



Ballyscullion Parish Church Magazine



Summer 2011

Ballyscullion Parish Church in the Diocese of Derry and Raphoe

Rector (*part-time*).....**Canon E.R. Lavery B.A. Dip.Th., GOE**

Contact details: 11 Drumnallagh Park, Ballymoney. BT53 7QZ Tel. 028 2766 9147

Rector's Churchwarden: Mr Robin Smith Tel: 028 7946 9481

People's Church Warden: Mr Wesley Davidson

Organist - Mr Fred Dunlop

Assistant Organists - Miss Julie Kissick, Miss Jill Lennox

Morning Prayer - Sundays at 11.30 a.m.

A Service of Holy Communion is held the First Sunday in each month at 11.30 a.m.

Sunday School (resumes September) 10.30 a.m.

Recording of Sunday Services

The church service is recorded most Sundays on to audio CDs by a small team which takes turns at the sound desk in the gallery. Copies are distributed on the following week to any parishioners who can't be present in church.

If you know someone who could benefit from one of these weekly CD's please contact Canon Lavery or one of the Church Wardens and it will be organised right away.



Sunday Crèche

The crèche will resume in September and is available to make it possible for all our parents with young children to easily attend Sunday services.

Parish website is www.ballyscullion.com

Members of the Select Vestry – 2011/12

Rector's Churchwarden:- Mr Robin Smyth
People's Churchwarden:- Mr Wesley Davidson
Rector's Glebewarden:- Mr John Junkin
People's Glebewarden:- Mr Andrew McQuillan
Rector's Supplemental Glebewarden:- Mr Jack Dowie
People's Supplemental Glebewarden:- Mr Ivor Milligan

Mr Jack Dowie
Mr Jackson Frew
Mr Robert A Overend
Mr Robert Overend (Sen)
Mr Darren Frew,
Mr Ivor Milligan
Mr Nigel Overend
Mr Andrew Overend,
Miss Judith Overend
Mrs Yvonne Davidson
Mrs Sandra Overend
Mrs Alva Overend.

Parochial Nominators:-

Mr Jack Dowie, Mr Robert Overend (Sen), Mr Andrew McQuillan and Mrs Sandra Overend.

Supplemental Parochial Nominators:-

Mr John Junkin, Mr Jackson Frew, Mrs Yvonne Davidson and Mr Victor Overend.

Diocesan Synod Members:-

Mr John Junkin and Mr Jackson Frew

Supplemental Synod Members:-

Mr Robert Overend (Sen) and Mr Nigel Overend.

Hon. Secretary – Mr Jackson Frew
Hon. Treasurer – Mrs Audrey Junkin

Parish Records

Baptisms-

- 27 February 2011 – MAYA JANICE, daughter of Jan and Maurice McKeown
- 12 June 2011 – ALFIE ROBERT ALAN, son of Andrew and Kelly Overend



Burials –

18 May 2011 – SAMUEL HERBERT DAVIDSON, 32 Oldtown Road, Bellaghy

29 May 2011 – ROSALEEN McCAUGHEY, 3 Parker Gardens, Castledawson (formerly of Beatrice Villas, Bellaghy)

8 July 2011 – LILY BELL, 10 Castle Oak, Castledawson

The Parishioners of Ballyscullion Parish Church express their sincere sympathies to all those who have been bereaved since the last issue.

From the Rector



My Dear Parishioners,

When Jesus was arrested and crucified, we are told in the Gospel that His followers all forsook Him and fled. For them Good Friday was the death of all they had come to believe and trust in. Their Master had failed, been publicly disgraced and humiliated. Now it looked as if Caiaphas and Pilate and Barabbas and Herod had all come out on top. On Good Friday it looked as if spite and greed and jealousy are the things which really count in life. Gentleness, humility and love don't have a chance.

Then came the third day. The shattered men and women were drawn together again out of their lonely hiding places and corners of fear and despair. They found a fellowship with common purpose – at the centre of everything, **JESUS**, who had been crucified and now was Lord.

Easter Day was a new beginning. Two significant facts stand out in the Resurrection story. The Risen Lord had shown Himself only to His friends. Forty days later He chose the risky and foolish gamble of leaving His cause in the hands of His disciples who had failed Him in crisis. In the second place Jesus came with the marks of the wounds. These were His credentials. Christians have always found it difficult to accept the wounds of Christ. We want to go from victory unto victory – we want a religion which makes us successful, strong and popular.

