

Mullavilly News

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The Magazine
for Mullavilly
Parish

February 2008

Take Every Opportunity

It has not been a happy start to the New Year for several of our parishioners. Our sympathy goes to the families of all those bereaved: The families of Jackie Purdy, Billy Dermott, Billy Lappin and George Spence.

Also in the parish, we faced a major flood which has left at least four families in alternative accommodation for up to 6 months to come.

Loss can be very difficult, especially the loss of a loved one.

However, I have been greatly encouraged by those who have told me that they can face bereavement because they have a huge deposit of good memories and no regrets—that they made the most of every opportunity presented to them.

“Making the most of every opportunity” is an excellent motto for the New Year or for Lent. I frequently get so frustrated when there has been a successful church event and someone says to me afterwards, “Is that over? I intended to go to that!” It has already been said about the Cathedral Service and will no doubt be repeated after the Country & Gospel Concert. Family Services, Bible Studies and visiting preachers elicit the same response—“I’m sorry I missed that but I forgot.”

We also miss many opportunities to serve, to love, to care. You could have helped your neighbour when they came home from hospital but you got distracted. You could have offered sympathy to your friend at work but you didn’t like to interfere. You could have encouraged your friend to talk about their anxiety but you didn’t want to appear nosey.

You never know when the last opportunity will present itself. The last opportunity to travel, the last opportunity to visit a friend, the last opportunity to worship in church, the last opportunity to forgive or to accept forgiveness.

This is why it is so important to live life to the full—to the fullest glory of God and in the fullest service of God possible. You may well think, “I wish I’d done that earlier”, but at least that’s better than regretting that you never did it all all.

**"Make the most
of
every opportunity"**

Contacting the rectory

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GENERAL VESTRY

The list of church members entitled to vote at our Annual General Meeting will be open for revision as usual in the last two weeks of February. You must be over 18 and not a member of any other Church of Ireland parish. Being entitled to vote gives you the opportunity to be nominated to serve on the Select Vestry.

Anyone on the list can nominate another member to serve as people’s churchwarden, people’s glebewarden or vestry member. (though you ought to ask their permission beforehand) Please contact the churchwardens for further information about the list.

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| DATE | FLOWERS | CRECHE | SCRIPTURE | NOTES |
|-----------|----------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Feb 3rd | Heather White | Tanya McKitterick Ann Rafferty | Rosemary Neill | 11am Holy Communion |
| Feb 10th | Leonna Whitten | | | 11am Family Service |
| Feb 17th | Yvonne English | Elaine Bleakney Valerie Doyle | Robert Chapman | 11am Holy Communion |
| Feb 24th | Jennifer Brown | Jane English Wendy Hazley | Mark Doyle | 7pm Holy Communion |
| March 2nd | Sandra Burns | Pauline King Jacqui Moore | Brett Hannam | 11am Holy Communion |

The Refreshments are still appealing!

The tea and coffee is an important part of our Family Service, giving us the opportunity to meet and chat and get to know each other. By being part of the team serving the refreshments, you are fulfilling a key role in our Sunday morning programme. It involves setting up the hall beforehand, preparing the boilers etc, serving the tea and clearing up afterwards. If you would like to be part of this at least once in a year, please contact Amanda on 38841916.

Safeguarding Trust

Safeguarding Trust is the Church of Ireland policy for the care and safety of the children in our care.

We are hosting a special training evening for the Rural Deanery on Wednesday 27th. All Sunday School Teachers, children's and youth leaders and representatives of all organisations who have any members under 18 are urged to attend.

In particular, our crèche has been highlighted in a recent review. It is important that all crèche volunteers attend this meeting to become familiar with the policy.

Baptism Anniversaries

4th: Ellie Roberts; 1st: Emily McMullen

From the Registers

Baptisms:

Dec 23rd: James David, son of Simon & Rachael Shortt

Dec 30th: Tim, son of Trevor & Siobhan Hamilton

Dec 30th: Tom Lawrence, son of Tana McIntyre & Christopher Foy

Burials:

Dec 12th: Norah Pedlow (Bangor Methodist)

4th January: William John (Jackie) Purdy, Laurel Park

6th January: William Dermott, Tandragee

8th January: William Lappin, Ballylisk

11th January: George Spence, Ballyworkan

LENT 2008

The programme for Lent will follow our usual pattern with Holy Communion celebrated every Tuesday morning at 10:30am followed by tea and coffee. Transport is available for anyone who would like to attend.

There will also be two bible study groups on Tuesdays Feb 26th & March 11th.

"Make the most of every opportunity"

