



**Fr. Willie Walsh**, a priest of our diocese, who lived among us here in St. John's from November 2018 until December 2021, was called by the Lord to his eternal reward on 28th April. Remembering him fondly, we join in expressing our sympathy to his family and friends.

Fr Willie was a kind and generous human being and a wonderful pastor. From Kilmeeady in Co. Limerick, he served as Army Chaplain, Director of the Social Service Centre and Parish Priest of Our Lady of the Rosary and Rockhill.

We are the better for having known him and we commend his gentle soul to the Lord's safekeeping.

## Desert Day to celebrate the Feast of Pentecost

*"Realising your gifts from the Holy Spirit"*

**Silent Retreat with Eucharist & Reconciliation**  
Saturday 18th May 2024; 10.30am to 5pm



Venue: Limerick Diocesan Centre,  
St. Munchin's, Corbally, V94 9250

Facilitated by Phyllis Moynihan RSM and Nessa Breen.

Please bring your own packed lunch. Tea/Coffee/Snacks provided. Donation: €20.

Booking is essential, contact Phyllis at 087 963 6893 or email: moynihanphyllis525@gmail.com

**Information and Support for Birth Mothers** - whose babies were placed for adoption may be found at [www.birthinfo.ie](http://www.birthinfo.ie) or by calling the relevant section of TUSLA at +353 818 445 500.

**Recently Baptised:** We welcome to the Christian Community  
**Páidí Healy**

*We wish him and family every blessing and happiness.*



**Recently Deceased:** We offer our sympathies to the families & loved ones of  
**William O'Brien RIP, Maeve Barrett RIP and Pauline Costello RIP**



*Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, Amen*

### Priests of the Parish

Canon Gerard Garrett

Fr Frank O'Connor

Fr Leo McDonnell

Canon John Daly

Fr Peter Claver Emeka Eze

### Parish Office

061 414624

### Mass Times

Mon—Fri 10am, 5.45pm

Sat 10am & 6pm Vigil

Sun 8am, 10.30am, 12 noon

### St Anthony's Novena Tues

10am & 5.45pm.

### Holy Days

Vigil Weekdays 5.45pm

Weekdays 10am, 5.45pm

### Confessions

Saturday 10.30am

### Baptisms

Saturday 4.30pm

To book a baptism

Contact Parish Office

061 414624

### Weddings

Diary for 2025 /26 is open

Contact Parish office for

details.

### Eucharistic Adoration

**Takes place each Friday**

**4.30pm to 5.30pm.**

### Split the Pot

Congratulations

**Stephen Roche**

Winner of last weekend's

draw 28th Apr.

### Bring Flowers of The Fairest May In A Limerick Childhood

"Bring flowers of the rarest, bring blossoms the fairest" the clipped and heavily accented voice of Canon Sidney McEwan booms out accompanied by a slightly tinny church organ. It is a song that evokes many memories and triggers off a torrent of emotions and an expectation that the long and frosty winter is over and that the long heady days of summer are coming. Indeed, no sooner has the mayfly risen than you will hear the soothsayers mention that there is only a month to the longest day of the year and that after that that the days will be getting shorter.

My most abiding memory of Flowers of the Rarest is of working with the late and great "John The Man" for whom it was the opening song each morning on the incomparable Raidio Luimni. It was accompanied by a heady good morning to all the workers that he knew were listening, but for me as a late teenager mesmerized by the power of radio it also was an introduction to the uniqueness of the Limerick Personality which pats you on the back for being "one of our own" and reminds you quickly not to be "above your station". Indeed, it was John Frawley's ordinariness that made him such a loved and revered figure in the history of Limerick Radio. The fact that it was a hymn to Mary mattered little in the greater scheme of things, it was evocative and highly memorable and if there was a prayer in there somewhere what was the harm in that? So it was that sometime after seven each morning the radio droned into life with the "Bould Canon Sidney" starting us off on another adventurous day. Soon the "roll" would be called, the DGB's (Dressing Gown Brigade) got up, the "ladies in waiting" (expectant mothers) greeted and the death notices from the Examiner read and prayed for (thank God there's no one we know dead today). Shortly after eight Crystal Gayle would be sent to school (here I go once again with my schoolbag in my hand), Percy would be in his bank, The Happy Butcher would be offering packet and tripe, The Singing Bank Manager would be off to Liscannor (in the sweet County Clare) and the Galloping Maggot (car) would be after being "out the Dock Road" (shorthand for anywhere in Co. Limk). Sammy Sunshine and his other meteorological siblings (Ronnie Rain, Gussie Gale and Billy Breeze) would be predicted from the "look of the Clare Hills" and all the "meeces" would be packed off to school. Tommy Hynes would have given his tip for the Gee Gees (Horses) and by the time John gave way to "Music While You Work" and went to the "Chemist Shop" (pub) you felt good about yourself and the day. But "Flowers of the Rarest" also evokes memories of a now almost forgotten tradition "The May Procession". As a student at Presentation Infant Boys School, I got to partake in these till I was seven and graduated to the Christian Brothers next door. I can vividly remember parading through the grounds of the Convent and School behind a Statue of Mary. The procession gave pride of place to the Communion and Confirmation children in the school and all the way round hymns to Mary were sung with "Flowers of the Rarest" being to the forefront. The "May" smell of Lilac still evokes memories of faces and innocence in a world that now seems so far away though not that long ago. Altars were set up in the classes afterwards in the knowledge that the long summer holidays were not that far away once the Lilac faded. Nowadays "The Bould Sidney" still rings out as a harbinger of the coming season and each year when I hear it for the first time my heart still misses a beat. It always makes me think and helps me remember, it grounds me in the simple things and reminds me to say a prayer for those people that either by accident or design were formative in my memories.....and yes, I say a prayer for Canon Sidney too, and the man who played the little tinny Church Organ.

**George Lee**