



Ennis Parish Link

December 2016

Issue 57

ENNIS PARISH DEVELOPMENT FUND

Year ended 31st December 2015

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

INCOME	2015	2014
Fund Total	385,441	392,255
Shrines	63,701	61,038
P.E.A.	13,093	12,426
Other Masses	5,182	1,436
Others	10,531	9,705
Halls Income	8,090	1,050
SUB TOTAL	486,038	477,910
Income Tax Refunds	41,258	31,170
TOTAL INCOME	527,296	509,080
EXPENDITURE		
Wages & Salaries	128,369	153,109
Contribution to Diocesan Collections	72,218	73,228
Maintenance Parish Churches/Buildings	78,400	55,173
Office Supplies	34,589	34,714
Light & Heat	37,166	32,357
Shrine Candles	25,073	26,812
Special Projects	22,000	22,500
Insurance	19,810	19,374
Contribution to House Account	20,000	15,000
Sundries	10,940	11,039
Friary Heating Fund	10,000	10,000
IT/Office Equipment Costs	16,025	9,597
Church/Liturgical Requisites	6,732	9,030
Donations/Gifts	8,309	8,130
Meetings/Functions	6,638	7,595
Telephone	6,625	6,382
Contribution to Schools	4,721	5,496
Pastoral Care	2,638	4,144
Bank Charges	4,154	2,547
Choir	2,450	2,299
Courses	360	1,545
Florists	942	989
Retreats/Missions	1,010	840
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	519,169	511,900
INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE EXCESS/(DEFICIT)	8,127	-2,820

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS REPORT TO THE PROPERTY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE OF ENNIS PARISH. We have reviewed the Income and Expenditure Statement of the Ennis Parish Development Fund overleaf. Our review includes an examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the Income and Expenditure Statement. Respective responsibilities The Parish Property and Finance Committee is responsible for preparing the Income and Expenditure Statement in accordance with applicable law and generally accepted accounting practice in Ireland and for ensuring that adequate systems of internal control exist. Our responsibility is to review the Income and Expenditure Statement for the Ennis Parish Development Fund and to give an opinion on the truth and fairness of the information contained therein, together with our opinion on the correctness of the supporting books and records. We must also confirm that we have obtained all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the Income and Expenditure Statement of the Ennis Parish Development Fund is free from material

misstatement whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. This Report is made solely to the Ennis Parish Property and Finance Committee. To the fullest extent permitted by law we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Ennis Parish Property and Finance Committee for our review work, for this Report, or for the opinions we have formed. In forming our opinion we have evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of the information in the Ennis Parish Development Fund Income and Expenditure Statement.

Opinion: In our opinion the Ennis Parish Development Fund Income and Expenditure Statement gives a true and fair view of the Income and Expenditure activities of the Ennis Parish Development Fund for the year ended 31st December 2015. We have obtained all the information and explanations we consider necessary for the purposes of our review. In our opinion proper books of account have been kept to support the Income and Expenditure Statement. The Statement is in agreement with the books of account. 26 April 2016 Slattery & Partners, Springfield Court, Victoria Terrace, Ennis, Co. Clare.

- We present an audited statement of account for Ennis Parish Development Fund for the year 2015 We thank parishioners for their loyal support and generosity during these very difficult economic times. This year showed a decrease of 1.74% in contributions to Development fund and 1.73% decrease in Priests Collection contributions.
- The envelopes have served the Parish well and are vital in our eligibility to receive tax rebates from the Revenue Commissioners. We keep records of all identifiable contributions i.e. those who use weekly envelopes, standing orders or cheques. While we very much appreciate the generosity of parishioners who contribute to the baskets without using envelopes we are unable to receive tax rebates from these contributions.
- Stipends from the multi intentioned Mass on Sundays; Triduum Masses at Christmas, Easter and Exam Time and from the Book of Intentions Mass were forwarded to Cuan an Chláir, and Ennis Peace Park.
- The Trócaire Contributions in 2015 were: €22,508.00 a reduction of 8.36%.
- Parishioners contributed €177,783.00 towards the 4 Priests Collections in 2015. In 2015 €38,943.00 was forwarded to Diocesan Priests Central Fund. A similar contribution will be made for 2016, ensuring all priests of the Diocese receive an equivalent annual remuneration.
- Many people pay their parish contribution by standing order, it makes life easier for parishioners, and it enables the accurate recording of monies received. You can pay both your weekly contribution and priests collection by standing order. You can do this Monthly, Quarterly, Half yearly or Yearly - whatever suits yourself. One standing order can cover both your weekly contribution for the upkeep of the Parish, and your contribution to the Quarterly Priests' collections. If you wish to convert to standing order or if you would like more information, please contact Margaret at Parish Office Tel. 6869090 or email: margaret@ennisparish.com

