

# Newsletter

## the Passionists

May 2006 – St. Patrick's Province  
vol. 5 no. 1



**1856-2006**



**150 Years**

**Passionist Presence**



## Mount Argus – Parish Ministry

### **Frank Keevins CP**

Since the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vatican Council the all important ministry of pastoral care in a parish has taken its lead more from a new understanding and vision of what Church and Parish are, rather than from the role and activity of the Priest as had previously been the case. This new understanding and vision sees the Church

primarily as a community of persons who accept God's revelation in Jesus as Lord, a community united to the Father and to



**Fr. Terence**



**Fr. Bernard**



**Fr. Frank**

one another through Christ in the Holy Spirit. The parish is the basic cell of this community, it is the Church placed in the neighbourhoods of humanity. Pope John XXIII spoke of the parish as the *village fountain* to which all have recourse in their thirst; a community of faith where the rights of people are primary and parish structures are secondary, because the parish is primarily the family of God, and a *fellowship afire with a unifying spirit*.

The primary role of the parish priest then is to animate the Christian community by enabling it to carry out the pastoral responsibilities of the Church. The priest is neither expected nor encouraged to perform this pastoral ministry single-handedly. His task is to bring people together and seek to activate in them the graces and gifts which the Holy Spirit has given them for the benefit of all. The parish then is a partnership between priests and people. The ministry of the laity is so necessary that without it the parish cannot hope to realise or express itself to full effect as God wills.

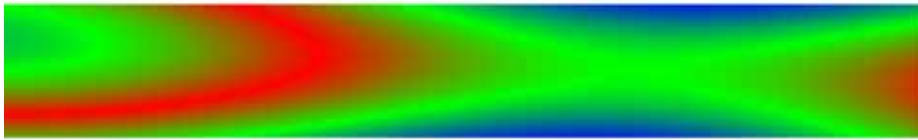
For myself then, while I still find great joy and purpose in celebrating the Eucharist, dispensing God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, preaching the Word of God, and carrying out all the other functions that go with the task of being a

pastor and a Passionist, the most important and challenging aspect of my work is by far that of sharing ministry, mission and leadership with a laity growing in confidence and competence in every aspect of the life of the Church.

At present in Mount Argus I am the only priest formally assigned to the parish. The task of animating the Christian community, however, is ably shared by a qualified lay

pastoral worker, and a lay pastoral leadership team which was elected after a year long process involving the prayerful discernment of the whole parish. There are well over 200 people involved in ministry, the various groupings being gathered around headings taken from the life of the early Church, so that we have ministries of **Word** (*kerygma*); **Worship** (*liturgia*); **Welcome** (*koinonia*) and **Welfare** (*diaconia*). All of these come under the umbrella heading of **Witness** (*martyria*), and so we speak of **the 5 "W's"**. We find this helps people better understand and take hold of their service as real ministry rather than as just "*helping the priest*".

Some of the other challenges that our parish leadership faces are how to embrace the reality of a community of faith, at least half of which live outside official parish boundaries; how to outreach to people who do not come near the Church; how to give expression to the Passionist element of our mission; how to outreach to the suffering and needy; how to invite the gifts and enthusiasm of our young people; how to welcome the stranger, and how to help people embrace positively the reality of change. As we come to accept parish ministry more and more as genuine Passionist ministry the challenges and the opportunities are endless.



## Chaplaincy to Our Lady's Hospice

### **John Craven CP**

Over 23 Years ago I worked in the hospice as a student, as part of my pastoral training to be a priest. In those days the palliative care unit was still a dream, Sister Ignatius was in charge of things then, and Jack McCarthy was the Doctor. I spent three months doing all sorts of jobs and I enjoyed every day, because, every day was a different experience and challenge. I still can remember the faces of patients and staff from those days, even though I may forget their names, that may be because of my age, but I saw the love and care that was given to people who came to spend their last days in a pain free and loving environment.



I always remember the sense of hope that was about the place, for patients and for their families, a hope that gave meaning to their lives. That hope lives on today, in the palliative care unit, with more beds, more staff and doctors, and a multi disciplinary team, the hope that springs from St John's gospel, is still there.

The chaplaincy team consists of, Fr. John Craven, Sr. Rita Deegan, Fr. Bernard Lowe and Rev. Canon Neil McEndoo, Church of

Ireland chaplain. We have been assisted from time to time, by ministers from the Russian Orthodox Church, the Presbyterian Church and the Methodist Church. We can call on the services of the synagogue in Rathgar and the Moslem temple on South Circular Road.

Today we operate a policy of holistic spirituality, to accompany people on the final journey in this life, in their search for meaning and hope. We journey with patients and their families, knowing that we, the chaplains, receive much hope from them.

Our Society is now multi-cultural, our patients as well as staff come from many different cultural backgrounds, so we try to accompany and meet their diversified needs.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> November we had our Memorial Mass for the deceased members of staff and volunteers, and there was a great attendance. We also held, in November, our annual mass for all bereaved families during the past year, this took place at Mount Argus Church and was attended by a large crowd. The Mass was arranged by the chaplaincy and our bereavement service, our volunteers also helped us with all the organisational plans for that night. Our thanks are due to many people, Walter and Carolyn volunteer coordinators, Ann D'arcy and Julia Brent from our bereavement service.

The chaplaincy team also contributes to the programmes for the education department, by giving talks on spirituality and our role and experience as Chaplains. We also give a talk, every Wednesday, to students who are training to be doctors at UCD and TCD.

In December we had the 'Light up a Life' ceremony and it was a beautiful experience, to see so many people, holding a lighted candle in memory of a loved one. For me it was an experience of faith and hope.



## Milltown Institute – Theology/Philosophy

In 1968 six Provincials, including Fr Valentine McMurray, CP agreed to found and fund an Institute for the common education of their Communities' students. This Institute would be based on the existing Jesuit Theology and Philosophy Faculties in Milltown Park, which possesses the best theological library in Ireland. All Passionists ordained in Ireland and Scotland since 1972 have completed the majority of their studies there. The Institute is now a recognised College of the National University of Ireland, conferring both Civil and Ecclesiastical degrees to the level of Doctorate.

