RST Newsletter
Christmas Edition
FREE
Rathfeigh • Skryne • Tara
Christmas 1999 • Vol. 3 • Issue No. 22

Aoife Begley

Since our daughter Aoife's sudden death in Maynooth on 30th November, we have received such love and support from the people of this parish that we want to try to say thank you.

Just as people struggled to find the "right" words to express their grief and sympathy, we are finding it hard to explain clearly just how much the help meant to us.

The support network which sprang into being during those early days enveloped us in love and concern, and left us totally free to concentrate on contacting people, getting Aoife home and planning her funeral.

Everyone who came to our home was met by our friends with warmth and food and welcome, and we didn't have to worry or even think about the practical details. So much was done for us that we'll never know exactly who did what.

That loving warmth was also extended to all those who came to her funeral – particularly the many young people who came from NUI Maynooth, from the Connemara Gaeltacht, and from NUI Galway. They arrived shocked and saddened, but left on a more positive note because of the wonderful celebration of Aoife's life which Fr. Gleeson made of her funeral Mass, and because of the care which was shown to them by all our neighbours. Many of them spoke about how special that day was, how special the place was, and the comfort they got from being here.

Skryne has been home since we got married 25 years ago, and Aoife and Una grew up here. We are not alone in feeling Aoife's loss. We know how people's hearts have gone out to us, but they are also grieving for Aoife themselves. We have got great strength and healing from the love with which we've been surrounded. Our hope is that Aoife's friends will feel that healing too.

Our love and our prayers and our gratitude to to all of you and your families. Happy Christmas.

George, Mary and Una Begley.

Great Jubilee Celebration

Jesus Christ - Yesterday - Today and Forever

To celebrate 2000 years since the birth of Our Lord a mass will be celebrated on New Year's Eve at 6.00 in Skryne Church. Parishioners of all religious denominations are heartily welcome. Already, the four parish choirs and other singers have held numerous practices and will be ready to offer their assistance on the evening. Children from our two Primary schools will decorate the church with suitable artwork. At the moment, the two Sixth Classes are preparing a mime, others are preparing a Liturgical Dance. The aim is to have as much participation and involve as many groups as possible. All the Parish clubs and organisations are hereby invited to take part in the Offertory Procession. Please contact Fr. Gleeson for further details.

Immediately after the mass, everyone is invited to the hall for refreshments. Volunteers are needed and helpers are also needed to decorate the hall. This will be done at 3.00 on the day. To ensure a 5 successful celebration, everyone is invited to bring food/Soft drinks. This may be done at 3.00 or before the mass. There will be a party for the children (drinks/crisps/bars) and light refreshments for the adults (biscuits/sandwiches/buns). Everything will be finished in time for those who wish to ring in the new millennium elsewhere and yet the sojourn in the hall should ensure the perfect ending to our celebration as a parish community.

...mar a bhí ar dtús...mar atá anois...mar a bhéas go brách...

This Issue is Sponsored by:
George & Mary Begley

BLOTTO

Sunday 5th December 1999

Numbers drawn: 12 - 16 - 22 - 8

Jackpot not won – £25 each to:

Bernie Boland, J.P. Clarke, Peader Malone, Bernie Boland.

Sunday 12th December 1999

Numbers drawn: 2 - 7 - 10 - 9

Jackpot not won – £25 each to:

D. Flannagan, Brianan Duffy, Nicky Tobin, Sinead Daly.

NEXT WEEKS JACKPOT

£3,900

Thank You for your Support

Thank you for your support. Will all a Happy Christmas and "Good Luck" and Prosperity in 2000. N.B. There will be no Blotto Draw on Sunday 26th December. Draw will take place on Sunday 2nd January 2000.

THREE CHEERS FOR THE 49ERS

Of all the All-Ireland football finals that Meath won, everybody agrees that there was none so important as the first. After rising to such heights in the previous years the Meath team felt that it was time that the Royal County got its share of the honours.

For those of us who weren't alive at the time or have no memory of the day, it is difficult to imagine the euphoria which must have reigned in this, a fanatical football county on that day. Once the men of '49 had broken the ground it was always going to be a little bit easier for later Meath teams to say that it had been done before and that it could be done again.

It is fitting that Skryne should have shared in that first final victory. The team captain, Brian Smyth, who played at centre-forward, was a Skryne player, as were full-back Paddy O'Brien and left-back Michéal O'Brien. To have three representatives on the County team was a great honour and from every account available of that year's matches, Skryne's three men were among the best on the team.

