

# IRELAND / KENYA



## NEWSLETTER



*Patrician Brothers*



*April 2007*

### BICENTENARY



Tullow Church

Preparatiions are ongoing for the celebration of our Bicentenary next year. The main celebrations will be in Tullow in the second week in July preceded by an Open Education Seminar on 3rd and 4th. On 7th July there will be a Seminar for Patrician schools in Mount Wolseley followed by a dinner. On July 8th there will be a concert in the Church of the Most Holy Rosary, Tullow, and the bicentenary Mass will be on July 9th, the anniversary of our Founder's death. It is hoped that all schools with which we have been associated in Ireland will mark the occasion on



Ruin of Daniel Delany's house at Paddock, Mountrath

February 2nd or the following week as the 2nd is on Saturday.

To coincide with the Bicentenary celebrations in Ireland in July 2008 the Australia-PNG Province has organized a very attractive 15 day Bicentenary Pilgrimage to Ireland. Participants depart Sydney on 30 June 2008 and the first two days will be spent visiting places of interest in Dublin and the Boyne Valley.

The pilgrim coach will then head west to Galway with a visit to the monastic site of Clonmacnoise en route. While in Galway there will be an opportunity to visit Knock Shrine and Croagh Patrick, and I'm sure there will be time for a visit to some watering holes in Galway city.

From Galway the group will travel south to Kerry visiting the Cliffs of Moher and Bunratty Castle on the way. Following a sightseeing tour of the Ring of Kerry the pilgrimage heads inland, taking in the historic sites of the Rock of Cashel and Kilkenny Castle.

The pilgrims will be in Tullow for the Bicentenary Mass on 9 July. The final few days will be spent in visits to Glendalough, the National Stud in Kildare and other places of interest in the midlands area.

The above is but a sample of this encounter with Ireland's heart and soul. It is hoped that some Brothers will be available to meet our Aussie friends and organize short reflections and prayer sessions where appropriate.



Clonmacnoise



Rock of Cashel

## **Brother Cuthbert Nolan**



We are all aware of Brother Cuthbert's proficiency in all aspects of music, whether it was in training choirs, producing operas, operettas or pantomime, but few seem to have realised that he was also a genuine composer. During rehearsals with the newly formed Patrician Musical Society he was very demanding in his efforts to achieve perfection.

In preparation for his school choir broadcasts on Radio Eireann he spent a long time before and after school-time each day practicing with the boys from Nuns' Island and The Old Mon Primary schools in the Infants' Room in Lombard Street. Brother Fabian Doyle was an experienced and able assistant. The 'Blue Danube', 'Soldiers Chorus', 'Va Pensiero' and the 'Huntsman's Chorus' were sung with vitality and in the purity of tone that only children's voices can produce. Some members of the choir were also engaged in Cuthbert's production of

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs in the Savoy in aid of the St Patrick's School building fund.

During this period also a Brothers' Band was formed with Bro. Cuthbert as the Maestro. He played piano or mouth organ and was assisted by Bro. Leander Tannian and Bro. James Murphy, fiddles, Bro. Gregory Ryan, accordion, and Bro. Cletus Norton, mouth organ. The trip up the Corrib in the long picnic boat from University Boat Club was a marvellous experience with Irish music wafting over the water on the outward and homeward journeys. Others in the boat were Brothers Peter, Brendan, Edward, Rupert and Raymond.

Cuthbert was also keen on helping the missions, especially our own efforts in Kenya. Profits made from the sale of his poems or the "History of Carrickmacross" were sent to Eldoret to support the many projects there. While in the Nursing Home he still conducted raffles for various items which had come into his possession. He also collected donations from relations and friends who visited.

It was sad to visit him during his final days as he gave no indication that he recognised anyone who was present. He passed peacefully to his reward at 8.00 pm on Sunday January 21st.

Let us pray that he is now with the Lord enjoying the singing of the Angel Chorus.

Please pray also for the repose of the souls of:

Sister Helen Mahony, sister of Bro. Ultan, Mrs Mary Glynn niece of Bro. Leander Tannian and Mrs Merlyn Dawes, mother of Bro. Christopher Dawes all of whom died recently.

Remember in your prayers some of our members who are ill:

Bro. Robert Ruane who has returned to Kingston after spending some weeks in hospital,  
Bro. Marcellus Broderick recently hospitalised in Galway and is undergoing tests,  
Bro. Timothy Dunne who has returned to the Nursing Home after some days in Naas Hospital,  
Bro. Fidelis O'Connell who continues his recovery in Kingston.

