

Seagoe Parish Magazine.

MARCH, 1907.



WE regret to announce the approaching departure of the Rev. John Taylor from this Parish where he has worked with so much zeal and success during the past two years.

Mr. Taylor has been appointed to the important curacy of St. Thomas's Church, Belfast. We are glad that Mr. Taylor will not be leaving immediately, but will be able to remain with us until the beginning of May. We will greatly miss his kindly presence and bright enthusiasm which have gained for him a host of friends in Seagoe, and we trust that in the new sphere of work upon which he is about to enter the blessing of God may abundantly rest upon him. We can assure him that he will carry with him from Seagoe Parish the hearty good wishes of all the people amongst whom he has so faithfully laboured, and their earnest prayers for his future success.

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OFFERTORIES FOR FEBRUARY.

	Morning.			Evening.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Feb. 3—Sexagesima	1	3	6			
„ „— „	0	4	4	0	13	6
„ 10—Quinquagesima	1	6	10	0	7	0
„ 17—1st Sunday in Lent	0	2	4			
„ „— „ „	2	3	6	1	2	2
„ 24—2nd „ „	1	5	3	0	14	3
Week Days				0	8	1
	£6 5 9			£3 5 0		

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Baptisms.

“Suffer the little children to come unto Me.”

- Feb. 2nd—Ellen, daughter of William and Hannah Jane Thompson, Edenderry.
 „ „ Samuel David, son of Frederick and Elizabeth Abraham, Kilvergan.
 „ „ Abraham, son of Abraham and Anne Cranston, Portadown.
 „ „ John, son of John and Caroline Russell, Portadown.
 „ 15th—Ethel, daughter of Thomas Edward and Ann Jane McClelland, Lisniskey.
 „ 19th—Albert, son of William John and Margaret Kilpatrick, Tarson.

Burials.

“Here we have no continuing city.”

- Feb. 4th—Elwell Donald, aged four years.
 „ 5th—Samuel Coulter, Tarson, aged 78 years.
 „ 11th—Mary Jane Guy, Tarson, aged 47 years.
 „ 17th—Robert M'Kinstry, Edenderry, aged 26.
 „ 25th—Albert Kilpatrick, Tarson, aged 10 months.
 „ 26th—Emma Robinson, Ballinacor, aged 87.

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During the month death has been busy in our midst. In the list of those who have been called away we notice the name of Mrs. Gaskin, of Kilvergan, one of our oldest and most respected parishioners. She had been in weak health for a long period, but retained her brightness and clearness of memory to the last. She has exchanged the weakness and uncertainty of this life for the joy and refreshment of the life beyond. We offer to her afflicted family our sincere sympathy in their time of trouble.

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On Sunday afternoon, February 17th, all that was mortal of Robert M'Kinstry was laid to rest in the plot of ground in front of the Church at Seagoe, which he loved so well. During his long and painful illness we had often hoped that God would have seen fit to spare a life so full of promise, but his sufferings were ended by the hand of Death early on the morning of February 14th. The large gathering present at his funeral, which completely filled the Church and graveyard, testified to the affectionate regard in which he was held by his many friends. His brethren of the Orange Institution were present in great numbers, and the lads of the Seagoe Company of the Church Lads' Brigade in which Mr. M'Kinstry had been an officer, attended under the command of Lieutenant W. Reid. Some beautiful wreaths were sent, among them being one from the officers and lads of the C.L.B. We tender to Mrs. M'Kinstry and all his relatives our sincerest sympathy in their sad loss. “Peace, perfect peace, with loved ones far away; in Jesus' keeping we are safe and they.”

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We also regret to record the death of Mr. James Gracey, of Drumgor House, who passed away on Friday, February 15th, after an illness extending over some years. Mr. Gracey had been a regular attender at the Parish Church while his health permitted, and was always much interested in the welfare of the Parish. We express our deep sympathy with his relatives in the loss they have sustained.

LENT SERVICES.

Special Services are being held in the Parish Church during Lent. The following is a list of subjects and preachers for the Sundays in March:—

March 3—11-30, the Rector.

Subject—"Thy Kingdom Come."

7, Rev. O. Scott, Rector of Gilford.

"The Church at Smyrna."

