

IRELAND / KENYA NEWSLETTER

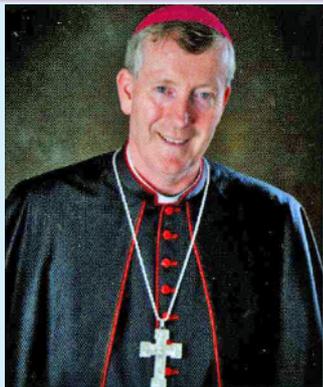


Patrician Brothers



August 2013

New Bishop Ordained for Kildare & Leighlin



Bishop Denis Nulty

As reported in the last Newsletter, the home diocese of the Patrician Brothers and the Brigidine Sisters has a new bishop. The episcopal ordination of Bishop Denis Nulty took place on August 4th. He is the thirteenth bishop since the episcopate of our Founder, Daniel Delany. He has chosen as his Episcopal motto 'Serve the Lord with Gladness' taken from Psalm 100.

The originally independent dioceses of Kildare and Leighlin were united in 1678 on the recommendation of the then Primate of Ireland, St. Oliver Plunkett.

Kildare took its origin from the monastic settlement established by St. Brigid in the fifth century. St. Conleth was its first bishop, appointed about 490.

St. Laserian is regarded as the founder and patron of Leighlin. He was instrumental in having the Irish Church adopt the Roman method of calculating the date of Easter. He died about 639.

The ordination ceremony took place in the Cathedral of the Assumption, Carlow. The chief consecrator was Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, Dublin, assisted by Bishop Michael Smith, Meath, (Bishop Nulty's home diocese) and Archbishop Charles Brown, Papal Nuncio. The attendance included Cardinals Brady and Connell, most of Ireland's bishops, 200 priests from Meath and Kildare & Leighlin dioceses, representatives of Religious Orders and Congregations as well as parish representatives and members of Bishop Nulty's family. Other christian churches were also represented.

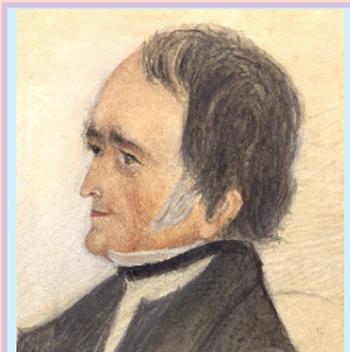


The two men who led the diocese of Kildare & Leighlin since June 2002 and who were very involved in our Bicentenary celebrations in 2008. Monsignor Brendan Byrne and Bishop Jim Moriarty pictured at the handover in April 2010 following Bishop Jim's retirement.

The opening procession was led by the banners of the parishes of Kildare & Leighlin with two bowls of flames accompanying the processional cross. The flames were lit from the Flame of Kildare and the Flame of Slane. The homily was delivered by Monsignor Brendan Byrne, former Parish Priest of Tullow, who has led the diocese for the past three and a half years since the retirement of Bishop Jim Moriarty.

Patrician Connection

There is a Patrician connection with Carlow Cathedral. The foundation stone was laid by Bishop James Doyle (J.K.L.) in 1828. It was



Bro. Serenus Kelly

designed by Thomas Cobden and was completed in 1833 at a cost of £9,000. In 1830 Bro. Serenus Kelly was sent by Bishop Doyle to England to collect money for the building of the Cathedral. This was his third fundraising journey as he had gone to England in 1824 and France in 1829 to collect money to build the new monastery in Tullow. He collected over £4,000 in all including a donation of 200 francs from King Charles X of France.

THE PARISH CELL SYSTEM

Cormac Commins

For the past few years some members of the religious congregations in Newbridge have been meeting once a month. There are four religious congregations in the parish – Dominican Fathers, Holy Family Sisters, Daughters of Mary & Joseph and the Patrician Brothers. There were no specific agenda items for these meetings; they were opportunities to discuss how we religious could contribute in practical ways to the life of the parish.

This being the *Year of Faith* the meetings began to dwell on how we could help to develop the parish as a faith community. This led to a discussion of the possibility of bringing the Parish Cell System to Newbridge. The parish cell system was set up in the eighties in Dublin and it has become a model for parish renewal in many parts of the country. Fr Michael Hurley, who has helped to set up the cell system in a number of parishes, addressed a gathering of religious and parishioners in Newbridge on 28th May. He was accompanied by a lady who told us of her experience of involvement with the cell movement over the past twenty three years.

