

IRELAND / KENYA



NEWSLETTER



Patrician Brothers



December 2016



The Provincial and Council, Regional and Council wish all our Brothers, Novices and Postulants in Ireland and Kenya an abundance of joy, happiness and peace this Christmas and throughout the New Year.

General Chapter and Me

Cormac Commins

Elsewhere in this Newsletter there is reference to the General Chapter which was held in Nairobi in August. In our pre-Chapter prayer we asked that we “may look back on the past with gratitude, live the present with passion and look to the future with hope.” This prayer is reflected in our Chapter document entitled GratitudePassion..... Hope. We have had community meetings at which we discussed some of the issues emanating from the General Chapter and it is hoped that this will continue in the coming months.

Will the Chapter document make a difference to my Province, to my Community, to me? There is a story told of a man who was baby-sitting his son on a wet Saturday afternoon while his wife was out shopping. He was a successful businessman but was not very experienced in the role of child-minder. After about an hour the task was beginning to get on his nerves. Being a resourceful individual he took a magazine from the shelf and tore out a page containing a map of the world. He cut the page into several pieces and jumbled them together to make a jigsaw. He placed the pieces on the table and asked his son to put them together.

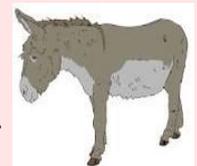


Cormac Commins

After about ten minutes the boy announced that the job was done. His surprised father asked how he had completed the task so quickly. The boy told him that he turned over some of the pieces of the jigsaw and noticed a picture of a man on the other side. “So I put the man together and the world was O.K.” the boy said.

The message from our General Chapter is to look after the “man”, me, and the “world”, the Province, the community, will be fine.

The Banking Crisis simply explained...



Young Paddy bought a donkey from a farmer for €100 and paid for it.

The farmer agreed to deliver the donkey the next day...

The next day he drove up and said, 'Sorry son, but I have some bad news. The donkey's died.'

Paddy replied, 'Well then just give me my money back.'

The farmer said, 'Can't do that. I've already spent it.'

Paddy said, 'OK, then, just bring me the dead donkey.'

The farmer asked, 'What are you going to do with him?'

Paddy said, 'I'm going to raffle him off.'

The farmer said, 'You can't raffle a dead donkey!'

Paddy said, 'Sure I can. Watch me. I just won't tell anybody he's dead.'

A month later, the farmer met up with Paddy and asked, 'What happened with that dead donkey?'

Paddy said, 'I raffled him off.'

I sold 500 tickets at two euro a piece and made a profit of €898'

The farmer said, 'Didn't anyone complain?'

Paddy said, 'Just the guy who won. So I gave him his two euro back.'

Paddy now works for the Royal Bank of Scotland.



BALLYFIN THE BEST IN THE WORLD

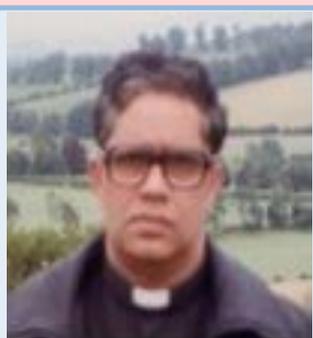


Ballyfin has been voted the best hotel in the world by Conde Nast.

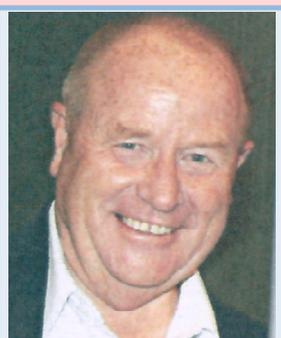
In a recent article the ***Sunday Independent*** newspaper also noted that it was once ‘*one of the finest boarding schools in the country, run by the Patricians. Ballyfin was very strict but education-wise it was first class*’.

The Deceased

All Patricians were saddened recently to learn of the deaths of Bro. Kevin Minihan of our California Region, Bro. VP Bernard of the Indian Province and Mr. Stephen Aitken former member of the Australian Province. We offer our sincere sympathy to the Brothers in California, India and Australia.



Bro. VP Bernard



Stephen Aitken



Bro. Kevin Minihan

PROFESSIONS IN KENYA

Felim Ryan writes:



*Felim Ryan
Director of Novices*

On 6th. December next, Rt. Rev. Cornelius Korir, Bishop of Eldoret, will be the main Celebrant at our profession ceremony to be held at Delany Memorial School, Eldoret.

