

IRISH AUGUSTINIAN NEWS

GOLDEN JUBILEE FR BRENDAN QUIRKE OSA

Sunday December 21, 2008. St Catherine's Parish,
Meath St. Dublin.

The celebration took place at the 10.30 mass and Fr Brendan was accompanied by the Provincial, Gerry Horan OSA, Michael Mernagh OSA, and Pat Codd OSA. Also present was Fr John O'Sullivan OSA who preached the homily in which he retraced their common history as students and priests both in Ireland and in Australia where Fr Quirke's pastoral work and achievements were highlighted. He stressed Brendan's dedicated commitment to his various ministries and emphasised many of his admirable personal qualities as a dedicated priest and a man of considerable good humour, patience and outreach in his relationship with the people. He concluded his comments by wishing him "ad multos annos".

The Provincial, Fr Gerry Horan OSA, offered his own warm congratulations to Brendan on the occasion and paid considerable tribute to his achievements in St Catherine's Meath St. He also mentioned the considerable work done in the parish by his predecessor, Fr Tommy McManus and wished him a speedy recovery. The celebration continued with a celebratory meal in John's Lane which was attended by friends of Fr Brendan and members of the Parish Council. Michael Mernagh OSA and Michael O'Regan OSA.

COMMENTS ON MICHAEL MERNAGH'S WALK: (Read article on back page first!)

Michael walked from Cobh to Youghal yesterday (Mon) and received a blessing from Bishop John Magee before he left. He was put up in the Walter Raleigh hotel by a supporter.

He was joined in Youghal today by members of the community, including two people affected by sexual abuse. "Yesterday was tough because of the wind and lack of light but I am feeling better today" (Tues). Michael received a phone call from the owner of a bed and breakfast in Dungarvan who offered to put him up tonight.

Michael's style of protest may not appeal to some of us, but the issues that he is highlighting are deserving of serious consideration by all of us. At no level of church administration should victims of sexual abuse have to wait for justice.

Justice delayed is justice denied! David Kelly OSA.

Michael's efforts are important in raising public awareness of the need to create a safer environment for children and rid the church of the suspicion that it has not done enough to play its part in protecting the most innocent and vulnerable people in our society. Michael O'Regan OSA.

Received lots of questions from people in Church and in the Convent about what I thought of my protesting colleague?

My answer was - this walk is a bit daft! More urgent things need to be done in the Province! Pat Moran OSA.



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HAMPERS FOR THE POOR IN CORK

For many years Bro Michael Boyle OSA Cork, has been putting together Christmas food hampers for the poor and underprivileged around Cork City. This year, with the economic downturn in the country, the demand was up on previous years, yet he was able to meet the growing needs of all who applied for help.

This was made possible by a donation from the local OSA community, peoples' cash contributions as well as many donations of dry food, that was collected in a large food basket in the Church. Contributions of cash and food were greatly up on previous years.

Much of the fresh food for the hampers was purchased from the local Dunne's store, and the Manager gave Bro Michael a very good deal on turkeys, hams plumb puddings and Christmas cakes.

Many of the former altar servers came to help with packaging of hampers and used their own cars to deliver same to the deserving needy families around Cork City.

Some food was left over, and this was passed on to Edel House, a refuge for battered wives, and to the South Presentation Convent who have a meals-on-wheels run every day. Many of those who came to help were part of the recent group who travelled to Italy, with Noel Hession OSA. It is hoped that they now can become more involved in regular church ministries.



Bro Michael Boyle OSA, Cork with helpers
Shane Moriarty and Bob Duggan.

SOME READERS' COMMENTS:

Thank you Pat, for all the news. The Provincial's message to the Province was enlightening and does much to generate hope and enthusiasm for the future. He has that gift to understand the mood of the Province and knows how to generate goodwill and hope for the future. It isn't too often I use the email facilities but I am glad to receive your communications and realise that much is happening in the lives of the OSAs at home and abroad.

