

The Bridge

News and Views from the Parish of Sixmilebridge & Kilmurry

A Parish and Community in Transition

Change is inevitable. It has been happening rapidly in our community of Sixmilebridge and Kilmurry at many levels. The physical changes that are taking place are very evident in the transformation of our village and rural areas, with massive developments and house building. Many other major projects are in the pipeline. Our population has increased at a much faster pace than in the previous two hundred years and we are required to adapt in order to cater for this increase and for the needs of this growing area.

Change also brings challenges and opportunities. In years to come every community will be judged on how it coped with this period of change. All sectors of community life are now faced with challenges. How will we respond?

The Church too has been experiencing rapid change in recent decades and it too is obliged to respond to the challenges that face it. Our main challenge is to make the Church relevant to the community as a whole and we are now taking steps to ensure that this happens.

In this newsletter we outline some of the initiatives that have been taking place in order to achieve this and others that are planned. We want to ensure that everyone feels included in a caring and sharing community. We always welcome new ideas and suggestions as to how we can further improve in this area.

Active participants are too numerous to mention. We want to sincerely thank all of them for the invaluable contribution they make. We all want what is best for our parish and our community.

Parish / Pastoral Council Members:

Fr. Harry Bohan, Christy O'Connor (Chairman), Carmel Morey, Sean Griffin, Margaret Farrell, Mike Glynn, Caitriona O'Reilly, Puff O'Connor, Tom O'Dea, Frances Downes, John Lyons.

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The people of Six Mile Cross



Welcome To Cappa L...





& Kilmurray



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Christianity Rediscovered

When Pope John Paul II visited Ireland he knew that change in the Church was inevitable. It is hard to say if he actually foresaw the dramatic changes that would come to pass almost thirty years later. He did however leave a telling message that is probably more relevant today than it was at that time. He said "The Irish people have to choose today the way forward!"

In our own way, in this parish, we have been trying to respond to that challenge by digging deep into things of the spirit while at the same time thanking God for our material well-being. In short we are responding to the question: "What would it profit us to go the easy way of the world and suffer the loss of our own soul?" A people, a family, and individual without soul are lifeless.

Many people nowadays are searching for something more meaningful in their lives. This appears to be especially true in the case of young parents who wonder if they should be giving their children something more substantial than they are getting. There appears to be a sadness that something is missing, that in spite of education, money, lifestyle and resources there is a need for a spirituality that would put some shape to their lives.

We are trying to respond in a positive way to this need in our parish and community of Sixmilebridge and Kilmurry. We want to take a new approach, to take risks and connect with the reality of people's lives. For many in our community our sacraments and mass continue to have a major influence on their lives and we are all the time trying to help people to connect in a meaningful way to these sacred times.

On the other hand we are also putting in place other initiatives that are intended to reach out to other people "where they are at!"

Fr. Harry Bohan

We remember with love and affection our departed loved ones in 2007.

Tom McNerney, Tracey Phelan Bechdari, Declan Gallagher, Chrissie Chaplin, Maureen Shaw, Dansy Reddan, John Begley, Tom Casey, Bibi Keane, Stephen Kiely, Fergus Maxwell, Sylvia Roche-Kelly, Karen Staed, Nancy Burns, Michael McNerney, Mary McNamara

Baptisms

We welcome our newly Baptised in 2007....

Oisin O'Grady, Louise Devanney, Beibhinn Harrington, Bobby Jordan, Sarah Egan, Cian Caffrey, James Muldoon, Sean Murnane, Freye Loughnane, Dylan Kearney-Kierse, Lauren Kearney Kierse, John Deasy, Luke McHugh, Fionn Campbell, Kiera O'Connor, Diarmad Keane, Darragh Leyden, Jacob Bannon, Dylan Maher-Taylor, Darragh Whyte, Molly Toomey, Odhran Frazer, James Lynch, Molly Flynn, Abby Fitzgibbon, Ella Conlon, Clodagh Cadogan Walsh, Ben Kelly-Greene, Cameron McDonald, Ciara Minihan, Megan Dunne, Ciara O'Leary, Micheal Egan, Thomas Fennell, Killian Downes, Chloe O'Halloran, Aoife Holland, Elyse O'Brien, Ruby Sheedy, Clodagh Custy, Lauren Hughes, Dylan Keogh, Dylan Enright, Ava O'Rourke, Leah Keane, Kate Connolly, Grace Barry, Hannah Fitzpatrick, Hannah Egan, Isaac Deegan-Green, Liam Heffernan, Harry Gavin, Madeleine Horan, Saoirse McMahon, Danielle Sheedy, Natan Szczesny, Filip Mendak, Patrick Lynch, Kylie O'Neill, Ethan Lucas, Killian Collins, Gemma Collins, Hayely Brooks, Peter Gilligan, Ella Murphy/McHugh, Luath Walsh, Neil Forde, Tia Frost, Mark Mullins, Cilain Murphy, Fionnuala O'Neill, Elliott Hudson, Cian Conroy, Siofra McNamara.



