

KNOCKLYON NEWS

FEBRUARY 2004

ST. COLMCILLE'S PARISH

Participation Sunday
28th/29th February



EILEEN CASEY - CENTRE STAGE!

The Christmas 2003 issue of the Knocklyon News marked its coming of age - 21 years reporting on the people and activities of our ever-changing parish. Throughout that time the name of Eileen Casey has been a constant inclusion (usually at the bottom of page two). Eileen has been writing for the Newsletter since the first edition of December 1982, and to mark this milestone we turn the spotlight on Eileen herself.



Eileen was born in England to Irish parents and christened Eileen Veronica Hayes. She was the younger of two daughters - her older sister sadly died in her teens. Eileen moved between Ireland and England with her parents as a child. When her parents finally returned to Ireland they settled on the Navan Road in Dublin. Eileen's father had been an actor as a young man with the Abbey Theatre. He was known as a great talker and raconteur, and became very popular with his business associates when he worked in Lancashire and Yorkshire after his acting days. Eileen remembers him as always having a cigar. Her father maintained his interest in theatre and frequently produced shows as fund-raising occasions for churches in need of support in various parishes in England.

Eileen inherited her father's love of theatre and clearly remembers her first stage appearance, when still a very small child, as an angel in one of his shows. This early exposure to things theatrical obviously influenced Eileen's choice of career, as she went on to study Speech & Drama obtaining a Licentiate from the Guildhall School of Music & Drama in London. In her early career she was involved in writing and producing pantomimes which were performed in the Fr. Matthew Hall in Church Street, Dublin. She has the distinction of being the youngest recipient of the Fr. Matthew Record Cup. Her work brought her in contact with Franciscan priest Fr. Aloysius, who asked her to write a play to be performed by girls from the Girl's Club run by Assisi House. Eileen's work resulted in another award-winning drama. In her later career Eileen taught Speech & Drama at Cabra Convent School, and Newbridge College, and was involved in musicals performed by these schools. She later became co-ordinator for the Guildhall Exams in Ireland.



Alongside her early interest in theatre, Eileen was also pursuing a great love of writing. Her first two pieces penned at age twelve, were published by a woman's magazine. They were entitled "Maisie The Manhunter" and "Backwall Sarah". Some years later her account of a trip to Rome with her mother entitled "Rome Was So Like Home" was published in a local paper, and the *Irish Catholic*.

Having met and married her husband Seán, Eileen's career took a new turn when she joined BBC Television as a production assistant between '63 and '74. Her work mainly involved producing plays and comedy playhouses for television, sometimes in studio, other times travelling with outside broadcast units.

She worked alongside Harold Snood who now produces 'Keeping Up Appearances' (featuring the character Mrs. Bucket). She was part of the production team for two Eurovision Song Contests broadcast by BBC London. During these exciting early years of television she has special memories of a show entitled '90 Years On' which was broadcast to mark the 90th Birthday of Sir Winston Churchill in November 1964. The show, before a live audience at the TV Centre, featured a host of stars including Kathy Kirby, Harry Secombe, Margot Fonteyn, to name but a few. Eileen's name appears as one of the four member production team for that show.

From the dizzy heights of BBC, Eileen and Seán returned with their daughter Kathryn to Dublin in 1974. They were among the early residents of the newly built houses at Knocklyon Avenue, which has been their home since.

Kathryn, a graduate of Trinity College, is now a lecturer in French, Spanish and Linguistics at IT Tallaght. She and her husband Ronan also live in Knocklyon.

Eileen's involvement with the Knocklyon News began when Fr. Weakliam, the then Parish Priest and founder of the Newsletter, invited her to write an article. From that first report on the Christmas Fair of 1982 until today Eileen has been on hand to record the big stories, profile the new personalities, welcome and bid farewell in her own inimitable style. We are indebted to her for her dedicated service. She has generously shared her many talents and we as a community are the richer for that sharing.

- Beth Cummins

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Why confess to a priest?

Chris O'Donnell O.Carm

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An American teacher who has charge of religious education in a primary school told me the other day that she had been preparing children for First Confession. She thought she had done a good job until one eight-year old asked, 'Why do I have to say, "First Confession?"' Do I have to go through this again?' He thought that one experience of confession was enough for a lifetime. We all have different ideas and especially feelings about confession. The title, 'Why Confess to a Priest?' is from a two-penny CTS pamphlet that was on sale in churches during the 1940s and 50s. So it is not a recent question. A lot of people like the idea of general confession, where one would get absolution without having to be explicit about any sins. People can jokingly refer to this as 'confession on the cheap,' though Church law demands that serious sins remitted in general confession should be specifically confessed at a later date. There is no cut-price confession, at least in the case of serious sin. What serious sin is, is a matter for another time.

Burden or Gift

The really basic question can be expressed in this way; do we consider confession as a burden or a gift? There are several slightly different ways in which the same question might be put. Is God being kindly to us in establishing confession, or is it some kind of punishment? Is confession an act of mercy, or a hard punishment for sin? Yet another way of putting the question would be, is actual confession good for us? Would we be better off simply telling our sins to God? Well, we have all told God that we are sorry for sin, but that does not seem to be enough to satisfy the human heart. Is there something about us that makes it important that we confess serious misdemeanours to another?

Confessing

We all have read or heard about people who committed a serious crime like murder. They get away with it for years and then they feel they have to tell someone, a friend or even go to the police and hand themselves in. What is going on in these cases? Another example would be the twelve steps of Alcoholics Anonymous. The fourth step on the road to recovery is 'Make a searching and serious moral inventory of ourselves.' This is to look really honestly at the whole issue of good and evil - not just drink abuse. Then the sixth step is, 'Admit to God, to ourselves and another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.' Again it is all wrongdoing, not just drink offences. Again note who must receive the confession: admit to ourselves, to God and to another human being. In the New Testament there is a passage in the letter of St. James that talks about how people are getting along (James 5:7-16). The author begins by exhorting patience. He then speaks about those who are suffering, they should pray. Those who are cheerful should sing songs of praise. Those who are sick should be anointed with oil and



have hands laid on them by the presbyters. He then sums up: 'Therefore confess your sins to one another and pray for one another that you may be healed.' The confession of sin is somehow necessary for wellbeing. These three examples of people feeling the need to admit to past crimes, the wisdom of the AA fellowship, and the scriptural connection between confession of sins and healing or well being invite us to look again at the sacrament and see why confession is so Important.

Healing

If I commit some serious sin, I can, and should, tell God that I am sorry. God is merciful and will, I hope, forgive. But it is a very silent forgiveness. Can I be sure that I have satisfied God? Is he content with my sorrow? In the meantime I can still feel the isolation of sin, and the deep sense of shame that can so easily lead me to think that I am unlovable or nasty. There is a powerful psychological need to feel accepted. If I confess all my sins and I am not rejected, but welcomed and encouraged, then life opens up again. So long as I am not fully honest with myself, and have not admitted the exact nature of my wrongs, then I can easily fall into the



Forgiveness is the answer to the child's dream of a miracle by which what is broken is made whole again

Dag Hammerskjöld

Reconciliation Sunday 27th/28th March

Saturday: 7.00 p.m.

Sunday: 11.00 p.m., 12 noon,
1.00 p.m. & 7.00 p.m.

grasp of self-hatred. If I admit only to part of my sin or somehow cover up, then lurking beneath is the possible thought, if people really knew what I am like, they would reject me. Confession, even in a dark corner of a church solves this basic problem. If I confess, then I have my dignity restored; I am welcomed back from the isolation of sin and guilt.

Seen in this way confession is a gift. It can still be embarrassing, but a moment's embarrassment is a small price to pay. We can perhaps smile at the thought: well I was not ashamed to sin, so why the big deal in confessing it? This psychological need of admitting our evil and of being accepted and respected is at the heart of the sacrament. But there are other advantages. The area of sin is one in which we can very easily have a distorted picture of ourselves and of our sinfulness. We may not be fully honest with ourselves and we can rationalise our failings. We can escape their wrong and the harm they do to others. Other people have an opposite problem. They are needlessly crushed by sin and a sense of failure. They need to be encouraged and set free from their guilt and perhaps from twisted thinking about themselves. I have often been at services of reconciliation when people have come up just to mention one or two sins and get absolution and I felt, if only I could say a few sentences to this person and help them into freedom. But there is no opportunity and they go off, forgiven, but still damaged or enslaved by anxiety, self-hatred, scrupulosity, despair. The possibility of advice is a major feature in the sacrament, and one of the important reasons why we should confess our sins.

We have seen then that we need not only forgiveness of sins, but also a remedy for sin. Sin traps and makes us slaves. Merely to get absolution is a great benefit, but people can need more. A word, a phrase from the priest can bring a lot of healing. Confession is meant to be a dialogue between priest and the penitent, so that the sin is uncovered, its roots uncovered and remedies sought. Whether all this happens depends on how we use the sacrament, a quick fix, or a step towards healing.

