

IRISH AUGUSTINIAN NEWS



EVANGELISING CORK

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We decided to have our recent three 'Faith to Life' modules on successive Saturday mornings in March. Up on our 6th floor, in a large spacious room used mainly by our Polish community. Once a haven for altar servers who hoped to emulate Steve Davis and Dennis Taylor.

Fr. Jimmy was the genial gatekeeper at the lift on the ground floor. "If you would take the lift to the fourth floor and Fr. Seán will escort you up from there." "Yes Madam, there is a toilet upstairs." Beforehand, we advertised the talks with posters, Pat publicised it in our Sunday bulletin; it got honourable mention at the local deanery meeting. As one old dear said: "The Parish Priest called Bernie and myself and told us that the Augustinians were having a podcast and would the two of us go along on behalf of the parish." We asked him what was a podcast? The PP said "I haven't a clue. But if ye go along ye'll be able to find out and let the rest of us know."

The six talks were well received by all. Another oldish Cork lady said "I never knew there were such people as female theologians." Indeed, an emphasis on lay participation and their obligation – as well as our own - to pass on the Good News, was striking in the podcasts. Ted, from a different parish, said "It was great to have married men and women telling us about how to pass on the message to our children. They'd kinda know from experience rather than from studying books."

One of the things we did was, at the end of each talk, to give them printouts of all the important points, scripture quotes, titles of recommended reading. This involved a bit of work the previous day or two, going through the talks and jotting down the significant statements. One lady from Douglas phoned a few days later to say how helpful she found the printout for reflecting on and sharing in her parish group.

All who came praised the presentations, the sharing of faith experiences and also the Barry's tea and biscuits. Another gentleman, Michael, after the last exposition on Evangelisation, said that the Augustinians were leading the way as evangelisers in Cork. He also asked why we didn't offer to bring the lectures to each parish in urban Cork. Maybe a good idea for the future? But please wait for chapter decisions and provincial appointments first.

Francis Aherne OSA, Cork.



Sean Dowling OSA, with "Mercy Sisters"



Francis Aherne OSA, with "friends of Pres"



Pat Moran OSA, with psychologists!



Augustinian Sisters of the Mercy of Jesus

The Sisters of St. Augustine of the Mercy of Jesus were founded 1842 in Bruges by Canon Peter John Mayes. He was a great advocate of the mentally ill.

He travelled extensively to study their treatment and care, pioneering more human treatment for them than was the norm at that time. He believed in the value of having Sisters dedicated to the care of the sick and he took a group of Sisters from Bruges to Burgess Hill in Sussex (England).

Whilst visiting his brother Fr. Louis Mayes in England, Canon Peter met Cardinal Wiseman and Bishop Grant of Southwark who asked him to found a house in England for the care of the sick - St. George's Retreat.

In consequence Canon Peter arrived at Burgess Hill from Bruges on 5th October 1856 and Sr. Raphael was appointed Superioress. By this time Canon Mayes had bought an area of around 200 acres in Sussex borrowing the money from Bruges which had to be paid back over the years.

With labour and building materials being brought from Belgium the construction of St George's retreat began in 1867. It was officially opened on the feast of St. Joseph in 1868. The name was chosen in memory of the opening in July



1848 of St. George's Cathedral in Southwark, the first Catholic Cathedral in England since the reformation and after the restoration of the hierarchy. The first patients, men and women, arrived in 1869. Canon Peter Mayes liked to call St. George's Retreat, God's Hotel. Then building work continued until the main building was completed in 1877 in which year Canon Peter Mayes died. Possibly owing to the distance involved in those years Burgess Hill became independent of Bruges.

Today our Sisters work in our own houses in the Diocese of Plymouth, Northampton. We also have Sisters in Birmingham and Westminster still carrying on the vision of Canon Peter Mayes.

St. George's being the Mother House, is where a new care village and three care homes have been established. In recognition of this commitment to service Sr. Thomas was awarded an MBE by Queen Elizabeth in January 2013.

- from the Augustinian Youth Ireland webpage.

