

ROSCREA

REVIEW

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Newsletter of the Cistercian College, Roscrea, Union.

Summer Issue 1978



CENTENARY CELEBRATION MASS

SUNDAY 2nd JULY

The Mass begins at 3 p.m. but you are advised to come early as parking may be difficult.

The Bishop of the Diocese of Killaloe will be the chief celebrant – Dr. Michael Harty. The Homily will be preached by Dr. Cathal Daly, Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnoise.

His Excellency, the Apostolic Nuncio, Most Rev. Gaetano Alibrandi will preside at the Mass.

The attendance will include the President and the Taoiseach. Priests will be welcome to concelebrate – please bring alb, stole, cincture.

The altar will be on the knoll to the left of the picture.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS

(Continued...)

We were accused of dropping out the final forty years in our last issue ... Here is some more. The thirty-three years of Abbot Justin McCarthy's administration was a period of consolidation for the Community both in numbers and financial security. Dom Justin detested an overdraft. When building the spire, that forms such a striking feature of the monastery today, he never spent more at a time than was in the current account. When this money was spent, building on the spire was suspended. And when funds had accumulated again the stone cutters were called back and Fr. Francis got out his plans once more. The building of the spire cost two lives – one a monk, and the other a workman.

The Community grew steadily in numbers before the Second World

War. A great majority of the vocations came from the College. In the 1930's an epidemic of typhoid swept through the College and the Community, and took with it three members of the Community and four students. It may have been a coincidence, but after that the noviciates filled to overflowing, and there was great speculation for a while about making a foundation in the west of Ireland. Dom Justin and a few of his advisers visited Cong Castle – then on the market – with this purpose in mind. Nothing came of it, however, and another ten years at least passed before a foundation was again topical. When the war came in 1939 many thought that development and building schemes were at an end for many years. But not for the monks. The College Chapel was planned and its foundations laid

within the year. Dom Justin who was now in failing health lived to see the completion of the work in 1943. The Chapel was blessed by the then Prior of the monastery and the first High Mass was sung by Fr. Ailbe. This was the last great undertaking by Dom Justin who had been president of the College from 1905 to 1911. He passed away the following year, an austere man, intimate with few, but respected by all.

Dom Camillus Claffey who was elected to succeed Dom Justin McCarthy was no stranger to authority. He had filled the office of second superior for nearly ten years. With him began a flamboyant liturgical revival that involved the students in many and varied religious ceremonies both within the Abbey Church and in the

Cont. Page 4...

C.C.R. TO THE THIRD GENERATION

In June 1978, with God's help, the first boy of the third generation of C.C.R. boys will sit for the Leaving Cert. This fact prompts a look at the boys in Sixth Year this year whose fathers were at school also in Roscrea. The boy in question is Brian Rafferty whose father Pat (1950-1953), now runs a well known travel agency in Tipperary Town and whose Grandfather Timothy Rafferty was at C.C.R. from 1921 to 1925. Brian has always been involved in the opera, playing the leading female role in his first year and being responsible for the lighting in his final years.

John Ball of Louisburg is a son of Paddy (1942-1946), who is now Principal of the national school in Louisburgh. John has developed into one of the lights of the debating society and is a member of a very successful team taking part in the Chamber of Commerce debate.

Joe Bergin of Nenagh, and of handballing fame (1933-34) died in May 1973. His youngest son, Pearse, is this year Vice-Captain of the School, and at six feet three is one of the tallest boys in the School. He played at number eight in the senior rugby team. Joe's son, Patrick (1969), carries on the family's wholesale confectionery business in Nenagh. Derry (1966) is a doctor in Galway and Michael (1973) works in Dublin.

Alasdar Brown is a son of Alex Brown (1938-1939) who runs a family business in Ennistymon. Alasdar is also a Vice-Captain of the School.

