of his first Christening in the Parish.

I came to St Colmcille’s Parish in October 1979. Little did I know then that twenty years later I would still be here. My Superiors must have forgotten about me and for that I am most grateful as I have been so happy here in Knocklyon.

Funnily enough, the thing I can remember most vividly after my arrival was my first breakfast in the Presbytery. That morning I came down and went into the dining room and to my surprise I found an empty table – not even a cloth on it! I hung around for a while to see what was happening. Shortly afterwards, Fr Paddy Staunton arrived on the scene. Plucking up my courage I asked him, “What about breakfast?” “Oh”, he said. “I forgot to tell you last night. Here, everyone makes their own breakfast and evening meal”. It was a dreadful cultural shock, especially for a fellow who had never boiled an egg in his life. So I ended up with tea and burnt toast! Needless to say I learned to cook very quickly.

I wasn’t long in Knocklyon before I realised what a wonderful Parish it was. The generosity of parishioners was always evident.

In 1988 I was appointed Parish Priest and I received one piece of good advice which, I was told would save me a lot of trouble. It was this: I was to observe the 3 D’s – *Decide, Delegate and Disappear!* It was good advice. I was unfortunate to become P.P. at a time when a lot of work had to be done on the Church building. Many parishioners will remember when the Church roof began to leak. However, whenever one leak was mended another would appear. In the end it was decided the only answer was to put on a new roof. This mammoth task, along with heating and electrical repairs, was accomplished with the help of a good committee and the great support of the parishioners.

In the early days of my time here, a Golf Society was formed. This has given me many happy days and helped me form many lasting friendships. I am happy to state that the Golf Society is still flourishing.

Unfortunately, I can’t look forward to another twenty years in Knocklyon, but thank God I can look back on twenty very happy ones and on the kindness, friendship and hospitality of the people of Knocklyon which is evident in a real spirit of community. God bless you.

Fr Arthur

Editor’s Note: We understand that Fr Arthur recently celebrated his 70th birthday. On behalf of all his friends and parishioners we wish him many happy returns.



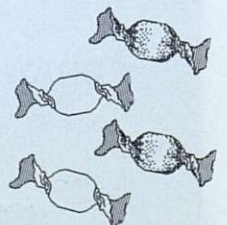
News Extra



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Our First Parish Priest Recalls

Knocklyon Parish was my home for eight years – the most exciting and wonderful years of my priestly ministry. It was all about new beginnings – new house, new school, new Church – and especially new friends. Seán Dunne and I moved into the Parish on the 1st October 1974. I had just returned from Zimbabwe, where I had been for eleven years working as a Missionary. Little did I think that a new missionary adventure was about to take place in Knocklyon.



**THE BLESSING OF ST COLMCILLE'S SCHOOL
(L.-R.) Fr Paddy Staunton (then P.P.),
Archbishop Dr Dermot Ryan, and Mr Liam Cosgrave**

The early days in the parish were frantic with activity, (which you will have read about in Eileen Casey's account earlier.) I have fond memories of the activity on the Saturdays when priests and laity, young and old mopped and cleaned the McNerney's Canteen in preparation for Sunday Mass. It was a wonderful time in the life of the Parish. The summer of 1975 was exceptionally good and for thirteen consecutive Sundays, Mass was celebrated in the open-air. The only distraction was the scurrying of rats around the building site.

That same year, plans for the new school and a prefab church were put in place. By August, the new prefab church was built, [thanks to the generosity of the late John Meenaghan, St Brendan, Firhouse Road, who donated £10,000 to the Parish.]

Another landmark occurred when the sixteen classroom school was completed in July 1976, and was officially opened by Mr Liam Cosgrave and blessed by Archbishop Dermot Ryan on the 31st March 1977.

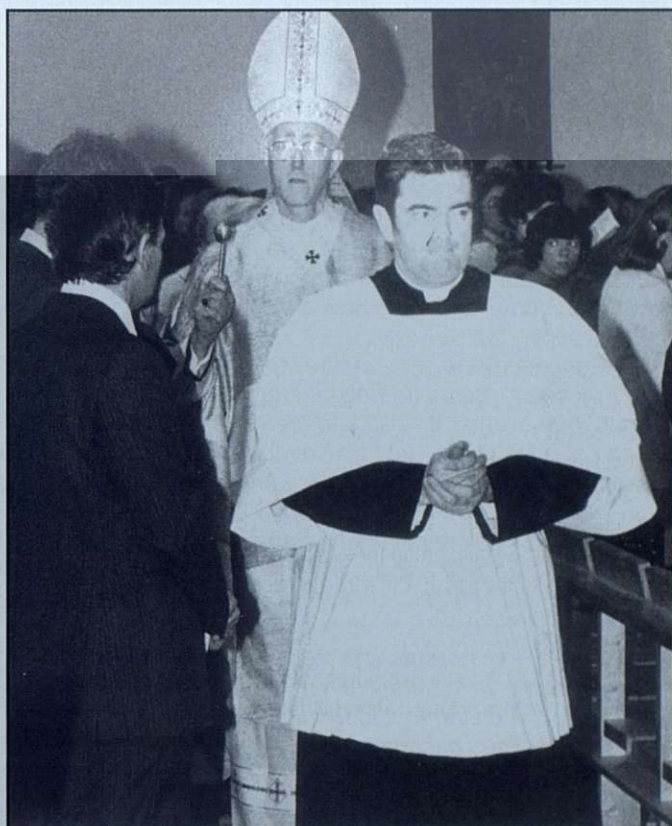
Due to the population increase in the parish the prefab Church became inadequate to cope with the numbers for Sunday Mass and permission was granted to build a permanent church. John Sisk & Son Ltd were the Building Contractors and Richard Hurley was the Architect.

The new church was blessed and opened on the 13th April 1980 by Archbishop Dermot Ryan. It was the end of the first phase of the development in the parish.

At our Provincial Chapter in June 1982, I was appointed to the Whitefriar Street community. It was not easy to leave Knocklyon, but I carried with me many happy memories. I would like to thank all the members of the Parish Councils and the members of the Boards of Management, and the Ladies Committee who gave me so much support and who worked unselfishly for the good of the parish. Knocklyon would not be what it is today without their help.

My prayer for Knocklyon is that it will continue to grow as a community of faith. I congratulate all who are involved in the celebration of "25 Years" as a Parish. May the Lord continue to bless you and your families.

Fr Paddy



**Archbishop Dr Dermot Ryan
at the Blessing of the new Church on 13th April 1980**

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*We send good wishes to
Knocklyon Parish on its 25th Anniversary*

We asked Ita Corduff, Vice-Principal - Junior School, and Pat Kelly - Principal Senior School to recall their memories of those early days with us ...



Confirmation Group 1979. Back L.-R. Finbarr Sweeney, Duailte Woods, Paddy Ryan, Liam Fahey, Paul Breslin, Fergus Bishop, Aidan Fahy. Front L.-R. Pádraig McGinn, Marie Dowling, Fiona Lynch, Catriona Breslin, Catherina Mohan, David Kelly.

Twenty-three years – it can't be!

September 1976 – it seems like last week – driving to my new school along a quiet country lane (Scholarstown Road!). So much space and light. 16 Classrooms ready, but only three classes. Fr Staunton, the P.P., counting the children as they came in to see if he had the total of 86 which he needed to justify my appointment. How times have changed! – there are now almost 1,600 children in the two schools.

There were three of us on the staff in 1976 – Mr Kelly, Mrs Foy and myself. Mrs Foy had Junior Infants, I had Senior Infants and Mr Kelly had the remainder of pupils. Numbers grew rapidly and by November I had 49 in my class: time for reinforcements. In January 1977 Mrs McDonald joined us: at last someone else to share yard duty – now it was only every fourth day. New houses continued to be built and the school mushroomed.

We had lots of ideas but were very short of funds, yet compared to my previous school, there was such enthusiasm from parents and management. I remember noisy meetings in the original "tin" church to discuss the introduction of uniforms and funding for the school. Some of these meetings became so lively that Fr Staunton had to pour wine on troubled waters and Fr Frank McCartan (R.I.P.) was always ready with tea and sympathy.

For the next couple of years Mrs McDonald and I had junior infants. I look around the parish today and see sophisticated young men and women and remember their tear-stained faces as junior infants who so often had to be bribed on the way to school with lollipops from Angela's little shop.

I have lots of good memories from those days: Cheese and Wine Evenings, Fashion Shows with teachers modelling, the Sponsored Walk around St Colmcille's Well and the sports days. One of the most lasting is the Official Opening of the School, presided over by Archbishop Ryan and Liam Cosgrave, representing Church and State and followed by a monumental party.

There are of course some sad memories. Fr McCartan is no longer with us; parents and teaching colleagues have passed away. We have even had to attend funerals of our pupils, which is very hard indeed.

So the years passed and St Colmcille's settled into a routine; numbers grew and grew until a new school was needed and the Senior School was built in 1982. Today the two schools are enormous; the biggest Primary School campus in Ireland and, I've heard inspectors say, the

second largest in Europe. Yet, despite its size, there is still a great emphasis on the individual child. As a staff we try to ensure that each child achieves his or her potential. We also have a good mix of staff; young and old(er), and there is a great camaraderie and team spirit. I trust that we will continue in the same spirit into the next century.

Ita Corduff

Pat Kelly takes up the story ...

It was on 1st July 1976 that the newly completed 16 classroom school opened its doors to accept its first pupils. Myself and Una Foy were on hand to receive the 50 pupils who arrived on that morning. Una took charge of the infant classes while I had all the pupils from First class to Fifth class. Dara Doyle, Knocklyon Avenue, and Sally Ann Butler, Mount Alton have the distinction of being the first boy and girl enrolled. Fr Patrick Staunton, Chairperson of the Board of Management was also on hand to welcome the pupils and parents.

By September, 36 further pupils had enrolled and Ita Corduff joined the staff (see Ita's report). During that year Ita McDonald became the fourth teacher. Numbers grew to over 300 by the start of the next school year and Pádraig Ó Néill (complete with hurley, helmet and sliotar), Miriam Mulkerrin and Una Hedderman (R.I.P.) were appointed. Séamus Ó Néill brought the number of teachers to 8 during the year. I continued to teach 5th and 6th classes while overseeing this rapid development.



