



# ST. PETER'S CHURCH

## TWO MILE HOUSE

# CHURCH RENOVATIONS

MAY-AUGUST 2011

### *Message from our Pastors*

At the “top of the hill” in our little village is the well known “St. Peter’s.” This much loved little church first emerged on the landscape back in 1790 and since then the story of “St. Peter’s” has developed around the lives of the people here in Two Mile House. It is the place where we gather to celebrate the significant moments of our lives as a community. Our joys are shared and celebrated within these walls in the welcoming of new members at Baptism, in the receiving of First Holy Communion and Confirmation and as couples set out on the adventure that is married life. We seek the healing and comfort of the Lord in reconciliation and our participation in the Eucharist every Sunday. As our journey ends we gather here as family and community to comfort each other and to celebrate the life of one who shared their love and laughter with us. In all of these significant moments Christ is present to us in a special way.

As we continue to live and celebrate the Gospel message in our parish, we do so in challenging times as many new questions emerge around faith in our society. “St. Peter’s” has been a landmark presence for over two hundred and twenty years in our community. During its life and history many changes and challenges have happened. Its walls echo of the memory of those gone before us who persevered in the faith in difficult times too. Our little church is a symbol of Christian hope to those of us who continue to believe in an increasingly sceptical culture.

We have been very fortunate in our parish to have the funds available to us, generated as a result of the draw held back in 1989. These resources, made available through the generosity of so many, have enabled us through the renovation work, to ensure that “St. Peter’s” will continue to be a sacred and dignified place where we, and future generations, can continue to celebrate our Christian lives. It is important to remember that the building itself is a reflection of the life and energy of the faith community that worships there. We are very blessed

to have so many people active in the life and ministry of our parish. St. Paul captures this in 1 Corinthians 12:4-7; “There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them.” We pray that this same Spirit would continue to work in all of us as we continue to in our efforts to serve the Lord in one another.



May we take this opportunity to congratulate all those involved in the renovation work over the summer months. The work was carried out with the highest professional standards and the result is a very fine job indeed! We thank the members of the Development Group of the Parish Pastoral Council, especially its chairperson, Art Shirran for the time and effort he put into the project.

We wish every blessing on the parish of Two Mile House and pray that St. Peter’s Church will continue to symbolise a living faith community for present and future generations.

*With every kind wish,  
Fr.s. Tom McDonnell P.P. & Paul Dempsey C.C.  
Development Group Report*



## *Development Group Report*

The planned improvements and repairs to St. Peter's Church are now complete and we are now in a position to outline the main works and to give some indication of the costs. As soon as possible, a more detailed account of the expenditure incurred will be given to the Parish. The main works were:-

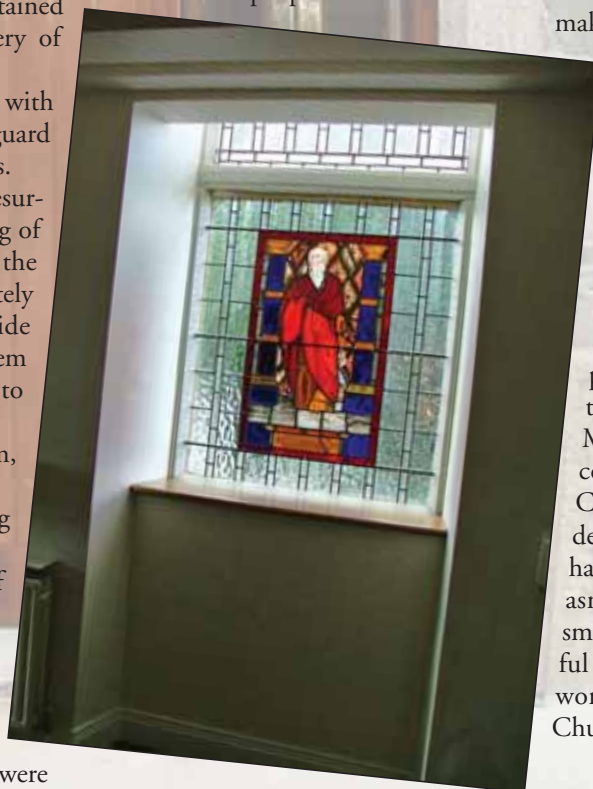
- Repairs to the Bell Tower, these included repairs to the roof and cross, replacement of the bell support structure, floors, louvers and ladders, re-pointing of masonry and installing lightening protection.
- Opening the new main entrance through the Bell Tower and replacing the old entrance with a window, which displays St. Peter's stained glass window, created by John Sillery of Dublin in 1818.
- Replacement of front of galleries with balustrades and the positioning of guard rails on side windows on the galleries.
- Upgrading of the drainage system, resurfacing of paved areas and remodelling of the Saviour's shrine in front of the Church. \* Installation of a completely new P.A. system, including outside speakers in the Bell Tower. This system was designed, installed and donated to the Parish by Cyril Mongey.
- Upgrading of complete lighting system, including external lights.
- Painting inside of Church and cleaning of external walls.
- Cleaning of attic space and fitting of insulation
- Replacement of carpets.

