

NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY

Well, Well, Well!

Here in Tuam we are in tune with all God's creatures who all have a place in His choir! In preparation for National Holy Wells Day (June 17 this year) our local historian Jarlath Canney has located a well which was the property of an Order of Monks who were burned out of their Monastery at the time of the Reformation. Later the stones from the Monastery were taken to build big houses in the centre of Tuam so there is no evidence of where the monks resided.

Also on board is the Tidy Towns Committee of which I am P.R.O. It has a passion for caring for the Earth. We are now working on the site of the well and hope to get a grant under a Heritage scheme: we are alerting the Authorities to the absolute necessity to care for our wells, our history, our beautiful Earth and all its creatures. Galway Rural development (GRD), we hope, will be with us every step of the way, and the Diocese is providing enthusiastic backup, and keeps all the Parish Pastoral Councils informed of developments.

We now have to negotiate with the residents of the housing estate where the well is located but I feel they too will be excited about this National Holy Wells Day. We were also contacted last June by Swift Conservation Ireland. Swifts are a seriously endangered species, but thankfully Tuam still has them and Swift boxes are being installed in the Mercy and Presentation primary schools as the Swift has no fear of people and the children will be made aware of their presence and hopefully join us in locating new nesting sites. Last year we found nine new nesting sites: the Swift is at home in Tuam!

All of the above we are doing in conjunction with Eco-Congregation Ireland. I will keep you informed of our progress across the West, and what I love about the many groups involved now is the good humour and fun they bring to this work. The Editor of the *Tuam Herald* is amazing and I'm sure would love the odd bulletin from you on your L.S.E. website. Don't forget to 'cry out with joy to all the Earth'!

- Sr Agnes Curley, RSM

Editor's Note: We welcome reports, with photos if possible, from all Diocesan Contacts, on what is going on in your area!

31 Jan 2018