A Priest

The help that the priest can offer does not necessarily come from that the fact that the priest is particularly learned or even very holy, but because Christ in his Holy Spirit is

present guiding both the priest and the person confessing sins. What if a priest is angry or unpleasant? There is, I think, only one thing to do. Walk out, telling him perhaps, as you leave, that he is a disgrace. Nobody should put up with ill-treatment of any kind in confession.

We have two answers to the question, why confess to a priest? One is that confession of the exact nature of our sins is very good and healing for us. The second is that we can find remedy for sinful or harmful attitudes to ourselves and others. Why is a priest better? The Church had ring-fastened confession to make it a safe place. There is the seal of confession. Nothing told in confession in order to receive absolution can ever be revealed. The penalty, for a priest doing so is papal excommunication, usually with expulsion from priesthood. I have never heard of a case of this strict confessional secrecy being violated. So a third reason is that the Church provided a safe place for the confession that is sometimes necessary for us, and often helpful.

Meeting Christ

The main reason for confession to a priest is that we are dealing with a sacrament, a way in which Christ set up a means for dispensing grace. 'Whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven.' (see John 20:22-23). The priest cannot really be said to forgive sins by the power of Christ, if he doesn't know what the sins are. In the sacrament it is Christ who forgives. Since Christ is ascended into heaven, we would not be able to see him or hear his voice forgiving us. But he acts in the person of the priest. When the priest says, 'I absolve you from your sins,' he is doing so in Christ's name and place; we hear the actual words of forgiveness, and the sin is removed forever.

St Therese of Lisieux recalls her first confession. She says, 'I never felt so much joy in my soul. Since then I've gone to confession on all the great feasts, and it was truly a feast for me each time.'



MASSES DURING LENT

Weekdays	6.45 a.m.
	8.25 a.m.
	10.00 a.m.
	7.00 p.m.
Saturday:	10.00 a.m. followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 12 noon.
Sunday	as normal

Please note: there will be no weekday 9.00 a.m. Mass during Lent

Are you looking for more from your parish?

Well if you are, then it is you that we need. Your gifts, abilities, talents are just what is needed for us to make a greater difference.

Why not talk to us on Participation Sunday and maybe find an outlet for your particular gifts.

Participation Sunday
28th/29th February
after all the Masses



WHAT IS TAIZÉ?

The Taizé Community

In August 1940, a young man named Roger left his native Switzerland and came alone to settle in the tiny village of Taizé in eastern France. His sole purpose was to live a life of prayer. Soon others joined him and today, this ecumenical community numbers some 90 brothers from over 20 countries. Today, Taizé is a place to which hundreds of thousands of visitors of all ages and backgrounds come on pilgrimage, to participate in prayer and reflection.

Taizé Prayer

Coming to pray in the Taizé style means being invited to the living springs of the Gospel through song, prayer and meditation. The duration of prayer is about 45 minutes. It begins in silence, with subdued lighting, candles, and the Taizé cross at the centre. Singing is one of the most important forms of prayer. The repetitive chants have a certain element of spontaneity; they last as long as people want to sing, and continue until the chant becomes a prayer for oneself . . . a prayer which awakens the spirit of God within us.

Taizé Prayer and Meditation at Gort Muire

If you are travelling to Dundrum or Sandyford from the M50, and stuck in traffic on the Wyckham by-pass, you will notice a sign outside the Gort Muire Centre advertising Prayer Around The Cross. As anyone who has ever done a retreat at Gort Muire will know, the Carmelite Oratory there, with its carpeted seating and intimate ambience, is the perfect setting for this rather informal and meditative style of prayer which appeals to the young and the young-at-heart. With the soothing strains of the harp and the gentle chants of Taizé which reach the depths of the heart, it is an ideal way to relax after a stressful week, and to spend some quality time with God. Why not experience it for yourself? Friday, March 5th, April 2nd and Good Friday, April 9th – 8.30-9.30 p.m. Spread the word! New musicians and singers always welcome. For more information contact Fr. Philip at 494 1204.

Knocklyon Junior Badminton Christmas Competition Winners



Left to right: Karen Agnew, Fiona Nea, Aisling O'Connell, Clara Lambert, Amanda Kavanagh.

KNOCKLYON CONCERT BAND MEMBER OF THE YEAR (INTER)



Orla Rynne being presented with her trophy by Caitriona Ní Threasaigh (Musical Director).



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NEWS FROM THE PARISH FORUM

In the true spirit of winter darkness the Forum held its December meeting with the assistance of candles, because of a power cut in the Knocklyon area. A social evening to celebrate the Christmas season followed the meeting. Despite the darkness, some good news was reported and noted by the group. Forty new altar servers have been recruited and are being trained, repairs to the Church roof were completed at a cost of €1,250 and the World Youth Day Cross event was highly successful. First Holy Communion meetings were held on 26th November 2003.

The Forum resumed in January and a number of initiatives for the coming months are planned. Participation Sunday will take place on 29th February and the focus for it will be the greater involvement of all persons in the Knocklyon community in the groups/activities that are taking place in the parish. The Rainbows Programme is up and running its second phase with a Celebration Day planned for March. A lot of interest has been expressed in the need for a further run of the programme later in the year. Confirmation meetings have been held in January.

The Youth Assembly Initiative had to be postponed because of examinations and other pressures but has been resumed recently. Contact has been made with CYC (Catholic Youth Council) in relation to a Youth Ministry course and the possibility of training youth from this parish. Foróige are setting up a club on Friday night for 30-40 teenagers in the 13-16 year age group. Adult volunteers are currently being trained by Foróige.

Fr. Jimmy, in his capacity as Provincial Councillor, will visit our twin parish – Regina Coeli in Zimbabwe – and a collection will be held before he goes to donate to the work there.

A general discussion on the parish and its activities followed. A point made very strongly by the Ordained team was their great appreciation of all the voluntary input made by so many people in the parish activities.

Junior Badminton Christmas Competition Winners



Standing, left to right, Kate Fitzharris, Robert Drumm. Seated, left to right, Justine Heffernan, Sarah Fitzharris, Clare McKay, absent from photo, Jonathan Cooney.



Standing, left to right, Elaine McGrath, Jessica Patterson, Daragh Byrne. Seated, left to right, Julie Rowan, Aoibheann Giblin, Aoife O'Neill.

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WHAT BEING A MINISTER OF THE EUCHARIST MEANS TO ME

I have been asked to write on being a lay minister of the Eucharist but before doing so I need to supply some background as to how it came about.

Around 1967 I was reading 'The Documents Of Vatican II' edited by Walter Abbott, S.J. and noticed in paragraph 31 of the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church the following reference to the laity: "The(se) faithful are by baptism made one body with Christ and are established among the People of God. They are in their own way made sharers in the priestly, prophetic, and kingly functions of Christ" and in paragraph 33 it continued that "the laity can also be called in various ways to a more direct form of co-operation in the apostolate of the hierarchy". A similar view was expressed in the 'Decree On The Apostolate Of The Laity'. For its time (and for me) this was groundbreaking stuff. Since nothing much was progressing in terms of liturgical lay ministry I let matters rest. Then in 1988 the Vatican published Pope John Paul II's Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation 'Christifideles Laici - The Vocation Of The Lay Faithful In The Church And In The World' which brought together the riches of the post-conciliar documents relating to lay liturgical ministry. It was time to act and after some background reading I approached Fr. Alan Fitzpatrick, then in charge of that particular lay ministry, with a request to take communion to the sick and/or housebound. And thus I began in lay ministry.

Lay ministry, in whatever capacity, is always about disciplinship and service. Initially one may set out to imitate Jesus; the imitation becomes intimate association and what we do in our ministry and why we do it becomes participation in the life and mission of Jesus. To strengthen this participation and develop the relationship arising from it requires continuous dialogue with Jesus - we need to pray - and the obvious place for this is the scriptures.

There are certain things about my ministry that I have come to notice in the doing:

1. An awareness of the Presence as I approach the altar for distribution of Communion;
2. An awareness that the Sanctuary is indeed holy ground;
3. A sense of humility and privilege as I visit the sick and housebound;
4. And a very tangible sense of the mystery that is God and the mystery that is us when I journey with the dying.

Looked at clinically there is much else that could be said about being a minister of the Eucharist but when considering it from a personal viewpoint one arrives at where words would not adequately do service to the feelings experienced.

- Paddy Ryan



KNOCKLYON HISTORY SOCIETY

The Knocklyon History Society resumed its programme of talks on Wednesday 14th January with a very successful lecture given by Mr. Rob Goodbody. His subject was 'The Shankill Evictions of the 1860's and 1870's'. It was a most interesting and informative talk and it was evident that Mr. Goodbody has really made an in-depth study of this subject.

The coming talks held on Wednesdays are:

February 11th: 'A History Of Jacobs' Biscuit Factory'.

Speaker: Séamus Ó Maitiú.

March 10th: 'Swords Through The Ages'.

Speaker: Áine Shields.