Since its inception many Passionists have served on the academic and administrative staff. At present **Frs. Patrick Rogers and Anthony O'Leary are both Associate Professors in the Department of Sacred Scripture**, having served since 1971 and 1978 respectively. Both have held the administrative post as Chairman of the General Theology Department, Fr Patrick served as Head of Scripture and Fr Anthony is current Head of Adult Education and an elected staff member of the Academic Council.

Milltown offers courses on various levels, both night and day. The night courses attract a great cross section of people with different backgrounds and aspirations, all sharing a desire to deepen their understanding of faith and life. There are also other centres accredited by Milltown and this sector caters for more than 200 people, more than half of whom would follow courses in Milltown itself.

Full time courses in Philosophy, Theology and Spirituality lead to diplomas and



**Fr. Patrick**

**Fr. Anthony**

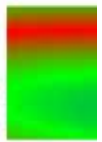
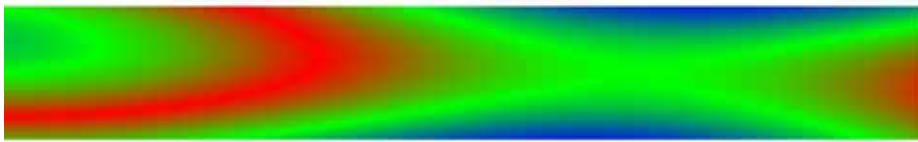
degrees at both undergraduate and post graduate level. There are about 270 full time students from all over the world. As well as the school leavers, there have been Jesuits from Eastern European countries. The postgraduate sector has attracted many different types of students; - ordinands for the Church of Ireland, a Romanian Orthodox priest, retired engineers, homeopaths an Iraqi Christian and a Polish Carmelite have all figured among the student community. The amalgamation of the Kimmage Mission Institute with Milltown, which took place three years ago, has brought a further ethnic diversity. Ministry at Milltown has many challenges both intellectual and cultural, but it offers an opportunity to have an input to the development of future leaders who will spread throughout the globe.

### **Additional Ministries- Pat Rogers CP**

**Pre-Marriage Courses:** Working with a team of lay people, I have, since 1980, conducted one-day courses on a regular basis. Currently we are running about 26 courses per annum, often attended by up to 50 couples so that, currently, our course is being taken by upwards of a thousand couples each year. The course is entirely self-financing, as we have no grant. Our website [www.together.ie](http://www.together.ie) gives lots of details about the content and dynamics of the course.

**Electronic Publishing:** I have a great interest in placing theological material on CD (and partly on the internet, see website: [www.cyberbooks.ie](http://www.cyberbooks.ie)). Up to the present, this is not really profitable and barely pays its way but it has potential. To enhance the value of the next edition of my "Bible Study Tools" CD I am preparing a new translation of the works of the important Jewish historian, Flavius Josephus, which should be finished later in 2006. A large sampling of chapters from the new translation can already be seen at [www.josephus.ie](http://www.josephus.ie)

**Radio:** Occasionally I'm invited to be on some panel or other but it is very ad hoc and currently I'm not looking for any work of that kind until I finish work on the large Josephus project.



## Huntstown Parish - Dublin

### **Martin Denny CP**

It's coming up to one year since our Parish Pastoral Council was formed. On this council are 6 women and 5 men. We have come through the initial growth struggle out of which sub-groups have formed to work on the following:

- The Parish Website – updating
- The Parish Newsletter – establishing same
- A Child Protection Policy based on the diocesan document – *Our Children, Our Church*
- Finances. How our parish can generate much needed funds.



**Bro. Martin**

**Fr. Eugene**

**Fr. Ralph**

This year we conducted a Parish Registration drive aimed at getting more people engaged in the various ministries and works in the parish. While we got a few volunteers it's but a drop in the ocean given that there are 5000 homes in our parish and building continues.

The 'Sacred Heart of Jesus' Church (opened 2002) is the parish church. Continued population growth resulted in the opening of a chapel-of-ease 'Mary Mother of Hope', in Littlepace. Our two parish schools, both primary, have had to be extended. They have a significant intake of 'International Children'. The newer school is Mary, Mother of Hope, opened in 2001 and has just completed a new 16 classroom permanent block. The older, Sacred Heart of Jesus

National School (Scoil An Chroi Ro Naofa Iosa), is a multi-racial, multi-cultural school, established in 1983. At that time there were just two teachers, the Principal and Vice-Principal, Mr John Lynch and Sr Madeleine Fitzpatrick, and over 30 children. Since then the numbers have increased dramatically and we now have 45 teachers and 7 Special Needs Assistants on the staff, and approximately 930 pupils including children from the Traveller Community and more than 300 International Children from over 40 different countries. All pupils are taught in mixed-ability, mainstream classes. Our aim for the future is to continue to adapt and respond to the ever-changing needs of the children and the community we serve.

### **Local Apostolate:**

One morning a week a small group of likeminded parishioners meet in 36 Ashfield Lanes. This 'Tuesday Group' has developed into a mutual sharing and support team. Over the last 18 months we have developed a strong bond of trust and love that is profoundly enriching for each one of us and the parish as a whole.

**My own apostolate-Martin Denny.** Being about the church. Being available. Being in wonder at what it means to be.





## Holy Cross Retreat, Ardoyne

The history of Holy Cross is a record of achievement. That pioneers were men of faith and courage there can be no doubt. At the opening of the first little church, on 10 January 1869, His Lordship, the Most Rev. Dr. Dorrian, said that it was but 'an earnest of what would be hereafter done, when a more beautiful and architectural edifice took its place.' Conditions were difficult and their wants were many. They were starting Religious Life in a broken-down cottage bought with borrowed money.

The parish now has four schools – St. Gabriel's Boys College, Holy Cross Girl's School, Holy Cross Boys' School and Mercy Primary.

2006 will be a year of pilgrimages. Parishioners will travel on the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock in June, to Lourdes in July and also in October, to Fatima in August, to Rome in September.



