

## Belgrove Senior Boys, An Irish Woman and the Masai Tribe

Imagine leaving your family, friends, employment and your new home in Ireland, for the African Bush! That's what an Irish NGO (Non Governmental Organisation) worker and volunteer, Elaine Bannon, did three years ago.

Elaine looked deep into the eyes of the poverty stricken children of the Masai tribe and knew she had to do something to help them. Elaine is unpaid and lives off a very small sum of money two Irish friends send her each month. Elaine doesn't want to be paid. She lives in a small stone house with a corrugated iron roof at the side of a catholic mission in a place called Rombo in Kenya. She has running water and electricity (when they work) but no hot water and she cooks on a small camping gas stove with two gas rings.

Elaine has built schools, a small medical clinic, paid for children to attend school and looks after the Masai people as best she can, on the limited amount of funds given to her by Irish people. A school can be built for as little as €10,000. Recently Father Miceál asked me to visit the Senior Boys School in Belgrove. Principal Michael Ruddy, Frankie Byrne and the staff and boys decided they could help Elaine and raised an amazing €5,700 at Christmas. Elaine built a two-room extension onto her local school and fitted out the classrooms with that money. The boys also raised a further €1,665 from a non-uniform day and Elaine build a water well in an area where she hopes to build a school next year. Water wells mean women do not have to walk up to 20km each day to collect water, while men mind the animals. The well will bring life into the area and make it easier to set up her school there.

Elaine would like to thank Father Miceál and all at Belgrove Senior Boys School and we in turn would like to thank this brave Irish girl for doing this amazing work for the children of Africa on our behalf.

Yours sincerely

Matt Porter  
201 Mt Prospect Avenue

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# ST. GABRIEL'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

28<sup>th</sup> May 2006.

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## Church Notices

We regret to announce the death of parishioner, **Terry O'Dea, 40 Mount Prospect Park**, during the week. We extend our sympathy to his family. The funeral Mass will be at 10.00 a.m. tomorrow morning in St. John's Church. *May Terry rest in peace.*

We congratulate the eighty-seven boys from **Belgrove School** who were confirmed here on Wednesday. We thank and congratulate their parents, families, teachers and all involved in the celebration.

On next Saturday, at the **Pentecost Vigil Mass** at 6.00 p.m., **Fr Míceál** will confirm **Juan Pablo Reyes**, from **Lima, Peru**. Pablo, who lives in Belgrove Park, will marry **Niamh Lyons** in July. Congratulations to both in anticipation.

Friday will be the First Friday with **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** from 10.30 a.m. to 3.00 p.m., ending with **Benediction**.

We are grateful for **€2,845 00** collected in the special collection on **Priesthood Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> May**.

## Golden Jubilee Update.

As Anne, our Parish Secretary and Secretary of the Golden Jubilee Committee is away on holidays, we do not have an accurate figure on the Jubilee Fund. However, we do know that two donations, one of **€2,000.00** and another of **€1,000.00** came in during the week, as well as a **€25,000.00** donation from the **Parish Centre Management Committee**, which we understand is the first of two donations from the Committee. We are grateful to all concerned.

**The Golden Jubilee Committee** expects the contract figure of the refurbishment from the Architect over the next few weeks. When this is compared with funds in hand, the Committee will write to each family in the Parish, giving the details of which stages of the work will go ahead. Today the Committee wish to emphasize that only work which can be paid for will go ahead, and that the Parish will **not borrow, or go into debt** because of the refurbishment. We are grateful to all who have contributed and who are continuing to do so.

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