| SH   |  |   |  | I NEWSLETTER -<br>nail.com Parish Web |  | Y 13 <sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2023  |  |  |  |
|--|--|---|--|---------------------------------------|--|---|--|--|--|
| Er V   |  |   |  |                                       |  | H91 V2FK (2 093 31262)  |  |  |  |
|  |  |   |  |                                       |  | r@shruleglencorrib.com  |  |  |  |
|  | •  |   |  | uleglencorrib.com &                   |  | -   |  |  |  |
|  |  |   |  | - <b>Facebook</b> : Shrule            |  |   |  |  |  |
|  | SH OFFICE  |   |  |                                       |  |   |  |  |  |
|  | PARISH OFFICEShrule - Parochial House, Tuesdays 10.30am to 12-noonOPENING HOURSGlencorrib - Curates House (Sunny Days), Wednesdays 10.30am to 12-noon                                      |   |  |                                       |  |   |  |  |  |
|  |  |   |  |                                       |  |   |  |  |  |
|  | 19 SUNDA   |   |  |                                       |  | IMES & INTENTIONS   |  |  |  |
|  | th   |   | •  | JRCH, SHRULE - De                     | dicated  |   |  |  |  |
| Sat  | 12 <sup>th</sup> Aug   | 8.00 pm   |  | l <b>y</b> , Dalgan Road              |  | Month's Mind  |  |  |  |
|  |  |   |  | eney and husband                      |  |   |  |  |  |
|  |  |   | -  | Mary Lally, their s                   |  | Anniv & deceased  |  |  |  |
|  |  |   | John's br  | other Lawrence, Br                    | rodella  |   |  |  |  |
| Sun  | 13 <sup>th</sup> Aug   | 11.00 am  | Mary McG   | <b>iath</b> , Shrule                  |  | RIP 17/06/2023  |  |  |  |
| Tue  | 15 <sup>th</sup> Aug   | 8.00 pm   | Parish Co  | mmunity                               |  |   |  |  |  |
| Wed  | 16 <sup>th</sup> Aug   | 9.30 am   | Enda & Se  | ean Heneghan, Dal                     | <b>n Heneghan</b> , Dalgan Rd / Dublin 25 <sup>th</sup> & 23 <sup>rd</sup> Anniv |   |  |  |  |
| Thu  | 17 <sup>th</sup> Aug   | 9.30 am   | Mass   | • •                                   |  |   |  |  |  |
| Fri  | 18 <sup>th</sup> Aug   | 7.00 pm   | Adoration  | n of the Blessed Sa                   | crament  | : – 7pm to 7.55pm   |  |  |  |
|  | j j  | 8.00 pm   | Special Ir   |                                       |  | • •   |  |  |  |
| Sat  | 19 <sup>th</sup> Aug   | 8.00 pm   |  | ate Greally and the                   | ir sons  | 14 <sup>th</sup> , 16 <sup>th</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup> |  |  |  |
|  | 5  | •   |  | Micky Greally, Sr                     |  | Anniv & deceased  |  |  |  |
|  |  |   | Greally, V   |                                       |  |   |  |  |  |
| Sun  | 20 <sup>th</sup> Aug   | 11.00 am  |  | mpton , Dalgan Roa                    | d  | Month's Mind  |  |  |  |
|  |  |   | -  | -                                     |  | B - Dedicated 1876  |  |  |  |
| Sat  | 12 <sup>th</sup> Aug   | 6:30 pm   |  | ary Daly & DM Daly                    |  |   |  |  |  |
| Jac  | IZ AUG   | 0.50 pm   | families,  |                                       |  | deceased  |  |  |  |
| Sun  | 13 <sup>th</sup> Aug   | 9.30 am   |  |                                       | brack  | 9 <sup>th</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Anniv                               |  |  |  |
|  | 15 Aug<br>15 <sup>th</sup> Aug   |   |  |                                       |  |   |  |  |  |
| Tue  | 15 Aug   | 6.30 pm   | Special Intention for those who are ill at this time |                                       |  |   |  |  |  |
| Wed  | 16 <sup>th</sup> Aug   |   | Eileen O'Connor, Kilkerrin         RIP 15/06/2023    |                                       |  |   |  |  |  |
| Fri  | 18 <sup>th</sup> Aug   |   | Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament – 6pm to 6.55pm   |                                       |  |   |  |  |  |