There are normally four to twelve members in a cell and they meet every two weeks in the home of one of the group. A passage from scripture is read at each meeting and this provides subject matter for discussion and meditation. The people present review the past two weeks of their lives and reflect on how God was made present for them. They pray for the special intentions of the members of the group. According to the speakers at our Newbridge meeting people are initially shy about sharing their experiences but soon the barriers come down and moments of bonding occur.

The parish cell system is now established in over forty parishes in Ireland. There is no special way to establish the cell system in a parish. Very often it is just a “moment of grace”. Will one be set up in Newbridge? We will keep our readers informed.

PATRICIAN COLLEGE, FINGLAS

The work of bringing about the amalgamation of Patrician College, Finglas and Mater Christi Girls’ school by September 2014 continues. Because of falling numbers in both schools the amalgamation became necessary. The Steering Committee under the guidance of a facilitator, Tommy Lannigan, has held a number of meetings to ensure a smooth transition to the new school which will be located at Mater Christi.

The Le Cheile Trust and the Sisters of Charity (the Trustees of Mater Christi) will appoint an interim Board of Management in September and the new principal will be appointed in February 2014.

The proposed name for the new school is Colaiste na Croise Nua (New Cross College). The story behind the name is rather interesting. There is an old stone cross in St Canice’s graveyard in Finglas. It is called the Nethercross. The area around Finglas and Ballymun was once called the Barony of Nethercross. The Nethercross was carved out of granite to look like the cross of St Canice, the patron saint of Kilkenny and Finglas.

The Nethercross used to stand in the grounds of Finglas Abbey but it disappeared in the seventeenth century and it took almost two hundred years to find it again. During the Cromwellian invasion we are told that the people of Finglas were worried that Cromwell’s soldiers would destroy the Nethercross. So they took it down and buried it in a secret place.

The Nethercross was forgotten until the Reverend Robert Walsh came to the parish of Finglas in 1806. He had a keen interest in history and became aware of the existence of the Nethercross. He was determined to find it. His efforts were successful and he found the cross in 1816. The Nethercross was erected in the corner of the ancient graveyard of St Canice where it still stands today.

Apart from deciding on a name for the amalgamated school the Steering Committee will oversee the provision of specialist classrooms, toilets and the many other requirements when two schools amalgamate.

Some of the Brothers who taught in Finglas: Angelus, Cormac, Otteran, Fidelis, Bosco, Lucian, Dermot



The historic Nethercross





The Cuisle Cancer Support Centre

A Useful Retirement

Maurice Murphy spends his time supporting the Portlaoise Centre

Since his retirement Maurice has kept busy upskilling himself in the Arts and Crafts area. On Tuesdays he attends an Art Class studying portrait painting, on Thursdays he studies landscape and animal painting and on Fridays he attends wood carving classes dealing mostly with bog oak. He takes a table at various Craft Fairs and Sales of Work in the Laois area and sells paintings, lamp-stands and other crafted items. Whatever is realised from the sales is donated to the Cuisle Centre.

The Cuisle Centre was founded in 2004 and their Mission Statement is *“To provide a warm, safe and welcoming environment for people diagnosed with cancer and their families affected by it”*.

The attitude of the Centre to cancer is summed up in the following:

Cancer is so limited

*It cannot
cripple love,
shatter hope,
corrode faith,
destroy peace,
kill friendship,
suppress memories,
silence courage,
invade the soul,
steal eternal life,*

*It cannot conquer
the spirit.*



Some of Maurice's paintings.



A bog-oak fish



Preparing a picture frame



Maurice in the 1950's in Galway with Tommie Mannion and John Mulhern, two opera-loving friends who worked backstage with him on the Patrician Musical Society's productions.

Justin Madden Honoured in Galway



Justin is presented with a painting of the original Club jersey

To mark the 40th anniversary of its foundation former members of the Corrib Shamrocks Soccer Club organised a re-union in May of this year. Former members from Ireland and overseas gathered for this special occasion.

The idea for a re-union came about when the mother of a former player died. The player returned to Galway for his mother's funeral and many of his former team mates talked about having a re-union later in the year.

Naturally, the former players were anxious that the founder of the club, Bro Justin, would attend the re-union. Justin was delighted to attend and he explained

the reason for setting up the club in the first place. Many of the pupils in St Patrick's School in the early 1970s played soccer and Justin wanted to help them continue to play soccer after they left primary school. He was also aware that they would attend different secondary schools and they wished to stay together. The idea behind the name was simple: the river Corrib flowed by St Patrick's Primary School.