March 10—11-30, Rev. J. Taylor.

"Thy Will be Done."

7, Rev. W. H. Davis, Rector of St. Jude's, Belfast.

"The Church at Philadelphia."

March 17—11-30, the Rector.

"Our Daily Bread."

7, Rev. W. M'Endoo, Rector of Tandragee

"St. Patrick."

March 24—11-30, Rev. J. Taylor.

"Forgive us Our Trespases."

7, Rev. P. Marks, Rector of Annaghmore.

"The Church at Sardis."

On Wednesdays at 7-30 the following will preach:

March 6—Rev. A. Miller, Waringstown.

" 13—Rev. D. Scott, Aghalee.

" 20—Rev. M. H. F. Collis, Antrim.

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SERVICES DURING HOLY WEEK AND ON EASTER DAY.

During Holy Week (the week before Easter) a Mission Service will be held in the Church on each evening (except Saturday), at 8 o'clock, and an address will be given on special subjects connected with "The Passion of Our Lord." On Good Friday Divine Service will be held at 11-30 a.m. as well as at 8 p.m. On the Thursday before Good Friday an address will be given on "Holy Communion," with special reference to Easter Communion.

On March 31st (Easter Day) the following services will be held:—

8 a.m., Holy Communion.

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

3-30 p.m., Special Easter Children's Service for all our Sunday School Children.

7 p.m., Evening Prayer and Sermon.

N.B.—The Collections at all the services on Easter Day will be on behalf of the Parish Sunday Schools.

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PORTADOWN NURSING SOCIETY.

A special collection on behalf of this most useful society was made at morning service in the Parish Church on Sunday, February 17th. There was a liberal offering. We thankfully acknowledge the receipt of £1 towards the offertory from Major Blacker.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS.

The Sunday School work is being efficiently done. The new Programme is being carefully taught, and a large number of the Teachers have got copies of the Outline Lessons on the Miracles and Parables, price 2s. It is a great help in the preparation of the lessons. The Temperance Lesson last Sunday was a new departure, and proved both interesting and useful to the teachers and children. In May a special Missionary Lesson is set down as a subject. We hope the Teachers will be careful to see that each child has a knowledge of the Portion for Study, also the Text, the Catechism and Proofs, and the Hymn. A very important point is not to let one child fall behind the others. The Lessons set down in the Calendar for each Sunday are to be done on that Sunday. It is far better to let a child miss out a verse of a hymn or a text, than to get behind-hand in following the Calendar.

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THE PARISH ALMANACS.

Who can tell us what are the verses in each of our Parish Almanacs for March 1st. One verse speaks about something that we are to prepare for, the other about something that we are not to forget. Are you reading the verse on your Almanac each day? Do you pray the nice prayer for the Parish that appears on one of the Almanacs. If not, we hope you will begin to use it.

If you want a splendid weekly religious paper, get a copy of the *Church Army Gazette*, ½d. each week. Copies may be had from Miss Margretta Atkinson, Bridge Street.

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DRUMGOR PRIZE DISTRIBUTION.

A very happy evening was spent in Drumgor, when all present were hospitably entertained by the esteemed superintendent, Mr. W. Beckett. Tea was dispensed under the able superintendence of the host, Mrs. M'Mullan and Mr. L. Twinem. After the good things provided had been disposed of an interesting programme was gone through, including gramophone selections by Mr. G. Rowland, who has been extremely kind in coming to our assistance on several occasions, also songs, readings and recitations by Messrs. S. Currie, A. Murray, J. Twinem and Rev. J. Taylor, and mandoline solo by Mr. A. Currie. The prizes were then gracefully handed to the children by Miss Beckett, after which the Rector addressed kind words of encouragement to teachers and scholars, complimenting them on the efficiency of the school, and urging them to increase efforts during the coming year. Before departing all present were kindly treated to sweets by Mrs. Porter, of Portadown, to whom we return our best thanks. All the helpers after the meeting adjourned to Mrs. M'Mullan's hospitable board, where an excellent supper was partaken of.

PENNY-A-MONTH SCHEME.

