

# The Knocklyon News



ST. COLMCILLE'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

JUNE—JULY 1983

Once again it's the children who provide material for this month's editorial comment. And for two reasons . . .

### *Children and Parish Week*

What a joy to see so many of them enthusiastically involved in Parish Week — helping in (and hindering!) the preparations for the outdoor mass; proudly completing the sponsored walk; playing football and tennis; parading their pets at the petshow; dressing up in all kinds of weird and wonderful guises in the Fancy Dress competition; etc. etc. It's the innocence and enthusiasm of our children that makes us all so much more alive. They give us adults far more than we can ever give them. God bless each one of them.



### *Things Controversial*

But oh! those letters in the last issue! Your editor was totally unprepared for the volume of comment. And, would you believe, 100% one-sided comment! Not irate, mind you, except in a couple of cases; just quiet resignation; (or should I say despair?). Sample: "there's no use going to mass in Knocklyon if you want to pray or train your kids to attend mass properly". And out of one random sequence of six houses visited one afternoon by yours truly, the subject was raised in five of them, two entire families said they went elsewhere to mass, as did the father in a third.

(To tell you the truth I was kind of relieved in one sense to know that many of our parishioners were going to mass somewhere, at least. Don't be fooled by the crowds at 10, 11 or 12 on Sunday; simple mathematics quickly prove that our percentage attendance is quite poor!).

### *An Enlightened Majority*

Now let's try and get the balance! Parents, nowadays, are, I am convinced, more devoted than ever to their children, more involved in all facets of their upbringing and at least as caring of them as the parents of earlier generations; and in the vast majority of cases, as successful, if not more so, in rearing to normal, well-adjusted, mature adulthood.

### *. . . An Occasional Odd-Ball*

But an age of strong independent thinking has to have its casualties. In previous generations, convention was a great leveller and kept your odd-ball in line — at

*Continued on Page 8*

*Paraphrasing and taking some liberty with the confessions of St. Patrick: I Fitzpatrick, a lazy man . . . am opting out from contributing to the lighter side of the Newsletter for this issue. Standing in at enormous expense is one Michael Sheehan of the Templeogue Telegraph! Poor Michael sure has some problems, but being a fellow Corkonian, I have absolute confidence he will talk or write his way out of them. Over to Michael.*

### **HOLIDAYS? YOU MUST BE JOKING!!**

When the Editor asked me to write an article on "Holidays" I must confess that I was filled with a certain amount of apprehension and cynicism and was prompted to reply: "Holidays – don't make me laugh."

For as far back as I care to remember my annual holidays have generally been a "fiasco" weatherwise. One year in the middle of a heatwave the weather broke at the start of my holidays and the heat wave returned on the Monday I resumed work. On another occasion on the way to Tramore, the bus was held up by floods and we sat for hours in a humid, smoke-filled, single-decker bus, surrounded by water, with the rain belting down, listening to the wind howling and small children screaming their heads off.

The next year I played cagey, and came to Dublin for holidays. The weather was once again disastrous. Rain, sleet, gale-force winds and freezing temperatures prompted the Herald to come out with a banner headline which read "It's January in June". However all was not lost. I had my choice of plenty of cinemas, theatres, etc. to while away the wintry days of summer.

My record for holiday weather was so bad that my name always stood alone on the holidays list – no other employee being prepared to risk the kind of weather that I always seemed to get.

In 1979 I was holidaying in Youghal the week of the "Fastnet" Yacht Race – it rained almost continuously to the accompaniment of Atlantic gales the whole time I was there until the day of departure – when the sun shone from a cloudless blue sky. I came home – brown all over but it wasn't sun-tan – it was RUST.

And now once again we are faced with the prospect of a long wet summer and I remember a song hit of the sixties "Thank God we're surrounded by Water".

However, as they say in Cork "Sure at least you have your health and – God is good for next year". Well anyway – enjoy your holidays.

**Michael Sheehan**

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#### **ON THE UP?**

Following the recent appeal the envelope collection is back in four figures for the first time in many weeks. We desperately need that trend to continue. Let's keep up the good work.

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#### **SUMMER PROJECT**

The uncertainty is now behind us, we are all set to go. Looking forward to a memorable and happy two weeks for the children of the parish.