Confirmation Class 1978 with Fr Paddy Staunton, Teacher Paul Dalton (centre) and Pat Kelly - Principal

By 1981/82 the school was bursting at the seams with 22 classes being squeezed into the 16 classroom building. This overcrowding was briefly alleviated with the opening of the Senior School in September 1982 when I was appointed Principal of the new school and Paul Dalton became Principal of the Junior School. Numbers continued to grow and new prefabs had to be added to both schools. Currently there are almost 1,600 pupils on campus and 56 teachers between both schools.

Despite the large numbers the school has always endeavoured to provide a pleasant environment where learning can take place. Parents are always welcome to discuss their children's education and the Parents' Association is an excellent support to the operation of the school. Visitors to the school remark on the pleasantness of the children and the happy atmosphere in the school. Inspectors' Reports over the years give testimony to the quality of education provided.

The school is rightly proud of its pupils and past pupils are always welcome when they visit.

Pat Kelly

Schools ● ● ●

A PAST PUPIL RECALLS HER FIRST IMPRESSIONS

I remember pulling up outside St Colmcille's National School on a dull March morning in 1977. There we sat, the three of us, in marvellous new blue and navy uniforms. That in itself added to the novelty coming from a small country school in Co. Cavan where we wore what we liked! But that morning wasn't a normal school day in Knocklyon – the car park was empty, the paths were quiet. In fact the boiler had broken down; the school was closed – we would have to return the following day. I cried! I don't think I've ever cried at an unexpected school-closure since and now as a teacher myself I am unlikely to be as upset at the prospect ever again!

Returning the next day was like being transported into the future. As the school building was new we were reminded to remove our shoes so as not to dirty the carpets. Carpets imagine (my previous classroom had a stove and bare wooden floors!) One of Mr Kelly's frequent calls in those days was "keep your hands off the walls – they've just been painted." I have such clear recollections of my amazement at the use of a projector to learn Gaeilge. More surprising was the fact that subjects like Art and P.E. were taught to girls! Truly I was in Heaven.

At that time I was in 4th class, taught by our principal – as were both the 5th and 1st classes. As the days went by and more families moved to the parish the school expanded and in due time 1st class had to move to a room with their own teacher. Eventually, we even had somebody in 6th. Looking back, we seemed to spend most of our time singing. Of course it wasn't quite like that but I'm sure I owe my love of musicals to that early exposure to the hits from the Shows, and curiously I never hear Johnny Cash without thinking of Pat Kelly. If there were was one thing that encouraged me to become a teacher it was my time in St Colmcille's, Knocklyon. I will always remember those schooldays as my happiest.

Fiona Lynch



Fr Paddy Staunton with a group of children on the yard in the early days



*First group of First Communicants from St Colmcille's - 1977.
Teachers: K. Garvey and Ita McDonald.
Back Row L.-R. C. Murphy, S. Ryan, C. O'Grady, D. McGinn,
G. Cafolla, P. Pearson, P. McCluskey, E. Downey, V. Murphy.
Front Row L.-R. E. Clune, A. Curran, L. Tyrrell, O. Smyth,
T. King, A. Brennan, C. Lynch.*



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~ ~ Essay Competition ~ ~

To mark the Silver Jubilee of the Parish, we invited the sixth class children to participate in an Essay Competition entitled "Growing Up in Knocklyon". We got a huge response and we are grateful to Mrs O'Gara and the other teachers for encouraging the pupils to take part. We are also grateful to Maureen O'Gorman, a teacher in Presentation Primary School, who judged the entries. We publish here the winning essay by Dallan Cunniffe (Room 4), who wins a Gift Token for £20. Congratulations Dallan. Second Prize of a £10 Gift Token goes to Craig Dowd (Room 1); Third Prize of a £10 Gift Token goes to Emily Byrne (Room 5). Well done to all the children – all of the essays were of a high standard. We hope to display them during Parish Week.

We publish below the winning entry by Dallan Cunniffe.

— Growing Up In Knocklyon —

As a horse-chestnut tree, I gaze down upon the many passers-by. I often think of my life in Knocklyon. I have some wonderful memories here, and they are very important to me.

As nothing more than a tiny chestnut, I was planted in the picturesque Knocklyon countryside. Back then, the roads around me were merely dirt tracks. Farms and fields were certainly in abundance. At that time, when I was nothing more than a "pony chestnut", Knocklyon was sparsely populated. Rarely people passed by.

Now, I am an enormous fully-grown horse-chestnut. I tower above everything else in the vicinity. A church, in the shape of a dove, is just behind me. A large school is well within view and the Shopping Centre is situated just metres away from my sturdy trunk. Man's every wish is catered for by the wide variety of shops to choose from.

Recreational activities have also improved dramatically in Knocklyon. A Community Centre was established

opposite the school, and many cultural and sporting activities take place there every week.

Roads have also improved, but there is a serious problem of traffic congestion, especially on the Knocklyon Road. A motorway is in the process of being built. Unfortunately, many of my tree relations have been chopped down. A new road has been proposed to bring Knocklyon residents out onto the new motorway. I think that it is a terrible idea, because more trees will have to be chopped down. It will also take up many of the green areas surrounding Knocklyon.

The population of Knocklyon has soared. There are now many new Estates in Knocklyon, most of which have expanded over the years. Some Estates plant trees and other plants on green areas. But smog and pollution make it difficult for trees like me to breathe.

Knocklyon may have some bad points, but the numerous good points more than make up for it. But there is nowhere on earth that I'd rather live.

By Dallan Cunniffe, Room 4

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THE CHILDREN'S CHOIR



Ruth Kelly with a group from the Children's Choir 1985

In 1985, when the 10 o'clock Children's Mass was inaugurated, the Children's Choir was set up with Ruth Kelly, at the helm. Ruth, a founder member of the Folk Group and at the time still very much involved in it, nonetheless found time to train the children each week and lead them at Mass every Sunday. The tradition of happy singing and movement was begun and continued on by Emer O'Neill who took over from Ruth in 1987. Emer, backed up by Joe Kelly on the guitar, led the group, until 1996, when Joe took over leadership. In 1998, Joe, after 15 years of unbroken service to the Children's Mass since its inception, moved over to play for the Folk Group, and Ruth has come back to give her services again.

As well as Sunday Mass, the children sing from time to time at concerts and weddings and at Christmas time for Charity.

At Mass, the congregation sings along to evergreens like "The Banner Song" or "Let your little light shine", or maybe to Boyzone's latest hit suitably adjusted of course. The Choir has been a centre for formation and development of gifts, as well as for faith and worship in action. The children are, as always, terrific, full of enthusiasm and vitality. You have only to witness them in action to know why Jesus would want us all to be converted and be like them!

Fr. David



THE GOSPEL SINGERS



Just three years ago, the Gospel Choir was born. A small number of people, who liked the sound of 4-part Gospel Music, responded to Ruth Kelly's invitation, and got together. Then Gerry O'Connor, enthusiastic as ever, began his work of "accosting" unsuspecting shoppers in the Supermarket and pestering them to join. Once in, there was no escape! The Choir has grown in numbers and it would be hard to find a more social group. The weekly practice – 8 p.m. on Tuesdays – is an hour of hilarity, full of laughter, singing and banter. The good humour and good nature of the group is infectious. So come on and join. We'll guarantee you'll be glad you did. Our aim is – (don't tell them) – to make the 1 o'clock Mass congregation one happy, involved Gospel Choir.

St. Colmcille's Parents' Association

This Association liaises between parents and school and assists in fundraising for the school when required. It has published a very useful Post Primary Information Booklet and, on a regular basis, hosts lectures of particular interest to parents. The Organising Committee is comprised of parents from the Parish and new members are always welcome.

The Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all past and present members for their contribution and the parents of the parish for their support over the years.

Toni Fletcher

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PARISH COUNCIL

Since the formation of the Parish twenty-five years ago, the Knocklyon Parish Council has undergone an evolution both in name and in structure. It has had to respond to the needs of an ever burgeoning population and community, and to re-examine its role in the Parish and the way it assists the clergy in their liturgical and pastoral work.

In 1994 a Parish Assembly was convened to examine the needs of the community and to focus on how the clergy and laity might forge stronger alliances. After the deliberations of many parishioners were considered and information processed, many new groups emerged in the Parish to cater for the needs identified. A body known as the Parish Liaison Group (PLG) was then formed to help co-ordinate the various new initiatives being launched. This group later became known as The Parish Council after further parish reviews in 1996 and 1997.

The Parish Council has now become a forum where the views of different groups and interests within the Parish are represented, and its membership includes other co-opted people who have expertise in various fields. It comprises the Carmelite team plus twenty parishioners and meets once a month to discuss and examine relevant matters.

In January 1998 the Parish Council assembled at the Augustinian Centre, Orlagh to review its operations and to clarify its aims and objectives. The Council operates through consensus; however its role under Canon law is that of a consultative, advisory body to the Parish Priest.

The objectives/functions of the Council are as follows:

- To co-ordinate the activities of, and foster liaison between the various groups active in the parish.
- To encourage and facilitate the development of a collaborative approach in which laity and clergy work together for the good of the parish.
- To provide a forum where the views of different groups and interests can be represented and in which new initiatives might be suggested and discussed.
- To act as a focus for, and a means towards supporting and enabling new ventures in the Parish.

Taking into consideration the acute shortage of priests which currently prevails in the Irish Church, a considerable burden of work will have to be borne by the laity in the future. A whole new vision and mind set will be necessary if Parishes are to function effectively and service the needs of God's people in the 21st century.

Knocklyon Parish Council continues to examine our Parish groups and structures in the light of the above situation. The Parish Council model with its affiliated links may well provide an important structure for the Church as it enters the new millennium.

Kevin O'Brien, (Chairman) Knocklyon Parish Council
See centre pages for photo of the first Parish Council.



Youth Club outing in Blessington in 1990



KNOCKLYON YOUTH CLUB

Knocklyon Youth Club has now been established for over twenty years. The founding committee obtained funding from various sources in order to purchase sports equipment. Initially the club had the use of the school but when the Community Centre was opened in 1989 the club moved there.

Since its formation the club has catered for in excess of two thousand five hundred children. The current membership is one hundred and thirty. The facilities have been improved over the years and now include snooker tables, arts and crafts facilities, air hockey, games room, basketball, indoor football and volley ball. A shop is provided each night and four discos are organized during the year.

The highlight of each year is the day trip to an outdoor activity centre. For the last two years this has been to An Táin in Carlingford. In excess of fifty children take part in this and it has proved a great success.

None of the above would have been possible without the vision of the founding committee and the members who have given so much of their time over the years. There is clearly a demand from our community for the facilities that are provided in the Youth Club for the children. **But unfortunately this demand is not matched by the availability of parents to help in the running of the club. Adults are urgently required to assist, and the current committee would appreciate support. We invite any interested adults to attend our next meeting on Tuesday 22 June at 8 p.m. in the Community Centre.**

Margaret Hickey, P.R.O.

