

# Seanchaí Cois Fharráige

## THE SEASIDE SEANACHIE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE IRISH AMERICAN CULTURAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH JERSEY

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“FROM TINY  
ACORNS, MIGHTY  
OAKS DO GROW”

BISHOP SULLIVAN  
WILL CELEBRATE  
OUR 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
ST. PATRICK’S  
LITURGY

MARCH 12,

OUR LADY OF  
SORROWS CHURCH  
724 MAPLE AVE  
LINWOOD

7 PM

WE NEED YOU  
TO BAKE AND  
DELIVER

MASS FREE WILL  
OFFERING WILL  
REPLACE FOOD  
DONATION...  
THIS MONTH ONLY

On March 16, 1984, a small group of members, family and friends gathered at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton at 8 PM to honor St. Patrick with a liturgy celebrated by founding club member, Msgr. Michael Coyne. According to Cas Hansen, the first president and Piper, there was a reception in the hall afterwards. Fast forward 30 years to Wednesday March 12, 2014 at 7 PM and a much larger group will gather to honor St. Patrick with a liturgy celebrated by Bishop Dennis Sullivan. We expect to fill Our Lady of Sorrows in Linwood with more than “members, family, and friends”, because our liturgy has grown to be the premier one in our diocese. Msgr. Coyne joins Fr. Brady, Msgr. Hodge, and Fr. Harte as invited concelebrants. John Mistle, club member and piper extraordinaire will lead the entrance procession. The AOH honor guard will post the national and county flags. The Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree will follow. Club members will join the OLS choir to sing our traditional St. Patrick’s Liturgy hymns. What role can you play? Kay Noble, 652-1679, will coordinate the Mass and is seeking Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, and offertory procession participants. Walt Murphy, 927-0180, who chairs the entire event, will need ushers for a free-will offering. After Mass there will be our usual social in the hall but with added attractions. Our SJ Ceili Band under the direction of Michael Garvin and the Jersey Shore Dancers will provide the musical backdrop. We want to feature the more traditional fare, so **we are looking for soda bread, scones, and the like from members.** (See last page for recipes) You can drop them off before the Mass in the hall. But above all, we invite all to attend this most proper celebration of the patron saint of the Irish.

We don’t ask that you bring a food donation to the St. Patrick’s Liturgy. In its place, we take up a collection at the Offertory and donate the money to the St. Nicholas Tolentine Food Bank. We will be back in April to ask again for food and gently used clothing brought to the meeting. Perhaps you can double up to catch up then.

President's Message January 2014

Well, it's March and that means the Irish will be busy. The club has the Annual Atlantic City St. Patrick's Parade, the Irish American Cultural Society Annual St. Patrick's Mass being celebrated by the Bishop and also our raffle kick-off. This year's Mass is going to be a special event and will be a little different. We ask that you consider helping out with a few baked goods. In effect, this is the kick off to our year and I hope you will make this year especially great. Plan on getting involved and come out to celebrate being Irish. Have a happy and Irish spring!

William Gottschall, President

CELLO PLAYER  
TIPS THE SCALES  
IN FAVOR OF THE  
BAND

DANCERS  
DIMINISHED BY  
FLORIDA  
NON RETURNEES

WAIT TIL NEXT  
MONTH

MANY MORE  
OPPORTUNITIES  
AHEAD

NORMALLY  
COLD MARCH  
RAFFLE SEASON  
HEATS UP WITH  
NEW  
OPPORTUNITY

Bonnie Quigley reporting for the vacationing Jim Gillon writes: "Hot off the press: A small but lively group attended this month's ceili. The Band members equaled the number of dancers until the cello player arrived. Our Band member numbers have been increasing to everyone's enjoyment. Some of our dancers are lost somewhere in Florida, afraid to come back up north. They missed the highlight on the dance floor, a rousing rendition of The Broom Dance, especially when the genders got confused.

Who knows what next month will bring? See for yourself, March 29, 7:30 PM Somers Point VFW, 1<sup>st</sup> and Pennsylvania Avenues. "

You may have missed your opportunity to wear it strutting your stuff on the boardwalk (we couldn't get the order filled by then), but we assure you many opportunities over the summer raffle sales season to wear the short sleeve shirt, the baseball cap and the sweatshirt. Give your order and money (\$20 for either shirt, \$10 for the cap) to Pat DeLuca (641-2979) and be in style.

March is not normally a hot month for raffle activity. The application is working its way slowly through the bureaucracy and hopefully the approval will come in time to order the raffle books themselves from the printer in time for our opening sale at Earth Day... But this year, we do have a raffle topic of some interest. Brian Lawlor identified a new opportunity for raffle sales when the Atlantic City Race track hosts its Irish weekend in June. We will be all over that with our sales teams. This allows us to suggest you all keep your eyes out for sales opportunities like Brian, and be thinking about volunteering to sell, as Brian, his family and so many of your fellow club members have done in the past.

