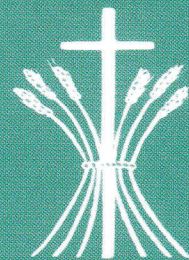


The Sheaf

ST. JOSEPH'S YOUNG PRIESTS SOCIETY

www.stjosephsyoungpriestssociety.com



SAINT JOSEPH'S YOUNG PRIESTS SOCIETY, 23 MERRION SQUARE, DUBLIN 2. TELEPHONE: DUBLIN 676 2593

SPRING 2012

A WORD FROM FR EAMONN BOURKE, Chief Caplain:

It is a great privilege for St Joseph's Young Priests Society to be involved in such an important way with the 2012 International Eucharistic Congress, held in Dublin in June. It is very fitting that our Society is present and represented at what will surely be of great historic significance.

There are memories and stories told regarding the Eucharistic Congress of 1932 and how important that congress was in cementing the foundation of a newly established state on an international stage. The involvement of the Society in this year's Congress will I believe have equal if not more importance in placing the renewal of the Irish Church on the centre stage internationally.

The Church during the past number of years in Ireland has seen much happening. Many mistakes have been made, many lessons have been learned. It is time now I believe for the Church in Ireland to come out of the shadows and begin to find its confidence again and once more refocus its energy on sharing with the world our faith in the loving and powerfully healing power of Christ.

On behalf of the Society I am holding a workshop on Wednesday 13 June at the RDS in Dublin. The Theme of this day of the Congress is: *Exploring and Celebrating Ministry – Ordained and Lay. Placing our gifts at the Service of Communion.* This is a very appropriate day on which to hold a workshop. At the heart of St Joseph's is the deepest love for the presence of Christ in the Eucharist and flowing from this, all our work is done in supporting those whom God is calling by name to the Ordained Ministry.


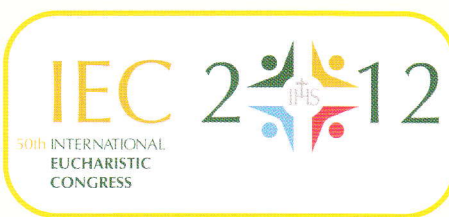
The title of the Workshop reflects the charism of our Society and is simply: *Priesthood: Informing, Inviting, Responding; Accompanying those who feel called to the Ordained Ministry.* In the workshop I hope to explore the journey that a young man

takes when he begins to hear that still small voice in his heart calling him to be a priest. It will be a great joy for me to share with those present my knowledge and experience of the Society and how it applies itself in prayerful and financial support to those who feel called to be a priest.

May I ask members and benefactors of St Joseph's around the country to pray for both the success of the Congress overall and specifically that the

Lord will inspire me with words that bring him reverence and glory. Your prayers are vitally important. Do come along, if you can.

(Register now at www.iec2012.ie/registration or phone (01) 2071840 - Ed)



St Joseph's Young Priests Society

THE TWIN PURPOSES OF THE SOCIETY ARE:

- To foster vocations to the priesthood and religious life, and to assist financially in the education of students for the priesthood.
- To promote the vocation of the laity, to foster a greater understanding and love of the Holy Eucharist, and to help members be Christ's presence in every aspect of life.

How can I help?
By supporting the branch in your parish or at your work. Alternatively, by contacting the General Secretary of the Society at:

St Joseph's Young Priests Society
23 Merrion Square
Dublin 2
Tel: 01 676 2593
Fax: 01 676 2549
Email: sjyps@eircom.net

"A Priest is God's messenger to His people."
Pope Benedict XVI

www.stjosephsyoungpriestssociety.com

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PROVINCIAL CONGRESSES 2012

Theme for reflection: A Greater Hope

- Armagh** Saturday 3 March 2012 - *St Macartan's Cathedral & Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan*
- Cashel** Saturday 10 March 2012 - *The Hibernian Hotel, Mallow, Co Cork*
- Dublin** Saturday 31 March 2012 - *St Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co Kildare*
- Tuam** Saturday 21 April 2012 - *McWilliam Park Hotel, Claremorris, Co Mayo*

Our New National President

As most members know by now, Mr George Dee, Began, Claremorris, Co Mayo, in the Tuam Archdiocese was elected National President of Saint Joseph's Young Priests Society at the Central Council Meeting in St Patrick's College, Drumcondra, Dublin.

