



My Parish Project- Loughgall



My Parish Project

By Clare O' Hagan 8D

The Parish of Loughgall



Parish Priest: Fr Eugene Sweeney



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LETTER TO PAUL

17/12/13

**56 Corrigan Hill Road
Collegeland
Co. Armagh
BT71 6SL**

Bonjour Paul.

This is Clare, and I'm also twelve years old and made my Confirmation in May past. Like you, I have just started Secondary School- at St. Patrick's Academy, Dungannon.

It is exciting to know that you will be staying with a host family in my parish of Loughgall when you are taking part in an exchange programme in Dungannon area.

There are four district areas in my Parish - Collegeland, Loughgall, Maghery and Tartaraghan. These place names must seem very strange to you, but I hope when you study my project you will learn more about them.

Each area has its own Church. We only have one Priest, Father Sweeney who manages all of the Parish - but he does get a lot of help from the lay people. That's where I come in and I'm happy to say I'm an active member of my parish.

Each Sunday I attend the 11.30am mass in Collegeland and sing in the Choir. My sister Ciara is also a member of the Choir. My Daddy is the Organist and my Grandparents are the Sacristans!

I hope you enjoy our music when you come to mass in Collegeland!

I will look forward to your visit next summer and wish you well in your preparations.

Au revoir!

MY PARISH

Parish of St. Patrick **LOUGHGALL**

Parish Priest: Fr. Eugene Sweeney PP

Address: 17 Eagraougher Rd. Loughgall BT61 8LA

Tel: (028) 38891231

Email: Loughgall@gmail.com

Emergency cover: Servite Priests Benburb Priory 028 /37548241

Cluster group: As a parish we are clustered with the following parishes:

- Portadown (Drumcree)
- Kilmore
- Tandragee

Parish Secretary: Email- loughgallsecretary@ gmail.com

The Geography of My Parish

Our Parish is in Co. Armagh and is in the Archdiocese of Armagh

It is a very scattered rural parish and is divided into 4 Church areas-

- Collegeland
- Loughgall
- Tartaraghan
- Maghery

The History of My Parish

According to the late Cardinal O Fiach, the beginning of Christianity in this area goes back to the time of St. Patrick himself.

When the Parishes of Ireland as they are now defined, were set up in the 12th Century, there were two parishes here – one called:

Levallegish and the other called **Tartaraghan**.

A few centuries later these two parishes amalgamated to form the present Parish of St Patrick **Loughgall**.

