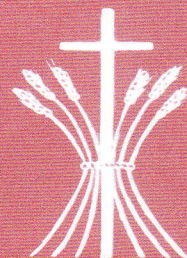




The Sheaf

ST. JOSEPH'S YOUNG PRIESTS SOCIETY

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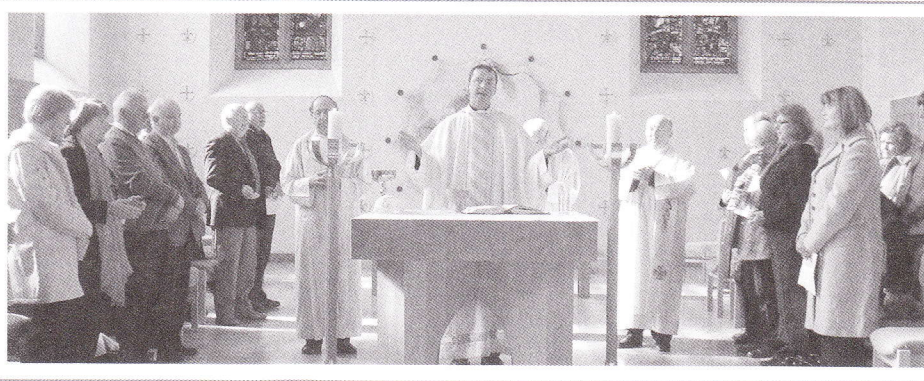
SUMMER 2011

On Easter Day,

two disciples were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all the things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What is this conversation which you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad.

Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since this happened. Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his body; and they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb, and found it just as the women had said; but him they did not see."

And he said to them, "O foolish men, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.



The celebration of this Mass in St Mary's Oratory at St Patrick's Seminary Maynooth, marked the opening of the Society's Dublin Provincial Congress on Saturday 19 March 2011, the feast of St Joseph, husband of Mary.

Father Eamonn Bourke, our Chief Chaplain, who is also the Dublin Diocesan Director of Vocations, was joined in the celebration by priests from the three other dioceses in the province - Kildare & Leighlin, Ferns and Ossory.

The Society held four congresses this year - at Monaghan, Thurles, Maynooth and Claremorris - all arranged locally, around the same general theme: St Luke's gospel story of the two disciples encountering the Risen Jesus on the road to Emmaus.

So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He appeared to be going further, but they constrained him, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognized him; and he vanished out of their sight. They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?" And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven gathered together and those who were with them, who said, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Lk:24 13-35

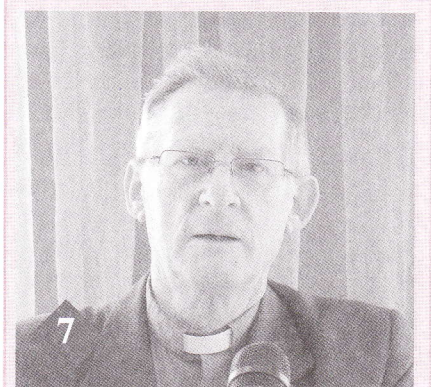
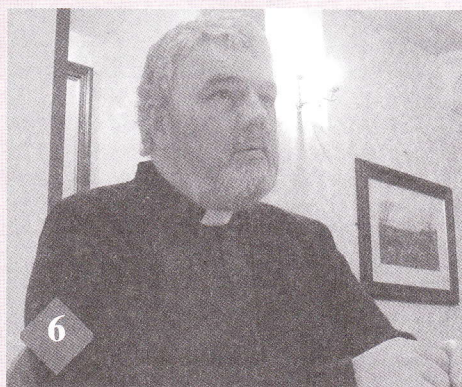
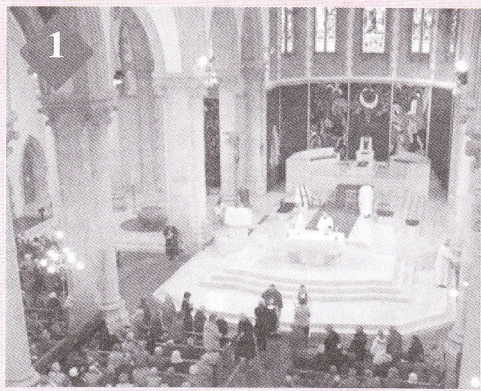
THE EUCHARIST