Following his appointment, a courtesy call on Dr Michael Neary, Archbishop of Tuam and an introductory visit to Fr Kevin Doran at the office of the International Eucharistic Congress in Ballsbridge, Mr Dee was interviewed by Intercom, the magazine published by Veritas for the Bishops' Commission on Communications.

George was born in Ballylongford Co Kerry. He and his wife Kathy have six children and 19 grandchildren. He worked a small dairy farm and later a large commercial mushroom enterprise. He was with North Connaught Farmers (now Connacht Gold) for 12 years.

By way of introducing Mr Dee to our readers, the following appears courtesy of Intercom.

How did you first become involved with St Joseph's Young Priests Society?

Mr Dave Quinn, a retired policeman from Tuam asked Fr McEllin (RIP), the Parish Priest of Began at the time, if we would form a branch of St Joseph's Young Priests Society in Began. Fr McEllin passed the task on to me. That was the Springtime of 1982. I'm associated with the Society ever since.

Has the Society changed much in this time?

It has not changed much in that time except for its Annual Congress which was held in Dublin every Eastertime. Now we have four regional congresses in the ecclesiastical provinces of Armagh, Dublin, Cashel and Tuam, giving more people the opportunity to attend and contribute to the promotion of the Society.

What do you see as the key role of the Society today?

To foster vocations to the priesthood and religious life and assist clerical students,

spiritually and financially during their theological training. I believe this to be a great vocation for the laity, without the Eucharist we are all lost. Without the Mass there is no Eucharist and without the Priest there is no Mass. Our founder Mrs Olivia Taaffe was surely a woman of great vision and inspired by God to start this Society in 1895. Had her own son lived and been ordained we would probably never have heard of Olivia Taaffe, but because he died and she started this Society, she is therefore indirectly responsible for the ordination of thousands of priests.

What would you like to see happen during your time as President?

Going to meetings around the country one can only be inspired by the love people have for priesthood and the work of our Society, doing what we can (quietly) to promote vocations. We are supporting 787 students at the moment. If we can increase that number every year, I think I will have done my bit for the Society.

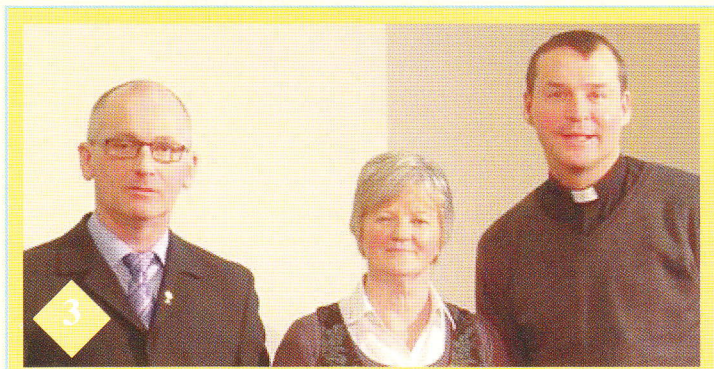


Picture 1: George Dee with Fr Kevin Doran at the International Eucharistic Congress office at the Royal Dublin Society (RDS), Simonscourt Road, Ballsbridge.

Picture 2: The team from Switch Digital Productions, Drogheda who are currently in the final stages of production of a new DVD – Noel Mohan and Tony Breen.

Picture 3: Among the many people around the country taking part in the making of a new DVD on the work of Mrs Olivia Taaffe and the Society, are Padraig C O'Brien, Ballyshannon, Co Donegal; Mrs Marian Fennelly, Jerpoint, Co Kilkenny; Fr Eamonn Bourke, Dublin Diocese. Mr O'Brien has taken over as treasurer of St Joseph's replacing Mr James Finnerty, who was elected pro tem by central council pending the appointment of his replacement.

Picture 4: On November 1, George Dee the Society's new National President on his first day in office paid a visit with David Quinn, Iona Institute, to an ordinary monthly meeting of the Printers Branch in progress at the Society's House. Seen here are the two visitors, with the committee of the branch L to R Maura Bartley, Nuala McMahon, George Dee, Sr Anne O'Neil OP, David Quinn, Des Murray, Maria Murray and Gerry Bartley.



