



THE IONA CENTRE

SAINT COLMCILLE'S PARISH

*The waiting is over –
our new Pastoral Centre is ready
for inspection*

See details of Courses on Page 2

The Iona Centre

Hurrah! At last, after many years of dreaming, planning, discussing, toiling, the doors of the new Iona Centre are open and, hopefully, you'll agree that it's looking rather 'posh'. A big 'Thank You' to all the people who have contributed and worked so hard over the past four years to make the dream a reality. There is still some work to be done on furnishing, equipping, and landscaping but with the help, and on-going generosity, of many people in the community, this will soon be completed. Up to now you may only have been looking at it from the outside so do come in, have a look round and, perhaps, treat yourself to a 'cuppa' in the new Coffee Shop. Or, you might like to absorb more of the atmosphere and enrol for one of the courses commencing later this month (see details below). An Official Opening will be planned for a later date but more about that in the next issue.

Course 1

Catholic Faith

Finding the way forward! Or back?!!



In Knocklyon Parish, every year upwards of 500 families present a child for one or other of the Sacraments of Initiation. And in a society which has become increasingly indif-

ferent and even hostile to the Christian message, many parents may be questioning what kind of faith formation they have been, or will be, able to offer their children.

This course is intended to answer some questions, sort out some confusions, offer some explanations and generally throw some light on basic aspects of a faith we have inherited, but may not have been able to develop or grow in.



THEMES

- ◆ Faith is intended to be a journey of love, an invitation to an experience of love. Really?!
- ◆ Faith is a progression through a number of identifiable stages. Has it been so for us, or have we got stuck at stage one and failed to move on?
- ◆ Scripture, Prayer, Sacraments. Have we experienced them as sources of wisdom and inspiration, or have we found them sterile and unproductive and so abandoned them?!
- ◆ The Faith - What has changed? What shouldn't have? What needed to, and didn't?

Speakers: Geraldine Glasgow & Carmelite Team
Dates: Thursdays : March 23, 30, April 6, 13.
Time: 8.00 - 10 p.m.
Venue: The Iona Centre, Idrone Ave., Knocklyon.
Fee: £20.00.

Course 2

Exploring Themes from The Road Less Travelled



'The Road Less Travelled' is a serious psychological analysis of human attitudes and experience, and yet a best-seller which has had a unique appeal and even fascination for many, many people.

This course probes a number of themes from the book, themes that relate very concretely to our everyday lives and through group work and exercises seeks to consolidate them in the minds and hearts of the participants.

Speaker: David Weakliam O.Carm.
Dates: Wednesdays March 22, 29, April 5, 12.
Time: 8.30 - 10 p.m.
Venue: The Iona Centre, Idrone Ave., Knocklyon.
Fee: £20.00.



NOTE Advance booking for both courses is essential. Completed Application Forms should be returned to The Iona Centre or the Presbytery by March 17th to avoid cancellation of either course due to insufficient bookings

Take Time Out To Pray This Lent

"My soul is thirsting for God"

Perhaps you too can echo these words of the psalmist and you would welcome a quiet time to share prayer with others or to simply sit in silent meditation.

Do come along - All welcome.



Wednesday: March 22, 29,
April 5, 12.

Time: 7.15 - 8.15 p.m.

Venue: The Iona Centre,
Meditation Room.

Application Form

Name

Address.....

Phone Course No.

I enclose fee £..... Cheque /Cash. Cheques should be made payable to The Iona Centre

'Renew Our Hearts'

A Triduum for Lent

at St Colmcille's Church

8th-10th March, 2000, at 7.30 p.m.

Ash Wednesday, 8th March

Thursday, 9th March

Friday, 10th March

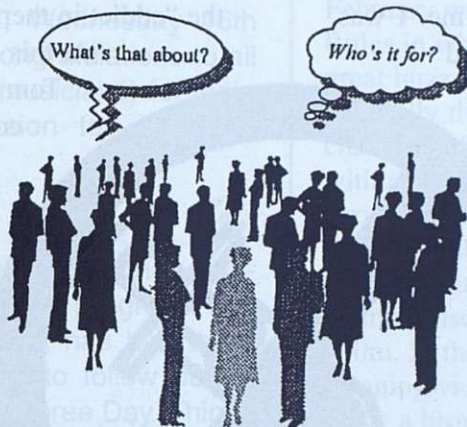
Lent, a time of Blessing

Lent, a time for a Fresh Start

Lent, a time for Reconciliation and Healing

Speaker: Christopher O'Donnell, O.Carm.

