

Seagoe Parish Magazine.

DECEMBER, 1928.

CLERGY :

Rev. Canon Archer, B.D., The Rectory, Seagoe, Portadown.

Rev. W. A. Henry, 21 Edward St., Portadown.

LAY READER (Bishop's Licence):

r. Robt. Gracey, 23 Railway Street, Portadown.

CHURCHWARDENS :

Rector's—Robert M'Clements.

People's—William Dermott.

Advent Sunday, Dec. 2nd—Special subject "Foreign Missions," or "Winning the World for Christ." The offerings at the Services on Advent Sunday will be in aid of Foreign Missions.

Second Sunday in Advent, Dec. 9th—Special subject "The Bible and the Church." Offerings on behalf of the Hibernian Bible Society.

Third Sunday in Advent, Dec. 16th—Special subject "Home Influences."

Fourth Sunday in Advent, Dec. 23rd—Special subject "The Christmas Message."

Wednesdays in Advent.

A special Advent Service will be held in the Parish Church on each Wednesday in Advent at 8 p.m. The first of these Services will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 5th. The succeeding Services will be held on Dec. 12th and Dec. 19th. The Wednesday Services in the Parochial Hall will be discontinued during Advent.

Seagoe C L B.

This newly-revived Company of the Church Lads' Brigade is proving a great success. There are now over 30 lads enrolled, and the parades are held in the Parochial Hall each Friday evening at 8-30. Captain Gracey and First Lieutenant Casey, with the assistance of the Rev W. A. Henry and Mr. Wilson Metcalf are working hard to make the Company a great success. The Jumble Sale and collecting cards have brought in a substantial sum of money, which has been lodged with the Parochial Hon. Treasurer. The C.L.B. is a splendid organisation for the training of lads. It inculcates the necessity for Discipline of the Body, Mind and Spirit.

The Committee desire to thank heartily all who have so kindly helped at the Jumble Sale and with collecting cards.

St. Mark's Foundation Stone

The laying of the Foundation Stone of the War Memorial Tower of St. Mark's Church, Portadown, was a function of great interest and importance. The Rev. Canon Archer and the Rev. W. A. Henry were present from Seagoe. The Services in the Church and at the Tower were very impressive and devotional. The Rev. Canon Leslie, the Armagh historian, preached, and the stone was laid by Mrs. D'Arcy, wife of the Lord Primate. The Primate was also present. The Tower will be a great ornament to Portadown and in height and design will form a striking tribute to our fallen heroes.

Annual Subscriptions

Those who subscribe annually to the Sustentation Fund are asked to kindly pay in their subscriptions early in December. The accounts close on Dec. 31st, and subscriptions received after that date must be carried into next year's accounts. Envelopes have been circulated among the subscribers.

We wish all our Readers at Home and Beyond the Seas a Very Happy Christmas and a Bright and Glad New Year.

CHRISTMAS, 1928.

The Christmas Festival is essentially the Festival of the Home. The scattered members of the family circle gather together once again to spend their Christmas at the old fireside. The children, too, love Christmas. It is the season of joy and happiness. But in the midst of our social festivities we must not forget why we keep Christmas. It is the Saviour's birthday. The unity of the home circle will be deepened and strengthened if we bring into our rejoicing a note of true Thanksgiving that God has taken our Nature upon Him and lived our Human life that He might redeem it and consecrate it. The children also will remember in the midst of their merry-making that Christmas is the Festival of the Christ-child and that He loves them and understands their child-life. Our Christmas will certainly be incomplete unless we associate with it the act of Worship in the House of Prayer. Many of us, we hope, be present on Christmas morning to partake of the Holy Communion and thus to fitly mark the Saviour's Birthday. Our bright Christmas Services will tune our hearts into unison with that which is highest and best in our Church and Home.

Our Christmas Services.

On Christmas Day, Tuesday, Dec. 25th, the following Services will be held in the Parish Church:—

8 a.m.—Holy Communion.

11-30 a.m.—Morning Prayer, Sermon and Holy Communion.

The offerings at both Services on Christmas Day will be given to the Parochial Poor Fund.

Special Advent Services.

The season of Advent is one of the special Mission seasons of the Church. The Collect for the Sunday before Advent begins with the words "Stir up, we beseech Thee, the wills of Thy faithful people." The expectation of our Lord's Second coming is to stir us up to newness of life. During Advent the following Services will be held (p.v.) in the Parish Church:—

Seagoe Mothers' Union

The members of the Mothers' Union have decided to attend the Service to be held in the Parish Church on Wednesday, Dec. 12th, at 8 p.m. The collection at this Service will be in aid of the Christmas parcels fund, a very worthy object. The members of the S.M.U. have unanimously elected Mrs. John Reid as their new President in place of Mrs. Rennix. We congratulate Mrs. Reid heartily on her new office. The Mothers' Union has proved itself a great agency for good in the Parish, and we believe that under Mrs. Reid's guidance, and with the Divine blessing it will accomplish still greater things in the future.

