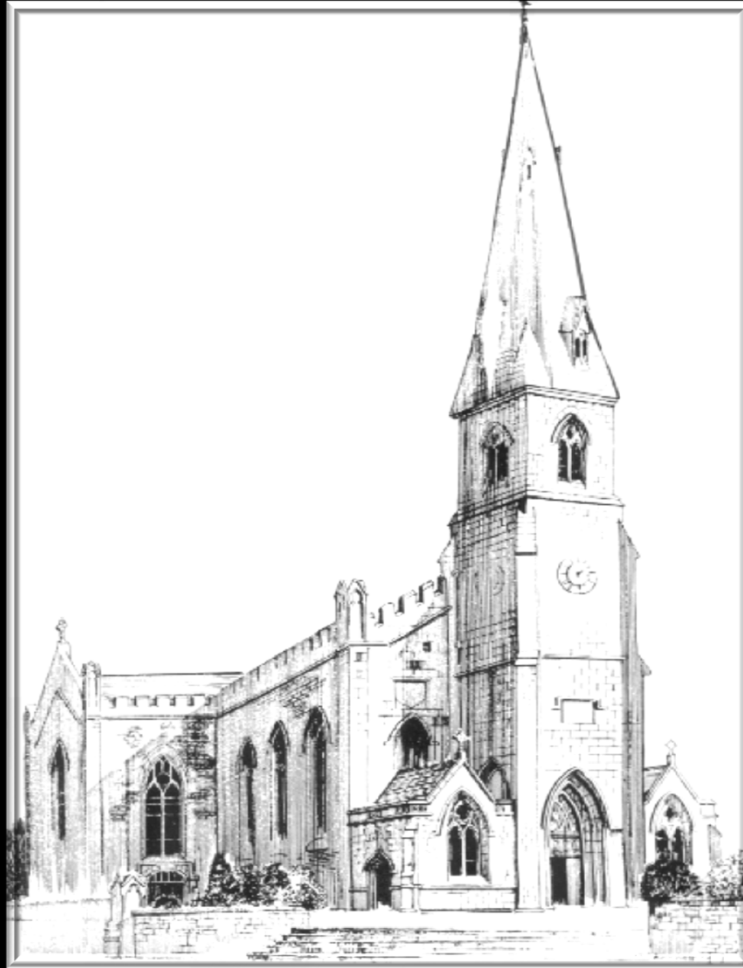
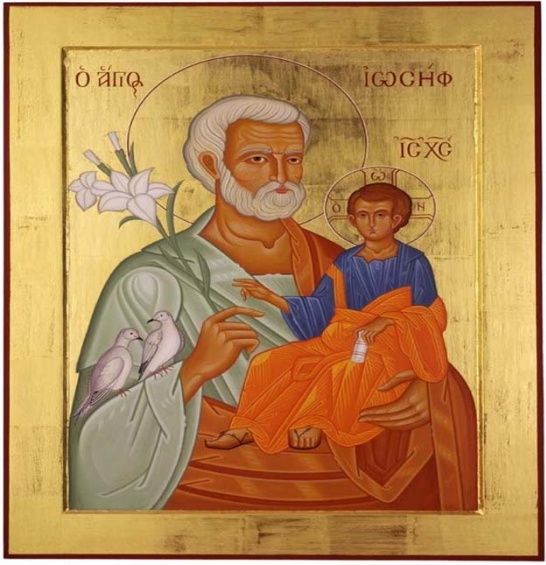
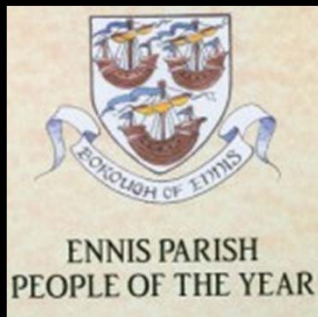