A New Doctor for the Province



Congratulations are extended to Noel Hession of the Finglas Augustinian Community on being awarded a Ph.D at the Milltown Institute, Dublin on Friday 22nd March last. Noel's thesis is "How we can be Parish without a priest ? The Place of Lay Ministry in the Developing Irish Church." The defence was before a Board comprising Dr. Finbarr Clancy S.J, acting President of the Milltown Institute who chaired the Examination Board with Dr. Michael Howlett W.I.T. as the Extern examiner and Dr. Joe Egan SMA M.I.

Also present for the occasion were Dr. Tom Whelan CSSp who has been a great support to Noel over the years of preparation and Dr. Tom Grenham SPS who was the moderator for the Thesis. The supporting Augustinians included V. Rev. Fr Gerry Horan Provincial , Dr. Christopher Fitzgerald, Dr. David Kelly, Nial Coughlan PP., Michael Collender and Tom Cooney. The conferring will take place at the Graduation Ceremony in October.

A FROZEN EASTER

This year the brave resilient daffodils survived the arctic weather conditions. In public parks, at roundabouts, along motorways and in your back gardens they lifted our famished hearts and warmed us with the promise of Easter and "Resurrection". **We are still waiting for the other Spring flowers to appear.** The beautiful cherry blossoms are too delicate to brave the biting north-easterly winds. Despite the harsh conditions the Limerick City Council workers have nurtured some tulips and primroses in those large boxes which define the **Fashion Quarter** in Roches St. and Catherine St. A frozen Easter on the last day of March deprives us of Creation and Resurrection coming together in one great movement of birth and rebirth. When the earth awakens from its Winter sleep in Ireland, the scene is set for the Risen Christ to emerge from the tomb. The timing does not seem right this year in the northern hemisphere. However we rest on the promise of a **Second Spring**, renewal and resurrection for the church through Pope Francis.

Liam Ryan OSA, Limerick.

Pope Francis is a Parishioner of the Augustinians



The Pontifical Parish of Saint Anne is the territorial parish of Vatican City, and it has been under the pastoral care of the Augustinians since 1929. On Sunday,

March 17, 2013, the fourth day of Pope Francis' Pontificate, the Parish of St. Anne was blessed by the presence of Pope Francis as he presided at the Eucharistic celebration.

It was the Pope's express desire to visit the parish at the start of his ministry as the Bishop of Rome, and his profound commitment to serve the People of God as a true pastor was apparent from the moment he arrived.

Reflecting the simplicity of his personal style, Pope Francis preached about the mercy of God, as reflected in the response of Jesus to the woman caught in adultery, the Gospel of the Fifth Sunday of Lent. "Jesus never grows tired of offering the gift of pardon to those who come to him."



Concelebrating with Pope Francis were the Vicar General for Vatican City, Cardinal Angelo Comastri, Cardinal Prospero Grech, O.S.A., the Prior General Fr. Robert Prevost, O.S.A., and the pastor of St. Anne's Parish, Fr. Bruno Silvestrini, O.S.A.. In addition the Pope was assisted by two Augustinian deacons and several professed from the Collegio Santa Monica and the professorium of the Italian Province in Viterbo.

Before he gave the final blessing, Pope Francis received the greeting of Fr. Silvestrini, and of Cardinal Comastri. From the Cardinal's words: "During these days, we have truly felt the winds of Pentecost, which has shaken our souls. In a certain way, [when St. Francis began his Order], Christianity was reborn, with the simplicity and the fervour of its beginnings. This is what is happening now... Your Holiness, fill the Church with the perfume of the Gospel, the sweet odour of Christ."



At the conclusion of the Eucharist, the Pope processed to the main door of the church, and one by one greeted each and every one of the

faithful who had taken part in the Eucharistic celebration. Pope Francis' warmth and simplicity clearly touched the hearts and lives of everyone who had the privilege of being present. - Augustinian Youth webpage.

All-Ireland Post Primary Schools SCF (C) 2013

St Augustine's Dungarvan (Waterford) 2.08
Scoil Mhuire, Strokestown (Roscommon) 0.10



St Augustine's launched a smash and grab raid to snatch a dramatic victory over Scoil Mhuire in a pulsating All-Ireland Post Primary Schools SCF (C) final on Sunday 30 March.

The Dungarvan side only hit the front for the first time in the first minute of injury time when Tadhg Bourke slotted over a point, and Michael Sweeney blasted to the net to confirm a famous win for the Dungarvan school.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK.

