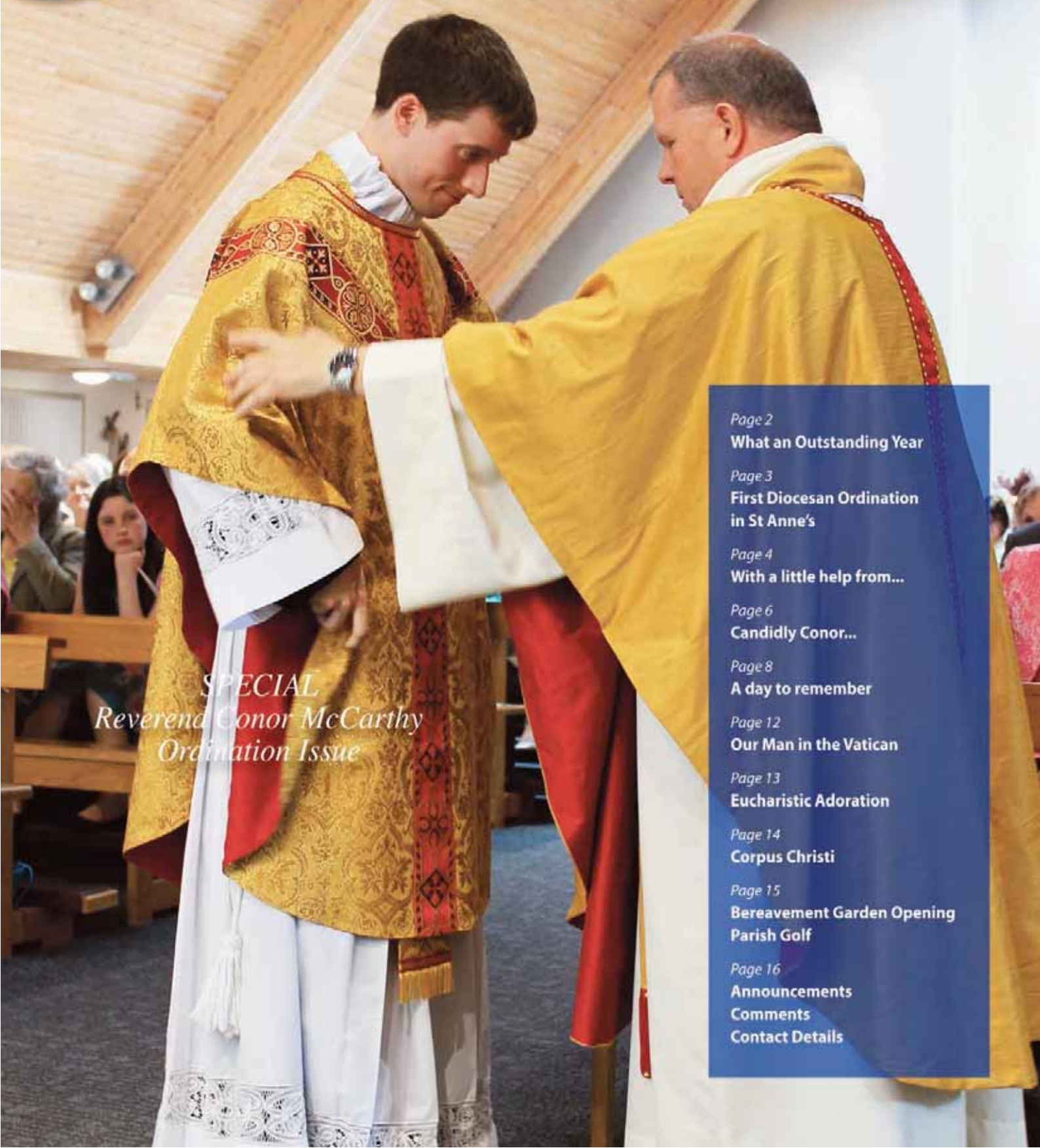


ST. ANNE'S PARISH

Issue 10
Summer 2015



Matters



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What an outstanding year!



Welcome to a special edition of our parish magazine dominated mostly by the Ordination of one of our own young parishioners, Reverend Fr. Conor Mc Carthy.

Yes indeed, its only almost mid-summer but already this has been a wonderful year for St. Anne's, climaxed by the beautiful and moving first ever Diocesan Ordination ceremony in our parish church.

