



ST. COLMCILLE'S PARISH NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 1986



*Aoife McDonnell built her snowman as big as herself!*



*The Knocklyon Park gang attacking our photographer.*

## SLOW ME DOWN, LORD

Give me, amid the confusion of the day, the calmness of the everlasting hills.  
Break the tensions of my nerves and muscles with the soothing music,  
Of the singing streams that live in my memory.  
Help me to know the magical restoring power of sleep. Teach me the art of taking  
minute vacations – of slowing down to look at a flower, to chat with a friend,  
To pat a dog, to read a few lines from a good book.

**“I’VE NO TIME – THERE’S SO MUCH TO BE DONE.  
I’M TOO BUSY – NO TIME TO RELAX –  
NO TIME WITH MY FAMILY – NO TIME WITH MY CHILDREN”.**

Remind me each day of the fable of the hare and the tortoise  
That I may know that the race is not always to the swift –  
There is more to life than increasing its speed.  
Let me look upward into the branches of the towering oak and know that it  
grew great and strong because it grew slowly and well.

Slow me down, Lord, and inspire me to send my roots deep in to the soil  
Of life’s enduring values – that I may grow toward the stars of my greater destiny.

**HAVE YOU TAKEN THE TIME TO READ THIS? NOW TAKE A LITTLE MORE AND READ OUR  
EDITORIAL ON PAGE 2.**

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## EDITORIAL

Have you found yourself saying to your children more often lately: "I never did that when I was your age". It's a sign of the times. You are getting old. The world that you grew up in is much different from today. Children nowadays are bombarded from every angle by machines and gadgets of all kinds. They live in a computer age where stereos, videos, T.V. and Sony Walkmans rule the day. But machines, no matter how sophisticated can never satisfy the need of your children for human relationship. They need now, more than ever before, love and affection and plenty of your time. But the one thing that there seems to be much less of these days is time. How often do you hear children say: "my parents have not time". "They are always busy". "Dad, will you mend the puncture bike?" "Later, when I have time". "Mam, can I help with the cooking?" "Not now, I'm busy,"

A mother who only had one month to live because of cancer was asked how did she feel. "I have only two regrets in my life. Never having prayed enough, and never having loved enough." "What do you mean, never having loved enough?" "Well when my children were growing up, I was always very busy with housework, washing, ironing, cooking and I had little time to play with the children. Now I wish I had just left the housework and played with the children more".

I was talking to the Confirmation class in the Senior school last week and I pointed out to them that Confirmation wasn't just something that happened on the 19th. of March. It affects our whole lives and every member of our families. All the family must be involved in the handing on of the Faith. You must talk to your family about it. This was easier said than done. Their parents were too busy, they had no time. Then I asked them to take a piece of paper and write down what they would most like to do with their parents if their Father or Mother decided to spend next Saturday morning just with them.

Here are some of the responses:

"I would like to play any type of game with my father for one hour"

"I would like to go up to the mountains with

my dad and walk through all the trees and climb them and paddle in a stream"

"I would like to go for a drive in the country and talk to them"

"I would like to talk to them about certain things".

"Go to the beach for a walk and talk"

"I would like to go to the Hell fire club for a walk with my mother and talk to her alone about things because she never gets time to talk to me alone"

"I would like my Father to spend one hour out in the garden with me planting bulbs"

"Play a long game of monopoly"

"I would love them to have more time"

"I would like to spend an hour or two with Mum cooking"

"Go out for a cycle"

"I would like to ride down to a park and have a picnic"

"Go into some good forest as far as possible. Find some very big oak tree and make a tree house".

"Climb Kippure with my Dad".

"I would like to talk about my future."

*Fr. Chris Conroy*



*Joe Rafferty receives ashes from Fr. McLoughlin*



*James Scully, Delaford — another young recipient.*

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## A TRIBUTE TO MARY DUNNE



Mary

How can a woman be gone when she lives in the hearts of so many? An ordinary woman in many ways — she had a home, a husband and two lovely children. An extraordinary woman in other ways — she had cancer, she had courage, she had hope and the great gifts of love and faith. We who were privileged to have known her in sickness and in health were drawn to her by her pure joy in living. She was as enthusiastic about your new shoes as she was about "over ripe" peppers in Superquinn.

