

Travellers in prison news

Newsletter of the Irish
Chaplaincy in Britain's
Traveller Project

Issue 2
March 2012



Fáilte!

Irish President meets Mrs McInerney and ICB staff

Welcome to our March edition of TIPN. It's been a busy few months at The Traveller Project. We've been working with probation to overcome some of the problems that are coming up again and again for Travellers in the resettlement process. Joe Boyce is leading this study looking at how resettlement can be improved for Travellers and how probation services can better understand the Travelling community.

Since our last edition we have visited HMPs Wormwood Scrubs, Pentonville, Huntercombe, Wandsworth, Manchester and Wymott. We have been in touch with numerous prisons and prisoners providing information on

Traveller representatives, Traveller groups and staff training. Many prisons are starting to make some progress on Traveller issues and more broadly in celebrating the Traveller culture of people such as Padraig 'Pecker' Dunne (see inside).

Recently, we've heard powerful stories of Travellers not just learning to read in prison but also of Travellers teaching others to read. Men who thought that education had past them have told us that they are now writing to their families. Interestingly, writing is meaning that the great story-telling traditions of Travellers can be seen and heard more often, as it is in Traveller poetry in this edition.

Since the New Year, The Traveller

Project has launched *Voices Unheard*, a DVD made by Traveller prisoners telling their experiences of life as a Traveller in prison. The DVD was launched by Bishop Richard Moth, representing the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales who supported the project. And when the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins visited the London Irish Centre he was delighted to receive a copy of the new DVD.

If you are a Traveller or you work with Travellers in prison and you have a comment, a letter, an article, a poem or a drawing please send it (with your contact details) to us at: Irish Chaplaincy in Britain, 50-52 Camden Square, London, NW1 9XB.

As St. Patrick's Day approaches, the whole of the Irish Chaplaincy in Britain team wishes you a Very Happy St. Patrick's Day.
Beannachtaí na Féile Pádraig Oraibh!

The work of the Irish Chaplaincy in Britain is funded in part by grants from the Government of Ireland, the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference, and by the support of many generous Friends.

W3

In September 2011 the code 'W3' for 'Gypsy or Irish Traveller' was included on the P-Nomis offender management system. This coincided with the inclusion of a 'Gypsy or Irish Traveller' category on the UK Census for the first time.

This is an important development for Gypsy and Traveller prisoners, as it means that for the first time the prison service will have official figures on the number of prisoners from these groups. Knowing more about the size and distribution of the Gypsy and Traveller population will allow the Prison Service to work more effectively with these groups.

Yet although the code exists, many prisons are not effectively using it and many Traveller prisoners are still being categorised as 'White British' or 'White Irish'. Prison staff working on induction will need to be more proactive; giving prisoners the full list of available ethnic codes to choose from and not making assumptions.

Some prisons have taken encouraging steps to identify Travellers and ensure that they are being properly recorded on the system. In HMP Wandsworth for example, a red-band Traveller rep attends the induction wing daily, helping to identify new Traveller prisoners.

If you are a Gypsy or Traveller prisoner and would like to be recorded as such, then you can ask for this to be done at any time. Just contact your offender manager or a diversity officer and ask to be changed to 'W3' on P-Nomis.

Being counted means that you count: if Gypsy and Traveller prisoners are being recorded then more attention will have to be given to their specific needs.



Bigger. Fatter. Racist?

Adverts for the new series of Channel 4's 'My Big Fat Gypsy Wedding' have sprung up around the UK, 'Bigger. Fatter. Gypsier', the words stamped across the faces of girls and boys. It is the final word here which has caused problems. 'Gypsier'. What is it meant to mean? For many, it is offensive, as shown by over three hundred complaints received by the Advertising Standards Authority from groups such as The Irish Chaplaincy and London Gypsy and Traveller Unit. Jeannette Arnold and John Biggs, Assembly Members for North East London and City and East London have also objected, stating that the adverts are "totally inappropriate... offensive and disrespectful". They have called for Channel 4 to remove the adverts and apologise.

The main problem with the adverts is the stereotyped impression they give of the entire Traveller community. We are shown menacing young boys and heavily made-up girls, and many feel that

this is a theme which runs throughout the TV series. In an interview for *The Guardian* Roxy Freeman, an English Gypsy journalist makes this clear. Freeman argues that the previous series "was not an accurate portrayal of any kind of Travelling community I've ever known", accusing the producers of sensationalism.

