



## Major Dooley Division Richmond, Virginia

# The Dooley Dispatch

## December 2019

**Celebrating 40 years of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity**

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Officer Installation – Tuesday December 10, 2019 7:00 p.m. St. Michael Church



### President's Message:

Brothers,

Thank you, thank you, thank you! I cannot say thank you enough to you, my brothers, for this grand year. As I sit at my desk, trying to find the right words for this my last Division newsletter, I can think of nothing more appropriate than saying "thank you" to you all. Your advice and words of encouragement throughout the year were most helpful.

And most of all thank you to my bride, Helene, for all of her help and support.

And while the last month of the year is typically a month of reflection, to look back at our wonderful events and works of charity, we're not a Division that stands still for very long. So get ready for another busy month...

Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, is our biggest family event of the year, our annual Christmas party, held at St Mary's and starting at 1pm. Always lots of fun for children and adults. If you know of any potential members for our Division please ask them and our families to join us for the party. Mike Muldowney, our party chair, is looking for help Saturday evening to help set up for the party, check out the website for details.

Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, we will suspend our monthly business meeting and conduct our Officer Installation for the coming year. Start time is 7pm, at St Michaels, and we'll serve food and beverages afterwards. All members and family are invited. I wish all officers all the best, and to assure them the Division will support them throughout the year.

Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, St Michaels is hosting a concert, Irish Tenor Emmet Cahill's CHRISTMAS IN IRELAND. This is a fundraiser for St Michaels, and they've asked for Division assistance through brother Ed Rossmore. Ed can use our help with tickets sales, ushering, etc. Details and sign up are on our website (thank you Pat Shea!) if you can lend a hand.

And to you and your families, a very Merry and Blessed Christmas, and all the best in the New Year!

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Steve

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### Upcoming Events:

**December 8, 2019, Sunday at 1 pm at St. Mary's Catholic Church – Family Christmas Party.** (Chair Mike Muldowney).

**December 10, 2019, Tuesday – Officer Installation for 2020 Officers by State AOH Officer at St. Michael's Church.**

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### AOH Dooley Division Prayer List For November 12, 2019 Meeting

Please contact Fr. Jim Arsenault if you need him to visit and pray for and with someone in the hospital. Contact him at M 804-221-1508 and/or [jarsenault@stelizcc.org](mailto:jarsenault@stelizcc.org)

#### From Prior Meetings:

- **Fr. George Zahn** - Keep our Chaplain in your prayers. Weak. Forgetting things.
- Chad Costello's brother-in-law (**Doug Dakins**, Alisha's brother). 48 years old, colonoscopy found cancerous mass in his colon. Doc removed a large stage 3 tumor and is confident he got the margins and will be fine after chemo.
- **Paulie McFadden** skin condition and his wife, **Mary Ellen**, back pains.
- Jim Whelen, wife Alesia's Mom, **Norma Oakley**, had cancerous kidney removed a couple weeks ago, cancer in spleen/lungs, in hospice care.
- Mike Muldowney's dad, **Michael James Muldowney**, age 91, minor stroke.
- **Steve McGann**, recovering from complications – prostate biopsy.
- Hugh Naughton's wife, **Jessie Naughton**, has lower back issues and other ailments.
- Steve McGann's sister, **Patricia McGovern**, passed away May 5th, after a long fight with leukemia.
- **Brian Kiernan** – recovering from a leg infection.
- Tim McDonnell's friend, **Rob Northern** – recurrence of cancer.
- **Fr. Jim Arsenault's mom**
- Jim Woods – **Uncle Philip** cancer in jaw.
- Brian Kiernan – first cousin brother-in-law **Jim**, stage 3 cancer.