Eddie Byrne is the fifth son of Liam Byrne to attend C.C.R. Liam attended the school from 1930-1936, he is formerly of Mullinahone and now farming in Callan. He has suffered much from ill health in recent years, but he and his family have been among the most staunch and loyal Past men of Roscrea. All his boys have been outstanding in their school careers as athletes. Eddie is no exception and plays at centre on the College Rugby XV this year.

Gearoid Garvey is a son of Jack Garvey of Glenamaddy (1932) who runs the home business and farm. His eldest son Martin finished in C.C.R. in 1976 and has now joined the family business. Gearoid shows his prowess in both the athletic field and the academic arena.

Michael Grace is a son of Paddy Grace (1935-40) of Ballyragget who also runs the home business and is one of the founder members of the new Kilkenny Branch of the Union. Padraic Grennan is a nephew of the Liffey Brothers of Shinrone — his mother was formerly Miss Sheila Liffey. Richard Liffey (1945-'48) runs the constantly expanding family business in Shinrone: Kevin ('42-'46) is in the veterinary practice also in Shinrone and Geoff ('38-'43) is an Agricultural Adviser in Birr. Richard has been a dynamic Chairman of the North Tipperary Branch of the Union for the past few years. All three brothers are married and have families.

Martin O'Boyle is a nephew of Fr. Kevin Daly (1953) now games Master in the College and Dr. Joe Daly (1953) who has his medical practice in Ballygar, Co. Galway. Martin's younger twin brothers Bernard and Patrick are in Third Year and are one of three sets of identical twin brothers who are now creating major identification problems for the students and staff of the College.

Colum O'Connor is a son of Colman (1935-37) who originally came from Limerick and is now in business in Galway. His first cousin, Jim, is also in Sixth Year and is a son of Joe O'Connor (1935-39). Joe is one of those men who has a most remarkable store of memories and names from his years in C.C.R.

Martin Reidy is a nephew of Fr. Martin Skeehan (1933-38) of Cloughjordan, who is now Vicar-General of a Washington State Diocese in the U.S. Martin is a regular visitor to the College every summer during his holidays at home. His elder nephew, Sean Reidy (1977) is a first science student at U.C.G.

Brian Sherry is the last of the second generation of Sherry boys to have gone through C.C.R. His father, Barney (1935-49) is a doctor in Palmerstown, and one of the staunch members of the Dublin Branch of the Union. His older brother, Eoin (1976) is in first medicine at U.C.D. It will be impossible to mention all the Sherry Pastmen in this note, but Seamus (1929-33) and Kevin ('35-'41) are in the Foxford Woollen Mills and Vincent is a doctor in London. Fr. Cronin (Brendan 30-36) is in the Roscrea Community but has been beset by ill-health in recent years. Of the second generation, John (1964) is an accountant in Sligo and married in '75: Michael (1968) practices as a Solicitor in Limerick and distinguishes himself in the Garryowen and Connacht colours: James (1972) is studying engineering in Bolton Street; Peter ('75) is studying Science at U.C.D. and Brendan ('75) is studying Law at U.C.D. Doug Smyth (49-51) has his son Stephen in 6th year. Doug himself is now a vet in Longford, having been previously attached to the A.I. Station in Sligo.

Padraic Grennan's elder brother John finished in C.C.R. in 1975 and has now returned to the family business and farm in Rath, Co. Offaly.

Colum Irwin (1942-47) practices as a dentist in Navan and his second son John is taking the Leaving Cert. this year. His eldest son Paul (1976) is a first medicine student at U.C.D., while his third boy Connor is taking the Inter Cert. this year at C.C.R.

Mark Kinirons is the eldest son of Noel (1936-42) who runs a thriving pharmacy business in Mulhuddart, Co. Dublin. Mark kept up the musical traditions of the Kinirons clan by playing Nanki-Poo in last year's College production of *The Mikado*. His younger brothers John and Brian are also at C.C.R. Father Michael Kinirons (1941-46) is a pastor in the diocese of Manchester and Tom (1942-46) is in business in Limerick City.