Forty eight children from our Parish received First Holy Communion.

Niamh Carroll, Holly Creamer, Chloe Frost, Sylvia Hodgins Fean, David Kowalski, Brandon Maxwell, Gavin McGonagle, Fergus Mullane, Dylan O'Doherty, Tara Ryan, Ronan Tuohy, Eanna Chaplin, Louise Devanney, Maygan Griffin, Rachel Kelly, Sarah Loughnane, Coady McElligott, Cian McInerney, Olivia Phelan, Sophie Whyte, Gavin Fawl, Kyra Klein, Sarah McGonagle, Leanne Myles, Kim Stephen, Aisling Wixted, Aoife Barry, Sophie Bolger, Eleanor Donnellan, Aoibhe Frazer, Cian Hogan, Joseph Hogan, Emma Kennedy, Sarah Moloney, Caoimhe O'callaghan, Sarah O'Connell, Cathal O'Grady, Diarmuid Quinn, Paraic Ryan, Rachel Swire, Saoirse Youne, Dervla Murray, Edward Shannon, Caoimhe Connolly, Conor Hassett, Keelin Lyons, Melissa morey, Evan Quin

The Sacrament of Confirmation was administered on 29th April in Sixmilebridge Parish Church to forty six young people.



Eric Carr, Christine Collins, Conor Deasy, Darragh Devanney, Niamh Devanney, Brian Donnellan, Ciaran Dickinson, Pdraig Donlon, Colette Donnellan, Kelly Finnegan, Aine Freeman, Kevin Fennessy, Paul Finnin, Aisling Hassett, Christine Hayes, Mark Hehir, Nicole Kelly, Dale Knightson, Sheilagh Larkin, Glen Leamy, Rebecca Maxwell, Eimear Murray, Niamh Murray, Cathal McInerney, Dean McKenna, Stephanie McInerney, Tony McInerney, Adam Moloney, Alex Morey, Saoirse Mullane, Ashley mullins, John Mulready, Evan Murphy, David Murphy, Aideen Murray, Stephen Murray, Gerard O'Dea, Donna O'Doherty, Kate O'Gorman, Mark Quinn, Marie Ryan, Keith Slattery, Rachel Scanlon, Sinead Touhy, Jamie Williams, Eilis Wallis.

Congratulations to all their parents and families



Sacramental Preparation

Intensive preparation has been taking place for the sacraments especially First communion and Confirmation - within the school, connecting the community with the parents and the school. These have involved the parish in a number of creative Masses with the parents and children participating. We are particularly grateful to Sr. Mary Nash and the teachers who have played a big part in all of this.

Touching Reality of Peoples Lives

January

The Pastoral Council spent some time planning the year ahead which included carrying out a survey of the parish. The growth in population left nobody in any doubt that there are major challenges facing this parish in the building of community and the provision of services – spiritual and practical.

February

Month of Healing. We celebrated the Feast of St. Brigid on Feb. 1st followed by Blessing of Throats on the Feast of St. Blaise. And on 11th February we celebrated the Feast of Our Lady at Lourdes.

March

In March we had a special week which gathered many people every day. It was our Parish Mission week. This was led by Fr. Tony Flannery and Ms. Ann O'Toole. The energy generated has brought incredible gifts to our families and community.

