

# Christenings at Star of the Sea



ESSIE WARD – parents David and Laoise (sister Aria)



MICHAEL McGOWAN – parents Tony and Linda



SIENNA CUSACK – parents Paddy and Sarah



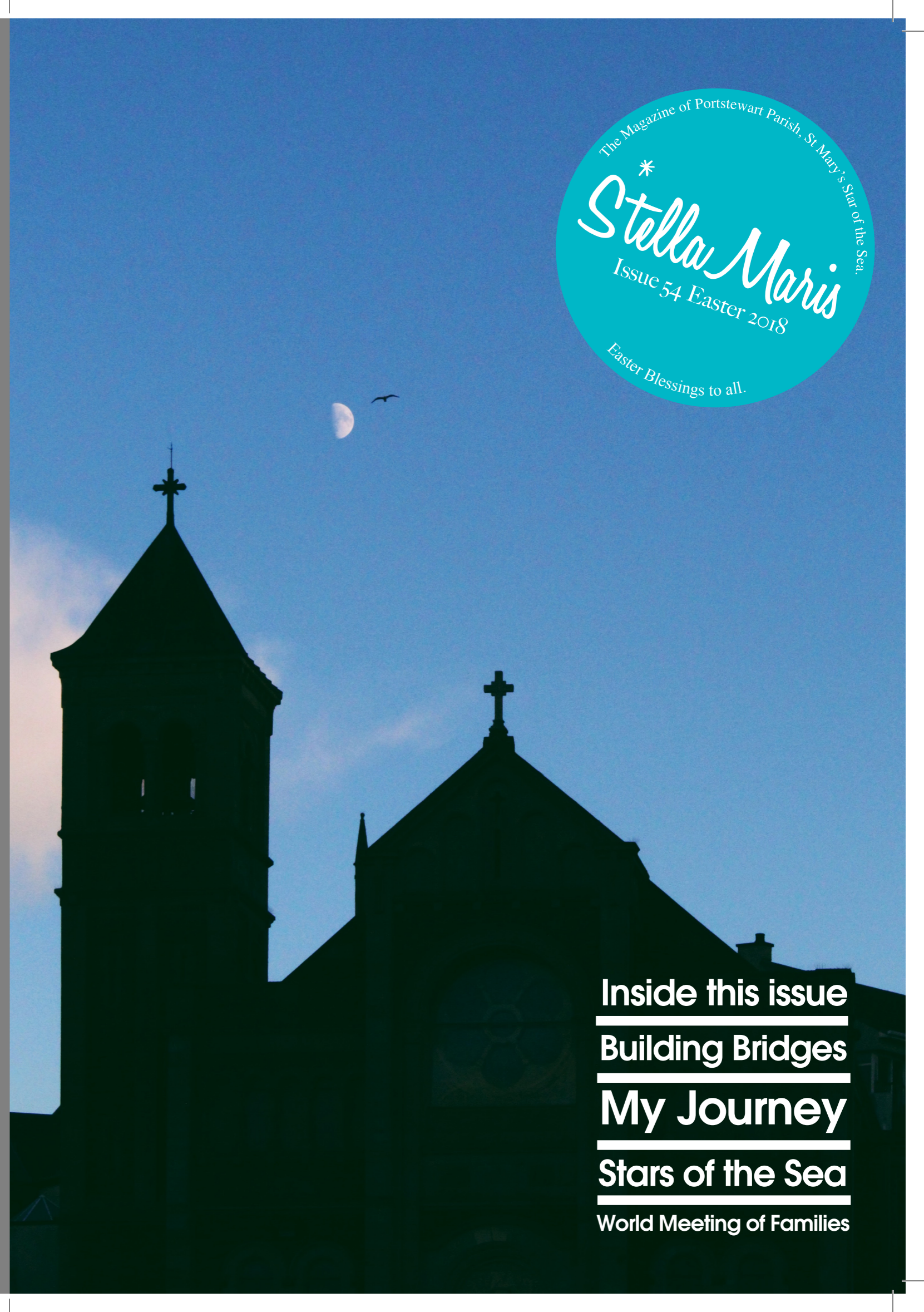
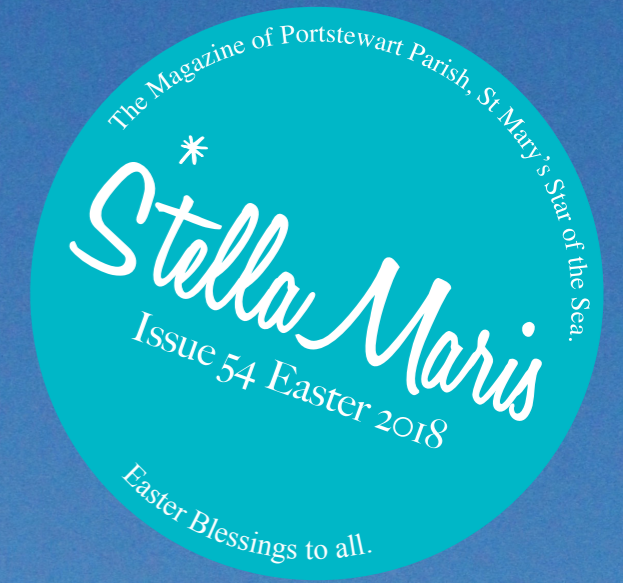
Thomas Dermott – parents Philip and Hellen