ENNIS PEOPLE OF
THE YEAR
AWARDS 2011

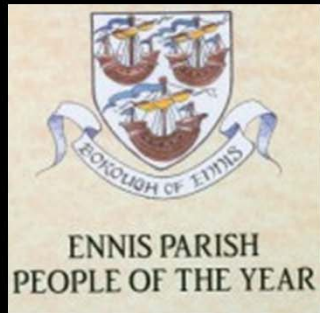


Welcome

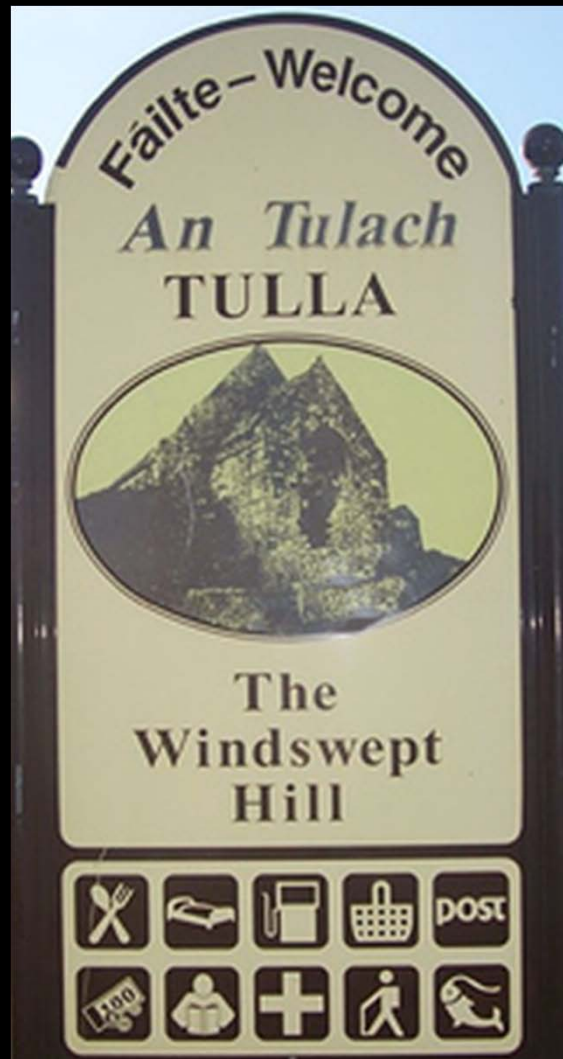
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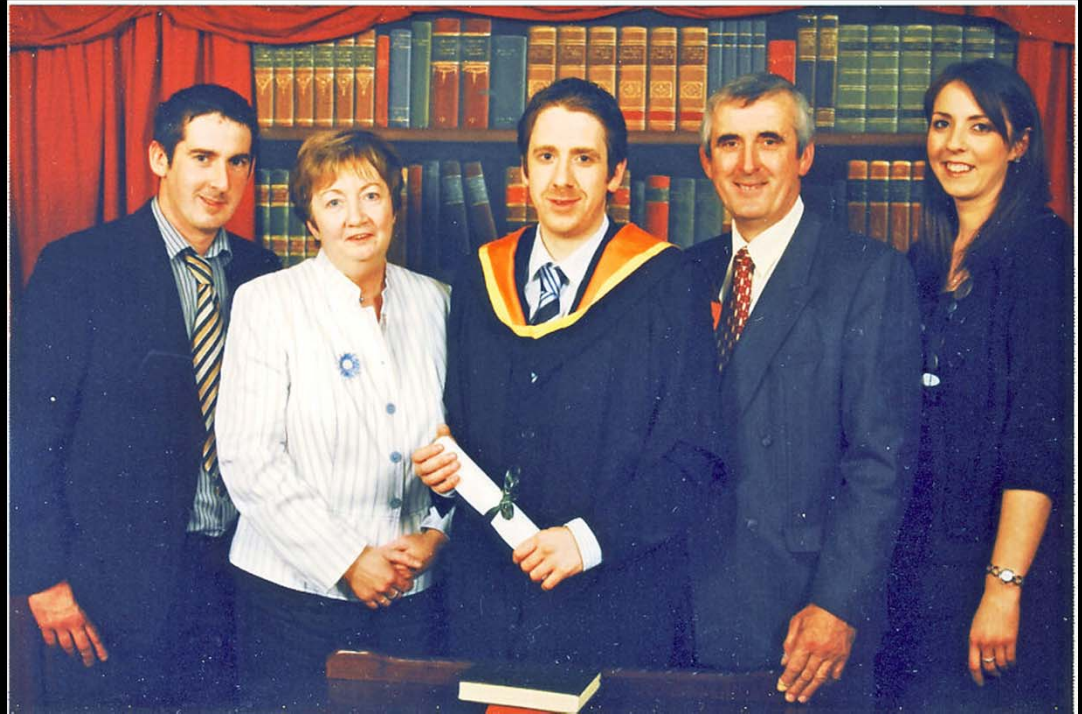