## **Kabongo Mobile Clinic**

One of the ambitions of the Kenya Region has been fulfilled with the launch of the Mobile Clinic in Kabongo. This facility will ensure that people who cannot get to the medical services due to distance and lack of transport will have treatment available to them in their own areas. Congratulations to all involved.



## Award for Bro. Bosco Mulhare



*Bosco receives his award from  
G.A.A. President Nicky Brennan*

Congratulations to Bro. Bosco who was honoured recently by the G.A.A. when he received the President's Award for services to Gaelic Games. The Award was especially in recognition of his voluntary, dedicated work, over many years, on behalf of the Schools and Colleges competitions.

The Award was presented at a Banquet in Croke Park on St. Patrick's Day following the All-Ireland Club Hurling and Football Finals

## SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Under the rather lengthy title '*Easter Week 1916 Commemoration Scholarship Scheme Awards*' the Department of Education and Science awards scholarships each year to students who achieve high grades in groups of subjects in the Leaving Certificate examination. There are seven scholarships in all, named after the seven signatories of the 1916 Easter Proclamation.

At a ceremony at the Department's offices in Dublin on 21 March two Patrician students were among the seven recipients of the scholarships. They were Joseph Byrne from Newbridge and Ciaran Rochford from Ballyfin. Congratulations to the students and their teachers.

## An Bráthair Colm



A documentary programme with the above title was broadcast by the Irish language TV channel, TG4, on Sunday 18 March and the programme was repeated on 21 March. The programme dealt with Colm O'Connell's work as a trainer of world class athletes in Kenya and it also touched on other issues such as his work in creating awareness of the problem of HIV/AIDS. It was a fitting tribute to his work in Kenya over the past twenty seven years.

## New Chief of Staff of the Defence Forces



Major General Dermot Earley was formally appointed Chief of Staff of the Defence Forces recently. He will assume command of 10,500 permanent and 13,000 reserve members of the Defence Forces in June. Dermot, who lives in Newbridge, is a Trustee nominee on the Board of Management of Patrician Secondary School. He is a former Roscommon football All Star and he is very much involved with the GAA in Newbridge. One of his sons, also Dermot, is currently a member of Kildare senior football team. Dermot and his wife, Mary, have always been great supporters of Patrician Secondary School. We congratulate him on his appointment and wish him well as he takes over as Chief of Staff.

# *Our Lady*

(Bro. Raymond Forde)

In every corner of the world Our Lady's name is honoured and revered. Even in the Koran, the Moslem holy book, a special section is devoted to her. She is the bulwark of troubled souls wishing to make amends to her son, not only for their own many transgressions, but for the disdain, disparagement and degradation he has endured especially in the present era of bloodshed, torture and conflict. She is there to ease the burdens of those who earnestly seek her maternal protection. The rosary is one of the principal means of seeking her assistance.



*Apparition Chapel at Knock Shrine*

In Ireland it was customary to recite the family rosary each night and no circumstances, however pressing, could prevent all members from getting down on their knees to pray to our Lady, who must have listened lovingly to the gentle hum of the recital. Even visitors were prevailed upon to take part. Sadly, television, computers, mobile phones and websites have completely taken over in every home. There seems to be no time any

more for a simple prayer. Even the Angelus is almost ignored, many are objecting to the one-minute devoted to it on television screens. In religious houses the public recital of the rosary is almost a forgotten exercise.

Irish people of past generations found great comfort and consolation in slipping the many well-worn beads of their special rosary through hard-working and gnarled fingers. Even today in an almost faithless environment old people can still be found who place their complete trust in the efficacy of Mary's prayer. They long for the glorious pageantry of the May processions which took place in many towns and villages in years past. They pine for the time when Children of Mary were conspicuous in their flowing white veils and blue dresses. They wish to return, if only in memory, to the periods of Sunday Confraternities. But those consoling times of simple faith have slipped slowly but surely into the dim mists of history. Is there no place any more for simple earnest devotion to her who has been given to us as our mother.

One Hail Mary said earnestly with faith and confidence can earn the reward of an instant reply to a genuine request. As Patrick Kavanagh remarks

"A poor child's Hail Mary  
Is worth all the poems of all the poets."

How earnestly we all worked in years past during the month of May to be certain that the special altar devoted to Our Lady was tastefully arranged in each classroom. The children took enormous pride in bringing in all that was required, candles, flowers, vases and sometimes they even supplied the statue. They took profound pleasure in the performance of these tasks. Our Lady must have smiled with benevolence on the dedication of these young souls. It also acted as a spur to us teachers to give more meaningful expression to catechism class time.