Novena of Grace

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- KNOCKLYON COMMUNITY GAMES -

Knocklyon has a good record of success at the Community Games, however, there are many more events for which we have no entrants. The following list gives details of these events in the hope that entrants (and managers!) might come forward with a view to participating. Entry forms need to be submitted in February/March for most events so please act fast and contact Maureen Coffey at 494 2512.

N.B.: All competitors must be under the age specified on July 31st in the year the competitions are taking place.

ACTIVITY	AGE GROUPS	GENDER	ACTIVITY	AGE GROUPS	PANEL SIZE	TEAMS
ACTIVITIES – INDIVIDUAL						
Art (Community Games Theme)	Under 8, 10, 12, 14, 16 years	Boys & Girls	Olympic Handball	Under 13 years	Panel of 10	Boys & Girls
Model Making (Any Community Games Activity)	Under 10, 14 years	Boys & Girls	Pitch & Putt	Under 16 years	Panel of 5	Boys & Girls
Cycling			Rounders	Under 13 years	Panel of 12	Boys & Girls
Grand Prix	Under 16 years	Boys & Girls		Under 15 years	Panel of 12	Boys & Girls
Grass Cycling (2km)	Under 14 years	Boys & Girls	Rugby (Educative)	Under 11 years	Panel of 12	Boys/Girls/ Mixed
Gymnastics			Rugby (Tag)	Under 11 years	Panel of 10	Mixed
Individual	Under 8, 10, 12, 14, 16 years	Boys & Girls	Soccer – Outdoor	Under 12 years	Panel of 16	Boys & Girls
Team	Over 8-Under 14	3 Boys & 3 Girls	Soccer – Indoor	Under 15 years	Panel of 16	Girls
Judo			Soccer – Indoor	Under 13 years	Panel of 7	Boys & Girls
Up to 25kgs	Under 16 years	Boys & Girls	Table Tennis	Under 15 years	Panel of 7	Boys
Up to 30kgs	Under 16 years	Boys & Girls		Under 13 years	Panel of 5	Boys & Girls
Up to 35kgs	Under 16 years	Boys & Girls		(Age Change from U16)		
Up to 40kgs	Under 16 years	Boys & Girls	Variety (15 min. spot)	Under 16 years	Panel of 14	Mixed
Up to 45kgs	Under 16 years	Boys & Girls	Volleyball	Under 15 years	Panel of 12	Boys
Up to 50kgs	Under 16 years	Boys & Girls		Under 16 years	Panel of 12	Girls
Up to 55kgs	Under 16 years	Boys & Girls	ACTIVITIES – ACTIVITIES WEEKEND (MAY)			
Open	Under 16 years	Boys & Girls	U14 Quiz	Under 14 years	Panel of 6	Mixed
			Adult Team	2 Adults & 2 U17s	Panel of 6	Mixed
			Cross-Country	Under 13 years	Panel of 10	5 boys & 5 girls
			Mixed Dist. Relay	Under 12 years	Panel of 6	Boys & Girls
				Under 14 years	Panel of 6	Boys & Girls
			Project	Under 11 years	Team of 4	Boys/Girls/ Mixed
				Under 13 years	Team of 4	Boys/Girls/ Mixed
				Under 15 years	Team of 4	Boys/Girls/ Mixed
				Over 15 years	Team of 4	Boys/Girls/ Mixed
			Culture Corner	Under 15 years	Panel of 6 (Live Stage Presentation 10 mins or under)	Boys/Girls/ Mixed
			Set Dancing	Under 14 years	Panel of 10	Boys/Girls/ Mixed

ACTIVITY	AGE GROUPS	PANEL SIZE	TEAMS
ACTIVITIES – TEAM			
Camogie	Under 14 years	Panel of 16	Girls
Chess	Under 12 years	Panel of 7 (5+2 Subs)	Boys/Girls/ Mixed
	Under 16 years	Panel of 7 (5+2 Subs)	Boys/Girls/ Mixed
Choir	Under 16 years	Panel of 20	Boys/Girls/ Mixed
Gaelic Football	Under 10 years	Panel of 20	Boys/Girls/ Mixed
	Under 12 years	Panel of 20	Girls
Handball	Under 13 years	Panel of 6	Boys & Girls
	Under 15 years	Panel of 6	Boys & Girls
Hockey	Under 16 years	Panel of 16	Girls
Hurling	Under 13 years	Panel of 20	Boys

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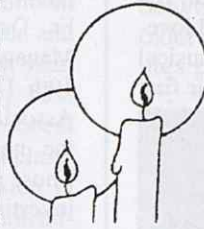
Lent – Just a Thought

'Candlemas, a candle less', the old Country folk would say as the feast of light heralded longer evenings. They celebrated St. Brigid's Day since it marked the beginning of spring when the earth begins to renew itself.

Lent too signifies spring, light replacing darkness, life replacing death. The sobering reality of Ash Wednesday tells us the truth of who we are: 'Remember that you are dust and unto dust you will return'. It also begins with an appeal from the very heart of God; 'Come back to me with all your heart . . . turn to the Lord your God again, for He is all tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in graciousness, and ready to relent'.

We lead complex lives. Inside each of us there is both the saint and the sinner. Henri Nouwen expresses it thus: 'Indeed, how divided my heart has been and still is! I want to love God but also to make a career. I want to be a saint, but also enjoy the sensations of the sinner. I want to be close to Christ but also popular and liked by people'. That could be the story of my soul. My sin is a rejection of a caring God.

Jesus went into the desert to prepare for his mission. There He was tempted by demons. The desert is the place where one does battle with evil. Whether the devil is a person, an addiction or paranoia, in the end we still need to do battle at exactly the same



place. We meet Satan as the prodigal son did, in weakness, or as his older brother did in bitterness. We all have our own demons to meet.

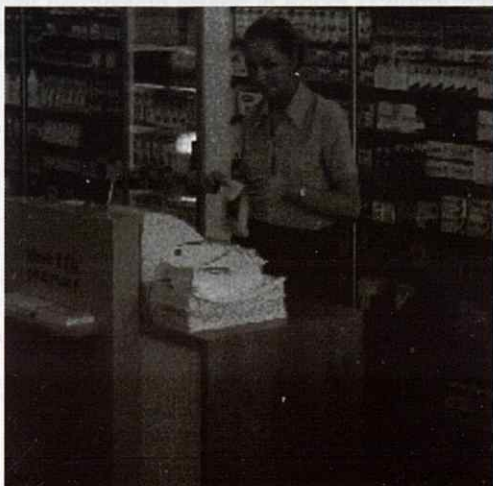
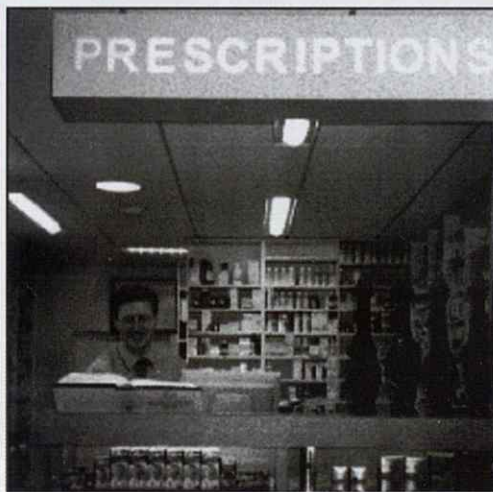
Entering the desert is staring our inner chaos in the face. That's painful. We learn wisdom by reflecting on the times when we blew it! No day is an ordinary day! Life can be hard. But it's more than suffering although suffering is part of the story.

There is the demon of self-preoccupation and self-centredness, telling us in our daydreams that we are special. There is the demon of fear that has us worried about the future. We may have to deal with the demon of obsession, addiction or lust. There are so many of them like the demon of bitterness, anger, jealousy, joylessness and self-pity.

It's not easy. But scripture tells us that like Jesus, God sends angels to minister to us. They will bring calm, restfulness, peace, humility and joy. Our search for God is not an escape, but a closer look at the circumstances in which life has placed us. It is here that Christ will meet us. Lent is about knowing the presence of the sacred in the ordinary.

We will leave the final word to Isaiah (43:1) when he says, 'Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name, you are mine'.

– Fr. Jimmy



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FIRST PENANCE

Second Class pupils in six classes received the Sacrament of Penance on February 9th, 10th and 11th. Fr. Philip and the six teachers, Ms Mathews, Ms Johnston, Ms Copland, Ms O'Connor, Ms Neary and Ms Murphy O'Shea prepared lovely ceremonies. Mr. Cuddy and Ms Meeley provided musical accompaniment. The children celebrated receiving their first sacrament since Baptism with their families at home after the ceremonies.

NATIONAL CONCERT HALL

360 pupils from First and Second Class packed the National Concert Hall for the recent Music in the Classroom Concert. The class teachers introduced the pupils to the various music pieces in the weeks leading up to the event. Many thanks to Ms Mulkerrin and Ms Garvey for organising the trip.

