

Durrow Parish Newsletter

Compiled by the Durrow Scouts

Fr. Jackie Robinson's OI' LOOK

"Judge not and you shall not be judged"

"If there is one among you who has not sinned let him be the first to throw the stone.... And one by one they went away"

When you look closely at this Gospel story of the adulteress there is nothing to suggest that the scribes and pharisees had judged the woman unfairly. After all she was caught in adultery, a serious wrong then as it remains today.

So where did the Scribes and Pharisees go wrong. Pious people they were on the surface at least. But deep inside their hearts were cold. They were experts in judging but they could show no love or forgiveness and that was what the woman needed.

How many of us are like the Scribes and Pharisees today? We find it so easy to judge and condemn and so hard to understand and forgive and the 'unfortunate' person need not be an adulteress, just someone looking for a little understanding - and you know nothing can weigh you down as much as your inability to forgive and nothing is quite so tragic as to live day after day with a sharp stone of resentment in your heart.

Unfortunately today, like Nazie Germany during the second world war, the virtues of understanding and forgiveness are often mistaken for weakness of character. Some people would say it is a sign of weakness not to hit back.

And yet many of the prisoners who suffered years of solitary confinement in Nazie Germany said they remained sane because they never allowed resentment against their captors to conquer their spirit.

This was also Christ's way. He did not retaliate against his persecutors. He forgave them, He loved them, He gave His life for them.

That may never be required of us. But we do have to forgive because we too need much forgiveness.

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Historical Snippet by J.J. Conroy

When the Asbrook Estate was going well, 3 game-keepers were employed to rear from the egg stage Pheasants and Ducks.

The Duck Pond was situated on Gay Lalor's farm near the Deerpark.

Big shoots were held and people from the Town were employed as boaters to get the birds into the air. It was a lazy job since they were almost tame as a result of the hand feeding. The day's shoot finished with a big dinner each night. My late father Michael Conroy told me this story. One very important guest was Count Moore from Roscrea. He would bring his own servants and before dinner each night Count Moore and his servants would retire to a room and say The Rosary.

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CONGRATULATIONS to Ann (nee Carroll) and David on the Birth of their Son Mark - a brother for Sarah Jane.

CONGRATULATIONS to Paddy and Breda Dunne on the birth of a son.

CONGRATULATIONS to Joe and Mary Donohue on the birth of a son.

CONGRATULATIONS to Michael and Angela Holland on the birth of a daughter.

CONGRATULATIONS to Martin and Claire Delahunty on the birth of a daughter.

### Feroige Club

The Stray Cats 11 Durrow Feroige Club would like to thank everyone for their kind support during our Fast and Stay Awake on Friday and Saturday the 26th and 27th of November. This event was part of the Christmas Share the Spirit project which all Feroige Clubs are involved in.

All the proceeds from the fast and stay awake will go the St. Vincent de Paul in this area. Thank you.

### Scout News

A good Scout Troop is run by the Patrol Leaders Council - P.L.C. This council is made up of the Patrol Leaders and sometimes the Assistant Patrol Leaders as well. The council meets once a month and draws up plans for all Troop activities.

The membership of the 3rd Laois (Durrow) P.L.C is as follows:

Evelyn Kelly P.L	Sean Delahunty P.L
Sinead Campion A.P.L	John McEvoy A.P.L
Ray O'Sullivan P.L	Vicky Walsh P.L
David Flaagan A.P.L	Niamh Drennan A.P.L

At a recent meeting the P.L.C discussed the Scout Outdoor Programme for 1989. As well as the usual activities, it was decided to make a return visit to the Log Cabin in Kinnitty which is set in beautiful surroundings deep in the heart of the Slieve Bloom Mountains. The troop is also hoping to spend a weekend on the Lightship Albatross which is harboured in Dun Laoighaire. This ship, which is owned by the Scout Association of Ireland, is staffed by fully trained instructors and to stay there would be a new departure for the Troop. Finally we hope to partake in a Sionnach Adventure in '89 which is aimed at the 14+ age group and is an exciting and adventurous weekend.

### Macra na Feirme

Durrow Macra na Feirme held their Annual General Meeting recently. Officers elected were: Chairman - Michael Fitzpatrick, Secretary - David Holland, Treasurer - Anne Moore, P.R.O - Larry Fitzpatrick.

The club affiliated ten new members and anyone else interested in joining are welcome. A sports night is held each Wednesday night in the C.V.M.S hall Durrow. On Sunday 18th December at 7.00 p.m Durrow Macra na Feirme are holding a Pub Darby. Proceeds of the event are going to the Irish Cancer Society. Contributions may be made to any Macra member for this worthy cause. This will be followed by a cabaret in the More Mats. Admission free. All are welcome.

### Durrow Community Council

Durrow Community Council will hold their monthly meeting on Monday 12th December in the Durrow Inn at 8.30 p.m. All members please attend.

FOR SALE Boy's 3 speed bicycle. Suitable for youth up to 15/16 years.  
Good condition. Price reasonable.  
Telephone: 36141

### Durrow Bridge Club

Winners of Durrow Bridge Club:

1st N/S	M Drophy
	J A Kealy
2nd N/S	M Fletcher, P Scott
1st E/W	R Dempsey, C Byrne
2nd E/W	H Woods, B Cashin

SYMPATHY is extended to the Ryan Family Carrign St. on their recent breavement.