When we think of Our Lady we are generally placing her on an almost unapproachable level not daring to imagine her as one who did meticulously and well all the duties of a housewife. Surely she cooked nourishing meals for the two most important persons in her life. She must, as a mother, have cared for her son with the utmost devotion and been overwhelmed with joy when he was found after being lost for three days. All the loving feelings of a mother must have been evoked when Jesus was growing up and playing with the other children of the area. She must also have tended with care to the many bruises he must have acquired like all other children. Surely she bent laboriously over tubfuls of clothes each week making sure that all were well aired and wearable. She must also have scrubbed pots and pans like any housewife. But we seldom consider this side of Mary's life. I have heard many distinguished preachers lauding in glowing terms the many virtues bestowed on Our Lady, but it was a sublime lecture given by a Galway housewife during the Novena in Knock stressing the work of Mary in the kitchen that really made a deep and lasting impression on me. Her words had a greater effect than those of more eloquent and eminent preachers.



*Eucharistic Procession at Knock*

On August 15th, the feast of Our Lady's Assumption, young people from all over Co. Mayo congregate for mass at 5 a.m.. Many of them would have walked throughout the night to be present emphasising in a special way the deep piety that is still to be found amongst the youth. The impressive singing of "Our Lady of Knock" by the local folk group will always remain with me as a treasured memory. So also will the beautiful music provided by the members of An Garda Síochána on the old feast of Corpus Christi and which my

sister really loved and appreciated. A person could write not one book, but many on Knock and the effect it has on those who go on pilgrimage there. Yes! We do have the illustrious shrines of Lourdes and Fatima but to me to be given the opportunity to visit Knock surpasses a trip to either of these famous and hallowed places.

To frequent these very renowned places of healing and comfort is indeed a praiseworthy exercise but surely our Lady is close by when we require her all-powerful assistance. Statues, grottoes and shrines do instil in us a profound depth of love and gratitude to her to whom these spots are dedicated. The Fatima statue caused a flurry of excitement and fervour when it toured the dioceses of Ireland. The special statue of Our Lady carried in procession at Knock has the ability to bring tears to the eyes of many. Grottoes are to be found in all corners of Ireland where people kneel and pray to Mary, confident that she will reply to their various requests.

Candles are constantly burning before images of Mary in churches everywhere, demonstrating in an unmistakable manner that, no matter how much faith seems to have lapsed, complete trust in Our Lady's intercession is still very strong. Through the medium of her many apparitions she has constantly warned of danger asking everyone to place all their hope in her. Let us then, with earnestness, seek her help in all our worries and trials. She has promised to come to the assistance of those who have faith in her. We can be sure of her help if we pray with sincerity and trust in all our difficulties.

# What are you doing for Lent?

*Bro. Cormac Commins*

The above was the title of posters seen around the Newbridge area during the weeks leading up to and during Lent. The sub-title was ***“You can help combat climate change”*** and several pieces of advice were given as to how we can help combat climate change. Climate change and global warming are two issues that have received a lot of media coverage in recent times but it is not clear if many people are paying much attention to the topics.

It is interesting to note what Albert Nolan, a Dominican priest, says in his recently published book ‘Jesus Today’. He writes: “Scientists tell us that the burning of fossil fuels (oil, coal and gas) emits carbon dioxide into the atmosphere... At present such emissions send seven billion tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere each year.”



*Scientists believe industrial pollution and car emissions are changing the mix of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, trapping more heat and warming the globe.*

“All of this is collecting around the globe like a giant blanket that has the effect of warming the earth beyond the normal temperatures of the past. It is known as the greenhouse effect”.

“To some global warming may sound innocent enough. But scientists, and especially meteorologists, tell us that it will cause - and is already causing - extreme weather conditions: devastating droughts in some places, killer floods in other places, widespread failure of agriculture and therefore food scarcity, and, most destructive of all for the human race, the rising of sea levels everywhere”.

“Sea levels will rise, first of all, because the warming of the ocean will expand the volume of water. More dramatically, however, the melting of icebergs and icecaps in the Arctic and Antarctic will produce sea levels that are many feet higher than at present. That will mean the end of all our coastal cities from New York and London to Lagos, all the low-lying islands on the planet, and practically the whole of countries like Bangladesh”.



*A mass of ice broken off from the Upsala glacier floats on the water in the Parque Nacional Los Glaciares in Argentina*

Fr Nolan goes on to talk about a conference of scientists called together by the British Government in 2005. At this conference it was revealed that excessive carbon dioxide is not only going up into the atmosphere, it is also seeping into the oceans and killing off the plankton at the bottom of the marine food chain. As a result all the fish and other forms of marine life will be affected.



