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Gourmet Gary's Gigantic Gaffe

The mystery surrounding Gary Wynne's absence from the pulpit at last Friday's Mass has been unravelled.

CCTV footage taken inside Botwell Club can reveal that, while the rest of the club were filling their souls with spiritual well-being, the Fermanagh native was filling his stomach with items from the buffet.

When approached about this indiscretion, Wynne claimed that he had done nothing wrong and that he had been told by Paddy Donaghy that when we're at the Mass "the bread needs sampling".

The committee explained to him that he was actually meant to do was "read the psalm".



Wynne: Caught red handed

Wynne blamed Donaghy's thick Lough Shore accent and dialect for the mix-up stating: "I've no idea what that man's talking about most of the time."

"Amen to that" sang the choir, which included his wife Nicola.

St Clarets GFC: We came, we saw and we conquered"

Murphy's Mohican Mishap

Heads turned and tongues wagged last Friday evening, when veteran Claretian Tony Murphy entered Botwell Club sporting a large green balloon as a hair accessory.

Club legend Murphy, who is currently on sabbatical from St Clarets, assisting with the London senior team, was unfazed by the attention directed towards him, as he and his wife Caroline took their place among the great and the good.

Such is the reverence in which Offaly man Murphy is held by all members of the club, no one was prepared to approach him directly to enquire about his rather bizarre head-attire.

However, in typical GAA fashion, behind his back, there were plenty of comments and suggestions as to its purpose.

Sources close to the London team have suggested that Murphy will not be the only person connected to the panel with this new apparel, and that following a recent squad meeting, they have voted unanimously to all wear a balloon between now and their vital Championship en-counter with Leitrim in June.

The idea, similar to that used by many successful teams in the past, is that the entire squad would wear

an item, unique to the group, which would remind each player of the team and their goals every time they see it.

The usual preferences are rubber wrist bands or something worn around the neck, however the London squad have decided to go the extra mile and are said to have voted unanimously in favour of the balloon option.

Like hard-hats on a building site,



The Murphys and the balloon

the colour of the balloon worn by each member of the squad will determine seniority, with green being for management.

However, in a further twist, an unnamed Offaly native, who was in attendance at the Social Evening on Friday and who is said to be a close friend of Murphy, rang *The Echo* on Saturday morning to offer up what he assured us to be the official explanation for Murphy's balloon.

The source, told the chief sports reporter at *The Echo*, that the balloon was indeed connected to Murphy's London commitments.

However it was not as previously believed, but instead was in fact a "thought bubble" that Paul Coggins had encouraged all members of the London coaching team to wear at all times.

The purpose of this was to allow them to deposit any thoughts they had about the team into it, so that they would know where they were, when they needed to recall them.

When told about this, the Sports Editor of *The Echo* suggested to the source that having watched London play for the past two years, the "thought bubbles" must be pretty empty.

When contacted about these suggestions, London manager Paul Coggins was unable to talk due to the poor mobile reception in *The Balloon N' Party Shop* in Stanmore, where he said he was buying balloons to celebrate his native Roscommon reaching the All Ireland Under-21 Final.

However, at the end of all this conjecture, the truth finally came out from a long term member of St Clarets.

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Murphy's Mohican Misery contd.

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A Galway man, who wished not to be named in case he offended his former midfield partner, suggested that it was Murphy's take on the hairstyle adopted by former London senior manager Noel Dunning (pictured) in 2005.

It has come to light that Murphy was spotted leaving the world famous Advanced Hair Studio in Fitzroy Square in London, described as "a haven for the follically challenged, confused and concerned". They are most famous for their work with sporting celebrities such as Shane Warne and John Hartson.

It is believed that Murphy, conscious of his heightened public profile as a selector with London, visited the studio looking for help with what he described as "a slight problem with my hair tone".

The procedure is said to have encountered "complications", and the solution offered by the Clinic is said to be the green balloon, designed to draw attention away from the most effected area.

However, experts who have examined the photograph, believe that the colour formula that was used to mask Murphy's silvery locks, has in fact congealed at the back of Murphy's head, creating a bal-

loon-like appearance.

This revelation pours further fuel on the fire of suggestion that Murphy has designs on the top job in London for 2013 or even the Offaly job, now that it has become available again.



Dunning in 2005: How Murphy was meant to look after his treatment.

DIFFERENT DIRECTION FOR DONAGHY'S DIOCESE

Sources close to Pope Benedict XVI claim that the Pontiff is furious with recent additional changes being incorporated into the Mass by what Rome have dubbed "Catholic Converters" or "Cathcons" for short.

The claims come as news broke of yet another attempt by one of these so-called Cathcons to restructure the order of the Mass, this time during St Clarets club's service last Friday.

The Catholic Church, already under extreme pressure from the English speaking world for the recent changes that they have made to many of the prayers, were left reeling as news filtered back to the Vatican of the latest attempt by long-serving Claretian Paddy Donaghy to increase the influence of his own ideology within the Catholic community.

To back up their concerns, officials in Rome have revealed that Donaghy has been on a Vatican watch-list of religious antagonist for some years, dating back to the time of Pope John Paul II.

According to "chatter" being picked up by the Vatican secret service, they had been expecting further action from him, but nothing as brazen as the move executed by Donaghy last Friday.

Service organizer had "on advice", overlooked Donaghy for any active role in the Mass, but it has emerged that he per-

suaded fellow Claretian, Gary Wynne to carry out "alternative duties" during the service (see front page).

Donaghy grabbed this opportunity to take to the altar and convinced his fellow readers that the new running order of Mass was for the psalm to be read after the two readings.

Unaware of Donaghy's Vatican record, Mick Keane and Denis McCarthy allowed the change to take place.

Church-goers were left open-mouthed as the Tyrone man then took to the altar to read the psalm, after the second reading had been completed.



Trenton Oldfield: Baptism gone wrong

However it's been revealed that, Donaghy's mission is not just limited to the format of Church services, and this week news has come to light that he has also taken to administering the sacrament of baptism.

Sources claim that the so-called "protestor" at the recent Boat Race, Trenton Oldfield, wasn't actually protesting at all, but had been in the process of being baptized by Donaghy in the Thames, when Paddy inadvertently lost his grip of the recent convert to Catholicism.

Attempts by Donaghy to persuade John and Rebecca McDermott to allow him to baptized their first-born child, due this week, have thus far failed, although McDermott has said that if Donaghy would lower the price a bit, then they might be able to work something out.

Extending his services further, Donaghy is planning on entering the marriage business as well, and is offering couples the opportunity to get married while bungee jumping from one of the many tower cranes that he has out on hire.

Having already cornered the global market in wedding tents, Donaghy's plan is to create a one-stop destination for all soon-to-be-wed couples.

Ger O'Sullivan is currently refusing to answer calls from Donaghy, as he tries to convince Ger and Anna to "take the leap" with his latest enterprise.

O'Sullivan has said that he already has a busted shoulder from his dancing tomfoolery, and he'd very much like to keep his neck in one piece.