



THE NEW REDEMPTORIST LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Redemptorist newly elected team: from left to right- Dan Baragry (Provincial), Ciarán O'Callaghan (Vicar Provincial), Brendan Callanan, Gerry O'Connor, (Consultor), Brian Nolan and Patrick O'Keefe. *See page 2.*

NEW MEMBERS FOR THE REDEMPTORISTINES

Welcome new postulants Helen Freer and Shital Gonsalves. *Read a little of their story on page 6.*

REDEMPTORIST PROVINCIAL CHAPTER 2019

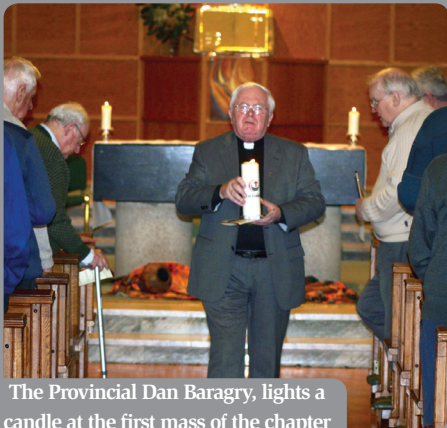
Dromantine conference centre, County Down, January 6–11, 2019

The Irish Redemptorists gathered for a week-long event known as a Provincial Chapter in January 2019. More than 60 members of the Province took part in the gathering, which is held every four years. The gathering took

place in Dromantine Retreat Centre. A chapter is a legislative and deliberative body which elects members of the provincial government and decides on policy and priorities for the next four years. Those gathered reflected on

the life and ministry of the last four years and set priorities for the years ahead. During that meeting the following Redemptorists were elected onto the leadership team of the Irish Redemptorists. Fr Dan Baragry CSsR

(Provincial), Fr Ciarán O’Callaghan (Vicar Provincial), Fr Gerry O’Connor CSsR (Consultor) Fr Patrick O’Keeffe CSsR. Fr Brendan Callanan CSsR and Fr Brian Nolan CSsR. We wish them every blessing and success.



The Provincial Dan Baragry, lights a candle at the first mass of the chapter



The chapel at Dromantine




The fathers and brothers gather at the assembly hall for the opening session



Dromantine Conference Centre



VERY REVEREND DR McCONVERY

Fr Brendan Mc Convery CSsR was conferred an honorary Doctorate in Theology in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the teaching and dissemination of theological scholarship, in addition to his service to the broader pastoral mission of the Church over the course of a long and distinguished career. Congratulations Fr Brendan! 



Archbishop Eamon Martin, Rev Dr Brendan McConvery CSsR and Fr Michael Mullaney, President of St Patrick’s College, Maynooth

NEW APPOINTMENTS



Fr Peter Burns has been appointed as Rector of Clonard Monastery



Fr Kevin Browne has been appointed as Parish Priest of St Gerard's Parish Belfast



Fr Noel Kehoe has been appointed as Rector and Parish Priest of St Joseph's Dundalk



Fr Brendan Callanan has been appointed as Rector of Esker, Athenry, Co Galway



Fr Adrian Egan has been appointed Community Coordinator and Parish Priest of The Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Ballyfermot.



Sarah Kenwright - Sarah has been appointed to the new role of Vocations and Service Coordinator. Her main tasks include preparation of promotional material, supporting vocations initiatives in the local communities and progressing the various programmes of the Vocation Service Commission. Sarah has worked previously in the province as a member of the Province Mission team as well as some time spent working in Clonard Monastery.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE



Fr Gerry Cassidy leaves the Parish of St Gerard's, Belfast after 11 years' service as Parish Priest. We thank Fr Gerry for his dedication. Fr Gerry will move to Clonard Monastery we wish him every blessing in his new ministry.



Fr Michael Cusack will leave St Joseph's, Dundalk after eight years as the Rector of the community. Fr Michael will take a sabbatical. Thank you for your commitment to the community and people of Dundalk.



Fr Brendan Callanan has served as Parish Priest of St Joseph's Parish Dundalk for the last four years. We thank Fr Brendan for his dedication to the parish community. We wish him every success as he takes up his new position as Rector in Esker, Co Galway.



Fr Brendan O'Rourke has served as Esker Rector for the last eight years. We thank him for his service to the community. Fr Brendan will take a sabbatical - may it be a time of renewal.



Fr Richard Delahunty has served as Parish Priest of Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Ballyfermot for the last eight years. We thank him for his service and witness to the parish. Richard is moving to St Joseph's in Dundalk.



