



ST. COLMCILLE'S PARISH NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 1984

## DID YOU COME BACK TO MASS THIS CHRISTMAS?

You know what I mean. Did you come to mass after a long absence? Perhaps you hadn't come since the previous Christmas, or even longer!

If so, you weren't alone. You are one of hundreds. Mass after mass this Christmas – with the exception of the 12 O'clock Folk Mass – had very much increased congregations. The midnight mass was crowded to the door. The 10 O'clock Children's mass had the church 'bulging at the seams'!

It was lovely having so many people present to honour the Lord's birthday. To those of you who 'came back', why not pick up the threads a little more for 1984? Come to think of it, that might even make a slogan to replace 'two will do'. What about it for Sunday mass? "A little more for '84". Even if you cannot immediately "deliver" on regular attendance, I'm sure the Lord would be pleased with a more frequent presence.

## UNEMPLOYMENT AT KNOCKLYON

### OUR COMMUNITY 'ON THE MOVE'

#### SPECIAL REPORT PAGES 2 & 3

Ask yourselves, what has been keeping you away? And I'm sure there are almost as many reasons as persons. Boredom? Disbelief? Laziness? Poor celebration? Inadequate sermons? Too much noise? Hypocrisy, as you see it – your own, other people's, the clergy, society, the church??? Malaise, a feeling sort of "at odds" with God because of serious sin, real or imaginary?

Think it over! It's well worth doing. Better still, talk it over! And why not with one of us priests? Perhaps we could help and enlighten one another.

'Practising the faith' as the phrase goes, is not the priority in our Christian religion. (That 'role' is reserved for love of God and one another.) But it *is* important. And if it has lapsed, it's worth taking a little trouble to sort things out.

Parents know only too well that they have to think of the effects of their example on their children. They must protect them, at all costs, from the divisive and confusing influence of inconsistency in this matter of mass attendance – whether as between father and mother, parent and teacher or whoever else. Children may not know the meaning of "inconsistency"; but they will certainly feel the insecurity it produces. What a great pity it would be if we failed to foster in them the very qualities of simplicity and trust that the Lord himself praised as typical of children, and asked us adults to emulate. "Unless you are converted and become like little children . . .!"

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS DRAMA



*No room at the Inn! Innkeeper (Suzanne Downes) tells Mary (Aoife Boylan) that the Inn is F-U-L-L!!*



*The Census at Bethlehem! Paul Carroll enrolling the names.*

## UNEMPLOYMENT AT KNOCKLYON: THE COMMUNITY 'ON THE MOVE'

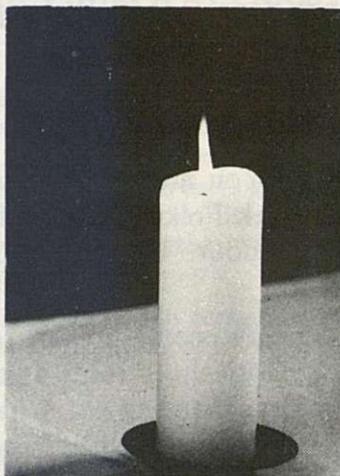
Almost 60 people gathered in the Church meeting room on Tuesday January 10th to see how our Knocklyon community might mobilise itself in the present context of increasing unemployment. The following is a composite report of what happened, synthesised from the written accounts of three different people who attended.



Suggested motto:

“Better to light  
a single candle  
than to sit and  
curse the darkness”

— Confucius



### A PROBLEM WITH MANY ASPECTS

- A redundant person easily feels rejected, fearful, angry, isolated. As time goes by these feelings can intensify and can lead to depression and/or apathy. Money gets scarce, bills cannot be paid, the standard of living drops severely. There is tension in the home and the whole family suffers.

The redundant person may feel ashamed or frustrated or confused and often doesn't know either where to turn for help or what benefits/ entitlements are available.

- Whatever the present numbers, in the current economic climate more and more people are going to be affected by unemployment.
- Together with the redundant, there will be growing numbers of young people seeking — and failing to find — even first time employment!