Again and again we live in a world that hurts and we have to learn to live with the memory of pain, personal defeat and uselessness. Out of darkness there comes a new kind of togetherness with God and with one another.

After forty-four years in the Ministry I have witnessed men and women who have picked up the bits and pieces, started again and with God's help forged a worthwhile life. They do it by enduring in faith, hope and love, in all the confusion of time and in the mystery of the Easter Resurrection. Christ saw both sides of life, the brightness, the happiness and on the other side, suffering.

“THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS BUT THE DARKNESS HAS NOT UNDERSTOOD IT”
John 1 V 5 NIV.

Our Easter Day services this year presented each one of us with the opportunity to begin again.

CHRIST IS RISEN **Thanks be to God**

Fresh Fruit Salad

2 bananas
2 apples
2 pears
2 oranges
225g black/green grapes
1 pineapple

2 kiwi fruit
110g caster sugar
275ml water
3-4 whole cloves
½ tsp vanilla extract



Place sugar and water in a small saucepan and let sugar start to dissolve over a gentle heat then add cloves and vanilla extract. Bring to the boil and simmer for a minute. Remove cloves from juice.

When cold, pour into a large bowl. Add grapes (washed and cut in half), oranges (peeled and divided into segments), slice top of pineapple, cut away sides and base, core, slice pineapple across and cut into segments and add to syrup, wash apples and pears, core them and cut into segments and add to bowl, peel kiwi and cut into slices and add to syrup, peel bananas last and slice into syrup, toss well. Cover bowl with cling film and chill before serving.

Sincere 'Thank You' from the Select Vestry of Ballyscullion Parish Church

The Select Vestry wishes to record its thanks to all of the following individuals and groups of parishioners who have made such valuable contributions to the life of the parish in the period from Easter 2010 to Easter 2011: -

1. All the ladies of the parish who have cleaned and provided/arranged flowers within the church during the year.
2. Mrs Gwen Lavery for organising the rota covering the cleaning of the church and the provision/arrangement of flowers.
3. Those parishioners who have decorated the church for the Harvest Festival and Christmas Season and provided materials for these occasions.
4. Mr John Junkin and his son George who maintained the rectory grounds, the rectory building and out-housing, particularly in recent times when the rectory was being vandalised.
5. Mr Andrew McQuillan who attends to the emptying of the wheelie bin every week.
6. Jim and Sarah Davison for holding and distributing the church and hall keys.
7. Mr George Junkin, and Mr John Junkin for operating the sound system in the church.
8. Mrs Lorna Crockett for the production and publication of the church magazine.
9. Those members of the parish who wrote articles for the church magazine.
10. Mr John Junkin who set up and maintains the parish website.
11. The organists Mr Fred Dunlop, Miss Julie Kissick and Miss Jill Lennox.
12. Members of the choir.
13. Thanks to all the Sunday School children who sang, read lessons, said prayers and lifted collections at the Family and Children's Day services.
14. The Sunday School teachers, Mrs Yvonne Davidson, Mrs Helen McQuillan and Miss Jacqueline Overend.
15. Mrs Audrey Junkin, the treasurer, for all her dedicated work in looking after the finances.
16. Mr Richard Frew and Mr Jean Frew for counting and recording the envelope money.
17. Mr Wesley Davidson in his role as People's Churchwarden, looking after burials and erection of memorials in the graveyard, as well as advising the Select Vestry on building matters.
18. Mrs Yvonne Davidson for ensuring a supply of wine for Holy Communion.
19. Mrs Gwen Lavery for servicing the communion linen.
20. Mr Jackson Frew in his role as Rector's Churchwarden.
21. Mrs Anne Overend and Mrs Linda Stewart for overseeing the collection of donations for the Love, Faith and Hope Foundation.
22. The members of the Select Vestry during the year.
23. Mrs Anne Davison for organising the collection of gift-filled shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child and to those parishioners who contributed the gift-filled shoe boxes.
24. Mrs Elma Overend for organising the tea for events such as the Christmas Carol Service.
25. To Mr Richard Frew and Mr John Junkin for all their research into the history of the church, families associated with the parish and burial records.
26. Mrs Gwen Lavery for organising the Mothers Union and to the members of the Mothers Union for being available to help with tea at special services and who buy and provide flowers for the decoration of the church at the Harvest Thanksgiving services.

