

IRISH AUGUSTINIAN NEWS

ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL
23rd September 2012

Kieran O'Mahony was installed as Ecumenical Canon and Prebendary of Finglas during choral evensong in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin on Sunday, 23rd September. Two other Canons were also installed during the ceremony which was marked by beautiful choral music and some *olde worlde* language and ceremonial in the actual installation.



The preacher for the occasion was Canon Horace McKinley, rector of Whitechurch and a long term friend of Augustinians in Ballyboden. He outlined the careers of the new Canons and paid a generous tribute to Kieran's work as a scripture scholar and in assisting with the P.O.T. (post ordination training) of Church of Ireland clergy, known irreverently to the participants as 'potty training'. He ended his homily with a wishful dream that ecumenical cooperation could develop to an ecumenical synod within a decade.

Gerry Horan was in attendance as well as some other Augustinians and a number of Kieran's family and friends. New canons and guests were welcomed to a reception in the hall of the choir school after the ceremony.

John Byrne OSA, Orlagh.



Gerry Horan, Canon Horace McKinley, Kieran O'Mahony, David Kelly and John Byrne.



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ST AUGUSTINE'S COLLEGE ABBEYSIDE



David Walsh pictured with Bro Finbar Spring OSA and his trophies.

Congratulations to former pupil of St Augustine's, David Walsh and his coach Bro Finbar Spring OSA, who recently won the men's "B" U. S. National Handball singles and doubles titles in Fountain Valley, California.

David, who already won the Irish Nationals in this grade in 2009, was seeded second in the singles and did not drop a game on route to the final winning his first and second round matches on a score line of 21-4, 21-5 and 21-9, 21-7 respectively.

David then booked his place in the final by beating the third seed in the semi-final, winning 21-3, 21-3. In the final David defeated the top seed, Tyler Stoffel of Minnesota, on a scoreline of 21-11, 21-8.

David then turned his attention to the doubles which started an hour after his singles final. He teamed up with Ned Corrigan from San Francisco, and they were seeded number one in the draw.

They had comfortable victories, leading to the final and they beat Tom and Colman McGrath from San Francisco, to take the US National Doubles title.

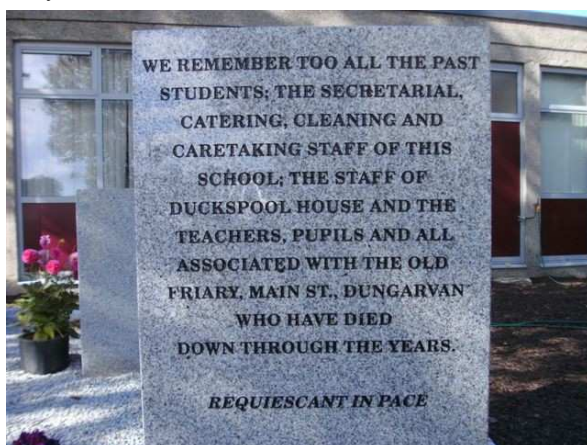
Overall this was a great win for David who will now turn his attention to the World Championships in Dublin in October 2012.

OFFICIAL BLESSING AND OPENING NEW MEMORIAL GARDEN AT ST. AUGUSTINE'S COLLEGE

Friday last, September 7th was a very special day in the history of St. Augustine's College for it was on this day that the school's new memorial garden, in honour of all associated with the Friary who have passed away, was officially blessed and opened by Bishop Senan O'Donnell, OSA.



The idea for a memorial garden was first mentioned by Fr. Columba O'Donnell, OSA, our beloved and much missed colleague, a number of years ago. Sadly, he died before being able to bring it about. As a result, the staff decided to take the project on, in his memory. A committee was set up and a design agreed upon with construction work beginning during the summer holidays. The memorial, which is situated at the main entrance to the school building, incorporates seven solid granite stones. They name the Augustinian and lay teaching staff of St. Augustine's College and the students, who while enrolled in the school, that have gone to their eternal reward. The centre stone refers to the inspiration of Fr. O'Donnell in proposing the garden and lists his many roles during his time in the school. A pathway in the shape of a Celtic cross and a lighthouse water feature complete the memorial. Fr. O'Donnell grew up in Hook Head lighthouse, his father being the lighthouse keeper there. This symbolism adds much to the memorial.