She didn't moan or complain about her illness — her only demand was to have lots of people to chat with. Mary loved people and had a particular affection for children. It wasn't a chore or a charity to visit her during her illness — it was a pleasure. Her heart lay in her home with her marvellous husband Eddie and two children, Ronan and Ciara. Eddie, who tirelessly answered the door to the constant stream of visitors, always made you feel welcome, then appeared with endless cups of coffee; the children who made her illness easier by making so few demands and being so well-behaved.

Mary's involvement in the Parish activities was endless — the Ladies' Committee and the I.C.A., to name but two; reliving the outings and the crack with the girls gave her — and us — so much pleasure over the past few months, and so many times filled her room with laughter. Mary lived every moment of her dying; she lived it with the same enthusiasm as she had lived the rest of her life. Her suffering and pain did not matter to her as long as she could be at home with her family. She prayed for a miracle — it's nice to think that she got a small one — she was just two days in hospital when God took her. His gain is our loss. She was only 38; other people could live to be 100 and not manage to live and love life as fully as Mary did. She is greatly missed but still lives in the hearts of all of us.

"But if the while I think on thee, dear friend,  
All losses are restor'd, all sorrows end."

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## A FATHER REFLECTS

Listen, son; I am saying this as you lie asleep, one little paw crumpled under your cheek and the blond curls stickily wet on your damp forehead. I have stolen into your room alone. Just a few minutes ago, as I sat reading my paper in the library, a stifling wave of remorse swept over me. Guiltily I came to your bedside.

These are the things I was thinking, son: I had been cross to you. I scolded you as you were dressing for school because you gave your face merely a dab with a towel. I took you to task for not cleaning your shoes. I called out angrily when you threw some of your things on the floor.

At breakfast I found fault, too. You spilled things. You gulped down your food. You put your elbows on the table. You spread butter too thick on your bread. And as you started off to play and I made for my train, you turned and waved a hand and called, "Goodbye, Daddy!" and I frowned, and said in reply, "Hold your shoulders back!"

Then it began all over again in the late afternoon. As I came up the road I spied you, down on your knees, playing marbles. There were holes in your stockings. I humiliated you before your boyfriends by marching you ahead of me to the house. Stockings were expensive — and if you had to buy them you would be more careful! Imagine that, son, from a father!

Do you remember, later, when I was reading in the library, how you came in timidly, with a sort of hurt look in your eyes? When I glanced up over my paper, impatient at the interruption, you hesitated at the door. "What is it you want?" I snapped.

You said nothing, but ran across in one tempestuous plunge, and threw your arms around my neck and kissed me, and your small arms tightened with an affection that God had set blooming in your heart and which even neglect could not wither. And then you were gone, pattering up the stairs.

Well, son, it was shortly afterwards that my paper slipped from my hands and a terrible sickening fear came over me. What has habit been doing to me? The habit of finding fault, of reprimanding — this was my reward to you for being a boy. It was not that I did not love you; it was that I expected too much of youth. I was measuring you by the yardstick of my own years.

And there was so much that was good and fine and true in your character. The little heart of you was as big as the dawn itself over the wide hills. This was shown by your spontaneous impulse to rush in and kiss me good night. Nothing else matters tonight, son. I have come to your bedside in the darkness, and I have knelt there, ashamed!

It is a feeble atonement; I know you would not understand these things if I told them to you during your waking hours. But tomorrow I will be a real daddy! I will chum with you, and suffer when you suffer, and laugh when you laugh. I will bite my tongue when impatient words come. I will keep saying as if it were a ritual: "He is nothing but a boy — a little boy!"

I am afraid I have visualized you as a man. Yet as I see you now, son, crumpled and weary in your cot, I see that you are still a baby. Yesterday you were in your mother's arms, your head on her shoulder. I have asked too much, too much.