— KARATE —
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Contact and Communications Group

This group was set up following the Parish Assembly in November 1994. Our aim is to promote a better sense of community in the Parish, and open channels of communication where necessary.

Between '94 and '97 the group managed to visit every home in the Parish, and is currently engaged in visiting new estates, and re-visiting other areas.

In the course of our calling to homes, parishioners are given the opportunity to express their view on many aspects of parish life, all of which will be discussed. In this way it is hoped to create a two-way link between parishioners and the presbytery.

The group also helps to provide a support network to individuals and families in times of trauma and connect them with appropriate help. The Contact Group can be reached by phoning the presbytery at 4941204.

Mary Clifford

~~~~ LECTIO DIVINA ~~~~

A small group have been meeting weekly in the Toraigh Room of the Pastoral Centre for over four years to practice LECTIO DIVINA.

Lectio Divina (Sacred Readings) is the ancient monastic process of meditative prayer. Based on the reading of the Bible in small groups, this approach invites us:

- to enter the world in which the text was written.
- to reflect meditatively and prayerfully on its significance for our world today, and
- to listen contemplatively to the Word of God, Jesus Christ, as he speaks to each one of us in the depths of our heart.

Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit we read, meditate on and pray about the text of the Gospel for the coming Sunday. At our meeting on the following Tuesday we share how the passage "spoke" to us. Through this method and the fellowship of our sharing and praying together we have come to understand more fully the relevance of our faith and trust in God.

We hope from September next others will join us and in this way spread the message of Hope, Joy and Good News contained in the Bible.

Anna Brioscú

BAPTISM TEAM

In trying to put together a few words on the Baptism Team I came across the following:

"The Baptism Team is a group of men and women specially trained to help people understand and enjoy the baptism of their child.

We visit the home with a dual purpose – firstly, to represent our community in welcoming the new baby, and secondly, to go through the ceremony explaining its significance and pointing out the symbols used.

We hope that knowing what to expect and understanding it, will make the Sacrament more relaxed and enjoyable for everybody.

We are not theologians, but we will try to help you with any difficulties you might have."

This extract is a very good explanation of what our team of thirteen men and women is all about. With a population of approx. 16,000, and still growing, we welcome in St Colmcille's an average of four or five children into our Christian community virtually every Sunday.

Each week a member of the team takes responsibility for all the children being baptised on that particular Sunday. He/She visits the parents in the week beforehand and plays an active role in the ceremony on the day itself. Team members also meet frequently for prayer and discussion.

Originally formed in 1988, the present team is as dedicated and enthusiastic as ever. Together with the Carmelite community, it is currently considering ways in which to highlight the significance of this Sacrament.

New members are always welcome to join the team and on behalf of my Carmelite brothers, I wish to thank most sincerely the present members and all those who have contributed to this important ministry over the years. As the late Archbishop Oscar Romero once said:

"We water the seeds that are already planted, knowing that they hold future promise ...

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders, ministers not Messiahs."

Fr Phillip (Team co-ordinator)



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KNOCKLYON POST-PRIMARY COMMITTEE



**A DELEGATION FROM
THE POST-PRIMARY COMMITTEE
WITH LOCAL POLITICIANS,
CLERGY AND
SCHOOL PRINCIPAL ENTERING
THE DÁIL IN 1986**

**Back Row (L.-R.)
Cllr. John Hannon,
Fr David Weakliam,
Mr Pat Kelly.**

**Front Row (L.-R.)
Vincent Kenny
(Chairman Knocklyon
Post-Primary Committee),
Alan Shatter T.D.,
Cllr. Mary Muldoon
(Committee Secretary)**

Where do I start with the history of the Post-Primary Committee and its campaign? Should I list the hundreds of people who have given thousands of hours of their time and efforts through hundreds of committee meetings, public meetings, campaign marches, road blocks, not to mention several hundred interviews in newspaper, radio and TV?

Perhaps it might give newer Knocklyon residents some concept of the efforts of this community in fighting for our own local community school if I point out that we have met over a dozen different Ministers for Education starting with John Wilson around 1978. We continued through TD's as different as Martin O'Donoghue, Gemma Hussey, John Boland, Mary O'Rourke, Niamh Bhreathnach, and of course Seamus Brennan who sanctioned the school when he was the Minister. Coincidentally or not, it was the three lady Ministers (from three different Party's) who said no!

The school has been dead in the water a few times but on each occasion we have risen, with the full support of this community to fight against the odds and get it back on the agenda. Cllr. Mary

Muldoon and Cllr. John Hannon were both members of the original committee and Tom Kitt and Alan Shatter began their support for our efforts as Councillors. Among the names of local TD's who came and went supporting our campaigns over the years were Síle de Valera, John Horgan, Nuala Fennell, Niall Andrews, Anne Colley, Roger Garland and Eithne Fitzgerald.

The people however who kept this fight going over so many years were of course the ordinary residents of Knocklyon and particularly the constant support of the school Principals of St Colmcille's School, Mr Pat Kelly and Mr Paul Dalton. On more than one occasion the teachers of the school put their necks on the line by organising support for our campaign. In addition, we always had the backing of our local clergy.

I will hold off from detailing the committee and supporters role of honour until we see the first building bricks in place ... and then what a party we will have! The school campaign has been based on the issue of principle and community justice. It is essentially a story of community development, we started ... so we'll finish! Knocklyon will have its own Community School, never doubt it. See you at the party in September 2000.

**Vincent Kenny,
Chairman Post-Primary Committee**

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~ ~ ~ ~ ~

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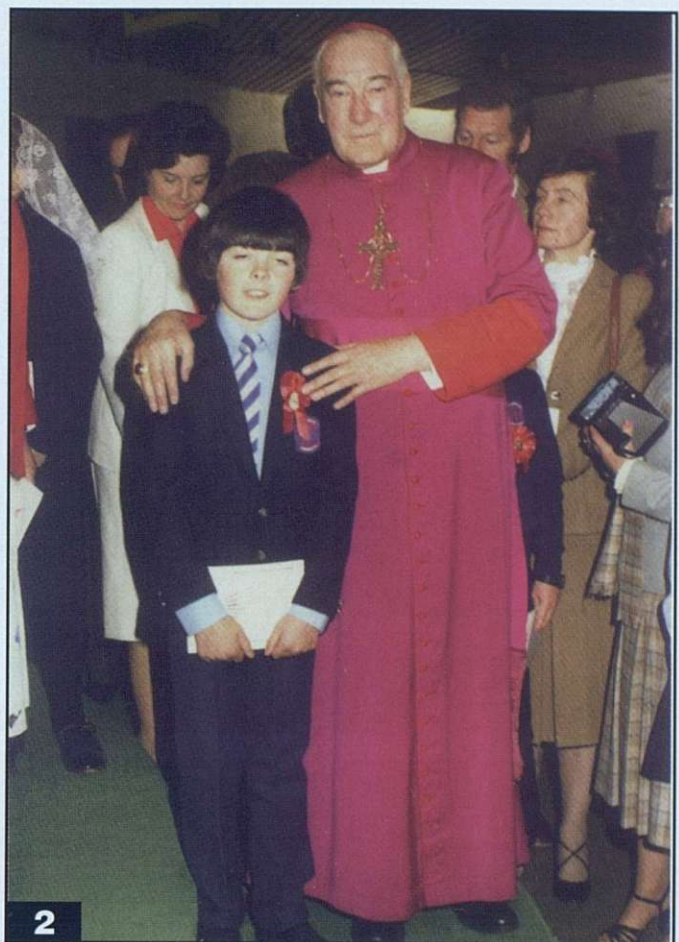
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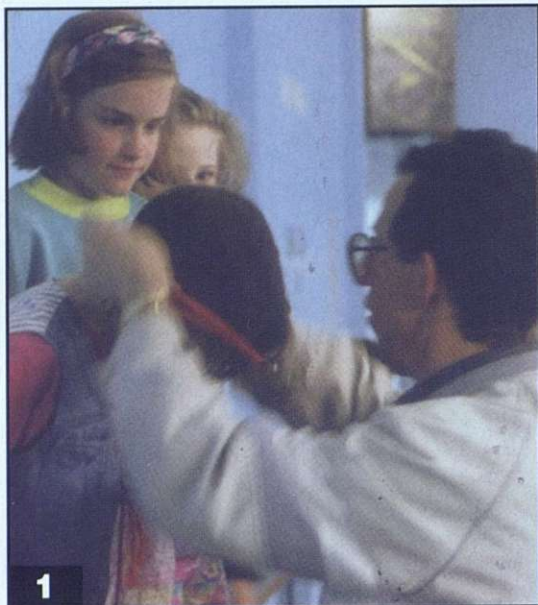
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KEY TO PHOTOS

- 1 Members of the first Parish Council at a Social in the Belgard. Front L.-R. Marie Foster, Fr Paddy Staunton (P.P.), the late Marie Doran; Centre L.-R. John O'Carroll, Barney Sheedy, Bill Stevens; Back L.-R. the late Fr Frank McCartan, Martin Roche, Paul Muldowney.
- 2 Paul Brennan with Bishop Carroll on his Confirmation Day 1982.
- 3 The Ladies Committee relaxing after the Silver Jubilee celebrations of the

late Fr McCartan.

- 4 The Delaforde Ladies Soccer Team togged out for Parish Week in the early days.
- 5 Teresa Hogan in hot pursuit of Nora O'Connor in a Buggy Race, 1982.
- 6 Sports Day 1977 - L.-R. Cara Twohig, Caroline Grace, Sinead O'Brien, Tara Durkin and Fiona Walsh - getting their starting orders from Con O'Grady.
- 7 Francie Connolly lends an ear.



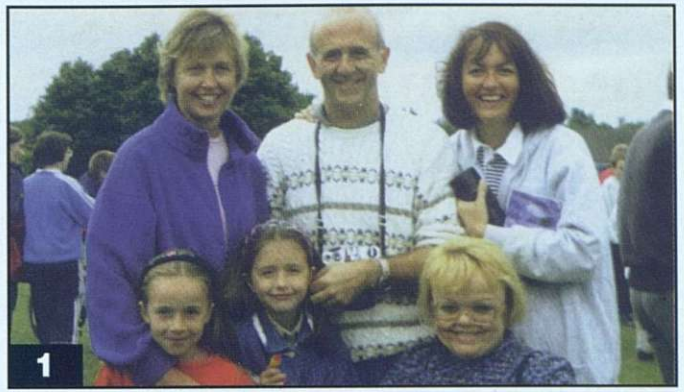
KEY TO PHOTOS

- 1 Fr Joe presents medals to Community Games Swimmers.
- 2 Ciaran O'Connell with Fr David and Deacon Tom Walsh during "The Youth Encounter of the Christian Kind", August 1983.
- 3 Sportsmen from the early days.
- 4 Members of K.A.R.A. enjoy an outing.
- 5 One of the winning rugby teams in the mid 80s.
- 6 Happy faces!
- 7 Pretty as a picture!



KEY TO PHOTOS

- 1 Friends meet during a sunny Parish Week.
- 2 L.-R. Noramai O'Sullivan, Former Lord Mayor, Cllr. John Gormley, Anne Marie O'Gara, and Brian McGowan during the Lord Mayor's visit to the school.
- 3 Seamus Brennan T.D. launching the Computer Room in the Junior School.
- 4 Helpers at the Bottle Stall – Christmas Fair.
- 5 Scouts with Shield - 1991.
- 6 Fancy dressers during Parish Week 1998.
- 7 The Quizmaster – John Murphy – tots the scores at Parish Week Quiz '98.



ST COLMCILLE'S PASTORAL CENTRE



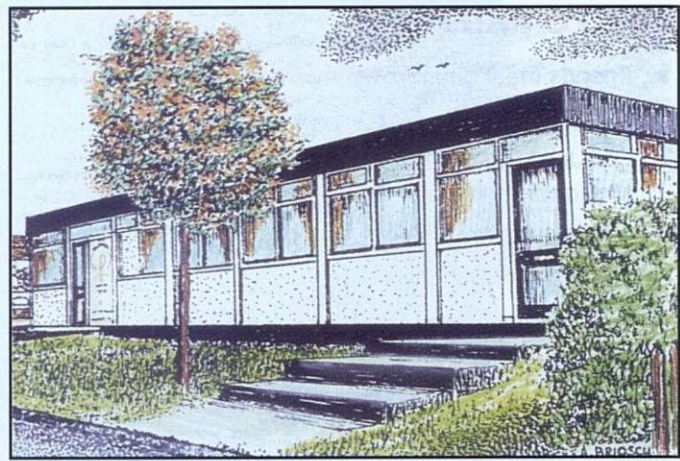
On Sunday, September 10th 1995, the temporary Pastoral Centre opened its doors for the first time offering tea/coffee (or lollipops!) to anyone who came along for a peep at our newly re-furbished Centre or to sign-up as parish helpers.

Many gasped in amazement that day on seeing the old, rather dingy, pre-fab transformed into such an inviting and comfortable place. This was the result of a lot of really hard work by Mary McCormack, who spent many hours painting, stencilling the walls and giving the place a real face-lift. A new kitchen had been fitted and we had also got new curtains and comfortable chairs.



Since then the Centre has been the venue for meetings, activities and courses on a great variety of subjects including Healing, Parenting, History, Parish Ministry, Spirituality, The Enneagram, Parents' Drug Prevention Programme, Sound Enjoyment, the Holy Land, Living in the Present and many, many more.

It has also housed the Nurses Clinic, Mother and Toddlers Morning, the Sunday Club, the Vincent de Paul to name but a few. Various Residents' Groups frequently rent rooms for their meetings. So it has certainly been a well used facility.



THE TEMPORARY PREFABRICATED BUILDING

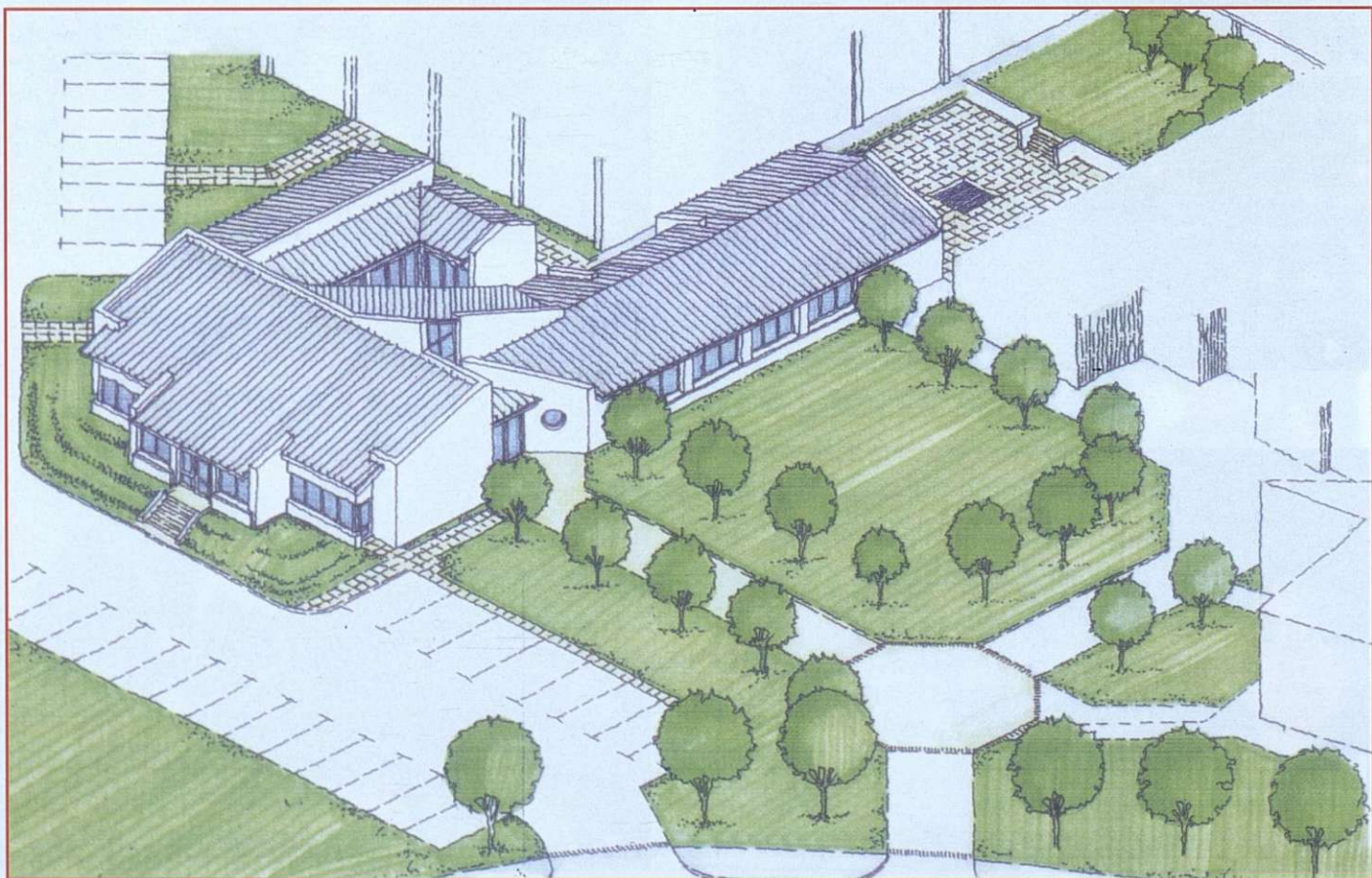