The '49 victory has been well remembered throughout this year. We at RST would simply like to say in particular: Brian, Paddy & Michéal, we salute you!!

TARA A.C.

There was a large attendance at the annual Inter school Cross Country held last weekend at Tara. Five schools competed – Skryne, Rathfeigh, Dunshaughlin, Cushinstown and Lismullen. There was races for girls and boys from 1st to 6th classes. After a close contest Rathfeigh emerged as winners. Congratulations is offered to all who competed and made it a very enjoyable evening for all who attended. We wish all our athletes and their parents a very enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

TARA & DISTRICT CREDIT UNION A.G.M.

Our A.G.M. was held in Dunsany Hall on Tuesday 7th December. As usual, we had a dedicated turn-out. The matters of business were dealt with i a workman like manner and everybody enjoyed a cup of tea and some beautiful food supplied by Mark Kehoe.

The Chairman thanked all our members and volunteers for the work they put into the Credit Union during the year. He also encouraged members to check out repayment costs at Tara & District before making a decision on borrowing money.

The new Board of Directors include: Paddy Dunne, Berrillstown, Sinéad Rooney, Trevet, Michael Mulvaney, Ross and John Scanlon, Collierstown. Officers elected on the night were:

Chairperson: John Scanlon
Treasurer: Sinéad Rooney
Vice Chairperson: Michael Mulvaney.
Credit Officer for the year will be Paddy Dunne.

SKRYNE G.F.C.

In the last R.S.T. we suggested that Skryne should be crowned Team of the Decade. Since, then, as if to confirm this, Skryne has been named Club of the Year 1999. This award is in recognition of everything the club has achieved over the last year. In addition to the Seniors winning the championship, the Under 11s and under 13s won their respective leagues and the under 14s and 15s were beaten in finals. Add in our very successful House Draw, acquisition of our new Training pitch and drainage of McManus Park, you can see the award is well deserved. When we get our lights up in the New Year we will be geared up to be the club of the next decade – maybe we should aim to be the team of the next century. We will continue to make improvements in all aspects of club affairs. To borrow a phrase from elsewhere – "We have started – so we'll finish". So to the ladies and gentlemen of Skryne G.F.C. – Keep up the good work. Congratulations to Trevor & John on their All Star awards and especially to Trevor on being Player of the Year. The club would like to take this opportunity to thank the R.S.T. committee for all their help and publicity during the year. We would also like to wish everybody in the parish a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Millennium.

SKRYNE BOWLS CLUB

The club has been very successful in the first half of the season so far with both teams heading their respective divisions in the Meath League. We had a number of players who competed successfully in various tournaments in the County. the combination of Sean Faulkner and Michael Lynch being the most successful, winning the Kilbride tournaments, runners up in the National Pairs, semi-finalists in the Summerhill Pairs and semi-finalists with Brian O'Reilly in the National Trebles held in Skryne Hall last Sunday.

Photo shows: Michael Lynch and Sean Faulkner, being presented with the Cup for winning the Kilbride Tournament by Sean Rothwell, Kilbride.

NOTICES NOTICES

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

wish to thank everybody who contributed to its Church Gate Collection held in Skryne and Rathfeigh last weekend. Total collected was £384.83

OLD TIME DANCING

in Skryne Hall on St. Stephen's Night

Music by STARLIGHT

10.00 – 1.00 a.m. Spot Prizes

Admission £4 including Supper.

RST MILLENNIUM HIGH POINTS

The first edition of the RST newsletter appeared on June 21st 1997 and was sponsored by Skryne G.F.C. We have been extremely fortunate during this period to receive continuous sponsorship from the local community, both business and social. Of course, without a steady stream of articles we would have no newsletter, and in this regard we receive great support from our many local correspondents.
On reviewing past editions, the following is a sample of the many local highlights that we have had the pleasure of bringing to your attention:

