

IRELAND / KENYA

NEWSLETTER



Patrician Brothers



Spring 2017

EASTER THOUGHTS

The Irish poet, Seamus Heaney, who won the Nobel Prize for literature wrote a poem about the Aran Islands off the west coast of Ireland.

*The timeless waves, bright sifting, broken glass
Came dazzling around, into the rocks,
Came glinting, sifting from the Americas
To possess Aran. Or did Aran rush
To throw wide arms of rock around the tide
That yielded with an ebb, with a soft crash?
Did sea define the land or land the sea?
Each drew meaning from the waves' collision.
Sea broke on land to full identity.*

Heaney asks the question: 'Did sea define the land or land the sea?' It seems as if land and sea complement each other. Each is formed by contact with the other and takes on a new meaning.



One is reminded of Heaney's poem during the liturgical services of Holy Week and Easter. We have the crucifixion and the resurrection, the death and the glory, and we cannot have one without the other.

But it appears as if it took a long time for the gloom of the crucifixion to lift.

The scripture readings refer to the closed doors, the paralyzing fear, the empty nets, the lack of recognition on the road to Emmaus. All point to an end of dreams and a

shattering of hopes.

There is a fair amount of gloom around today. Church-related scandals, betrayal of trust by clergy and religious, falling vocations and a sometimes hostile media give little causes for optimism.

What are we to do? Like the disciples we walk with Jesus even though we won't always recognise him. We go back to the scriptures and find our own stories there. We will realise that there will always be tare among the wheat and we will have to wait till harvest time. In the meantime we pray with the disciples 'stay with us'. Then we can get back on the road and face Jerusalem.



Finglas News

Dermot Dunne



Finglas Church

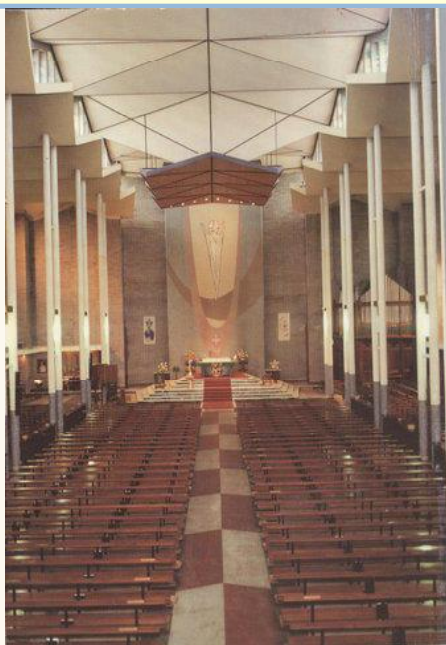
The Church of Annunciation Finglas West which has served as a landmark over the years is due to be demolished during the coming year. This is due to the bad state of the roof and the cost of repairing it. It is proposed to build a smaller more modern church to suit the requirement of the present day needs of the parish.

The church was opened in 1967. This was an exciting year in Finglas West as it was the same year that the Patricians opened their school in a prefab building. Mater Christi Girls secondary school opened in

prefab buildings and Colaiste Ide girls Vocational School also opened.

The first Patricians in the new school, which had been set up at the request of the then Archbishop of Dublin, John Charles McQuaid, were Angelus Moore and Cormac Commins. They set high standards which were followed by those who came after them.

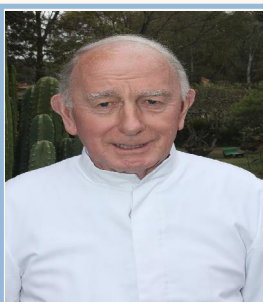
How times have changed-- Church far too big, Patrician College is now St. Pauls Special School, Mater Christi is now New Cross Secondary School (an amalgamation of Patrician College and Mater Christi) and Colaiste Ide is now a Third Level P.L.C. Institute formed by an amalgamation of Colaiste Ide and Colaiste Eoin Boys Vocational School.



Church Interior

Editor's Note: *Even though Patrician College no longer exists in its own right there is still a very strong Patrician presence in Finglas with Lucian and Dermot making a major contribution to the local community. Dermot teaches in a voluntary capacity in St. Paul's Special School while Lucian is very involved in Parish activities particularly with the St. Vincent de Paul Society.*

FIRST IN



Cormac Commins



Angelus Moore

LAST OUT



Dermot Dunne



Lucian Phelan

TOP MATHEMATICS AWARD FOR PATRICIAN TEACHER

A talented teacher at the Patrician Secondary School in Newbridge has been honoured with a top national award.

