

IRISH AUGUSTINIAN NEWS

FINGLAS

On Tuesday 25th Oct. the Parish of Rivermount, Finglas, celebrated 25 years of Augustinian presence with a Concelebrated Mass followed by refreshments, music and craic in St. Oliver Plunkett's Church. The Provincial, Fr. Gerry Horan, who presided at the Mass was joined by Bishop Ray Field, by Augustinians and local clergy and in particular by Augustinians who had served in the parish down the years: Frs. John Hughes, Aidan O'Leary, Paul O'Brien, Dave Crean, Sean Dowling, Seamus Ahearne and Paddy O'Reilly.



This was a celebration of parish community through which the parishioners had the opportunity to express their gratefulness for being parish, and for having the opportunity to express that through their various ministries. The highlight of the occasion was the sharing by the parishioners after the Gospel: they spoke in gratitude for the Augustinians; they praised the Brigidine, Salesian and Holy Faith Sisters who have worked in the parish; they expressed their thanks for the support and care they have experienced from fellow parishioners at times of difficulty; they spoke of the opportunities afforded them to take courses, study scripture, go on outings together; and they spoke of much, much more. And to cap it all they sang their hearts out. Below Bishop Field, Gerry Horan and Seamus Ahearne.



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And when Mass had concluded, the organisers (Parish Pastoral Council and other volunteers) uncovered the food they had prepared at the back of the church, and the tea, coffee, beer and wine flowed in the meeting room next door, where some local musicians and entertainers led the community in a number of hours of song and music.



GOLDEN JUBILEE OF PROFESSION



Five Augustinians who celebrated their Golden Jubilee of 1st Profession and our becoming members of the Augustinian Family. Mass was celebrated in Ballyboden with their Novice Master and the Jubilarians enjoyed Dinner in the Ashling Hotel. L. to R. Paul O'Brien, Vincent McCarthy, Tommy McManus, John O'Sullivan seated, Mark Minihane and Martin Crean.

The wonderful "Article" below comes from a recent Sunday Bulletin of the Galway Community. I printed it in our Cork Sunday Bulletin and the reaction from the congregation was marvellous. Many suggested it should be widely circulated ! Ed.

As I Was Saying...

On May 23rd last, an RTÉ Prime Time programme made serious allegations against the PP of Ahascragh, Fr. Kevin Reynolds. He was accused of raping a minor while he was a missionary in Kenya and fathering a child as a result of this rape. He was also accused of secretly providing funds for the child.

On Thursday, RTE broadcast a comprehensive 372-word apology between the 9 o'clock News and a Prime Time programme! The text, which appeared on screen, was read by a 'voice-over'. The apology concludes as follows:

RTÉ acknowledges that the material in the programme concerning Fr. Reynolds ought never to have been broadcast. RTÉ now fully and unreservedly accepts that the allegations made by Prime Time against Fr. Kevin Reynolds are baseless, without any foundation whatever and untrue and that Fr. Reynolds is a priest of the utmost integrity who has had an unblemished 40 year career in the priesthood and who has made a valuable contribution to society in Kenya and Ireland both in education and in ministry.

RTÉ acknowledges the defamation has had a devastating effect on Fr. Kevin Reynolds, his family, his peers, his parishioners in Ahascragh, those in the diocese of Kakamega in Kenya who were aware of the allegations and all those who know him or of him.

RTÉ fully and unreservedly apologises to Fr. Kevin Reynolds for this defamation and deeply regrets the serious consequences suffered by him. He was entirely innocent of the allegations broadcast about him.

At least six serious and obvious questions arise:

1. Fr. Reynolds had offered to undergo a paternity test before the programme was broadcast. Who took the decision to ignore that offer?
2. If Kevin Reynolds was NOT a Catholic priest, would the programme have gone out?
3. The Irish Independent gave great prominence to the original programme. Friday's newspaper never mentioned the RTE apology. The Irish Times banished the apology to a tiny report at the bottom of page 7.
4. The highest award ever given by an Irish court in defamation was €10 million. In this case the allegations were made through a relatively 'private' company press release, not a prime time programme. Furthermore, the Reynolds allegations were far more serious than those in the €10 million award case. In fact Mr Justice Patrick

McCarthy stated clearly that 'it was hard to consider that anything more serious could be said about a cleric.' Is it safe to assume the eventual damages awarded Fr Reynolds will reflect these realities?