W. Livingston Larned



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COMMUNION TIME

Dear Editor,

Could I please be allowed space to air a grievance that I have nurtured since I came to live in Knocklyon — the manner in which the congregation approaches the altar for Holy Communion in our church. It reminds me of nothing more than the rush into and out of Croke Park. I know that the children are very well-trained in school for their First Holy Communion, but give them a few weeks and they are joining in the rush like everyone else.

Might I also suggest a solution. We have enough priests and Eucharistic Ministers at each Mass to allow one to stand at the top of each aisle and two in the centre aisle and let the people approach in single file. We have all seen this in operation in other churches and I think it works extremely well. How about it? I'm sure a few Sunday rehearsals and we would all get the hang of it, and a more reverent atmosphere might prevail.

Yours etc.

M. Mullally, 11 Ashton Grove.

KNOCKLYON WOODS

Dear Editor,

With regard to the Firhouse Road end of the Knocklyon Woods estate, I would like to know if anyone cares about the following points in particular:

- 1 Knocklyon Ave. junction with Firhouse Rd.
- 2 Planting of trees on Knocklyon Ave.
- 3 Repairs to deplorable state of public telephone kiosk on Knocklyon Ave.
- 4 Painting and general maintenance of public lighting columns on Knocklyon Ave. and its tributary roads.

As some residents have lived in the Knocklyon Estate area since 1973, I find it difficult to understand why these items have never been addressed seriously. Surely we have a responsibility to look after our own area and if this requires the assistance and back-up of the residents, surely they will give it.

Enclosed are photographs of the points raised, for all to see. When will my area be worthy of the name 'Knocklyon Woods'? If you are interested in doing something about this matter, contact the County Council without delay!

"Better light a candle than curse the darkness!"

Yours etc.,

Brendan Dowling, 5 Knocklyon Park.

*Knocklyon Woods' Residents Association  
Please Note — Photos with Editor.*



*Can you see cars coming? Well, are we expected to see through hedges? This is the entrance to Knocklyon Ave. from Firhouse Road.*

Dear Editor,

Re: the entrance to Knocklyon Woods from Firhouse Road.

This eyesore has been annoying me for years, so I thought I might try to do something about it.

Having contacted the Parks and Planning Departments of Dublin County Council, as well as local T.D.'s, I discovered that, while the roads and services of the estate had been taken in charge on June 11, 1984, "the open space has never been satisfactorily landscaped by the developer for taking-in charge — Parks Dept., 19th November, 1985".

A case against May & Moynihan/Modern Developments Ltd., the developers of Delaford Estate, Part II was listed for hearing in the High Court on 20th January, 1986. An order was granted to the council, requiring the Developer to complete all the outstanding work by 30.6.1986. The case will be reviewed at the expiration of this period.

I feel that if we put pressure on now, we might have a presentable entrance to our estate by Summer '86. I urge everyone living in the area to pester the developer, Mr. M. Moynihan, Modern Developments Ltd., 13 Merrion Square, Dublin 2. Tel: 767453 as much as possible, phone calls, letters, personal calls etc., and hopefully we might get results before too long.

Yours etc.,

Bernadette Murray, 30 Knocklyon Park.

SUPPORT

Dear Readers,

REMEMBER ADAM . . . .

. . . . the story which appeared in your Newsletter in December 1985 . . . the baby Adam who has Rubenstein-Taybi Syndrome? . . . Well, his parents have set up a support group for this syndrome and had the first meeting on the 26th January, 1986, in the Knocklyon area. It was very successful and Adam's parents have made contact with other parents who have children with this syndrome. They have now started to get the media interested, as so little is known about it. There was a great exchange of case histories at the meeting and everyone there was grateful that the initiative had been taken. If you have anything to ask or contribute, please contact us.

Yours etc.,

Editor.

WE WELCOME YOUR COMMENTS.

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Editors, qua editors, are not nice people, for me they conjure up visions of deadlines, red pencil, and the like obnoxious elements! They do nothing to improve that image, when they dictate one's subject. This time around, I have been "ordered" to write about the family. What, and me a bachelor of long standing! So, if we, looking in from the outside, come across as somewhat naive and inexperienced, you might make some allowances, and even correct some lopsided observations.