However, the structure is quickly coming to the end of its life, with the timber walls rotting and window frames in a very sad state. It has served us well though, considering it was second-hand when we got it about fifteen years ago. But we do need much more space to cater for the needs of our growing community and provide for an even greater variety of activities, courses, meetings and support groups.

By now you've probably seen the plans for the New Centre, which we hope will be a reality by the end of the year. Judging from the drawings, I think you'll agree that Knocklyon will then have a Pastoral Centre of which we'll all be really proud – a place that will give us more space to meet, get to know each other better and continue to grow into a truly Christian community.



Brid O'Connell

THE PROPOSED NEW PASTORAL CENTRE designed by FITZGERALD KAVANAGH ASSOCIATES



GAELSCOIL CHNOC LIAMHNA
Forbairt nua sa cheantar



Páistí Ó Ghaelscoil Chnoc Liamhna a ghlac an Chéad Chomaoineach

Gaelscoil Chnoc Liamhna is a relatively new arrival in the Knocklyon area. It was established in 1996 by a group of local parents interested in educating their children through Gaelige. It is situated beside the Scout den and now boasts 100 pupils.

Is í an Ghaeilge teanga labhartha na scoile agus tá spéis ag daltaí na scoile sa cheol agus sa dramaíocht. Two groups from the school were very successful at the All-Ireland finals of Slógadh recently. Senior Infants came away with first prize with a play about Sneachta, while the older children won second prize with a play about Pirates.

Children learn violin and tin whistle from an early age and Irish dancing is also included in the school day.

Parents are very involved in the school at every level agus is tríd na tuismitheoirí atá Gaeilge á scaipeadh máguairid. They are all very interested in Irish although many of them initially felt that their Irish was rusty. Le cleachtadh, however they find that they have more than the "Cúpla Focal".

Parents meet often at the various social events – school plays, concerts, céilis, the annual Cráth na gCeist or 10K walk, (to name but a few). This means that families get to know other families well and that school life is something that involves all members of the family.

Irish conversation classes are held at the beginning of the year for interested parents; giving everyone a chance to get on an equal footing.

If you have any questions about the school ba bhreá linn cloisteáil uait ag 493 9262.

*Knocklyon
Variety
Group*



K.V.G. was formed in 1990 by three residents of Knocklyon Close – Gillian Keenan, Deirdre Wilson and Helen O'Toole. Their aim was to attract singers, dancers and actors who would entertain the community of Knocklyon and surrounding areas. Their debut show "One Singular Sensation" was staged in the Braemor Rooms in 1991 and K.V.G. was launched!

Since then the group has staged at least one show a year, and participated in "The Cream of the County" and "Tops of the Town" Competitions. A musical, "The Wiz" was performed in Sancta Maria College in 1996 and the following year a pantomime "Who's Panto Is It Anyway"? attracted large audiences at the same venue.

In April '98 the group broke new ground with their presentation of "New Horizons" in St Anthony's Theatre, Merchant's Quay. This was a tribute to thirty years of "Tops of the Town".

The most recent performance "Connected" was also staged in St Anthony's Theatre in May, and this show dedicated to music through the century was attended by many Knocklyon fans.

The group now consists of 25 adult members and 22 juniors (8-13 yrs). New talent is always welcome and details can be had by phoning 4941021.

Teresa Hogan, P.R.O.



*Bros. Pearse
A.C.*



One of the many sporting outlets for our young people in the area is Athletics – and local club Bros. Pearse has very strong roots here as you will discover if you read on.

Three years before the Parish was set up, the rolling fields of Knocklyon hosted the All Ireland NACAI Juvenile Cross-country Championships. The course wound its way through Superquinn and the Church area. The holding of such an event here was not surprising when down the road in the Leinster Hockey Grounds, (now the site of Westbourne Lodge), resided our 223 member Club of Senior and Juvenile athletes. When the Hockey Grounds were sold for development in 1986, our athletics Club literally took to the fields in Cherryfield.

We continue to this day fostering the development of Knocklyon boys and girls in the skills and discipline of athletics under the guiding hands of our dedicated and selfless coaches, with strong support from parents.

The yellow and green singlets are as permanent a feature of Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Sunday mornings in Cherryfield, as the still standing NACAI National Senior Women's records for 100m. Sprint and 100m. Hurdles set by Club member Carolyn Whelan, who lives in nearby Monalea, back in the 1980s.

We are confident that many of our young athletes will set their own records in years to come.

Paul Cummins, P.R.O.

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PLACES IN PARISH OF ST COLMCILLE, KNOCKLYON

Refer to photograph on page 23 →

- 1 **ASHTON** Avenue, Close, Grove, Lawn.
- 2 **BEVERLY** Avenue, Crescent, Downs, Drive, Green, Grove, Heights, Lawns, Park, Rise.
- 3 **CASTLEFIELD** Avenue, Court, Drive, Green, Lawn, Manor, Park.
- 4 **COOLAMBER** Court, Park.
- 5 **CREMORNE.**
- 6 **DARGLE** Lodge, Wood.
- 7 **DELAFORD** Avenue, Drive, Grove, Lawn, Park.
- 8 **FIRHOUSE** Road.
- 9 **GLENLYON.**
- 10 **GLENVARA** Park.
- 11 **GREENACRE** Court.
- 12 **HOMEVILLE.**
- 13 **IDRONE** Avenue, Close, Drive, Park.
- 14 **KNOCKAIRE.**
- 15 **KNOCKCULLEN** Drive, Lawn, Park, Rise.
16. **KNOCKFIELD.**
- 17 **KNOCKLYON** Avenue, Close, Court, Green, Heights, Park, Road.
- 18 **LANSDOWNE** Park.
- 19 **MOUNT ALTON.**
- 20 **MOUNT ALTON** Court.
- 21 **ORLAGH** Avenue, Court, Crescent, Green, Grove, Lawn, Lodge, Rise, View, Way.
- 22 **PINE GROVE.**
- 23 **ROOKERY.**
- 24 **SCHOLARSTOWN** Estate, Road.
- 25 **TAOBH NA COILLE.**
- 26 **TEMPLEROAN.**
- 27 **WESTBOURNE** Lodge.
- 28 **WOODFIELD.**
- 29 **WOODSTOCK** Park.
- 30 **WOODSTOWN** Housing development still in progress.

PHOTO - RIGHT shows Michael Brennan bringing his youngest sister to the church for her wedding in 1970 along the Firhouse Road.

PHOTO - BELOW: Aerial photo of Paschal Corcoran's cottage on the Knocklyon Road before housing development began.



FROM GREEN FIELDS TO SUBURBAN PARISH



KNOCKLYON THIRTY YEARS AGO

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY - REX ROBERTS ABIPP

The above photograph taken by Rex Roberts, a pioneer of aerial photography, shows Knocklyon as it was thirty years ago. On it have been superimposed the numbers (1) to (30) indicating the approximate locations of the places listed on page 22, and which have been developed since the Parish of St Colm-cille, Knocklyon, was founded 25 years ago. Two of the housing estates, Glenlyon (9) and Woodstown (30), the latter still in the process of development, are outside

the area included in the aerial view but are, of course, within the Parish.

According to the 1901 Census of Population there were nine dwelling houses in Knocklyon accommodating a total of forty-six people. The fact that the "Knocklyon News" is delivered to over 4,000 households in the parish demonstrates the remarkable transformation that has taken place in this century and particularly so in the last quarter.

LITURGICAL ART AND ENVIRONMENT GROUP

The brief of the Liturgical Art and Environment Group is to create an atmosphere conducive to prayer, togetherness and reverence, so that our space for worship may help us experience community and the specialness of the presence of God.

Since our initiation almost three years ago we have used a variety of materials to decorate the church according to the seasons. We are a small group with a big age range (17-80). We have experts and those not so expert. We meet only to plan and make as required, for the coming season. Twice a year we attend a group meeting of Liturgical Art Groups to share ideas and thoughts. This coming November Knocklyon will host the pre-Advent meeting.

New members are always welcome, skilled or unskilled, so are your ideas. At present we need someone with an interest in indoor plants. If you would like to join us or have an idea to offer please contact **Angela at 4942120.**



Some members of the ART AND ENVIRONMENT GROUP at work in the Pastoral Centre

KNOCKLYON FOLK GROUP

The Knocklyon Folk Group (otherwise known as the 12 o'clock choir) is almost as old as the parish itself. It began life in the old "Pre-Fab" church with such people as the late Jack Begley, Mick and Clare O'Doherty, Mick Brady and Ruth Kelly (the latter being a mere baby at the time).



KNOCKLYON FOLK GROUP celebrating the 21st Birthday of its Musical Director, Lisa Kelly (centre front row).

This small group was so successful that after only a few years in operation a new church had to be built to accommodate the growing congregation at 12 o'clock! By that time the McCarthy brothers, Conor and Michael had joined Ruth to lead the group into the 1980s.

Soon after that the baton was handed over to Niamh O'Neill and was kept by the O'Neill family, being passed to Colm and then Ruairi - who kept up the spirit of the Group.

At present, the Leader of the Group is myself, Lisa Kelly, and I am trying to continue where the "Founding Fathers" left off i.e. helping the congregation to enjoy their participation of the 12 o'clock Sunday Mass.

Sadly, last December Jack Begley, the father of the Group, died suddenly. At his funeral Mass the Folk Group, past and present (about 40 in all) sang to pay tribute to a fine and wonderful man.

Currently, the Group numbers around 25 members and we are always open to welcoming new, dedicated singers. Practices are at 11 a.m. every Sunday and 7 p.m. on every second Sunday - singing every Sunday at 12 o'clock Mass from September to June. So if you are 14 years upwards you will be very welcome.