Linking Heaven and Earth

This is a 125 minute DVD by Fr Benny Mc Hale, a priest of the Tuam Archdiocese, a guest speaker at the Congress in Claremorris. In his DVD he breaks down the Mass into easily understandable parts and explains the background to each.

In simple everyday language, he links up the Mass on the altar with what he calls '*the Mass of our lives*'. He shows how we can link up the sacrifices of our own lives with the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, so that each of us can become a living Eucharist.

This DVD is intended for use by those to wish to deepen their understanding of the Mass as the source and summit of our Catholic faith. A copy is available from Jim Browne at 087 258 2154 or Gertie Foley at 087 949 1489.



PIC 1: The Armagh Provincial Congress opened with Mass in St Macartan's Cathedral, Monaghan on Saturday 12 March.

PIC 2: Bishop Liam MacDaid was the main celebrant at St Macartan's Cathedral. Guest Speaker at the Hillgrove Hotel Monaghan was V Rev Msgr Eamon Martin VG, Derry Diocese (extreme left in the photo). Over 350 attended the luncheon which preceded his talk.

PIC 3: Fr Ronald Neville PE Harold's Cross (extreme left) and his concelebrants for the Mass in Thanksgiving for Priesthood at Rathmines Parish Church Dublin on 22 May 2011.

PIC 4: Margaret Henry and Henrietta Quinn collected delegates at Thurles Station in time for Fr Littleton's Benediction Service at the Anner Hotel.

PIC 5: The Tuam Provincial Congress took place on Saturday April 30 in Claremorris.

PIC 6: Fr John Littleton, was guest speaker at the Cashel Provincial Congress held at the Anner Hotel Thurles on Saturday 2 April. He commenced the day by imparting Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament to the 155 members of the Society assembled at the hotel.

PIC 7: Fr Benny McHale, Ballyhaunis.

PIC 8: Bishop Christopher Jones, Bishop of Elphin, Fr Benny McHale and Dana Rosemary Scallon were the main speakers at Claremorris. Marie Hogan, president of the Society is on Bishop Jones's left.

PIC 9: With Bernie Galvin president of the Insurance Branch at its 73rd AGM on 15 March 2011 are Msgr Paul Callan, Denis O'Sullivan branch treasurer and George O'Doherty guest speaker. During the year the Insurance Branch transmitted €4,075.50 to the Central Fund of the Society as a contribution towards the educational costs of 118 Irish and 669 Overseas clerical students for ministry in the priesthood of the Catholic Church.

The Eucharist – Our Hope for Renewal - a reflection on the *Road to Emmaus* story

by Monsignor Eamon Martin at the Armagh Provincial Congress at Monaghan, Saturday 12th March 2011

Monsignor Eamon Martin began his reflection with a meditation on the story of the two disciples on the Road to Emmaus from chapter 24 of St Luke's Gospel. He emphasised that the two were going the wrong direction, away from Jerusalem, immersed in themselves, their eyes downcast, their hopes seemingly destroyed. But their encounter with Word and Sacrament on the road and at the table, changed them utterly. He went on to draw out the significance of this amazing story:

Apparently no-one knows for certain where the village of Emmaus actually was. A few years ago, Pope Benedict said that, for him, the road leading to Emmaus is 'the path of every Christian, indeed, every human being.' Because, at some point in our lives, we've all walked down that road. Like the two disciples we've experienced that sense of losing direction, those feelings of dejection, despair, perhaps even a crisis in our faith. Hopes destroyed. Future bleak.