PETER HARLEY – parents Conor and Ita (brother Jarlath)



OLIVER OSBORNE – parents Michael and Debbie



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Cover Photo by: Abigail Doherty



## A Five Spot Burnet



It's a moth. It's a moth which can be seen locally in sand dunes in the day time but looks like it's all dressed up to go out for the night. It has five bright scarlet spots on shiny deep black wings and body. The Burnet is just one of the many magnificent signs of the creativity of the Creator; the Creator who said of himself "I have come that they may have life and have it abundantly." (Jn 10:10) We're blessed with the life we can see and experience all around us, in people and in nature, especially in Spring. At Easter we celebrate life; creation and redemption, having moved through Lent and the Liturgy of the Passion and Death of Christ. As one of the prayers at the Easter Vigil puts it:

"O God who wonderfully created human nature and still more wonderfully redeemed it . . ."

Easter includes all who suffer. Good Friday may continue in a very real way for them, but Christ is ever-present too. His words on the first Holy Thursday night are that his sacrifice would be "for all" and that includes us, here in Portstewart in 2018. Many people drop in to Star of the Sea for a visit, to pray before the Blessed Sacrament. Sick people have the services of Eucharistic Ministers and the priest bringing them Holy Communion at home. When we receive Holy Communion we are with One who has gone all the way to a glorious never-ending Easter Sunday. Christ's story is our story. His victory is our victory. Suffering is neither a sign of God's displeasure, nor that we're cursed, nor that we're distant from God. Jesus was God's Son and he suffered, but he suffered without losing faith that his Father was near, and loved him. Our communion with Christ gives us a little experience of the joy, exhilaration, relief, of his Easter, our destiny.

Father Austin

## Celebrating the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ

Back in the 1950's my mother discovered the American Baptist Minister and preacher, Billy Graham (1912-2018), on the wireless. He was an evangelical Protestant at a time when evangelicals and Catholics eyed each other with deep suspicion. When most evangelicals felt that Catholicism was sub-Christian at best, and many believed that it was not Christian at all." My mother's uncertainty over listening led her to think that she might, in the eyes of the Church, be committing a sin, but in the time honoured phrase, she couldn't help herself. Graham risked a great deal with his core constituency when he began building bridges between evangelicals and Catholics.

By 1961, Graham and President Kennedy prayed side-by-side at a Washington prayer-breakfast (despite Graham's voiced preference for the Quaker Nixon during the campaign). And a few years later, Cardinal Cushing of Boston met with Billy, upon returning from Vatican II, declaring before a national television audience that Graham's message was good for Catholics.

Billy Graham, had a lot to say over the years about Christ's death and resurrection, what he has called the two "most important events in human history." Here are some quotes from 60 years of his ministry.

