

GLOWING EMBERS

Issue No. 11



Spiritan Heritage & Archives Centre

May 2021

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Dear Editor...

It is only six months since *Glowing Embers* lost its editor, Fr Brian O'Toole, who died so unexpectedly on 1 November 2020. Although much too short; his was a life well lived! He was a determined, forward looking, collaborative, goal-oriented and caring person who loved life.

It was a privilege to have been a part of Brian's life. His enthusiasm for the next big project, or small task, was infectious, and a huge component of his and the Heritage & Archive Centre's success.

Energy, commitment, integrity and laughter are all words that begin to capture our image of Brian. He was one of a kind. A caring and beloved son and brother, a cherished colleague, a scholar and friend – he will be missed by many, but never forgotten by those who were fortunate enough to have known and worked alongside him.

When Brian launched *Glowing Embers*, in June 2015, he hoped it would act as a window into the work of the centre and would feature some aspects of research and scholarship in progress. He envisioned 'using the past to create the future' and he chose the icon of this publication's title as a symbol of renewal evoking 'griosach' in the old Irish tradition. As the publication gathered momentum he often used his editorial contribution to further promote the value and work of the archives. This often involved challenging the reader and reminding them that archives are sentinels looking out for those recurring traces of the Holy Spirit, who is active in the world guiding and directing the Spiritan mission.

We dedicate this edition to his memory.

Margaret Bluett, Dolorés Stewart and Séamus Maguire



Fr Brian O'Toole

A Recent Find in Our Archive

Mountjoy Prison
 base via Claric.
 December 8, 1922
 4.30. A.M.

Dear John and Mrs. Hearn:

The time draws short. An hour ago I was informed that I was to be shot at eight o'clock this morning - as a reprisal. Well I shall die for Ireland - for the Republic; for that glorious cause that has been sanctified by the blood of countless martyrs throughout the ages; the cause of Human Liberty. The Republic stands for truth and honor - for all that is noblest in our race. By Truth and Honor - by principle and sacrifice alone will Ireland be free. That this is so - that this is immutable - I am prepared to stake all my hopes of the hereafter.

Ireland must tread the path our Redeemer trod. She may shrink, as indeed she has shrunk - "Put away this Charlie" - but her faltering feet will find the road again, as indeed she is already finding it. For that road is plain and broad and straight; its signposts are unmistakable. It is the road on which Wolfe Tone, and Emmet, and Mitchell, and the Fenians, and Tom Clarke, Pearse, Connolly, Kevin Barry, Jerry MacSweeney and Childers were the guides.

I have no regrets, for the future of Ireland is assured. The Republic is assured and

before long all Irishmen, including those now unhappily in arms against the Republic, will be united again in Imperialist England - the common enemy of Ireland and of the world.

To you and Mary I send my love. I know your prayers will be offered for me, though, with the old Catholics I share the belief that those who die for Ireland "have no need of prayers".

God bless you all.

With affectionate regards,
 Liam O'Maolliopa.
 Liam Mellows.

To John J. and Mrs. Hearn,
 9 High Street,
 Westfield, Massachusetts, U.S.A.

Liam Mellows Letter

As the cycle of national commemorations inaugurated to mark the centenary of the Irish Revolution and the establishment of the Irish state proceeds, it may interest some of the confrères to know that a recent discovery in our archive at Kimmage Manor links us to what is probably the most problematic and divisive of these historical events - the Irish Civil War.

A letter was found by our now deceased manager Fr Brian O'Toole C.S.Sp. which indirectly connects us to one of the most poignant events of the Civil War i.e. the execution as a reprisal of four republican prisoners in Mountjoy Jail on the feast of the Immaculate Conception, 8 December 1922. This

letter was written by Liam Mellows a few hours before his execution on that fateful day. Mellows had been a leading figure during the struggle for national independence. He had been successively a dynamic organiser of Na Fianna Eireann and the Irish Volunteers. He had led the Easter Rising in the Galway area in 1916 and had been imprisoned in Ireland, Britain and America. He had also been elected to Westminster in 1918 as a Sinn Féin M.P. and was returned as a T.D. to the First and Second Dáil Éireann. During the War of Independence he undertook, in collaboration with Eamonn De Valera, fund raising activities in the United States. On his return to Ireland in 1920 he served with the H.Q. staff of Óglaigh na hÉireann and had

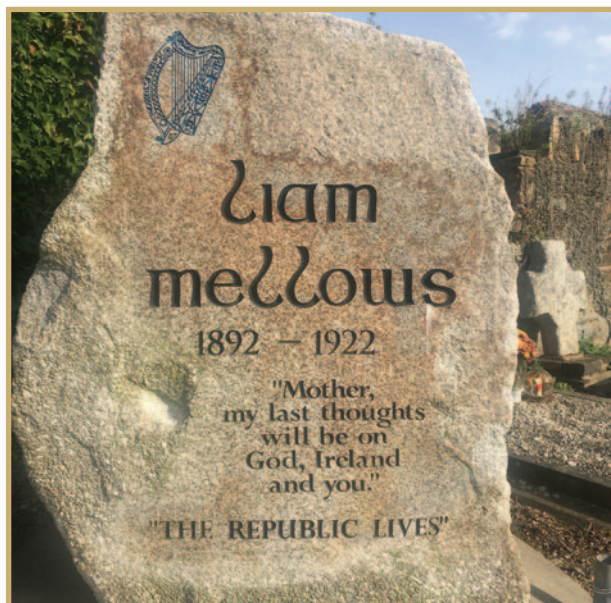
responsibility for procuring equipment for the fighting forces. However in due course he became an implacable opponent of the Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921 which set him on a collision course with the Provisional Government. This culminated in his participation with other republican hard liners in the occupation of the Four Courts complex in Dublin in April 1922. He was subsequently arrested there at the end of June following a two day battle with the National Army and along with the other survivors of the republican garrison was incarcerated in Mountjoy Prison.

