

**THE TOLEDO HIBERNIAN
NEWSLETTER
C/O MAURY COLLINS
2847 NASH ROAD
TOLEDO, OHIO 43613**



BORDERLINE GENIUS, LLC

IN GOD WE TRUST



**Lucas County
Hibernians**



- Dec. 3 ~ Hibernian Christmas Party**
- Dec. 3 ~ Traditional Irish Session at The Blarney**
- Dec. 8 ~ Immaculate Conception**
- Dec.10 ~ TIAC presents The Finns**
- Dec. 21 ~ Winter Solstice**
- Dec. 25 ~ Merry Christmas**
- Dec. 31 ~ New Years Eve**



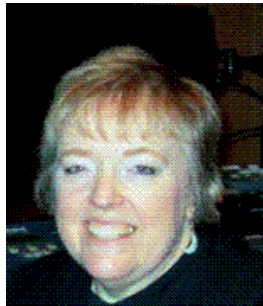
Mother McAuley Division

HIBERNIANS OF TOLEDO NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER, 2022



John P. Kelly Division



A MESSAGE FROM LAOH PRESIDENT, ANN DOLLMAN

Greetings and Holiday Salutations!

Our deepest sympathy to the family of Madonna

Pauken. She was a hard worker and could always be counted on to promote the Catholic faith and her Irish heritage. She was very generous with her time and talent in making Irish Coffee for the St. Patrick's Day festival!

December 3rd is our Christmas party and Installation of the incoming LAOH officers for 2023-2025. We will hold a raffle to benefit the Historic St. Patrick's food pantry. Mass will start at 6:30pm followed by dinner. Please bring a dessert or a dish to pass. If you are looking for something to donate to the raffle, I thought maybe we could have a dozen cookies in the raffle from anyone who would like to donate!

Monsignor Vasco and Kris Kyser from Historic St. Patrick's church have asked the Hibernians to participate in a St. Brigid's Day Mass January 29 and a 160th Anniversary Celebration Mass August 6th. I have offered the Hibernian's ceremony of what gifts to bring up for a St. Brigid's day Mass. I will share more as information comes in.

Have a Blessed Christmas and prayers for a healthy New Year!

Continued on page 5



A MESSAGE FROM AOH PRESIDENT, ROBERT McMAHON

Brothers all,




Thank you to those who braved the cold temperatures to pass out our Irish and American Flags along the parade route for the 35th annual Toledo Blade Holiday Parade. The weather was cold but otherwise the precipitation held off and we had a great time. The children along the route get plenty of candy from the Clown Corps and seem really delighted to receive a flag, especially the Irish flags that are probably not very common. Please remember to come to the Christmas Party Saturday Dec 3rd for Mass, Dinner and of course some Christmas cheer. The Mass and party will be at St. Pius again this year with Msgr Vasko celebrating at 6:30pm 'Nollaig Shona Duit'

The Feast of the immaculate Conception is a Holy Day of Obligation this year. I know that we are looking forward to the celebration. Consider a small advent sacrifice to visit one of the numerous beautiful Immaculate Conception Parishes for Mass this year, perhaps on our Lady's Feast Day. The 'Darby' Immaculate Conception is an historically Irish parish, very beautiful and will be having Masses at 9:00 am and 5:30 pm on Thursday Dec 8th.

Please have a safe and Merry Christmas

Continued on page 5

DECEMBER, 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 <i>Christmas Party</i> 
4	5	6	7	8 <i>Immaculate Conception</i>	9	10 <i>The Finns Zoom show Manhattans</i>
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 <i>Winter Solstice</i>	22	23	24 
25 	26	27	28	29	30	31 

Nollaig Shona Duit ~ Happy Christmas!!!!

