

FAREWELL FOR NOW
 If I should go before the rest
 of you
 Break not a flower
 Nor inscribe a stone
 Nor when I'm gone speak in
 a Sunday voice
 But be the usual selves that
 I have known.
 Weep if you must,
 Parting is hell,
 But life goes on,
 So sing as well.
 Death is nothing at all.
 I have only slipped away
 Into the next room
 I am I and you are you.
 Whatever we were to each
 other,
 That we are still.
 Call me by my old familiar
 name.
 Speak to me in the easy
 way you always used.
 Put no difference into your
 tone.
 Wear no forced air of
 solemnity or sorrow ...
 What is death but a
 negligible accident?
 Why should I be out of mind
 because I am out of
 sight?
 I am waiting for you.
 For an interval.
 Somewhere very near.
 Just around the corner.
 All is well.

BALLINEASPAIG PARISH BULLETIN SPECIAL EDITION



michael waldron
 1898 - 1987 R.I.P.

WALDRON (Cork and Derrymore, Ballyhaunis) — On July 24, 1987, at Marymount, Wellington Road, Michael (retired Sergeant Garda Siochana and National Volunteers), dearly beloved husband of Margaret Waldron, Derrymore, Wilton Road, and loving father of Thomas, Michael, Oliver and Stan. Deeply regretted by his loving wife, family, brothers, sisters, grandchildren, relatives and friends. Ar dheis Dé go riabh a anam.



"WELL
DONE,
GOOD
AND
FAITHFUL
SERVANT...

ENTER
INTO
THE JOY
OF YOUR
MASTER : "

(MATT. 25:21)



1898 - Born at Derrymore, Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo, on September 25th, the feast of St. Finbarr.

Member of Ballyhaunis Co. Old I.R.A. - Took part in the struggle for independence.

1923 - Joined Garda Force. Stationed Galway City.

1925 - Promoted to Sergeant. Ballydesmond 1925 - 1928. Union Quay 1928 - 1933. Victoria Cross / Dennehy's Cross 1933 - 1963.

1963 - Appointed Sacristan at the Church of the Descent of the Holy Spirit.

1985 - Presided over the Church's Silver Jubilee celebrations. Awarded 'Benemerenti' medal by Pope John Paul II.

1986 - Retired as Sacristan. Declared the C.P. Centre officially open, on the 15th September.

1987 - Was very ill. And went home to heaven on 24th July, mourned by his family, his friends, and the whole parish of Ballineaspig.



MICHAEL WALDRON 1898 - 1987

AN APPRECIATION

"I have raised up a monument more lasting than bronze." So wrote the old Roman poet about his own literary work, more than 2000 years ago. Horace knew he had achieved greatness - and knowing it somehow diminished him.

Michael Waldron was born great, but he went through life quite oblivious of this - which somehow made him a person to be imitated and admired. He was great because he was a man of tremendous Faith. No one could bend his will - he reserved this unique privilege for his Maker. He was a man of courage and perception, who did what he saw to be right, no matter what the difficulties.

His loyalty and dedication to his work as sacristan in the Church of the Holy Spirit, for twenty three years, was an inspiration. No matter how pressing other commitments might be, duty to the Lord came first, and was done without grumble or complaint. The manner in which he and his successor Pat Organ helped each other, accepted each other, and blended in a father-and-son relationship was an example to all of us - and a pointer to the stature of both men.

"Nothing in life became him like his leaving it." Fully conscious of having reached the last milestone, he he faced the reality of death with the same courage, serenity and Faith which had always characterised special moments in his life.

We thank God for the life and example of Michael Waldron - truly more lasting than bronze. May God give him the reward of his goodness.

We offer his wife Peg, his family - Tom, Michael, Oliver and Stan, his brothers, sisters, relatives and friends our sincere sympathy. And we appreciate the gift of the beautiful set of vestments presented by his American relatives in his memory.

Very sincerely,

Denis O'Connor P.P.

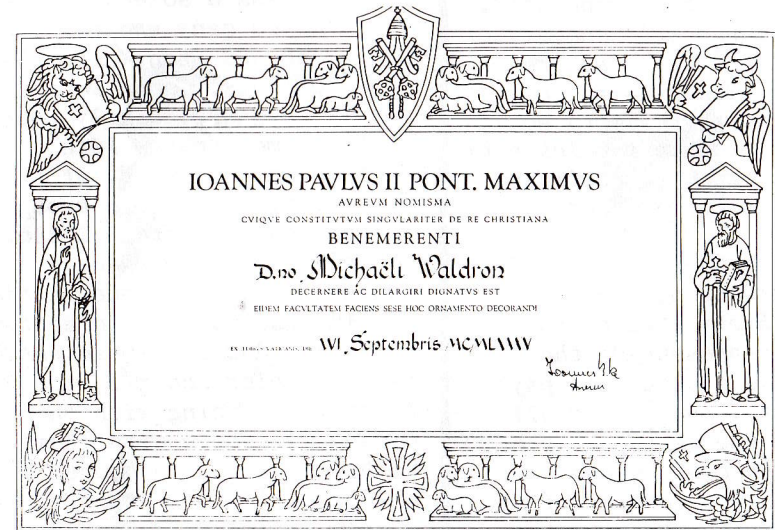
CONFERRING OF PAPAL AWARD

1985 was a great year for the Church of the Holy Spirit. 25 years old on the 25th September, its Silver Jubilee was celebrated in great style. And then, in the December of that year, our much-loved sacristan received his 'Benemerenti' medal from the Pope.

