

IRISH AUGUSTINIAN NEWS

New Phone No. for St Patrick's Rome + 06 42 90 37 87

JUBILEE - NAIROBI



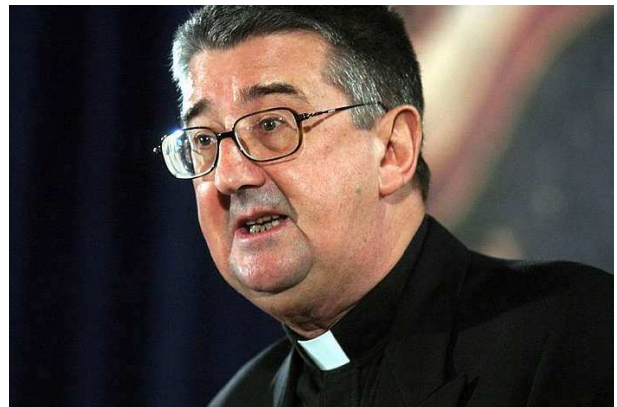
On Sunday March 22, 2009, at Baba Dogo parish in Nairobi, David FitzGerald and Tom Sexton celebrated the 40th anniversary of their ordination at Rome on March 22, 1969. Both have changed a little from the picture published in the last edition of IAN but are healthy enough to be still active in the two parishes of Ishiara (David) and Baba Dogo (Tom) here in Kenya. Tom had previously worked in Ishiara for eleven years. The main parish Mass at 11.00 was set aside for the celebrations and they were joined by some of the Augustinians from around Nairobi. Speeches were made, gifts were given, and then everyone got at least a soda and a bun while the clerical members and the Parish Council got a full lunch. It was a gentle, but worthwhile, celebration to mark the auspicious occasion. At the Mass we prayed for the two members of the group who have passed on, Philip Sinnott and Ted Hegarty. We hope that Liam Ryan also got at least a soda and a bun in Limerick for the occasion.



Ernest Sugule, OSA, deacon Congo, Jose Luis Saldahna diocesan, Joseph Oduor, OSA Kenya, Felix Usman OSA Nigeria, Dave, Denny Mason, OSA, Tom, Lucien Gumesa, OSA Congo, Francis Aherne, OSA, Robert Ireri, OSA Kenya.



Vol. 2 No 10 APRIL 2009



ARCHBISHOP MARTIN ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT WOW PROGRAMME

On Friday, February 27th, Lonan Byrne and Sean Goan (two of the originators of the WordonWeb idea), along with Kieran O'Mahony and Bernadette Toal spent an hour with Archbishop Diarmuid Martin in his office. They gave him a ten-minute demonstration of a podcast and explained how the programme works: 30 minute podcast watched by a group, 30 minute discussion, and a 30 minute live question and answer session with the presenters. The enthusiasm of his response was beyond their expectations and in the course of a lively conversation they discussed how this methodology could be harnessed for use during the Year of Evangelization which starts at the end of June. He expressed the wish that an occasion be found to demonstrate the programme to the Priests' Council and the officials in the Diocese.

The first session of the Lenten series took place on March 10. Four Augustinian groups joined in: Galway, Cork, Fethard and Orlagh. About 150 people in all took part. The remaining session will be on April 7th. You can watch the current and past programmes if you log on to the website www.wordonweb.org

RESOURCES FOR THE SUNDAYS OF APRIL

Congratulations to John Byrne OSA, on the publication of resources for the four Sundays of April.

(Seeing your life through the lens of the Gospels)

They appear in the April edition of Intercom, and can be downloaded from the Intercom pages on the Veritas website: www.veritas.ie

SOME READERS' COMMENTS:

Pat, Many thanks for IAN - I feel I have so many shared memories with the friars who figure, and especially the photographs. I am to be installed as Bishop of Lancaster on Friday 1st May at 6.00pm in St. Peter's Cathedral. It goes without saying that should any friars be minded to attend and concelebrate they would be most welcome.
With every blessing for Lent. +Greg Campbell OSA

Could you keep sending me your magazine, please? Because it's a very good way of keeping in touch with you all.
Say hi to everyone and take care! Bye and God Bless.

Rui OSA (Spanish student who spent summer '08 in Cork).

Dear Pat, thank you for the Christmas greetings and also for the copies of IAN which have arrived since. They have been very informative and kept me in touch with the rest of the province. I hope Brandan McDonnell is well and not too shocked after the tragedies in Jos. Life is relatively quiet here at the moment. It is wet season. All schools are closed. The countryside is lush. Flooding exists in some areas just as in Clonmel and Mallow. Roads have been closed due to landslides-not abnormal. Every blessing Ted. McCarthy OSA



Ted McCarthy OSA counting his chickens.

