



IRISH EASTER TRADITIONS

Back in time, the Irish Easter was a time of religious contemplation, fasting, feasting and dancing. 'Holy Week', the week that includes Good Friday, used to be a full seven-day period of extreme denial. Black tea, dry bread, potatoes with salt (but no butter or buttermilk) and perhaps a little porridge made up the daily fare of this difficult week until Friday when some families denied themselves anything other than dry bread and water. Coming as it did after a five-week period of semi-fasting, when salted herring and a bit of milk might have additionally been allowed (but no meat), Holy Week was tough. So tough that the Holy Week fast was officially relaxed to two days by the Church authorities in the mid-19th century.

Good Friday in Ireland: Since medieval times, all bread baked on Good Friday was marked with a cross in remembrance of Christ's crucifixion on this day. The custom survives in the Hot Cross Buns we eat in modern times. But it doesn't just stop there. This most simple of Irish Easter traditions can be witnessed every day of the year; the custom of marking home-made bread with a cross persists all over Ireland. Eggs that hatched on Good Friday were thought to produce particularly healthy birds while eggs that were laid on this day were, like bread, marked with a cross and then saved for eating until Easter Sunday. Depending on the date of Easter, it was also traditional to sow corn on Good Friday, but this would only be done if the potato seed had already been planted.



Irish Easter Saturday traditions - pity the poor herring: Dried fish, particularly herring, varied the meagre diet of our rural and coastal ancestors for the six-week fast from meat. By the time Easter Saturday arrived, hungry minds were avidly anticipating a good meal of roasted or boiled meat. Pity the poor herring! Having provided such sustenance, the population made it the scapegoat for their hunger in a ceremony known as Whipping the Herring. Butchers, happy in the knowledge that they would soon be selling meat again, were usually the organisers of the procession which involved hanging a dead fish from a pike and carrying it through the streets. Everyone was invited to whip it as it made its journey to the nearest river where it was discarded in the waters. On the way back from the river, the procession would carry a dead spring lamb, dressed in ribbons and flowers. This Irish Easter tradition was known across the island and persisted right into the 20th century.

Irish Easter Sunday customs: The fast of Lent finally came to a close on Easter Saturday, so the next day was a day of feasting. Lamb, veal and chicken were part of the festive fare of the well-to-do. They might also be on the menu for the neighbours of a generous farmer who was prepared to share his livestock. But for the majority, the centrepiece of the feast consisted of corned (salted) beef, a baked Easter ham or boiled bacon served with cabbage and potatoes. The day began with eggs. And plenty of them. The average Easter breakfast for an Irish man consisted of six eggs. Yes, Six! They might be fried or boiled. If the latter, natural colourings from herbs or lichens were added to the boiling water to dye the shells which were then kept to decorate the May bush, another Irish custom. Children had their very own Irish Easter traditions known as the clúdóg. This involved calling on neighbours and family to collect gifts of eggs, potatoes, cakes, bread and butter, and milk or flavoured water. The children would then gather in a field, a makeshift 'den' beneath a tree, or a fireside (if the weather was poor) to cook their eggs and enjoy their feast. Other Irish Easter traditions were the rolling of hard-boiled eggs down the nearest hill, giving roasted potatoes to any beggar who called at the door, and the Cake Dance.

The Cake Dance: The custom of the competitive Cake Dance dates back to medieval times but may be much older. It wasn't practised only on Easter Sunday. It was a means of celebrating, so might also be held to mark the beginning of Summer, the bringing-in of the harvest or any other excuse for fun on a fine sunny evening. The focus of this tradition was a cake, usually a barm brack (a current loaf) with animals, birds and fishes marked out on its raised crust. This cake would be placed in a prominent position and fussily placed on a piece of Irish linen or other fine white cloth, and then the music would start up and the dancing begin. Depending on the locality or the sentiments of the day, the winners might be the couple who danced longest or were judged to have been the most sprightly. They were declared to have the right of 'taking the cake' and could share it with their friends. The Cake Dance was one of the most popular and widespread of Irish Easter traditions and continued to be a feature of the season until well into the 20th century.



20th APRIL 2025



KILTEGAN COMMUNITY NETWORK

Are holding a
Public Meeting
on Friday 25th April at 8.30pm
in St Peter's Parish Centre.

