

A HEARTY WELCOME.

In the name of the Parishioners of Seagoe we offer our heartiest welcome to our Heroes of the Army and Navy returning from the various Battle areas of the Great War. The Parish is proud of them. When the Call of Duty came, they answered with a ready will, and leaving home and family entered into the fierce conflict prepared to conquer or to die. The God whom they served has given them a glorious victory. Their names, and the names of those who have fallen in the great Fight, will forever be remembered by their grateful well-wishers in the Parish of Seagoe.

Thanksgiving Sunday.

It seems right that the homecoming of our soldiers from active service should be marked by a Special Service in the Parish Church. They have been saved from innumerable perils of sea and land and air, during the years of war, and they are now returning in large numbers to their homes in Peace and Safety.

It is God who has given us the Victory, it is He who watched over and preserved our dear ones through all these trying years.

During the War we offered up in His House of Prayer, from week to week, earnest petitions that He would take into His special care and keeping all those from this parish, or who are dear to us, who have gone forth to fight the battles of their King and Country. He has heard our prayers, and has given us back (alas! not all) our brave Volunteers. It is meet and right that we should, by a Public Service in the Parish Church, render to Him our heartfelt Thanksgiving.

It has been arranged that Sunday, April 6th, shall be observed in the Parish as "Thanksgiving Sunday." The Services will be held at the usual hours, 11-30 and 7, and after Morning Prayer there will be a Celebration of the Holy Communion. A special invitation to attend the Services will be sent to all our men who have returned from the Front.

A "Welcome" Social.

Besides the Service of Public Thanksgiving a "Welcome" Social has been arranged to be held on Thursday, April 24th (Thursday in Easter Week) in Seagoe Parochial Schools. A representative Committee is being formed to arrange details, and further particulars will be announced in our next issue.

LENT, 1919.

On Wednesday (Ash Wednesday), March 5th, we enter on the Season of Lent. The Forty Days of Lent are an echo of our Blessed Lord's Forty Days of trial and temptation in the Wilderness when He,

for us, withstood the Tempter. It is a season of great opportunity for stern self-examination in the light of an eternal judgment. "If we would judge ourselves we should not be judged." We invite the parishioners to attend the Special Services in the Parish Church.

Lent Services. **Sundays in Lent.**

General Subjects—

- Sunday Mornings—"Steps in the Christian Life."
 Sunday Evenings—"Men of the Old Testament."
 March 9th—Temperance Sunday.
 (Collections for Diocesan Board of Temperance.)
 March 16th—11-30—"Sunday Observance."
 7—"Abraham."
 March 23rd—11-30—"Bible Study,"
 7—"Moses."
 March 30th—11-30—"Private Prayer."
 7—"Samuel."
 April 6th—Thanksgiving Sunday.
 April 13th—11-30—"Public Worship."
 7—"Daniel."

Wednesdays in Lent.

General Subject—

- "Penitential Passages in the Book of Common Prayer."
 March 5th—Ash Wednesday—
 11-30—Morning Prayer, Litany and
 Commination Service.
 7—"The General Confession."
 March 12th—"The Litany."
 March 19th—"The Office of Holy Communion."
 March 26th—"The Commination Service."
 April 2nd—"The Visitation of the Sick."
 April 9th—"The Penitential Psalms."

Cottage Services During Lent.

During Lent Cottage Services will be held each week in a different district of the Parish. The following districts will be visited—Tammficarbett, Drumgor, Lylo and Hacknahay.

Teachers' Preparation Class.

A Class for Sunday School Teachers meets every Tuesday Evening in Edenderry Parochial Hall, at 8 o'clock for Prayer and Study. All Sunday School Teachers are invited to attend.

Edenderry Penny-a-Week Fund.

The Teachers of Edenderry Sunday School have arranged among themselves to organise a Penny-a-Week Fund for the Repair and up-keep of the Parochial Hall. Miss Atkinson, of Eden Villa has been appointed treasurer, and Mr. S. Rennix, secretary. You won't miss a Penny-a-Week. The Parochial Hall does a most useful work in Edenderry and deserves the hearty and ungrudging support of every Church household in Edenderry.

Award of D.C.M.

41372 Private (A./L./Cpl.) J. Gracey, 9th Batt. Royal Irish Fusiliers, second son of Mr. W. J. Gracey, Drumgor, Lurgan—

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. After his section commander had been wounded he took command and led a charge on two enemy machine gun positions, inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy. Subsequently, though wounded himself, he assisted the stretcher-bearers in bringing in the wounded under heavy machine gun fire.

Seagoe War Memorial.

At a meeting of Seagoe Select Vestry, held on Tuesday, February 18th, it was decided that subscribers be asked to pay in their subscriptions on or before Monday, March 17th. On that evening Mr. Wolsey Atkinson will attend in Seagoe School between the hours of 7 and 8 o'clock to receive such subscriptions, or they may be sent to him anytime before that date to Eden Villa. A gratifying response has been made to the War Memorial. It will be possible to erect a memorial in some degree worthy of the sacrifices which our brave Seagoe lads have made for us in the great war. A meeting of subscribers will shortly be held to decide on what form the memorial will take.