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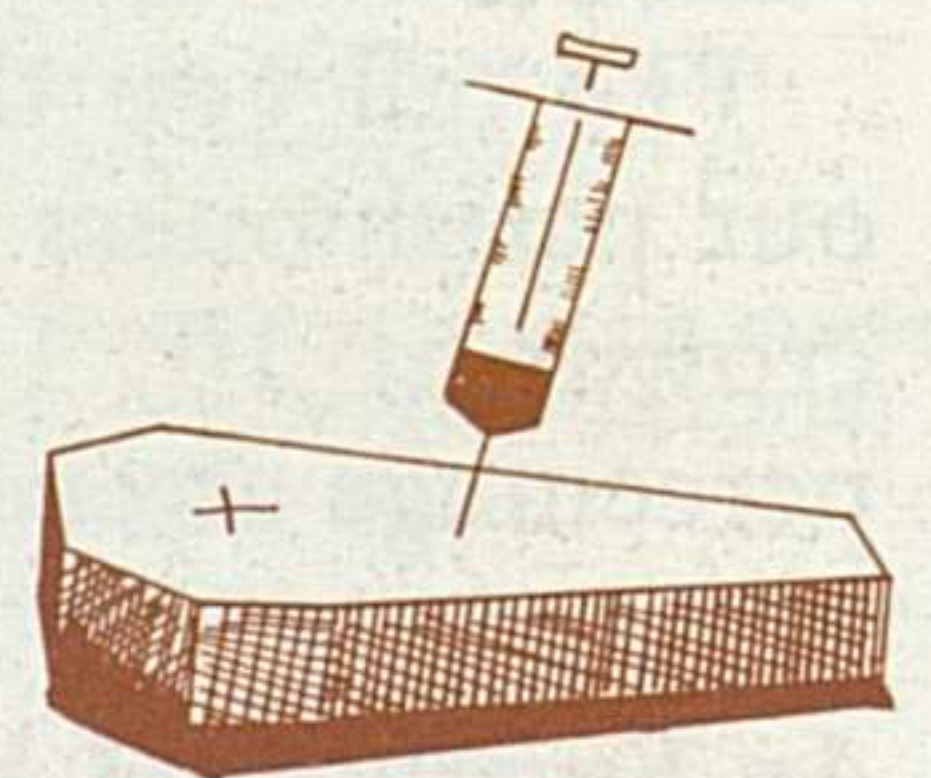
### **KNOCKLYON DRUGS ACTION GROUP**

Due to recent media publicity, most people are now probably aware that there is a major drug abuse problem in Dublin.

As yet, Knocklyon has not fallen victim to this terrible and ever-growing danger. The Drugs Action Group exists to try to ensure that the whole community in Knocklyon will be made aware that the dangers of drug abuse are very real and that we, as parents, have the major responsibility in preventing drug abuse in our own community.