Purpose of the meeting
to give an update on our community owned
garage property in the village.



All are welcome.

RURAL REVIVAL GOOD FRIDAY 7PM



RURAL REVIVAL RESURRECTION SUNDAY 12 noon & 7pm



TYNOCK & TALBOTSTOWN
Fr. John McEvoy — 059 9161114

Easter Sunday April 20th Tynock @ 9.30am.
Reader: Mary Byrne.

**Anniversaries for: Margaret Boland,
John Joe Doyle.**

Saturday 26th April Talbotstown @ 6.00pm
Reader: Breedh Murphy.

Months Mind Mass for: Mary Harmon
Sunday 4th May Tynock @ 9.30am
Reader: Muireann Gartland.

Sunday 11th May Talbotstown @ 9.30am
Reader: Mary Kelly, Feddan.

Saturday 17th May Tynock @ 6.00pm
Reader: Conor O'Leary

Sunday 25th May Talbotstown @ 9.30am
Reader: Joe O'Brien

Offertory €77.28 Envelopes €235.00

To book anniversaries for Tynock or
Talbotstown please call:
Mary on 086 2261264; Josie on 059 6473971.

Church Services for Kiltegan Union of Parishes:

Good Friday 18th 8.00pm
in St Peters, Kiltegan

Easter Sunday
20th April 10.00am in
St John the Baptist, Hacketstown.
11.30am 20th April in
St Peters, Kiltegan.





KILTEGAN GAA & CAMOGIE CLUB NEWS



Our Senior Hurlers welcomed Glenealy to Kiltegan on Sunday morning for the County Senior Hurling league match and they won on a scoreline Kiltegan 2-16 Glenealy 3-09. An excellent game of hurling played in good spirit by both teams with some great passing moves, along with the usual mistakes in passing and giving away the ball when in possession. We found the going a bit tough in the first half as we were missing some key players and were losing 1-07 to 0-07 at the break. Things got worse early in the second half as Glenealy scored two quick goals and two points to our two points to lead the match by nine points. The introduction of Liam Keogh, Brandon Ryan, Padraig Byrne steadied the ship when Eoin Byrne who was having an excellent game was fouled in the square. Brandon Ryan stepped up to the penalty and scored a goal this gave the team the lift they needed points from Jack O'Toole, Mark Murphy and another penalty from Brandon Ryan brought us right back into the game we finished the game with a flourish and a four point win from a great performance in the second half from all our players. Our scores came from Brandon Ryan 2-02, Jack O'Toole 0-07, Mark Murphy 0-03, Eoin Byrne 0-03, Cieran Byran, Danial Byrne 1pt each.

Our Junior Hurling team took on Aughrim on Wednesday evening in the Junior County League and lost on a score of Kiltegan 2-13 Aughrim 6-06. It was hard to believe how we lost this match, may be it's the old saying goals win matches this was certainly the case for Aughrim. We lead this game for 55 minutes and were ahead at half time 1-07 to 2-02 and went further ahead with a goal by Andy Foley and were leading by four points with three minutes to go and were playing some great hurling but Aughrim never gave up and stormed back into the game scoring three quick goals to win the game and leave us wondering where we went wrong. Our scorers were Andy Foley 2-01, Eoin Byrne 0-07, JJ Phelan 0-02, Sean O'Neill 0-02, Josh Byrne 0-01. We also recorded 18 wides in this game.

Our Junior Football team travelled to Blessington to take on the home side in the Junior County League and came away with a draw Kiltegan 5-08 Blessington 4-11. A high scoring game with the hero of the hour the ever green Derek Daly who kept us in the game with an excellent performance through out scoring 4-01, three from penalties. We did most of our scoring in the first half and were ahead 4-03 to 2-05 at the break. We were a point behind on the stroke of full time when we were awarded a close in free which Daly took to level the match. Our scores came from Derek Daly 4-01, Josh Byrne 1-00, Andy Foley 0-05, Eoin Byrne, Oisin Foley Shortall 1pt each.

