

# EUROPEAN PROVINCE UPDATE

European Province Update No. 2

April 2017



## CHURCHFIELD PROJECT CORK

The Churchfield Project in Cork began in 1993, with Br. Seamus Gill, Br. Hugh Sweeney [Presentation] and Sr. Trinita Laffan [Presentation] as a collaborative project between the three Congregations. It will be celebrating 25 years in existence in 2018. To prepare for this celebration Br. Donal Blake has been commissioned to write a history of the project.

University College Cork (UCC) is currently conducting some research about the project. The research will have two elements, one will attempt to show the influence of the project on some former participants, and the other will attempt to document the founding vision and values and to explore whether the project is true to the original vision.



There was a very enjoyable event held on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at which those associated with the founding of the project were brought to visit the various sites in which the project is now working and to meet staff members (some of whom themselves are past participants in the project). It also provided an opportunity for the researchers from UCC to meet some of the people associated with the founding of the project.

## Province Spirituality Group

This year's event, entitled "Considering Good Friday – What does it mean today?" takes place in the Emmaus Centre on Good Friday (April 14<sup>th</sup>) from 10.00am to 3.00pm.

Book in advance by emailing : [jimfdonovanafc@gmail.com](mailto:jimfdonovanafc@gmail.com). The donation on the day is €10 and a simple lunch will be provided. All are welcome.

The Province Spirituality Group invited Deirdre Ní Chinnéide to lead a Lenten day of reflection in Callan on March 11<sup>th</sup>. There were close to forty present at the event, mostly Brothers, but with some former Brothers and local people from Callan. It was inspiring to notice the commitment and enthusiasm of a couple of ninety year olds who travelled a distance to be present on the day! The hospitality and commitment of the two Callan communities made the day possible.

A day was planned for Ballygriffin on April 1<sup>st</sup>, but it was cancelled due to lack of demand. It is hoped to organise an in-service day for the staff of the Churchfield Project in Cork in June.

## Farewell to Woodeaves



It was with sad and heavy hearts that the Brothers of Woodeaves gathered in the cold sunshine of a Manchester morning on Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup> to bid farewell to Gerry Bownes as he left for St Patrick's Cowper Care, Baldoyle.

Gerry's health has been slipping in recent months and it was on medical advice that Nurse Brenda decided that it was time for him to be cared for in a more structured way than could be expected in a community of ageing Brothers.

The night before the departure a past-pupil of the Brothers, Fr Tom Ryan, SMA came in to the house in Woodeaves to celebrate a Farewell Eucharist. Gerry's niece and family, who live in Manchester also came to the Mass and high tea afterwards and Gerry was finally prepared to return to his native land after 70 years on the 'English' Mission.

After the above photograph was taken we piled all the luggage into a taxi and moved gently away from the group of Brothers. They headed back inside the house for their lunch and the challenge of carrying on the game of life after one of their team members had left the field of play and Gerry allowed himself to be guided gently through security and boarding to board an Aer Lingus flight to Dublin.

But the hardest part was saying Goodbye to Gerry in the foyer of Baldoyle.

On Sunday morning Edmund met Gerry after Mass and the good news was that already he had begun to 'settle in' there. Please keep Gerry and all the Brothers on the English Mission in your prayers.



***Prayers please for the repose of the soul of***

***Br. Kevin Guing***, who died on 1st March 2017 in Cowper St. Patrick's Care Residence.

***Mrs. Elizabeth (Lily) Minnock***, Mother of Michael Minnock, former Principal of Synge Street Secondary School, who passed away in March.

***Br. William Macartan Skehan*** (Wally) who died on 14th March 2017 in Cowper St. Patrick's Care Residence.

***Mrs Grace Guinan***, mother of Mary Guinan, who died on 1st April.

***Agnes Graven***, sister of Mrs Eva Quinn the cook to the Brothers Community at Woodeaves, Hale Barns for over thirty years who passed away recently.

## Century Up!

On March 11<sup>th</sup> we anticipated the celebration of Corney Carey's Centenary Birthday by a couple of days in Miguel House, Castletown. The actual date of his birthday was March 17<sup>th</sup>, St Patrick's Day. In all there were just 100 participants in the Centenary Eucharist which included a large contingent of Corney's (Eric's) family, about twenty of our own Brothers and a full contingent of de la Salle Brothers and staff of Miguel House.