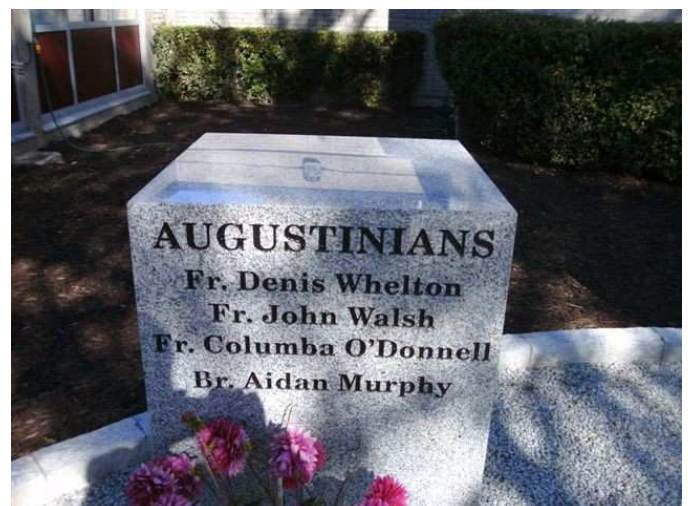
The ceremonies to open the garden began at 2:00pm with Mass celebrated by Bishop O'Donnell, assisted by his fellow Augustinians, Fr. Gerry Horan, Fr. Michael Brennock, Fr. Tom Cooney, Fr. John O'Connor, Fr. Jack Crean, Fr. Séamus Humphreys, Fr. Pat Codd, Fr. Matt Cooney, Master of Ceremonies and Fr. Tim O'Riordan, Parish Priest of Abbeyside / Ballinroad / Garrahanbane. The readings and prayers were read by Ailbhe Ní Neachtain, Acting Principal and the students of the school. Beautiful hymns were sung by the school choir

under the guidance of Pat Knightly and Kelley Gardiner. At the end of the Mass, Bro. Patrick Lennon, OSA thanked everyone for attending, especially the relatives of the deceased, many of whom had travelled long distances to be there. It was nice to see staff and students from our sister school, Good Counsel College New Ross, in the congregation. Fr. O'Donnell spent many years there between his spells here in the Friary. Appreciation was also expressed to all who helped in any way to make the memorial garden concept a reality. Special praise was bestowed upon David Kiely and his workmen, Steve, Mattie and James for constructing the memorial to the highest standard. It is indeed a testament to their abilities.



Following Mass, everyone proceeded outside into the beautiful sunshine for the official blessing and opening of the garden. Prayers and reflections were read by Frs. Brennock and Horan and staff members, Shiovaun O'Sullivan, Nollaig Sheehan and Bríd O'Kennedy. Bishop O'Donnell then blessed the memorial. The day ended with everyone going to the school canteen for refreshments. Lots of people had not seen one another in many years while others had never met before. The occasion allowed for memories to be shared, old stories to be told and new friendships to be forged. This added so much to the success of the event.

We, in St. Augustine's College, hope that the memorial garden is a fitting tribute to all from our school who have gone before us. We hope Fr. O'Donnell approves too!!! Jonathan O'Donovan.



IMPORTANT NEW BOOK FROM MONSIGNOR MICHAEL OLDEN



Monsignor Olden speaking at the launch of his book
“The life & times of Patrick Comerford OSA 1586-1652.

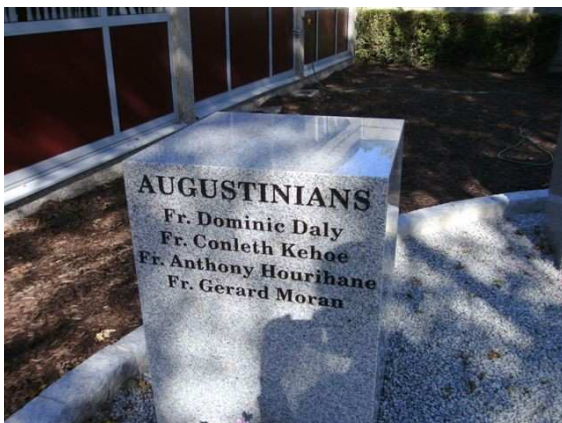
A new book by Monsignor Michael Olden on the life and times of the Counter-Reformation Bishop of Waterford Patrick Comerford OSA (1586-1652), was jointly launched on Monday 24 September in the city’s Medieval Museum by the Mayor of Waterford, Cllr Jim Darcy, and the Bishop of Waterford and Lismore, Dr William Lee.

The book deals with the efforts, achievements and failures of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Waterford and Lismore during the important Counter-Reformation period when the central figure in those efforts was Bishop Comerford OSA.

In the decades after the Reformation the poverty of the Church was severe. It was deprived by law of its property and church buildings. The clergy made what efforts they could to minister to a largely impoverished people. The book also examines the role and involvement of Bishop Comerford in the political activity of the day, leading to the creation and development of the Federation of Kilkenny 1642-1649.

Monsignor Michael Olden, a native of Cappoquin, is a priest of the Diocese of Waterford and Lismore and in recent years has been parish priest successively of Kilsheehan and Kilcash, St Peter and Paul’s Clonmel, Tramore and Carbally

Previously, Monsignor Olden was Professor of Church History and President of Maynooth College. He now lives in retirement in Waterford city and writes extensively on historical and pastoral subjects.



Good Counsel College - News



The National Ploughing Championships being held locally this week has touched school life in a variety of ways. While there were no classes held on Wednesday to allow all those who wished to do so attend the event, the obvious traffic issues made travelling difficult for some on the Tuesday and Thursday.