**Fr. Gary**

**Fr. Salvian**



**Bro. Angelo**

**Fr. Brendan**

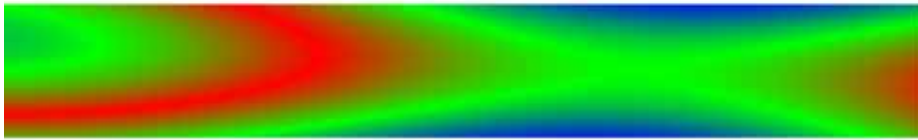
Rector succeeded Rector; the Community changed with the changing years; but the work and the growth went on. First a Church; then Schools; then a Monastery; then the Church of today – a Church that is 'considered by many to be the most beautiful Catholic Church in Ireland.'

Today the Church is the centre of a vibrant parish life with the celebration of masses, weddings, funerals and baptisms. A priest is available at set times every weekday for the sacrament of reconciliation.



**Confirmation Day**





## Holy Cross Retreat, Ardoyne



**Fr. Aidan Troy C.P.**

### *Aidan Troy CP – Working in Ardoyne*

Member of Parish Team: Caring for a parish district with family visitation, outreach to the housebound and hospitalised, marriages, funerals etc and all the consequent preparation contact work needed in the meaningful engagement with all of these situations; regular contact with politicians, police and other groups both local and wider.

#### Other activities:

- o Local Superior of community and the administration associated with this. Leading and supporting prayer life and other activities of community life.
- o Chairperson of the Board of Governors of Holy Cross Girls Primary School and Saint Gabriel's College and Trustee representative for parish primary, secondary and nursery schools; meetings to plan for future of schools in Holy Cross parish in conjunction with CCMs; part-time chaplain to one primary and one secondary school in the area
- o Addressing individuals and groups re the Holy Cross School protest and the work of reconciliation; media

participation local, national and international; occasional articles for a national newspaper and articles for other papers; editor of weekly parish bulletin

- o Participants in a North Belfast monthly meeting of Protestant/Catholic clergy and participating in cross-community conferences in Ireland and UK
- o Participant in monthly Vicariate (Deanery) meetings, Diocesan general conferences and a member of Diocesan Council of Priests
- o Liaising with Architects and others regarding the vacating of the monastery and finding another use for it; establishing a new Passionist community house; reopening the Family Centre as a cross-community facility and building parish administrative offices; creating a church car park and associated roads; fundraising activities for this 'refounding' of Holy Cross especially in USA
- o Part time help with PIPS and Console (Suicide support groups) in Belfast and Dublin; contributing to designing a plan for suicide prevention in the Belfast area.



**Fr. Aidan and helpers**



## Flax Trust , Ardoyne

### **From Myles Kavanagh CP**

Besides my parish responsibilities at Holy Cross, Ardoyne, to about 1000 families in my district and chaplaincy duties to Holy Cross Girls Primary School and St Gemma's High School, I give time and support to Board Meetings associated with the Flax Trust Projects such as:



**Fr. Myles and Helpers**

*Ulster Community Investment Trust Ltd* – providing dedicated financial and monitoring support to socio-economic enterprises in Northern Ireland and the border counties;

*Social for Social Entrepreneurs in Ireland* – in response to the need for high quality education, training and development for the growing social economy sector and accredited to the University of Ulster

*Flax Centre* – incorporating a medical centre, day care for the elderly, shopping centre and workshops providing services to the local community

*Flax Housing Association Ltd* – developing affordable housing projects

*SBFT* – a joint venture with Bombardier Aerospace redeveloped the derelict Belfast Co-operative department store in York Street as a neutral location for apprenticeship and management training

*Belfast Beacon* and *BLTV* – technology/networks solutions provider to the target area within the North Belfast and a new local cable network based in North Belfast providing a multi-purpose television studio, produce and post production facilities. *BLTV* is a local cable channel run by the Flax Trust. It broadcasts daily mass from Holy Cross to over 200 homes in the parish. It publishes a monthly schedule of programmes of community, social and religious interest.



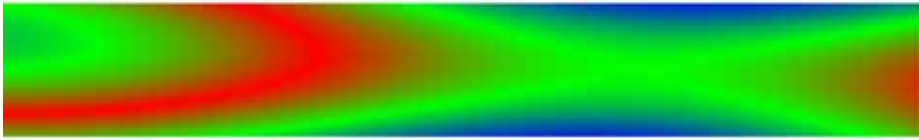
*Ardoyne/Shankill Health Living Partnership* – Operating in Flax Medical Centre to provide complementary health and health educational programmes on a cross-community basis.

*Flax Trust America* – Promotes the work of Flax Trust as well as being engaged in fund raising events.

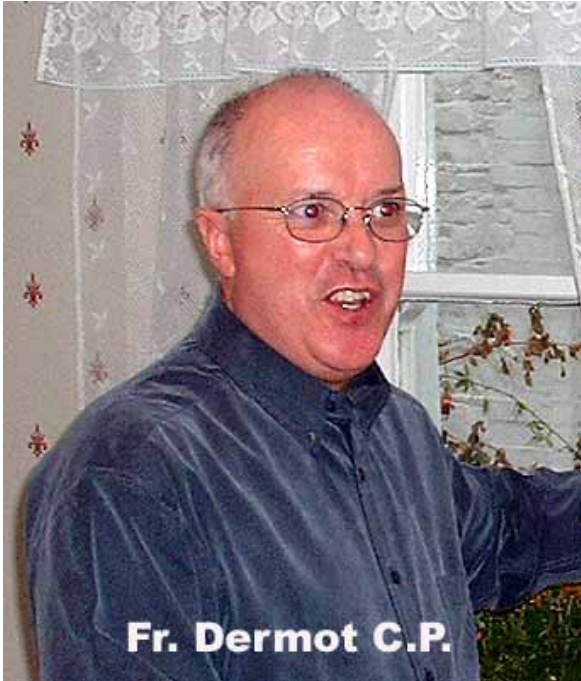


**Flax Shopping Centre**





## Tobar Mhuire, Crossgar



**Fr. Dermot C.P.**

mornings 10am–1pm; Sewing Class on Wednesday afternoons 2pm–4pm; and the weekly Charismatic Prayer Meeting on Wednesday nights. On Thursday evening we hold an A.A. meeting and then on Friday morning we hold a cross-community coffee morning for senior citizens where topics of individual and local interests are aired.

