

IRISH AUGUSTINIAN NEWS



Finglas South & Bord Failte:



Finglas South is such an obvious venue for a day's outing; Bord Failte must have noted it by now. The locals do 'what comes naturally' – they are at home in themselves; in their faith; and make visitors feel at home. This is Eucharist. Saturday 10th March was an excellent day. It was the Third Day of the Programme - Bringing Faith to Life. We all look forward to it and thoroughly enjoy it. We have to restrict our own numbers. But it is delightful to have people from Drogheda, John's Lane, Meath Street, Ballyboden and Orlagh. It is good to have friars mixing with their communities; learning and sharing together.

'What do we remember? Why do we give thanks? Who is the Body of Christ?' The flow of the day works well. The Introduction; the Podcast; the Group work and the Plenary session. It is quite delightful. We learn from each other. It wakes up much of what is hidden inside us. It refreshes us. It makes everyone feel that their experience matters. Christ is very much alive. This is real Church.

It is not a gathering of the disaffected; disgruntled; disillusioned. It is a community of people who are enriched by the company they keep. The 'companionship' feeds us. The sense of being around a Table where everyone has something to bring and something to receive makes Christ really present. In fact, it is all so easy, simple and profound.



Vol. 5 No 10 APRIL 2012

I have one little fear. I think it is deceptively simple. It does demand great scholarship to make something so profound so simple! I hope when people go back home they find a Celebration which is the fruit of such an experience. I also believe that the Church is crippled by fundamentalism and many priests are caught up in this distortion. (Rome itself is strangled by it). The New Missal sums up the narrowness of outlook that destroys the Gospel of Jesus Christ and caricatures the Eucharist. I just wonder how can we, as Augustinians, refresh our ministry – by fully immersing ourselves in the vision of Church that happens in such a gathering. This is a dangerous and revolutionary challenge.

I end by saying this – our own people here are without education in the formal sense. Yet they are full of confidence in expressing their faith. Our Daily Masses; our Scripture Groups; our ways of celebrating Eucharist has opened their hearts, imaginations and minds to a depth of sharing that feeds everyone of us. They give us an awesome experience of God. 'Holy Ground; Burning Bush' - it all happens for us and we are blessed. This model of Church; of Eucharist; of hospitality is provocative & inspirational.

It was a great day as were the other two days. It is so good to be together and so good to have people from the other communities joining us. The miracles of getting things ready; of feeding everyone in a half-an-hour; of everyone being at ease – is Eucharist and inspires us. We are grateful. Seamus Ahearne osa



Kieran O'Mahony OSA

LIMERICK

The Cork/ Limerick cluster came together towards the end of a period of glorious sunshine warm Summer weather in the month of March. The Cork group strutted into the lecture, room in the afterglow of a recent hurling victory over Kilkenny. Limerick was gearing up for another rugby collision between arch rivals Munster and Leinster. All this contributed to a positive upbeat mood in the Dominican Biblical Centre, Limerick where the third gathering took place.



By 10.00am seventy + seats had been filled, Seán Goan was our presenter for the day. As a gifted teacher and communicator he provided an engaging introduction and background to each podcast. He drew on his rich experience of parish life and the Eucharist celebrated at his daughter's Confirmation on the previous day. Discussion and sharing in the small groups was very animated and more focused then on previous occasions. Each of the participants was given time to write down the various avenues for reflection. The questions expanded our minds into a more inclusive and hospitable understanding of the Eucharist.



During the feedback Seán dealt with traditional interventions in a skilful and sensitive way. He used the questions to draw the entire group into a deeper and richer understanding of the Mass and its social challenges. The transparent faith of nine-year old Ashley Poiget who attended with her Mam Judith shone through to us all. Sean's revelation that God is not a Catholic created quite a stir! Liam Ryan O.S.A.