It's at those moments of disappointment and failure that we need Jesus as our travel companion, as Pope Benedict has said, to 'rekindle in our hearts the warmth of faith and hope'. We need Jesus to speak to us in the Scripture, to nourish us with his Body and Blood. That is why in our darkest moments, the Mass can be such a powerful source of strength and consolation. Every time we celebrate Mass we are offered a unique opportunity to meet Christ in Word and in sacrament. Notice how strongly the unfolding of the Emmaus story mirrors the structure of the Mass – as surely as Jesus opened up the scriptures for the two disciples along the road, he does it for us during the liturgy of the word at Mass; just as the two disciples recognised him at the breaking of bread, we too can experience his presence during the liturgy of the eucharist. Pope Benedict went on to describe the road to Emmaus as a 'path to renewal' in our faith. (*Regina Coeli* prayer Apr 6, 2008). Along that path the most powerful force for renewal is the Mass.

These days the Church in Ireland is longing for profound renewal. In recent years with the disturbing revelations about abuse in the Church, we have been wandering down the road to Emmaus. I sometimes think we are going down the wrong road - heading away off in the wrong direction, away from our spiritual home, away from the Father, immersed in ourselves, going over the story again and again. There's so much talk about the decline in faith, a crisis in vocations, the Church 'on the brink'. As we walk this road to Emmaus, it is easy to despair, to continue in our bitterness and hopelessness. But let us never forget those whose road to Emmaus is far more gruelling than ours, those brothers and sisters whose trust was betrayed and whose dignity was violated. If we find it hard to accept sometimes that Jesus walking the road with us, how much more difficult must it be for them? And yet, only Jesus has the right to walk by their side, he who was himself a victim of grave injustice and sin.

Could this road to Emmaus be the path to renewal for the Church in Ireland? Instead of collapse, might our Church be on the verge of something life-giving and new? Remember it was when those two disciples were at their lowest, when the future looked most bleak, that

Jesus came and walked beside them, opening the scriptures so that their hearts burned within them, breaking the bread so that they could recognise and believe his resurrection. The Gospel is encouraging us to search for the Lord in Word and in Sacrament. The most powerful source of renewal for the Church in Ireland is right in front of our eyes. The most powerful force for renewal is the Eucharist. The Mass.

I firmly believe that we are being called as individuals and as Church to renew our understanding and love for the Mass. We are being urged to discover once again the power of God's Word. We are being encouraged to rekindle our devotion to the Eucharist, and to take seriously the mission given to us at the end of every Mass: Go in peace to love and to serve the Lord.

The coming months will bring two significant opportunities for grace in Ireland. The introduction of the revised texts of the Mass next Advent will give us a chance to renew our understanding and love for the Eucharist. And the celebration of the fiftieth International Eucharistic Congress in Ireland next year will provide a golden opportunity to celebrate our communion with Christ and with one another

In the coming months as we begin to pray together using the revised translation of the Missal, we will be able to learn so much more about the Mass and to delve deeper into its beautiful prayers which have been passed down to us over many centuries. Of course there will be some controversy over some of the language and phrases, but if only we can keep the debate constructive, then it could be a graced moment for renewal. One of the great improvements in the revised translation is the way it allows the Mass texts to open up the scriptures. Listen for example to the words we will soon be using just before communion. As the priest raises the host he will say: '*Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb*' and we will reply, '*Lord I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed*'. Notice how the revised translation restores that beautiful phrase '*Behold the Lamb of God*' from John's gospel, the expression '*supper of the Lamb*' from the Book of Revelation, and the humble words of the centurion, '*Lord I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof*'. Instead of quarrelling over the revised translation, might not our hearts burn within us as we rediscover in the Mass the beauty of God's word?

The celebration of the fiftieth International Eucharistic Congress in Ireland next year can also bring an outpouring of God's grace – not just at the Congress next June, but in all of our preparations, prayer and adoration at parish level. The Congress could become a springboard for renewal, especially as we gather together to learn more about the Eucharist, perhaps forming *Lectio Divina* groups to meditate and pray with the Word of God in our parishes, promoting Eucharistic adoration, renewing our pastoral councils and seeking meaningful ways to involve lay people in support of our priests. In his Pastoral Letter last March, Pope Benedict reminded our Bishops to offer every encouragement to the lay faithful in playing their proper part in the life of the

Church. What better year to do that than in the year of the fiftieth International Eucharistic Congress held in the year of the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council!

