

Bishop's first visit to parish

The parish will be honoured with a visit by Bishop Sean Brady this week-end.

It will be his first to the parish since his elevation to co-adjutor Bishop of the Cardinal.

He will celebrate the vigil Mass at 6.30 p.m. in Blackrock on Saturday, and the 11 a.m. Mass the following day in Haggardstown.



Bishop Brady

Pool

Mixed feelings will doubtless be aroused with the imminent building of an attractive apartment development on the site of the village's swimming pool.

The disappearance of the pool represents a fairytale achievement which turned into a sorry tale of decay and public concern for health and safety, as local efforts to refurbish and re-open the pool ended in disappointment.

The pride and joy that a very small community a short few decades ago experienced when it captured the national headlines, as the country's first and still only Olympic size 50 metre pool opened, soon dissipated with the realisation that an outdoor facility didn't make economic sense.

The initial euphoria among the public at being provided with a facility to swim cooled from swimming in the sometimes icy water and the crowds plunged on a downward spiral.

The utilisation of the pool dic-

tated by the weather became more and more restricted. The summer season grew shorter and shorter until the county council deemed it was not viable to open the facility.

Proposals to cover and heat the building were presented but rejected on the grounds of exorbitant cost.

The building as it lay idle grew un-sightly and took on the appearance of dereliction, and became a magnet for youngsters seeking adventure.

A number of near tragedies resulted, and the pool with drink parties becoming a habitual event slumped to a depressing level of degradation and destruction.

The county council sought to lease the building to remove the cruel eyesore it degenerated into and indeed health hazard to children.

A local action committee stepped in and voluntarily cleaned the grounds and gave the pool a badly needed facelift, but an attempt to take over the facility and modify and re-open it fell through.

The site was sold off to private enterprise, who have offered to incorporate a public amenity in the form of a new promenade on the sea side, and a bathhouse and slipway for the local sea scouts in their plan.

It is natural to feel sad that the village now a lot bigger and with a far higher population has lost such an amenity, and recreation and amenity outlets shrinking for a large young population.

Two prime examples are the adjacent skating hall which has been converted into a clothes store and the pavilion dance hall is closed for some time now.

They were favourite haunts of young people to spend their time over many decades.

But which is best to allow the pool to degenerate into even a worst state of dereliction and expose young people to the risk of injury playing round it and engaging in health damaging episodes of drinking and worse, drug taking. Or erect an attractive residential complex which will improve the environment?

Bereaved

The village postman and also

Sergeant were both sadly bereaved by the deaths of their mothers this week.

Mrs. Brigid Gaskin, St. Furry's Terrace who died at the week-end, was mother of popular An Post delivery official Tom.

The deceased was a long standing and highly respected member of the local community, and was predeceased by her husband Tom.

She is survived by her sons and daughters and other relatives.

Sergeant Tom Byrne also suffered the passing of his mother in Drogheda.

Pioneers

A talk on the dangers of taking illegal drugs will be delivered by the Garda Juvenile Liaison Officer, Kieran Clarke at a planned reunion for a young group of pioneers who joined the local branch in 1992.

A meeting for the group will take place in the parish centre on this Friday at 8.00 p.m.

Membership

Rock Celtic with a large growth in playing participation is about to launch a membership scheme to facilitate a wider involvement and input by those associated with the club.

The club will be announcing further details of the scheme within the next week.

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Coping with the loss of partner

The loss of a married partner through death or separation can be a devastating blow for any husband or wife.

Apart from the normal trauma of coping with their loss and grief, many people in this situation feel unwanted and unloved, uneasy with married friends and general unsure of themselves.

But now there is hope through a programme specially designed to help people who have lost a married partner and find themselves on their own again.

The Beginning Experience (BE) helps separated and widowed men and women to make a new beginning in life by helping them deal with the grief process and to discover for themselves that 'just existing' can be transformed radically into 'new living'. Although the programme has been developed by

and for Catholics, it is open to people of any faith or none.

During the course of a B.E. weekend (Friday night to Sunday afternoon) participants are helped, very gently and in confidence, to deal with issues like loneliness and stress, the challenges of being a single parent and dealing with an ex-spouse or the memory of a deceased partner.

Ideally, participants should be beyond the initial feelings of anger and despair which commonly follow the loss of one's spouse for whatever reason, they should have reached a point of desiring a new beginning and they should be ready to work to make that desire a reality.

The past is gone the future starts now. B.E. has been a life line for many people who felt their world had collapsed.

It has given them a new appreciation of the Church, through the support and care of other people, who themselves have been widowed, separated or divorced.

Their faith in God and in themselves has been restored and they have been enabled to face the future with greater confidence.

A B.E. weekend will be offered in the S.M.A. College, Dromantine 2nd and 4th February. For an application form and further information contact the Pastoral Centre, Mount Oliver, Dundalk. Telephone 042-71235.

NIGHT OUT

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
FROM ALL YOUR FAMILY



GENE WARD, Dromaldin and Aaron Carolan, Dromaldin at Mark Maguire's 21st Birthday Party held in the Lilywhite Lounge, Oriol Park.

Funds for handicapped

The North Eastern Health Board is to get an additional £230,000 from the Department of Health for the development of new services for persons with mental handicap.

This allocation will enable the Board to expand their day care services, respite and continuing care services.

Announcing this at Monday's meeting in Kells, the Chief Executive, Donal O'Shea, said that the Co-Ordinating Committee will be examining the totality of their Learning Disability Services. Final proposals, he said, will emerge for consideration at Committee and Board level in the coming weeks.

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