

Feast of St Ita, Sun 15th Jan, called the "Brigid of Munster", was born in 480 in the present Co. Waterford. Baptised as Deirdre and grew up in Drum, Co. Waterford. Ita was said to embody the six virtues of Irish womanhood – wisdom, purity, musical ability, gentle speech and needle skills. She rejected a prestigious marriage for a life as a consecrated woman religious. At the age of sixteen she moved to Cluain Credhail, a place-name Killeedy – meaning "Church of St. Ita" – in Co. Limerick, where she founded a small community of nuns and resided for the remainder of her life in community. Bishop Declan of Ardmore conferred the veil on her. Legend has it that Ita was led to Killeedy by three heavenly lights. The first was at the top of the Galtee mountains, the second on the Mullaghareirk mountains and the third at Cluain Creadhail, which is nowadays Killeedy. Her sister Fiona also went to Killeedy. A strongly individualistic character is glimpsed in the stories that surround her life. When she decided to settle in Killeedy, a chieftain offered her a large grant of land to support the convent. But Ita would accept only four acres, The community group seems to have had a school for little boys where they were taught "Faith in God with purity of heart; simplicity of life with religion; generosity with love". Her pupils are said to have included Saint Brendan, whom Bishop Eric gave to Ita in fosterage when he was a year old. St. Ita kept him until he was six. The great Navigator visited her between his voyages & deferred to her counsel. Brendan is believed to have asked her what three things God loved best. "True faith in God, a pure heart and a simple life with a religious spirit and open-handedness inspired by charity," she answered. The three things God most detested were a scowling face, obstinacy in wrongdoing, and too great a confidence in the power of money. She dedicated herself to prayer, fasting, simplicity and cultivating a gift for spiritual discernment. She was much sought after as a spiritual director. During this period of Christianity, the Celtic Church was more advanced than other churches at the time in recognising qualities of spiritual leadership in women and in encouraging women in this role. It is thought that Ita may

have been abbess of a double monastery of men and women. Her legend places a great deal of emphasis on her austerity, as told by St. Cuimin of County Down, and numerous miracles are recorded of her. She is also said to be the originator of an Irish lullaby for the infant Jesus, an English version of which was set for voice and piano by the American composer Samuel Barber. When she felt her end approaching she sent for her community of nuns, and invoked the blessing of heaven on the clergy and laity. **Prayer to Naomh Ide:** Lord, you, give us food to strengthen us, and clothes to keep us warm Help us to follow the example of St. Ita, by praying every day and by helping others. Amen

Our Sympathy to the families of Tom Fleming, Monaleen & formerly of Rathuard, Ballysheedy. Nora (Nonie) Shanahan, Scart, Cross's funeral home Ballyneety Sunday 4pm-7pm, removal to Knockea church, Mass Monday 11am. May they rest in Peace

Fr. Seamus Ryan, D.D. of Cappamore professor of theology St Patricks College Thurles & former Limerick hurler. Some years ago he described his time working with Pope Benedict. In 1963, I received the Humboldt scholarship to study for two years at the University of Münster in Westphalia in German, under Dr. Joseph Ratzinger (future Pope Benedict) with my expenses of bed and board paid, and a generous monthly allowance. In fact, I was better off in those years than I have ever been since. All part of the remarkable German effort to build bridges with many countries in the aftermath of a world war. Off to Deutschland in September 1963 for what would turn out to be the two best years of my life. My mentor, Joseph Ratzinger, though little known abroad, was already quite famous in the German Catholic Church. I was quite nervous at our first meeting. I called to his house in Münster a beautiful city amid the rolling farmlands of Westphalia. He lived there with his only sister Maria who looked after the house-keeping duties. From here he walked to lectures at the University about a mile or so distant. He had never driven or owned a car. He enquired about my lodging. I had found a room with a family about a mile from the university. He felt it would be good for me to have an experience of German family life at first hand, but thought it might be better in the long run to seek a room in the Seminary on Domplatz where I would be nearer to the University and have the advantage of a good Library. After a few weeks I was glad to take his advice.



Remembered In Mass		
Donoughmore		
Sat 14th Jan	7pm	Terry Carey & Daly Carey. Eileen McAuliffee(3)
Mon. 16th Jan	10m	No Mass
Tues 17th	10am	Mass
Fri 20th	10am	
Sat 21st	7pm	Jimmy Maher (2) Jimmy Flood, Patricia Cotter. Martin Sheahan & Paddy Shaughnessy.
Knockea		
Sun 15th Jan.2023	11am	Nancy Godfrey (2nd)
Wed.18th	10am	
Sun 22nd	11am	Martina Lynch



After our chat Maria provided us with a cup of coffee and some delightful Apfelstrudel, an old favourite of their Bavarian homeland. I noticed the fashionable piano, obviously in use. He spoke about his own love of music, a passion of all the family. I never heard him play but knew from others that he was an accomplished pianist with Mozart and Bach among his favourites. In musical talent he was overshadowed by his brother George, a truly gifted musician. He had been for years the musical director of the internationally acclaimed Regensburg "domspatzen", literally translated the "cathedral sparrows" i.e. the world famous boys' choir of the Cathedral of Regensburg. His sister, Maria, a very talented person herself, has been at her brother's side, for thirty years through his tenure at several universities, eventually keeping house for him in Rome until her death in 1991 Everybody agreed that Ratzinger spoke a beautiful German. His spoken word was not only a joy to listen to but read equally well on the printed page. He spoke freely, always making eye contact with his audience. If he

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Pastoral Area Donoughmore /
Knockea/ Roxboro, Queen of Peace,
Holy Family

had a written text, I never saw it except when he would refer to a text of Scripture or quote from some author. His language was seldom that of the usual academic, but more of the artist, the painter ... drawing on the visual, symbol and story. He had an extraordinary ability to communicate the most profound ideas in the simplest of language. The university system in Germany (or so it seemed to me) allowed many others to attend lectures besides the enrolled students. Many elderly or retired people from the town came to hear Ratzinger. To be sure of a seat you had to be well ahead of time.

Weekly Lotto €2,800 no winner winning No. 7,10,15,23 Lucky dips.1. Martin McDonagh 2.Mike Keane 3.Michael Toomey 4.Declan Brosnahan 5.Carmel Power 6. Pat O'Neill Snr Next Jackpot €2,900 Draw Tues 17th Jan. 9.30pm Cat's Cradle