With the availability of equipment and personnel on site, many other small unplanned but necessary improvements were

completed - e.g. steps and safety rails in the new cemetery, tiling of toilet, provision of presses and storage space and purchase of 15 new pews. The total cost of these works, from planning and design to completion, is in the order of ?375,000 and is considerable below the original estimates. In due course, when all the invoices have been received and paid, a final cost analysis will be prepared and made available to parishioners. It should be noted that this entire development was only possible because the finances were available as a direct result of the "Horse Project" twenty years ago. Had this not been the case it would have taken a small Parish, like Two Mile House, many years to raise such a large amount of money, if indeed it was possible at all.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those people who contributed in so many different ways to make this project a success. In particular we would like to thank:-

- Colm Hassett, who has been involved in the project from the beginning, almost three years ago; he worked on the design and planning and took on the role of Project Manager during the construction stage. Colm's attention to detail, combined with hard work and enthusiasm, has played no small part in the successful completion of the work on St. Peter's Church.

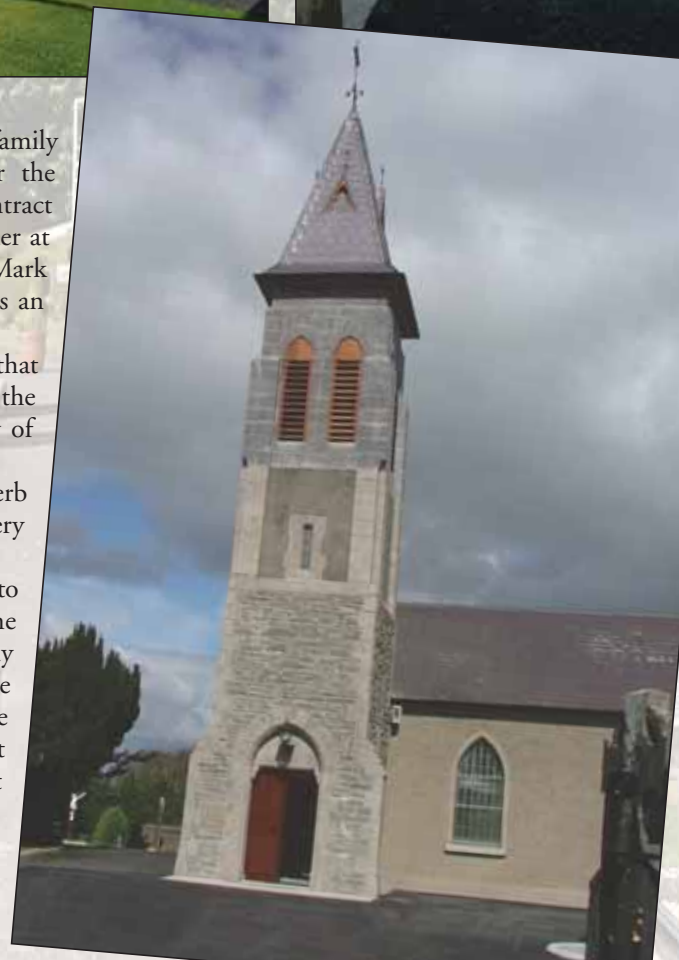




- Mark Judge of Judge Construction Ltd., together with other family members, employees and sub-contractors were outstanding for the cooperation and organisational skills, which ensured that the contract was completed on time and within budget - in spite of bad weather at the beginning of the project. It was obvious from the outset that Mark and the Judge family were committed to making this contract was an assignment for which they could be proud.
- The local suppliers and their staff who made special efforts to ensure that the work was done to the highest standards. Willie Burke supplied the joinery. Liam Mullen carried out the painting work and Murphy of Newbridge supplied the carpets.

We say a special thank you to Cyril Mongey who has installed a superb new sound system free of charge for St. Peter's Church. This is a very substantial contribution to the Parish and is very much appreciated.

A very special 'thanks' is also due to all those people, too many to attempt to remember or name, who instigated, managed and sold the raffle tickets for the "Teach Dá Mhíle" raffle in 1989/90. While many current parishioners may not be familiar with the details of the 'Horse Project', a great many parishioners worked very hard, under the leadership of Fr. Brendan O'Byrne P.P., to make it the success that it was. The cost of renovation of St. Peter's Church was almost completely covered by the proceeds of that project. Thanks once again to all those involved twenty years ago, or so.