We hope that each child attending the Sunday Schools will for the future give the small sum of One Penny each Month towards the Sunday School Funds. Collections are made in the Morning Sunday Schools on the second Sunday of the month; and in the Afternoon School on the last Sunday of the month. There is a heavy expense connected with our Sunday School work, and our Funds at present are not sufficient to meet it. Parents help forward this good work.

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CARNE SOIREE.

One of the most successful gatherings ever held in Carne was that which took place at the Annual Soiree. The chair was taken by the Rector. The building was filled to the door, and tea was graciously dispensed by Mrs. Murray, Mrs. Lynas, Miss Lavery, Miss Ramsay, Miss Twinem, and Mrs. Price. A programme was then provided which caused great amusement and excitement, including items by Messrs. A. Currie, J. Lynas, Miss L. Fox; and comic songs by Mr. S. Currie, which were greatly enjoyed; also gramophone selections by Mr. G. Roland. Two dialogues were given, entitled "Wasting Away" and "Dr. Diabolum" by Miss L. Fox, and Messrs. R. Montgomery, W. J. Currie, E. Richardson, and R. Porter. These simply brought down the house. Great credit is due to Mr. D. Murray, who had full charge of the entertainment, for carrying it out so successfully. After thanks were returned to all who had helped to make the meeting a success by Rev. J. Taylor, the meeting was closed by singing the National Anthem.

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EDENDERRY TEMPERANCE MEETING.

Another successful meeting was held in the Parochial Hall on February 8th. The seating accommodation was taxed to its utmost capacity. The Rector took the chair and an interesting programme followed, including a temperance piece entitled "The Little Temperance Boys"; mandoline solo by A. Currie; dialogue by D. Webb and W. Firth; zither solo by S. Maginnis; song, "Father, dear Father, come home" by Miss Armstrong; reading, "It's Only a Drop," by Rev. J. Taylor; and a dialogue entitled "Keeping the Cold Out," which was done in excellent style by Messrs. E. Holland, T. Shanks, W. Best and A. Steenson. Perhaps the most impressive part of the meeting was the distribution of pledge cards to a large number of the children. The address was given by the Chairman, after which the Bible Class prizes were given to a large number of recipients. The meeting was closed in the usual way, and we are glad to add that a very satisfactory collection was taken up at the door.

OUR MAGAZINE.

Many of the parishioners are now getting two copies of the Parish Magazine each month. They intend to keep one copy for themselves, which they will get bound into a volume at the end of the year, and they send the other copy to a friend abroad.

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THE RECREATION ROOMS.

A course of short lectures is being given in the Rooms on each Monday evening at eight o'clock. The following is a list of subjects and lecturers:—

Feb. 18—"How to take a Photograph"—Rev. J. E. Archer.

Feb. 25—"An Evening with the Stars"—Rev. J. Taylor.

Mar. 4—"How a Railway is Made"—Mr. T. Smith, B.E.

Mar. 11—"A Talk about Pigeons"—Mr. J. Mawhinney.

Mar. 18—"Irish Dogs"—Mr. Thos Atkinson, B.L.

The lectures are free to members; visitors pay 1d. Other subjects announced later.

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SOCIAL AT LEVAGHERY.

A most successful Social Meeting took place in Levaghery School on Shrove Tuesday evening, February 12th. So crowded was the room that the children had to be accommodated during tea-time in one of the rooms downstairs. The proceedings began with a hearty Tea at 7.30, and this was followed by an excellent programme, consisting of Songs, Recitations, Instrumental Music, and two of those splendid Dialogues which have recently become so popular amongst our young people. An interesting item in the Programme was the singing by three of the Levaghery children, who had been carefully trained by Miss Atkinson, to whom indeed the success of the entertainment is entirely due. We had two capital Recitations from Mr. Alex. Steenson, also an amusing piece by Mr. Ernest Holland. Mr. Sam Currie brought down the house with his comic songs. Mr. A. Currie skilfully played the Mandoline. Miss Louie Fox's fine clear voice was heard with good effect in several songs. In the Dialogues "Dr. Diabolum" and "Wasting Away," Messrs. W. J. Currie, R. Montgomery, R. H. Porter, H. E. Richardson and Miss L. Fox displayed great talent and delighted their audience. Altogether, the evening was most enjoyable; and at its close on the motion of the Rector, a hearty vote of thanks was passed to all who had assisted—the tea-makers, the performers, and Miss Atkinson the superintendent of the Sunday School. At the close of the evening the Sunday School Prizes were distributed to the children and teachers.

