

IRELAND / KENYA NEWSLETTER



Patrician Brothers

Autumn 2006

Jubilarians celebrate 490 years service



Golden Jubilarians who celebrated in Newbridge on August 15

Back : Cormac Commins, Edward McCarthy, Joseph Byrne

Front: David Byrne, Paul Brennan, Peter Higgins.



*Bro. Robert Ruane
Diamond Jubilee*



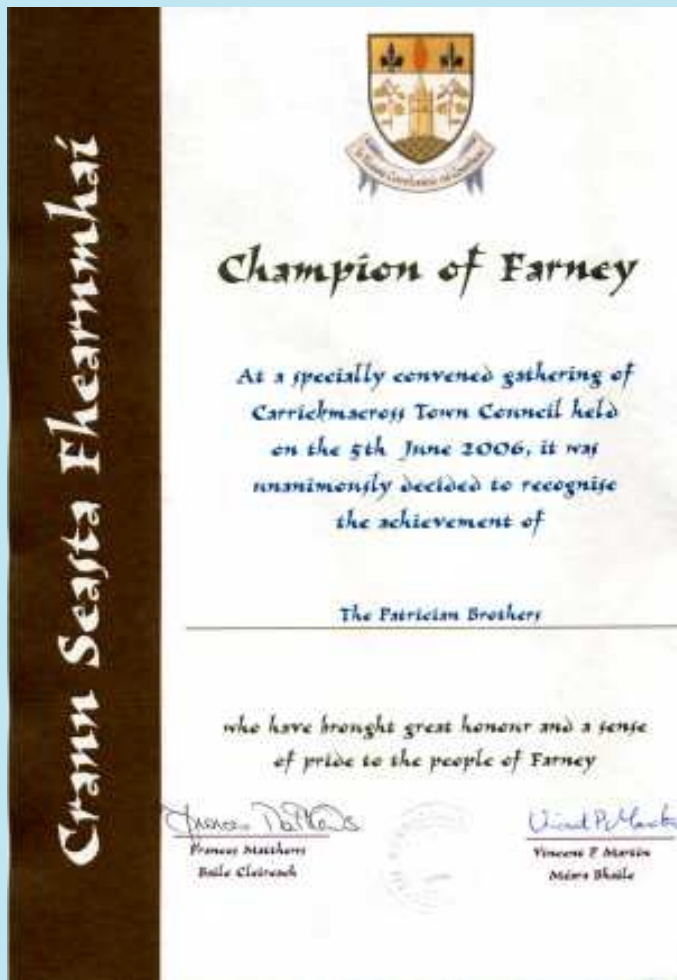
*Bro. Leander Tannian
Platinum Jubilee*



*Bro. Otteran Mohan
Diamond Jubilee*

Ad Multos Annos

Honouring the Brothers in Carrickmacross



Group of people honoured by the Town Council



Gregory pictured with Pat McEneaney, former pupil of Mount St. Joseph, Tullow and now the leading Gaelic Football referee in Ireland who was also honoured..

The Patricians were represented by Gregory and Camillus at the function. Many tributes were paid to the Brothers for their work in the area for over one hundred years. Gregory received the Scroll and signed the book on our behalf.

Among others honoured on the night were the Sisters of St. Louis, the Organising Committee of the Patrick Kavanagh Centre in Inniskeen and Dr. Rory O'Hanlon, Speaker of the Irish Parliament.

Bro. Justin Madden Retires after 21 years as Principal in St. Fintan's, Mountrath.

A large crowd attended the Mass and Presentation to mark Justin's retirement. Many tributes were paid to him for his dedicated work on behalf of the school and parish over the past 21 years. He received presentations from St. Aengus Soccer Club, St. Fintan's G.A.A. Club, St. Fintan's Primary School Board of Management, St. Fintan's Board of Management and St. Fintan's Parish. Apart from locals the function was attended by many of Justin's relatives as well as Patrician Brothers.



Justin with members of his family
L to R: Ann Madden, Noel Madden, Mary Madden, Justin, Gordon Affleck, Brian Madden, Marie Madden



With the School Staff
L to R: Yvonne Murphy (New Principal), Irene Bonham, Laura Martin, Mary Parkinson, Gerardine McLoughlin,
(missing from the picture is Edel Parkinson).

Some pictures of Jubilee celebrations at Newbridge



Family members enjoy a joke.



Joe speaks on behalf of the Jubilarians



Presentation to Peter.



Many hands make light work!