JULY 1997: Ann O'Reilly, Proudstown won 2 gold medals for swimming at the Leinster Special Olympics.
AUGUST 1997: Skryne win the National Community Games under 14 Quiz. Team members: Paul Duffy, Pauric Scanlon, Fiona Shannon, Michelle Duffy, Mark Duffy.
AUGUST 1997: Gerry Browne beaten in Golf Society matchplay due to feeling weak following haircut!!
SEPTEMBER 1997: Martin Dolan celebrates 50 years in employment at Tara Stud.
OCTOBER 1997: Rathfeigh Pitch & Putt win the Meath League.
NOVEMBER 1997: Tara A.C. under 11 girls win the Leinster Championship. Team members: Eimear Finnerty, Eimear Hanratty, Claire Morley, Michelle Maxwell, Emily Davis, Ciara Morley.
NOVEMBER 1997: Jimmy Swan wins Skryne Golf Society Golfer of the Year Award.
JULY 1998: Ann O'Reilly wins one gold and two silver medals at National Special Olympics.
AUGUST 1998: Launch of Skryne Rathfeigh Community Alert.
OCTOBER 1998: Paul Duffy, Branstown, wins gold medal in the All Ireland Lifesaving Championships.
OCTOBER 1998: Caitrin O'Rourke, Maria O'Kane, Eimear Hanratty and Ciara Morley win gold medals in the Community Games National Final.
OCTOBER 1998: Sean Cahill wins Skryne Golf Society Golfer of the Year award.
OCTOBER 1998: Aoife Kennedy, Macetown comes fifth in British National Championships for Irish Dancing.
OCTOBER 1998: Skryne Parish Hall opens following refurbishment.
NOVEMBER 1998: The boys of Scoil Cholmcille win the Co. Meath Cumann na mBunscoil Championships in Pairc Tailteann.
NOVEMBER 1998: Irish Girl Guides started in Skryne.
MARCH 1999: G.A.A. President, Joe McDonagh visits Scoil Cholmcille.
JULY 1999: Michéal Doyle comes 3rd in All Ireland under 13 1,200m. Walk.
JULY 1999: Debbie Mangan, Rathfeigh, receives trophy on behalf of Meath Senior Ladies Football team after defeating Laois in Leinster Final.
JULY 1999: Mary Bennett, Greenpark wins Leinster medal with Meath Minor Ladies Football team.
SEPTEMBER 1999: Trevor Giles and John McDermott win All Ireland medals with Meath.
NOVEMBER 1999: Skryne Senior Football team win the Keegan Cup.

RATHFEIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Last Sunday parents and children went Carol Singing in Navan Shopping Centre. They delighted shoppers with their lively joyful selection of music. Thanks to those who participated.
Tuesday night was our annual Christmas Concert and was a very entertaining night of drama, song and dance. Thanks to all the teachers who prepared them for the night. Thanks especially to Avril Molloy and to Pru Symmons who helped with the music.
Well done to our school athletes who took part in Tara A.C. Inter Schools Cross country last Saturday week afternoon. They excelled themselves with a team representing each class. They were overall winners on the day and received the plaque for the third year running. Indeed our school won every race from 2nd to 6th and finished second in the 1st class race.
Our Christmas holidays are from Wednesday 22nd December at 12 noon. School re-opens on Monday 10th January.
We wish all our pupils, parents and friends a very Happy, Peaceful and Holy Christmas and every best wish for the new Millennium.

Scoil Cholmcille

Would be Thespians! - Recently, passes-by have seen some unusual sights as shepherds (minus their sheep), angels, Kings and even wise men (a very rare sight!!), have passed in front of their eyes. These were not apparitions, but the pupils crossing over and back from the Church to perfect their performances for the annual Christmas pageant, scheduled for December 16th. It will be over by the time this is printed, so we hope all the families and friends of our pupils will have enjoyed their performances.

Concern for Kosovo: A core group of sixth class pupils have motivated their classmates into organising a sale of work. It will be held in the Matt Talbot Hall on Tuesday next, 21st December at 11.30 a.m. They have decided to donate all of the proceeds to "Concern for Kosovo". All donations of toys, games, jigsaws, books, comics, etc. (in good condition), will be gratefully accepted until 11 a.m. on Tuesday morning. A special thank you to the Moore family who donated all the prizes for the raffle.

We would like to express our appreciation to the RST committee for helping us keep in touch with the families of our pupils and the local community during the year, and we wish them, all our pupils, their families and the Board of Management a very Happy Christmas and health, happiness and prosperity in the new Millennium.

The Staff of Scoil Cholmcille.

CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS 1999

MASSES

Friday 24th December (Christmas Eve)
Rathfeigh Church – 8.00 p.m.
Skryne Church – 9.30 p.m.