The Victor Graham Trophy was awarded to Breda Disney at the Irish Applied Mathematics Association at their national conference in December 2016. The trophy was presented in recognition of her work in the area of Applied Maths. This honour is bestowed annually by the IAMTA for outstanding dedication and work in the subject.

As well as her contribution at school level, Breda organises the Junior and Senior East Midlands quiz competitions each year. She has been secretary and is

now the treasurer of the IAMTA for a number of years. The award was presented by Dr. Maurice O'Reilly of the Institute of Numerical Computation and analysis at the national conference which took place in the Clayton Silver Spring Hotel Cork.

Last March, Patrician Secondary School Junior and Senior Applied maths teams were first and fourth in the national finals of their respective competitions. "It is a great honour for Breda and for the school. Many congratulations Breda from the whole school community," said principal, Pat O'Leary.



Breda Disney pictured with her award



Mount Wolseley

Mount Wolseley for sale again

Mount Wolseley Hotel and Country Club, Tullow, is for sale again. Patricians will remember it as Mount St. Joseph, our Juvenate, where all the present Irish Brothers began their Patrician journey. We sold it in 1994 for about 600,000 punts, just about two years before the boom time. The current price tag is €14,500,000. I don't think we will be buying it back!!

AN AGEING PROVINCE

Cormac Commins

I had a conversation recently with a parish worker who expressed serious concern about ageing priests. There is only one elderly priest in his parish and he is aware of another parish which has no priest.

The conversation made me reflect on our own ageing Province. Half of the 22 Brothers in the Province are over 80 years of age. But unlike the parishes mentioned above we have the Le Cheile Schools Trust to help in carrying out the increasingly complex legal and inspirational role of the Patron previously exercised by teaching congregations. The Trust is committed to the future of Catholic education and provides for the needs of students and communities in their schools. Thus, through the help of Le Cheile our schools will continue to carry out their mission.



BENEMERENTI MEDAL PRESENTATION

Cormac Commins



Camillus Regan

A significant Patrician event took place at the Church of the Most Holy Rosary, Tullow on Saturday, 25th February following the vigil Mass. Bro Camillus Regan was presented with a Benemerenti Medal by Bishop Denis Nulty, bishop of Kildare and Le ighlin .

The Benemerenti Medal is an honour awarded by the Pope to members of the clergy and the laity for their service to the Catholic Church. Originally established as an award to soldiers in the Papal Army, it was later extended to the clergy and the laity.

The current version of the Benemerenti Medal was designed by Pope Paul VI. The medal is a gold Greek cross depicting Jesus with his hand raised in blessing.



*Camillus with some members of his family at the celebrations.
Rosemary Murphy (Niece), Mary Regan (Sister-in-Law), Daniel Regan (Grand-Nephew),
Niall Regan and Michael Regan (Nephews)*

In his presentation speech Bishop Nulty paid tribute to Camillus for his work in the classroom and as school Principal in a number of Patrician primary schools in Ireland. He also made particular reference to the contribution which Camillus has made to Tullow parish as a member and at times secretary of the Parish Pastoral Council, his involvement with the

church choir and his preparation of the Mass leaflets and his work in looking after the parish collections and Tax Rebate . The bishop also referred to his involvement in the neighbouring parish of Ballon / Rathoe where for six years he was the producer of a variety show known at the time as -The John Player Tops of the Town- competing with groups from all over Ireland.

In more recent times Camillus has held the onerous position of secretary of the Catholic Primary Schools Management Association in the diocese during which time approximately 39,000 pieces of mail have passed through his office.

Following the presentation of the Benemerenti Medal there was a standing ovation from the large congregation of parishioners, fellow Patricians and members of the Regan family.

Patricians present were conscious of the fact that we were gathered at the burial place of our Founder, Daniel Delany. We offer our sincere congratulations to Camillus for the great honour conferred on him.