On the 7 December 1922 the Pro Treaty TD, Seán Hales, was assassinated in Dublin by republican forces in retaliation for



Liam Mellows Grave

the summary execution of republican prisoners by the Provisional Government. This led directly to the reprisal execution by the Free State authorities of Richard Barret, Rory O'Connor, Joe McKelvey and Liam Mellows the following day. The letter alluded to above was written by Mellows at 4.30 am that morning to his friends Mr and Mrs John Hearn in Westfield, Massachusetts, U.S.A. In it he states that: 'The time draws short. An hour ago I was informed that I was to be shot at eight o'clock... Well I shall die for the Republic... Ireland must tread the path our Redeemer trod... her faltering feet will find the road again, as indeed she is already finding it...The Republic is assured'. When he was being led from his cell to the prison yard for execution he asked the chaplain if he was to be denied the sacraments because he was a republican (there had been rumours of a writ of excommunication being issued against them). Even if this existed the chaplain blithely ignored it and heard his last confession before giving him Holy Communion. This



Liam Mellows Memorial Stone

delayed his botched execution until 9 am which was only completed after the firing squad fired a second volley.

Mellows body was not released by the authorities for nearly two years and it was only then that his dying wish was acceded to when he was interred in his family plot in Castletown Cemetery, Co Wexford. There is now a commemoration held every year at his graveside and our current Taoiseach Micheál Martin unveiled a new gravestone there in his honour in 2016.

Corrections and Additions

- It is a great service to us when we are informed of any inaccuracies in our productions and publications. Please don't hesitate to contact us in this regard. This is how we learn and improve our collections.

Glowing Embers, Issue No. 10

Missionaries Hiring Trains

- We have had two updates on the infamous 'hiring of a train' story. Fr Paddy Dundon, Blackrock College, confirms that Fr Richard Harnett recounted the story to him and 'there was a train'. This version concludes that the train could not have come from Dublin as stated in 'The Life of Bishop Shanahan', but was a back-up locomotive stationed at Limerick Junction.
- We were also contacted by Caroline Mullins who worked with Fr Sean Farragher on his book about Bishop Shanahan. At the time she made contact with the Irish Railway Records Society to see if the operating superintendent's file of the day could be checked. However the story was never confirmed and as it was summed up in the previous article - these stories are grist to the archivist's mill. It is worth following up again with the Records Society and we will report back on their findings.

The Catalogue of the archive of ‘The Doheny Brothers’, Fr. Michael and Fr. Kevin



‘THE HOME PLACE’: Doheny family home, Ballinalacken, Ballinakill, Co. Laois

Always prepared and ahead of any upcoming publication, these introductory notes were found with Fr Brian O’Toole’s working papers in St. Mary’s College, Rathmines.

I am honoured to announce the documentation work of the collection of files, papers and photographs of the Doheny Brothers; Fr Michael and Fr Kevin. This collection consists of a varied body of items: letters, reports, surveys, maps, country profiles and

miscellaneous photographic material.

The catalogue of 1000s of items is an accurate representation of the original archival material. Of course this catalogue has been made possible by Frs Michael and Kevin Doheny both prolific letter writers, note takers and record keepers. For

their meticulous preservation of materials we owe them a huge debt. The photographic collection was enhanced by donations from Mrs Peggy Corr (a Doheny cousin), Mr Paul Fairbrook (University of Pacific, California) and Firoda Communications.

Although the catalogue is a technical work it reads like an adventure and travelogue; it is a page turner. It tells the story of two exceptional Spiritans who were deeply rooted in their local home place of Ballinalackin, Co Laois. Notwithstanding this they strode onto the world stage to service the needs of poor and abandoned people. These pages are replete with the mention of family, friends and the lasting relationships they developed with former students in Nigeria and Kimmage.

A cursory survey of the catalogue reveals the indomitable energy and enthusiasm of Frs Michael and Kevin Doheny in their efforts to:

- Approach those in positions of authority in church and state and remind them of their responsibilities to the poor.



‘A DAY HUNTING’:
Growing up in Ballinalacken –
Michael Doheny with a friend
standing in front of the
family home.



‘AFTER ORDINATION’:
Fr Michael Doheny C.S.Sp.
[c. 1944].



‘SPECIAL OCCASION’:
 Sr Maurie Doheny,
 Fr Kevin Doheny
 C.S.Sp. and
 Bishop Joseph
 Whelan C.S.Sp.
 about to eat a
 meal together in
 the Doheny family
 home [c. 1970s].

- Empower volunteers of all ages and of every belief and nation to come together and be the hands needed to lift burdens in difficult situations.
- Facilitate inter-congregational and inter-faith groups to join together and solve the problems of hunger, poverty and deprivation.

While this catalogue is the work of the H&A Team it was created under the careful and methodical supervision of Mr Séamus Maguire. From inception to completion Séamus was our guide and catalyst.

It is a rich treasury of hindsight and forethought; it can be enjoyed by both the academic researcher and the casual reader.

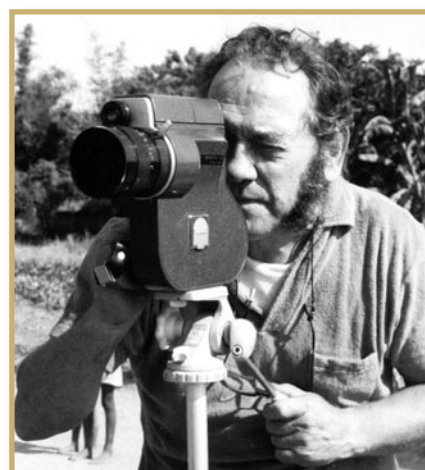


‘MOTHER TERESA’:
 Mother Teresa and Fr Kevin Doheny meet Pope John Paul II in Rome.



‘ABOUT TO LEAVE’:
 Fr Kevin Doheny C.S.Sp.
 surprised by the photographer
 with brother Fr Michael Doheny
 C.S.Sp. standing out of shot
 behind him [c. 1970s].

‘ON LOCATION’:
 Fr Michael Doheny C.S.Sp.
 became a skilled film
 maker who established
 the company *Firoda Films*
 to promote fund raising
 endeavours for those
 most in need around the
 world [c. 1970s].





‘AN AVERAGE DAY’:
A grim faced Fr Michael Doheny C.S.Sp. poses for a photograph with an emaciated young Bangladeshi boy at Salt Lake Camp, India [c. 1971].