- John Mulligan, **Jack Rowe**, 18, 2<sup>nd</sup> kidney surgery.
- Billy Spicer's brother-in-law, **William McCracken**, had an infection on the brain and had brain surgery to remove it. Also his heart is very weak. And he has emphysema as well. He's been doing better recently.
- **Pat Saizan**, sister of Larry Keefe, reoccurrence of breast cancer.
- Gary McAuliffe's wife, **Betty McAuliffe**, macular hole in retina needs surgery.
- **Don Lattanzi**, AOH Brother, had 2 back surgeries, pneumonia and breathing problems. Keep in your prayers.
- **Jocelyn Costello** (Chad's Daughter) – Pinched nerve in neck
- **Maureen Mooney** (Jack Griffin's Sister) – Confined to bed
- **Tom Murphy** – Had heart procedure and waiting results
- **Don Brophy** – Did not have surgery and on the mend. May need surgery at a later date
- **Dick Canning** (Mike Canning's Dad) – Had a mini-stroke. He is on the mend.

#### From October Meeting:

- Johnny Cates – Friend **Bruce Heilman** – In hospital
- Steve McGann – **Nick Gruss** – Having a biopsy
- PJ George – Mom **Diane George** – Knee replacement surgery
- **Fred Gerloff** - Had biopsy on esophagus. Starting procedures to prevent full blown cancer.
- Mark Atchinson – Brother **Daniel Atchinson** – Quadruple bypass in August, spot on lung discovered, biopsy indicated cancer, determining treatment.

#### Since October Meeting:

- **Tom Forbes** – Diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Had scan. Awaiting results.

Contact Scott Nugent at 804-503-9888 or at [swnugent44@yahoo.com](mailto:swnugent44@yahoo.com)

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EMMET CAHILL'S  
**CHRISTMAS  
IN IRELAND**

SPECIAL GUESTS  
*St. Michael the Archangel Choir*

THURSDAY,  
DECEMBER 12, 2019  
7:30 PM  
ST. MICHAEL THE  
ARCHANGEL  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

\$30 General Admission  
\$45 Meet & Greet + Concert  
Starts 6:00 pm

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT  
**EMMETCAHILL.COM**

Celebrate the magic of Christmas this year with Ireland's most exciting young tenor, **Emmet Cahill**. Having recently sold out New York's **Carnegie Hall**, Emmet has quickly become a sought-after performer, bringing his vocal talents to over 60 cities across North America this year alone. The concert is on **Thursday, December 12th at 7:00 p.m. at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Glen Allen**. Emmet's *Christmas in Ireland* concert will feature many of your beloved songs and carols, such as "Silent Night", "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" and "O Holy Night" as well as favorite classics from the Emerald Isle, including "Danny Boy" and "Toora Loora Loora". He'll be sharing holiday stories from the homeland and inviting you to sing along, so get those voices warmed up! And no Emmet Cahill concert is complete without the ever-popular "song request medley" segment, which often springs surprises from the audience.

Don't miss this unforgettable evening of music that will leave the whole family in the perfect

mood for the holiday season! Tickets are \$30-\$45 and may be purchased at the door or online at [www.emmetcahill.com/tour-dates/](http://www.emmetcahill.com/tour-dates/). Senior citizens use CHRISTMAS2019 at checkout to receive a 20% discount.

## VIDEO LINKS

Emmet Cahill, "Ireland's Most Exciting Young Tenor": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k1x6oKBLRVA>

"O Holy Night" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fdpA2F1Days>

"Ave Maria": [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n7Mjq\\_Lo1Fg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n7Mjq_Lo1Fg)

"On the Street Where You Live": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bXdYI8T5Exo&feature=share>

"Danny Boy": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ebulR9HNvY8>

"Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vkEGQ7w8JLg>

"Panis Angelicus" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8utSbonmV2k>

"When Irish Eyes Are Smiling": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TcGmLu27OII>



# Newgrange

Contributed by Brian P. Hegarty Jr.



Newgrange was constructed over 5,000 years ago (about 3,200 B.C.), making it older than Stonehenge in England and the Great Pyramid of Giza in Egypt. Newgrange was built during the Neolithic or New Stone Age by a farming community that prospered on the rich lands of the Boyne Valley. Knowth and Dowth are similar mounds that together with Newgrange have been designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

Archaeologists classified Newgrange as a passage tomb, however Newgrange is now recognized to be much more than a passage tomb. *Ancient Temple* is a more fitting classification, a place of astrological, spiritual, religious and ceremonial importance, much as present day cathedrals are places of prestige and worship where dignitaries may

be laid to rest.