Donal Griffin,
Chairperson Finance Committee

Tom Hogan,
Parish Priest Ennis Parish

Abbot Brendan



On Saturday 13th August 2016, the monks of Glenstal elected Fr Brendan Coffey to serve as Abbot for a period of eight years. Abbot Brendan is the sixth Abbot of Glenstal, and succeeds Abbot Mark Patrick Hederman, who held the office since 2008. The election was presided over by

the Abbot-President of the Congregation of the Annunciation, the family of monasteries to which Glenstal belongs. Joseph was eldest of two sons born to Mona and Tom of The Crescent, in 1970. After studies in Maynooth and Rome he was ordained a priest of the diocese of Killaloe in 1995. After ordination, he pursued postgraduate studies in Canon Law at the Gregorian University in Rome, after which he was appointed curate in the parish of Kilrush. He entered Glenstal in 1998, taking the name Brendan. He professed simple vows in 1999 and made his solemn profession in 2002. After some years working in the



abbey school as a housemaster and teacher of Classics, Fr Brendan spent two years in Padua, Italy, doing postgraduate studies in Liturgy. On his return to Glenstal he served as Prior of the monastery from 2007 until 2015. He spent the academic year 2015-16 at the Catholic University of America, doing doctoral studies in Liturgy. Abbot Brendan takes office immediately. The formal Abbatial Blessing took place in the community chapel Glenstal on 5th November.

The Christmas story come to life

It is hard to believe that Christmas is here again. For the past several weeks now the hustle and bustle has been building, shops and houses have been decorated, street lights have been put up and all around us there is a mounting sense of expectation, of anticipation and of that certain feeling that only comes at this time of year. Without doubt, these next weeks will be a time of tremendous business in our town, homes and families.

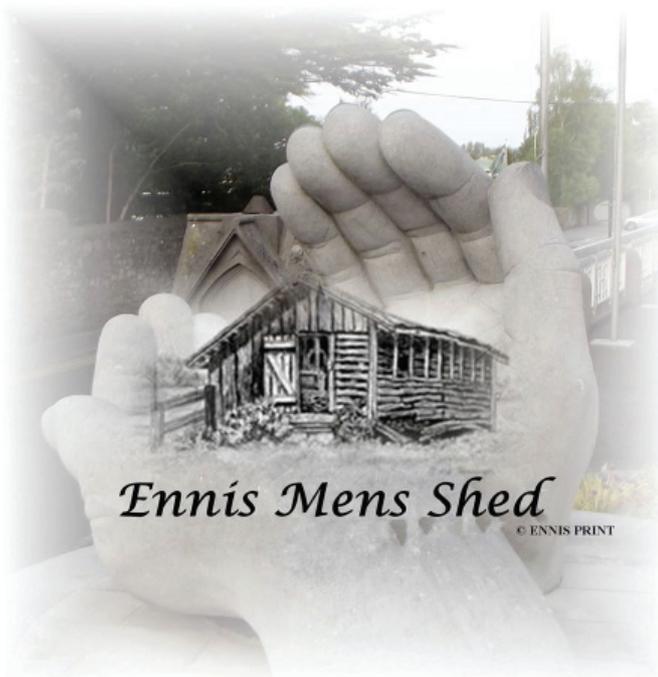
Of course, behind all the tinsel and carols and festive smiles there is another side of the coin, which perhaps may be hidden from the public view but is nonetheless very real. This is the side of the coin where loneliness, fear and worry are the unwelcome stocking fillers. This is the shadow side where people will struggle with expenses, struggle to keep children happy, struggle to make this festive season live up to its name and struggle to stay afloat. These struggles are a real part of Christmas and sadly are prevalent without being noticed.

The Christmas story, with which we are all familiar, presents to us these two sides of the same coin. In Mary and Joseph we see two people who were suddenly and without warning cast into a most problematic situation. Mary, betrothed to Joseph, is found to be with child. By all accounts there were several remedies for such a situation. An immediate separation, disgrace for Mary, ridicule for them both and at the most extreme, in the culture of the time, Mary could have been taken outside the city and stoned to death; these were the prescribed deterrents. Joseph, now caught in an almost impossible situation decides to divorce her informally in an effort to spare them both the shame of

a public ignominy. Following a period of prayer, self-reflection and some divine intervention, Joseph and Mary choose the path of righteousness and opt to stay together, deciding to share this journey together, accepting the trials and tribulations. Taking their faith in their hands, Mary and Joseph subsequently travel to Bethlehem and find themselves homeless. If not for the generosity and quick thinking of a certain innkeeper, Joseph and Mary would surely have given birth to Jesus at the side of the street.