Well done as always on the IAN. I actually look forward to the start of each month to read it and find out what's happening with the Irish friars around the globe. I saw that young people have been elected to some kind of committee on youth - fantastic! England will be hosting the Augustinian Youth Day next year, it might be something for the young people to think about and get involved in and a chance to meet other young Augustinian lay and religious from all over the world. It could be your first major project. That's all for now, hope all in the house are well. Give my regards to all the lads and please God will see ye over the Summer.

God bless, Colm O'Mahony OSA (Rome)

Hi Pat Awaiting the start of the game today I am reminded of a day at a rugby game in Rome in 1956/1957, Roma Lazio I think. An elderly Italian asked me did I know 'Padre John Seary'. I said 'no, but I'd heard of him'. He then told me that Jack Seary had been a key man in the formation and building of the team, one of the first in Italy. Years later, in Nigeria, I had the pleasure of telling Jack the story. A great guy. His life-story in 'Out Where The Dead Men Lie' is always worth a read. Hope the Irish win today. Brennan Ipse

PAUL O'CONNOR ECUADOR



Pastor Paul and visitor

The Builders worked day and night to finish in Novillo today, the 20th of March. There are a few little details that will take a day's work, maybe in a fortnight's time. However the old parish truck was drafted in to take out the cement mixer and again to take the troops who were feeling the battle strain of being away from home for fourteen weeks. I can hardly believe that it was the last week in November that they began to map out the site.

Some people are under the impression that it is my new home. Not a bit of it. The house is built thirty kilometres from the "tarred road." It will be for a future Parish priest – hopefully – but for a Deacon from May on.

As I've indicated before, it will be a "parish" house. The central room will have a huge table that will be a symbol of the parish. Round it we hope that the lay-people will gather to guide the parish. Thus I would expect that it will be a place where the parish council, catechists and other leader groups will gather. I hope to brainwash the deacon into seeing it that way. Parish House = Open House. Hence the "round table" symbol.

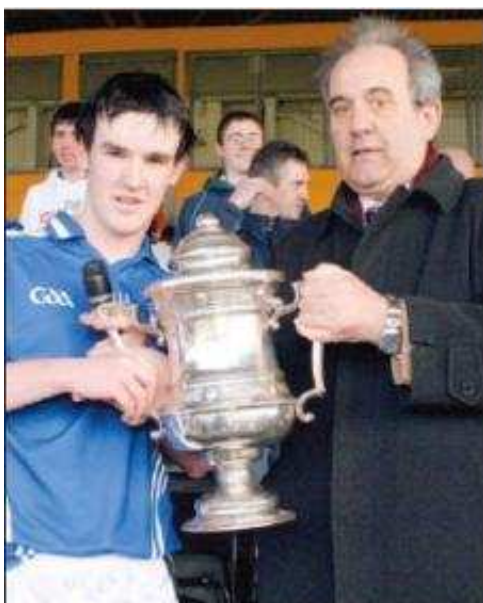


New Parish House Novillo



Pharmacy called after Chris Fitzgerald OSA

GOOD COUNSEL WIN LEINSTER SENIOR "A" HURLING TITLE



Good Counsel (New Ross) 1.13
Castlecomer C.S. 2.8

Good Counsel College believe they are inching closer to an All Ireland title following a dramatic late victory over Castlecomer Community School in a trilling Leinster Colleges Senior Final Hurling "A" championship final at Nowlan Park, Kilkenny. They produced another immense display but, having led for 57 minutes, they saw Castlecomer snatch a dramatic second goal three minutes from the end to give them the lead for the first time. At this stage good Counsel must have feared a repeat of their football disappointment and another late, late defeat, (football team beaten in last few minutes of Leinster final), but they were not to be found wanting on this occasion. Good Counsel take their first Leinster senior "A" title since 1997

On Sat. last 28th March, Good Counsel again turned in an amazing finish to edge out Gort C. S. 1.12 to 0.11 in an excellent All-Ireland Colleges "A" semi-final at Templemore. The sides were level, 1.8 to 0.11 with 30 seconds of normal time remaining, but Good Counsel hit four unanswered points to clinch a final against Thurles CBS in Semple Stadium on Easter Monday. Best of luck to Good Counsel in The All-Ireland.

ST AUGUSTINE'S COLLEGE DUNGARVAN

Congratulations to Bro Paddy Lennon OSA, Athletics Coach. Recently two of his protégés, received National Awards in their individual sports on Sat. 21st March Kate Veale received the Roisin O'Callaghan Trophy for the best performance in Race Walking 2008. Tomas Houlihan received the Robin Sykes award for the most consistent and outstanding performance by an athlete in 2008. Thomas a fifth year student has been short listed for the European Youth Olympics in Finland in July. A 16 year old, he has represented Ireland in the under 20's in the Celtic Cup, in Pole Vaulting, jumping 4.24m. Apart from winning all the National events, he broke a 34 year old record. This record was last held by Dr Liam Hennessy. Liam was a past pupil of St Augustine's Dungarvan and was coached by Ted McCarthy OSA, back in the mid 1970's. (Liam is currently Physical training consultant to Padraig Harrington and to the I.R.F.U.)