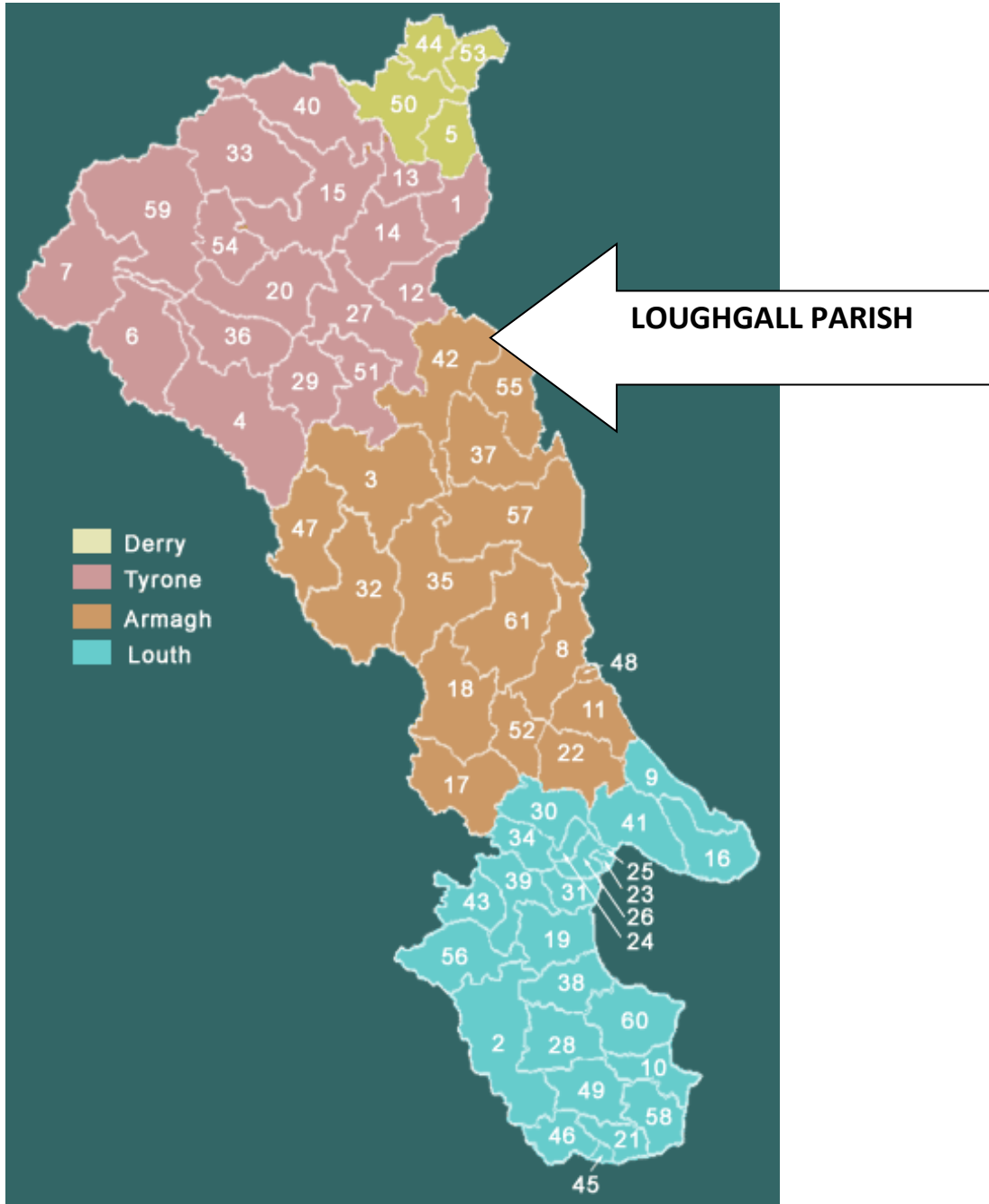
Originally there were three Priests serving this parish- a Parish Priest and two curates.

By the 1970's this had been reduced to two Priests.

Now in the 21st Century this has been further reduced to **one Parish Priest only**.

Location

Where my Parish is on the map of the Armagh diocese



Normal Mass Times in our Parish

Collegeland: ----- Sunday 11.30am
Thursday 9.30am

Loughgall: ----- Saturday Vigil 6.30pm
Tuesday 7.30pm

Maghery: ----- Saturday Vigil 8.00pm
Friday 9.30am

Tartaraghan: ----- Sunday 10.00am
Wednesday 9.30am

The Four Church Buildings

We have four Historic Church buildings:

1. St. Peter's Church Collegeland (the church in my area).

- This first ever church in Collegeland was built in 1845.
- Soldiers stationed at Charlemont fort helped with the building.
- A gallery was added in 1890.
- It was re-designed in and the Altar changed around in the 1950's.
- The first Christmas crib was erected there in 1982.
- The Church was completely re-furbished in 2010.



St. Peter's Church, Collegeland

2. St. Patrick's Church Loughgall

- The first known Catholic Church in Loughgall was in the Village.
- This Church was taken over at the time of the reformation.
- After Catholic Emancipation another Catholic church was built.
- Present church was built in 1912-(the same year as the Titanic) and replaced that old church.
- The Altar was changed around and renovations done in 1950's.
- Extensive renovations were done in the early 1990's.



St. Patrick's Church, Loughgall

3. St. John's Church Tartaraghan

- There was a small church in this area from early Christian times.
- From the time of the Reformation this Church ceased to exist.
- A small thatched church was built in 1790's but was destroyed.
- The present church was built in the 1820's.
- There was a major renovation in 1914.
- The Altar was changed around and renovations done in 1950's.
- Extensive renovations were done in 1986.



St. John's Church, Tartaraghan

4. Our Lady Queen of Peace Church Maghery

- There was a small church in this area from the 13th century.
- This church was abandoned at the time of the Reformation.
- Another church was built in the 1840's.
- In 1926, a tower was added to this church and a bell installed.
- This church is now a "Listed Building" and no longer used.
- A new Our Lady Queen of Peace Church was built and opened in 1977.
- The original roof was replaced in 2004.



Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, Maghery

Role of a Priest

There is no typical day in the life of a Priest. (That's what makes it interesting!)

