

IRISH AUGUSTINIAN NEWS

DERMOT LANE LAUNCHES KIERAN'S BOOK

Mgr Dermot Lane performed the official launch of Kieran O'Mahony's book *Do We Still Need St Paul?* in Milltown Institute on November 10th. In his introduction he said that Kieran had shown that "the message of Paul was alive and pertinent to many of the questions facing the Church in the 21st Century."

He said Kieran's analysis of the teaching in the genuine letters of Paul compared to later letters attributed to him had shown that the early Church had to some extent "domesticated the revolutionary message of the Gospel." He believed that Church leaders and pastors at all levels today could well take Paul's example to heart by listening more attentively both to the questions of their people and the experience of their people.

It was standing room only in the Milltown theatre for the event which also saw the launch of Jim Corkery's book on the theology of Joseph Ratzinger. John Byrne OSA.



Dermot Lane, Kieran O'Mahony OSA, and Dr Gesa Thiesen, who chaired the event.



Lonan Byrne, Kieran O'Mahony OSA and Sean Goan.



Vol. 3 No 6 DECEMBER 2009

ST AUGUSTINE'S / ST. NICOLAS CHURCH: GALWAY

We got a genuinely warm reception from the Rector and parishioners of St. Nicholas' Church of Ireland when we returned there on Monday night last. We were there of course for our common 'Commemoration of the Faithful Departed.' The Service was a wonderful success.

About 380 people attended, with a majority from the Augustinian Parish, understandably.

Crosses bearing the names of 50 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).

Rev Gary Hastings, the Rector, preached a most appropriate and consoling homily. At the end of the Service we were treated to tea, coffee and Halloween barmbrack. It is always a pleasure to renew the connection between the two parishes. Thanks to many people who worked hard in preparing the Service.

Dick Lyng OSA, P.P.

WHAT IS A GOSPEL?

200 people in eighteen groups around the country took part in the first of the three WORDONWEB programmes on Wednesday, November 25th. Sean Goan and Kieran O'Mahony gave a thirty minute talk on the meaning of the word 'Gospel' and how there came to be four gospels in the Bible. The pre-recorded talk was watched as a podcast in the different locations. This was followed by a discussion in each parish. The third part of the evening was a live telephone conference between the groups and the speakers.

The photo on the left shows Kieran and Sean listening attentively to questions coming in, as the chairman, Lonan Byrne, looks on. The talks were well received and will be followed by two further sessions: "How were the gospels written?" (Dec 2) and "How do we pray the gospels?" (Dec 9). The series forms part of the resources being supplied for the Year of Evangelization in the Dublin Archdiocese. It is part of the effort by the Orlagh Team to bring solid, interesting and yet accessible scholarship to a wider audience.

John Byrne OSA, Orlagh.

SOME READERS' COMMENTS'

Pat, I just got this from Declan today and I thought I'd send it along to you for inclusion in IAN. I'm not sure when, or if, the next PNL will come out, so it's better for you to put this in the next edition of IAN.

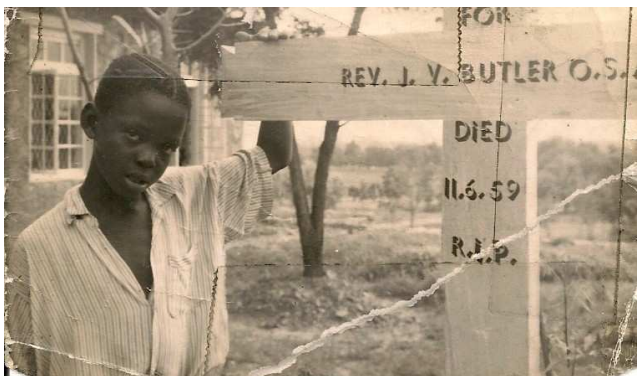
IAN seems to be attracting items that were formally sent to the PNL, so the PNL will have to reinvent itself or fold. For some time I have been anxious about the cost of producing the PNL. Apart from the long hours that I spend on it, it works out at about four Euros per copy, which includes 21% vat, to print. I don't know what it costs to put out IAN, but with colour it can't be cheap. You may have noticed that I have been saying that if the Province Secretariate acquired suitable equipment and a full time secretary, a lot of our printing work could be done there. That might be worth considering.