The green, green grass of home



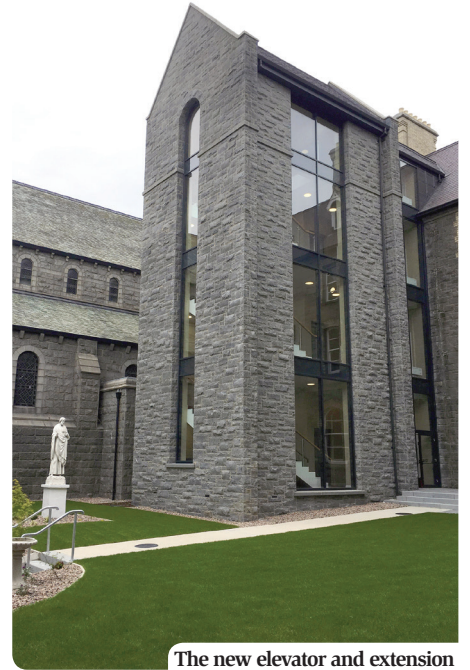
Seating area in the inner courtyard



After many months of anticipation, St Joseph's community returned to an impressive renovation and extension to their 19th century monastery.

Finally after a three year wait, the Redemptorist Community of St. Joseph's, Dundalk moved back to the refurbished monastery in mid December. It had been a long wait and while the Redemptorists concerned very much enjoyed the experience of living in the three houses in Carlinn Hall and getting to know so many new neighbours and friends, it was simply 'great to be back home!' The work is ongoing but the improvements in the living accommodation and ministry space is very evident and so much appreciated by

all. The refurbishment of the monastery was only one part of this major development. The site now includes a substantial 'new build' which is home to Redemptorist Communications, the Provincial Administration of the Dublin Province of the Redemptorist Congregation, a Province Archive, Church ministry space for Children's Liturgy and a wonderful new St. Gerard's Hall. The New Reception area and gift shop is the final part of the development which also included wonderful landscaping and expanded car parking.



The new elevator and extension



The ground corridor with new fire doors



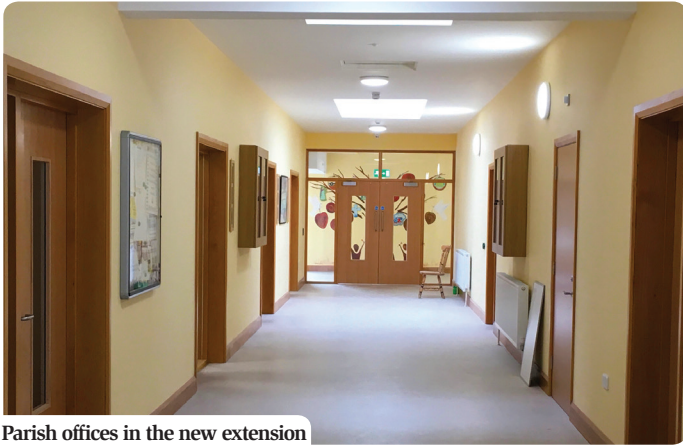
The new stairwell where the old elevator used to be



The back garden



The new reception area




Parish offices in the new extension



The new St Gerard's Hall

We'll meet again...

Fr Michael Cusack's Farewell Fundraiser, Dundalk, April 15 2019

How do you say goodbye to the people you have lived with and loved for a span of almost 20 years? This was the issue for Fr. Michael Cusack as he prepared to leave Dundalk. 'I want to celebrate the generosity of the wonderful people of this area...so let's have a farewell fundraiser and celebrate the best that is in each of us'. Supporting three local charities, the Dundalk Simon Community, the Birches Alzheimers Daycare Centre and the Maria Goretti Foundation, the packed out event held in the Carrickdale Hotel on Saturday April 13, was a phenomenal success and raised €30,000 for the charities. Thanks to all who gave so freely and generously. 



Fr Michael with the Hanlon Family of the Maria Goretti Foundation, Brian Gartland, Dundalk FC and Paul Brown, Fast Fix



A great night of music, raffles and auctions



REPORT FROM MOZAMBIQUE

By Gerry O'Connor

SERVE is an initiative of the Dublin Province of the Redemptorists. For the past sixteen years, it has been preparing and sending volunteers to assist in countries as diverse as South Africa, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Thailand, the Philippines, India, and Brazil. In all these places, SERVE supports initiatives that prepare young people for employment and self-employment and integrates life-skills training into all training programmes geared toward supporting the livelihood prospects of young people. SERVE has developed a strong partnership with an organization called Young Africa in Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

Irish Redemptorists, Frs John Bermingham and Brian Holmes, and until recently Fr Derek Ryan, work as members of an international group of Redemptorists in Mozambique. SERVE also supports a large water programme led by the Redemptorists in Mozambique and a programme for to help orphan and vulnerable children, called the Mavambo Trust, founded by the Redemptorists in Zimbabwe.

SERVE has worked in Beira, Mozambique for fourteen years, and has been instrumental, in building two Youth Skills Training Campus' that support almost 3,000 young people, giving them high quality education and vocational training.