*A Kangaroo dies. Drought in Australia*



*Floods in Bangladesh.*

“If this is the way that the human race will die out, then, unlike the dinosaurs, we will have a long and painful death, with millions upon millions of environmental refugees in the most terrible struggles for food and water. Billions will die. The scale of human suffering is too horrible to contemplate.”

Could Albert Nolan be right?

***What am I doing about climate change?***

# Mountrath Community School

The task of providing a Community School in Mountrath, through an amalgamation of Ballyfin, Brigidine Mountrath and St Aengus' Vocational School, continues to take new twists and turns. The most recent development is that the new school will not become a reality until August 2009. It will be a completely new building built on the site of St Aengus' Vocational School. The original plan was that the new school would be an extension/refurbishment of St Aengus'. In the most recent plan St Aengus' school will be demolished when the new school is in place.

Readers will be aware that we had a Lease agreement with the new owners of Ballyfin, Ballyfin Demesne Ltd, to remain on site until August 2008. The Patrician Trustees have negotiated a deal by which we have a year's extension to the Lease - but at a cost. From the summer of 2007 Ballyfin Demesne Ltd will have access to the Principal's office, the Secretary's office, the kitchen and the "1928 building" which currently houses nine classrooms. Temporary accommodation, which the Department of Education has agreed to fund, will be put in place so that staff and students will be able to remain in Ballyfin until the end of the 2008-2009 school year.

## AFFIRMATION

Donal Lunny is a fairly well known musician who used to play with a group called Planxty. A history of the group entitled *The Humours of Planxty* gives an account of Lunny's schooldays in his native Newbridge.



*Bro. Maurice*

He left Newbridge College in the summer of 1963 and joined Patrician Secondary School for the Intermediate Certificate year and so his rehabilitation began. "It was like getting out of prison. It was fantastic what happened. They rescued me, they put me back together. There were some great teachers there. There was the late Brother Silverius, who was the head of the Patrician Brothers in Ballyfin for some time. And Brother Maurice, who taught science and English, a wonderful teacher. I'm eternally grateful to them both for more or less saving me. You know, various religious orders have got lots of bad press in recent times, but I have to say, my time with the Patrician Brothers was mostly very happy. There were a few cowboys in the primary school

who seemed to enjoy inflicting pain, but there was no trace of anything like that in the secondary. These were good people, very fair-minded. That was something that really affected me."

It is good to read these things occasionally. Well done Maurice and the late Silverius.

## TOP DEBATERS

The Patrician Secondary School, Newbridge, team, winners of the Rigby Jones Kildare Schools Debating Championship. The competition is sponsored by The Leinster Leader. Pictured are winning team members Samuel Hamilton, David Ryan, captain, and Ciaran Brannock accepting the trophy from Conor McHugh, Leinster Leader reporter.



Congratulations to Louise O'Reilly and her team on this success.

# REMEMBRANCE OF TIMES PAST

By Brendan O'Brien (Team Member)



Back Row: O. Kennedy, J. Noone, T. Noone, J. Leonard, P. Hobbert, J. Beatty, M. Boyle, F. Burke, J. Moran, P. Fox, G. Dooley, M. McDonagh.  
Front Row: M. Beatty, C. Flaherty, N. Murphy, F. Carney, T. Corcoran (Capt.), T. Glynn, R. Beatty, B. O'Brien, J. Lowery, A. Moran

For a lot of us our friendship began in late '50's when we started in St. Patrick's Primary School, Galway. Gaelic football and hurling were our first loves in sport and we were thrilled to wear the green jersey of St. Patrick's at under 13 level. One group stayed very much intact after moving across the river to St. Joseph's, Patrician College. Our love of sport did not diminish and straight away we were playing in the blue of the 'Bish' in hurling and football.

We developed a very strong Juvenile team under the guidance of Máirtín Breathnach in Inter Cert in 1965. We kept together in 5th Year and Leaving Cert and in 1967 we won the Connaught B Championship beating St. Colman's, Claremorris, in the final.

Our chief mentors during those years were Máirtín Breathnach, Pat Donnellan and Bro. Fidelis. We are all

very grateful for the help and guidance of these men and the other teachers in our time in St. Joseph's both on and off the field. It was with this in mind that a few of us got together and decided, after all these years, we should have a re-union of the group. We have now come together for the second year and it looks like we will keep it up year after year. We are all very glad to be associated with the Patrician Mission in Kenya and know that the money given in all our names will be put to good use.



Fidelis receiving the cheque for the Kenya Mission from Tom Corcoran (left) and Brendan O'Brien

*(Brendan O'Brien, Tom Corcoran, Tom Noone, Jody Moran and Gerard Dooley assisted in the organisation of the re-unions. The amount raised for the Kenya Mission was •1,500).*