



# Ennis Parish Link

October 2007

Issue 27

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

## Autumn thoughts

Modern living blinds us to the seasons. Vegetables and fruits of all sorts now seem to be available every day of the year. We are out of touch with the notion of harvest thanksgiving. Few of us are storing up the chutneys or pitting the potatoes or making other provisions for a hungry winter ahead. But we still have signals in our lives of autumn change. Shortening days and starts or restarts in schools and colleges remind us that another year-end beckons.

The dreary days of winter are hard for many. Isolation and loss and pain are intensified when our mood is matched by lengthening shadows. The very thought of dark days ahead gives shivers to the hurt and vulnerable.

Two recent funerals in the Cathedral provided us with a glimpse of how hard life can be for some. The tragic death of a young Traveller in mid summer and the September death of a young Brazilian woman lifted the veil on two close knit communities in their suffering. A mothers love, salt tears on the cheeks of adult men, and inconsolable sobbing go beyond culture and language and speak to all our hearts.

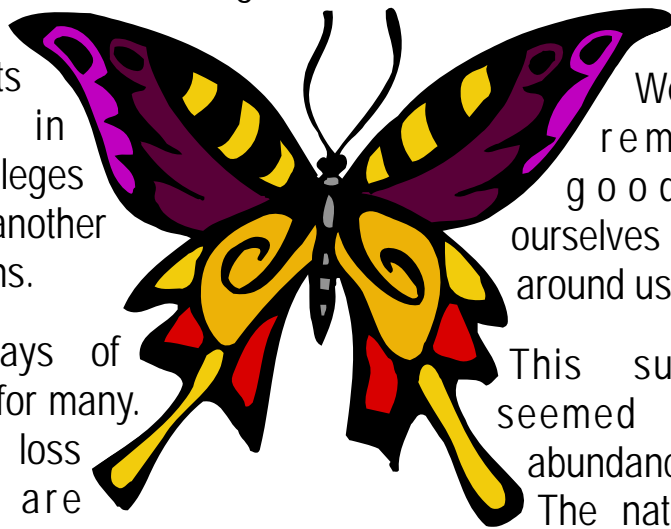
Tragic happenings inspire generous responses. The Travelling community and the local Brazilian community showed the store of goodness and generosity that resides in them in their support and care of families and loved ones. It was also edifying to see the support of the extended community in time of need.

We all need reminders of goodness in ourselves and in those around us.

This summer there seemed to be an abundance of butterflies. The natural beauty of these little creatures evokes good feelings in most of us. These most fragile of beings, speak deeply to all that want to listen, without uttering a word.

The striking colours and dance like movements of the butterfly are a far cry from the slithering dullness of the caterpillar. Not every sighting of fluttering wings brings us to our knees in awe at the transformation that we know has happened. But we should allow ourselves once in a while to be so inspired.

If nothing ever changed, there'd be no butterflies.



# Respond! Celebrating 25 Years in Ireland

Respond!, Ireland's largest Housing Association is 25 years old this year. Respond! was formed in Waterford in 1982. At the time, the Franciscans Community and the Secular Franciscan Order were looking at addressing various social issues, such as adult education, housing and job creation. They decided to opt for housing because of the needs of both young families and elderly persons on the local authority waiting list. Fr. Pat Cogan who spent many years here in Ennis was a founding member and is now Managing Director.



From humble beginnings of church door collections and knocking on people's doors, Respond! has grown to become Ireland's largest provider of social housing, with 3500 units of accommodation built and 1500 under construction. It now has a staff of over 300 people and 500 volunteers, with a main office in Waterford and 5 other offices throughout the country.



Pat Cogan wishes to thank all those who helped in Respond!'s Achievements over the years: "We are delighted to be celebrating Respond!'s 25th Anniversary and the achievements of the organisation

over the past quarter century. However it is important that we acknowledge those who supported Respond! from the beginning through volunteering and fundraising"

Respond! sets itself to 'prevent and relieve hardship and distress amongst those in need who are homeless and amongst those in need who are living in adverse housing conditions for the benefit of the community as a whole' Respond! is concerned 'to advance education, relieve poverty and to further other charitable purposes beneficial to the community. It does this by providing housing in supported communities and, where possible, in integrated estates.

**Respond! has built 167 housing units in Clare. Photographs are from Respond! developments Roslevan, Stonecourt and Orchard Grove.**



# *Go out to the whole world and preach the Gospel to all creation*

Perhaps, at first, Fr. Jackie Sharpe had to consult his maps of Africa when he learned he would be posted to The Gambia, West Africa. Jackie, a native of Tipperary Town and brother of Tess Ryan, Fountain & Bow Bangles, Abbey Street, has made the country his home for the last forty-two years, making an indelible mark on the Christian community there in that time.

Jackie undertook his ministry over the years with gusto, involving himself with a people in need, fearful in their fringe existence to even bring the sickest of children to the health clinics in Banjul. He has engaged directly with the people in their own community in the bush, providing for their medical needs and eventually, their needs for the Gospel. Many years of work saw a slow and steady growth, from the first simple huts to a mission station, then a primary school catering for twenty children - today more than 400.