Welcome to Vol. 6 No. 10. Thanks to all who have contributed to this edition of IAN. Special thanks to David Moran, Francis Aherne, John O'Connor, for their invaluable help, and to Noel Hession – Augustinian Youth Webpage.

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

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As I Was Saying...

Despite the unseasonal frost and snow throughout the country, there is a great sense of Spring and new life around the place. Easter is a time of new beginnings, the earth reawakening after the long sleep of winter. The Church, through this great festival, connects us to this renewal of nature, to this great reawakening, to this rebirth.

There is something of a rebirth afoot in Rome at the moment too. Pope Francis has already blown away some very musty cobwebs. Church leadership at the centre had become introspective and self-obsessed. Rome was the centre of the universe. The views and fears of those on the hinterland were irrelevant. Incidental frippery and ornate drapery were regarded as very serious stuff! If there is a problem, just throw a blanket of silence over it! There was a terrible lack of honesty, of openness, a reluctance to face the truth. Obviously, it all proved too much for Pope Benedict and he very sensibly walked off the stage.

While Francis may be still finding his way, he gives the distinct impression that he knows where he is going. His words and gestures have so far have been inspiring. Before performing the traditional feet washing, in his first general audience on Wednesday, Francis called on the world's 1.2 billion Catholics to reach out to "lost sheep" over the coming days. When addressing his colleagues at the Chrism Mass in St. Peter's on Holy Thursday, his finger pointed firmly to a world beyond the great walls of the Basilica:

"We need to go out to the outskirts where there is suffering, bloodshed, blindness that longs for sight, and prisoners in thrall to many evil masters. Those who do not go out, become merely dealers in antiques and collectibles, ending up dissatisfied and sad. It is not in soul-searching or constant introspection that we encounter the Lord. The precious sacramental oil is not intended just to make us priests fragrant, much less to be kept in a jar, for then it would become rancid and the heart bitter. This is the 'oil of gladness' intended for the poor, prisoners, the sick, for those who are sorrowing and alone."

Later that evening, of course, he translated his words into actions by going out to Casal del Marmo prison and washing the feet of twelve young offenders. Francis broke with tradition again by insisting that the group should include two young women and a Muslim. 'I'm happy to be with you. Don't let anyone rob you of your hopes and dreams' he told them.

There's a longing in our world for simplicity. It's not about the rejection of learning or the trivialisation of what is complex. It's about stripping away the accretions that distract us from reality. It's a desire for profound connection, with each other but with someone beyond ourselves whom Christians identify as God in Jesus Christ. The Easter story tells us that this Christ stands in solidarity beside the poor, the prisoner, the suffering and the dying. If we don't find him there, we won't find him in our basilicas and our sanctuaries. While the message of Francis may be simple, it is at the same time extremely challenging. Have a happy Easter!

-Dick Lyng OSA, Galway.

ORLAGH

January and February are usually quiet months in Orlagh and they were even more quiet this year, but in contrast March was very busy. In addition to our usual programmes we had a course on Women Mystics, an introduction to Genesis, a film night and we hosted a 6 day Centering Prayer retreat led by Bob and Pat Johnson, a couple working with Fr Timothy Keating in the U.S.A. Carmel McCarthy continued with her small but dedicated band of Greek scholars.

Louis Heath completed his second eight-week course on Mindfulness, so popular that he is leading another course starting this month to cope with the overflow.

Three Church of Ireland groups used Orlagh, including our local Whitechurch Parish for whom Kieran led a Holy Week Retreat with one evening service taking place here. The month ended with our own Holy Week Retreat centred on the Holy Week ceremonies, and it is both a pleasure and a blessing to be involved in it.

Demands for courses and facilitation on site in parishes increases. Kieran leads the way through his diocesan appointment with a focus primarily on scripture courses. Mary Kearney facilitates parish groups, especially parish pastoral councils, and among other outreach activities John & Bernadette led a five-week Adult Faith Formation Course in one parish and three other parishes have asked for a similar course there.

There are also the Word on Web and Bringing Faith to Life programmes which have moved up a notch in terms of presentation, as the last series was professionally filmed and recorded. That was a new and different experience for the presenters who have all been self-critical of their performances. We look forward to being more at ease the next time round. John Byrne, OSA Orlagh.

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**