Before finishing, I would like to offer a particular challenge to you, members of the St Joseph's Young Priests Society. Everything I have been talking about has been centred on the presence of Christ at the table of the Word, and at the table of the Eucharist. I have presented the story of the Road to Emmaus as a story of renewal and rebirth, centred on the recognition of Christ present in Word and Sacrament. I have explained that this grace of renewal and rebirth is available to all of us in our moments of greatest despair and disappointment, if only we could enter more fully into the celebration of the Mass. And I have expressed my hope that renewal of our celebration of the Eucharist could herald a new dawn for the Catholic Church in Ireland.

And this is where you, the members of St Joseph's Young Priests Society come in. There can be no new dawn without the Eucharist. There can be no Eucharist without the priesthood, which St John Vianney once beautifully described as 'the love of the heart of Jesus'. And we can have no priests unless we pray fervently for vocations, support our seminarians and work for the ongoing renewal and formation of all the clergy. If the kind of Eucharistic renewal that I have been talking about is to happen, we need priests, new young priests to serve the Irish Church. The Holy Eucharist, in which Christ's sacrifice is made truly present among us, is at the very centre of the life of a priest. The celebration of the Mass is the highlight of a priest's day. The privilege of celebrating Mass is the greatest gift that God has given to the priesthood. To pray and work for vocations to the priesthood is therefore one of the most precious and important gifts that you in the St Joseph's Young Priests Society can give to the Church.

In preparing for this talk, I considered and prayed about what I might ask you. Forgive me if it seems so simple and obvious, but I ask you: Do what you do best! Do what the members of St Joseph's Young Priests Society have been doing since Mrs Taffe founded it in 1895 – keep praying for vocations. Ireland needs more young Irish priests to be the instruments of renewal for the future. Your Society can provide the foundation of prayer on which a major drive for vocations in Ireland could be built. The Church in Ireland is not on the brink of collapse. As a young seminarian put it to me last week: the Church in Ireland is on the verge of an explosion of God's grace which will come about through the dignified celebration of the Mass in every parish in Ireland. I believe this can be supported by encouraging the prayerful reading and study of scripture, regular adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and more opportunities for all of us, priests and people to delve more deeply into the meaning and beauty of the prayers and movements of the Mass.

Like the disciples on the Road to Emmaus, our hearts can be uplifted at the table of the God's Word; we can recognise the Lord at the breaking of the Bread, and then we can go out and make a difference in Ireland and in the world.

The National Eucharistic Congress

What is a National Eucharistic Congress?

One of the key moments in the pastoral preparation for the 50th International Eucharistic Congress is the celebration of a short National Eucharistic Congress on June 25th and 26th of this year.

People from every diocese will gather together in Knock on June 25th and there will be a liturgical celebration in each diocese the following day, June 26th, the Solemnity of Corpus Christi.

While they are not so common here in Ireland, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin reminds us that "Eucharistic Congresses are in fact very common in the life of the Church. In Italy this year one of the central events of the programme of evangelisation is a National Eucharistic Congress to be held in Ancona in September. National Eucharistic Congresses have been held in recent times in many other countries, including in the United States, Spain, Brazil and even in Cuba."

If we are hosting the International Congress next year, why have a national one this year as well?

There are a number of good reasons. It is good to have a focus on the local community, but every individual

Christian and every parish community benefits from being reminded occasionally that we are part of something bigger than ourselves. For the first time in many years, the Irish Church will celebrate our faith in Jesus Christ and in one another together as one body.

Secondly, our national Eucharistic Congress will be a particular moment of renewal in our own preparation to welcome the universal Church, as we prepare to welcome people from all over the world in June 2012. We have already had clear indications that, as well as having pilgrims from places with obvious Irish connections, such as USA, Canada, Australia, Britain and mainland Europe, there will be pilgrims in 2012 from Taiwan, the Philippines, India, the Ivory Coast and many of the countries of Latin America.

