



RATH & THE ISLANDS

Parish Assembly

**PARISH JOURNAL
2018 TO 2019**



Rath & The Islands Parish Assembly 2018 -2019 Term 3 Report

September 2018	Training of New Altar Servers
October 2018	Enrolment of Holy Communion Class
November 2018	November Candlelight Novena
December 2018	Commissioning of Altar Servers Crib in the Village Penitential Service Christmas Celebrations
March 2019	St Patricks Day Mass & Tea Party Parish Accounts Launch of New Direct Debit System
April 2019	Easter Ceremonies Easter Sunday Tea Party & Easter Bunny Mass in Skour First confessions for Holy Communion class
May 2019	Mass to celebrate the centenary of Baltimore RNLI Election of New Parish Assembly Holy Communion Day Training evening for new Parish Assembly
June 2019	Ordination of Bishop Fintan Gavin
July 2019	Visit of Bishop Gavin to St. Patrick's, Skibbereen



November Novena by candlelight in Rath Church



On Sunday 9th December 2018 the new and existing Altar Servers were commissioned by Fr Chris. They were presented with their pins and certificates by Fr Chris and Maura Collins

CHRISTMAS 2018



Fr Chris with Altar Servers Daisy, Joe, Sean, Colm, Lilly, Carla, Ellen, Maria, Rory, Aaron, Cathal & Shane get ready for the start of Christmas Eve Mass



Ellen puts the Baby Jesus into the crib at Christmas Eve Mass



Children from the congregation join with the Altar Servers for the singing of Away in a Manger on Christmas Eve night



Fr Chris with Altar Servers Meg, Ava, Mary, Alice, Aodh & Tadhg for Christmas Day Mass



All the Children singing Away in a Manger with the Choir



Christmas Day Choir



Christmas Day Musicians



Christmas Altar



Annie, Ellen, Meábh & Eoghan visiting the Crib



Christmas Flowers by the Flower Arranging team



Village Crib in the grounds of St Matthews Church, Baltimore



Rath Parish Church Backroom Teams of Cleaning, Flower Arranging, Opening & Closing Rota and Sacristans enjoying their night out Friday 1st Feb 2019 Standing from left - Nuala Ni Bhriain, Mary O'Driscoll, Sheila Collins, Una Murphy, Miriam Nolan, Roseanne Sheehy, Anne Carey, Mary O'Donovan, Carrie Holland, Helen Bohane, Liz O'Brien, Maureen Sheehy. Seated from left – Betty Sheehy, Siobhan O'Brien, Breda Sheehy, Carmel Leonard, Fr Michael Kelleher and Mary Kelly

St Patricks Day 2019



Master Baker Delphine Hallihane delivers the magnificent St Patricks Day Cake to the Altar before the start of St Patricks Day Mass with John, Shane & Maggie Hallihane and Siobhan O'Brien.



Fr Chris with Altar Servers Cathal, Eoin and Lilly



Irish Dancers who danced at the beginning and end of the St Patricks Day Mass – Meg, Ellen, Niamh, Emma, Mary, Ava, Neasa, Meave, Annie, Carla, Ellen, Daisy & Alice



St Patricks Day Altar with the Shamrock and
St Patricks Day Cake



David & John carefully move the cake out to the St
Patricks Day Tea Party

Fr Chris performs
the ceremonial
cutting of the St
Patricks Day cake



Delphine is carefully watched while she cuts the cake



Some of the beautiful Cake being distributed



John Hallihane, Fr Chris, Jim & Eoghan Collins enjoying the tea party in the lovely sunshine

EASTER CELEBRATIONS 2019



Fr Michael with Altar Servers Colm, Alice, Carla, Ava, Mary, Cathal, Joe, Sean & Shane getting ready for Holy Thursday Mass



The Apostles – Shane, Alannah, Neasa, Lucy, Patrick, Robbie, Izzy & Kitty get their feet washed by Fr Michael during the Holy Thursday ceremony





Good Friday Garden



The Altar Servers Eoin, Sean, Lilly, Mary, Aoife, Alice & Rory along with parents Mary McCarthy, Deirdre Bushe and Vivienne Kearney with Fr Michael help fill the Easter Holy Water Bottles for blessing on Holy Saturday Night.