REFLECTIONS ON A GOLDEN JUBILEE

Bro. Cormac Commins

The preparations took up a good deal of time. The most recent big celebration of jubilees was in 2002 and it was considered a success. So we would do the same again: erect a marquee in the back garden, organize the catering, set out the tables, order the wine, have some nice flower arrangements, make sure there was a power supply. The list just got longer and longer.

On the morning of the big day the rain began to pour down. Why didn't we have this in a hotel? And where was Fr Paddy? He was the celebrant. I knew that he was in the U.S. and was due home on 15 August, the day of the jubilees. What if he were delayed by the strict security arrangements at all airports? The invitation card said that there would be Mass at 2.00pm and it was now 1.30pm. He arrived at 1.32pm, fair play to him!

Celebrating fifty years of anything means that there is an understandable tendency to look back. Looking back to the fifties and sixties is an interesting exercise. There were no mobile phones. (How did we do without them?) In some monasteries there was no phone of any sort. Computers and laptops came many years later. Community life was rigid. Spontaneity was frowned upon. Conformity was an essential virtue. But the steady if laboured influence of Vatican 11, some enlightened leaders in our Congregation and Spirit-led General Chapters brought about much-needed change and forward thinking. We were encouraged to Choose Life and Rejoice in Hope and thus bring about individual and corporate renewal.

Yes, fifty years is a serious commitment to any cause and as the jubilee Mass commenced with the hymn Give me joy in my heart.... I reflected that there were many causes for joy and many reasons for a celebration. The six Patricians had, in their own individual ways and with their unique talents and temperaments, given sterling service to our Patrician family. I trust that each of us can make his own the words of Nelson Mandela in his autobiography Long Walk to Freedom:

"I have walked that long road to freedom. I have tried not to falter; I have made missteps along the way. But I have discovered the secret that after climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb. I have taken a moment here to rest, to steal a view of the glorious vista that surrounds me, to look back on the distance I have come. But I can rest only for a moment, for with freedom come responsibilities, and I dare not linger, for my long walk is not yet ended."

Trees

Bro. Raymond Forde

“The world is charged with the Glory of God”
(Gerard Manley Hopkins).



But we often fail to notice what magnificent gifts God has placed at our disposal:



***“Much beauty is around us that we miss
Because our eyes are held, our ears are filled
By petty duties, cares that are instilled
By trifling vanities, hopes gone amiss
Of one small wished-for triumph, this, all this
Drowns the sweet blackbird’s song, obscures the ray
Of jewelled dewdrops in the rising day,
Spoils all our joy, leads captive all our bliss”.***
(Bro. Sebastian Darcy).

Travelling through a wood as Autumn wanes, who could not but be enchanted by the sheer grandeur of the many shades of colour displayed by the fading leaves. No painter, no matter how talented, could sketch and convey adequately the magical attraction of the many-tinted foliage, especially when caught in the glare of the shining sun. To walk through a tree-lined avenue in late Autumn as the whirling leaves, “Yellow and black and pale and hectic red” are blown by the breeze to golden heaps at the side is an experience both awe-inspiring and wonderful.

***“Blow us O wind, O blow us,
Whither you will,
Every leaf that November casts clay-ward
Shall its own place fill”.***

(Patrick Kavanagh)

The strong, sturdy oak spreads its leafy branches to serve as a shelter for browsing animals, scampering squirrels and myriads of birds. The glistening silver sheen of the smooth grey bark of the towering beeches shocks us into admiration of God’s magnanimous gifts. On the avenue leading to Mount Wolseley the stout line of magnificent beech trees always seemed to evoke the profound exclamation “God is Great” from one ardent admirer, during his daily leisurely stroll. Altamount’s spacious woods and gardens had the same effect. But let us not forget the lowly ash, which, for over a hundred years has provided thousands of boys, girls, young men and women with the sticks needed to engage in the most scintillating and skilful of all field games, hurling. The sparkling wine-red copper-beech, the leafy chestnut, whose fruit was eagerly sought by rural children in the past, to partake in the enthralling game of “conkers”, all have their own special enchantment, as do all evergreens, poplars, aspens, willows and larches.



Oak Tree in the grounds of the Brigidine Convent, Tullow.

This tree was planted by Daniel Delany in 1807 when he brought a sapling from Kildare. The word ‘Kildare’ comes from the Irish words ‘Cill Dara’ which means the ‘Church of the Oak’.

But whatever is said or written about the splendour of the trees to be found in our Irish countryside, the utter beauty of the variety to be seen in other countries leaves us spellbound. In Kenya we have the glowing fiery colours of the Nandi Flame and Cherry; the exquisite blue of the stately Jacaranda but the most striking of all is the scorching red of the expansive umbrella-shaped Flamboyant tree.