Long Live IAN!! Pat Codd OSA, New Ross.

Pat, I've just survived my first six week's in Cuba and as I told Gerry (Horan, Provincial): try rice for slimming. I'm joking, as I'm sure many here would be pleased to have that complaint. Things are difficult and the blockade is not the only problem. There are six OSA's in three houses. Puerto Padre is over sixteen hours drive from us in Tarara, 18 klms from central Havana. The other house, Chamba, is more or less in between. It is a very awkward set-up as travel is so difficult. Just two weeks ago our university church of St Thomas of Villanova was returned to the Cardinal by the government. After 50 years of vandalizing, it is in a pitiful state. I've been there and while structurally it looks well it will need some renovating. It is suggested that the state should undertake it. It is beautifully situated and would be a great OSA centre. I can't see us surviving as we are. God bless from Cuba. Declan Deasy OSA.

Dear Pat, The photos of the graves in last month's IAN reminded me that I had a photo of the grave of Fr Vincent Butler OSA, who was the first OSA to die in Nigeria. I still remember visiting him the day before he died, I think it was of fever. Prosit on the IAN. I look forward to reading it every month. God Bless. John Bresnan OSA, Ballyboden.

Thanks John for photo below, the original is already in the mail back to you in Ballyboden. Editor.



Hello Pat, Greetings from Sydney. I thought I'd drop a line to tell you that the Irish Augustinian Newsletter finds its way to me on a regular basis - and I really appreciate that - but it does 'the rounds' before it gets to me because the address you have for me is not quite correct; in fact, the address you have on file for me is a combination of my previous Melbourne address and my current Sydney address! The address you need is as follows: St John Stone Priory, 2 Hewitt Avenue, Greystanes, NSW 2145 Australia. Senan Ward OSA.

FROM FLAVIO



THE EVENING SUN OVER DESCANSO

I arrived late to their fiesta because I had forgotten it, but they were not one bit worried. They merely said "*And the Father is usually so punctual*". The only surprise was this lady who told me she is twenty three years old. She was baptizing her four children, the eldest of whom is ten and the youngest here enjoying his cola. She had '*gone off*' with the father of the first three when she was twelve.



Abandoned by him she was '*gathered in*' by the father of the youngest, who proudly held up three fingers to emphasize his goodness in taking in all three. I'd say he's all of forty five and '*has won the lottery*'. At least, he had concern enough to have them all baptized in one go.

Today I've had a funeral, three hours pre-marriage talks and two hours of youth confessions, so I feel free to experiment with new forms I've found on the computer. It's relaxing.

Paul O'Connor OSA, Ecuador.

New e-mail addresses:

Sean Dowling: sdowling@gmail.com

Paul Flynn: ofloinnpol@live.com

Martin Crean: martincreanosa@hotmail.com

Tony Jordan: francisajordan@gmail.com

Jack Crean: jackcrean@live.ie

Senan Ward: senanward@bigpond.com



KILKENNY HONOURS Fr Michael Mernagh OSA.

An Augustinian priest who walked from Cobh, Co. Cork, to Dublin as a gesture of protest and restitution for sex abuse scandals in the Church has been named as one of County Kilkenny's People of the Year. Fr Michael Mernagh OSA was one of eight winners in

the 13th annual 2009 Rehab Kilkenny People of the Year Awards. Other recipients of awards included Dr Bill Cuddihy of the Good Shepherd Centre, Danesfort Development Group, and Brian Cody, manager of the All-Ireland champions, Kilkenny hurling team, who won the overall award.

Some 260 people attended the dinner in the Newpark Hotel at which the eight people were honoured. Fr Mernagh, who was ordained in 1963, received the award under the 'Social Justice' category. A native of Glenmore, Co Kilkenny, he worked in Nigeria and in the Liberties area of Dublin. He also served as director of the National Combat Poverty Committee in the 1970s and was sent to jail in 1984 for standing in front of bulldozers in Dublin to try to prevent a family of travellers from being evicted from a council site.

