



# Ennis Parish Link

June 2006

Issue 22

Parish Web Site: [www.ennisparish.com](http://www.ennisparish.com)



## Breaking the Code of Da Vinci



More copies of Dan Brown's controversial novel "The Da Vinci Code" have been sold in Ireland than there are households. It is estimated that 50 million people have read the book world wide. It has been a phenomenal best seller and now the movie version is showing in Cinemas with huge hype.

So what's all the interest and reaction about? The novel and film undermine core Christian values, claiming that the Bible is a tissue of lies, that Jesus was not God, that he was married to Mary Magdalene and began a royal bloodline and that the Catholic Church has hidden the real truth for 2000 years.

For the first time many people are forced to clarify for themselves what is central to their Christian Faith. Dan Brown's book is a work of fiction but for some it is read as a historical and theological work.

The main source of Dan Brown's claims are the Gnostic Gospels. These were works written

centuries after the 4 Christian Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. These Gnostic Gospels have been dismissed by most serious scripture scholars and provide no credible evidence about the life and times of Jesus.

**There are 5 key deceptions in the Da Vinci Code:**

1. **Fiction:** Brown claims that Jesus was a mere mortal, and that His divinity was a fourth century invention concocted to bolster the power of the Emperor Constantine.  
**Fact:** Christians have always asserted the full humanity and the full divinity of Jesus Christ.
2. **Fiction:** The Da Vinci Code portrays the Catholic Church as a sinister and murderous organisation dedicated to concealing the truth about Jesus.  
**Fact:** Scripture and two millennia of tradition demonstrate that the Church was founded to preach the Good News of Jesus Christ.
3. **Fiction:** The Da Vinci Code claims that Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene.  
**Fact:** Scripture shows that Jesus remained single throughout his life.
4. **Fiction:** The Da Vinci Code portrays Jesus' main contribution as fathering a child by his wife, Mary Magdalene.  
**Fact:** Jesus' death and resurrection were at the centre of His mission.
5. **Fiction:** The Da Vinci Code claims that the New Testament was a man-made invention.  
**Fact:** Christians believe it was written by man, but inspired by God. The Gospels were written by contemporaries and near contemporaries and are the most reliable evidence we have about the historical Jesus.

# Cahercalla Community Hospital & Hospice

A new 10 bed unit Hospice is to be built at Cahercalla Community Hospital. This decision was arrived at after a detailed analysis of the current facilities. Over 1,000 terminally ill patients have been cared for in the present Hospice unit. The new Hospice unit with Conservatory will be purpose built thereby improving size and layout of the Rooms. It will be located at the end of the hospital where the Hospice is currently located and will overlook the gardens providing a peaceful and tranquil atmosphere for the patients.



Hospice or palliative Care is the active total care of patients whose illness is not responsive to curative treatment and its goal is to provide the highest possible quality of life for both patient and family. Cahercalla Hospice strives to provide a home from home environment for patients in which their privacy and dignity are preserved. It is the policy of the Hospice that all terminally ill patients are cared for *free of charge*. Sadly there is an increasing need for Hospice Care and thus the need to increase the facility to 10 Beds.

The project will also incorporate a number of communal rooms for the medical and social needs of the patient. (The existing hospice beds will become nursing home/convalescent beds). The Hospice project will cost in excess of 1.5 million to complete and will be funded entirely by Fundraising events. The operational and staff costs of the Hospice Unit are provided by part funding received from the HSE together with funds realised from numerous fundraising events throughout the year, Coffee Morning and Weekly Draw.



Sunflower Day on June 9<sup>th</sup>



We are indeed much indebted to the many hundreds of people who have supported us so generously in the past and hope they will continue to assist us in the future.

## Bel Canto Choir from Milwaukee, Concert in Cathedral on June 25<sup>th</sup>



A forthcoming Concert on June 25<sup>th</sup> with the combined choirs of Bel Canto Choir from Milwaukee and The Burren based Lismorahaun Singers promises to provide an amazing experience while also raising much needed funds for our New Hospice.

## The Young Church Life



A team of 12 young men and women is visiting the Parish on the weekend of June 30<sup>th</sup>. They form part of the Deus et Patria movement (God and Country). The young people will engage in House visitation and be available at the weekend mass to meet people. This is an initiative of the Legion of Mary. To date 10 such projects have been undertaken in various parts of the country - mostly on weekends but also several week long projects. The projects give a public witness of the faith of young Legionaries in evangelising, not just to their peers, but everyone.

# Bulletin Board

## Summer Blessing for Pre-Schools

Special Summer Blessing will take place here in the Cathedral on Saturday June 17th at 12 noon. All children, families and extended families from the entire parish and surrounds are invited.



## Diocesan Golden Jubilee Pilgrimages to Lourdes 2006

Monday June 26th to  
Saturday July 1st.

Autumn:

October 7th to 12th.

