

Laragh & Glendalough News



Issue 207 – December 2014



Christmas Carols in the Monastic City

All are welcome to join us at 7.30 pm on Thursday 18th December for a unique Christmas celebration in one of the most evocative settings in Wicklow. We will begin with a candlelit procession through the monastic gates of Glendalough and proceed to the ruins of the cathedral for an evening of traditional carol singing in the monastic style. Some of our most familiar carols would have been sung here by the monks of Glendalough themselves in the 8th and 9th centuries. Admission is free and tea and coffee will be provided afterwards in the Glendalough Hotel courtesy of Pat Casey.

Assemble in the hotel car park at 7.15 pm. Wrap up warmly and bring your own lantern/torch and singing voice. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

St. John's Church

Christmas Services

Tuesday 16th December

St. Saviour's School Christmas Service takes place at 6.30 pm in St. Saviour's Church, Rathdrum.

Sunday 21st December

The Parish Lessons and Carols will take place in St. Saviour's at 7 pm. We will be joined, once again, by the Avondale Singers.

Christmas Eve

Crib Service in St. Saviour's at 6 pm

Holy Communion II in St. John's at 11.30 pm

Christmas Day

Holy Communion II in Glenealy at 10 am

Holy Communion II in St. Saviour's at 11.30 am

Parish Supper Dance

The Parish supper dance took place in Lynhams Hotel on Friday 14th November. The large crowd was treated to a wonderful supper, including some amazing desserts, before dancing the night away to The Wicklow Man. The raffle was, as always, the highlight of the night and David Delamere did a fantastic job as MC for the evening. Sincerest thanks to those involved in organising the event.

New Facebook Page

The parish has a new Facebook page and can be found on Facebook as "Rathdrum, Laragh and Glenealy Group of Parishes". We would love as

many people as possible to like and share the page which will be used to publicise events in the parish.

Avondale Voices

The local community choir, Avondale Voices, will be singing at the carol service in St. Saviour's on December 21st. They are also preparing for a number of concerts in the spring. The choir has members from across the community and rehearses in the old school in Ballinatone on Wednesday nights. New members are always welcome.

St. Cecelia Singers Christmas Concert

The musical delights of the St. Cecelia Singers with conductor Sandra Ganly mark the start of the Christmas season for many of us. They will be a feature of the annual Christmas concert which takes place on Saturday 12th December at 8 pm in Glenealy Parish Church. Mince pies and mulled wine will be served afterwards. Seats can be booked from Peter McDaniel (087-7638022) or Susan McFarlane (087-6578482).

Community Christmas Lights Event

The Laragh Community Christmas Lights event will take place on the green at 5.30 pm on Sunday 7th December. There will be music and Christmas cheer and, of course, Santa will arrive by carriage. Please dress up or wear your favourite Christmas jumper. Donations should be put in a sealed envelope and handed into Willie McCoy's shop.

St. Kevin's Parish

Christmas Services

Saturday 20th December

Christmas Penitential Service at 10 am (similar services will take place in Roundwood at 11 am on Saturday 13th December and in Rathdrum at 8 pm on Monday 15th December)

Wednesday 24th December (Christmas Eve)

Vigil Mass at 9 pm preceded by carol service at 8.30 pm

Thursday 25th December (Christmas Day)

Mass at 9.30 am and 11.30 am

**A Very Happy Christmas to all our
Contributors, Distributors, Sponsors and
Readers – Eds.**

The Brockagh Resource Centre

The Brockagh Resource Centre wishes to thank all friends and patrons for their support throughout 2014. We wish you all a Happy, Holy and Peaceful Christmas. The Centre will close at 5 pm on Friday 19th December and will re-open from Monday 5th January – please call 0404-45600 to check opening times.

Christmas Gift Fair

Our Christmas Gift Fair takes place on Saturday and Sunday 6th and 7th December. Santa will be making his usual trip to the Centre and will be here from 1 to 3 pm on both days. There will be lots of hand-made and unique Christmas gifts available (some costing as little as €5). You will find home baking, jams and chutneys, Christmas puddings and cakes, jewellery, novelty bird-tables, hand-knits, fairy doors, aloe vera, candles, Christmas wreaths, glass and pottery, plants and much more.

Car Boot Sale

Our next Car Boot Sale will take place on the second Sunday of February (as Roundwood Variety Group's show takes place the previous weekend). From March onwards, Car Boot Sales will take place as normal on the first Sunday of the month. Contact the Brockagh Centre on 0404-45600.

Tuesday Night - Dance Night

Our Tuesday night dances continue from 9.30 pm until late with The Wicklow Man.

Zumba

We are delighted to see Zumba back on Wednesday nights from 7 pm. Zumba keeps you strong and improves cardio-fitness while also toning areas that you may have never been able to target before. It is suitable for all levels of fitness and is easy, effective, fun and totally exhilarating.

