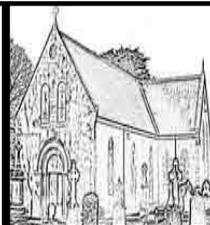




Dunhill Fenor Parish Newsletter

Summer 2008



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Mass Times in Dunhill
Saturday: 7.30pm
Sunday: 11.00am

Mass Times in Fenor
Saturday: 6.30pm
Sunday: 9.30am

Dear Parishioners,

On behalf of the pastoral council I welcome you to our 2nd parish newsletter. The council is now about six months old and is very much finding its way in determining a positive direction for the future life of the parish.

As you know we have set three goals for this year. To establish a newsletter, to set up a baptism team and to set up a liturgy group. These are now in place, the challenge for the council's 2nd term will be to see that these groups are properly trained and put into action! The council have discussed many other issues and we are delighted to see the parish child protection policy put in place. We also discussed in detail the importance of a health and safety policy for the parish, the future of Dunhill parish hall, as well as the number and times of our parish mass schedule. These issues will keep the council busy when it returns for its 2nd term. I sincerely thank the members of the council for their support and friendship to me and hope they enjoy the summer break.

For us as priests, the summer often brings change. For me it is time to move on. Bishop Lee has appointed me as P.P. to the parish of Newcastle and Four Mile Water. I would like to thank you for all your kindness to me during my short stay in Dunhill and Fenor and especially for your support in establishing the pastoral council and putting in place our child protection policy. I wish you all well and leave with fond memories.

Remember me in your prayers.

V. Rev. Garrett Desmond, Adm.

Parish Notices

We welcome articles, notices or announcements relating to Parish activities. These can be given to any member of the council.



The Dunhill Lourdes Fund Committee would like to thank everyone who contributed so generously to the recent collection. All who travelled had a very enjoyable time and candles were lit for the intentions of those who helped in any way to make the pilgrimage a success.

Congratulations to Geoff Curran, Ballyadam on his recent success in the World Cup Three Day Event at Tattersals and good luck in his bid to compete in the Olympic Games later this summer.

Best wishes to all the pupils and staff of Dunhill and Fenor National Schools for an enjoyable and well deserved summer break. A big thank you to the teachers for all the hard work throughout the year.

Parish Clusters

As everyone knows, the number of priests is declining. We have almost reached the point where every curate is a parish priest and, already, there are parishes that do not have a resident parish priest. To help overcome the many problems that will arise, the bishops have divided each diocese into clusters of parishes. Our own parish is part of the St. Otteran's cluster, the other parishes being: Ballybricken, Butlerstown, Holy Family, St. Paul, St. Saviour, Tramore and Carbally.

In the future, it will be for the priests of a cluster to look after the parishes within the cluster. New appointments of priests will generally be to a cluster and not to a parish. The laity of a parish will need to play a greater part in assisting the priests of the cluster to administer the parish, hence the creation of parish pastoral councils and parish finance councils.

Each parish in the St. Otteran's cluster has appointed one or more representatives to the cluster and these representatives meet with the priests every two months to discuss common problems and to plan initiatives. Currently, a common approach to the procedures attached to baptism is being considered.

Not much has been achieved by the clusters as yet but there is no doubt that, as the number of priests continues to diminish and parishes begin to feel isolated and neglected, the importance of the parish cluster, parish finance council, and parish pastoral council will become evident and they will emerge as the new basis for administering the parish.

Child Protection Policy

Over the past six months Fr. Desmond and two parish representatives have been involved in drawing up a Child Welfare and Protection Policy for our Parish.

The policy is based upon the Principles of Best Practice governing Child Welfare and Protection. Having this policy in place will help create an environment in which children are kept safe. All volunteers will be required to complete an application form and will be vetted which is now standard practice. The policy recognises the rights of children, health and safety issues and the need for accurate, prompt reporting of complaints and accidents.

Since the public meeting on the 14th May 2008, the final draft rests with the Diocesan Pastoral Office where it will be bound and presented in a format which will be standard to every parish in the Waterford & Lismore Diocese.



The Lord's Prayer

A mother was teaching her 3-year-old the Lord's prayer. For several evenings at bedtime she repeated it after her mother. One night she said she was ready to say it on her own. The mother listened with pride as she carefully enunciated each word, right up to the end of the prayer.

"Lead us not into temptation," she prayed, "but deliver us some e-mail, Amen."



“The Bog Hotel”

The important parish institutions - The Church, the school and the pub - differ according to one's priorities. Church and school records are preserved because of their function. Pub records are only preserved in the memories of those connected by trade or family involvement.

The Bog Hotel of Fenor is the subject for my contribution to this issue. According to an old Fenor school roll book there was a pupil by the name of Higgins whose father's occupation was down as “publican”. For some unknown reason a niece of Higgins was to inherit the license some time in the late eighteen seventies or eighties. She was to marry a Robin Nolan and the union produced Nannie and Peggy. Sadly Mrs. Nolan died giving birth. Robin Nolan remarried Bridget and that union produced Delia, Maurice and Eily. None of the family had any interest in the pub trade.

Bridget continued in the business after the death of her husband and did fairly good business. There were some ten to fifteen acres situated in Ballyscanlon and Fenor South going with the pub. She also had a pony, trap and a few cows. The stock were looked after by school going male members of a local family and the chore passed down until all had finished school. The Bog Hotel was put on the market in the late forties or early fifties and was purchased by Johnny and Mary Molloy. The business was expanded to selling hardware, coal, meal and increased grocery produce. A grinding mill was also installed with local character Mickey “Moulder” in charge of the grinding. He could at short notice concoct a convincing story for those seeking news.

With increasing motor ownership, a petrol pump was also added. The pub was put on the market again in the sixties and the McHugh and the O'Mahony families were the purchasers.

With the emphasis on continued expansion, card games were introduced at week ends and a new social aspect was evident. The Bog Hotel continues to cater admirably for its patrons social and other (*spiritual*) requirements of the expanding surroundings. The O'Mahaony Family are the proprietors today under the name “Mother McHugh’s”

Change is ongoing, “Nothing is Forever”.

Written By; Mr. Bob Rockett