Taking perpetual vows on that day will be Br. James Nyongesa and Br. James Kombo. Also on that day three novices, Isaac Kamamo, Benard Mogeni and Givan Barasa will be admitted to first profession of religious vows.

The Irish section of the Province sends heartiest congratulations to all five Brothers. Congratulations to James Nyongesa and James Kombo who make their final commitment to the Congregation and we welcome Isaac, Bernard and Givan to the Patrician Family.(Editor)

A Celebration

Riverdale Nursing Home, Ballon, Co. Carlow, was the scene of a joyful celebration on Saturday 12th November when relatives, friends and Patrician Brothers gathered to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of profession of Bro. Fergus Osborne and Bro. Dermot Dunne.



Fergus

The function began with Mass celebrated by Fr. Edward Whelan former Parish Priest of Ballon parish and now a resident in the Nursing Home. Fr. Gahan concelebrated.

In his homily Fr. Whelan paid tribute to Fergus who had to retire from teaching at a young age following a stroke in 1983 shortly after being appointed Headmaster in Patrician High School, Carrickmacross.



Dermot

After Mass a sumptuous meal, prepared by the Nursing Home Staff, was enjoyed by all. Bro. Cormac, Provincial, outlined Bro. Dermot's career with particular reference to the fact that even though retired he still teaches in a voluntary capacity in a 'Special School' in Finglas. Cormac then made presentations to Fergus and Dermot and thanked them for their contribution to the work of the Patrician Brothers.

Particular tributes were paid to Martina McGouran, Manager of the Home, and her Staff, for organising the event and the function ended with a short entertainment by three extraordinarily talented young children who sang, danced and played three different musical instruments.



The Jubilarians, Dermot and Fergus. At the back are Noel McGarvey (left) and Noel Madden, former Patrician Brothers, who were part of the same Novitiate Group.

As Patrician Brothers we should be particularly grateful to Riverdale Nursing Home, its Manager, Martina, and Staff for their organisation of this special event. The decoration of the Home and the meal gave a festive air to the occasion. We also remember that while the celebrations were going on all the other residents of the Home were being cared for. Bro. Fergus has been resident there for quite some time and many of our members have been cared for during their final days, the most recent being Bosco and Justin. It is indeed a special place.

Bro. Tom Muldowney returns to Ireland

We welcome Tom Muldowney back to his native land after spending most of his life working in India, Kenya and South Sudan. He has taken up residence in the Galway Community in Kingston. Unafraid to face new challenges in vastly different cultures and circumstances Tom has served the Patricians well wherever he was located. We welcome him home and wish him a happy fulfilled retirement in Galway.



MOUNTRATH HOUSE SOLD

Our house at Shannon Road, Mountrath, has been sold. Mountrath was the second foundation of the Patrician Brothers when Brothers went there from Tullow in 1810. A Secondary Boarding school and a Primary school were set up in Patrick Street. The Boarding School transferred to Ballyfin in the early 1930s and we withdrew from the Primary School when the late Bro. Justin retired some years ago.

Mountrath was the home town of Bishop Daniel Delany.

Twenty First General Chapter

Cormac Commins

Twenty one delegates attended the twenty first General Chapter which was held in Nairobi from 15th to 31st August. Of the twenty one delegates nine were from the Indian Province, four from Australia, four from Kenya and three from Ireland. Bro. Joseph Anoop from California was present as an observer but his contribution to Chapter business was more than that of an observer as he made a valuable contribution to Chapter business.

We take this opportunity, on behalf of the Irish Province, to wish every blessing and succes to the new Congregation Leadership Team.



Front: Br. Felim Ryan, Br. Jerome Ellens, Fr. Modestus Inyait (Facilitator), Br. Paul O’Keeffe, Br. George Mangara
2nd. Br. Naveen Francis, Br. Nicholas Harsas, Br. Camillus Regan, Br. Cormac Commins, Br. Stanislaus Arulsusai, Br. Gerard Reburn, Br. Walter Otieno, Br. Peter Ryan, Br. George Xavier.
Back: Br. Joseph Anoop, Br. Vincent George, Br. Sebastian T.P., Br. Placido Kaburu, Br. Tomy Varghese, Br. James Onunda, Br. Johnson Rex, Br. Domenic Xuereb



Leadership Team 2016 - 2022

Br. Nicholas Harsas, Br. George Mangara, Br. Peter Ryan (CL), Br. George Xavier, Br. Stephen Sweetman



*Br. Peter Ryan
Congregation
Leader*

*2016
to 2022*



*Irish Delegates
Camillus Regan, Cormac Commins, Gerard
Reburn*

WORLD YOUTH DAY

Recently World Youth Day was held in Krakow, Poland. Approximately sixteen hundred pilgrims travelled from Ireland for the occasion. A number of students from Patrician Secondary School, Newbridge, travelled with two of their religion teachers and Fr Paul Dempsey P.P. who is also school chaplain. They were part of the Kildare & Leighlin Diocesan group led by Bishop Denis Nulty. The following are accounts by two students of the visit to Krakow.