5. Who will pay out this enormous amount?
6. 'Accountability' has been treated as a 'Sacred Cow' by RTE. Who will be held to account for this grave injustice? The Producer? The Presenter? The Chairman of the RTE Authority, Tom Savage?

Don't hold your breath! You can safely assume that no RTE head will roll and you, the taxpayer, will be left with the bill. Accountability how are you! Fr Dick Lyng OSA, Galway.

LIMERICK LEADER SAT. NOVEMBER 5TH.

Great generosity of the Augustinians

In the Limerick Leader of September 12 the threatened closure in 1981 of the Youth Encounter Project was recalled. It is timely, 30 years later, to acknowledge that this threat of closure was removed by the generosity of the local Augustinian community. The Augustinians offered the Department of Education, on a temporary basis and rent free, the Augustinian Hall, as the Limerick Youth Service could no longer host the project.

The project then, became St. Augustine's School. For three decades, the temporary basis and rent-free accommodation continued and the Augustinian community provided not only accommodation but generous hospitality to students, staff and parents for the last 30 years. This September, St. Augustine's School moved to its new permanent premises, which the Department of Education has provided.

As former principal and on behalf of all those who laboured, cried and above all learned "in the Lane", I would like to acknowledge the magnanimous gestures of the Augustinian community over the past 30 years.

John Hanna. Limerick.

LITTLE REVELATIONS.

The September-October issue of Spirituality, an Irish periodical with worldwide circulation, carried some positive comments about the Augustinian Church in Limerick. In an article entitled Little Revelations, a retired school principal living in Limerick, Gearóid Ó Tiarnaig focuses on the Augustinian church as "an oasis for both regular worshippers and passers-by". He mentions some of our community among his "little revelations". He attends our church regularly for morning Mass. Gearóid has been an active promoter and supporter of a programme of on-going scriptural and theological formation which has had a successful run in the Horse and Jockey Hotel, Co. Tipperary. It is organised by a team of Augustinians for their confreres and lay friends. Liam Ryan OSA. Limerick

ORLAGH
INTRODUCING ISLAM

(Three Tuesday evenings Nov. 8, 15, 22. 7.30-9.30)

with Jonathan Kearney)

Islam is the world's second largest religion. Despite its number of adherents and presence throughout the world, it is still much misunderstood. In this course, over three weeks, we will aim to look at Islam as Muslims see it and live it. We will examine the following topics:

- The life and career of the Prophet Muhammad and his role in contemporary Islam
- Islamic beliefs and practices
- The history of the caliphate
- Issues in contemporary Islam

Jonathan Kearney is known to captivate his audiences with his encyclopedic knowledge and easy style of presentation. He has been studying the languages, religions, cultures and history of the Middle East since 1992 and is a part-time lecturer in Jewish and Islamic studies in St. Patrick's College, Maynooth. (€10 per session)

The monthly **DAY FOR YOURSELF** in Orlagh on Saturday, November 12th has the theme Enriching our lives and the lives of others. It will explore the potential and opportunities we have to develop our own gifts and in doing so make a difference to those around us. The day will be led by Dr. Bernadette Toal and Fr. John Byrne. There will be an opportunity for Mass at 4.30pm. (€50 including a full lunch)

Sunday, 13th November 2011, 10.00am-5.00pm

SCRIPTURE DAY: Sean Goan will conduct his annual introduction to the gospel of the following year under the heading The Eucharistic Community in the Gospel of Mark. All who have heard Sean know that they will get an informed, enlightening and entertaining day.

Mass will be included in the day. (€55)

BOOKING CONTACT

Fr John Byrne OSA, Orlagh, Old Court Road, Dublin 16.

Tel (01) 495 8190

Email: info@orlagh.ie

Website: www.orlagh.ie

ADVENT RETREAT November 25-27. Details later

GOOD COUNSEL COLLEGE

The school Open Day for pupils in 6th class primary takes place on Saturday, November 12th. All 6th class pupils and their parents/guardians are welcome to attend. All areas of the school will be accessible and staff will be on hand to answer questions and help as required. There will also be refreshments available in the school dining room. We stress that the Open Day is not an occasion for registration but that application forms will be available.

14 Good Counsel College students received awards in Waterford Institute of Technology recently for achieving 'A' grade in higher level Junior Certificate Business Studies. The awards, made by the Business Studies Teachers Association, are a mark of outstanding academic achievement and we congratulate each of the students and thank their teachers for their continued good work.

