

# IRELAND / KENYA



## NEWSLETTER



*Patrician Brothers*



*May 2013*

### *Formation in Kenya*



*On May 9th the Brothers assembled at Delany Memorial for the admission of four Aspirants to Postulancy. Pictured, squatting in front, are (L to R): Sebastian, Gabriel, Maurice and Gilbert who will join three first year and three second year Novices in Kamagut. We wish them well as they begin their 'Patrician Journey'.*

### *Easter*

*Cormac Commins*

Today, 12<sup>th</sup> May, the Church celebrates the feast of the Ascension of the Lord. It reminds us that we are coming to the end of the Easter season. Easter resonates in the mind of many of us in Ireland for both religious and political reasons.

Our history books tell us of the "Easter Rising" when the revolutionaries rose up in the hope of ending many years of colonial rule and setting up a new independent republic. Many people probably find the association of a political act with the resurrection of Jesus difficult to take. Others probably give very little thought to either event.

For us religious the symbols used in the Easter Liturgy, such as the light from the paschal candle and the newly blessed water, should direct our thoughts towards Christian hope.

We need to have hope in the risen Lord at a time when our country is struggling with an economic recession and the Church is still reeling from the revelations of past abuse.

But Easter always speaks of hope and new beginnings for our country, our Church and above all for ourselves as individuals. Jesus told us "I am with you always". Perhaps we can also draw hope from our new Pope Francis whose first words were a simple "Good evening" and who ended his talk by wishing everyone a good night's rest.



## *Catechetics Course in Ballyfin 1962*



**Front:** *Gelasius Wrafter, Gabriel Muldowney, Valerian Whelan, Leonard McCabe, Fr. Sean Mullen CSSR, Fr. P.J. Brophy, Joseph Doheny, Luke Moroney, Stephen Delaney, Michael Malone, Albert Lyng, Berchmans Coffey.*

**2nd.:** *Fabian Doyle, Camillus Regan, Virgilius Roche, Kieran Coughlan, Andrew Breen, Nicholas Leahy, Patrick O'Neill, Otteran Mohan, Theodore Burke, Vianney Grogan, Ephrem Donagher, Rembert Brennan, Hilary Delaney, Eunan Kelly.*

**3rd.:** *Alban Creedon, Victor Conway, James Moran, Angelus Moore, Donatus Gorman, Claver Dunne, Felix O'Meara, Kevin Ruane, Raymond Forde, Anthony Donnelly, Fidelis O'Connell, Fiacre Shanahan, Paul Duffy, Dominic Lyons.*

**4th. :** *Kieran Lawlor, Leander Tannian, Christopher Finnegan, Laserian Byrne, Romanus Jacob, Finbarr Mulcahy, Maurice Murphy, Cormac Commins, Justinian Kelleher, Cuthbert Nolan, Virgil Duggan.*

**5th. :** *Hugh Costello, Declan Hoey, Majella Horan, Edward McCarthy, David Byrne, Paul Brennan, Simeon Geraghty, Gregory Fox.*

## *HURLING IN CARRICKMACROSS*



This old photograph, recently discovered, shows the Carrickmacross hurling team, Monaghan County Champions in 1963 and 1964. The team was made up mostly of Patrician Brothers, Gardaí and a few locals.

Brothers were not supposed to be playing so we all played under assumed names.

Front Row: First left Marcus Moriarty, third: Berchmans Coffey, fifth: Camillus Regan, Sixth : Gregory Fox, Seventh: Pat O'Neill.

Back Row: Extreme right: Virgil Duggan.

The only members of the community not playing were the Superior, Bro. Kieran Lawlor and Bro. Stephen Delaney, Principal of the High School.



## The most interviewed person on earth: Pope Francis' sister



Maria Elena Bergoglio

Though there aren't yet hard numbers to back it up, it's a good bet that the single most interviewed human being on the planet since March 13th, 2013, has been a simple 64-year-old housewife in the Argentine city of Ituzaingó, about an hour outside Buenos Aires.

The woman is Maria Elena Bergoglio, and her older brother Jorge today is known to the world as Pope Francis. They're the last surviving siblings of five children, and since the moment Francis stepped out onto the balcony overlooking St. Peter's Square, Maria Elena became the go-to point of reference for insight on the new pope. Listening to her, she seems cut from the same cloth as her now-famous sibling: Humble and unpretentious, and also completely unafraid to speak her mind.

For instance, when stories began to make the rounds about Francis having become a priest only because a young love rejected his marriage proposal, Maria Elena was there to bat it down. She insisted that her brother was only a kid at the time, and the idea of getting married was never serious. More ominously, when critics suggested that her brother had been complicit in Argentina's military junta, Maria Elena testily pointed out that her family emigrated from Italy because their father was opposed to fascism ... the clear suggestion being that Jorge Mario Bergoglio would never betray his father's memory by cozying up to dictators.

Since the election of her brother, Maria Elena's modest one-storey home on an obscure street has become a sort of impromptu journalistic pilgrimage destination. She says that from the morning of March 14th her phone started ringing at 5 am and people started knocking on her door at 6, every day, until well after dark every night.

