

PRESS RELEASE

6th APRIL 2023

EASTER JOY IN AVOCA AS PRE-FAMINE CHALICE REDISCOVERED

A silver and gold pre-famine chalice has been rediscovered in the parish of Avoca. The chalice, dating from 1811, was discovered during a major clear out in a parish house.

Parish Priest, Fr Michael Murphy, who was appointed to Avoca parish last August, says the chalice is ‘part of the county’s heritage and will be used in the parish in the future.’

The chalice is engraved with the old name for Avoca, “Newbridge Chapel”. Newbridge chapel itself was a small building near the present Church. Miners of the area played a big part in building the present church opened 1862. The details of the chalice match the Catholic diocese inventory of the period with intricate details confirming its age and authenticity.

It’s an exciting time in Avoca as the parish prepares to repair and renovate its 4 churches in Avoca, Templerainey, Barranisky and Ballycoog. Fundraising kicks off on 21st April with an Evening of Song in Avoca church mat 8 pm.

Further Information: Valerie Cox – 087 6858406.