Programme

On Saturday 25th June, pilgrims will travel from every corner of Ireland, some arriving in time for a celebration of Morning Prayer in Knock at 11am. This will be followed later in the morning by four workshops on themes related to Communion and Eucharist, which will be repeated on Saturday evening and again on Sunday morning.

As the National Pilgrimage of St Joseph's Young Priests Society to Knock takes place on the same Saturday, workshop space will be limited and people are invited to register on line in advance for these workshops, which will be presented by Fr Kieron O'Mahony OSA, Prof Robert Enright, Rosemary Swords and Fr Tom Norris.

The heart of the National Congress at Knock will be the celebration of the Eucharist, preceded by the anointing at the Sacrament of the Sick. The first reading at Mass on that day is the account of the hospitality of Abraham from the Book of Genesis. It is a powerful reminder of how, even in Old Testament times, people were aware of how God enters into our lives, draws us into communion with Him and forms us into a people of His very own.

During the Mass, a large candle with the Eucharistic Congress Logo will be blessed for each of the twenty-six cathedrals in Ireland. These will be brought back to each diocese to be placed at the centre of a diocesan celebration on June 26th. As we continue our preparation for 2012, these candles will be a reminder of Christ's presence in each diocesan community and of the communion of the Irish Church.

Recently Deceased

VOCATIONAL BRANCHES

Electrical Industries Maura Dalton
Local Authorities Carmel Hutchin
Motor & Engineering John Joseph Cassidy, Edward Healy, Fr Seamus Ward SJ (son of the late Jimmy Ward, a founder of the Branch)

LOCAL BRANCHES

Ardfield / Rathbarry John Walsh, Martin Connolly
Ardee Brigid Reilly, Brian Osborn, May Muckian, Lawrence Leavy, Vincent Farrelly, Mary Rose Callan, Owen Martin
Ardagh Betty Coughlan
Ardahe Tom Casey
Athlone Mary Lynch, Mary Hannon
Avoca Fr Daniel Breen
Ballinahinch Mary Gleeson, Tadhg Foley
Ballinascreen Mary O'Connor, Patrick Groogan, Philomena Kelly, Margaret Brady, Eileen Bradley, Patrick McSorley, James Conville, David Crossett, Nellie Brunton, Mairead McCullagh, Patrick Hegarty
Ballymena Anne O'Connell
Ballypkehane Judy Walsh, Betty McAuliffe, Teresa Phillips
Bandon Mary Keohane, Frances Looney, Timmy Coleman
Blackpool Pel Sherwin, William O'Brien
Blarney William Murphy, Michael Nolan, Mary McAuliffe, Barney Kelly, Denis Dilworth, Sr Nora Murphy, Denis Hurley, William Hurley, Patrick Hogan, Tommy Desmond, Julia Fitzgibbon
Caheragh Joan MacCarthy, Mary Kate Burke, Connie Murnane, Theresa O'Donovan, Humphery Collins, Mrs O'Regan

Castletown / Kilpatrick Rosy Smyth
Christ the King, Turner's Cross Michael Cotter, Sr Maria McEligott, Mary Kelleher, Louisa Long, Vicki McNally
Claregalway Bridie Grealish, Christine Murphy, Mary Lenihan, Jimmy Murphy
Clontarf, St Anthony's Mairead O'Shea, George O'Halloran, Margaret Rice, Mrs McCarthy, Rosaleen McGann, Frank McAuliffe
Coolock, St Brendan's Betty Quinn
Derrygonnelly / Botha Madelene Maguire, Rita Farrell, Annie McGowan, Dick Jones, Larry Hoy, Patricia Johnston, Willy McSherry
Donaghmore Teresa McCrirk
Downpatrick Teresa Tweedie
Drogheda Mary Fitzgerald, Kitty Mulroy, Catherine Dee
Dundalk Jane Agnew, Geraldine Tuft, James McNulty, Patricia Sheehan
Ennis Mai Quinlivan
Enniskeane Kitty Canty
Enniskillen Kitty Kennan, Sheila Callaghan, Catherine Burke, Sarah Jones, Rose McCaughey, John Quinn, Bernard Johnston, Mary McNeill, Anna Swift, Matt Maguire, Maureen O'Rourke, Martin Beattie, Ann Breen, Rita Whitley, Susan Robinson
Errigal Jim McCormick, Dolores Faulkner, Christine McCarron, Seamus Higgins, Agnes Conway, Stephen Conway, Dan Boylan, Francis O'Kane, Dan O'Kane, Josie Cassidy, Michael Robinson, Tom Henry, Philip Higgins, Pat Maginnis, Willie Mailey, Fr Packie McLaughlin
Glendermott Sr Ursula McHugh