Priests are encouraged to take one day off per week. This lets them have a well-deserved break and gives them the opportunity to visit family and friends.

Most Priests, (like ours in Loughgall Parish) celebrate mass during the week.

Priests also celebrate various sacraments.

Most Priests prepare a homily for each mass which takes place after the Gospel.

Each Priest looks after their Parish very well and may organise Community events.

The Priest might go out and pay a visit to the sick people in the Parish who are unable to attend mass so that they can receive Holy Communion.

Some Priests organise pilgrimages to Lourdes, Knock, Fatima or Medjugorje.

I have been to Lourdes twice and would thoroughly recommend it to anyone as it was a fantastic experience!

I can officially say that Priests seem very hard-working and always on call so being a Priest must be a very busy role.

Ordained Priests who are natives of the Parish

Fr. Seamus White (CC Dungannon)

Fr. Seamus O'Reilly

Fr. Anthony McHugh

Fr. Brendan McHugh

There were four brothers from the one family called Breslan (from Maghery) who are Priests!

My Parish Priest

Fr. Sweeney is my Parish Priest and he is from County Louth.

He was appointed here in November 2012.

Before coming to Loughgall he was the Administrator of the Cathedral Parish of Armagh.

Prior to that he was the Cardinal's Secretary.

He loves our Choir and always praises us for singing. He also enjoys talking to the Altar-Servers.

I think he would love to meet you Paul, as he always seems to have plenty of time to talk to people after mass is over.

His email address is: esweeney64@btconnect.com



Father Eugene Sweeney P.P

Schools in our Parish

- St. Peter's Primary School **Collegeland** - (My old Primary school)
Principal: Mr. Jim Mc Alinden

- St. Mary's Primary School **Maghery**
Principal: Mr. Jim Lee

- St. John's Primary School **Tartaraghan**
Principal: Mrs. Maura Tennyson



My old School Crest

The Role of the Lay people in my Parish

Parish Council

The Parish Council term, of which Mary McNeice was chairperson has come to an end. A new Parish Council will be decided in the New Year.

Parish Bulletin

We have weekly Parish Bulletin except during July and August. It is prepared by the Parish Secretary Eithne. Her email address is: Loughgall@gmail.com

The Liturgy Co-ordinators:

Collegeland - Mairéad Quinn

Loughgall - Molly Cunningham

Maghery - Clare Donnelly

Tartaraghan - Anne Power

Child Protection in our Parish

- There is a Child Protection Officer in each of the four areas in our Parish.
- Mairéad Maguire is the officer in Collegeland.
- Detailed Notices displayed in each Church.
- Log books are kept in the vestry and in the Choir Gallery.
- All who enter Choir Gallery and Vestry must sign the Log Book

The Parish Finance Committee

Paul Branagh Ciara MacNeice Sean Maguire Kevin Fox Harry McCourt Gerry Mellon
Anna Marie Kelly Conor McKeown Tommy Mitchell Mary Mackle James Mc Nicholl
Fr. Eugene Sweeney, PP

Contributing to Our Parish

- **Each year** (beginning 1st April) every family is given a box of envelopes and asked to use them to:-
 1. Contribute something to the **upkeep of the parish** each week.
 2. Contribute to the **Priest** 5 times per Year.
 3. Contribute to 5 other **Special Collections** during the year.
 - Peter's pence... (For the Vatican)
 - Bishop's Collection
 - The Missions
 - Education of Priests
 - The sick and retired Priests
- **If any major disaster** should occur, **e.g.** -The Philippines, we always send money to help.
- **Each Christmas** we are asked to bring in:
 - A filled shoebox as a present for a needy child.
 - Some food items for giving to St. Vincent de Paul Society.
- **Occasionally** we have Church Door Collections for example:
 - Armagh Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes
 - Cancer Care

COLLEGELAND

Sacristan: Mairéad Quinn (my Granny)

Organist: Michael O Hagan (my Daddy!)

Choir Members: Children's choir (7) Ladies' choir (6) Male Choir (6)

Frequency – Choir every Sunday, from start of Sept – end of June.

Practices – most Sundays after Mass.

Servers: Shane Donnelly; Jack Campbell; Ryan Donnelly; John McCoy;

Paidi Brannigan; Travis Quinn

Frequency – All Masses except those on school days.

Eucharistic Ministers (12): Co-ordinator – Brendan McGeary

Frequency – One Eucharistic Minister at each Mass.