CÓRFHEILE NA SCOILEANNA

Ms Ní Bhroin, Ms Meeley and Ms Johnston will bring their classes to the Arena for this year's Schools' Choir Festival which is scheduled for early March. Preparations will begin soon for this annual event enjoyed so much by pupils, teachers and parents.

2004 JUNIOR INFANTS

In early January incoming Junior Infants born before May 2000 received invitations to register for places in next year's classes. Those on the waiting list will only be offered places if there are cancellations between now and September. It appears increasingly unlikely that there will be vacancies in Senior Infants, First or Second classes next September. If a new family moves into the parish and intends to send children

to their local Catholic school, neighbours please advise them to complete application forms at St. Colmcille's immediately.

NEW OFFICE

Fr. David Weakliam, former Chairman of our Board of Management, officially opened and blessed our new office on 19th December. Staff, Board of Management and Parents Association Committee Members celebrated the opening of the new school administrative and communications hub. Those present thanked the outgoing Board of Management for investing in the much-needed office and reception area.

LEARNING SUPPORT AND SPECIAL NEEDS SEMINARS

Ms Doody and Ms Mulkerrin hosted an evening seminar for parents whose children receive Learning Support. The seminar was very well attended and parents agreed that they found it informative and beneficial. Many thanks to our hardworking Parents Association Committee who organised a well-attended lecture by Therese Day from St. Patrick's College.

SCHOOL HELP SCHEME

Mr. Cuddy and Ms Copland have organised an extension to the School Help Scheme. Parents have now volunteered to assist with Maths Games, Visual Arts and various other curricular areas. There are nearly a hundred volunteer parents assisting teachers in their classrooms at different times during the week now. Local artist Joanne Murphy has worked with second classes, who produced wonderful murals that have been erected in the Top Hall.



Left to right: Fr. Jimmy Murray P.P. (Chairman Board of Management), John Boyle (Principal Teacher), Orla Coakley and Trudagh McElhone (school secretaries) with Fr. David Weakliam, after the blessing of the Junior School's new office.



Mr. Seamus Hannon teaching English reading to a group of his First Class pupils.



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SCHOOL BUILDING

Principal Teacher Mr. Boyle received a letter from Minister Noel Dempsey stating that: "A project involving the development of the school is under consideration for the appointment of a design team in 2004 by the Department of Education and Science." While this indicates some progress since last year, unfortunately it now appears that another year may pass before the Government decides to begin the planning process for the placement of our many prefabs with permanent classrooms. The Board first applied for the school extension in 2000, before the Department's Feasibility Study recommended the necessary improvements in November 2001. The application has made little progress since then, despite numerous promises. The Board of Management is very keen that the Department commits to the extension soon, as our prefabs were never designed to last this long. In the meantime the Board recently applied to the Department of Education and Science for inclusion in the new Summer Works Programme, which is designed to allow essential repairs to be carried out next Summer. We expect a reply by the end of March.



School secretary Trudagh McElhone cutting the tape at the official opening of the Junior School's new office and reception area.



Ms Matthew's Second Class concentrating hard during their percussion lesson in Room 11 of the Junior School.

BUDDY READERS

In order to further emphasise the importance of reading Ms Doody has established a Buddy Reader System between Second Class and Senior Infant pupils. The older pupils read to their junior schoolmates for 15 minutes per week. All are enjoying the new experience.



Mr. Liam Cunningham, M.D. Charleston Construction, presenting Mr. Boyle and pupils from the Junior School with a new TV/Video combi unit.

TEAM THEATRE

The acclaimed Team Theatre cast will perform 'Bumbógs and Bees' for pupils of Senior Infants at the Junior School in late March.

Ms Áine Gallagher who was recently appointed to the Special Duties position with responsibility for visual arts, drama and community links, pulled off a major coup by securing the booking

The play was written by Frances Kay and looks at the way social groups function. It presents pupils with a ready-made, fully ordered world – that of the honey bee – and invites them to find out for themselves through songs, movement and story, just what it is that makes a beehive buzz.

POETRY

Do you like to read or listen to poetry? Would you like to share your interest with others? The Ballyroan Library Poetry Circle meets on 3rd Tuesday of each month. Admission is free and all are welcome. Further information available from Ballyroan Library. Tel: 494 1900.

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EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The Cumann na mBunscol Hurling and Camogie Leagues will be commencing shortly and St. Colmcilles will be entering five teams into these competitions – three Hurling teams and two Camogie teams. Mr. Ryan, Mr. O'Neill, Ms Murphy and Ms Ni Reachtabhra are coaching these teams. We wish all the girls and boys the best of luck in this year's competition.

Our school choir is practicing every Monday in preparation for the upcoming Córthéile competition and Confirmation Ceremony. The choir is directed by Mr. Gearty who is assisted by Ms Maher, Ms McEvoy and Ms O'Connor. Our school Drama Club under the direction of Ms Fahy meets at lunchtime and has produced three plays recently.

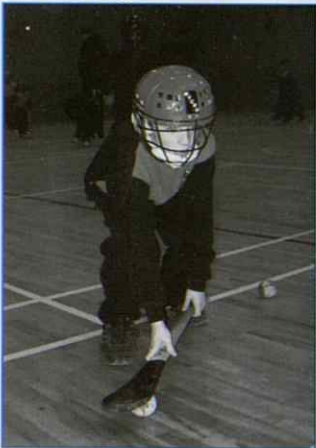
The school now has two Traditional Music Groups who practice under the direction of Mr. Brennan and Ms Ryan. After school Speech and Drama classes are up and running with Ms Glennon while French classes are also continuing with Mr. Byrne. Over eighty pupils from 6th classes are participating in the lunchtime Team Quiz which Mr. Byrne organises and the competition is red hot. Ms O'Gara's Art & Crafts Club is held after school on Thursdays and is very popular.

A new initiative in the school is the Club na nÓg – an Irish language activity club which meets on Mondays after school and is run by Ms Ni Reachtabhra, Ms Timmins and Ms Murphy. It's great to hear our pupils ag úsáid na Gaeilge timpeall na scoile. Finally, Creative Keyboard classes are also held after school on Thursdays and Fridays.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION SA SCOIL

Although after school sports are just coming out of hibernation our students are busy with a wide variety of activities during their regular physical education classes. Our school hall is used for fitness circuits, gymnastics, dance and other activities. The Community Centre, thanks to Phyllis Russell and her helpful staff, is used regularly during the winter months for indoor games and training.

At the moment all our 3rd classes have a hurling/camogie coaching class every Friday with Brian O'Regan from Ballyboden St. Endas directing. Four 3rd classes are also attending weekly swimming lessons while the other two 3rd classes are involved in Irish Dancing with Ms Brenda Warren. Our 6th classes can be seen



Hurley and Camogie session.



Tag Rugby session.



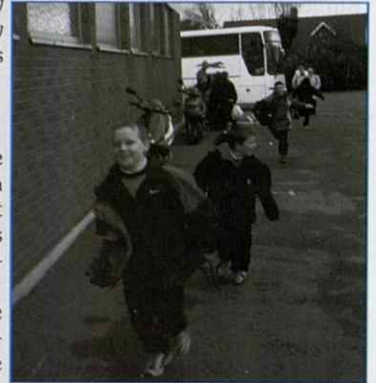
Irish Dancing class.

on the front green every Tuesday enjoying Tag-Rugby with Barry Dempsey and his colleagues from the IRFU.

DRAMA IN EDUCATION

As well as being enjoyable and entertaining, Drama encourages self-expression; it increases sensitivity to others and it promotes an awareness of the self.

In the new curriculum there is much emphasis on co-operative and collaborative learning; when making drama children have to co-operate, listen to other points of view and be part of the team. Above all by focusing on an imagined, fictional world of make-believe drama helps us come to terms with aspects of our own 'real' world in a safe context. The following piece has been written by two of our 6th class pupils who participate in the school Drama Club.



Swim time for 3rd class pupils.

DRAMA CLUB

We started a drama club in September. From the beginning we enjoyed it and were delighted to sink our teeth into a project when the opportunity came along. One day Ms Fahy (our drama teacher) told us about a letter she had received from RTE. It was for sixth class stu-



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Skipathon in progress

dents who might like to enter a competition and write a radio play. We quickly got to work with our friends. We formed three groups and after a lot of negotiating we agreed on topics, "Revenge", "I Dare You" and "Stranded". We met once a week and Ms Fahy helped us plan out our drama. Mr. Gearty recorded our plays. When we had finished we had achieved three things. We had discovered new talents; we made new friends and of course had completed a radio play. Our plays will be broadcast on the school intercom during the month of February.

- Laura O'Phibin, Orla Cleary, 6th Class

CHARITY EVENT

Each year the opportunity is given to the various year groups in the school to become involved with some charity event. The 4th class pupils were afforded the opportunity this year to help the India Project.

