



PARISH OF
BOHERLAHAN - DUALLA

CELEBRATION OF THE BICENTENARY OF
BOHERLAHAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

26TH, 27TH, 28TH
JUNE 2015



Bicentenary Programme

Friday June 26th

- 7.00pm In Bianconi Chapel – Photography: “Boherlahan Church at the Centre of our Lives”; and a Display of Historical Parish Artefacts.
- 7.30pm In Boherlahan Church – Bicentenary Mass with Archbishop Kieran O’ Reilly as Chief Celebrant. Each of the three parish schools will participate in the liturgy.
- 8.30pm In the Parish Hall – Launch of the new Parish Website. Refreshments for all.

Saturday June 27th

Pilgrimage Day

- 2.00pm People are invited to walk, cycle or drive to visit any of eight religious sites in the parish, where a speaker will give a short talk:
Bianconi Chapel and Park
Ardmayle Church and Cemetery
Gaile Cemetery
Ballytarsna Cemetery
Ballysheehan Cemetery
Ballykelly Church
Dualla Church and Cemetery
Kilballyherberry Cemetery
- 7.30pm Vigil Mass – At the end of Mass, Willie Hayes, historian, will give a short talk on the history of Boherlahan Church.

The Photography and Artefacts Display in Bianconi Chapel will also be open.

Sunday June 28th

- 10.15am Gathering at four different points to walk the Mass Paths to 11.00 Mass: Peake, Ballinree, Farranavarra and Nodstown.
Or come to Mass using a historical means of transport – bicycle, horse and trap, vintage car etc.
You are invited to wear bygone costume of any era since 1815. A lady might wear a long skirt, a blouse and brooch, a shawl and a bonnet. A man might wear a collarless shirt, waistcoat and trousers. Don’t worry about historical accuracy.
- 11.00am Mass – Sr Placida Barry, Presentation Sister and Boherlahan native, will speak about her Journey of Faith.
- 12.00 In Bianconi Park – Community “Picnic in the Park” – bring you own hamper, and John Purcell will be cooking burgers. A chance to sit, talk, reminisce and ‘break bread’ together. Tom Wallace will explain the significance of the Mass Paths to the young people.

The Photography and Artefacts Display in Bianconi Chapel will be open again.

Situated on the crest of a low hill running north to south and overlooking the river Arglo to the west, the ivy clad ruined church at Ballysheehan was the centre of worship for the people of that parish during medieval times. The church was dedicated to the Assumption of Mary. The tower house attached to the western gable was the residence of the local priest. The local Catholic community have used the surrounding grounds as a place of burial for centuries.

The remains of a small rectangular building mark the location of Ballykelly Church. Indeed, it is not a church in the traditional sense but an oratory used by the Cistercian monks as a place of worship during their absence from Holycross Abbey while farming the surrounding land. The upheaval associated with the Reformation period led to its disuse and decline.

Paddy O'Dwyer

An abiding memory of younger days is the summer work evening in the graveyard adjacent to Dualla church. The arrival on one particular evening of a new type of motorized grass cutter known as a strimmer caused something of a commotion as the assembled group marvelled at its potential to make little of the task in hand.

Our Lady's Cemetery, as it has become known in recent years, recorded its first burial with the interring there of Johanna Flynn (nee Heffernan) in 1866. She and five others interred in the late 1800's would appear to have had the place to themselves right up until the early years of the twentieth century. Over the course of the following ninety years most of the available area would become occupied, and in the 1970's the graveyard was extended by incorporating part of the school's playing area.

Today, Our Lady's Cemetery bears little resemblance to the days when an annual visit with a grass strimmer was considered appropriate, and so much the better. As an American tourist said on leaving St Brigid's Well in Co Clare, having left a note bearing her deceased husband's name, "You live as long as you are remembered".

Pierse McCan

Kilballyherberry cemetery is located close to the Kill Hills. It is surrounded by a stone wall which also encloses the ruin of an old church.

Of this medieval church dedicated to St Laurence, only part of the west gable is still standing. The quarried stone used in its construction indicates that the church was of a superior type to some other local churches. It is situated at the far end of the old parish of Ballysheehan and would have served the people who lived some distance from Ballysheehan Church.

The earliest grave would appear to date from 1746, and the most recent burial to 1975. The phrasing of some of the headstone inscriptions is interesting: "Here lyeth the body..." Some of those named on the family headstones were buried elsewhere. They are remembered here with the words "Killed in action" beside their names.

Ann Leamy



"I AM THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION"

