# The Knocklyon News

ST. COLMCILLE'S PARISH NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 1986



"BEFORE ME IS A FUTURE ALL UNKNOWN, A PATH UNTROD ....."

### ANOTHER LIFE

The Carmelite Convent on Firhouse Road has been there longer than any of us can remember. Those who enter take a lifelong vow to shut themselves away from the world. They never leave the convent and devote their whole life to prayer. Sister Raphael is the exception. For 20 years she was part of the community, but God had other plans for her. In 1978 she went to Peru to join the Carmelite Sisters in Arequipa, a city in the Andes. She went to share their poverty as well as their prayers and to live the Carmelite life in another world. Arequipa is 9,000 ft. above sea level. It lies at the feet of three volcanoes one of which - MISTI - is still active and smoke puffs from its crater. The city is built of Sillar, a white volcanic stone which poured out of the volcanoes and formed a solid mass. The stone was quarried and out of the devastation rose what is known as The White City. About 500,000 people live there - some by the fertile banks of the river Chili.

The Peruvians are gifted with their hands. They make everything - paint, embroider, ever cheerful, ever happy but very poor. Yet thousands upon thousands of them are not so lucky. They are peasants who come down from higher up the mountains to seek a better life and end up settling in the shanty towns on the side of the Sierra, to become another statistic in surroundings of abject poverty and dirt.

Sister Raphael quickly settled into life in the Monastery of Santa Teresa. Everything seemed to fall into place, even learning Spanish - "It is so simple" she says with childlike simplicity. "I live their life and help in whatever way I can. You just have to see what you can do as you would in a family, like helping to make the cakes and biscuits which we sell from the convent. You try to relieve the working conditions of the nuns. They are wonderful and work so hard - you can't pray when you are

exhausted - and to be witnesses of prayer in Peru is very important. How else can you keep the light of faith burning and bring hope to their hearts."

The 18 Spanish-speaking nuns grow their own potatoes and other vegetables. They are very good cooks, although I am not too sure I would relish the fish which is cooked complete with heads and tails. They can't afford sufficient milk and use powdered milk with a small quantity of real milk added. Fruit is necessary for health purposes and must be bought. Bananas are cheap. There are no fires in houses, no central heating. When the weather is cold they just put on more clothes. There is however, electricity for cooking - electricity being generated by water from the dams and, of course, there is the Alpaca - that Llama like animal, who provides long silken wool for making woollen garments and cloth.

Sister Raphael also does Information work and as Burser/Administrator must leave the convent at times to transact business in the city. In Arequipa there is not the wonderful band of caring people who give their time to help and sustain the Firhouse Community, and as I looked at the radiant smiling face I suspected that life is very hard; Sister Raphael would not agree with me. "If you love someone," she says "you would trust them. God chooses you because he loves you and you commit your life to Him".

Medical reasons brought her back to Dublin, but in early January she leaves for "HOME". "I don't belong to Firhouse anymore," she told me "I belong to Arequipa". I turned the key in the lock that enclosed the community of Firhouse from the outside world and the last words of Sister Raphael rang in my ears. "If God is not the centre of your life, then life is nothing - If God is not the centre of love in our human relations - then love will not last". As she would say herself - "It's so simple".



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ACCESS

Have you seen our display case, or visited our Church shop recently. Modern houses don't seem to lend themselves to the display of religious objects. A statue of Our Blessed Lady doesn't seem to blend in with the cocktail cabinet, hi-fi, video or colour T.V. Looking at Dallas with a crucifix or picture of the Sacred Heart seems out of place. We feel ill at ease.

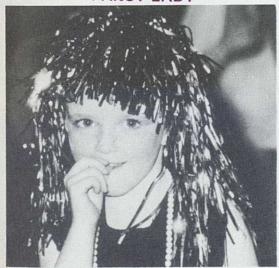
Yet a mark of our strange and wonderful human condition is the need we have for signs and reminders. A family picture album is much more than a collection of old photographs. It's a whole lifetime of joys and sorrows of love and relationships brought alive in our minds and hearts.

