

# *Dunhill Fenor Parish Newsletter*



Fr. Garrett Desmond Adm.

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Fr. Gerald Purcell P.E.

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## Mass Times in Dunhill

Saturday; 7.30 p.m.

Sunday: 11.00 a.m.

## Mass Times in Fenor

Saturday: 6.30 p.m.

Sunday: 9.30 a.m.

Dear Parishioners,

Welcome to this first publication of our parish newsletter. As you know our newly elected pastoral council is now well established. One of our first aims is to communicate to all our parishioners the hopes and plans of the council in building a strong faith rock for the future of the parish of Dunhill and Fenor.

Our three goals for this year are to publish our newsletter, establish a baptism team and to form a liturgy group. We are now well on the way in this regard.

We pray this Easter season that God's Holy Spirit will guide this work and keep us focused on building a truly Christian community rooted in faith, hope and love. May we as the pastoral council remember that people may doubt what we say but will remember what we do!

I wish you all a very happy and holy Easter and may Alleluia always be our song!

V. Rev. Garrett Desmond, Adm.

# Church Notices



## **Pastoral Council**

**Members:** Fr. Garret Desmond (President),  
Donal Lehan (Chairperson),  
Kathleen Murphy (Secretary), Terry Cunningham (Asst. Secretary),  
Julianna Dunne, Stan Flynn, Pat Greene, Marie Crowley,  
Mary Harney, Ita O'Reilly, David Raheer, Mary Murphy,  
Brendan Gallagher, Dan Cowman, Anne Kavanagh.

The Pastoral Council, having completed training over a four-week period during November, now meets on the third Tuesday of each month. If you have any queries, suggestions, or feel you would like to become a member of a sub-group please contact any of the council members.

At one of its meetings, the Dunhill Fenor Pastoral Council endorsed the following policy in relation to graves:

- Graves shall not be pre-sold.
- Graves are reserved for parishioners only.

## **Liturgy Group**

The Parish Pastoral Council, at its monthly meeting on 22nd January, decided to set up a liturgy team and invited Mary Dee, the Diocesan Assistant in Liturgy for the Diocese of Waterford and Lismore, to give a presentation to interested parishioners on Wednesday 20th February in the Dunhill Enterprise Centre.

Fr. Desmond and sixteen parishioners attended the presentation and, afterwards, there was a short discussion during which several suggestions were made as to how the liturgy in our own parish might be revitalised for the coming Easter ceremonies.

Finally, a core group of four parishioners was formed to look more closely at these suggestions. The core group met with Fr. Desmond on Tuesday 26th

February and it was decided that the following changes would be made to the ceremonies on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of Easter week:

1. Offertory processions will be held in both churches.
2. The Eucharist will be distributed under both species in both churches. Two Eucharistic ministers will distribute the blood of Christ from the chalice to those who wish to receive (including children who have received the sacrament of confirmation).
3. On Good Friday, Stations of the Cross will be held in Fenor and six parishioners will dress the altar in Dunhill.

## **First Holy Communion**

The Sacrament of First Holy Communion takes place on Saturday the 17th of May in Fenor and Sunday 18th May in Dunhill. The following children will participate:

### **Dunhill**

Callum Buck, Luke Crowley,  
Allanah Dalton, Harry Phelan,  
Aleisha McDonald, David Murphy,  
Sean McDonald, Aisling Power,  
Killian O'Connell, Niall Power,  
Lara Quinn, Molly Sutton,  
Michael Veale.

### **Fenor**

Arron Robinson, Mathew O'Shea,  
Ross Bolster, Darragh McGrath,  
Lee Kavanagh, Leon O'Brien,  
Laura Kelly, Rachel Daniels,  
Kate Hearn, Ryan Slade,  
Kai Willmott, James Gaffney,  
Amy Richardson, Michael Power.

All the children made their First Confession together in Dunhill Church on Wednesday the 12th March. We wish them well in their preparation.



## **Easter Services in the Churches**

	<b><u>Dunhill</u></b>	<b><u>Fenor</u></b>
<b>Penitential Services</b>	<b>7.30 p.m. Wed. 19th</b>	<b>7.30 p.m. Tue. 18th</b>
<b>Holy Thursday</b>	<b>8.00 p.m.</b>	<b>7.30 p.m.</b>
<b>Good Friday</b>	<b>8.00 p.m.</b>	<b>3.00 p.m.</b>
<b>Holy Saturday</b>	<b>8.00 p.m.</b>	<b>6.30 p.m.</b>

## **Notices**

We intend issuing a quarterly newsletter and would welcome articles, notices or announcements relating to Parish activities. These can be given to any member of the council.

As there is such a wealth of local history in the memories of our older parishioners, we decided to allocate a space to record these memories. For this issue we have an item of historical interest from Mr. David Veale Snr. For our next issue we will include an article written by Mr Bob Rockett.

## **Our Church Beginnings**

The history of the parishes of Dunhill and Fenor or, as it was during the last two centuries, Dunhill, Riesk, Islandkeane and Loughdaheen, shows that there was a deep, abiding faith and devotion. During the Penal Times, when Catholicism was banned by law, we had the Mass Rock in Ballyleen (still visible) in the lands of the late Geoff and Paddy Cheasty and another in the Coffey lands in Savagetown.

Then we had the thatched churches throughout the parishes as defined by the placenames like Kilsteague, Kilmurrin, Killowen, Kilfarassey, Kilcarton, Kilcannon, Shanaclune.

Then later we had the ruins of the first stone built churches in Islandlkeane, Dunhill Castle church, Reisk, Toughdaheen, Ballyphillip and Killowen. Then consider the present magnificent churches in Dunhill (1884) and Fenor (1894) built during the time of Fr. John Dowley. If you stand inside the doors of these churches, survey the wonderful workmanship, the beautiful details of the altars, the marble pillars, the wonderful ceilings and choir galleries. Consider the era in which they were built when the pickaxe and shovel were the main building tools and when the population had just survived the famine and how that impoverished population contributed their pennies and shillings that made these churches possible.

Dunhill church holds in its possession a magnificent gold Chalice studded with jewels. Its Latin inscription reads "Ere Matrum famillias Parocale De Dunhill AD 1857" - Presented by the Mothers of Dunhill AD 1857".

The era that these churches ushered in was such a wonderful time in the history of the Catholic Church. Our grandparents were witnesses to an upsurge of religious vocations where you could say that we almost had a surplus of priests and nuns. Here in this parish of Dunhill and Fenor, we can record an incredible fifty-two religious vocations within an incredibly short time frame about the beginning of the last century.

Written by Mr. David Veale Snr.