Six 5th year boys from Coláiste Éanna, including two of our own ex-pupils, Kevin O'Dwyer and Conor Brennan are travelling to Calcutta, India for a two-week period in February to work with the sick and dying in the hospitals and leprosy centres which were set up by Mother Teresa.

The Coláiste Éanna boys have come in to speak to our 4th class pupils about the project on a number of occasions and will come back to us again on their return from India.

Each of our 4th classes ran various events including a Skipathon to assist the India Project. The 4th class pupils and their families raised E1,653.21 towards the India Project. Our pupils have also benefited from their involvement in this project.

COISTE UAITHNE NEWS

The National Spring Clean is just around the corner. The Coiste Uaithne and Knocklyon Community Council want to rally every resident in Knocklyon to participate this year. Let us work together to make Knocklyon a cleaner place to live. The Coiste Uaithne needs your help. If you (parents/teenagers/children) are prepared to help or organise a spring clean in your area (group of houses/row/cul-de-sac) we would love to hear from you. Please contact the Coiste Uaithne, via pupils or phone the school secretary, 494 2527.

CLEAN ARMY HEROES

An anti-litter play, 'Clean Army Heroes', will visit the school in February. The fourth and fifth classes will attend. Our thanks to Ann Marie Fitzpatrick, South Dublin County Council for organising this event for us.

DESIGN AND MAKE

As part of the Revised Primary Curriculum, Science is now being introduced into our school. One element of the Science Curriculum is 'Design and Make'. Below is a report from some 5th class pupils on how they designed and made a pulley system.

"This is the third Design and Make session we've had. This time we had to make a pulley system to lift a couple of pebbles off the ground to the top of the castle. It all started when we were studying the Normans. We were looking at the building of Norman Castles. Mr. McGowan, our class teacher, suggested making pulley systems for our Design and Make session. Eoghan O'Neill and Ronan Glynn, two boys in our class, made a castle which we used as a model.

We were split into our groups of three and discussed the design.

We got about forty-five minutes to make it. We had to use a mixture of materials such as a book, two rulers, straw, spools, string, tin foil and a box. We started covering the book with tin foil and put holes in the rulers. We sellotaped the rulers on to the book and put the straws in through the holes. We put the four spools on the straws and sellotaped them on. We put on the four spools and then put the string on. We wrapped the string around the bottom spool and just let the string hang on the top spool. The string hung over the top spool and touched the ground and we sellotaped it to the box. Then we decorated it by sticking on colourful straws.

We called it 'Spooly Ruley'. We put the castle on to one of the tables and got our pulleys ready. We took it in turns to test our pulleys. When it was our turn, we sat it in front of the castle and popped in three pebbles. Then we started to roll it up. We got it to the top and let it down again. Passed!

We really enjoyed it and we look forward to our next Design and Make session."

This article is written by: Kate Duffy, Grace McCarron and Susan Palmer, all from Room 11, Mr. McGowan's 5th class.



Design and Make session.

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Gaelscoil Chnoc Liamhna



Beannachtaí na hAthbhliana dár gcairde uilig. Tá an bhliain nua faoi lánseol againn agus táimid an-ghnóthach ar fad.

Christmas seems like a very long time ago already but we'd like to take the opportunity to thank all those who contributed to the collection for the Simon Community. As usual we held a Seirbhís Carúil sa chlós ar lá na laethanta saoire on behalf of this worthwhile charity and the response was indeed generous. Ár mhuíochas le Múinteoir Áine who organised it all.

Dr. Sue Browne

Tá an Dr. Sue Browne ar ais linn an téarma seo. Sue, who uses storytelling as a basis for class work in drama and literature, will be working with Rang a 3, Rang a 4 agus na ranganna Naíonáin this term. Sue, who enthalls classes with her stories, has proved a major hit with pupils and teachers alike. We were all impressed with the puppet show produced by Rang a 1, complete with home made puppets, and look forward to more of the same this term.

Aine Ní Ghlinn

Foras na Gaeilge have launched a pilot scheme for primary schools to promote and encourage children to write creatively as Gaeilge. Mar chuid den scéim seo, beidh Áine Ní Ghlinn ag teacht chun na scoile ag obair le Rang a 4 agus Rang a 5. Áine is a wellknown writer and poet who writes for both adults and children. This year, the emphasis will be on poetry writing and its associated skills. Taimid ag súil go mór le toradh na hoibre a léamh.

Cúrsaí Iománaíochta

Bainfidh gach páiste ó Rang a 2 ar aghaidh ana-thaitneamh as an scoil ar an gCéadaoin an téarma seo mar beidh cleachtadh iománaíochta ar siúl acu. Brian O'Reagan, one of the school coaches from Ballyboden St. Enda's, will visit the school each week and take five classes for coaching sessions. Arís, gabhaimid buíochas ó chroí leis an gCumann as an gcabhair agus an tacaíocht a thugann said dúinn le na cluichí Gaelacha a chur chun cinn sa scoil.

Beidh Muinteoir Deirdre, Múinteoir Clár agus Múinteoir Pádraig ag eagrú cluichí níos déanaí sa téarma nuair a thiocfaidh feabhas ar an aimsir. The mini-league in hurling will begin after the mid-term break.

Iodáilis

Tá Dante ar ais i mbun oibre an téarma seo le ranganna Iodáilise do Ranganna a 5 agus a 6. Tá na ranganna seo mar chuid de scéim na Roinne Oideachais agus tá ag eirí go han-mhaith leo.

Rince

Tá Elaine Byrne ar ais ar an Máirt le rince a mhúineadh arís an

téarma seo agus is breá le na páistí dul chuici. These classes are held during school time and every child is afforded the opportunity to attend.

Cispheil

Táimid an-bhuíoch do Chliona Nic Dhomhnaill atá ag teacht isteach le cispheil a dhéanamh an téarma seo le roinnt ranganna. Again, Cliona will take the children for basketball training during the day.

Imeachtaí tar éis na scoile

Bíonn ranganna drámaíochta ar siúl sa seomra ilghnéitheach gach tráthnóna Luain. Áine Ní Fhathaigh takes these classes which run from 2.30 to 3.30. Tá Múinteoir Clár ag múineadh na feadóige stain arís an téarma seo agus tá Múinteoir Daithí i mbun ranganna veidhlín.

Faoi láthair, the staff are busy preparing for our cruinnithe tuistí, more of which in the next edition! Preparations are also in train for our Confirmation, which will be held in our own parish or the first time. So a busy term lies ahead of us.

If you would like to visit the Gaelscoil, Priomhoide Treasa can be contacted at 493 9262.

REQUEST TO READERS

**Chernobyl Children's Project Limited
(Adi Roche)**

**Church Gate Collection - Saturday 20th
and Sunday 21st March 2004**

Please help us to raise €23,500 to pay for a specialist ambulance which we have purchased to travel with the 'Operation Hope XX11 Convoy' to Chernobyl in Belarus. This convoy will depart from Dublin on Easter Sunday, April 11th, 2004, and our ambulance will be driven by my brother Paddy (who drove another ambulance to Chernobyl in April 2003) and myself. Our journey will take us through Ireland, Wales, England, France, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, Poland and Belarus in Western Russia. It will take us a full week to drive to Belarus, thereafter, we will spend a further week personally delivering humanitarian aid to the many orphanages and hospitals in the Chernobyl region. I am a resident of Coolamber Park, and I would be very grateful for your support and generosity. If you would like to make a donation of money, toys and children's (including teenager's) clothing, good condition only please, or other non-perishable items, kindly contact our Chairperson, Maureen Brady, at Ballinteer Outreach Group, 84 Broadford Lawn, Ballinteer, Dublin 16. Tel: 01-493 6188. We look forward to seeing you at our Church Gate Collection on the above dates, when our ambulance will be on display.

— Michael Kenny, Coolamber Park, Knocklyon.

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ST. COLMCILLE'S COMMUNITY SCHOOL

CO CURRICULAR ACHIEVEMENTS

Esat Young Scientist

Two groups of students, 1st Year Boys and 2nd Year Girls represented the school at this year's Young Scientist Competition in the RDS. Both projects were very well received, with special congratulations to the 2nd Year Girls who won a 'highly commended award'. Congratulations also to Mr. Fergal O'Neill who coached and prepared both groups.

Young Entrepreneurs Scheme

Following our tremendous success in this competition last year we were requested to host this year's Dublin Regional Finals here in the school on Sunday 8th February. The school's 'Trade Week' was held before Christmas at which a number of business stands successfully participated.

Judging of these took place here in the school on 4th February, where three business groups were nominated to represent the school at the Regional Finals. Congratulations to Ms Karen Philbin for her work and organisation in bringing this high profile event to the school.

END OF TERM EVENTS

Carol Singing

The school choir and musicians assembled in Superquinn on the afternoon of Thursday 18th December to sing carols in aid of the Simon Community. Not only was €650 raised, but a festive atmosphere was enjoyed by everyone present. The school choir also participated and contributed to the Festival of Carols held in St. Colmcille's Church on Monday 22nd December. They also sang at the Christmas Eve Vigil Mass. Well done to Ms Kelly and the school choir.