Siobhan O'Brien (top) and Mary O'Driscoll
preparing the Easter Flowers



Fr Michael with Altar Servers Joe, Alex, Sean, Rory, Aoife, Alice, Mary, Eoin & Lilly at the Easter Fire at the start of the ceremonies on Holy Saturday night



The Lighting of the new Pascal Candle from the Easter Fire and bringing the new light into Rath Church on Holy Saturday night



Fr Michael distributes
the Easter Egg treats to
the Altar Servers on Holy
Saturday night



Fr Michael giving his
Easter Blessing to the
Congregation



Fr Michael with Altar Servers Meg, Ava, Maria, Daisy, Muireann, Franek, Aodh & Cathal and joined by Rosaleen and Vincent O'Driscoll who provided the special early morning ferry for Fr Michael on Easter Sunday to allow him to celebrate Easter Sunday Mass on Sherkin and returned him just in time to celebrate Easter Sunday Mass in Rath

The Easter Bunny (John Kearney Junior) greets Fr Michael at the end of Mass with some Easter chocolate





Easter Sunday Choir



Fr Michael distributes the Easter Egg treats to the Altar Servers
after Easter Sunday Mass



Easter Garden at Rath Church



The large crowd enjoying the tea party on Easter Sunday morning



Fr Michael with Kieran, Neasa and Muireann Daly



Pat & Anne Carey with Charlie Crowley



Eileen Whooley and Danielle Sheehy



Pat Leonard, Kieran Daly, Jim, Maura, Annie, Ellen & Eoghan Collins



Ann & John Bell with Nuala Ni Bhriain



Fr Michael and Siobhan O'Brien relax after the busy Easter ceremonies

SKOUR MASS MAY EVE 2019



Siobhan preparing Fr Michael
against the May Eve midgets



Fr Michael celebrating Mass
at Skour Well



A section of the attendance at the Mass



The Corporate Box at Skour Mass



The Choir who sang during Mass



Jim Collins, John O'Sullivan, Tadhg & Timmy
McCarthy and Teddy Brown



Breda Cahalane, Cathy Lynch and Mary O'Driscoll



Annie Bohane and Ann McCarthy



Fr Michael and Neilie Bohane



Fr Michael with Paddy & Johnny Holland



On the way home Fr Michael and Pat Leonard

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION DAY SATURDAY 18TH MAY 2019



Alannah, Ciara, Clodagh, Grainne, Izzy, Kitty, Lucy, Miriam
and Neasa on their First Holy Communion Day



Conall, Frankie, Patrick, Robbie & Shane on
their First Holy Communion Day



The First Holy Communion Class of 2019 Alannah, Ciara, Clodagh, Conall, Frankie, Grainne, Izzy, Kitty, Lucy, Miriam, Neasa, Patrick, Robbie & Shane with Fr Michael Kelleher and teachers Dee Griffiths and Evelyn Harrington



Fr Michael with servers Joe, Cathal, Ava, Mimi and Eoin



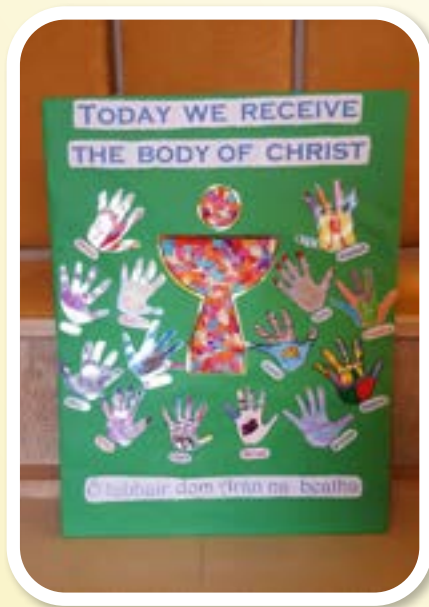
Karen McCarthy on behalf of the parents of the Holy Communion class presents a token of appreciation to Siobhan O'Brien Parish Catchiest



The choir members and musicians who sang and played so beautifully for the First Holy Communion Mass



The Holy Communion class enjoying their Holy Communion Cake in School on Monday after their Holy Communion



Artwork from the Holy Communion Class of 2019

CORK & ROSS PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES JUNE 2019



Bishop John Buckley on his last Diocesan pilgrimage as Bishop of Cork & Ross with members of Skibbereen Civil Defence Anne O'Sullivan, Liam F O'Regan, David Sheehy, Pat Fitzgerald and Carla Nugent



Putting the world to rights in Lourdes Fr Kevin O'Regan, Nuala Ni Bhriain, Canon Jim O'Donovan, Ingo Draijer, Maeve Devlin and Dr Mary O'Neill.



