

# Seagoe Parish Magazine.

AUGUST, 1910.

## The Recent Confirmation.



very large number of those who were confirmed on June 26th were present at the Celebrations of Holy Communion on the following Sunday, July 3rd. The total number of Communicants was 108, which is, we believe, the largest number present on any single Sunday during the past eighty years. We hope that those young people who have now joined the ranks of our Communicants will be regular in their attendance at this Sacred Feast which our Lord Jesus Christ has so solemnly enjoined on His followers in the command "This do in remembrance of me." Much of the spirit of indifference which prevails in our midst and the serious neglect of Divine Worship by many amongst us, we are convinced, due to the habit of not attending the service of Holy Communion. The excuse usually put forward of spiritual unfitness cannot avail in God's sight, and if we with a sincere conviction of sin desire forgiveness then we shall be found kneeling at the Holy Table in true humility seeking His strengthening and refreshing grace. One hundred years ago the Communicants in Seagoe Parish considerably outnumbered our present totals. At all the chief festivals there were never less than one hundred present and usually about 150. We hope that ere long Seagoe will be distinguished as a Parish where the people feel a true hunger for the Bread of Life. Those who have been recently confirmed will receive their Confirmation Cards without delay. Each card has been signed by the Bishop, and will prove an interesting and helpful reminder of the happy Confirmation of 1910.

We hope the parents and elder brothers and sisters of those who have been confirmed and have come to Communion will in every possible way by their sympathy and prayers encourage those who have taken this step forward in the Spiritual life, and the best way to help them is by coming with them and joining in our beautiful Communion service. There is no happier sight to be seen in our Parish Church than that of Parents and children kneeling together around the Holy Table. It consecrates the home life of the Parish.

## Children's Flower Competition.

On Saturday, August 20th, the Prizes will be awarded for the flowers distributed to the children 3 months ago. The children must bring their flowers to Edenderry Parochial Hall on that day at 2-30 p.m. The judges will then award the Prizes. Further particulars will be announced in the Sunday Schools on Sunday, August 14th.

## Our Day Schools.

Seagoe School has been thoroughly renovated during the holidays. Messrs. Adair were entrusted by the Vestry with the painting and decoration. The walls have been painted a bright silver grey, and the wood panelling has been grained in a light oak. The whole effect is extremely bright and pleasing and almost transforms the interior of the School. A much needed improvement has been approved of, viz., the fitting up of a neat Lavatory with wash-hand basins and a water supply. This work has been tendered for by Mr John Coulter, of Edenderry. The School with its new improvements and efficient teaching staff is now one of the best equipped in the neighbourhood of Portadown.

## The Annual Report.

The Annual Report for Seagoe Parish about to be published is this year of exceptional interest. The first feature of importance to which we would direct attention is the gratifying increase in the Sustentation Fund, which after remaining at a low figure for many years, has suddenly shot up to a total never previously reached, viz., £175. This is due to the practical interest which the parishioners have taken in the Glebe Purchase Scheme to which our worthy Treasurer, Mr. Wolsey Atkinson, has devoted so much time and attention. The parishioners have loyally supported him and it seems as if in quite a short time the scheme will be carried to a successful conclusion. We are glad to see that the various funds in the Parish are well supported. Here and there we notice adverse balances but in all cases they are smaller than last year. The Debit Balance on the General Sunday School Account has been reduced from £8 odd to about £3. This is one of the most important Funds next to the Sustentation and for the sake of the efficiency of our Sunday Schools it should be better supported. A few more annual subscriptions would enable us to pay our way from year to year. The Poor Fund has been well supported and it has been possible to help many deserving cases.

## Offertories for July.

"Freely ye have received: freely give."

	Morning.	Evening.
July 3th— 6th S. aft. Trinity	£1 17 2	£0 11 8
„ 10th— 7th S. aft. „	3 6 4½	3 4 3
„ 17th— 8th S. aft. „	1 8 1	0 10 2
„ 24th— 9th S. aft. „	1 6 4	0 10 4
„ 31st— 10th S. aft. „	1 7 6	0 10 4
Week Days,		0 7 2
Total,	£9 5 5½	£5 13 11

**Baptisms.**

"Of such is the kingdom of God."