But before I pay tribute to the Ordination and all the work that went on in the preparation, I must acknowledge the work of our Bereavement Support Group, the members of which go about their duties quietly with reverence and sensitivity providing a most vital service in those times when people most need support and understanding.

Their dedication and the thoughtfulness behind the wonderful new little garden of remembrance opened and blessed just recently following the annual Mass for children who died at the dawn of life, will serve as a gentle reminder for those for whom the loss will be forever felt, that others think and pray also about them, their children and the families who grieve.

The sun was good to us, perhaps influenced by Sister Mary, so much so that our Annual Corpus Christi procession was celebrated in splendid weather which allowed the refreshments afterwards to be enjoyed al fresco on the piazza between the church and the Parish Centre. There was a wonderful turnout of parishioners and the recent first communicants were out in full force with the girls and boys looking smart and reverential as they tossed petal leaves along the processional route.

Earlier there was the launch of the special appeal to help bring about much needed upgrading of premises and equipment, which was a fore runner to the church being painted, anew lighting system put in, grounds improved and new flower beds installed in preparation for last weekend's splendid Ordination ceremony.

But several weeks before the Ordination we had another wonderful service and that was the evening Vigil in preparation for Conor's Ordination which saw a simply magnificent attendance at a most moving and inspirational event with readings, music and testimonies from young and old causing the two and a half hours duration more like passing minutes, such was the atmosphere of love and devotion. A truly wonderful event.

And then there was the Ordination and what a truly wonderful event that was with all sections of the parish coming together to organise so professionally and skilfully an occasion which was moving, memorable and inspirational, showing our parish at it's very best and bringing great joy and commitment to ensure that we had a service and a celebration to enrich our memories for years to come.

I am most grateful to Bishop "Tony" Farquhar and also so many of my fellow priests for being with us, and all those groups throughout the parish who worked so hard before the event, during it and afterwards. The singers and musicians were superb and the attendance which included representatives of our neighbouring churches was wonderful.

I pay tribute to our Welcome Ministry led so efficiently and expertly by Mrs Betty Mc Carthy with the assistance of Angelina Fusco and the members of the Parish Pastoral Council who were all there in various roles and to all those from other groups who made the day just right. Thanks also of course to Sister Mary, our sacristans and altar servers and our heartiest congratulations to our new priest Father Conor Mc Carthy and his proud family.

Ad multos annos! We are grateful too for the help of St. Anne's Primary School, their Parents and Teachers Association and also to Rathmore Grammar School for their help.

It's holiday time and indeed many of our parishioners and their families are already off to foreign parts, while others are looking forward to getting away shortly. We wish God speed and safe travel to all and pray for no more harm to innocent holiday makers whoever they might be and from where ever they might come.

For those not straying too far and those staying at home, enjoy the break and take pleasure in our own beautiful countryside, towns and villages, hopefully peaceful and uneventful in this coming season of parades and associated events.

With gratitude and admiration for all you have achieved recently, God Bless you all.

Father Feargal O'Grady
Parish Priest



First Diocesan Ordination in St. Anne's Church

The first Diocesan Ordination to be held in St. Anne's Church was on Sunday 28th June 2015 when the Reverend Conor Mc Carthy was Ordained to the priesthood in a service conferred by the Most Reverend Anthony Farquhar, Auxiliary Bishop of Down and Connor.

The Master of Ceremonies was The Very Reverend Thomas Mc Glynn, PP of St. Agnes Belfast and the Concelebrating priests were V. Reverend Feargal Mc Grady, PP of St. Anne's, Rev. Michael Spence, Rev. Hugh Clifford, and the Rev. Colin Crossey.

The combined choirs of the Traditional choir of St. Anne's, the St. Anne's Folk group and the Down and Connor Lourdes Choir were conducted by the director of music Mr. Louis Mc Veigh with Mr. Colum Mc Garry as organist. The Psalmist was Mrs. Nuala Anthony and the sacristans were Ms. Kate Mc Auley and Mr. Jim Mc Cann. The beautiful floral arrangements were by Ms. Bernadette Mc Ginley.

Some 60 priests attended the service and especially welcome were the clergy and representatives of all the neighbouring churches in the area. The church was full to capacity with some 550 persons present; members of the Parish Pastoral Council acting as stewards, caterers and car park attendants. The scouts of St. Anne's provided an honour guard to the clerical procession and following the ceremony members of St. Anne's PSPA provided a drinks and refreshments stall.

