

IRISH AUGUSTINIAN NEWS

ORLAGH

NEW POSSIBILITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The first DAY FOR YOURSELF in Orlagh at the start of the New Year has the theme *Open to new possibilities and opportunities*. That might be an apt motto for all of us at a time when there are so many discouraging signals about the future.

2011 ended on an encouraging note in Orlagh. The autumn programme introduced a number of new events that were very well supported. Our receipts for the year were 25% up on the previous year – encouraging, even if it is only a drop in the ocean compared to what is needed. Discussions continue with our various stakeholders about the future of the ministry in Orlagh. We await to see what new possibilities and opportunities will open to us during 2012.

In the midst of uncertainty and insecurity about the future, it is the acknowledged value of the ministry NOW that encourages the team in Orlagh. It is a privilege and a pleasure to celebrate Sunday with people who want to be here and who are enthusiastic about exploring together the meaning of the readings. The buzz around the place at the end of a Scripture day speaks for itself. The commitment of the meditation group who come faithfully week after week is a witness to us. The appreciation of local clergy for days of reflection that we facilitate makes it a pleasure to provide that service, and it is a constant source of wonder and gratitude to see people come here burdened, and leave after a few hours of prayer and reflection refreshed and with new energy to face their problems. So often we are left puzzled about how it happened, but grateful that it did. The very fact that people give themselves permission to take some time apart seems a key step in opening them up to new possibilities and opportunities, and what is that if it is not a moment of grace?

So as we end 2011 we do so grateful for what has been, and open to what the new year will bring. John Byrne OSA

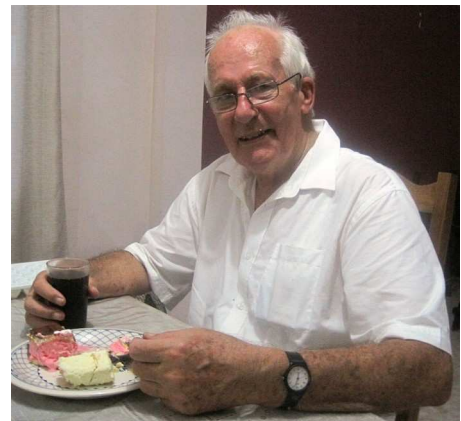
MEATH STREET CHURCH FIRE

St Catherine's Church, Meath Street was extensively damaged by a fire yesterday (Monday) afternoon. A man later arrested at the scene is thought to have started the fire by setting light to the Christmas Crib in the interior of the church. Thankfully no one was injured in the incident. Despite a prompt response by the local fire brigade and Guardai, extensive damage was done to the interior of the church with the large stained glass windows over the high altar and the magnificent organ both badly damaged. There has always been a great sense of community spirit and solidarity in the area and the local people have always been very loyal and generous to the parish. It is this spirit that will help us all get through this disaster. It is too early as of yet to state what will become of the church down the line but one possibility for the immediate future is that John's Lane could be used as a base for the parish administration and services. Bro. Colm O' Mahony



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ECUADOR – NO FAMINE HERE !



Paul O'Connor



Declan Brennan and Ted McCarthy



Margaret, Paul and Ted

“BRINGING FAITH TO LIFE”

Dear Brothers,

As a result of the Mid-Chapter suggestion, and on-going consultation the Provincial Council wishes to promote Augustinian Faith Formation, over the next 2 years, with the overall title “Bringing Faith to Life”.

In 2012 this will take the form of 9 day sessions leading to the International Eucharistic Congress next June. Please note the following:

1. This programme is offered to Augustinians, those who work with us and those we minister to. Conversing and learning together has great advantages.
2. It takes place in 3 clusters: **Dublin** (Dublin houses and Drogheda), **South West** (Cork, Limerick, Galway), **South East** (Dungarvan, Abbeyside, New Ross, Fethard). It is hoped that Friars and laity will be able to attend.
3. To finance the venture, the committee proposes that each house contribute €200, or according to means (above or below). Expenses should not be that high, because only a single day is involved each time and the refreshment will be soup and sandwiches. We will use our own venues when possible.
4. A dedicated website has full information. You might add this as a link to your own website (www.faith2life.ie)
5. If you have any queries etc. please contact Kieran O'Mahony (komahony1@me.com); 086 3390247
6. The dates of the first clusters are as follows: **Dublin** January 21st; **South East** January 28th; **South West** February 4th. The timetable is simple; 9:30 am to 3:30 pm. The sessions actually start at 10:00 am. There will be coffee/tea to welcome everyone.
7. The exact locations for the clusters will be made known as soon as available.

We strongly encourage as many friars and their associated lay folk to attend this programme and make it a success.

Kind Regards,

Gerry Horan. OSA, Provincial.

Mike Brennock OSA, Secretary.

GOOD COUNSEL COLLEGE



The school u-19 badminton team won the Wexford championships for the 5th year in succession with a very hard earned victory against St Peters College on Wednesday last. The team pictured above consisted of James Carroll, Eanna Burke, Nicholas Murphy and Ian Carthy.

ST AUGUSTINE'S COLLEGE DUNGARVAN

Fr. Columba O'Donnell, OSA

Fr O'Donnell who passed away on Tuesday December 27th 2011 will repose at the school Chapel on Thursday from 10.00am until 12.00pm. He will then be removed after a short service to Kiely's Funeral Home. Removal from Kiely's at 6.00pm to the Friary Church. Mass on Friday at 12.00pm followed by burial in the adjoining cemetery. Fr. O'Donnell will be sadly missed by all of us at the school.