ORLAGH

KEEPING STRANGE COMPANY



Over the St. Patrick's Day Weekend, Orlagh had a stand at the Mind Body Spirit Festival in Dublin. Our stand was one of only three with a claim to an explicitly Christian orientation. So we found ourselves in the middle of psychics, tarot card readers, shamans, mind detox experts, angel advisers, metaphysical healers, chakra dancers, numerologists, health food merchants and a host of others promoting health of mind, body and spirit. What were we doing there?

Our reason was to reach a constituency outside our normal clientele. In this we were successful. Several hundred people visited the stand and engaged in conversation with personnel there. A number signed up to join our mailing list. This was a positive outcome that we hope will bring some of them to events here in the future.

In the meantime back in Orlagh our extended programme has seen an increase in the number of the people coming here. The evening courses (on John's Gospel, the Psalms and Prayer Guides) have proved popular beyond our expectations. The WordonWeb programme on Eucharist was completed with 12 parishes taking part in the final series. The Bringing Faith to Life series brought these programmes around the country as has been reported in past issues of IAN. Kieran has been on the road up and down the diocese and beyond, as well as providing considerably extended scripture resources on the web. Other members of the Team have also presented Lenten programmes in parishes.

As a bonus, the weather has been fabulous and Orlagh is a great place to see nature springing back to life after the winter. John Byrne OSA, Orlagh.



CORK

BRINGING FAITH TO LIFE



Our church in Cork caters mainly for senior believers so it was these who responded to our promotion of the seminar. At our annual party in January many people took our little brochure but not many of them took up the option of attending. "The Youth" table that night declined the offer of even the brochure. Eventually we had about twenty of the laity and five friars on the bus to Limerick. Feedback after it was very positive and so led us to expect a good turnout for hosting the event in Cork. Having tried various venues we eventually settled for the Imperial Hotel, a place that has hosted many Augustinian events.

We were disappointed that the hoped-for big attendance did not materialise. We eventually got about thirty of the laity and six friars. The set-up was ideal and the feedback was again very positive. Many people regretted that they could not attend due to duties of baby-sitting, shopping, or coping with visitors. Any day will have its problems but we will hope to have this solid core attend the other sessions also.

It is a start, a good initiative, and maybe some day we will be able to capture some of the ideal audience, which would be the university students.



DUNGARVAN and FETHARD

In just 4 weeks the Orlagh team, in the person of Sean Goan for Module 2 and John Byrne and Bernadette Toal for Module 3, brought us on a journey that was considerably longer and more adventurous than merely the distance travelled from Dungarvan to Fethard. In my professional life I have always attended to CPD (continuous professional development) and Supervision (oversight of my practise), however, for me and for most of us laity, sadly we neglect to inform, develop and enrich our faith and remain passive rather than active in the call to give witness.



As adults, continuing Faith formation must be an essential element of living the Gospel as we progress through the lifespan. I considered the Liturgy of the Word to be remote and of little consequence while I awaited the essential Liturgy of the Eucharist. I did not appreciate the presence of God in His Word and that the Word is alive and challenges us to be witnesses for It. Of course I was familiar with "where" 2 or 3 are gathered in my name, there am I among them" but I considered the Readings were a kind of "entree". I had no knowledge of the cultural norms of Christ's time and the sharing of a meal and I understood the Mass as Sacrifice. I can now see It as also being a remembrance and thanksgiving, and especially as a Sacred meal to which we are all invited to share. I am a part of the Body of Christ which is offered to and for me and which invites me to live my life in His presence. These events have been the first time that I have pursued a desire to deepen my Faith and it has been very rewarding. While the presenters have been wonderful, it is the sharing with other attendees which has opened my eyes to the depth of faith that I encountered in them in the small groups and at meal times. It is not about education and qualification but most surely it is in being a witness to the Gospel through being part of the Body of Christ.

I hope the foregoing is ok and will suit your purposes. I was thinking would it not be wonderful if at the conclusion of the next module in May, that we all shared in a concelebrated Mass? Donal Coughlan, Dungarvan.