Our weekends are taken up with groups who are as diverse as the people who come; Pre-Marriage Focus, Anger Management, Legion of Mary, Apostolic Workers, S.V.P., Knights of St Columbanus, Cancer Research, Alpha, Wholeness through Christ, Teams of Mary, Eucharistic Ministers, Lay Readers, Province wide Vocation Weekends along with individual requests for private and directed retreats.

Our Ministry here in Tobar Mhuire is as always ongoing. Our main work is Reconciliation which we offer four days a week from 4pm–6pm and from 7 pm to 9 pm. Of course, along with this sacrament we have Morning Prayer at 8.45 am and daily Mass at 9am. On Friday and Saturday evening from 7pm–9 pm we have Exposition which concludes with Night Prayer of the Church, and on the First Friday of each month we have an All Day Prayer Vigil with Rosary and Mid-day Prayer; Evening Prayer and Night Prayer.



We also hold days for the local clergy to meet and discuss and Prayer Days for the Priests of the Deanery, Religious and Laity.

On the Retreat side our premises are used by all sorts of groups and individuals. There are weekly events: Multi Crafts on Monday 7pm – 9pm; the Rosary Group on Tuesdays at 8pm; H.A.N.D.S also meet on Tuesday nights at 8.30 pm; Yoga on Wednesday

Victor holds Healing Masses which are very popular. He holds monthly prayer and praise afternoons for young people which has steadily grown and is also very popular.



**Frs. Fergus, Conleth,**

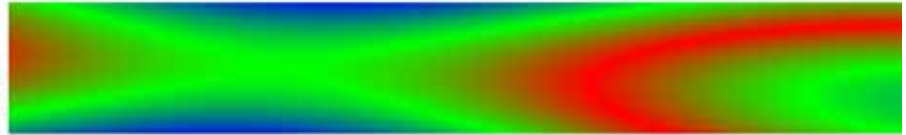
**Neil**

**Victor**

**Bro. Paul**

**Evangelist**

**Mel**



## St. Gabriel's, The Graan

The Passionists came to outside Enniskillen in 1909 to found a house that would serve as the training house for Passionist novices. The Retreat fulfilled this task until it became the house for Postulants in the late 1970s. In the following decade this function ceased and the Priests and Brothers moved to a smaller purpose built house beside the Public Church. The original house became a Nursing Home.

All through the years The Graan has been a spiritual centre for the people of a wide surrounding area for Mass, Confession and healing.

Over the years this apostolate of Reconciliation has been maintained and, even still, despite the fall-off in the general frequency of confession, most ordinary days bring between 30 and 50 penitents. First Fridays and Festivals bring bigger numbers. It is this ministry which contributes most to the local community. Most days bring others who wish to consult a priest, to seek counsel or to ask for a blessing.

In recent years, the retreat provides a centre for Prayer Groups. On four evenings of the week there are different prayer groups, which make use of our facilities and the direction of our brethren. There is also an Anam Cara Young Adult Group, which meets monthly for praying and sharing.



**Fr. Michael**



**Fr. Casimir**

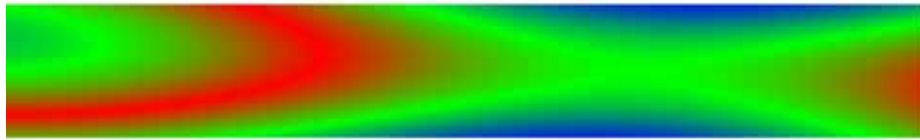


**Fr. Ailbe**

Since the establishment of the Nursing Home in the adjoining building, our priests have acted as Chaplains to the elderly and infirm. Many of the residents attend the daily Mass. Each Thursday there is a Mass in the Home itself for the benefit of the residents, especially for those unable to attend Mass in the church. These services are appreciated most of all by those patients who are Religious Sisters, Brothers or Priests, all of whom have been numbered among the residents.

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## The Graan, Fr. Brian - Communications

Brian celebrates 40 years in journalism and broadcasting this year and will have completed 30 years as a columnist in the Sunday World in August 2006.

His early days in broadcasting were with the programme Network, produced by The Catholic Communications Centre. He began writing a regular column about pop music for The Dancing Gazette and New Spotlight in the summer of 1966.

In 1970, immediately after ordination, he was appointed initially as assistant Editor of The Cross Magazine. Two months later he was appointed Editor and edited it for five years. As a result of his work there he was asked to work full-time at the Catholic Communications Centre in Booterstown Avenue as Production Editor. He was involved in the training of local and overseas students. The training involved the techniques of television, radio and journalism. At the same time he produced, with David Owens, all of the Audio/Visual material used by the Catechetical programme for the Republic of Ireland, some of which is still in use to this very day. It was at this time he became a columnist with the Sunday World. He hasn't missed a Sunday in 30 years.

After he left the Communications Centre for Parish work in Mount Argus, he continued on a Consultancy basis, to teach journalism and broadcasting courses at the Communication Centre for ten years. He later began broadcasting regularly for R.T.E Radio 1 which led to a regular programme on 2FM when it opened in 1979. He was appointed by the Preparatory Committee for the Pope's Visit to be the liaison officer with

Radio, TV and the Sunday Papers in 1979. Immediately afterwards he got a regular slot on 2FM and broadcast Reflection live every morning at 7:15a.m. for six years. He moved on to 'What It Says In The Papers' for 2FM for a further five years. At the same time he took up the Gig Guide which ran for 15 years on 2FM.



When he moved North he was given his own programme, Be My Guest on BBC Radio Ulster. That was in 1990 the same year he began as a contributor to Pause For Thought for BBC Radio 2 in London.

This has continued for sixteen years. He regularly contributes to Pause for Thought with Terry Wogan when there is an audience of approximately 8million. In 1996 he was asked to take on his own Radio Show on BBC Radio Ulster, Sunday With Brian D'Arcy. He has now completed ten years in this slot.

