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Dromcollogher is in mourning

By NORMA
PRENDIVILLE



**DR JEREMIAH
NEWMAN:
1926-1995**

IT is Jeremiah Newman the man and not the bishop who is being mourned in his home place of Dromcollogher this week.

Among those who knew him and who grew up with him, there is a

sense of loss at the death of a friend.

For many, it is Father Jerry who has died, and they plan to make the journey to Limerick for the funeral - just as they would

for any neighbour.

Dr Jeremiah Newman was the only child of Joe and Catherine (Cass) Newman, who lived in a family-owned shop in The Square, Dromcollogher, and

there are many still alive in Dromcollogher who remember his parents.

His mother kept a shop where glassware and fancy goods were sold. His father's family had strong roots in the area, and Joe was primarily interested in his farm.

From the small, family premises in the Square, the young Jeremiah set out for the local national school - now replaced.

But the shop is still there and still today, a young student - Thomas Villers - leaves the premises on his way to the local St Mary's Secondary School just like Jeremiah Newman did more than 50 years ago.

Later, with his near neighbour and close friend, David Wall, now Dr David Wall, a Columban Father in Peru, he went to St Munchins before Jeremiah took the route which ended with his being consecrated Bishop of Limerick in 1974.

But whether as priest, as president of Maynooth or as Bishop, Jeremiah always returned to Dromcollogher, and his links with his home town were important to him.

Recalling memories of Dr Newman this week, his friend and one-time neighbour, James Wall, said he always liked to talk to people and relations after the Confirmation ceremony in the town, and remembered well many of the parents of the children he was confirming.

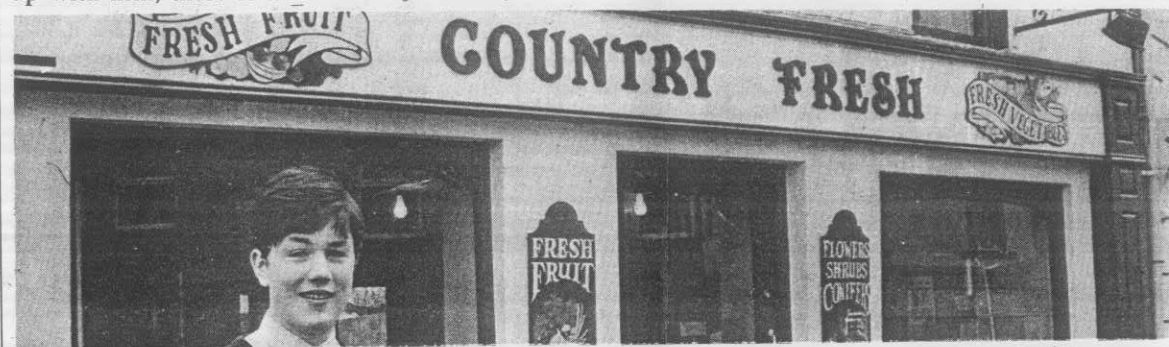
He was always interested in developments in Dromcollogher, James went on, and attended the celebrations in 1969 when the town won the national Glór na nGael competition.

He was President of Maynooth at the time and brought the vice-president home with him for the occasion. This man was Tomas O Fiaich, later Cardinal. He also attended the 1989 centenary celebrations of the foundation of Ireland's first co-operative creamery.

On a more personal level, James recalled, Jeremiah was always in and out of the Wall household.

There was a great friendship between the two families always, he said, and this connection was kept up over the years.

He drew a picture of a studious young man who spent his summer holidays from Maynooth in reading and studying. But both he and his wife, Rona, also



Thomas Villers (15) outside his home in Dromcollogher which used to belong to Dr Newman's parents.



The Newman home and shop in Dromcollogher.

Native village recalls summer holidays at home with parents

LOCAL shopkeeper in Dromcollogher, James Wall, spoke for everybody in the district when he paid this tribute to the late Bishop Newman the morning after his death.

"He was the only son of Joe and Cass Newman, of The Square, in Dromcollogher, a much

in Dromcollogher, and after that to St Munchin's College in Limerick, and then to St Patrick's College in Maynooth.

"After ordination, he studied at Louvain and Oxford.

"Bishop Newman, during his student days, spent a lot of his holiday time with his

during 1958 to 1964, with the help of voluntary workers from Macra na Feirme, Muintir na Tire, and other voluntary organisations.

"The survey was published by Muintir na Tire in 1964, edited by Rev Jeremiah Newman.

"Always interested in his home parish, he drew attention to Dromcollogher as a

of Maynooth, and accompanied the chairman of Glór na nGael, Dr Tomas O Fiaich, who was then vice-president of Maynooth, and later Cardinal O Fiaich. President Eamón de Valera presented the prizes for the event.