A WARNING.

We would urge on all in the Parish the duty of keeping their houses scrupulously clean while the danger of fever is in our midst. Parents also should see that their children are kept very clean. Wherever there is insufficient ventilation in the houses, or if heaps of refuse are allowed to gather about a place, there is always a great danger. Disinfectants which keep the air pure and wholesome may be had cheap at Davison's or Sandford's, druggists.

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COTTAGE MEETINGS.

Cottage meetings are being held through the Parish by some of our young helpers. When a notice is left at your house be sure that you attend the meeting in your neighbourhood and bring others with you.

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ITEMS.

The next Edenderry Temperance Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 7th. The programme is in the hands of Miss Armstrong, and several excellent items are promised.

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We are glad to record the great success which has attended these meetings, and would remind the fathers and mothers and elder brothers and sisters that they are not intended for the children alone, and we hope to see a large attendance of those who are no longer children.

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We hope to have an organ recital in the Parish Church after the service on Sunday evening, March 24th. The Rev. Percy Marks, B.D., Rector of Annaghmore, who is our special preacher, is a talented organist, and we are expecting that he will play some sacred pieces on the organ at the close of the service.

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OLD SEAGOE NOTES.

"Blacker's Mill" is a name very familiar to our readers, especially those who live at the Hacknahay and Carrickblacker end of the parish. The mill was originally a corn-mill, and was first built so long ago as the year 1619. It was called "Blacker's Mill" because the Blacker family resided quite close to it in an old fortified stone house or bawn, called Blacker's Bawn, or the Bawn of Ballynaghie. Traces of this old residence existed up to about forty years ago. It is noted as having no less than eleven interior flues to its chimneys, an unusual circumstance in those days. According to the Burial Registers, on the 12th February 1691, Major George Blacker was "buried in the Church of

Sego." In the Vestry records for 1685 he is named as Churchwarden, and is described as "of Ballynaghie."

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The first portion of the present Manor-house of Carrickblacker was built by William Blacker in 1692, and this date may still be seen on a stone at the rere of Carrickblacker House.

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The Rev. Henry Jenney, Rector of Seago, was attainted in the Act of Attainder passed by James the Second's Irish Parliament in 1689.

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We continue our description of the old Church of Seago begun in our last issue:—Standing at the entrance-porch in the south-west corner, on the left-hand side, immediately beside the door, was the staircase leading up to the gallery. In the far corner, under the gallery, was what was called the Dressing-room. The Church never had any Vestry-room, but in 1705 a sum was apportioned "for ordering a place for the Minister to dress himself in." This was erected of wood under the gallery in the north-west corner. It was known as the "Dressing-room," and is described as about 10 feet by 8 feet, not lighted by any window, but deriving a moderate supply of light and air from the body of the Church through "heart-shaped" holes cut in the upper portion of the frame. Near it stood the old font, also under the gallery. The pews were made of black oak, and conspicuous on the middle of the south wall and facing the transept, was the structure, also of oak, which provided for the Clerk's seat, the reading-desk, and the pulpit. The Pulpit had a sounding-board over it, resting at the back on a pannelled frame of oak, and supported in front by two turned pillars. On the front ledge of the sounding-board was carved a date which has been variously stated by eye-witnesses to have been 1656, 1661, or 1666. It is hard to decide in such a case, but on the whole the earliest date seems the most correct. In Mason's Statistical Survey (vol. ii., p. 524), published in 1815, Colonel Blacker expresses his indignation at the fact that three years before, that is in 1812, the old black oak pulpit and prayer-desk had been painted "a muddy yellow." Beyond the pulpit, in the south-east corner, was the Blacker pew. It was a large structure with curtains, and bearing a canopy overhead supported on pillars and having pendant draperies, suggesting to an aged informant, the bravery of "a tester bedstead." Beside it was the little Communion table, enclosed with rails, standing just under the east window. In the corner opposite to the Blacker pew was the Rector's pew, which reached to the intersection of the transept.

[We hope to add some further particulars regarding the old Church in our next issue].