Cian Loakman:

It was a once in a lifetime experience to travel to World Youth Day in Krakow, Poland, as part of the Patrician Secondary School, Newbridge Parish and Kildare and Leighlin Diocese. After months of preparation and scaling the heights of Croagh Patrick for fundraising we were ready to go.

It was a wonderful experience to see all the young people of the world coming together as a collective group. I am a Pope John Paul II award student and was looking forward to seeing the Pope John Paul II Centre. I feel that my faith has strengthened from this experience and we were present with Pope Francis on a number of occasions throughout World Youth Day week.

When I saw Pope Francis I had this strong feeling of hope, a feeling of serenity came over me. The crowd of people praying together, the emotion of the people and the diversity of the countries that surrounded me. I felt I was at home, a member of the global family coming together to celebrate our faith journey and to praise God. The theme of World Youth Day was “Blessed are the merciful” and Ms Molloy, our teacher, brought us to the convent of Sister Faustina where the image of the Divine Mercy is kept. We also went to the Pope John Paul II Centre which was the factory where John Paul worked during World War II. There were thousands of people in the area as Pope John Paul II is so heroic to my generation and a beacon of inspiration to the young people of the world.

On the eve of World Youth Day after a long hike to the site where we were going to stay, we adapted to our surroundings and laid out our camping gear. The Pope arrived and we had a candlelit ceremony which was followed by prayers late into the night. I stayed awake all that night and absorbed all the prayer that was going on from the different nationalities which brought joy to me. To be in the presence of the Pope was heart-warming and something I will never forget.

The message given was to go forth and to spread the love of Jesus to those around us. Overall, World Youth Day was an eventful experience which I was glad to share with my Patrician Secondary School, my parish and my Diocese. Friendships and faith were formed through our mutual love of Jesus and memories that will last a lifetime stay in my heart.

Sean Campbell:

At the World Youth Day events we were overwhelmed by the amount of people who were gathered in one area through the one faith. It was awe-inspiring to see such a profession of faith and to see the flags from all over the world. One day in Blonio Park as we waited for the Mass to start. Pope Francis arrived in his popemobile and he passed right by where our group was located. It was incredible to see Pope Francis in person, to see a man who is so influential and the leader of the Catholic Church. The crowd went wild and rejoiced at the sight of the Pope. When he started to speak, people wholeheartedly listened to every word using radio devices to translate the words spoken. On the eve of World Youth Day we had a long walk to the Campus Misericordiae (Field of Mercy)



Cian Loakman



Sean Campbell

where we would be camping out for the all-night vigil. I was given the job of carrying the Irish flag so the rest of the group could see us in the crowd. That was a proud moment for me as I looked around to all the other groups that had gathered from around the world.

The estimated figure was over two million in attendance. To think that we were among that amount of people praying with Pope Funds was surreal. The sense of togetherness was so strong. We then awaited Pope Francis the following morning. The message of Pope Francis was that we are unique, that we should go out and spread the Gospel to others, to give our talents to others and to be caring to others around

us. I will take this blessing and strive to implement it in my everyday life within our school community. It was an amazing experience and I would recommend it to people who like walking! But on a more serious note, it has enhanced my spiritual development and I have made lots of friends whilst it has allowed me to understand my faith in a new light.



John Paul II Students at Patrician Secondary School, Newbridge, with Ms. Clare Molloy, one of the Religion Teachers. Some of these students went Krakow to World Youth Day

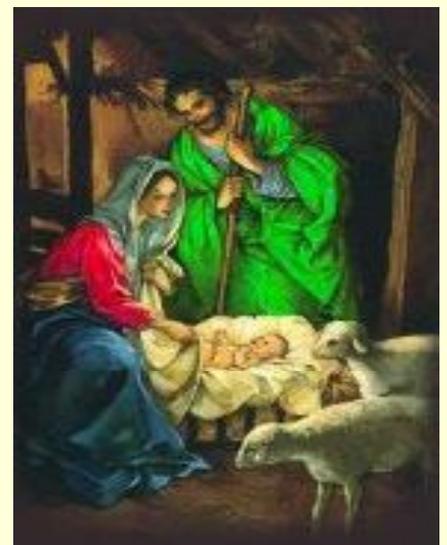
THOUGHTS AT CHRISTMAS

Cormac Commins

I must confess that I was very impressed by the comments of the two students from Patrician Secondary School on their visit to Krakow for World Youth Day. It is obvious that for them the visit to Krakow was more than just a trip to a foreign country. The prayerful gathering, the presence of Pope Francis and being present at Mass with over two million people was a faith-filled event for them.