"When Dr Newman was made Bishop of Limerick on July 14, 1974, for the

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Assertive Communication Skills

Commencing: Tuesday, 18th April, 1995

Duration: 8 weeks, 1 night per week

Introduction to Management

Commencing: Monday, 24th April, 1995

Duration: 8 weeks, 1 night per week

The Effective Supervisor

Commencing: Wednesday, 19th April, 1995

Duration: 10 weeks, 1 night per week

SPRING PROGRAMMES 1995

Short Day Programmes

9.30 am - 5.30 pm

Negotiation Skills for Buyers

Dates: 12th & 13th April, 1995

The Effective Supervisor

Dates: Module One - 27th & 28th April, 1995

Module Two - 25th & 26th May, 1995

Customer Care

Dates: 9th & 10th May, 1995

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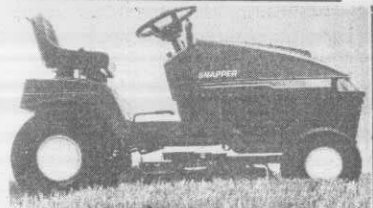
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Wall, spoke for everybody in the district when he paid this tribute to the late Bishop Newman the morning after his death.

"He was the only son of Joe and Cass Newman, of The Square, in Dromcollogher, a much-loved and respected couple who had a shop and farm," he said.

"Jeremiah, called Jerry, went first to Dromcollogher National School, then to St Mary's Secondary School

College in Limerick, and then to St Patrick's College in Maynooth.

"After ordination, he studied at Louvain and Oxford.

"Bishop Newman, during his student days, spent a lot of his holiday time with his parents in Dromcollogher, studying and writing, and was held in high esteem.

"Whilst Professor of Sociology in Maynooth, he was involved in getting the Limerick Rural Survey done, which was carried out

ers from Macra na Feirme, Muintir na Tire, and other voluntary organisations.

"The survey was published by Muintir na Tire in 1964, edited by Rev Jeremiah Newman.

"Always interested in his home parish, he drew attention to Dromcollogher as a centre which should be 'built into an important higher centre of secondary, if not of primary status'.

"When Dromcollogher won first prize in the Glor na nGael competition in 1969, Jeremiah was thrilled. "He was then president

na nGael, Dr Tomas O'Fiach, who was then vice-president of Maynooth, and later Cardinal O'Fiach. President Eamon de Valera presented the prizes for the event.

"When Dr Newman was made Bishop of Limerick on July 14, 1974, for the occasion, the parishioners of Dromcollogher presented him with his portrait in oils.

"It was no coincidence that Bishop Jeremiah chose a hazel twig on his coat of arms, as Dromcollogher derived from Dromcolloille means the Ridge of the Hazel Wood.

"Bishop Newman always liked to keep in touch with his home parish and parishioners. On the centenary of the first co-operative creamery in Ireland, he was present with President Hillery for the celebrations.

"With Fr James Ambrose, parish priest, Bishop Newman was very involved in the renovation and extension of Dromcollogher parish church.

"He was especially interested in the designs on the glass panels, depicting events in the life of the parish, such as the cinema disaster of 1926, in which 48 people lost their lives. Also depicted on the panels are the first co-op creamery and the fairs of bygone days."

He continued: "Tribute was also paid to the people by Bishop Jeremiah, when he blessed the restored church in 1990.

"Bishop Newman also looked forward to his confirmation visits to Dromcollogher and Broadford, and was deeply interested in the children he confirmed, as in many cases they were the children whose parents he knew extremely well.

"After the ceremonies, he always delayed to talk to his relatives and friends and renew friendships."

lies always, he said, and this connection was kept up over the years.

He drew a picture of a studious young man who spent his summer holidays from Maynooth in reading and studying. But both he and his wife, Rona, also have many happy memories of occasions when Fr Jerry was "just like one of the family."

Rona remembers one occasion in particular when her eldest son, Cathal, played hide and seek in the folds of the Bishop's soutane.

"He was great fun too," she said.

James and Dr Newman had planned to travel to Peru together a few years ago to visit James' brother and Dr Newman's friend, David Wall. But an outbreak of cholera made the trip impossible at the time, and in the end, it never happened.

But Fr Wall made a recent trip home to visit his ill friend - returning to his parish work in Lima only last Sunday.

Another neighbour, Nellie Noonan, remembers Jeremiah and his pal, Bob Aherne, "psalming the Mass" in her mother's farmhouse kitchen. There were always rows about who would play the priest's part, she recalled fondly.

And, she said with conviction, he didn't change after he became Bishop. "He was the same as ever."

Her brother, Patrick agreed. "He was the same as when he was a young fellow," he said "He was the most interesting man to talk to."

Home on visits, Jeremiah would park his car in the Noonan yard and then park himself by Mrs Noonan's fire. Then the talk would be of anything and everything.

Dr Newman's parents, Joseph and Catherine are buried in the Abbey graveyard in Dromcollogher.



David Wall and his wife, Rona, look over family albums which contain many pictures of Dr Newman when he visited his native village.



Dr David Wall, Colomnan Farther, a lifelong friend of Dr Newman's and who only returned to Peru on Sunday after visiting the Bishop.



Patrick and Nellie Noonan in their kitchen where the young Dr Newman spent a lot of time growing up.

The Effective Supervisor

Dates: Module One - 27th & 28th April, 1995

Module Two - 25th & 26th May, 1995

Customer Care

Dates: 9th & 10th May, 1995

Reception Skills

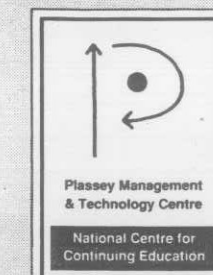
Dates: 11th & 12th April, 1995

To register or for further information please contact:

Maureen O'Donovan or Sinead Galligan,
Plassey Management & Technology Centre,
University Campus,
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