|  | 1 oth  |   | 7:00 pm Special intention                            |                                       |  |   |  |  |  |
| Sat  | 19 <sup>th</sup> Aug   | 6:30 pm   | Maura Langan, Glassvalley10th Anniv                  |                                       |  |   |  |  |  |
|  |  | Paddy & Mairead Hennelly & DM Hennelly $27^{th}$ & $9^{th}$ Anniv |  |                                       |  |   |  |  |  |
|  |  |   | Family, G  |                                       |  | & deceased  |  |  |  |
|  |  | Mary & Micheal Keady & DM Keady &<br>Kavanagh Families            |  |                                       |  |   |  |  |  |
|  | th   |   |  |                                       |  |   |  |  |  |
| Sun  | 20 <sup>th</sup> Aug   | 9.30 am   |  | ce & DM Joyce fam                     |  |   |  |  |  |
|  |  | •   | - ·  |                                       |  | PTION and is a Holy Day of  |  |  |  |
| _  |  |   |  |                                       |  | g: Glencorrib @ 6.30pm and  |  |  |  |
| Shrul  | <u>e @ 8pm. Pl</u>   | ease note the   | <u>ere will be r</u>                                 | <u>o 9.30am Mass on T</u>             | uesday.  |   |  |  |  |
| CHU  | HURCH ROTAS FOR AUGUST SHRULE GLENCORRIB   |   |  |                                       |  | GLENCORRIB  |  |  |  |
| LAY READERS – Vigil Mass   |  |   |  | Donagh Greaney                        |  | Lisa Moran / Adrian Nally   |  |  |  |
| LAY READERS – Morning Mass   |  |   | S  | Maura Mullin                          |  | Caroline Craddock   |  |  |  |
| <b>EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS</b> - Vigil Ma  |  |   | Vigil Mass   | Martina Murphy                        |  | Michael Creavin   |  |  |  |
| <b>EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS</b> - Morn  |  |   | Morning  | Sheila Ronaldson                      |  | Kathleen Shaughnessy  |  |  |  |
| ALTA   | <b>R SOCIETY</b>   |   |  | Dalgan Road 1                         |  | Moyne/Toorard   |  |  |  |
| • 4  | NNUAL CRO  | SS FAST CF  | METERY M   | ASS Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup>          |  | DAY RETREAT TO LOUGH  |  |  |  |
|  | ugust @ 3pr  |   |  | ASS TRESRAY IS                        | -  | akes place on <b>Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>                          |  |  |  |
|  |  |   |  |                                       |  |   |  |  |  |
| <ul> <li>ANNUAL CEMETERY SUNDAY MASS AT BOHERMORE September 2023. For more<br/>will take place on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August at 11.00am. Mass information and bookings 	 Mar</li> </ul> |  |   |  |                                       |  |   |  |  |  |
|  | will take place on <b>Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August</b> at 11.00am. Mass   Information and bookings <b>a</b> Mar<br>will be celebrated by Bishop Michael Duignan.   McHugh on 086 2683209. |   |  |                                       |  |   |  |  |  |
|  | BE SAFE OUT THERE THIS SUMMER: We welcome all visitors to  |   |  |                                       |  |   |  |  |  |
| _  |  |   |  |                                       |  |   |  |  |  |
| -  | our parish. We hope that you have an enjoyable stay with us and return home safely, refreshed and revitalised. To all those going  |   |  |                                       |  |   |  |  |  |
|  | away for their holidays, we hope that you travel safely, have an   |   |  |                                       |  |   |  |  |  |
|  | enjoyable experience and return home rested and refreshed.   |   |  |                                       |  |   |  |  |  |
| enjoy  |  |   | ii nome res  |                                       |  |   |  |  |  |