One of the centres, Manga, is on the periphery of Beira city: the other, Dondo, is a rural campus in the Beira region. Both were badly damaged by Cyclone Idai which struck land early in March. It has been classified as one of the worst tropical cyclones on record to hit Africa and the Southern Hemisphere. It is estimated that it has cost the lives of more than 600 people in Mozambique and a further 400 in Zimbabwe. It also ruined more than 420,000 acres of crops. While it is impossible to estimate the total damage at this stage, it will probably be in the region of at least one billion dollars.

As soon as the cyclone hit, SERVE worked to establish a transport channel to deliver emergency supplies to Beira, Mozambique. Volunteers have succeeded in delivering food, water and medicines from Maputo to Beira, to the hundreds of people taking shelter at the Young Africa campuses, including Dondo, where there are were over 200 young people stranded, including over twenty with disabilities. SERVE is committed to supporting several hundred families who have lost homes, with emergency support, helping to rebuild their lives, and to try and rebuild the two campuses that SERVE helped build over the last 14 years. Updated information is available through the SERVE website www.serve.ie.

The roof of the hostel has been completely destroyed.



Administration building of Young Africa has been badly damaged.



The campus restaurant



THE NEW REDEMPTORISTINES

Helen Freer: I was baptised in the Church of England, but after leaving school, I did not attend church much. When my parents died, I took over the family business, a boarding kennels and cattery. One of my friends, a Catholic, mentioned that her local church broadcast Mass on line. I began watching occasionally and decided to investigate the Catholic faith. One day, I missed my usual Mass I found instead, that of the "Red Nuns" with evening prayer and adoration. In September 2015, I joined the Rite of Christian Initiation in my local Catholic Church and was received and confirmed on April 24, 2016. I made a short retreat at St Bueno's Retreat House in Wales. The following December, I noticed that the Red Nuns were advertising a monastic weekend. I felt at home the moment I arrived. During August and September, I returned for another week. A longer stay followed, during which I experienced both grief at the death of Sr Patrick and joy at the jubilee of Sr Perpetuo. I entered as a postulant on the December 28, 2018.

I am **Shital Gonsalves**, a 25-year-old Indian, from Mumbai. Although I grew up as Catholic, I suspected that I might have a vocation to the Redemptoristines, but the seed of a deep love for God and the Catholic faith were planted early in my life. I have been blessed with wonderful family, and I served as a Eucharist Minister, as well as being involved in other church and social activities. I considered entering an active order, but it seems God doesn't want this for me. While reflecting on my call to religious life, I heard an inner voice say, "I am calling you to be a praying instrument" which means a contemplative life which I felt an extraordinary powerful call. When I graduated from university, I attended a discernment retreat at the Jesuit Retreat House. This marked a definite turning point in my discernment. I have discovered his gentle call to put aside the world and follow him into discerning a life as a cloistered sister. I thought about the Poor Clares, the Carmelites and the Redemptoristines, and I felt most strongly called to the Redemptoristines.

SCHOOL RETREAT EXPERIENCE

By Brendan Dineen

Providing retreat experiences is a central part of Redemptorist Youth Ministry in Ireland. Each year our Youth Ministry teams engage with approximately ten thousand young people through retreats in schools, parishes and youth group setting across the country.

Redemptorist Youth Ministry teams are based in three dedicated centres in Clonard (Belfast), Esker (Galway) and Scala (Cork).

It is important to take time out from our day to day life to reflect and relax. It is even more important for young people who are at a crossroads in life to have this time away from the stresses and pressures of modern life to hear the Gospel message. A retreat provides the perfect opportunity to do this as a group.

At the heart of our Retreat programme is the creation of a welcoming, caring and safe environment that encourages participants to explore their faith. A variety of techniques and activities are used to provide an enjoyable and stimulating experience. These include large group activities, small discussion groups, role play, music, drama and Para-Liturgies.

Each of these activities is designed to encourage the participation of all students and to raise their self-esteem. The views and creativity of young people are valued and celebrated. Teamwork, leadership and communication skills are also developed. Every young person is included and valued. We explore a range of relevant life issues in an age appropriate manner such as social responsibility, transition, relationships and spirituality.

Over the last number of years our three teams have also developed a programme to reflect on the meaning of the Sacrament of Confirmation in preparation for the transition to post-primary school. This has proven to be a very successful and in-demand programme. Our teams aim to create a bespoke programme for each group we engage with.

Retreats can be conducted in our three dedicated Youth Ministry centres or at a suitable venue in your locality.