All the congregation and guests guests then were entertained with music in the Parish Centre with hot and cold food served by a cheerful army of St. Anne's volunteers with all arrangements superbly handled by members of the Welcome Ministry led by specialist organiser Mrs. Betty Mc Carthy.

FIRST MASS

The Reverend Conor's first Mass followed on Monday evening and again the church was filled to capacity with the most wonderful music and hymn singing complementing the Reverend Conor's brief, but evocative homily on the theme of the love of God being his motivation and zeal for his calling to the priesthood.

Not a sound from the vast congregation, not a cough or shuffle of feet, as the strains of "Ag Criost an siol" softly whispered to the hearts of all in a rendering most splendid with Miss Anne Killen as soloist, accompanied by Ms. Clare Burns, Ms. Mary Ellen Burns and Mr. Colum Mc Garry adding untold depth to a most moving celebration of the Mass.

And the quality of the choristers continued seamlessly with Mrs Ciara Gallaher singing Laudate Dominum and Marion Jordan effortlessly reaching out with A Gaelic Blessing.

The new young priest gave thanks to all those who had helped him along his journey and those who were involved in so many different ways in making his Ordination and Mass such joyful and uplifting occasions. And for hours after the Mass an untiring Fr. Conor gave first blessings with long queues of parishioners stretching out beyond the church porch, patient in their desires to share in his celebrations.

Martin Young

Our reporter **Gerry Carson** spoke with
Conor's dad Martin in the days before the Ordination

With a little help from...



From the time the teenage Conor, studying music at Queen's University told his family that he had decided to become a priest he has been backed all the way by his father Martin, Bernie, and his two brothers and sisters, by his relations, his friends and fellow parishioners.

Twenty seven year old Conor's mum Eithne passed away in 1999 a week after his 12th birthday, and years later bank official Martin married Bernie and now the family consists of elder brother Sean ,30, a management consultant living in Dublin and also a member of the Irish Triathlon team, Teresa, 29, a solicitor based in London and Rachel, 9, and Peter, 7, both at St. Anne's Primary School.

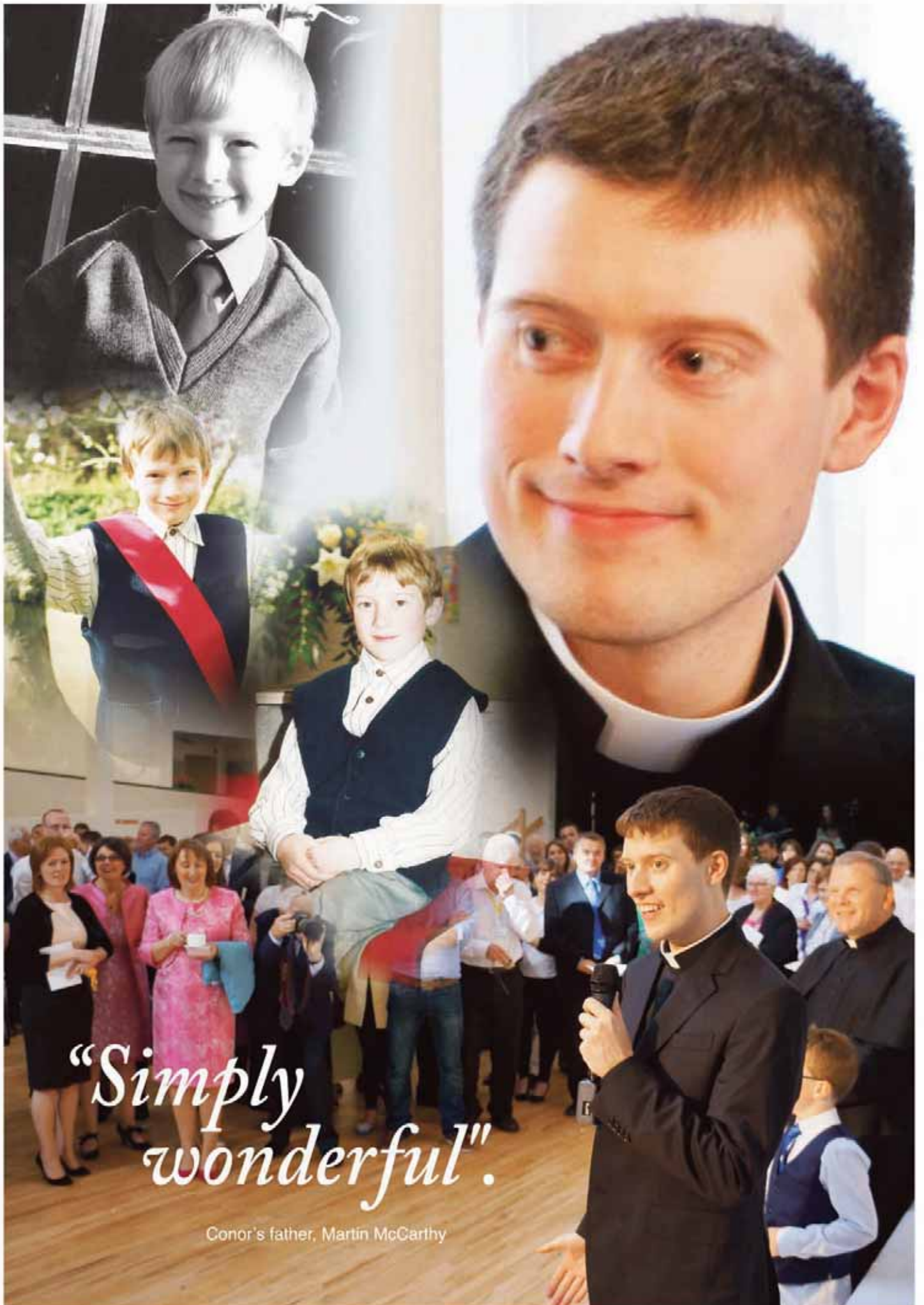
Were Bernie and Martin surprised when Conor first told them he had decided to be a priest? "Not really, in fact we weren't surprised at all," Martin explained. "Conor told us after the second year of his Music degree at Queen's, but he had attended a vocations retreat a year earlier, and I had suspected for a long time that the priesthood would call him. We all reacted very positively to his news. The mood was pretty much one of wondering how we could help."