(Author and Lecturer in Theology in Milltown Park)



For everyone who needs some extra help to make Lent 2000 a truly fruitful time

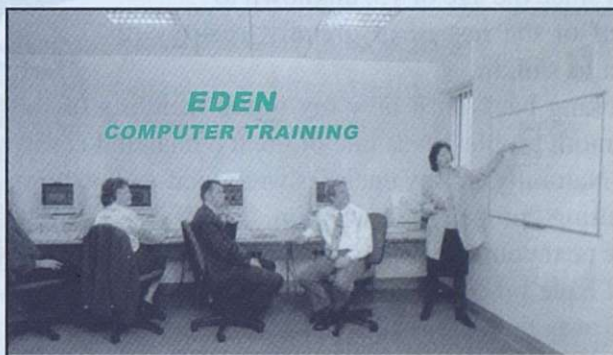
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A PARENT'S EXPERIENCE

This is the first in a series of interviews Connect plan to run through the Knocklyon News in forthcoming issues.

All of us as parents have dreams and expectations for our children. However, for many parents dreams don't always come true.

My name is Harry, I am a middle-class successful businessman, happily married with four children. As far as my wife and I were concerned, everything was running smoothly in our home, until one day a phone call from our local Garda Station changed everything. Little did I know what was in store for me. I was asked did I have a 17-year-old son called Tom. I said, "Yes", and was asked to call to the station immediately. I was greeted with the words, "Do you know your son is dealing in drugs?" My immediate reaction was, "No, not Tom, you have got it wrong."

My youngest son, the quietest of our four children had never given a day's trouble up to then. But when Tom admitted to having bought £10 of cannabis and was selling to other young people, and announced he had been using drugs since the age of 13, unknown to myself or the rest of my family, reality began to sink in.

Looking back on it now my initial handling of this mammoth problem was one of great denial and confusion. Naturally, all my energies were focussed on Tom, on getting "proper" help for him.

The next couple of years were very difficult, nothing could have prepared me for what was in store. Up to then I was the parent who not alone attended the parenting courses, and the drug talks when my children were younger, but I organised them, now it was very different.

We began our roller-coaster ride to Tom's recovery. At different stages when we thought all was well, Tom attempted suicide, missed appointments, etc., we discovered he was back using drugs, and also gambling and drinking.

Eventually our salvation came when Tom was admitted to a treatment centre. It was during Tom's stay here that I learned that addiction is a symptom and the "addict in therapy means the family in therapy".

At this stage I realised that not alone was Tom in recovery, but so was I. I discovered I was a workaholic, never available for my children, to give them undivided time and unconditional love. Work was my substitute for my relationship with my children, it took me away from reality. I reared my children the way I was reared, not knowing anything different. I now realise that simply meeting the physical and intellectual needs of a child is not sufficient, emotional needs are paramount.

Today Tom is 25-years-of-age and doing well. However, his drug abuse has taken its toll on him. He has difficulties with relationships and has the emotional maturity of a 17-year-old.

I am trying to make up for lost years. I don't blame myself for Tom's addiction. I am wiser now and know it is never too late for change. My advice to any parent reading this is – put your dreams on hold, never give up, as it is never too late to seek help. – *H.S.*

(The names used in this interview have been changed to protect the identity of the people involved.)

The Connect Group can be contacted at 494 6899 (Breda).



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ROAD SAFETY

Could we again ask parents to make sure that their children cross the road with the lollipop ladies. Two minor accidents have taken place this month.

STAFF CAR PARK

Please do not allow small children to walk through the staff car park. They cannot be seen by teachers reersing into spaces.



FIRST CONFESSIONS

The children of Second Classes made their First Confessions on Tuesday 15th, Wednesday 16th and Thursday 17th February. Congratulations to all the children and teachers (and musicians) for making it such a prayerful occasion for everyone involved.

JUNIOR SCHOOL SPORTS

All our Senior Infants are halfway through their gymnastics course and are making great progress. Our Second Class basketball coaching has had three practice sessions with one more to follow before they go to the Arena for their Jamboree Day. Things are hotting up in the Indoor Soccer League with Rovers, Australia, Chelsea, Ireland and Man. Utd. to the fore at the moment in the hunt for the semi-final places. It's anyone's guess who'll be finishing on top.



BROTHERS PEARSE A.C.



This is an exciting time in athletics in Ireland with the formation of a new governing body, the Irish Athletics Association (IAA), made up of former NACA (to which our club was affiliated) and BLOE/BLE. This can only be good news for our children as more resources, better organisation, improved competition and higher standards, will hopefully be the fruits of this union.