27. All those involved in fund-raising activities during the year: Canon and Mrs Lavery for the Fireside Quiz; Mrs Winnie Moore and the late Mrs Lily Bell for the Cake and Bric-a-Brack stalls at the Harvest Supper, Mrs Winnie Moore for baking the cake which was auctioned; Mrs Jean Hudson and Mrs Annie McQuillan for the 'Guess the name of the Doll' competition, Mrs Jean Hudson for knitting the doll; The Transforming Community and Radiating Christ committee for organising the Treasure Hunt and Barbecue.
28. For the parish Treasure Hunt and Barbecue, thanks to Mr Jim Overend for providing the chicken fillets, sausages etc; Canon Lavery and Mrs Lavery, Mrs Yvonne Davidson and Mrs Anne Davison for providing the salads, cups, plates drinks etc; Mr Jack Dowie, Mr John Junkin and Mrs George Junkin for erection of lighting etc.
29. All those parishioners who took part in the entertainment at the Harvest Supper.
30. Mr Jack Dowie, Mr Robin Smyth for their continued maintenance of the church and parish hall.
31. Mr Ivor Milligan and the other men of the parish who cleared the ivy from the walls surrounding the graveyard.
32. Mr Wesley Davidson who kept the approaches to the parish hall and church clear during the severe winter weather.
33. Mrs Sadie McQuillan, Mr Andrew McQuillan and Mrs Helen McQuillan donating the beautiful storage cupboard in the parish hall.
34. Those ladies who supervise the crèche in the parish hall.
35. Mr Robert Evans for the cutting of the grass in the graveyard.
36. Mr David Overend and Mr Warren Overend for cutting of the trees in the rectory grounds.
37. All others who have helped in any way whose work is done quietly and without any fuss.

Ballyscullion Parish Graveyard

The following notice was placed in the Belfast Newsletter on Saturday 19th February 2011 and in the Belfast News on Thursday 24th February 2011. The notice was also published on the parish website and attached to the gates at the entrance to the graveyard.

"In accordance with Health & Safety and Diocesan Regulations, The Select Vestry of Ballyscullion Parish Church, Bellaghy, Co Londonderry, hereby give notice that:-

All glass covered wreaths, plastic covered wreaths more than 6 months old and all home-made surrounds must be removed by the respective families before the 31st MARCH 2011. Failure to do so will mean that the Select Vestry will have no alternative but to dispose of these items."



Those glass and plastic wreaths which were not claimed by their owners in response to the above notice have now been removed from the parish graveyard. They have been 'bagged', marked with the appropriate grave plot number(s) and stored in the Rectory where they will be kept until early 2012. This will give a further period of time for owners, who may infrequently visit family graves, to come forward and claim ownership. The Select Vestry is making every effort to comply with Diocesan Health & Safety regulations and at the same time be sensitive to the feelings of people who have loved ones buried in the graveyard.

Mussenden Temple, Downhill House and the Earl Bishop of Derry!

The great house at Downhill virtually restored >>>>

To the uninitiated visitor, Mussenden Temple at Downhill, near Castlerock, is something of an enigma. It presents many mysteries: Is it really a temple? Who built it and why? What could possibly be inside it?

A new book, 'The Earl Bishop' by lecturer and broadcaster Stephen Price, sheds light on the

fascinating story of the man behind the temple. The Earl Bishop was in fact Frederick Augustus Hervey, fourth Earl of Bristol and Church of Ireland Bishop of Derry. Born into a distinguished Suffolk family in 1730, Frederick Augustus was many things; scientist, agitator, art collector and Royal Chaplain to George III, who referred to him as "that wicked prelate".



In 1766 the eldest Hervey brother was appointed Lord Lieutenant of Ireland and he soon made Frederick Augustus the Bishop of Cloyne and then Bishop of Derry. The position brought with it a very generous salary. By his late thirties, Frederick Augustus had also inherited the estates of his two brothers and was sitting on quite a fortune. While the value of money is hard to measure over time, Stephen likens Hervey's wealth to the level of someone like Richard Branson. "The Earl-Bishop's annual income was twice what it cost George III to buy Buckingham Palace," he said.

