

Mullavilly News

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The Magazine
for Mullavilly
Parish

February 2006

Confirmation 19th February 11am

This is the 7th group of teenagers that I have prepared for confirmation in Mullavilly. It is with great joy that I can look into the congregation and see some of those earlier candidates still worshipping with us, and even bringing their children with them. Others have moved on and are worshipping elsewhere. Sadly, many have failed to maintain a pattern of worship in church but we continue to pray that the seeds of that initial commitment remain.

Young people need as much encouragement as possible as they attempt to live out a life of Christian commitment. For parents, this may mean frequent taxi duties, holidays to suit "Summer Madness" dates, and setting the right example of participation in church events and worship. For all adults, it means holding back on the words of criticism (you can't go to church dressed like that" or "if you were a true Christian, you'd do what you were told!")

For the church, it means keeping up with the culture of young people and providing them with opportunities to worship and meet together.

In Mullavilly, we have a strong Youth Fellowship on Sunday nights, we participate in Summer Madness and diocesan youth meetings. However, our Sunday services still bring criticism for being too formal, dull and old-fashioned! I made the same complaints 30 years ago and every generation has felt the same. We are a large institutional church and change comes slowly. There is a fine line between a culture of gimmick and novelty and a culture of openness to change and willingness to adapt. Nevertheless, we still need to take practical and visible steps to show that we appreciate the dedication and commitment of our youth.

I believe that an environment that is comfortable for young people has more to do with love and attitude rather than shallow changes to words and musical style. Nevertheless, we still need to let our teenagers know that the church is trying to reach out to them and help them grow in their young faith. Please show them understanding and patience. Show your genuine love for them by speaking to them (even if they just grunt back!) and support them in their commitment (even if they never say "Thanks!") Above all, pray for them. These 13 candidates, and those who have been confirmed in previous years, have embarked on a journey of faith and commitment and we pray for every blessing on them. A large attendance on February 19th would be a great encouragement to them.

The 2006 candidates are:

Kathryn Bleakley;

Rachael Doyle;

Christopher Haire;

Elizabeth Harper;

Lee Jenkinson;

Andrew King;

Laura Maginnis;

Rebecca Maginnis;

Ashley McConville;

Andrea Moore;

Sarah Pearson;

Natalie Stewart;

Ian Vennard

The Very Revd Herbie Cassidy retires on January 31st. Herbie is dean of St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh and has played a major role in the life of our diocese. It was Herbie who invited me, in 1985, to Portadown as his curate. Mrs Ann Cassidy is the grand-daughter of the Revd George Montgomery, who was rector of Mullavilly from 1923-34.

The new Dean will be appointed by the Archbishop in due course and we pray for him as he considers his decision.

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| DATE | FLOWERS | CRECHE | SCRIPTURE | NOTES |
|------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Feb 5th | Ivy Money Penny | Wendy Hazley Julie Magowan | Natalie Magowan | 11am Holy Communion |
| Feb 12th | Edith McConville | | | 11am Family Service |
| Feb 19th | Carol Overend | Volunteers (18+) needed. Contact Christine Neill | Brett Hannam | 11am Confirmation |
| Feb 26th | Jean Hawthorne | Brenda King Jacqui Moore | Leslie Irwin | 7pm Holy Communion |
| March 5th | Carol Thompson | Brenda King Jacqui Moore | Helen McClenaghan | 11am Holy Communion |

Early coffee and scones on 12th at 10am by the Harper's and Patterson's
Refreshments after the Family Service by Beverley Stewart, Amanda Stewart, Wendy Kitchen & Wendy Hazley.



From the Register

BAPTISMS

1st December: Dale Terence William, son of Tony and Roberta Garner
1st December: Callum Philip, son of Philip and Michelle Crawford
18th December: Alexander James, son of Nicholas and Bronia Burnett
8th January: Joshua Harry, son of Paul and Suzanne Bennett

FUNERALS

26th November Everard Samuel Neill (Ballymore Parish)
24th January Joseph Albert (Brian) Finn (St Columba's)

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Baptism Anniversaries

(Cards will be presented at the family Service on 12th)

2nd: Ellie Roberts
4th: Joshua Nelson

Dates for February

Fri 3rd Assembly in TJHS
Thurs 9th 10:30am Ramblin' Rose

Tues 14th 8pm Bible Class
Wed 15th Institution in Ballymore
Thurs 16th 3pm Over 55 Club (old pictures of Portadown)

Tues 21st 8pm Mothers' Union
Sat 25th "Indoor" Car Boot Sale (by Primary School Parents' Group)

Mon 27th 11:15am Communion in Rathowen

Tues 28th 8pm Bible Class
March
Wed 1st 7:30pm Ash Wednesday Service

Rectory Development

Planning Permission and all the necessary Diocesan permissions have now been received and the Select Vestry hope to proceed with the extension and renovation of the rectory this Spring/Summer. A sub-committee has been formed to find suitable alternative accommodation during the work. They are looking for a four-bedroomed family house in the Portadown/Tandragee area.

On the back page, you will find an outline of the work to be done. Basically, it involves a new family room, kitchen and garage, and upstairs a new bedroom with en suite and the conversion of the small bedroom into a bathroom. The old study (which was originally the WC) will be incorporated into the lounge.

Coffee Break

A team of students from Portadown College are travelling to Kenya this summer as part of an exchange with a similar school. They will also be visiting a school in the Masai Mara and helping in an old people's home, which has become necessary with the missing aids generation. Two of our parishioners, Rebecca Patterson and Jonathan Harper, have been accepted onto this team. They will be hosting a coffee break (with scones) on February 12th between the 9:30 am and 11am services in order to highlight their trip and raise funds. Your support is greatly appreciated. Coffee will be served from 10am.

The Fridge

Sadly, "The Fridge", our successful Friday night youth club, has had to close its doors until September. Work and study commitments mean that our leaders are no longer able to continue with a regular weekly commitment. Whilst several people have kindly volunteered to fill in on a rota basis, the club needs at least three leaders who will be there every week. All new leaders must be vetted and receive training—a process that can take a long time. I am personally indebted to all those who have helped out this winter and to the teenagers who have made Friday nights so much fun. Hopefully we can reorganise and start up again in September. If anyone feels that they might be interested in leadership on a regular basis, please ask for further details of what is required.

A Helping Hand

Sam Black is now well established into the routine of Mullavilly Parish! In general, Sam will be preaching at the morning services once a month, celebrating communion alternately at 9:30am, and once a month at 11am, and supplementing pastoral visits one day a week. When the visiting involves the housebound, the ill or the bereaved, it is in addition to, and not instead of, the care you would usually expect from me. In my absence (e.g. during holidays), Sam will also handle any emergency pastoral care. All those who have already been visited by Sam have greatly enjoyed his company and ministry and his sermons in church have been both challenging and inspirational. We look forward to much more and I particularly appreciate the support which Sam and Angela bring.

We also extend a very warm welcome to our new neighbours, the Revd Shane Forster and his wife Kathleen. Shane will be instituted to Ballymore Parish on February 15th.