# A TRADITION OF CARING FOR ST. PETER'S CHURCH



Bi-Centenary Medal 1990

As mentioned earlier, the work just completed on St. Peter's Church would not have been possible without the historic success of the Raffle for the horse "Teach Dhá Mhíle" in 1989. The proceeds were partially used to carry out necessary refurbishment of the Church at that time, in preparation for the Bi-Centenary in 1990, and the balance was put into an investment portfolio. The success of that raffle and the accrual of profits since then have meant that the current generation of Parishioners have a fully restored St. Peter's, without having to carry out a programme of fund raising.

From the very year of its construction in 1790, the local community have been committed to caring for their Church – a local farmer Mathias White gave £200 for its construction and Archibald Hamilton Rowan, the Protestant landlord, gave the land for the 'Chapel'; he was one of the leaders of the United Irishmen just before the Rising of 1798. The plaque herewith illustrated was placed on the wall of the Church at that time. Thus, the kindness of the locals was commemorated and it is the only tangible record of that time. Over the 220 years since then the Parish com-

munity have maintained the Church as a focal point of the community in good condition and the local newspaper, the Kildare Observer carries some reports on their efforts. The Kildare Observer 23rd December 1905 carried the following announcement of a 'grand concert' in aid of the fund for the decoration of the Church and a detailed account of the entertainment was carried in the same newspaper two weeks later, when it was stated that the concert had taken place in the schoolhouse. This tradition was continued some years later, when the local GAA club held its annual sports of 1918.

**Concert at Two-Mile-House**  
On the nights of the 27th and 28th inst a grand concert will be held at Two-Mile-House in aid of the fund for the decoration of the R. C. Church. The programme is a varied and interesting one, and the names of the performers is a sufficient guarantee that the items will be well rendered. A farce, entitled, "The Steeple-chase," will also be presented.

Kildare Observer 23rd Dec. 1905

The Kildare Observer of 8th June 1918 carried an announcement for the event, which was "in aid of church renovations." This shows that G.A.A., the

major sports organisation in the parish, was actively assisting in fund raising for St. Peter's. Three years later, the Kildare Observer 25th June 1921 carried a detailed advertisement for the Two-Mile-House "Athletic and Cycling Sports, under GAA rules" which was "in aid of Parochial Work."