Frederick Augustus started to put that fortune to good use. He was a philanthropist, bestowing his charity on the people of Derry. He built roads and became actively engaged in life in Ireland. One of his most lasting achievements was to put the Giant's Causeway on the map, both scientifically and as a tourist destination. "Hervey was interested in vulcanology, so when he's made Bishop of Derry he immediately gravitates towards the Giant's Causeway," Stephen explained.



<<< A computer impression of the interior of Downhill House

Bonanza time

"We now think of the Giant's Causeway as a big tourist attraction, but back then it really was the middle of nowhere. People vaguely knew about it, but nobody really went there. "Hervey was actually made a fellow of the Royal Society because of his work there. He established that the whole of that coastline was volcanic." Spending so much time around

the causeway was difficult for a bishop whose diocese was in Derry. If you wanted to travel from Derry to the North Coast at that time it was a good day's journey.

So, the Earl Bishop built his own holiday home at Downhill. "The reason he chose Downhill was because that was church land and he had worked out a clever technique where he could make church land belong to him," Stephen explained. "So it starts off as a holiday home and it grows and grows. He also starts making all these continental journeys buying art and artefacts and sending them back to Downhill. And the more art he buys, the bigger Downhill has to get to accommodate it."

At its peak in the 1790s, Downhill contained Rembrandts, Rafaels, Titians, Durers, Carravagios, artistic names that today would not be seen outside a major gallery. The Earl Bishop had a particular attraction to the art scene in Italy. "The art community in Rome used to love to see him coming because when he turned up it really was bonanza time," Stephen said.

It was in Rome that Hervey fell in love with a Roman temple dedicated to the goddess Vesta.

"Hervey wanted to buy the temple and bring it back to Ireland and re-erect it," Stephen explained. "But the Pope refused his offer. So he got his architect to sketch the temple and he built his own copy at the edge of the cliff at Downhill." The building was dedicated to the Earl Bishop's cousin Frideswide Mussenden - hence Mussenden Temple. Once built, it was used by Hervey as a cliff-top library and was ornately decorated inside as you can see in the 3D computer generated image on the right.



Underneath the building, Hervey built a room for Catholic priests to say Mass, a provocative decision during the time of the anti-Catholic penal laws.

Although a bishop in the Church of Ireland, Hervey was a powerful proponent of religious equality and dedicated himself to improving the lot of Catholics and Presbyterians in 18th Century Ireland. He financially supported, not only his own church, but those of his Roman Catholic and Presbyterian neighbours.

"He saw that Ireland would never be a peaceful place until religious discrimination was effectively ended," Stephen said. "There are things that he said in the 1780s and you read them now and you think, there's the next 200 years of Irish history'."

However, Stephen thinks the Sisyphean task the Earl Bishop had set for himself eventually ground him down. "I think that as he went on he became disenchanted with Ireland.

"He saw Ireland was never going to be at peace, he saw that people were going to keep fighting here and he was right. So he ended up spending the last ten years of his life in Italy."

The Earl Bishop may have finally given up on Ireland, but the people did not forget him. At his ancestral home in England, where he was buried, there is a huge obelisk. It was paid for by public subscription by Catholics, Presbyterians and Protestants of Derry. "I don't know of any other English aristocrat or Protestant bishop who has ever had all the faiths in Ireland come together to erect a monument for him," Stephen said.

Presentation at the Roe Valley Arts Centre

Stephen Price will present the 3D reconstructions of Hervey's works and give a talk on the Earl Bishop at the **Roe Valley Arts Centre on 17 August.**



Editor's Note: Don't forget that he also built a magnificent palace at Ballyscullion (you would have walked about 1/6th mile to have gone right round it!). He personally paid for the spire of our church in 1793, and four others locally, including the spire at the old monastery ruins on Church Island.

In Remembrance

Rev Canon F W (Fred) Fawcett – Moneysallin, Kilrea often conducted the Sunday services in Ballyscullion during the vacancy, prior to Canon Lavery's appointment. Canon Fawcett had a brilliant grasp of Irish history and the classics. He passed away in hospital on 10 April 2011.