"Without the resurrection, the cross is meaningless."

"The cross shows us the seriousness of our sin—but it also shows us the immeasurable love of God."

"God proved His love on the Cross. When Christ hung, and bled, and died, it was God saying to the world, 'I love you.'"

Our Easter celebrations mark the beginning of Holy Week, in which we Christians commemorate the crucifixion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Below Fr Austin has outlined the programme for the full week leading up to Easter Sunday.

In wishing everyone a very happy Easter, Adrian, Aaron, Eugene and I are happy to mention that Frances Wilson has joined the team. And that Abigail Doherty has stepped into her Dad's shoes. As always we may be reached through Eugene at the chapel gates, through the parish office, Ruth, email secretary@portstewartparish.co.uk phone 70832534, or myself farrenpt@outlook.com phone 70833042.

Patricia Farren

## Holy Week in Portstewart

### PALM SUNDAY 25th March

Blessing of palms in lower Marian Hall followed by procession into church at all Masses.

### Monday 26th March

Mass at 9.30am

### Tuesday 27th March

Mass at 7:00pm  
Penitential Service 7.30pm

### Wednesday 28th March

Mass at 9.30am

### THE EASTER TRIDUUM

### Holy Thursday 29th March

Morning Prayer at 9.30am

Parishioners are invited to the Mass of the Oils at 11am in the Cathedral

Mass of the Lord's Supper 7.30pm  
Please bring your Trocaire contribution to this Mass

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 11:00pm

### Good Friday

Morning Prayer at 9.30am

### Walk of Witness 2.00pm

Starting at the Harbour Hill, we carry a cross and pray with brothers and sisters from other congregations in Portstewart.

Liturgy (including Reading of the Passion, Veneration of the Cross and distribution of Holy Communion) at 3.00pm

Collection for Christians in the Holy Land.

Stations of the Cross at 7.00pm

### Holy Saturday

Morning Prayer at 9.30am

Easter Vigil at 9.00pm

### Easter Sunday

Masses at 9.00am and 11.00am

## Stars of the Sea

Pass the Herring Pond most mornings, winter or summer, and you will see a motley crew gathering for a dip. What is the attraction? Read on to find out why some parishioners regularly swim there.



James Harley with his daughter and granddaughter

A swim in the Herring Pond gives a massive adrenalin rush and sets me up for the rest of the day. It is my prescription for musculoskeletal pains and a cure for tiredness. My favourite months are September and October when there are fewer people and the water temperature is at its highest (15°). My children and grandchildren often join me for a dip. Dr James Harley

For me the regular swimming is as much about the walk down and the greeting of the other swimmers, as it is about the swim itself - we all connect around this small stretch of water. Seabirds and dolphins may pass by, a solitary seal often stays close until we are safely back on dry land and all this before breakfast!! Jan Kennedy

I have been swimming in Portstewart for many, many years and I now swim all year. I really enjoy feeling 'alive' - my skin tingles, senses buzz and a warm glow develops as I dry off afterwards. Whether the sea is calm or rough makes no difference. My grandchildren often join me and delight in the challenge of cold water swimming. Claire Loughrey

I started to swim in the Herring Pond in July, 2014. The first gung ho dive was a shock to the system and took my breath away. As I continued my body soon acclimatised and I now go in all year round. It promotes a good immune and circulatory system and provides a "joie de vivre". Also, there is a great camaraderie among the rest of the swimmers. Patrick McDermott

I started swimming in the Herring Pond in 1995 at the 'invitation' of the late Dr John McHugh. My initial reticence quickly evaporated as I came to enjoy not only the exercise but also the social aspect of the early morning gatherings. Although the number of swimmers tends to decrease significantly during the winter months (for reasons unbeknown to me!) there remains a nucleus of hardy souls

who brave the wintry elements in the belief (hope?) that total immersion in cold sea water is beneficial to body and soul. Seamus McClean