Religious pictures and symbols play a very important part in the education of the faith. They create an atmosphere of faith. A religious picture or crucifix in our child's bedroom can create a lasting effect. I remember how Geovanna would look up at the crucifix on my wall for long periods without saying a word. Before I came away, I gave her first choice of whatever she wanted from my room. Immediately, she chose the Cricifix. It now takes pride of place in her own humble abode. So our Church shop is a very important part of our Church. It contains a wide variety of religious objects, also a fine selection of Christmas cards as well as cribs and Christmas candles.

The shop is open after all Masses on Sundays and during the week.

Fr. Chris Conroy

#### **FANCY LADY**



Anita Duffy took our fancy.

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Camogie has started in the Senior School this year. There has been a great response by the girls to it. At the moment there are between 45 to 50 children involved in playing. Training for juniors has come to an end for this term but the seniors are bravely battling on in the cold weather . . . . all for love of the game!

The senior panel will be involved in a series of friendly matches before Christmas and then

in February, the league will begin.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all the girls the best of luck in the forthcoming matches and always remember the motto before every match — "No matter how good they are — we're better!!!"

And a note for the parents — since we are always short of transport to and from games, any offers of help would be greatly appreciated.

Trina Cooney

#### **CRIME WATCH**



Seamus Ryan and Elaine McKenna on the beat.

#### ST VINCENT DE PAUL

With Christmas time approaching, the St. Vincent de Paul Society would like to appeal for your continued generosity and support. The recent rise in mortgage rates along with the high cost of such basic necessities as food and fuel has meant added problems for many families. Often a little extra support or assistance is all that a family or an individual needs to get back on their feet. Here is where the St. Vincent de Paul Society can help. The Annual Christmas Collection for the Society will be taken up at all Masses on Sunday 14th of December. Please be as generous as you can. The usual Toy Collection will take place on a Sunday before Christmas. (Details to be announced later).

Should you wish to contact the Society or if we can be of any assistance whatsoever to you we would be glad to hear from you. Please do not hesitate to contact us. We meet on Monday evenings from 7.30 – 8.30 p.m. in the Parish Centre or you can contact Bill Fahey, Tel. 945817 or any of the priests in the Presbytery. The Society is non demoninational and all its affairs are conducted in strictest confidence.

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#### WHO ARE THE BULLY BOYS?

Dear Editor,

As a parent of three children under 10, may I, through your Newsletter, express my anxiety over a matter which is daily causing me increasing concern. I refer to the constant bullying tactics and other antisocial behaviour of *some* children in the area. It would appear now that, if children don't become involved in this "gang warfare", they are labelled 'chicken' or 'yellow'. I understand that a lot of this behaviour has its origins in the school yard when plans are laid whom to bully on that particular day.

I have seen attacks taking place and, as usual, the smaller children come out the worst. I feel so sorry and sad to see how cruel children can be to one another. Of course I know that this is nothing new; most people will agree that bullying has always gone on; however, I think that while at one time you might have found isolated incidents such as this, I firmly believe that today these attacks are more sinister and violent. This must be causing a great deal of stress to the children themselves and to their parents. Can you imagine the effects that constant bullying might have in later life?

One of my own children is afraid to leave the vicinity of our home on his own because of threats made by one particular gang to "get him"

I would like to know the cause of this behaviour. Is it too much unsuitable television or video viewing, or

is it a lack of proper supervision? My own children are not saints, but I feel I do a reasonable job in teaching them how to behave and to show respect for others. Can other parents say the same?

(Name and Address with the Editor)

#### FROM THE MOUTHS OF BABES . . . .

These are the answers I got when I asked my 3 year olds in the Community Playgroup on their ideas of God and Heaven.

Ana: God wheels a pram because he's a Daddy.

Ian: He shines like a torch.

Nicola: He is a Mummy and a Daddy. Rosemary: God looks like my Daddy.

Gareth: He's very big and orange and green. Joanne: Long black hair and smokes a pipe. Thomas: Heaven is over the hump-back bridge.

Mark: It is a big box with glitter.

Elaine: It is a garden with plants and flowers and

Aunty Mary lives there. David: Holy God's Mama lives there.

David: It's a big house with yellow beds in it.