April

Easter Celebrations which included the Blessing of the Polish Easter Breakfast – *Poswiecenie Swieconek*. This is a tradition in Poland. People bring a little basket containing their Easter Breakfast to the Church on Easter Saturday. This is blessed during the ceremony and is eaten on Easter Sunday morning.



May/June

The Parish undertook a number of spiritual exercises. Each one of these was about bringing us into contact with our God. We asked Him in prayer to touch our souls, to deepen our faith and to help us be aware of His presence.

Our Mass in Ballysheen, our Novena to the Sacred Heart, our quiet time before the Blessed Sacrament, our Blessing of lilies, our ongoing prayers for people doing exams, our emphasis on Christian values for young people who have recently received First Communion and Confirmation – each one of these in its own way reminded us of the place of God in our lives.

At Home & Abroad

What went on in the Parish in 2007

July

"Know your neighbour Weekend"

This is particularly relevant in a community like Sixmilebridge & Kilmurry where so many people have come to live in the last number of years. The Parish / Pastoral Council's main initiative is working at developing a welcoming and friendly parish to all its parishioners.

Masses were celebrated in **Kilmurry Graveyard** on 13th July and in **Fenagh Graveyard** on 18th July



August

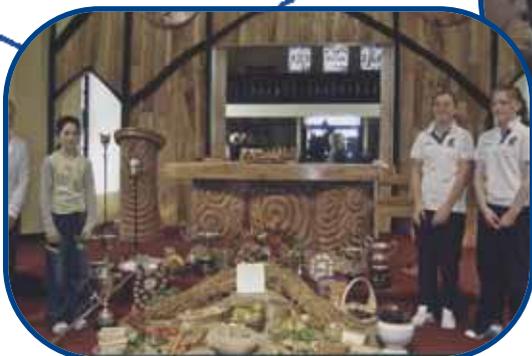
Friends & Neighbours - Area Gatherings.

A new experience of local Church began on 8th August with the first Gathering of Friends & Neighbours at the Grotto in front of Church View. This was followed two weeks later with a Gathering at Cappa Lodge. The next one took place in Ballymulcashel in Kilmurry and the 4th Gathering was in Clogga overlooking the hills and valleys of Sixmilebridge. Each area gathering was preceded by an invitation to gather. These have been a huge success and will continue in Spring 2008. A **Family Prayer Card** was distributed to all at these Gatherings and were also available in the Church.

September

This marks the Beginning of the School Year. Mass was celebrated for this occasion.

September 23rd was our **Harvest Thanksgiving Mass** where we celebrated different aspects of Community and Nature's Gifts.



What went on in the Parish in 2007 Cont'd



October

Meaning to Life Group was established in the Parish which is a sub-group of the Parish / Pastoral Council. A programme was put in place.

Meaning to Life

through	Music	Nov. 27th	Liam Lawton
	Spirituality	Nov. 28th	Sr. Stan and Niamh
	Sport	Dec. 11th	Packie Bonner
	Reconciliation	Dec. 12th	Fr. Michael Collins

These were four very special nights



November

We remembered our Loved Ones – especially all who died in the past year. We called them by name – lit a candle in their memory and placed it on the altar. This was a very special night.

December

We had our Christmas celebrations. Santa arrived just before Mass ended. He had a little prayer for all children in the Church before he hurried off on his busy night. On 30th December we celebrated the Feast of the Holy Family.



Links with the Third World

Links were formed with the poorest of the poor in deprived areas of India, Africa, and South America through people from the parish who went to work in these places with the support of the Parish Community. Initiatives included work with street children, building houses for the poorest of the poor, and support for people stricken with horrific diseases.

Upcoming Events

Friends & Neighbours

Area Gatherings:

May Eve 30th April 2008 - Deerpark 7.30 p.m.

It is hoped that this programme continues every 2nd Wednesday evening during the Summer in the following areas:

Ballysheen

Ashview Estates

Lakeside Mass

Mass at Bonfire - Rossroe/Feenagh

Cappa

New Estates

Kilmurry Mass – Harvest Festival

New Estates

Important Dates:

Confirmation 2008

Saturday 19th April Sixmilebridge Parish Church at 11.00 a.m.

First Communion 2008

Saturday 26th April Sixmilebridge & Kilmurry at 11.00 a.m.