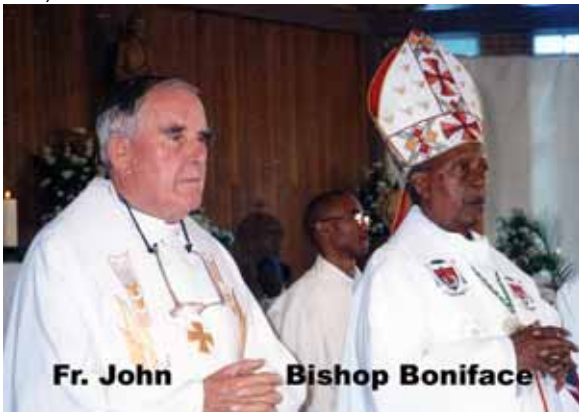
He has published ten books to date, as well as numerous documentaries and contributions to Radio and television here in Ireland and throughout Britain. He was chosen by BBC in Northern Ireland to be the presenter of a Current Affairs Programme for the opening of Digital television in Belfast. He presented and co-produced a weekly Current Affairs for Choice TV before it was centralised in London when it became physically impossible to continue with the programme.

This is a summary of some of his contributions in written and broadcast journalism. He was the first priest in Ireland to be accepted as a fulltime member of the National Union of Journalist in 1972.



## Botswana : Cathedral Gaborone

Christ the King Cathedral Mission was established in 1968. In spite of the fact that three other missions have since been established in the Gaborone area the Cathedral Mission continues to be quite a busy place. The Mission is presently staffed by Fr Augustine Aidoo, a young diocesan priest from Ghana, and Fr John Corrigan CP, as Administrator.



At the weekends we have Mass on Saturday Evenings at 6.00 pm in English and then on Sunday we have mass at 8.00 am (English); 10am (Tswana) and 6pm (English). The weekend liturgies are vibrant as at the 6pm we have the choir of the 'Couples for Christ' providing the lead in the singing; then at the 8am we have a well-established choir and organist; at the 6 pm we have a recently formed choir which is showing good promise.

On weekdays we have Mass at 6.45 am and 5 pm from Monday to Friday. Both of these Masses are well attended. On Wednesdays we have the Novena devotions in honour of Our Lady of Holy Hope, organised and conducted by the laity. On Fridays during Lent we have the Stations of the Cross,



Christ the King Cathedral

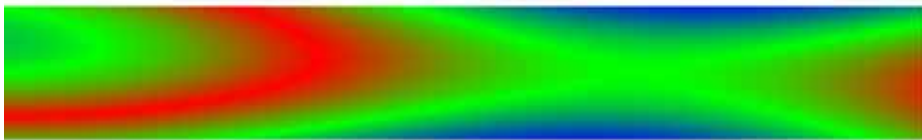
conducted by the laity, after Mass. On Saturday morning we have the Childrens' Mass at 9 am, followed by the Catechetical Programme. Presently, we are introducing a new Catechetical Programme in the Diocese. We are blessed to have twenty-two voluntary teachers in the English Catechetics and fifteen in the Tswana Programme. We also have adult catechesis on Tuesday Evenings and Sunday mornings after Mass.

We have a number of organisations functioning in the Mission; Pastoral Council; Basadi bag a Anna (Women of St Anne); Our Lady's Guild; Sacred Heart Sodality; Christian Life Group; Chiro (Youth Group); St Vincent de Paul Society; Catholic Womens Society; Charismatic Group; Couples for Christ/Singles for Christ/Youth for Christ; and the various Church choirs. We also provide the local AA Society with accommodation for their weekly meetings.

Lay ministries are well developed in the Mission; we have active Funeral Leaders who conduct the evening prayers and vigils in the houses of the bereaved as well as the funerals. We have a number of extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist whose assistance is very necessary at the weekend masses. They also assist in bringing Holy Communion to the sick. Then we have a rota of Lectors for the reading of the scripture at the Masses.

We have ten Small Christian Communities in the area. These Communities are in various stages of development. When requested, Mass is celebrated in a Community.

The Vincent de Paul Society runs the Mission Book Store. The proceeds of the sales are used to support the works of the Society which includes the running of a small Home where ten orphan children and two adults reside. The children attend the local schools. →



## Botswana : Forest Hill

Forest Hill is a kind of oasis. Occasionally one comes across such a sacred place in the secular desert. A place to rest awhile and wash the grime out of one's eyes, so that one can see more clearly the way ahead.

A passer-by could think that it is a place where nothing much happens. True-externally! The apostolate here is barely visible to the casual onlooker.

Brendan Gallagher is the gentle leader of our little community, consisting of Dermot O'Carroll, Cosmas Donnelly and Julian Black. Besides the administrative work and daily running of the house, he provides comfortable accommodation and a wholesome table for retreatants and visitors.

The well kept grounds and availability of the church attract laity from the Gaborone area, especially at weekends. They come for prayer and meditation or simply to experience God's presence in the peaceful atmosphere. The community members are always available for those seeking spiritual accompaniment.

### Cathedral continued

We have a Pre-Marriage Preparation Course. This is run by a team of one married couple and a mature married lady along with the priests of the mission. This is quite a busy apostolate as we cater for couples from many missions in the Diocese who are working in Gaborone but whose marriages are scheduled to take place at their home missions.

We also have the Prison Ministry. The Princess Marina Hospital is situated in the mission area. The chaplaincy is carried out by a Ugandan Diocesan Priest, Fr Sabinus Diku, who resides at the Cathedral House.

Brendan is ably assisted by our mother and cook Masego Phiri and our housekeeper Keamogetse Montsiwa, both of whom have been with us since Forest Hill Retreat Centre was opened twenty two years ago. The retreat is situated half-way between



**Bro. Brendan Fr. Julian Fr. Cosmas Fr. Dermot**

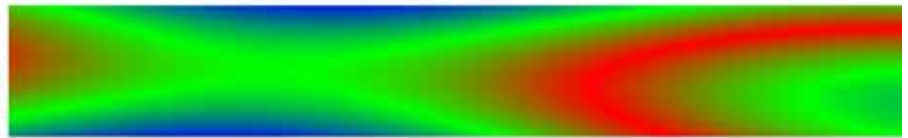
Kgale Hill and Gaborone dam on the southern boundary of the city of Gaborone.