Ennis People
of the Year 2011



Peggy Eustace



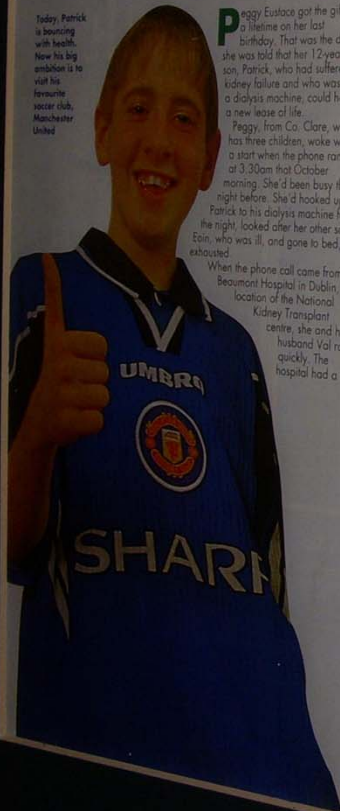




The greatest gift of all

Peggy Eustace celebrated her last birthday like no other. That was the day she was told her son would have a kidney transplant. Judy Murphy reports

Today Patrick is bouncing with health. Now his big ambition is to visit his favourite soccer club, Manchester United



Peggy Eustace got the gift of a lifetime on her last birthday. That was the day she was told that her 12-year-old son, Patrick, who had suffered kidney failure and who was on a dialysis machine, could have a new lease of life.

Peggy, from Co. Clare who has three children, woke with a start when the phone rang at 3.30am that October morning. She'd been busy the night before. She'd hooked up Patrick to his dialysis machine for the night, looked after her other son Eoin, who was ill, and gone to bed, exhausted.

When the phone call came from Beaumont Hospital in Dublin, location of the National Kidney Transplant centre, she and her husband Val rose quickly. The hospital had a



Patrick with his sister Bernadette, brother Eoin and mum Peggy

kidney for transplant, and wanted them to travel to Dublin immediately.

They called Patrick and the three set out on the 130-mile journey within minutes, though there was dense fog that night. It was so bad they weren't able to see the markings on the road, but mercifully traffic was quiet, Peggy recalls.

"The hospital told us not to put ourselves in any danger, but we did get there quickly. It was only when I listened to the weather forecast when we were near Dublin that I realised how bad it was."

All the way up, Peggy was thanking God, but she was also acutely aware that the kidney had been donated as a result of somebody else's death.

"You never forget that and I was praying really hard for that person and their family in their time of loss and grief," she says.

In Beaumont, Peggy and Val waited anxiously while the transplant was carried out. Some hours later — which felt like days — they saw their son. "We were so relieved everything had gone well, but then we had to hold our breath that his body would accept the new organ," says Peggy.

The kidney worked from the beginning, but there were a few nail-biting days as they waited to see if it continued to function. Thankfully it did, and within weeks he was home.

Patrick still needs lots of care, Peggy explains, and he cannot be exposed to common cold. Yet she strives to look after him without wrapping him in cotton wool.

Patrick is a determined youngster, she says. He has faced all his operations bravely, including this one. Right now he is longing to get back to school and to

doing all the things that his schoolmates can.

Patrick was just a couple of months old when his trouble began. He had problems drinking his bottle, so Peggy took him to the doctor who diagnosed kidney problems.

He needed several operations on his kidneys and spent three months in hospital in Limerick and Dublin before being allowed home. Ever since, he has been under constant medical supervision with monthly trips to Dublin for check-ups. He also suffered continual infections and back pressure which, in turn, caused his kidneys to swell. He missed school regularly and, although he loves sport, he could never participate fully with his mates. And despite the success of his initial operation, Patrick always faced the prospect of total failure and dialysis.

That happened in March last year, and Patrick was told on his twelfth birthday that he would have to go on dialysis. This meant a stay in hospital in Dublin, where he learned to use the machine,

then further treatment in Limerick.

He also had a machine at home, provided by the Mid-Western Board, which he hooked up to for 12 hours a night, and he remained cheerful, although his life had been disrupted totally. He lost his appetite, a common effect of renal failure, and was house bound.