Newgrange is a large kidney shaped mound covering an area of over one acre, retained at the base by 97 kerbstones, some of which are richly decorated with megalithic art. The 19-meter-long inner passage leads to a chamber with a corbelled roof. The amount of time and labor invested in construction of Newgrange suggests a well-organized society with specialized groups responsible for different aspects of construction.

Newgrange is part of a complex of monuments built along a bend of the River Boyne. The other two principal monuments are Knowth (the largest) and Dowth, but throughout the region there are as many as 35 smaller mounds.

## Winter Solstice



Newgrange is best known for the illumination of its passage and chamber by the winter solstice sun. Above the entrance to the passage at Newgrange there is an opening called a roof-box. This baffling orifice held a great surprise for those who unearthed it. Its purpose is to allow sunlight to penetrate the chamber on the shortest days of the year, around December 21, the winter solstice.

At dawn, from December 19th to 23rd, a narrow beam of light penetrates the roof-box and reaches the floor of the chamber, gradually extending to the rear of the chamber. As the sun rises higher, the beam widens within the chamber so that the whole room becomes dramatically illuminated. This event lasts for 17 minutes,

beginning around 9am.

The accuracy of Newgrange as a time-telling device is remarkable when one considers that it was built 500 years before the Great Pyramids and more than 1,000 years before Stonehenge. The intent of its builders was to mark the beginning of the new year. In addition, it may have served as a powerful symbol of the victory of life over death.

Each year the winter solstice event attracts much attention at Newgrange. Many gather at the ancient tomb to wait for dawn, as people did 5,000 years ago. So great is the demand to be one of the few inside the chamber during the solstice that there is a free annual lottery. Unfortunately, as with many Irish events that depend upon sunshine, if the skies are overcast, there is not much to be seen. Yet all agree that it is an extraordinary feeling to wait in the darkness, as people did so long ago, for the longest night of the year to end.



## **Christmas in Ireland embodies these top ten traditions and less we get too twee**

### **1: Christmas Cakes and Puddings:**

Then: People complain that Christmas starts too early these days. Halloween is barely over and the shops have their decorations up. But in actual fact Irish Mammys would have had the Christmas Cakes and Puddings, a rich fruit and nut combination laced with whiskey well made by October at the latest, in order for them to have time enough to mature properly before the big day.

Now: We are more likely to buy smaller (perhaps even gluten free versions) from artisan food shops, bakeries and farmers markets.

### **2. The 8th December**

Then: The feast of the Immaculate Conception, a holy day was traditionally the day families came 'up from the country' to do their Christmas shopping in one of the larger towns like Dublin, Cork or Galway.

Now: Apart from the facility to shop online 24/7 it is pretty much open season in many of the large shopping centers, like Dundrum and the Kildare Village Outlet from November.

However, there is still something magical about strolling down Henry Street or Grafton St in Dublin, Shop Street in Galway or Patrick Street in Cork at Christmas time.

Read More: [The top ten Irish Christmas traditions that make the season - PHOTOS](#)

### **3. Visit to Santa:**

Most likely you would have composed your list and letter to Santa before this but this was the day you showed your face and were on your best behavior.

Then: We always went to see Santa in Switzers (now Brown Thomas') on Grafton St who cleverly had a sack of blue presents for boys and pink for the girls. Switzers had the best Christmas windows and we would have spent hours (if we were let) with our noses pressed up against them, I am happy to say that Brown Thomas has continued that tradition and all of their windows nationwide are a sight to behold at Christmas.

Now: We have 'Santa Experiences' at Bunratty, Belvedere House, Glendeer Pet Farm, Ailwee Caves that are booked up months in advance.