The word 'gypsier' suggests an extreme, and taking stereotypes of a community to an extreme is rarely helpful. The London Gypsy and Traveller Unit make the point that if the adverts used words such as 'Jewisher' or 'Blacker', there would be outrage. Why are these ethnic groups given more protection in the media than Travellers? "Do they want people to laugh at the word "Gypsier"?" Irish Traveller Christine Cawley asked. "It is making out that our ethnic identity can be used against us and that can't be right."



Bishop visits the Westway

Bishop Alan Hopes of Westminster visited The Westway Traveller site before Christmas. He and Fr Gerry McFlynn of the Irish Chaplaincy celebrated Mass in the packed community centre. After tea and biscuits, Bishop Hopes visited every home on the site and blessed each one.

Traveller Legends: A Profile of Pecker Dunne



A man who has lived his songs... one of the finest Irish musicians of all time

In January of this year, at the opening of a tribute concert in Dublin to honour the musical legend Pecker Dunne, city councillor Mannix Flynn said the following:

“He has made an outstanding contribution to broader Irish society and culture. He’s not just a traditional player, he could compose – for me, he’s up there with Sean Ó Riada and Carolan. ...He gives voice to his community through his art.”

Padraig "Pecker" Dunne was born in 1933 in Castlebar, County Mayo to an Irish Traveller family originally from County Wexford, where his father was a well known fiddle player “Fiddler Dunne”.

The man who would play some of the world’s finest venues, including Carnegie Hall and who knew the folk legend Woody Guthrie, spent his childhood on the roads travelling in his parents’ horse-drawn caravan. “We were living on the side of the road in New Ross”, Pecker explains, “and I used to ride horses for a Major Peckard – they called me ‘Major Peckard’ after that and then shortened it to ‘Pecker’.”

A colourful character, brilliant storyteller and world-class musician,

Pecker is an expert on the fiddle, melodeon, guitar and banjo. He uses many of the techniques that are essential features to the Traveller style of fiddle playing such as “hacking”, “snapping” and “feathering”.

Dunne first became known to a wide Irish audience from his regular busking at major GAA sporting fixtures, particularly at Munster hurling finals where he was as integral to the day as the clash of the teams from Tipperary and Cork on the field. It was often said that ‘it wasn’t a final without The Pecker.’

Later he went on to tour in England, France, Australia and New York, where he appeared with The Dubliners. He also performed alongside Richard Harris and Stephen Rea in the 1996 feature film Trojan Eddie. More recently, he was artist-in-residence for the University of Limerick’s music programme.

He now lives in Killimer, County Clare with his wife and four children, who continue the musical tradition.



Anti-Traveller Attitudes to go Unchallenged

When my mother came to England

in the 1950s to work as a nurse, the signs on the boarding houses said ‘No Blacks, No Irish.’ She described it as normal.

You couldn’t get away with putting up signs like that now. That’s what I thought. Or really what I thought was that nobody even if they were racist would be stupid enough to erect signs like that and attract the attention of the police. I was wrong. And I was wrong on two counts. Firstly, that there are people stupid enough to put up the signs. Secondly, that the police and the CPS would pursue these people under race relations legislation.

Before Christmas, I was walking up through a back street in north London when I noticed a pub that had a sign that read ‘Travellers by Appointment Only.’ I thought it was a mistake so the next day I went back to the pub with my colleague Joe. The signs were there alright – three of them making it clear that Travellers weren’t wanted.

I was surprised not because I haven’t heard a lot of racism towards Travellers but that in multi-cultural London that a sign like that could remain in the open for some time. We took photos and reported the sign to the police who promised they would investigate.

I went to the police station and made a long statement stressing the seriousness of the crime. I made the point that such racist incidences prevent Travellers from getting legal work and getting on with their lives. I stated that when there are signs like that it’s not surprising that many

Travellers in prison point to discrimination in schools and society as one factor that put them on the path to offending.

I stressed that like everybody else Travellers have a responsibility for their own actions. But I added whenever Travellers as a group are singled out for unfair treatment it just means this section of society feel unjustly treated. Then everybody loses. It is in the interests of the police and society that they pursue these cases of discrimination otherwise Travellers will rightly feel aggrieved and disconnected.

In early March, I received a phone call from Islington Police Station. The CPS has decided not to pursue any action against the pub.

The Traveller Project has voiced its grave concerns over the decision not to pursue this matter and as a result have highlighted the issue in the media in Britain and Ireland. We believe that the highlighting of such incidents makes it (slowly) less acceptable and so we will continue to do so in future.