### THE DISCUSSION

Dialogue centred around a number of key points:

- What size is the problem? i.e. How many are unemployed. What is the trend? How can we get this information?
- There is a great fund of good will and resources in the parish.
- There is need for an Information and Advice Centre re. benefits and entitlements.
- There is need to compile registers: Who needs employment? Who can offer employment? What skills/services are *required* in the area? What skills/services are *on offer* in the area?
- There is need of some sort of Community Enterprise.



## OUTCOME OF THIS FIRST MEETING

Three main areas in which progress needs to be made were identified; initial committees were established; reports from each committee are to be ready for the next General Meeting on Tuesday February 7th at 8 p.m.

1. Survey: See accompanying questionnaire.
2. A Community Information/Registration centre needs to be established.

*This Centre has a two fold purpose:*

- a) *To provide information on Social Welfare, health entitlements and taxation areas,*
- b) *To act as a centre through which we can compile registers of work available and the names of people who are interested or need to get work of some description through an organised scheme.*

*The Centre can be located in the new parish pre-fab (which should be ready for occupancy by the end of this month.)*

3. Enterprise Activity

*Is there some way that a form of organised part-time or full-time work can be provided? Initially, it might be in the provision of a range of practical local services – a simple matching of jobs large or small that you need to have done, with someone locally who would benefit from getting the work. The Enterprise scheme could develop further, hopefully to the point of creating opportunities for some way of putting specialised and professional skills to work, or identifying through contacts, positions which could be filled by suitable local candidates.*

Whatever the eventual outcome, a start, however small, has been made – and the future lies in the hands of God, and ourselves, as a young living community. There is tremendous goodwill and determination overall that this project should succeed. At the same time there is a great need for more people to come forward, particularly those who can contribute some of their time, or ideas, business/management/ co-ordination skills etc. We hope that we will be almost inundated with volunteers since the eventual success of the project is limited only by the commitment we can make as a community.

The overriding feeling at the meeting was one of care and concern for other people. With that motivation, there can be only one outcome and that is that the overall project will grow and that it will succeed in its aims. This does not mean that everything is going to fall into place easily or immediately. It will require a lot of hard work, co-operation, goodwill and patience from a lot of people. It is said that God helps those that help themselves. That being so we can be sure of his help and the success of the project.

Judging then by the tone of last Tuesday's meeting and the subsequent response from people around the parish, you'll be hearing a great deal more about our programme in the weeks and months ahead.

How, finally, can you help?

In summary:

- 1 By completing and returning the questionnaire.
- 2 By coming to the next meeting and "attaching" yourself to one or other of the above groups, so that the whole project can get well and truly off the ground.

There will be many other ways of helping as the project develops. . . .

Bi ullamh i gconai.

(INTERIM ENQUIRIES TO THE PRESBYTERY)



FASHION SHOW

ENVELOPE COLLECTION

FANCY DRESS

1983

LOOKING

CHRISTMAS FAIR

YOUTHFUL FUND-RAISERS!

COMMUNITY GAMES

PET SHOW

OUTDOOR MASS

LADIES SOCCER

1983

BACK

FOLK MASS

YOUTH ENCOUNTER

SUMMER PROJECT



## "WHAT A BEAUTIFUL NOISE"

You scarcely need reminding that right now we are in the midst of the after Christmas lull, always a kind of hang-over period, now, if anything, accentuated by the present recessionary times. But then again, as has been observed, "does anyone remember when times weren't hard and money not scarce?"

Just now, however, life is sluggish, labouring, grinding to a halt, but never fear, there is life out there, aplenty. Just listen with me from the silence of my room. Outside in the corridor there is a certain amount of coming and going, snatches of brief conversation, largely unintelligible because I am not in the context. I gather someone or other is doing something or getting something organised, at least the appearance of activity. More often than not the 'getting going' is the hard part.

Now the immediate voices have subsided momentarily, but the heavy motor sound emanating from our neighbouring shopping centre keeps snoring on. I wonder what it is, must find out. This is punctuated, in turn, by a positive hammering sound (danger, men at work, in the Prefab?), some bird twittering at 3.50 p.m., 10th January, (definitely not a quitter). Occasionally an engine of a vehicle bursts into life, probably a Superquinn supply truck or van, the odd car horn and snorting of brakes, a sharp shout of a body directing the manoeuvring of some vehicle. All the while there is quite a bustling noisy breeze, I reckon southerly because it is not harsh. Now the thumping sound of loading or unloading, at 4 p.m., our little bird seems to have called it a day.