School Carol Service

The school carol service was held on Tuesday 23rd December and was a tremendous success involving drama, music, readings and stories. The school's choir and orchestra under Ms Bermingham's direction performed extremely well and members of the local conference of the St. Vincent De Paul spoke to the students and staff in accepting the large numbers of hampers collected by all the classes. Congratulations to all members of the RE team on a wonderful service.

Variety Concert

A most enjoyable Variety Concert was held directly after the Carol Service. There was a wide range of acts performing including students from all years, vocals and instruments, as well as individual staff members and the Staff Choir. It was compared by one of our 3rd Years students, Trevor O'Connell and organised by Ms Kelly, Mr. McAuley and Mr. Murphy.



First Year's young scientists at the RDS.



Well done to the 2nd Year girls whose project was highly commended.

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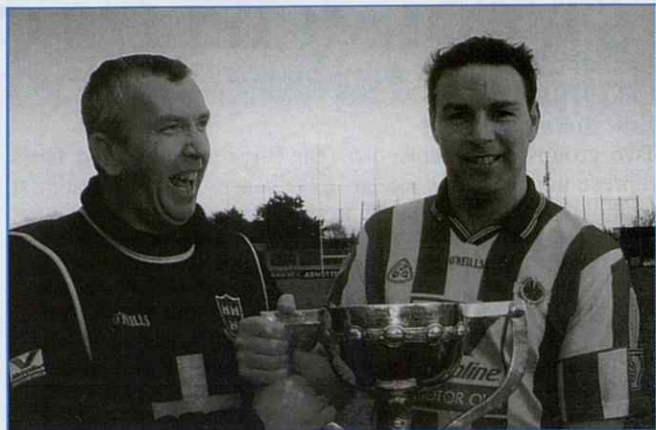
CLG BAILE BUADÁIN NAOMH ÉANNA Ballyboden St. Endas

The year 2003 finished in style for Ballyboden St. Endas with tremendous successes in football and hurling. The senior football team managed by Paul Bealin (Templeroan) and Sean Fitzmaurice with Brendan Timbs, Pat Conway and Bobby O'Sullivan captured the league title for the second time in the club's history with a great win over Thomas Davis.

History was also made in the Under 21 championship with the football and hurling teams recording the first double at this grade. The Under 21 football team (Liam Tully, Enda McNulty, Dan O'Sullivan, Ronan Hore, Paddy Walsh and Liam Delaney) beat Round Towers and the Under 21 hurlers (Emmet Pullan, Darragh Spain, Mick Fletcher and Dermot Maguire) triumphed over Craobh Chiarain. The Junior Hurling team took a measure of revenge on St.



Emmet Pullan, Captain and manager of the Ballyboden St. Endas Junior Hurling team receives the Corn Fág a Bealach from John Hennessy of the Dublin GAC.



Player manager Paul Bealin celebrates Ballyboden St. Endas Dublin Senior Football Division I League success with fellow mentor Brendan Timbs.

Finian's of Swords (Emmet Pullan, Mick Fletcher, Dermot Maguire) when they reversed the championship final result with an excellent victory in the Corn Fág a Bealach final.

Senior Camogie player Irene Kirwan has been appointed to spearhead the club's celebrations of 100 years of Cumann Camógaiocht na nGael. Full programme of events will be available shortly.

Coaching for children who want to start playing hurling, football, camogie or ladies football continues at Pairc Uí Mhurchú, Cherryfield and the Hermitage each Saturday morning – contact Enda McNulty, Director of Coaching (087-799 5662, enda@bodengaa.ie) or Coaching Officer Brian O'Regan (087-699 8649, brian@bodengaa.ie) for further details.

The club is delighted to see that the Lower Cherryfield pitch is back in action after being out of use for over two-and-a-half years. The Club wishes to thank South County Council for their efforts.

– Gerry O'Sullivan

Below is the acceptance speech which Dr. Vincent Kenny gave on January 12th 2004 in accepting a seat on South Dublin County Council.

In taking this seat, I'm conscious that I am filling a seat won by Senator Ann Ormonde by democratic means at the last election . . . and elections are not easy to win.

So, in taking on that responsibility, I also take on an obligation to represent those people who voted for Ann at that election. I thank Ann for that honour and I will represent her constituency to the best of my abilities. I know that you'll join with me in thanking Ann for all her work over the past 20 years at the Council and will wish her well with her duties in the Senate. I will of course maintain my own approach and commitment to community affairs as I have done over the past 25 years in this area and I intend to fight for this seat in the Local Elections in June of this year.

I've had so many people who have wished me well in taking on this role of Councillor. I have also had as many people asking me if I was mad! I tell them that "I believe in politics!" In my professional work I have the privilege of working with marginalised communities around the world. In many of these areas in Africa, Asia and South America, democracy either doesn't exist or is very shallow in practice. I have known many community workers who have

been killed just for asking for their basic human rights. So when I say, that I believe in politics . . . it's because I know what life is without the democratic political process and the price many people pay to practice it. I value the extraordinary privilege which we in Ireland enjoy. Whether you are in a Party or not, I applaud each and every one of you as councillors for the work you do on behalf of your communities . . . and I am sincere when I state that it's a great privilege for me to join you in this work.

I also thank the county council officials at all levels who advise and assist us in this work. They do so with a professionalism which we can be justly proud of. The word "Professional" derives from *Professio* . . . to publicly profess. A professional is understood to be someone who stands for values. Those values of course, must be informed by ethics. So in being professional, we are challenged to act in an ethical way. In conclusion, I look forward to working with you all in professional ways and for the good of this County and for all the people we represent.

Thank you.

– Dr. Vincent Kenny MCC.
Tel: 494 2092; 087-277 9587.

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KNOCKLYON UNITED



BRIAN DOYLE – SADLY MISSED FRIEND

It was with great shock and sadness that we received news of the death of our colleague and friend, Brian Doyle, who died over the Christmas. Brian had been a loyal and dedicated member of Knocklyon United who served as a committee member and manager for many years. He was always there helping out and giving up his spare time. Brian was also responsible for the introduction of the ladies football within the club, which has proven to be a great success. We now have an established ladies section with up to six teams represented.

Without a doubt, Brian was a true sports fan who was involved with all sports i.e. Soccer, Gaelic and Rugby. He was a popular member of Knocklyon United, St. Enda's Ballyboden and St. Mary's Rugby Club. It is fair to say that he was always present for his son's games no matter what sport or club.

Brian will be sorely missed by Knocklyon United, its committee, managers and players. We hope his wife Ann and his sons David, Ian and Colin will cope with their loss and be proud of what Brian achieved.

OTHER NEWS Christmas Draw

Our annual Christmas Draw took place in Morton's pub and proved to be a great success. We would like to thank Mr. Harry Quinn of Morton's pub for his continued support. All the prizes have now been presented and there is a full list of winners on page 23.

Referee/Coaching Courses

Our DDSL secretary Philip Young organised a referee course, which was attended by a number of our managers and players. It is important that we participate in this course as it should guarantee referees for the under age football for many years to come. A football coaching course also took place, which was well attended by our managers.

Ladies Football

The ladies season begins in May and Ruairi McSharry will be responsible for the organisation of the ladies teams. He will be looking for people to manage, train or help out with the different teams. Those of you who are interested please contact Ruairi at his home

number 494 2094 or mobile 086-832 0688. A meeting for all clubs will be held by the Dublin Women's League in February. Trials for the U10, U12, U14, U16 will be held early in March. All girls interested in playing should contact Ruairi at the above number.

Thanks to Harry Wall who continues to do a great job on the pitches at Delaford Park. Harry spends hours looking after the pitches and before we know it, the surface will be better than Lansdowne Park!

Draw Results

November Winners: €380, Michael Keating, Castleside, Rathfarnham; €190, Alan Fitzpatrick, Orlagh Grove; €65, Joe McGouran, Churchtown.

December Winners: €380, J. & D. Lavery, Orlagh Lodge; €190, Sean Duffy, Scholarstown Park; €65, John Archbold, c/o Ballyboden St. Endas GAA.

Note: To enter monthly draw Tel: Mick at 086-266 9311.

Any queries you can contact me at the details below.

**Mick Kennedy, P.R.O., Tel: 494 6536; 086-266 9311.
E-mail: mickkennedy1000@eircom.net**

Knocklyon Concert Band Member of the Year (Senior Band)



Sarah Denvir being presented with her trophy by Caitriona Ní Threasaigh, Musical Director.

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25 students achieved over 500 points
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Knocklyon Golf Society



The following committee was elected at our A.G.M. for 2004.