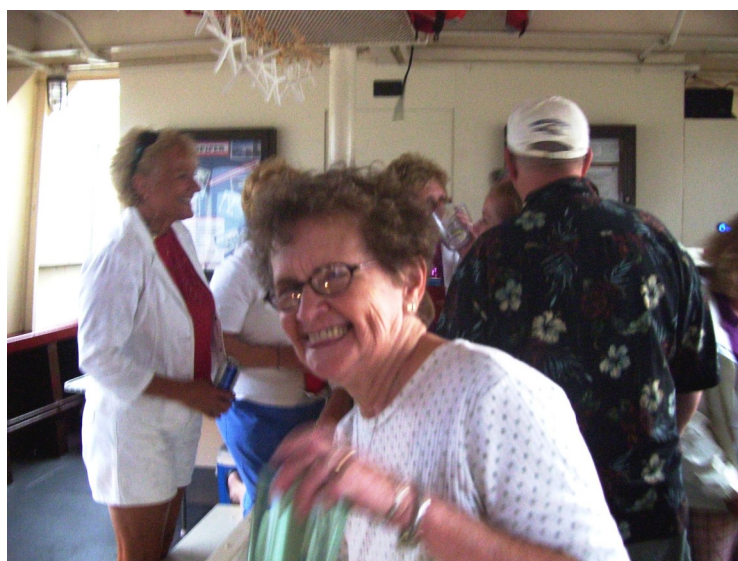
Athbhliain faoi Mhaise Duit ~

You have a prosperous New Year!!!!

MADONNA PAUKEN R.I.P

Our beloved Madonna passed on November 11, 2022. She was very active with the Lucas County Lady's Ancient Order of Hibernians, always willing to work. She was voted Hibernian of the Year on 2011 along with Clarise Burkard. She was also very active at Historic Church of St. Patrick, working in the food pantry and at many events. Madonna will be missed by all the Hibernians.

May her soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, rest in peace.



ROBERT MCMAHON

2nd Annual January Bowling outing.

Last year we had a great time bowling at Southwyck Lanes. I would like to have it Thursday January 19th at 6 or 6:30pm unless everyone thinks it better to have it on a Friday the 20th. I will be again looking forward to seeing all of you keglers for a few games and good company. The prices are unchanged from last year and will be \$5 and shoes are \$3.50. We will probably reserve at least 6 lanes. I would like to discuss the idea of having pizza or dinner provided. Please feel free to bring all your friends. I think this year we will plan to at least also have a 5050 raffle. Please let me know your thoughts and ideas ASAP so we can get the reservations and plans made.

It's often said that Christmas in Ireland lasts not just for Christmas Eve and Christmas, but days into January with special celebrations and observations extending the festive season. On St. Stephen's Day, the day after Christmas, the wren bird is cheered.

During Penal Times, there was once a plot against local soldiers in an Irish village. They were surrounded and were about to be ambushed when a group of wrens pecked on their drums and awakened the soldiers. The plot failed and the wren became known as "The Devil's bird."

On St. Stephens Day (December 26) in Ireland, a procession takes place where a pole with a holly bush is carried from house to house and families dress up in old clothes and with blackened faces. In olden times, an actual wren would be killed and placed on top of the pole.

This custom has, to a large degree, disappeared, but the tradition of visiting from house to house on St. Stephen's Day has survived and is very much part of Christmas.

In Charity

Robert McMahan

Irish saint of the month St. Fuinche of Abbeylara

December 11 is the feast day of an Irish woman saint, Fuinche of Abbeylara, County Longford. Ó Riain's Dictionary of Irish Saints identifies her as one of the four daughters of Feargna, all of whom were associated with Abbeylara and subject to Saint Brigid of Kildare. Fuinche is one of a dozen of this name to be found on the list of homonymous saints. Her geographical location brought to mind the founder of the Longford monastery of Clonbroney mentioned in The Life of Saint Samthann:

5. At that time the foundress of Clonbroney, the blessed virgin Fuinech, dreamt that sparks of fire in the likeness of Saint Samthann came and consumed the whole monastery, and then rose up in a great flame. She told her dream to the sisters and gave this interpretation: "Burning with the fire of the Holy Spirit, Samthann will make this place shimmer by virtue of her merits and in the splendour of miracles". For that reason, Fuinech sent for Samthann and gave her the community.

ANN DOLLMAN

From the National Board LAOH - there are a lot of Very nice items at the web site!

Sisters

I am excited to present you with an Update from the Marketing Committee and the catalog that I have approved. This Catalog is just a service to our membership. You still have the ability to request the use of our logo from the Supply Chair Mary Jo Rawlins for the Divisions to use in ordering their own merchandise.