Edenderry Children's Services

On every Wednesday at 4-30 a Children's Service is held in Edenderry Parochial Hall. It is attended by over 100 children, and the numbers increase each week. A children's choir gives a splendid lead to the singing. Mr. Gracey conducts the Service, and the little ones are delighted with it.

District Services

District Services were held last month in several centres of the Parish, and the following have been arranged for December:—

Thursday, December 6th, at 8 p.m., in Carne.

Thursday, December 13th, at 8 p.m., in Hacknahay.

Thursday, December 20th, at 8 p.m., in Levaghery. The Church Army Hymn-Book will be used at these Services.

Seagoe Parish Almanack.

The Parish Almanac is now on sale at Mr. Vance's, 16 Bridge St., and may also be had from the Sunday School Superintendents. It is very bright and pretty. The price is 2d. Secure your copy without delay, and send one to your friend across the sea.

Our Sunday Schools

On Advent Sunday, Dec. 2nd, our new Sunday School course begins. The new Calendar of Lessons for each Sunday has been drawn up with much care by the Diocesan Board of Education. The price of the Calendar is 3d. Will parents please see that their boys and girls get one. Our Sunday School teachers should order a copy of the "Irish Churchman" from Mr. John Waugh, bookseller. It costs 1d weekly, and contains notes on both the morning and evening Sunday School lessons. This is very important. Every teacher who wishes to teach well should get the notes.

Social at Drumgor.

A pleasant social, which was largely attended, was held in Drumgor Church Hall on Thursday, Nov. 8th. After tea, a succession of round games was enjoyed. The social was held in connection with the Drumgor Sunday Bible Class. On the following evening the Sunday School children had a happy social of their own, at which a large number were present.

Levaghery Harvest Festival.

On Sunday, Nov. 4th, and Monday, Nov. 5th, the were large gatherings at both Services, and the room was beautifully decorated. The Rev. T. H. Magill, M.A., Curate of St. Mark's, Portadown, preached at the Sunday service, and Mr. R. Gracey, Lay Reader at the service on Monday evening.

New Principal of Seagoe.

The Rector has appointed Mr. Robert Scott to the vacant principalship of Seagoe Public Elementary School. Mr. Scott has for the past ten years been First Assistant Teacher in Enniskillen Model School. He comes to us with the highest recommendation and has in the course of his educational career received many special certificates for proficiency. He holds certificates from the School of Art, South Kensington, for freehand drawing, model drawing, geometry and advanced design, also a certificate from the Board of Technical Instruction and Agriculture for black-board drawing. Mr. Scott was trained at Kildare Place Training College. He hopes to take up work in Seagoe in January. We extend a hearty welcome to Mr. and Mrs. Scott and their young family on coming to live amongst us.

Our Congregations.

Our congregations have, we are thankful to say, largely increased, but there is still room for more. Some pews are still vacant that ought to be filled. Were you in your place among God's worshippers people last Sunday? Had you any excuse for not being present which will stand the test of the Judgment Day? Precious opportunities of worship are passing over your head never to return. Come to your Parish Church on Sunday first, and continue to come, and bring others with you!

Seagoe in Canada.

We thank Miss Sarah M'Mullen for sending a very interesting Parish Magazine from Trinity Church, Port Credit, Toronto, Canada. It is full of good things. The Rector is the Rev. Henry Earle, M.A. He has a telephone No. 113. A photograph of the Church adorns the cover. It is a small brick building of neat appearance and pretty surroundings. The Churchwarden's Medal in the Sunday School was won by Mary Griffith. The Parish had just been visited by nine Church Army Crusaders, six Captains and three Sisters. A Confirmation will soon be held. The Young Men's Bible Class is starting its fifth session. There is an amusing piece of poetry entitled "The Ladies Aid."

Judge Crain contributes a most useful article on "Take your child to Church." Judge Crain is Justice of the Supreme Court in the State of New York. Here is a sentence from it, "You recognize that to feed, clothe, house and educate your child is not enough, you must be mindful to have him grow in righteousness. The command 'Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy' is unrepealed." We congratulate Trinity Church, Port Credit, on its interesting and useful Magazine.

Parish Register for November.**Baptisms.**

The following were baptized in Seagoe Parish Church on November 3rd, 1928:—

Cann—Eunice Elizabeth, daughter of James and Minnie M'Cann, of Edederry.

Sponsors—Sarah Kane, Minnie M'Cann.

Jennett—Richard Wesley, son of William and Evelyn Jennett, of Edederry.

Sponsors—Elizabeth Kilpatrick, Evelyn Jennett.

