

STRAIDE CHURCH CONSERVATION FUND DRAW

The *Straide Church Conservation Fund* Draw took place on Saturday, September 8th last. The lucky winning tickets (as drawn by the Independent Supervisor, *Mayo Person of the Year 2018*, Sr. Maureen Lally) were:

1st Prize of a new Dacia Sandero 5 door hatchback 1 litre petrol car (part sponsored by *Freedom Mobility*, Ballinrobe) was won by Willie Doherty, Straide. [Ticket no. 3152]

2nd Prize of a Pedigree Charolais Heifer (valued at €3,500) was won by John Henaghan, Tourmakeady. [Ticket no. 13417]

3rd Prize of a Composite Door / Window (valued at €1,000 and sponsored by *Season Master*, Straide) was won by Sylvia O'Connell, Castlebar. [Ticket no. 4921]

4th Prize of 1,000 litres of heating oil (sponsored by *J & E Hughes Oil*, Ballina) was Mary Keane, Ballycroy. [Ticket no. 14768]

5th Prize of a Return Flight for two to Bristol (sponsored by Knock Airport) was John Mulroy, Straide. [Ticket no. 00451]

A word of sincere thanks to all involved in supporting and celebrating our fundraising efforts. The total ticket sales / sponsored ticket sales / associated fundraising activities have now, collectively, raised **€102,796**. Added to the parish weekly *Conservation Fund* envelope collection, the total amount raised since October 1st 2017 is **€137,995**.

First and foremost, sincere thanks to our very generous parishioners and businesses here in Straide whose encouragement and support was second to none, as was the support received from the *Friends of Straide Parish* throughout Ireland, the UK and the USA.

Thanks, especially, to a very dedicated and hard-working fundraising committee who were out selling tickets all over the country in all sorts of weather conditions during the past six months. They really have excelled all expectations. The same committee organised a very successful line-up of events during the *Harvest Festival Week* leading up to the night of the Big Draw and put a huge amount of work into those events as well.

Thanks, also, to the many many people who worked quietly behind the scenes – either selling tickets, doing bag packs in supermarkets, sourcing raffle prizes, organising 5K Runs and Used Clothing collections.

Thanks to the many businesses (not just in Mayo but, also, further afield) who were very supportive. It brings home, very forcefully, the message that when it comes to shopping, it's always best to shop local - because when a community needs help, it's the local businesses who rally round when others may not.

In this regard, a big *Thank You* to the sponsors of the *Straide Church Conservation Fund* Draw and, also, to the many sponsors who donated raffle and spot prizes for events throughout the *Harvest Festival* week. Without your help our draw would not have been possible or as successful as it was.

Thanks to all the participants and speakers during the *Harvest Festival Week* who addressed the needs and interests of many people both within and outside the community.

Thanks to *Mayo Person of the Year 2018*, Sr. Maureen Lally, who launched the fundraising drive in March and was present on the night of the *Conservation Fund Draw* to act as Independent Supervisor and to pull the lucky winning tickets.

Thanks, also, to the elected representatives from the Castlebar Municipal District of Mayo County Council who always support every initiative in our community. We are always very grateful for their support.

Thanks to the caterers on the night of the *Conservation Fund Draw* – Herernan’s of *The Food Store Claremorris*. Thanks to the parishioners who helped serve the food, those who helped outside with the parking and those who assisted at the entrance doors. Thanks to Frances McHale who entertained on the night and to Brendan Maloney & staff who provided the refreshments.

A word of thanks, also, to the Straide Davitt Hall Committee who gave the loan of the furniture and other items needed on the night.

And, finally, a word of thanks to all others who were involved in any way. Congratulations and well done to all.

On behalf of the Fundraising Committee

Fr. Martin Convey
September 11th 2018

Fundraising Committee

Chair:	Kathleen Canning
Vice Chair:	Cathal Hennelly
Treasurers:	Michael Jordan & Vincent McKeon
PRO:	John McNicholas & Bernie Ward
Secretary:	Fr. Martin Convey
Committee Members:	Margaret Burke, Mary Byrne, Peadar Lennon, Maire Mulroy, John Murphy, Kathleen Ruane, Noelle Smyth & Bernie Ward.