

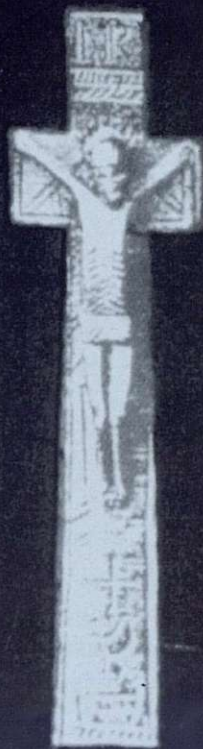


KNOCKLYON NEWS

ST. COLMCILLE'S PARISH, KNOCKLYON, DUBLIN 16

APRIL 2000

MAY HIS
DEATH



BRING US
TO LIFE

Through the Cross
shines Glory

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

ST. COLMCILLE'S CHURCH, KNOCKLYON

APRIL 16

PASSION SUNDAY

Celebration of the Passion and
Distribution of Palms at all Masses

APRIL 20

HOLY THURSDAY

10.00 a.m. Morning Prayer
3.30 p.m. Children's Mass
7.30 p.m. Celebration of the Last
Supper

APRIL 21

GOOD FRIDAY

10.00 a.m. Morning Prayer
11.00 a.m. Stations of the Cross for
Children
12.00 noon Stations of the Cross for
Adults
3.00 p.m. Celebration of the Lord's
Passion
8.30 p.m. Musical Presentation of
the Passion

APRIL 22

HOLY SATURDAY

10.00 a.m. Morning Prayer
10.30-11.30 a.m. Confessions
4.00-5.00 p.m. Confessions
9.00 p.m. Celebration of the
Resurrection

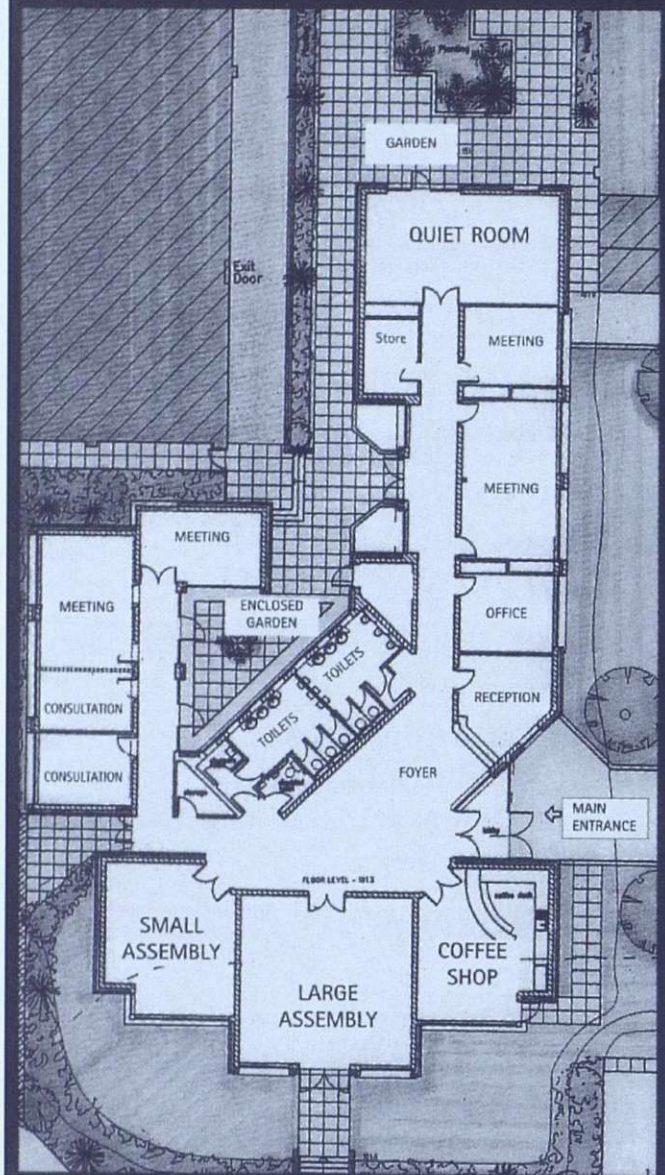
APRIL 23

EASTER SUNDAY

9.00, 10.00 and	NOTE
11.00 a.m.,	Mass
12 noon,	times
1 p.m. and	as usual
7 p.m.	on Sunday

The Iona Centre

Idrone Avenue • Knocklyon • Dublin 16



Since our last report, the Iona Centre has really sprung into life. Many of you will have responded to the invitation to visit for a welcoming "cuppa" issued some weeks ago, before everything was up and running. We're sure you were impressed with what you saw – a really bright, spacious, carefully designed and tastefully decorated building, not only a beautiful place, but one full of potential, offering great hope and opportunity for our Community, well into the future.

Already the Centre is home to many Parish and Community groups for their regular meetings, e.g. Choirs, Collectors, Readers, Parent and Toddler group, Nurses Clinic, to name but a few.

On the 26th March, another feature of the Centre was launched, namely the Coffee Shop, which will continue to be open after Sunday morning Masses and during opening hours of the Centre on weekdays.