Jacquie Donnelly

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#### **EDITORIAL**

Whenever someone we love dies, we too die a little. We know that we can never be exactly the same again. God's ways are not our ways. How often we hear that. Yet it is a true consolation. There are no right words to say. There is nothing we can do to remove the pain of separation and loss. Each one of us must bear the burden deep within ourselves.

The whole parish was shocked recently by the tragic death of a young boy, Richard Murphy. As we gathered in the Church for the funeral Mass, family, school friends, parishioners, priests, there was a deep sense of sadness. Sixteen years of age, looking forward to a long life, just finished school, he had begun his first job. Arriving home from work on Friday evening at 9 o'clock, he had a hurried meal as he rushed out to the local Disco with his friends. Richard was a typical teenage boy, full of enthusiasm and high spirits. He liked to live life to the full. He was part of the modern generation. He wanted to get a kick out of life. Outside the Disco with some friends, be began to experiment by sniffing gas from a cigarette lighter. But suddenly things went terribly wrong. He suffered a heart attack and died within a short time. It was death by misadventure. What a sad accident.

Surely if Richard could speak to us now, especially to his friends, he would say "Don't let my death be in vain, learn from my mistake, beware of all kinds of drugs, cigarettes, alcohol, cider parties and anything that dulls the senses and gives a cheap thrill. Life is not like that. True happiness and enjoyment are not to be found in these things."

Parents, love your children so much that you know where they go and what they are doing. How does one console a Father or Mother who brings up a child for sixteen years, only to see him die in a moment of folly?

"Let my death not be in vain."

Fr. Chris Conroy

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#### WANTED

In Ireland we regard as extreme or over the top any layman who does anything further than attending Mass once a week. Very soon this latter duty will also be classed as extreme. Yet the various Encyclicals and the recent Bishops' Conference have stressed the urgency of lay involvement.

The Legion of Mary is one organisation which enables the ordinary layman to become involved. It gives meaning to everyone's life. The Legion started in Dublin in 1921 and is now spread to every country in the world. Its work is as varied as the need encountered. Just a few examples of the different types of work — Work with the mentally ill, Bible Studygroups, clubs for blind, deaf and dumb etc., emigration bureau, street rescue work, Hostel work, helping in Mother Teresa kitchens, Hospital work, Discussion groups, etc. The list is endless.

Here in Ireland great work is being done, although it never gets the headlines. A recent Conference indicated the fantastic results achieved by our teenage members during the Summer projects. Many of our young people go abroad each year to help spread the

good news.

To become involved at local level, one attends a weekly meeting (1½ hrs.) and then performs a work assignment with an experienced member — duration 1-2 hrs. A monthly discussion group is organised by the junior branch and this is open to non-members.

If you would like to help or seek further information, please telephone 942107 or 941444.

IN THE PICTURE



Michael Coleman presents 1st prize to Colette Brennan



Therese White, Eithne Walsh, Loyola Grant, Mary Carr, Dympna Hogan and Eva Campbell take a break from the dancing.



## KNOCKLYON COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB BUILDING FUND DANCE

Oct. 30th — eve of Hallowe'en saw a cosy gathering of some 250 people to support our fund-raising dance. The Spawell Centre was once again the venue and a lively band kept the jolly lot busy dancing until almost 2.00 a.m. Like the first outing, this was an overwhelming success (including the profit!!).

Of all the "waffle" and announcements made by Con O'Grady that evening, the one that gave him the greatest thrill was the selection of Colette and Michael Brennan's ticket to win the star prize — the colour T.V. Set. Congratulations to the Brennans from all concerned — you will well know that they are tireless workers for a number of events in the Parish for years,

Those of you who missed out — tough!!! We wanted you to buy tickets early for the dance — but don't give up all hope — we may have another, early in '87.

You will be aware that this Parish is blessed with generous people. We cannot list here all those who gave us prizes for the night — some having already donated to our previous dance — but we do wish to record our sincere thanks — your gifts made the night a great event. Thanks also to those who donated money — we gave some away and bought prizes with the rest. Finally a special word of thanks to Brendan Bohn of Premier Electronics Ltd. for the star prize in our raffle — the Colour T.V. set. Many thanks! We hope your firm continues to thrive. The raffle, together with profit from the tickets, put another £1,300 into the kitty. THANK YOU.

