

## Rededication

Bishop Michael, on behalf of the parish community I extend a very warm welcome to you and thank you for accepting the invitation to bless the church following the recent refurbishment and the completion of the bell tower and spire. I thank you for your support, interest and encouragement in completing the project. I welcome the visiting priests, priests who previously served in the parish and those who are natives and our neighbours and friends. I welcome in particular my predecessor, Sean Henry, who had laid the seeds of this project before moving on to Trim in late 2009. I thank all the priests who have served the community well in other days with generosity and enthusiasm. I thank Fr. Pdraig McMahon, the last native ordained priest of our Parish and Cathedral Administrator, who this year celebrates 21 years, for accepting the invitation to 'say a few words', on this occasion in the life of our parish. I am delighted to welcome my Church of Ireland counterpart, Rev. William Steacy and his wife, Roberta, and members of the Presbyterian community. I welcome all who join us from different places via the webcam facility. I wish to thank the previous and present finance committees who have been so supportive in beginning and persuing the project. We have challenges ahead and I have every confidence that with the support of the parish community all will be well. I thank the Community Centre for providing us with a great resource for weekend Masses over many months. I thank Tommy Mulvany and the entire body of subcontractors who did an excellent job to ensure that this Church will serve this community well for another 140 years. In so far as possible most of the materials were sourced here in Kingscourt.

I thank Seamus Rooney for providing the stone and Frazers who were so accommodating in every way. I wish to say a word of thanks to the design team and in particular to the head of the design team, our architect and parishioner, Niall Smith, who has painstakingly guided every step and decision of the project. Niall began his work in early summer of 2010. He liaised with the planning authorities, government departments, researched back to William Hague original ideas for this church, dealt with the minutiae of detail ensuring that this work would be finished to the highest specification. You can have a righteous pride that one of our own at the beginning of his career took on the project and completed William Hague's vision for the church.

Thank you to all involved in today's liturgy, Nuala, our sacristan, Fr. Brendan, M.C., servers, readers, altar society, ministers of Holy Communion, Derek, the combined choirs, St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band, stewards, collectors and all who assisted in any way. It is appreciated.

Finally, but most importantly, I thank all the parishioners for your huge generosity, your wonderful support and your constant encouragement. It is not taken for granted. Going forward with your continued help, we will clear

**our debts even in these challenging times. Our forefathers and mothers did it over 140 years ago, and we are up to the challenge in equal measure today.**

**The church is a real focal point within the parish reminding us that God has a central role in our lives. It is to this holy place we come to be reborn in baptism, where we have our sins forgiven, where we receive nourishment for the pilgrim journey, and it's from here we say our final farewell to our loved ones. These are key and defining moments in our lives and we have a very worthy place of God's dwelling among us in the parish of Kingscourt to serve us well into the future.**

**Please join us in the Matt Talbot Hall after Mass for a chat and some refreshments that have been prepared for us.**

**Again, I express my gratitude and sincere appreciation to one and all.**

**Guim rath Dé oraibh go léir.**