Yogatree Yoga

Yogatree Yoga continues on Wednesday nights from 7 to 8.30 p.m. The class is suitable for all ages and abilities from beginners to more advanced and can assist with relaxation, de-stressing, flexibility and improved health. Contact Yogatree on 0404-40000 for further information.

Glendalough Hermitage Centre

We at the Glendalough Hermitage Centre continue to offer welcome and hospitality to many retreatants from all over the world and from many faith traditions. The tranquillity and sacredness of this place affords them an opportunity to commune with nature and 'to rest awhile'. Our team offers morning and evening prayer, Centering Prayer on Thursday evenings and Lectio Divina on Saturday

evenings. All of these prayer sessions are available to the local community also. We pray at 9.45 am and 6 pm from Monday to Saturday.

A secondary part of our work is leading school and adult groups in pilgrimage through the monastic site. This venture has been very successful and we pray that the groups who come will be greatly blessed in their lives. We are also involved with the children from Scoil Chaoimhín Naofa. They come once a month for a short meditation session and really enjoy this quiet time.

Tranquillity 'prayer' Sundays take place on the first Sunday of each month between March and November inclusive (10.30 am to 4.30 pm).

Many thanks to all who continue to be involved with the Hermitage Team. May the blessings of the Festive Season be with you all.

Srs. Doreen, Joan and Margaret

Mobile Library

The mobile library visits Laragh every second Thursday from 12 noon to 12.50 pm. The first ten minutes are spent outside the Brockagh Centre and the rest of the time is spent outside Lynhams. The next visit takes place on Thursday 18th December.

Laragh Glendalough Active Retirement

The group headed off last month to Gorey to see Isla Grant, a very popular Scottish country singer. It was a great night of music and fun – thanks, Dinah. On Tuesday 25th November, the group yet again visited Leighlinbridge Arboretum for some festive cheer and festive shopping – thanks, Ann.

Our Christmas Lunch will take place on Tuesday 16th December at 12.45 pm in the Glendalough Hotel (this will also be our monthly lunch). The group always welcomes new members.

We were delighted to welcome Mai and Frank Quaid to our group on Tuesday 18th November. Mai, from Baltinglass, is president of Active Retirement Ireland while Frank is a development officer with the organisation. They gave us an overview of the Governance Code and some recent changes affecting Active Retirement Ireland. They both took part in our exercises and stayed for a cuppa and chat afterwards.

Baptisms

Welcome to Katie Joan Driver (daughter of Stephen Driver and Ann-Marie Kavanagh) and Kevin Louis O'Brien (son of Francis O'Brien and Barbara Byrne) who were both baptised in St. Kevin's Church recently.

Adult Career Guidance Service

The Adult Career Guidance Service is still available at the Brockagh Centre. This careers/education service is free, friendly, confidential, supportive and available to all adults over 18 years of age. For more information please contact Irene Hayden on 086-8061569.

Death

We extend our sincere sympathy to the relatives and friends of Lil Farrington (Roundwood and Castlekevin) who passed away on 29th November. May she rest in eternal peace.

Citizens Information

The Citizens Information Centre at the Brockagh Resource Centre is open for information relating to your rights and entitlements from 10 am until noon on Tuesday 16th December. The first clinic of 2015 will take place on Tuesday 6th January. Clinics will continue thereafter on the *first Tuesday* of each month. No appointment is necessary for this free and confidential service.

Laragh GFC

Junior A

Our season finished with a home victory over Bray Emmets; that leaves us playing both Junior A league and Junior A championship next year. Many thanks to manager John Begley and his selectors Johnny, Brian and Seamus for all their effort and commitment over the season.

AGM Preparations

We will be organising a date for our AGM shortly. If you would like a job please give your name to any committee member.

Stewards Wanted

If you are available to help with stewarding from 5.15 to 7 pm on Sunday 7th December for the turning-on of the Christmas lights, please contact Fergal on 087-2107876.

Thank You and Good Wishes

We would like to thank everyone who donated time or money to the club over the year – it is much appreciated. We wish all our members and their families a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Wicklow Christmas Together

Wicklow Christmas Together invites anyone living in Wicklow Town or the surrounding area to celebrate Christmas Day in the company of others. Come along to the Parochial Hall in Wicklow Town between 1 and 5 pm and enjoy a full

Christmas dinner (commences at 2 pm), a sing-song, dancing, music and a bit of craic. Young and old, singles, couples and small families are all welcome. Tickets cost €10 (waged) or €5 (unwaged, children and pensioners) and are available from Earls Newsagents, Abbey Street or by contacting Pat on 086-2771871. If you need transport please contact Anna on 087-4182525.

Wedding

Congratulations to John Devitt and Shirley Mahon on the occasion of their marriage in St. John's Church on Saturday 25th October. We wish them every happiness in their future life together.

Scoil Chaoimhín Naofa

Christmas Pageant

The children will be performing in a Christmas Pageant on Tuesday 16th December. Rehearsals have begun and we are all working very hard.

National Children's Choir

Fifth and Sixth Classes are taking part in the National Children's Choir again this year. The boys and girls went to St. Cronin's School in Bray on Thursday 20th November for their first practice.