Below is the Marketing Catalog that has been approved by the National Marketing Team with an attached letter to National It is our hope that it will be approved just in time to place orders for the holidays. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns

<https://www.bkgmedia.net/laoh-buyers-guide.htm>

Wednesday December 21. WINTER SOLSTICE

Since prehistory, the winter solstice has been a significant time of year in many cultures and has been marked by festivals and rituals. It marked the symbolic death and rebirth of the Sun; the gradual waning of daylight hours is reversed and begins to grow again.



The word Solstice means “sun standing still” or “grian-stad” in Irish.

It marks the sun's furthest position from us during winter, hence it is the shortest day of the year. The Winter Solstice is significant in our lives because it represents a “rebirth and renewal” of energies both for us and for nature. It is a time when we can consciously give birth to our dreams and intentions for the year ahead. A time to make clear what it is we want to manifest and create in this world.....and what we want to let go of also.

Ancient cultures celebrated the Solstices to bring themselves into alignment with these natural cycles of nature.

They would have considered it foolish to ignore these important times as it would mean being out of tune with the rhythms of the universe, the world and our bodies.

By celebrating the Winter Solstice consciously, we bring ourselves into alignment with the great mystery of the universe and in doing so we invite health, well-being and abundance into our lives.



At Newgrange in Ireland a wonderful event takes place for a few days around the winter solstice each year, the passage and chamber of the 5000 year old monument are illuminated by the winter solstice sunrise. A shaft of sunlight shines through the roof box over the entrance and penetrates the passage to light up the chamber. The dramatic event lasts for 17 minutes at dawn from the 19th to the 23rd of December. All access to the chamber is decided by lottery. However, everyone else is welcome to come and stand on the outside of the monument.

CHRISTMAS IN IRELAND

Traditionally the Christmas season begins on 8 December in Ireland and lasts until 6 January. Christmas is a wonderful time to be in Ireland. In Ireland there is still a deeper sense of the meaning of the season here. As you walk through the streets of cities like Cork you may hear choirs large and small singing on the sidewalks, street musicians with flutes, harps, violins or guitars playing the strains of familiar carols or favorite Christmas recordings wafting from the shops. While few private homes decorate outside beyond the festive wreath on the door, the towns, cities and shops go all out. The Christmas season doesn't really get into full swing in Ireland until December when streets are lined with lit decorations and live Christmas trees are often mounted like flag staffs from building fronts. Larger department stores and shops fill their windows with animated scenes and figures.

The Twelve Days of Christmas

This old and beloved carol is Ireland's very own. During the centuries when it was a crime to be Catholic and to practice one's faith, in public or private, in Ireland and England "The Twelve Days of Christmas" was written as a "catechism song" to help young Catholics learn the beliefs of their faith. It was a memory aid when being caught with anything in writing indicating adherence to the Catholic faith could not only get you imprisoned, it could get you hung.

The songs gifts are hidden meanings to the teachings of the faith. The "true love" mentioned in the song doesn't refer to an earthly suitor, it refers to God himself. The "me" who receives the presents refers to every baptized person.

- A Partridge in a pear tree - Jesus Christ, the son of God.
- Two turtle doves - The Old and New Testaments
- Three French hens - Faith, Hope and Charity, the theological virtues.
- Four calling birds - The four Gospels and/or the four Evangelists.
- Five golden rings - The first five books of the Old Testament (The Pentateuch).
- Six geese a-laying - Six days of creation.
- Seven swans a swimming - The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven Sacraments.
- Eight maids a-milking - The eight Beatitudes.
- Nine ladies dancing - The nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit (sometimes also listed as the nine classifications of angels).
- Ten lords a-leaping - The Ten Commandments.
- Eleven pipers piping - The eleven faithful apostles.
- Twelve drummers drumming - The twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed.



Holiday Parade

This crazy 79 year old editor of the newsletter with two bad knees, decided to march in the Holiday parade. Immediately behind us was this penguin!!!! As the parade was winding down, my steps got slower and slower. Robert McMahon told me that I had better step it up because the penguin was catching up with me. I speculated with Robert about St. Peter's reaction when I reached the pearly gates with the explanation that I was killed by a giant penguin during a Holiday parade.