- July 2nd.—Sarah Jane, daughter of Thomas Edward and Mary Adelaide Letitia Maginnis.  
 " " —Abraham, son of Edmond and Sarah Grimason.  
 " " —David John, son of Thomas and Margaret Holland.  
 " " —Richard, son of James Henry and Ellen Hughes.  
 " " —Hannah, daughter of William John and Margaret McArdle.  
 " 9th.—Joseph Robb, son of William Robert and Amelia Anna Coulter.  
 " " —Hannah, daughter of William Robert and Amelia Anna Coulter.  
 " 13th.—Robert, son of Robert and Mary Anderson.  
 " " —Ellen Jane Lyness, daughter of Robert and Mary Anderson.  
 " 20th.—Sarah Anne, daughter of William and Hannah Jane Thompson.  
 " 21st.—Elizabeth, daughter of James Henry and Elizabeth McKee.

**Marriages.**

"Those whom God hath joined together, let no man put asunder."

- July 8th.—Samuel George McNeill, Edenderry, to Elizabeth Anna Fleming, Edenderry.  
 " " —George Steenson, Kernan, to Elizabeth Warnock, Edenderry.

**Burials.**

"I know that my Redeemer liveth."

- July 3rd.—Valentine Dynes, Lisniskey, aged 73 yrs.  
 " 10th.—William Atkinson, Edenderry, aged 66 yrs.  
 " 26th.—Isaiah Best, Donacloney, aged 31 yrs.  
 " 30th.—John Currie, Edenderry, aged 71 yrs.

Death has been busy in our midst during the past month, and has claimed victims both among the aged and the children.

Valentine Dynes has been ailing for several years, but the end came somewhat suddenly. He was always very patient even when in pain, and his loss is regretted by many in the Parish.

William Atkinson had a life-long connection with Seagoe Parish. He took an active interest in the Orange Institution, and was largely instrumental in the erection of Seagoe Orange Hall. He was one of the founders of the Men's Sunday Morning Bible Class which meets in the Hall, and while his health permitted he was seldom absent. He has been in failing health for some time with an affection of the heart, and his illness was accompanied with much suffering. The end came suddenly on the early morning of Friday, July 8th.

Mrs. M'Adam, better known by her maiden name as Maud Quinn, of Drumnacanvey, passed away after a brief illness on July 1st at Oughterard, Co. Galway. Mrs M'Adam was interred

in the pretty little graveyard at Oughterard Parish Church. Much sympathy was shown by the townspeople of every class and creed, and many sent flowers. The Rev. J. S. J. White, Rector of Oughterard, officiated at the funeral.

One of the saddest events that has recently occurred in the Parish has been the death of one of the most popular and promising of our Seagoe School children, Olive Bleakley, at the early age of twelve years. The epidemic of Measles, which has been prevalent in the Parish for some weeks past, though happily of a light type has yet been very severe in some cases. In her case it developed into pneumonia and proved rapidly fatal. We shall sadly miss her bright presence from our Day School and Sunday School, but her example will remain as a happy memory and a sacred inspiration. In the fair promise of youth she has been translated to another and a better world. We offer our sincere sympathy to her sorrowing parents. Her remains were interred in Knockbreda graveyard, Belfast.

We note with feelings of deep regret the early demise of Isaiah Best at the age of 31. Owing to his long residence in Donacloney he was unknown to many of us, but as this family is one of the most honoured and widely connected in the Parish, we feel as if the cold hand of death had been laid on one of our own.

With sorrow we record the decease of John Curry, one of our oldest residents. For a long time his health was far from satisfactory. He bore his long illness with resignation and passed away without serious pain.

**The Anniversary Service.**

On the evening of Sunday, July 10th, at 7 o'clock, a Special Anniversary Service was held in Seagoe Church. A large number of Orangemen wearing their regalia were present. The service was reverent and hearty. Hymn sheets containing suitable hymns were distributed through the pews and enabled all to join in the singing. The special preacher was the Rev. John McEndoo, M.A., Rector of Tandragee. He chose as his text Esther, Chap. 9, vv. 26, 27, 28, the record of the establishment of the Feast of Purim to commemorate the deliverance of the Jews from the hands of their enemies. The sermon contained many interesting references to the history of the past, and some useful warnings with regard to the present. The offerings were collected by the officers of the Lodges and a liberal collection was made on behalf of the funds of the Co. Armagh Protestant Orphan Society and the Enniskillen Fund. At Morning Prayer the Sermon was preached by the Rector from the text, Psalm 127-4, and the offerings of the people were devoted to the Protestant Orphan Society. Those who would wish to take Collecting Cards for the Orphan Society should apply to the Clergy or the Sunday School Superintendents. Everyone should do something for the Widows and Orphans.

