

## A Shoilse

Thar cheann ár Sagart Paróiste, An tAthair Gearóid Mac Cormaic, agus na paróisteánaigh uile, fearaim fíorchaoin fáilte romhat go dtí ár bparóiste, ar ócáid chomóradh iubhaile ár séipéil. Cuirimid fáilte romhat chomh maith, ar do chéad turas go dtí an Deoise agus go contae álainn an Chabháin.

Fearaimid fáilte ar leith romhat mar ionadaí ár nAthair Naofa, An Pápa Benedict XVI, agus is é ár mian go gcinnteoidh tú dó, nach bhfuil ár bpaidreacha dó i Ministéireacht Pheadair, in amhras.

Your Excellency, on behalf of our Parish Priest, Fr Gerard MacCormack, and all the parishioners, I extend to you a very warm welcome to our parish on the occasion of the jubilee of our Church. We also welcome you, on your first pastoral visit to the Diocese, and to the beautiful county of Cavan.

We welcome you in a particular way, as the representative of our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, in Ireland, and to assure him of our prayers for this Petrine Ministry.

This ancient parish occupies the most northerly corner of our Diocese of Meath, and we share our parish boundaries with both the Diocese of Kilmore and the Diocese of Clogher.

We have three churches in our parish – Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Muff, St Joseph's Church, Corlea, and this fine church, designed by William Hague, dedicated to the Immaculate Conception and built by Fr. Peter O'Reilly – monumental to his memory, his patriotism, and proof of his pastoral zeal.

His mortal remains lie here in the side aisle of this church.

On August 24<sup>th</sup> 1872, the solemn opening and dedication of this church took place. It was described as one of the finest parish churches which had been erected in Ireland since the revival of Gothic architecture. It houses a unique collection of stained glass from Evie Hone, The Harry Clarke Studios and Eoin Butler.

This year, under the guidance of our parishioner and architect, Niall Smith, William Hague's and Fr. Peter O'Reilly's vision for this church was completed, with the erection of the bell tower and spire, along with other major works.

The parishioners continue to be very generous in funding this project in times just as challenging as the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

This church is at the very heart of our parish community. We are honoured and delighted to welcome you here among us in our parish. We pray the Lord will bless you in your service to the Church in Ireland, in these changing and challenging times.

“May the road rise to meet you.

May the wind be always at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face,

the rains fall soft upon your fields.

And until we meet again,

may God hold you in the palm of His hand.”

“Go n-éirí do bhóthar leat.

Go raibh an ghrian de shíor id’ sheolta.

Go lonraí teas na gréine ar d’éadan.

Go dtite an bháisteach go bog ar do bhánta.

Agus go gcasfar ar a chéile arís sinn,

Go gcoimeáda Dia greim láimhe ort.”