Priests are not perfect, wives are not perfect, husbands are not perfect, families are not perfect, but all of us, and what we stand for, are precious to the Lord. In theory, we glibly proclaim the Lord loves the sinner, but often in practice, as in St. Peter's effort to walk on the waters, we lose heart, the negative aspects of our lives take over, while at the same time unnecessarily, much good in us becomes dissipated.

The family unit is obviously a natural one, in spite of all efforts, nowadays, to disrupt it. It is essentially based on love — we are well aware, alas, that this love can go astray and perish, but this need not be so. It is little wonder then, that families, based on such love, generate strong family ties. "Blood is thicker than water".

Small wonder again that so much revolves round the family, and the family home, the tangible and heartwarming symbol of the family. With all its faults, like the prodigal son, the wayward will, again and again, make their way back to the sanctuary of the home. Like the song it is very much a case of "with all your faults, I love you still", but then again, a love not tested by adversity, anxiety and strain, can only be a surface one. It may be no harm to observe here, romantic and real love are not the same, although then again they are not mutually exclusive.

No Sirree, attractive as it may seem, here and now, the marriage trade-in and swop society, does not offer, long term solutions.

I sorta "ran into" a family yesterday in

Baggot St. Hospital — obviously not a very well-to-do family. The husband was sick, the wife and one the family were visiting. We exchanged a few friendly words. The mom and dad were showing signs of wear and tear, why not after ten children and twenty-two grandchildren, with the count still proceeding!

But one could sense genuine feeling there, which spoke to me of a deeper down genuine love — and genuine love is a very warm smile from God.

Pat Fitz.

PLAYING SHOULD BE PLEASURABLE



The little Moloneys (Idrone) playing in the Superquinn Play-Bus.

Have you ever wondered about the important of play for children? Penelope Leach, author and psychologist, had some very interesting views on this subject which she expressed on a recent radio interview.

According to Ms Leach — play is what a child does i.e. his "raison d'etre", so to speak. It enables him to answer the question — "What happens if I . . . ?" — and thus to learn by discovery. She sees the value of playgroups as allowing the child try out what he has already learned.

She has grave fears that "childhood" is in risk of vanishing, because of pressures imposed by the adult world on our young — at the toddler stage and also at the "teen" stage. She maintains that an over-emphasis on measurable achievement is the most indictable offence of modern society. She stresses the importance of giving children time to "meander" at their own pace, to stop and stare — at these times when the child is apparently "doing nothing," that crucial formation is taking place.

She decries the tendency of the adult world to automatically legitimise whatever activity the child shows a bent for, instead of merely allowing the child have the activites for pleasure.

On the subject of toys, Ms Leach feels that the parent who knows the child best should collect or assemble toys specifically for that particular child — they need not be "formal manufactured toys", but that once in a while the child should be given his "hearts desire" as a gift.

With regard to teenagers she feels that Western society has failed to provide them with rights of passage into adulthood, and the traditional symbol of the pay-packet as conferring status leaves our young unemployed, non-earners without a status.

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*The Knocklyon Community Games Hockey Team always trained on the Hockey Grounds*

## **KNOCKLYON SAYS GOODBYE TO THE HOCKEY GROUNDS**

As advertised in the press, the Hockey Club premises and pitch off Firhouse Road are to be sold. What does this mean for the residents of Knocklyon? Besides the obvious sporting loss, does it mean the disappearance of yet another green area? Will this amenity be replaced? (by, for example, the proposed linear park along the Dodder). Can we persuade our local representatives to ensure that we are provided with alternative and adequate open space to keep the dreaded 'concrete jungle' at bay?

We spoke to some residents of adjoining estates and gathered some of their views. Our random vox pop is certainly one-sided! Just one or two rejoiced in its passing:

'Access to our house has often been blocked due to parked cars during hockey matches.' . . . 'I have been concerned about the activities of older children "hanging around" the building there, unsupervised.'

For the rest, the feelings are clear:

'It has been an amenity for our children. The older ones have enjoyed it, but the younger ones will miss out.'