The recent Dublin Indoor Track Championships (held in part indoors and part outdoors) in late February was the first organised event under IAA Rules in which our athletes competed. There was a great buzz about this event held over two weekends. Naturally there was concern beforehand whether our club could hold its own in the combined competition within IAA. The answer came soon with vistory for Bronwyn Kiernan (Coolamber) in the Girls U17 800m. Sarah Doyle took bronze in the U12 Hurdles, as did Aisling Delaney in the U12 High Jump. Colin Holmes also took a bronze in a very competitive 400m. In the team events we did really well with stunning victories in the U9 and U10 Girls Relays, while a bronze was taken by the more senior U14 Girls Relay team. As most of our athletes are not very experienced on the indoor circuit our main focus will be the outdoor track events in late Spring and early Summer.

- Paul Cummins, PRO

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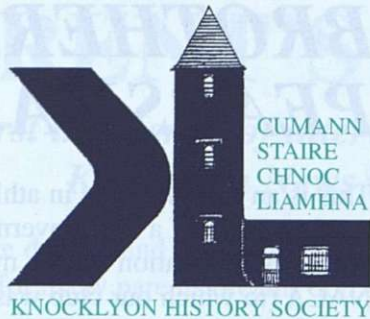
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LECTURES AND OUTINGS



Knocklyon History Society spent a very pleasant evening at Malahide Castle recently. The outing was enjoyed by all.

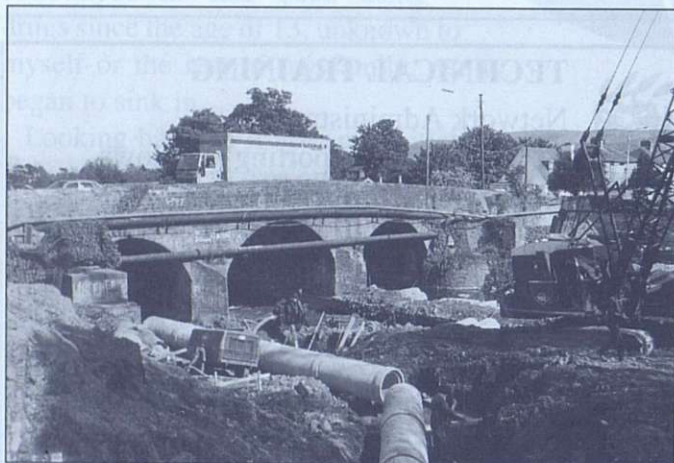
The society which now has 35 members hopes to resume lectures on the 8th of March in the Iona Centre. Maureen Kiely has been researching the life of Anne Devlin. It will be a very interesting talk as Anne Devlin had considerable connection with Rathfarnham in her early days. All welcome. Admission £2.00. Commencing at 8 p.m.

Valentia Island will be the subject of the April lecture on Wednesday the 12th of April and will be given by Brid Houlihan. Fáilte roimh chách.

Dr Christopher Moriarty, author of Down The River Dodder, will give an illustrated public lecture on our local river at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, May 3rd, in the Iona Centre. Admission charge £2.00 for members, £3.00 for visitors.

A day outing to Strokestown House, Co. Roscommon, has been arranged for Saturday, May 20th. Details will be published later.

Enquiries to 494 1312.



The Old Stone Templeogue Bridge during preparations for replacement.



The Austin Clarke Bridge nearing completion and remains of old one.

Civic THEATRE TALLAGHT DUBLIN 24

Puppet Shows for Children

The season of children's theatre continues at the Civic Theatre, Tallaght.

For Children, 4 to 8 years and families:

Púca Puppets present *The City Mouse And The Country Mouse and The Tortoise And The Hare* on weekdays, Monday to Thursday at 10 a.m. and 12 noon, Fridays 10 a.m. only, Saturdays 12 noon and 3 p.m. These performances will run from 27th March to April 1st and 3rd April to April 8th.

For Children, 4 to 9 years and families:

Paula Lambert and Co Puppet Theatre will present *Snow White And The Seven Dwarves*. Twelve performances from April 24th to 29th at 12 noon and 3 p.m.

Enquiries to Booking Office at 462 7477.

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Téarma Gnóthach

Beannachtaí na hathbhliana oraibh go léir ó Ghaelscoil Chnoc Liamhna. This term promises to be an eventful one for all involved in the Gaelscoil. All children in the school are taking part in plays and musicals for Sloghadh Réigiúnach. Go néiri go geal leo.

Third and fourth classes are gradually increasing their musical abilities. This year they have started learning the recorder. Children from first class onwards are making great progress learning the fiddle and tin whistle.

French classes have been added to the school day for rang II, III agus IV. Tá na páistí ag baint sult is tairbhe as an teanga úd. Linda Mhic Chraith is teaching gymnastics as an extra-curricular subject each Wednesday.

For parents, set-dancing might be a preferable option! Classes are held on Thursday nights from 9.00

p.m.-10.30 p.m. in the school. Jim Monaghan (a bhí ag damhsa le scuab ar an 'Late Late Show') atá i mbun na ranganna seo.