By Conn MacGabhann

Manager of the Traveller Project

Traveller Numbers on Toe by Toe Reading Plan Growing

Many Traveller men have not needed to be able to read. And for many Travellers the experience of school was far from nice. For these and other practical reasons, intelligent, capable and productive members of the Travelling community often cannot read or write; and they often function very well without being able to.

In prison the number who can't read or write is at least 60% of Irish Travellers. Inside prison though reading and writing are important and very useful. Travellers in prison know this and each week the Traveller Project hears of more Travellers learning to read and write.

One of the most successful reading courses used by Travellers in prison is Toe by Toe which is run by the Shannon Trust. In one prison we recently visited almost half of the learners doing Toe by Toe

were Travellers. Those Traveller men completing the course can now write to their families, make applications, complete training and rehab courses. Those men are quickly becoming leaders as gifted at writing as they are at speaking. Older Traveller men who thought, 'it was too late' can now read and write.

And Traveller prisoners are taking the lead in some prisons by becoming Toe by Toe Mentors. A mentor is the teacher who teaches or leads the learning prisoner through the course. A number of prisons now have a Traveller Toe by Toe Mentor teaching other prisoners both Travellers and non-Travellers.

Please let The Traveller Project know if you have completed Toe by Toe or are a Traveller mentor.

If you or someone you know is interested in Toe by Toe, please contact The Shannon Trust for further details:

The Shannon Trust, 2nd Floor, Royal London House, 22-25 Finsbury Square, London, EC2A 1DX
T: 020 7374 8855
E: communications@shannontrust.org.uk



Contributions

Letters, Articles and Poems from our readers

Looking Back

Lands ingrained upon heart, soul,
Trees outstretched arms futures hold,
Flowers cascading, colours bold,
Clouds' rainfall reaching all,
Choruses fizzed with glee,
For all the Travellers free.

Born a Traveller, 'tis to be proud,
St Christopher, Mother Nature,
Proudly side by side,
Living free in Travellers,
Sometimes Bricks and Mortar,
Had to do,
But being Buffers,
We find hard,
Upon lands, roads,
Riding out horses,
Any work would do,
As the welfare was Taboo.

Looking back,
The sight of the road,
Warmness of new patches of land,
Sure was happiness grand.

Sheldon Smith

The Travelling Clans

I am a Travelling Man I come
From the Irish Celtic Clans.
Traveller by day Tinkers they
Say they can't understand our
Travelling way. For a thousand years
They blacken our names through
Heartache and pain suffering and
Shame the Celtic blood still runs
In our veins. The gift of life was
Given to us not by man by the
Power of God's grace and his never-
ending \Love.

In two World Wars we fought
And died to help old England keep
Its pride. We can't give up we have
Our rights. There are no angels in
this Life.

Young people of Ulster you don't
Know our culture. Survivors of the
Highest degree no one can say that
Better than me it's written in my
Family's tree that dates back to
The 9th Century. We are the free
Spirits of the Travelling clans
For a thousand years we travelled
Ireland free to roam free to stay
We don't need your council estates
Proud to be a Travelling man my
Family are from the Maughan clans.

Patrick Maughan

A Place in Mind

In my mind there is a place
That comes to me when I lay
Down to rest. This place I see
Is special to me. It takes me
Away from the locks and the
Keys. As I lay down my head
all alone in my bed my mind
Starts to wonder to follow my
Dream. My peace my time this
Place in mind, brings joy to my
Heart only heaven supplies. The
Truth is my shield my soul at
Peace, there is no fear my
Spirit released. My dream my
Place that's so full of grace
Brings Tears to my eyes a
Peace full smile to my face.
What wonders I see there, a
Blessing for me that takes
Me beyond my wildest dreams.
I awake by the sound of
The keys on the gates. I open
My eyes and then realise I'm
Back with the black and the
White where no one is right
The old prison shoes and dog end

Blues. The criers and liars and
Hate. The big and small who try
To walk Tall, the lies deceit and
The weak...

Patrick Maughan

The Wrong Side of the Road

By Martin Maughan

There are so many young Travellers
in and out of prison, and so many of
those Travellers need the right kind
of help, to help them stay away from
a life of prison. So many Traveller
men end up in prison because they
find it really hard to find a job.
Having a job is what makes you a
person; the kind of person who gets
up every day, looking forward to the
day ahead of them, looking forward
to doing the work that they do. Most
young Travellers find it really hard to
hold down a good job. The reason for
this is that people they work with
find out they are Travellers. At the
end of the day we are just the same
as they are – we are all human. But
when they find out that we are in fact
Travellers people talk and word gets
around. Before we know it we are
made out to be bad people.

