

DURROW PARISH NEWSLETTERCompiled by the Durrow ScoutsFr. Jackie Robinson's Outlook:GOD'S MESSENGER

I was visiting a parishioner in hospital. She is an elderly lady who had broken her ankle the previous week. She was giving me all the details.

She always takes an evening stroll, and on that particular evening decided to go down by the river to see if the daffodils were blooming. She found them, and their golden perfection reflected in the water, enticed her further.

Her eyes were on the flowers, and she didn't notice the rabbit hole. Her foot slipped suddenly down the hole, throwing her sideways with a jerk, and her ankle snapped with searing pain, and she was helpless.

It was beginning to darken, and my old friend was very afraid. She prayed fervently to God to send someone to help her. She heard someone coming and she called out.

A vision in dirty black leather came round the corner. He had spiky purple hair, and one ear sported three ear-rings. His jacket was covered with vivid, shiny, multicoloured badges. Some had rude slogans, more advertised musical groups. A great black dog bounded by his side.

My poor friend clutched her handbag tightly, closed her eyes and said a quick act of contrition, knowing that her end was nigh.

"What's wrong Gran?" a young voice asked. She cautiously opened her eyes. "Let me look", he said "and don't worry. I've done First Aid". Strong hands lifted and cradled her ankle. He made a splint from a small branch and a grubby handkerchief. "I'll get help now" he said "and I'll leave Elvis here to mind you. You get some weird types down here at night". He winked and left.

"He was God's messenger" she said "and I didn't recognise him".

Isn't that a problem to us all, recognising God when he comes to us? It's easy to see Him in the dedicated giving people. His hand and His heart are visible in the volunteers who look after the down-and-outs and the handicapped.

We don't see Him so clearly in the vandals, the dirty and the homeless drunks. But he is there in all his children, if we reject them, we reject Him. "You'll never guess who came to see me today" was the greeting I got a few evenings later. I made a few foolish guesses not to spoil her fun, but I knew immediately that "God's messenger" had come by, because on her bedjacket, neatly half way between her Miraculous Medal and her relic of Padre Pio was a vivid yellow badge, on which a smiling mouth gaily advised

"Have a happy life".

DURROW AND DISTRICT ANGLERS

Results of the Patrick Holohan Cup Trout Fishing:

1st	Pat Bouden	1-55
Joint 2nd	Michael Walsh and Jim Dwyer	92
3rd	Michael Monahan	70

On Sunday 14th August the club are holding an Eel Competition for the heaviest bag. All are welcome. Starting at 10 a.m. Weigh in 6 p.m.

RED CROSS

An advanced First Aid Course was held in the Castle Arms Hotel over the weekend 23rd/24th July. The following members of Durrow Red Cross Branch attended: Angela Donohue, Martin Fennell, Andrew Walsh, John Fennell, Sandra Walsh, Heather Donohue, Thomas Murphy, Tom Flynn, Freddie Townsend, Tina Dwyer, David Kenna, David O'Brien, Vincent Walsh.

Course Instructors were from the Kildare Area Red Cross.

HARPS CANOGIE

Preparations are well on the way for our forthcoming trip to Antrim. As you are all aware our fundraising has already started. We would like to thank everyone who supported our "Sponsored Cycle" last Saturday. Our next fundraising effort will be a "Cake Sale" Saturday night and Sunday morning. Delicious mouth watering cakes will be on offer very cheap. Please come along early and don't be disappointed. We are now looking for donations from other clubs in the town and private individuals. Any enquiries contact Tom Flynn.

HARPS G.A.A. CLUB

Congratulations are extended to the Harps and Lacin Senior Hurlers, Billy White and Noel Delaney, who have been chosen on the Irish Team to play Scotland in Inverness in the Annual Hurling Shinty International this weekend. This is a great honour for the two well respected young hurlers.

The minor hurlers played themselves into the semi-final of the Championship when they beat Borris-in-Ossory 5-5 to 2-5 recently. This was a very heartening and determined display from a very young Harps team. They now play Castletown in the semi-final and with the proper commitment and a bit of luck they might make it three minor finals in a row for the Harps.

The Intermediate Hurlers preparations for their semi-final took a nose dive this week when they were defeated in two league games. Maybe these defeats will serve as a signal to the players for a more determined and coordinated team effort for when they face Borris-in-Ossory in the semi-final on August 6th.

The senior hurlers had a fine 10 point win over Galmoy in the Galmoy Tournament on Friday last. These tournament games and the forthcoming O'Brady Cup are now being used to blood a team for an assault on next years senior championship.

With the championship drawing to a close the social committees thoughts will shortly be turning to our 2nd Annual Golf Outing. Anyone interested can give their names to any Committee member.

The under 14 hurlers continued on their winning ways when they beat Castletown by a wide margin in the semi-final of the Championship on Tuesday last. They now meet Portlaoise or Rathdowney in the final on a date to be fixed. These young lads deserve far greater support especially from their parents so Mums and Dads please ensure your presence to cheer on your sons on Final day.

The minor footballers were certainly out of their depth and easily defeated by the Heath in the first round of the football championship in Ballyroan on Wednesday last.

Training continues for the Intermediate Hurlers on Tuesday next in Cullahill and for the minor hurlers on Tuesday next in Durrrow at 7.30 p.m.

PIPE BAND COMPETITION

Pipe Band Competition on Sunday 31st July. Bands parading from the Square at 2 p.m. to the Contest Field. You are asked to come out and support this event and hear Irish Music at its best.

PLEASE NOTE

All notices for forthcoming parish newsletters should be handed in by the Wednesday evening prior to publication.