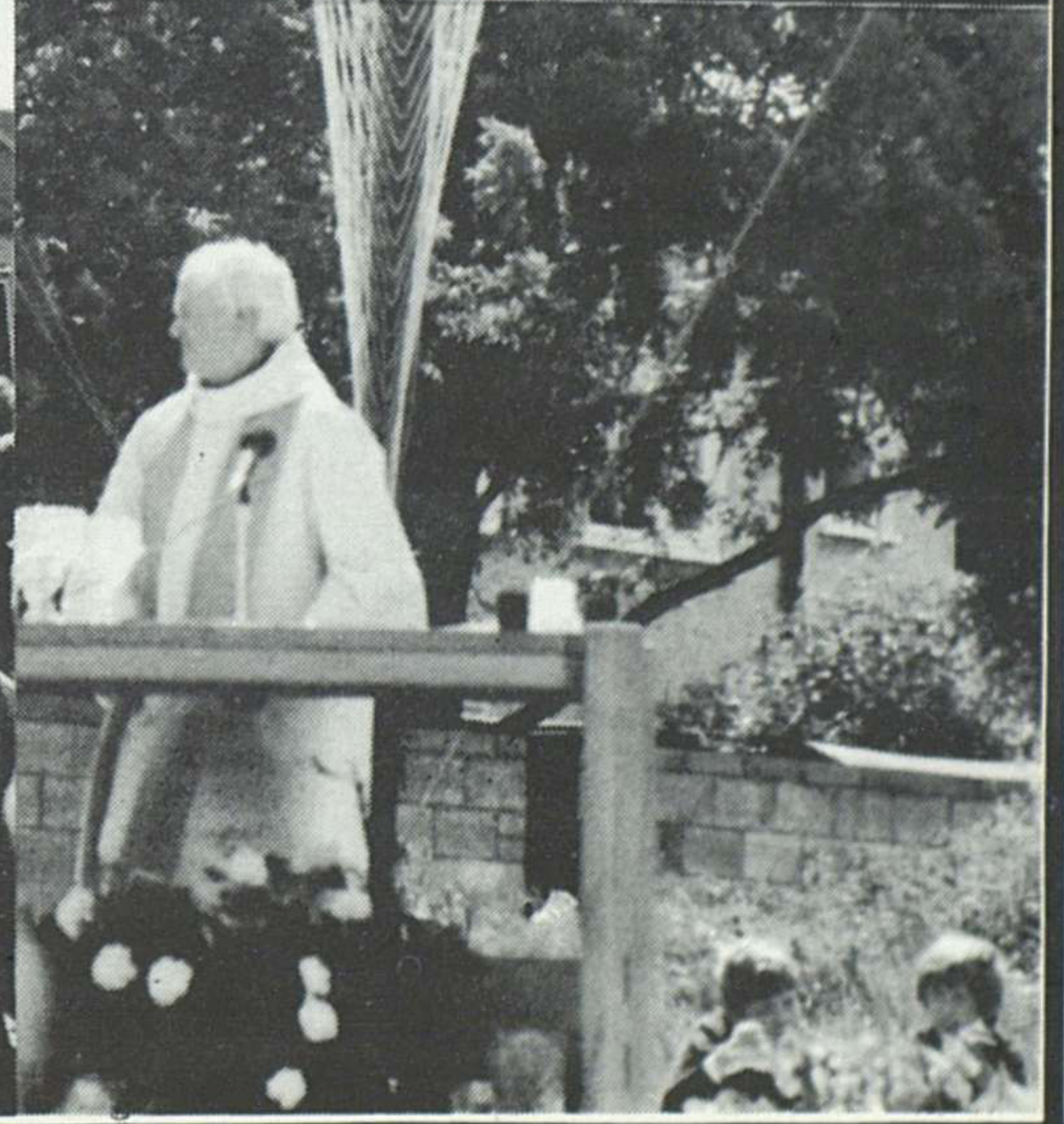
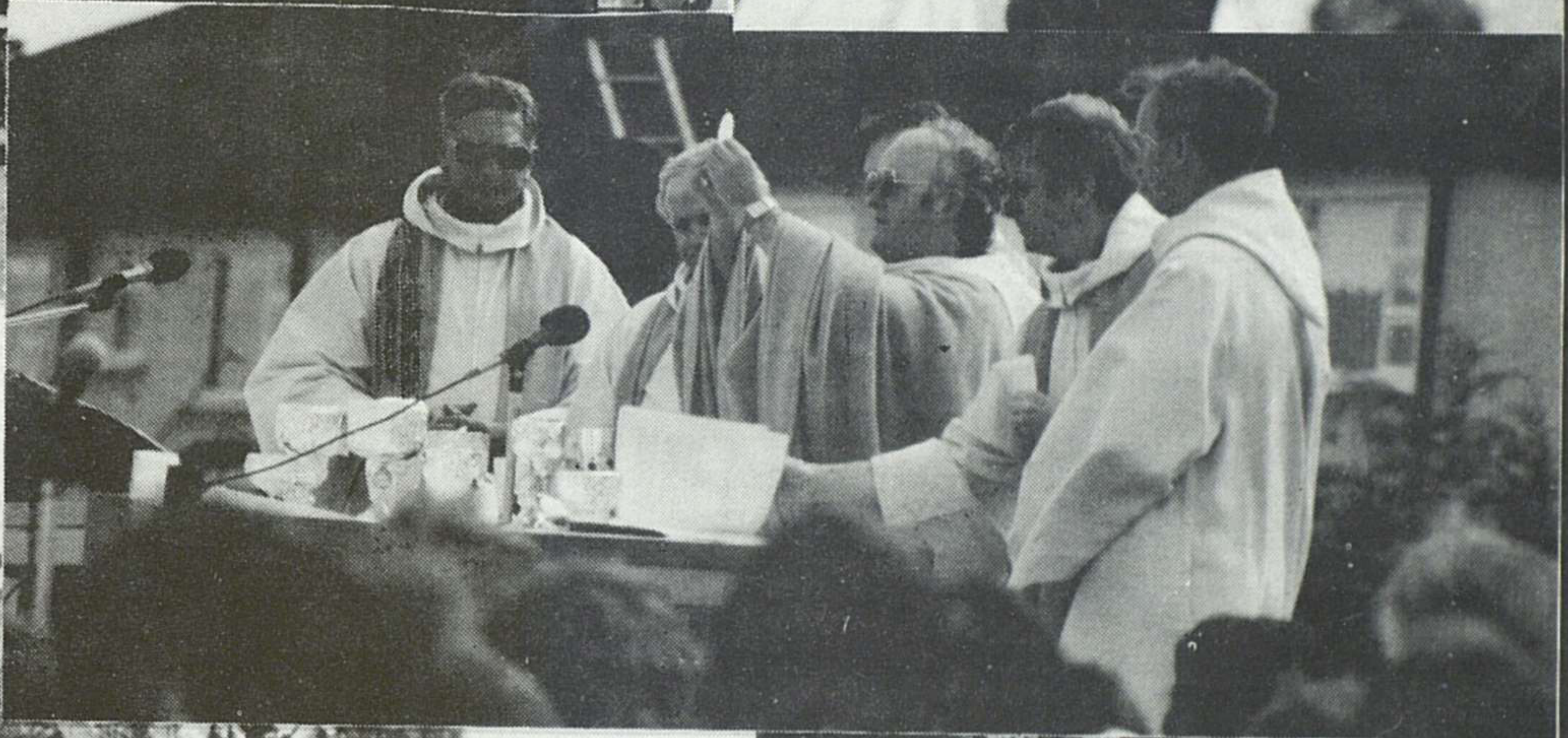
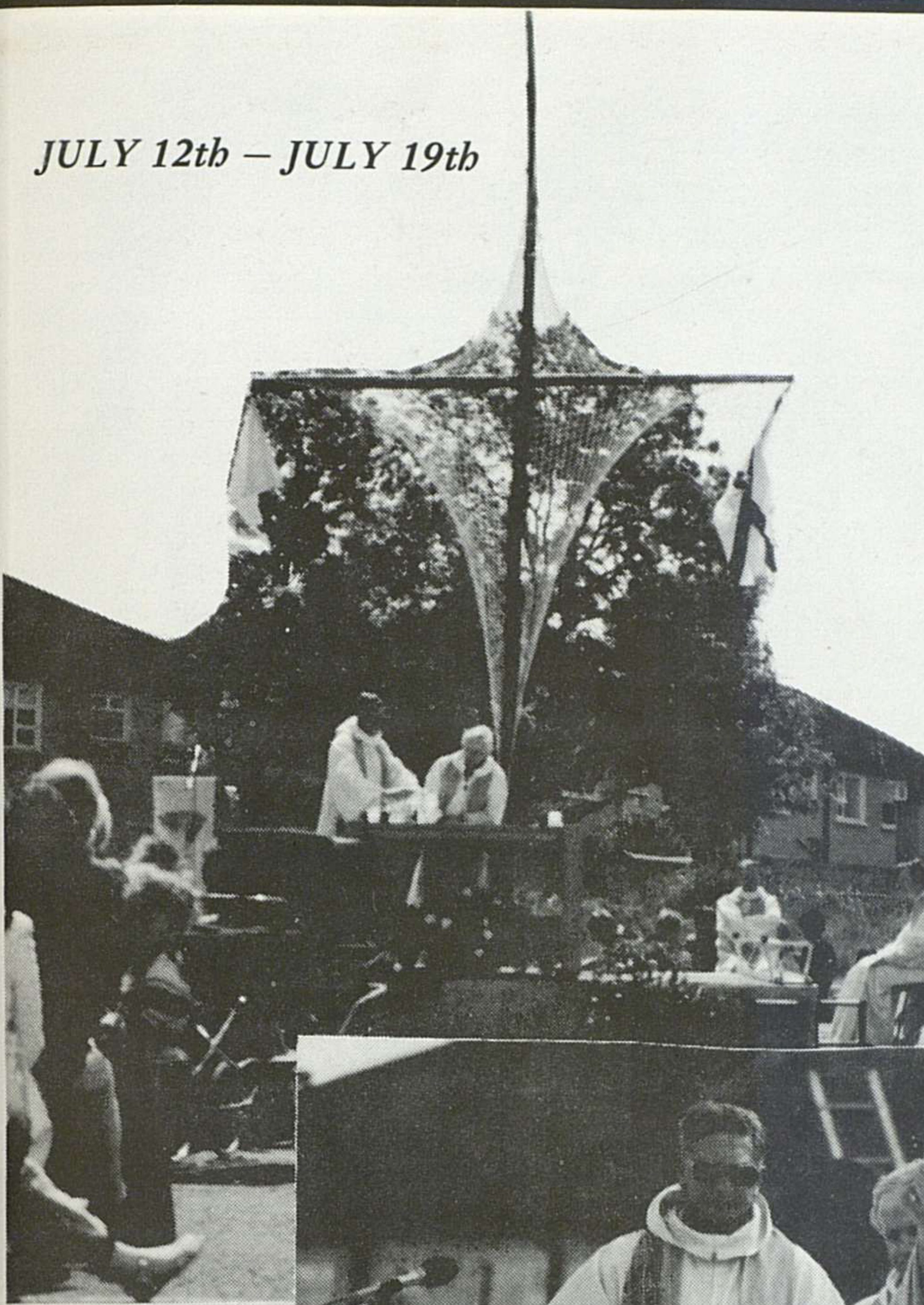
The Group has been meeting regularly over the past few months and talks have been given by drug addicts and their parents. Slides have been shown and it is hoped to have a Social Worker from the Jervis St. centre give a talk to the Group shortly. When this process of self-education by the Group is complete, lectures will be arranged for each area within the parish and a comprehensive programme of prevention will be drawn up and publicised.