Over the last number of years a church has been constructed at the centre of the thriving community. It is that church that in recent years has become the symbol for all that Fr. Jackie has achieved. It stands today as a centrepiece to a vibrant farming community with developed housing occupied by highly educated people, all former pupils of no less than ten schools made possible by Fr. Jackie's efforts.

Standing in Kunkujang (name of parish) the church is impressive with a corrugated tin roof (African style) with the interior designed sacredly and tastefully.

This February, Our Lady Queen of Peace was consecrated by Bishop Robert Ellison C.S.S.P. Among the parishioners and visitors stood Fr. Jackie's family and friends from Ireland and Ennis! The ceremony was faith filled and very moving. Prayers, singing and dancing were offered against a single wall of striking artwork; Mother Mary and the Infant Jesus are surrounded and beheld by the adoring faces of children, not simply African children, but Mandiango children from the community. Here, in a single great panel is Fr. Jackie's triumph summed up, a tableau to rival the impact of anything from the Church's rich artistic heritage.

And so today, what was once hidden in a tiny corner of Africa is easily found by locating the impressive parish church standing at the heart of a community that did not so much rise from the dust as was piled up by the quiet, relentless efforts of a single Holy Ghost Father.

Following on from that experience members of our Parish Team and Friends completed their 4th sponsored cycle on August 18th. Fr. Jackie shows great generosity to us in Ennis while on holidays every summer by covering masses, hospital visitation etc. So our little way of gratitude was to raise funds for the purchase of a school bus for Kunkujang parish. As we go to print we have collected **€18,082.92** for which we sincerely thank you. We will now try to increase our funds from a number of sources to meet the balance to buy the bus. The continued generosity, kindness and support of so many parishioners and friends is greatly appreciated.





# Bulletin Board



## First Holy Communion 2008

3rd May Ennis National  
 10th May CBS  
 17th May Scoil Chriost Rí  
 17th May Holy Family  
 23rd May St. Clares  
 24th May Gaelscoil

### Parent Talk:

12th Oct. Scoil Chriost Rí  
 15th Oct. Gaelscoil  
 23rd Oct. Ennis National  
 13th Nov. Holy Family

### Enrolment:

11th Nov. Gaelscoil  
 11th Nov. Ennis National  
 14th Nov. CBS  
 18th Nov. Scoil Chriost Rí  
 18th Nov. Holy Family



### First Penance:

21st Feb. Ennis National  
 6th March Holy Family  
 11th March Scoil Chriost Rí  
 11th March Gaelscoil  
 3rd April CBS

**Do this in Memory of Me**  
 Programme for First Holy  
 Communion Students and their  
 families.

Sunday 16th December

Sunday 27th January

Sunday 25th May

at: 10am Mass Cathedral

10am Mass St. Josephs

9.30am Mass Cloughleigh

## NOVEMBER

### Blessing of Graves

Sunday 4th November

Drumcliffe 3pm.

Corrovorrin 2pm.



## Blessing of Expectant Parents



Cathedral of SS Peter & Paul.  
 8pm on Thursday 25th October  
 All Welcome!!!!

## Polish Community



Fr. Tomasz Daukszewicz, has joined us in Ennis, and resides at Cathedral House. He provides Pastoral Care and celebrates Holy Mass for the Polish communities in the larger towns, in the diocese of Killaloe. Sunday Mass in Cathedral at 3pm, pre marriage instruction on 1st and 4th Sunday's, preparation for Holy Communion date to be decided, Confession at 2.30pm each Sunday, Baptism by arrangement. Contact details: Parish Office: 6824043; Mob 087-0515788 or email: tomasodau@gmail.com

*We pray God's blessing  
 on his ministry.*

## Ennis Parish Mission

February 23rd to March 1st 2008

Led by Fr. Tony Flannery and Redemptorist Mission Team.

## Service of Remembrance

Remembering all babies who have died. Sunday, November 11th

@ 11am

in the Cathedral.

## Confirmation 2008

8th Feb. Scoil Chriost Rí  
 9th Feb. CBS/St. Anne's  
 29th Feb. Gaelscoil  
 1st March Holy Family  
 8th March Ennis National

### Parent Talk:

16th Oct. Holy Family  
 12th Nov. Scoil Chriost Rí  
 14th Nov. Ennis National  
 14th Nov. Gaelscoil



### Enrolment:

30th Sep. Ennis National  
 21st Oct. Holy Family  
 21st Oct. Scoil Chriost Rí  
 11th Nov. Gaelscoil  
 22nd Nov. CBS

### Faith Friends:

2nd/9th/16th October

Ennis National

15th/22nd/29th November

Holy Family

School Based - Gaelscoil

## People of the Year

Many people are working in a voluntary capacity (often unnoticed), giving of their time and energy in the service of others and enriching our community. Four years ago the Pastoral Council decided to acknowledge their contributions and awards have been presented to worthy participants for the past three years.

If you know of someone whom you feel would be worthy of such recognition, we would appreciate your nominating them.

Nominations to be sent to the Parish Office and should include some information about the person being nominated and a brief outline of the reasons for the nomination. Reminders and closing date will be announced in the weekly newsletter.