

St Mary of the Angels project gets underway



Margaret O'Dwyer, Micheal O'Muircheartaigh, Archbishop Dermot Clifford, Mary Ferris, Eileen Sweeney and Sr Antonia at last year's 50th anniversary celebrations. Photo by Michelle Cooper Galvin

CONSTRUCTION began last week on a €220,000 project at St Mary of the Angels, Beaufort, a project which will ensure that the six residents of St Fidelis will each have a single bedroom.

Saint Mary of the Angels Chairperson Jack Fitzpatrick told *The Kerryman* that the work involves converting an existing room to provide two extra bedrooms. The project is expected to take roughly six weeks to complete.

"€60,000 was covered by a grant from Kerry County Council, which we're very grateful for," Mr Fitzpatrick said.

"The balance is reached by some very successful fundraising."

It is the latest, exciting development for St Mary of the Angels, which is called home by more than 70 people with physical and intellectual disabilities ranging from moderate to profound.

Among its exciting ventures in recent times included being a main beneficiary of the Ring of Kerry Charity Cycle 2019, and receiving prestigious Kerry and National Community awards.

When work is completed on the ongoing project, Mr Fitzpatrick said that work will begin on providing two additional sitting rooms at two houses within the Beaufort facility.

Volunteer efforts also led to the recent construction of a house for two alpacas, which have been at the facility for three months.

"We got them [the alpacas] in because they are very good with people who may have autism or disabilities," Mr Fitzpatrick explained.

"We'd like to thank everybody who has supported us, including great support from local businesses and individuals, as well as the Ring of Kerry Cycle for choosing us as a beneficiary."