It's not easy to explain what draws me to the Herring Pond to swim, especially in the middle of winter when the water is icy and the wind a howlin'. I just know that by the time I get back into the car I'm going to be much better equipped to face the challenges of the day ahead than I was before I took the plunge. I feel totally reconnected, elated, alive and truly grateful. Catherine Morgan

Daily 'the women of the dawn' gather, in all months and weathers, for a collective immersion while the males cover abed until a later hour. Meanwhile Her Majesty's Pension Commissioners rage at the extension of life this activity promotes. Indeed, our own Dr Harley has been known to prescribe the Herring Pond to patients and has been observed exposing himself to its delights during clement weather. The Herring Pond provides a health giving and convivial meeting point for all ages and classes of folk from near and afar and long may it remain so. Terry O'Brien

I prefer to swim early in the morning as the sea water seems to awaken all the senses. For some years now I have been swimming through the winter and have not had colds or flu, so maybe the seawater is good for us. Our children and grandchildren also swim in the Herring Pond and we all hope to enjoy many more years of the benefits of sea water. Paul Regan

When I moved to Portstewart in 1980 I only swam in the summer months but as the years have gone by either the water has got warmer or I have got tougher and I now swim all year round. My favourite swims are the winter ones - for the rest of the day I have so much energy. For me a day without a swim is a wasted day!! Frances Wilson

If these comments have inspired you to join 'the Herring Pond Club' feel free to come along any morning although if you are a novice to sea swimming you might like to wait until the summer when the water has warmed up a little!

Frances Wilson



Seamus climbs out of the water



Patrick takes a dip





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**We invite all in the Parish to our family lunch**

**Sunday 17th of June**

**Star of the Sea Parish Centre**

**Hot Food 12pm - 2pm**

**Desserts 3pm - 5:30pm**

The World Meeting of Families Congress is a gathering that happens every few years where people come together to focus on family life. This year it is being held in Dublin. Some parishioners might be lucky enough to attend but many more will not. Since we would like everyone to have the opportunity to share some of the joyfulness and community of the World Meeting of Families we have decided to hold a parish event before the school holidays. We would like to celebrate family life by coming together to share food and craic at a free Sunday Lunch hosted by the parish.

Families come in all shapes and sizes, including people living on their own, so we'd like to invite everyone in the parish to join us for Sunday Lunch on 17th June at the Parish Centre. If you know someone within the Parish who needs some encouragement to come along, please let them know they're welcome and perhaps even give them a lift! Please save the date and come together to celebrate family life within our Portstewart Parish family.

Helen Conway  
Parish Pastoral Council

# My Journey

It is hard to believe that it is nearly 5 years ago that I applied to the Diocese for consideration to the Permanent Diaconate. It had never even vaguely been one of my life's ambitions. As a married man and father, (now Grandfather) although heavily involved in pastoral work, passionate about my faith and aware of the office, I was not completely familiar with the role that a Permanent Deacon would fulfill in the church. It was a combination of inquisitive approaches and conversations that lead to my inclusion, literally at the last moment. It soon became very clear to me, that this was a pattern of how God had worked in my life.

Being a married man in this process, to fulfill the criteria, my wife 'Angela' and myself both participated in a series of interviews and application forms including an essay on my faith journey. I then received an invitation to participate in a Propaedeutic year. (A preliminary instruction and spiritual formation period to further study) A series of Ignatian spiritual days and weekend retreats (directed by a team including our own Fr. Austin and the now Bishop of Raphoe: SJ Alan McGuckian) to help us discern if we had a calling. We started with 14 candidates and by the end of the year we were 12. This was for me an amazing experience and gift to faith on its own, had I not been invited to continue to the study. We are now approaching the end of the third year of study and 4th year of formation and our number is 11, one of who belongs to the Clogher Diocese. Each year during formation we have received minor orders, Candidate, Lector and presently Acolyte. Part of the formation has included a Pastoral placement. I was placed in St. Malachys Coleraine. An ordination date has been arranged in St. Peters Cathedral Belfast on the 14th of October 2018, for those who successfully complete the study and have discerned and accepted the call to Holy Orders.