"He could never stay away overnight,"

Shortly after the operation Patrick was photographed with his mum and dad



Clare who he really wanted to welcome home. It was all hours when they arrived so he was late going on the machine. Because he needed his 12 hours he missed school the following day.

Patrick is a great favourite with his brother Eoin and sister Bernadette and he has taught his family that the most important thing in life is health.

Their priority was getting Patrick well and they are delighted with his progress. He'll be on anti-rejection drugs for the rest of his life and is on twice-weekly visits to Dublin for check-ups. These will gradually reduce to every few months.

Peggy will never stop praying for the person whose kidney was donated to Patrick. For her it was the gift of a lifetime and it's one birthday she'll never forget.

As for Patrick, he is longing to play soccer with his mates. But his big dream is to visit his favourite soccer club, Manchester United.

"Maybe we'll organise a trip to Old Trafford for his 13th birthday," says his grateful mother.

GIVE A LIFE!

If you are interested in donating organs after your death, pick up a donor card at pharmacies nationwide.








Map of Haemodialysis Units used by Patients from the Republic of Ireland

Irish Kidney Association

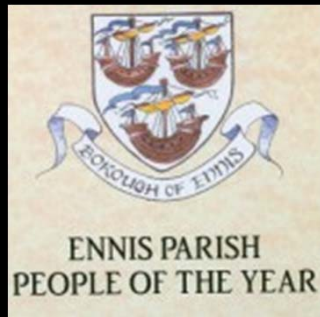
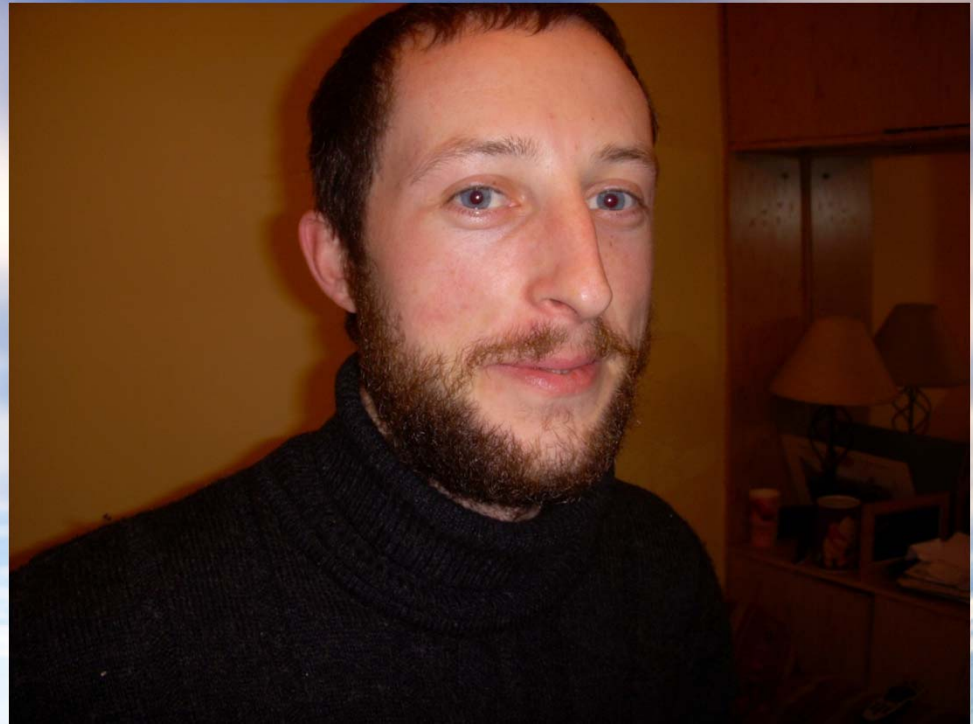
Donor House, Block 43A, Park West, Dublin 12.
 Tel: 01-6205306. Lo-Call: 1890-543639 (1890-KIDNEY)
 Email: info@ika.ie • www.ika.ie