IT IS THE MASS THAT MATTERS

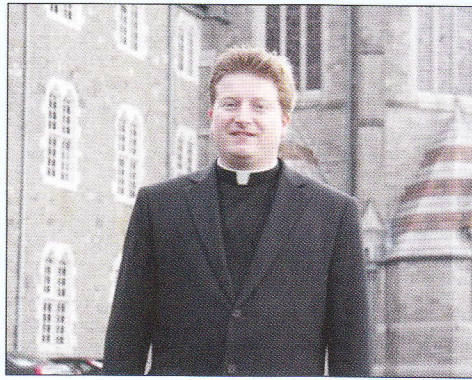
by Fr Anthony Buckley, Skibbereen, Co Cork.

Every Mass is a great act of thanksgiving to God. It has been such a great joy for me to give thanks to God through my offering of the Holy Mass since my Ordination on June 4 last. What a tremendous privilege to be able to make present the Lord, - Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity on the altar at every Mass.

It is so important for priests to bear this in mind throughout their lives. Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta was always anxious to remind priests of their great privilege. To this effect she had a notice for priests placed in the sacristies of her convent chapels. It read: Priest of God, offer this Mass as if it was your first Mass, your only Mass and your last Mass.

This morning as we offer the Mass here at your Council Meeting in Drumcondra, I would also like to give thanks for the tremendous support both spiritual and temporal which I received from St Joseph's Young Priests Society during my time in Maynooth. I am eternally indebted to all of you. The work you do in terms of fostering and supporting vocations to the priesthood in so important both here in Ireland and beyond.

As well as fostering and praying for vocations I think another important task facing all of us today is that of passing on the faith to the present generation. I say this because without faith we cannot discern the path that God has called us to follow. It is only through faith in Jesus Christ that a young man can discern a call to the priesthood. Due to the



Fr Anthony Buckley, Diocese of Cork & Ross

circumstances of our time many young people have been deprived of the privilege of knowing Christ. I believe that this is one of the reasons why there has been such a fall off in vocations in our time. ...

As I look back on my own life I am very aware of those who gave me the gift of faith in order that I could discern a vocation to the priesthood. I think of my parents who were the first to reveal God to me. Then I think of my grandparents whose fervent faith was such an inspiration to me when I was growing up. I am very grateful to my grandparents for passing on their devotion to the Rosary. I hope I will always treasure such a great legacy.

Also, the witness of priests and religious has been very important and formative during my life. I often think of the late Fr Michael Ryan who prepared me for my First Holy Communion. He took such care to ensure that my classmates

and I were ready for the day. He taught us great reverence for the real presence of Christ in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

In conclusion today I beg you all to persevere in your apostolate. We need priests today as much as ever - remember without a priest we cannot have the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and as so many of our ancestors who risked their lives at Mass rocks knew - it is the Mass that matters.

Sometimes in the world in which we live in today it can be hard to persevere. St Teresa of Avila whose Memorial we celebrate today, also faced obstacles in her own apostolate. However, St Teresa was certain that through prayer we can achieve all God asks of us including what seems impossible through our own effort alone. Through prayer God gave her the strength to carry on through her union with Him. After prayer St Teresa found that she was ready to overcome any obstacle. The words of today's Gospel reading certainly come to mind here: Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty (JOHN 15).

So again, I plead with you, the members of St Joseph's Young Priests Society to persevere in your work. Pray that the Lord of the harvest may send many labourers in to His harvest in order that they may reveal Christ to both the present generation and generations yet to come.

May Our Lady the Mother and Queen of Priests pray for us. Amen.

The new Papal Nuncio to Ireland, Archbishop Charles John Brown, speaks about the International Eucharistic Congress

"The Church, my friends, does not live because of offices, committees and structures (as important as these may be). She lives by the presence of Jesus Christ - our way, our truth and our life. And his presence is experienced in many ways, but most powerfully in his word and in his sacraments - above all, in the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

We need to deepen our understanding of this reality and this is the reason for the important gathering which will soon take place 'close to home' we might say - here in the cosmopolitan city of Dublin. I refer, of course, to the upcoming International Eucharistic Congress which will be held from June 10th to the 17th of this year, a very significant event not only for the Catholic Church in Ireland, but for the universal Church. It has been carefully and creatively organized and prepared. What is the point of such a gathering? It is to renew our faith in the reality which is at the absolute center of Catholic life - the real presence of Christ himself in the Eucharist. Ultimately, it is renewed faith and love for the Lord in the Eucharist that will renew our lives and renew the life of the Church. It is his true presence in the Eucharist which can heal our own spiritual paralysis, which fills us with light and joy, which gives meaning to our lives, and which prepares us for the life of the world to come.