N.B. Colette, did you get the licence yet?

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# THE TOUCH OF THE MASTER'S HAND ...

November might seem an unlikely month for comfort, and yet, comfort is there, amidst the darkness and gloom. The end of Summer Time, some weeks ago, sort of places us in a slower gear. This is immediately traumatic, but once adjusted, we pick up again, and motor on as usual, steadily if not spectacularly.

And we are pleasantly surprised, that. even still, nature can put on a show. That same show never palls, because the impressario is the Lord himself, "beauty ever ancient, ever new". The sun, almost down to earth, shining through the trees, still with their smattering of rust foliage, relieved by a background of evergreens, provides a delicate enduring beauty. The silver dampness, usually prevalent at this time of year, only serves to accentuate the magic. The Lord is sure some wizard bringing such beauty out of the fading year, just as, in the role of supreme comforter, he brings beauty out of human tragedy . . . and the November sky is something special.

There are hints of Christmas in the air. Just now I don't want to think about it, even though it is only a stone's throw away. As we grow older, it is a time of memories, which generates a sadness, for joys and excitement that are no more, "we do not have here a lasting city". However, when Christmas suddenly descends on us, there will be comfort and compensation as always, from the Lord, "the sole master of the future". And the "spiritual" Christmas will be strong enough to penetrate our obstinate hearts, in spite of the commercial competition.

In a society increasingly computerised, pressurised and tinsellised, more and more divorced from basics, the good earth, and people, can real values, the truth survive? They must, they will, because that is where God is. And the good will keep cropping up, will just not be submerged - just like God himself, when all seems lost.

Somehow or other, I am more conscious of the sky, this time of year, with a sun low down on the horizon, or perhaps the moon, endowing the cloud formation with breathtaking light and life. Let's leave it to poet, John Freeman, to paint the picture:

"Than these November skies, is no sky lovelier. The clouds are deep; Into their grey the subtle spies of

colour creep, changing their high austerity to delight,

Till ev'n the leaden interfolds are bright".

Pat Fitz.

# A LETTER OF APPRECIATION



The Parish of Knocklyon is twinned with the Parish of Espinar in Peru. This letter displayed at the back of our Church is in appreciation to the people of Knocklyon for all their help and solidarity with the poor Indians of the Andes.

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#### STOP THIEF!

We heard with sadness and frustration of the recent breakin to the Junior School, which left them without their video, television and computer keyboard. Those involved obviously knew their way around, as nothing else was touched, but they cut themselves it seems. Has anyone bandaged badlycut hands recently?

## GIFT IDEAS

Perhaps your child would like a puppy or kitten for Christmas - a lovely idea - but do make sure that you can give the pet a caring and suitable long-term home. The novelty of having a 'real live toy' may pall when the child discovers the amount of work involved in looking after his/her pet properly . . . Make sure that your child is well-informed and the dog (or cat or other pet . . .) may become your hest friend!

# RUBENSTEIN-TAYBI SUPPORT GROUP

You will remember little Adam Fair, featured in Knocklyon News in the past. Adam suffers from the Rubenstein-Taybi Syndrome, of which very little is known by modern medicine. There are just 10 families with R.T.S. children in Ireland and a total of 600 reported cases in the world.

It is the aim of the R.T. Support Group to bring Professor Rubenstein, who is researching this disease, to Ireland next May - but, to do so, they urgently need your help.

Please support their fund-raising event - RACE NITE, to be held in ST. MARY'S R.F.C., TEMPLEVILLE ROAD, on SAT. 13th DECEMBER, 1986. For tickets and further details, please 'phone 941169.

COFFEE BREAK: Take a break when doing your Christmas Shopping; call to the friendliest coffee shop in town. This you will find at Whitefriar Street Church and is open each day from 9.30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

#### CHRISTMAS FAIR

As you are no doubt aware by this time our Annual Christmas Fair will take place on Sunday 30th November. This is our main fund-raising event to help us pay our debt on our schools and church, so naturally its financial success means a great deal to the parish. We put a lot of effort into organising it, but its success depends entirely on you and your support. So please make a note in your diary for Sunday 30th and come and give your support. By doing so, you are helping your parish.