ST AUGUSTINE'S COLLEGE DUNGARVAN

FRIARY ARE ALL IRELAND CHAMPIONS!

St. Augustine's College Senior Girls are the new All Ireland Football Champions. The girls had a tremendous game today against the Ursuline girls from Sligo in a game they took control of very early on. The Friary girls had a two goal lead in a matter of minutes and were convincing leaders by half time. At full time the score of Friary 6-12 Sligo 0-03 was a reflection of how the game played out. Well done to all the girls and their mentors Miss Angela Walsh, Miss Marianne Ryan and Bro. Patrick Lennon.



KATE VEALE WINS IN SWITZERLAND

Kate Veale won the Junior Women's 10k Racewalk at the prestigious 10th Memorial Mario Albisetti Racewalk Meet in Lugano Switzerland this morning March 18th. Kate came in at 47.01, slightly below her personal best but enough to put her first among a very strong field of international athletes. What a start to the 2012 season for Kate.

GOOD COUNSEL COLLEGE

Good Counsel College won the U/16 Division One Leinster Final on Monday 5th March in Baldoye Badminton Centre Dublin. The team of Noel Dunne, Declan Carroll, Jack Dunne, Dylan Bookle and Ian Carty defeated St Colmcilles, Terenure A and De La Salle Louth. They beat both Terenure and De La Salle 4-2. Their toughest match and ultimately the game that decided the champions was against St Colmcilles, a match which ended up 3 games each so the winner was decided by points – Good Counsel recording the narrowest of victories, 116 points to St Colmcilles 115.



The joint school production of Hot Mikado opened in St Michael's Theatre on Wednesday night and runs for 4

nights with the show commencing at 8pm nightly. A huge effort has been put in by the boys and girls of Good

Counsel and St Mary's Secondary School. With lots of colour, dancing and lively numbers this is definitely a blues beating night out that creates a real feelgood factor. Enormous thanks must go to the teachers and other staff members from both schools who have volunteered so much time over the past few months of rehearsals and preparations. Without the support of parents, the show could not go on either as dropping sons and daughters in and picking them up at all hours has become a regular feature in recent weeks

Mar chuid de 'Seachtain na Gaeilge' d'eagraigh na múinteoirí Gaeilge 'Tráth na gCeist' - trí ngaeilge - sa bhialann i rith na seachtaine. I measc imeachtaí na seachtaine bhí ceol tradisiúnta le cloisteáil i rith na nAifreann agus bhí comortas Puc Fada do lucht na céadta bliana. Is deas an rud an Ghaeilge a chloisteáil á laibhairt timpeall na scoile.

The college church was full to capacity on Monday evening last for a presentation on 'Life and Study Skills' which was organised by the Parents' Council to compliment seminars run with 2nd and 6th year students that day. The presenters were Tom Casserly of Student Enrichment Services and Maura Cahill. The evening was very well received.

DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL

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

03 1984 Fr PJ Hickey
04 1991 Fr J Slattery
07 1978 Fr F Conway
08 2011 Fr M L Heffernan
10 1995 Fr N Duffner
12 1971 Fr. J King
14 1997 Fr J Hooper
15 1974 Fr J Breen
17 2001 Fr J Farrell
20 1967 Fr P A Browne
21 2006 Fr C Madden
22 2011 Fr T Walsh
23 2003 Fr WC Power
28 2000 Fr V Hickey
29 2002 Fr D Ormonde

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK.

Welcome to Vol. 5 No. 10. 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, and, Good Counsel College and Paul O'Connor, John Byrne, Flor O'Callaghan, Martin Crean and Paddy O'Reilly for photos.

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

Note new e-mail address: pmoran404@gmail.com

Pat Moran OSA, Editor, St Augustine's Priory, Washington St, Cork. Old E-mail: sacw@iol.ie

Tel. 021 427 04 10. 087 235 25 82