

DURROW PARISH NEWSLETTER

COMPILED BY DURROW SCOUTS

PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS

Many of us remember the old people getting the 4,000 Hail Marys said for Christmas. We may recall too the not so old "Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the Pure Virgin Mary at midnight in the piercing cold. In that same hour hear us O Lord and grant our request."

In the office Book recited by priests, nuns and many lay people nowadays we pray to (i) Wisdom, the Logos, the Word of God in this way "O wisdom you come forth from the mouth of the Most High, You fill the Universe and hold all things in being, in a strong and gentle manner. O come to teach us the Way of truth." (ii) O Adonai and leader of Israel you appeared to Moses in a burning bush, come and save us with mighty power. (iii) O Root of Jesse set up as a sign to the peoples, come to save us and delay no more. (iv) O King of David, fill those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death. When he came to us as man, the Son of God scattered the darkness of this world and filled the holy night with his glory. May the God of infinite goodness scatter the darkness of sin and brighten our hearts with holiness. Amen.

So may your preparation be prayerful, your feasting be joyful and may the hand of welcome and an open door bring you happiness and joy this Christmas and many more.

DURROW/CULLOHILL COMMUNITY ALERT

With the long winter nights now with us we would like to remind the public to be on the alert, particularly during the Christmas period. The following is a few precautions to take for better security:

1. Do not keep large sums of money in the house.
2. Do not allow strangers into your home.
3. Lock the back door before you answer a front door knock.
4. Leave a light or a radio on during a short absence.
5. Ask strange callers to show identification.
6. Do not open the door after dark until caller has been identified.
7. Secure your home particularly when vacant even for short periods, lock windows and doors, if going on holidays etc., notify the local Garda of its duration.
8. Report suspicious persons to Garda, also suspicious vehicles, note make colour and registration number and report immediately to Garda by making a 999 call.
9. Keep an eye on your neighbours particularly elderly people living alone and if possible visit the elderly on a regular basis.

In the recent past we have had some serious fires in our locality, some unfortunately fatal tragedies, some of those occurring during the Christmas period. So perhaps we could suggest a few precautions to take,

1. Unplug unused electrical appliances at night.
2. Always unplug Christmas tree lights when leaving the house.
3. Use fireguards for all open fires and make sure it's in place when going to bed.
4. Never leave clothes over or near an open fire when going to bed.
5. Check flexible hoses and couplings regularly for signs of wear and have them replaced on gas appliances.
6. The majority of home fires originate in the kitchen - chip pans are particularly dangerous, never leave a chip pan unattended.
7. Never leave children alone in the house.
8. We would strongly recommend that every household should have at least one smoke alarm installed and a fire blanket would also be a wise purchase.
9. Make sure you have your chimneys cleaned twice a year.
10. Keep Christmas candles well clear of curtains and decorations.

continued over leaf.

COMMUNITY ALERT continued:

11. The smoke given off by modern furnishing materials can kill in seconds so if a fire occurs get out and stay out never re-enter a burning building, ring the Fire Brigade immediately.

In conclusion the Committee would like to wish all the Community a holy, joyful and safe Christmas.

HISTORICAL SNIPPET

by Joan Conroy.

Firstly I would like to congratulate my friend Ed. O'Brien on his lovely book An Historical and Social Diary of Durrow 1708 - 1992.

We are very blessed to have such a wonderful record of our past history for posterity and it is such a lovely gift to give to a friend at this time of year, especially our emigrants.

Well Christmas time in Durrow in my late father's youth, by the stories he told me, was a stirring place. The weather seemed always frosty, he used say the Nore bursting its banks at the Tallynoe would become frozen solid and nearly everyone in Durrow would spend many hours sliding on the ice.

Visitors coming to the Castle for Christmas travelling in beautiful carriages people standing at the entrance watching them as the gate man opened his gates.

The four bakeries were very busy and would take on young lads to help out at Christmas. My Dad had a job in Mercier's bakery, painting turn-overs with melted butter that made the crust lovely and bright. The four bakeries were situated as follows, Merciers now The Stores, McGraths at Sheppards Auction Rooms, Pratts at Mahonys and Fletchers where the Nore Nets is now. In later years Fletchers was owned by Mr Edward Dowling father of Jimmy Dowling, Derry Road.

Canon Carrigan was a kind and generous man and Dad told me this story about him. He would get presents of fowl at Christmas so he would be driven in the pony and trap by the priest's boy and he would make sure anyone in need would have a good Christmas dinner by giving away all the fowl.

Mercier's shop would not serve town customers after 6 o'clock, from then on time was reserved for country customers only.

Children around the fire would play a game called 'forfets'. A lighted stick would be held in hand and they would be chanting "Jack is alive and I hope he will live, if he dies in my hand a forfet I give". The forfet could mean going out in the cold to get sticks for the fire.

Christmas morning Thomas Sheppard, Patrick Street, then Gallow's Hill, on his trumpet would play festive music around the town.

FIGHT FOR SIGHT

Crackers for the Fight for Sight Campaign can be obtained from Martin Walsh, Mary Street. Phone 36456. 10 quality crackers price £5-95.

Proceeds from the sales help buy eye laser equipment, fund Eyebank Ireland and very importantly channel funds into research projects.