The college Junior Hurlers had an agonising 2 point defeat to a highly rated St Kieran's College team at semi final stage of the championship on Wednesday last. Great credit is due to the squad and their coaches and the standard on view augurs well for the future.

The 2010/11 Leinster 'A' football champions at both Juvenile and Junior grades were presented with their medals last weekend. We were delighted to have recent All-Star nominee and past pupil, Ben Brosnan present in addition to the 11 'Counsel' alumni who were part of the Wexford U-21 Leinster winning side. Other awards were made to students who won provincial titles and/or gained international caps in a range of sports from Athletics, Badminton and Swimming to Boxing, Rugby and Soccer. Well done to all of them on their successes.

A POSSIBLE CURE FOR INSOMNIA!

Pat Codd was first up. This was at Wynne's hotel Dublin last month. It was in the crowded ballroom at lunch hour on a Thursday. The occasion was the launching of 150 audio interviews with Irish Missionaries. The Irish Missionary Union organised it. After the introduction they played some short excerpts from the interviews with a photo of the Missioner on a screen. Pat Codd was first photo to appear. The excerpt had him saying something like "I got a letter telling me I had been appointed to Australia and the ship was leaving at 10 am tomorrow". That may not have been his exact words, but whatever he said it got a big laugh. The interviews are from archives, IMU archives and others.

Somehow seven Irish Augustinians were among the 150 interviewed; Bishop Louis O'Donnell, Brendan Quirke, Frank Sexton, Michael Danaher, Dave Crean, Pat Codd and Kevin McManus. The interviews were less than an hour, except for a handful, who had two hours. Pat Codd had two hours. Some of the excerpts were dramatic, about civil wars, death threats and prisons. But I listened to my own and promptly fell asleep. So they might be a cure for insomnia. However, like many new possible cures, they will not be available for some years, not until the archives are opened. For more information check imu.ie or irishlifeandlore.com. Praise the Lord.

Tommy Kevin McManus OSA, John's Lane.

DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

Please remember in your prayers the following members of the Irish Province who have gone home to God.

03 1985 Br J Hodson
03 1971 Fr EC Madden
04 1979 Fr P Cummins
05 1991 Fr A Berrill
06 1990 Fr J Buckley
08 1978 Fr P Foley
11 2009 Fr H Leahy
13 1991 Fr TA McCarthy
15 1977 Fr T Conlon
19 2003 Fr PA O'Mahony
20 2002 Fr J Cosgrave
26 1976 Fr D Geary
27 1992 Fr F Leddin
27 1978 Fr W Wallace
29 1969 Bp P Dalton
29 1995 Fr D Whelton
30 1984 Fr D Loughran

Also remember in your prayers, Kevin Whelan, brother of Fr John Whelan OSA, Galway, who was buried in Clongeen, Wexford 03.11.2011.

AUGUSTINIAN CHURCH GALWAY

+ ST. NICHOLAS'S CHURCH:

We got a genuinely warm reception from the Rector and parishioners of St. Nicholas' Collegiate Church when we returned there on Wednesday night last. We were there of course for our common 'Commemoration of the Faithful Departed.'

The Service was a wonderful success. Over 300 people attended, with a majority from the Augustinian, understandably. Crosses bearing the names of 60 parishioners were carried to the altar by family members, relatives or friends. (The crosses bearing the names of our own parishioners are now in place in the old sanctuary area of St. Augustine's.)

Peter Cunnane looked after our technology, Gerry Ferguson made the crosses while Anne Marie Kennedy undertook the very tedious task of attaching the names to the little white crosses. At the end of the Service we were treated to tea, coffee and Halloween barm-brack. It is always a pleasure to renew the connection between the two parishes. Thanks to the many people who worked hard in preparing the Service.

-Sunday Bulletin, Galway.

GOOD COUNSEL COLLEGE



Capt. of the 1st year football team receives the Keevens Cup from Luke O'Hanlon at Wexford Schools blitz.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK.

Welcome to Vol. 5 No. 5. Thanks to all who have contributed to this edition of IAN. Special thanks to Peter Galus, David Moran, Francis Aherne, John O'Connor, for their invaluable help, to John Byrne, and Paddy O'Reilly for photos.

All past editions of IAN available on: Cork Web page: www.staugustinescork.ie

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