Mr William Thomas (Tom) McKinley – The former popular Magherafelt traffic warden and Lay Reader of the Derry Diocese from Tobermore, who led the services in Ballyscullion on many occasions, has passed away on Thu 2nd June 2011.

newHORIZON

Unleashing
the
truth

NH2011 BLOG

May

Having Google'd the word 'truth' I got 378,000,000 results in 0.09 seconds! Everything from philosophy sites to jewellery sites, cigarette sites to perfume sites. There's even a drum kit site. Truth - a product ready to be peddled for the right price. Yet, as we all know in this day and age "*one man's truth is another man's spin*".

I'm quite fascinated by conspiracy theories. Did man really land on the moon? Is there really any chicken in a KFC burger??? Conspiracy - everyone has an opinion depending on which angle you look! This is especially true with Jesus. He is scrutinized and debated; accepted by some, rejected by others. Today in many parts of the wider world the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ is setting people free, and yet, sadly, in many parts of the West it seems to be making people flee!!

In the film 'Limitless' a man is given a pill that 'unlocks' the unused part of his brain. Suddenly he can understand things he never could before. Of course, as with all Hollywood films like this, there are dire consequences - but suddenly he feels a freedom he has never known, and his life gets radically changed.

I am very struck by the language used by people when they suddenly discover Jesus. In so many cases the description involves 'seeing the light' or 'feeling their heart warmed'. It's not something they have worked out logically - it's a revelation. It has 'set them free'. It's what you see all through the New Testament. People meet Jesus and they start doing the strangest things. That revelation doesn't happen by some academic process or scientific formula, it's a product of intense Holy Spirit activity, which goes far beyond any level of human understanding. That's one reason why people pour scorn on it, run away from it and try their best to dismiss it - because it doesn't make sense!! It's a topsy-turvy world - where to go higher means we go lower; where to see God you have to hide. It's a world where you lose to gain and die to live!! AW Tozer once said 'God cannot fully bless a man until he has fully conquered him'. The truth can set us free - it's just going to cost us everything.

Paul prays in Ephesians 1 that the church would receive a '*spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Jesus*' (NIV) - "*so that you can see exactly what it is he is calling you to do, grasp the immensity of this glorious way of life he has for his followers, oh, the utter extravagance of his work in us who trust him—endless energy, boundless strength!*" (The Message). This is not a theology of the mind, but of the heart. As New Horizon begins its journey of 'Unleashing The Truth' let's make Paul's prayer our prayer.....

'God, warm my heart again - send your spirit of wisdom and revelation so I can understand the hope that is found in Jesus and allow it to change my behaviour.' The truth sets us free only when we stop trying to work out how the truth sets us free, and we just learn the art of surrender.

Ian Hannah

It is maybe time to leave home, Kid!

When baby birds leave the nest, they are called fledglings. A fledgling is the equivalent of a teenager. They are too big and gangly to stay at home, they're keen to see the world and their parents are fed up with constantly feeding them. But how do you leave home when you hatched out on a cliff, in a pitch-black burrow or just a long way up from the ground?

Guillemots

Chicks leave the nest after only three weeks. Unfortunately the only exit route takes a huge amount of courage. Guillemot chicks are called jumplings, as they have to throw themselves off the cliff edge where they were born into the sea below. If they don't, they are at risk of being plucked off the cliff and eaten by a hungry herring gull.



Goldeneyes

You better hope you're not afraid of heights if you're a goldeneye duckling. Goldeneyes make their nests in holes or nestboxes in trees, high off the ground. So when it comes to leaving home, the tiny ducklings have to leap out of the tree, down onto the ground below, where they use their little legs to follow Mum to water.

Puffins

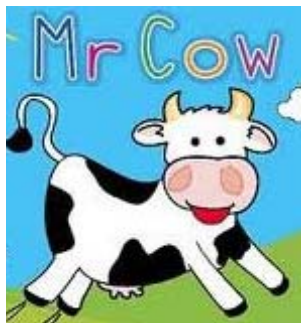
Puffins lay one egg in underground burrows. Once the chick hatches out, it stays in this dark sanctuary for about seven weeks, being waited on by its parents, who deliver high-protein fish meals. Because it's so dark, the parents and their chick never get to see each other. Eventually the parents get fed up and abandon the 'teenage' puffin. The hungry fledgling has to leave the burrow on its own, at night. The little bird then makes its way to the sea.

