

Mullavilly News

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The Magazine
for Mullavilly
Parish

June
2007

DON'T BELIEVE THE LIE

This magazine is written with great sadness, anger and regret. There is sadness because, within two months, Stuart, 28, and Wayne, 15, chose to take their lives. The circumstances were very similar. The great anger is fired by those in our community whose actions have influenced Stuart and Wayne in their behaviour. In Wayne's case, as a 15 year old, those who encouraged him in his lifestyle choices are the child abusers—the taxi drivers who bring in the alcohol, the adults who go out to buy it, the people who supply the drugs and the older “friends” who have set a very poor example and are in need of help themselves. These people, who place pleasure and money above the welfare of our children should have heavy hearts.

The regret comes because I know that I, as a clergyman, and my church, could have done more. I could have spoken out earlier instead of ignoring the stories of what was happening in Laurelvale.

I could have pushed the parents harder so that we would have enough volunteers to keep the youth club open longer and to participate in fuller programmes. We could have taken our commission to care more seriously. But we didn't. Instead, we rolled our eyes and complained about the state of youth today—and did nothing.

So here are a few honest pointers. Feel free to disagree if you wish but I do not believe I have the privilege of keeping silent to avoid offence.

1. Think about what you're being told by your children. If you have the slightest suspicion that you're not hearing the exact truth, check it out. Frightened children will hide the truth.
2. Do not fall for the “everyone else is doing it” line when they want to go to the local night spots. It's not true. Offer to go with them and have a night out yourself!
3. Listen to what other parents tell you about your children.
4. Tell other parents about their children if you think there's a problem. Support one another.
5. Don't be ashamed to talk to a trusted friend about your worries. Involve your clergy/school/counsellors so that you can provide the best support for your child.
6. Don't assume your child is not involved. They probably aren't, but you can't be sure.
7. Don't feel guilty about being too strict or about invading their privacy. Your role as a parent is to protect your child. If there was a child molester out there, you would be vigilant. When children are being abused by alcohol and drugs, you have a similar responsibility to protect them. This is a difficult choice because it may damage trust and bring rejection. By this stage, the trust may have collapsed anyway. Children in trouble will do all they can to hide their activities from parents, but may ultimately be relieved to know that you know and that you still love them.
8. Don't give up. You're not helpless and you're not alone. A troubled child is not a sign of parental failure—giving up is.

Teenagers—your pointers are overleaf!

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Don't Be Over-Obtuse!

To our children

You probably have no idea how much love has been poured out on you this week. Parents have cried, they have lain awake at night, they've looked at you and worried. They've wanted to hug you, to tell you they love you. But it's not easy because they're afraid they'll embarrass you or frighten you or that you'll reject them. Instead, they have threatened you with grounding, told you to get on with your revision and tried to break up your friendships. Perhaps they have also been angry. I know I have been. Communicating with a teenager is not easy and sometimes this is how the words "we love you" come out!



If you were at Wayne's funeral, you will have heard Alistair talk about "the lie". This has been sitting on my heart all week and it has made me determined to fight "the lie" and show you the truth. "The lie" will tell you that life has nothing to offer except pleasure. This is not a new thing—can you remember how Pinocchio was lied to by the fox!! "The lie" tells you that you need to have at least 100 Bebo friends, that you need to be at all the parties to enjoy these friends and that you need to copy all these friends in order to keep their love.

"The lie" tells you that you can do what you like as long as you're not harming anyone. But look at the harm "the lie" has caused to Stuart and Wayne and their families and to you, their friends. They were kind and loving friends and sons, but "the lie" tricked them.



"The lie" tells you that the world is against you and you are of very little worth.

"The lie" tells you there is no God, or that God exists only to cause disaster, judgement and rejection.

To help you fight "the lie", here are your pointers:

1 You are loved. It may be difficult to see but it's there. I may get cross with you at times, but I melt easily because I know that you are a soul loved by God.

2 You can love. I have been incredibly moved by the way you have supported one another this week, especially through Bebo. You have expressed your sorrow and encouraged each other with words, photos and videos which have been touching.

3 Be patient with your parents. They don't know what to do. invite them into your life. Show them how to make a Bebo page for themselves. Show them how to set up MSN. Talk to them about their problems. They are worried.