On the day Corney was all primed up and sitting like a king in his arm-chair. He was the centre of the attention of all the gathering and he revelled in the glow of the love with which he was surrounded, though I doubt he will remember much of what took place.

A sumptuous lunch was served in the foyer and visiting room of San Miguel's and later in the day some of Corney's relatives gathered for a sing-song. Corney reacts to singing and often joins in with snatches of his own.

Now there is a proud certificate of achievement for attaining the Century framed and hanging on the wall of Corney's room and it is a prized exhibit for all visitors to be shown.

We thank Bro David and all the Brothers in Miguel House for their unfailing care and attention they give to our Brothers (Johnny and Pat) as well as Corney.



## **ACCESS Survivors of Torture Programme**

The ACCESS Survivors of Torture Programme is an online course/ information guide for people who may be interested in working with/ befriending asylum seekers or refugees, who may be survivors of torture.

The course covers four basic areas:

1. Epidemiology of torture;
2. Psychological impact of torture, i.e. related trauma;
3. Cultural Competency and the Asylum process in Ireland;
4. How to work with interpreters.

The course offers links to videos and additional reading for those who would like a more comprehensive view. Information on appropriate services and the referral process will also be provided at the end of the course.

Outline of Educational Content:

### **Module One: Torture and Recognising Torture**

- Ø Learn about the extent of torture
- Ø Learn how to recognise physical signs of torture
- Ø Learn how to approach a client who is a survivor of torture
- Ø Learn about vicarious trauma and the importance of self-care

### **Module Two: Psychological Impact of Torture**

- Ø Learn about trauma and the impact of trauma on memory
- Ø Learn about dissociation and PTSD as a consequence of torture
- Ø Learn about how rape and sexual violence impacts upon women
- Ø Learn about Female Genital Mutilation and how it relates to torture

### **Module Three: Cultural Competency and the Asylum Process in Ireland**

- Ø Learn about the importance of being culturally aware
- Ø Learn about the effect culture might have on seeking medical help
- Ø Understand the asylum process in Ireland
- Ø Learn about why the client may need to seek asylum

### **Module Four: Working with Interpreters**

- Ø Learn how to work effectively with an interpreter
- Ø Learn how best to decide what type of interpreting is necessary
- Ø Learn how to manage your interpreting needs
- Ø Learn how to work with an interpreter in a mental health setting

This course has been set up by SPIRASI which is an initiative of the Spiritans. The cost of the on-line course is €100 (there is a group rate of €70 per person). Br Jim Donovan has kindly offered to act as co-ordinator for applications.

Further information available from Jim at [jimfdonovanfc@gmail.com](mailto:jimfdonovanfc@gmail.com)

## School News

The Edmund Rice Schools Trust [ERST] organised their annual gathering for Student Councils in the Red Cow hotel on Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. The theme for the day was mental health/wellness. A student spoke of a talk in his school about mental health. After the talk, one of the students acknowledged that he had been suffering for a year with mental health problems. "I was that student", he said. A profound silence descended on the gathering as we listened to his story of having suffered with depression. He went on to emphasise how important it is to have a friend, someone to ask, 'How did your day go? How are things in your family?' If nothing else happened on the day, this was a moment that made it all worthwhile.

The confidence and the creativity of the students who presented about the activities in their schools made a real impression, very concrete evidence that marvellous things are happening in the schools.

It was lovely to meet Brendan Harrington, the newly appointed principal of the new ERST school in Dublin 15[Castleknock], which will open its doors to its first cohort of pupils in September of this year. Ferdia Kelly, well known in our network, is chair of the board of management of the new school. Even though no site has yet been identified, both Brendan and Ferdia are full of enthusiasm!

Recently, I went to see the new Edmund Rice College in Carrigaline, Co. Cork, which opened its doors to first year pupils last September. They have a magnificent new building due to be completed before the summer. The Carrigaline and Castleknock schools are the first schools to be opened by ERST as trustees.



Br. Kephas, Br. Tatenda, and Joe Ryan, Wexford CBS at the Student Council meeting.

Kephas, who is based in Mazabuka, Zambia and Tatenda, who is a member of one of the new communities in the Western Province, Zambia, were on a visit to Ireland, organised by Edmund Rice Development. They visited a number of schools raising awareness about the situation in their own country. Joe Ryan will be accompanying a group of students from Wexford CBS to Kabwe in Zambia in the near future.

Jim Donovan

*A very happy Easter  
and season's greetings  
from Brothers and  
Staff at the Province  
Centre*