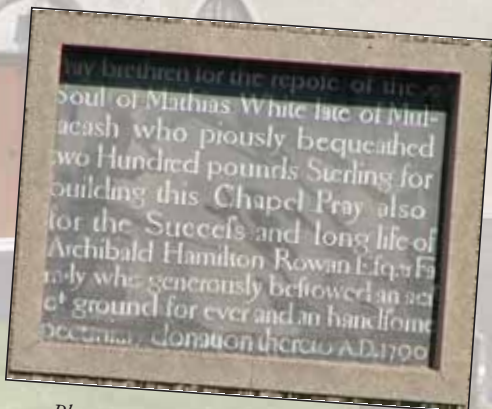
In the intervening years, the annual field day became a major social event in the life of the Parish, which continued until 30 years ago, or so. After that a number of major poker tournaments were held at Punchestown racecourse. These were an important source of income that contributed to the maintenance of St. Peter's and to the development of the school, to cater for the growing numbers of school children. Thus, the present day parishioners of St. Peter's Church can now feel that they have participated in a 220 year old tradition of caring for their Church – long may it continue so.

**TWO-MILE-HOUSE, NAAS, CO. KILDARE, Athletic and Cycling Sports.**  
Under G.A.A. Rules, Commencing at 2.30 p.m., new time, on Sunday, 17th July, 1921, Field kindly lent by Mr. James Flanagan.  
First-class Prizes in all Sections. Admittedly one of the best Sports' Fixtures in Leinster. Refreshments served on Sports' field. Numerous Side Shows by Committee. A prominent Band will attend.  
**PROGRAMME.**  
**ATHLETIC EVENTS.**  
1—Marathon Race, Salinas to Two-Mile-House Schoolhouse, starting at 1.15 p.m., new time.  
2—220 Yards Open Handicap, for boys under 16 years.  
3—100 Yards Open Handicap.  
4—220 Yards Open Handicap.  
5—140 Yards Open Handicap.  
6—80 Yards Open Handicap.  
7—One Mile Flat Open Handicap. Silver Cup, value £20. To be won twice in succession, three times in all. Won in 1920 by J. Arminis, Dublin.  
8—High Jump, Open Handicap.  
9—Stinging 35 lbs. over Bar. Open Handicap.  
**CONFINED EVENTS:—**  
10—140 Yards Handicap, for Labourers of Parish.  
11—Obstacle Race. For members of the Two-Mile-House G.F.C.  
12—100 Yards Handicap. For School Girls of Newbridge Parish.  
**CYCLING EVENTS:—**  
13—One Mile, Open Handicap.  
14—Three Miles, Open Handicap.  
15—Three Miles, Open Scratch. Lap.  
16—Two Miles Championship of Leinster. Time Limit, 6 mins. 30 secs.  
17—One Mile Open Handicap. For ladies.  
18—Two-Mile-House Donkey Derby. Half-mile.  
Entries close on Saturday 9th July, 1921, with Mr. J. Fezani and P. Connolly, Hon. Secs., Two-Mile-House, Naas. No entrance fee, but competitors must pay for admission at Gate.  
Admission—One Shilling. Cars, 2s. 6d. Motors, 5s. Occupants, 1s. each.

Kildare Observer 25th June 1921

**Two-Mile-House Sports.**  
A meeting of the committee in charge of the arrangements for the carrying out of the athletic sports programme in Two-Mile-House, Naas, on Sunday, 25th July, was held in the Schoolhouse on Sunday evening last. Mr. Richard Kearney presided, and there was a full attendance of the committee present. A most interesting programme was drawn up, which includes a cycling, running and jumping events, a cycling, running and jumping events, a cycling, running and jumping events, a cycling, running and jumping events, etc. It was also decided to provide for the refreshment of visitors by having a tent erected on the field in which tea and other light refreshments will be served. This important department was placed in the capable hands of Mr. Thomas Brophy, who will be assisted by a committee of the ladies of the parish. Arrangements were also made for having a place on the programme, full particulars of which will be published in due course in our advertising columns. The object of the sports is to provide funds for the paying off of a debt incurred in the renovation of Two-Mile-House Church, and being such a meritorious one, it is hoped that a great attendance of the public will be present. The sports are being held under the auspices of the G.A.A., and we understand that some of the finest athletes in the country have intimated their intention of taking part in the contests. A special reference may be made regarding the prizes. They are to be of an exceptionally valuable character, and the fortunate victors will have something worth carrying home with them. Mr. Patk. O'Connor was delegated to arrange for the printing of the programmes, etc.

Kildare Observer 8th June 1918



Plaque on St. Peter's Church dated 1790