'I would have gladly paid a levy in order to see its retention as a facility for playing and training . . . perhaps a levy could have been agreed upon by residents of neighbouring estates . . . 'Its presence has kept my children off the road and away from danger.' 'I'm not looking forward to the inconvenience caused by traffic and dirt during the probable construction of a housing estate . . . there is only one entrance to Cremorne and the hockey ground as it is. The volume of traffic will be increased during building, and of course subsequently, when additional people take up residence.' 'We bought our house in this area feeling that the green area was a marvellous asset . . . the whole character of the estate will be changed.'

Some people felt strongly enough to write to us. Bernadette Murray of Knocklyon Park will 'miss being able to look out a window and watch a match . . . the feeling of space . . . taking the children for a long run and a game of hide-and-seek . . .'

Gil, Philip, Jason and Daniel Henderson of Knocklyon Green offered some positive suggestions:

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'I know that the Hockey Union have every right to sell their grounds to whom they wish, but it is the existing population who will suffer in the long run and every means of pressure to reduce the number of houses should be used. If the houses could be kept in the centre of the property, so that existing privacy would not be invaded, it would help, and the large area used not only to provide housing, but playgrounds, space, etc., as well, as we are all sick and tired of developers, or so called, bunging up houses and little else.'

A new resident felt that "it is time to think of the future when we are going to have a shortage of open space with no leisure facilities for the community. It will be a shame if an area which is as environmentally pleasant as Knocklyon becomes a concrete mass."

It's over to you, the residents of Knocklyon. We cannot complain about what is, or isn't, done if we fail to voice our opinions!



*Catriona*

## **KNOCKLYON COMMUNITY GAMES**

Belated congratulations to Catriona O'Brien, Cremorne, (Athletics) and Tommie Lyons, Knocklyon Road (Art) who won Gold Medals at Santry and went on to represent Dublin at Mosney in the 1985 Community Games.

With 1985 behind us it is now time to get ready for the 1986 Dublin Community Games. Below are listed the various events and activities in the 1986 Community Games. We appeal to people to come forward to help organise and run the various teams. If you have skills or experience with one of the events your help would be very welcome. Even if you have no expertise you could help. Those willing to help should contact either Michael Coleman, 941628 or Gerry Hoey, 941822 as soon as possible.

At the moment we are looking for help with the Draughts Teams.

**Draughts** — Girls and Boys who are over 8 years and under 10 years on the 31st July next and are interested in playing draughts should give their name, address and 'phone number in writing to 32 Idrone Drive, 17, Delaford Ave., or 56 Glenvara Pk., as soon as possible.

**Proposed Events for 1986 Knocklyon/Dublin Community Games** — Art, Athletics, Cycling, Gymnastics, Swimming, Badminton, Basketball, Chess, Draughts, Gaelic Football, Hockey, Tennis, Pitch & Putt, Rounders, Rugby, Soccer (boys), Soccer (girls), Table Tennis, Hurling.

### **GIRLS' GYMNASTICS**

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## MUSIC FOR FUN

A string ensemble of forty young violinists has been recently set up in the senior school. It will be some time before they are ready to make their concert debut but given time and encouragement and much practice at home, the unlimited joys of playing music together await at their finger-tips. We wish them every success.

It is hoped that next year one or two other instruments will be added to the orchestra. Parents who are serious about their child's musical education should consider starting their child on an instrument at a young age. Now is the time to enrol for a place in the College of Music or the Academy.

At the moment the orchestra is badly in need of music stands and if any local business or company is interested in sponsoring this educational and rewarding undertaking they can contact Mr. John Gearty at the Senior School. Their support would be greatly appreciated.

## NOVENA OF GRACE March 4th — 12th

This year we are having a Novena of Grace during Lent. It will commence each evening at 7.30 p.m. and will consist of Mass, short Sermon and Novena prayers. There will be different priests each evening, Passionists, Servites and Carmelites. A box for petitions will be placed at the back of the Church and your petitions will be placed on the Altar during the Novena.