### **4. The Christmas tree:**

Then: Normally didn't go up till almost Christmas and it would have been an ordinary spruce, from the Dublin mountains, no fancy imported breeds back in County Clare, where I now live, a holly bush was the handier and preferred tree of choice. My Aunts in Whitehall only ever had a small artificial Christmas tree which we thought was very exotic altogether, though undoubtedly a fire hazard, it is a wonder it didn't go up in smoke as the lights were connected to the light socket in the ceiling.

Now: had a wide variety of imported (non-shed trees) as well as any amount of pseudo cyber trees like the one in O'Connell St which has been ditched this year in favor of a REAL tree.

### **5. Candle in the window:**

Then: This was lit on Christmas eve to signal to Mary & Joseph that they were welcome at our house. as well as any stranger in need of warmth and sustenance.

Now: We have a permanent candle in the window of Aras an Uachtarain thanks to President Mary Robinson who famously re-adopted this custom during her term of office, to remember all of the emigrants that had left Ireland and let them know the candle in the window would always be lighting to remember them show them their way home.

Read More: [The top ten best places to celebrate Christmas in Ireland](#)

### **6. Midnight Mass:**

Then: We did not go as children because we were tucked up in bed in case Santa caught us out, but the adults did often after a good night in the pub and then there would be more merriment and sampling of the ham, mince pies and whiskey no doubt.

Now: Midnight Mass is as early as 7pm to facilitate families with young children (and no doubt curb the pub exodus) and a lot of older people especially watch it on television.

### **7. Christmas dinner:**

Then: Christmas dinner was very much a family affair and woe betide you if you did not make it home for dinner on Christmas Day, which was served about lunchtime and consisted of roast turkey, stuffing ham, grave, and vegetables namely the dreaded brussel sprouts that were only ever available at Christmas back in days (no loss many would still say). Christmas pudding or trifle, a layer of spongy jelly with custard and cream and a generous sprinkling of 100's and 1000's was served for desert. After which there would not be a peep out of anybody for the afternoon, while Chitty Bang Bang or the Sound of Music droned away to itself on the television.

Now: While stereo-typically it is still a family affair, many extended families have opened their doors and arms to embrace new traditions and cultural differences. Gone are the days of gnawing at a huge turkey carcass for a week. Many buy oven-ready or go out to eat in style on the day.

### **8. The Panto:**

Then: The pantomime in the Gaeity or Olympia Theatre was the next big outing for us on St Stephens Day (boxing day) or sometime after. Our Aunts very kindly took us each year and we loved sitting in the grand circle and roaring 'behind you' at Maureen Potter et al. Afterwards, we always visited the Moving Crib on Parnell Square, which is still there 50 odd years later.

The top ten best Irish Christmas food and drink treats

Now: Kids are more likely to go to Funderland in the RDS or Ice-skating, while the adults go horse-racing or do something charitable like a 25 km run or fun swim (sometimes both) or head off up the mountains for a hike.

### **9. New Years Eve:**

Then: was never a big deal in Ireland, it used to be the night of the 'dress dance' with plenty of Ri Ra and Ruaille Buaille (good fun) but mostly people watched Gaybo on the RTE (Irish television) which kicked off 50 years ago this year from Christchurch Cathedral in Dublin.

Now: This year's New Year's Eve in Dublin is set to be huge with fireworks and a free open air concert to signal the start of The Gathering in 2013. While down the country we are more likely to be at home or at impromptu parties in our neighbors' houses, due to the price of drink out and (quite rightly) very strict drink-driving laws.

### **10. 6th January:**

Then: The feast of the Epiphany, was the day when Christmas officially ended and the decorations were taken down and put away for yet another year. In the West of Ireland it was called Little Christmas or Nollaig na mBan (women's Christmas) where the men got to do all the work and prepare a meal for the ladies of the house.

Now: In the West at least, the sisterhood has embraced this old tradition, wholeheartedly, over the last few years with many specially organized (ladies only) events.

«First\_Name» «Last\_Name»  
«Street»  
«City», «State» «Zip»

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## MAJOR JAMES H. DOOLEY DIVISION