At present I feel comfortable with the prospect of being ordained, however, this has not always been the situation. I continue to pray and discern daily. Ordination is a major commitment and leap of faith, that can only be accepted and implemented by complete surrender to God. It is not something I take lightly. The prospect of being called to be a Deacon is incredibly humbling and surprising to me. I have relied on the love and support of my family and friends and feel incredibly blessed by the many people who have supported, encouraged and prayed for me constantly through this journey. Sometimes I feel that if you need evidence that God has a sense of humour, (a comedian!) then He has provided it through my journey.

The Permanent Diaconate was reinstated to the clergy after

a long period of exile by Vatican II over fifty years ago. It is an office called to embody the image of Christ the servant; representing the church in the community. At Sunday Mass the only thing liturgically that the deacon is required to do is proclaim the Gospel, other actions performed during the liturgy, could also be performed by other ministers. The Service consists of three aspects, Altar, Word and Charity. The authority to perform the Sacraments of Baptism, Matrimony and Funerals at the Altar, then educating the people of God in all aspects of faith and finally to care for those who suffer in the community.

It has been said that the Second Vatican Council did not restore the diaconate because of a shortage of priests, but because of a shortage of deacons. This statement captures a most significant insight: the diaconate is not needed for the uniqueness of its functions; in fact, the deacon as I have already said shares most of his functions with others. Rather, the Vat11 council was signalling that what was needed was a new way of doing ministry, a way that sacramental-ise's the very servant-nature of the church, much as the ministerial priesthood of bishops and priests sacramental-ise's the priestly nature of the Church. An important scriptural element of ministry, left unfulfilled for century's.

Having lived through life's messiness, the deacon is someone who people should easily identify their own lives with and vice versa. Becoming a sign of great hope for all. The pastoral task is to stand with individuals and communities in these experiences and to help reflect on them, find meaning in them, and respond to them in ways that make sense and express our Christian identity. This experience provides insights to proclaim the Gospel message in a manner that is relevant to the community, in solidarity with them. God has restoratively called the Deacon out from the crowd to proclaim His unconditional love for them. Through sacramental ordination, the deacon is configured in a special way to Christ, who came not to be served, but to serve. In short, I believe that the pastoral role of the Permanent Deacon is to be open to and inclined to help fulfil the immediate and long-term needs of the people in the community in which he serves and a symbol of Christ's peace in the world. This can be a multi-faceted and complex role that calls for many different charisms, but it is also just simply being present for people where they are at, on their journey. Embodied and implemented with a deep spiritual connection, to the aspect of the Servant of Christ.

Terence Butcher

# Altar Serving

I serve on a Sunday morning at 9am Mass. I also serve Mass once a month on a Friday. I have become friendlier with the other altar servers. I have also become friendly with Fr. Austin and everyone that helps prepare for the Mass. I am very glad that I started altar serving as I now feel a lot more involved and useful in the parish.

Being an altar server has helped me to

listen more during mass. I have learned more about the life of Jesus and his disciples. Also, at Christmas or in the New Year Fr. Austin holds an Altar Server party and we play games and eat party food (pizza, sausages etc). I hope to get more involved in parish events in the upcoming year.

By Brianna Shaw P7

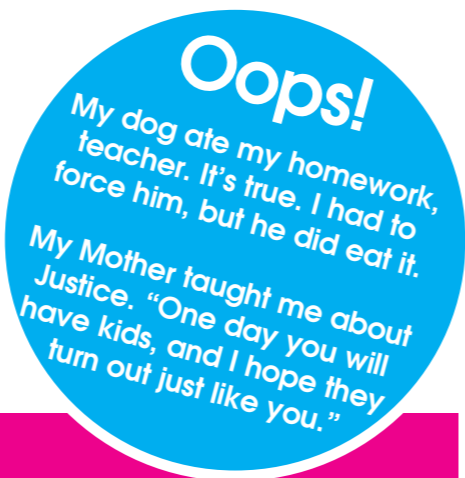


Parishioners Kieran Hill (second from left) and Terence Butcher (third from left) with the bishop and other student deacons.