Boxes are also available at outlets in the town.
Please support this worthy cause.

SALE OF TRACK SUITS, LADIES AND CHILDRENS. Also selection of ladies clothes.
in SMALL C.Y.M.S. HALL on SUNDAY afternoon
at 3.00p.m. 20th December.

CONGRATULATIONS to Mary and Paul Cashin, The Course, on the birth of a son.

DURROW & DISTRICT CAMERA CLUB

The Club held it's two major competitions on 14th December. The competitions The Photographer of the Year and Print of the Year were judged by Alf Harvey. The Photographer of the Year consists of the five best prints from the photographers overall work for the year and Print of the Year is the single best print produced.

The winners for 1992 as follows;

Photographer of the Year: Winner - Eugene Meegan,
runner-up - Martin Walsh.

Print of the Year: winner - Liam Donohue,
runner-up - Paul Cashin.

Eugene was presented with the winners magnificent Joe Brophy Perpetual Cup by Mrs Mary Brophy.

The club goes on its Annual Night Photography outing to Kilkenny on 21st December where we meet up with some members of the Kilkenny Club for what should be an enjoyable night.

POKER NITE

Results for Tuesday 8th December;

Results for 15th December;

1st. Oliver Clooney
2nd. Sean Aylward
John Woods
Peter Kennelly
Richard Mc Geough
Kieran Spames

1st. Neil Dollard
2nd. John Woods
Elsie Stewart
Seamus Duggan
Sean Aylward
Mary Cashin.

THANK YOU: Pearl Senior wishes to thank everyone who supported the Cabaret in Gaughan's on Saturday 12th December in aid of St. Francis School. Those who attended and those who bought tickets but could not attend. I also want to thank the band, The Spanner in the Works, and all the local business people who sponcered the raffle prizes, T. Woods, P.Hennessy, B. Lawlor, Mrs Joyce, J. Freeman, J. Phelan, Mrs Lennon, J. Murphy, J. Ryan and Avonmore. Thanksalso to everyone who sold tickets and especially to Margo and Mrs Morrissey for all their help.

DURROW CREDIT UNION will open for Christmas and New Year on Wednesday 23rd and Wednesday 30th December, 7.30p.m. to 9.00p.m.

KEEMAN'S LOUNGE

Saturday 26th December Freddie and Special Guest (4 - 7p.m.)
Sunday 27th " Rhythem Kick
Monday 28th " Scottish Dollar
Thursday 31st " Mick Kavanagh

£1 admission on all nights.

Noel and Eileen wish all customers a very happy Christmas and a successful New Year.

CHRISTMAS WREATHS: Orders are still being taken for Christmas Wreaths. Contact Fred Townsend, Swan Road.

CONGRATULATIONS to Carmel (Campion) and Michael Murphy on the birth of a daughter.

HEYWOOD COMMUNITY SCHOOL

The Board of Management of Heywood Community School has been informed by Mr Liam Hyland Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture that a further phase of the improvement project at Heywood Community School, Ballinakill, will be included in the 1993 Building Programme. The Department's Planning & Building Section will be in contact with the school authorities regarding further detail.

OUR LADY'S MEADOW GIRLS N.S.

Congratulations to Rachel Tobin, who won 1st Prize in the North Ossary Pioneer Art Competition.

Well done to all our pupils on their wonderful performance in "Peter Pan".

The pupils from 3rd to 6th class are looking forward to their visit to The Gaisty Theatre on Monday for the Pantomime "Robinson Crusoe", and to their treat in McDonalds.

Our Christmas Fair held on Friday was a great success. Proceeds will go to the Missions.

School will close on Tuesday at 12 noon for the holidays and re-open on Thursday 7th January '93.

We wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

THE HOLY FAMILY BOY'S N.S.

The Holy Family Boy's N.S. will close on Wednesday December 23rd at 12 noon. The school will re-open on January 7th. A Christmas Mass will be held on Monday 21st in the school hall at 11.30am. All families of the boys are welcome to the Mass. Cribs and Christmas toys made by the boys will be on display.

SCOUT NEWS

Final bookings have been taken for Ballyfin '93. 28 Scouts have paid their deposits which means that if everyone goes it will overtake last Summer's camp in Achill as the biggest and best attended since the formation of the Troop.

By the time you read this the Troop's Scout of the Year trophies will have been presented. We will give full details in the next issue.

If any Scouts or ex-Scouts have second hand jumpers for sale please hand them in to Angela Drennan.

We would like to thank everyone who supported our Raffle and to thank all the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts who sold tickets. The result is as follows;

- 1st. Liz O'Sullivan, Ballykealy - Stared/Radio Cassette,
- 2nd. Noel Cooney, Erkindale Drive - Dolls House,
- 3rd. David Dunne, Erkindale Drive - Police Helicopter.

DURROW COMMUNITY SERVICES FAS

FAS 4 got started on Monday 14th December. Already the town is looking much cleaner and the erection of the Christmas Tree in the Square adds to the local Christmas spirit.

At the Committee meeting on Thursday 17th December a parish Lotto, being ran by local clubs, got the go ahead to commence on Monday 1st February. This Lotto will help to fund the FAS Scheme and the participating clubs.