SPOT FOR YOU  
(AND 18 OF YOUR  
CLOSEST  
FRIENDS)  
IN THE  
AC BOARDWALK  
ST PATRICK'S  
PARADE

SATURDAY,  
MAR 15, 1230

MEET AT OUR  
BANNER NEAR  
THE REVEL  
TO GET YOUR  
FREE BADGE

OTHER  
ACTIVITIES  
SCHEDULED

HE FOLLOWED  
THE RULES AND  
DID SO MUCH  
MORE

DAN LAWLER  
LEAVES THE  
EXECUTIVE  
BOARD BETTER  
THAN HE FOUND  
IT

THANKS DAN  
AND CLARE.

There is going to be a major parade on the Boardwalk on March 15 starting at 1 PM. But you don't want to see it. You want to be seen in it. It's the annual St. Patrick's Day Boardwalk Parade and IACS line of march commander, Walt Murphy has a spot for you and your 18 closest friends to pick up a coveted parade memorial badge and march. He would like to see you at the north end of the boardwalk, down near the Revel Casino at about 1230. Just look for him and our club banner. Preferred dress is either the white knit fisherman's sweater or the club logoed sweatshirt. More a stroll and less a march, this is a great day out for showing your Irish culture. The crowds love you and you get to show them love back. We will be led down the Boardwalk by co Grand Marshals, Frank Ferry and Tom Flynn, who with his band opened up our 2014 club programs with his band, packing the house. The Grand Marshals will participate in the Mass of Installation, Saturday, March 8, at 4pm at St. Nicholas of Tolentine's 4 PM Mass. The Irish flag will be raised in a formal ceremony Friday, March 14 at noon. You should see both events, but be sure to be seen in the parade. Call Walt for information 927-0180.

The club's by-laws require an outgoing board member to recruit his/her replacement. Dan Lawler has done that and you won't have trouble remembering the new board member's name because of its similarity with his predecessor. Dan Lawler has recruited Brian Lawlor to fill in the rest of Dan's term as vice president, membership. Board members can be judged on two counts, their performance of their specific responsibility and their contributions to the management of other club activities with suggestions, participation, and votes. Dan was excellent in both areas. Our club rosters have been kept up to date with extra refinements that allow us to determine meeting attendance. Dan's level headed approach to subjects under discussion came to be relied on by the board members and they benefitted immensely from his no nonsense sense of urgency—"I want to out of here by..." We hope Dan will be as active member as his health permits, and we thank him for his service. We also thank Clare, his behind the table and scenes partner for her wonderful contributions. When Dan agreed to serve, we surely got two for the price of one.

SCHOLARSHIP  
AWARD.....

IT ALL STARTS  
WITH AN  
APPLICATION

TIME IS  
BEGINNING TO  
BE YOUR ENEMY

BETTER GET  
STARTED RIGHT  
AWAY

A \$2000 scholarship may seem like a lot to the uninitiated, but to the parents and grandparents of the college bound or already in college, it is not a lot. But it does offset some of the horrendous costs of higher education these days. So if you are an active member, who has a high school senior graduating with a better than 3.0 grade point average or a college student whose college GPA is better than 3.0, you should be nominating that student. Children and grandchildren of members are obviously eligible, but so are nieces and nephews. It all starts with an application, which Laurie Crowell, 645-2159 will send you if you ask. Time is already your enemy because the application requires documents like high school transcripts, SAT scores, a letter of recommendation among things the student doesn't really have time controls over. It also requires the student write a short essay and a short document from you, both easier to manage within the deadline. And the deadline is April 14 with no extensions. Better get started, now.

**PLEASE DELIVER TO GINNY or one of her workers at the Our Lady of Sorrows gymnasium before Mass, on March 12. USE THESE RECIPES OR YOUR OWN.**

#### SODA BREAD

1 1/2 cups buttermilk	1 tablespoon double acting baking powder
2 tablespoons butter, melted	1/2 cup sugar
1 1/2 cups dark seedless raisins	3 cups all purpose flour
1 egg, slightly beaten	1 teaspoon baking soda
	1 teaspoon salt

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease pans and set aside. In medium bowl, combine buttermilk, butter, egg and raisins. Set aside. In a large bowl, combine dry ingredients with pastry blender or two forks, tossing together for about 1 minute. Add buttermilk mixture and mix until combined. Spoon into prepared pans. Bake 40 to 45 minutes. Leave bread in pan for about 1 minute. Remove to wire rack to cool. This recipe should make 2 to 3 loaves.

#### OATMEAL SCONES

1/2 cup sugar	2/3 cup melted butter
1/3 cup milk	1 tablespoon baking powder
1 egg	1 teaspoon cream of tartar
1 1/2 cups all purpose flour	1/2 teaspoon salt
1 1/2 cups quick Quaker Oats	1/2 cup raisins or currants

Preheat oven to 425°. Add butter, milk and egg to dry ingredients. Mix until moistened. Stir in raisins or currants. Shape dough into a ball. Place on floured board. Shape into an 8 inch circle and cut into wedges. Bake on greased cookie sheet for 12 to 15 minutes.