Merry Christmas



Eight things you may not know about Christmas in Ireland

The unique Christmas spirit in Ireland is irresistible. Even the Grinch himself would be charmed by a Christmas in Ireland. To prove it, here are 8 things you'll need to know about celebrating Christmas on the island of Ireland

Number 1: The early bird...Christmas will never come soon enough. Come December 8th, Christmas officially begins in Ireland. The landscape begins to twinkle with festivities, Christmas markets are buzzing, and friends and family far afield come home to celebrate the season.

Number 2: Gets the tree...Did you know: the use of evergreen Christmas trees is a relatively new decoration in Ireland. Historically, holly and ivy were used to brighten up homes during the festive season. Superstitious? Apparently, the more berries on the holly bush, the better luck to come next year

Number 3: These carols weren't born yesterday, you know "Good people all, this Christmas time, Consider well and bear in mind..." What's Christmas without carols and hymns? One of the longest sung Christmas carols, The Wexford Carol, is believed to have originated in Enniscorthy, County Wexford, hence its name. It dates back to the 12th century and tells the tale of the Nativity.

Number 4: There's more than one way to say "Happy Christmas" Fancy wishing someone Happy Christmas in Irish? 'Nollaig Shona Duit' (NO-lihg HO-nuh ghwich) translates roughly as 'Happy Christmas to you'. In Ulster Scots (or Ullans) the words are "Abylthe Yuletide". Different words, same message – and all on the one island!

Number 5: Mistletoe's not just for kissing Before being used to steal kisses, the ancient Celts believed that mistletoe possessed magnificent healing powers. It was even banned for some time as a symbol of paganism. Homes in Ireland now hang mistletoe in doorways to symbolize peace and goodwill (kisses sometimes welcome, of course).

Number 6: Festively freezing Head to the Forty Foot, Sandycove, County Dublin, or to Portstewart Strand in County Londonderry on Christmas morning, and you'll spot hundreds of brave souls taking to the sea in the spirit of Christmas. The Christmas Day swim takes place all over Ireland's coastline, with participants taking the chilly plunge, often for charity.

Number 7: One day, two names In both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, 26 December is a celebrated public holiday. In Northern Ireland, though, the date is known Boxing Day, while in those in Republic of Ireland refer to it as St Stephen's Day. In the Republic, keep your eyes peeled for 'Wren Boys' parading the streets in straw suits (particularly in Dingle, County Kerry) dancing and singing to raise money for charity.

Number 8: Women's rest Often referred to as Women's (or Little) Christmas, January 6 is officially the last day of Christmas. It's also traditionally the day when women must avoid all housework, and the men of the house stay home, take down decorations (it's bad luck if you don't!) and prepare all the meals. Women meet up, have a day out and treat themselves.

The Yew Tree at Muckross Abbey, Killarney

There are a few that are thought to be 700 to 800 years old, but for a tree that lives for millennia rather than centuries, that isn't really old. However, educated guesses rather than scientific data are typically used to determine the age of the majority of yew trees.



They are always hollow when they are old, making it impossible to take cores out of them and count the annual rings. Nevertheless, I am aware of very few cores taken from living Irish trees. Take the yew that fills in the groups of Muckross Convent close to Killarney. odd that Ireland doesn't have any truly ancient yew trees. It has always been assumed that the Franciscans planted the tree when they built the abbey in 1448, which gives it a lifespan of more than 550 years. It is much more likely that the abbey was constructed around a mature and established tree, making this tree much older.

There is a lot of evidence to suggest that in the past, ecclesiastical sites were chosen based on the presence of an old yew tree there. Archaeological evidence indicates that the tree existed prior to the Anglo-Saxon church in some parts of southern England. The trees in some of these churches are as old as 1,200 years old. One of many instances of the Christianization of a much older pagan belief is the decision to construct an abbey around a yew tree. In folklore and mythology, there is a lot of evidence that yews were venerated. They are the largest native evergreen in our area. When they grow in mixed woodland, they create an open clearing by casting shade

and releasing toxins through their root systems, making it the ideal location for a ceremony.

The fact that they remained vibrant and green after all the other large trees had succumbed to winter seems to have impressed our ancestors as well. They came to be associated with overcoming death. However, we also have hard evidence from studies of fossil pollen and bog wood that they were much more common in the past than they are today.