Jim McNamara is the youngest son of Dr. Jack McNamara, Athlone (1931-35) who was

president of the Union in 1960-61. Jim follows the family rugby tradition and plays scrum-half on the Senior Seconds. His elder brother John (1967) is a quantity surveyor in Dublin Corporation and his younger brother Michael (1969) is studying Architecture at Bolton Street College of Technology. He recently became engaged to Miss Georgina Kenny.

Eamon Maher is Mr. Liam Maher's second son to come to C.C.R. He is an outstanding debater and public speaker, and is captain of the School Debating Team which reached the Leinster Final of the Muintir na Tire Public Speaking Competition and was just pipped by F.C.J. Convent Bunclody. Last year Eamon led his team to the All Ireland Final in the same Competition, only to be beaten by Presentation College Cork. In fact the College Teams have contested Leinster Finals in five of the past six years, reached the All Ireland Finals three times and were All Ireland Champions in 1973 — a remarkable tribute in itself to the work of Mr. Maher in this area, as he trained all these teams. His elder son Gerard (1972—) joined the teaching staff of the College in '77 after completing his B.A. and Higher Diploma Studies in Maynooth. At Christmas he became engaged to Miss Mary Hayes.

John Walsh's father, Michael (45-50) was the first of the famed "Dev" family from Ballivor Co. Meath. Michael is now a consultant engineer in Dublin and recently won a Ph.D. degree for his research work on computers from Trinity College Dublin, where he also lectures in the Engineering Faculty. Colum (47-52) is managing the home business and farm at Ballivor: Sean (48-53) is a research manager in Moorepark Agricultural Institute in Fermoy and Ray (53-58) has been in the English Faculty at Castleknock College since he qualified in '62.

Merely glancing at the boys in one Leaving Cert. class such as this (1978) gives some idea of the links and loyalty that exist between one generation and another of C.C.R. boys. It is a very different world the boys face in 1978 compared to that which their fathers faced in the '30s and 40s, but in facing that task the links and the traditions formed with the past will be their greatest ally.

SCOLAIREACHTAI GAELTACHTA

Tá J. S. Ó hUallacháin (úinéir Ollmhargadh Phádraic Mhac an Rí Tta., an Cnoc, Indreabhán) tar éis dhá scoláireacht a bhronnadh ar mhicléinn Choláiste Naomh Iosef, Ros Cré — an scoil a ndearna sé féin freastal uirthi, 1925-'30.

Tabharfaidh na scoláireachtaí seans do bheirt de na micléinn freastal a dhéanamh ar choláiste de chuid Chomharchumann Chois Fharraige — duine amháin acu i mí Iúil agus duine i mí Lúnasa.

Deir an hUallachánach go bhféadfaí forbairt a dhéanamh ar an mbeartas seo agus gur cheart do Chumann na nIarscoláirí sna coláistí éagsúla a leithéid de scéim a tharraingt chucu féin.





This view of the Sanctuary in the Abbey Church is now gone. The renovations in keeping with modern liturgy are nearing completion.

College chapel. These ranged from Pontifical High Masses, Ordinations, Solemn Professions, Corpus Christi Processions, to Children of Mary Receptions. The latter became the high point of the annual religious services in the College, and were attended by all the pomp and pontifical panoply possible.

But in the years following the war the great emphasis was on expansion — new foundations. The first of these was Nunraw, in the Lammermuir Hills south of Edinburgh. It was 1946. Eight years later another monastery was founded not far from Melbourne in Australia. This must have depleted the mother-house greatly. Nevertheless the home front was not neglected. The Abbey Church was given a complete interior renovation; the walls were all replastered, new altars erected and a panelled oak back put in the monks choir. The whole floor of the church was tiled or blocked. The Guest House was given a new look and a top storey. And the College got a new toilet block.

