



COBH PARISH NEWSLETTER

St. Patrick's Day

17th March 2019



ST PATRICK'S DAY (Second Sunday of Lent)

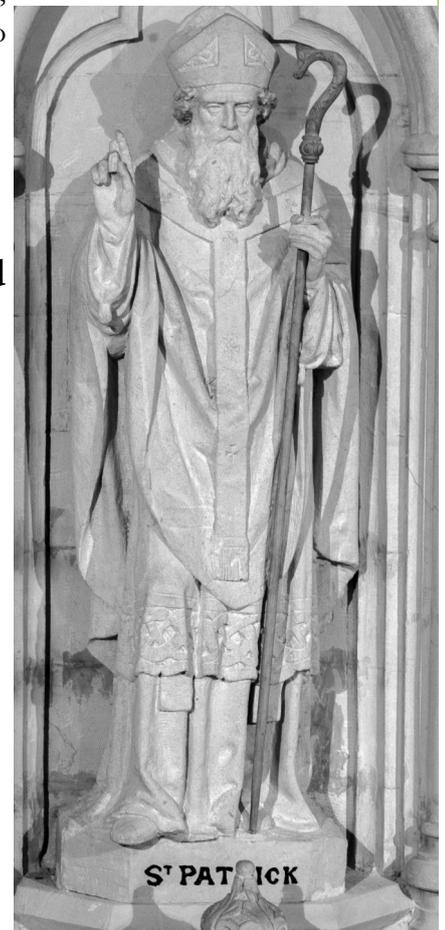
There is a lovely account in a book called "Nineteen Acres", written by the late John Healy, of a family emigrating from County Mayo and the gathering in their home the night before they left. It was a sadly all too familiar gathering and neighbours knew there was a strong likelihood they would not meet this family again. I can't remember all the details but one that stayed with me was that of one of the neighbours taking turf from the fire of the emigrating family and bringing it home and adding it to their fire. The idea being that this sod of turf would not burn out but become part of another fire and would continue to burn in the hope that the family might one day return and that the fire would again be brought to their home from the fireplace of the neighbour. I suppose you could call it a sort of "Eternal Flame". I was impressed by that image and it has stayed with me through the years. As we celebrate St Patrick's Day, we recall many of the stories and legends attached to his memory. One focuses on him lighting a fire on the Hill Of Tara, a fire that acknowledged pagan fires and customs of the past but paved a way for a new awareness of the Light of Christ. In many ways, we have sought to keep that flame alive ever since – passing it carefully, in story, through sacraments, prayer and liturgy, from one generation to the next. Our presence here today, gathered in faith on St Patrick's Day, may well be attributed to that flame. We seek to protect it, to be protected by it and to share it with a new generation. It is about neighbours minding neighbours, taking the flame and sheltering it that it may ever burn brightly. They tell us that St Patrick, in a dream, heard the cry of the Irish begging him to come back to them. Though here as a captive and now free and away from us, there was somewhere in him a belief that this distant voice could not be ignored. Not alone did he return, but he returned with purpose to bring us into relationship with Trinity. "I bind unto myself today, the strong name of the Trinity, by invocation of the same, the three in one, the one in three". Patrick truly made a difference and, as one nation to that one man, we say "buiochas" today. The eyes of the world focus on Ireland today. From Sydney Opera House to the Eifel Tower buildings and landmarks turn green. Parades will take place in every

corner of Ireland and throughout the world and St Patrick will be celebrated. Sadly, it has to be said, much of the celebration will avoid meaningful mention of his name and the day will be referred to as "Paddy's Day" or "Pat's" or something along those lines. Call it what they will, the truth remains that at the heart of this day lies a man who sought to make a difference, to light a fire and nourish a flame of faith.

In Trócaire's Lenten Campaign, is there room today for the individual among us to hear the voices of others coming across the seas to us? They are the voices of displaced people, others deprived of their rights, some victims of greed – collective voices asking us to help – to, like St Patrick, make a difference in their lives. Is there in us a heart that wants to keep their flame alight and to take the sod of turf not from their house to ours but our house to theirs so that they can live again and know the security of home and place again. It is certain that St Patrick's Fire continues to burn in our hearts and that fire cannot and must not be quenched. "Christ be my unchanging friend, guide and shepherd to the end."