Fund Raising Events

Fifth and Sixth Classes held a bake sale to help fund our involvement in the National Children's Choir. On the same day we had to pay €2 for Funky Feet Day, so we called the day 'BBB' for biscuits, buns and boots. The event was a great success and the cakes were delicious.

Open Morning

On Monday 24th November Múinteoir Kathy brought Sixth Class to Avondale Community College for an Open Morning. Children took part in science experiments and in a P.E. lesson.

Football

The school football team took part in the Coughlan Cup at Bray Emmets' pitch. We played in Division 3 and played 3 games against schools of different sizes. Firstly, we played Roundwood, a school twice our size, but lost by a few goals. Secondly, we played Moneystown, a similar-sized school to ours, and beat them with a bit to spare. Finally, we played St. Peters of Bray, traditionally a very strong school, and we won well to secure second place in the competition. The boys received silver medals and we are now looking forward to our next blitz in March. Many thanks to Tommy Carroll of Roundwood who helped us with invaluable advice in our training for the competition.

Special thanks to Amy Windsor, Rang 5 for helping to compile these notes.

Honk, The Ugly Duckling

The Brockagh Centre is delighted to once again welcome Roundwood Variety Group for their annual show. *Honk, The Ugly Duckling* is full of music, laughter and fun and tells the story of a little duck and the cat who wants to have him for dinner.

Evening performances will take place on Thursday 29th January at 7.30 pm and on Friday 30th and Saturday 31st January at 8 pm with matinées on Saturday 31st January and Sunday 1st February at 3 pm. Tickets will go on sale from 5th January and cost €15 for night shows or €12 for matinées. You can buy a voucher for a Christmas present which can be redeemed for tickets in January. For vouchers or any further information please contact Mary Margaret on 086-8287858.

Operation Transformation

Operation Transformation will be back in the Brockagh Centre in January. Make sure to check the local press or Brockagh Facebook for the start date and enrol for the challenge.

Tidy Towns

Environmental Award

Aughrim recently hosted Wicklow Co. Council's Environmental Awards in The Pavilion. At the presentation, Laragh/Glendalough Tidy Towns were commended and awarded €100 for their efforts in keeping the area clean. We thank anyone who came out to help during the past season and hope some more will join us in the new year.

Laragh Classic Donation

St. Tiernan's Cycling Club last month donated €200 to the Tidy Towns committee to thank the community for its help and patience during the Friends First Laragh Classic in late September. The club and the committee look forward to working together again next year.

5Rhythms

Start the year off on the right foot. 5Rhythms is a dynamic movement practice – a practice of being in your body – that ignites creativity, connection and community (Gabrielle Roth).

Starting on 15th January in Annamoe Centre, Sherron St Clair, a certified 5Rhythms teacher, will be holding a fortnightly 5Rhythms movement meditation class (Waves level) on a Thursday evening from 7.30 to 9 pm. The cost will be €15 or €12 for elders, unemployed and students. A card for six classes costs €60. As an incentive to try it

out 3 times, the third class for beginners will be free! All shapes, sizes and abilities are welcome and no experience is necessary.

The 5Rhythms practice facilitates deep and unending explorations, moving the dancer beyond self-imposed limitations and isolation. For more information check out www.5Rhythms.com or www.sherrondipity.com, contact Sherron on 086-8788311 or see Facebook: Sherron St Clair.

Annamoe Community Centre

Bowls Our home matches are almost finished and we are doing very well. Any ladies interested in playing in the morning (say 10.30 am to 1 pm, starting in January) should contact the Centre.

Handball The glass wall for the handball alley is almost completed. All children aged between 5 and 13 years are invited to come along on Wednesday evenings from 6.30 to 7.30 pm for coaching. Those aged 14 and up should come along on Thursday nights. For more information contact Oliver on 087-9040535.

Tennis If you are interested in using the tennis court contact Caroline in advance on 086-8188499.

Rosaleen Durkin Kinesiology We welcome Rosaleen Durkin to her practice in the centre. You can contact Rosaleen on 087-2195931.

“Soul in Hands” Massage Therapy

Business in the “Soul in Hands” massage clinic will continue as usual until 23rd December and will resume on 2nd February (the clinic will be closed in January). If you want to buy Christmas gift vouchers for your loved ones, be sure to check out the special offers on www.soulinhands.ie. Organic creams and body oils from Spanish brand Matarrania are also available in the clinic. Please call me on 086-3283658 for details.

Many thanks to all my clients for their support in 2014 and for the word-of-mouth that has helped my business to grow. Thank you also to all the local businesses, community centres and sports clubs who hold my leaflets and refer people. A very special mention must go to the Hermitage and Tearmann Centres for our mutual collaboration in facilitating a healing environment in Glendalough – it is wonderful to work with you. Merry Christmas and good health to all.

Elena Rodriguez

Please leave articles for the next issue into W. McCoy's by **13th January**; alternatively email them to laragh_glendalough_news@hotmail.com