### TAOISEACH LEO VARADKAR VISIT – THANK YOU

Last Thursday, the Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar visited Glencorrib. I would like to thank all those who helped in preparation with his visit to our community and those who attended on the day. Thank you to the various groups present – Sunny Days, Shrule Community Partnership Group, Glencorrib & Kilroe Community Field Group, South Mayo Development Company, Glencorrib and Kilroe schools, Mayo Co. Co. Shrule Glencorrib GAA & LGFA Club, Shrule, Glencorrib Village Enhancement Committees, SGK Historical Society and MEP Maria Walsh as well as other groups and all those who were there. A special word of thanks to Glencorrib Kilroe Community Centre who hosted the event and everyone who contributed baked goods and food and those who helped out in the hall and kitchen and all those who helped around the village in preparation for the visit. It was an enjoyable and successful day in showcasing our community, the incredible work that has taken place and what is planned for the future. It was a great day for the parish. Thank you for your help and support.

#### THE DAY THE TAOISEACH CAME TO TOWN

With just over a week to prepare, Maria Walsh MEP announced on 31<sup>st</sup> July, the Taoiseach was coming to Glencorrib on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> August. The visit was greatly supported by Fr. Vivian who promoted the idea to the various parish groups. And an organisational plan of action was created. With modern technology, social media and WhatsApp dispersing with the idea of physical meetings to be held to plan everything. All it takes to start anything is to have one or two on board and then with a few WhatsApp group appeals a team is formed. It was a joint parish appeal and I have to say there was great support from everyone in the parish.

One person asked me, "Why is the Taoiseach coming to Glencorrib?" The answer to that is twofold. The first reason



is to show case to the Taoiseach and to the country, that with a bit of vision what a small but vibrant community in south Mayo can do. In the past 10 years we have seen so many great changes and achievements that we can be proud of. In the past 10 years or so, well over €2,000,000. (Yes read that right. Two million euro) has been received in the form of grants and allocations to the parish. This is truly an amazing achievement for such a small parish community like ours. It did involve a lot of meetings, vision, paperwork and time. But we can be proud of our achievements and if you would like to get involved, there are some more projects in the pipeline. The second reason is to thank the Taoiseach, Government Ministers, TDs, MEP and County Councillors that with their financial support, great things can be accomplished. They like to see money well spent. By spending it wisely and bringing ideas to fruition benefits the whole

community and this in turn means that future community projects being invested in down the line when they see that money is well spent. We also showcased some great sporting achievements to be proud of recently. Shrule Glencorrib GAA & LGFA Minor, U14s Boys and U14 girls teams winning their county finals recently. It was also great to see our small parish community featured directly on the Taoiseach's Instagram page and indirectly on Thursday evening's RTE 6 and 9 o'clock news.

I want on your behalf to thank a few people Maria Walsh MEP who invited the Taoiseach, Fr. Vivian who created a plan of action and invited various community groups to participate and was the MC for the day. The various community groups who got on board and who helped out, Glencorrib Kilroe Community Walkway group, Cyril and Jennifer Hyland and the team at Sunny Days Child Care, to the various groups who showcased their group to the Taoiseach, Kathleen Shaughnessy and her wonderful team in the kitchen providing much welcomed refreshments. All those who donated all the delicious food, tarts, buns deserts, cakes etc. Paula Donoghue made the special Homemade Chocolate Biscuit Cake. Take a bow everyone, what a great day it was. *Kevin Flood* 

QUOTE: Jesus prepared a meal for the multitudes to remind us that we feed people not because we believe they deserve it, but because they are hungry