Over the years the club fielded teams at all levels from under eleven to under eighteen and they were all very successful. As evidence of Justin's important role in the club, it ceased to exist in the late 1980s after he transferred to Mountrath.



First ever Corrib Shamrocks team (Under 13)

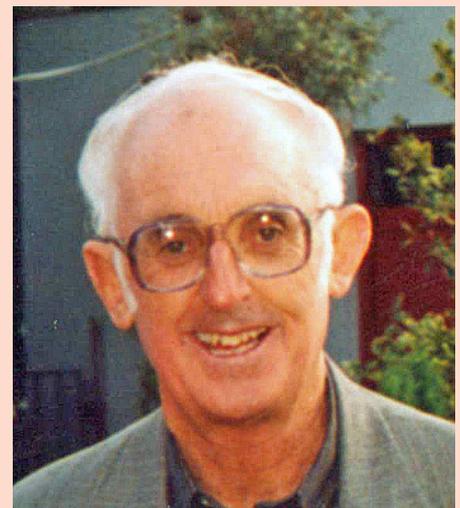
Diamond Jubilarians



Aengus Kavanagh



Gregory Fox



Marcellus Broderick

Since their profession in Tullow in 1953 Aengus, Gregory and Marcellus have given extraordinary service to their God, their Congregation and the people they worked with in places as far apart as Ireland, Australia, California, Kenya and Papua New Guinea. We congratulate and thank them with best wishes for health and happiness in the future.

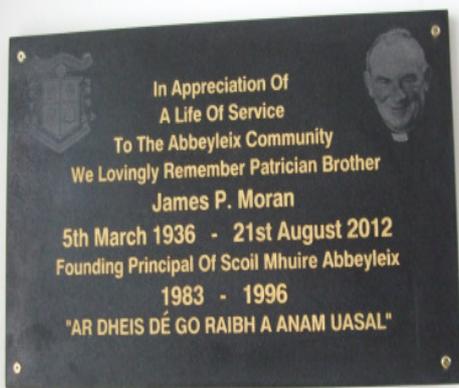
Tribute to Bro James Moran



Members of Bro. James's family at the tree planted in his honour

The Board of Management, Principal, teaching staff and pupils of Scoil Mhuire, Abbeyleix paid a special tribute to the late Bro James Moran on 24th June. Mass, attended by teachers, pupils and guests, was celebrated in the school hall by the parish priest, Fr Gerard Ahern. Afterwards a plaque in memory of Bro James was unveiled in the school and a tree was planted in the school grounds. Many tributes were paid to James for his thirty two years of ministry in Abbeyleix.

Scoil Mhuire is an amalgamation of the Patrician and Brigidine primary schools and James was very much involved in overseeing the amalgamation of the two schools. He was principal of Scoil Mhuire for a number of years and he was a very active member of



the Board of Management following his retirement from teaching.

Members of the Moran family and a number of Patricians were present for the event. Bro Nicholas Leahy, the local community leader, treated guests to a meal in Abbeyleix Golf Club afterwards.



Cormac with Fr. Ger Ahern P.P. following the unveiling

ERNAN BRITTON RETIRES



Ernan Britton

Ernan Britton, who has been principal of Patrician Secondary School, Fethard, for the past twenty three years, has retired. We thank Ernan for his many years of dedicated service at a time when there are increasing demands on school leaders with direct responsibility for the quality of educational delivery. We wish him a long and happy retirement.

A native of Dublin, Ernan arrived in Fethard in 1990 and was the first Principal of the newly amalgamated Patrician Presentation Secondary School. With youthful enthusiasm and energy, he oversaw the construction of the new two-storey building on the Patrician site and over the years led a number of building projects in the school. An innovative and creative leader, he also blended successfully the traditions of the Patrician and Presentation Congregations and helped to create the rich school ethos which exists today.

Many significant changes in the secondary education system took place during Ernan's time in Fethard. He excelled where interpersonal relationships were concerned and thus proved himself to be the ideal leader. He was understanding of both pupils and staff and faced the everyday school issues with integrity and fairness.