DURROW AND DISTRICT CAMERA CLUB

Durrow and District Camera Club held their meeting in the Durrow Inn on Tuesday night last. The members exchanged books on photography and also had a very enjoyable slide show.

The Club will display scenes of Durrow over the Bank-Holiday weekend in Alley's window. The town is now very attractive to photographers and the photos on display will show the results and efforts of all involved in the tidy town.

The Club is also holding a 10k Road Race on Sunday 28th August, 1988 at 3 p.m. sharp from C.Y.M.S. Hall, Durrow. Race open to all athletes, joggers and fun runners. Prizes: Trophies in all categories, certificate for all finishers and lots of spot prizes.

Also photographic Competition (all subjects). Money prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd in each class. Photographs on exhibit in C.Y.M.S. Hall on Sunday 28th August, 2-6 p.m. Closing date for entry Friday 26th August. For further details phone 0502 - 31500 or 056 - 33364.

SCOUT NEWS

Final preparations have been made for this years Summer Camp which is being held in Curragh Chase, Co. Limerick from 15th - 20th August. This years camp promises to be one of the best ever with a host of various activities for Scouts to take part in. Final date for payment of camp fees is Saturday 6th August. All fees to Maura Rafferty please. Remember places are limited.

This Sunday all Scouts who are intending travelling to the camp are requested to meet at the Convent Hall at 2 p.m. where various forms and literature will be given to everyone concerned.

The Scouts and Leaders of 3rd Laois Durrow Troop would like to offer sincere sympathy to the Mooney family on their recent bereavement.

CUB SCOUTS

The first District Cub Scout Camp took place from 15th - 17th July in the grounds of Ballyfin College. 25 Cubs and 7 Leaders from Durrow took part in the weekend activities which also included Troops from Mountmellick, Rathdowney and Abbeyleix. Activities included hiking, workshops on crafts, first aid etc., points game, swap base, campfire, obstacle course etc. For most it was the first time sleeping under canvas and a great time was had by all.

There was Mass on the campsite on Sunday afternoon which some of the parents attended, also the Investiture of new Cubs to the Troops. All those who took part in the weekend activities were presented with a specially designed badge to commemorate the event.

We would like to thank the Scout Leaders for their help in organising the weekend and to wish Pat Walsh and Angie Carroll a speedy recovery from their recent illnesses.

DURROW I.C.A. NOTES

Durrow ICA were deeply saddened by the death of one of their founder members, Mrs. Chris Mooney. Over the years Chris held the positions of President, Secretary and Treasurer. She was always ready to give a helping hand and was an inspiration to all of us. We, her friends will miss her. Our deepest sympathy is extended to her husband and family.

I.C.A. OUTING:

Our annual outing this year is to Clontarf Castle for dinner and to see Paddy Reilly in concert. The bus will leave the Square at 5 o'clock on Wednesday August 24th. All those hoping to travel please forward your £10 deposit to Rita Casey immediately.

We start our tour on the North side of Durrow. Crossing over the bridge we see an old building on our left. This was originally built by one of the Ashbrooks for his fishing and shooting friends. Later it was used by Carlo Bianconi for an overnight stay for his coach passengers and with a change of horses they continued their journey next morning.

You will forgive me if I dwell too much on that great man Carlo Bianconi. He was born in Italy in 1786. He was not a good scholar and left school at 14 years of age. At 16 he and three other boys were apprenticed to a man called Foroni. Their job was to mount and sell prints. They were sent to Ireland. Bianconi landed here in 1802 and his apprenticeship ended in 1804. He then started on his own. His prints were chiefly religious but he also had some of Napoleon and some of the English Royal family.

Now and then while going from door to door he was set upon by the local youths. On one occasion three boys attacked him badly and a local man came to his aid. He was no other than the apostle of Temperance Fr. Mathew. They became life long friends. His districts were Cahir, Clonmel, Carrick-on-Suir and Waterford where he met Edmund Rice, the founder of the Christian Brothers. They became great friends. On his journeys he called one day to Longfield House, a beautiful house with 1,000 acres. The butler answered the door and was very annoyed when he saw Bianconi. He slammed the door on him and ordered him off. Bianconi stood back and looked at the house and said to himself "what would I give to own that house". Forty two years after he actually bought it and 1,000 acres for £22,000 - a very large sum in those days. The house is near Cashel and Holycross. I believe it is a guest house today.

He prospered with his sales so much so that in 1809 he opened a shop in Carrick-on-Suir. While doing his rounds he saw the great hardship the people suffered having to walk fairly long distances sometimes in very wet weather. There was a great need for proper transport.

In 1814 the war with Napoleon ended and as a result horses and grain were cheap. He decided to buy a horse - £10 - and a jaunting car. His first Bianconi car started on the road from Clonmel to Cahir in 1815.

Trade in the beginning was slow but gradually improved. He increased his horse numbers and also carried the mail at half the price it was previously carried.

From his employees he demanded punctuality, truthfulness, sobriety and honesty. He gave each of his drivers a watch on loan. A breach of any of the above would entail immediate dismissal. He also insisted that no wife of any of his drivers could keep hens because the cats for the horses might go to the hens.

Club Amber Basketball Club

In August the San Francisco Golden Gaters Basketball Team will visit Kilkenny as part of a Nationwide Tour. Two games, which promise top class action and excitement, have been arranged for the visitors in O'Loughlin Gaels Hall on Monday 1st August at 8.00 p.m. and Tuesday 2nd at 8.00 p.m.

Sympathy is extended to the Mooney family Attanagh on their recent bereavement.