The Christmas story is undoubtedly one of great joy. The birth of Jesus Christ, our King and Saviour is surely an event to be celebrated. But, as it is today, there was another side to this story. Therefore, this Christmas we are inviting you to enter fully into this story. From December 18th-24th in the Scout Hall in Ennis, beside the Parish Office there will be a living exhibit where you will be able to walk into representations of Mary's House, Joseph's workshop, Herod's Palace, and most importantly, the Crib. Built and designed by Ennis Men's Shed these representations will give you a sense of what life might have been like. You will be able to leave a prayer in all of these places or perhaps with the Shepherds on the hill. You will be able to walk into the crib and leave a prayer with the child Jesus and ask him to look after you. The crib will be open after all masses on these days and will be accessible at various times during the day. We invite you to keep an eye on the newsletter for times.

This is an opportunity to truly enter into the feeling of Christmas. We invite you to come, reflect, pray and hope!! Admission is free and all are welcome.



LIVING CRIB EXHIBIT IN SCOUT HALL

Date: 18th-24th December; **Venue:** Scout Hall; **Time:** After all Masses and at various times during the day.

Message from Poor Clare Sisters

All the troubles in the world, said Blaise Pascal in the 17th Century, come from the fact that we cannot sit still, alone, in a room.

I read that quotation this morning, and then came to my room and opened my 2017 diary, at random, and the quotation for Christmas day next year read "When you become calm and serene on the inside, the world becomes more calm and serene on the outside". And on the same page it said "As I unclutter my life, I free myself to answer the callings of my soul". So I did a bit of reflection on all that and came to the conclusion that God himself had summed it all up, long ago, when he said "Be still and know that I am God".

By sheer coincidence I opened another book in the course of looking for something and there Meister Eckhart said "Nothing in all creation is



as like God as stillness". I think that I would be forgiven for thinking that I am being sent the message...it's a busy time but...keep perspective... Does such stillness have a bearing on the troubles of the world, as Pascal implies? Surely, yes, if its healing and peace-giving, and leads us to loosen the strangling grip we tend to have on life, on possessions, on people, on control, on power. As the year draws to a close, we thank all those who have visited our Monastery, those who work for us

and those who have volunteered their time in various ways to lighten our load. Thank you for your donations of food and monetary support. Your thoughtfulness and generosity is greatly appreciated. Throughout the year we remember our families, friends and benefactors in our prayers, especially those who have passed to eternal life. During this Christmas season:

may you be blessed with the spirit of the season which is peace; the gladness of the season which is hope; and the heart of the season which is love.

This Christmas and New Year may we all hear the call "Be still and know that I am God" and be faithful to it. In the same diary I read "It's not what's under the tree that matters; it's who is gathered around it".

Your Poor Clare sisters/friends.

World Meeting of Families 2018

Shortly after his election, Pope Francis began a process of reflection within the Church right across the world on the family. He announced the holding of two sessions of the Synod of Bishops: one on the situation of families across the world and the other on how to respond to the challenges facing family life. Pope Francis recently published a wide-ranging document as a fruit of that process, entitled *Amoris Laetitia*, on love in the family.

Ireland has been chosen by Pope Francis to host the next World Meeting of Families in August 2018. The recent commitment given by Pope Francis to come to Ireland for the event has given it a new impetus. Started by Saint John Paul II, and held every three years, this major world event celebrates family as the cornerstone of our lives, and the fundamental building block of society and the Church.

Families and others from all over the world will gather in Dublin from 22-26 August 2018 along with Pope Francis to celebrate their lives together, to share their experiences from different parts of the world, to reflect on the different challenges they face and to grow together in faith.

Hopefully families from Ennis Parish will be among them. The theme chosen by Pope Francis for WMOF2018 is, The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World.

Preparation for this great gathering will begin in the Spring of 2017 and we as parish will be exploring ways in which we can engage meaningfully with the event. Families come in a variety of shapes, sizes and types but we are all on a journey to grow and mature in the ability to love.