The Board of Management and staff had a special celebration for Ernan on 31st May. Present on the day were Ernan's wife Vicky, his sisters Teresa, Bridget and Claire, Fr. Tom Breen, Fr. Anthony McSweeney, Sr. Juliana Purcell, Patrician Brothers: Br. James, Br. Cormac, Br. Matthew, members of the Board of Management, officers of the Parents' Association, pupil representatives, retired staff members and present teaching and ancillary staff.

Tributes were paid to him by Fr. Tom Breen P.P., Br. Matthew Hayes, Chairperson of the Board of Management, Marian Gilpin, Retired Deputy Principal, Retired Teacher Ms. Mary Lysaght and Ms Mary Anne Fogarty, Deputy Principal.

A celebration evening for retiring principals and deputy principals from Le Cheile schools will be held on 31st August. It will commence with Mass at the Avila Retreat Centre and continue with a retirement dinner in the Hampton Hotel. It will be an opportunity to say thanks to Ernan and his retiring colleagues.

DOWN MEMORY LANE

*Mount St. Mary's, Delhi Cantt
Staff farewell to the first Principal, Bro. E. T. Dunne
Monday 27th January 1969*



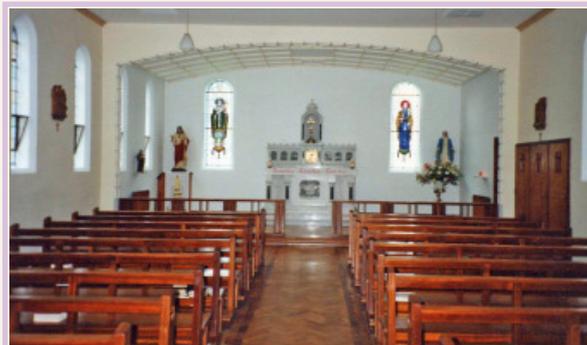
The Brothers in the picture are, seated left to right:
Joseph Carroll, Lucian Phelan, Bernard Byrne (New Principal), Timmie Dunne (Outgoing Principal), Ambrose Fitzpatrick, Sylvan Coffey



The stuffed birds in the Entrance Hall at Ballyfin



Part of the ruin of the old church in Mill Street, Tullow. This was the residence of the first Patrician Brothers.



The Chapel at Mount St. Joseph, now Mount Wolseley

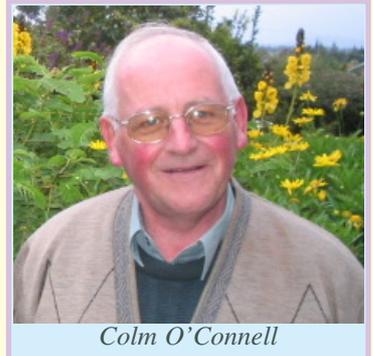
NEWSBITS



Paul Brennan

Two long-serving Brothers in the Kenya Region, Paul Brennan and Colm O'Connell, are due in Ireland for a welcome break towards the end of August. Both will be present at a special event in Newbridge when the many generous supporters of the Kenya Region will be invited to a special celebration.

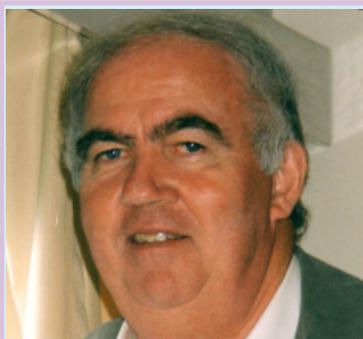
The event is being organised by Bro James O'Rourke and Michael O'Callaghan. Michael, a former teacher at Patrician Secondary School, Newbridge, acts as a liaison officer for us with



Colm O'Connell

government funding agencies. Through his efforts we have been able to provide funding for many projects in Kenya and he has visited Kenya on a number of occasions to oversee the projects.

We also take this opportunity to acknowledge the generous financial support which the Delany Foundation has provided for the Kenya Region.



Joe Carroll

Joe Carroll of the Indian Province is currently on a visit to his native Tipperary. He has taught in Bangkok for the past two years in a disadvantaged area of the city. He will return to Mussoorie following his break in Ireland. We wish Joe a happy re-union with family and friends.

We are glad to report that Bro Michael Broderick has made a very good recovery following his recent stroke. He spent some time in Naas hospital undergoing treatment. He was also obliged to re-sit his driving test which, we are happy to report, he passed with flying colours.