## THE PIPER

MARCH 2014

Throughout the history of Western civilization, spring's arrival was always a time for feasting and gaiety. After months of cold stormy weather, long nights and gloomy days, shoots of new grass would herald the onset of another year's planting cycle. In pre-Christian Ireland, the spring festival was called Bealtaine. Like all of Ireland's most ancient celebrations, its date was determined by lunar reckoning. It took place on the full moon between the Vernal Equinox and the Summer Solstice, usually occurring early in May. Several days before the event, household fires were extinguished and people were forbidden to rekindle them until Druid priests lit a ceremonial bonfire to welcome the returning sun on the Hill of Tara, stronghold of Eire's High King.

When Christianity began to supplant old Europe's pagan customs, a new spring celebration was introduced: Easter. As the feast that celebrated Christ's resurrection from the dead, it too symbolized the annual season of rebirth and regeneration. And like Bealtaine, the Easter ceremony included a fire ritual, the lighting of a Paschal flame. Also like Bealtaine, Easter's date is determined by lunar reckoning, and occurs on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the Vernal Equinox. It can fall at the beginning of April, or at the end of the month.

In 433 A.D. Easter must have been very late indeed, for when a Christian missionary recently arrived from Rome lit a Paschal fire on the Hill of Slane, just a few miles from Tara, he violated the Druid ban on lighting fires before Bealtaine. It was an offense punishable by death.

The offender, Patrick, was brought before High King Laoghaire at Tara for judgment where the gathered Druids were certain that this interloper would be executed. Much to their horror, the missionary plucked a tiny shamrock from the hillside and so eloquently compared its trefoil leaf pattern to the three-in-one mystery of Christianity's Divine Trinity that Laoghaire spared his life and granted him safe passage to preach the new doctrine throughout the island.

According to Christian tradition, the days preceding Easter were the most solemn period of the year. Believers were directed to repent their sins and purify themselves in mind and body to prepare for Christ's resurrection. Initially, the faithful observed a "black fast" from Good Friday to Easter. No one ate anything at all. As time passed, people's piety lessened and church leaders sought a device to restore their devotion.

The number forty had great biblical significance. The Israelites wandered forty years in the wilderness. Moses spent forty days on Mount Sinai. Christ fasted forty days in the desert. Late in the sixth century, Pope Gregory the Great extended the pre-Easter fast to 40 days, excluding Sundays which were feast days, and decreed the form of fasting that became Church law. "We abstain from flesh meat and from all things that come from flesh, as milk, cheese and eggs." Fish, especially salted herring, was the mainstay of Ireland's Lenten diet, and it is only recently that the Irish have stopped thinking of seafood as penitential fare.

For centuries, Irish Catholics rigidly adhered to Lenten fast laws every day except Sundays. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday were such strictly observed black fast days that babies were left to cry three times before they were given milk. Pancake Night, the eve before Ash Wednesday, was the last chance to feast. Everyone ate piles of pancakes made from surplus butter, milk, eggs and cream that had to be used up before Lent began. It was customary for each household's eldest daughter to toss the first pancake; a chancy feat, for if the pancake fell to the floor, the poor girl would have little hope of marrying during the coming twelve months.

One notable day was exempt from Pope Gregory's dictum: March 17th, the Feast of Saint Patrick. Then everyone had a bit of meat for dinner and all Lenten abstinences were suspended. Even men who had sworn off alcohol as part of their penance were allowed to sip from the "pota Phadraig," Patrick's pot. The accompanying toast was "Good luck and long life to the Council of Trent, it took away meat but left us the drink."

During Holy Week, meals were most austere. Breakfast consisted of dry bread and tea mixed with bull's milk (water and oatmeal husks). Plain potatoes with salt were eaten at dinner, and for supper there was black tea and more dry bread. On Good Friday, if anyone ate at all, the meal consisted of barley bread, cress and water. Most folk spent the day in church, and work was discouraged. Conversely, Good Friday was a lucky day to plant crops, so farmers always made it a point to sow a little grain or some potatoes.

After the lean weeks of Lent, Easter was a day for eating, drinking and rejoicing. Those who could afford to roasted spring lamb, veal and chicken, but for many poorer folk the day's favorite dish was boiled bacon, cabbage and potatoes! When millions of emigrants fled to America during the Famine, they brought the memory of this festive meal with them, where, substituting corned beef for boiling bacon, it became a popular dish for Saint Patrick's Day.

Lent's huge store of eggs was a big feature of the day's celebration. Eggs laid on Good Friday were marked with a cross and eaten Easter morning for luck. Women boiled eggs with herbs and lichens to color the shells, then children collected the colored eggs from neighbors and had their own party called a cludog. Eggs were also incorporated into cakes that were the star attraction at Easter evening cake dances. Before the dance, a decorated cake was placed on top of a butter churn. At the evening's end, the best dancers were chosen to take down the cake and divide it among the guests.

One of Ireland's most curious Easter customs was made popular by butchers - those unfortunate tradesmen whose products had been banned during the long Lenten fast. To celebrate the general population's return to meat eating, butchers and their apprentices organized herring funerals! Doesn't that just take the cake?