Kabo Ramoeti is responsible for the upkeep of the grounds and the maintenance of the infrastructure, consisting of 16 chalet-style bedrooms and dormitory with toilets and showers, a community room, television room, office classroom, library, dining room, kitchen and chapel.

Cosmas is responsible for the running of the neighbouring parish in Old Naledi, something he devotes himself to, far and above the call of duty. We sometimes do supply work, but rather reluctantly as it can be quite disruptive of community prayer.

Forest Hill is the usual venue for our monthly CP meetings and other Passionists events. On Sunday evenings the wider Passionist community comes here for time together and an evening meal. And you thought life was tough on the missions!!!





## Botswana : Naledi

### Christ the Rock, Parish, Naledi. Fr. Cosmas Donnelly

The church of Christ-the-Rock is in Naledi, a large shanty town (Sean-tig) on the outskirts of Gaborone, the capital city of Botswana. The parish has been administered by the Passionists from Forest Hill since its inception. As a preamble to my report I should like to present four short cameos of individual parishioners who have contributed to the building up of the parish community.



This is a photo of Justice Mereki, a retired government worker and the father of a Growing family. For the past 12 years Justice has been taking a class of Catechumens for one hour weekly

before Sunday Mass. The programme has changed but Justice has never wavered. Since retiring he has been traveling a 30km journey to fulfill his duties. He also doubles as a Funeral Leader for Catholics and those of other churches or none who have nobody else to function on their behalf- so fulfilling this Corporal work of mercy.



Widowed many years ago Mrs.. Moremi drives to the shantytown daily for Mass despite having a painful

arthritic condition. Her vehicle is often at the disposal of her sodality members and even of the priest when rain renders the roads impassible for his small 'Citi Golf' VW. So she provides transport in a cheerful spirit in a community with very few vehicles.

Esther leads the Catechetical Team with the help of the chairperson and vice chairperson of the Parish Council. She works and lives far from the parish but is always faithful to her catechumens and to the over-seeing of the other teachers. Calm and responsible she has the respect of her pupils and fellow teachers



alike. Esther is also a Minister of the Eucharist.

Finally there is Mma- Stephan- mother of Stephan-the keeper of the keys of the church, Noted for her strong sense of

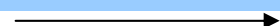


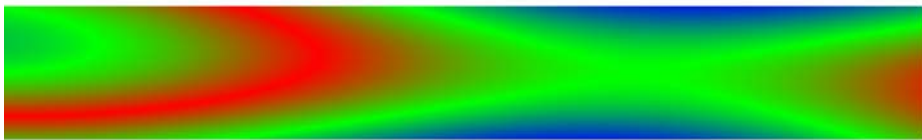
responsibility for the up-keep of the church and its surroundings. She patiently weeds the churchyard and plants flowers, washes and polishes the

sacristy and attends to the altar linens.

These are but a few of the many with whom I am privileged to work. Yes, very occasionally we have a member who defects to one of the Pentecostal Churches, but the Parish of Christ-the-Rock will survive as the faith of the little flock is firm and there is a core of committed Catholics to pass on the flame to the next generation.

On Sunday at Christ-the-Rock, one experiences a vibrant liturgy with the choir leading the Congregational singing and the people involved throughout. There is usually a warm welcome for visitors and no one is in a hurry home afterwards. This also energizes me, celebrant in the most significant and most fully attended act of worship of the week. Another significant hour in the week is the house Mass in one





## Botswana and South Africa



parish is divided. Each ward also has a weekly Bible sharing session on Sunday readings. Leaders from each ward are represented on the Parish Council.

Many of our people are unemployed and live below poverty line. Some of them also carry the cross of caring for the sick and those enduring the scourge of HIV/AIDS. As a priest, I am involved in the ordinary round of duties, daily mass, and visitation to the sick and elderly in their homes and hospital.

I also have a weekly Catechism class before Sunday Mass and sessions for couples preparing for marriage and those seeking Baptism of their children. I am also available on a daily basis for listening to the stories of the destitute, immigrants and members of the Community who have run into difficulties and need help. Thanks to our benefactors, we are often able to reach out to the most needy with compassion and practical assistance. The same benefactors have also made possible an evolving project on a once a month basis on behalf of the disabled in the community, which is done in co-operation with Naledi Clinic.



### Passionists are also in :



**Fr. Lawrence in Tlokweng Botswana**



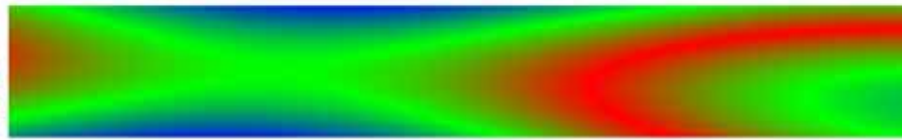
**Fr. Anthony  
Irene Philosophy  
House, South Africa**



**Fr. Simon  
Carletonville  
South Africa**



**Fr. Valaphi, Saulsville  
South Africa**



## Botswana : Molepolole

### Michael Ogweno, C.P.

Sedibeng Catholic Mission- Molepolole is one of the youngest Passionist Missions in Botswana. Founded in the 1970s it has grown slowly. It now has two Masses on Sundays: one in English for the immigrant workers who come from other countries other than Botswana, and the other in the local language known as Setswana. The English speakers are not so many but they form one of the five small Christian communities in the parish. On average, putting the two Masses together, the weekly attendance would be around 300 people.

