

The Choir in Fenor Church

The present choir in Fenor came into being ten years ago. For the 40 previous years we always had a children's choir.

At present our choir consists of 4 gentlemen, 10 ladies and 8 children [27]. Of this number we can depend on 9 adults, 1 teenager and 6 children [16]. The others join us now and again and never come to choir practice, so they cannot be depended upon.

We have 3 singers who sing solo pieces when needed. Only 5 of our members were in choirs previously. The children, [Lynch's and Gavin's], come with their parents, who are also members of the choir. We lost 6 good singers a few years ago and they have not been replaced. We welcome new members but we have no new takers except for the children.

The choir sings at Mass at Christmas, on St. Patrick's day, for the Easter ceremonies, for May Mass, for the cemetery mass and for any other occasion when required. For St. Patrick's day we sing the full Mass in Irish [Aifreann Ui Riada] and other old Irish Hymn's of the Deise. We also use Liam Laughton's "Glendalough Mass" and Fintan O' Carroll's mass. In latin we sing the Benediction [Paige Ligena etc] The Salve Regina, Regina Caeli, Kyrie and Iona Gloria.

Most of the Hymns we use are tried and tested devotional Hymns which are known to all the congregation and we have sheets with the words which we leave at the end of each pew. We try to encourage congregational involvement and many members of the congregation love to sing with us.

We meet for choir practice weekly for the six weeks before Christmas and for two months before St. Patrick's day and Easter and we have two weeks practice for May. We have a problem with choir practice as it's impossible to get a night that suits everybody.

It would be nice if the choir could sing every Saturday evening mass or at least once a month but we have to be realistic as we only have 5 or 6 singers who regularly attend Saturday evening mass and these 5 or 6 singers would not sing if the others were not there.

[4 Lynch's , 4 Gavin's, 3 Forristal's, 3 Richardson's, 3 Curran's, 2 Farrell Power's, Clodagh Mc Ilhenney, Jerry Cremin, Marie Allen, Rita Byrne, Sile Byrne, Phil Tyrrell]