Ger Crowley scoops Bronze at the IJSO!

Ger Crowley won a Bronze medal for Ireland at the International Junior Science Olympiad in South Africa last week. Ger was the only Irish medal winner which is a huge achievement considering the Irish team consisted of Ireland's top six junior scientists. Students from all over the world competed in this prestigious event. Ger took it all in his stride and though he worked hard in preparation before and during the event he also managed to embrace the experience and enjoyed all that 10 days in Durban had to offer. Ger made some great new friends from Taiwan and all sorts of exotic places. Well done Ger. We are very proud of you and wish you well with your further competitions in maths and science over the next couple of years.

GOOD COUNSEL COLLEGE NEW ROSS

Congratulations to Seamus Sutton and Jack Wall, both of whom this week were awarded Entrance scholarships to Trinity College on foot of outstanding Leaving Certificates, both having achieved 600 points. The awards were presented in Trinity College Dining Hall on Wednesday last.

A group of 5th year students travelled to Loreto College, Wexford on Thursday to practise their Irish language skills in a Speed Dating tri n Gaeilge activity which proved hugely popular. It is unclear if the Irish translation of, 'do you come here often?' was much used.

The U-16 Footballers progressed to the South Leinster semi final with a comfortable win over Carlow CBS on Wednesday while the Senior Rugby team had a resounding victory over Dunshaughlin C.S. in the opening round of the Leinster Cup. Good luck to them in the next round.

Ben Curran continued his winning ways with victory in a number of events in a swimming gala held in Cardiff last weekend. Again well done to Ben and continued success.

A reminder to 6th year parents that the Parent/Teacher meeting will take place on Wednesday evening next from 4.15 pm to 6.45pm. Refreshments will be available throughout the evening. – School News Letter.

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18.12.2011

Dear Pat, I was, as usual, delighted to receive the IAN Holly Bough edition. It was particularly nice to see that Uachtarán, CLG., Criostóir Ó Cuana, on behalf of the Association, acknowledge the work done by Bro. Finbar to promote handball in Waterford in general, and St. Augustine's in particular. What Christy Cooney doesn't know, of course, is that as far back as the early 1960's Finbar was promoting football in the House of Studies in Ballyboden. Under his tutelage, the English and Australian students became enthusiastic participants and supporters, but his biggest achievement was to convince two Spanish students to partake in the games. Thanks to Finbar, we were playing international games before the Association thought about it! Long may you continue Finbar, to promote all GAA games.

May I also add my congratulations to Fr. Columba O'Donnell OSA, who has dedicated so much of his life to St. Augustine's. He was in the old Friary in the early 1960's when we went there from Ballyboden on our summer holidays. I well remember, and I wonder if he does, the encouragement (?) he gave Malachy Kane and myself as we excavated half of Abbeyside in search of that elusive chalice!! He even arranged for a water diviner with added powers to detect metal/silver and gold, to help us. Alas, it was not to be BUT if he can organise another search, the area to concentrate on is a little lane-way opposite Fr. Michael Brennock's house!! You know that chalice would look very well in one of the rooms of the block dedicated to you in the college!

Best wishes to you Fr. Columba and to Br. Finbar.
Tony Jordan, Dublin.

P.S. Sadly since I received above e-mail letter, Columba O'Donnell passed away, (27.12.2011) after about five months with illness.

Tony Jordan attended the funeral Mass in the Friary Church Dungarvan. There were two Bishops and forty two priests present at the Mass. Columba is buried in the Friary Church grounds.

DURING THE MONTH OF JANUARY

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

01 1998 Fr R O'Keeffe
09 1991 Fr T Woods
10 1991 Fr J Hanly
14 1995 Fr H Jordan
16 1985 Fr N Toner
18 1981 Fr F O'Mahony
18 2000 Fr P Duggan
19 1979 Fr R Hickey
19 2011 Fr C O'Reilly
25 1981 Fr J Hanrahan
28 1999 Fr P A Brennan

Hello Pat,

Greetings from Zing. All are well. Hope you are all well, especially Brendan McDonnell.

The Papal Nuncio is on a visit to Jalingo yesterday, today, tomorrow and the next day. Today he had lunch with the Discalced Carmelite nuns here in Zing. Afterwards he paid the Augustinians a quick visit. Attached is a photo.



From Left, Fr Charles Nyameh (diocesan secretary and a native of Zing), Ray Hickey, Yours Truly, Papal Nuncio Archbishop Augustine Kasujja, Bishop Charles Hammawa, Fr Mark Nzukwein (VG and rector of the diocesan Minor Seminary) and Fr Christopher Patrick O.S.A (also stationed here in Zing).
Michael Walsh OSA.

ECUADOR



This little widow Mother
came yesterday
with her daughter
to whom we had given
one of
John Grace's Wheelchairs
when she was twelve!
That's nearly five
years ago.

The wheelchair is a bit damaged
and will have to be mended.
In the meantime we got her a little
baby's go-car or buggy
Which makes Mum Happy.
What a dedicated little Mother!
I hope it makes her New Year
less problematic.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK.

Welcome to Vol. 5 No. 7. 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 Paul O'Connor and Michael Walsh for photos.

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

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