Fr Mernagh spends four months each year in South Africa promoting community development. Earlier this year, Fr Mernagh walked the 210 miles from St Colman's Cathedral in Cobh to St Mary's Pro-Cathedral in Dublin, carrying a placard calling for atonement. The purpose of his journey was to make peace with himself and draw public awareness to the victims of abuse.

Speaking after he was presented with the award by Brian Phelan of Glanbia, Fr Mernagh said that it was "a physical walk and an intense spiritual journey" and that the trip was a "very humbling experience." He said his personal motto in life was that "this and this alone the Lord God asks of you: act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly." - Fintan Deere, (Kilkenny People).

BOOK OF THE MONTH

The Disturbing Freshness of Christ by

Michael Paul Gallagher, Dublin: Veritas, 2008

Originally presented as a lecture at the National Religious Education Congress 'I Arise Today' in October 2007, this book discusses the positive and negative sides of a new Irish post-modernity. The title *The Disturbing Freshness of Christ* is intended to point to a key issue sometimes forgotten in our more external debates about church or religion. This book seeks to go beyond a merely sociological account of the new context, to a more cultural and pastoral-theological reading of the situation. In the present circumstances religion can seem old-fashioned, boring and alien in the eyes of many - like a dying language. Through this, we are challenged to imagine a different quality of Christian commitment.

This is an excellent fairly short book for this busy season.
Flor O'Callaghan OSA, Dungarvan.

GOOD COUNSEL /ST AUGUSTINE'S COLLEGE

On Friday the 20th of November the staffs of both our schools met for the second annual joint schools meeting. This is one of the events organised by the Province Education Commission. It is an attempt to focus the minds of the teachers and others involved in our schools on the notion of what it means to be an Augustinian Educator. Both schools have adapted their crests and mission statements to highlight the values of Unity, Truth and Love and this year's meeting focussed on the value, Unity.

The morning began with a short prayer service where the staffs prayed for deceased colleagues, students and other relatives and friends. Fr Gerry Horan OSA, Provincial, gave a very thought provoking presentation on the nature of the Augustinian Educator and offered a challenge to all present to examine their faith commitment in the light of our ongoing commitment to Augustinian education.

Fr Mike Brennock OSA, in his own unique style, took us through the life of Augustine and some of the salient points from Augustine's spirituality and how they might be reflected in the approach an Augustinian teacher might develop.

Finally, Fr Noel Hession OSA gave a wonderful presentation on the value, Unitas, which challenged us all and led the staff into examining how, practically, they might live out this concept on the ground in Saint Augustine's and Good Counsel. We also had a report from the teachers who went to the Augustinian Values Institute in the States this year. This is an annual meeting of schools from the USA, Canada, Australia and Ireland and we are always well represented at that.



In the picture above you can see Mr Aidan O'Brien, the newly appointed Deputy Principal of Good Counsel College and Mr Joe Moynihan, the Principal of Saint Augustine's College in Dungarvan. Both are wonderful men doing a tremendous job in our two schools. You might make out Gerry in the background when the technology failed and we had to resort to the power of his unaided voice to convey his message to the assembly of over one hundred teachers. A great day was had by all and stories and ideas continued to be swapped over the meal which ended our time together. Augustinians are always welcome in both our schools and the students and teachers alike love to see the friars calling in.

John Hennebry OSA, Good Counsel College.

Useful Websites:

Advent resources: www.cresourcei.org
www.textweek.com

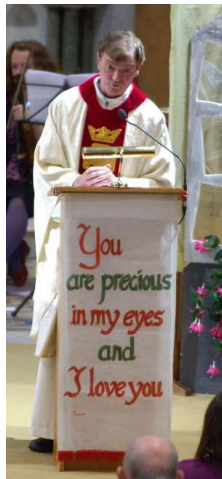
ST AUGUSTINE'S DROGHEDA

Hundreds of people gathered in the Augustinian Church in Drogheda on Sunday 15th November, to mark the UN Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims.

"We lit 204 candles or nightlights in commemoration of the 204 people who had died so far this year. Unfortunately, that was last night – and this morning there was a 205th" said Fr Iggy O'Donovan. Deputy Frank O'Dowd T.D. FG., spokesman for Justice lit the 205th candle.