She confessed that heading into the conclave, she was actually cheering for another candidate to be the first Latin American pope: Cardinal Odio Pedro Scherer of Brazil, whom she said she always admired because he seemed to be on the side of the poor. Why him and not her brother? "Because I wanted Jorge back at home!"

During an interview she discussed the two phone calls she has had with her brother since he became pope, her hopes for him to visit Argentina (and to give her two minutes for a hug) and outlined the people she believes he'll bring into key positions.

When asked if she felt when speaking to him that he was overwhelmed she said: *"I'm grateful that so far, Francis is still Jorge. He didn't seem any different, and although he's very conscious of the responsibility that he's carrying now, he didn't seem nervous or anxious about it. When I saw him come out on the balcony, he seemed like the same person I had always known, the same Jorge. Of course, I didn't have a lot of time to think about it, because as soon as his name was announced our house became a loony bin, with everyone*

*calling us and chaos all around. When I finally had a chance to think about it, to watch him some more, I got the impression that he seems very happy, and it made me think that the Holy Spirit must be right there with him. He seems happy, whole. He was close to the people here in Argentina, but today he seems even closer and more able to express his feelings, which I suppose is the Holy Spirit helping him. I must say I've been very happy to see how well my brother seems to be adjusting to his new role".*



The Bergoglio family. Only Pope Francis and Maria Elena, front left, are still living

## *Patrician Past Pupils to the fore in Kenya*



*Paul Brennan*

*Paul Brennan*

As you know, we have had national Elections for all sorts of positions and that included a Supreme Court Decision to endorse Uhuru Kenyatta as President after a very close and disputed election.

Our Patrician past pupils came to the fore in the elections as well. The following is a summary of positions taken by 'Old Boys' of St. Patrick's Iten. Some people in our ranks may be interested in the following. It goes without saying that St. Patrick's has produced many many high profile people in Kenya like the CEO of the Standard Group of Newspapers, the CEO of the Standard Chartered Bank, one of Kenya's top cardiologists, many lawyers, architects, coaches, doctors, athletes, army brass, dentists,....the list is too long for now !!!

Alex Tolgos....Governor of Keiyo Marakwet County

Vincent Kipruto..... National Assembly

William Kisang.....National Assembly

John Makali.....County Speaker

Mr. Justice Tunoi.....sat on the Bench of the Supreme Court during the Election Petition

Mr. Katwa Kigen....Lawyer, Represented the Presidential Team of Advocates and he also represents the new Deputy President in his case with the ICC at the Hague.. Coincidentally, the Deputy President hails from Kamagut.

It is also interesting that the Lady Registrar of the Judiciary, Gladys Shoillei is the wife of another 'old boy' of Iten, Sam Chepkairor.

On top of that, Mr. Jackson Mandago, an 'Old Boy' of our Eldoret school, the Bishop Delany Secondary School, was elected Governor of Uasin County which has Eldoret as its centre.

Kipchumba Murkomen.....Senator

Jackson Kiptanui.....National Assembly

Wilson Boit.....County Representative

## *Kabongo Nursery School*



*Middle Nursery Class*



*Patrician Nursery School with water harvesting tank*



*Paul with four teachers in the Nursery School.*

*L to R: Winnie Wekesa, Jennifer Kioko, Rose Nasimiyu, Liz Kiplagat.*

*These teachers deal with children from 30 months to five years and the children have to cope with three different languages.*



*Having Fun*



## Developments at Kabongo



*Digging foundations for computer room*



*Finished product ... the computer room*



*Mr. & Mrs. Hugh Costello visit the Primary School*



*First Class*



*The fully functioning Kabongo Dispensary and medical lab.*



*Weighing a baby*



*The road to Kabongo*



*The Clinic receives a merit award*

## *Bro. Paul O'Connor honoured at last*

In the March edition of the Newsletter we reproduced a picture of a plaque to be erected in Galway in honour of Bro. Paul O'Connor. The plaque has now been erected and unveiled recognising the work of this remarkable man. The unveiling ceremony was performed by the Mayor of Galway, Terry O'Flaherty, and was attended by present and former teachers from St. Patrick's Primary School and St. Joseph's College as well as pupils of both schools and a number of Patrician Brothers.

A lot has been written about Paul O'Connor especially by Bro. Linus Walker but to remind people of the kind of man he was we reproduce a page from the booklet **'Daniel Delany : Man of Courage'** which was produced by Camillus Regan and the late Raymond Forde in 2005.