A sad year for the College, and the many past students he had dealings with, was 1948 when Fr. Ailbe passed to his reward. The extent of their esteem and affection with which he was regarded, was shown in the huge attendance at his funeral and the many tributes paid to him. He was followed in office for a few short years by Fr. Thomas.

Then came the Golden Jubilee of the College. For some reason it was not celebrated until 1958... maybe it took three years to prepare for such a function. But if you want to read all about it, turn back to the *Fiolar* for that year.

Vatican II came and went, and with it, what seems a great change in the life-style of the monks occurred. The "spiritual life" of the College also underwent a great change. Very few of the traditional devotions and religious organizations survived. Even the "G man" went to the wall. The flow of vocations to the Church and the monastery also ceased.

The 1960's saw two new Abbots within a short time. Dom Camillus Claffey had retired in 1962 — but not before involving Roscrea in yet another foundation, this time in Moone, Co. Kildare. He was succeeded by Dom Eugene Boylan, a man of brilliant intellect and a deep and practical spirituality as revealed in his books. The flame of hope which he kindled was tragically quenched in a motor accident in 1964.

Dom Colmcille O'Toole was Dean of Studies in the College when elected Abbot early in 1964. A native of Mayo

he was a student in the college in the early forties. At the time he was a young Abbot — as abbots go.

One of his first tasks was to ratify the foundation at Moone. This was done in November 1965. Fifteen more monks left Roscrea to carry out the work which has since flourished. Moone is now an independent Abbey with Dom Benedict Kearns at its head.

Under Dom Colmcille the monastery farm is not only a viable, but a very valuable proposition, as the lowing herds that wind slowly and endlessly o'er the lea give testimony. Milk and beef are the backbone of the monastic economy.

In the recent past, the College has fared very well under the present administration. The class-room block has released much needed space for dormitory and study-hall expansion. The College Library was a long awaited amenity, and the swimming pool provided by the past Students Union, is a welcome luxury that few thought this generation would enjoy.

For the rest, come and see for yourself on Sunday, 2nd July, when the Centenary Mass will be celebrated in the open air in front of the college.

FROM THE EDITOR OF "AN FIALAR"

The Editor wishes to thank all past students who returned leaflets to him with biographical information, and in many cases photographs. He hopes to use these in the write-ups on Past Students Notes. About 160 replies have been received so far and he is looking forward to many more. Remember — a photograph, including the family if you wish, will be very welcome. But if it is too small or blurred — especially if it is in colour it will not be possible to use it.

He is also most grateful to all those who sent money to help "produce a first class job". It is not expected to have the magazine ready until September as it must carry an account of the Centenary Celebrations in July. The magazine will cost £3.00.

One way in which you can help the magazine financially is by taking advertising space if you are in business. Terms are as follows:-

FULL PAGE£40.00
HALF PAGE£25.00
QUARTER PAGE£15.00

Apply to The Editor, "An Fiolar", Cistercian College, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary.

CENTENARY MASS

The mass is expected to last about two hours. This may be too much for elderly people and those who may not be well. So please take precautions. After the mass light refreshments are being provided for as many as possible in marquees around the grounds. But if you are wise, you will bring your own picnic and avoid delay, crowds and disappointments.

OBITUARIES

One of the most tragic events to hit the College for many years was the sudden death of Eddie Crotty during the half-term break. We extend to his bereaved parents and family our deepest sympathy.

Eddie was a 5th year student just sixteen years of age.

His funeral was attended by his class-mates who sang at the Requiem Mass and walked as guard of honour by his coffin at the funeral. Members of the teaching staff of the College, lay and clerical were also present.

The death occurred recently of V. Rev. James Bannon, P.P. Clonoulty. He left Roscrea in 1924. Ordained in Thurles 1932 for the Archdiocese of Cashel. He was a noted athlete in his time, R.I.P.