Rath Church Outdoor Maintenance Team after completing some essential work on Rath Church - Martin Bohane, Pat Collins, Fr Michael Kelleher, Nealie Hourihane, Michael Joe Leonard, Seamus O'Driscoll, Martin Davis and Jerry O'Driscoll

BISHOP FINTAN GAVIN'S ORDINATION SUNDAY 30TH JUNE 2019



Representing Skibbereen and Rath & The Islands Parish at the Ordination of Bishop Fintan Gavin at the Cathedral of St Mary & St Anne, Cork: Nuala Ni Bhriain, Cecilia Uí Drisceoil, Bebeanne Carey, Anne Carey, Siobhan O'Brien, David Sheehy and Teresa Hickey



Representing Rath & The Islands Parish Nuala Ni Bhriain, Siobhan O'Brien, Anne Carey, Cecilia Uí Drisceoil and David Sheehy



Preparations for the live link up to the Cathedral in Cork



Preparations for the live link up to the Cathedral in Cork



Fr Chris O'Donovan, Bernie Kelly Sacristan, Fr Michael Kelleher before the start of the Ordination ceremony. The vestments worn by all the priests at the Ordination in the Cathedral in Cork and also by Fr Michael and Fr Chris in the Cathedral in Skibbereen were the same vestments worn by the priests at the Papal Mass in the Phoenix Park in 2018.









Bishop Fintan proudly holding the Cork Flag

BISHOP FINTAN GAVIN'S VISIT TO ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, SKIBBEREEN 7TH JULY 2019



Fr Michael and Bernie
Kelly getting ready for
Bishops Fintan's visit





Bishop Fintan getting ready before Mass



Bishop Fintan with Fr Michael Kelleher, Bernie Kelly Sacristan and Altar Servers just before Bishop Fintan celebrates his first Mass in Skibbereen as Bishop of Cork and Ross



Bishop Fintan Gavin entering St Patrick's Cathedral for the first time as Bishop of Cork & Ross



Fr Michael Kelleher reading the Papal Mandate from Pope Francis appointing Fr Fintan Gavin as Bishop of Cork and Ross



Bishop Fintan giving his homily



Geraldine McCarthy presents Bishop Fintan with a copy of all issues of the Rath & The Islands Parish Journal



Bishop Fintan celebrates Mass with Fr Chris O'Donovan, Fr Michael Kelleher, Monsignor Aidan O'Driscoll and Fr Teddy Collins



Bishop Fintan giving his blessing after Mass.



Bishop Fintan with the Altar Servers for his second Mass



The Children's Choir who sang for Bishop Fintan's first Mass in Skibbereen



St. Patrick's Cathedral Choir who sang for Bishop Fintan's second Mass in Skibbereen



Bishop Fintan meets Marie, Barry & Noah Buckley



Bishop Fintan with Kevin, Annette, Frances and Rachel Cadogan



Former Sacristan Pat O'Donovan and his wife Helen meet Bishop Fintan and Fr Michael



Parish Secretary Margaret Murphy and her family Stephen, Lizzie and Paddy meet Bishop Fintan and Fr Michael



The Dublin flag was flying at the Presbytery for Bishop Fintan's visit to Skibbereen with Mary O'Shea, Con McCarthy, Fr Michael, Paddy and Pat Fitzgerald



Bishop Fintan and Fr Michael meeting the Murphy family from Sherkin, Matt, Eimear, Susan and Robbie. Susan is the Sacristan at St Mona's Church on Sherkin Island.