Swifts

Before swift chicks leave the nest, they do a few flaps and wing stretches to get used to the idea, before launching themselves into the air. They are as good at flying as their parents from the first moment they take off, and once they set off on that first flight there's no looking back. In fact, as soon as their minute legs have left the nest, they won't touch down again for two years! They spend all their time in the air. Swifts eat, mate and even sleep in flight.

Find out more about this topic and what to do if you find chicks in your garden from the website. <http://www.rspb.org.uk/wildlife/features/babybirds.aspx>

Family Service



Our family service took place on the 13 June 2011. The Sunday school children led the service with the chorus 'Mister Cow' and 'Better is the day with Jesus'. Our theme was 'Jesus accepts children'. Sam Dowie read the passage from Mark 10 v 13-16. Followed by a duet sang by Courtney Overend and Kathryn Mawhinney which was called 'You are the shepherd'.

Canon Lavery gave his sermon highlighting the importance of God in our lives from infancy to adulthood. This message was very suitable for the christening of Alfie Overend which took place later on in the service.

Fundación Amor Fe y Esperanza

(Love, Faith & Hope Foundation)

Once again grateful thanks for all your contributions towards the boys home in Venezuela. This year we raised £1375 and this will once again be put to good use by the directors of the Foundation. As you can see from the following report from Pastor Hands, much planning and thought goes into how all the donations they receive are spent. It is very encouraging to see that three new boys have been rescued in 2010 and three more are expected to join them this year.

Report for 2010 and Plans for 2011.

Our Main Objective

Motivated by Christian love, and conscious of our calling, our vision is to establish homes in Valencia, Venezuela and nearby, where children and youth in difficult circumstances can live, become healthy through good nutrition, education, security and love, to become well prepared adults who are useful to society.

Mission

Provide security, love, good nutrition, and education to at-risk children and young people in a stable home where they can develop in a wholesome, healthy manner.

Within the plans for 2011, we plan to strengthen the work with the children in the home. This year they advanced to the next grade, and in general all the children have produced good work.



We welcomed three new children, and they are adapting well to the Home. Two of our boys graduated from High School in July 2010: Wilmer Colmenares, and Jorge Luis Leon Chavez. José Gregorio Añez finished primary school and is learning baking skills in our bakery.

Goals for 2011



1) We are renewing our government permit and our operating plan for the Home, and this will remain current for the next five years. We hope to complete this process by the first trimester of 2011.

2) We will continue remedial classes for the new boys that joined us this year, so they will be able to attend school without major difficulties next year. They are being evaluated by a team of psychologists and teachers during the holidays. We will also be studying the possibility of receiving three new boys in 2011.

3) The boys will continue to receive music classes and participate in sports and other activities this year, as these activities help the boys grow and develop.

4) The bakery is 80% functional, with the goal of improving the products being baked, and we hope to improve the distribution of our products, in order to contribute to the self-support of the Home. There are plans to overhaul the van, in order to continue transportation to school and the distribution of the bakery goods. Currently the bakery is generating enough goods for the internal consumption in the home, and to purchase more materials for the bakery. When we receive the last donation from MELF (Finnish Evangelical Mission) for the bakery project, we will invest in several items that are lacking and we will improve transportation. We want to mention that there are plans to train other young people in the skill of bread making, in a partnership with an institution of the State (INCE), which has the goal of training young people in technical and business skills.

5) During 2009 and 2010, substantial improvements were made to the house and facility, to incorporate the bakery equipment. During the upcoming year, we plan to add on more space in order to take in more boys. We also plan to build a concrete water tank to store water, as we have experienced some problems with water shortages. We are hoping that several institutions, churches and individuals will help us make this a reality.



6) We hope to purchase a Vehicle in 2011 which will hold up to 12 persons, because the van that we currently have doesn't meet our transportation needs. We will use funds from the sale of the old car and a donation from MELF, GAW, and initiatives from several congregations and individuals who are always willing to help us in Foundation projects.