In late Spring to ramble through the lonely Irish country roads,

*“Where April’s ecstasy
Dances in every whitethorn tree”.*

(Patrick Kavanagh)

is to feel enthralled and captivated. Sometimes wide areas are covered in a glorious array of white blossoms, whose aroma pervades the heavenly spot to lend comfort, consolation and peace to worried minds. Also during the flowering season, as we travel along, we are almost sure to catch glimpses of the golden-coloured furze as it proudly flaunts its beauty in hedges and on the barren sides of hillocks and wasteland.



*Bishop Korir plants a tree during the
General Chapter at Kamagut 2004*



To journey through the Vee in the Knockmealdown Mountains in late May or early June is to be rewarded by the resplendent abundance of rhododendrons clustered beside the road or in the vast expanses of colour clothing the Knockmealdowns like a blanket of violet and rose. Having spent a spell quaffing the enervating mountain air as we gaze in wonder over the huge panorama of green fields, rows of trees, hedges and ditches, we will be further enriched by the lines of rhododendrons growing on each side as we motor on to Lismore to view the imposing structure of the castle situated on the banks of the scenic Blackwater.

How right Joyce Kilmer was in stating:

“Only God can make a tree”

What a glorious experience it must have been long ago to stroll through a densely forested Irish countryside, especially when the trees were covered in their various shades of green or when the decaying leaves were being discarded from their branches, “Like ghosts from an enchanter fleeing”, during the dying days of Autumn.

Alas, forests are few nowadays, so we may have to travel long journeys to be again embalmed in the resinous aroma and soothing embrace that encompasses all wooded areas.

*“The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep
And miles to go before I sleep”.*

(Robert Frost)



Autumn Leaves

A FORMER PUPIL REMEMBERS



*Michael Mills
Former Ombudsman*

For most of his life Michael Mills worked as a journalist and broadcaster on matters of political interest. He was political correspondent of The Irish Times for about twenty years. Later he became Ireland's first Ombudsman and held that post from 1984 to 1995. He attended the Patrician Primary School in Abbeyleix and later he was a boarder at Patrician College, Ballyfin.

Last year he published a memoir and had some complimentary comments on the Brothers who taught him. The following are extracts:

The Superior in Abbeyleix, Br Francis Redmond, later became Superior General of the Order and travelled all over the world to visit houses of the Order. He was one of the best teachers I ever knew. History and Irish were his favourite subjects. I can still remember to the present day lists of dates of historical events, their causes and their effects, with great precision, just as I still find difficulty in listening to or reading

commentaries in Irish without analyzing and parsing the material for grammatical errors.

Another Brother who later became one of my best friends was Br Denis Lomasney from Cork, who taught Maths and English and managed to convey his love for English literature and poetry to at least some of his pupils. The Superior, Br Valerian Whelan, from Wicklow, was a wonderful teacher of Latin for the decreasing number of students who were interested in the subject.

After Ballyfin Michael Mills studied for the priesthood but ill-health forced him to take time off from his studies. He wrote: With time on my hands, I read a great number of books and studied shorthand. One of the Patrician Brothers in Abbeyleix, Virgilius, had got a bright notion years before that shorthand would be a useful adjunct to a boy's curriculum. He ordered a batch of Pitman's shorthand manuals and a group of us used to assemble in the school every Saturday morning for lessons in shorthand. I discovered I still had a copy of the manual, so I set down to learn the subject and develop speed in taking notes.

Interesting comments at a time when it is fashionable to be critical of the Church, religious and the schools they managed.

Kenya



Patrician Football Team

Back: David, Peter, James, Linus, George, Eliud Njoroge, Placido, Walter (Ref) Sylvanus (Ref's Assistant)

Front:: Kennedy, Joel, Masese, Dominic, Franco, Tadhg Deasy



Bro. Michael Broderick receives a cheque for •1,200 from John O'Donovan, Principal., prior to his departure for Kenya. The money was collected by the pupils of Newbridge Patrician Primary School for the Kamagut Water Project.



Reception of Novices

Dominic Mokuia (left) and Joseph Chege who were received into our Kenya Novitiate in February. Welcome Dominic and Joseph to the Patrician Family.

Cemeteries



Ceremony in the cemetery

Following the sale of Ballyfin the decision was made to transfer the remains of the Brothers buried in the College Cemetery to the Ballyfin Parish Cemetery. The work was carried out during July of this year and a Remembrance Mass was celebrated on Saturday 16th September. Relatives of the deceased came from many parts of Ireland and England and the presence of many from the Ballyfin Parish Community as well as the majority of the Irish Province Brothers ensured that the Parish Church was packed for the occasion.