Tá pobal na scoile go mór ag súil le saicrimint na hAithrí. Beidh an Cheád Chomaoineach ar siúl i mbliána i Séipéal Naomh Colm Chille, Cnoc Liamhna. An tAthair Philip a bheidh ag céiliúradh na saicriminte linn. Tharraing sé gean na bpáistí air féin nuair a chan sé dóibh.

Congratulations to Fiona Nic Fhiobhuí i rang IV, who won two prizes for English essays in competitions run by Tallaght Library. Táimid an-bhródúil asat, a Fiona!

If you wish to enrol your child for Gaelscoil, contact the school as soon as possible as there is limited availability for September 2000. If you are interested in the Naíonra (our all-Irish playschool), cuir glaoch ar Aisling ag 087-236 8457. There are no places in the Naíonra for September 2000, but you may want to enrol your child for 2001 or 2002. Tá liosta feithimh ann cheana féin.

Slán go fóill!

Fón 493 9262



Páistí ó rang II a bheidh ag glacadh an Chéad Chomaoineach i mbliana. Máire Ní Eireomhain, an múinteoir, ar dheis sa chéad líne.

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CHURCH ART GROUPS MEET

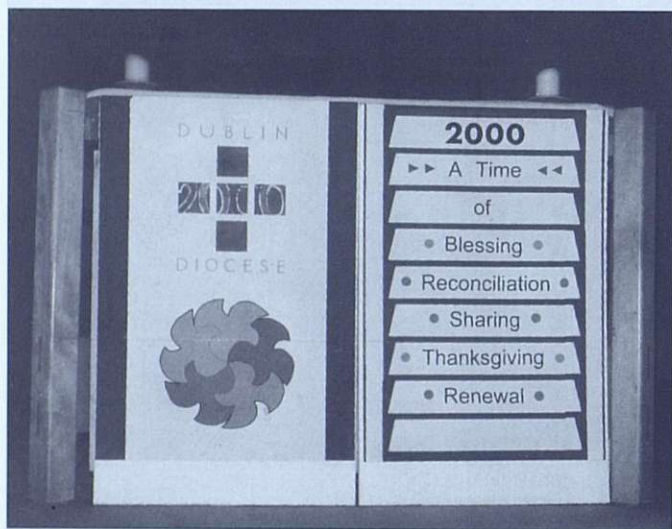


Representatives of the St Colmcille's Group attended the general meeting of Liturgical Art and Environment groups in the Good Shepherd Pastoral Centre, Baldoyle, on Saturday, February 19. The opening welcome and address were given by Sister Aileen Waldron who also said the prayers.

Illustrated reports were given on the artwork produced for Advent and Christmas 1999 and for Jubilee 2000. Ideas for Lent, Easter, Pentecost and for on-going Jubilee 2000 celebrations were discussed.

On March 20th, 2000, the Feast of St. Joseph, arts and crafts people from parishes throughout the diocese will meet in Clonliffe College at 8 p.m.

Phone 857 1648 for further information.



An example of work by our Liturgical Art and Environment Group.

WOMEN WALKING FOR SIMON



We are three ladies living in Knocklyon who intend in November 2000 to walk 100 kilometres across the Sahara Desert in aid of the Dublin Simon Community. It will be an incredible adventure, sleeping in Bedouin tents at night, cooking on campfires and coping with temperatures of about 28 degrees during the day and falling to zero degrees at night. We will be walking for 7-8 hours each day, starting at 6.00 a.m. so that we can avoid the mid-day sun.

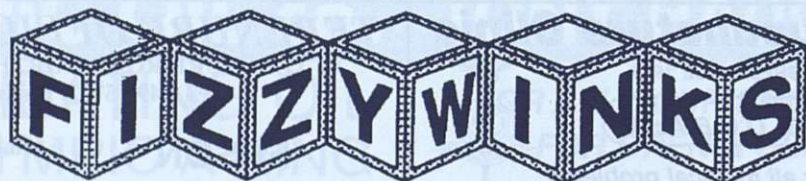
To do this we need to raise £6,000 between the three of us and so far we have reached the half-way mark in our fund-raising. We would like to thank the people of Templeroan who were so generous at Christmas when we went Carol Singing. Tesco in Rathfarnham allowed us to do a Bag Pack which raised £1,500 thanks to shoppers. A big thank you to St Patrick's National School and Ballyroan Boy's National School who did a Colours Day for us, and a special thank you to all our friends, neighbours and families who have been roped in to help with fund-raising. Your efforts are much appreciated.

If you are interested in making a donation or if you have any old blankets that you no longer have any use for, the Simon Community would very much appreciate them. You can phone Kate Styles at 493 4408, Aine Mulally at 493 5710 or Pauline Murray at 493 4663 to arrange collection or give you further information.

