

Pat Gallagher 1936 – 2023

Pat Gallagher, Corcamore, Clarina, who died peacefully at home on June 24th, gave over 16 years' service to St. Joseph's Parish Church Ballybrown in his role of Sacristan.



Pat was born in September 1936 in Feeny, Co. Derry, the middle child in a family of nine children, to George and Susan (née McCloskey) Gallagher. He attended Fincairn National School and later St. Columb's College, Derry where he was in the same class as John Hume, Seamus Heaney and Brian Friel. Pat began his working life in Derry and later England, eventually moving to Scotland after marriage to Marie Holland of Corcamore, and finally returning home to Ireland and Corcamore in the 1970s.

If Corcamore was Pat's primary home, his second home became Ballybrown Church. He was proud of his role as Sacristan of the church following his appointment in 2006, serving for over 16 years until the onset of his final illness in March 2023. Pat shared in the life of many parishioners, through Baptisms, First Holy Communions, Confirmations, marriages, and funeral liturgies, always ensuring everything was in order. In his own charismatic way, he liked things to be right and proper and was held in the highest regard by the public as well as the clergy with whom he served.

Pat was a well-read man and had a great love of local history. He enjoyed his newspapers, keeping up with current affairs and also liked a good debate. He lived a good, honest, simple and gentle life and graced his family, locality and church by his presence.

Pat is survived by his loving wife Marie, his two beloved daughters Marion (Bedford) and Geraldine (Walsh), his three adored grandchildren Eoghan, Amy and Cian, sons-in-law Liam and Ed, his sisters, Mary and Rosaleen (N. Ireland), nephews and nieces, brother-in-law Kevin Holland, and many relatives and friends both in Limerick and in his native Derry.

Pat was predeceased by his four brothers Tom, John, George and Hugh, two sisters Susan and Ann, brothers-in-law, Paudie and Gerry Holland, and sister-in-law Teresa Hayes née Holland.

Reposal at St. Joseph's Church Ballybrown on Monday 26th June was followed the next day by Requiem Mass celebrated by Rev. Fr. Michael Cussen P.P. and concelebrants Right Rev. Monsignor Michael Lane (V.G.), Rev. Fr. Muiris O'Connor, Rev. Fr. Éamonn Fitzgibbon (V.G.) and Rev. Fr. Tim Wrenn SDB.

The Readings during the Mass were by Amy Walsh (granddaughter) and Ann Holland. Rev. Fr. Éamonn Fitzgibbon proclaimed the Gospel and Fr. Cussen delivered the very moving eulogy on Pat's life.

The music for the funeral Mass was very beautifully provided by Thérèse Hayes.

After Mass, burial took place in Kilkeedy Cemetery.

Month's Mind Mass will be in St. Joseph's Church Ballybrown on Friday 21st July, at 7.30pm.