Receiving the medal and scroll from Bishop Nulty



With Gerry Reburn & Fergus Osborne

PAST PATS ANNUAL DINNER



L to R: Pat Kennedy, Kevin Brogan, John Conroy, William Carroll, Bro. Cormac, Bill Lynch, Denis Galvin, Peter Galvin, Pat Fitzpatrick, Tom Cuskelly

There is an annual get-together of former Patrician Brothers from the Irish Province. The group has come to be known as 'Past Pats' and the annual gathering is organised by Bill Lynch who was a member of the Congregation for a number of years. The group meets at some hotel where they enjoy a meal together and recall people and events from their time as Patricians. The above photograph was taken on 25th March at the Killeishin Hotel, Portlaoise.



Michael Broderick

Prayers Requested

Michael Broderick of the Newbridge Community is in Naas Hospital following a stroke. He awaits a transfer to Peamont Hospital for rehabilitation.

Nicholas Leahy, Abbeylax, is currently in Droimnín Nursing Home, Stradbally, for respite care following an illness.



Nicholas Leahy

Also remember Mary Carroll, Affiliate Member, and long-time friend of the Patricians many of whom she nursed when Matron of the Cheshire Home in Tullow. Mary is now in a Nursing Home in Killerig a short distance from Tullow.

Please remember them in your prayers.

KENYA REGION PROJECTS

Michael O'Callaghan

Michael O'Callaghan is our representative on Misean Cara, an NGO set up by the Irish Government to help fund worthy causes in developing countries. He visits Kenya on a regular basis and sources funding for many of the projects which are part of our Kenya Region. He gives this report on some of his work on our behalf.

Patrician Brothers Primary School is located in Jasho Farm, Kabongo Sub location in Waleng District, Uasin Gishu County. The Mission of the school is to provide quality education which will enable all pupils to be knowledgeable in all areas. The school focus is to assist children from needy families resume and access education, giving them hope for a brighter future. Brother Paul Brennan is the school Manager

The Dining Hall: Patrician Kabongo feed 325 children twice daily and also 95 of those on Saturday and Sunday. The Dining Hall was funded by **Misean Cara**. The Garda Siochana have helped build the dam to supply water to the school.

The Health Centre was built and is run by the Patrician Brothers and is attached to Kabongo Primary school. It caters for all residents of the greater Kabongo area, as well as the children of the school and is assisted by the Ministry of Health here in Kenya. The Patricians are applying to **Misean Cara** to reinstate the old borehole.



Water Harvesting at Kamagut

Kamagut Model Farm is situated in Kenya in the Uasin Gishu district of the Wareng Country Council and is about twenty Km from the large town of Eldoret. The objectives of the Rural Development Project in Kamagut are: water harvesting and sanitation, agriculture and livestock, adult education.

Br. Tom Grogan and Br. James O'Rourke with the support of Misean Cara have installed over 200 water harvesting tanks in the local schools, clinics and households. Because of the severe drought the Patricians are applying to **Misean Cara** for a borehole at Kamagut Farm.

Kosyn Polytechnic Institute: The Patricians and in particular Br. Paul Brennan have supported the setting up of this institute. They have received a grant of 80,000 euro from **Misean Cara** towards the construction of workshops for the institute.

Chebonet Primary School. Br. James Onunda; the Kenyan Regional Leader is the school principal. All the children at Chebonet Primary come from poor subsistent families. The nearest town is 6 km away along a muddy track and the nearest clinic is 10 km distant. Typhoid and amoeboid dysentery are rampant in the area. The treatment for typhoid is expensive. The children suffer constantly from skin infections and from stomach problems. In the school, every child has at least one illness. James Onunda with the support of grants from **Misean Cara** has overseen 3 major projects for the school: setting up of water harvesting tanks, the construction of a kitchen dining hall and an ablution centre.

St. Francis School for the deaf in Kitale was set up and is managed by the Sisters of St. Francis. Br. Placido Kaburu the Projects Manager has been working with the Patrician MDO to support the school. To date **Misean Cara** have given grants to dig a borehole, and build a workshop and dormitory for the school. The school now has four teachers, one social worker, one administrator, and 81 deaf children.

Mindililwo school for the severely mentally handicapped is a mixed boarding school with current enrolment of 60 boys and 50 girls. It is under



The Dining Hall in St. Francis School for the Deaf

sponsorship of Roman Catholic Mission (RCM). At the moment, James Onunda is seeking to support the school to increase its intake from a waiting list of 200 and we are applying to **Misean Cara** for a grant to build an ablution centre and classrooms.