For other Travellers who come from
a really hard background, the reason
that leads them to a life of prison is
that they have never been to school
so finding a job can be very hard.

If all your life you have been on the
wrong side of the road, what is the
point of even trying to find a job
now? This kind of life can be very
hard for a young Travelling man to

grow out of. If the right kind of help was available to young Travellers then I believe so many would put all that they had into making this work for the better.

Many Travellers come from really poor backgrounds and had to take the wrong side of the road just to make ends meet. Some get in with the wrong kind of people and before they know what they are doing they're leading their life on the wrong side of the road. It's not too late to move away from a life of prison, move away from all you know, STOP and think about what you are doing. Believe me I am a Traveller who has done the best part of his life in a prison cell.

You are the only one who can STOP leading your life on the wrong side of the road.

Bishop Richard Moth and Conn Mac Gabhann at the launch of the *Voices Unheard* DVD



Voices Unheard, a collection of stories on DVD, documenting the experiences of Travellers in prison and produced by The Irish Chaplaincy in Britain (ICB), has been launched at a conference in Leeds. The project supported by the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales was an opportunity for Traveller prisoners to speak about their unique experiences within the

prison system.

The speakers discussed issues such as discrimination, evictions, isolation, depression, substance abuse, institutionalisation and education. *Voices Unheard* is an honest, often sad but unsentimental portrayal of the issues affecting a group that is often unheard within prisons. Most importantly, it is from Travellers themselves in their own eloquent voice.

Joe Boyce of the Irish Chaplaincy in Britain who edited the DVD made the point that 'because every week we speak with Travellers facing the same obstacles, *Voices Unheard* is a chance for Travellers to speak about those issues to the wider public, to bring it to people's attention'

Recent reports such as the Irish Chaplaincy's research of the same name have pointed out the difficulties facing Travellers in prison and opportunities for improving the situation but these academic reports don't always show the human beings behind the statistics. The *Voices Unheard* DVD coming from Travellers themselves tells what it is like to be a Traveller in prison.

The *Voices Unheard* DVD, is gradually being distributed within the prison system for two main purposes.

Firstly, *Voices Unheard* is a training tool for staff within the Prison and Probation Service. It encourages its audience to think about the experiences of being a Traveller. The Traveller speakers are often self-critical and unsentimental and are far-removed from the depiction of

Travellers widespread in both the media and wider society.

Secondly, the *Voices Unheard* DVD, is intended to start discussions within Traveller Groups. As the number of Traveller Groups in prison grows and the demand for resources grows, this DVD will start discussions about issues affecting Travellers.

'The Traveller men and the Traveller woman who contributed to this DVD have done their community proud by speaking so honestly and powerfully about their lives,' Conn Mac Gabhann of the Irish Chaplaincy, said at the Launch.

He added 'We believe this DVD will start conversations in every prison in England and Wales. It will help change how Travellers are seen and point to ways their issues can be resolved.'

The Traveller Project will be distributing *Voices Unheard* in the coming months. If you are interested in receiving a copy for your prison please contact us.

A Message from Bishop Richard Moth

I am delighted to record my support for '*Voices Unheard* - Travellers in Prison'.

Travellers who spend time in prison are confronted with a number of challenges that would not be experienced by other members of the prison population. The opportunity afforded them by this project represents a major step forward and the Irish Chaplaincy is to be congratulated on initiating the project.

+ Richard Moth

Working Alongside Travellers

Kim Davey is the RC chaplain at HMP The Mount

As a Catholic prison chaplain I have had the opportunity to work closely with the Travelling community within the larger community of HMP The Mount in Hemel Hempstead.

It was seven years ago that I met a Traveller for the first time. I had just started working at the prison and was asked to sit in on a meeting with an Irish inmate who was on a suicide watch. He was a self harmer. This was the start of my journey into the world of Travellers. A journey at times that has been very demanding and challenging.