**G.F.S. Excursion.**

This pleasant annual event which is looked forward to with so much interest by the members of the Seago G.F.S. takes place this year on Saturday, August 13th. The place selected for the Excursion is Ardmore on the shores of Lough Neagh. A prettier place could not have chosen. The green sward along the shores of our beautiful lake will form an ideal place for the afternoon's outing. Miss Armstrong, our energetic G.F.S. Secretary, has made all arrangements.

**Items.**

Seago School re-opens on Monday, August 8th. A punctual attendance of all the pupils is requested at 9-30 a.m.

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Hacknahay School re-opens on Tuesday, August 2nd, at 9-30 a.m. sharp.

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Queen Alexandra has graciously acknowledged a poem sent to her by our talented parishioner. Miss F. A. Armstrong, on the occasion of the death of the late King. The title of Miss Armstrong's poem was "Compensation."

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The triennial Church of Ireland conference will be held in Belfast from October 11th to October 15th. The subjects to be discussed are very important and interesting. All those who are interested in Church Work should attend. We hope to see Seago well represented.

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Mr Thomas Armstrong has kindly given a donation of £5 to Hacknahay School.

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The Rector has been away on a holiday during the latter weeks of July.

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The Select Vestry spent an evening at the Rectory last month. Some of the members showed great skill at golf. Mr. C. C. Collins, Rector's Churchwarden, especially distinguished himself. We have quite an athletic Vestry at present.

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Mr. T. J. Atkinson has taken the Edenderry Men's Bible Class during the Rector's absence.

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We congratulate Mr. Alfred Murray on obtaining the Divinity Testimonium in Trinity College, Dublin.

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Messrs. McGredy have again won splendid distinctions for their Roses at the great English Rose Show.

**Church Attendance and Efficiency Cards.**

In presenting a report of our Church Attendance Cards for the last three months, many points arise which give cause for deep dissatisfaction. Perhaps

to a certain extent the epidemic of measles which broke out recently may be responsible for some of these, but it is improbable in the highest degree that we can attribute everything to this. A great number of cards is given out each quarter, but what is the tale they tell when they are collected? In the majority of cases great irregularity in attendance at Church is observable. In some instances Sunday School is also badly attended, and lessons are learned most indifferently. It is not quite fair to always find fault with the children for these sins of omission. Some blame apparently must be attached to the parents. Instead of evincing an interest in the religious education of their offspring, more often we find careless habits being fostered and pampered by those who should be zealous for the eternal welfare of their children. Furthermore the whole duty of parents is not discharged when children are told to go to Church. A good leader says 'come on,' not 'go on.' 'Example is better than precept.' We appeal to all to see that they meet the obligations in this matter by leading lives which will be inspirations to the younger wayfarer on the road of life.

**PRIZES, (65 Points).**

Arthur Allen, William R. McLoughlin, James McKeown.

**FIRST CLASS, (60 points and over).**

Jennie England, 63; Bella Magee, 62; Bessie Dawson, 60.

**SECOND CLASS (55 points and over).**

Maggie Magee, 57; Thomas England, 57; Sophia Bradshaw, 56; Thomas Boyce, 56; Maggie Smith, 55.

**THIRD CLASS, (50 points and over).**

Mary J. Webb, 52; Sarah Dawson, 51; Minnie Allen, 51; Theresa Ramsey, 50.

**Nature Notes.**

Although the summer is rapidly passing away the month of August presents many interesting features to the lover of nature. During the cutting of the meadows many of the secrets of Nature are revealed. It is then possible to note the habits of birds which bring up their young in the safe retreat of the long meadow grass. Those who are interested in Moths and Butterflies will find plenty of scope for observation and the large Dragon flies which glitter through the air and hover over the ripe meadows must attract the admiring notice of even the most careless wayfarer. Another object of interest which comes into view this month is the way in which the various flowers scatter their seeds. The Dandelion is an interesting example. Every child knows the fluffy head which a breath can scatter but every plant has its own method of sowing its seed. The Balsam which grows freely in this district can throw its seeds a distance of four yards. It would be a good thing for our farming friends to make a study of the injurious insects which attack the crops and devise remedies against them. Notwithstanding all the knowledge that has been acquired a great deal still remains to be learned about them.

**Old Seagoe Notes.**

**Seagoe Townlands.**—**Drumnacanvey** has as interesting meaning. It is, of course, like almost all the other names, an Irish word. It means "the yellow-headed ridge." No doubt the higher ground in the townland was once covered with the yellow bloom of the gorse.