LISA KELLY

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The Choir at 11 o'clock Mass



MEMBERS OF THE 11 O'CLOCK CHOIR,
including Michael Sheedy (Organist), Back Row extreme right;
Eoin Garrett - Musical Director Front Centre,
Aoife O'Tierney Front Left - Former Musical Director.

Some months after Saint Colmcille's Church opened in April 1980 Father Eltin Griffin O.Carm. was involved in giving a retreat in the parish. He wished to have a choir for this occasion and got a huge response from parishioners, about 60 singers in all. Even though enthusiasm waned later it was members of that first choir who persevered and supported the provision of music at subsequent 11 o'clock Masses. Eight members of that first group still sing with the choir.

The choir had a number of Directors in its early years who introduced members to a broad range of church music - Masses by Bodley, O'Carroll and O Riada, plain chant, hymns, and Christmas carols.

Michael Sheedy helped in the early days by Marie Walsh, has been our faithful organist during all these years (despite agreeing to play on that first night "only for now"). In 1984 Eoin Garrett, recently arrived in the parish, took over the task of Director from myself.

During his fifteen years involvement with the choir Eoin has introduced and developed part singing, encouraged cantor singing and congregational participation. He has also introduced the choir to an ever broader repertoire of music in English, Latin and Irish. Members of the Choir are required to attend weekly rehearsals in addition to singing at the 11 o'clock Mass. We also attend courses and seminars concerning liturgical music.

The choir's musical activities have not been confined to the parish. In June 1982 we were invited to sing at the Firhouse Carmelite convent as part of the 4th centenary ceremonies commemorating the death of Saint Teresa of Avila. We also took part in "Songs of Praise" at Saint

Patrick's Cathedral in 1991 and a television studio Mass in 1995. 1991 saw us at Gort Muire for a Eurovision Mass on the feast of the Assumption, an edited broadcast of which took place in Russia some time later.

In September 1992 when 17 Irish Martyrs were beatified in Rome, the congregation at the Westland Row Church celebrations included our choir. Readers may remember the radio Mass on Nollaig na mBan (6th



January '98) at which our choir sang. Over time we have sung at five ordinations. Recently, we broke new ground singing "Lullaby of Broadway" with Knocklyon Concert Band at Firhouse Community College. Sadly, over the years we have lost some of our very devoted members - Eileen Coyne (1992), Ann McLachlan (1993), Anna Mongey (1997) and Marie Vaughan (1998). May they rest in peace. They are all fondly remembered.

At present the choir has 25 members. The Alto and Tenor lines would appreciate additional members. Maybe a few more parishioners might join us; they would be most welcome. Lots of "craic" is had alongside the commitment to liturgical music.

Aoife O'Tierney

CHILDREN'S DRAMA GROUP

"In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and all things came from Him".

As a child I was fascinated by the power and strength of these words, and ten years ago when I was asked to continue the work of the Children's Liturgy at the 10 o'clock Mass, I agreed wholeheartedly.

This innovative idea of bringing the Word and the Truth to the children of Knocklyon by means of drama was the brainchild of Fr David and Marian O Cleirigh. Many wonderful people continued this work over the years; Fr Joe, Kathryn Coffey, Carol Cusack, and today we have Fr Philip who never fails to produce a wonderful script, with the help of Bernie Dudley.

As a drama teacher who loves the spoken word, the human story and the pursuit of truth, I feel it is a wonderful way of including the children of the parish in the weekly celebration. The Gospel stories fill me with wonder, and the children always make them magical, as only children can.

Each year we need new members in our group and I hope the children's involvement will continue for many years to come.

Eva Coffey

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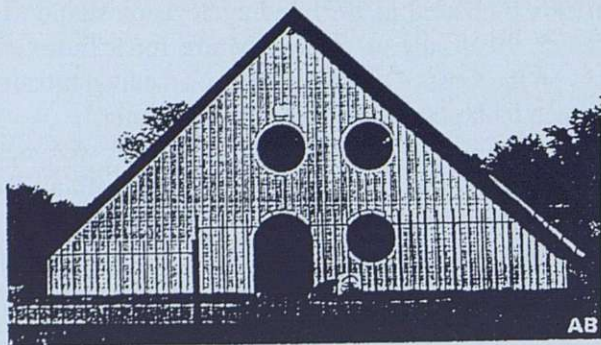
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112th SCOUT UNIT

The 112th Unit was formed in 1975 by Noel Geoghegan. Noel started the Unit with one Leader and a Cub Pack of 36 children. Since 1975 the Unit, like the parish, has grown in numbers. It now has 10 sections consisting of more than 270 children and over 30 Leaders.

Initially the Scouts met in the National School until they were (with the help of some very dedicated fundraisers and supporters) able to build their own den.

In the last 24 years the Unit has seen many changes, the biggest being the introduction of Girl Scouts in 1991. Needless to say this introduction necessitated female Leaders. The Scouts cater for children in the parish from the age of 6 years upwards and they meet on a weekly basis. As well as their weekly meetings, the Scouts take part in both regional and national activities and have on occasion done very well in competition. At present the Knocklyon Scouts are holders of the Regional Shield.

To mark the end of each year the Beaver Scouts have a big day out, and the older Scouts go on annual camp; sometimes going as far as Switzerland, Brussels and Wales. This year they will go to Scotland.

The Unit would not have been able to function without the dedication of its leaders over the past 24 years. Many people have given generously of their time. On behalf of Noel Geoghegan, Gerry Daly, Paul Buckley (past Unit Leaders), and myself Nuala Fitzsimons (present Unit Leader) we would like to convey our thanks to all our Troop and Pack Leaders both past and present. We look forward to welcoming many more Scouts and Leaders to the Unit in the years to come.

Yours in Scouting,
Nuala Fitzsimons.

KNOCKLYON ADULTS IN EDUCATIONAL STUDIES

K.A.I.E.S. is a voluntary group. We came together in June 1992 at the request of the V.E.C. to provide adult education for our community. The K.A.I.E.S. Committee is comprised mainly of women working in the home who initially joined the VEC-run classes, but quickly responded to the need for a comprehensive programme of courses reflecting the needs of a fast growing community.

We offer a wide variety of courses ranging from the purely "hobby type" to Diplomas and Certificates from Maynooth University. These classes are held in Knocklyon Community Centre with the help and co-operation of the staff and Board members of the Centre.

While the majority of our students are women, K.A.I.E.S. welcomes the increasing numbers of men who have been joining our classes over the years. We feel this trend reflects the growing changes in work practices, and in society generally. K.A.I.E.S. is conscious of the need to respond to these changes while at the same time continuing to provide the opportunity to women in the home of availing of adult education, and thereby improving their own lives and the life of their local community. It follows, therefore, that K.A.I.E.S. is pleased to be a member of the Knocklyon Community Council.

K.A.I.E.S. also is a member of AONTAS – The National Association of Adult Education. We are also part of a Network of groups similar to ourselves who provide adult education in various parts of Dublin. At present, in conjunction with this Network, we are putting together a response to the Government's recent Green Paper, "Adult Education in an Era of Lifelong Learning".

Pauline Sheedy



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I.C.A. PRODUCTION OF "SUMMER BELLES" 1982

The Knocklyon Guild of the I.C.A. was founded on 1st March 1984 at a meeting in Knocklyon Parish Centre. The Guild enjoyed a very busy and successful first year, entering enthusiastically into all aspects of I.C.A. life, and winning the Naomh Éanna Trophy at group level for Drama at the first attempt.

The next year the Guild continued to be active at local and Federation level, gaining second place in the B.I.M. Fish Cookery competition at Federation level.

In 1986 Knocklyon made its first international connection by attending the ACWW Conference in Killarney, for which a quilt was made by the Guild members and presented to An Grianán.

Over the following years the Guild strengthened its links with other guilds by continued involvement in competitions, and also on a social level. A large number of members took advantage of participating in the various courses on offer at An Grianán, and many pleasant weeks or weekends were spent in that relaxing atmosphere.

1992 marked a coming of age for the Guild when, conscious of the need to have an accurate record of the past in an ever changing modern society, some of the members undertook a compilation of a history of the area. "Knocklyon Past and Present" was launched in December of that year by former Taoiseach, Liam Cosgrave, a native of Knocklyon. Also in 1992 the Guild's entry in the Tomlin Cup, "The Donoghue Sisters", scooped the best actress award, crowning a very successful year.

In April 1994 Knocklyon Guild celebrated 10 years in existence with a party for members and friends, including

Pat Walters, Dublin Federation President. In November of that year the Guild won the Nora Lever Cup and the Best Supporting Actress Award with their entry "Dark Brown" in the Tomlin Cup.

In 1996 the Guild took to the international stage when 18 members spent a most enjoyable and instructive week visiting the European Parliament in Strasbourg, and also Paris and Heidelberg. Space does not permit the listing of the many individual achievements won by members over the past number of years. Suffice to say that each member, by her participation in the Association has learned new skills, and, more importantly, forged friendships, which she will carry with her whether she shines in competition or not.

Sadly over the last number of years we have lost many treasured friends, whom we will continue to think of as we enter the next 25 years of parish life.