Oh yes, the room-doors of my neighbouring confreres, ajar and creaking in the breezy conditions. That creaking door normally drives me scatty but now that we are in the business of analysing sounds, its O.K. Anyway as Figgy might well say to me, (who's Figgy, well that's your problem): why not try 3-in-one or get up off your chair (a little less polite than that perhaps!) and close the thing! More sounds of loading etc. and still the lively, yet gentle breeze. Its 4.10 p.m and the birds (I think from the differing sounds more than one) are back again still battling away.

Just now closed the window, feeling a little chilly, my poor inspiration died with the sounds. I open it again, that's better. Yes, brother, see for yourself, there is no shortage of precious God given life out there, so be up and doing, tell them what to do with their recession, their gloom and their doom.

*Pat Fitz.*



## REFLECTIONS

I've experienced the most overwhelming Christmas, in the sense of receiving so many Christmas cards and greetings. I was truly amazed at the kindness and goodness of people, and my sincere thanks to all.

One of the many beautiful cards I received, bore the message, 'Peace on Earth'. As we now look back on 1983, despite the bombings and killings that have continued throughout the world, it was also a year of Peace overtures. The Peace demonstrations throughout the Capitals of Europe in 1983 recall to mind the Peace Movement of almost 1,000 years ago, when in 989 A.D. the people wearied by the wars raging in Europe demonstrated and prayed for peace. Their persistence in prayer and pleas for peace, which they called the 'Peace of God' did not pass unheeded. The warring factions in their scramble for Europe began by making concessions. The first move was, no warring on Sundays, then the leaders began to make Vows of Peace with each other, but the prayers and entreaties of the people continued till the 'Peace of God' became the 'Truce of God'. This peace continued for 200 years, leading to the Lesser Renaissance.

The season of Advent witnessed a return to the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a return to 'The Peace of God'. If we want true peace we must first have a personal peace with God, then we will find peace in others or the reflection of our peace with God in them. From that Peace with God will flow peace within our families, our neighbours and hopefully will spread to our City, our country and the world at large.

*Joe Clinch*



## DO HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERN YOU?

- \* Today thousands of people throughout the world are imprisoned for their beliefs.
- \* Many are held without charge or trial.
- \* Torture and the death penalty are widespread.
- \* In many countries, men, women and children have 'disappeared' after being taken into custody.
- \* Many have been put to death without trial.

## DO YOU FEEL POWERLESS IN THE FACE OF SUCH EVIL?

Amnesty International offers a lifeline of hope because it is an organisation of ordinary people working together regardless of politics or creed in an effort to halt the excesses of tyranny.

Amnesty International is made up of small local groups who adopt a Prisoner of Conscience and work for his or her release. A Prisoner of Conscience is a person imprisoned for the *non-violent* expression of his beliefs.

The Amnesty group in this area is taking part in a worldwide effort to publicise torture and political imprisonment in Uruguay. In a recent report Amnesty stated that it knew of nearly 300 Prisoners of Conscience in Uruguay. Many of these people have been subject to cruel and inhuman treatment. The local group has adopted one of these prisoners and is lobbying the Uruguayan authorities for her release.

## CAN YOU HELP?

Every letter counts. Numerous prisoners who were released as a result of letter writing by ordinary people have testified to this. If you are interested and would like to help in any way, please contact.

V.M. Stapleton  
51 Scholarstown Rd.,  
Rathfarnham,  
Tel: 945862

or

Amnesty International  
Irish Section,  
Liberty Hall,  
Dublin.  
Tel: 728800

*Some of the 17 Baha'is who were hanged in Shiraz during June, including Roya Ishraqi and her parents (centre, lower). The others were (from left to right) Zarrin Muqimi, Dr Bahram Afnan and Shirin Dalvand.*



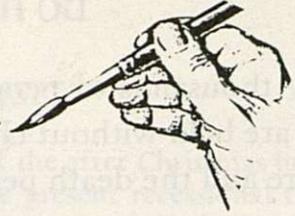
## CHURCH MUSIC NEWS!