**Drumnagoon** was apparently in old days famous for its calves, for the name means "the ridge or hill of the calves."

**Edenderry** is now more remarkable for houses than for trees, but in bygone times it was famed for its oak groves. The name means "the hill-brow of the oak wood."

There is a difference of opinion as to the meaning of **Hacknahay**. Some say it is derived from **Aghnaghay**, which means "The Plain adjoining the Knock or Hill." This might refer to the fact that it contains a level piece of ground winding round the sides of the townland of Knock. A more likely derivation is from **Aghanahay** meaning "the field of the stream." The stream is a very conspicuous object in the district.

**Kernan** means "the little cairn or heap of stones." Possibly in former times a heap of stones marked the highest point in the townland.

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**Old Map of Seagoe.**—The old map of Seagoe and the County of Armagh referred to in our last issue and made in 1760 by Jean Roques for the then Primate contains some interesting features besides those already mentioned. The **Gilford road**, as we know it, did not exist. Possibly because there was then no such town as **Gilford**. The only road in that direction was one which ran along the rampart parallel to the present road and ended in front of the house at **Carrickblacker**. There seems to have been a large number of cottages along that road. Where **Stewart Avenue** now is there was a wide opening in the roadway, possibly a pond where the horses of travellers to **Lurgan** could drink. The townland of **Lisnaminty** is printed **Linster-minster**, and near **Drumnagoon** there is a place marked **Firglasson**, which was distinct from the townland of **Tamnifiglasson**. There seems to have been orchards round all the larger houses in the Parish, and there were many more trees planted than are now to be seen. The bridge across the **Bann** was made of wood, and was eventually swept away in a time of flood.

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**Curates of Seagoe.**—There were Rectors of Seagoe from the earliest times, and Vicars for several centuries, but the first curate was not appointed until the days of the **Rev. John Campbell** in the year 1696. The name of the **Rev. George Toombs** appears as curate of Seagoe in that year. The next curate whose appointment is recorded was the **Rev. John Carroll**, who took his degree of B.A. in the year 1729, and was appointed curate of Seagoe in

the year 1745. He held the curacy for 21 years, until 1766, when he was appointed perpetual curate of the **Moyntiagh District**, which was then made into a separate district of the Parish.

The **Rev. Arthur Fforde** who was Vicar of Seagoe from 1731 to 1748 appears to have acted as a temporary curate from 1726 to 1731. He got his degree of B.A. in 1723, and M.A. in 1726.

The **Rev. Thomas Higginson**, who obtained a Scholarship in **Trinity College, Dublin**, in 1743, and graduated as B.A. in 1744, became curate in the year 1756, and acted as such with the **Rev. John Carroll**. No doubt the latter at that time was working chiefly in the **Moyntiagh District**.

The **Rev. William Tisdall**, who obtained his B.A. degree in 1763, was in the same year appointed to the curacy and held it till 1764.

In 1772 the **Rev. Alexander Mecredy** was appointed to the curacy and held it for a year.

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**Ardmore Church.**—It is a curious fact that neither of the Churches bordering upon Seagoe Parish and originally forming part of it, is situated in the townland which gives it its name. **Ardmore Church** is in the townland of **Derryadd**, but the first Church in that District was built in **Ardmore**, and so the present Church goes by that name. In the case of **Knocknamuckley Church**, the Church is actually in the townland of **Ballygargan**, though it is always called by the name of another townland. It is said that **Archdeacon Saurin** was displeased at its erection and said it should be called by the name of **Knocknamuckley** which he thought was not so nice a name as **Ballygargan**. Whether the story be true or not it is curious that it is called by the name of a neighbouring townland.

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**Old Pews in Seagoe Church.**—The old square box pews were in Seagoe Church until so recently as 1864. Many of the older parishioners will remember them. In the year 1864 the present pews were introduced and at the time of the restoration of the Church by **Dean Dawson**, the handsome pews in the side aisle were erected. Of course in the old Church the pews were all of the square shape with straight backs.

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**The Apple Orchards of Portadown.**—It is said that the custom of planting apple orchards, which has now developed into such a profitable industry in this neighbourhood was introduced into **South Antrim** and **Armagh** by relatives and followers of **Bishop Jeremy Taylor**, who became **Bishop of Dromore** in the 17th century. He lived near **Ballinderry** in the **Co. Antrim**. The **Rev. J. Taylor**, lately curate of Seagoe, owns one of the finest apple orchards in the neighbourhood of **Portadown**, and we believe he comes of the same stock.