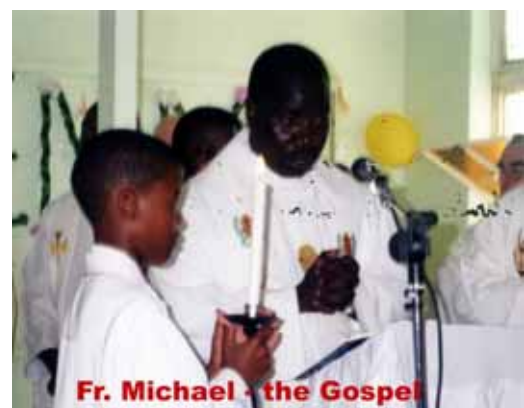


The reasons for the slow progress in Molepolole was first the anti-catholic feeling among other churches and that the catholic church was and is still seen as a foreign church not only by those outside the church but even among those who became Catholics Our biggest task and challenge has been to get people involved and become participants in their pastoral and spiritual developments and growth.

The creation of the parish pastoral council and the small Christian communities has been a big help towards making people participants in their pastoral and spiritual development. The parish pastoral council has departments of Liturgy, Finance and development, Administration of the Sacraments, youth ministries, small Christian communities and sodalities. This allows for the collaborative work in carrying

out the activities of the Mission or in solving pastoral issues that arises by giving people a chance to play their part.

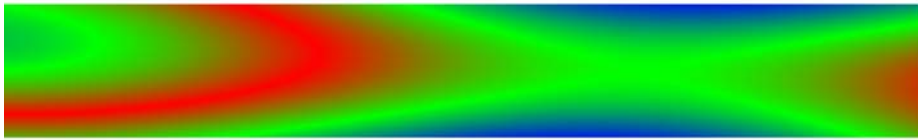
In the parish several groups and committees meet on a weekly basis to discuss and share among themselves issues that affect them in the light of their faith and Mission activities. This is beginning to make an impact in the lives of the people in general. People are getting involved in contributing to the less privileged of the society; clothing, food and shelter, visitations to those who are sick and to the prisoners and thereby being agents of Evangelisation. As part of the mission's ministry and contribution to those who are affected and infected with HIV-Aids, which is a big issue around us, the mission is conducting a feeding programme for the orphans once a week. The orphans come, they are taught, they play, they are fed and then they return to their homes. We are now in the process of establishing in the mission of Molepolole, the Crestch and a Computer College, which we hope will be an important contribution in bringing up the children and youth in the Church.



### Formation

Formation continues to take the central stage in our religious meetings and receives the highest attention in all our gatherings. This is not just because it is a problematic and difficult area, but positively because we realise that without formation, we and all that we stand for and believe in, will die with





## Botswana : Molepolole

ourselves; and that would be a tragic death. Formation work started here in Molepolole in 1994. In that year postulants were accepted and a programme called 'come and see' was started for potential future candidates. Until 2000 we used small rooms and old rondavels as rooms for the students and meeting rooms for classes. In that year the Passionists built a ten roomed house complete with ablution blocks and a chapel for the students. This continued until 2004 when Molepolole became a novitiate house.



Molepolole Student House

It was on the 18<sup>th</sup> of February here in Molepolole that Emmanuel Kabinga was received to the order of Deacons. The ceremony was presided over by Bishop Boniface T. Setlelekgosi, Bishop of Gaborone, who preached eloquently on the ministry of service and the meaning of deaconate. He urged the people of Molepolole to encourage their children to offer their lives to the service of God in the Church. Assisting the Bishop at the Ceremony was Fr. Arthur McCann, the Regional Vicar and Fr. Michael Ogwenso his assistant and Parish Priest of Sedibeng Mission, Molepolole. It was a large gathering of clergy, religious and laity, which included Emmanuel's sister and brother from Zambia.

The daily programme and time table in Molepole starts variedly at 6 am during summer and 6.30 am during winter with half an hour meditation followed by Morning Prayer and Mass. After breakfast there is class on various topics: we give class on liturgy of the hours and the Eucharist, Catechism of the Catholic Church, Passionist history and spirituality, human development etc. The afternoons are



Bishop Boniface, Emmanuel, Michael

divided between a bit of manual work, pastoral work, sports and personal studies.

We struggle to help the students clarify for themselves their motivation for coming to join us and through classes, individual conferences and their own personal prayers hope that they become more open and honest with themselves and God who calls.

### Foundation in Zambia

The Zambian foundation has been part of many of our discussions in the Vicariate assemblies and Congresses due to the fact that we have had many vocations from Zambia. It was decided that a foundation should be made in Zambia as soon as possible. We have had a number of trips to Zambia during which we have approached the Archbishop of Lusaka and expressed our desire to come to his diocese. The archbishop heartily welcomed our intention and put our request before his diocesan consultors who also welcomed the idea. He identified places to put on offer to us. We decided we would send two men who would first settle in a parish and then make moves to establish a formation centre in Lusaka. We presented these facts to the Archbishop and he was pleased and more than happy with all that. We are now in the process of drawing up a contract.



Procession for Diaconate ordination



## South Africa – Fr. Sylvius

### Parish of The Good Shepherd, Meerhof Sylvius McGaughey C.P.

To say that I am conducting a vigorous Missionary Apostolate in this lovely parish nestling in the valleys of the Magaliesberg Mountains in my 75<sup>th</sup> year would be stretching it - so why am I writing? Apart from the fact that the beautiful Geraldine invited me and she has been so good to me and to all of us for so long that I could refuse her nothing, I have a small point to make which may be helpful to some in this day and age.

When I came here in 2001, the parish had been without a resident priest for ten years. The first priest here was James Delaney who spent most of his life as a De La Salle Brother. He built a lovely church, an equally lovely small presbytery, a caretaker's cottage and had a parish hall almost completed when he died suddenly of a stroke. The Passionists then ministered here from our parish in Saulsville, about half hour away. John Craven was the first and after him came Terence McGuckin, Anthony Mdhluli, Velaphi Mazibuko and Kieran Creagh. All are fondly and gratefully remembered.

The point I want to make is that the people I found here after ten years without a resident priest were in my opinion markedly more mature Catholics than any I had dealt with previously. They were not afraid to make the Church their own in a very real sense; to take decisions; to step forward to take on various duties and ministries and to carry them out faithfully. To me they projected an image of responsible and mature Catholics which I found, and still find, invigorating.