## C.Y.M.S NEWS

The annual Christmas festivities begin in the C.Y.M.S hall on Saturday 10th December after evening Mass with Wheel of Fortune and on Sunday 11th December the bazaar commences with Santa Claus arriving at the hall at 2.00 p.m sharp. There are lots of prizes to be won on the wheel of fortune - soft toys, biscuits, turkeys and hams galore and lots more. There is also a cake stall, bottle stall and darts - something for everyone.

The C.Y.M.S would greatly appreciate your support. Lack of funds is a problem because of renovation work on the billiard section and decorating the main hall.

The activities that are carried on in the C.Y.M.S are numerous and varied and many clubs make use of the facilities available. For instance, the Bridge Club uses the small hall of the C.Y.M.S every Wednesday night, as does Maura Shanahan who holds dancing classes there every week. This section of the C.Y.M.S is greatly in demand for I.C.A Cake Sales, Foroige Fasts, A.G.M's of many clubs including the G.A.A and Soccer Club and by St. Fintan's Residents Association. There is also a Poker session every Tuesday night and this has proved to be an outstanding success. Across the road there is snooker and billiards and a T.V Room while the main hall is used by the Holy Family Boys' National School every week for P.E and by St. Fintan's College for basketball. At the moment Michael Lanigan and Philip Monnelly are running an U-15 indoor soccer tournament on Tuesday nights. The hall is also used the the Scouts and Macra na Feirme use it on a Wednesday night. There is basketball and volley ball and badminton with the children having supervised sessions every Saturday morning (for badminton). The Soccer Club occasionally use it for training and the Camera Club use it for exhibitions and meetings.

Now that we have acquired an annual licence it is hoped that further activities will be held during the coming year - starting with a disco on Friday 6th January 1989 - music by Nicholas Mooney.

We are very lucky in Durrow to have such a facility available to the community and we would like to thank everyone in the parish for their continued support and generosity.

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### Lions Soccer Club

The recent good form of the Lions Junior team has continued with a very good win on November 27th by beating Bagnelstown 'A' 3-2. Scorers: K. Pembroke, P. Monnelly and N. Keenan.

Then on Sunday last the Lions played host to Baschaus (Dublin) in which the home team had a comfortable 5-1 win. Scorers: A. Starleton (3), R. Demsey (2).

On Sunday 11th December the Lions play at home in a local derby match with Clover Utd (Rathdowney). The match will kick-off at 2.30 p.m. and support would be appreciated.

The Youths team are not doing so well, they were beaten 1-8 away to Evergreen. The Schoolboys played Bagnelstown at home and won 3-0. On Saturday 11th December they play away to New Oak.

On Saturday December 11th the Lions hold their annual Church Gate Collection for Injured Players.

Also our tickets are on sale for our 16th Annual Christmas Draw which will be held on Christmas Eve in Keenan's Lounge.

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### Drophy's Precast Concrete Products Carrigan St. Durrow

Sills Lintals Flue Retainers Fire Lintals Single and Double Chimney Caps  
Wall Cappings Pier Cappings Paving Slabs Kerbstones Garden Edgings  
Fencing Posts Strained Post Strut Post Gate Post.

## Durrow Tour by Liam O'Banain

Now a brief account of some of the Ashbrooks.

Sir George Flower an English officer came to Ireland in the reign of Elizabeth 1, accompanied by 100 soldiers. His son William came to Durrow in 1664. He rented a house from the Duke of Ormand. His son another William got the title of Viscount Ashbrook. He built the present building in 1716.

There is a bit of romance attached to the 2nd Viscount.

In England on the Thames there is a ferry crossing. A girl once operated this ferry. She was Betty Rudge, the ferryman's daughter. The Rudges were of humble stock. It was a great thrill to Betty Rudge when a Viscount took an interest in her. He was young William Flower Second Viscount Ashbrook, a student at Oxford. He was born in Durrow in 1744. He had come for a days fishing on the Thames. He forgot about his fishing when he saw Betty. He found her utterly enchanting until she opened her mouth. Her speech was not precisely Oxonian. He realised what a gulf lay between them. However further meetings intensified his longings for her. He must have her but not without an Oxford accent. He solved the problem by placing her in a family of gentle folks whose fortunes had declined but whose manners remained intact. It is not recorded how long the tutoring lasted but finally she passed all tests.

They were married in Northmoor Church in 1766. The marriage is in the Church register

The marriage was a happy one. After giving the Viscount eighteen years of wedded bliss together with two boys and four girls ten years of widowhood she married again. This time to a distinguished clergyman from Oxford. Her children and grandchildren carried the humble blood of the Thames ferryman into the veins of the aristocracy of England. One of her granddaughters married the 6th Duke of Marlborough related to the 17th century Sir Winston Churchill and the 20th century Sir Winston Churchill.

Betty came to Durrow and became Lady Ashbrook.

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### Poker Club

Winners for Tuesday 28th November: £60 Jimmie Ryan  
£20 Billy Meade  
Other winners: Mrs Helen Woods  
Mrs McKenzie  
Mrs Marie Foley  
Mr Tommy Walsh

Winners for Tuesday 6th December: £60 Austin Bergin  
£20 Jimmie Ryan  
Other winners: Mrs Marie Foley  
Jack Murphy  
Frank Carrion  
K Mc Neill

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The Parents and Friends Committee of the Durrow Scouts would like to wish all our newsletter readers & sellers and those who supply news items every fortnight a happy and holy Christmas and a happy New Year.  
The newsletter will resume again on 6th January.

The Third Laois Durrow Scouts are holding their Annual Cabaret in the Durrow Inn on St. Stephen's Night. Music is by LARGO. There are Door Prizes of £20 on the tickets. Subscription - £1. All are welcome.