I wish you the very best with the work and appreciate its value for the Province as a whole. When communication ceases death is sure to follow. Michael O'Regan OSA.

Thank you, Pat, and warmest seasonal greetings. God bless, Fraternally +Greg Campbell OSA (Lancaster).

Pat Got my first electronic IAN thanks. Martin Crean OSA. martincrean.sa@hotmail.com

Pat, Thank you for the latest. Long live the Holly Bough. After all your exertions you deserve a day off at Christmas ! Re the list of e-mails, is there any mechanism on a simple lap-top to put arrange them in alphabetical order? I wish you all a peaceful Christmas and may 2009 be good to you. Bill Prendiville OSA (Limerick).

Hi Pat, well done on the report. The email address Mike Walsh: fmdm@jos.rel.nig.com is incorrect, or no longer in use by me. This one m55walsh@yahoo.co.uk is correct. God bless. Michael Walsh OSA. (Nigeria).

Hi Pat, Thanks for the Holly Bough edition. I just want to correct the e-mail address you have listed. My present address is brianosa@gmail.com. Happy Christmas to all and keep up the good work for 2009. Brian O'Sullivan OSA. (Rome).

Hi Pat, Hope you are all well. I see in the latest number you have a note from Michael Barry. If he doesn't mind, can you please tell me his email or snail mail address Thanks a million. Michael Walsh OSA (Nigeria)

Dear Pat, *Prosit* again on the production of IAN. Hope you and the brethren are keeping well. Happy Christmas! David Kelly OSA (Dublin).

Dear Pat, I thoroughly enjoyed reading the article in IAN, ECUADOR-THE VALUE OF A BONUS, by Paul O' Connor, "Holly Bough" edition 2008. Reading how he eventually got to Novillo by mending the wheel with "a few belts of a stone" was particularly amusing!!! It has inspired me to contact Paul and Ted McCarthy about the building projects they are involved with out there, with the hope that I can fundraise with students here in the Friary, Abbeyside. Eamon Cashin, St Augustine's College, Abbeyside. Co Waterford.

Greetings Pat, Thanks for "Holly Bough" edition of IAN, which as usual was a very good production. Tom Sexton OSA (Kenya).

Dear Pat, Thanks for the December Edition and the Holly Bough. I don't know if you have a new format for your photographs, but for the first time I could not copy them to Word and therefore can not send them to Ted. I'll have another bash later. Maybe you might try to send them directly to him, because the photos seem important to the presentation. Reading the articles without them is not the same.

We read of the degradation in Jos on the news, but Brendan McDonnell's account brings it far more close. We sympathise with him and his confreres, thanking the Lord we do not have to deal with anything so problematic. And thanks for the e-mail addresses. Happy Christmas. Paul O'Connor OSA (Ecuador).

JOS, ONE MONTH LATER

The recent troubles in Jos started on Nov 28th. It is good to be able to say that things are quiet there now although there is still a curfew and there is still a strong military presence in the town.

Very little has been done to repair the damage done to property which has been extensive. At a time like this the most disturbing thing is the loss of life and the displacement of people. Yet, I was particularly shocked by the sight of literally hundreds of cars which had been burned in the Zaria Road area: who could possibly gain anything from such destruction? This particular business was owned by a Moslem.

It is very difficult to get reliable figures and the Archbishop of Jos, Ignatius Kaigama, was very critical of some media reports which exaggerated the numbers involved. But from Archbishop Kaigama we do know that there were over 28,000 refugees in different parts of Jos. These would be Moslems in predominantly Christian and Christians in predominantly Moslem areas who had to flee their own residences. Another problem is to know the identity of those killed - the body of a dead Christian is no different than that of a dead Moslem! But we do know that there were 12 Catholics killed. We also know that 148 people injured as a result of the crisis received treatment in hospitals and clinics in Jos.

Three panels of enquiry have been set up and have been ordered to report within three months. Archbishop Kaigama believes that the whole crisis was premeditated. It will be interesting to see if the truth will come out!

Brendan Mc Donnell OSA (Jos).