The two evening courses advertised last month are just finishing now, and other courses are in the pipeline. The Management Committee would welcome suggestions from parishioners as to other desirable uses for the Centre as time goes on. Suggestions should be handed into the Presbytery/Iona Centre or posted to the Director of the Centre at the address above. Groups and individuals wishing to enquire or book rooms should call to the Centre between 9.30 a.m. and 1.30 p.m. or 7.30 p.m. and 9.00 p.m. or make contact by phone at 494 3712.

An official opening ceremony is being planned for June 9th (the Feast of St. Colmcille). More details about this next month.

RACE NIGHT FUND-RAISER FOR THE IONA CENTRE

Due to the recent unfortunate fire at Ballyboden St. Enda's Clubhouse, this event due to take place this month has been postponed until May.

The details of the night are as follows:

Date: Thursday, 4th May

Time: 8 p.m. sharp

Venue: St. Jude's G.A.A. Club, Templeogue
(beside the Spawell)

You can support this event in a number of ways:

- For only £10 you can "buy" a horse or "become" an owner, trainer, or jockey for the night.
- You can also avail of the attractive advertising rates for our racenight brochure.
- The last race of the evening will be an auction race.
- Lots of spot prizes to add to your enjoyment.

To avail of any of these options please contact one of the following:

Declan Cahill, 493 8810;

Gerry Pouch, 493 3738;

Syliva Doyle, 494 2718;

Anne Shortt, 494 5607;

Anne Walsh, 494 1259.

Entry on the night is free.

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Correcting The Balance

I'm convinced that 'unlearning' is every bit as vital to our growth as 'learning'. Indeed, perhaps more vital! Unlearning what? Unlearning whatever negative inputs received in early childhood, that may have distorted truth for us.

One such common distortion, with enormous fall-out in our spiritual lives, was the prevailing notion that somehow God was more pleased with us when we were suffering than when we were happy, that we were more closely united with Jesus in sorrow than in joy. "Offer it up," you were told, if your tooth was aching or if some childhood disappointment came your way. Saying the 'Morning Offering' was a norm in daily prayer. In it you offered to God "the joys and sufferings of this day". But you never really believed that God was with you in 'the joys'; it was in 'the sufferings' that he came close, or so you had been led to believe.

It was probably the prominence of the Cross of Christ in Christian Spirituality and Culture that occasioned the emphasis. The Crucifix was to be seen everywhere, not alone in Church, but in bedroom and classroom too. (Not, by the way, that I disagree with that practice; in fact I decry the disappearance of the Crucifix from so many homes today). But a balance was called for, that would lift our spirits and bring to life for us, the wonderful outcome of Christ's sufferings - resur-



rection and glory, Christ's and ours. The art, the culture, the liturgical practice needed to embrace the totality of the Paschal Mystery. Death and Resurrection, both, are essential parts of our Redemption. But death is passing and resurrection eternal. And we got the balance wrong. The emphasis was in the wrong place.

All of this was reflected and reinforced in the experience of Lent and Holy Week. Lent, with its emphasis on penance and sacrifice, drew crowds to Church and daily Mass, (crowds that quickly disappeared as soon as the Easter season, with its message of Hope and Joy and Celebration began!). People crammed the Churches for the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, but only a faithful few ventured to the dramatic reliving of Christ's Resurrection at the Easter Vigil.

The Gospel literally means, and is, *good news!* It can only appear so if its received message is of hope and love. But the love Christ preaches does not eliminate suffering; rather does it enable suffering to be transformed for us?

To sum up the Christian Gospel as "suffer here and be happy hereafter" is to discredit it. Christ's legacy to us is peace. But it is peace, "not as the world gives". And that peace will be more and more experienced by us if the God we know both supports us in our pain *and* rejoices with us in our good times.

- Fr. David

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CLAIRE BOUND FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS!

How would you feel if your child had been chosen to represent Ireland in a major international event? Extremely proud I would imagine, "over the moon" with excitement even. If that child was a "special needs" child whose ability even to walk was uncertain for many years, then you can appreciate just how thrilled parishioners Jim and Dymphna McGonigle felt when their eldest daughter was bestowed with this honour. Claire (aged 14) was selected to swim for Ireland at the Special Olympics European Games in Holland next month.

Claire has had special needs since she was born, her motor development was slow, and she had no speech until she was almost 8 years old. Now a teenager she loves music and art, is a member of her school choir, and enjoys listening and dancing to Boyzone and other bands, with her younger sister Laura.

Claire was introduced to swimming as a baby by her Mum who noticed it's calming effect on her. She swims weekly as part of her school programme in Stewarts Special School, Palmerstown. She is helped in her training by Anne Masterson, a "gifted" teacher according to Dymphna who looks after Sports there. She has won many medals over the years at Leinster Championship level (which are proudly displayed in her home), and was selected in October last for the Special Olympics, having won the required number of Gold medals to qualify.

The first international Special Olympic Games were held in Chicago in 1968, having grown from a Summer Camp initiative organised for people with mental handicap some years earlier by Eunice Kennedy Shriver (sister of John F. Kennedy). Today the worldwide movement Special Olympics Inc. (SOI) has 151 member countries promoting activities at local, regional, national and international level. The Special Olympics European Games 2000 which opens in Groningen, Holland, on May 27th, will have entries from 53 European and Euroasian countries and will involve over 2,000 athletes in 13 Sports which include Aquatics, Athletics, Basketball, Bowling, Equestrian events, and Gymnastics. In 2003, the next year of the World Games, Ireland will be host country.