Wishing the Parish every success for the years to come.

Marie Ryan, P.R.O.



KNOCKLYON CREDIT UNION

In the early 90s as the community of Knocklyon expanded, it became obvious that a Credit Union would be a welcome addition to the neighbourhood.

A public meeting was called in October, 1992 to assess the level of interest in this project. The response was overwhelming. From this meeting a group of 19 people came together every Wednesday night for 7 months to learn the basics of running a Credit Union. Finally, in June 1993, we opened our doors in St. Colmcille's Senior School and Knocklyon Credit Union was born.

Thanks to the trojan work of volunteers we now have over 900 members. A special thanks is also due to Pat Kelly for his continued generosity in allowing us to use the school.

The Board and volunteers of Knocklyon Credit Union are delighted to be involved in celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Parish. We wish continued success to all who made Knocklyon a community to be proud of.

KNOCKLYON CREDIT UNION OPENING HOURS

Friday 7.15 p.m. - 9 p.m.
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FROM GREEN FIELDS TO A PARISH ... TO A COMMUNITY

The History of **knocklyon** community council



Current and former Chairpersons of K.C.C. L.-R. Bill Meagher, Michael Brennan (current), Deirdre O'Connor, Martin Nolan, Damien Fee. Missing from photo: Michael Keogh, Vincent Kenny, John Hannon, and Michael Duffy (1st Chairman).

In 1981 a Public Meeting was held in Knocklyon with a view to forming a Community Association.

An ad-hoc committee was appointed to study the means by which a Community Association should be formed and to define its purpose and activity and its role in the Community.

Four panels were set up (1) Recreational, (2) Youth, (3) Education, and (4) Community Welfare, and convenors were appointed to each panel.

As a result of their deliberations, in 1982 the Knocklyon Community Association was founded, the membership of which embraces all the residents of Knocklyon.

The Knocklyon Community Association decided to give itself a Constitution which provided for the establishment of a Council to administer the affairs of the Association and to be called the Knocklyon Community Council. The Council is an authorised local council with powers devolved from the then Dublin County Council.

The area of administration was to be the boundaries of the newly formed Knocklyon Parish. The Council is elected by the Association at its A.G.M. and in addition every Residents' Association, Sporting Body, Educational and Recreational organisation is entitled to have a representative as a member of the Council.

The officers appointed under the Constitution at the first meeting of the Council each year are a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Correspondence Secretary, Minutes Secretary and Treasurer. Convenors are also appointed to the following sub-committees: Planning, Policing, Sport, Environment, Education and Communications/Finance, and an Auditor is also appointed.

The Knocklyon Community Council since 1982 has played a very active part in the development of Knocklyon by monitoring planning applications and it has liaised with the then Dublin County Council and now with South Dublin County Council in relation to such matters as Roads and Traffic, Planning Applications, Parks, Football Pitches, Cherryfield Halting site, The M50 Motorway and the Green Route.

The K.C.C. also played an active role in having the bus service brought to Knocklyon, also the Post Office, the Banklink Service and the Credit

Union. It is a policy of the K.C.C. to secure the interest of our local political representatives in all matters affecting Knocklyon where appropriate.

The K.C.C. meets once a month at which all current matters are discussed. It carries out its work through a number of sub-committees. The following is a resume of the typical matters which are dealt with by each of the sub-committees:

✦ PLANNING

The Planning Sub-Committee monitors all planning applications and developments which affect the Knocklyon area. The policy of K.C.C. in relation to these matters is to ensure that an acceptable level and type of development only is permitted to be carried out.

✦ POLICING

The Policing Sub-Committee has been active in association with the Garda authorities to secure adequate control of undesirable activities and practices, particularly in relation to Burglaries, Vandalism, and Drugs and has organised Public Meetings to deal with these matters and to increase public awareness.

✦ SPORTS

The Sports Sub-Committee is active in securing playing facilities for the various sporting groups and clubs. It has played a major part in the recent securing of a substantial area totalling approximately twenty acres which we hope will be called Knocklyon Park and which will be a substantial addition to the needs of Ballyboden St Enda's G.A.A. and Knocklyon United F.C.

✦ ENVIRONMENT

The purpose of the Environment Committee is to improve and enhance the physical environment of the Knocklyon area. The Committee organises an Annual Clean Up Week and promotes two competitions for which the K.C.C. Award is presented to the tidiest estate and the Mary Muldoon Trophy is awarded to the estate which shows the greatest community effort. In the past the Max Nason trophy was awarded for the best school project.

✦ EDUCATION

The Education Sub-Committee has been very active in the securing of a Post Primary School in Knocklyon and has co-operated with the Post Primary School Committee in their long drawn-out negotiations.

✦ COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications Sub-Committee liaises with the public and promotes community awareness, endeavouring to unite the people of Knocklyon and to promote a strong sense of community.

✦ M50

The M50 Sub-Committee was established to monitor the construction of the Southern Cross Route Motorway in so far as it affects Knocklyon. It liaises with the Resident Engineer's Office and with the Contractor Ascon, particularly in relation to traffic control. It also discusses with them the programmes of work, timetables and schedules.

The K.C.C. will continue to work on behalf of the people of Knocklyon in the coming years to ensure that Knocklyon will continue to be one of the most pleasant places in County Dublin in which anyone would want to live.

Michael Brennan, Chairman

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The Legion of Mary

The Legion's apostolate is concerned with the spiritual welfare of souls and on the dynamic principle of union with Mary and her intimate participation in the plan of salvation.

Our Local Praesidium has been in the parish for twenty-two years. We meet on Tuesday nights at 8 p.m. The atmosphere of the meeting is prayerful and loving. The Legion is the gentle and often hidden presence of Mary in the Parish.

Through prayer and home visitation we help and support our fellow parishioners in their everyday lives. Particular attention is paid to the sick and elderly. By visiting them regularly we give some comfort in their struggles.

We distribute the Miraculous Medal – the protective power of which has been well documented.

We also organise monthly discussions on the first Wednesday of each month.

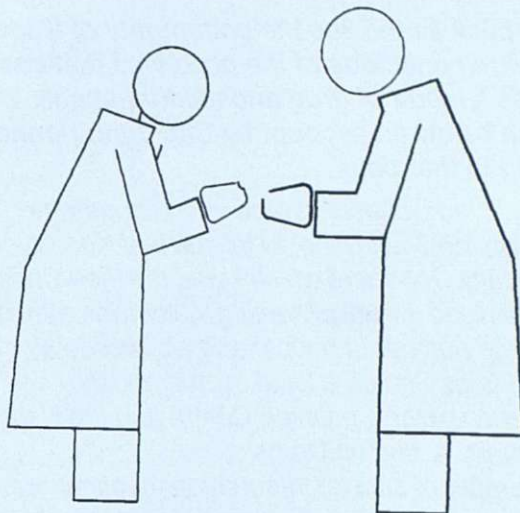
If you feel called to this lay apostolate; if you feel you want to give some little thing back to our parish – our Blessed Lady won't be found wanting in rewarding you.

Dia is Muire is Pádraig dhuit.

More information: Vera Gillen at 4941444.

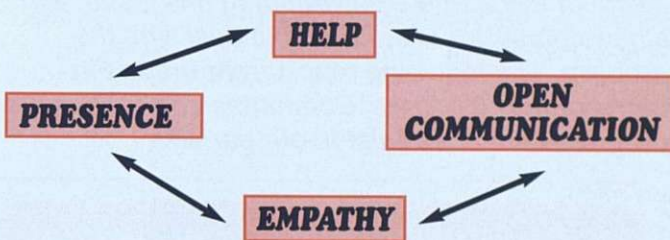


The H.O.P.E. Group



Concern is the most profound act of hope and without concern there is no cure or comfort.

The above statement reflects the ethos of a new group of volunteers formed within Knocklyon Parish to be available as a resource to people in need.



This new volunteer group aims to make contact and help people recover hope. Hope may not cure or abolish pain, but it can help people manage the experiences which appear difficult at the time. Each letter in the word HOPE suggests that help is available within this volunteer group to enable anyone young or old within the parish seek and receive assistance, and gain some control over isolation, weariness and pain. Any person can contact the group by ringing Carmel at **4935663**, Monday to Friday, 10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. for more information

Society of ST VINCENT de PAUL

A local Conference of The Society of St Vincent de Paul was set up in Knocklyon in 1988. Without the unfailing generosity of our parishioners to our monthly collections, we would be unable to carry on our work, and it is a tremendous tribute to them that we can continue to do so.



Yes, we have poverty here in Knocklyon but its face has changed over the decade. Some of its many faces include: • Unemployment • Marital Breakdown • Loneliness and isolation • The miseries caused by sickness and death.

These sufferings are often concealed by the families concerned who must be approached with sensitivity and discretion.

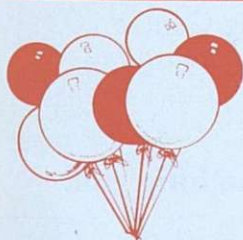
Serving our neighbour for the love of God and promoting the dignity of people is unlikely to be achieved by good intentions alone. We in the Society of St Vincent de Paul are privileged to be in a position to help the poor in our parish.

We look forward to the future with hope. We always try to be supportive and caring towards those we serve, not by offering easy solutions, but in endeavouring to assist in a gentle and constructive way.

We meet every Monday evening at 7.30 pm. We would encourage anyone in difficulty to approach the Society via one of the priests who will refer your case in confidence, or by contacting our headquarters.

Marie Lewis

Happy 25th Anniversary and Best Wishes to the Residents of Knocklyon



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DRUG AND ALCOHOL AWARENESS