|                                 | 1         | H A PRAYER THOSE WHO                     | 1          |                           |               |
|---------------------------------|-----------|--|------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| Surname                         | Christian | Village                                  | Date Died  | Age                       | Cemetery      |
| D'Connor                        |           |  | 12/08/1959 | 80                        | Ross Abbey    |
| Gibbons                         |           |  | 12/08/1971 | 77                        | Shrule        |
| r <b>ampton</b> Julia Ballybane |           | · · ·                                    | 12/08/1991 | 73                        | Shrule        |
| Dooley                          | Peter     | ex. Cloonbanane                          | 12/08/2002 | 51                        | Shrule        |
| Mohan                           | ,         |  | 12/08/2007 | 87                        | Shrule        |
| Frehan Brigid Cloonbanane       |           |  | 12/08/2007 | 90                        | Shrule        |
| · · ·                           |           | Glasbally                                | 13/08/1923 | 64                        | Killursa      |
| Mortimer Austin                 |           | Shrule                                   | 13/08/1959 | 82                        | Murrisk Abbey |
| Payne                           |           |  | 13/08/1992 | 81                        | Shrule        |
| Davin                           |           |  | 13/08/1998 | 81                        | Shrule        |
| leneghan Enda [                 |           | Dalgan Road                              | 13/08/1998 | 66                        | Shrule        |
| Petty                           | John      | Ballisnahina                             | 14/08/1942 |                           | Ross Erilly   |
| O'Hara                          | Barbara   | Shrule                                   | 14/08/1947 | 77                        | Shrule        |
| Flood William                   |           | Ballynalty                               | 14/08/1953 | 72                        | Cross         |
| Corbett                         |           |  | 14/08/1972 | 82                        | Shrule        |
| Concannon                       | Aidan     | Headford                                 | 14/08/2010 | 45                        | Shrule        |
| Hennelly                        | Mrs.      | The Lodge, Glencorrib                    | 15/08/1936 |                           |               |
| Mc Donagh                       | Margaret  | Shrule                                   | 15/08/1951 | 72                        | Shrule        |
| Kenny                           | Mary      | Toorard                                  | 15/08/1951 | 39                        | Moyne         |
| Tierney                         | Brigid    | Shrule                                   | 15/08/1954 | 64                        | Shrule        |
| Barrett                         | , ,       |  | 15/08/1963 | 77                        | Shrule        |
| O'Neill                         | Dick      | Dalgan                                   | 15/08/1989 | 34                        | Shrule        |
| Greally                         |           |  | 16/08/1921 | 67                        | Killursa      |
| Mc Evilly                       |           |  | 16/08/1928 | 75                        | Cong          |
| Crampton                        |           |  | 16/08/2008 |                           | Shrule        |
| Brennan                         | Michael   | Ballybockagh                             | 16/08/2010 | 94                        | Shrule        |
| Fitzgerald                      | Brigid    | Mohorra                                  | 17/08/1933 | 79                        | Shrule        |
| Biggins                         |           |  | 17/08/1939 | 73                        | Killursa      |
| Browne                          |           |  | 17/08/1992 | 55                        | Roundfort     |
| Cawley                          | Thomas    | Gurteen                                  | 17/08/2001 | 88                        | Shrule        |
| Walsh                           | Antonette | The Parks                                | 17/08/2008 | 68                        |               |
| Gannon                          | Dom       | Boula                                    | 18/08/1926 | 55                        | Killursa      |
| Gannon                          | Mrs.      | Boula                                    | 18/08/1926 | 55                        | Killursa      |
| Buckley                         | Pete      | Moorgagagh                               | 18/08/1967 | 59                        | Shrule        |
| Gleeson                         | Delia     | Shrule                                   | 18/08/1989 | 89                        | Shrule        |
| Walsh                           | Peter     | Boherbee                                 | 19/08/1941 | 76                        | Shrule        |
| Meenaghan                       | Sean      | Gurteen                                  | 19/08/2002 | 76                        | Shrule        |
| Langan                          | Maura     | Glassvalley                              | 19/08/2013 | 62                        | Killursa      |
| D'Haire                         | Anna      | Shrule                                   | 20/08/1944 |                           | Kiltimagh     |
| Staunton                        | Michael   | Dalgan Park                              | 20/08/1951 | 72                        | Shrule        |
| Warde                           | Con       | Mochorra                                 | 20/08/1991 | 81                        | Shrule        |
| Sheridan                        | Margaret  | Dalgan Yard                              | 20/08/1997 | 84                        | Shrule        |
| Smith                           | Janet     | Dalgan                                   | 20/08/2014 |                           | Shrule        |
|                                 |           | <b>(NOCK SHRINE:</b> 14 <sup>th</sup> to | · · ·      |                           |               |
|                                 |           | na to Our Lady of Knock o                |            | <u>CALL</u> THE<br>REMENT |               |
| -                               |           | away from everyday life                  |            | RTY 4                     |               |

you the opportunity to step away from everyday life and immerse yourself in prayer in the beautiful, peaceful grounds of Knock Shrine. Over the course of the nine-day Novena, we will hear from guest homilists and speakers during daily ceremonies at 3.00pm and 8.00pm at Knock Basilica. Our theme for this year is 'Caring for Creation'. Family Day will take place on Sunday 20th August from 11.00am-3.00pm and all are welcome. Find out more and view the full programme at

www.knockshrine.ie

PARTY

Please join us for Postman Joe Conneely's **Retirement &** Birthday



Celebrations!! (Shrule & Glencorrib area) Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2023 Cradock's Bar (back room) From 8:30pm



