

# Boherbuoy band still tops after 150 years

By JESSICA QUINN

THIS year sees Limerick's oldest brass and reed band celebrate 150 years in existence.

The Boherbuoy band have been playing through the streets of Limerick since 1850, and they are still going strong.

To celebrate their anniversary old and new members of the band attended a special Mass at St Joseph's church. The band have had a long association with St Joseph's. In fact, the late Fr Harry Began of St Joseph's was once vice-president of the band.

For many years the band have played for the congregation, and when it came to celebrating the band's anniversary, St Joseph's seemed the obvious place.

Joe O'Connor, a member of the St Joseph's liturgy group, was one of the organisers of this special celebration. "We had done a similar Mass for Young Munster RFC and this seemed like a great idea. We always look for ways and means to do something different at the church".

The church was packed for the services

which also heard the combined choirs of Limerick accompanying the band. And the entire congregation was invited to sing along.

As well as the music, Fr James J Keane of St Joseph's church relayed a brief overlook of the band's long career. From their early beginnings in Parnell Street to where they are today—still one of Limerick's top bands.

Speaking to members of the band he said: "We thank you for such a long history of playing music. Bringing to light musical talent, lifting people's spirits, uniting them together, filling their hearts with joy and most of all praising God's greatness. We say a sincere thanks on behalf of many thousands of people who have heard you over the past 15 decades".

Pat Phelan, a member of the band since he was 11 years old, was part of the service. "As the band played we remembered all of our members. But particularly the late Jim Kemmy and the late Fr Harry Began. And our president Fr Kavanagh travelled down from Galway to be here. It was a marvelous evening, and a perfect way to mark the occasion".



Flashback to the late 1930s: the Boherbuoy Band at the Limerick Horse Show in Greenpark with...