In a few weeks from now we will be celebrating Christmas. In Luke's Gospel it is described thus: "Do not be afraid. Look, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." Many aspects of the first Christmas are worthy of serious contemplation but the commercialism associated with Christmas today takes from this great story. Here in Ireland we had "Black Friday" recently which was intended to be an opportunity to purchase great bargains in shops and stores. It had nothing to do with the story of the great event in the stable at Bethlehem.

Yet there are events and happenings which remind us of the shepherds and wise men who paid a visit to the child in the stable. Here in Newbridge, for example, we have a "Parish Share Food" scheme whereby over one hundred and twenty food parcels are distributed each week to needy families and individuals. It is a reminder of a General Chapter recommendation to be "in touch with the periphery in our areas of ministry."



When a Loved One Dies

Cormac Commins

Recently, a pastoral letter from Bishop Denis Nulty of the diocese of Kildare and Leighlin was sent to the parishioners of the diocese. Its purpose was to give directives as to how we, as a Christian community, mark the passing of a loved one through the prayers and actions of the funeral rites. The Bishop pointed out in his letter that he had ongoing discussions within the diocese about the celebration of funerals in the parishes.

In his pastoral letter Bishop Nulty referred to three areas in particular:

Words of Remembrance:

- ◆ Only one person, a relative or friend of the deceased, speaks.
- ◆ The words to be said are scripted, agreed by the priest celebrant and last no longer than three minutes.
- ◆ The content focuses on words of appreciation of the deceased.

The appropriate time for these Words of Remembrance is at the reception of the body if it takes place the evening before the funeral Mass, at the graveside or at the funeral Mass before the Prayers of Commendation.

Presentation of Personal Mementoes:

The following practices are expected:

- ◆ The mementoes are placed on a suitably prepared table of remembrance located near the coffin or within the sanctuary, rather than on the coffin or on the altar.
- ◆ The chosen mementoes are appropriate and respectful to the church setting.
- ◆ The mementoes are presented at the beginning of the Mass

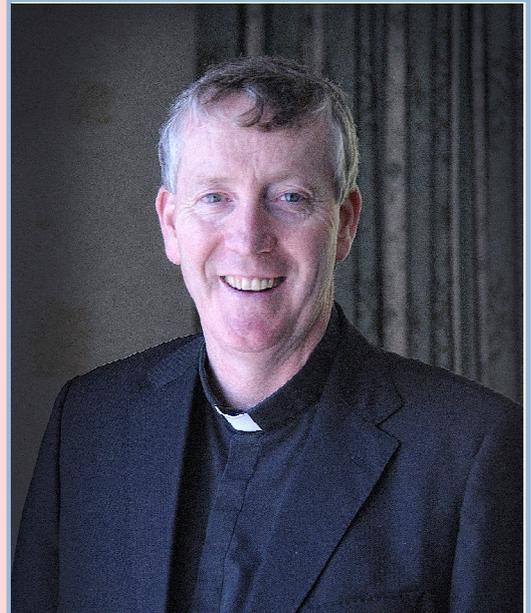
The Choice of Music :

The Bishop in his letter has asked for the following in making the choice of music:

- ◆ All music choices to be agreed with the priest celebrant ahead of time. This can be done directly with the priest or with the person leading the music who will check with the priest.
- ◆ That if a secular song is agreed that it be sung during the sympathising at the evening removal, as the coffin leaves the church or at the graveside.

Cremation

Cremation is a valid and acceptable practice in the Catholic Church, provided it is not being chosen in opposition to our faith. When cremation is chosen, it will as a general rule take place after the funeral Mass. The cremated remains are shown the same respect as the body of a Christian and the vessel they are contained in demonstrates respect and reverence for the sacredness of this person whom we now commend to the care of God.



*Bishop Denis Nulty
Kildare & Leighlin*

Words to the Wise

If you cannot find Christ in the beggar at the church door, you will not find Him in the chalice.

(St. John Chrysostom)

When you pray, rather let your heart be without words than your words without heart.

(John Bunyan)

You can't cross the sea merely by standing and staring at the water.

(Rabindranath Tagore)