## 112th DUBLIN SCOUT UNIT — KNOCKLYON

### January Prize Winners

£100 O'Herlihy — 12, Coolamber Court  
£50 Connolly, — 26, Knocklyon Avenue  
£25 Cooper — 70, Idrone Park

## 112TH DUBLIN SCOUT UNIT, KNOCKLYON POKER CLASSIC

In Aid of our Scout Den Building Fund. On Thursday 20th March, 1986 at Cement Roadstone Social Club, Belgard Road, Tallaght, Commencing 7.30 p.m. Prize money totalling £975 Tickets — £10 each — Contact 947528/941488 or 947751.

## GOLF SOCIETY

Knocklyon Golf Society's first outing of the year had to be called off on Saturday February 8 because a couple of inches of snow covered the Curragh Golf Course. But a new time has been arranged.

The outing will now take place on Saturday March 8 in the Curragh from 10.30 — 12.30. The time sheet will be in the Church porch, and with a little luck (and some intercession on our behalf from the Society's President, Fr Fitzpatrick), the weather should have improved by then..

## ICROSS

The International Community for the relief of starvation and suffering, ICROSS, is a development group founded in Ireland and based in the parish. We have groups in Kenya, Somalia, Peru and U.S.A. The principal concept for ICROSS is to cause a positive change in the social and political order which allows the voiceless poor of the world to starve. We deduct no administrative costs from public money and 100% of money donated goes towards projects. During this lenten period, if you would like to participate in our work by fund-raising, formation of 3rd World groups, project committees, etc., please contact either Dr. J. Barnes at "Sanquilla" Ballyboden, Phone 934723 or Mr. V. Kenny, 92 Glenvara Pk., Phone: 942092.

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## ALMOND SHORTBREAD

### Ingredients

7 oz plain flour  
2 oz ground almonds  
4 oz caster sugar

6 ozs soft butter  
24 split almonds (opt).

### Method:

Put the flour, ground almonds, sugar and butter in a bowl and mix to form a smooth dough. Shape into a rectangular log (six inches long and three inches wide). Chill for at least one hour.

Cut into thin slices and place well apart on baking sheet. Press a split almond in the centre and bake in a pre-heated oven (140°C/275°F) for 30 to 35 minutes until pale golden. Cool on a wire rack. Makes 24.

Nicola.

## CALLING ALL WOULD-BE WRITERS (experienced ones also welcome!)

It is hoped to get a Writers' Workshop started in the Parish in the near future. Were you particularly good at essays at school, have you jotted down the odd bit of poetry here and there? Now is the time to air your literary talents. For further information please ring Joan at 946520.

## WOMEN ONLY!

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: RED LETTER DAY**  
To celebrate their 10th anniversary, the Knocklyon Ladies' Committee are holding a Social Get-Together on Tuesday 11th March in the Parish Centre at 8.30 p.m.

Refreshments will be served, but you are, of course, more than welcome to bring along your own speciality to share with your "sisters" on this grand occasion!

Past and present members look forward to seeing a host of new faces on the night, to make it a really Happy Birthday! Go on — get ready the "glad rags" — book your babysitter (if himself can't oblige) and bring a friend.

The ANNUAL FASHION SHOW takes place this year on Tuesday, 22nd April, in the Junior School. Advertisers wishing to book space in the programme should contact Helen at 942981 or Marie at 942107. Ladies! you're getting plenty of notice for this one — more details later . . .

The Soroptimist House has a vacancy for a retired lady, 60-75 years of age, furnished bed-sitter, very reasonable rent. Tel. 983785 (only), Nora F. Browne.

## NEW PARISHIONERS

Aisling Maeve Scolard, 36, Scholarstown Road.  
Jean Mary Barrett, 103, Monalea Gr.  
Cait Mary Lynch, 70 Dargle Wood.  
Orla Mary Sheelagh Gogan, 36, Coolamber Court  
Gerard Noel Murray, 182 Glenvara Park  
Paul David O'Brien, 184 Glenvara Park  
Aoife Mary O'Gorman, 24 Idrone Close.

## NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Items for inclusion in the March issue should be handed into the Presbytery by Thursday 13th March. The March issue will be circulated from March, 21st.

For information on advertising in Newsletter 'Phone Pat at 947493 or Contact Presbytery 941204.

## SPRING IS COMING! KNOCKLYON SERVICES

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