So how did the McCarthy family help? "In much the same way as most parents support their student children," Martin stressed. "We have provided some financial support along the way, but we've also had the ability to visit Conor in Rome on a number of occasions, and needless to say we're delighted that things are turning out so well for Conor, so I would say we've had more than enough payback!"

How do the family feel with the Ordination just days away? "We're all delighted that Conor's time is here, and excited about the ceremony, first mass and the future...we are sure it will be an emotional experience," said proud dad Martin.

"We sense very strongly the very positive reaction in the parish and beyond to Conor's Ordination," he added. "We are aware acutely of the efforts being put in by so many people to make it a success, and the level of support and goodwill that is given to Conor. Just saying thanks to everyone seems wholly inadequate, but we are truly grateful to all who have helped along the way especially over this special weekend. I just hope everyone feels uplifted and receives a blessing from the Ordination, the first Mass and the whole atmosphere about the proceedings."

Postscript: After the service Martin was asked for the family's reaction to the Ordination. "Simply wonderful," said Martin. "Everything was just marvellous and inspirational from the music and singing to the magnificent attendance and reception afterwards. We were honoured that all the arrangements were so skilfully and courteously performed. We are indebted to all those in the parish who made the day such a memorable occasion."



"Simply wonderful".

Conor's father, Martin McCarthy

Candidly Conor...

In the week leading up to Sunday's Ordination ceremony Fr. Conor took time out from a busy schedule for an exclusive question and answer session with our reporter Gerry Carson. In a frank and thoughtful exchange here is what he had to say.

After attending Anne's Primary School from 1992-1999 you then studied at Rathmore from 1999 to 2006. What were your favourite subjects at grammar school?

At "A" Level, Religious Studies, Music and History, and German to AS Level.

Were these subjects chosen because you were thinking of studying for the priesthood?

At the time I was studying my A-levels I was undecided about whether I might be being called to the priesthood or called, in a different way, to being a teacher, husband and father. I chose the subjects because they were my passions at the time, and with hindsight they were tailor-made to prepare me for life in seminary, theology studies and ministry.

When did you feel the call of the church to be a priest?

I first felt the call to serve the Church as a priest when I was about 15 or 16 years old, but at that stage it was more like a recurring thought. By the time I finished school, it was a major preoccupation. By the time I was half-way through my music studies at Queen's University, it was the only idea with which I felt at peace. I was able to enter seminary at just the right time then, after my degree was completed. Like Samuel, sometimes we need to be called a few times before we really hear it, I think!

What did your friends think of your decision?