The Mass was celebrated by Bishop Jim Moriarty of Kildare and Leighlin. Fr. Pat Hennessy, Ballyfin Parish Priest and Fr. Jim Kaye concelebrated. In an inspiring homily Bishop Moriarty paid tribute to the Brothers and to their work in the area and throughout the world.

After the Communion each family was presented with a clock made by Bro. Maurice Murphy from wood from Ballyfin College. They were also given a rose which they later placed on the grave of their family member during the ceremony in the cemetery.



Part of the group during the meal in the Parish Centre

The day concluded with a meal in the Parish Centre and by coincidence the Caterer was Marie Lynch niece of Brothers Gerald and Enda Egan..



The Crew at the end of the final day's work with HSE Officials, Fr. Hennessy P.P. and Bro. Maurice Murphy



Brothers' grave in Carrickmacross

As we are about to withdraw from Carrickmacross the Brothers graves have also been renewed so that they will require little or no maintenance. Finally new headstones have been erected in our Mountrath cemetery where twenty three of our members are interred.

Newbridge student tops in Ireland



There was great rejoicing at the Patrician Secondary School, Newbridge, when the Leaving Certificate examination results were issued on 16 August. One of the students at the school, Ronan McGovern, obtained nine A Is, the only student in the country to achieve this remarkable result. His subjects included Irish, English, French, German, Maths, Applied Maths, Physics, Chemistry and Accounting.

Ronan attributed his great achievement to consistent work. He also found time to play football and hurling for the school, he took part in school musicals and he was a member of the students' council.

Local and national press and TV queued all morning for interviews and pictures but Ronan took it all in his stride. His response to a question from RTE radio took the reporter by surprise. When asked "What are you going to do tonight?" he replied that he was going to football training.

Ronan plans to study engineering at University College, Dublin, where he has obtained an entrance scholarship.

Congratulations to Ronan, his family and his teachers on this unique achievement.

Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit / State Examinations Commission

Uimhir Scáil / School No : 60581V

Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Ráiteas ar Thorthaí Sealadacha ag Scrúduithe na hArdleistiméireachta 2006
Statement of Provisional Results at the Leaving Certificate Examination 2006

RONAN KILLIAN MCGOVERN

Scrúduithe / Examination Number : 102998 Dáta Breithe / Date of Birth : 20-03-1989

Ábhair / Subjects	Leibhéal / Level	Grád / Grade
GAELIGE	ARD	A1
IRISH	HIGHER	A1
BÉARLA	ARD	A1
ENGLISH	HIGHER	A1
MATAMAITIC	ARD	A1
MATHEMATICS	HIGHER	A1
FRAINCIS	ARD	A1
FRENCH	HIGHER	A1
GEARMÁINIS	ARD	A1
GERMAN	HIGHER	A1
MATAMAITIC FHEIDHMEACH	ARD	A1
APPLIED MATHEMATICS	HIGHER	A1
FISIC	ARD	A1
PHYSICS	HIGHER	A1
CEIMIC	ARD	A1
CHEMISTRY	HIGHER	A1
CÚNTASÁÓCHT	ARD	A1
ACCOUNTING	HIGHER	A1

Spriodháil de achnaíre / Closing date for appeals: 06/09/2006

Chairman Chief Executive Officer

AI = 90 - 100% A2 = 85 - 90% B1 = 80 - 85% B2 = 75 - 80% B3 = 70 - 75% C1 = 65 - 70% C2 = 60 - 65%
 C3 = 55 - 60% D = 50 - 55% D2 = 45 - 50% D1 = 40 - 45% E = 25 - 40% F = 10 - 25% NG = 0 - 10%

Máinín ar Ghriodanna na Nascbhadáil (Explanation of Link Modules Grades)
 Grades / Overviews: 90% - 100% Filmár / Mark 65% - 89%
 Pass / Pass 50% - 85% Gair Ráil / Ultra-success 0% - 50%

State Examinations Commission Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit

Irish Province Nonagenarians



Bro. Cuthbert Nolan
Going strong at 93
Resident in
Middletown House,
Nursing Home,
Courtown



Bro. Leander Tannian
90 in December.
Also celebrating the
Platinum Jubilee of
his profession.
Resident in Abbyleix.



Bro. Ultan Mahoney
90 in July
Spends his time
gardening.
Resident in
Newbridge