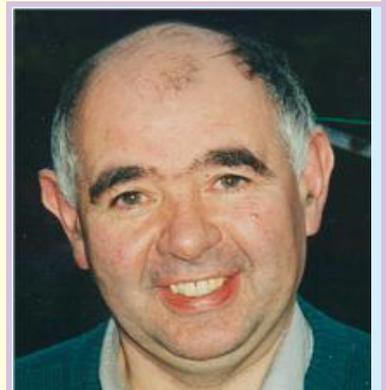
Michael Broderick

Bro Tom Grogan arrived in Newbridge on 4th July for a well-earned break. Unfortunately he has been hospitalised for the past couple of weeks where he has undergone several tests to discover the source of the problem. We hope and pray for a full recovery for Tom so that he can enjoy his break in Ireland.



Tom Grogan

Following his participation in the Lorica Programme and his visit to Papua New Guinea, Dermot expressed a wish to return to give whatever help he could in the PNG Region. He has now joined fellow Mountrath man, Tom Rice and the other Brothers. He intends remaining in the area for about three months.



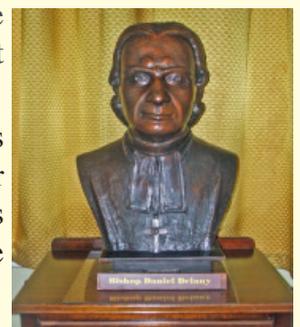
Dermot Dunne

Also on the move this summer is Patrick O'Neill who has gone to visit his brother in Sydney. He will return to Newbridge to continue his work in Scoil na Naomh Uilig in September. Pat spent some years working in Sydney and Thursday Island until that mission was closed some years ago.



Pat O'Neill

A recent visitor to Patrician Monastery, Newbridge was the newly appointed Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin, Denis Nulty. He called in after morning Mass in the parish church. He took a keen interest in the bust of one of his predecessors, Bishop Daniel Delany. He intends in the coming weeks to visit all the parishes in the diocese.



THE COFFEE BEAN

Cormac Commins



Cormac Commins

A young woman was finding life difficult. Everything was becoming a bit of a struggle and there were times when she felt like throwing in the towel. As soon as she had dealt with one problem another problem came her way. She called to her mother and outlined her difficulties.

Her mother listened to her daughter's story and brought the young woman into the kitchen. There she filled three small pots with water and placed them on the stove. Soon the water in the pots reach boiling point. The mother then placed a carrot in one pot. She put an egg into the second pot and some ground coffee beans into the third pot. After about fifteen minutes she took the pots from the stove. She took the carrot from the pot and placed it on a bowl. She did likewise with the egg. She ladled the coffee from the pot and poured it into a cup.

The mother then asked her daughter: "What do you see?"

The daughter replied that she could see a carrot, an egg and some coffee.

The mother then asked her to take the carrot in her hand. She did so and noted that the carrot had become soft. The mother then asked the daughter to take the egg and break it. After taking the shell from the egg the daughter was aware that she was looking at a hard-boiled egg. Finally she asked her to sip the coffee. The daughter liked the taste of the coffee. The daughter then asked what all this meant.

Her mother explained that the carrot, the egg and the coffee beans had faced the same adversity – the boiling water. But each had reacted in a different manner. The hard carrot had become soft, the fragile egg had become hard. Its thin outer shell had protected the soft interior. The mother then pointed out that the ground coffee beans were unique. When they were placed in the boiling water they changed the water.

She then asked her daughter which item she resembled. "When adversity knocks on your door how do you respond? Are you a carrot, an egg or coffee beans?"

Which one am I? Am I the carrot which is hard and strong but when confronted with adversity do I become soft? Am I the egg which has soft interior but which hardens when the heat comes on even though my shell may still look the same? Am I the coffee bean? The coffee changes the water. When the water gets hot it releases the flavour of the coffee. Will I strive to be like the coffee bean?

We must strive to be like the coffee bean. When difficulties arise and when trials come our way we need to change the situation around us.

FIRST PROFESSION IN KENYA



Bro. Jonathan pictured with his mother, sister and sister-in-law on his right and his brothers on his left.

Congratulations to Bro. Jonathan Ochieng Opala who made his First Profession recently in Eldoret. The ceremony, at Bishop Delany Memorial School, was witnessed by family, friends, the Brothers of the Kenya Region and members of the local christian community. The Eucharist was presided over by Fr. Sylvanus Wesonga, Parish Priest of Huruma. We wish Jonathan long life and happiness in the Patrician Family.