BUILDINGS

Parochial Hall – Sixmilebridge.

Rent on this hall has been reviewed in the past year. For several years the rental income for the Parochial Hall has not been meeting the day to day running expenses. Therefore rental has been increased.

Kilmurry Hall.

At the request of the Kilmurry Hall Committee the parish has applied for the transfer of this hall to the ownership of the Kilmurry Community. This was the original intention when the hall was built. But for insurances purposes at the time the Parish took ownership of it. It is now in the process of being transferred back to the people of Kilmurry.

Ballysheen Graveyard.

Unfortunately this is still ongoing. Planning permission has been granted but National Heritage Association have stopped all work until they are happy that the area in question meets with their requirements. We are awaiting their decision.

Kilmurry Graveyard.

This committee have had a lot of work done in the last year at a cost of close on €4000. They hope to continue with this work in the coming year.





It is hoped that the great work which is being done in our parish as outlined in this newsletter is making an impact on your life and the lives of those around you. There are many challenges for us to meet and unfortunately ensuring that we have adequate finance to keep it all going is also a challenge that we are facing.

The challenges will include responding to the spiritual and practical needs of people whether it is youth, parents, married or single, elderly – in the reality of their lives. We have to find new ways of responding some of which you will see outlined in this newsletter. They will increase. There will be greater demands on personnel and financial resources. Routine expenditure costs will also have to be covered.

We are extremely grateful to those people who contribute so generously. However we are barely meeting our current requirements and will certainly not meet the demands into the future without more people contributing according to their means and the value you place on the services.

In relation to the contributions made in other parishes of a similar size to Sixmilebridge / Kilmurry we are contributing significantly less than other parishes and this is a disturbing fact in light of all the good work which is being done here.

In light of this we would please ask you to consider if you can increase your contribution or begin to make a regular contribution if you are not already doing so. If you need any further information this will be available at the Parish Office.

National Schools

Sixmilebridge N.S.	Ray McNerney, Principal	061-369544
Kilmurry N.S.	Peter Walsh, Principal	061-367623

Doctors:

Dr. Padaric Quinn	The Square, Sixmilebridge	061 – 369369
Dr. Kieran Hughes	The Square, Sixmilebridge	061 – 369722
Shannon Doc	1850 212 999	

Gardai

Garda Station, Sixmilebridge 061 – 369133

Youth Club

Frances Downes

Scouts

Josephine Roche

G.A.A. Hurling Club

Chairman John O'Meara

G.A.A. Minor Club

Tom Sheehan

Camogie Club

Clare Corry

Soccer Club

Barry Downes

Community Games

Margaret O'Halloran

Cultural Variety Group

Dolores O'Loughlin

Irish Dancing

Brady/Mullins School of Dancing

I.C.A.

Monica Doyle

Community Development

Rita Higgins

The Bridge Complex

Richard Cahill

Winter Walking

Mike Glynn

Athletic Club

Frances Keogh

Sixmilebridge Folk Club

Brendan Walsh

Sixmilebridge Fishing Club

Christy Tobin

Montessori Schools:

Parochial Hall,
Abacus Montessori School
Brookhaven Montessor School

Pre School:

Smartees Pre School.

Useful Telephone Numbers:

Post Office	Patsy & Tony Reddan	369171
Health Centre	Sixmilebridge	369427
Sixmilebridge Credit Union		369322
Kilfinnaught Library		369678

A Directory of Services in the Parish Community

Sixmilebridge / Kilmurry Parish Services

Priests Fr. Harry Bohan, 086-8223362

Sacristans: Sixmilebridge - Jimmy Corry; Kilmurry - Mary Walsh

Parish Office: Secretary - Puff O'Connor 061 713682

Bookings of Masses, Baptisms and Marriages contact the Parish Office.

The following parish groups work within the parish and may be contacted through the Parish Office at 061-713682.

