



## EUROPEAN PROVINCE UPDATES

Vol VI Issue 3, February 14, 2014

**GET WELL WISHES AND PRAYERS FOR all our Brothers who are currently ill, some of whom are in hospital at this time.**

*Prayers please for the repose of the soul of Paul (Godfrey) Gleeson, former Brother, who died on the 18th December 2013 in Blackpool.*

*John Donlon, brother of Br. Mel Donlon, who died on 4<sup>th</sup> February.*

*Br. Tom Earley, who passed away on 7<sup>th</sup> February in St. James' Hospital, Dublin*



### ***Request for Prayers***

Br Johnny Walsh, long term resident in the De La Salle Nursing Home in Castletown, Co Laois, asked that we convey to the Brothers his gratitude for their prayers for him and the other men in Nursing homes and asked that we continue to pray for him.

### ***Midleton CBS Past Pupils Union 1964 - 2014***

A celebration to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Midleton CBS Past Pupils Union took place on Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>.

Among the invited guests were Most Rev William Crean, Bishop of Cloyne; Br. Kevin Mullan and Cllr Niall O'Neill, Mayor of Midleton.

Mass was celebrated by Most Rev William Crean, at the Church of the Most Holy Rosary, Midleton. This was followed by a very enjoyable lunch at the Midleton Park Hotel.

### ***Date for your Diary***

The transfer of Province Leadership will take place in Emmaus on Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, commencing at 2pm. Further details and invitations will come during March.

### ***A Tribute to a Former Christian Brother***

I was among a number of Brothers who attended the funeral of a former Christian Brother, John (Joachim) O'Connor, before Christmas. One outstanding memory stays with me from that day in Prosperous, Co. Kildare – the beautiful, warm and intimate tribute which his eldest son, David, paid to him in a eulogy which he gave at the end of Mass. It was evident that John was a most loving and caring father to all of their five children - two girls and three boys. In David's words:

*He lived every day of his life for his loving family. He guided all his children throughout our lives. He protected us at every stage and above all was our best friend who listened without judging us. He was our friend and teacher always.*

John always valued the years he spent in the Brothers and was delighted to renew that contact over the intervening years. This affection was also shared by his wife Jane (nee Finlay), and it was heartening and refreshing to hear it being expressed so beautifully by David on behalf of the family. He said: *Faith meant so much to our father as he, himself a Christian Brother for several years teaching, guiding and enjoying every minute with his confreres, left everything in the hands of God.*

For me it was especially inspiring to hear that John, who had been a most dedicated and single-minded member of our Community in Monasterevin, where he spent most of his years in the Brothers had, together with his wife Jane, made such a success of the beautiful but very demanding vocation of parenting. It appears that for John both vocations flowed into and enriched each other, and that it was one continuous story of following the call of God.

He surely rests in peace with the Lord whom he served so well. *Ar dheis Dé go raibh sé*

*Seamus Gill*

***CBS Blarney Street, Cork*** presented Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> February. The proceeds of this event were for Zamba's Education Project – Sables in Kabwbe, Zambia.