If you would like to become involved or if you require further information, please contact: JOHN HANNON, Tel. 942045.



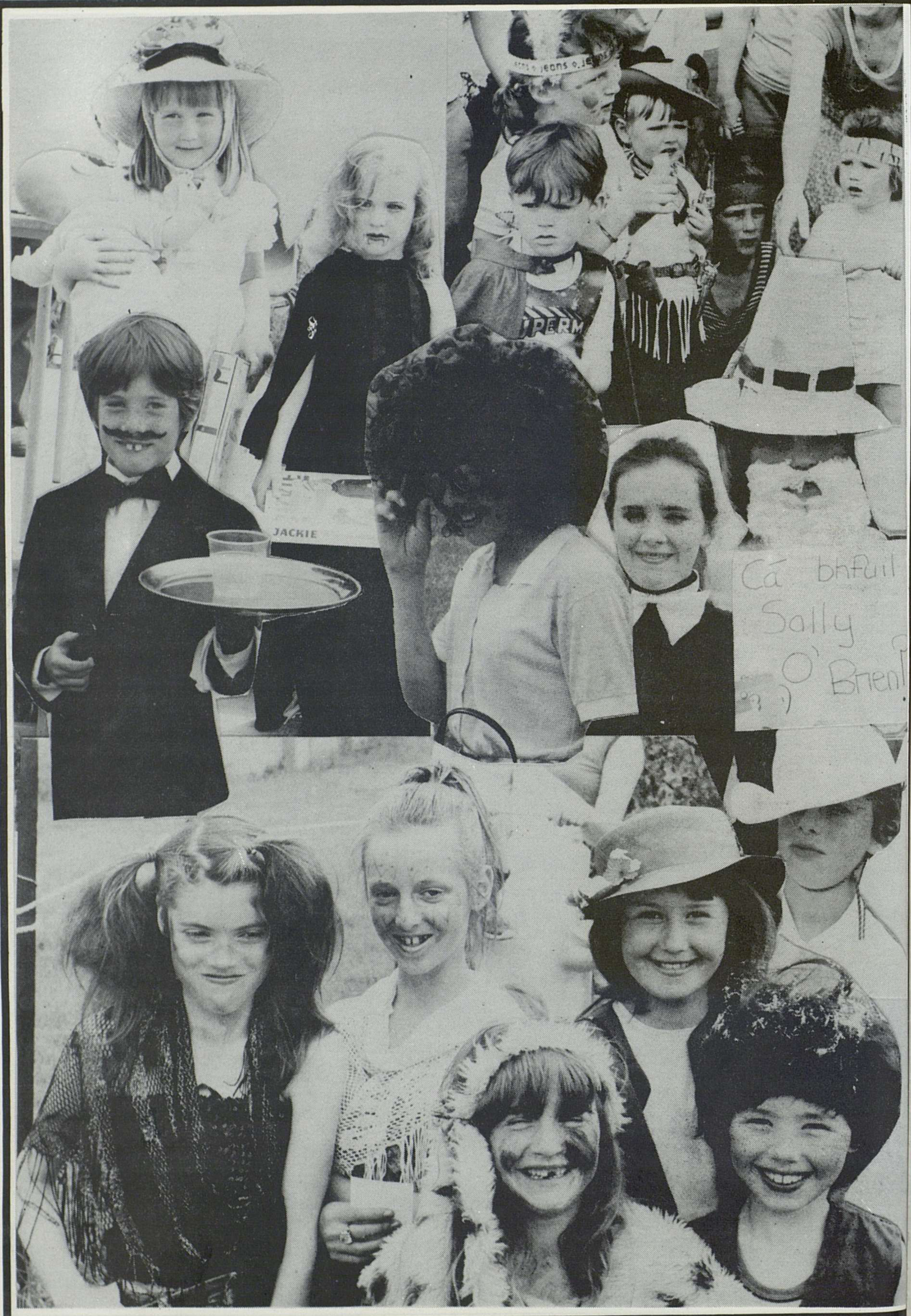
*JULY 12th - JULY 19th*

*PARISH WEEK IN  
PICTURES*









JACKIE

Cá bhfuil  
Sally  
O'Brien

## ILL LIKE YOU . . .

In a recent issue of the 'Newsletter' I shared a page with 'Paddy the Chef' and, in his introduction of the ' . . . gastronomic dishes . . .', he reminded me again of Cape Town. It was nice sharing the page with you, Paddy, and to look forward to some spicy recipes. Returning to Cape Town, and I'm not being political (the world has an abundance of politicians), and South Africa is almost a bad word in some quarters, but 'Paddy the Chef's' feature reminded me of my first visit to the Fish, Fruit and Vegetable market at Salt River in Cape Town and the range of exotic fruit I had not seen before, but I'll leave that for 'Paddy's' column.

Cape Town is dominated by the inspiring sight of Table Mountain. The parish I had the privilege of serving in was, as I have already mentioned, a poor, underprivileged area in the Cape Flats. The work was demanding and the problems numerous. From our presbytery Table Mountain was clearly visible and my morning offering was often to look at that great mountain and feel assured that God was still in control. So often we fail to see God in His great works of creation, maybe that's why one felt the nearness of God's presence on the Missions, for many times the tasks we had to encounter were impossible without His help. When through illness we lost much of our independence it is then again that we return to God to witness His presence in so much that we had taken for granted. In my first letter to you I suggested we offer our prayers, aches and frustrations to God for people throughout the world, the homeless masses, refugees, prisoners and those nearer to home who are suffering from the death of a loved one, the unlucky ones who are suddenly faced with redundancy and the many other unfortunates of our society. Among the petitions in this evening's Office, one stands out which we ought to try to imitate. It reads: "Make us generous, make us humble; let us forget our own needs in the service of others". We can be generous with our time and show a willingness to listen, to accept the humiliation of illness and accept a greater and more difficult task. "Forget our own needs . . ." Self-pity is so soul destroying and we have much to be thankful for. We can show our "service to others" by being less demanding and making greater use of our limited independence, and when others — and there are many — offer to help, accept it gladly.

To close on a more cheerful note and returning to Cape Town, there is an herbal remedy there for bronchial complaints made from the Buku leaf which is distilled into an excellent brandy, and in turn clears the lungs and cheers the heart.

Joe Clinch

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### CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS

. . . to more young people who have been organising small sales of work and other fund-raising events to help the parish. Tara Durkin, Aisling Bryce and Fiona and Paul Doherty held one sale, and Niamh Stevenson and Nicolette Eustace another. A big thank you from the parish!

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### COMMUNITY GAMES NEWS

The Annual Parade takes place on Sunday, July 3rd, starting out from St. Stephen's Green at 10.30 a.m. Children who have participated in individual or team events should attend and walk behind the Knocklyon banner.

The Athletic Finals are on Sat./Sun., July 9th/10th at Santry Stadium. About 20 young athletes from Knocklyon have qualified and would welcome your support.

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### SECOND TELEPHONE LINE FOR THE PRESBYTERY

A second telephone line has recently been installed. The two numbers now are 941204 and 944986.

