

Earth Day – 50th Anniversary

By Fr. Pat Malone

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“How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of him who bring good news”, so the psalmist tells us. Walking for the daily stroll these days really opens one’s eyes to the beauty that is unfolding around us. A stroll around the village and one sees the beauty of the trees, the opening of the buds in the flowers, the beginning of the flowering of the shrubs, the bluebells and the first sightings of the swallows. The Quay is beautiful and peaceful and full of memories of yester year. Looking over the bridge at Thomond Villas towards Roche, the natural beauty of that scene with water, natural rushes, cattle and the occasional bird affords us a glimpse of the natural wonders and beauty we have been entrusted with.

No Tidy Towns Competition this year but the fruits of the efforts of other year’s entries are all around us to see. The glory of the Barracks at the bridge crossing, the beautiful streetscapes and the pride people have in their own places are shining beacons as one journeys through our village.



With no competition this year, we are given a golden opportunity to continue to keep our village and

community in a manner that justifies the great beauty God has given us. An opportunity to rejoice, protect and develop our environment into a healthy, enjoyable place to live. This year offers us the

opportunity to bond together to create a spirit of pride in our place that will have it looking even better next year. Then, with our combined efforts, not only will our eyes be focused on the beauty around us, but when the results of the competition 2021 are announced so too the eyes of the nation.



A walk out Barntick, up the Old Road of Ballyveskil opens up the delights of the countryside. The beautiful country roads sheltered with the arching of trees. The smells of mowed grass, sight of cattle, or of sheep lambing, brings one into the magic of the countryside. A further stroll past the church in Ballyea, up towards Killerk and the Cascades unleashes an experience of emotional ease, listening to the glistening waterfall, is refreshing, renewing and even effervescent.



Finish the journey in the other direction with a walk into Killone Abbey and that journey alone just makes time stand still. Everything is there; scenic beauty, country smells, cattle, the unfolding of the expanse of the lake, and the spirituality of the old monastic abbey. Here one is offered the space to come in touch with oneself and the majesty and opportunities that life brings our way. Moving a little further to the well of St John the Baptist in the cocooned beauty it is enveloped in by the natural environment it sits on, one remembers the many thousands of people who made their ways to this special place, finding in it an oasis of prayer, and inner stillness, while remembering their faith and all who journeyed to the well for reassurance.



Thank You God! We are so lucky to live where we do. Open our eyes to the beauty around us. May we cherish what we have. The Psalmist was right "How beautiful on the mountains are the feet that

bring good news". How wonderful it is to be here in this parish where our feet enable us to walk through our environment, with eyes open to its glories. May our hearts appreciate it, and may we enjoy it all our days.



Photos by Jack O'Shea, John Power, Eric Shaw, Joan McCarthy