Many thanks.

— Kate Styles

Just arrived –
Stunning collection (0-12), from Merèse: 'Tuff Toggs', Babar, Peter Rabbit. And for trendy Boys and Girls, 'No No', for ages 6-14 years.



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DANCING FEIS WINNERS



Pupils from the Geraldine Breen School of Irish Dancing, Knocklyon, who were recent winners at Waterford and Palmerstown Feis and who now qualify for the Irish Open on 25th-26th April in Arklow.

St. Colmcille's Parents Association

Further to our recent talk on 'The New Curriculum' given by Mr. P. O'Neill we are delighted to report that it was a great success and was well attended. We hope the same level of interest will be shown in our next talk titled 'The Transition to Secondary School'. This will be held on 12th of April 2000 at 8.30 p.m. We appreciate your support.

SPEEDING PROBLEMS IN BEVERLY COURT

Residents in Beverly are deeply concerned about drivers speeding through the estate.

The Gardaí have been made aware of this problem and are now monitoring the situation, S.D.C.C. have also been approached in the hope of having speed ramps installed.

We would ask everyone driving through Beverly to please have some consideration for our children.

Please slow down.

- P. McCormack, Secretary, Beverly Residents Association

This group continues to work at raising awareness in the community of drug and alcohol related issues. It arranged for the theme of alcohol abuse to

be demonstrated to the 6th Class pupils of St. Colmcille's recently when it invited the Coffey School of Drama to present a dramatisation of some of the issues involved (see Senior School Report from Mr. McGowan, Page 14). These pupils had previously been exploring this theme in class discussions and had created posters/paintings on the subject.



CONNECT

Over the next few weeks Connect will conduct a survey among 6th Class pupils on drug/alcohol awareness.

Connect, on behalf of the whole community, would like to convey sincere thanks to Maura Russell, recently retired Director of the Rutland Centre, for her great interest and support to the group in all its endeavours since it was established. They send her best wishes in her new position and extend a warm welcome to Stephen Rowan, the new Director.

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DOWN TO EARTH THEATRE COMPANY



Many of our readers – especially the younger ones – will be familiar with the work of the Down To Earth Theatre Company. Only recently we discovered that the Artistic Director and Education Officer of the Company are Shane and Patrick O'Doherty who live in Knockaire with their five children. We went along to the O'Doherty home in order to find out more about this unique group.

The Company was set up ten years ago with two main objectives in mind: (a) to develop environmental and social issues through drama in the classroom (followed by a workshop); and (b) to provide employment for actors and others associated with the arts.

The group performs for primary school children and over the years the various productions have been seen by 25,000 children annually around the country. The many topics have included destruction of the rain forests, littering, bullying and isolation. The most recent production – just launched – 'Message In A Bottle' deals with the issue of water pollution.

When we spoke to Shane preparations were being made for a performance in our local Gaelscoil, which we have since heard was a great success with the pupils there. The Company always welcomes the reaction and comments from the children.

The D.T.E.T.C. currently employs fifty people through the various community employment schemes, and they value the support of FAS in the area. They also acknowledge the generous sponsorship of the E.S.B., and of course, their patrons who have contributed to the growth of the Company by spreading the environment message throughout the community.

Down To Earth works jointly with the local authorities around the country who fund the costs of productions. Because of their continuous dedication in highlighting environmental issues, the group has received a number of awards from the Department of the Environment. Last year the National Community Initiative Award was presented to the O'Doherty family by the President, Mary McAleese (see photo).

The Down To Earth Theatre Company continues to grow from strength to strength around the country.

Another striking aspect of the group is their participation in Street Theatre, and over the years they have been involved with the St. Patrick's Day Parade. We would remind our readers who will be in town on the 17th of March to look out for the spectacular float created by Down To Earth.



An tUachtarán Mary McAleese presenting the Community Endeavour Award to the O'Doherty family.

We congratulate Shane and Patricia on their positive efforts in the area of environmental awareness. No doubt our primary school children will grow up with a greater respect for their surroundings and a better knowledge of waste issues and recycling.

The Company can be contacted at 670 5734 or 087-250 9033.

The Music Man

The annual musical presentation by the Transition Year pupils of Sancta Maria College is always a highlight on Knocklyon's social calendar and this year was no exception.

For three nights from 10th February, the girls performed to full houses in the College Hall, which was festooned with balloons and banners to tie in with the 'All-American' setting.

From the moment the curtains parted audiences knew they were about to witness something special – and we were not disappointed.

Everyone involved in this production deserves commendation for the standard of acting, singing and dancing displayed. This was a beautifully costumed show with very attractive sets, a show full of vitality and colour which left us singing 'Seventy-Six Trombones' along with the chorus.