Congratulations



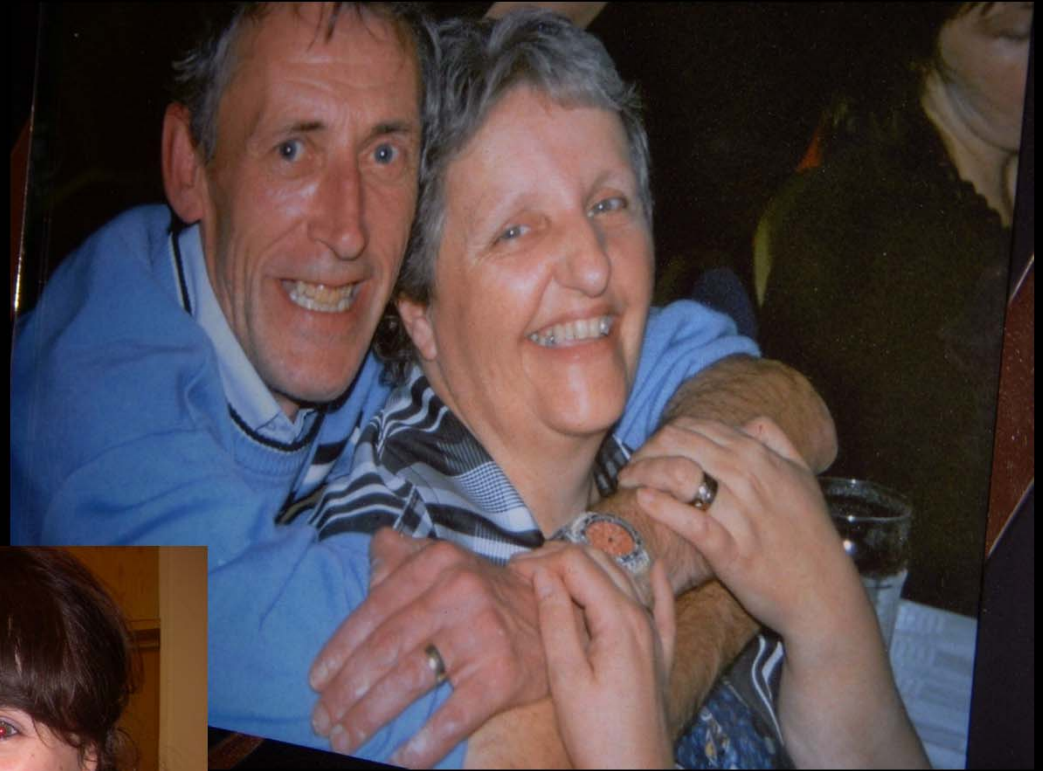
Justin O' Regan





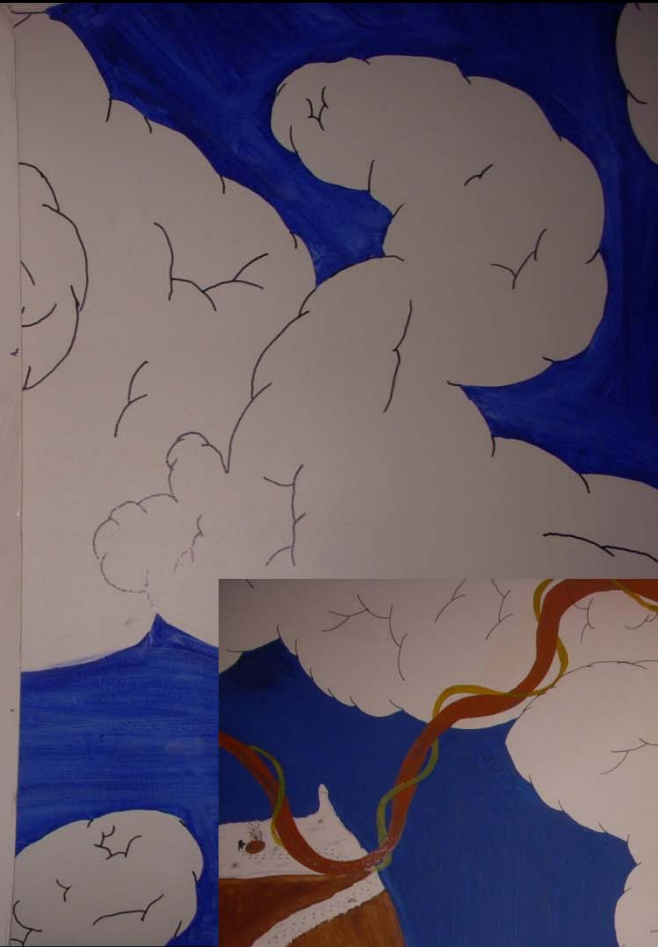
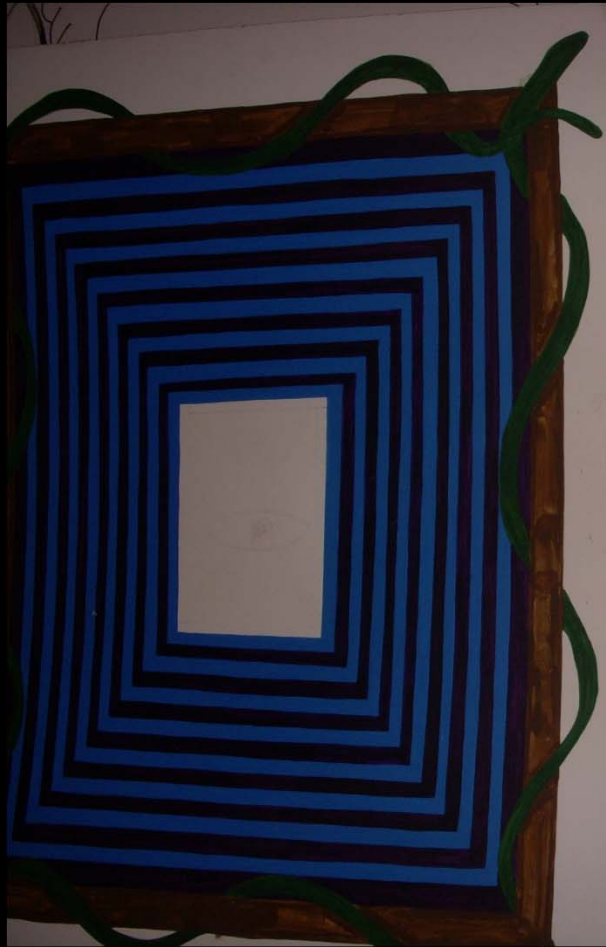










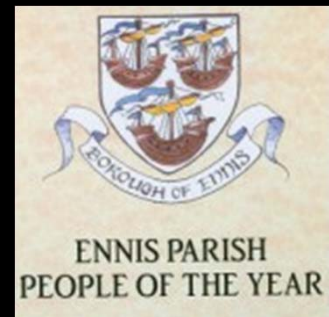




Congratulations



Jackie Browne













Cuan Minister !!

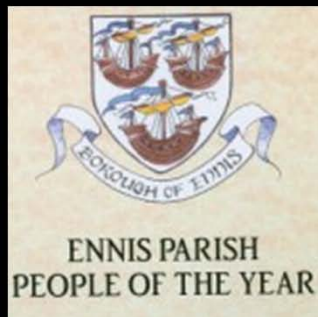






Congratulations

Sr. de Montfort Bray













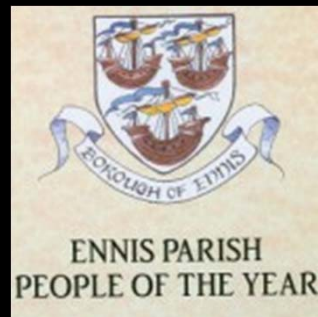






Congratulations

Patricia
Gormley
R.I.P.