All 82 of our Transition Year students were offered employment over the 3 days, an opportunity which the vast majority of them gratefully seized and which will no doubt have given them a greater appreciation of the world of the workplace. Many other students and their families will have been involved as exhibitors and helpers during the week which will hopefully have brought much needed benefit to the local economy and which will have highlighted the wonderful amenities and resources of the south east to a wide audience.

Next week there will be a specific focus on study skills and planning for all Junior cycle students, 1st to 3rd year with a presentation to each year group on time management, study techniques and general learning skills. We would encourage all parents/guardians to speak with their sons about the issue of study and how to make best use of both school and home study time.

As anyone visiting or passing the school will see, the building of the new town swimming pool is moving forward at a great pace and it is expected that it will be fully covered before Christmas and ready to open in the summer of 2013. Having such a facility on our doorstep is of course very attractive and means students taking swimming modules as part of their PE programme will be spared the trapse back up Mary Street hill hauling their gear bags behind them. In addition the huge and unsightly mound of earth which grew on the left hand side of our avenue as the swimming pool site was being dug out has now been moved over to the Irishtown pitch which will now be levelled and reseeded in the near future.

Our sixth year Geography students will undertake their Field study work over the next week, visiting Woodstown beach to study coastal erosion while 6th year retreats will also take place in school. Best wishes to all involved in these events.

- Good Counsel College Newsletter.

NEW PRINCIPAL IN PLACE



The newly appointed principal of St Augustine's College, Ailbhe Ní Neachtáin, has taken up her prestigious and hugely responsible post, and of course having held the position of deputy principal at the school for the seven previous years, her teaching talents and skills are already well known by everyone at the college.

Ailbhe succeeds Joe Moynihan who has retired after the most distinguished and successful "innings" within his profession to which he has always been such an outstanding credit.

Ailbhe is a proud native of the renowned Gaeltacht area of An Spidéal in County Galway, and has been on the teaching staff at the "Friary" since the early 1990s. Her appointment as principal is as popular as it is well deserved, and we extend to her our best wishes for the year and indeed for the years ahead.

DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

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

05 1975 Fr J Dullea
11 1961 Fr LA Doyle
16 1988 Fr J Keane
17 1989 Br P O'Connell
17 1999 Br C Counihan
22 2002 Fr T Mescall
24 1997 Fr P Ryan
27 1961 Fr BM O'Sullivan
28 1974 Fr GB Redmond
30 1987 Fr S Renehan
30 1992 Fr M Duggan

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK.

Welcome to Vol. 6 No. 4. Thanks to all who have contributed to this edition. Special thanks to Peter Galus, David Moran, Francis Aherne, John O'Connor, for their invaluable help with this issue, and to John Byrne, Sean Byrne, Myra Walsh and Matt Cooney for photos.

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As I Was Saying...

I have been absent for the last two weeks, tramping the road from Samos to Compostela with 30 fellow parishioners. The idea of the parish making this pilgrimage emerged from the General Parish Meeting last year.

One of the key questions put to that assembly was to consider the following: 'What activities or exercises do you think would nourish the faith of the parishioners of St. Augustine's?' Three concrete proposals emerged from the discussions: (1) Form a book club where matters of faith could be studied and explored; (2) Establish a movie club with similar aims. (3) Organise a parish pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela.

The first two activities have been running very successfully for over six months, with a break for the summer, obviously. Between 10 and 15 people attended both exercises weekly. The participants found both exercises interesting and helpful. So, thanks mainly to Lisa and John Berry, we set about organising the Pilgrimage some three months ago. All their plotting and planning came to fruition over the last two weeks.

Our pilgrim group was rather senior, but certainly not out of place on the road! We walked 132 kilometres over the 6 days, averaging 22 kms per day. (Two of our number cycled from the 200 km mark). My personal 'horror story' was the trek from Palas de Rei to Arzura, a distance of 30 kilometres and quite a section of it up steep inclines. I set out at 7.30 am and completed my journey at 7.30 pm, exhausted after 12 hours of solid trekking under a blazing sun. The terrain throughout was quite hilly and challenging, even for those with a good level of fitness. We aimed to be on the road between 7.30 and 8.00 each morning! The only disadvantage here was that it was still dark and the road signs and markings were not always visible at that hour. This led to some interesting if unfortunate detours.

Three primary impressions remain with me. First, the number of young people making the pilgrimage. French, Italian and Spanish seemed to dominate. It was obvious that they were serious about their task! (Come to think of it, who the hell would walk 30 kms per day for a laugh!)

Second, the manner in which pilgrims who were strangers shared their stories with their fellow travellers. While I personally didn't fraternise very much on the road, I met four people who told me they were making the pilgrimage for a loved one who had died. In some mysterious way, this was a debt of love being repaid.

Third, the manner in which our own 'senior pilgrims' endured and even flourished! They showed a stamina, a persistence and indeed a stubbornness that belied their years! A great bond was formed between the lot. And, despite the occasional torture, I was genuinely sorry when the pilgrimage ended. And I have no doubt but that the faith of each was nourished. Because we witnessed firsthand that unselfishness wins out. Would I do it again? Not tomorrow! -Dick Lyng OSA, Galway.