It is a great joy for me to be in Ireland, beginning my time here as Pope Benedict's representative, especially in this year of the International Eucharistic Congress. Something new is indeed happening. I am convinced that the Lord is preparing something beautiful for his Church. May I ask your support and your prayers for my mission, as I thank you from the heart for being here with me today. Let us ask the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, to intercede for us and for Ireland as we strive to follow her son more closely."

(Extract from Homily of the Apostolic Nuncio, in the Pro-Cathedral Dublin, 19 February 2012 - Ed)

SEAMUS McCONVILLE RIP

(Former Cashel Provincial President of the Society) by Donal Nolan

Husband, father, devout Christian, newsman; the cornerstones of Seamus McConville's life were outlined in a funeral Mass that was moving and dignified, befitting the man.

One of the great newspaper men of the 20th Century in Kerry through his time as editor of The Kerryman, Seamus was laid to rest at Rathass Cemetery following a Requiem Mass celebrated by Msgr O'Riordan at St John's Church. ...

Msgr O'Riordan recalled that "He was a gift from God to his family, to us his friends, and his colleagues and, in my case, for almost 40 years. He was a man of stature in every aspect of his being; a profoundly Christian man who saw the good in everyone and affirmed it in his warm-heartedness and sincerity.

"Two Irish words are fitting above all other - 'uasal' (noble) and 'dilís' (faithful). Through his career he helped build up the community and county, just as he did through his work outside of The Kerryman with societies as diverse as the Lion's Club, the Festival of Kerry, St Joseph's Young Priests Society and the informal 'Cornerboys', a group of friends who met regularly in the Abbeygate to discuss the affairs of the county and nation.



Mary Dempsey, then president Cork and Ross diocesan committee in conversation with the late Seamus McConville at the Society's Cashel Provincial Congress on 20 March 2010 at the Silver Springs Moran Hotel, Cork.

"It's 10 years ago since he called over to me in the Pastoral Centre to say he had been diagnosed with leukemia that day and, typical of the man, his focus was not so much on himself but on his family. The last ten years brought many gifts and blessings despite the illness.

"Seamus, you left us so many memories to cherish: Your pride of place in Tralee and south Kerry especially, your love of family, your unique voice, words of encouragement, warm handshake, friendly disposition and deep faith... In one of the calendars today I saw it written: 'It is chance that makes brothers,

it is hearts that make friends'. Isn't it true? It is certainly true of Seamus."

"His deep faith was actually an inspiration to me. It was very important to him and integral to his life in that it informed and nourished everything he did, it wasn't a separate area", Monsignor O'Riordan said. Seamus was a leading lay member of the Church in his adopted home. "I first got to know him through the Council for the Family in the Diocese and he played a very important role in the St Joseph's Young Priests Society, a lay organisation promoting vocations to the priesthood. Only for his illness Seamus would surely have been elected the Society's national president, given the huge work he did for the Society and the funds he raised to support students for the priesthood. "Dignified, humble and modest, he was a man of 'stature', Msgr O'Riordan emphasised.

"Seamus was a man of stature in every aspect of his life, physically and in character too. He was a gentleman to the core and very respectful of people. He was very genuine and sincere and entirely without cynicism or negativity. And he always used words responsibly - to build people up - and never negatively"

Recently Deceased

VOCATIONAL BRANCHES

Civil Service Jim Stapleton
Insurance Branch Martin Keane, Tom Wilson, Jim O'Keeffe, Monica Burbridge, Tom Connolly, Neil O'Donnell
Licensed Trade Sean Lynch, Breda Thomas, Jim Gallagher, Michael Kennedy, J Gallagher