The 12 Ministers work on a rotational basis and also bring Communion to the Nursing Home & to the sick if requested.

Readers (60): Co-ordinator – Kevin Quinn (my Granda)

Frequency - Two readers at each Sunday Mass.

The 60 readers read on a rotational basis and taking 2 readers each week means they normally read twice per year.

Church Collectors (18) Co-ordinator – Kevin Quinn

Frequency - There are 6 Teams with 3 persons in each team.

Teams work on a rotational basis.

Each team is responsible for 2 Months in the year.

Church Cleaning (12) Co-ordinator – Mairéad Quinn

Frequency - There are 3 Teams with 4 persons in each team.

Teams work on a rotational basis.

Each team is responsible for 4 Months in the year.

Time - Each Thursday Morning for ½ Hr after 9.30 Mass.

Exterior Cleaning / Graveyard Maintenance: This is done by contract.

I know exactly who does what in my own chapel (Collegeland). It is more difficult for me to know as much about the other three chapels since I do not know the people. I will give you whatever detail has been made regarding each chapel.....

LOUGHGALL

Sacristan: Molly Cunningham

Music Co-ordinator: Nuala O Neil



TARTARAGHAN

Sacristan: Rosemary Willis

Liturgy Co-ordinator: Anne Power



MAGHERY

Sacristan: Marie Robinson

Liturgy Co-ordinator: Clare Donnelly



Activities and Clubs in My Parish

As we are such a scattered parish it is difficult to organise clubs but the GAA (Gaelic Games) is very strong in our area.

GAA Clubs:

- Annaghmore (Tartaraghan)
- Collegeland
- Maghery

Young people enjoy Football and Camogie so I hope you will join in!

You might also like to learn **IRISH DANCING**, and if so there is a class every Tuesday evening in Collegeland Football Hall.

If you are interested in **IRISH TRADITIONAL MUSIC**, there are classes in Maghery Community Hall every Friday evening.

If none of these activities interest you, there are lots of other clubs and good facilities in the neighbouring towns. I am a very active member of **MADS...** [Moyraverty Arts and Drama Society] and had the opportunity to perform in various musicals and productions!

Other clubs in the Parish cater mainly for retired people.

E.g. Four Ends Social Club/ Loughgall Cross-Community Club/
Diamond Club [Maghery] / Bowls Club.

At Christmas time Children from our Parish Primary Schools sing carols and entertain the residents of the Nursing Homes in our Parish.

These Nursing Homes are:

- Collegeland Nursing home
- Lough Neagh (Maghery) Nursing Home
- The Retreat Nursing Home, Loughgall
- Hockley Lodge, Loughgall

I enjoy singing carols. Do you? Last Christmas I sang in St. Peter's Church in Collegeland with other senior pupils in my Primary School.

Special Fundraising Effort 2013/2014

Everybody is excited about our latest fundraising

- A MONSTER DRAW (see appendix).

Our family would just love to win one of these fabulous prizes which range from £250 to £10,000.

The tickets cost £100 or £10 monthly and are currently on sale.

Here's hoping we win a prize- and that our Parish makes a lot of money in the process.



The Official launch of the Loughgall Parish Development Draw

Interesting links between Loughgall Parish and St. Patrick's Academy

Many pupils from this parish have always gone to the Academy.

Many teachers from this parish have taught in our school.

It is interesting that:

- **Mother Oliver** a former Principal of this school spent the last years of her life and died in Collegeland Nursing Home.
- **Sister Mary Anthony**, another former Principal of our School is a sister of a former Parish Priest of Loughgall Fr. Charlie Devlin RIP.
- **Mrs. Margaret Connolly**, another former Principal of our school also lives in our Parish.
- **Mrs. Angela Donnelly (My great aunty)**, a former Vice Principal here, was also originally from Collegeland.



St Patrick's Academy School Crest

My Roles in My Parish

- **Member of Collegeland Church Choir since 2008 (Soloist)**
- **Reader (in Collegeland) from December'2013**

As I conclude my Project I say

Merry Christmas!

I hope you enjoyed reading about my Parish.

If you do feel like visiting us, then here is the Christmas Mass Schedule!

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH, LOUGHGALL

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2013

Christmas Eve

Christmas Vigil:

6.30pm in Loughgall

8.00pm in Collegeland

8.00pm in Maghery

Christmas Day:

10.00am in Tartaraghan