Contact:

Canon Brendan O'Donoghue  
at 061.361257

or

Fr. Tom Ryan  
At 061.364133



## Special Mass for Exam Students

Their families and friends  
On  
Saturday June 3rd  
St. Joseph's Church 7pm



## Parish Pilgrimage to Lough Derg



Monday August 7th to Wednesday  
August 9th. Booking & details from  
Parish Office 6824043.  
Time For Body & Soul

## St Anthony Novena



led by

Fr Francis Cotter OFM

Mon 5th to Tues 13th June  
Mornings Sessions 10.00 a.m.  
Sunday Morning 10.30 a.m.  
Evening Sessions 7.30 p.m.  
Sunday 11th: Healing Service  
with Sacramental Anointing of  
the Sick  
Feast of St Anthony 13th  
June: Blessing of Children at  
4 pm; Solemn Closing Mass  
with Blessing of Lilies: 10am  
and 7.30 pm.

Total Collected in Ennis Parish for 2006  
Trócaire Lenten Campaign €25,000



## A Lifetime of Service

This June marks 68 years of service to the Priesthood of Fr. Ambrose Hickey. He was ordained to the Priesthood on June 19th 1938 for service in the Archdiocese of Liverpool.

Amby was born in Ennis on 29th December 1912, the son of Ambrose and Johanna Hickey. His early education took place at the National School and St. Flannan's College. This was followed by one year at University College Dublin. His ecclesiastical studies were spent at All Hallows, Dublin.

He worked in a number of parishes in the Diocese of Liverpool. His last assignment was to the parish of St. Patrick, Southport, where he remained until his retirement in 1995, to his native home in Clareabbey. He continued to say daily Mass for the Sister at St. Xavier's until a year ago.

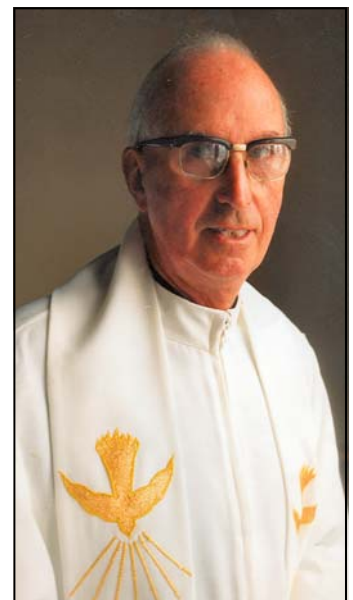
Ambrose took great interest in the running of the Schools in his parish, travelling with teachers and students on many school trips both in England and abroad.

He is a testimony to the saying "you are as young as you feel". He has kept his lifelong interest in people and sport. In his youth he enjoyed running and has many medals for the 100yd sprint. Fr. Amby was a keen golfer and played at Southport, Ainsdale and Lahinch.

We salute Fr. Amby's lifetime of service to Priesthood in the Diocese of Liverpool and thank him for his ministry in retirement in the parishes of Ennis and Clarecastle.



Fr. Amby at his Grandnephews Confirmation



## Colaiste Muire Triumph in Prague



The Coláiste Muire School Choir with conductor Carmel Griffin returned home triumphant from Prague in the Czech Republic having participated in a four-day International Festival of Young Choirs and Orchestras, 'young2006prague'. There were 1200 participants competing from countries as far apart as Canada and Japan.

The Coláiste Muire School Choir won the Girl's choirs competition jointly with a choir from Serbia and Montenegro and achieved a gold medal standard. They also achieved a special award for the best performance of the compulsory composition, which was sung in Czech!

**Congratulations to the choir, their conductor Carmel Griffin and all involved.**



## Edmund Rice Awards 2006

The 5<sup>th</sup> Year Students of Rice College, Ennis participated in the Edmund Rice Awards 2006. Their achievement in raising over €2,300 for the Br. Patrick Madigan Missionary Fund, Lusaka, Africa, was recognised by The Edmund Rice Centre in Dublin at an awards ceremony in the Castletroy Park Hotel in Limerick on 4<sup>th</sup> May. The Brothers in Lusaka, Zambia run a pre-school for orphans and some of the money raised will go towards food, clothes, health care and education. Some money is also needed to run the nearby St. Joseph's Leprosarium. €500 can build a nice comfortable home for a family in Africa. At present there are about 50 houses being built for the poor, elderly, sick and homeless.

This hard working group of young people organised two main events. The first was a 10KM Fun Run, which was held on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April 2006. Together with three teachers the group headed off on what turned to be a glorious summer morning. The route took us out the Gort Road, around by Drumcliffe, out to Fountain, back in by Loughville and returned to Rice College.

The second event, a table-quiz for the first year students of the college, raised almost €300. This involved a fun packed afternoon for the students. Some students undertook the Concern 24 hour fast raising over €1,100.

**Total Raised €3,482**

