LOCAL NEWSPAPER ITEM.

Son of Listrakelt leading the way to St. Mochuas Holy Well

Several thousand pilgrims are expected to converge in Derrynoose this Sunday 9 July, for the annual procession to St. Mochuas Well.

Abbot Dom Celsus Kelly, a native of Listrakelt, is the special celebrant. It is significant to note that this will be the Abbots first public duty since being elevated to that position in November 1977.

Tony Kelly, son of Lily (nee Terry) and the late John Kelly is the fourth in a family of ten. He was ordained along with his brother Oliver in 1969 and immediately entered the Cistersian Monastery in Portglenone. An Abbot holds the same rank as that of a Bishop, so the faithful in Derrynoose can indeed feel honoured that the Abbot has agreed to return to his native area for this special occasion.

Indeed the Kelly family who are highly esteemed and respected in the area have a long association with St. Mochuas Well.

Exactly fifty years ago the Abbots father, the late John Kelly and his grandfather the late Edward Terry walked the same route as marshalls in the 1939 procession. It's worth noting also the list of people who were officials in that procession fifty years ago:-

Statue bearers - Peter Mullan, Charles McGrory, Peter Macklin and Packy Murray. Banner bearers - Peter Reilly, Fred Morgan, Paddy Haughey, Dan Treanor, Frank Mone, Michael J. Keenan, Arthur Whyte, Paddy Corrigan.

Marshalls - John Kelly, Mr E. Terry, James Clarke, Eddie Brennan, John Callaghan. Fifty local men formed a guard of honour and there were choirs, Derrynoose, Keady, Drumherney, Madden, Middletown and Clontibret.

This will be the fourth procession to the Well in recent times and each year the attendance appears to increase. Three years ago the special celebrant was Fr. McGinnity, in 1987 it was His Eminence Cardinal Tomas O'Fiaich and last year it was the turn of Canon James McKearney.

An added feature at the Well this year will be the newly erected Stations of the Cross and, once again, Fr. Rice has to be congratulated for his vision in providing a sanctuary which will prevail for future generations.

The procession leaves Derrynoose Chapel at 7.00 p.m. and there are adequate parking facilities at the football grounds. Afterwards there will be a special reception and re-union at the Glencarn Hotel in Castleblayney where Abbot Dom Celsus will be the special guest.