As far back as the 80s the community of Knocklyon were conscious of the problems that could arise as a result of drug and alcohol abuse. We publish below an account by Cllr. John Hannon relating to that time.

Knocklyon Community Action on Drugs was formed in 1983 following an initiative of Knocklyon Community Council of which I was the then Chairman. We organised a Public Meeting which was attended by a large number of people and addressed by the Garda Drugs Squad, a local doctor, and Jim Comberton of the Coolmine Centre and the National Community Action on Drugs.

A number of smaller information meetings were held subsequently but there wasn't a real problem in Knocklyon at that time. It was our view that such a problem was likely to arise in the future and that residents needed to be informed and educated about the dangers of drug abuse.

Those who formed the group included – Lucas O'Riain, Eva Campbell, Therese Whyte, Christine Murray and myself John Hannon.

Fourteen years on, many parents became more aware of the dangers surrounding this issue, and a new committee was formed to deal with the problem. The following report from Breda Fitzharris of the "Connect" Committee confirms that a drug problem does exist in our parish.



CONNECT

How correct our predecessors were; there is no doubt, we do have a problem with Drug/Alcohol abuse in Knocklyon.

For the last two years we have worked in this area, and our aim is to promote AWARENESS of the problems pertaining to Drug/Alcohol use especially among the young, as we believe AWARENESS is our/your best friend.

Our work to date includes organising Public Meetings, running courses for parents, meeting other bodies working in the field, attending workshops, researching information regarding the extent of the problem in our parish and our biggest undertaking was the Drug/Alcohol Awareness Week held in February of this year. It was the first of its kind held in Knocklyon.

We were astounded by the success of the week and the support we received before, during and after the event. Since then we have become a household name. We reached many homes in one way or another and the feedback to date confirms there is a real need for us to continue our work. We hope, with continued positive support, to grow in strength in raising awareness and be in a position to offer support to the people in need in our parish.

Breda Fitzharris, Connect Committee

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LITURGY AND SPIRITUALITY GROUP

The Parish Assembly of November 1994 as mentioned earlier was yet another turning point in the history of our Parish. It was out of this coming together that the Liturgy & Spirituality Group was born.

The group recognised the need to highlight the importance of liturgy as a reflection of our lived faith, to make it come alive, to enthuse people, bringing them to a more lively committed involvement. By interpreting spirituality as the way we respond to the presence of God in our lives, the need to support and aid the development of this response was also identified.

Aiming to operate in a positive but challenging way, ideas are generated in the group which are directly actioned or passed on to other groups where more appropriate. The evaluation of liturgies, the creation and production of leaflets/cards for special occasions/seasons have also been a feature of the group's activities. Some more specific areas of involvement include the introduction of the Sunday Club, Participation Sundays, Novena of Grace and Intercessory Prayer initiative.

Founded to give children aged 2 - 7 years an early experience of God in a child-friendly environment, the Sunday Club also provides a vehicle for teenage helpers to become involved in the passing on of their faith. To the great delight of the group leaders, these helpers have remained with the group through the years and have been a source of huge support and stimulation. The club operates during the 11 o'clock Mass leaving parents free to fully participate in this liturgy.

Participation Sunday September 1995 was a major project. It celebrated the tremendous involvement of many people "in a community bursting with life and talents" and equally importantly, encouraged many others to get stuck in!!! No particular skills were asked for, just a willingness to get involved, as the needs of an expanding parish are many and varied. A large number of volunteers emerged, resulting in the strengthening of existing groups and the formation of new ones. A further Participation Sunday was held in September 1998 and more volunteers came forward and so the broad range of services/ministries already available was able to continue. (It should be said that due to pressure of work and family life there is often a high turnover of

group membership. New members are always needed and welcome – so don't wait to be asked – join now!!!)

The Novena of Grace was reintroduced in March 1998. The group sought to come up with challenging topics and to organise equally challenging speakers including a strong representation from the Parish itself. All gave generously of their time and experience resulting in inputs that were truly challenging and refreshing.

The Intercessory Prayer initiative took off in November 1998. For those needing the prayerful support of others, a book was made available in the Church beside the organ for the purpose of recording particular intentions. These intentions are included in all Masses. In addition, each Saturday morning during Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the book is placed on the altar and those present are asked to pray for the intentions recorded. The effect is twofold – support is given to those who especially request it, and those giving it deepen their own awareness of the many graces and blessings already received, resulting in an overall strengthening of the Parish as a community.

So what of the next 25 years and the 2nd millennium? The philosopher theologian Kierkegaard tells the story of a group of geese who wandered round their farmyard all day long. They were very comfortable, well fed and had a good deal of space to pace about. But it was all quite boring and uninspiring. Until one day they encountered a stranger in their midst. He seemed to be a preaching goose, because he spoke at length about their ancestors and how they journeyed through trackless wastes of the sky and travelled vast distances to experience other lands. The farmyard geese could feel the tingle of excitement in their blood, and longings they couldn't explain moved them to the core. Their horizons were expanded and they applauded the preaching goose, sharing their corn and barn with him. All this they did. But one thing they never did. They did not fly.

Challenge is invariably uncomfortable. There will be failure, but the greatest failure is to lose the vision. Let's aim for a deeper, lived out, realisation of our calling and "fly" enthusiastically into the next 25 years and the 2nd millennium.

Mary Prendergast

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY



A group from The Historical Society on a recent trip to Carton House

Knocklyon Historical Society is just three years old. Seven people came together on the 2nd of October 1996 founding the society. It was decided to hold talks and outings that would enhance people's knowledge of their locality and matters of historical interest.

That first season was launched with an outing to the Massey Woods on a beautiful November day. Lectures since then have included such topics as the High Crosses of Ireland, Annie M.P. Smithson, Irish Glass, Granite in Dublin, Templeogue House and St Colmcille (commemorating the 1400th anniversary of his death on 9th June 1997). A series of talks and outings commemorating the events of 1798 were held last year. The society was also represented (courtesy of Mr Séamus Brennan) at the official opening of the Croppies Memorial Garden.

The society has organized local walks, and had outings to Carton Demesne, the Dáil and Seanad, Wexford and Armagh.

There are 30 members in this society now who all enjoy its social aspect. Talks, of course, always end with a cupán tae, chat and post mortem on the evening's proceedings. Do consider joining us in the autumn if you have a general interest in history. You will be most welcome.

Enquiries to 494 1312.



BRIDGE CLUB

Only those bitten by the "Bridge Bug" can understand the fascination of the game. In all bridge players there is a latent urge to convert non-players to the game. Perhaps this was the motivating factor that caused Maurice and Carmel O'Boyle, Donal and Lily Garvey, Mai Stephenson, Chris Roche and her late husband Paddy to establish Knocklyon Bridge Club in St Colmcille's National School in the autumn of 1975. The Club met on a Monday night and barely existed through the first winter. However, the perseverance of that small group succeeded and gradually the Club expanded. Over those first years the nightly number of tables varied between eight and ten and the Club membership numbered about 60.

In 1984 when St Colmcille's School divided, the Club moved to the newly constructed Senior school. Membership increased to about eighty but it proved impossible to have sufficient members to run two competitions. This meant that novice players were playing against much more experienced players and the novices often got disheartened and left. The hallmark of the Club in those years was the friendly atmosphere. Christmas parties were intimate affairs where members brought cakes, buns and wine, and the entertainment was also provided by the members. Many a good night was had by all. Afterwards the school hall would be brushed and cleaned and made ready for school next day. The club ran an annual charity night, which was a major undertaking for the hardworking committee. About thirty-six tables could be expected with a supper and spot prizes provided and, of course, a raffle. Surprisingly large sums were raised for deserving charities. Apart from this night the proceeds of the club were donated to the School.