Claire will be part of an Irish team of 48 competitors, which includes 8 swimmers – 4 boys and 4 girls. She is the second youngest of the team which comprises entrants from all over the country. Her own special events are the 25 metre Backstroke and Freestyle. She may also swim in a relay event. The team will be accompanied by a number of chaperones and medical personnel making an official travelling party of 74 in total. Additional supporters will also arrive in

good time for the opening ceremonies on May 28th. At this ceremony athletes, coaches, and family members will together say the Special Olympics oath, "Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt." This event will undoubtedly be a very emotional one for all present. Dymphna recalls how emotional she felt the day Claire's Irish Olympic tracksuit was delivered – the enormity of this event in Claire's life and that of her whole family really struck home then.

Apart from their pleasure at Claire's achievement in being chosen to go to the Special Olympics, her parents are also very happy about the opportunities the trip will give Claire to make new friends and acquire greater independence. Claire has difficulty writing, but signed her first official document when she registered for the Special Olympics – a milestone for her and her parents. Another milestone is the fact that for the duration of the competition, Claire will stay with the other athletes and support staff in the Special Olympic village, while Jim and Dymphna will be in separate accommodation with other parents and supporters.

Dymphna and Jim are reserved people whose primary reason for telling us Claire's story was to give hope and encouragement to other parents of children with special needs. The first 5-6 years of Claire's life was "heartbreaking" for them as parents – coming to terms with the implications of her disability while also trying to find the best educational facility for her. This they found in Stewarts Special School which caters for children from pre-school age to second level. Claire currently attends their "Mill Lane" second level school where she is helped to prepare for independent living. During Claire's early childhood, Dymphna received great help from a Tallaght-based support group for parents of children with special needs. Entitled "Helping Hands" this group was founded by mothers of such children and is still in operation. Currently Dymphna is involved with the National Association for Mentally Handicapped in Ireland (N.A.M.H.I.).

When it is suggested to Dymphna that she has a difficult life she

responds frankly, "It's as difficult as you let it be – your whole attitude to life changes when an event like this happens, you don't take anything for granted any more – **but the key is never to give up on your child – always hope and work for the best they can achieve.**"

We send Claire the warm congratulations of the whole Knocklyon community, and wish her the very best of luck in her events next month. No doubt the familiar "ole, ole, ole" of World Cup fame will resound in the Stadium at Groningen!

Editor's Note: Dymphna can be contacted by post c/o The Editor, Knocklyon News, Carmelite Presbytery, Idrone Avenue, Knocklyon, Dublin 16, or by phoning the Parish Office at 494 1204 Monday-Friday 9.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m.

Claire, left, relaxes with her favourite cuddly toy.



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ST. COLMCILLE'S PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Our latest lecture, to be held on Wednesday, 12th April, is entitled 'The Transition From Primary To Secondary School' and should be of particular interest to parents of 6th Class pupils. The lecture will take place in the Senior School Hall at 8.30 p.m.

Due to the success of our 'Guess The Smarties' competition last year, it was decided to run a similar event in the Junior School this Easter. (And yes, there will be a jar for the Staffrooms too!) This year the event was sponsored by Nestle Irl. Ltd., who very kindly donated the Smarties.

In the Senior School, a 'Guess The Teacher' competition was organised and I daresay many a chuckle could be heard as the children tried to guess the identity of teachers from their childhood photographs. Many thanks to Superquinn who kindly donated some of the Easter Egg prizes.

Confirmation of 6th Class children took place on 21st and 22nd of March and a reception was held after the ceremony in the Community Centre. To the parents who volunteered to help out, the Committee would like to say a big thank you.

Once again, thanks to Nestle and Superquinn for their generosity in sponsoring our competitions and a Happy Easter to one and all.

- Toni Fletcher



CONNECT

Parish of St. Colmcille
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Invite you to join us for an evening gathering on the theme

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on

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
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ALPHA – An Introduction to Christ

Over the past couple of months we have been running our first Alpha course in St. Colmcille's parish. Alpha, as we explained in the October issue of the Knocklyon News, is a course that explores the Christian faith and is ideal for anyone who has questions about life or anyone who wants to renew their relationship with Christ. With the present course coming to a close it seems a good time to reflect on how it has been going.




For all of us, including those of us running the course, it has been a time of receiving new insight into the truth of the Christian faith and how it is relevant to our lives. The speaker on the Alpha videos, Nicky Gumbel, is a man of great humility and insight and I feel we have all been brought closer to Christ through his talks. In addition through the discussion groups and growing friendships we are helping to support each other in our Christian walk.

On reflection we plan to make some changes to future Alpha courses in the parish. The content and format of the course has worked very well, so no change to that. This present course has five participants, which has proved a good number for us to cope with in our home. However, we would like to be able to cope with a larger number and also have the course more obviously associated with the parish, so we will run future courses in the Iona centre.

The next Alpha course will be on Tuesday evenings, instead of Sundays, running from 2nd May to 4th July, beginning with tea and coffee at 8 p.m. Anyone interested can phone us on 495 0097.

– Tony and Victoria Whittam



KNOCKLYON HISTORY SOCIETY

Down The Dodder
An Illustrated Talk
by
Dr. Christopher Moriarty
(Guest Speaker)

Wednesday, 3rd May at 8 p.m. sharp
at The Iona Centre

**Admission: Members £2;
Non-members £3**

Fáilte roimh chách – All welcome

Sancta Maria Hits the Top!



