

## EUROPEAN PROVINCE UPDATES

Vol V Issue 20, November 29, 2013

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

We extend our sincerest sympathies to  
Br. Hugh McKinney on the death of his sister – Mrs. Bridie Uminski;  
Br. Denis McCrohan on the death of his sister – Mrs Mary Collins  
Br. Ollie Nolan on the death of his brother-in-law – Mr. Tommy McGovern

Please remember in your prayers Brothers who have relatives who are ill at the present time.

Please pray for Sr. Joan Murray who was due to attend the Parikrama programme but who had to call off as her brother had an accident resulting in a very serious injury.

Fr. Alec Reid, who played such a prominent part in the peace process in Northern Ireland and who has died, was a past pupil of Nenagh CBS.



**Deaths of Brothers Camillus Gavin and Matt Boyhan**  
Cam and Matt have gone to their eternal reward since our last Province Update. They were born within a year of each other, joined the CBs within a year of each other, went to the same school in Rochfort Bridge and died within one week of each other! Both Westmeath men, they shared some common characteristics, including being determined of character! Cam celebrated his seventieth anniversary as a Brother this year; Matt was due to celebrate his next year. Between them, they gave 139 years of service to the Congregation. We remember with gratefulness their sterling commitment to the vision of Edmund Rice. While Matt spent his life in the classroom in Ireland, Cam was Provincial for six years and then spent eight years in the Sudan. They were wonderful men and we know that the words of Daniel apply to them: 'They who instruct many in justice will shine like stars for all eternity.' [Daniel: 12,3] Ar dheis Dé go raibh a nanamacha uaisle.

### **South American Evening**

On Friday November 15th a group of brothers who have worked in the South American region, met with some friends in Dublin. The meeting was held in the house founded by Edmund Rice in North Richmond Street. There was an extraordinary atmosphere. John Burke was responsible for adorning the room and selecting the special menu: - an Argentine picada (salami, chorizo, cheese), then roast (Asado) with chimichurri sauce and dessert. You can imagine the volume of the conversation! Eddie McArdle presented a Power Point on the region as it is today and people freely commented accordingly. It really was a very cheerful gathering of brothers in true friendship.

**Back:** J. Burke, J. Minogue, B. Vaughan, J. Tynan; D. Fields, J. Darcy, P. Bowler, J. Ryan. **Middle:** G. Bowe, F. Foley, E. McArdle, M. Reddan, R. O'Donoghue, B. McAteer, G. Purcell. **Front:** M. O'Flaherty, D. Healy, K. Mullan, P. Nolan, D. Byrne, M. O'Catháin.



### **Smaoineamh – 'A Thought'** **Prayer of thanksgiving for the Earth (from the National Catholic Reporter)**

O amazing Creator, there is no end to the awe we feel in the face of your magnificent creation. Words cannot convey our gratitude for such an undeserved gift. We praise you for the beauty that stops us in our tracks wherever we turn. We revere you for the fecundity of creation that has spewed forth life and goodness for billions of years. We thank you for the multitude of ways that the natural world sustains and nourishes us in body and spirit. We are humbled that we are part of such a display of your glory. Our hearts overflow with love for You, revealed in the wonder of creation. May all the angels and saints join us in our song of gratitude, praising You forever and ever. Amen.

### ***Pleasant Function to honour Dr Ronnie Delany***

A pleasant function was hosted by the Community at Edmund Rice House, North Richmond Street, Dublin, on Thursday, 14 November 2013. It consisted of a celebratory luncheon in honour of a former pupil of O'Connell Schools (OCS), primary and junior secondary, Dr Ronnie Delany, the famous Gold Medal Winner of the 1500 Metres race at the Melbourne Olympic Games of 1956. Two years ago, Ronnie attended the opening at OCS of the Ronnie Delany Arena, an all-weather flood-lit facility which hosts many kinds of field games and athletics up to 10.00 pm most days, mainly for primary and secondary pupils of OCS, but also for neighbouring groups. It has proved to be a wonderful amenity.

Br Pat Madigan, Community Leader, in welcoming the 79-year-young Ronnie Delany, told him how proud the Brothers were of their famous past-pupil, not only for his athletic prowess but also for the general achievements of his life and his availability to boost all kinds of charitable and civic causes and events. The luncheon was also attended by the Mr Mossie Carroll, Chairman of the Board of management of the OCS Primary, a fellow classmate of Ronnie's; Mossie's wife Elizabeth; Mr Gerry Duffy, Principal, OCS Secondary; Mr Michael Kilbride, OCS Secondary Staff; Mr Patsy O'Keeffe, Principal, OCS Primary; Ms Siobhán O'Keeffe, Deputy Principal, OCS Primary. The entire Brothers' Community attended.

