

# ROSCREA

# REVIEW

No. 35

Newsletter of the Cistercian College, Roscrea, Union

Autumn



## Centenary Celebrations

the Church, Guesthouse and College with the most gorgeous floral arrangements. And they tastefully and cleverly decorated the terrace and steps leading to the Centenary Altar with tiny bunches of flowers among the grass. A special Committee from among the neighbours, friends and Community was formed to deal with all the various affairs

This photograph shows the knoll chosen by Jim Fehily for the Centenary Mass. The monastery was a fitting backdrop to the scene. A certain amount of terracing had to be done, and a small screen of trees was planted directly behind the altar. In this picture Jim and his assistant are plotting out the various levels, with Fr. Nivard Kinsella on the right who acted as co-ordinator for the whole Centenary Celebrations.

The altar was composed of two huge rocks, balanced dolmen like, which were taken from the fields beyond the river where the land was reclaimed by the early monks. It took a giant J.C.B. to lift them into place, but when 'in situ' they look as though they were relics of pre-history.

Much of the terracing was done by Fr. Nivard himself assisted by the Mahers of Ann Grove. The screen trees were selected from our own woods and in spite of late transplanting and hard weather conditions have continued to survive to date.

The amount of local co-operation which we received in preparation for the Centenary Mass was extraordinarily generous and spontaneous. To mention one item alone. Many of our Protestant neighbours came along and decorated



connected with what was expected to be a huge gathering. The sanctuary area was plotted first and prudent precautions were taken to protect at least the altar and V.I.P.s. Time was to prove how wise this move was. A public address system had to be set up, and an electric organ to accompany the choir had to be installed and tried out.

One evening a few days before the 2nd July the monks had a full dress rehearsal. Stop-watches and tape-measures were used to plot out the movements of every man. It was a full-scale High Mass and every word was heard as clear as a bell on the evening air two miles away. Fr. Kevin the M.C. went to bed happy that night.

July 2nd dawned damp and wild, and

it did not improve as the day wore on. But that was the day the Lord had made, and although the monks had prayed for a fine day, this was what the Lord had sent them. Maybe some of them, like St. Teresa, turned to God and rebuked him: "If this is the way you treat your friends, no wonder you have so few of them!"

Dignitaries of Church and State arrived and they were entertained to lunch in the Guest House. Clergy from all over the country came and they were escorted to the College Chapel which was set out as a Vestry — and very tastefully it was laid out too. All the seats had been removed to provide for the "Senior Citizens" who alone of the congregation had seating provided near the altar and adjacent to the road.

At 3 p.m. on the dot the bells rang and the procession emerged from the College Chapel and made its dignified way to the "Mass Rock". The procession made an





The President and Central Committee of the union welcomes into the ranks of the Past Pupils those students who completed their course in C.C.R. last June. Congratulations to them also on their successes in the Leaving Cert.

And to those new students who are beginning, we wish you welcome to Roscrea. Happiness and every success in the path that lies ahead of you, which we have trodden before you.

### **"AN FIOLAR" MAGAZINE**

The Editor of "An Fiolar" assures us that the publication is well under way, and he wants to thank particularly those who sent him order forms with "Biographical Material" and photographs. He wishes to point out that copy for advertisements should be forwarded immediately.

These should be sent directly to the printers:

Leinster Leader Ltd.,  
Naas,  
Co. Kildare

(for the special attention of Mr. Michael Kane)

If you have not already ordered a copy, do so immediately — the issue is limited and a copy costs £3 post free.

Correspondence to:

The Editor,  
"An Fiolar",  
Mount St. Joseph Abbey  
Roscrea, Co. Tipperary

### **AN AILBE ANECDOTE**

*By Paddy Molony*

Shortly after I left Roscrea I got a 'phone call to our house in London. It was the Rev. Father Ailbe asking me if I could do a few business calls with him. Working with my father he gave me the day off plus the car. Our first call was to the late Michael J. Cooke, Chairman of the "National Bank" as it was then. I remember seeing about six tall men dressed on livery uniforms lining each side of the vestibule as we climbed the stairs to his office. After about a half-hour's chat we moved off to "Marconi" Showrooms where his Reverence had an appointment through the late Mr. Lorcan Sherlock. Father Ailbe proceeded to bombard questions to the salesman regarding the capabilities of the various radiograms on show. He insisted that the set must be capable of getting reception from the U.S.A. After an hour or so they eventually showed a set not on the market then which was actually receiving programmes from Chicago. So he ordered it there and then. When we got back to the car I was rather intrigued so I asked him if this was the monastery, jokingly. He told me that the B.B.C. was starting lectures from Cambridge on the radio the following year and he wanted his boys to have these for the Leaving Cert and those going on the university. So our President was certainly far seeing in those days. We finished the day with the late Jack Steacy who was first President of the Old Boys London Section, my late father and myself, with an evening meal at Simpsons in the Strand, selected by his Reverence who as usual knew his way around. A very fine President, may he rest in peace.