Front: Claire Reeves, Aoife Murtagh, Caoimhe Malone, (Captain), Meriam Harkin, Jennifer Murphy, Niamh O'Leary, Hazel Leahy, Clare O'Byrne.

Back: Una Mulkerrin, Amanda Kenny, Eimear Perry, Karen Grissing (missing), Suzanne Hughes, Sarah Mulhall, Laura Caulwell, Orla-Marie Magan.

Coaches: Anne-Marie Sherry and Gilly Hughes.

Sancta-Maria's Senior Hockey team, pictured above, enjoyed their most successful season ever reaching the Leinster League Senior III final. We are delighted to see many Knocklyoners and past pupils of St. Colmcille's in the panel.

The arrival at the Final was done in a most nail-biting fashion! In the Quarter Finals they waited until extra time to beat Mercy Navan 1:0. They later defeated Our Lady's Rathnew in the Semi-Finals, with penalty flicks after 0:0 in extra time.

The Final took place in Three Rock Rovers on the 14th March against Muckcross College. The level and volume of support for Sancta Maria was exceptional as was the team's performance. Unfortunately their winning streak came to an end here when they were defeated in sudden death penalty flicks – despite being the better team.

The school is very proud of the girls' performance and their coaches Anne-Marie Sherry and Gilly Hughes are especially delighted.

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SCHOOLS NEWS

JUNIOR



The Second Class Indoor Soccer League recently climaxed with a final match between Ireland (front row, light tops) and Man. Utd. (back row, dark tops). Robert Gibbons captained Ireland to a 4-2 victory but there were good performances from all the players who were presented with medals by Mr. Dalton after the game. Well done to all 90 children who took part in the league. There will be hurling/camogie starting up again after the Easter holidays for 2nd Class, so dust off those helmets and hurleys.

Another Teen Parenting group has just finished a 6-week course. On behalf of everybody involved we say a big 'Thank You' to Margaret Whelan who facilitated the course.



We are now turning our attention back to the demands of those demanding toddler years. If there are any parents out there who would appreciate a little time out to share concerns and maybe pick up a few handy tips for dealing with the 0-6-year-olds, we would like to hear from you. Just lift the phone and put your name down for a 6-week course coming soon in the new Iona Centre. Meanwhile, K.A.P.E. is continuing its monthly Wednesday morning meetings. Watch out for our May excursion into the world of Fung Shui.

Wednesday, 3rd May, in the Iona Centre
Fung Shui – tune into the positive energy in your home
 – with Pamela Whelan

10 a.m. to 12 noon

Tea and Coffee

For further information phone Mary at 494 2130 or
 Ann at 494 5743

SENIOR

The Senior School was filled with the Holy Spirit in a special way this month as our 6th Class children made their Confirmation on the 21st and 22nd March (see photos, pages 8 and 9). We look forward to the gifts they received bearing much fruit in their lives over the coming months!

HURLING AND CAMOGIE UPDATE

The hurling and camogie inter-school leagues are in full swing(!) at the moment with our three teams performing very credibly. The junior hurlers, once again giving an age advantage to smaller schools, lost their first two games but bounced back to win comfortably against Scoil Ólaf. All their games have seen committed performances from all – and especially so from Killian Cannon, Colin Hyland, Paul Young, Andrew McKiernan and Thomas Dean.

The senior team have had two outings and remain unbeaten – winning against St. Judes and battling bravely to earn a last-minute draw with Kilmacud. Once again all the boys are to be complimented for their efforts particularly Donal O'Shea, Liam McCarthy, David O'Connor, Alan Carter and Brendan Treacy.

BOY SINGERS REQUIRED

The Palestrina Choir (which is based in the Pro-Cathedral) will be auditioning shortly for boys aged 7 and upwards. No previous training is required. Anyone interested should contact Mr. John Gearty at the Senior School.

ALONE AGAIN

One young girl's thoughts on the effects of bullying!

*Sharp, squinted eyes pierce
me deep*

*The corridor seems long
and lonely.*

*Evil names echo by the
walls*

Alone. . . .

*I have to face my problems
I'm told*

Be a woman

*It's hard though I do try . . .
alone.*

*I await the bell that tells me
it's all over for one day.*

Yet I wonder is it. . . .

*I cry myself to sleep as my
tears*

*Drip silently onto the crisp
clean sheets.*

Alone again. . . .

Almost afraid of optimism.

*Horror dreams force me to
a sudden awakening*

I thought they killed me. . . .

*Destroyed, unhappy, angry
as I wait fearfully for
tomorrow.*

– Grace O'Boyle

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From left: Hugh Carroll of Templeroan Park; Emma Hogan of Knocklyon Heights and Geoffrey Fitzpatrick of Westbourne Lodge.



Kevin McGovern of Butterfield Close with his parents Aiden and Mary.



Stephen Fletcher of Coolamber with his parents Toni and Matt.



Donal O'Shea of Knocklyon Heights with his parents Kay and Con.



Teachers of the Confirmation classes, from left: Brian McGowan, John Murphy and Vivian Ruddy.



Hugh Carroll of Templeroan, Kieran Smyth of Templeroan, Alison Redmond of Beverly, Paul Skelly of Orlagh, Mairead McMorrow of Beverly, and Mark Ibbotson of Ashton.