The Fair will be open all day from 10.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. and there will be something for all the family - plenty of stalls, where you could perhaps obtain some of your Christmas gifts, and plenty for the children - an opportunity to visit Santa, games, cartoons etc. For the fathers there will be an opportunity to take home a bottle of whiskey for

a few pence from the bottle stall.

Financially our backs are to the wall - we need your help - don't let us down. So take a note of the date - Sunday 30th and we hope to see you all there.

Christmas Fair Committee



Stuffed Braised Cabbage

Take a good green head of cabbage and wash it well. Break off the leaves but do not cut them in any way. Plunge them into boiling salted water and cook them for 3 to 4 minutes. When ready, drain off the hot water and cover them with plenty of cold water. When ice cold, drain them off. Fry off the mince in a tiny bit of fat and add what you fancy to flavour, onion, herbs, chillies, Worcestersauce and even garlic or maybe even a bit of everything. When cooked, add a good dollop of tomato puree, mix well and then thicken with any of the blended brown soup or gravy thickeners. Thicken to the stage where you can form a ball out of the mince.

Spead out your cabbage leaves in layers about the size of a small pastry tray. Sprinkle with salt and pepper and a little butter. Place the cooked, thickened mince mixture in the centre and wrap up into a nice parcel. Tie neatly and gently with string. Place in casserole dish or a pastry tray. Half cover with a brown sauce or soup (which has already been boiled). Add a little onion and carrot for flavour. Cover with a lid or tinfoil. Turn gently from time to time and allow to simmer in the oven at about 190°C (375°F) for 11/2 hours. When ready, leave to cool and settle for 10 minutes, then slice and serve with mashed potatoes.

Paddy the Chef

#### 112th SCOUT UNIT KNOCKLYON

					U	C	Ю	D	er	L	r	av	v winners
£100													. Collins, 4 Knocklyon Park
£50.													Doyle, 15, Delaford Park
£25.													Kellett, 72 Lansdowne Park



K.Y.C. PROGRESS REPORT

SURPRISE, SURPRISE! - bet you never thought we'd be on target!! There once was this bit of open space - now - the foundations are in - the steel is up and the builder is preparing to lay the floor. Soon the walls and

roof will follow. So you see, things are really moving. More on the Community Centre in the next Newsletter.

#### **NEW PARISHIONERS**

Ciara Elizabeth O'Toole,	21 Knocklyon Close
Orla Patricia Smith	24 Knocklyon Park
Niall Anthony Fearon,	54 Coolamber Park
Ross Michael Donnelly McSherry	7 Cremorne
Karen Mary O'Gorman	34 Cremorne
Ciara Mary Connolly	
Patrick James Cusack	2 Beverly Grove
Simon William Shortt	15 Cremorne
Michael Gerald Connery	20 Delaford Est.
Faye Glendon-Carrick	67 Dargle Wood
Aoife Fionnula O'Broin	20 Beverly Ave.
Edel Mary Murphy	69 Idrone Ave.
Garoid Sean Godson,	23 Greenacre Court
Brian Patrick McMahon	19 Delaford Park
Nichola Christina Doyle,	18 Beverly Downs
Suzanne Renate Quinn	42 Beverly Ave.

#### FROM A NEEDLE TO AN ANCHOR

Selling your house? Or your old diningroom suite, bedroom furniture, washing machine, T.V., bicycle, car, toys, cooker, cot, pram - in fact, anything at all? Why not advertise in our "From a Needle to an Anchor" column starting in the December issue of the Newsletter! Our rates are very reasonable. Give Pat a ring at 947493 for details.

#### NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Items and advertisements for inclusion in the December Issue should be handed into the Presbytery by Monday 8th December. The newsletter will be circulated from 18th December. Enquiries re advertising to Pat at 947493 or telephone the Presbytery at 941204. Book your space early for Christmas! Any news for our Hotlyon? Just drop a note into the Presbytery for our attention!

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