Additionally, their decline may have been precipitated by persecution. While we may have revered yew trees, we have demonstrated over the millennia that we revere cattle and horses even more. Yew foliage is quite poisonous to livestock (and humans)..



THE FINNS

THE TOLEDO IRISH AMERICAN CLUB IS ONCE AGAIN HOSTING
THE LADS FOR AN EXCLUSIVE ZOOM SHOW LIVE AT:

Manhattan's Pub n'Cheer
Saturday, December 10th, 6:30pm
1516 Adams St., Toledo, OH 43604
APPETIZERS INCLUDED WITH TICKET
REVERSE RAFFLE TICKETS AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE:
5 PRIZEWINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED

The Irish American Club is happy to announce that they are reprising our Christmas event with The Finn's again December 10th! The Finns hail from County Laois, Ireland, and are a successful folk music duo that deliver amazing music, high energy and overall fun! As done last year, The Finns will once again be streaming into our venue, live from Dublin Ireland! The lads will play music for us along with engaging directly with the crowd to do interactive trivia questions and games for some prize giveaways. Tickets are \$25/ Eventbrite

A GREAT CHISTMAS PRESENT FOR SOMEONE SPECIAL.....LIKE YOU!!!



JOIN US FOR AN IRISH ADVENTURE

August 17 to 28. 2023

10 DAY TOUR WITH THE
NOTRE DAME-NAVY FOOTBALL GAME
AT AVIVA STADIUM IN DUBLIN

LUXURY COACH
4 STAR ACCOMMODATIONS



CLIFFS OF MOHER

RING OF KERRY

DINGLE

BLARNEY CASTLE

JAMESON DISTILLERY

DUBLIN HOP ON/HOP OFF

BUS



CONTACT LARRY MINOR 419-320-6745
E-MAIL; emeraldirishtravel@currently.com

Triskelion or Triskele

Stair na hÉireann Nov 26



The triskelion or 'triskele' is also known as the tri-spiral or 'Spiral of Life'. The three spirals in the triskelion are interconnected with no open ends thus creating one continuous line. Each spiral turns in the same direction. The three spirals represent balance, harmony and continual motion indicative of the flow of life and of the Earth in her seasons and cycles.

This symbol is found on many ancient carvings, the most famous of which is Newgrange in Co Meath, which dates back to 3,200 BC. The symbol is carved into the stone at the main entrance. It is one of the most famous stones in Megalithic art. The

same symbol is found on one of the stones inside the chamber. The triskelion is often thought to have Celtic origin, but it was carved at least 2000 years before the Celts inhabited Ireland. According to Celtic tradition, the triskelion is connected to the mother goddess. It is an invocation of the three material domains of earth, air, and water. The god Manannán is probably most often the one symbolized by the triskele, though some also use it for the goddess Brighid. The Celts believed that all life moved in eternal cycles, regenerating at each point. Celts also believed that all important things came in three phases; for example: birth, death and rebirth and mind, body and spirit.



Newgrange

According to Uriel's Machine by Knight and Lomas (2003), the triple spiral may represent the nine-month period of human pregnancy, since the sun takes a fourth of a year to go from the celestial equator (an equinox) to extreme north or south declination (a solstice), and vice versa. During each three-month period, the sun's path across the sky appears to form a closely wound quasi-helical shape, which can be likened to a spiral, so that three spirals could represent nine months, providing an explanation for a link between fertility and the triple-spiral symbol.

What the symbol meant to the pagans who built Newgrange and other monuments is unknown; but, as Christianity came into the forefront in Ireland before the 5th century, AD, the triskele took on new meaning, as a symbol of the Trinity and, therefore, also a symbol of eternity.



Daniel Joseph MacDonald

August 7, 1938 - November 24, 2022

Dan MacDonald, age 84, of Hudson, passed away Thursday, November 24, 2022. Dan is the beloved husband of Martha (nee Brunner). Dan grew up in Muncie, Indiana, and graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 1960. He was a member of the Ohio State Board and St. Brendan's Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, serving as president for two terms and chairman of the long-running Riverside Irish Festival in Cuyahoga Falls. Rest in peace