I am so blessed to have had good friends who are also deeply involved in the Church and committed to their faith. I got to know many of them through the youth choir and youth forum in our own parish, and I got to work alongside them and other great witnesses a few times at the Bodybuilders summer scheme in Dunmurry. They have been nothing but supportive, and I am very grateful to them for that. It has also been good for me seeing them take on their own complimentary vocations in the Church: as teachers, married people, catechists or other works of the Spirit.

Music is clearly a passion, when did you start studying it and which instrument/s?

My first piano teacher was my aunt, and I think I began lessons at about seven years old. Shortly afterwards I began cello lessons through the Belfast School of Music. It seems strange to reflect on those beginnings, because it was my great privilege as a university student to work as a peripatetic music teacher in the BSM and privately to some of our own parishioners!

What is your favourite type of music? Do you have any favourite performers?

Mostly classical music, I'm afraid! I have a great love of Schubert's chamber music and for anything by Bach. There are moments when music can lift the soul to God though - whether written as explicitly sacred music or not - and whatever style it is, it has something of God's 'fingerprint' in it.

What music is on your telephone/MP3 player?

I'm afraid I use neither for music at all. But at present I'm listening to Beethoven's Sonatas for Cello and Piano, which are superb.

Have you any other hobbies, interests?

Our theology studies often focus on truth (what we believe) and goodness (how we should act), but many of my interests relate to the third aspect of theology, which is beauty. I love finding beauty in poetry, art, architecture and music alike, and to thinking about what God has placed in the arts that seems to catch our souls and bring them to wonder at what is around us.

What was the time line to the priesthood from your A levels?

I finished Rathmore in June 2006 and began a degree in music (Bmus) at Queen's University that September. It was a few months later that I first approached our then Vocations Director, Fr John Murray, and was invited to attend the annual vocations retreat in Drumalis. I completed the music degree in June 2009. I was accepted then to study for the Diocese of Down & Connor and began a Spiritual Month programme in Maynooth that August alongside 32 other students from around Ireland. After four weeks, five other candidates and I returned to Belfast to St. Malachy's College to complete our philosophy studies there for the next two years.

I was then sent by Bishop Noel Treanor to Rome in August 2011 to study theology. I spent most of my studies there living in the Irish College and studying in the Angelicum University (Pontifical University of St Thomas Aquinas).

Outside of studying in Rome how did you pass your free time (if any!)?

Free time in Rome is hard to come by, but there are certainly many treasures to be found when the opportunities arise! Among my favourite haunts in Rome were the church of San Luigi dei Francesi, which boasts some of Caravaggio's finest works of sacred art (including the Call of Saint Matthew) and where a community of French priests often come to celebrate mass, singing in the most beautiful harmonies. There is also a great aspect of meeting the universal church while studying in Rome - not only meeting friends in the other national colleges (such as the Scots College, the English College, North American College, German-Hungarian College etc.), but also the religious congregations (such as the Missionaries of Charity, Jesuits, Dominicans, Franciscans etc.). I also spent much of my leisure time playing, seeking or writing sacred music, for which I have a particular passion.

...the man



behind the collar

Have you ever had any doubts about your calling having made the decision?

Just about every day! I constantly have to ask myself why God would call me to work and live as a priest of His Church, when I have so many failings myself. But the sense of call doesn't go away, and I don't think that God makes mistakes. All I can do is offer myself and do my best, and I know that He will work through me just as He works through us all.

Did you face any difficulties during your studies?

Six years is a long time to be in further studies - especially when you are looking forward to getting out at the end to work in a parish and be 'on the ground', so to speak. I don't regret a single day of it though, and it is a testament to the richness of our faith and the wisdom our Church has that there is so much we are asked to study.

What are your hopes for the future?

The Church in Ireland has had more than a few knocks over the last number of years, and perhaps we can feel a bit disheartened still when we hear of the wrongs done by some of the clergy and baptised, and when certain less balanced sections of the media and others try to ridicule our beliefs. I have great hope though in the resilience of the Church, which Jesus Himself promised He would never leave, and I know that the Spirit will keep moving among us. I can see many signs of life in the Church springing up like new shoots, and we know - as we so often read in the scriptures - that God tells us "Do not be afraid." And who are we to disagree?!

Apart from St. Anne's, where would you like to be" posted"?