Bishop Fintan's Christmas Reflection

In joyful anticipation of my first Christmas as Bishop of Killaloe, I have the privilege of offering a seasonal greeting and blessing to you in the Parish of Ennis. I have been greatly encouraged by the warmth of welcome in this lovely Cathedral town that has a special gift of friendliness and hospitality. Thanks to so many from the parish who made the ordination ceremony so unique and special last September.

The festive season of Christmas is a time to look back at the events and happenings of the year just gone by and reflect on what has been. We look back, savour and enjoy the good times while acknowledging the difficult times as well. This has been a most significant year for us as we remembered the events of 1916, the sacrifices of many for the freedom of our nation, one hundred years ago. 2016 has been an important year for the town with the Fleadh Cheoil and we look forward to it again in 2017. It has been a very blessed time in the Church, world-wide with great events of the Year of Mercy that just concluded.

Christmas is a time that we become aware of those less well-off, less fortunate than ourselves. We remember and reach out to those suffering economically, the elderly, people living on their own, the bereaved, the homeless, people that are suffering in any way.

At this time of the year our emigrants are very much on our minds. We welcome home those who have returned to be with us for the holiday period and our thoughts go out to those who could not come home. I extend a special word of welcome to those who have come to join us from other countries and enrich our work-force and culture by settling in our midst.

As Christians, we are people of hope and people of joy. No matter what happens we carry this hope with us because of the Christ-event, the birth of Jesus at Christmas time.

This Christmas, this time of profound religious significance I pray that the message of the Christ-Child would be reborn in our land, in our homes, in our hearts and souls this Christmas season. Peace, joy, health, happiness, along with many blessings and graces to all for a joyful and fulfilling new year in 2017.



Friary Christmas Message

Adam and Eve woke up. They were hungry and thirsty. Later, on reflection, they did not know if they woke up and were hungry and thirsty or whether hunger and thirst had awakened them. But they ate and drank, had their fill and it was good. Six hours later, they were hungry and thirsty again. They said to one another, "We must not have done it right the first time." So, this time, they ate more slowly, taking their time to chew every little bite. Six hours later, they were still hungry and thirsty. After many more attempts and repeating this, it dawned on them, "This is the way it is going to be: Hungry and thirsty, then eating and drinking. Then once again, hungry and thirsty, then, eating and drinking..." And it was not enough!

In their frustration, they cried out, "What are we? Asses tethered to a feeding trough? Oxen tied to a manger?" God heard their shout and took their protest as a prayer. He sent an angel Gabriel to a town named Nazareth to a virgin named Mary. Gabriel said, "Adam and Eve hunger and thirst and you are the feast." Mary spread herself like a linen tablecloth on the earth and the Son of the Most High was born.

Now, shepherds attended this birth and they found new flocks to tell what they had seen and heard. One day they came upon Adam and Eve roaming around outside the garden. The shepherds knew that what they had to say Adam and Eve wanted to hear. They told them, "We bring you glad tidings of great joy for all the people. There has

been born to you a child, the Messiah and the Lord. Go to Bethlehem and you will find a child wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger."

Adam and Eve were not sure that this was the direction they were looking for but they set out for Bethlehem, the House of Bread. When they arrived, they were surprised to see an ox and an ass there. As they walked past them, they nodded and then, they looked down at the child and the child was wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger.

Mary took the hand of Eve and placed it on the heart of the child. The eyes of the child opened and Eve drank from his eyes. Then, Mary took the hand of Adam and placed it on the heart of the child. The mouth of the child opened and Adam ate from the mouth of the child. Then, Adam and Eve said, "We tie ourselves to this manger."



The Hog

Shall hog with holy child converse
How will it feel? Jesu dear I lumber near
You may yank my tail, pull my ear.
I'll make you a small silk purse

Norma Faber

Comhghairdeas



Franciscans
Na Proinnsiasaigh
Irish Franciscans OFM

Fr. Tom Ryan, a St. Michael's Villas native and Parish Priest of Shannon has always been a good friend of the Franciscans. He has conducted the Annual Novena in honour of St. Anthony in all our Friary Churches in Ireland. Anytime we were away at meetings Tom was always ready and willing to come to our assistance. In fact people often joked saying Fr. Tom was half a Friar.

Well we certainly appreciated his generous help and decided to do something about it. We contacted our Provincial Fr. Hugh McKenna to ask that Tom should be invited to become an affiliated member of the Franciscan Order. Hugh contacted our General in Rome and as a result Fr. Tom was accepted as an affiliated member of the Franciscan on December 5th. He was presented

with a Franciscan Habit and will share in the prayers and devotions of the Franciscan Family.