# Outside the Chapel Gates

With Eugene Kelly



## Grandparents day

"A family that fails to respect and cherish its grandparents, who are its living memory is already in decline, whereas a family that remembers has a future. (Amoris Laetitia, 192-3). In St Colum's our grandparents are a special part of our families. They care for us, love us and are important teachers in

the ways of life and the ways of faith. This was made apparently obvious at the special assembly held in the school to celebrate Grandparents Day. The smiles and hugs shared by both grandparents and the children are testament to the importance that grandparents play in the children's faith development.



## World Book Day



Despite the importance of technology in the development of our children's education it still very important that we foster in our children a love for the written word. There is no better way to do this than to encourage them to get into the character of their favourite book on World Book Day. This is a fun way to encourage them to read widely when they see their friends dressed up as those characters. The school was a riot of colour and inventiveness as all the children and the staff of the school got into the spirit by dressing up. Who doesn't like a good book?

## Brian Lagan Retires

This photograph of Brian Lagan was taken on the occasion of his retirement as school's Estate Officer for Dominican College. Also in the photograph is Ms Ronan, Principal, who thanked Brian for his hard work and dedication to the College over eleven years. Brian replied by saying he valued the kindness and warmth shown to him by the Dominican family.



Congratulations to the girls football team on winning the Score All Girls Indoor competition.

# Building Bridges with Causeway U3A

Have you ever noticed how many newspapers have an item in their columns on Bridge and have you ever wondered what this 'Bridge' is? Well, ask any Bridge player and he will tell you that Bridge is a mixture of the most satisfying, the most exciting and at times the most frustrating card game ever invented combined with the bluff, uncertainty and thrill of Poker and the skills of Whist and Solo. Bridge is a partnership contest right throughout, and should the day go your way you and your partner can bask in the temporary glory of your success when your opponents offer congratulations as you move around the tables during play or when you hear your names announced among the winners.

To bid or not to bid - that is the question. So the Prince of Denmark's Bridge-playing cousin Slamlet, mused - raising one of the fundamental philosophical problems that has plagued Bridge-kind ever since. The play gets into one's head to a degree that nights in bed find the brain replaying games lost, chances missed and opportunities to take the other side down overlooked resulting in the inability to wind down. And what is the connection between Bridge, the U3A and the Parish Centre? Well, every Wednesday from 1415-1700 and Friday from 1400-1700 there are sessions organised and played in the Parish Centre by U3A members who are interested in and love the game of Bridge.

Wednesday afternoon players enjoy a 'half-time' break from play for refreshments with time for a chat and maybe even a 'post-mortem' on the game played as they queue for their tea and biscuits - an important part of the social fabric of the Wednesday game. This relaxed attitude on a Wednesday makes for an enjoyable afternoon. On the other hand, the Friday afternoon session, it seems, is for the more dedicated, those who want to play right through the three hours without a break. Could one be excused for thinking that Friday's players take their Bridge a little more seriously! Beginners are also catered for from 1000 -1200 on a Friday morning with a tutor from the Wednesday session who is both encouraging and friendly. And then there are those who just come for the craic enjoying an opportunity to put their best foot forward and socialise with friends and neighbours from many different walks of life. So every week there are over 100 avid Bridge

players of mixed ability from beginners to the more advanced being accommodated in the Parish Centre with all its facilities available to them.

There is, of course, another beauty of Bridge and that is wherever you travel there will be a game of Bridge available - and with it a passport to friendship. Language, or lack of it, is no longer a problem for different nationalities to enjoy a 'hand' of Bridge due to the availability of 'bidding' boxes which do away with the need for verbal bidding. Indeed many players care less for the intellectual challenges of Bridge than its social dimension and this approach to the game has to be recognised and valued.