Very Rev. John McGillicuddy retired P.P. of Annadale, W. Australia died at his home town in Crusheen, Co. Clare early this year. He left Roscrea in 1930. R.I.P.

Eddie Crotty, R.I.P.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Since the last issue of the Review we wish to publish the following list of supporters by way of acknowledgement and receipt:-

V. Rev. Martin Skehan,
Toppinish, U.S.A.

Adrian Kelly,
Ballybricken, Co. Waterford.

Tim Murphy,
Blackrock, Co. Dublin. ✓

Jody Spooner,
Roscrea, Co. Tipperary.

James Fallon,
7 Marian Villas, Cork.

Patrick Carey,
Newcastle, Co. Wicklow.

James Dillon,
Ballinteer, Dublin 16.

Dr. Tom F. Ryan,
Terenure, Dublin 6.

Meade Brothers, Slane, Co. Meath.

Rev. Brian Fitzgerald,
Griffith Ave., Dublin 9.

Brian Grogan,
Oxford, England.

Dr. Joe Daly,
Ballygar, Co. Galway.

Jack Philbin,
Nutley Road, Dublin 4.

Christopher Carroll,
Lr. Kimmage Road, Dublin 6.

Eamonn and Conol Ryan,
Lanesboro.

BANKS AND STANDING ORDERS

A number of our subscribers and supporters have been experiencing difficulties about the payment of Standing Orders to our account. We quote directly from one such letter from a Bank to one of our Past Student supporters: "With reference to the above described Standing Order we wish to advise that the payment for 1978 was returned as the Bank of Ireland, Castle Street Roscrea Branch is closed. We should be obliged if you would inform us at your earliest convenience where the account is now held or if we should cancel the Standing Order."

Similar letters were sent out over the past six months to clients in the South, East and West. All came from the same group of Banks. Our own Bank Manager in Roscrea cannot understand it. We hope that this has not happened too often because we need all the funds we can get. Let us make one thing clear, our account is with the BANK OF IRELAND, Lr. Castle St., Roscrea, under the title CISTERCIAN COLLEGE UNION, CENTRAL ACCOUNT, No. 11569569.

Social Occasions.

Already some of the Branches have made plans for Social Functions to take place before the end of the Centenary Year of the Abbey. Dublin the largest and, let us admit it, the most important Branch of the Union, is holding its famous Dublin Dinner - a stag affair - in late October. The officers of the Branch hope to make it a memorable occasion for the Centenary Year. More precise details will be published in the Autumn Issue of the "REVIEW". Or if you wish contact Michael Coyle (Hon. Sec. Dublin), 61, Oakland Park, Dublin 4. There was a very disappointing attendance at the Dinner Dance in the New Jury's Hotel, and it is hoped that the response to the Dinner will make up for it, and perhaps establish a new record. The Midland Branch are moving their next function forward to Friday 10th November. Fr. Kevin Daly attended the last Dinner Dance in Tullamore and reported it to be one of the best functions he had ever attended.

The Southern Branch function in the Innishannon Hotel, between Cork and Bandon, was one of the high-lights of the season. The hotel proprietor, Brian McCarthy (1955), made it an unforgettable evening for everyone. Some of the guests had come from as far away as Clare, Dublin and Dingle, not forgetting Fr. Peter Garvey from Roscrea. The Branch has been very lucky in having such a team as Gerard Murphy and Conor O'Flynn to organise things.

The Limerick/Clare Branch emerged from a long hibernation to hold a small but select stag Dinner in May at the Limerick Inn. The Guest of Honour was the Lord Abbot and the host, the President of the Union Mr. I.M.Houlihan,

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NOTE.

We have just received notice of the death due to accident in Spain of David de Loughry (Jnr.) 1975, a native of Kilkenny.

Two others whose deaths were not reported in the "Review" were Sean Connolly (1939) of Kildysart and John Fitzgerald (1974) of Butterfield Close, Dublin. John died in February after a long illness. May they all rest in the peace of Christ.