## 13 LIFE-LESSONS...

- 1. Don't call someone more than twice continuously. If they don't pick up your call, presume they have something important to attend to.
- 2. Return money that you have borrowed even before the person that borrowed you remember or ask for it. It shows your integrity and character. Same goes with umbrellas, pens and lunch boxes.
- 3. Never order the expensive dish on the menu when someone is giving you a lunch/dinner.
- 4. Don't ask awkward questions like 'Oh so you aren't married yet?' Or 'Don't you have kids' or 'Why didn't you buy a house?' Or why don't you buy a car? It isn't your problem.
- 5. Always open the door for the person coming behind you. It doesn't matter if it is a guy or a girl, senior or junior. You don't grow small by treating someone well in public.
- 6. If you take a taxi with a friend and he/she pays now, try paying next time.
- 7. Respect different shades of opinions. Remember what's 6 to you will appear 9 to someone facing you. Besides, second opinion is good for an alternative.
- 8. Say "thank you" when someone is helping you.
- 9. When someone shows you a photo on their phone, don't swipe left or right. You never know what's next.
- 10. If a colleague tells you they have a doctors' appointment, don't ask what it's for, just say "I hope you're okay". Don't put them in the uncomfortable position of having to tell you their personal illness. If they want you to know, they'll do so without your inquisitiveness.
- 11. Treat the cleaner with the same respect as the CEO. Nobody is impressed at how rude you can treat someone you think is below you, but people will notice if you treat them with respect.
- 12. If a person is speaking directly to you, staring at your phone is rude.
- 13. Never give advice until you're asked.

# THANK YOU MR POSTMAN & GOOD FRIEND TO ALL – JOE CONNEELY – HAPPY RETIREMENT

**JOE CONNEELY** From Shrule to Glencorrib, From Laragan to Kille, From Gurteen to Ballyhenry, And Cahermaculick to Longhill. Every twist, every turn, Every pothole, every nuck, No one knows our roads better, Than the man from Cahernabruck! Since 1975, You've been delivering our letters, Carrying the Muldoons' mantle, Under the wing of John-Joe Tedders. For Forty-Eight years, You're putting mail through the door, Every letterbox from Cortoon to Mocorrha, And Mocollagan to Carramore! You know the difference between... Up the road, And down the road, And Back the road, and over! You know every side road, and by-road, And every, front door's owner! You've seen fields become gardens, And blocks become homes, You've known houses once full, That now lay bare as mere stones. You know every dog in the parish, And their temperament by bark, You know the soft sod of Brackloon, And the steep corner at Joyce Park. You know generations of the same family, You're welcome in every home, All have a kind word to say about you, Especially those who live alone. From Gortjordan to Cloonamealtoque, From Cloonbanaun to Bothair Buí, You took the time to say hello, And maybe the odd cup of tea. From St. Mary's Road to Ballybockagh, Ballinamona to Shrule Grove, Could you ever have guessed your impact, When you set out on the honda, fadó fadó. Whether you go down Dalgan or up Wakefield, Or in Cahereen or Bullaun to the end, Whether you go back Brodella or over Ramolin, You are sure to find a friend. For all the townlands not mentioned, And all the people who've moved away, From your community, and your colleague in Tobernadarry, We wish you a very Happy Retirement Day! - Geraldine Monaghan (Hyland) Shrule poet

<image>

Joe receiving his Cú Chulainn statue this morning. 48 years.



Wishing Joe and Teresa many more years of health and happiness. I'm sure Joe can tackle into some jobs around the house that he couldn't do before this. The people of Shrule and Glencorrib owe you a debt of gratitude. And as Geraldine said, many under 48 years of age have never known a postman other than Joe. His replacement will have big shoes to fill.

**THANK YOU JOE** - We want to thank you for all your hard work over the past 48 years. Even though you were always on the go with letters and deliveries, you always had time for us and kept us up to date on what was happening in the area. You always went above and beyond in your work. You are a man we can all call friend. Your friendliness and reliability is such an asset to our community. We all hope you and your family enjoy your retirement.