- President:** Pat Butler
- Captain:** Gerry Diggans
- Hon. Secretary:** Kevin McDonald
- Hon. Treasurer:** Julien Winters
- Handicap Secretary:** Gavin Fleet
- P.R.O.:** Fred Lane
- Committee:** Joe Winters, Gary Davitt, Jimmy Fitzsimons

We have arranged an exciting list of venues for 2004:

- Sunday, 4th April South County Dublin
- Friday, 14th May Rathfarnham (1-3 p.m.)
- Saturday, 5th June Glen of the Downs (1-2.40 p.m.)
- Friday, 16th July Beechpark (2.15-4 p.m.)
- Friday, 13th August Castlewarden (2-4 p.m.)
- 4th and 5th Sept. Slieve Russell (weekend away)
- Saturday 16th Oct. Grange Castle (10.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m.)

Currently there are a number of vacancies to join the society and we can assure you all a very warm welcome. If interested, please do not hesitate to contact Fred Lane at 493 2661 or 086-836 3138. Also, all existing members, early payment of your membership fees (€35) would be greatly appreciated as bookings have to be made on the above venues. Please contact Julien Winters, 086-609 2603.

Golf tip: No matter how bad your last shot was, the worst is yet to come. The law does not expire on the 18th hole, since it has the supernatural tendency to extend over the course of a tournament, a summer and, eventually, a lifetime.

– Fred Lane, P.R.O.



Sancta Maria Young Scientists



Left to right: Ruth Bennett, Karen Power and Emma Branigan. Their project was entitled: *Smokey Environment – A Health Hazard.*



Binne MacManamon. Title: *The Shallow End of the Mating Game!*

ENCORE!



Budding ballerinas! (see Page 22).

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COACHING FOR LIFE

We send our good wishes to Carmel Wynne (Ashton) who recently launched her third book 'Coaching – The Key To Unlocking Your Potential'.

This book which is a self-help book on life coaching sets out to help people who feel badly about not doing things they know would be good for them. Carmel's approach centres on ten steps challenging readers to get to the bottom of what they really want and question how they can best make their dreams a reality. She is confident that a simple change in the way people think can do much to banish the scourge of negative thinking. She says success is easier to achieve when we recognise that the benefits outweigh the immediate pleasure, whether it is having that extra slice of cake or starting back smoking. She points out that coaching teaches you to look at what you really do want and says "people who are not successful often blame themselves, there is always a good reason and it is not necessarily that a person lacks drive or has poor motivation".

Carmel who is a master practitioner in neuro linguistics programming and a qualified hypnotherapist and psychotherapist now works as a full-time life coach. She has a unique powerful holistic style of working and her clients get results quickly.

She has helped numerous people to transform their lives.

We wish Carmel every success with her book and we have no doubt that her readers will benefit from Carmel's positive approach to life.

IONA CENTRE

Exploring the Scriptures – The Gospel of St. Matthew

This five week course is an opportunity to explore the Gospel of St. Matthew during the weeks of Lent.

Presenter:

Jimmy Murray O.Carm

Commences:

Tuesday, 24th February

Time:

8.00 p.m.

Admission:

Free



Notice of further courses and talks will be posted on
Notice Boards in Iona Centre and in Church.
So keep a lookout!

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PRAYER FOR THE SICK

As you talk to God in your heart, you will gradually come to know that your life isn't as little as you thought. You will realise you are part of a great mystery embracing many generations and stretching into eternity. You may have sadness but God didn't say you wouldn't have sadness, but that this would be part of a larger sadness in which joy is hidden. The sadness you have is mourning the life you had, before your illness, but an acceptance now of your new life will create the way to a new relationship with God, far beyond any friendship with God you have ever experienced up to now.



You have been looking at your past and previous life, mourning it, not realising you are now on the top of a mountain which offers you a worldwide view. You have been concentrating on the life you had up to now, like an obstacle, not willing to consider that the obstacle was put there (like your illness) to show you the right path. We usually are too near-sighted and need someone to open our eyes, and help us to discover what lies beyond our own perception.

Jesus is now joining you, as you walk in the sadness. There is only one set of footprints and you are no longer alone, Trust Him! You need Him now to open your eyes. Someone has to open your eyes and help you discover what lies beyond your own perception. Someone has to make your heart burn again. That person is Jesus. He wants you to be aware of His mystical presence in the Eucharist so that He may walk the road with you, and reveal the new life He wants you to follow now, and, as you will surely experience His "Presence" in the Eucharist, your sadness and depression will lift and you will begin to see what God wants for you in your new life.

– Maurice O'Boyle

Maurice has been the victim of a stroke, but, thankfully, he is well on the way to recovery. As always his words of hope are uplifting for all of us.

ST. COLMCILLE'S PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

The Parents' Association would like to wish everybody a very Happy New Year. The run up to Christmas was a busy time this year. The Carol services were well attended and enjoyed immensely, the children put a lot of work into them. Santa paid the children a special visit in his hectic workload, the Junior School children were excited to see him and tell him of their wishes for Christmas and sing some festive songs as well. Santa's impromptu entrance to the Church during the Nativity Play and carols for the Senior School was a great surprise and again he had the children singing loudly. Thank you very much Frs. Murray, McDonald, Smyth and Brennan. Later Santa handed out goodies to the teachers for all the children in both schools.

The sale of Holy Communion outfits was a great success again this year – a big thank you to everybody involved.

Colour Day is planned to take place on 17th February 2004. All children wear their ordinary clothes into school on this day as a fund-raiser. Further notification will be sent out before 17th February, please watch for all notes in the schoolbags.

Our Pub Quiz will take place in early March, your support is greatly appreciated, tables will be for 4 people, again watch those notes in the schoolbags.

The lecture by Dr. Therese Day on Special Needs in our educational system was very successful. Thank you to everybody who attended, we hope it was of some benefit to you.

Congratulations to Ms Helen Meeley (1st Class teacher) on her recent engagement; we send her our very best wishes for the future.

Some websites for parents to help with homework: bbc.co.uk/schools/sosteacher; www.about.com/homework; www.aikids.com; www.electricteacher.com.

A talk was given by Ms Mary MacDonald in the Senior School on Thursday 29th January and on Tuesday 3rd February on the topic of 'The Revised Curriculum Programme'. To all parents, guardians, and childminders who park in Idrone, Coolamber and Woodstock please be careful of the way you park – for residents' benefit, for the safety of our children and in case of access being needed for emergency vehicles. Do not block driveways as this can be annoying to our neighbours. At the school please use the one-way system, do not park in the set-down areas unless you stay in your car as this causes major problems for buses returning from swimming and other trips. Please think "safety first at all times".

– Breda Murphy, 494 3783



**Knocklyon
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Member
of the Year
(Junior
Band)**

Fiona Byrne being presented with her trophy by Caitriona Ní Threasaigh, (Musical Director).



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IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Knocklyon Community Council would like to alert the residents of Knocklyon to two important developments that will both have a wide ranging impact on the future of the community.

The first concerns the realignment of the Knocklyon Road. South Dublin County Council have agreed to advertise the realignment and it appears as though the project is gathering pace. It is expected that an official draft should already be available for public consultation by the time you read this. Unfortunately at the time of going to print we did not have official word on when exactly the plan would be available, but we can tell you the following.

Once the draft plan has been finalised, notices will appear in the media advertising the specifics of the public consultation. This will involve a detailed blueprint of the scheme being available to the public for examination for a period of 4 weeks, both in the South Dublin County Council offices and a location in Knocklyon (which has yet to be confirmed). After those four weeks have elapsed, the public and all interested parties will have another 2 weeks to make submissions to the county council in relation to the plan. Due to the statutory nature of this process it should be stressed that all submissions have to be submitted within that 2 week period.

Although the draft is still being worked on at the time of going to print, it is expected that it will meet the Firhouse Road opposite the Spawell Bridge. It will then cut through the area between Cremorne and Lansdowne. It will continue behind the Coolamber houses that are directly across from the Esso station, before cutting through the existing Knocklyon Road and some of the green area in front of Knockcullen Rise and to the side of Ashton. It is expected to join up with the Templeroan Road at that point.

It should be stressed that this is only the working draft and that plan may have altered by the time the official draft is published. However, the current plan does have a number of access and traffic flow considerations that will affect a large part of the community and we would urge everyone to look at the final draft once it has been published.

The Knocklyon Community Council hopes to hold an information meeting on this topic during the consultation period. Unfortunately due to the fact that we are still not certain when that period will take place, we are not in a position to confirm the date at this stage. However, as soon as we know we will circulate leaflets in the area most affected, and we will have it announced at Mass.

The second major piece of information also concerns South Dublin County Council. The Draft Development Plan 2004-2010 for the council is currently available to be examined by the public. This document will likely have significant effects on all aspects of life in Knocklyon for the next 6 years – from planning and development to the provision of schools, and from roads and public transport to the management of our water and sewerage systems.

The Draft Development Plan is available to the public to view in the council offices in Tallaght and Clondalkin and is also available during opening hours in Ballyroan library. It can also be found on the council's website – www.sdcc.ie.

Again the public and all interested parties are invited to make submissions on all aspects of the draft plan and the deadline for written submissions is 5 p.m. on 25th February. All submissions will be examined and it is expected that the final plan will be approved before the end of the year.