**Image of the
recently cleaned
statue of
St Patrick
in the South
Transept of
St Colman's
Cathedral**

**Beannachtaí
na Féile
Pádraig !**



Cobh Parish Income: Collections for 10th March, 2019 was Cathedral €2,092.00, Norwood €381.00, Mount €195.00, Ballymore €103.00.



Baptisms: We welcome into our community Romeo Tsebedu, Calvin Kramer, Emma Collins, Harper Duggan and all who were baptised recently.



Deaths: We pray for the repose of the souls of all who died recently.

May they rest in peace.

TOUR GUIDES FOR ST. COLMAN'S CATHEDRAL 2019

The Cathedral is celebrating its centenary year and so we are looking for extra tour guides or 'ambassadors' who would meet and greet people as they visit St. Colman's Cathedral for the coming season.

Cobh will be welcoming over 100 liners to the town this summer. Most visitors come to see the Cathedral. Have you time to spare to meet and greet visitors during this special year?

Please contact the Parish Office 4813222 or Nuala on 087 7692311, if you are interested.

Annual Collection for Emigrants takes place at all Masses this weekend

The Council for Emigrants (formerly Irish Episcopal Commission for Emigrants IECE) is the response of the Episcopal Conference to the needs of Irish emigrants prior to and following departure. It shows the caring face of the Church and is particularly committed to the needs of the vulnerable involuntary emigrant. It is a significant voice on behalf of emigrants – condemning involuntary emigration and seeking rights and adequate services for them. It provides services for potential emigrants and, in conjunction with the host church responds to the needs of the Irish as an immigrant community.

Please note that due to the Bank Holiday that there is no 8.00am Mass this Monday.

Centenary Conference

Many thanks to all who organised last Saturday's Centenary Conference held at the Commodore Hotel. A particular word of thanks to Cobh Credit union who sponsored the event. There was a great turnout to hear the speakers describing the social and historical context of the construction of the cathedral, and various aspects of its architecture and engineering were presented. We hope to have photographs in the next newsletter.

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| V. Rev. John McCarthy, Adm. | 4815619 |
| Rev. Tom McDermott CC | 4812937 |
| V. Rev. Liam Kelleher | 087 8516984 |
| Rev Aquin Casey CC | 4813601 |
| Parish Office | 4813222 |
| Priest on Sick Call | 087-6872014 |

Cobh Parish Safeguarding Committee

The Cobh Parish Child safeguarding Committee meets quarterly in the Parish Office

Information regarding Child Safeguarding Policies and Procedures in the Diocese of Cloyne can be found at <http://www.safeguardingchildrenclayne.ie/>

LENTEN STATIONS

Tuesday, 19th March 10.00am - Cathedral Fr. John McCarthy.

Patrick's Square, Belmont Place, Elton Estate Carrignafof Tce., Carrignafof, Lakeview, Ballywilliam Est., Victoria Est., Joe Reid Place, Bayview Est., Michael Burke Tce., Hartlands Point, Foster Haven Cuchulainn Place, O'Rahilly St., Church St., Hill House, King's Terrace, Graham's Tce., Rose Hill, Sarsfield Hogan Place, St. Mary's Close, Mervue, Harbour View, Fr. Corbett Tce.,

Tuesday, 26th March 10.00am - Cathedral Fr. Tom McDermott.

Orelia Tce., Edmond Rice Crescent, Edmond Rice Close, The Park, Upper Park, Park Road, Park Tce., Ahern Place, St. Colman's Sq., Park Road Centre, Plunkett Tce., Aileen Tce., Ballyvoloon, Cloyne Tce., Barrymore Ave., Donelan Tce., French's Ave., Kirkwood Villas, Dawnview, Glenannaar Place, O'Sullivan Place, Glavin Tce., Stack Tce., Innishmore Park, Springfield Park, Pat O'Brien Close Ballywilliam, Cuskinny, The Drive, Inis Álainn

Wednesday, 27th March 10.00am - Cathedral Fr. Tom McDermott.

Lissaniskey Tay Road Ticknock, Hilltop Park, Hillcourt Drive, Hillcourt Ave., Hillcourt Grove, Carrig Eoin, Coolamber Close, Coolamber Ave., Coolamber Crescent, Coolamber Drive, Maurice Moore Place, Assumption Place, O'Donovan Place, Ringmeen Est., Summerfields.

Stations of the Cross daily at 3.15pm in the Cathedral.

First Confessions take place this week.

Thursday, 21st Mar - An Gaelscoil at 7.30 pm in the Cathedral.