Saturday 25th December (Christmas Day)
Skryne Church – 9.00 & 11.00 a.m.
Rathfeigh Church – 12.00 noon

CONFESSIONS

Monday 22nd December
Skryne Church at 7.30 p.m.

Friday 24th December
Rathfeigh Church at 11.00 a.m.
Skryne Church at 12.00 noon

MILLENNIUM CELEBRATIONS

Friday 31st December
Skryne Church at 6.00 p.m.

NEXT EDITION

Saturday 22nd January, 2000

All articles to be submitted before Wednesday 20th January

If you wish to have any articles included in R.S.T. please

Ring John Scanlon at (046)25092 (Evenings)

Wishing all our Readers a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year

SKRYNE U.13s WHO WON DIV. 111 LEAGUE

Back row from left: Cillian O'Donoghue (Capt), Robert Reilly, Donal Fahy, Shane Dawson, Andrew Whyte, Vincent O'Reilly, Michael Curry.
Centre row: *Des Finnerty, Fred Gilsenan, Eimear Finnerty, Robert Daly, Claire Cunningham, Cian Byrne, Kevin Mulvany, Alan Tuite, James Hegarty, Eamon Reilly.*
Front row: *Ronan McCabe, David Whyte, Louis Gilsenan, Robert Whyte, Kevin Mooney, Ross Cunningham.*

MESSAGE OF CHRISTMAS

Welcome Christmas once again! Come
blizzard, snow or shine - it cannot dim the
Joy that fills our hearts at this glad time.
The days are brief,
the nights are long,
the skies are bleak and drear
But a glory shines about the ending of a year.
The glory of a wondrous thing:
The Christmas mystery.
The strange and lovely story of our Lord's nativity.
The only hope that's left to man upon this troubled earth – the hope God gave at Bethlehem at the Messiah's birth...
Welcome sweet and holy day, the day of Christ the King.
Once again the world awaits the message that you bring.

CHRISTMAS JOKES

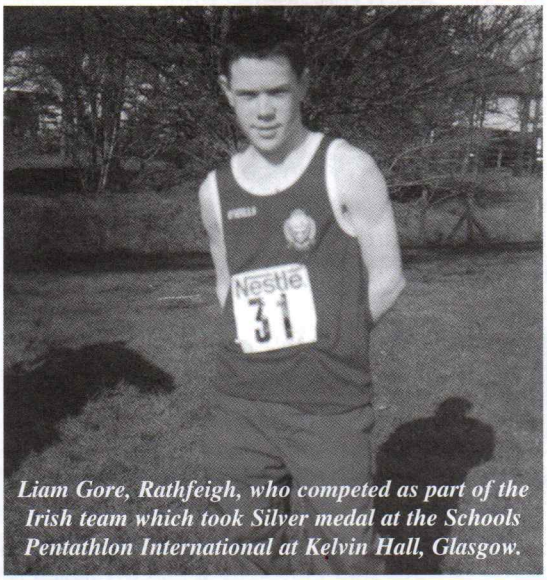
Knock, Knock.
Who's there?
Snow.
Snow who?
Snowbody but me!

Knock, knock,
Who's there?
Lettuce.
Lettuce who?
Lettuce in, we're freezing.

Why is the Christmas alphabet different from the ordinary alphabet?
Because the Christmas alphabet has Noe – L.

What's red and white and goes up and down?
Santa stuck in a lift!!

Parish Corner



Liam Gore, Rathfeigh, who competed as part of the Irish team which took Silver medal at the Schools Pentathlon International at Kelvin Hall, Glasgow.

Our sympathy to Mary Whyte & Family on the death of her Mother, Mol Reilly.

Community Alert Update

Public Meeting. The public meeting held in the Blessed Margaret Centre on 29 November proved very successful with the 'live' demonstration of the socially monitored alarm system underpinning what an excellent reassurance it provides for those who live alone or feel vulnerable in any way. Garda Ciaran O'Halloran, the Community Liaison and Crime Presentation Officer, based in Drogheda also gave a first class presentation on measures we can all take to protect our home and j,property. We plan to repeat that presentation next year to allow those who could not attend this time to benefit from it.

Grant Aid. Our bid for grant aid to provide for socially monitored alarms was successfully concluded when we received a cheque in the sum of £3,852. The administration of the bid was conducted through the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs but on this occasion the money was provided by the National Lottery. With funding now secured we are able to commence the installation programme and will have the majority completed before Christmas.