**MR. FRANK LYNCH**  
*President-Elect of the Union*

At the A.G.M. this year on 1st October, Frank will take over the office of President from Mr. Ignatius Houlihan who since 1976 has filled the office with dignity, charm and efficiency.

Frank and his brothers followed one another in C.C.R. throughout the '40s and into the '50s. There was Matt, Joe and Ciarán (R.I.P.).

Two of Frank's sons have already finished in C.C.R. Paul is in advertising business and Brendan has also turned to business.

Frank himself is Managing Director, Erode Industries Limited, Swords, and Vik Plastics Limited, Swords, Co. Dublin.

Frank and his wife Patricia have five children.

### **RICHARD HEATON OF BALLYSKENAGH**

One of the things that emerged from the Centenary was a book by Fr. Lawrence Walsh (1946) on Richard Heaton, the first owner of the lands on which the Abbey now stands. He was a Protestant clergyman and a Botanist of some renown. The book makes interesting reading especially in its association with Roscrea. It costs £2 at the Bead Shop.

### **OBITUARIES**

Since the last issue of the Review, the following death notices have been sent to us.

Larry Ruane, Ballina, 1952.  
Hugh Bowe, Thurles  
David Lynch, Boyle, 1969.  
David de Loughry, Kilkenny, 1975.  
John Fitzgerald, Dublin, 1974.  
Sean McCarthy, Letterkenny, 1973.  
Martin C. Tynan, Limerick, 1927.

The dates given are those when they finished in the College. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

## UNION DAY '78

Union Mass for deceased members, 12 noon, followed by buffet lunch

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
will follow at 1.30 p.m.

Past v. Present Match begins at 3.00 p.m.

Sherry Reception at 5.00 p.m.

Union Dinner will commence at 5.30 p.m.

The Annual General Meeting is the focal point of this gathering and must start promptly at 1.30 p.m.

Agenda:

1. Minutes of last meeting.
2. Report of General Secretary.
3. Report of General Treasurers.
4. Installation of Mr. Frank Lynch, President Elect.
5. New members.
6. Social Events in Coming Year.
7. "An Fiolar".
8. Any Other Business.

## UNION TIE

Some modern Union Ties are still available from Sean Collins at 4, Caple Street, Dublin 1. The General Secretary also has some available for £2.50 post free.

## DUBLIN BRANCH

Mount St. Joseph Abbey Centenary Celebration  
UNION DINNER

FRIDAY 20th OCTOBER, 1978

to be held at

JURY'S HOTEL, BALLSBRIDGE, DUBLIN

*The Lord Abbot, Dom Colmcille O'Tool*  
*Guest of Honour*

Sherry Reception commences at 7.30 p.m.  
Dinner will be at 8.30 p.m.

**This is a "Stag" affair and dress will be formal**

Tickets limited to "first come"—the cost £10  
Contact: John McEvoy (Chairman), 34, Lavarna Grove, Terenure, Dublin 6. Phone 900828; Michael Coyle (Secretary), 61, Oakland Park, Dublin 4. Phone 687520; Conor Massey, 106 The Coombe, Dublin 8: 755555; or 4 Redesdale Crescent, Mt. Merrion: 886597; Rom Massey, 106 The Coombe, Dublin 8: 755555; or The Croft, Inchicore, Dublin 8: 752407; Pat Kelly, 60 Ranelagh Road, Dublin 6: 979546; Office: 774381; Jim Keating, 33 Verbena Lawn, Dublin 13: 390087; Office: 987011.



## UNION PRESIDENT, MR. I. M. HOULIHAN'S MESSAGE TO THE UNION

As Union day approaches I sincerely hope all Pastmen will, this year, make a special effort to be present and demonstrate their loyalty to their Alma Mater. Doing so is not a duty but for all of us a real pleasure, especially when we know how much our presence means to the College and students who really do hope to see us present.

I particularly request all concerned to ensure that as many as possible attend the Special Mass for our deceased members — we surely owe them much. In similar terms we owe more of our time, than is made available by many, to the needs of the College President and staff and of the present students. Much can be achieved to help those who can benefit by our expertise in the way of life which we have encountered and our past experiences in combating the problems which, in even greater measure, young men must be helped to overcome.

All Pastmen should take a more engaging and serious interest in Branch affairs and social occasions which bind us together in sincere friendship and loyal demonstration of our abiding affection for our Alma Mater and what it and our Cistercian Monks, stand for in this most troubled world of today.