‘Relief’:
Fr Michael Doheny C.S.Sp. surrounded by children at a Concern Feeding Centre in Karamoja, Uganda [c. March 1981].



‘CHRISTMAS’:
Fr Michael Doheny C.S.Sp., Concern Worldwide acting as Santa Claus to a group of children accompanied by their mothers in Bangladesh [c. 1971-73].



‘A LIGHTER MOMENT’:
Mother Teresa enjoys a joke with Cardinal William Conway, Monsignor Tomás O Fiaich and Fr Michael Doheny C.S.Sp. at her convent in Calcutta, India [c. 1973].



‘DINNER TIME’:
Fr Michael Doheny C.S.Sp. looks on as a young Kampuchean refugee girl and her mother eat a meal, Thailand [c. 1980].

The Doheny Brother Collection



'WAR ZONE':

Fr Kevin Doheny C.S.Sp. surrounded by children carrying eating utensils looks into a large bomb crater in Okpala, Biafra, Nigeria [c. 1967-70].

The story of the Doheny brothers Michael (b.1915) and Kevin (b.1925) who came from a rural farming background in Ballinakill on the borders of Co Laois / Kilkenny is one of mission and devotion to the downtrodden around the globe. It began with the ordination of Michael Doheny into the Holy Ghost Congregation in 1944. There followed an illustrious ecclesiastical career which involved a stint as a missionary in Nigeria, a period of further study in Rome and his recall to Ireland in 1959 to take up the position of director of the House of Theology at the Missionary College in Kimmage Manor. He also became a professor of canon law and moral theology. In the meantime his younger brother Kevin was ordained in 1953 and was sent to Nigeria. There their paths converged and became inextricably linked due to the outbreak of the Biafra War in 1967. This occurred when Kevin opted to remain in Nigeria and made the

transition from missionary to aid worker to assist the starving inside the Biafra enclave. In Ireland a new organisation called (Africa) Concern was established to raise funds to provide food and medical aid to Biafra. At the forefront of this new organisation were members of the Spiritan Congregation: Fr Raymond Kennedy, and Fr Michael Doheny. Others such as Fr Tony Byrne and Fr Dermot Doran in collaboration with Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and Joint Church Aid (JCA) facilitated the airlift of supplies to Biafra. Frs Jack and Aengus Finucane and many more received and distributed this aid to the stricken areas. During the course of the war the Dohenys made some important contacts with Frederick Forsyth, Group Captain Leonard Cheshire, Sue Ryder, Winston Churchill Jnr., M.P., Dr Davida Coady (UCLA) and United States Senator Edward Kennedy.

When the war ended in 1970 the remaining Irish Spiritan missionaries including Bishop Joseph Whelan were expelled. However Michael continued to be involved with Concern and subsequently responded to the refugee crisis of 1971-72 caused by the Bangladesh War of Independence thereby becoming Concern's field representative in the (Caritas) Salt Lake Refugee Camp in India. There he made contact with Mother Teresa before moving to Bangladesh. In Dacca he helped establish the Food Services Institute in collaboration with Paul Fairbrook (California). He also helped beleaguered minorities there such as the Maldhai and Bihari communities. He believed that this was 'the ultimate witness to the ideals which inspire us ... because ... if we fail the minorities we fail ourselves'. In Bangladesh Michael experienced: 'A rediscovery and a renewal of his vocation as a minister and apostle of the Lord ...

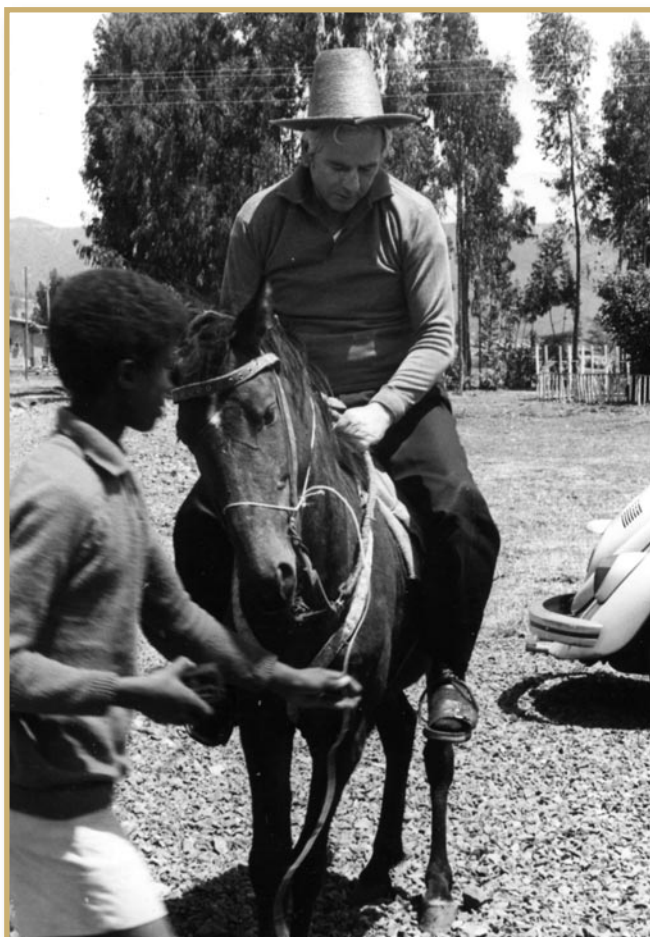


'CONSULTATION':

Fr Michael Doheny C.S.Sp. offers his advice to his brother Fr Kevin Doheny C.S.Sp., Catholic Secretariat, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia early 1970s.

in his new role there he had been reborn... the organisation, the country and the people have been endlessly spiritually and culturally rewarding ... a place he truly belongs'.