I have felt privileged that these men have let me go so far into this world. I hasten to add that it's something that I have had to earn over the years. I quickly realized that I had to acquire their respect and their trust first and foremost. I entered in through an area of common ground. This common ground was a love of Jesus and a devotion to his mother Mary. I got to know that these men loved anything religiously visual. I started to give them pictures and rosaries. They always received these with great appreciation and reverence, often kissing them and tracing the sign of the cross on their chests. The men soon went on to ask me for help. When I managed to show that I could be relied upon the trust began to grow and I was honored with title of sister. The door of their isolated world, their frustrating world, their sad world and their happy world had been opened.

I learned that their isolation was caused by being cut off from family, and from the freedom of open spaces. I now knew that for them being locked up in a small cell was like being trapped in a coffin.

Their frustrating world is being unable to get a job because they have not got basic literacy skills.

The sad world is where they are not allowed to go to the funeral of their loved ones.

Finally, the happy world is when they are together with other Travellers.

At the Mount some small progress has been made into understanding these frustrations. A Travellers rep's post is now in place. Mr T. S. is the link between myself and the men. I have worked closely with him this past year or so. As soon as I meet a new reception who is a Traveller I inform Mr S. and he will then go and catch up with them on the induction wing. He helps them to settle in.

This has been a successful approach. As a result we have managed to compile a list of most of the Travellers in the prison. This helps in making contact with them if ever any groups or events are taking place. This is proving to be a huge step forward in awareness of their needs. I believe this knowledge is leading to a greater understanding of this community and a start to the breaking down of prejudices that have been built up over the years.

I have been given trust by these men. It is a precious gift that I will always treasure. I am honoured to be called their sister.

Travellers Matter!

Over the last year, the issue of provision for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller prisoners has been raised in HM Inspectorate Reports for numerous prisons across England and Wales.

HMIP statistics reveal that Gypsy, Roma and Traveller men make up 1% of prisoners in High Security Prisons, 5% of prisoners in Category B Prisons and 4% of prisoners in Category C Prisons. In local female prisons 7% of inmates were from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller backgrounds.

This shows that Traveller and Gypsy prisoners makes up a significant minority group in prison, and are a community that require more attention. There are pressing problems with the way Travellers are treated in prisons both as individuals and as a group. In some cases, it is clear that positive steps are being made to solve these problems, but this is not true for all institutions.

Reports from several prisons give details about Traveller History Month events which have been held. Events which took place included "displays, feature menus and quizzes" in HMP Coldingley and family days in HMP Ford, where "videos on Traveller culture and history were shown, cultural food was served and information [was] displayed in the visits hall".

Unfortunately, several reports stated that there was little being done to assess why this was the case. For example, in the case of Wormwood Scrubs- where 9% of prisoners came from a Gypsy or Traveller

background- there was “no attempt to identify and meet the needs of this population in the prison and the wider issues behind this over-representation need to be better understood and addressed in the community”. It was highlighted that at Deerbolt, although there were “few formal opportunities for minority groups to meet” the diversity and equality officer had recognised the potential to establish a Traveller and Gypsy group due to the high percentage of prisoners identifying with this community. At Highdown, although 7% of the sample were Travellers “no prisoners were registered by the prison as being Gypsy, Romany or Traveller...there was a wide acceptance that there were prisoners of this background on the wings but there had been no enquiry of their needs or why they declined to declare themselves”. Although it was reported that there had been a recent Gypsy and Traveller event, it is clear that more support needs to be provided, starting with recognition of the community.

In comparison with this, there were several prisons which, despite the lower than average or average percentage of inmates who identified as Gypsy or Traveller, showed a high level of support. For example, it was noted that at Ashwell there was “good attention to the needs of Travellers”, with good support being developed for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller prisoners.

Recognising the needs of Gypsy and Traveller prisoners and monitoring provision for this group shows that ‘Travellers Matter’, and should no longer be the forgotten minority.

Much more work is needed however, to ensure that these needs are being met across the prison estate.

Joe Ward’s Olympic Dream Still Alive



Irish Senior Boxing Championships

Last year, 17-year-old Joe Ward, unseated Kenny Egan from a decade of rule as Irish Light Heavy Weight Champion, and a rivalry was born. Some wondered was the defeat of Egan (30), an Olympic silver medallist from Beijing, a fluke.

Friday 3rd February 2012 was going to teach us a lot as the two men, Egan from Dublin and Ward, a Traveller from Westmeath clashed again. As well as the Irish title being at stake, the winner would have a shot at Olympic qualification at the final qualifying competition in Trabzon, Turkey in April.

Ward, now 18, has never been short on confidence. Entering the packed National Stadium, Ward was relaxed. The big-muscled teenager was almost carefree as he stepped into the ring, Egan business like and focused.