It's unlikely I would ever be posted to my home parish - perhaps that may come as a relief to many within it! When I was ordained as a deacon, I took three promises: one of celibacy, one of obedience and one of commitment to the prayer of the Church. I know that wherever I am sent, God has a plan for my work. I'm excited to find out what that will be, and I certainly don't want to start off by giving God any specific criteria!

Could you have made the journey (to the priesthood) without your family support?

I am blessed to have had the support of my family throughout my time of discernment and seminary, and indeed from the parish and many others. For me, my faith was nurtured largely at home for many of my formative years, and it is through the example of my parents and grandparents that I have felt so secure and comfortable in walking the same roads of faith that they have walked themselves. Other students have other supports, but ultimately I think that God doesn't ask of people something that they can never manage. It is God who brought me here, and who put others along the road to get me here.

How do you feel about the forthcoming Ordination?

I am amazed by how much preparation, good will and effort is going into the Ordination from so many in our parish; it all makes my job much easier! I dropped into the Church to hear the wonderful Ordination choir practising, and I think that gave me a new sense of both the beauty of the Ordination liturgy and how near it is. I'm certainly excited and looking forward to it immensely.

Have you a special message to the people of the parish?

Perhaps this is a good opportunity to explain the choice of artwork on my prayer card and booklet - it is one of my favourite works of art: Caravaggio's depiction of the Supper at Emmaus (see back page). In the full scene, there are five figures: Jesus Christ in the centre, having just broken the bread - perfectly calm and drawing the focus into Himself. The innkeeper and his wife stand to the right - seeing Him, but without recognising or knowing who He is. The other two, who are caught in surprise, are disciples who had seen Him crucified in Jerusalem and who have just recognised Him as the Risen Lord. Caravaggio brilliantly shows us the face of one of them, who is staring at Jesus and is locked in confusion and wonderment, but we only see the back of the the other disciple. This other disciple is myself. We are placed in the scene recognising Jesus, and we gaze on Jesus with the same wonderment borne of the light of faith. Whether called to priesthood, religious life or any other manner of following Jesus Christ, we are all hooked by the same recognition of God before us, and we hear the call to welcome Him into our hearts.

A day to remember in pictures









Here is a special report which we featured in a past issue of the magazine. It was written when Conor was studying there. We think it well worth repeating

Our Man in the Vatican

The View from Rome

By Conor McCarthy (formerly our special correspondent in the Vatican)

Numbers are going down. Nobody cares about the teachings of the Church. Governments and society are abandoning the morals that we thought were right. Where is our credibility?

I have very fond memories of growing up in our parish. St. Anne's is the church in which I was baptised. My family went to church each week, we attended the parish schools and we said our prayers at home.

Every Sunday, we would join in the flood of people ascending the hill to the church for mass – people of all ages, attracted to something that they knew was right and good. We weren't perfect of course, and when we were young there seemed to be nothing as embarrassing as having our dad open the Hosanna hymnal and sing along with the hymns loudly beside us. Ironically, once I got into the musicians' corner myself, nobody could have kept me silent either.

Wonder

Growing up in the parish, I came to wonder at why people made the same journey week after week up to the church, and what the faith meant to me. This journey of discovery was a gradual uncovering – indeed it still is – but the faith that I heard from my friends, family, teachers and priests, and that I witnessed in the faces and prayer of the many people around me, has been the greatest gift that I have ever and will ever receive.

It is the gift of knowing God, who is love. It is the gift of being able to pray to Him, of feeling His presence in our Church, the sacraments and scriptures, and of feeling His guiding hand. Now that God is in my heart and mind, should I ever forget Him it would leave a lifeless frame.

Trust

It is four years now since I was accepted to study for the priesthood, since I "took the plunge". Indeed, it is much like stepping off a precipice into the unknown. As someone who is naturally more cautious and organised, I find that the more I trust in God and allow Him to direct my life, the more exciting and unpredictable it is.

I have studied alongside hundreds of men and women who are giving their lives in service to the Church. In many parishes, I have seen God reach and transform the lives of people in church, in their homes and on the periphery.

I have accompanied the dying as they approach that moment when they may meet God face to face. It is the privilege of the priest – and of us as students – to see God's grace in places that few will ever see.

In Rome, where I have been blessed to study, we have heard the bells ring out and seen the white smoke, and watched as Pope Francis came to meet and to challenge the world. His challenge is a simple one, but it is profound. We who know God must love Him, and show God's love to everyone. There is no better model for the world than Christ, and Christ has no hands now on earth but our own.