Parish Group:

Contact:

Parish / Pastoral Council

Chairman - Christy O'Connor

Readers and Eucharistic Ministers

Parish Office

These ministries represent a significant lay participation in the liturgy

Church Carers

Maureen Gallagher

The Church Carers look after the cleaning of the Church

Meaning to Life Group

Fr. Harry Bohan

Children's Liturgy

Orla Deighan

A special liturgy for young children is organised at the Sunday Mass

Choir

Brid Dillon (Sixmilebridge)
Catherine Earley (Kilmurry)

Finance

Tom O'Dea / Marie Cooney

Manage the Parish Finances

Church Flowers

Ita Tangney

Decorating the Church is important and the Church Flowers group organise and arrange the floral decorations.

St. Joseph's Young Priests Society

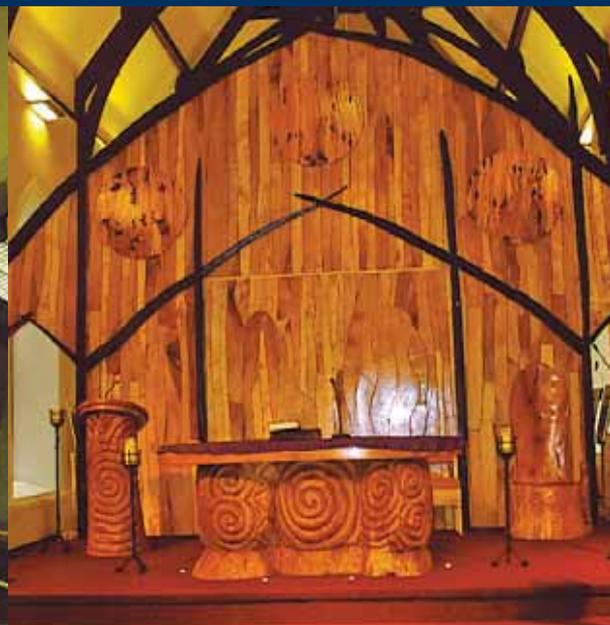
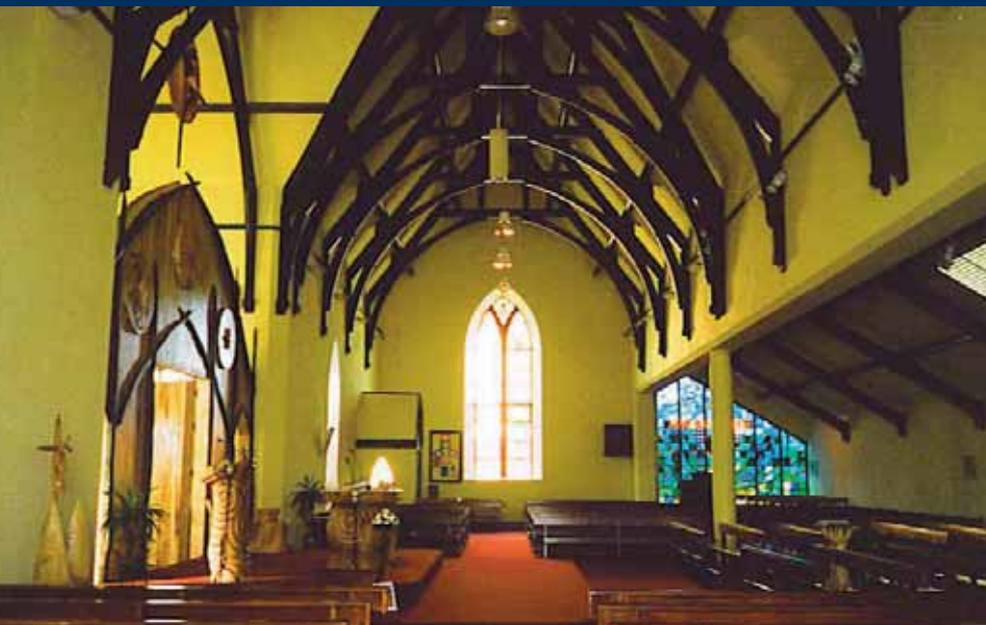
Bridie Quinn

Promote and foster vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Apostolic Work Society

May Frost

Make and supply vestments and other liturgical needs for the foreign missions.



Contact us...

Priests:

Fr. Harry Bohan 086-8223362

Sacristan:

Jimmy Corry 061 369865 Sixmilebridge

Mary Walsh 061 367453 Kilmurry

Secretary:

Puff O'Connor 061 713682 Parish Office