Meanwhile Kevin studied Social Development in Wales and was subsequently appointed to the Catholic Secretariat in Ethiopia in 1972. While there he established the Christian Relief and Development Association to coordinate development efforts by the various churches and assisted the Concern team who arrived in 1973 to combat the emergence of famine. The Cheshire Foundation also appointed him their organising secretary for Africa and in this role he helped promote the interests of the disabled worldwide and established many homes on the African continent. In 1979 at the invitation of the Bishop's Conference of Zambia Kevin moved to that country where he served as the Refugee Officer of the German NGO Misereor. That same year he travelled home for Christmas 'for the first time in twenty years' proving the maxim



**'MOUNT UP':
Fr Kevin Doheny
C.S.Sp. astride a
pony assisted by a
youth, Ethiopia,
early 1970s.**



'TOURIST SNAP':

Fr Kevin Doheny C.S.Sp. poses for a group photo with three african visitors in front of the Taj Majal, Agra, Uttar Pradesh, India.

48 hour pre-Christmas fast in Dublin became an annual feature of his work before his return to base in Bangladesh. He understood the importance of publicity and even wrote a play: *Aer Turas to the rescue or Concern bails out the United Nations* (1972). Michael also began to make short documentary films about the work of Concern and the activities of his brother Kevin. He established the company, Firoda Communications, to distribute his productions. He made over twenty films between 1972-86, some of which had cinema premieres and were widely shown on television networks in the developed world. In fact some of the footage he shot in Ethiopia in 1984 predated and inspired the longer film made by the BBC about the effects of famine there which elicited such a dramatic international response.

The brothers by this point had gained legendary status among aid workers and NGOs in the developing world and became the subject that same year of an Eamon Andrews: *This is your life* television programme about their life and work. It was itself a resounding success. Both continued their aid work throughout the 1980s which included a filming expedition to Zambia in 1986 for 'Year of Shelter for All' with their older brother Tom.

that 'a missionaries life is not his own as he has to share it with others'.

In 1980 Michael became Concern PRO in the Thai border areas receiving Kampuchean refugees from Cambodia. The following year he joined the Concern team in Karamoja, Uganda, to combat the famine there. To fund these endeavours both men always collaborated with other organisations. For example in 1982 they both became patrons of Dublin based Overseas Development Aid (O.D.A.). Kevin solicited support mostly from European organisations such as Missio and Misereor. Michael did a lot of promotional in the U.K. and America and worked in close collaboration with Concern Universal and Concern U.S.A. respectively. In Ireland the Concern



'GAME SET & MATCH':

Fr Kevin Doheny C.S.Sp. enjoys a game of table tennis [c.1980s].



'FLOOD':

Fr Kevin Doheny C.S.Sp. and two African men wade through the Mazowe River, Zimbabwe (cars unable to cross), St Stephen's Day, [1980-81].

Also that year Michael was named as the 'Kilkenny Person of the Year' but sadly suffered a stroke in 1987 and subsequently retired to Kimmage Manor. He had worked with Concern teams in Nigeria, India, Bangladesh, Yemen, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Uganda and Thailand and visited others in East and West Africa. Kevin remained active and was instrumental in the establishment of the 'International Refugee Trust' (1989) which assisted the Kurds and Palestinians in the war-torn Middle East. He travelled as a peace envoy of Mother Teresa to Iraq on the eve of war in 1990 and returned again with aid in 1991 when it had ended. Michael who had been a close collaborator and lifelong friend and mentor to his younger brother died in 1992. Kevin continued to work with Refugee Trust meeting up with its volunteers in Bosnia and Rwanda in the 1990s. In 1997 Veritas published a book about his life and work: Kevin Doheny, *No Hands But Yours*. However after a lifetime spent in the service of the disabled and dispossessed he too succumbed to the effects of old age and died in 2000.



'GUEST':

Marist Brother, Des Doheny visiting his brother Tom in Hong Kong, 11 April 1988.



'OPEN HOUSE ONE':

Fr Kevin Doheny C.S.Sp. at the opening ceremony of a Cheshire Home in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
Also in attendance were Leonard Cheshire and Emperor Haile Selasie et al [c. 1972-73].



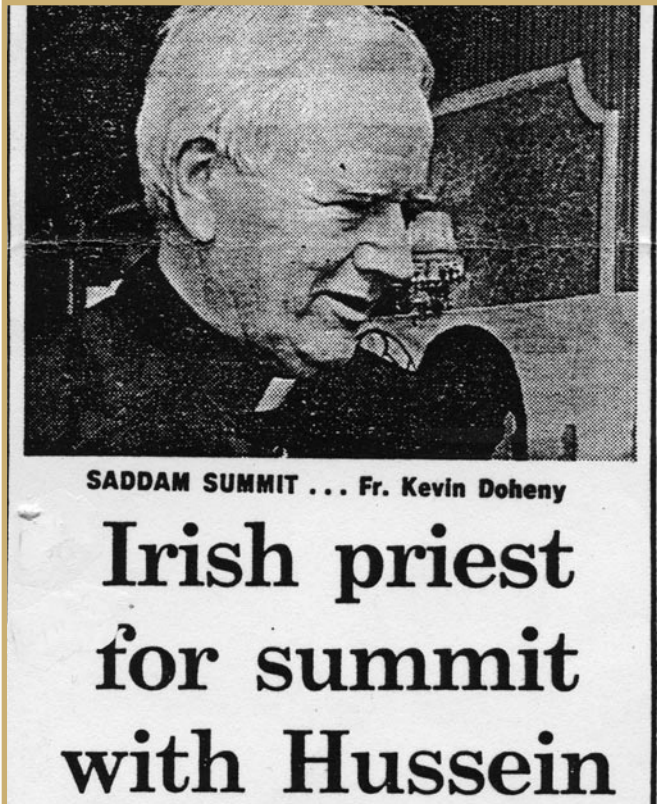
'OPEN HOUSE TWO':

Fr Kevin Doheny C.S.Sp. at the opening ceremony of a Cheshire Home in Salisbury, Rhodesia.
Also in attendance were Leonard Cheshire et al [c. 1972-73].



'THIS IS YOUR LIFE':
Fr Michael Doheny C.S.Sp. and Fr Kevin Doheny C.S.Sp. together as the featured guests on the iconic Eamonn Andrews Show in 1984.

'HOST':
Marist Brother, Tom Doheny, Hong Kong, 11 April 1988.



'PEACE MISSION':
Fr Kevin Doheny C.S.Sp. before he was due to leave for a summit meeting with President Saddam of Iraq in a bid to agree terms for a peace initiative in the gulf. *Irish Press*, 30 November 1990.