Our Senior Camogie team recorded their second win in the County Camogie league when they beat Carnew Emmet's in Kiltegan final score Kiltegan 2-11 Carnew 4-03. An exciting game of camogie with two evenly matched teams. We were the better team in the first half and played with the aid of the breeze and were ahead at the break 1-07 to 1-02. They came out a different team after the break and scored a couple of goals to lead into the last ten minutes but our ladies dug deep when a Sophie Bermingham free landed in the Carnew square Faye Corrigan was on hand to put the ball in the net. Two great points by Ashling O'Toole sealed the win. Our scores came from Tara O'Brian 1-03, Faye Corrigan 1-01, Aishling O'Toole 0-03, Rosie Keogh 0-02, Tanise Daly Danne, Sophie Bermingham 1pt each.

Our Junior Camogie again found the going tough and again the lack of scoring power when they travelled to Greystones to play the homes side. Final score Kiltegan 0-01 Greystones 0-05, with Elisha Ryan our only scorer.

Congratulations to the O'Toole sisters Aishling & Eimear who were on the Wicklow Minor Camogie team who defeated Cavan in the semi final of the Minor C All Ireland Championship.

FIXTURES



Senior Football: Sunday 20th April @ 11.00am Kiltegan v Tinahealy. Venue: Tinahealy

Minor Football: Tuesday 22nd April @ 7.00pm Kiltegan v Baltinglass. Venue: Kiltegan

Junior Hurling: Wednesday 23rd April @ 7.00pm Kiltegan v Knockananna. Venue: Knockananna.

Junior Football: Thursday 24th April @ 7.15pm Kiltegan v Hollywood. Venue: Kiltegan.

Kiltegan GAA Lotto Results

02-09-13-25



No Winner €13,800

4 match 3 wins €50 each.

Philip Hobson seller Eileen Byrne

Ann Marie Murphy seller Parkmore Stores

Mary Byrne seller Yearly Lotto

Katrina Byrne seller O'Reilly's Hacketstown.

Next week's draw

Tuesday 22nd April

in Talk of the Town.



JACKPOT €14,000



WEST WICKLOW COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT

CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES

Environmental Worker - Knockananna

Ref:#CES-2384240.

Hall Maintenance Worker - Rathdangan

Ref:#CES-2376386.

Sports Ground Worker - Baltinglass Golf Club

Ref:#CES-2384242.

Cleaning Operative/Caretaker - Kiltegan

Ref:#CES-2384235.

Gardener/Environmental Worker -Kiltegan

Ref:#CES-2384232.

Environmental Worker - High Park, Kiltegan

Ref:#CES-2378417.

Sports Ground Worker - Baltinglass GAA

Ref:#CES-2381433.

General Operative - Baltinglass Tidy Town

Ref:#CES-2381445

The successful candidate will receive One To One Career Support & Training in their chosen career area including CV writing/Interview skills and full support in their position. WWCE have excellent training & progression plans in place for all participants.

Excellent opportunities in these positions for training & developing whilst on the CE scheme.

To check your eligibility or to apply for any of these positions please attend the INTRO Office in Baltinglass (beside Borza) and provide the job reference number above

For further information on any of the above positions please contact:

Sondrine Byrne (087) 449 7731.

RATHDANGAN NEWS



Easter Egg Hunt in take place in Rathdangan playground on Saturday 19th April at 11 am.

All welcome. Coffee and cake van with Daisy Cottage Farm will be present.



Rathdangan History group will host a presentation by Archaeologist Robert Hanbridge about Kiltranelagh graveyard including his recent assessment of the archaeology at the site on Friday April 25th in Ó Toole Memorial Hall, Rathdangan at 8.00pm.



THANK YOU

The Focus Kiltegan would like to thank everyone who contributes in any way to making our weekly newsletter a success. To our readers, our distributors, those who buy advertisements, to the local clubs and groups who keep us informed with their activities.

Thank You and a very Happy Easter.

To ensure the continued success of the Focus newsletter please contact us to place your advertisements, birthday wishes, or functions by phone, email or Facebook Monday to Wednesday 9.00am to 1.00pm.

Ads for The Focus Kiltegan can be sent via:

Email: focuskiltegan@hotmail.com

<http://www.facebook.com>

Phone: 059 6473330

Ads can also be dropped into the post box @ West Wicklow Community Employment Office, The Green, Kiltegan.

To place a small ad costs €2.00 per week.

All notices to be received by 1.00pm on the Wednesday for inclusion that week.