In hindsight, it seems that God was really at work. For in the December of '85, Michael Waldron was in the best of health, and in a perfect position to enjoy his moment of glory.

Six months later, it would have been a different story. But, by God's grace, the celebrations took place while our friend still enjoyed great health - a happy coincidence, or, more probable, Providence at work.

His 'Benemerenti' was, in a way, his greatest day. Bishop, priests and many friends together said 'thanks' for a life well lived. And, best of all, and most rare, the man himself was there to hear their praise.



On the day when the Papal medal was conferred, the praise came right from the top; the citation accompanying the medal made it clear that Michael was no ordinary man.

Latin scholars will be able to decipher the original (photo above); all others may find the translation on the right useful.

"JOHN PAUL II, SUPREME PONTIFF, HAS DEIGNED TO HONOUR AND GRACIOUSLY CONFER ON MR. MICHAEL WALDRON THE GOLD MEDAL 'BENEMERENTI' - 'WELL-EARNED' BY THE ONE ON WHOM IT IS BESTOWED FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE CHRISTIAN CAUSE AND HEREBY GIVES HIM THE RIGHT TO ADORN HIMSELF WITH THIS DECORATION. GIVEN AT THE VATICAN, 16TH SEPTEMBER, 1985."

PHOTO ON OTHER PAGE: In the Offertory Procession of the Mass during which he was conferred with the 'Benemerenti' medal, Michael Waldron presents the Bread for the Mass to Bishop Buckley.

FUNERAL OF MICHAEL WALDRON

THE PARISH PAYS TRIBUTE

"WE GAVE HIM a great send-off", was one parishioner's summary of the Funeral Liturgy, celebrated at 11.00, on Monday 27th July, 1987. All the ingredients worked together to produce a celebration that was solemn, yet confident, looking to the past, and to the future.

The Church was full, with an unprecedented number attending. Every area of the parish was represented; the young and the old came to pay their tribute. And so did all the priests who served with him.

There was Canon McSweeney, First Parish Priest of Ballineaspig, Fr. Mulcahy, Fr. Shinkwin, Fr. Keohan, our own Canon O'Connor, and, of course, Father O Mathúna. Fr. Cotter remembered him in foreign fields, and beyond the clouds, Fr. Kennedy and Fr. Byrne added their own prayers.

The Liturgy was certainly impressive. His own nephew, Rev. Peter Quinn, who works in the U.S.A., led the celebration. The Senior Choir came back from their holidays, just for this unique celebration with Patrick Killeen as organist/choirmaster. Altar boys were there 'en masse' - eighteen in all turned up. And Parish Sisters Frances and Brendan broke their holidays to be present.

It was a solemn farewell, which moved many who came. His sons, Tom and Stan, read the Mass readings. Canon Denis's homily was particularly touching, as he summed up the life of Michael Waldron. And, at the Offertory, gifts were brought forward by his grandchildren, as well as Tom Sheehan, a long-time comrade, and Gertie Goggin, who nursed him at the end.

And the music rendered by the Senior Choir lifted all hearts, beginning with 'Be Still My Soul', ending with 'Abide With Me', with the haunting melody of 'Ag Críost an Síol' played during Holy Communion. All in all, it was a moving celebration, a fitting tribute.

The Gardaí too paid their tribute, and on the once-busy Wilton Road, nothing stirred, except for the funeral cortege. The hearse was flanked by four Gardaí outriders on motorcycles, an impressive tribute to man who left his mark on the Garda Force.

And they laid him in the peace of St. Finbarr's Cemetery, his old friend Canon McSweeney saying the final decade at the graveside.

And all who came went away with great memories, and a quiet confidence that Michael Waldron was that very day in the green fields of Paradise, alive and forever young with His Lord, whom he served so well.

And finally, a few words from Mr. Patrick J. Organ, who took over from Michael Waldron in June 1986. He already knew Mr. Waldron as a colleague in the Gardaí; since June 1986 he has been 'learning the ropes' from 'the Sergeant'.
What better man to have the last word on MICHAEL WALDRON R.I.P.



MY FRIEND Michael Waldron has gone to his Eternal Reward.

I like to feel we were kindred spirits, with nothing but age separating us.

He was a man's man, a man for all seasons.

To know him was to be enriched by his philosophical approach to things in general.

I consider myself privileged to have known him, and to be his successor in this Church.

My sincere sympathy to his wife and family.

PAT ORGAN

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE CORK EXAMINER.
Edited by Rev. Bernard Cotter C.C.