LOCAL BRANCHES

Abbeyfeale Philly Cusack, Kathleen Wren
Ardee Rose Byrne, Patricia Malone, May Malone, Anna Durnin, Margaret McKenny, Nicky Roe, Michael Hillard, Colum Maguire, Jacky Higgins
Ardfield/Rathbarry Molly Deasy, Adelaide Deane, May Feen, Eileen O'Driscoll
Armagh Joan Murtagh, Eileen Fitzgerald
Ballinahinch Pakie O'Sullivan, Andy Carey
Ballinascreen/Draperstown Daniel Mulholland, Jim McGuigan, Kathleen Simiyu, Sophia McKernan, Alice Clerkin, Angela Conville, Kathleen Henry, Annie Hegarty, Joseph McAllister, Brendan O'Hagan, Eddie Stewart, Seamus Mulligan, Seamus O'Kane
Ballybricken Brendan Daly
Ballymagroarty Eddie Keogh
Ballymena Anne McNeill, Anna Dot Mayo
Ballyphehane Eileen McCabe, Mary McCarthy, Noreen O'Callaghan, Nora Murphy, Noreen McGrath, Declan McCarthy
Blackpool Humphrey O'Callaghan, Paul O'Brien
Blarney Mark Noonan, Eilis Denner, Eugene Bresnahan, Gussie Murphy, Mary Looney, Noel O'Connor, Frank O'Riordan, Alan Burke, Mary Twomey, Peggy O'Driscoll, Michael Cronin, Mary Kiely, Martin O'Brien, John V Walsh, Timothy Barry, Margaret McNamara, Paddy Cronin, Diarmuid Murphy, Paddy Kelleher, Esther McCarthy, Mark O'Connell
Bohermeen Tom Fitzsimons, Alfie Curtis, Elissa Curtis, Joe Fagan, Jim Byrne, Jack McGlen, Mattie Murtagh, Mary Kate Vahye
Botha/Derrygonnelly Brian McKenzie, Walter Dunlop, Annie McKenzie, Michael Foy, Aodhan McCabe, John James Maguire, Oisín Michael Flanagan

Boyle Agnes Nerney
Caheragh Noreen MacCarthy, Henry Russell, Helen Dennehy, Pat Davis, Nora McCormick, Nellie O'Leary, Donie O'Donovan
Christ the King, Turner's Cross Frank Golden, Fr John Dunlea, Betty Farry, Hugh McCormick, Donal Kelly, Patrick Martin, Margaret O'Callaghan, Gus Hanley, Nina Falvey, Wm Lynch
Cleenish Brian Garlic, Joe Murphy, Josephine Darcy, Jimmy Murphy, Edward McBarron, Gaby Darcy, Joan Cullen, Mary Leonard, Peter Keaveney, Eugene Parker, Beatrice Walsh, James McBarron, Patrick Fitzsimmons
Clonakilty Eileen McCarthy, Jerh O'Connor, Vincent Cullinane, Jerry Madden, Kitty O'Donovan, William Lynch, Canon John O'Donovan, Kitty Coffey, Michael O'Donovan, Michael Minihan, Demot McCarthy, Damien O'Brien, Roger Burgess, Dan Harrington, Michael Collins, John Cahalane, Richard Burgess, Alice Harrington, Annie Quinlan, Biddy Lombard, Kathleen O'Neill, Bridget Holland, Kate Fleming, Thady O'Regan, Factna O'Regan.
Cooley Fr Peter McParland PP, Cooley
Crosshaven Chris O'Hara
Curraheen Road Derry Herlihy, Paul Herlihy, Jack O'Dwyer
Doon Teresa Corish
Dundalk John Arthurs
Dunshaughlin Patricia Doolin
Edenderry Patricia McSorley, Gerry O'Hagan, May O'Hagan, Josie Kelly, Maimie Mullan, Pat Trainor, Molly McManus
Enniskeane Marianne O'Leary, Donal Crowley, Donal Kelly
Enniskillen Josie Slevin, Maureen Conway, Francis McTeague, Noel Keaveney, Teresa Steele, Olivier Keenan, Mary Hynes, Fr Hugh Paul Sheridan, Rose Dolan, Donal Blake, Paddy Shannon, Mary Fahy, David Campbell, Gertie Palmer, Francis Corrigan, Josephine D'Arcy
Errigal John B Mullan, Mary B Quigg, Kieran Mullan, John Mullan, Denis O'Kane, Annie Mullan, Seamus Mullan, Michael McAtamney, Frank Maguire,