Adam Joyce of Knocklyon Close with his parents, Margaret and Paddy.



Bishop Eamon Walsh chatting with (from left): Mark Young of Knocklyon Avenue, Stephen Murray of Lansdowne Park, Paul Skelly of Orlagh, Rachel Gogan of Coolamber, Lynne Hilliard of Idrone; Mark Buckley of Delaford, Christopher Harrington of Dargle Wood and Alan Gallagher of Beverly.

Conor Rynne of Coolamber with his parents Eamonn and Ethna.



From left: Laura Hughes of Dargle Wood, Ciara Errity of Templeroan, Sarah Kiernan of Orlagh, Angela Harding of Coolamber, Ciara Timbs of Coolamber and Lynne Hilliard of Idrone.

Desmond Healy of Killinarden Hill with his parents Don and Clare, Linda Johnston (left) Aunt, and Anne Johnston (right) Grandmother.



Bishop Eamon Walsh signing autographs for Fergal Curtis of Knocklyon Heights and Laura Watts of Westbourne Lodge.



knocklyon community council

The AGM for Knocklyon Community Council was held in the Community Centre on February 22nd last. In the absence of the Chairman Michael Brennan (due to illness) the Meeting was chaired by Bill Meagher. As a sign of the importance of the Community Council the meeting was attended by our local TDs Seamus Brennan, Tom

Kitt and Alan Shatter. Also in attendance were our local councillors Stanley Laing, Cait Keane, John Lahart, Ann Ormonde, Sheila Donnelly and Eamon Walsh.

Bill Meagher outlined the function of the Council and how it is linked to South Dublin Co. Council. The main objective is to "further the betterment of everyone living in Knocklyon". However, as was evident throughout the meeting, Knocklyon is suffering from its fair share of robbery, violence, and vandalism against the person and the environment. Unfortunately, this is a major problem throughout the south Co. Dublin area and despite increased Garda activity the culprits continue to make life miserable for some of the residents in our area. It was suggested from the floor that a log of all crimes should be maintained in order that when meeting Gardai the KCC can have up-to-date statistics. Each of the convenors gave their report and most proud was Dr. Vincent Kenny outlining the situation as regards the new second level school in Knocklyon. Vincent was praised for his efforts over the past 20 years by all the local representatives. He informed the meeting that 54 people had applied for the post of Principal of the school and assured all present that the calibre of all applicants was of the highest standard.

Sport is flourishing in Knocklyon with major developments in both Knocklyon United and Ballyboden St. Endas. Great credit is due to the people from Ballyboden St. Endas for their decision to purchase the convent and grounds at Sancta Maria. Due to their efforts more green space and playing fields are being kept for the benefit of the area.

Work continues ahead of schedule on the M50 and hopefully the Scholarstown roundabout will be opened before the end of the year 2000. Whilst Knocklyon is divided by the motorway our public representatives were given a strong message about proper signage for the whole of Knocklyon and the present name of Balrothery roundabout has to be maintained as a name change would only cause confusion.

Theresa Clarke outlined the work of the Environment sub-committee within the KCC and spoke of the help she received from the people in South Dublin Co. Council. Cllr. Lahart informed the meeting that SDCC have employed an outside contractor to remove graffiti. Cait Keane also told the meeting of a new cleaning policy in the council and all estates should be cleaned on a bi-monthly basis.

On Planning Aidan Nevin outlined the developments in the area. Spawell bridge is going ahead and a high spec bailey-bridge is being provided and should be completed by September. The KCC have objected to the replacement of 16 houses in Woodstown by a three-storey apartment block and we are still awaiting a decision from An Bord Pleanala.

SDCC still do not have the finance for the re-alignment of the Knocklyon Road.

The meeting was informed of the establishment of the South County Development Board. This board will develop 10-year plans for the whole county and there will be representatives from voluntary bodies in the area.

Before the close of the meeting a representative from the Saggart-Rathcoole Community Council outlined the various implications for Knocklyon of the proposed development of the airport at Baldonnell. We all have to be aware of the safety aspects being put forward as Knocklyon will be in the 'flight-path' for descent into the airport. It is important to us that all the various reports are made available to the residents affected, as safety and noise pollution are a major cause for concern. No doubt we will hear a lot more on this proposal over the coming months.

We would like to thank all our public representatives for taking the time to attend the AGM.

FIRST MEETING OF THE NEW COMMITTEE

The first meeting of the newly elected Community Council took place on March 22, 2000.

The following were elected as officers for the coming year: Chairperson, David Hickey, (Tel: 493 7731); Vice Chairperson, Aidan Nevin; Treasurer, Michael Lally; Correspondence Secretary, Denise Murphy, (Tel: 495 2089); Minutes Secretary, Aileen Millane; Assistant Correspondence Secretary, Kevin Geoghegan. The following were appointed as convenors for the various sub-committees: Environment, Theresa Clarke; Education, Vivian Ruddy; Communication, Kevin Geoghegan; Policing, Peter Shovlin; Planning, Bill Meagher; Sport, Jim Mulkerin.

For the year 2000 one of the main projects for the KCC, will be to try and reach as many residents of Knocklyon as possible and keep them up-dated with all aspects of life in the area. As part of that project we would appeal to all the various sporting, residential and activity groups to e-mail any relevant details to info@knocklyon.com. All this information will help us with the development of a website. If you require any further details please contact Denise Murphy (phone number above).