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### 112th Knocklyon Scout Unit

#### June Winners

£100	Mr. J. McDonagh, 6 Delaford Park
£ 50	Ms. N. O'Connor, 38 Cremorne
£ 25	Mr. Daly, Birr, Co. Offaly

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### USED PAPERBACKS STILL NEEDED

For ongoing sale of books in aid of the Carmelite Missions Books will be gratefully received at Presbytery or Sacristy at any time. Why not bring along a few on your way to Sunday Mass? Many thanks to those who have already donated.

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When going to press, the U. 16 Hockey Team and U. 10 Draughts Team were still going strong . . .?

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### ST. COLMCILLE'S N.S. (SENIOR) BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

The first Board of Management has just been set up, with the following membership.

Fr. A. Weakliam (Chairman), Mr. P. Kelly (Principal)  
Mr. V. Kenny, Mr. P. Fitzmaurice, Mr. J. McClean,  
Mrs. B. Harris, Mrs. V. McGlynn and one teachers' representative to be elected.

The first meeting of the new Board will be arranged shortly. A Secretary and a Treasurer will be elected at that meeting.

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### ART CLUB

The Parents' Association would like to establish an Art Club in the Schools from next September. There will be two groups, 4 to 7 year olds and 8 to 12 years. The teaching will be by Art teachers and Art students and we hope it will be of great interest and benefit. The ratio will be one teacher to 15 children. There will be a membership fee and a small charge for each session to cover tuition and materials.

We would like to point out that it will be necessary to have a small group of parents available each session to clean the halls after use. Each child who enrolls must therefore have a parent willing to assist, probably only once each term.

Application forms will be available in church porch and completed forms should be put in box provided there.

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least externally. Nowadays there are almost as many philosophies of child-rearing as there are parents. And some of them are bound to get it all wrong.

### ***Killing Them With Kindness***

To me — and here I may be consigned to the Ark by some of our younger, freer thinkers — the greatest single mistake is made by the parents who seek to eliminate all experience of fear from their children's lives. To my mind they are doing them a disservice. A healthy experience of fear — filial fear, that is — against a dominant background of love and security, is a necessary ingredient of a balanced upbringing. Without it a child will fail to achieve self-control, nor will he be properly prepared for adult life.

Many parents today will hug and cuddle their children but they will NEVER give them the smallest smack. Now, before the hackles begin to rise, I am not, repeat NOT advocating corporal punishment of children. A smack is not a punishment. Just like a hug it is a means of communicating with a little child who cannot yet properly understand words or reasons. It is the reverse side of the hug or cuddle and just as natural and wholesome. The hug should predominate; but the smack has its place too.

### ***Spare the "You Know What" . . .***

You know, I've yet to find even one of the old proverbs that didn't have at least some wisdom in it. And 'spare the rod, spoil the child' is such a proverb. Perhaps it has been over-invoked in its time, but parents and teachers who totally ignore the spirit of it do so to their own peril and to the detriment of their children.

### ***Getting the Balance***

Anyway, to get back to where we started, I'm afraid the consensus view of our parishioners leaves us wanting in prayerful and appropriate atmosphere at Sunday Mass. However, let's not go overboard. Together with an appeal to parents of small children to pull their weight as best they can, let us be pleased to see so many endeavouring to offer God the worship of their presence. For the rest, to endure a little hardship (even the hardship of frustration) is perhaps a good way of identifying with Christ in his sacrificial offering. And a friendly smile of encouragement to a harassed parent — even if we don't agree with their "freedom" of approach — is surely a more christian reaction than words or looks of criticism and condemnation.

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<p><b>PLAYSCHOOL</b> opening in Idrone Close, 12th September, 1983. 3 to 5 age group, 3 or 4 mornings per week £15 or £19 per month. For further details ph: 942510 or 951178.</p>	<p><b>QUALIFIED MONTESSORI TEACHER</b> opening school in Knockcullen area in September. Small Group. A few places still available.  Phone 946476</p>
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### **NEXT ISSUE**

*Well, our Newsletter has survived its first trial period . . . 7 issues, Dec.—June, with only the occasional hiccup! Now follows the summer recess, and we hope to be back in business, come September. That is, if you think it's worthwhile . . .*

*Do let us have your suggestions. Even more welcome would be offers of help and contributions. How about a takeover from someone or group!*

*The present staff (of 1.5 persons!) would be delighted if somebody, anybody, would stage a coup.*

*Any offers . . .? In the meantime, enjoy the summer!*