Susan Comiskey, Michael O'Kane, Susie McNicholl, Hugh McGilligan, Billy McFadden, James O'Neill, Martha Diamond
Eskra Brigid McKenna, Lena McGirr, Brigid McCarroll, Patricia McSorley, Gerry O'Hagan, May O'Hagan, Pat Treanor
Glendermott Moira Callan
Holy Family Branch, Ballsgrove Nancy Stevenson
Irinestown Killion Scallan, Pauline Scallan, Francis Scallan, Anna Scallan, Una McArt, Jim McKervey, Frank McCann, Mary McKervey, Joan Hoey, Patsy Doherty, Martin Maguire, Tommy Maye
Kilnessan Patrick Maguire
Killorglin Kathleen Foley
Kinawley Pat McGovern, James Gilleece, James Corrigan, Francis Keenan, Michael Smith, Josie Lunney, Ava Maria Prizz, John Murphy, Ted Owens
Knock Rt Rev Msgr Joseph Quinn KCHS
Knockninny Michael Donnelly, Teresa Shannon, Donald Rennicks, Margaret Callan, James Corrigan, Seamus Carron, Hugh Gaffney, Frank Reynolds, Canon Liam Gaffney, Patrick Mulvey, Michael Smith, Josephine Lunney, Margaret O'Hara, Paddy Maguire, John Drumm
Lough Maighread Houlihan
Loughrea Maureen Conway, Cathy Roche, Kathleen Quirke
Maghera Bernadette Crilly, Mary Glass, Anne Glass, Ciaran Dougan, Mary McCusker, Frank McDeldowney, Francis Caskey, Teresa Brown, Rose, Darcy, Jim McGuigan
Marino Johanna Kehoe, Frank Condon, Anne Whelan
Mountnugent/Balinacree Marie Monaghan, Aiden Lynch, Peggy Grimes, Des Daly, Mary Cormochan, Christine O'Reilly
Mourne Road, Dublin Mary Moynihan
Mullagh Patricia Conaty, Ellen Ward, Paddy Taite, Phil Gaynor
Navan - St Mary's Jubilee Branch Colm Irwin, Maura Grimes, Bill Lyons
Our Lady Crowned, Mayfield Tim Daly, Christy Curtin, Brendan Sexton, Mona Lynch

Our Lady of the Rosary, Limerick Teresa English, Sheila Dillon
Portadown Margaret Kerr, John Mullan, Pat McVeigh, James Treanor, Terry McCoy, Dermot Hagan, Brendan Kelly, Conor Mulholland
Rathgar Pauline Smith
St Anthony's, Clontarf Kitty Nolan, Charlie Sydnor, Teresa Rice, Eileen Horgan, Mary Horgan, Bernadette Clerkin, Lily Nolan, Fr John McAuley SJ
St Columba's, Long Tower Ted McLaughlin, Mick Carlisle
St John the Baptist, Clontarf Sean Lynch, Bernadette Brangan, Joseph O'Grady, Oliver O'Connor, Cecil Byrne
St John Vianney, Ardlea Sheila Dunne, Bridie Whelan
St Kevin's, Harrington Street Francis Hackett, Gerard Burke, Seamus Foley, Thomas O'Murchada, Betty Glass, Joanne Herlihy, Margaret Earley
St Patrick's, Pennyburn Moya McGuinness, Patsy Casey
Steelstown Tommy McAuley
Swanlinbar Nuala McGovern, Margaret McGovern, Sean Quirk
Tournafulla Pat Rohan, Mikie Sullivan, Jim Sheehan, Peadar Caffrey, Mary Ita Morrissey, Patrick O'Sullivan, Dary O'Callaghan
Tracton Peggy Kingston
Tralee Seamus McConville - former President Kerry Diocesan Committee and former Vice-President Cashel Province
Trillick, (Kilskerry) Sylvester McNabb, Sr Doloras McNespy (Loreto Sister), Kathleen Gallagher, Benny McGinn, Maisie McCanghey, Vincent McCanghey, Mary Higgins, Hugh Tunney, John McNespy, Rita Flynn
Trim Pat Leonard
Tuam Cait Lane, Teresa Feeley
Waterford/Glasson Kathleen McCormack
Thunderclare Commercial Branch Brendan Daly
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£1,000 (€1,145.48), €500, €30.00, €20.00 (€200.00 SP), €40.00