This contest was confirmation of last year’s upset. Ward was an emphatic winner.

When the bell rang it was Ward who went aggressively forward to land big shots on Egan. When Egan landed one on Ward at the end of the

round, the younger fighter defiantly threw an arm in the air. No problem. Ward took the opener 9-5.

That was the start. Later, Ward’s big swinging arms were hurting. The Olympic medallist remained calm and tried to pick his scores but Ward was overwhelming and stunned Egan in the second to a standing count, the round ending 17-8 to the Moate Club man.

That was a too big a gap to make up for Egan. While Ward was almost punched out, he had done plenty and Egan had little to unload. The bout unfolded slowed, Ward flicking out his glove, Egan unable to score. The final score in favour of Ward was 29-10.

“The best of luck to him in the qualifiers,” said Egan. “If he qualifies I’m going to put a couple of grand on him to win a medal.”

Ward was respectful of his opponent afterwards, although not surprised with his second title. “He’s a great boxer. Ken is a legend but it’s good that someone new is coming in now. To go in and beat Ken by – what was it, 19 points? – is a great achievement. I got my tactics right and now it’s all for the Olympic qualifiers.”

Also on the night, twice World Championship medallist John Joe Nevin won the bantamweight title after the already London-qualified champion beat his cousin Michael Nevin.

The Irish Amateur Boxing Association has confirmed their seven-man squad for the final Olympic qualifiers in Turkey in April. Paddy Barnes, Michael

McDonagh, Ross Hickey, Adam Nolan, Joe Ward, Tommy McCarthy and Con Sheehan will line out for Ireland by the banks of the Black Sea. Michael Conlan, John Joe Nevin and Darren O'Neill have already qualified for the London Olympics.

ST PATRICK'S DAY

Searching through one's family tree can be an exhilarating and sometimes frightening experience, but it is nearly always fascinating. Around the time of St Patrick's Day we look at the family tree of our faith. We cast our eyes back as far as we can go and arrive at the name of a young man, perhaps as young as sixteen, who has shaped the very identity of our country and been a central figure in bringing the message of Jesus Christ to our people.

St Patrick is the focus of many legends. But we need to go behind the legends and myths to find the real man; and when we do we find a real flesh and blood man who struggled in his life and suffered great hardships. We are all familiar with the broad details of his life. He was born in Britain in 385 and brought up in a comfortable Christian family. His father had been a government official of some kind and his grandfather had been a priest. However, he was captured and brought to Ireland as a slave where he worked on the hills of County Antrim tending sheep. He escaped back to Britain, and then to France where he studied for the priesthood. While there he heard a voice inviting him to return to Ireland: "Come and walk among us once again."

But Patrick's work in bringing Christianity to Ireland was not easy. Apart from the trouble he had with the various kings and chieftains, there were the Druids who hated him and even tried to kill him. However, Patrick persevered in his endeavours and before long churches, monasteries and schools began to spring up all over the country which were later to give Ireland fame as the "land of saints and scholars". Patrick's most famous writing, his Confession, is a defence of his life and work and provides a fascinating insight into the mind of the great saint especially in relation to prayer, perseverance and the protection of the defenceless.

There are many aspects of Patrick's life which speak directly to us today. Because of his own experience as an exile and emigrant, he stands with emigrants and exiles everywhere, those who in recent years have come to live in Ireland as well as those who have travelled abroad to build a future elsewhere. Indeed there are few saints from so far back in time with whom we can identify so well when it comes to the problems faced by emigrants, exiles, and Travellers.

So this St Patrick's Day when hundreds of thousands of people flock out onto the streets all over the world to celebrate "Irishness" in its many aspects, we should take pride in the Christian faith Patrick gave us, thank God for this great Apostle and ask his intercession for ourselves and Irish people everywhere.

Fr Gerry McFlynn, Irish Chaplaincy in Britain

Get in Touch!

-If you are a Gypsy or Traveller prisoner and have any issues or concerns you'd like to discuss...

-If you have a poem, picture, letter or article you'd like included in our newsletter...

-If you work in prison and would like any help, advice or resources for working with Gypsy and Traveller prisoners...

Then get in touch with us!

**Traveller Project,
Irish Chaplaincy in Britain,
52 Camden Sq,
London,
NW19XB**

**Tel:
020 7482 5525**

**E-Mail:
Travellers@
irishchaplaincy.org.uk**

Naomh Pádraig

17th March 2012