There are 331 households in Limolo with an average family size of 5 making a population of approximately 1725. The land is hot and dry and was used for sisal farming. Because of climate change the land receives little rainfall and in 2017 they are having their longest drought.

The nearest source of water is a river 15 kilometres from the settlement. Women and young girls travel there daily to collect water for their households. A huge amount of energy is consumed and the girls miss schooling. Women have died from exhaustion on this journey. At the moment Br. James Nyongesa is applying to **Misean Cara** to set up water harvesting tanks in the region.

Previously Br Nyongesa set up an income generating business in the slums of Nairobi for the unemployed youth again with the support of **Misean Cara**.



The Car Wash Crew in Nairobi (with Irish visitors!)

Kwetu Home of Peace (KHP) is a charitable institution of the Catholic Arch Diocese of Nairobi. The Centre started in 1993 as a feeding program for street children. This led to the introduction of both rehabilitation and reintegration programs where children, not only came for food, but also stayed at the Centre where they could be fed, clothed, sheltered and undertake various rehabilitation programs and later be reintegrated back into the society. Br. Placido Kaburu is the Deputy Director of KHP and along with the support of **Misean Cara** has been instrumental in upgrading the home. He has built a clinic, a zero grazing unit, a dormitory and has recently upgraded the farm to provide food security for the home.



Placido with the Drip Irrigation scheme in Kwetu

Br. Placido has also been instrumental with a grant from **Misean Cara** in building a zero grazing unit for the **Mother Zanelli Home** which looks after preschool babies.



Group with the Irish Ambassador, Mr Vincent O'Neill



Dormitory at St. Francis School

BRO JAMES MURPHY RIP

Bro James Murphy passed to his eternal reward on 19th December 2016 just a few weeks short of his 92nd birthday. He was a native of Mallow, Co Cork and he had expressed the wish to be laid to rest in his native Mallow. We were happy to accede to his request and his brother, Fr Conor Murphy OMI, was the celebrant at his requiem Mass.

Like many Patricians, Bro James did his third level studies at University College Galway. Shortly after his graduation he transferred to California where he spent the next forty years. He worked in Patrician schools there as teacher and principal and he also found time to supervise students in extra-curricular activities such as tennis, baseball and basketball. He also spent a term as Province Leader when California was a Patrician Province.

Bro James returned to Ireland in 1992 and was appointed a member of the General Leadership team as bursar and Procurator General for eighteen years. During this time he was a member of the Parish Choir and the Tullow Singers. His other pastimes were walking and the odd game of golf.

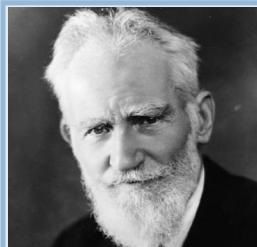
He was a man of many skills and excelled as a computer expert developing programmes for the management of the Tullow Parish collections and the Primary Schools in the Diocese of Kildare & Leighlin. He was the 'Go To' person for anyone who had problems with their computers and generously gave of his time to solve problems which had arisen. However, his expertise did not stop with his computer skills and he was adept at solving general maintenance problems being particularly interested in anything of an engineering nature.

James was a great family man and remained close to his brothers, sisters and extended family visiting them at regular intervals and participating in all family gatherings. This is why he expressed the wish to be buried in Mallow where some of his relatives still live.

For the twelve years prior to his death he was a member of the Newbridge community where his expertise was sought after and appreciated. He was a regular reader at Masses in the parish church and also devoted many hours to the choir in the local Dominican church, an activity which he thoroughly enjoyed.

James will be greatly missed by his Patrician Community, his family and his many friends in Newbridge and elsewhere.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dilis.



A life spent making mistakes is not only more honourable but more useful than a life spent doing nothing.
(George Bernard Shaw)



A Mystery in short is an invitation to the mind. For it means that there is an inexhaustible well of Truth from which the mind may drink and drink again in the certainty that the well will never run dry, that there will always be water for the mind's thirst. (Frank Sheed)



Although we are capable of great acts of kindness, history teaches us that we sometimes need saving from ourselves - from our recklessness or our greed. God sent into the world a unique person - neither a philosopher nor a general (important though they are) - but a Saviour, with the power to forgive. (Queen Elizabeth II)



One's only failure is failing to live up to one's own possibilities.
(Abraham Lincoln)