FROM REPORT OF ARCHBISHOP OF JOS MOST REV. IGNATIUS KAIGAMA

Augustinian Monastery, Laranto Jos.

Two domestic staff quarters destroyed. Two residential quarters for priests looted. Poultry with 700 birds looted. Workshop looted and five round huts (cells) vandalized. An office, a bookshop and three other separate rooms smashed and vandalized. Protective wall of Monastery pulled down in three different places.

FOSTER'S IRISH ODDITIES

During the Easter Rising in Dublin in 1916, fighting stopped twice a day to facilitate the feeding of the ducks in St Stephen's Green.

Ireland is the only country in the world that has a musical instrument – the harp – as its national symbol.

In July 1995 Sean Gale, aged 33, was stopped for erratic driving outside Clonmel, Co Tipperary. He was found to be steering with a pair of pliers. "The steering wheel came off when we were visiting the mother-in-law," he told Gardai.

The wonderful Barn of Leixlip, Co Dublin is 73 ft high, with an outside circular stairway of 94 steps, and was built during the famine of 1843 to provide employment for the needy.

In the early 1980's researchers at Trinity College, Dublin wanted to do some work that needed woodworms – plump ones. The only ones available were too thin, so Dr Sean Thompson, leader of the team, fed them on dog biscuits. Within a month they had grown to 20 times the size of an average woodworm.

In 1968, Mike Meaney from Ballyporeen, Co Tipperary, was voluntarily buried alive in a coffin underneath Butty Sugrue's public house in Kilburn, north London, for a total of 61 days.

A shoe once worn by St Bridget, one of Ireland's three greatest saints, is enshrined in the National Museum of Ireland, Dublin in a silver casket. She became a nun at age 13 in a ceremony during which she was also consecrated bishop – the first Christian woman to be ordained. Contemporary accounts chronicle her miraculous deeds and emphasise her work in spreading Christianity throughout Ireland.

Ireland's oldest pillar box was erected in 1857. The hexagonal roof pillar box is located in Kent Railway Station, Cork.

In 1912, "When Irish Eyes are Smiling" was written by George Graff and Chauncey Olcott, two canny American songwriters, who, as far as is known, never set foot in Ireland.

The guillotine was used by the Irish nearly 500 years before it was adopted by the French. An old print portrays an execution of a gentleman named Murcod Ballagh using one near Merton, Co Galway on 1 April 1307.

The world's oldest known manuscript of the New Testament is in the Chester Beatty Library, Dublin.

In August 1926, over the space of a week, Miss Anne Clarke of Raphoe, Co Donegal single-handedly mowed, tied and stacked an acre of six-foot-high oats – at the age of 90!

An assault trial was held in the Court of Assizes in Co Donegal in 1835, in which the plaintiff, the defendant, the judge, the court clerk, both solicitors and all three witnesses were all named Doherty.

The cream cracker was invented in 1885 by W.R. Jacob at his premises on Bridge Street, Waterford.

CONFIRMATION DAY IN FLAVIO



Don't ask me how many they were. Maybe a hundred and eighty, but we were blessed by the weather. It has not rained for over a week and all the roads were open. This means a lot to the youths and lassies from the countryside because they could get here by truck. Other years they had to get out the mules and horses. They came from twenty communities, the furthest away being about thirty five kilometres.

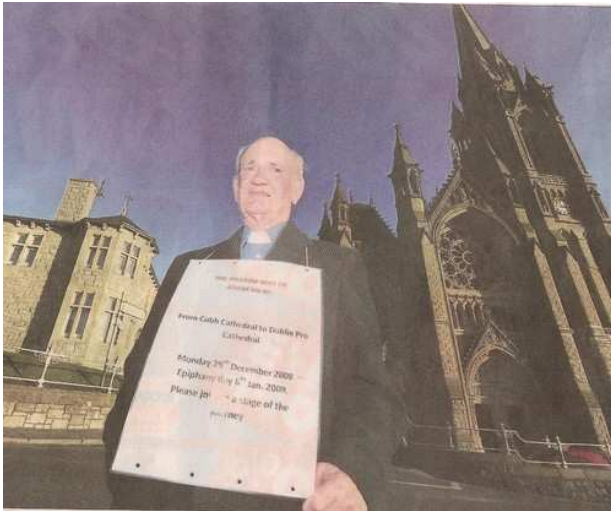
One girl from the town did not wait for confirmation: she eloped with her boyfriend two days ago. Last year a young lady held out for the celebration but hiked off before the family fiesta. We'll wait to see how many more have been moved by the spirit to commit themselves this year.

