

# Roscrea Folk Group

The Roscrea Folk Group began as the brain-child of Fr Tony Cahir in 1976 and was then carried on by Fr Michael Collins from 1983 to the present. Initially the Group came together to provide music at the 10.30 a.m. Sunday Mass and then later on each Saturday evening when the 7.30p.m. Vigil Mass was introduced in Roscrea. Over the 25 years many have given of their time and talent to help to make the Folk Group what it is today.

By participating in workshops in places like Ballinteer, Borrisokane, Limerick and Carlow, the Group quickly built up a fine repertoire of hymns and music.

Through the dedication of leaders like Joan Queally and Margaret Moloney and the commitment of the members, the Group have grown from strength to strength. Practice takes place every second Tuesday in the basement of the Curates' House. From these and social evenings and outings a fine spirit has emerged among the members.

Besides enhancing the Saturday evening Mass, the Group also has taken part in local concerts, fund-raising activities - *'The Lark in the Park'* and carol singing.

Highlights of our activities must surely be singing at the Diocesan Night Vigil in Knock in 1987, joining with the Church Choir to sing at the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock in 1992, at the Ordinations in the Parish Church in 1991 and 2000, and singing for the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes in 2001. As a result of our trip to Lourdes we have been invited back to sing for the 2002 Pilgrimage.

We consider it an honour and privilege to sing at the Saturday evening Mass and we are indebted to the parishioners of Roscrea for the support and affirmation that we have received from them.