A Bible Class for Lads.

A Bible Class for Lads from 14 to 18 years of age is about to be organised in Edenderry. It will meet each Sunday morning at 10 o'clock. Further details will be made known without delay.

Socials.

We have had a series of most successful socials during the past month. On Thursday, March 6th, the Seagoe Bible Class Social was held in Seagoe Orange Hall (kindly lent for the occasion.) There were over 100 present, and a most enjoyable evening was spent. On Tuesday, February 18th, a Sunday school social took place at Carne. The Hall was crowded. Mr. David Murray presided. After tea a presentation of a handsome arm chair was made to Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Caddell by the teachers and children of the Sunday school. The gift was handed to Mr. and Mrs. Caddell by Miss Margaret Reid. Prizes were distributed to the children during the evening. The Edenderry Teachers had a very pleasant social evening on Thursday, February 20th, in the Parochial Hall. Tea and cake having been partaken of the company present joined in games of various kinds. Drumgor held its social on Thursday, February 27th, at 7-30, and a most pleasant gathering it was, Mr. George Gracey making all arrangements. Hacknahay Sunday School had its turn on Friday, February 28th. The room was crowded, and all enjoyed themselves to the utmost.

Edenderry R.I.C.

Sergeant McNeill, R.I.C., has been promoted from Edenderry to Edward Street Barracks. We regret very much his departure from the Parish. He has during his stay in Edenderry proved himself a most efficient officer, always ready and alert in his duties, and at the same time popular and considerate with the people.

Sergeant Jackson has been appointed to the charge of Edenderry Barracks. We welcome him back to his old quarters. He is a most efficient police officer and his recent promotion to the rank of Sergeant is a proof of the confidence reposed in him by his superior officers.

PARISH REGISTER for FEBRUARY 1919.

Baptisms.

The following were baptized on February 1st, 1919, in the Parish Church.

Sloane—Christina, daughter of James and Caroline Sloane, of Killicomaine.

Sponsors—Margaret Anne Best, Caroline Sloane.

Porter—Margaret, daughter of David (late 9th R.I.F., B.E.F.), and Sarah Mary Porter, of Lower Seagoe.

Sponsors—Anne Jane Patton, Caroline Magee.

McCann—Margaret Thelma, daughter of John George and Letitia McCann.

Sponsors—Isabella Magee, Annabella Grimason.

PRIVATE BAPTISM.

McMurray—On 5th February, 1919, Emma, daughter of George and Martha McMurray, of Lylo.

Marriage.

Adair & Black—On 15th February, 1919, Henry Adair (late L./Corp. 1st R. Ir. Fus., B.E.F., 1914-1918), of Edenderry, to Mary Elizabeth Matilda Black, of Portadown.

Burials.

Best—February 4th, Mary Jane (May) Best, of Killicomaine, aged 15. Interred in Drumree.

Best—February 17th, Thomas Best, of Edenderry, aged 44.

Sweeney—February 19th, Richard Sweeney, of Glasgow, late of Lower Seagoe, aged 48.

Collins—February 21st, Henry Collins, of Kernan, aged 55.

The death of May Best after a long and trying illness has deprived the parish of one of the most faithful among our young parishioners. Though young in years, and for the past 18 months incapacitated by illness, she had won a foremost place among all who knew her for her gentle, earnest and unflinching pursuit of all that was highest and best in the Christian Life. She was constant in her at-

tendance at the House of Prayer. She loved to worship in the church. For three years at one time she was never absent from the church at any service on Sunday or week-day.

She attended Seagoe Sunday School morning and evening, with unfailing regularity, always with lessons most carefully prepared. At Seagoe Day School she was one of the best and most diligent pupils, always carrying off the first prizes for attendance and answering.

She was looking forward to the desire of her life to become a missionary, so that she might bring to others the message of the gospel, which had brought into her own life so much true happiness. Her thought was always for others. During her long and painful illness she uttered no complaint. The children of Seagoe Day School, with Mr. Rennix, were drawn up in line on the Lurgan Road as the funeral passed. For many years to come the bright example of May Best will be held in sacred remembrance by her school companions, and all who knew her. Though dead she will still speak through that example, leading on many to a life of holiness and self-sacrifice. We mourn her loss but we are thankful to have had, even for these few years in this Parish so splendid a gift of consecrated childhood.

The death of Thomas Best, of Railway Street, removes from our midst one who was very highly esteemed. He was a most regular attender at Seagoe Church, and was always accompanied by some members of his family. He had been for many years a member of the Edenderry Men's Bible Class, and won many special prizes and certificates for attendance. His gentle, kindly, and honest manner won for him many friends, who deeply lament his loss. He never quite recovered from the serious accident which he met with some years ago in the Foundry. The memory of Tom Best will be cherished for many years to come. His funeral was largely attended, his brethren of the Orange Lodges were present in great numbers, and some beautiful wreaths rested upon the coffin. The Rector and the Rev. H. G. Singleton officiated in the church and at the grave.

ITEMS.