'MEMORIAL':
The memorial erected by the neighbours and friends of Fr Michael Doheny C.S.Sp. and Fr Kevin Doheny C.S.Sp., Ballinacill, Co. Laois.

What happened next...

Robin Needham

While working on collections, every now and again, you come across a character who piques your interest and leaves you wondering ... what happened next?. One such person was Robin Needham. While proofreading the catalogue for the Doheny Brothers collection, the following piece from one of Fr Michael Doheny's newsletters, was discovered:

'Salt Lake Camp. By Candlelight', No. 10, January 11th 1972

"This is my second visit within a few days. It is now 6.45 p.m. and we are all set for another night at the camp. When I say "we", I mean Bride, Una (who is on night duty), Robin and myself. You may not have heard of Robin's name before. Robin is an English boy (18) from Yorkshire, came here overland (by public transport) in November. Before he left home he consulted with Oxfam & Save the Children who encouraged him to come to work with refugees. However, when after many adventures he got to India he ended up like so many others with Caritas-India. He worked with the children, organising games, everything from football and races to pantomime. He has been very successful with the kids and they love him. Of late he contracted chicken pox and could not remain at the camp; he has been helping me in the office and has been a great boon. Robin represents all that is best in the teenage generation, concern, generosity, service to the homeless."

This provokes the question if an 18 year old had the drive and determination to travel on his own, across Europe to India to volunteer and work unpaid among the poorest of the poor - surely he would go on to give more of his time to good causes in later life. In this context it emerged that this 18 year old had indeed gone on to work more extensively with the needy and had developed a lifelong passionate, and reciprocal, love for Nepal and India.



Robert Needham (*centre*) and Fr Michael Doheny at Salt Lake refugee camp, India 1972.

Here's his story and what happened next ...

Robin Needham, born in 1953, was brought up in Yorkshire and was educated at Eton. He then studied Chinese at Leeds University and was later awarded an MSc in social planning at Swansea University.

His commitment to aid and development began during a gap year when he worked alongside Fr Michael Doheny and the other Concern volunteers first in Calcutta and then in Bangladesh. He joined the NGO, Care International, after college.

Working with Care International he held increasingly responsible postings overseas in Thailand, Somalia, Kenya, Bangladesh and Ethiopia ending up in Nepal in 1998.

The practical and visionary aspects of Robin's work came together in Nepal, where his interest began to focus on the needs of children and on conflict resolution. He became a familiar figure in the corridors of power in Washington, New York and London, whether he was urging rich nations to mount a collective response to disasters in the developing world or promoting support for a non-military solution to the conflict in Nepal.

He died in the tsunami of December 2004, while on a family holiday in Thailand. For over thirty years he had dealt with the

consequences of natural and man-made disasters, so it was consistent with the life he had led that he should die while helping others. He was last seen shepherding people to safety on a remote island in southern Thailand, before he was swept away.

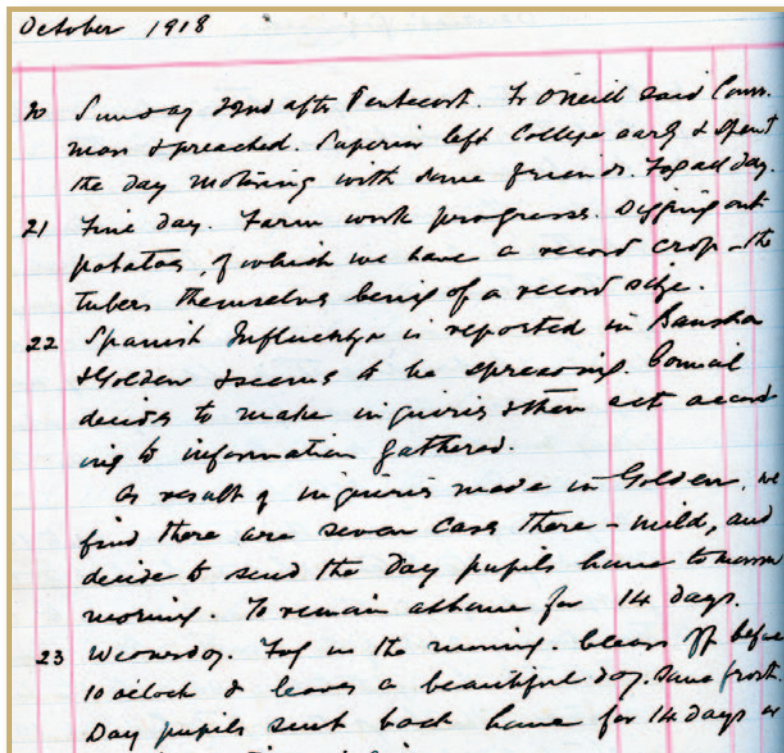
Robin's love for the country where he had spent that formative year with Caritas was reciprocated; after the news of his death became known over 100,000 butter lamps were lit in his honour in Kathmandu.

It was said that his success was based on natural leadership qualities, which were the result of a sublime self-assurance, a formidable organisational ability and a capacity for being at ease with anyone he met, from poorest of the poor to senior diplomats and royalty. Robin worked alongside Fr Michael Doheny and witnessed at first hand the value of a life devoted to the service of others and his encounter with this Spiritan missionary was to influence the rest of his life.

Robin was survived by his wife Lucy, their two sons and two adopted daughters (who were Bangladeshi orphans).

**Robin Needham,
Aid and Development Worker,
Born 28 August 1953,
Died 26 December 2004.**

The historical value of community journals – the Rockwell College Journal during the Spanish Flu pandemic



Rockwell College Journal

The year 1918 is justly remembered in Ireland for the election that led to the formation of the First Dail, but for communities at the time, an equally pressing concern was the outbreak of the 'Spanish flu'. The epidemic is estimated to have killed forty million people worldwide and 23,000 in Ireland between 1918 and 1919. The 'Rockwell College Journal' from the time tells us a little about daily life and gives us an insight into the concerns of the time.

Although the flu had already arrived during the summer of 1918, the poor weather proved to be the main topic of concern. It was recorded on 27 September that in spite of the bad weather, 'the College succeeded in saving the crops because of their own machinery. The tractor and threshing-mill bid fair to pay for themselves by their work this year alone'. The following period was recorded as 'the wettest six weeks in the memory of man'.