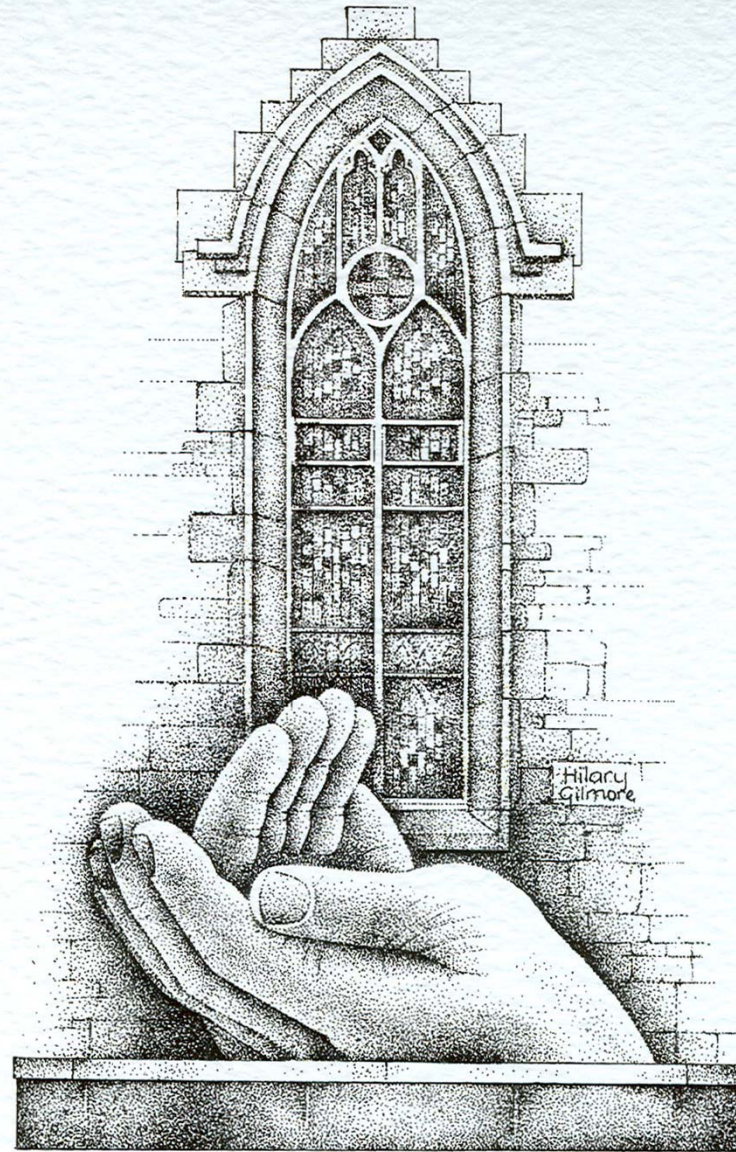








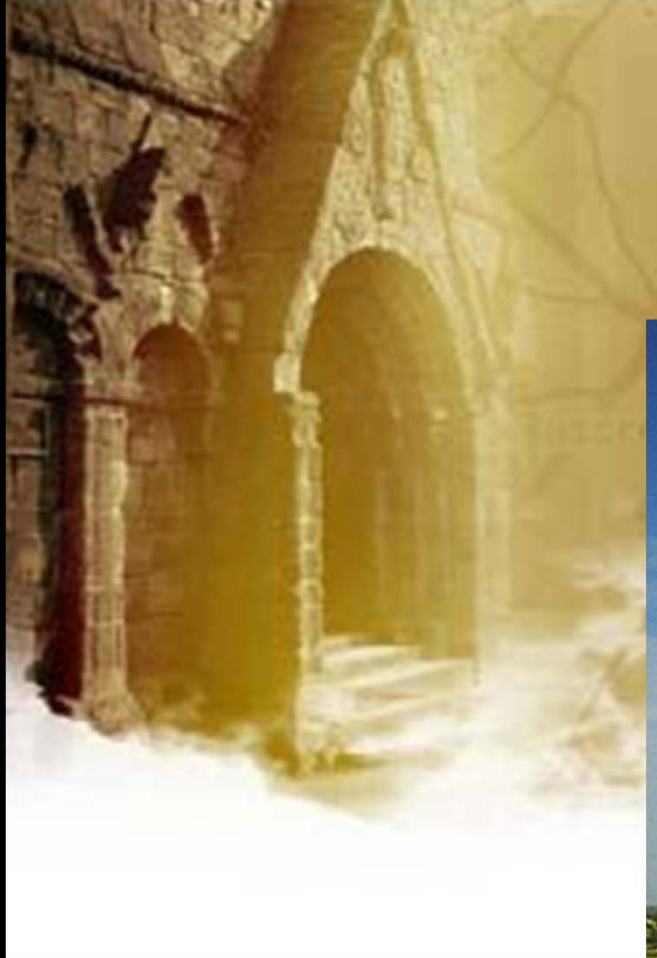
**Tonight we give thanks
for the life and love of
Patricia.**



**ENNIS PARISH
SPECIAL MERIT AWARD**

Bishop Willie Walsh













Empowering people.
Fostering
Relationships.
Caring for Couples
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**Congratulations
Bishop Willie**