

NEWSLETTER

There is a line in one of Jim Reeve's songs which tells us what the man with the short leg told us a thousand years ago, namely "Life is full of ups and downs." In the Irish Centre there are many ups but plenty of downs. Perhaps that is what makes it such a wonderful place to work. Were things to go badly all the time one would become depressed, frustrated. On the other hand, were everything to be 100% successful life would become boring. No doubt variety is the spice of life. The "ups" of life here now are that Fr. Phil Kennedy has joined our ranks; Brendan & Bernie have another son; Paddy Coleman is taking Nuala Malone unto himself in marriage; the ballad sessions are a fantastic success.

As for the downs, we are losing Fr. Malone, and also we have been issued with a summons by one of our neighbours because of the noise which comes from our dances. So all in all it's a most interesting life. Thank God I have had a holiday where I filled my lungs with bog air; my brain with the richness of country philosophy and my belly with lots of soda bread. With all those luxuries and the Grace of God, we will be able to face the new season with faith, hope and I hope charity.

Fr. Phil Kennedy hails from Thurles in Tipperary. Like all Tipp. men and women he is an ardent fan of hurling. To mention a name like Doyle only means one thing for Fr. Phil - i.e. hurling. He is a keen golfer and maybe one of these days I will take him on and see if I could send a clod as far as he can send the ball. He served on the Mission in sunny California for a while after which he spent a year as Chaplain to the American Forces in Germany. He also worked in the Parish of Quex Road, Killybeggs. As you see, he has plenty of experience. The furthest I've been to is Lourdes.

You will all be sorry to hear of Fr. Malone's departure from the Centre. He has been appointed assistant Novice Master in the Novitiate in Ardagh, Co. Limerick. The Irish Centre was his first obedience. The men who know him best are, of course, those who worked and lived with him. For that reason I can say we will miss him here very much. He was quiet by comparison, but he did the work. The writer of this letter appears more in the public eye most of the time but I know and fully realise who does the hard graft behind the scenes. Fr. Malone looked after the money and the books as well as a lot of welfare work. He did it all most efficiently and apparently unnoticed, but we knew and appreciated what he did for the Centre. We wish him every success. He passes on to do a very important and responsible job in God's vineyard. He is sorry to be leaving. He will miss you all. We know he has your good wishes and prayers.

Paddy Coleman is getting married on Tuesday, 8th September at Kentish Town Church at 11 a.m. Paddy has been here in the Centre for the past 9 years and he has met everyone from The Taoiseach to the beggerman; from Cardinal to Curate. Not one of them have ever forgotten him. His name crops up at all sorts of odd places and at every big and small occasions. Paddy was always very faithful. I know you all join with me in wishing himself and Nuala long life and happiness. Nuala has worked here at the Centre and we can say nothing better about her than to say Paddy is very lucky to get such a good girl. God Bless them both.

Another man and woman you all know and admire so much around here are Brendan and Bernie. They have now got another son. Many say he is like Anthony. Please God he will be just as good. We wish Brendan, Bernie and their two children every Blessing.

It has been my privilege to be at Swinford Town Hall for a dance in aid of The Irish Centre. This is an annual event, run by the Town Hall Management Committee. Paddy Keegan, our accountant, was also there as was Brendan Brennan, together with a host of Irish Centre members.

We offer our grateful thanks to all connected with the running of this dance and to all of you who turned up and brought your many friends. The Irish Centre is £250 better off as a result of that memorable night in Swinford.

We have been issued with a Summons from a few of our neighbours. They are complaining about "noise" from the Centre. This is a serious situation but we hope not a hopeless one. Please God we will overcome the difficulty. The Committee are taking steps to see that the "noise" will be controlled.

That's about it for this month. We hope you are well relaxed after your holiday and ready to face the future with energy.

God Bless you all,

Rev. P. Sheridan, O.M.I.