Special mention must be made of the two leading players – Claire Buckley, who was a faultless Prof. Harold Hill, and Louise Cooney (Templeroan) who played Marian so convincingly (every inch the librarian!). They headed an excellent cast, too numerous to mention. Well done to all.

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Litter at Superquinn

A number of constituents have brought the situation of litter in the vicinity of Superquinn to my attention. I requested the Litter Warden to examine the general area around Superquinn and to ensure that the area is maintained on a consistent basis.

The Litter Warden for the area met with the Area Engineer for Superquinn with regard to the litter problems encountered in the vicinity of the complex. Superquinn gave the following undertakings:

1. Superquinn will keep the surrounding perimeter fencing clear of litter with a planned schedule ensuring that the area is cleared every week.
2. Superquinn will clear litter that may collect on both sides of the public road from Dargle Wood to the entrance at Idrone Estate.
3. Superquinn will provide a portable litter-bin on the grass verge on the opposite side of the road between the pedestrian crossing and the corner of Scholarstown Road, which will be maintained by them. As vandalism is a problem in the area this bin will be provided on a trial basis with a view to sponsoring a more permanent structure in the future.
4. Superquinn has undertaken to keep the pedestrian pathway, shrubbery and surrounding area between the Church and the shopping area free of litter as part of the ongoing schedule.
5. Superquinn has agreed to examine the position in regard to deliveries at the rear of the complex. The storage of pallets will be examined with a view to storage of them more regularly or enclosing them in a steel mesh structure to prevent vandalism.

These steps should result in significant improvements in the area. The Litter Warden will continue to monitor the situation.

Planning Matters

Ballyboden St. Enda's GAA and Camogie Club has been given planning permission for a vehicular entrance, car park, club sign and ancillary work adjacent to Sancta Maria College, off the green route, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16.

Woodstown Village

I objected to planning permission Register Reference S99A/0705 which involved the development of seventy-seven 1-, 2- and 3-bedroom apartments in a four storey plus penthouse building replacing sixteen previously approved houses at Woodstown Village, Knocklyon, Dublin 16. This was granted permission towards the end of December 1999, and I have been informed by South Dublin County Council that an appeal was lodged to An Bord Pleanála on 19th January, 2000, against the Council's decision to grant permission.

KERBSIDE COLLECTION

Disruption

Those of you who have the Green Boxes may have been experiencing a disruption to the weekly collection of recyclables by Kerbside. Difficulties have arisen since Christmas in relation to the collection of recyclable materials but these should be eliminated in the near future as South Dublin County Council is entering into a new contract with a new company for the provision of the service shortly.

More Estates to come on board

I have requested that those estates in Knocklyon not serviced by Kerbside at present be included in the new service in the future. These include Delaford, Idrone, Mount Alton, Beverly Court, Orlagh, Knockfield and Woodstock.

New Green Container and Paper Recycling

The new system will include an alternative to the existing green container and the contract will include collection and recycling of paper. The Council is anxious that householders continue to present the green box for collection as usual. However, if Kerbside fail to collect it, the Council request that recyclable materials be disposed of either through the regular refuse collection or, if possible and where appropriate, through availing of other services such as the REHAB Bottlebanks.

Many of you have contacted me by e-mail and I would welcome receiving the e-mail addresses of as many of you as possible for communication purposes.

Councillor John Lahart - 493 9608 - jlahart@sdublincoco.ie

Editor's Note: Councillor Lahart also included details of planting trees and landscaping of the Green Route in his report, but due to lack of space we are holding it over.

A Teen Parenting Course is currently under way. As KAPE has not run this particular course for a couple of years it was decided to do so now, due to demand.

All names on existing waiting lists for 0-6 and Basic Parenting Course will be kept on file for future courses.



We are delighted to announce that due to the opening of the Iona Centre we can now resume our monthly morning meetings. The first of these will take place on Wednesday 5th April at 10.00 a.m. We invite parents to drop in for an informal discussion regarding parenting issues which you would like KAPE to address in the future. As usual coffee and tea will be freely available and children will be most welcome.

For further information contact Ann at 494 5743 or Mary at 494 2130.



KAPE Committee and Course Facilitators at the recent social evening.