All the guests were presented with a copy of Desmond Kyne's Icon Book as a memento of their visit and Ronnie was presented with a cut-glass image of Blessed Edmund Rice, the Founder of OCS. In his reply, Dr Delany reminisced about his happy schooldays and about the character-moulding work of the Christian Brothers. Mr Mossie Carroll shared some schoolboy memories with the Honoured Guest. Br Séamus Nolan, who had attended school with one of Ronnie's brothers, also shared some contemporary memories. Mr Michael Kilbride outlined the genesis of the Arena idea and how supportive and approachable Ronnie had been during all approaches to him. OCS was truly proud of their famous past-pupil.

### **The Annual Edmund Rice Schools Conference 2013**

**Thursday /Friday 3rd and 4th October:** It was good to return to Emmaus in Swords, Dublin this year following a few years of staging the Conference in The Hayes Centre, Swanwick.

The theme of the two days was 'Living the Eight Essentials' which involved eight of the Edmund Rice Schools in England each taking one of the Essentials and saying how it was lived out in their particular school and how it was evidenced and evaluated. These presentations were informative and uplifting and left most of the delegates convinced that the ethos of Blessed Edmund Rice was alive in our school communities today. A few delegates, judging from the evaluation exercise, would have much preferred to have some of the 'great and good' talking to us about how the Eight essentials were lived out in our schools.

One area that I should have developed while in Ireland was to contact Edmund Rice outreach in and around Dublin in order to make the visit more tangible for the 43 delegates.

Other speakers came from both Edmund Rice International and Edmund Rice Development as well as Donal Leader and Wilf Hammond. The latter two speakers were paving the way for their intended visits to schools during November.

Subsequently I prepared a series of documents that went out to schools on a USB memory stick covering the eight presentations together with thoughts on the evaluation process in schools and the final reflection from Br. Martin.

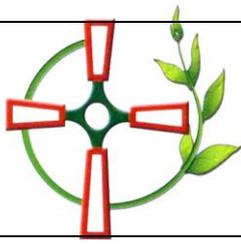
Again my thanks to members of the Province Leadership Team that supported the Conference by their welcome presence.

*David Kavanagh  
Schools Officer, England*

### **Advent Wreath Ceremony**



The attached page on the Advent Wreath Ceremony is taken from the Dublin Diocesan Website.



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### **UK NEWS**

Last week in England was a busy one. Kevin and Martin travelled to Manchester on Wednesday evening for a meeting with the Province Leader of the Spiritans, Fr. Philip Marsh and Kenneth Okoli, a member of the Province Leadership Team. The main topic on the agenda was the CHRISP, the joint project shared with the Spiritans. Br. Liam de Róiste has recently joined Ger O'Connell and it was gratifying to hear just how our contribution is making such a difference to both CHRISP and Revive. Liam will divide his time equally between CHRISP and Revive where Ger will continue with his responsibilities in both. Ger will shortly depart for Israel as part of a Spiritan exchange visit with asylum seeker groups in that country.

On Thursday Kevin, Eddy, Martin and George Gordon met with the four English Academies. It was encouraging to hear the good work that continues in each academy and how diligent they are in preserving the Edmund Rice tradition of the schools. The connection between the schools and other elements of the Edmund Rice Network is very evident and mutually rewarding.

On Friday Kevin, Eddy and Martin were joined by George Gordon and Eamonn O'Brien and Owen McCabe from L&P for a meeting of the UK Trustees. This was followed in the afternoon by the English Cluster meeting. At the end of the Cluster a presentation was made to Br Liam de Róiste marking his retirement from school ministry in Ireland over a long number of years. The new look Liam reacted to the presentation with his usually shy and slightly embarrassed smile.

### ***School Celebrations***

**Ardcoil Rís, Limerick**, celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its foundation in 1963 with a Gala Dinner and Ball at the Strand Hotel on Saturday, 16 November 2013. From small beginnings, the acorn planted in the converted coach house of the former Shelbourne House has blossomed into the mighty oak that is today one of Limerick's most successful Catholic secondary schools. Currently the school population is around 750 pupils. A whole series of celebrations are planned for the current academic year, including the official opening of the most recent state-of-the-art extension in March 2014 and

a book launch tracing the history of this Edmund Rice Schools Trust (ERST) foundation.