*We would like to welcome our two new organ-players, Anne Ahearn and Ursula Morrissey. They have been practising hard over the last few weeks to get used to the organ, which is not quite as easy to play as a piano. We hope the congregations they play for will show their appreciation in the volume of their singing!*



Secretary:  
Francis Lyons  
Tel. 947564

# St. Colmcille's Art Club



JANUARY TO JUNE 1984

**Next Session:** On 21st January 1984.  
**Venue:** St. Colmcille's Junior School Hall.  
**Time:** Senior Group— 9.30 p.m. to 10.50 a.m.  
Junior Group— 11.10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.  
**Fee:** The fee of £5.00 paid last September covers the remaining sessions also. However, there will be a small charge of 30p for each remaining session to cover the cost of materials.

An interesting and varied programme which includes some visiting Artists has been planned. Full details of dates and learning objectives of each session are displayed on notice boards in Church porch and both Schools.

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## ANNUAL FASHION SHOW

Will take place on Wednesday  
February 22nd at St. Colmcille's  
Junior School Hall.

Please keep date free.

*Tickets will be available from early  
February. Advertisements will be  
received at the presbytery at any time.*

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## Nursery: Baby Minding Service

Call to: 38 Knockaire,  
or phone: 943512

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## Knocklyon Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes (Bon Voyage)

Departs Tuesday September 18th  
for five nights.

*Return flight and full accommodation at  
Hotel Jeanne D'Arc:*

£257 per person sharing  
(including private bathroom).

(Airport tax, Government levy etc.  
not included.)

*Bookings may be made at the presbytery  
any morning or at the Sacristy after mass.*

Deposit £40

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Knocklyon Drama Group presents **Drama at Inish** by Lennox Robinson, a comedy guaranteed to boost your spirits, and with your support, parish funds.

In the Junior School on Saturday 11th February, 8 p.m. Tickets £2 will be on sale after masses on Sunday 5th February.

The group was formed five years ago. Former productions include.

**Brien Friel's 'Hovels', Hugh Kinsella's 'Two of a kind', Alan Ayckbourn's 'How the other half loves'  
John B. Keane's 'Sive'.**

Drama at Inish has been entered for the Amateur Dublin Theatre Festival, where the group previously won Best Director Award and Best Actress Award for their production of Sive.

Please don't miss it. . . .

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## BASIC COURSE IN CAR MAINTENANCE

For most people the second most expensive thing (after their house purchase) is their motor car. Every day they will probably use it to drive themselves and their children to work, shops, schools etc. What do they know about this expensive item?

What do YOU know about it? Do you know how to check the basics? Are you aware of the simple little tricks that can be used to start a flooded engine or change a wheel? If your car refuses to start do you know what to look for?

Well, if you know all this and more, this course is not for you, but for people who know little or nothing about their cars.

Course begins Wednesday February 15th 8 p.m. — 10 p.m for 8 weeks, in parish pre-fab.

Fee for course £6 (Equivalent courses elsewhere £12). Bookings may be made at Presbytery. (Limited number of places.)

## KNOCKLYON GOLFING SOCIETY

First outing of 1984. Saturday,  
11th February at the Curragh Golf Club.

*First tee reserved from 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m*

There is no timesheet for this outing.

*Visitors are welcome.*

The committee looks forward to meeting  
all members.

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Louis O'Donoghue  
T.Eng.

Office:  
73 Idrone Drive,  
Knocklyon,  
Dublin 16.  
Tel: 941633



Depot  
Convent Lane,  
Grange Road,  
Rathfarnham,  
Dublin 14.

*\*BEST ENGLISH COAL \* SLACK*

*\*ANTHRACITES \*NUGGETS*

*\*DELIVERY WITHIN 2 DAYS*

*\*PLENTY OF STOCKS AVAILABLE*

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## PHOTOGRAPHER(S) WANTED

For the Knocklyon News

as a voluntary service  
not a commercial appointment.

(Film supplied, developing & Printing Paid for)

Aim is to have regularly available some  
photographs of current Parish events  
& of persons, places etc., of local interest.

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