

LIMERICK LEADER

# Community Leader

Local Notes and news from where YOU live

## Marvellous night marks St Mary's 125th anniversary

**Down Your Way**  
Maureen Sparling reports

IT was a real cracker of a night out at the palatial Greenhills Hotel for the Dinner Dance to mark the 125th anniversary of the St Mary's Fife and Drum Band.

Following the grand entrance of the band, proceedings got off to a great start with Canon Donough O'Malley's spirited multi-lingual blessing of the meal.

Close on 200 people converged on the Ennis Road venue at the invitation of the President and Committee of the parish-based band.

A great sense of occasion permeated the entire evening with special presentations being bestowed on nine members for their many years of service.

They were: Jack McGrath, over 50 years, John McNamara, over 50 years, Aidan Hurley, (Vice-President) 47 years, Joe Sheehan, over 45 years, Tony McGrath, 45 years, Eugene Murphy, 40



### NOTES INDEX

CHRIST THE KING	PAGE 13
CORPUS CHRISTI	PAGE 13
CLARINA	PAGE 14
CRATLOE	PAGE 15
KILDIMO	PAGE 14
MEELICK	PAGE 15
PATICKSWELL	PAGE 14
RAHEEN	PAGE 12
SHANAGOLDEN-FOYNES	PAGE 14
SHANNON	PAGE 15
ST JOHN'S	PAGE 13
ST MARY'S	PAGE 12
ST MUNCHIN'S/ ST LELIA'S	PAGE 12
ST NICHOLAS	PAGE 15
ST PAUL'S	PAGE 13

**GOT A STORY?**

# Mary's 125th anniversary

**Down Your Way**  
Maureen Sparling reports

IT was a real cracker of a night out at the palatial Greenhills Hotel for the Dinner Dance to mark the 125th anniversary of the St Mary's Fife and Drum Band.

Following the grand entrance of the band, proceedings got off to a great start with Canon Donough O'Malley's spirited multi-lingual blessing of the meal.

Close on 200 people converged on the Ennis Road venue at the invitation of the President and Committee of the parish-based band.

A great sense of occasion permeated the entire evening with special presentations being bestowed on nine members for their many years of service.

They were: Jack McGrath, over 50 years, John McNamara, over 50 years, Aidan Hurley, (Vice-President) 47 years, Joe Sheehan, over 45 years, Tony McGrath, 45 years, Eugene Murphy, 40 years, Derek Mulcahy, 34 years, Gus McCoy, 33 years and Gary O'Brien, 31 years; the latter had flown over from France where he is domiciled, for the special occasion.

President of that age-old band, Jack McGrath, was in his element on the evening, with good humour and jokes abounding like snuff at a wake!

Never one to lose the run of himself, Jack proposed a special toast to all the absent members of that proud musical ensemble.

Everyone rose for the occasion and remained silent for a few moments before clinking their glasses in remembrance of all those gallant members who have passed on to their eternal reward.

Deputy Mayor John Gilligan relayed the good wishes of Mayor Maria Byrne, who congratulated the band and wished them well for the future.

John was his usual excellent speaking self as he went on to cite many of the band's fine achievements and



St Mary's Prize band celebrated their 125th anniversary at the Greenhills Hotel. Back row: Br Bonaventure, R Stakelum, C Mulcahy, C Griffin, S Cropper, R Mulcahy, M Kelly and D Kiely. Middle row: E Murphy, L Connolly, R Downey, A Minto, K Mulcahy, F McDonnell, J O'Doherty, T Naughton and G O'Brien. Front row: J Nolan, A McGrath, J McNamara, D Mulcahy, sec, J McGrath, president, A Hurley, vice president, P Casey, S McCoy and J Sheehan.

numerous accolades. I don't know what his secret is but he seems to have the happy knack of rising to every occasion. Also present on the night was Cllr Kevin Kiely.

On this spectacular evening of celebration the band received a few presentations. On behalf of the Old Abbey Fishermen, Joe McNamara, grandson of 'Todsie' McNamara presented the

President, Jack McGrath, with magnificent plaque on behalf of the Old Abbey Regatta committee.

On behalf of Shannon Rugby Football Club, Eddie Price presented the band's president with a lovely plaque and on behalf of Shannon's President, Dr Darragh Little, he presented a unique memento. It was an 1885 old penny, beautifully mounted

on brass. What a gesture of genuine thoughtfulness that was!

There were spot prizes galore, real decent ones, may I add. The height of praise was heaped on president of the band, Jack McGrath and also the honorary secretary and magical conductor, Derek Mulcahy, for their trojan work in organising this momentous event. It was

indeed the most convivial of evenings.

Following the superb meal, a band of a far different ilk struck up, playing many golden oldies from the '50s to suit the majority of those present.

Upon sighting many lively dancers take to the floor, I was instantly reminded of the following lines:

"On with the dance, let joy

be unconfined,  
No sleep 'til morn when youth and pleasure meet,

To chase the golden hours with flying feet."

It only remains for me, on behalf of the parish, to express our sincere gratitude to St. Mary's Fife and Drum Band for the countless hours of musical joy they have afforded us down through the decades.

Their marvellous sound has not fallen on deaf ears. We wish them many more decades of fife and drumming. We also wish them the best of luck with their book and CD, taking in the last 25 years. Both will appear in the very near future.

Author Maureen Sparling is Limerick Leader correspondent for St Mary's parish.

CHRIST THE KING	PAGE 13
CORPUS CHRISTI	PAGE 13
CLARINA	PAGE 14
CRATLOE	PAGE 15
KILDIMO	PAGE 14
MEELICK	*PAGE 15
PATICKSWELL	PAGE 14
RAHEEN	PAGE 12
SHANAGOLDEN-FOYNES	PAGE 14
SHANNON	PAGE 15
ST JOHN'S	PAGE 13
ST MARY'S	PAGE 12
ST MUNCHIN'S/ ST LELIA'S	PAGE 12
ST NICHOLAS	PAGE 15
ST PAUL'S	PAGE 13

## GOT A STORY?

Contact the Limerick Leader newsdesk on 061-214503 from Monday to Friday. Our email address is editorial@limerickleader.ie

## BREAKING NEWS

The Limerick Leader website is Limerick's best address for up-to-the-minute news. Log on to www.limerickleader.ie to get the latest on the big stories that affect YOU.