

- Credits – “Bless Me Father”

Director: John O’Hora  
Stage Manager: Joan Ruttledge  
MC: Alan Moran  
Sound & Lighting: Seán Doherty  
Brian O’Hora  
Niall Gillespie  
Stage Crew: Padraic Traynor  
Noel McAndrew  
Brendan Ruttledge  
Seamus Reddington  
Brian Finan  
Josephine Gillespie  
Seán O’Hora  
Costumes & Make up: Joan Ruttledge  
Props: Thank you to everyone who gave props  
Poster: Office pro, Bernard Guthrie  
Tel: 087 7669476  
Press photograph: David Farrell Photography

Previous productions by Ardagh Community Players

2004 - Sharon’s Grave – John B. Keane  
2005 – Professor Tim – George Shiels  
2006 – Wigs on the Green – Noel Marian  
2007 – Moll – John B. Keane  
2008 – Swan Song – Noel Marian  
2009 – The Country Boy – John Murphy  
2010 – Big Maggie - John B. Keane  
2011 – Cripple of Inishmaan - Martin Mc Donagh  
2012 – Cafflin’ Johnny - Louis D’Alton  
2013 – A Damsel From Dublin - Thomas King-Moylan  
2014 – Cobweb’s Glory – Bryan Michael O’Connor

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to aid this year’s production

# ARDAGH COMMUNITY PLAYERS

PRESENT

## “Bless Me Father”

Penance with a punch line

By T A Powell

*(A comedy in 2 Acts)*



ARDAGH COMMUNITY CENTRE

Fri - January 30<sup>th</sup>

Sat – January 31<sup>st</sup>

Sun - February 1<sup>st</sup> 2015

Produced by special arrangement with Heuer Publishing LLC of Cedar Rapids, Iowa

## Play Summary

Fr. Pat's parishioners are a bit fuzzy on the commandments, so when a rumour starts that Pope John Paul II is visiting the congregation, folks are lining up to confess their sins. But the only John Paul in the confessional box is John Paul Fitzpatrick, the janitor. Fitz has been trapped in there for hours and what he is learning could blow the lid off the whole parish. Gradually the parishioners believe that "On one day of the year it's possible to get more than we deserve"

All the action in both acts takes place in the local parish church. The first scene in Act 1 sees Fr. Pat rehearsing his Christmas sermon and then delivering the sermon at the end of Act 2. The intervening scenes reveal the meat of the stories in the confessional box. The production concludes with an innovative curtain call. Sit back, relax and enjoy **Bless Me Father by T A Powell** on its first performance in Ireland

### The Cast – "Bless Me Father"



Fr. Pat – Local parish priest - Played by Padraic Traynor. Not averse to spreading a little rumour to fill the pews and coffers to get what he wants, whether it is a new roof for the church or a new stove for the parochial house. While rehearsing his Christmas sermon he takes ill leaving Fitz to hear confessions. Recovers in time to give the actual sermon.

John Paul Fitzpatrick – The janitor - Played by Tommy Kilroy. A mishap leads to John Paul ending up in the confessional box but a rumour that the Pope is hearing confessions ensures that there is a queue. Realising there is no way out just yet he gives thought provoking messages while listening carefully to all their troubles.



Beulah Ravenscroft – The priest's housekeeper - Played by Mary Martyn. Can spread a few rumours to keep the church full. Needs a new AGA and would do anything to get one.

Germaine Lawler – The village harlot - Played by Breege Kelly. After over forty years away from the church she decided to have the Pope hear her confessions on her return. Has a lot to get off her chest after all those years and tests Fitz' logical thinking.



Roberta Wheeler - Played by Cathy Flynn. Roberta is the parish butcher's wife and an upstanding member of the community. As a regular at confessions she wants to personally welcome His Holiness. She has a hair appointment and is in a rush. She gives freely of her time to the Church on Thursday nights much to her husband's delight. First time performing with the group.

The Irish Angel – Played by Josephine Gillespie. Voice of an angel with a story to tell.



Farris – Played by Kevin Doherty. Farris is a busy young man in love. He would do anything for his girlfriend. He needs to find a job locally and Fitz might have the answer. First time performing with the group.

The widow Delaney – Played by Dolores O'Boyle. She confesses to loneliness and her lifelong regret at not telling her first true love how much she cared for him. Fitz has some advice and realisations as the widow recalls her life.



Shannon Bitterwhal – Played by Shauna O'Boyle. Coming from a family of eight, the arrival of a new baby brother causes problems for Shannon and a desire to be alone. Fitz gives her a different outlook. First time performing with the group.

Extras: Eimear O'Hora & Cian O'Hora