



**Fáilte ar ais arís, a chairde!** Welcome back again! My wife and I got our second vaccination shot on April 10. Now we're in the two week waiting period for full immunization. We're counting the days till the end of April. I hope, wherever you are, you are able to get your own jab. We're all looking forward to better days ahead for all of us. **Bí slán agus fan slán!**

### Bitesize Irish

I check in on the Bitesize community site, **Pobal**, every day. Since the new **bainisteoir pobail**, Emma, started, I have participated in a few written exercises she posted. I attended the monthly Bitesize podcat with Siobhán and Emma. I continue to make progress through the Bitesize material.

### Duolingo

I'm continuing my steady use of this service. I haven't missed a day. There is a test between each level in the language tree in Duolingo. To proceed to the next level, you must pass the test. I successfully passed the Level 3 test and have now moved into the next to last section in the Irish language tree.

### Gaeilge gan Stró! Lower Intermediate Level

I was able to transfer audio files for the book units to my MP3 player and have been listening to them. I have not yet left the first unit of the book. I want to feel like I've practically memorized everything. I've also been compiling vocabulary lists for the Beginner level book to make sure I remember all the words I was introduced to there.

### FutureLearn Irish 103-104

I finished Irish 103 and started Irish 104 on April 12. The courses have been easy so far. Now, after 3 months, I'm starting to appreciate the way the courses have been designed. If I had known nothing to begin with, I think each course would have been very nice for me. In the first week of Irish 104, I did something I hadn't done in the other three courses. I recorded myself saying a paragraph in Irish using [Speakpipe](#) and I posted it to one of the Irish 104 lesson boards for everyone to hear. For me, that was pretty bold. A few people gave "likes" to my post.

### Listening and Speaking

My Half-Hebrew/Half-Irish Skype meetings have been going well. I have had 4 get-togethers now. Not only have I gained confidence but I am starting to learn more about nuance in using Irish. For example, if someone asks **Conas tá tú?** And you answer **Táim cuíosach** (**cuíosach** = **cuibheasach** = fair, middling), you're actually saying you're on the bad side of good, if you get my meaning.

I also had the opportunity to join the group chat again that I mentioned last time. Overall, I'm feeling quite encouraged.

### Virtual City Walk: Killarney

My previous stop on my Long Imaginary Walk was in **Oileán Chléire** (Cape Clear). I left Oileán Chléire by ferry and arrived back at Baltimore port. The next gaeltacht area I was headed to was **An Daingean** (Dingle) in **Corca Dhuibhne**, the Dingle peninsula in **Contae Chiarraí** (County Kerry). I'm starting now to go up the western side of Ireland. It seems the fastest roads there take me all the way back through **Baile Mhuirne**, where I've already spent a wonderful time. As long as I was on this road, I took a little detour over to **Cúil Aodha** (Coolea), which is no more than a stone's throw southwest of Baile Mhuirne. I wanted to see the **Séipéal Ghobnatan** (St. Gobnath's Church) there. And it's a lovely place. I see on the altar cloth "**Moladh go deo le Dia.**" (Praise God forever) and this is how I learned **moladh le Dia** = praised be God and **go deo** = forever. The inside of the church has yellow and black markings on the floor to show the visitors their safe social distancing points. Pews are marked off so that worshipers could only occupy every second row. A special section is marked off behind the organ for **Cór Chúil-Aodha**, the Coolea choir. (**cór** = choir) But I didn't stay long. I got back up to the N22 and went toward **Cill Airne** (Killarney).

Because Cill Airne is a well-known place, I decided to take a wander around the downtown. There was, of course, the touristy part where I felt like I was walking in an Irish theme park but there was much more to the city than that. I decided to focus my attention on the northwestern part of the city because of the schools and residential areas I could see there.

One of my goals is to learn 50-100 new words or phrases in Irish for every gaeltacht I visit. I learned a new word **as Béarla** in Cill Airne: **gastropub** = a combination pub, bar, restaurant.

I took a tour of St. Mary's Cathedral, a beautiful church not far from **Coláiste Pobail Chill Airne** (Killarney Community College). After looking over the church and the community college, I looked at **Scoil Muire na Mainistreach** (Our Lady of

the Abbey School). This school was first awarded a Yellow Flag in 2016 for efforts to become more inclusive and challenge racism and discrimination. Fostering race amity in the United States is a serious issue. My wife, Kathleen, and I have been involved in race amity efforts for many years.