Ruddell—Yvonne Caroline, daughter of James Nelson and Hannabella Ruddell, of Tarson.

Sponsors—James Nelson Ruddell, Hannabella Ruddell, Ivy—Wilfred, son of Samuel James and Annabella Guy, of Derryvore.

Sponsors—Millicent Coulter, Annabella Guy.

Ruddell—Ivy Kathleen, daughter of Frederick Wm. and Mary Elizabeth Ruddell, of Lower Seagoe.

Sponsors—Matilda Ruddell, Mary Elizabeth Ruddell.

Marriage.

Pickering and Gracey—Nov. 14th, 1928, Albert Edward Pickering, of Portadown, and Margaret Dilworth Gracey, of Balteagh.

Seagoe in the New Hebrides.

A "Seagoe" correspondent sends us the following interesting account of his experiences amongst the cannibals of the South Pacific:—

Perhaps a brief sketch of our little group may be of interest to you. Most people have heard of Fiji and the Solomon Islands, but I much doubt if one in a thousand has heard of the New Hebrides. We have not often come into the limelight, yet our unique position of Government really deserves a better fate—I think I am correct in stating that it is the only one of its kind in the world, and an experiment in dual government which at least, has subsisted over many years without any untoward "incident." British and Frenchmen live together in perfect harmony in a country which belongs to neither and which belongs to both. In the town of Vila, our Capital, you see the British and French flags flying from the various public buildings, and both with equal prominence.

Historically, the Group is certainly important, but authentic records of its very early days are very scarce. It was one of the first discoveries in the South Pacific of the celebrated Navigator de Quiros, who in the year 1606 cast anchor in a large bay to which he gave the name St. Phillip and St. James, and which it remains to this day. Under the impression that he had at last located the Great Southern Continent, the dream of those early adventurers, he named the land he had discovered "Tierra Australis del Espiritu Santo." He even established a settlement in the same Bay on the banks of a river which he called the River Jordan, firmly convinced of the great importance of his discovery. The settlement was short lived, disease, and a large hostile native population soon put an end to it. Remains of his

settlement are said to exist to this day, but I have yet to meet the man who has any definite knowledge of them, either first or second hand.

The Group was next rediscovered by Captain Cook in the year 1768, and thoroughly explored and charted by him in 1774. On account of its resemblance in shape to the Hebrides, much nearer home, he called the Group the New Hebrides; but it remained for Bougainville to disprove the contention of de Quiros, and at about the same time as Cook made his first voyage to the Pacific, the former sailed through the channel which now bears his name, and which separates the islands of Malekula and Espiritu Santo.

For many years the New Hebrides remained a "no man's" land, but eventually became the favourite hunting ground of the "blackbird" and thousands of natives were "recruited" for work in the Queensland sugar plantations. Settlement was gradual and slow. Commencing with a few Copra traders who planted cocoanuts when their means permitted, plantations were gradually evolved, and to-day, agriculturally, the Group has assumed important proportions. With settlement came the Government, at first a British and a French Resident to watch over their national interests and adjust such matters as were within their competence; meanwhile Great Britain and France had come to an agreement not to annex the Group without the sanction of the other. No third parties were interested.

Missionary endeavour has done much towards the present civilisation of the erstwhile cannibal. In the old days the natives throughout the Group were inveterate cannibals; with the march of civilisation in certain islands the missionaries have gradually weaned them from the taste for human flesh, and the average native looks with considerable shame on the manners and customs in this respect of his forbears. Cannibalism still exists to this day in the islands of Malekula Santo and Pentecost, but except in the first-named island where the practice is open and unashamed, the natives prefer not to admit their appetites in this direction. The Malekula natives are reputed, and with reason, as the wildest natives of the South Pacific. Missionary endeavour has made no impression upon them except perhaps in the southern part of the island, and after 35 years of constant work and sacrifice the visible effect to-day is nil.

The natives have many customs which are peculiar to this Group and which have no meaning or explanation for the white man. When questioned on these subjects the invariable reply is "Me fella no savvy, fashion b'long me fella." (We don't know, it is our custom). For instance, there are no big Chiefs in the Group, or hereditary Chiefs at all. Rank and merit are acquired through the killing of a number of pigs at the ceremonial dances which take place at regular intervals. In accordance with the number of pigs a man kills and dependant on their quality he takes another name and so rises in rank. He becomes a "Pig Chief," but with no more authority or status than the average

man, except at the ceremonial dances. Inheritance is through the mother, not the father. In certain islands a sister must never speak to or let her face be seen by her brother. When meeting him on a road anywhere she must squat down on the ground and cover her face until he has passed. Wives are always bought; in the non-Christian communities by the deposit of a certain number of pigs. Pig is the native currency. Pig is the be all and the end all in the lives of the natives, and the tuskers, some of them indeed valuable animals in native eyes, are given much more consideration than the women and children. I forgot to mention that no native is limited to one wife, but as many as his herd of swine will permit him to purchase. The woman is the worker and beast of burden, responsible for the feeding of the pigs and the head Pig of the family, her lord and master, and owner. When he is tired of her she may be sold, killed or given away at his pleasure. In the missionised islands wives are still bought and sold, sometimes for pigs, but nowadays generally for cash. The amorous swain has to part up with some £5 to £20 and in addition offer a "Kai Kai" (feed) to the whole village.