*'Born in Leighlin, Co. Carlow, he was described by one of his teachers as 'an expert mathematician and a good classical scholar'. He joined the Brothers in 1823. On November 30th 1826 he reached Galway after a four day walk from Tullow. In January 1827 the Brothers took over Lombard St. school. The attendance on the first day was 300.*



Mayor Terry  
O'Flaherty



Bro. Paul O'Connor

*In 1830, in response to the desperate poverty of the students, he set up the 'Poor Boys Breakfast Institute' which during the Great Famine was feeding 1000 pupils each morning. As he was concerned also for the spiritual formation of his students he set up 'The Aloysian Society' in June 1830. The aim of the Society was to set standards of behaviour and to promote the practice of genuine Christianity.*

*Lombard Street school was described at the time as the best of its type in Connaught while 'The Galway Vindicator' stated, in 1869, that there were less juvenile vagrants in Galway than any other city in the United Kingdom because of the work of the Patrician Brothers. In 1862 he set up St. Joseph's Catholic Seminary in Nuns' Island with the encouragement of Bishop McEvilly and it is still known as 'The Bish' because of its association with the bishop.*

*It is interesting to note that when Paul became ill in 1862 he was treated by one of Ireland's best known physicians, Sir William Wilde, father of playwright Oscar Wilde. A truly remarkable man, Paul O'Connor was one of the giants of the Patrician Brothers. He died on 17th April 1878, aged 85, and is buried in Kingston, Galway.'*



*Brothers at the unveiling of the plaque in honour of Bro. Paul O'Connor at St. Patrick's Primary School, Galway.*

*L to R. : Niall Coll, Marcellus Broderick, Michael Broderick, James O'Rourke, Cormac Commins, Gregory Fox, Linus Walker.*



*Ms. Terry O'Flaherty, Mayor of Galway City, unveils the plaque watched by students from Patrician Schools.*



*Some of the attendance at the unveiling ceremony*



*Ciaran Doyle, Principal St. Joseph's College, Bro. Cormac, Noel Cunningham, Principal St. Patrick's, Primary, the Mayor, and Niall Coll*



Group pictured at Bro. Edward McCarthy's grave in Eldoret following his first anniversary Mass. With the Patrician Brothers, students of Delany Memorial School and missionary priests are Bishop Mossie Crowley and Bishop Cornelius Korir.

### *New Bishop appointed in Kildare & Leighlin*



Bishop-elect Denis Nulty pictured with Msgr. Brendan Byrne who has administered the diocese since the retirement of Bishop Jim Moriarty three years ago. It is acknowledged within the diocese that Msgr. Byrne did an excellent job which may explain why it took three years to appoint a successor to Bishop Moriarty. We wish Monsignor Brendan every blessing in his retirement.

Bishop Nulty is now in line to become the youngest bishop in the Catholic Church in Ireland – as well as its tallest, at 6ft 5in. When he takes up office he will also be one of the youngest priests in the diocese. A native of Slane, Co Meath, where St. Patrick lit the first Paschal Fire in Ireland in defiance of the king, he brings 25 years of pastoral experience to his new role in Kildare and Leighlin. Following ordination he spent 10 years as curate in the Cathedral parish of Mullingar, Co. Westmeath, followed by 15 years as Parish Priest of Drogheda, Co. Louth being at the time the youngest Parish Priest in Ireland. He will be the thirteenth bishop of Kildare & Leighlin since the episcopate of our founder, Daniel Delany.

### ***New Headmaster in Delany Memorial Secondary School***

Congratulations and best wishes to Emmanuel Achola who has taken up duty as Headmaster in Delany Memorial School, Eldoret. His appointment comes a year after the death of the long-serving and much respected Bro. Edward McCarthy. The school name changed during Edward's time from Harambee Secondary School to Delany Memorial Secondary School in honour of our Founder, Daniel Delany. Our prayers and best wishes are with Emmanuel as he takes on this onerous task.



### ***Bish Rowers in Sydney***



Rowing is one of the many sports in which St Joseph's College, Galway, has achieved success over the years. The Bish oarsmen were invited to compete at the 2013 Sydney International Rowing Regatta in March. The team departed for Sydney on St Patrick's Day and, by all accounts, had a very enjoyable stay in Australia. They established links and close ties which will be developed over the coming years.

### ***Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris, Celebrates 850 Years***



Construction of Notre Dame Cathedral began in 1163 and all elements were completed by 1345. Over the construction period, numerous architects worked on the site, as is evidenced by the differing styles at different heights of the west front and towers. Between 1210 and 1220, the fourth architect oversaw the construction of the level with the famous rose window. The design of St. Peter's Cathedral, Adelaide, Australia, was inspired by Notre Dame de Paris.



Kildare & Leighlin Diocese participated in the Notre Dame celebrations with a Mass in the cathedral on 16th March. The chief celebrant was Bishop Noel Treanor of Down & Connor and the homilist was Msgr. Brendan Byrne, Administrator, Kildare & Leighlin. It was the first time the Irish language had been officially used in the cathedral as the Mass was celebrated using Irish, English and French. The Kildare & Leighlin diocesan choir, under the direction of Fr. Liam Lawton, with Carlow Cathedral organist, Marion Gaynor, provided the music and singing for the Mass. Camillus is a member of the choir and travelled for the occasion.

On the following day the group participated in a Mass in the Irish College where Fr. Sean Maher of Kildare & Leighlin is Chaplain.