Bishop Fintan meets Mary Lynch and Nellie O'Mahony



Mary & David Sheehy with Bishop Fintan



Bishop Fintan with John McDonnell



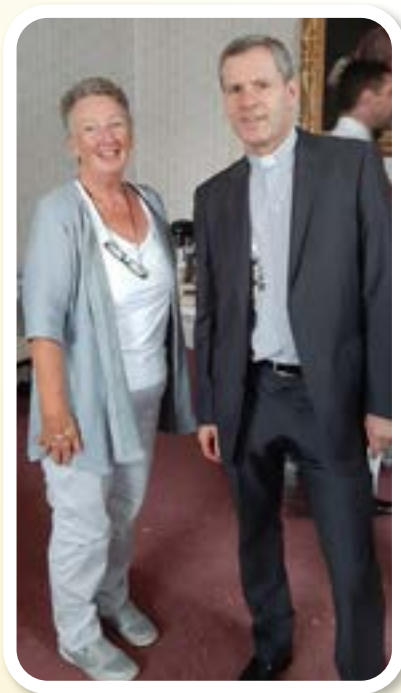
Bishop Fintan cuts his special welcome cake



Bishop Fintan meets Gillian, Maura & Michael O'Sullivan



Bishop Fintan with Fr Peter Queally. Fr Peter travels to Cape Clear each weekend to celebrate Mass



Siobhan O'Brien Parish Catchiest for Rath & The Islands with Bishop Fintan

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF BALTIMORE RNLI LIFEBOAT STATION



Declan Tiernan
Station Chairman
launches the Lifeboat
Flag at the Sacred
Heart Church Rath
for the Special Mass
to celebrate the
100th Anniversary of
Baltimore Lifeboat
on Sunday, 5th of
May, 2019



Fr Michael Kelleher & Rev John Ardis



Members of Baltimore Lifeboat crew and fundraising committee with Fr Michael Kelleher & Rev John Ardis following the celebration Mass



Cyril Thornton, Aidan Bushe, Declan Tiernan and Tom Bushe



Kieran Cotter, Cathal Cottrell, Ryan O'Mahony, Odharnait Collins and Pat Collins



Members of Baltimore Lifeboat crew gather to remember the 40th Anniversary of the Fastnet Race Tragedy on 14th August, 2019



Fr Michael leads the prayers at the ceremony



On Saturday 7th September there was a special demonstration by Baltimore ALB Alan Massey and Irish Coastguard Helicopter 117



Naming Ceremony & Service of Dedication of the B class lifeboat B-910 Rita Daphne Smyth on Sunday 8th September 2019. This date coincided with the arrival of Baltimore's first lifeboat "The Shamrock" 100 years before on 8th September 1919.



Some of the large attendance at the ceremony



Hugh Tully, RNLI Irish Council Member presents the 100th anniversary velum to Kieran Cotter, Coxswain, Baltimore Lifeboat



Fr Michael Kelleher and Nicolas McGillycuddy lead the Service of Dedication



Rath Parish Choir are joined by children from Rath National School for the ceremony



The lovely singing by the choir continued despite the rain



Richard Bushe former Deputy Launching Authority and former Honorary Secretary of Baltimore Lifeboat Station names the new Lifeboat "Rita Daphne Smith" with his family Rita, Julie and Aidan



Three Baltimore lifeboats together ILB Rita Daphne Smyth, Former Lifeboat The Robert and ALB Alan Massey

Kieran Cotter Coxswain
and Tom Bushe
Lifeboat Operations
Manager cut the
special cakes to
celebrate the event.
The beautiful cakes
were created by
Delphine Hallihane



Ecumenical Harvest Thanksgiving in St Matthews Baltimore to celebrate 200 years of St Matthews dedication and 100 years of the Lifeboat in Baltimore – Kieran Cotter, Coxswain, Fr Michael Kelleher, Rev John Ardis, Simon Duggan, Crew and Declan Tiernan, Station Chairman.

RATH & THE ISLANDS NEW PARISH ASSEMBLY 2019 – 2022



Members of the new Parish Assembly for Rath & The Islands are commissioned by Fr Michael Kelleher during Mass on 20th October 2019



David Sheehy hands over the Parish Assembly Gavel to the new Parish Assembly Chairperson Maeve Devlin.



Members of the New Parish Assembly at their formation meeting in September – Back from left - Fr Michael Kelleher, Carol Sheehy, Aidan Hurley, Cyril Thornton, Frank Whelton, Catherine O'Driscoll, Maire Corr, Delphine Hallihane and Fr Charlie Kiely. Front from left – Majella O'Driscoll, Cornie Bohane, Annette Cadogan, Secretary, Maeve Devlin, Chairperson and Siobhan O'Neill, Deputy Chairperson. Missing from photo Kevin Fitzgerald.