The native, mission or cannibal, is a very superstitious being; a great believer in witchcraft, enchantments and devil devils. He can make up his mind to die, and will do so notwithstanding all the doctors and medicines in the world. If he firmly gets the idea that another man has put a spell on him for some evil purpose, nothing on earth will convince him to the contrary.

I will not bore you with any more "manners" and "customs"; almost an inexhaustible subject, there is a limit to your patience.

We are now approaching the end of our "cool" season, and the next few months are likely to be trying—the rainy season always is—from November to March is the worst part of the year, when everyone who can afford it goes down to Noumea, in New Caledonia, or further on to Sydney to escape the trials of the "hot" season. No such luck for me just yet.

Old Seagoe Notes

Seagoe School in 1713.—In last month's issue when tracing the History of Seagoe School the first reference to the existence of the School was fixed in the year 1735, when the Rev. Arthur Fforde was Vicar of Seagoe. Since our last issue further facts concerning the antiquity of the School have been discovered which prove that for many years before 1735 there was a school at Seagoe. An entry in the Visitation Records of the Diocese of Dromere which was copied out many years ago by the present Rector in the Dublin Record Office (since destroyed by fire) gives

the following additional particulars regarding Seagoe School. In these returns the Schoolmaster designated "Ludmagister." In 1713 the Schoolmaster at Seagoe was Thomas Campbell. He nominated as his successor Robert Herron. In 1715 William Lapsley filled the same office, and in 1717 James Wilson and Bryan Campbell are recorded as Schoolmasters of Seagoe. From this record the interesting fact emerges that Seagoe School has had a continuous existence for at least 215 years. No doubt if there is any other Parish School in Ireland that can beat this record.

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"Bop-in-the-Hat." A Seagoe Character of Olden Days.—While we are writing about our ancient Seagoe School we must tell our readers about "Bop-in-the-Hat," a famous Schoolmaster of Seagoe in the days long gone by. In the year 1717 there came to the Parish as Parish Schoolmaster a quaint but clever character, by name Frank Dogherty. He was well-read, could write and spell very correctly. He acted as Vestry Clerk as well as School teacher, and all his entries in the Vestry Registers are made in a neat hand and with scrupulous care. But Frank was very odd in many ways. Of course his income was small—just a few pounds a year—and he found it hard to make both ends meet. He wore a top hat, as was then the custom with schoolmasters and possibly a shabby-genteel black frock coat. But he is chiefly remembered for his hat. It covered more than his head. He lived by himself in a small thatched cottage in Seagoe and each week used to go into the cluster of houses then known as Portadown, to get his groceries. His wants were few and simple, a bap or "bop" of bread and a few ounces of tea and a "grain of sugar." The neighbours remarked that although he bought groceries they never saw him bringing them home. They wondered how he did it. One day a chance acquaintance happened to stop him on the road. They got into an animated conversation. It was a very hot summer day, and Frank's heavy coat had made him feel very warm. Just as the heat of the day and the heat of the argument had reached their highest point Frank unthinkingly lifted his hat to wipe his fevered brow, when lo and behold there suddenly rolled from under his hat the "bap," the tea and the sugar. In a moment Frank gathered them up and pushed them back into the crown of his top hat, replaced the hat on his perspiring head and without even wishing his friend good-bye ran off at full gallop and did not slacken speed until he felt himself secure in the shelter of his own wee cottage. But ever afterwards he went amongst Seagoe people by the name of "Bop-in-the-Hat."

MARRIAGES must be performed between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. Licenses are issued by Rev Canon Hannon, Rectory, Lurgan. Due notice (48 hours) must be given to the Rector of intended weddings. **FEES**—By License—Labourers 5/-, Tradesmen 10/-, Merchants and Farmers 15/-, Professional £1. By Banns 5/- **FUNERALS** will be attended by the Clergy if proper notice be given. **SICK CASES** should be notified to the Clergy without delay. **FEES FOR CERTIFICATES** BAPTISM, 3/7; Children (Factory), 1/- and 2/- (non-residents); **MARRIAGE**, 3/7. An extra search fee is chargeable in certain cases. It will be a help to the Clergy if they are notified of the arrival of new Church families in the Parish.

A copy of the Magazine will be sent post free to any subscriber for 3s per annum.