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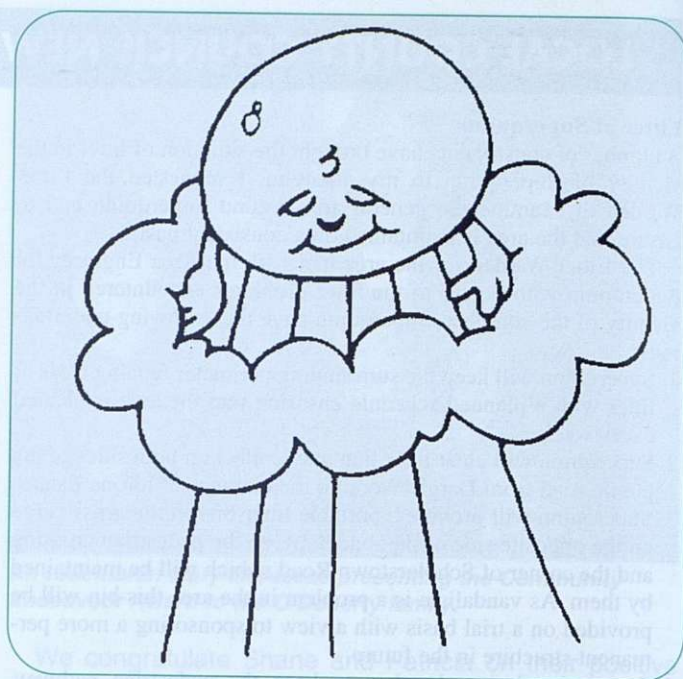
REFLECTION

TRUTH DAWNS SLOWLY

I recall growing up with the conviction that life ought to be trouble-free; that to be without problems or pain was an attainable goal. My expectation was that somehow, someday I'd have definitively solved all my problems, put all my troubles behind me and live happily ever after. I can't say I was ever taught any of this and certainly not in so many words, and I don't really know where these beliefs came from. Nor would I have been able to articulate them then as I have just now. But they did form a strong presumption that it took me several decades of life to unlearn!

And how important that unlearning was! While victim of the presumption that Utopia was just around the corner, I was always basically dissatisfied with life, as it was, and kept looking forward to a future that would never happen, only I didn't realise that. The outcome was that life, with all it had to offer, just passed me by and I spent far too much time dissatisfied and even frustrated with my lot.

I cannot now remember when I first began to realise that I had got it wrong. I only know that, when I eventually came across it, I was ripe for the wisdom expressed by Scott Peck in the opening words of **The Road Less Travelled**: "*Life is difficult. This is a great truth, one of the greatest truths. It is a great truth because once we truly see this truth, we transcend it.*"



Once we truly know that life is difficult – once we truly understand and accept it – then life is no longer difficult. Because once it is accepted, the fact that life is difficult no longer matters."

I'm glad I now know this truth, for it is a transforming truth, capable of making life so much better for all who can see it and embrace it.

Still, perhaps, looking back I'm not sorry I grew up believing what I did, even if I did ultimately have to unlearn it.

To believe, in one's early years, in a pain-free and joy-filled life does help to give one an optimistic outlook. And I suppose it doesn't matter if the deeper truth dawns slowly. As long as it does dawn!

– Fr. David

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We publish below a piece received from a parishioner which she penned (as the date indicates) three years ago, describing a scene witnessed in our Church.

AN ASH WEDNESDAY OBSERVATION



She slipped quietly into an empty seat near the altar. From her right hand trailed a toddler; from her left hung a portable baby seat in which an infant slept. Herself, a thin slip of a girl, no more than twenty, dressed in jeans and a sweater, with her straight fair hair tied up in a ponytail. She signalled a calm and contented demeanour. There was no misbehaviour from toddler; no embarrassing cries from infant. Everything quietly under control.

Just before the distribution of Ashes, the family scene took on a particular magic. Mother was seated with toddler securely in her arms, both looking directly ahead towards the altar. His right arm was round her neck with his little fingers gently holding her ponytail. A picture of utter tranquility.

I reflected on today's sad incidence of family disharmony and break-up, and wished – and indeed prayed – that this toddler would always know the love and security he now experienced, happily anchored to his young mother's tresses.

– *Brid Ni Uallachain, Feabhra 1997.*



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SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

Spring has finally arrived and new life and growth can be seen everywhere. We all send our heartiest congratulations to Mrs. O'Gara and her husband Ciarán on the birth of their third daughter, Anna. "Blessed is he amongst women!"

HURLING AND FOOTBALL

The Primary School hurling season is almost upon us and the girls and boys are busy preparing for the challenges ahead. The weather is hampering the preparations of Mr. Sweeney, Mr. Murphy and Mr. S. O'Neill. Nevertheless they remain confident that the teams will be ready for the fray when the action begins shortly.

On the football front the Third Class leagues will be starting soon under the watchful eye of Mr. Ruddy.

RINGO PROJECT

All the Fifth Classes are very busy collecting plastic rings from beer and coke cans. This is all part of our Fifth Class recycling project. We are learning all about how different types of plastic are made and how they can be recycled. Eanna Ní Lamhna – a well-known environmentalist (of RTE fame) visited our classrooms two weeks ago and had an interesting talk with our children.