4 Be aware of those who are trying to damage you. You are already wise about those who might try to harm you physically or sexually. You have been concerned for Maddy McCann. You know about these things. But you are still vulnerable, even as young adults. You

will be offered drink and drugs and drawn into a circle of "friendship" that you will have difficulty escaping from. Your soul will have been kidnapped and molested and abused.

- 5 Don't live in a popularity contest. It doesn't matter how many friends are listed on Bebo. The maximum number of true friends that anyone can sustain is 12! Most people can get by with 1 or 2. If you're happy with yourself and your own company, you don't actually need any!
- 6 Make the most of every opportunity that comes your way. Every school trip, every activity, every club. Fill your life and live it to the full. Demand the support of your parents to make this happen.
- 7 Walk to your own beat. Be different. Be confident.
- 8 Demand help when you want it. Keep a useful and trusted contact on your phone.
- 9 Never give up. Jesus never gives up on you. Don't give up on yourself.

I am available to you and so are many others. Julie Magowan, Amanda Stewart, Adam Pearson, and others can listen to you if you're worried about anything. You can find me on Bebo as colliedoggie, on MSN as colliedoggie@hotmail.com and text on 07989743545. We need to work together to save lives and heal souls.

DATE	FLOWERS	CRECHE	SCRIPTURE	NOTES
June 3rd	Valerie Milne	Ann Rafferty Elaine Bleakney	Robert Chapman	11am Holy Communion
June 10th	Margaret Neill			11am Sunday School Prizes
June 17th	Daphne Milligan	Valerie Doyle Jane English	Ian Howard	11am Holy Communion
June 24th	Brenda King	Susan Hannam Wendy Hazley	Mark Doyle	7pm Holy Communion
July 1st	Betty Beattie			10:30am Holy Communion

Dates for your diary

June

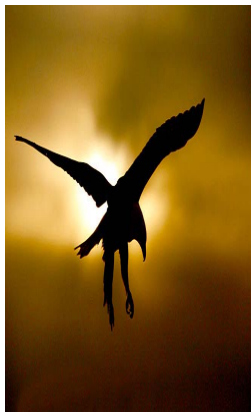
Fri 1st 8pm Soar
 Tues 6th 8pm Bible Study
 7th-10th Over 55 Sligo Trip
 Fri 8th 8pm Soar
 Fri 15th 8pm Soar
 Fri 22nd 8pm Barbecue
 Sun 24th 8pm Soar
 Thurs 28th Kilmore/Dobbin Institution
 Fri 29th SUMMER MADNESS

Family Service Refreshments on June 10th will be served by "Team Thompson". Geraldine, Wendy, Mandy and Judith.

Baptism Anniversaries

1st: Ben Black
 3rd: Abbey Mardell;
 Jonathan Conn; Molly Willis
 4th: Seth Bennett

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Mullavilly Parish



SOAR

Fed up revising? Need a break? Check out the Friday night "chill out" in the Parish Centre. If you're doing GCSE, AS or A2 or if you've finished your uni exams and want to meet old mates, this is the place to be. Check out Bebo Band Soar <14030> and become a groupie.

Soar Nights: FRIDAY JUNE 1st
FRIDAY JUNE 8th
FRIDAY JUNE 15th
SUNDAY JUNE 24th

8pm-11pm or later!

Food, music, wii, video and sofas—we'll make it up as we go along!
We'll just soar.



PS: Our sofas have been in the basement now for almost 7 years and need replaced. Good used sofas etc are welcome. Beanbags can be bought in B&Q and Tesco etc for about £15.

Adam is handling Soar but he will need help. Parents—you have a duty and opportunity to move furniture, sell tuck, make coffee and chill out in the corner without interfering in the fun!

Friday 22nd June

7:30pm

THE BIG MUSICAL BARBECUE

Featuring

Barney Greene's Country Disco

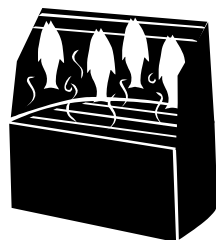
John McKinney Keyboard and Accordion

Scottish Dancing & Guest Artists

Compere: Rodney Clarke

ADMISSION: £10 (children 7-14 £5)

Proceeds to Rectory Renovation



TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM SHORTT'S, DAVY & EMO OVEREND OR MEMBERS OF THE SELECT VESTRY