So what is and where does Causeway U3A fit into the Wednesday Bridge story? Well, Causeway U3A, or to give its full title - Causeway University of the Third Age - the Association for the retired and semi-retired, was founded locally in 1995 and has grown in that time from 8 members to over 1000 currently active members. It is part of the wider U3A movement which started in France in 1972 and was adapted for the UK in 1982. Northern Ireland has 26 U3As with a combined membership of about 6500. Members form interest groups covering as wide a range of topics and activities as they desire - by the Members for the Members - and hence the Wednesday Bridge in Star of the Sea Parish Centre. Membership of a U3A is open to all in their third age and no qualifications are sought or offered. Further details are available at <http://U3A.org.uk>.



## Catholic Schools Week: Called to be a Family of Families

In partnership with World Meeting of Families 2018 Catholic schools Week Steering committee has developed a programme for Catholic schools. The theme is Catholic Schools: Called to be a family of Families. This event presented a special opportunity for school families to celebrate the fact that parents are the primary educators of their children but also the vital role that Catholic schools and the Parish play in assisting parents. Our schools are being invited to reflect on and celebrate the relationship that exists between home, school and parish through participation in four themed moments. Families of Hope, Families of Faith, Families of Love and Families of Joy.

Catholic Schools week concentrated on Families of faith when the children paid particular attention to the family at home, the family in the parish, the family in school, the family in the world and special attention on the role that grandparents play in the family.



Eugene Kelly





We are delighted to feature in this issue of Stella Maris a budding young photographer; parishioner Abigail Doherty, who has already assembled an impressive portfolio of her work. Abigail is no stranger to Stella Maris as already two of her photographs have featured as cover shots with two more under consideration for future issues. No need to say how her interest in taking pictures emerged since Dad, Aaron, is a keen amateur photographer himself. His photographs have graced this magazine on many, many occasions. Abigail lists travel, landscape, musicians

and portraits as her favourite subjects. And the photographer who has inspired her most is Thomas Falcone. Now, for those of us who are not in the know, I am told that Falcone, "is the one who goes behind the scenes. On the road for ten months out of the year, capturing the life and times of musicians on tour, this is his life. He started travelling with bands at the tender age of 17, touching down in Boston just long enough to complete a two-year programme at the New England School of Photography before hitting the road again." Abigail tells us she would love to photograph her favourite band "All Time

Low" more often. But, before she hits the road big-time she continues her studies at the Dominican college in Portstewart where she hopes to take Media as one of her "A" level subjects, with photography, of course, as a component, and in this we wish her every success. Perhaps other young people with a camera, or a phone, might feel encouraged to submit images to Stella Maris on reading about Abigail.

Patricia Farren with Aaron Doherty

## Quiz Answers

- 1 The ruins are of a primary school built by Mrs Cromie for children who lived at that part of Portstewart
- 2 The tram went from the station, through the town and out to the beach.
- 3 Hopley hill is the name of the large sand dune on Portstewart strand so called after a ship The George A Hopley. which ran aground on Portstewart beach. She was relieved of her cargo by locals who got to it before the customs men did by burying it.
- 4 The explosion takes place in the rock situated just behind the right side of the harbour wall and emits a very loud noise in gales. It became known as the gun rock.
- 5 Agherton church was originally built on the land opposite Flowerfield, now an old cemetery.
- 6 Lever Road was named after Dr Charles Lever, author and doctor who came to take charge of the cholera hospital in Coleraine in 1832.
- 7 It was originally a row of houses named Bone Row so called after the practice of using animal bones to make the roof.
- 8 Port Diana is an inlet opposite the Catholic Church.
- 9 Jimmy Kennedy wrote about a boat with red sails.
- 10 The golf club was formed in 1894
- 11 The price of stones used to make the Convent walls was a bowl of soup
- 12 Portstewart Strand was called the peasants strand as only they used it.
- 13 According to records an optical illusion of a magnificent castle appeared on the horizon between Portstewart and Donegal. It was seen by many.
- 14 She is buried in old Ballywillan graveyard, Portrush.
- 15 Castle Gate Hotel was where the Convent gates in the Diamond are now.
- 16 32 lbs.
- 17 The ice house was at the harbour and used to keep fish fresh until needed. The ice palace was on the Promenade where Morellis is now.
- 18 It was the weekend of the Census and it was done to boost the resort's population so that it could achieve Urban Status which was granted a few years later so it was a ploy which paid off.
- 19 De Valera was Taoiseach and one of his sons Eamon Jnr married Sally O' Doherty from Donegal. Three of her sisters came to live in Portstewart and two of them bought the Montagu Hotel. The De Valeras were frequent visitors.
- 20 On the wall beside Mc Elhones chemist shop.