During the past month the Rector received a letter from a C.of.E. Chaplain on active service referring to a soldier from Seagoe Parish. The envelope was addressed as follows—"The Rev. the Protestant Priest, Pass [Parish] of Sagie, Portadown, Co. Armagh, Ireland." We have read somewhere of "English as she is spoke," and this is clearly a case of "Seagoe as she is spoke."

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The rainfall over the United Kingdom for 1918 has an interest for Seagoe people. It was a decidedly wet year, but in the section of Ireland from Portadown to the mouth of Carlingford Lough the rainfall was less than in any other part of Ireland, and this immunity from rain has been characteristic of the returns in each year.

The Collection for Missions on January 26th amounted to £3 15s 4d.

During 1918 the funerals at Seagoe Church numbered 63, of which 43 (more than half) were of females, and 20 of males. The proportions are usually about equal, but this year the difference is remarkable.

A largely attended cottage service was held during the month at Mr. W. J. Caddell's house in Tarsan. The Rector gave an address on "Household Religion."

Influenza is again prevalent in the Parish, but it is of a decidedly milder type than that of last November.

Captain W. Walker, R.A.M.C., of Seagoe, has returned home after three years strenuous campaigning in German East Africa.

A Motor Plough has been at work in the Parish for the first time. Mr. Ruddell, of Lisniskey, has had his land ploughed in this way. It is very quick and efficient.

The movement for the building of St. Mark's Church Tower as a War Memorial has made splendid progress. Over £4,000 has been already promised.

OLD SEAGOE NOTES.

Seagoe Choir in 1864.—Mr. Joseph Keough of Whiteinch, Glasgow, who was a member of Seagoe Choir in the early 'sixties,' has recently given us a description of Seagoe Choir in these far past days. The choir during services in the Parish Church occupied seats in the old west gallery of the church. Choir practices were held at Seagoe Rectory twice a week, on Tuesdays and Fridays. The members gathered in the large hall at the rectory. Mrs. Saurin conducted the practice, and played the harmonium. Each member had a ticket and anyone who missed a practice their ticket was nipped the next night. The Archdeacon (Saurin) was usually present and was always in high spirits. A member of the Choir recalls how he would sometimes, after the practice, repeat bits of an old hunting song with the refrain—"Tally-ho! Tally-ho! Tally-ho!"—slapping his knee vigorously as he said the words. Apples and sweets were liberally dispensed to the choir members after the practice. Small sums of money were paid each week to the members. Those who were good singers received 3½d every week, those not quite so good 3d, and the rest 2½d a week. The practices seem to have been greatly enjoyed by all who attended, and the Archdeacon and Mrs. Saurin did all they could to make everybody happy.

Archdeacon Saurin's Adventure in Ballymacrandle—Archdeacon Saurin was fond of reciting

an adventure of his on one occasion when he was visiting in the townland of Ballymacrandle. Owing to the great extent of the parish in his day, which stretched from Bird Island on Lough Neagh to Knock Bridge, his visits to the various townlands must necessarily have been few and far between. On one afternoon in early spring he determined to visit his flock in Ballymacrandle. Leaving the Rectory he made his way up Church Lane clad in a long black overcoat, closely buttoned, and carrying in his hand a stout walking stick. When he reached the townland of Ballymacrandle he walked with firm step to the nearest cottage. He knocked with his knuckles on the door but got no response, he then tried the latch, but the door was evidently bolted and barred, he then went to the window, but looking in could see no sign of life. He went round the house, the cocks and the hens, the pig and the calf were there, but there was no sign of human life. He tried to open the back door but it was firmly fastened, he whistled, he shouted, but there was no response. He then gave up the effort to get into the house as useless. William John and his wife and family must, he thought, have gone away for an afternoon's outing, so he determined to go to the next house. Knocking vigorously at the door there was here again no reply, he tried the latch, he peered through the window, he worked the back door, but all in vain, he could get no answer. It was all such a mystery. But he must try another house. This time he had to traverse a long rough and muddy lane but eventually reached his objective, a farm-house. He will surely have more success here. But no, it was not to be. He knocked, shouted, whistled, stamped, but all to no purpose. There was no response. A dead silence reigned all around, broken only by the crowing of the cocks, and the lowing of the kine. A feeling of despair and something of anger filled his righteous soul. He had walked some miles, and given up his afternoon to visit his flock, and his only reward was a succession of bolted doors, and apparently empty houses. He turned homewards in the worst of humours with himself and his ungrateful parish. He had not gone very far when he met a faithful parishioner who dwelt in the neighbourhood, and addressing him he said—"James, can you tell me what has happened to Ballymacrandle? I have spent the afternoon going from house to house, and every house is bolted and barred against me. I can't understand it." James understood it all, but it was only after some hesitation that he could summon up courage to tell the Archdeacon the cause of it all. "Deacon," he said, with a twinkle in his eye, "when they saw you coming up the hill with that long black coat on you, and that big stick in your hand they thought you were the 'gripper,' and in fear and terror they ran into their houses and bolted and barred their doors." When the Archdeacon, who always appreciated a good joke, heard the solution of the mystery he laughed heartily, and the next time he went to visit Ballymacrandle he took good care not to bring with him his long black coat or his fearsome walking stick.