

St Paul's Church, Lisduggan

Golden Jubilee

1972–2022



Welcome to the first of twelve monthly Special Edition Bulletins. In these we hope to tell stories and stir memories of fifty years of life in St Paul's Parish, 1972 –2022. We have travelled an exciting journey from green fields to a modern city suburb.

Looking back to our beginnings, the name of Fr Greg comes quickly to mind as a guiding influence in those critical early years. He was a catalyst for so many of the developments that shaped our community. He would be the first to list the many women and men who were his willing and able collaborators. A man of few words and deep faith, he lead from the front, and was able to identify and call out leaders for every project.



Fr Greg Power

PARISH ORIGINS

Back in the Sixties, the parish of Ballybricken was so big, nearly half the city at the time, with 18,000 people, there was need to sub-divide into more manageable parish units.

In 1966 Bishop Russell and Sean Ronayne, Housing Officer, met with Dr Michael Barron PP and curates of Ballybricken Parish to test and consider the options for further parochial developments, especially in the Lisduggan area where rapid growth was already underway. The proposal to create four new parishes from the large Ballybricken parish was born. The decision to outline the new parishes of Ballybricken, Holy Family, St Paul's and Butlerstown was taken and implemented.



Building starts on the new church



Canon Michael J. Leahy, a noted Scripture scholar, chose the name St Paul as Patron for the new Lisduggan parish, after the great Apostle of the nations and famed founder of new Christian communities.

The building of the church started in 1969 but was delayed due to a cement strike. It opened on 17 February 1972 and was blessed and dedicated on 7 May 1972 with Fr Jim Paddy Walsh as the first Parish Priest.



The completed church

Upcoming Events

**A Jubilee version of the St Paul's/
Frank Leahy Walk on Sunday,
23 January.**



**Novena to Our Lady of Lourdes
3–11 February.**



**Special Sunday Liturgy on
13 February for those celebrating
a significant wedding anniversary
this year.**

PADDY BROWN'S ROAD



Photo: John J. Fitzgerald

Paddy Browns Road 1968

Paddy Brown's Road is a stretch of road almost a mile long, which runs from the Waterworks at Tycor to the main Waterford/Cork Road.

The Road derives its name from Paddy Browne, who farmed thirty-one acres in the town land of Lisduggan Big in the 1940s. The road itself was laid out and constructed in the period 1846–1847 as a famine relief Public Works Scheme.

Until 1965 this was a typical 'country road' through surrounding farm land – a favourite walk, and a romantic route!



Paddy Browns Road today

Let the MemORIES Begin!

The Piggery

Belvedere resident, Kathleen Fardy recalls the pig and cattle mart every Friday. This was located where St Paul's Community College now stands. Pigs and cattle were herded along the road to the delight and terror of the children. Kathleen recalls having her front pillar knocked down by frisky cows.

*Larchville
through
the years,
5 August 2018*

WHEN YOUR FRIENDS USED TO SHOW UP
AT YOUR DOOR TO COME OUT AND PLAY...



DO YOU REMEMBER?

Shops

Breda Rea, another early resident, remembers the shop run by Tommy Cheevers in the garden of No 1, owned by Molly Hennessy and Johnny Giovanni. Breda recalls queuing up in the garden to buy the skirt and kidney for the stew.

When we all got news of our houses it was like we were going to the country. A lot of my neighbours lived in flats (now called apartments) in the 60s. The whole countryside opened up to us.

The roads were covered in mud as the builders were still building. Most of us had small children and it was the beginning of a whole new parish. There was no church, no shopping centre or banks. Everyone walked everywhere wheeling their prams through the mud. The community was just developing.

Between each house were low boundary fences over which we could meet and chat with our neighbours. Now we have high walls and rarely see them. We walked our children to school, and the men went to work on their bikes.

Maureen Dower

‘Yes! I remember it well.’ You remember the song? Well, if these musings capture your interest, or, if you have ‘different’ facts, why not let us know – for some future edition. We would welcome memories, comments, anecdotes, photos, corrections, etc. Please use our website:

stpaulsandbutlerstown.ie

What was the most common Larchie sandwich? Some remember the sugar sandwich!

(From *Larchville Through the Years*)



When I was serving my time on the church build, I remember a big disagreement between the scaffolder and the foreman over storing ceiling material on the scaffolding – he maintained it wouldn't take the weight. As far as we know it did!

Joe Power (St Paul's Facebook page)

On 11 November 1966 the first sod was turned for the Industrial Estate, by Mayor Alderman Patrick (Fad) Brown at the bottom of Paddy Brown's Road. In July 1967 the Estate was officially opened on the 27 October by George Colley, Minister for Industry and Commerce. The first factory on the Estate was a German Pharmaceutical company called Handensa who were famous for the ointment for the treatment of piles.

Belevedere

In the Autumn of 1966 the first residents moved into Belvedere Drive. The houses were built under a Glass Factory Scheme, which arranged the buying of land and sourcing of mortgages from Waterford Corporation. The first houses (No 1-40) were purchased for £2,200 (Irish Punts) and the repayment was £2.2.0 a week. One of the first couples to move in was Angela and George O'Brien. George was on the committee for the scheme and was influential in the naming of the estate – 'Belvedere' after a hotel they stayed in on honeymoon.

Those were the days when a young couple could afford to buy their own house!

I remember as a lad, the altar being fitted in the church and getting some of the rock from the lorry. I thought I had moonrock or something really valuable. Ah! What memories of the nicest church in Waterford.

Richie Purcell (St Paul's Facebook page)

AnCo

Training Authority played a notable part in the development of the industrial estate. The centre provided training and retraining courses in General Engineering, Machine Operating, Welding and TV and Radio Maintenance.