Knocklyon Community Council is very proud of the fact that we have had two members elected to the South Dublin Community Forum. This forum is part of the new Development Board for the county, which is looking at all aspects of life on a ten-year forward basis. We will be keeping you updated throughout the year on the progress of both the Forum and the Development Board.

The new committee would like to wish our former Chairman Michael Brennan a very speedy recovery from his recent illness and are looking forward to his return and his very important input into the activities of the Community Council.

— Denise Murphy

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KNOCKLYON LADS IN LEINSTER SCHOOLS RUGBY FINAL

TERENURE COLLEGE RUGBY TEAM

Well done to the Terenure College Rugby team who reached the Final of the Leinster Schools Senior Cup competition. Unfortunately, they were beaten by just two points on St. Patrick's Day.

The team was followed with great interest by Knocklyon fans since no less than five ex St. Colmcille's lads were strong members of the panel.

Congratulations to Sean King, Mark Duffy, David McAlister, Kenneth Tracey and Robbie Sparks who performed brilliantly throughout the competition. A special 'Well Done' to Robbie Sparks who has been chosen for the Ireland U19 squad.

Knocklyon Variety Group

The Knocklyon Variety Group are well underway rehearsing for their next production of the hit musical 'Guys And Dolls'. The show will take place in the Civic Theatre, Tallaght, from Tuesday 23rd May to Saturday 27th May at 8 p.m., including one matinee on Saturday 27th at 3 p.m.

Tickets at £10 and £7 can be booked by telephoning the Theatre Booking Office on 462 7477. The Knocklyon Variety Group would very much appreciate your support, so please note the dates.

If any individual or business/company would be willing to sponsor the show for either a small or large sum (perhaps for one night) we would be very grateful for that support. For further details please phone Teresa at 494 1021.

Thanking you in anticipation.

— Teresa Hogan, P.R.O.

ANOTHER AWARD FOR NOELLE!



Noelle receiving her award from the manager of the Liverpool soccer team, Gerard Houllier.

We send our warm congratulations to Noelle Lennon (Knockaire), the recipient of a Junior Sports Stars Award for 1999 which was sponsored by Aer Lingus/The Examiner.

Noelle, who is an international table tennis player, was presented with her award at a reception recently in the Westbury Hotel. We wish her continued success.

BROTHERS PEARSE A.C.



Further results from the Dublin Indoor Championships.

Individual Medallists

Natalia Hyland, 2 Bronze; Anna Nolan, 1 Bronze; Richard Whyte, 2 Gold; Colin Hyland, 2 Gold; Adam Kiernan, 1 Silver; Robert Wright, 1 Bronze; Stephen Ryan, 2 Silver; Mark Donnelly, 1 Silver.

The U-11 Boys Relay Team also won Gold, while the U-12 Boys Relay Team brought home Silver medals.

Outdoor training has recommenced on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7-8 p.m., and Sundays from 11 a.m.-12 noon at Cherryfield.

Further details from Áine Kelly at 493 1764.



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READER'S LETTER

To Whom it May Concern

The anti-social behaviour on the walkways between Knocklyon Grove and Knocklyon Close is, if anything, getting worse in the last while.

Underage drinking, cursing, shouting, urinating and dare it be said, drug-taking, is at an all-time high. The lager and perhaps something else is being delivered by motorcyclists to these young boys and girls. Registration numbers have been taken and Gardai notified of these.

Parents, wake up before it is too late. It is, after all, your responsibility, not ours, what happens, especially on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights at these sessions in this area.

If you have a young person make sure they are where they are supposed to be, otherwise go for a walk and see for yourself what they are up to!

*A Concerned Resident
(name and address with Editor).*



We reproduce below the notice which appeared in national newspapers recently regarding the Kerbside Collections.



SUSPENSION OF KERBSIDE COLLECTION OF RECYCLABLE MATERIALS

Kerbside Dublin will cease operations as and from the 24th March, 2000.

The Dublin local authorities are in the process of concluding a contract for the collection of certain dry recyclable materials including paper. The new service will commence in May this year with a public awareness campaign and the delivery of new wheeled bins and will be progressed across the Dublin region as quickly as possible.

In the interim householders are asked to bring glass and cans to local Bottle Banks.

Your co-operation is appreciated.

South Dublin County Council News

Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme

The Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme was discussed and approved at a recent Special Meeting of the Council on the 14th March. The vote was 16 in favour and 4 against.

I voted against the Programme which included those sites in the general local area which have been approved under the previous Council in 1997. These sites include the proposed Halting Site at Ballyboden Road and a further proposed site at Stocking Lane (also approved in 1997).

The proposed Halting Site for Stocking Lane has yet to go through an improved extensive Public Consultation Process, and I will keep you up-to-date with this issue as time progresses.

I have asked the County Manager that no further decisions be made on the proposed Ballyboden Road Halting Site until proper consultations take place with the local residents, including representatives of the relevant local Residents' Associations.

In my view, the consultations that have taken place to date have not only been inadequate but almost non-existent despite the obvious public concern and disquiet about the location of the site.

