

The Golden Jubilee

The Golden Jubilee of Our Lady Of The Valley Church Glann was celebrated in 2010 on the 15th August, the Feast of the Assumption. Preparations for the event commenced the previous year after Fr. Jimmy suggested that we mark the occasion. A committee was formed, and was entertainingly chaired by local Councillor and Farravaun man Seamus Walsh. In the initial period the committee met monthly to discuss the various arrangements but as August 15th drew closer meeting's became weekly and then twice weekly.

During the first couple of meetings discussions centred on fundraising events and the preparations needed to make the day special. The fundraising events kicked off with a Table Quiz in the Boat Inn in December 2009. A Fishing competition which was held during the mayfly and a night at Galway Grey Hound Track in July 2010 all proved to be a great success.



Weigh in



Lets chance this one

With all hands on deck and August 15th drawing closer a major clean-up of the Church grounds and its surrounds was under-taken. With great community effort hedges were trimmed, scrub in the church ground was tidied back and burnt, fresh gravel was spread on the driveway and the pathway from the church to the lake was cleared.

The Church itself was given a complete overhaul. Windows were repaired, walls were painted and a new carpet, kindly sponsored was laid.

Behind the scenes mass booklets were printed, caterers and bar was organised and musicians booked. The excitement was building rightly. With all plans in place every body was praying for a fine day.

As Sunday August 15th dawned we knew our prayers were answered. It was without doubt one of the finest days of the summer, as the sun shone all day. Glann Church and area was show-cased in all its beauty. As crowds of people began to converge at Glann Church the traffic was directed to local fields, kindly offered by the local farmers. Transport



The Hodgson Family, with Fr. Jimmy and Bishop Drennan

in the form of a golf buggy kindly provided by Oughterard Golf Club and ably operated by Eugene Hanley transported many people to and from the church grounds. Glanners and people with Glann connections gathered from far and wide, over 1000 in all. The atmosphere was calm and serene.

The first plan for the day was for Parish Priest Fr Jimmy Walsh and Bishop Martin Drennan to travel by boat from Currarevagh to Glann Church. After some refreshing tea and scones at Currarevagh House Hotel compliments of the Hodgson Family, a flotilla of boats led by renowned fisherman and boat man Tom Molloy set off from Currarevagh Bay. The flotilla of boats included many young rowers of the local Regatta Club. As the boats approached the church they were joined by many boats from Corramona and Doorus. In all 31 boats arrived to the shore at the church. There was a hum in the Church yard at this stage, “any sign of the Bishop?”

Chief Celebrant and Glann native Sean Manning arrived in style, the old style on Pony and Trap, kindly supplied and driven by Jack McCann. A huge crowd had gathered to welcome Bishop Drennan. Sean Manning, Fr Jimmy Walsh and several other priests who had ministered over the years in the parish were invited to concelebrate the anniversary mass. The Church was packed to capacity, some had to view proceeding via video link to the marquee.

The mass itself was very special and emotional. Sean remembered and spoke with high regard of deceased members of the Glann community. Prayers were offered for past generations who had given so much of their time and energy to the church. He said “It was the spirit of the people of Glann that helped to build their new church 50 years ago – and as they gathered again to mark the Golden Jubilee of that opening, the spirit of the people was still as much in evidence today. There was pride in the building then and there is pride in the building now—the generations change but the pride remains” Fr. Sean said it wasn’t just the building itself that gave Glann Church its beauty. “Once you walk through the gate into this space, we are in a peaceful setting. We become aware of another side of our lives—our spiritual side. The trees on the way in help to create this feeling and we are all aware of the beauty that stretches out before us—Mount Gable on our right, the Hill of Doon and the Maam Turk mountains before us, It is the most beautiful scene I know of,” he said.

The Oughterard Youth and Young Choir under the direction of Denis Geoghegan enchanted the ceremony with their beautiful singing. Mass servers on the day were Aisling Hanley and Sean McGloin. Readers included Michael Mullaly and Martina Canavan. Towards the end of mass Gareth Small entranced the



Fr. Sean and Jack McCann

congregation with a beautiful tune on the flute. During the ceremony a presentation of a beautiful painting of Glann Church and a bouquet of flowers was made to Mae Canavan who is the sacristan to the Church for fifty years. Barbra Molloy of Baurisheen was presented with a bouquet of flowers to mark the fact she was the first bride in Glann Church on 5th July 1962 when she married Michael John Molloy (RIP.)

When the mass was over the party began in earnest as people milled in for a buffet meal and refreshments to the large marquee which had been erected at the side of the church. There was great excitement and a wonderful atmosphere. The sun continued to shine down as people mingled with each other greeting old friends, chatting and reminiscing. Some had not met for over fifty years, it was really emotional for many, even tinged with sadness for some who wished their loved ones were there, to participate and celebrate. The passing of three great Glann stalwarts during the year was not forgotten. Stephen John Tierney a few months previously, Christy Butler who sponsored and attended the fundraising fishing competition and John McGloin who died in March.

The children occupied themselves by running through the bushes and down to the lake shore. They were later entertained by a magician as were some of the adults in the church itself. They were given a huge box of sweets and chrisps all kindly donated by Justin Keogh of Keogh's Centra in Oughterard. The bar on the day was run by Brian Higgins of Fahertys and Justin Keogh. A great spread of food was laid on by Gerry McDonnell and his team including a Barbeque for any one that preferred that option. A continuous slide show of photographs depicting scenes and characters of the area was shown on a large screen in the marquee. Music was provided by Ardvarna and a memorable day was had by all.

As darkness fell the crowd began to disperse. The Celebration of The Golden Jubilee of Our Lady of The Valley Glann had been a great success and the memories of this day will remain with people for many years to come....

And to mark the occasion three trees were planted by Bishop Drennan, Fr. Jimmy P.P. and Sean aided by Tony and John Tierney who very kindly donated the trees.