For more info contact:

Clonard: youthministry@clonard.com

Scala: info@scala.ie

Esker: eskeryouthministry@gmail.com



Redemptorist national youth ministry teams



Clonard team with Holy Child primary school



A confirmation retreat held in Clonard



The Clonard and Esker teams working together

GONE TO GOD



Sr Mary Perpetuo OSsR

Kathleen Cleary and her twin sister Ita were born on the July 17, 1928 in Ennis. After school, Kathleen moved to Dublin to work with Sony Music. She entered the Redemptoristines in 1957, taking the name of Sr Mary Perpetuo. She entered the monastery about ten years before the Second Vatican Council began to make its impact on religious life, and so the values, thinking and practices as lived by the community at that time were deeply imprinted on her. With her precise mind, Sr M. Perpetuo absorbed all the customs and spirituality as they were understood at the time. She remained faithful to them even during those twilight years when Alzheimer's disease began to make inexorable inroads into her mind. Her strong formation ensured that everything was carried out as perfectly as she could manage, her maxim was that only the best was good enough for God.

Her day was not 'busy' in the ordinary sense. There was little hustle and bustle or dashing around, but each moment of the day from 4.30 am was allocated to its task - Divine Office, prayer, work, meals and recreation with her sisters. All was cantered on the great monastic tradition of prayer and work.

During almost 62 years as a faithful Redemptoristine, Sr M. Perpetuo showed an outstanding dedication to the contemplative life. In her later years as sacristan, she was always the last to leave the Chapel - locking up, checking that everything was in order before some precious, silent moments with her God. In the intimacy of her relationship with God, she held all people constantly in her heart before God, pleading for his mercy and forgiveness, praising and thanking him for the gift of his saving love and in being through her constant transformation, a co-redeemer in and with Christ.

Sr Mary Perpetuo returned to God on the January 21, 2019



Fr Patrick Walsh CSsR

Fr Paddy was born on May 6, 1928 in Ballindangan, Mitchelstown, Co. Cork. He was professed on September 8, 1947 at St Josephs, Dundalk and ordained on November 26, 1955 in Bangalore, India.

Fr Paddy died on Saturday February 23, 2019, in the University Hospital, Limerick. At the time of his death, he was assigned to Mount St Alphonsus, Limerick.

As a seminarian in 1953, Fr Patrick was one of a group of students appointed to the fledging seminary of the Irish Redemptorist mission in India. He spent the next 42 years ministering in the sub-continent mostly in our parishes of Bangalore and Calcutta. For a period of time he was engaged in our formation programme as director of aspirants.

On returning to Ireland he was assigned to our community of Mount St Alphonsus, Limerick which was his community until his death. In 1999 he was appointed Director of the Holy Family Confraternity subsequently named Chaplain to the Confraternity in 2008 and he continued in this position until 2014. In this role, he continued the tradition of leading confraternity men on pilgrimage to Knock Shrine on Palm Sundays. This was in memory of the first ever organised pilgrimage to Knock, on Palm Sunday, 1880 led by the Limerick Holy Family Confraternity.

As a confrere and a priest Fr Patrick was a zealous Redemptorist and nothing was too much for him. He was noted for his smile and gentle manner and his desire to do what he could to help others.

Some would say he had a weakness, while others would consider it a godsend; this was his avid interest in the fortunes of Liverpool Football Club.



Fr Brian McGrath CSsR

Fr Brian was born on March 23, 1930 in Kilmallock, Co. Limerick. He was professed on September 8, 1947 at St Josephs, Dundalk, Co. Louth and ordained on May 26, 1956 in Bangalore, India.

Fr Brian died on March 30, 2019, in the Abbey nursing home, Blackrock, Dundalk. At the time of his death, he was assigned to St Josephs Monastery, Dundalk.

Shortly after his birth Fr Brian's family relocated to Youghal in Co. Cork where he spent the first 17 years of his life. In 1947, following secondary education in St Clements College in Limerick, he entered the Redemptorist novitiate in Dundalk. After profession, his studies continued in Cluain Mhuire in Galway until 1953. He then went to India to assist in the studentate and continue his studies there. Following his ordination, he became involved in preaching missions and retreats until he moved to Mumbai as headmaster of 'Our Lady of Perpetual Succour High School', a position he held until 1969.

On his return to Ireland Fr Brian spent 3 years in St. Clements Retreat House in Belfast moving on to Dublin where he was engaged in preaching parish missions. In 1975 he was appointed Rector of Clonard Monastery in Belfast. From 1978 to 1984 he was Rector of Mount St Alphonsus in Limerick where he oversaw the renovation of the church sanctuary. He was the administrator of St Josephs Parish Dundalk for 16 years followed by two years as chaplain to Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Drogheda. In 2002 he was assigned as curate in St Gerard's Parish in Belfast.

In 2008 he returned to Dundalk and spent time again as chaplain to Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital. He continued to work in the church and parlour apostolate of the community. During his last two years, Fr Brian had health challenges which eventually led to his move to the nursing home. An Irish confrere who lived in India with him said 'Brian was always ready with a smile, patient, sincere, humble...I could go on'.