God comes into the world through us, as much as we let Him. Because Jesus has promised never to abandon us, what can we do but hope? The world will always change, but God will never change, and God will never abandon His faithful. Still, for all the wonder and excitement of Rome, I will always return to my home parish, where those good people present in our church form the "praying heart of our community" (as Fr. O'Donnell used to say). Let us be confident then in our hope and our love of God, because no challenge made by mankind will ever be able to resist His persistent presence.

I shall always be grateful for our home parish, and as the proud elder brother of two wonderful young siblings, I know and trust that it is a place where they and their peers can meet God too – because by our humble prayer and efforts to follow Christ, we allow God to work in the lives of us all.

Saint Anne, pray for us.

Our Lady, Seat of Wisdom, pray for us.

His Holiness
Pope Francis and Conor



Eucharistic Adoration *in Down & Connor*

Update

The first Annual General Meeting of the Down and Connor Committee of the Apostolate of Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration has been held, at St. Bernard's Church hall, Glengormley.

The primary purpose was to elect new officers; Mrs Anne Marie McNeill of St. Macnissi's, Randalstown was elected as Chairperson and Mrs. Patricia Wade of St. Bernard's, Glengormley was elected as Deputy Chairperson. The Secretary and Treasurer were returned as Mr. David O' Doherty of St. Anne's and Mr Bill Foley of St. Bernadette's, Rosetta- both posts not up for re-election. The Spiritual Director is Rt. Rev. Mgr. Sean Connolly PE, VG of Loughquile parish.

Some fifty plus delegates from across the Diocese attended. made up of parish Adoration committee members and prayer liaison volunteers who pray for each parish in advance of presentations being made in parishes scheduled to begin Adoration.

The Committee Secretary reported activity over the past four years, all but one of the 87 parishes in the Diocese have been approached with the aim of setting up viable Perpetual Adoration and 51 have ongoing weekly Adoration with committees in place to maintain registers, deal with the practicalities of Exposing and Reposing the Blessed Sacrament, closing churches etc.

A further 12 parishes confirmed that they did not need our assistance and 11 more decided that due to it being an elderly or dispersed rural parish, that Perpetual Adoration was not feasible at present. The remaining parishes who were contacted explained that they deemed they were not yet ready for one reason or another, for setting up Perpetual adoration.

St. Anne's

In our own parish, signing in attendance initially was between 120 – 125 weekly Adorers maintaining their own hour, but this number has gradually decreased due to family reasons, ageing or illness, to a steady 90 – 95. This number has remained constant over the past two years and we know that 'casual Adorers' do attend, but for personal or work reasons, do not wish to formally register or commit to their hour.

We ask that these Adorers write their name or place their initials in the register for the hour they do attend, so that any "weak" hour can be monitored and dealt with to lessen the chance of the Blessed Sacrament being left alone in the church.

Adoration will run as usual over the summer months and a register will be placed in the Church porch requesting volunteers to stand in for our Adorers who will be on holiday. A 'buddying up' system would be desirable where persons can swap or double up to cover each others holiday commitments. If anyone has any queries or concerns, or who wishes to come and experience the joy of spending an hour with the Lord, please contact the parish office who in turn will pass details on to St. Anne's Adoration Committee. We would also welcome new members on to our Committee.

David O' Doherty
St. Anne's Committee Chairperson



Corpus Christi Sunday



The annual Corpus Christi procession and service was a wonderful expression of the strong faith of the people of St. Anne's. Bright sunshine added to a wonderful attendance of families, with the recent young communicants paving the way for the Blessed Sacrament, carried with dignity by Parish Priest Fr. Feargal Mc Grady. Organised by Parish Sister Mary Murray, the procession travelled the short distance from the church through the car park, up to the roundabout at Rathmore where it turned back to the church for Benediction. Afterwards all lingered for refreshments on the piazza between the church and the Parish Centre with Gerry Barry under pressure from the large attendance of children anxious for the treats of lemonade and crisps. Another splendid St. Anne's reverend and joyful occasion.

Martin Young



Recently the Bereavement Support Group of the parish took St. Anne's on a further step of supporting parishioners when we remembered the precious lives lost at the dawn of life.

Annually a Mass is held for those families who suffered a loss- a miscarriage, an abortion, birth of a child who died in the womb, a child who died shortly after birth; the loss of a dear one in later childhood is also remembered. Many times these early losses are so painful that they cannot be spoken about by their parents. Often early loss is not understood by those who have not gone through it. All too often, though, it is simply that we cannot find the words to comfort someone who has lost a little life. Because of this the BSG brought the idea of a Memory Garden to fruition.