Given the importance of these documents the Knocklyon Community Council will do its best to provide as much information to the public as possible, so please listen out for information about any public meetings on either of these matters.

– David Hickey, Chairman

Orlagh Retreat Centre

OPPORTUNITIES FOR LENT IN ORLAGH

If you are looking for something to do during Lent which will enliven your relationship with God, why not try one of the following events in Orlagh Retreat Centre.

March 13th

A DAY FOR YOURSELF

Our monthly day retreat gives an opportunity to relax, reflect and pray. It will be led by Fr. John Byrne OSA and Mary Kearney, from 10 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. with the chance to stay on for Mass at 4.30 p.m.

Cost €25 including a full lunch.

March 14th

SCRIPTURE DAY

The Easter Story in St. John's Gospel. This will be conducted by San Goan. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mass included in the day.

Cost €30, including a full lunch.

March 26th-28th

LENT WEEKEND RETREAT

Led by Fr. John Byrne OSA and Fr. Kieran O'Mahony OSA. It starts at 5.30 p.m. on Friday 26th and ends at 2 p.m. on Sunday 28th.

Cost €120 includes full board.

For further information and booking contact Fr. John Byrne in Orlagh Retreat Centre, Old Court Road, Dublin 16.
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CONNECT NEWS



WHY DO YOUNG PEOPLE TAKE DRUGS?

- To be the same as their friends
 - To shock people, or rebel against parents or society
 - Because they get a buzz out of taking risks
 - Because it's fun
 - Because it's cool – the 'in' thing to do
 - It's part of a night out – no different from their parents having a few drinks
 - Because it looks and feels grown up
 - It's an escape from the pressure of modern society or their personal life
 - Because drugs are easy to get hold of
- BUT THE MOST OBVIOUS REASON OF ALL IS . . .**
- Because they work – at least to begin with, anyway. Then the user develops tolerance.

In last month's issue of Knocklyon News we covered the illegal drug Cannabis, this month we will cover the drug LSD.

What it's called: Trips, acid tab or they are referred to by the picture on the drug, e.g. Penguins, etc.

What you'll get: Acid is commonly sold on the streets as a small square of paper impregnated with the substance. The paper commonly has a picture on it and this distinguishes the particular type of LSD contained with and the effects thereof.

What you'll do with it: The paper square is put in the mouth and swallowed. Easy as that.

What'll that do to you? After about 20-30 minutes you will start to see colours more vividly and your audible capabilities may also be affected. When, at the height of a trip, hallucinations, both audio and visual may occur. Often hallucinations may be terrifying and can leave lasting emotional scars. During the trip the user can be injured as a result of trying to escape from the imagined threat.

As far as long-term effects go, LSD is probably the most damaging. The term "flashback" applies to this drug. You can take a trip now and in twenty years time you may be driving the kids to school and start seeing the white lines on the road jumping up at you. There is also medical evidence that use of this drug in any dose can cause neurosis and long-term mental effects.

– *Connect Committee*

Wake Up! Hibernation is Over – Encore! Classes resume

Spring is almost in the air and Encore! school is back in action and heading into its busiest term. Encore! was set up primarily to give young people a chance to learn to sing, dance and act and to exhibit their talents in a non-competitive environment. This is the term where every Encore! student plays their vital role in the annual concert, each member taking part fully in all three disciplines. The focus of the programme each year is one which is aimed to build confidence and self-esteem which is reinforced by a positive experience on stage.

As the development of self-esteem is further enhanced by our experiences as tiny tots Encore! have also a provision for this age. Encore! Tots is a fun class in which the little people aged 3-5 develop their musical and dramatic skills in an exciting programme of songs, rhymes and action poems. The ten week term is always followed by a concert for the parents which is a wonderful first step on the way to the stage, and a great opportunity for the tots to project themselves which makes for more confident children in new situations. A new term began on Saturday 31st January and we look forward to hearing many cute songs and poems from all the budding performers.

Encore! has expanded in many directions since it was set up six years ago. One such direction is the provision of Ballet Classes for the many enthusiastic ballerinas in Knocklyon. "Twinkle Toes" for the very young and "Budding Ballerinas" the more senior students all pliee and pirouette every Saturday morning to wonderful music and under the gentle guidance of Niamh O'Brien. Term 2 began on Saturday 31st and all the students will be busy preparing many ballet treats for their end of year display. As with all the classes at Encore! the emphasis on praise as a method of allowing the students reach their potential is to the fore (see photo on Page 18).

We wish all Encore! students the very best in their most exciting term and look forward to news of their concerts in The Civic Theatre. Watch this space for information on dates.

For any information on Encore! classes call 087-908 5677.

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ENCORE! TOTS:

Music and Drama for little people (3-5 years)

TWINKLE TOES: Ballet for 4-5 year-olds

BUDDING BALLERINAS: Ballet for 6-10 year-olds

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ICA NEWS

Many thanks to all who took part in our recent coffee evening in aid of the Hospice. It was a great success and €600 was raised. The Knocklyon Guild of the ICA meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month in the Community Centre at 8.30 p.m. New members welcome.

– *Colette Brennan, P.R.O. Knocklyon ICA*

THANKS TO CAROL SINGERS

Many thanks to Aisling O'Sullivan, Emma Doherty, Aisling and Michelle Delaney and Amanda Keegan from Knockcullen, who raised €154 for the Local St. Vincent De Paul Society by carol singing.

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

The Annual Clothing Appeal and Bag Distribution will be held on Saturday/Sunday 27th/28th March. The clothes will be collected the following Sunday, 4th April, at Sunday Masses only.

KNOCKLYON UNITED CHRISTMAS DRAW

1. Michael Maher; 2. Beth Bradshaw; 3. David Lloyd; 4. Donal Flannery; 5. Margaret Lynch; 6. Mrs. Twomey; 7. Joan O'Grady; 8. Teresa Webb; 9. Sonia Grange; 10. Noel Kelly; 11. Aine Madden; 12. Fergal Brennan.

SCOUTS DRAW RESULTS

December 2003: €127, Chris P. Burke, 45 Idrone Drive; €63.50, K. & R. Young, 62 Cremorne; €31.75, S. & J. Sheppard, 65 Coolamber Park.

January 2004: €127, J. & T. Rodgers, 46 The Rise, Boden Park; €63.50, R. Phillips, 16 Knocklyon Close; €31.75, B. & V. Byrne, Sandyford, Co. Dublin.

RECENT BAPTISMS

James Edward Oliver, Woodstown Vale
Serena May Ellen Fox, Woodstown Gardens
Darragh Sisk, Orlagh Court
Ronan Eugene Long, Woodstown Abbey
Seán Paul Phelan, Woodstown Meadow
Louise Mary Alexandra Irving, Glenlyon Grove
Ryan Michael Mullins, Templeroan Park
Katie Margaret Moloney, Woodstown Parade
Cailin Yu-Jin Pullan, Dargle Wood
Louise Laura Weldon, Woodstown Walk
Millie Gabriel Doyle, Prospect View, Stocking Lane
Elliot Barry Doyle, Prospect View, Stocking Lane
Kathleen Connors, Cherryfield Way
Sophie Cowzer, 10 Oakvale Drive, Ballycullen
Ryan Donal Skelly, Woodstown Lawn
Regan John Gallaher, Parklands View, Ballycullen
Jennifer Marie Little, Delaford Park
Aislinn Marie Egan, Knocklyon Court



NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS/CONTRIBUTORS

Items for inclusion in the next issue should be handed into the Presbytery by Sunday 7th March, 2004. The Newsletter will be circulated from 24th March, 2004. As advertising space has become so popular and as the Newsletter is self-financing, we are accepting adverts on a first come, first served basis only, with payment, so make sure you book your space in good time. Enquiries re advertising to June at 494 1204 (10.00 a.m.-12.00 noon) Monday to Friday. Fax 494 2343.

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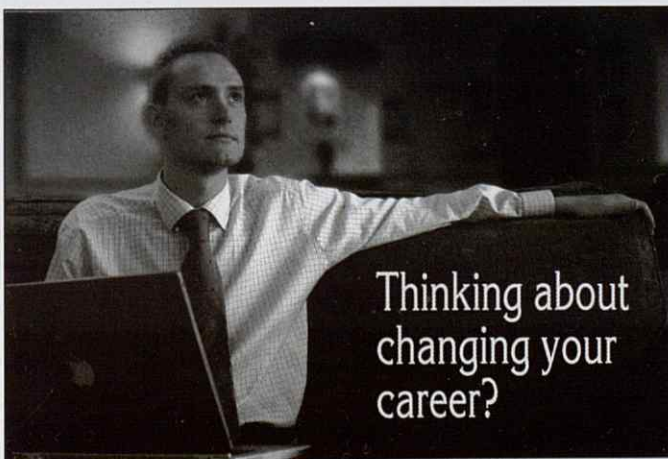
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