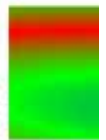
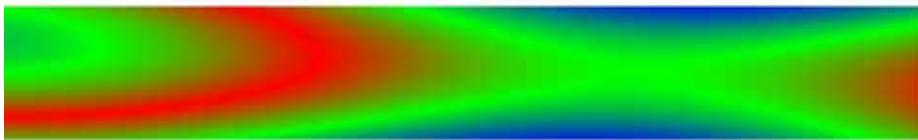
This is largely due to the good work done by my Passionist brothers who motivated them, trusted them, encouraged them and were not afraid to delegate responsibilities to them. I am convinced that this is the way to go so I am being careful to keep a low profile and not undo the good work.



My experience here has emphasized for me a thought that I have had at the back of my mind for a very long time: that the Church has had far too many priests! I can still remember my frustrations when I was rector in Mount Argus when we had a community with almost forty active priests. There was just no priestly work available for more than half of them!

By way of a footnote, one of the leaders of our choir, Mrs Mmoni More, has just been elected to the Local Council of Madibeng. An even bigger footnote, the Premier of the North West Province, Mrs Edna Moilwa, has moved into the parish. Herself and her husband and five children are all Catholics. As she explained to me in a letter, she has been living in Mafikeng, the seat of the Province Administration, with three of the children; her husband is in business in Johannesburg where he has been living with the two older children. They were meeting only every second weekend so they decided to move here which lies between both places so that they could be together as a family.

And, if you didn't already know, the Magaliesberg Mountain Range is one of the oldest in the world – it has survived three Ice-Ages. It is continuously studied by geologists from all over.



## St. Mungo's - Glasgow

Located at just ten minutes walk from the centre of Glasgow, Saint Mungo's has a ministry to our parishioners and also to a wide variety of other people living in the city and beyond. The Passionist community offers daily Mass, usually with a homily, and opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation morning and evening. Our confessional apostolate draws people from a wide radius; only last Saturday, I was speaking to someone from Stirling who comes to confession in Saint Mungo's. As with Passionist churches everywhere, people come to Saint Mungo's because they find a sense of community and a sense of spirituality, with good preaching and well presented liturgy.

The value of what we provide can be gauged by the number of young people coming to the church and taking part in the life of the parish. Of course, with two universities (Strathclyde and Caledonian) and two colleges (Central College of Commerce and Glasgow Metropolitan College) near the church, and Paul Francis and Sister Maureen act as Catholic Chaplains to Glasgow Caledonian University.



St. Mungo Bookshop

of other faiths. Initially most of the new arrivals in the parish were from Kosovo and Albania, followed later by those from Iraq, Lebanon and other Arabic speaking countries. Now we find that there are more and more African families moving into the area, many of whom speak English rather than French as a European language, although we still have the monthly French Mass for those from French-speaking African countries. Only a couple of Sundays ago, six children were baptised, all from African families.

In the last year or so, we also have another



**Frs. Paul Francis, Hubert**

**Marius**

**Augustine**

**Eustace**

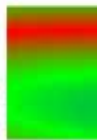
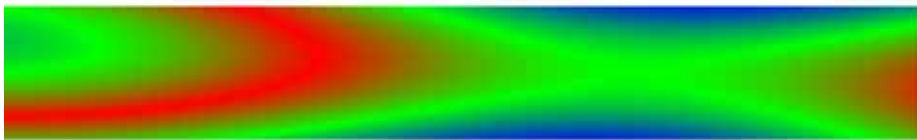
**Justinian**

Our ministry here has changed in the last seven years because of the increasing number of overseas-born people coming to the church. The large influx of asylum seekers and refugees of recent years has given rise to a more international parish community. The work done by the Cross and Passion Sisters in helping asylum seekers to integrate into the local community is appreciated not just by Catholics but by other Christians and people

layer of migrant workers, joining the mix of refugees, overseas students and long-term residents. Most of these migrant workers are from Poland and other new members countries of the European Union, but there are also nurses from India and the Philippines who are sometimes joined by their families.

With the changing demographics in this part of the city, our parish and our Passionist community are challenged to become more





## South Africa – Leratong Hospice

### ***Kieran Creagh CP***

As I write, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2006, we have just admitted our 300<sup>th</sup> patient. His name is David and he is 52 years old and has cancer of the Oesophagus. He is not typical of our patients as many are much younger and are suffering from AIDS.

It is 21 months since we opened our doors to receive patients and we have come a long way. Each new patient has taught us something new about living with a terminal illness, caring for the individual in a holistic way.

We now have 4 part time doctors, 9 professional nurses, 15 carers, 8 housekeeping staff, 5 administration staff and 1 beautician. The staff work well together to provide best quality Palliative care. To Palliate means to 'make something bad easier to cope with'. This is our main aim; so that we can help our patients cope with their sickness.

The medical university of South Africa now send their students to us to experience palliative care in action. The Hospice and Palliative Care Association of South Africa

### **St. Mungo's Continued**

international in their outlook, We need also to realise that future Passionist vocations may come from the "new Scots" whose family life and faith life are generally healthy.

For the future, our recently opened bookshop is a way of having new contacts with people and should lead us to reflect on the question of the dialogue between Faith and Culture, the "drama of our time". We also look forward to the Passionist Institute in June as a help to our developing with our lay co-workers a programme on Passionist charism and spirituality

has asked us to be a model of inpatient palliative care for other hospices. Thanks to our dedicated nurses and staff we are moving in the right direction.



Fr. Kieran and patient in Leratong Hospice

Poverty, sickness, and crime continue in our community, so our next step is to build a Day Care Centre and a Church, which will be dedicated to Our Lady of Hope (Maria Ma Tshepo). The church will be multipurpose, incorporating a creche and community facilities, to serve our discharged patients and the local community.



**If you know of anyone who would like to contribute, the account details are:**

**Account Name: Maria Ma Tshepo**  
**Account Number: 318590131**  
**Bank: Standard Bank,**  
**Hartbeespoort, South Africa**  
**Sort Code: 01-34-45**  
**Swift Code: SBZAJJ**