By the end of September 224 students had returned to Rockwell after the summer break; comprising of 182 boarders, twenty seven junior scholastics and fifteen dayboys. An additional fifteen new students joined after the Christmas holidays and the annual fees were increased to £40.

The Spanish Influenza was first reported in the Journal in October 1918. The entry for 22 October reads: 'Spanish Influenza is reported in Bansha and Golden and seems to be spreading'. In the College, the Community Council made enquiries and learnt that there were seven mild cases in Golden. It was decided to send the day-pupils home with further instructions to remain at home for fourteen days.

Three days later, the Journal entry states that: 'We have so far been spared from Influenza, which is raging in many districts and has appeared, they say, as near to us

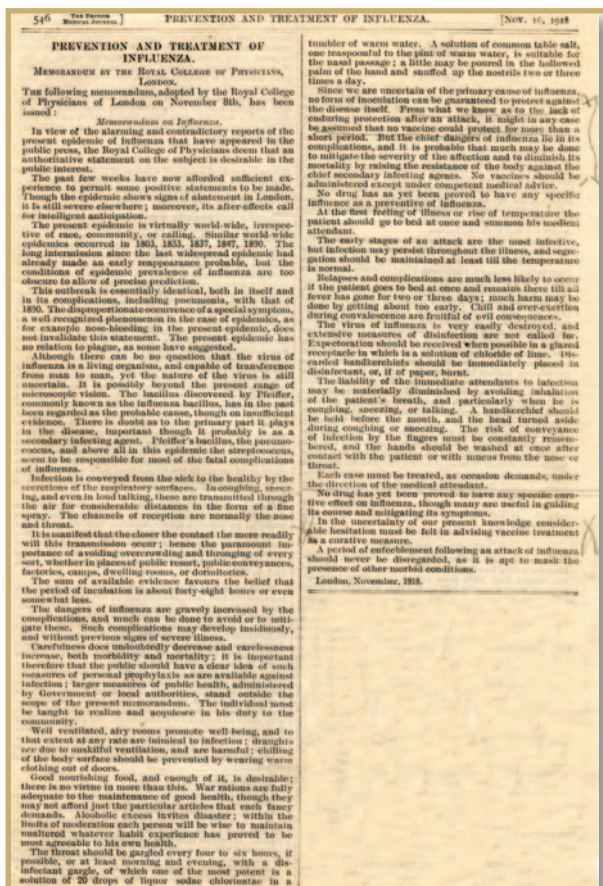
as Camas'. On 27 October an announcement was made that nobody was to go in or out of the College, not even parents, for a month. Public Mass for the following Sunday was cancelled. It stated that it was hoped that this enforced isolation would protect the College from the flu.

It wasn't all bad news that appeared in the Journal as in early September we read that Fr Daniel Leen, the Dean of Discipline, took two teams of boys to Dublin for the G.A.A. Schools Sports at Croke Park. Having won the Challenge Cup and seven medals, Fr Leen 'buys and sets up a billiard table in the boys' Library'.

However illness continues to dominate the entries in the Journal and it is stated that a student, Michael Lucey, fainted on 3 November. It turned out not to be the flu but suspected meningitis and it is recorded that there was only one doctor 'on his feet' in Cashel. The following day the patient was reported as being much worse and his mother was summoned to take him home.

On 7 November, it was reported that the disease was within a mile of the College and had hit Templenoe. It was thought that someone had gone to Dublin and had become infected and in turn infected others on their return. A few days later, we read that the anti-flu vaccine had been obtained but nobody had much faith in it. It is also recorded that the College authorities had requested permission from the parents before administering it to the students.

Other big news items are mentioned after the fact. The end of World War I on 11 November 1918 was not recorded until four days later and, even then, the emphasis was on the continued unrest in Europe. There are brief references to the General Election in December and to the rise of Sinn Fein. The journal indicated that, on the day of the election, all



British Medical Journal

the priests went to New Inn to cast their votes but the writer also expressed the regret that two of the Brothers failed to do so!

The Journal recorded that with the arrival of Christmas the boys sat their end-of-term examinations. Five boys are kept back for a day because they had not worked during the term and had consequently performed badly in their exams. Because of the restrictions on access to the College due to the outbreak of the flu, there was to be no Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve.

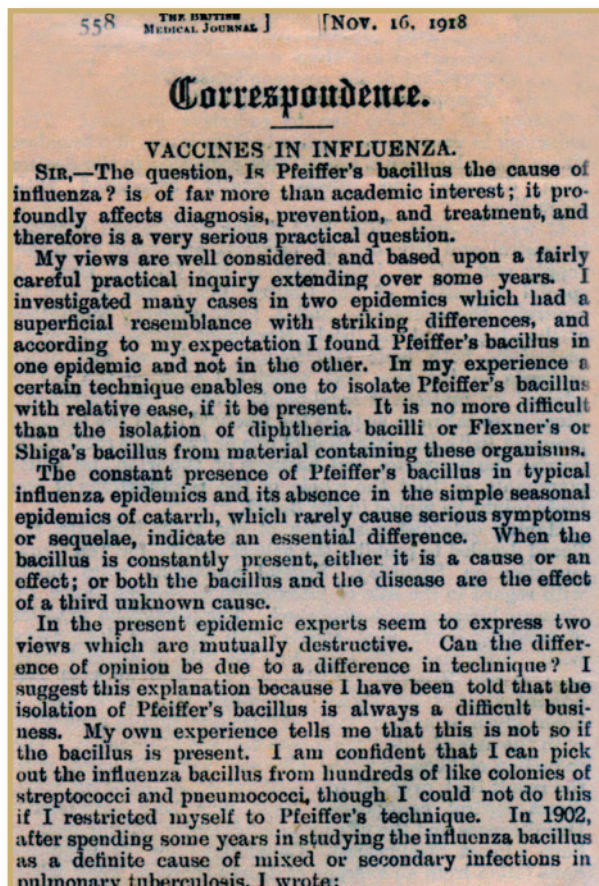
In the New Year, with the students returning to the school from all over the country, it wasn't surprising that the disease finally reached Rockwell. A novena of Masses, to preserve and protect the College from the disease, commenced on 16 January. However a day later the disease struck. Quite a number of staff members, both religious and lay, went down with the flu. Two days later, it was reported that forty were confined to bed, but that they were all out of danger. The

following day a decision was made to send home the healthy children. Then, as the sick ones recovered, they too were sent home in order to allow the College to be fumigated properly. The school did not reopen until 25 February but the students only returned in dribs and drabs and it wasn't until 9 March that reading at meals recommenced (with a rendition of J. M. Stone's *Reformation and Renaissance*).