It's the very least we could do for such a loyal faithful and generous friend of the Friars.



Bulletin Board



ECUMENICAL CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 18th December
7pm Cathedral with Combined Parish Choirs.

CONFIRMATION 2017

17th February Gaelscoil
3rd March Scoil Christí Rí
4th March CBS
11th March Ennis National
1st April Holy Family



TAIZÉ PILGRIMAGE 2016

Sunday 2nd July to Tuesday 11th July.
Contact: Fr. Jerry Carey @ 086 2508444.

Taizé Prayer: on 1st Thursday of each month at 7.45pm in Church of Our Lady, Roslevan.



Baby Jesus Sunday

Every year on one of the Sundays of Advent families bring the figure of the Baby Jesus to St. Peter's Square in Rome for the Pope to bless. It is called "Bambinelli Sunday." Many homes in our parish still give a central place to the crib among their Christmas decorations. On Sunday 18th December we invite you to bring the Baby Jesus from your home to any mass in Ennis Parish and they will be blessed by the celebrant.



Retreat Day of Praise and Worship
Ennis Cathedral; Sat 4th Feb;
10am to 5.30pm;

Team: Mr. Sebastian Sales (Sehion UK) and Maranatha Prayer Ministry. Information: Maura Hogan (0857338617) or Siju Paul (0874177837). This is free of charge.
"Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any one hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me."

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Cathedral of SS Peter & Paul
Christmas Eve: 6pm Children's Mass.

Christmas Eve: 9pm - Vigil Mass.
Midnight Polish Community Mass.
Christmas Day:
9am; 10.30am & 12noon.
10.30am Children's Mass: National School.
Christmas Day: 1.20pm Polish Mass.

St. Joseph's Church

Christmas Eve: 5pm - Mass for families with very small Children. (This mass is usually extremely busy, come early if you want to get a seat).

Christmas Eve: 7pm - Vigil Mass
Christmas Day: 8am; 10am & 11.30am.

Cloughleigh Church

Christmas Eve: 9pm - Vigil Mass.
Christmas Day: 9.30am; 11am

Friary

Christmas Eve: 10pm (Carols start 9.30pm).
Christmas Day: 9.30am; 10.30am & 12noon

Poor Clare Monastery

Christmas Eve: 9pm - Vigil Mass
Christmas Day: 7.45am

Cahercalla

Christmas Eve: 6pm - Vigil Mass
Christmas Day: 10.30am

No Evening Mass Christmas Day in Ennis



Sacrament Of Reconciliation

The Cathedral
Confessions: 24th: 10.30am-1pm & 2pm-5.30pm.
St. Joseph's
Confessions: 24th: 3pm - 4pm.
The Friary
Confessions: 11am - 12.30pm; 3pm - 5.30pm
Fri 23rd & Sat 24th
11am - 1pm; 2pm - 5.30pm;

Penitential Services

Cathedral:
Monday 19th December at 7.30pm.
(No evening Mass)
Friary:
Friday 16th December 1.05pm.
Tuesday 20th December 10.30am.
No Confessions from Christmas Day until Tuesday January 3rd.

Daily Masses Christmas Week

Cathedral: Dec 26th - Jan 2nd.
12noon & 7.30pm Christmas week.
Polish Mass: Dec 26th & Jan 1st: 1.20pm.
St. Joseph's: 11am: Christmas week.
Cloughleigh: 9.30am (weekdays).
Friary: 12noon Christmas week.
Poor Clare Monastery:
8.30am (weekdays).



PRAY OUT THE OLD YEAR PRAY IN THE NEW YEAR

CATHEDRAL

31st December
@ 11.30pm.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2016

29th April Afterschool Programme
13th May Ennis National
13th May Gaelscoil
13th May Scoil Christí Rí
20th May Holy Family
20th May CBS



LENT & EASTER

Ash Wednesday 1st March
Easter Sunday 16th April

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGES: LOURDES 2016

Summer: June 26th to July 1st.
Autumn: October 2nd to 7th.
Contact: Fr. Tom Ryan at 061-364133.

PARISH STATISTICS 2016

Baptisms: 253
Weddings: 34
Confirmations: 156
Deaths: 162

SAMARITANS

People can contact the Samaritans by phoning 116123, email jo@samaritans.org, write to Pat or Mary, Samaritans, Sunville, Kilmush Rd, Ennis.