### **OUR STORY - CREATED BY: THE SEAN MCGUINNESS MEMORIAL CLIMB**

We would like to invite you to join us at a memorable charity event on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September as we climb Croagh Patrick in memory of our beloved Sean McGuinness who sadly passed away in June 2022. This climb is to continue Sean's legacy and we invite family, friends, colleagues, and associates to join us.

Sean was a compassionate man who touched the lives of many people through his determination to raise funds for charitable causes close to his heart. During his life Sean regularly participated in numerous charity events, including 18 marathons, Croi Corrib Charity Cycle, Pink Ribbon Cycle, Sea to Summit and the Dublin City Marathon to name just a few. Sean was also an active member of the Shrule community and was passionate about his local football club Shrule Glencorrib GAA where he would regularly be found pitch side at matches behind the lens.

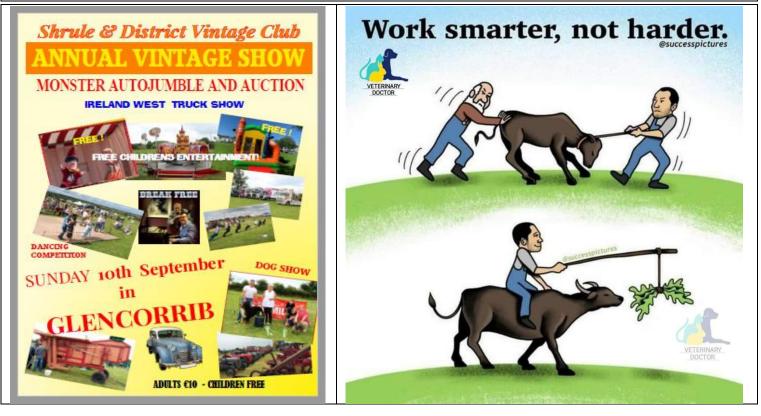


Sean's Daughter, Gillian and Karen will be joining us on the climb. Gillian and Fiancé Kevin will also continue Sean's legacy by taking part in the NYC Marathon in November 2023. All funds raised through the marathon will merge seamlessly into the same charitable collection as the climb. We will keep you posted of Gillian's and Kevin's progress.

Join us by visiting our secure fundraising page, make a donation that feels right for you. All contributions received, large or small, will make a significant impact for **Croi** in Sean's memory. If you wish to join us for The Sean McGuinness Memorial Climb, click on the link below to complete the registration form.

https://homecaremedicalcontact.wufoo.com/forms/z1e2zkoi1dylq28/ If questions, please email: charityevents@homecaremedical.ie Event activities:

- Participants will meet in the car park, of Croagh Patrick, Eircode F28 TF38 at 08:30 on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September and embark at 9am on a challenging yet rewarding climb to the summit of Croagh Patrick.
- During the climb we'll remember Sean and the impact that he has on our lives and encourage people to share stories of Sean and celebrate his life.
- Once we reach the summit group photos will be taken to celebrate this occasion.



#### WHY DID JESUS FOLD THE NAPKIN?

Why did Jesus fold the linen burial cloth after His resurrection? I never noticed this....

The Gospel of John (20:7) tells us that the napkin, which was placed over the face of Jesus, was not just thrown aside like the grave clothes. The Bible takes an entire verse to tell us that the napkin was neatly folded, and was placed separate from the grave clothes. Early Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away from the



entrance. She ran and found Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved. She said, 'They have taken the Lord's body out of the tomb, and I don't know where they have put him!' Peter and the other disciple ran to the tomb to see.. The other disciple outran Peter and got there first. He stooped and looked in and saw the linen cloth lying there, but he didn't go in.

Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there, while the cloth that had covered Jesus' head was folded up and lying to the side.

Was that important? Absolutely!

Is it really significant? Yes!

In order to understand the significance of the folded napkin, you have to understand a little bit about Hebrew tradition of that day. The folded napkin had to do with the Master and Servant, and every Jewish boy knew this tradition.

When the servant set the dinner table for the master, he made sure that it was exactly the way the master wanted it...

The table was furnished perfectly, and then the servant would wait, just out of sight, until the master had finished eating, and the servant would not dare touch that table, until the master was finished. Now, if the master were done eating, he would rise from the table, wipe his fingers, his mouth, and clean his beard, and would wad up that napkin and toss it onto the table.