Due to expansion in 1993 the School found it could not continue to accommodate the Bridge Club. New accommodation was found at the Good Counsel Centre on Ballyboden Road. To the surprise of the members, this move proved popular with many previous club members who rejoined. In a short while the club was forced to close its membership because it could not cope with the influx of new people. The present membership stands at two hundred and twenty, of whom half will be found playing in the club on any Monday night.

The Club has come a long way since its foundation. It has numbered in its membership players who have represented their country, yet it retains its well merited reputation as one of the friendliest Clubs in Dublin. In April it was the first Bridge Club to play in the new purpose-built bridge club – the Templeogue Castle Community Bridge Club. This represents the opening of a new era for Knocklyon Bridge Club. With the spirit and commitment of its members, the future of the Club is assured.

Michael Buckley

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(KNOCKLYON ACTIVE PARENTING ENDEAVOUR)

1995 – we didn't know one another then. The arrival of children into our lives had brought us together in that random way travellers are brought together having decided to embark on the same journey. We just didn't know exactly where our journey as parents would lead us and we all felt an urgent need for some signposts to point the way.

AND SO WE FORMED K.A.P.E.

Providing a forum where parents could come together, share experiences and acquire useful communication skills seemed the best way to move forward.

It's **1999**. To date, K.A.P.E. have organised over 20 courses and workshops attended by hundreds of parents. Underpinned by a skill-based approach, the courses are designed to offer practical and effective ways of meeting the challenges posed by childrearing in the 90s and into the new millennium. Individual courses meet the needs of individual age groups: 0-6 years, 6-12 years (basic), 12-18 years (teen).

Over 3 years, monthly morning meetings have provided opportunities for debate, discussion and vital "time out" for parents in the home. Our panel of expert speakers has complemented the courses with evening lectures on related themes - sex education, moral guidance, bullying, alcohol use and abuse and the increasingly serious issues of stress and mental health.

K.A.P.E. is particularly indebted to the many facilitators who have given of their time to share with others the skills and enjoyment they experienced at first hand in our courses. And where would K.A.P.E. be without its crèche? With the enthusiasm and commitment of past course participants and the committee members, no baby was refused a place or a cuddle while mum took some well-deserved pause for thought.

We started with a dream and simply made it come true.

Enquiries to Mary at 4942130 or Ann at 4939424.



K.A.P.E. Committee members with guests and babies attending an Information/Coffee Morning

Parent and Toddler Group

This group has been in existence for the last four years. It is co-ordinated this year by Helen Saunders but each parent is responsible for looking after themselves and their own child/children. Everyone co-operates in organising the beverages and cleaning up the pastoral centre after the group. There are toys for the children to play with and books to read.

The group gives the opportunity to parents to meet socially and discuss issues regarding children/home/life on an informal basis over a cup of tea/coffee and biscuits. It can be a very useful support group for new parents and a particularly useful social outlet for people that are based full-time in the home. It is also a source of great enjoyment for the children as they get to meet their peers and play with the toys. As our old "home" in the pre-fab is no longer available, we hope to resume activities when we find a new home in the Autumn.

**All are welcome to attend. Any queries/suggestions
Contact Helen at 4939823**

*Best Wishes to
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As we sign off for the Summer we would like to acknowledge the particular assistance of some people in the compilation of this special issue:

Andy Farren for the current photos.

Theresa O'Reilly for her expert typesetting.

Ian Byrne at Lantz Printing for his patience and co-operation.

We would also like to thank the Principals and Staff of both schools for their ongoing support of the Newsletter, and especially Mr Ruddy who co-ordinated the delivery teams this year.

A special thank you to all our Contributors and Advertisers. Again we would encourage readers to support the businesses who advertise with us, many of them are long-time clients without whose support it would be very difficult to continue publishing the Knocklyon News.

We are indebted also to Sheila and Noel Hughes at Lantz Printing for their ongoing generosity, which has enabled the Newsletter to continue in print for 16 years.

A special thank you to our own team member Aodhagán Bríoscú who designed the front cover, and is responsible for the drawings and photo layout.

To all who submitted photos – we wish we could have used more, thank you for the memories they evoked – the requested ones will be returned in due course.

And finally, our thanks to June for her work on the ads, and to Nuala and Cora for the endless cups of tea to keep us going.

Until the Autumn, we wish you happy holidays, and hope you enjoy all the celebrations on offer for Parish Jubilee week.

Newsletter Team

Before We Take Our Leave ...



If you have read this far you will have observed that Parish & Community life in Knocklyon is multi faceted, and sustained by a very large number of individuals and groups. However, we are very conscious that our representation of this is incomplete, because so much of what goes on every day in our parish is carried on by people with a very low profile – helpers of all sorts who simply do the job. It would be easy to take for granted the fact that we worship in a beautiful clean Church every week, adorned with lovely flowers, peopled by readers and Ministers, altar servers, collectors, as well as ourselves, the congregation. Their work, however, and that of so many others provides the foundation for all the other activities that take place daily, and we recognise this.

Neither should we overlook the work done by the Boards of Management in both schools, those who have organised various receptions over the years, and those responsible for our many social events which have given so much pleasure since the early years.

We have tried in this issue to hold up a "mirror" to Knocklyon at this time in its history, and we hope readers will appreciate and reflect on the image shown. As parishioners ourselves we would simply like to record the immense gratitude of this community to **EVERYONE** who has helped create that image.

The next few years will provide new landmarks in Knocklyon in the form of our New Pastoral Centre and our second level school – opportunities for greater growth and development for us as a Parish – may we all be equal to the challenges which these will carry with them.

NEWSLETTER TEAM, 1999

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**SUMMER
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The team have reluctantly left me space for 50 words(!) because I have insisted on saying thanks to *them*. Profound gratitude and appreciation, not alone for this special issue, but for all the issues and in unbroken continuity since December '82, must be expressed to Team members, past, present and throughout.

The calibre of the "Knocklyon News" is of the highest. To describe the work and spirit of the Team, I have space for just a short litany of words: professional, talented, dedicated, committed, sensitive, generous, dignified, low key, up-building of community ...

Add your own! Thanks, a thousand thanks to Beth, Mary, Eileen, Karen, Rena, Aodhagán, and past members Pat, Lynn, Monica, Dympna and many others.

Fr David



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2 p.m. FM 104 Mavericks, Balloons, Face Painters, DJ & Music, Pony Rides, Hot Dogs and Burgers. *Lots of side shows.*



4 p.m. Pet Show – just turn up *(with your pet of course!)*



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FRIDAY 25th

8 p.m. Adult Table Quiz – in  
Ballyboden St. Endas GAA Club – Tickets in Presbytery.

SATURDAY 26th

● ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR
Phone 4941451 for details.

3 p.m. ● FANCY DRESS.
Entry Forms in Presbytery

● PONY RIDES
● SCHOOL SOCCER FINALS 
● FIRE BRIGADE DEMONSTRATION

5-8 p.m. ● TEDDY BEARS' PICNIC
Prize for Best-dressed Teddy.

★ LIVE "SAMBA" BAND
★ HOT DOGS AND BURGERS –
Bring a rug and minerals.



MONDAY 21st



GOLF COMPETITION – Stackstown –
Time Sheet available in Presbytery.
£20 per person.

Ring Gerry at 4933738 – evenings.
PRIZEGIVING – See Thursday.



SPONSORS NEEDED

7.30 p.m. ● 1ST TALENT SHOW.
Application Forms available
in Presbytery.



TUESDAY 22nd

7.30 p.m. ● 2ND TALENT SHOW.

WEDNESDAY 23rd



8 p.m. **MONSTER** BINGO – 
BIG PRIZES.

THURSDAY 24th



7 p.m. ● YOUTH TABLE QUIZ

PITCH & PUTT:

Entry Forms in Presbytery.

9.30 p.m. PRIZEGIVING for Golf
and Pitch & Putt in
Stackstown Golf Club,
Plus drinks. *All Welcome.*

SUNDAY 27th

● OPEN AIR MASS – 12 NOON
(No 1 o'clock Mass)

2 p.m. ● FAMILY TREASURE HUNT.
*By Car – £5 per car.
Turn up and pay on the day.*

6 p.m. ● ADULT SOCCER FINALS. 

COMPETITIONS RUNNING THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

Entry Forms in Presbytery for
Pitch & Putt, Soccer, and Talent Show.
For all competitions entrants must
live/work in the Parish, or go to school in
the Parish, or belong to a
Club/Association situated in the Parish.

TUCK SHOP – OPEN ALL WEEK.

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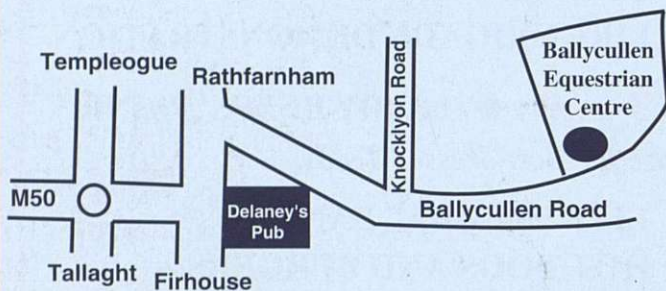


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