Home Security. Advice given in previous editions of the RST on protecting your home and property remains as valid as ever; perhaps more so as we approach the Christmas / New Year period. The essential message is "don't leave it to the criminals".

Do

...Tell your neighbours and the Gardai if you are going to be away.

...Fit good quality (5 lever mortice) locks to external doors.

...Take serial numbers of your property and mark those that have no serial number.

...Limit the amount of cash held in the home.

...Fit and use external lights particularly at the rear of your home.

Don't

...Leave machinery and tools in unlocked garages and sheds.

...Let unidentified people enter your home.

...Leave any windows open or external doors unlocked when you are out - even for a short period.

...Leave the key in the external door you have locked from the inside.

...Be wise after the event - be security conscious.

Leaflets You will receive a Community Alert Leaflet with this edition of the RST. We are indebted to the RST management and distributors for their kindness in helping us. Please take a few minutes to read the leaflet carefully and ask yourself if you are helping to make our community a safer place.

Finally. The Community Alert Group wishes all residents a happy, safe and crime free Christmas.

PROFILE ON FR. JOE GLEESON

This will be RST's third Christmas in existence so we decided that it was high time to profile a man who is a major leader in our community. Fr. Joe Gleeson. Fr. Gleeson was a bit cautious at first at being asked to lay bare his soul before all our seasoned readers. However, being the good sport that he is, he took the (gentle!) pressure in good part and answered all our questions without a problem. Thank you, Father.

Where are you from? Mount Bolus, Co. Offaly.

Do you come from a large family? I am fourth in a family of eight.

What are your hobbies and interests? Listening to music; reading; golf; poker.

Do you have a favourite holiday spot? Any place where the sun shines is my favourite spot.

What do you do as a party piece? I have no party piece. Those who ask me to sing regret it.

Do you have particular heroes in life/sport, etc? Mo Mowlam, Trevor Giles.

In what year did you come to Skryne? 1987.

Is there any difference between life here and in your other parishes?

Yes. There is a marked difference. My former parishes, Kilkenny, Tullamore and Laytown were towns. Skryne/Rathfeigh is rural and covers a wide area. Some parts of it are far from our Churches and the people from those areas do not always come to Mass in Skryne or Rathfeigh. Worshipping together is an important ingredient of binding together the people of a Community. People more easily recognise those who are prayed for and also hear the announcements of what is happening locally. It helps to build community spirit.

What was it that made you decide to join the priesthood?

I was greatly influenced by a priest in my home parish and also I liked to be in a position where I could help other people.

What is the best thing about being a priest?

There are very many good things about being a priest. It provides great opportunities for living close to God. I like to give God the first hour of each day in prayer. I also get great satisfaction from being with people in their joys and their sorrows.

What is the most difficult thing about being a priest?

I find it most difficult to please everyone. Some want change, others want everything as it always was. It is comforting to know that Jesus faced the same situation. Even he didn't satisfy everybody. Those tensions should fall away when we realise that we all have the same mission in life.

Have you any advice for people who might be thinking of joining the religious life?

I would encourage anyone thinking of joining the religious life to do so. The world of Our Lord "the harvest is great but the labourers are few" are very relevant today.

Do you have any unfilled ambitions?

I would like to see more people actively involved in the Church. I would prefer to hear more people call me Joe or Fr. Joe instead of Fr. Gleeson. I feel more of a friend when they use my Christian name.

What are your most cherished memories?

Opening of the new Church in Laytown on 21st October, 1979; being in Rome for the Beatification of Blessed Margaret Bermingham on 27th September, 1972 and Skryne winning the County Final on 21st November this year.

What are your earliest memories of Christmas?

Lighting the Christmas Candle, visiting the Crib, enjoying goose for the Christmas dinner.

Will the Jubilee Year have special significance for you?

We will inaugurate the Jubilee Year with the lighting of the Jubilee Candle at Christmas Eve Masses. The Jubilee Year beckons all of us to make a new start, to leave behind the baggage of old hurts, of negative attitudes and enter the new Millennium with a clean slate. I hope those who have given up the practice of attending Sunday Mass will return and keep the flame of faith alive for the next generation.

I wish all our Parishioners a very Happy Christmas and every Blessing throughout the New Year.