

*Mass to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the  
Blessing of the Grotto at Kilbarron Church*



*Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2011*

Welcome by Mary Tierney, Chairperson of the Parish Pastoral Council.

Opening Hymn: 'The Bells of the Angelus'

First Reading read by John McCarthy, Cloughjordan, who designed the Grotto.

Psalm to be sung.

Second Reading read by Mary Kenny who was our teacher, organist and choir leader in Kilbarron at the time of the blessing of the Grotto in 1961.

Alleluia to be sung

Prayers of the Faithful read by Christy Cormican, John Tiernan and Peter Prout who were altar boys at the blessing ceremony in 1961 and by Paula Hannigan representing the youth of Kilbarron.

Offertory Procession

Annie Burke brings to the altar a photo of Canon Dan O'Donoghue and Fr John Cooney taken at the blessing of the Grotto in recognition of that great day.

Frank Fleming brings a stone to the altar in recognition of the people who drew and carried the stone that was used in the building of the Grotto.

Pat Prout brings to the altar a trowel in recognition of the craftsmen who worked on the stone and built this beautiful Grotto.

The gifts of bread and wine are brought to the altar by Bridie and Teresa O'Meara whose late husbands Marty and John built the Grotto.

Offertory Hymn: 'Gifts of bread and wine'

Communion Hymn: 'When creation was begun'

Recessional Hymn: 'Hail Holy Queen'



Mass will be followed by the planting of a tree in commemoration of this event.

The tree will be planted by  
Fr Michael Cooney, a nephew of  
Fr John Cooney who  
conducted the blessing of the Grotto in 1961.

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Thank you to everyone who was involved in  
any way in the organisation, preparation  
and celebration of today's Mass.

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You are all very welcome to  
join us for a cup of tea in the Hall after Mass  
and enjoy our display of old photographs.

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To conclude our wonderful day of  
celebration there will be music  
and old-time dancing in the village square.

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*When Larry Dunne asked me if I would paint the statue of Our Lady in the Grotto on the grounds of Kilbarron Church, I was astonished when he said it was there for fifty years.*

*My uncle, Patrick (Son) McCarthy, Ormond Cottage, had a desire for a statue of Our Lady to be erected on the grounds of St. Barron's Church. He consulted Fr. John Cooney, Curate, who agreed with him. Canon O'Donoghue, who was Parish Priest at the time, was very happy with the suggestion. Fr. Cooney met me at a hurling match in Nenagh and told me about all this. He asked if I could make a drawing of a Grotto – the result of which you see today.*

*I agreed readily with Larry when he asked me to paint the statue of Our Lady. While that work was going on, memories were awakened of my uncle Patrick, Fr. John Cooney, Canon O'Donoghue, Marty and John O'Meara and others who have gone to their eternal reward. It is a happy coincidence that the present Parish Priest, Fr. Michael, is a nephew of Fr. John Cooney.*

*Congratulations to all the people of Kilbarron on having such a lovely village and Church grounds and sincere good wishes to all with God's blessings.*



*John McCarthy*