

Paul "Bod" O'Neill



There was widespread sadness at the passing of Paul 'Bod' O'Neill at his home in Beaulieu on Thursday, August 21. Although Paul had been bravely battling a long-term illness over the past two years, his death was sudden and unexpected.

Paul (48), formerly of Springfield Park, Drogheda, touched the lives of everybody he met and leaves a huge void in the lives of his family and many, many friends.

A man with an unassuming, gentle and humble spirit, he was always good humoured and an extremely thoughtful and considerate person, a real 'people person'. He was the living embodiment of positivity and courage, attributes which were particularly evident during the course of his illness, proving an inspiration to everybody who knew him. He was a role model to the rest of us on how to live life to the full.

Paul never had a bad word to say about anybody and in turn nobody would have had a bad word to say about him. He was truly one of nature's gentlemen.

He had the rarest of qualities in being equally comfortable in the company of people from all different walks of life, young and old, and was respected and loved by all in equal measure.

Paul was a real family man, and was whole-heartedly devoted to his wife Carole (formerly Bonner) and two beautiful sons Sean (7) and Brian (5). Carole and Paul got married in 2005 and the time they spent together were the happiest years of his life. His family meant everything to him and were at the centre of everything he did.

Paul was the son of the late John 'Johnno' and Kathleen O'Neill, brother to Kathrina and Lorraine. They were an extremely close-knit family, with Paul being the rock at the centre of it, particularly following the death of his father 'Johnno' in 1993.

Paul began his career as an apprentice electrician in Irish Cement (Platin), and continued his studies in both instrumentation and engineering, while working as a service engineer and in technical sales, eventually leading to him setting up his own successful company 'Multiplex Engineering' along with his business partner.

Paul loved the outdoors, particularly enjoying walking on the beach, and loved to be out and about with Carole and the boys.

He had a real passion for Irish music, loving a sing-song of traditional ballads, and could always be found at the centre of the craic and banter that went with it, more than capable of carrying a few tunes himself.

Paul reposed at his home in Beaulieu from Friday evening until Sunday afternoon, from where he was taken to the Augustinian church in Drogheda for funeral Mass at 3pm. Fr. Paul Clayton Lea P.P., Tallanstown (a close family friend), Fr. Aidan Murphy P.P., Termonfeckin and Fr. Phil Gaffney P.P., St. Mary's officiated.

The occasion was a real celebration of Paul's life and achievements from the first minute until the last. All who participated in the ceremony were extremely close friends, including Fr. Paul who gave a beautiful tribute to Paul in his sermon.

His personality was perfectly captured in a beautiful eulogy delivered by his close friend Donal Ryan, touching a poignant chord with everyone that knew him.

Traditional music and song was performed beautifully throughout by 'Sunday's Gate Quartet', Owen Rafferty and Gary Matthews, all of whom were close friends of Paul. Everyone in attendance felt very uplifted and moved. It was exactly what Paul would have loved.

The funeral cortege then proceeded to Newtown cemetery, Paul's final resting place.

Paul is survived by his loving wife Carole, his two sons Sean and Brian, his mother Kathleen, sisters Kathrina and Lorraine. He will be fondly remembered by his father-in-law Paddy and mother-in-law Alice Bonner, his brothers-in-law Gary and Kevin and sister-in-law Alison. Paul considered these family members as extremely close friends. He adored his nieces Molly and Saorlaith and nephews Tom and Patrick, who in turn enjoyed his good-natured humour.

Everybody including extended family and a wide circle of friends will sorely miss Paul. He will always be treasured and never forgotten by all who knew him.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.