

# 'He loved his work and his work was his passion'

## Daughter's tribute to Dad killed in Maynooth Road accident

by Vincent Sutton

IT had been the happiest of days, but Saturday, 11th of December ended so tragically for the Horan family.

Derek Horan's daughter Lauren, speaking from the heart, recalled that happiness at his funeral on Saturday (18th December) in St Mary's Church, Maynooth.

"He was in such great form that day," she said of her father, who loved rugby and had been at a MU Barnhall game on a rare Saturday off from work.

"We had a really nice afternoon," she added.

Derek died in a road accident after he dismounted a bus shortly before 11.30pm on the Celbridge Road in Maynooth.

"As you know, Daddy passed away a week ago today," said Lauren, before the Funeral Mass commenced.

She had begun by thanking everyone for attending the Requiem Mass, Fr Frank for celebrating it, and the singer Sarah Darlington.

She thanked her family and friends for their emotional support since the accident on Saturday night.

"I would also like to thank Reilly's Funeral Home for I wouldn't have been able to get through this week without them either."

### HIS PASSION

Derek Horan was the head chef at O'Keefe's in Kilcock and he loved his work with a passion as Lauren and Chief Celebrant Fr Frank McEvoy PP recounted.

He cooked at any chance he got, and this was reflected in the chef's uniform and hat among gifts brought to the altar on Saturday.

"He loved his work and his work was his passion," said Lauren. "He loved to cook, so much so he'd even come over to my house and cook for myself and Garath on his days off."

"So even if he wasn't working he was in the kitchen," she said, adding that he would even insist on doing the washing up afterwards."

A Maynooth man who grew up in Old Greenfield, Derek was the eldest of 12 children: seven boys and five girls.

"According to all his sisters he was spoiled along with the brothers, but as the eldest he had his hands full of course," said Lau-



The late Derek Horan

ren.

"Daddy was a very traditional man. A private person," she added lovingly.

"Daddy was a creature of habit. He would get up every morning, read the paper have a cup of tea from his special china tea cup."

His tea cup accompanied by a Yorkie bar were on the altar too, helping to form the story of a man who knew what he liked.

"He would watch David Attenborough any chance he got, whether it was under the sea or on wild safari. He loved it all," said Lauren.

"Daddy loved his pint of Smithwicks. He'd often have a couple of pints as he waited for the bus (after work in Kilcock).

"He was pleased with Bus Eireann's timetable as it didn't come very often and sure it gave him a chance of a pint then."

### LOVED RUGBY

"Daddy was a typical man in someways. He'd say he didn't like soccer but he loved Leeds United." His Leeds United mirror was among the gifts on the altar.

"He didn't follow or bet on the Races although we'd have a flutter together. He'd nearly always walk down the town in the morning and place bets for Brian."

Lauren added that her father took in an interest in all sports but his particular love was for rugby, a love that he instilled in her as well.

"Back in the day I am told that he was a great darts player," she imparted.

"The one sport that he really did love was rugby: Ireland, Leinster and of course, Barnhall."

Fr Frank McEvoy said of Derek that he was a very ordinary human being, a decent person who had a smile and a 'hello' for everyone he met.

He said that the Horan family is a very respected family in the

community and that Derek was a man who enjoyed the simple things in life, one to whom family and friends were important.

"The true love of Derek's life was his daughter, Lauren," said Fr Frank.

"He was so very proud of the woman you came to be," he added speaking directly to her.

### AT PEACE

Looking ahead seven days to Christmas Day, Fr Frank spoke of Derek's loss to his loving family.

"On this week we will celebrate Christmas and that won't be easy (for the Horan family) and I suppose if Derek could speak to you he'd say enjoy it," said Fr Frank.

"Make sure you cook a good meal because he probably would have been cooking it for you," he added.

"It'll not be easy to enjoy it, but at the same time he is at peace, he is at rest."

That sense of loss was evident in Lauren's closing words of her father who had been in great form that fateful day.

"We went to see the game on Saturday together, along with Mammy," she said. They had gone to see MU Barnhall play against Cashel RFC in Parsonstown at 2pm.

"It was a family outing, the three of us standing on the sideline together, which was a very special occasion because Daddy would usually have to work on Saturdays. He was in such great form."

In an emotional tribute to her father, Lauren added: "Daddy was a man easily satisfied. He was content with his lot, he was happy with it."

"He was a small man with a very big heart. He loved me and I loved him. He was an amazing dad. He looked after me and would ring me every single day."

And breaking down in tears, Lauren concluded with: "may he rest in peace."

### 'He was a dedicated Chef'

MAYNOOTH native Derek Horan was the head chef at O'Keefe's in Kilcock and was there for more than 20 years.

Bernie O'Keefe said that he: "was a very loyal and dedicated chef, always aiming to please and be innovative."

She added: "Not only was he an excellent employee, but a very true and loyal friend to myself, Thomas, TJ and all our staff past and present."

It is understood that Derek had previously worked as a chef in the Castletown Inn in Celbridge.

### 'Looking forward to his pension'

Cllr Angela Feeney (Lab) grew up across the road from the Horans who were great neighbours to her family.

"His mother, Kitty, was so kind to everyone," said Cllr Feeney.

"When I was last speaking to Derek a few weeks back, he was looking forward to soon getting his pension and was asking me to help in his application in the coming months."

"So sad after working hard all his life to have it end in such a tragic way

  
 Court Yard  
 HOTEL

THANK YOU

2021 has been a strange year for us all and never more have we been looking forward to Christmas with Family & Friends. This year has taught us all a great many lessons. We have never been more grateful for our incredible resilient and devoted team here at the Court Yard Hotel and never so thankful for the unwavering support and loyalty of our neighbours and friends in the local community.

The strength and spirit of the local community has shone through fiercely this year and must be commended. It has been our utmost pleasure to be longstanding members of the great community of Leixlip. We would like to express our most sincere gratitude to you all for all of your patience and for supporting local this year.

Time with family and friends this Christmas is extra special, and at the Court Yard Hotel, we want to be at the heart of every great get together with the best of hospitality, celebratory drinks and delicious festive treats.

From our family to yours, we wish everyone a very safe and happy Christmas and a prosperous and peaceful New Year.

  
 Court Yard

MAIN ST., (01) 629 5111  
 LEIXLIP, CO. KILDARE INFO@COURTYARD.IE  
[www.courtyard.ie](http://www.courtyard.ie)

### PLANNING

**SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL:** Ms Sarah McLaughlin is applying for permission for a single storey 1 bedroom log cabin and associated works to the rear garden at 61a Dodsboro Cottages, Lucan, County Dublin. This application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of South Dublin County Council during its public opening hours of 9am - 4pm, Mon-Fri, and a submission or observation may be made to South Dublin County Council in writing and on payment of the prescribed fee (€20.00) within the period of five weeks beginning on the date of receipt by South Dublin County Council of the application.