## And the Winner is...

*PHOTO*



# Save the Eighth

**"Make your views heard, on behalf of the dumb, on behalf of all the unwanted" (Proverbs 31:8)**

Article 40.3.3 of the Irish Constitution, known as the Eighth Amendment, recognises the equal right to life of the mother and her unborn child. It was introduced after a referendum in 1983 in which 67% of voters supported it. Since then various cases have led pro-choice advocates to support a change in this provision, most notably the X Case in 1992 where a minor who conceived through rape was denied access to an abortion. This led to three referendums that year since which clauses have been added which state the amendment cannot limit a persons' freedom to travel abroad or her right of freedom to information regarding abortion in other states. Forward twenty years and the tragic death of Savita Halappanavar due to septic miscarriage led to the introduction of the Protection of Life During Pregnancy Act 2013 which allows for abortion if an expectant mother's life is at risk, including through possible suicide.

Currently the government proposes to repeal the eighth amendment completely and leave the power to legislate on the termination of pregnancy with the Irish Parliament. If the Eighth Amendment is successfully repealed the government proposes legislation to allow abortion without restriction up to twelve weeks gestation.

Statistical evidence proves what the result of allowing abortion even in the most restrictive circumstances leads to. We are told to trust woman to make up their own minds. Such an emotive decision should never be made without being fully informed. For example, the knowledge that an abortion can have catastrophic consequences such as hugely increased rates of depression and attempted and actual suicide amongst post abortive females.

Being pro-life means respecting the unborn, AND their mothers. Being compassionate means giving alternatives and being honest about the possible effects of abortion for the physical and mental well-being of expectant mothers. The abortion industry simply doesn't care about educating their service users or women rights. Their focus is their margins in a massively profitable business with huge international lobbying budgets, to further the pro-choice cause in Ireland There have been approaching eight million abortions worldwide so far this year. Well in excess of one hundred

thousand per day. In June last year the supreme court upheld an earlier high court ruling that our laws in Northern Ireland are a matter for the electorate. Within hours however the Chancellor blatantly ignored the democratic process by announcing free abortions would be available through the NHS in England to Northern Irish women. This showed a total disregard for the democratic process and undermines our devolved political system. Ten days later the BMA, the UK's largest doctors union called for the complete decriminalisation of abortion and for women to have access to abortion on demand.

Many will argue legalising abortion makes it safe. However, the Care Quality Commission reported that in a two month period prior to August 2017 there were almost 400 botched abortions by Marie Stopes. As for the assertions by Amnesty International and the UN that this is a human rights matter I'm still struggling to find any human right document that includes a woman's right to an abortion in the name of basic health care. Yet EVERY human rights document explicitly outlines everyone's right to life. I therefore ask every Christian to stand with passion and compassion for Life. Our Lady of Guadalupe, mother of the unborn, please protect Ireland from abortion.

Khadiga Hassouna



## Eoghan Rua Ready to 'Spring' Into Action

The days are getting a little longer, spring is in the air – well, not quite just yet - this year the Vernal Equinox will take place on Tuesday, 20th March and will officially mark the beginning of spring. That can only mean one thing – the club GAA season in Derry is about to start full on and Eoghan Rua, Coleraine is raring to get into action.

Some of the club's teams have already started with the senior footballers, along with Under-age teams in hurling, football and ladies football already in action despite the inclement weather we have been having over the last couple of weeks or so.

The club once again looks forward to the support of the local community for all our activities including our games, particularly at our home pitch at Pairc Eogain Rua. All our players both at adult and youth level continue to represent the club with great pride and passion; they are superb role models in the community.

The club welcomes and values all the support it receives at all levels and hopes to see that continue and strengthen this season and beyond.

Kevin Mullan



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