Well done to everyone in the school for helping with this wonderful recycling project, but remember "keep collecting"!

CONNECT INITIATIVE

The hard-working 'Connect' committee in the Parish recently organised their second Drugs Awareness Day in the school.

This year the focus was on Alcoholism and Patricia Tynan from the Rutland Centre provided an informative and thought-provoking talk on the subject for the Sixth Class children who will be making their Confirmation shortly.

The highlight of the day was the excellent drama acted out by several of our past pupils from the Eva Coffey School of Drama. In it they explored the effects of the abuse of alcohol on relationships, family, etc.

It was, once again, an extremely worthwhile endeavour and we look forward to further dealings with our friends in 'Connect'.



Ada Donnelly (Connect), Patricia Tynan (Rutland Centre), Breda Fitzharris (Connect), Eva Coffey (Coffey School of Drama), Denise Dunne (Connect), in the Senior School after the Drama Presentation.



Members of the Coffey School of Drama who performed at the recent Connect Alcohol Awareness Week. Back (left to right): Aoife Doyle and Craig Carey. Front (left to right): Michelle Fleury, Niamh Cummins and Hazel Leahy.

CHURCH SHOP

For all your card and gift requirements visit our Church Shop – large selection of cards for all occasions – Confirmation, First Communion, Mass Bouquets, etc.

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YOUNG SCIENTISTS

Congratulations to John Marshall (Cremorne), one of three students from Templeogue College who competed in this year's Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition. The project on computer-based learning aids received awards from two of Ireland's leading computer companies. Well done lads and continue with your worthwhile work which will enhance the lives of people with disabilities.

FAMILY FUN

Well done to the Cunniffe family from Knockcullen who appeared recently on the RTE family quiz. We hope you had fun spending your shopping vouchers.

HEART CHILDREN COLLECTION

Many thanks to all who contributed to the recent collection for Heart Children at Superquinn Knocklyon. The total amount collected was £2,430.00 which will go towards the purchase of a new Echocardiograph machine for Crumlin Hospital. A very special thanks to all my collectors, without whose help this collection would not have been as successful.

- Breda Boyle
- Telephone 493 0442

BASKETBALL FINALISTS

Well done to the lads from Coláiste Eanna who got to the Schools All-Ireland Final in the Basketball Arena. While the local lads gave great performances, the opposing team had the better score at the end of the game.

SCOUTS DRAW RESULTS

FEBRUARY 2000

£100: Teresa Hennessy, 3 Cremorne
£50: M. & M. Lynch, 88 Dargle Wood
£25: T. & C. Murphy, 9 Fortfield Drive, Terenure

TONY SAYS 'THANK YOU'

Tony Meade, the Knocklyon postman recently retired, would like to thank the ladies of Knocklyon Avenue for their farewell celebration held in his honour last month. He was quite overwhelmed by the kindness, hospitality, friendship, generosity and the good wishes expressed to him for his future trip to Brazil.

RECENT BAPTISMS

James Francis Devlin, 11 Orlagh Court
Cian Joseph O'Driscoll, 36 Templeroan Way
Aoife Bridget Patricia Connolly, 45 Castlefield Park
Megan Mary Cullen, 44 Woodstown Heights
Sean Thomas Spollen, 52 Woodfield
Roísín Patricia Mary Brooks, 10 Woodstown Way
Harry Desmond Magaharan, 14 Woodstown Heights
David Alexander Gill O'Connor, 26 Delaford Lawn
Andrew Herbert, 39 Orlagh Wood
James Christopher Madden, 6 Woodfield
Emmet Mangan, 20 Glenlyon Park
Aoife Rua McSharry, 10 Knocklyon Green



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- NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME -

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS/CONTRIBUTORS

Items for inclusion in the next issue should be handed into the Presbytery by Sunday 26th March. The Newsletter will be circulated from 12th April. As advertising space has become so popular 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 to advertising to June at 494 1204 (10.00 a.m.-12.00 noon) Monday to Friday. Fax 494 2343.

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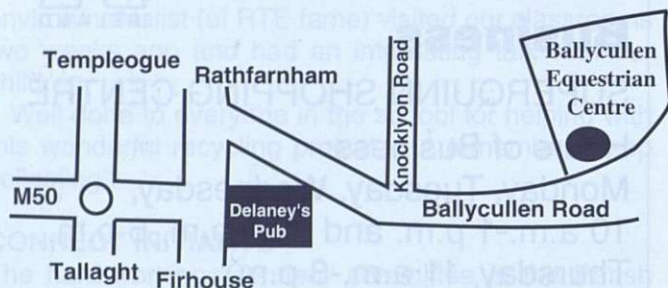
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