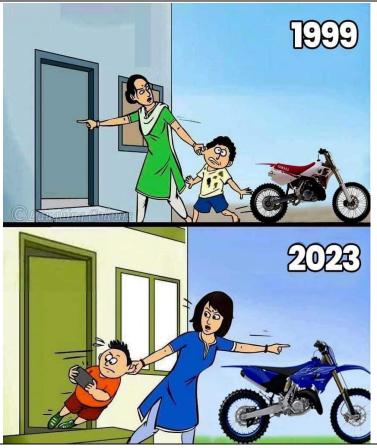
The servant would then know to clear the table. For in those days, the wadded napkin meant, 'I'm done.'

But if the master got up from the table, and folded his napkin, and laid it beside his plate, the servant would not dare touch the table, because........... The folded napkin meant, 'I'm coming back!'

#### He is Coming Back!



We all make mistakes. We say wrong things, we do wrong things, we fall, we get up, we learn, we grow, we move on, we live and we thank God for always giving us another chance.



# **PAT INGOLDSBY – ONE OF MY FAVOURITE POETS**



If there is someone a little surprised to have reached the wonderful age of 80 today, I think it is Pat.

I met Pat in 2005, the way many people have: on the streets of Dublin where he was selling his books. I had never heard of him, never read any of his poems and knew nothing about his past life as a DJ, playwright, writer, performer or creator and presenter of the popular TV shows for children – **Pat's Hat, Pat's Chat and Pat's Pals**. When I read the first book I bought from him, I fell for his poems, what he was saying and how he was saying it, and I fell for his looks.

Often, we would walk through town together and passersby would nod to him or just say "Hi Pat". Frequently, a bus or even a train driver would hoot or lean out of the window with a "How're ye Pa'?". Invariably, someone would shout from across the street "Pat's Cha'!" or "Pat's Ha'!". Sometimes they got it wrong and shouted "**Fortycoats!**". Cars, too, were always stopping and their drivers asking if Pat needed a lift home. To begin with, I thought Pat knew an astonishing amount of people until I realised it was the remnants of an overwhelming celebrity he had turned his back on in the early 1990s.

One day, as we emerged from a gallery in the city centre, a young man approached us and told Pat he had been a fan of his TV shows. Pat held out his hand to thank him, as he always does, but I saw frustration and weariness spread over his face. The young man didn't want to let one of his heroes slip away so fast and went on to say how much he admired him and that, over the years, he had bought each one of his books of poetry.

FOR MY FATHER It was raining The day we buried my father. Sleeting, slanting, freezing rain In the cold-stone, wind-blown graveyard. You always wanted to be buried here In Malahide, not three miles further out. There's room beside you still For my mother. You bought a double plot So they would not Bury my mother three miles further out. Me and Ben carried the front Of the highly polished box With the shiny handles And the men with the black caps Supported the back. Da - I was afraid I'd let you fall, You were very very heavy. We were proud and we were sad To be carrying you. Kevin Browne had dug a hole, Tom, your brother said the prayers, And the black umbrellas Murmured the responses. I hoped we'd stand forever In the rain, beside the hole And never leave you in your box. But then we said the last Amen And down vou went. Home we went And still I see your hands Cold and white. Very white and very very cold. Once they dug the soil, But never no more. Tandy your dog Is lying at home Watching the door, He knows at 9 o'clock Like every night before,

You'll take him Up the road,

But never - never no more.

In WELCOME TO MY HEAD please remove your boots, 1991 – Pat Ingoldsby – My poems come out to play.

This both surprised and moved Pat, who shook the boy's hand a second time while urging me to move on – he suspected worship. As we walked away, the young man began to recite one of Pat's poems, his hands dug deep into the pockets of his jeans. Pat did not stop but he slowed down his pace and I could see tears forming in his eyes. Here was a person, of another generation, who loved one of his poems so much that they knew it off by heart. When the boy had finished, I turned around. He stood motionless for a while, perhaps expecting a reaction. Then, nodding to the back of Pat's head, he lifted his arm in a sort of salute and headed off in the opposite direction. Pat sometimes wonders whether his time on this planet has been spent in vain, as perhaps we all do. But it seems to me that if something like this happens during your lifetime, even only once, then you must have done something right. Vivienne. For Pat, August 25<sup>th</sup> 2022