Harold's Cross Patricia Doyle
Holy Family Branch, Ballymagroarty Eileen O'Doherty
Kilkenny, St Canice's May Walsh
Killester Mary Kearney
Killorglin Bridie O'Grady
Kinawley Pat McCauley, Jennie Murphy, Thomas Owens, John Reilly, Peter McGovern, Peggy Maguire
Knockninny Liam Hughes, Terence McAccon, Bridget McGovern, Fergus Donohue, Hughie Boyle, Pat McManus, Josephine Brady, Sr Carmel Donegan, Nuala Robinson, Anna Clifford, Bridie Finegan, Noel O'Keefe, Martin Maguire, Mary McCaffrey, Patrick Burke, Peter Maguire, Teresa McManus, Agnes McManus, Jack Gilleece, Anna Bannow
Larkhill Margaret Goode
Lurgan Nora McConville, Henry McPartland, Bernadette Burns
Maghera Patrick Scullion, Maura Young, Gerard McAlary, Mary Convery, Andy Bradley, Rosella O'Connor, Eddie Young, Brigid McCusker, Harry Stewart
Marino Michael Condren, Nell Synnott, Carmel Hutchin, Michael Mathews
Mountnugent / Balinacree Eileen Gaffney, Brigid Lynch, Theresa Finnegan, Paddy Sheridan
Mourne Rd, Dublin Imelda Mills, Catherine Maguire
Naas Kathleen Noone
Newport Alice Lenihan
Our Lady Crowned, Mayfield Margaret Hunt, Nora Daly, Tess Fennelly, Jim Foley, Sr Redempta O'Mahony, John Mullane
Our Lady of the Rosary, Limerick Stan O'Grady, Ettie Dolan, Ina Leonard

Pennyburn Frances McLaughlin, Mary Jo Doran
Portadown Danny Preshur, Lily Glassay, Sarah McCann, Imelda Austin, Fr Brendan Sherry, John McGeown
Rahan Mary Daly
Rathmines Patricia Shanahan, Lily Maher, Sean Cronin, Rose McArdle, Eileen Veale
Rochfordbridge Barney Boyhan, Mary Dunne, Margaret Flanagan, Finian Gavin, Neddie Darby
Skerries Sheila Ryan
Skreen / Dromard Mary Kenny
Springfield Larry Doyle
St John the Baptist, Clontarf Fintan Brennan, Phyllis Fogarty, Patrick Nolan, John Heaney
St John's, Granaghan Bernie Race
St Kevin's, Harrington St Marian Finlay, Kathleen Meghen, Eva Purcell, Gary Strecker, John Desmond, Mae Kearney, Agnes Coleman, Maura Comerford, Patrick Meghen, Teresa Smith
St Mary's, Limerick Fr Thomas Greal
St Patrick's, Limerick Teresa Downes, Chrissy Liddy
St Patrick's, Pennyburn Francis McLaughlin, Mary Joan Doran
Templeogue Lily Duffy
Tuam Bridie Casserly
Urlingford / Graine Julia Mullally
Wexford Josephine Codd
Willington John Kane

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Anonymous Donations
€50, €20, €10, €30