The Chairman' Ryan will read proclamation

JANE FITZGERALD

THE village of Hospital will mark the events of 1916 with a special commemoration this Easter Monday.

At 12 noon a parade will leave the church car park to the sound of a lone piper and a junior choir who will sing songs on the way up the street.

The proclamation will be read outside the local hall by Michael Ryan The Chairman.

His father, also as Michael, read the proclamation in 1916 and has been a supporter of the cause ever since.

"I remember the full proclamation and I was there that day," said Michael.

"In terms of the memory of the event, it is a time of great importance and a time of great change."

Michael Ryan was born in 1890 and died in May 1982.

"My brother John and Robin always thought he was very quiet man, with a strong interest in collecting stamps and coins and writing poetry."

Michael's death left a void in the community that has not been filled since.

The monument to Patrick Lynch has been erected and is still very much alive.

According to former councillor Eddie Creighton, who is involved in organizing the event, it should go on for an hour and a half.

The West Limerick Old IRA 1916 centenary commemoration service will take place in Newcastle West, this Easter Sunday.

At 10.30am, the O'Riada Mass will be celebrated by Canon Frank Duggan and will include a choir from St. Mary's Church in Newcastle West.

Following the reading of the Proclamation, an oration will be delivered by historian and author Dr. William Murphy, of DCU, who has been invited to speak.

Patrick O'Connell worked for the Volunteer in 1916 and was secretly involved in the uprising.

He recalled the events of 1916 and the subsequent landing of the rifles by O'Brien at Kileen, County Wicklow, which are now familiar.

He revealed that from 1920 to 1921 Foyne was one of the most strongly garrisoned barracks in the country, with the forces of military, B.I.C. and Black and Tans along with a garrison of naval, mounted and air force personnel.

Mr. O'Connell also revealed his involvement in destroying 56 wooden boxes of 16 lb. guns which were held at the railway station.

He got some revolvers from Captain Fitzgerald, who lived near Askeaton and that night forced an entrance to the Railway Goods Store with his colleagues, and removed the boxes which they had been watching.

Search lights were immediately turned on the scene from the train, and the boxes were not found.

Mr. O'Connell said, "I have been involved in many events and this was one of the most memorable.

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NORMA PRENDIVILLE

FINE Gael TD Patrick O'Donovan has called on all citizens to "reclaim" the tricolour.

And he paid tribute to the tens of thousands of school children all around the country who have helped to carry the flag and to commemorate the 1916 Rising.

"We should all now use that tradition in this very special period in our history as we prepare to mark the centenary of the 1916 Rising," he said.

Deputy O'Donovan said calling on homes, businesses and organisations to fly the flag with pride.

"It is a time of great importance and a time of great change."

In Ireland, we have not embraced our national flag and can do so in the US and elsewhere.

"We should all now use that tradition in this very special period in our history as we prepare to mark the centenary of the 1916 Rising," he said.

Deputy O'Donovan said calling on homes, businesses and organisations to fly the flag with pride.

But, he argued, the flag is for all the people in the country.