NAIROBI BLESSED TERESA HIGH SCHOOL

A school with a difference....

Where students grade their teachers.

In Baba Dogo, in eastern Nairobi, is this unique school. Here, students have time and opportunity to evaluate their teachers! The mechanism allows for effective checks and balances. "It is not that we encourage criticism as such. Rather we want teachers and students to form a team. The evaluation helps us to draw attention to areas where we can improve. It is not a license for students nor is it an accusation of teachers. But it is a way of improvement. In fact the teachers like it," explains Fr Denis Mason.



School group with Denis Mason OSA

The school started in January 2007, in rented accommodation with 48 students, some 28 of them girls. The first phase of building was completed in May 2008. today it is in its third year. Blessed Teresa High School focuses on children of low income parents and more especially orphans as a result of the HIV/Aids. The school fee is affordable and friendly to the low income groups fitting a neighbourhood like Baba Dogo. The school is well equipped with a library, and a computer lab. Plans are underway to set up the Gregory Mendal science laboratory. Already the site is chosen. This latest facility will cost some Sh. 1.7 million.



Francesca receives her December support



The computers arrive

'A Secular Age':

Tracing the Contours of Religion and Belief

Date: Monday 8th - Thursday 11th June 2009

Location: Mater Dei Institute of Education

Mater Dei Institute of Education, Dublin, Ireland, is holding an international interdisciplinary conference and graduate summer school entitled 'A Secular Age: Tracing the Contours of Religion and Belief from Monday 8th to Thursday 11th June 2009.

Plenary speakers include:

Professor Ruth Abbey (University of Notre Dame),

- Professor Eamonn Conway (Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick, Ireland)
- Professor Michael Conway (University of Maynooth),
- Professor Michael Cronin (Dublin City University),
- Dr. Conor Cunningham (University of Nottingham),
- Dr. Joseph Dunne (St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra),
- Professor Michael Paul Gallagher (Gregorian Rome)
- Professor Patrick Hannon (University of Maynooth),
- Dr. Pdraig Hogan (Maynooth, Ireland)
- Professor Gregor McLennan (University of Bristol),
- Professor Roland Robertson (University of Aberdeen),
- Dr. Fainche Ryan (Mater Dei Institute of Education),
- The conference will explore the way in which theology and philosophy, when placed in dialogue with the social sciences, can reinvigorate public discourse. Suggested themes for papers include, but are not restricted to:
- Assessment of Charles Taylor's A Secular Age;
- the relationship between religion, belief and modernity: a critical assessment;
- the role of theology and philosophy in the public square;
- the decline of the appeal to an objective moral order and the rise of the human rights culture;

"Those who are on our on-going formation course or others may be interested" Flor O'Callaghan OSA

DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL

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

- 03 1984 Fr PJ Hickey
- 04 1991 Fr. J Slattery
- 07 1978 Fr. F Conway
- 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
- 23 2003 Fr. WC Power
- 28 2000 Fr.V Hickey
- 29 2002 Fr. D Ormonde.

AUGUSTINIAN TOUR

To

ROME (3nights) & CASCIA (4 nights)

Spiritual Leader: Fr Pat Gayer OSA

Fri. 24 July – Fri. 31 July 2009

Bookings: Carmel in John's Lane Church or

MAP TRAVEL Tel: 01 878 31 15

NAIROBI

Fr Denis Mason is an Irish priest in the Order of St Augustine. He came to Kenya in 2000. Earlier, he had spent 31 years in Nigeria. In Nairobi he became involved in the Sacred Heart Parish, Baba Dogo through his pastoral ministry. Then he joined the Support Africa Child Network because, he says: "I was impressed by the calibre of the people involved and the quality of work they did."

In Nigeria, he taught for 14 years in the University of Jos. He became Professor in 1982. Since coming to Kenya, he has been teaching at the Consolata Institute of Philosophy where today he is head of the Department of Philosophy.

"My vision for the Blessed Teresa High School is that children be given a decent opportunity to have quality education irrespective of their economic status," he told **"Teach"**. Fr Mason wants to see the students grow to become responsible and productive citizens.



School Mass with Denis Mason OSA



**At Deaconate Ceremony in St Monica's Rome
Pablo, Colm O'Mahony and Elkin**

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK.

Welcome to Vol. 2 No 10. Thanks to all who have contributed to this edition. Special thanks as always to Peter Galus, David Moran, John O'Connor, and to Denis Mason, John Byrne, Tom Sexton, Colm O'Mahony and Paul O'Connor for photographs.

All past editions of IAN available on:

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