The remembrance Mass began in Drogheda in 2006. One of the main instigators - together with Fr Iggy, who himself lost a brother in a road traffic accident many years ago near Cahir Co Tipperary - was local man Michael O'Neill. His daughter Fiona died in a horrific crash just metres from her home in Monasterboice.

He said, "the Mass was very significant for people like ourselves. It is a comfort to us and shows others that they are not alone." The Drogheda Mass was among dozens of events held across the country to remember the 22,640 people who have been killed in road traffic accidents in Ireland since records began in 1959.



Fr Iggy O'Donovan OSA and Deputy O'Dowd

DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

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

- 01 1991 Fr E.N. McGrath
- 02 1997 Fr J.A. Ryan
- 05 1972 Fr A. Bell
- 08 1983 Fr P. O'Shea
- 08 2004 Fr T. Tevington
- 10 2004 Fr B. Dunne
- 11 1974 Fr T. Flynn
- 11 1998 Fr F. Twomey
- 12 1969 Fr P. Bowlby
- 14 1993 Fr T. Hartnett
- 15 1996 Fr B. O'Donnell
- 20 1985 Fr S. Flanagan
- 20 1997 Fr J. O'Connor
- 22 1970 Fr J.B. O'Flynn
- 22 1972 Fr P.A. Doyle
- 24 1989 Fr E. Clifford
- 25 1973 Fr S. Roche
- 31 1963 Fr P.A. Stokes

On behalf of my mother and family, I wish to thank all the friars who attended the removal, the funeral Mass, sent messages of sympathy and Mass cards on the death of Dad, R.I.P. Your support and prayers are very much appreciated.
Shem Furlong OSA, Cork.

EXTRACT – HOUSE DIARY ST PAT'S ROME THURSDAY MARCH 9th 1933

Irish College 2 - 4 St Patrick's 1 - 2.

Today we were defeated in football by the Irish College at the Roman football grounds. I think we did remarkably well considering the fact that we had only two games of football since Christmas last. Our defeat may well be attributed to the fact that Bro. Aloysius Dooley lay dying in hospital.

This upset the team. St Pat's team: Michael Twomey, Bernard Flynn, Ignatius Foley, Laurence Meagher, Henry L. Leahy, Nicholas McCarthy, Declan Treacy, Benignus Foley, Augustine Garman, Joe Wallace, Anthony Dalton Capt, Thomas Hand, Ambrose Long, Alypius Conway, Aidan Shea. (Bro Dooley died on March 17th).

-supplied by Iggy O'Donovan OSA, Drogheda.



HARRY LEAHY OSA R.I.P.

Born on June 9th 1914 in Co Limerick. Henry L. Leahy joined the Augustinian Order on 14th August 1930. He was ordained in Rome on 13th March 1937 and went to work in Australia. He returned to Ireland in 1950 and served in John's Lane until recent years when he recognised his ill health and wrote to the Provincial asking to be moved to Ballyboden, just over a year and a half ago.

Harry died on 11.11. 2009. His funeral Mass was celebrated in John's Lane and he was buried in Glasnevin. He is survived by his sister Hilda Barry.

Also please remember in your prayers Fr Paddy McDonagh SDS, brother of Fr Gabriel McDonagh OSA, who died in England 17.11.2009

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK.

Welcome to Vol. 3 No 6. Thanks to all who have contributed to this edition. Special thanks to Peter Galus, who does all the photographic work, to David Moran, John O'Connor for their invaluable help, and to Dick Lyng, Paul O'Connor, John Bresnan, John Byrne, John Hennebry and Iggy O'Donovan for articles and photographs. Finally a reminder that the Christmas Edition of IAN will be out soon. Photos or Christmas Poems would be greatly appreciated. A small start has been made to the "IAN Supplement" which you can find on the Cork webpage.

All past editions of IAN available on:

Web page: www.staugustinescork.ie

Pat Moran OSA, Editor, St Augustine's Priory, Washington St, Cork.

Tel. 021 427 04 10.

087 235 25 82. E-mail: sacw@iol.ie