Indeed their fortitude and faith in God and the total acceptance of His Will was, once again, most vividly demonstrated at the Centenary Mass where, despite the disappointment of the inclement weather and consequential problems, these wonderful men, and what they stand for, was fully acknowledged by the presence of the highest dignitaries of Church and State.

Let us try, hope and pray that somehow, and aided by their abiding interest in us, we may prove ourselves, worthy to be and remain their friends — a unique honour for us all indeed.

## HIGH MASS ON TELEVISION

Many friends of the Abbey missed this television broadcast on the 15th August. It was when the E.S.B. were enjoying harrassing people with one of their periodic "working to rule". (It would be interesting to see the result, if there were no rules to work to and life was a free for all). However, those who saw the Mass on T.V. at 11 a.m. on the Feast of the Assumption, said it was one of the finest things Telefis Eireann has ever put on.

The Abbey Church has recently been renovated and this added greatly to the appearance of the ceremony. And although the community is no longer young the tone and volume of the choir left nothing to be desired. Most of the Mass was sung in Latin, but one of the Lessons was read in Irish and some of the Communion Hymns were also very beautifully rendered in the Mother Tongue. The photography was superb.

The Community has a Video-tape of the Mass in colour and it will be shown on Union Day some time to those who wish to see it.

*We publish the following names by way of acknowledgement and receipt for subscriptions and new Bankers' Orders which we have received since the last issue:*

Mr. Aidan Mottley, Dublin.

John A. O'Meara, M.D., San Jose, California.

Mr. Eamonn O'Donoghue, Dublin.

Mr. John Feeny, Claremont, West Australia.

Very Rev. Fr. Campion, P.P., Borris-in-Ossory.

Mr. John Beresford, Dungarvan.

Mr. Patrick J. Moriarity, Chepstow, Wales.

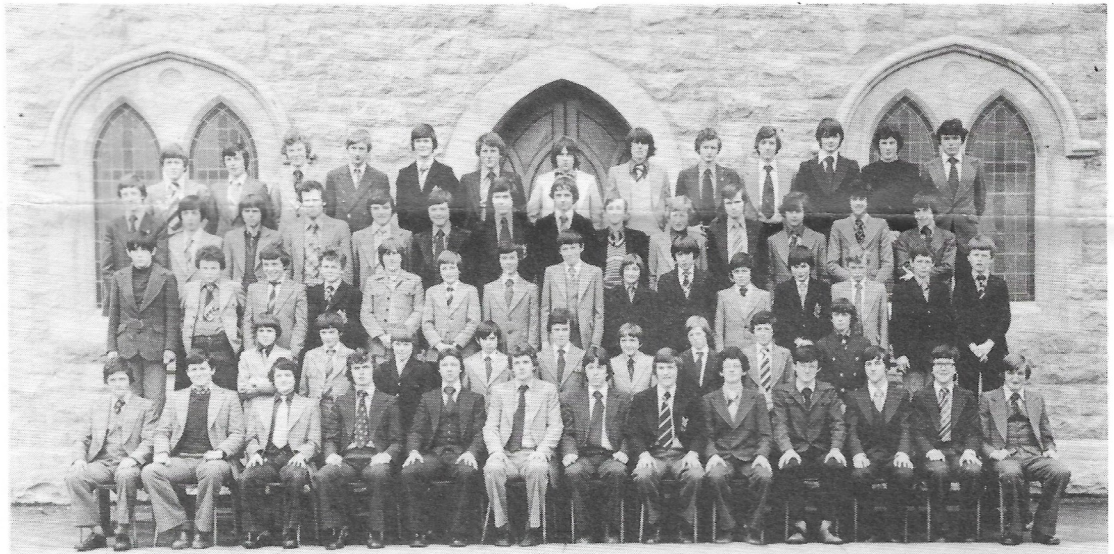
Mr. Tim Murphy, Blackrock, Dublin.

Very Rev. P. J. Dunne, N.S.W., Australia.

Mr. Gerard Lee, Trim, Co. Meath.

Mr. Peadar Walsh, Dublin.

Mr. Michael Lynch, Norwich, England.