COMMISSIONING OF PARISH CATECHISTS 8TH NOVEMBER 2019

A Mass for the Commissioning of Parish Catechists was held on Friday 8th November at the Cathedral of St Mary and St Anne in Cork. It was officiated by Bishop Fintan Gavin and Bishop William Crean (Cloyne). A total of 40 Parish Catechists were commissioned - 30 from the Diocese of Cork & Ross and 10 from the Diocese of Cloyne. Of those 20 were commissioned following completion of 2 years study and 20 were recommissioned for a further 4 years of service having been first commissioned in 2016.



Siobhan O'Brien
Parish Catechist for
Rath & the Islands
with Bishop Fintan
Gavin following her
commissioning for
a further 4 years of
service in our Parish.

Bishop Fintan Gavin
with Teresa Hickey
Parish Catechist
for Skibbereen and
Siobhan O'Brien
Parish Catechist for
Rath & the Islands





Fr Michael Kelleher with Siobhan O'Brien Rath, Teresa Hickey Skibbereen and Maura O'Flynn Parish Catechist for Bantry.



Parish Catechists commissioned for service in the Diocese of Cork & Ross with Bishop Fintan Gavin, Fr Charlie Kiely and Sr Karen Kent Pastoral Development Office

HOLY COMMUNION CLASS 2020 ENROLMENT MASS



The Parents and children of the Holy Communion Class of 2020 at their Enrolment Mass on Sunday 10th November with Fr. Chris O'Donovan

EUROPEAN SILVER MEDAL WINNER



Congratulations to Aisling Kelly, Reengaroga who won a Silver Medal representing Cork C.I.T at the annual European Association of Hotel & Tourism Schools Competition in Split in Croatia on Friday 15th November. She won her silver medal in the Pastry Section. Aisling is a former altar server and Minister of the Word at Rath Church.



U14 COUNTY FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS 2019



The Ilen Rovers U14 girls won the County Final on Sunday 1st September 2019 after defeating Eirns Own in Kilmichael. We are especially proud of our past and present Altar Servers Daisy, Meg, Alice, Carla, Muireann, Sarah and Keelin



Ilen Rovers U14 Team were crowned County Football Champions on Sunday 10th November in Pairc Ui Chaoimh. We are especially proud of our current and former Altar Servers - Paddy, Fachtna, Joe, Cathal, Tadhg and Shane

ILEN SYNC 2019



Congratulations to the parents who represented Rath National School in the Ilen Rovers Lip sync competition held in the West Cork Hotel on Friday 21st November. The group won the first prize of €1,000 for Rath National School. Well done everyone.

101ST BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



Neilie Bohane celebrated his 101st Birthday at Mass in Rath Church on Sunday 1st December with his wife Annie and Fr Michael



Neilie with his wife Annie, daughter Breda, son Cornie and great granddaughter Ellie

CONFIRMATION CLASS 2020 ENROLMENT MASS



The Confirmation Class of 2020 at their Enrolment Mass in Rath Church on Sunday 1st December. The pupils from Rath National School including pupils from Sherkin and Cape Clear Islands received their certificates from Fr Michael Kelleher.

SHERKIN 2019



Christmas Carol Service in St Mona's Church



Altar Servers Keelin and Eimear are commissioned by Fr Chris at Mass in Sherkin – pictured also with their Mum Jackie





Dylan lights the Advent wreath in St Mona's Church



Maureen O'Neill
prepares the
Christmas Flowers



The new Parish Journal arrives in Sherkin with Fr Chris, Dylan, Mark O'Neill, Jackie Murphy, Maureen O'Neill, Eimear, Keelin, Fr Des O'Driscoll and Lizzie O'Connor.



Christmas Day in St Mona's Church, Sherkin



Christmas Crib



Olive and William visiting the crib



Fr Chris distributes the Christmas Chocolate to the Altar Servers Eimear, Keelin and Dylan



Lighting Candles –
Geraldine O'Connor
with William,
Christopher and Anna

Easter Altar in St.
Mona's Church



More chocolate for Easter – Fr Michael, Caoimhe, Eimear,
Keelin and Fr Des

O'Driscoll Clan
Gathering Mass in
St Mona's Church –
Fr Jerry Singleton,
Outgoing Chieftain
Tim Driscoll and Fr
Des O'Driscoll