Tucked in between two pages of the Journal there is a cutting which was taken from a contemporary issue of the *British Medical Journal*, containing an article entitled 'Prevention and Treatment of Influenza'. Two sentences are underlined in pencil:

'From what we know as to the lack of enduring protection after an attack, it might in any case be assumed that no vaccine could protect for more than a short period.'

'In the uncertainty of our present knowledge considerable hesitation must be felt in advising vaccine treatment as a curative measure.'



British Medical Journal Correspondence

This would seem to be the source of the scepticism, which had previously been expressed in the Journal, about the potential efficacy of the vaccine.

The Journal also indicated that the boys paid the price for their extended time at home as it recorded that on 7 April the President announced that there would be classes all through Holy Week. It added that a holiday at Easter was now out of the question due to the enforced closure of the College earlier in the term from 22 January to 25 February 25.

It will be interesting to compare how the current Covid 19 pandemic will be recorded in community journals and what the archivists and researchers of the future will learn from them.

Extracts taken from the Rockwell College Journal September 1908 – August 1921 and Rockwell Yearbook 2002-03; Spiritan Heritage & Archives, Kimmage Manor

The history of the Irish Spiritan Provincial Archives

In the autumn of 1971 the then provincial, Fr Christopher O'Brien, recognised the need for a provincial archivist and appointed Fr Leo Layden to the position. A position he would hold for 30 years.

At that time the archives were located in a storeroom at Cypress Grove behind the provincial secretary's office who combined the roles of secretary and archivist preserving any documents of importance. In this context when paperwork was finished with it was consigned to the storeroom in boxes and envelopes. Fr Layden described the first time he saw the archive as 'a kind of store room ... the first thing I saw was a butter-box. It was a wooden structure about eighteen inches high and wider at the top than the bottom ... filled with papers'. Although the boxes were piled neatly on shelves, there was not much to indicate what was in them.

With no previous relevant experience Fr Leo identified a need for professional training for religious archivists. He made contact with the recently established archives department in UCD which resulted in the establishment of an extra mural evening course. It was here, with five other religious archivists that he learnt how best to promote the

care and preservation of records and archives in order to make them more accessible for academic research and other cultural purposes. This group later formed the nucleus of the Association of Church Archives of Ireland (ACAI) founded in 1980.

In the early 1980s it was decided to move the novitiate to Cypress Grove. Temporary accommodation for the provincialate offices was found in Temple Villas but there was not enough space for the archives. So, taking up an offer from Fr Aidan Lehane, Fr Leyden moved the archive to Clareville, Blackrock, where it would be stored for the next three years.

When the new permanent Provincialate relocated to Temple Park in 1983, there was still no space for the archives. Both administrative offices and an archive had to be built. It would be another three years before the new archives building in Temple Park was ready and then the work really began in earnest.

The first division in the collection was immediately evident - 'home' and 'away'. The *home* province with all its communities and works and *away* collections with the then established mission countries such as Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Gambia, Kenya and Mauritius.

Following the displacement of many priests, by the Biafra War, and their subsequent re-appointments during the 1980s, letters and reports began to emerge from new missions such as Ghana, Ethiopia, Malawi, Zambia, PNG, Australia and Alaska. Bit by bit country collections started to be collated and box lists prepared. The deposit of the 'Fr Denis Fahey papers' became the first collection that was catalogued and made available to researchers. Then the 'Biafran War collection' was begun with the deposit of the Doheny brothers' papers. It would be another thirty years before this collection could be completely catalogued (as described elsewhere in this edition). Following on from this a complete set of the *Missionary Annals* was collected and catalogued. The photo collection followed and then three filing cabinets of Kimmage choir music were rescued and deposited in the Archive to be catalogued at a later date. The collection of; 'Correspondence with the Mother House', in French dating back to 1859, was added to by an abbreviated English version. Copies of these which had been submitted to UCD were rounded up and deposited as were the journals from the Houses of Formation.



Fr Leo Layden



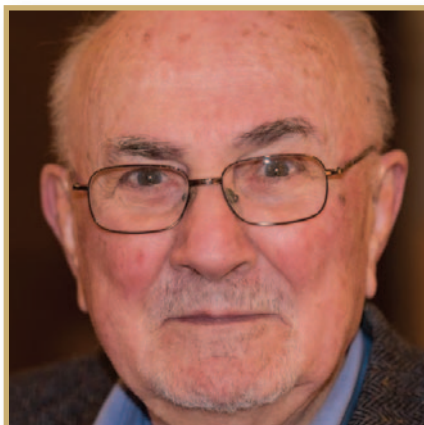
Fr Jimmy Dunne



Fr Dick Thornton



Fr Ray Barry



Fr Pat Leddy



Bro Ignatius Curry

Following the retirement of Fr Leo in 2000, Fr Jimmy Dunne took over at the helm and invited Fr Dick Thornton to join him in the cataloguing of photographs. In 2001 Fr Ray Barry took on the role and did much to modernise and update the systems and with the help of a grant from the Heritage Council of Ireland, he installed mobile shelving. In 2002 Fr Ray secured the help of Fr Pat Leddy to look after the photo-technical side of the work.

Bro Ignatius Curry became the new archivist in 2005 and continued in this post until 2010. It was during this period that he undertook an MA in historical archives at NUI Maynooth and also completed the first electronic catalogue in the archive; the Nigerian collection. Fr Peter Raftery was appointed archivist in September 2011 and served in this post until 2013. He was instrumental in taping and transcribing the oral histories of many confrères who had retired and returned to Kimmage from missions worldwide. It was also during this time that the archives moved from Temple Park to Kimmage Manor where Frs Paddy Ryan and Brian O'Toole along with Mr Peter O'Mahony took on the role of temporary caretakers.

