



Legendary Limerick team stand among the greats of hurling There was never any shortage of great hurlers in Limerick.

There was never any shortage of great fans in Limerick either. All too often though, the county was regarded as the third-best county in Munster behind Cork and Tipperary. Limerick was a hurling superpower in all, bar the number of titles. Remarkably, this was a county with only one All-Ireland win in the space 78 years. From the legendary Mick Mackey-inspired team in 1940, winning its third title in a decade, the county then had to wait all the way to 1973, with Eamonn Grimes lifting the trophy. There followed an unmerciful famine of 45 years, as Limerick fans watched on as Galway, Offaly and Clare, along with Wexford, would break the stranglehold of the big three of Kilkenny, Cork and Tipperary. Limerick reached five finals, only to come up short, most notably in “the five-minute final” of 1994 when Offaly scored 2-5 in the closing minutes to snatch victory. Limerick, it seems, just couldn’t catch a break. Truly great hurlers like Ciarán Carey, Mark Foley and Gary Kirby would go without a Celtic Cross medal. Finally, in 2018, the barren spell ended and since then Limerick haven’t stopped winning. Bar getting caught out by Kilkenny in the semi-final of 2019, Limerick have been imperious. Five Munster finals in a row have been accompanied by four-in-a-row All-Ireland victories in 2020, 2021, 2022 and now this year. Along the way, they have seen off Galway, Waterford, Cork and Kilkenny in finals. As in Gaelic football where no team can truly aspire to greatness until they have beaten Kerry, the same applies with Kilkenny in hurling. To be the best, you have to beat the best. Even on a bad day, a Kilkenny side is a formidable opponent and have many sides beaten before they even run out on to the pitch. Previous Limerick sides might have wilted when it was in the melting pot, but not this side, which has a tenacity to match its talent. Robbed of the leadership qualities of captain Declan Hannon, it is a tribute to the system manager John Kiely has put in place that Limerick can adapt without any player. Generational players like Cian Lynch, Kyle Hayes

and Aaron Gillane are a joy to watch. Across the park though Limerick have players that are the envy of every other county: the energy of Gearóid Hegarty, the magnificent Morrissey brothers, Dan and Tom, Diarmaid Byrnes and William O’Donoghue in the impenetrable half-back line, the unflappable Nickie Quaid in goals, Mike Casey and Barry Nash in a tight full-back line, the powerhouse of Darragh O’Donovan in midfield, with the force of David Reidy, Séamus Flanagan and Peter Casey in the forwards. The players on the bench also slot in seamlessly to what is not just a starting 15, but a supreme squad. After five All-Irelands in six years, Limerick now have their eyes on a five-in-a-row, a feat which even Christy Ring’s Cork of the 1940s and Henry Shefflin’s Kilkenny of the Noughties fell short of, foiled by Tipperary on both occasions. Already legends, iconic status awaits Limerick if they can drive for five.

This Sunday 30 July Archbishop Eamon Martin will join with thousands of pilgrims of all ages in the annual pilgrimage to the summit of Croagh Patrick, Ireland’s holy mountain, for Reek Sunday 2023. Father Charlie McDonnell PP, Administrator of the local parish of Westport, Co Mayo, in the Archdiocese Tuam, welcomed the news that Archbishop Martin will celebrate Mass in Westport on 29 July, and on the summit of Croagh Patrick on Reek Sunday, and also that this year’s Reek Sunday pilgrimage has been designated as one of the key initiatives to highlight the Year for Vocation to the Diocesan Priesthood, which is taking place across Ireland over 2023 - 2024. Pilgrimage to Croagh Patrick (2,510ft/765m), has been undertaken for over 1500 years. Croagh Patrick dominates the landscape of southwest Mayo both spiritually and physically. The pilgrimage is associated with Saint Patrick who, in 441, spent forty days and nights fasting on the summit, following the example of Christ and Moses. The name ‘Reek Sunday’ comes from Patrick’s ability to Christianise many pagan customs including the festival of Lughnasa, which previously heralded the start of the harvest festival honouring the ancient pagan god Lugh, whose name is encompassed in the Irish language word for August: *Lughnasa*. This festival’s tradition became absorbed into new Christian beliefs and locally become known as Domhnach na Cruaiche (Reek Sunday)



| Remembered In Mass | | |
|--------------------|------|-----------------------------------------|
| Donoughmore | | |
| Sat.29th July | 7pm | Parish Intentions |
| Mon.31st | 10m | Denis, Ellen & Mary Ryan & Bridget Hyde |
| Tues 1st | 10am | No Mass |
| Fri 4th Aug | | |
| Sat. 5th Aug | 7pm | |
| Knockea | | |
| Sun 30th | 11am | MM) Catherine Murrinan |
| Wed.2nd | 10am | |
| Sun 6th Aug. | 11am | Fred & Una Fennessy Eileen O’Riordan |



Part In Peace



World Youth day Lisbon 2023. Over 20 young people from across the diocese with Bishop Brendan will journey this Monday to Portugal.

Thousands of young people from across the world will descend on Lisbon for the week to journey together with Pope Francis. The World Youth Day (WYD) Lisbon 2023 app is now available and can be downloaded for free on both Android and iOS. **The "Lisboa 2023" app** will be available in the five official languages of the meeting: Portuguese, English, French, Spanish and Italian. It will also be accessible in offline mode, allowing access to almost all content even in situations of limited internet access. At the conclusion of the pilgrimage the limerick group will have a day visit to Fatima. Gary Reeves who is part of the Donoughmore folk choir is travelling on the trip and has assured us of bringing our intentions there and if anyone has a particular intention to be brought to

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The Eircode for St. Patrick’s Church, Donoughmore is **V94 V6T3**.

Knockea is **V94 D938**.

Pastoral Unit ‘Sli Padraig’ Patrick’s Way ;Donoughmore /Knockea/ Roxboro, Queen of Peace, Holy Family

the shrine you can email him on **garymic@gmail.com**

Our Sympathy to the families of Celine England (Borris-in-Ossory-Laois) sister of Esther Walsh, brother-in-law Leo, Mary Fitzgerald (Kildimo-Pallaskenry) mother of Pat Fitzgerald. Maureen Hogan (Janesboro) sister of Eamonn Madden, Patrick Kearney (Ennis) brother-in-law of Bill Hurley May they rest in peace.

DKR Comm. Café courthouse Ballyneety Fridays 10.30am....call in for a free cup of tea/coffee any Friday morning

Weekly Lotto €5,600 no winner, winning No’s 3,8,16,25 Lucky dips.
1. Angela Dooley 2. Joan Dooley 3. Conor & Sean Keane 4. Mary Moloney 5. Conor & Sean Keane 6. Cillian 7. Myles Next Jackpot €5,700 Draw Tues 1st Aug. 9.30pm Cat’s Cradle
Many thanks.