Southern Cross Route – Progress Report

At the most recent Roads and Traffic Meeting of South Dublin County Council a detailed progress report was made concerning the Southern Cross Route. The Motorway is due for completion by June 2001, and this includes the section from Kellystown (The Taylor Three Rock Hotel) to the Ballinteer Interchange.

The Motorway is due to open to the Scholarstown Interchange this year. Outstanding works have to be undertaken before this can happen that are not part of ASCON's contract and these include improving the Scholarstown Road from the entrance to Orlagh Grove back to the entrance to Woodfield; putting in place a footpath outside the school site at Scholarstown Road (which is a condition of the School's planning permission) and finally putting in place the footpath between Orlagh Grove and Beverly Court. Pedestrian facilities also have to be put in place.

I have pressed the Roads engineers continuously since my election to have these measures in place by the opening of the new school year in September, and I am confident that they will be. The Orlagh-Beverly footpath should be in place well before then.

I also raised the matter of screening from the Motorway for the Beverly Court, Orlagh Park, Grove and Knockfield Manor Estates and these comments were taken on board.

— by Cllr John Lahart
— 493 9608 — jlahart@sdblincoco.ie

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'The Christian Community Welcomes You With Great Joy...'

... Using these words we were indeed happy to welcome eleven beautiful babies on Sunday February 27th and nine equally beautiful little ones on Sunday March 26th, the first two Sundays of our renewed approach to the celebration of Baptism. On both occasions there was an almost palpable sense of community in the church, something which many people remarked about afterwards. There is no doubt that the preparatory meeting some days beforehand contributed greatly to this sense of community as it enabled the parents to mingle and get to know each other, as well as deepen their understanding of the Sacrament. But the other major contributory factor was the presence of the ever-versatile Gospel Choir from the 1 o'clock Mass. It's amazing how well chosen music can really bring the whole ceremony alive as well as having a calming effect on the children, who were "as good as gold" for the most part!

It is most appropriate that the scheduled date for our next Celebration of Baptism is April 23rd, which happens to be Easter Sunday – the day when, from the earliest times, Christians have celebrated and renewed their new life in Christ which began at Baptism. As we approach this Easter within the Jubilee Year, when we are giving thanks for 2000 years of Christ's presence among us, we might pray that His light may shine

brightly through all the baptised. May they be witnesses to the Gospel in daily life and may the new life of the most recent additions to our Christian family bring fresh enthusiasm to us all.

– Philip Brennan, O.Carm.

(Fr. Philip is the co-ordinator of the Parish Baptism Team. There are currently ten members on the team. Each month a group of three takes responsibility for the following:

- (a) visitation of the home to meet the parents and child in advance of the preparatory meeting
- (b) the preparation of the church on the day of the ceremony itself
- (c) the welcoming of people as they arrive in the church
- (d) the co-ordination of family participants in the ceremony
- (e) taking an active role throughout the ceremony.

As the Summer months approach, Fr. Philip is anxious to secure additional members for the team and would be delighted to talk to anyone who might be interested in participating in this important ministry within our ever-expanding parish. He can be contacted at 494 1204.)

The Celebration of Baptism takes place in St. Colmcille's Church on the Fourth Sunday of each month at 3 p.m. Parents requesting Baptism are asked to give one month's notice and to make an appointment to meet with one of the priests. A two hour preparatory meeting takes place in the Iona Centre on the Wednesday before the date of the Baptism, beginning at 8 p.m.

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'One Addict's Story'

I am not a stereotypical drug addict. I am middle-aged, middle-class, employed in a good career, married with children, have no criminal record and I pay my taxes! I have not taken any drugs or a drink for over ten years. However, I am still an addict and but for my personal circumstances, I would have turned out just like any other unfortunate "street addict", with all the familiar negative associations.

I came from what is now known as a "dysfunctional family". My father was an alcoholic, but my childhood was light years removed from *Angela's Ashes*. There was no violence, no deprivation or abuse, my father always worked and I got a good education up to third level. All my material needs were catered for, but the effect of the alcoholism in my life, although subtle, was very powerful.

When I first started taking drugs it was in some ways a teenage rebellion against alcohol. Like any teenager, I reacted against what was presented to me, and the "recreational" drugs which continue to be so fashionable seemed the perfect antidote for me to boring old booze. I was many years from discovering that what I was embracing in drugs was merely another side of the same coin.

I was able to use drugs for many years without any apparent adverse effect on my life, completing third level and professional training without serious problems. In fact I thrived on the student life, without responsibility or the need to plan beyond the next set of exams. I was academically quite adept, and the drugs didn't appear to significantly affect my performance. In retrospect I can see that they affected me in many other ways, and delayed my development as a full human being; but I honestly thought at the time that using drugs was just recreation. The trouble was that increasingly drugs in one form or another were becoming the only way that I could see to have a good time. If I didn't have some kind of drug then anything that I did was dull and meaningless. I was becoming dependant.

Eventually I left college, to start my life in the real world. Most of my peers were anxious to get on with their lives, but I found myself ill-prepared for the challenges and found the prospect intimidating. One of my big concerns was that my drug use was seriously threatened. In the real world, the lifestyle which I had become so used to, in fact the only life I had ever known, was not acceptable.

Many of my drug-taking associates were drifting away into more 'straight' lifestyles, but this was an option that I couldn't consider. I tried to stop the drugs for a while but found myself drinking to excess and making a fool of myself. In desperation I turned back to drugs again.

