

Jimmy's Reflection

by Edel O'Brien

On behalf of the O'Brien family I would like to thank you all for coming here today, far and near, to celebrate Jimmy's life as we accompany him on his final journey. We have family and friends who are unable to be here in person, we extend a warm welcome to them as they join us on live stream.

Jimmy also known as Jim or as a younger man Boulteeny, was considered by some to be single minded and determined, this is true, however he also had a great sense of the importance of being part of a team of which he was in many! My parents were a great team, and no one could do anything like Sarah in Jimmy's eyes. He believed in shaking hands on fair deals, for example our summer holidays were always to Kerry, Sarah got the scenery by day and Jimmy got to watch the Kerry team train in the evenings in Fitzgerald Stadium. Other teams that spring to mind, enjoyed by Jimmy, were the team in the workshop in Magcobar, his doubles handball partners and Silvermines and Tipperary Junior Teams. Whatever the team, they brought lasting friendships and Jimmy made many with lots of tea pots filled in Ballincur. He instilled the value of friendships in both my brother and me, and he enjoyed meeting the pals we brought home over the years. Many times we, along with our pals, were fortunate to have been rescued by Jimmy, however, even they knew it was better to wait and not ring in the middle of a GAA game or while he was watching *The Sunday Game*. We knew no matter what the problem was Jimmy would down tools and fix it or in later years have a contact who could.

Over the past few days we have seen first hand the strength, compassion and support of our great friends and neighbours. From helping organise and guide us in making arrangements, bringing home-cooked and baked goods, calling, messaging, cutting the grass and putting out flags in honour of Jimmys final journey from Ballincur. We value and appreciate each and every one of you. We would also like to thank the Silvermines GAA Club for the touching Guard of Honour at the pitch in Dolla as we made our way here.

We would like to thank Fr Brendan for being such a great comfort and support to Jimmy and us particularly over the last few days. Jimmy looked forward to the first Friday of every month, we have no doubt there was a good balance of pastoral care given and GAA analysis.

Jimmy liked to compare his orthopaedic interventions with mechanical ones, unfortunately a reconditioned Massey Ferguson tractor engine doesn't have a comparable medical option at present. We are very fortunate that Jimmy had good health for his 85 years, sadly that recently ended, we thank Ashlawn House Nursing Home for the exceptional care given to him and Nenagh General Hospital for the wonderful care they gave him, and us, in his last few days. We are so very fortunate to have this hospital in our locality and hopefully in time it will be able to expand its services to further benefit the community.

To finish, Jimmy loved music and old time dancing. In the words of a Scottish Folk song recorded by a favourite band of his the Alexander Brothers.

*For these are my mountains and this is my glen
The braes of my childhood will know me again*

*No lands ever claimed me tho far I did roam
For these are my mountains and I'm going home.*