As I come to the end of our plans for 2011, I want to mention the great need that we have for a person from within the Lutheran community to serve as a helper and encourager to the boys, and to help Orlando and Yaneth (the houseparents) in their work in the Home. Up until now this work has been done by missionaries of the Finnish Evangelical Mission, but these missionaries have come and gone, and are greatly missed.

Finally, we want to thank God for your prayers, for your solidarity, and for the help you have given us, so that together we are able to move forward in the Mission Dei with the children and young people that God has entrusted to us.

For the Fundación Amor Fe y Esperanza:
Gerardo. A Hands (Pastor)

St Columb's Cathedral - Londonderry

Saint Columb's Cathedral, was the first of its kind to be built after the Reformation of the Church and is the city's most historic building containing displays of artefacts from the Siege, as well as information on famous personalities, e.g. Cecil Francis Alexander (the internationally renowned hymn writer), the Earl Bishop and the philosopher George Berkeley. It is dedicated to the name of St. Columba (Columb), the Ulster monk who established a Christian settlement here in the sixth century.



St. Columb's was built in 1633 by William Parrot for the Honourable The Irish Society and is in the Planter Gothic Style. The current tower and main building are that of the original Cathedral, with the spire being added in 1821. The Chancel was added in 1887 and the Chapter House in 1910. The Cathedral was built of stone from local quarries and skilled stone cutters and masons had to be procured. The old pillars and arches bear testimony to sound judgement and first-rate craftsmanship. The Cathedral has many fine stained glass windows, regimental flags, memorials and a large collection of historical items from the time of the siege.

The foundation stone in the porch, originally from the 12th Century Templemore Monastery of the Columban tradition is inscribed:

"If stones could speake, then London's prayse should sounde who built this church and cittie from the grounde" - Vaughan aed"

The peal of eight bells is the oldest set in Ireland, presented by Charles 1 in 1638.

Restoration of St. Columb's Cathedral commenced in February 2010 and was completed in June 2011. The Cathedral is now fully reopened and tours of the Cathedral and Chapter House Museum have resumed

C S LEWIS (29 November 1898 – 22 November 1963)

Many children and adults will have read, watched on TV, or visited the cinema to see the children's classic 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe'. This was the first publication of his *Chronicles of Narnia* – a series of seven fantasy novels for children and written by Lewis between 1949 and 1954.

Clive Staples Lewis was born in Belfast, spent his childhood in Belfast and worshipped in St Mark's Church, in the Parish of Dundela Belfast. It is also believed that the Mountains of Mourne inspired him to write *The Chronicles of Narnia*.



C S Lewis, known to his family and friends as Jack was the younger of two sons. His elder brother was called Warren. His parents, Albert and Flora (Hamilton) Lewis were both keen readers. Lewis had a happy childhood and he and his brother were both close friends. They spent long hours drawing and writing together. Warren liked trains and steamships, Jack liked "dressed animals" and tales of knights and chivalry. He fell in love with Beatrix Potter's stories and often wrote and illustrated his own animals.

At the age of 7 years he moved from Strandtown, Belfast (where he was born) to 'Little Lea' on the Circular Road, Belfast. 'Little Lea' became the family home, until 1930.

C S Lewis's parents were Ulster Protestants and he grew up being taken to church each Sunday. He was baptised in St Mark's Church of Ireland. Jack found the services uninspiring. They formed in him a distaste for Christianity that lasted into adulthood.

In August 1908 the boys' lives changed when their mother died. All that was settled, tranquil and reliable disappeared from their lives. He and Warren became more reliant on each other, but their relations with their father became increasingly distant. Lewis was then sent to a boarding school called "Wynyard" in Watford, Hertfordshire, England.

It was at Wynyard that Lewis tried to be a Christian. He made a list of resolutions and tried to pray each night, but he allowed himself to be distracted by worries about whether he was praying correctly.

Lewis became an atheist at 15. He was "very angry with God for not existing".

At the age of 32, owing to the influence of J R R Tolkien (an Oxford colleague and a close friend), and some others; he describes in his book '*Surprised by Joy*' how he was brought into Christianity like a prodigal, "kicking, struggling, resentful and darting his eyes in every direction for a chance to escape". His conversion had a profound effect on his work.



After service in World War 1, Lewis became a lecturer at Magdalene College, Oxford University in 1925; and Professor of Medieval and Renaissance Literature at Magdalene College, Cambridge from 1954.