There are a number of educational initiatives which award flags to schools that successfully participate in their programmes. Beside the Yellow Flag, there is a Green Flag (for environmental issues) and a Blue Flag (for physical fitness and health). The Blue Flag comes from the "Active School" programme. They sponsor a multi-week event "Run Around Ireland" <https://activeschoolflag.ie/run-around-ireland/>. Even though the programme is only for schools, I identify with it because of my Long Imaginary Walk. Yay!

I visited the Franciscan Monastery in town not far from the Killarney Outlet Centre shopping mall. There they have a wall shrine displaying the skull bone of a monk. He was beheaded by Cromwell's men in 1653 when he was about 62 years old.

**cnámh na blaoisce** = skull bone

**cnámh** = bone

**blaosc** = skull

**mainistreach** = monastery

**na Proinnsiasaigh** = the Franciscans

Walking the streets, I saw a sign on a roundabout (**timpeallan** = roundabout) that said "**Treo Eile/Other Routes**" and learned **treo** = route, direction. Then saw a **Gach Treo/All Routes** sign.

On my way out of town, I also learned **ardán** = (in street names) terrace. I also picked up a few phrases like:

**Ticeád Páirceálá Riachtanach** = parking ticket required

**Íoc anseo** = Pay here.

**pionós** = penalty (fine for illegal parking)

**Dún an Geata le do thoil** = please close the gate (sign outside cemetery gate)

**Tá talamh garbh sa reilig seo. Tabhair aire le do thoil.** = This cemetery has rough ground. Please take care.

### My Long Imaginary Walk

The town of **An Daingean** (Dingle) is very small. There are about 2,000 residents. I took a walk about the central area of town and randomly chose the Phoenix Cinema on Dykegate Street as my starting point. The cinema is closed now because of the pandemic but, from the outside, looks like a very nice place. Dykegate crosses **Abha na Dála** (Avondale; **Abha** = abhainn = river) and becomes Holyground Street. Turning right onto Green Street, I come upon the public library. The sign on the wall at the left hand side of the door says:

**Dé Luain go dtí Dé Sathairn** (Monday to Saturday) 10:00-3:00

**Déardaoin** (Thursday) 10:00-8:00

**Dúnta gach deireadh seachtaine saoire bainc** = Closed bank holiday weekends.

The library doesn't have a lot of staff. A notice on the library's web site says "Occasional lunch time closures may be necessary." A librarian has to eat! Unfortunately, due to COVID, the librarian can have all the time in the world to eat

lunch. The library is closed until further notice. This particular library is one of 9 branches of the Kerry library system. While the buildings are all closed, all the library's online resources are still available. <http://www.kerrylibrary.ie/dingle-library-leabharlann-an-daingin.html>

Further up the street, on the same side as the library, is **Eaglais Naomh Muire** (St. Mary's Church) **eaglais** = church I have to think the difference between **eaglais** and **séipéal** is just one of size. St. Mary's is much larger than Coolea's church. For the benefit of the parishioners (or anyone who can't make it to the church), there's a live camera feed so people can see and hear what's going on inside.

<https://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/paroiste-naomh-muire-dingle> Technology is just amazing! It was 3:30 in the afternoon (Dingle time) when I first watched and the church was empty. Then a masked lady came in, sat in the front pew, stayed a few moments and left. She was unaware that I had observed her brief devotions from thousands of miles away.

Next to St. Mary's is the Disart Centre of Irish Spirituality and Culture. (**spioradáiltacht** = spirituality) I found this place to be so interesting I'm not going to begin to describe it. You must go see for yourself. <http://www.disart.ie/>

Across the street at the end of Green street is a **comhar chreidmheasa** = credit union. I went to the left to follow the long arcing road that would lead me back to the harbour. All the row houses along the road had a sameness about them except some people had chosen to paint their houses different colors. The further along the road I went, though, the houses were all detached and each had its own special modern character. I saw quite a few older people hiking along the sidewalk. I don't know if they lived around there or if they were just going for a good stretch of the legs. I was pleased to see Irish painted on the road: **Go Mall/Slow**. I got down to the roundabout and turned left to go toward the main part of town. I had saved this for last because I was expecting it to be touristy and I'm not interested in that. I took a while to get there because I had to walk past all the tourist rental places on Sleah Head Drive.

Since I'm going to be on the Dingle peninsula for another couple of weeks, I'll end with this for now: **Fungie**.

Fungie was a dolphin who got separated from other dolphins and showed up in Dingle harbor in 1983. For the next 37 years, Fungie sought out human contact in Dingle. He played with swimmers, surfers, kayakers and divers in the waters. Fungie became a regular feature in Dingle and everyone could see him, living in the wild. He was last seen on October 13, 2020. As if the sadness of the pandemic has not been enough, marine experts think he moved on or died. He will be mightily missed in An Daingean.

Until next time,

**Slán!**