

Autumn 2009

Parish Bulletin > 2009

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Changing Times.

This time last year this item began "It has been a disappointing summer"! It is a pity that we have seen the same again even if it was warmer this year. This year we have the added burden of a deep recession. Most people are finding their livelihood reduced considerably. We are bemused by the commentaries of the "experts" and the wide variety of solutions being put forward. We pray that the Government will make considered and wise decisions in the interest of the whole community and especially the most vulnerable.

One commentator mentioned that during the boom years we seemed to have got rid of the beggary that was so common in Ireland. He also wondered if it were coming back again. I hope not. A recession like so many difficult situations or even disasters can bring out the best in people. We can hope that having shared the good times, even if rather unevenly, we can be generous in our sharing in the changed times.

During the boom years many people felt that we had become in some sense, very materialistic, that we had almost lost our soul. Certainly there seems to have been a decline in spiritual values. During that time there has been a marked drop in church attendance. Still in the midst of all that when we met a very difficult situation here in Kilbritten huge numbers rallied around to help and a great crowd came to pray for Ann when we laid her to rest. This was repeated all over the country when other communities had their own misfortune. It is particularly heartening to see so many young people gathering to pray in such difficult situations.



School Changes

We offer our congratulations and best wishes to Mr. Pat Deasy and Mrs Teresa O'Driscoll on their retirement from Kilbritten National School. Both of them have spent all their teaching life in schools in Kilbritten Parish. Both of them have left a very positive mark on generations of children. We thank them for their dedicated service to the Parish and to its children.

We also welcome the new Principal to Kilbritten School, Ms Karen O'Donovan. We wish her well in her new position. Ms O'Donovan is a native of Innishannon and has been teaching in Innishannon in her most recent post.

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Trocaire

The response to the **Trocaire Lenten Campaign** this year yielded €1,680.00. A grateful "thank you" to all who contributed. The figure was down about €300.00 on last years figure. The contribution has been falling slightly each year for the past four years. However the contribution has been very generous over these years.

It is sad to see in the Irish Catholic that Trocaire are pulling out of four countries this year. This is due to a cut of 20% in government funding and a shortfall of 10% in donations from the public. The report says "This is the worst crisis the funding agency has ever experienced". They anticipate an earlier than planned withdrawal from five other countries in the coming years.



Parish Pastoral Assembly

We thank the PPA and commend them for the work in planning the Parish Retreat in April. We are grateful to Fr. John P. O'Riordan C.Ss.R. and Fr. Michael Dempsey C.Ss.R. for their vibrant contribution to Parish Spirituality during the mission.

The PPA will be resuming activity shortly, planning for the next year and preparing for elections to a new assembly in 2010.



Marriages:

Bernadette Twomey, Clonbogue to Aidan Hayes, Old Head.
Charlene Collins, Shanakiel to Colum Hurley, Bandon

My beloved is mine and I am his. (Song of songs 2:16)

Deaths:

Kitty Healy, Village.
Paddy Burke, Barleyfield.
Mary Desmond, Ballycatten.
Danny Hickey, Village
Ned McSweeney, Garryndruig.

God's grace and mercy are with those he has chosen. (Wisdom 4:15)



Autumn Stations

Saturday 22nd August:

Margaret Hurley Ballymore 11.00 a.m.

Friday 28th August:

John and Helen O'Neill Glendubh West 8.00 p.m.

Saturday 19th September:

Ger and Chris Ahern Granfeen 11.00 a.m.

Saturday 3rd October:

Philip and Mary Fullam Maulnaskimlehane 11.00 a.m.



First Friday Adoration

The **Blessed Sacrament** is on the Altar, in Kilbrittain Church
each First Friday from 8.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.

People are welcome to come for whatever time suits, five minutes or for the hour.