Lewis married Joy Gresham (an American) in 1956. She died from cancer four years later in 1960.

Lewis began to experience medical problems and was diagnosed with inflammation of the kidneys which resulted in blood poisoning in June 1961. However, his health improved until November 1963 when he was then diagnosed with end-stage renal failure.

CS Lewis died on 22 November 1963 – the same day that US President John F Kennedy was assassinated. He is buried in the church graveyard of Holy Trinity Church, Headington, Oxford.

Lewis's works have been translated into more than 30 languages and have sold millions of copies. His books are still being published and read all over the world by Christians. It is impossible to list all of C S Lewis's books but the most famous are "The Screwtape Letters", "Mere Christianity", "Out of the Silent Planet", "Reflection on the Psalms", "The Problems of Pain" and "A Grief Observed".

Two memorials of Lewis remain in East Belfast – a stained glass window dedicated to Albert and Flora by C S Lewis and his brother Warren in St Mark's Church; and a bronze statue at The Arches, Holywood Road, Belfast portraying the young man *Digory* (from *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*). The sculpture by Ross Wilson, an artist from Northern Ireland, portrays Digory Kirke opening the door of the wardrobe for all those who wish to enter the magical world of the books and ideas of C S Lewis.

C S Lewis Tour



During the summer months – June to September 2011, each Sunday afternoon there are Northern Ireland Tourist Board approved coach trips detailing the life of C S Lewis.

The coach leaves the Linenhall Library, Donegall Square North, Belfast at 2.00 pm. and returns at approximately 4.30 pm.

Price - £10 for adults and £8 for children (under 16) and senior citizens.

The tour will take you to see Lewis's East Belfast home 'Little Lea', his school Campbell College and Saint Mark's Church.

Tickets are available from Belfast Welcome Centre (Tel: 9024 6609) or on line. Private tours can also be arranged.

News from the Ballyscullion Parish Sunday School

Sunday School Outing

The Sunday school trip this year was to the 'Finvoy Fun Farm' just outside Ballymoney and took place on Saturday the 19th June.



The weather started off dry and the children had lots of fun outside, followed by visiting all of the different animals. The Farm consisted of unusual animals such as curly pigs, deer, peacocks etc. After the children had lots more fun on the various activities, some of which included bouncy castles and go-karting, the day was finished off with a bite to eat. The children were brought in to the little café and were given tasty party meals. It was then time to go home, remembering to stop off at Mullin's ice-cream shop in Kilrea. The ice-cream, which


went down a treat to finish a fantastic day, was sponsored by Mrs Robert Overend (sen) and was enjoyed by all – including the three Sunday School teachers!

The Teachers would like to thank all the parents who have supported the Sunday school throughout another successful year and wish everyone a wonderful summer holiday.

See you all in September!!!

Congratulations

We extend our good wishes to a Select Vestry member, Mrs Sandra Overend who has been elected to serve in the NI Assembly as an MLA for Mid Ulster.

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To the People in My Life - (Author Unknown)

People come into your life for a reason, a season or a lifetime.
When you know which one it is, you will know what to do for that person.
When someone is in your life for a REASON, it is usually to meet a need you have expressed.
They have come to assist you through a difficulty, to provide you with guidance and support to aid you physically, emotionally or spiritually.
They may seem like a God-send and they are.
They are there for a reason you need them to be.
Then without any wrong doing on your part or at an inconvenient time, this person will say to do something to bring the relationship to an end.

Sometimes they die.
Sometimes they walk away
Sometimes they act up and force you to take a stand.
What you must realise is that our need has been met, or desire fulfilled, their work is done.
The prayer you send up has been answered and now is the time to move on.



Sometimes people come to your life for a SEASON, because your turn has come to share, grow or learn.
They bring you experience of peace, or make you laugh.
They may teach you something you have never done.
They usually give you an unbelievable amount of joy.
Believe it; it is real, but only for a season.

LIFETIME relationships teach you lifetime lessons, things you must build upon in order to have a solid emotional foundation.
Your job is to accept the lesson, love the person and put what you have learned to use in other relationships and areas of your life.
It is said that love is blind but friendship is clairvoyant.

THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF MY LIFE WHETHER YOU ARE A REASON, A SEASON, OR A LIFETIME!