In 2014, with the appointment of Fr Brian O'Toole the archive moved into a new era and became part of the Mission Resource and Heritage Centre. Having studied for a M. Econ, specialising in information science, Fr Brian was well equipped to spend the first twelve months gaining *intellectual control**;

The contents, value and work of the Provincial Archive has been brought to life and made visible with initiatives such as the *Glowing Embers* publication and the annual exhibitions displaying Spiritan mission worldwide.

reorganising and writing up policy documents and work programmes to assist with the development of the archive in its new home. He also employed a working team of three people. This team all work part time (combined they share just one full time position) and bring together the complementary skills of archivist, historian and visual technician. The archive is now in a position to welcome and assist researchers from both Ireland and overseas as well as support archive interns. The contents, value and work of the Provincial Archive has been brought to life and made visible with initiatives such as the *Glowing Embers* publication and the annual exhibitions displaying Spiritan mission worldwide.

With the onset of Covid 19 and the temporary closure of all archives and reading rooms worldwide, archivists have had to think and adapt as to how collections can be made available in other formats. The commissioning of the digitisation of the *Missionary Annals* collection is the first step in this process and it will preserve and make available these volumes and other collections for years to come.

*** Intellectual control**
The control established over archival material by documenting in finding aids its provenance, arrangement, composition, scope, informational content and internal and external relationships.



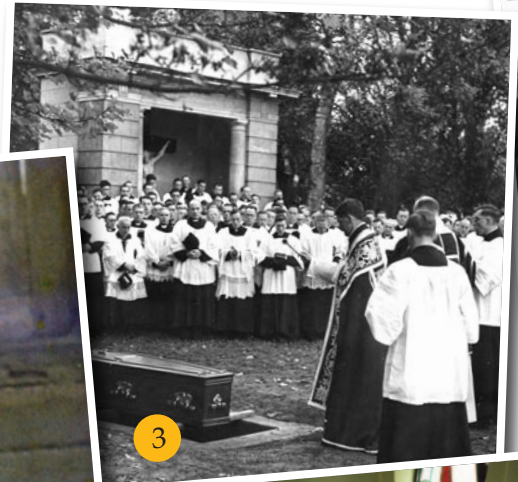
Fr Peter Raftery



Fr Brian O'Toole

Glimpses into our Photo Albums

Dolorés Stewart





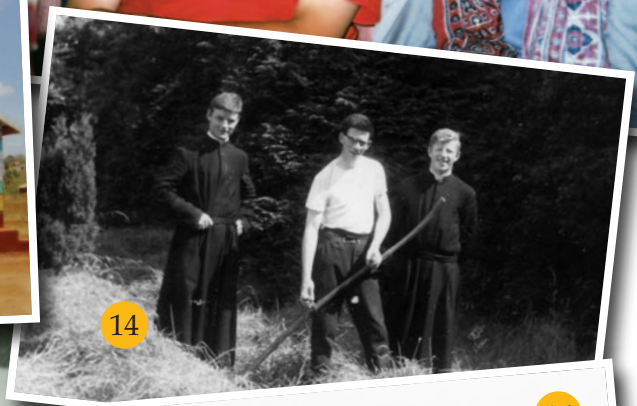
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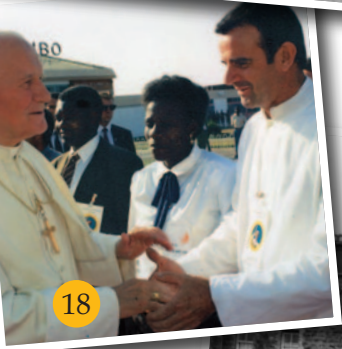
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1. St. Mary's College, Youth Conference, Poland 2016.
2. Fr. Daniel O'Connell hearing confession, Mbiem Parish Owerri diocese, Nigeria.
3. Fr. Edward Leen's funeral, November 1944.
4. Ethiopia, Fr. Oliver Ryan, Fr. Owen Lambert, Fr. Paddy Kelly, Fr. Brian O'Toole, Fr. Emmanuel Fritsch, Fr. Denis Hegarty, Fr. Brian Cogavin.
5. Golden Jubilee, Fr. Andy Carroll, Fr. Reggie Gillooly, Fr. Vincent Comer.
6. Fr. John Hearne.
7. Shane Lowry, vice-captain of senior school, Mary O'Rourke TD, Fr. Hugh O'Reilly, Archbishop Desmond Connell, Colman McMahon, Captain.
8. Fr. Pat Whelan, Fr. Martin Keane, Bro. Ignatius Curry, Fr. Larry Shine, Fr. Pat O'Toole, Fr. David Conway.
9. Prison life in Arba Minch prison, Ethiopia.
10. Fr. Sean Hogan, Fr. Seán Kealy, Fr. Naos McCool.
11. Novitiate 1957 – Kilshane.
12. Blackrock Residence for boys, Kwakakulu, Kenya.
13. Fr. John Fogarty, Fr. Jim O'Connell, Rahim Yar Khan, Pakistan.
14. Fr. Paddy, M. Ryan, Fr. Martin McDonagh, Fr. Martin Kelly, Kilshane.
15. Fr. Brian McLaughlin, Fr. Enda Watters, Fr. Noel McNamara.
16. Fr. Brian Eyre, Fr. Phil Doyle, Fr. John Fitzpatrick, Fr. Ned Nealon, Herculandia, Brazil, 1972.
17. Kelem Ethiopia 1976.
18. John Kingston C.S.Sp. meets Pope John Paul II, Angola, June 1992.
19. Fr. Noel O'Meara, Fr. Ray Conboy, Fr. Dick Olin, Fr. Tim Chadwick, Fr. Ronnie Grimshaw.
20. Fr. David Conway, Kenya.
21. Patrician year 1961. The Papal Legate his Eminence Gregory Cardinal Agagianian visits Kimmage.



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*Stewardship includes all aspects of
the Province's heritage.
Special attention will be given to
libraries, archives and our
spiritual patrimony.*

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