Of course there were god-fathers who had to ask the way to the church -- I've never seen them in it before today. Ecuador appeared among them, but he has often been to church, though he is not a fanatic.

Fr. Patricio Cedeño, the Pastoral Vicar for our northern region did the ceremony, tranquilly and without any fuss. He is always impressed by the way our people sing. Even though he is from Manabí he pours perspiration -- and it was not very warm at that hour of the day. Simón, our guitarist, brought his first grandchild, Gabriela, to the celebration in a little go-car. I think María Theresa, the granny, is forty years of age. Doesn't look it.

We went to a local restaurant for lunch -- a place owned by Alexandra, our coordinator of the handicapped. A lovely meal that cost only \$15 for six of us. Obviously their contribution to the festivities. It's eleven and the Novillo builders will be at my door at five, so good night to all. Paul O' Connor OSA (Ecuador).





Fr Michael Mernagh OSA outside St Colman's Cathedral in Cobh, Co Cork, from where he will walk to the Pro-Cathedral in Dublin as a pilgrimage of atonement for the Cloyne controversy, which he described as "inexcusable".

Michael - who had just returned from working with the poor in South Africa - was so incensed by the Cloyne revelations that he slept in his car for two nights outside St Colman's over Christmas as part of his protest vigil. He was asked by a diocesan official to stay outside the cathedral grounds while he gave out prayer leaflets. He spent a further two nights in Commodore Hotel - had lunch with the Cork OSA community on St Stephen's day - before setting off on his walk through Youghal, Dungarvan and then through Ferns, to Dublin.

The protest march - which is expected to take nine days - and had hoped to have support from abuse victims, lobby groups, fellow priests and bishops, doesn't seem to have gathered much support. RTE TV News carried the story of a lone cleric walking through Midleton alone on Monday.

"I am sending this to let you know that **I TOTALLY SUPPORT Father Michael Mernagh and the courageous courage he has to speak out about child abuse within the Church and to ACTUALLY DO SOMETHING POSITIVE ABOUT IT.** If more clergy had this man's courage **what a difference** it would have made to Catholics worldwide. I myself officially left the Catholic Church - I got my baptismal certificate de-registered and I am now officially defected from the Catholic Church" Bernie Kenny, Dublin

Had one phone call from a lady in Kildare, wanting to know when he would be going through Naas, so she could join in the walk for a few miles! Pat Moran OSA.

DURING THE MONTH OF JANUARY

Please remember in your prayers the following members of the Irish Province who have gone 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
25 1981 Fr. J Hanrahan
28 1999 Fr P A Brennan

ARCHBISHOP VISITS NOVILLO



Dressed in Chasuble and Stole, that told the story of the Three Kings. The Sisters in Chone presented it to him.



Construction progress - Paul O'Connor's Parish House

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK.

Welcome to Vol. 2 No 7. Thanks to all who have contributed to this edition. Special thanks as always to Peter Galus, David Moran, John O'Connor, and to Paul O'Connor for photographs.

Photographs are always welcome, but sometimes hard to come by. May I suggest that the Bursar in every house buy a Digital Camera for the community immediately (while the sales last) and then when we gather in the Anner Hotel, Thurles on the 21st January, for our Chapter Preparation Day we could have a little demonstration on how to use it, and how reduce picture size so that they can be easily e-mailed and downloaded.

All past editions of IAN available on:
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