Five Christian Brothers have been principal: Br Paddy McGinnity (founding principal), Br Eunan Cotter, Br John Finnegan, Br Lar Reynolds, Br Jack Casey. Mr Michael Field, the first lay principal, was appointed in 1989, to be followed by Mr Liam Martin (Acting Principal) in 1996, when Michael Field was seconded as CEO of Bord na gCon. Mrs Bríd de Brún, the present principal, was appointed in 1998.

The main guest speaker on the night was Mr Pat Cox, one of the school's most famous past-pupils, former MEP and President of the European Parliament. He reminisced in grateful terms of his schooldays in the 1960s, and mentioned in particular Br Victor O'Brien who introduced him to the joys of the French language and to debating, useful skills for his European career. Mrs Mary Brick, Chairperson of the Board of Management, welcomed everybody to the gala occasion and stated how proud they all were of the school founded by the Christian Brothers in 1963. Mrs Bríd de Brún, Principal, stated what a privilege it was for her to promote the Edmund Rice ethos. She was particularly pleased with the school's involvement in Immersion to India and Africa, in *Encounter* Retreats, and in the school's recent successes not only in the academic field but on the playing field in back-to-back Dean Ryan and Harty Cup victories in Munster Colleges Hurling, in the Rice Cup and in Munster Junior Cup Rugby.

As a former Director of St Helen's Education Office, Br Pat Madigan congratulated the staff on their consistently high standard of educational achievement over the years. Members of the founding class of 1963 who attended were presented with complimentary Golden Jubilee Ties. Br Martin O'Flaherty represented the European Province Leadership team on this happy occasion. *Ad multos annos!*

### ***North Mon***

The annual past pupils' dinner was held in Cork on Friday November 22<sup>nd</sup>. By all accounts it was a lovely celebration, marked by an address from Eamonn Ryan, past pupil, and manager of the Cork Ladies Football team and Rob Heffernan who spent a year in the North Mon under the tutelage of John Dooley.

### ***CBC Cork***



President Michael D. Higgins visited CBC Cork to celebrate 125 years of the school on Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. He unveiled a sculpture in the shape of an arch in the school grounds. Looking through the arch one sees St. Finbarr's Cathedral looming in the skyline. All the pupils in the school, close to one thousand, were seated in the school hall. After some very high class musical and dramatic performances by the pupils, the President addressed the gathering. It was a wonderful celebration which will remain as a key memory for the present pupils when they look back in their latter years on their time in CBC. The Christian Brothers present were John Burke, Al O'Connor and Jim Donovan.

Later that afternoon, Bob Casey's wife was presented with a memorial plaque, incorporating the old congregation crest (which is also the CBC crest) and an image of Edmund Rice. Bob was a marvellous friend to CBC, from his days of being a star rugby player in his school days to being one of Phil O'Reilly's assistant coaches in the seventies, to being chair of the Board of the College for many years. Sadly, Bob passed away last Easter. May his gentle soul rest in eternal peace.

### ***Nenagh CBS***

Br. Kevin Mullan will represent the Province Leadership Team at the formal opening of an extension to the secondary school on Friday, November 29<sup>th</sup>. The current principal of the secondary school is Tony Slattery, past pupil of Cashel CBS (who hurled on the Tipp Minor winning All Ireland team in 1976). Tony is a great admirer of Vic Noonan RIP, Frank Malone RIP and Michael O'Grady (former teacher and hurling coach).

### ***Blarney Street Primary school***

This school is thriving and a new extension and refurbishment of the old building has just been completed.

### ***Congregation Chapter***

The presentation about the Congregation Chapter, prepared by Donal Leader, and used at the cluster meetings is available at the following link:

<http://vimeo.com/80187049>

### ***Centering Prayer Emmaus November 30<sup>th</sup>***

This day has been cancelled due to lack of demand

### ***Nano Nagle Celebration***

A wonderful Eucharistic celebration, led by Bishop John Buckley, was held in the South Chapel in Cork on November 21<sup>st</sup>. The South Chapel is located very near to the South Presentation Convent, where Nano began her first school. Brothers Donal Blake, Pat Madigan and Jim Donovan were present.