### SONS OF PASTMEN

Rows read left to right — front to back:

1. Brian Rafferty, Brian Sherry, Colm O'Connor, Eddie Byrne, Alex Brown, Pierce Bergin, Jim O'Connor, Mark Kinirons, John Walsh, Stephen Smyth, Michael Grace, George Melotte, John Irwin.
  2. Fergal Doyle, John Nolan, James Flynn, Michael O'Connell, John Dwan, Joe O'Shea, Michael Roche, Donal Delahunty, Padraig Malone.
  3. Brian Culliton, John Cahill, John Flynn, Patrick Johnson, Enda Naughton, Kyran Johnson, Michael Dwan, Colin Payne, Stephen Brady, Michael Condon, Michael McCarthy, Brian O'Loughlin, David McEvoy, Gerard O'Callaghan, Desmond O'Connor.
  4. Niel Johnson, Richie Ryan, Henry Windle, Dermot de Loughry, David O'Meara, John Scott, John Kinirons, Liam Ryan, Hugh Maguire, Seadna Ryan, John Ball, Peter Daly, Martin Daly, Declan O'Dea.
  5. Tim Meagher, Jim McNamara, Maurice Mellotte, Michael O'Donoghue, Brian Kinirons, Derry Shaw, Declan, Naughton, Cormac O'Loughlin, Pat Lanigan-Ryan, Liam Fleming, Brefni Martin, John Malone, Eddie Gallagher.
- (Brian Rafferty, Patrick Johnson and Gerard O'Callaghan are third generation).





*Fr. Nivard preparing the site*

inspiring sight with the monks in their white cowls, the priests in stoles and chasubles and the prelates in their purples, led by a thurifer and cross bearer. The local and deanery choir were in full voice, but something had gone wrong with the public address system. This was a major disaster and it spoiled most of the singing and readings. The only one who came across reasonably well was Dr. Cathal Daly, Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnoise. In this we were blessed because the burden of his homily was an inspiration not only to the community but to the clergy and laity present on the occasion. One sentence in

his opening paragraph speaks volumes: "Can we do anything better than thank God for the mystery of His love for men, which has so startled and attracted men in this place that they could not bear to live with anyone else or for anyone else but Him alone".

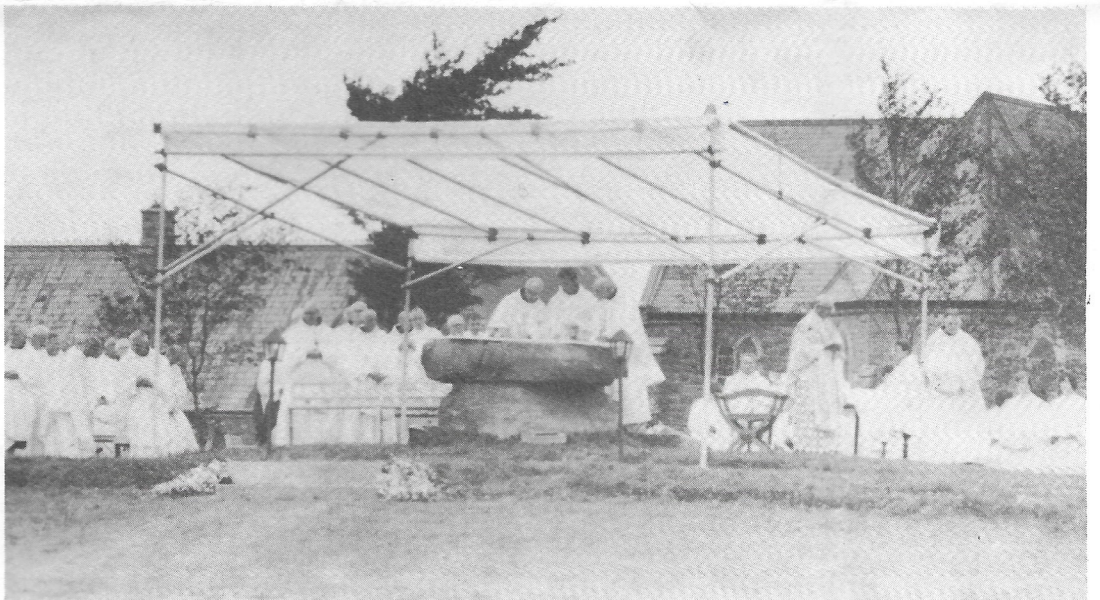
The crowd was not very large, the weather saw to that, but many of those who were there were past students who had not been back for years. One thing we were sorry about was that we had not a special meeting place set aside for such people. The other picture gives some idea of the gathering of priests who Concelebrated the Mass and some four

thousand people received Holy Communion at the Mass.

When the procession returned to the College the hot cup of tea was very welcome and the catering tents set around the grounds were well patronised.

Was it a success? Of course it was. The monks set out to thank God for his graces and blessings, and they did it under the conditions He provided. To conclude on a note once again culled from Dr. Cathal Daly: "The world needs monks . . . The monk may be separated from the world; but he is a monk for the world. He is the world at prayer".

There you have it: come, pray with us!



*The Rock Altar*