The idea was to let parents know that they can talk and grieve, and that the parish of St. Anne's understands the enormity of their loss. Just like the little lives gone, the flowers in the garden will bloom for only a short time, but we hope that the flowers will root an everlasting memory in the heart of St. Anne's. We hope that the little garden will make us all stop and think of families who have lost and, in remembering, we will pray for them.

The idea for the garden has been a wish for parishioner Kathleen Hill for many years as each year she has faithfully kept a book of remembrance updated every year and prepared the Mass for children who died at the dawn of life. The BSG joined in her efforts to have a meaningful remembrance for the little lives, similar to the many daffodils planted in remembrance of our deceased older parishioners. After quite some time trying to decide on the best position and planning as to its long term care the garden suddenly but naturally came to life with the work being carried on the church grounds in preparation for the Ordination of Deacon Conor McCarthy.

Gerry Barry and Brian Hill put tremendous effort into finding a wonderful gardener who restored the area between the Church and the Parish Centre. Annual plants were bought by parishioners. As always, Willie Brown came into his own when he produced, virtually overnight, the lovely sign for the garden.

This year's Mass included a simple but moving ceremony of remembrance when families were invited to bring a little plant to the front of the altar in memory of their little life lost where they remained during the Mass. Anne Murray, a member of the BSG, read a poignant reflection. After Mass we all made our way to the garden with the little plants carried by children who attended the Mass, many of whom had lost a brother or sister.

The garden was blessed by Father Kevin Mullan. Afterwards there was time to chat over a cup of tea facilitated by the Welcome team. So please, next time you are around St. Anne's, have a few minutes to look over the garden before the flowers fade for the autumn, and perhaps say a wee prayer for our bereaved families.

Carole O'Hara



Golf tournament boosts parish funds

There was a good turnout for the inaugural St. Anne's Golf Tournament held at Balmoral Golf Club, in spite of a number of other parish conflicting events. The Course was in perfect order, just before Captain's Day, and the food was excellent. Even the weather behaved itself, an unusual occurrence that week.

Inevitably Balmoral members used their local knowledge to good avail, winning all but one of the major prizes, both team and individual. The Competition was won by Michael McNulty (pictured) and the Ladies Competition by Annette McCreesh.

The Team prize winners were a four ball starring Annette McCreesh, Pamela O'Loan, Brendan McComiskey and Sean McComiskey.

The Tournament, which was organised as part of the St. Anne's Refurbishment Appeal, raised over £1800, thanks largely to generous support from many sponsors including:

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| Coastways | Donnelly Group |
| Lavery Brothers | Moore Park Service Station |
| Noel Dowds - Electrical | Ecclesiastical Brokers |
| First Trust Bank | McAulfield Butchers |
| Ulster Business Machines | Torney Brothers |
| Imhotep Diagnostics | Collins Furniture |
| Electronic and Security Services | |

These companies deserve our support. And as a result of the success day out at Balmoral there are plans to repeat the tournament next year, maybe at a different time of year and even at a different club.

The Tournament was the latest in a series of events to raise funds for the parish Refurbishment Appeal which has a target of raising £42,000 towards a series of improvements including:

- repainting the Church and Parish Centre
- replacement lighting in the Church
- improvements in the grounds of the Church
- carpet cleaning
- buying cardiac defibrillators for Church and Parish Centre.

So far over £30,000 has been raised and the Appeal remains open. There are further events planned for later in the year including a Dinner Dance to close the Appeal. So watch out for more news about events, details in the weekly parish news bulletin and on the website.

Brian Hill



Supper at Emmaus (1606), Milan
Caravaggio (1571 - 1610)

St Anne's Parish Matters *Comments?*

We hope you enjoyed this edition of the parish magazine, so please get in touch if you have a story of interest to the parish or if you have suggestions for future features, simply send an email to:

office@saintannesparish.net
with magazine editor in the subject line or drop us a note to the editor,
c/o the parish office.



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This special issue of the magazine was produced by Gerry Carson (Editor), Tony Bell (design and graphics), with contributions from Brian Hill, David O'Doherty, Carole O'Hara and Martin Young. The photographs were taken by Gerry Carson, Fr. Damian Mc Caughan and John Tweed.