Monsktown Chamber Choir who sang at Mass at St
Mona's Church with Fr. Michael



Tea after Mass with Monkstown Chamber Choir



Monkstown Chamber Choir Director Roger Ellis with Fr Michael and Fr Des



Take 1 – there's always one not looking



Take 2 – On the occasion of the Senior Servers Caoimhe and Keelin retiring – Fr Michael with Caoimhe, Eimear & Keelin



Fr Joe Coughlan, Fr Des O'Driscoll and Keelin at the annual Abbey Mass



Some of the attendance at the annual Abbey Mass



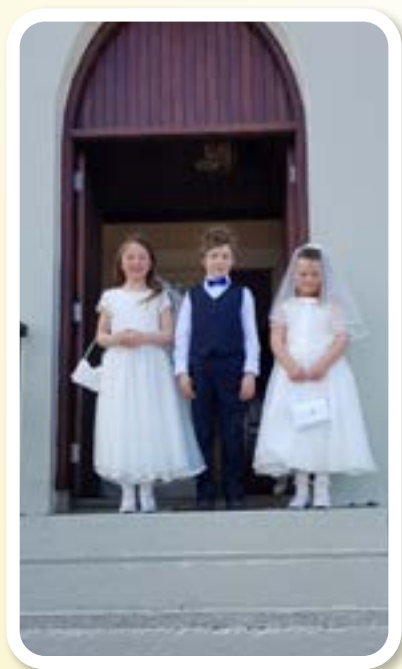
Fr Michael Kelleher and Fr Des O'Driscoll with Eimear and Niall on his first occasion as an Altar Server



November prayers in the Abbey graveyard on Sherkin

OILEÁN CHLÉIRE 2019

CÉAD CHOMAOIN 2019



Gabrielle, Féidhlim agus
Georgia



Ath Seosamh Ó Cochláinn
agus Deacon Ronán Sheehy

This year's two fundraisers resulted in a very generous collection of €3,180 as well as being two very enjoyable sociable occasions. Míle bhoíochas do gach duine a thug tacaíocht. A very big Thank you to all who gave support and volunteered in the organising of the two events. Special thanks to those who gave personal donations. Beidh an meitheal ag gníomhú arís i 2020 le cúnamh Dé. We hope to start the interior redecoration of our Church in the Spring. Cuirimid dea-ghuí agaus beannacht chuig an Ath Peadar Ó Caollaí and we wish him a speedy return to good health.

LÁ BREÁ SAMHRAIDH I GCLEÍRE – SUMMER PARTY IN FR QUEALLYS GARDEN





CEOLCHOIRM SA SEÍPÉAL – CHURCH CONCERT



Brenus ó Cleire



Maíre Uí Drisceoil



Members of Hook and Crookes group from Waterford



Muintir Uí Drisceoil

AIFREANN NA REILIGE I GCLEÍRE AG COMÓRADH
TRAGOÍD AG AN GCARRAIG AONAIR – REMEMBERING
THE FASTNET TRAGEDY IN THE SHADOW OF THE
FASTNET ROCK AS WE CELEBRATE OUR CEMETERY MASS.



The Cottrell Family at the annual Cemetery Mass



Some of the large attendance at the annual Mass



Fr Peter Moloney & Fr Peter Queally - Just before the start of Mass and in the shadow of the Fastnet, islanders young and old place family photos of ferries, fishing boats, rescue and pleasure craft – symbolising the importance of our lifeboat service in the lives of all islanders past and present.



Annual Cemetery Mass in Cape Clear



Cecila Uí Drisceoil, Ed Harpur, Mairin & Éamon Lankford,
Gerald Butler



Members of Courtmacsherry Lifeboat attend the Mass



Members of Courtmacsherry Lifeboat with Fr Peter Queally, Kieran
Cotter Coxswain Baltimore Lifeboat and Gerald Butler



A portrait of former lighthouse keeper Gerald Butler presented by Welsh artist Dan Llywelyn was unveiled in Cape Clear Museum to mark the 40th Anniversary of the Fastnet Race disaster. Gerald was on duty on the Fastnet Rock Lighthouse on the night of the Fastnet Race on 14th August 1979.

Also included in the photo – Garda Martin Ashe, Ronnie Carthy Crew Baltimore Lifeboat, Kieran Cotter Coxswain Baltimore Lifeboat, Members of Courtmacsherry Lifeboat who were called out on the night of the disaster, Séamus Ó Drisceoil, Michael Kingston and Eamon Lankford.