This time I had to be totally secretive about my drug usage, and for the last few years of my active addiction, all my using was totally private. By this time I was working in a responsible job where any suggestion of drug abuse would spell big trouble. Secrecy was therefore paramount. This secrecy accelerated my progression from dependency into full addiction. Without social controls, my habit spiralled. I was able to access large amounts of very powerful drugs through my work, and did so with apparent impunity. I soon came to realise, however, that I had backed myself into a corner and I didn't know where, or who, to turn to.

Eventually I could no longer conceal my habit. I was confronted by my superiors at work, and in a very short time I was fast-tracked into a treatment centre. Here, for the first time, I met other drug addicts, alcoholics, compulsive gamblers, people with the same disease as myself who had all, in one way or another, reached a rock-bottom, and were struggling to find a way forward. Here too, I was first introduced to a Twelve Step Recovery Programme and the fellowships of Narcotics Anonymous, Alcoholics Anonymous et al. It was through these fellowships that I was finally able to put down the drugs and start my life afresh.

It has been a hard struggle and can still be difficult. I am still 'recovering' and recognise that I will never be able to say 'recovered' but on a daily basis such things are of little consequence. I have a life back, a real life of growth and shared experience which would have been beyond my wildest dreams when I was using drugs. On the surface I am a fairly ordinary person, but beneath it all I am a walking miracle. Yes, I still have the disease of addiction, but I no longer suffer from my disease. Through an ongoing commitment to a recovery programme I am able to live with addiction and stay clean. A paradox you might say, but it is a paradox which is happening in many lives all over the world.

Addiction is a disease which can strike at all levels of society, men and women, young and old. The exact reasons beyond addiction are complicated, but there are reasons. However, what is important is what can be done about it. I believe that with willingness and open-mindedness it is possible for any addict to come to terms with his or her disease, and discover a new way of life without using drugs or drink. This is the miracle of recovery.

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DAFFODIL DAY

A big "thank you" to all who attended the Coffee Morning in my home for Daffodil Day on March 23rd. A special thanks to my helpers on the morning and to those who donated raffle prizes. A total of £225 was raised during the two hours. Thanks again to everyone.
- Mary Clifford

DOWN TO EARTH

In our last issue we gave an account of the work carried out by this environmental awareness group. We apologise to Patricia O'Doherty for the unspotted printing error which changed her gender, and confirm that Patricia is the most feminine member of the group! Congratulations to the company on their spectacular display of dancing at the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

AODHAGÁN'S 80th

Congratulations to our own committee member Aodhagán Brioscú who celebrated his birthday on 28th March. Indeed we hear the event was celebrated on a few occasions. His many friends in Knocklyon wish him good health for many years to come.

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TRIPLE WIN FOR DAVID

At the recent Feis Ceoil, David Larkin (Knocklyon Park), an honours graduate of U.C.D., won the Huban Cup, the Nordell Cup, and the Morris Grant Bursary for the best performance out of seven prize-winning pianists. He has won all of the most senior Piano Competitions over the last couple of years at the Annual Feis Ceoil. We sent David many congratulations on his outstanding achievements.

RECENT BAPTISMS

Daniel James Garrett, 210 Glenvara Park
Sarah Therese Craig, 3 Orlagh Avenue
Nicole Ciara Fitzgerald, 11 Delaford Park
Grace Christine Mary Cowan, 18 Glenlyon Crescent
Eoin Michael McCarthy, 3 Castlefield Grove
Emma Louise Farrell, 3 Beverly Rise
Daniel Kinsella, 6 Beverly Drive
Ben Michael Peden, 25 Castlefield Park
Craig Karl Gerard McEneff, 4 Orlagh Lawn
Jessica Lauren Lyons, 21 Orlagh Wood
Jeffrey Mark Ryan, 24 Temproan Park
Amanda Elizabeth Susan Lane-Jones, 12 Castlefield Grn
Alexandra Eamon Timlin, 23 Orlagh Avenue
Caoilfhinn Mei Tan, 28 Beverly Heights
Zara Deirdre Naughton, 38 Knockfield Manor
Stephen Byrne, 16 Orlagh Meadows
Ben Edward Byrne, 40C Dargle Wood
Naoise Donna McGee, 16 Delaford Grove
Moya Catherine Shanley, 53 Orlagh Park
Sienna Mary Bosonnet, 27 Knocklyon Grove
Luke Gerald Diggins, 20 Templeroan Avenue
Jamie Hogan, 49 Templeroan Drive
Aoife Nora Durkin, 9 Templeroan Way



NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS/CONTRIBUTORS

Items for inclusion in the next issue should be handed into the Presbytery by Sunday 30th April. The Newsletter will be circulated from 17th May. 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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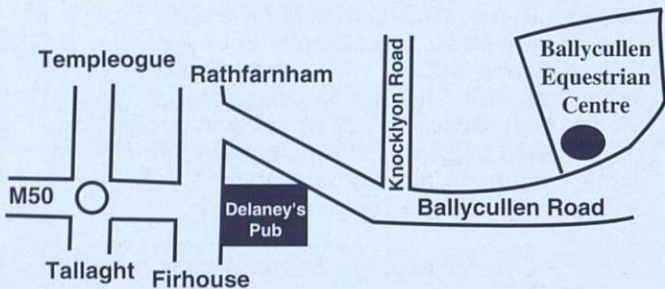


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