

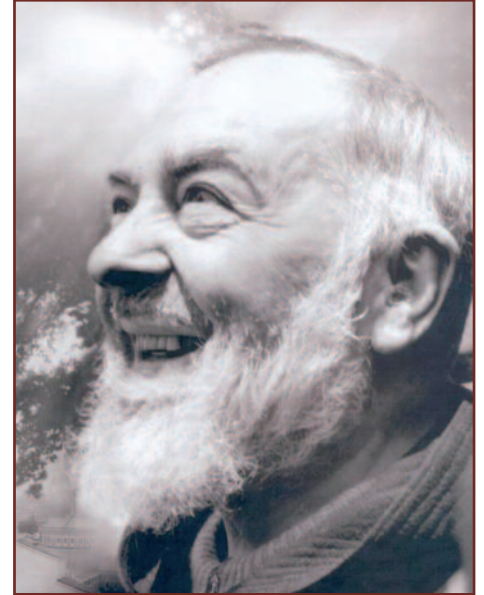


Capuchin Connection




There is no doubt that St Pio is greatly loved here in Ireland. On the 15th and 16th of September the Capuchin Friars gathered in Knock, alongside members of the St Pio Prayer Groups who came from all over the country, to celebrate this great saint. Over the course of the weekend we heard numerous stories of how Padre Pio had helped so many people. We heard of countless cures as well as the comfort and consolation that people experienced. Pio himself stated that his work would only begin after his death, and listening to these stories stands as a testament to this.

Pio was born in Pietrelcina, Italy, in 1879, and died in San Giovanni Rotondo on the 23rd of September 1968. He was, at his core, a man of peace and reconciliation who sought to bring people into deeper relationship with God, themselves and others. He lived at a violent juncture in Europe's history and his message of prayer, hope and trust stood in stark contrast to the violence, hatred and death that surrounded him.



We too live in a time of uncertainty and change. The established institutions that we have depended upon can now sometimes appear irrelevant or we even feel that they have let us down. In a world that is more networked and connected than ever before, we can often feel more separated, isolated and alone. Pio's message for us to allow God to be central to our lives offers us the opportunity to find a greater sense of purpose and meaning in a *disposable* world.

This year, as we mark 50 years since his death, let us thank God for the life and witness of our Capuchin brother Padre

Pio, and we pray that Pio will continue to help and inspire us to live lives of depth as we seek to be people who 'pray, hope and don't worry'.

2018 is turning out to be a year of celebrations for the Capuchins and we feel it's appropriate to dedicate this issue of Capuchin Connection to acknowledge some very special events that have happened over the last number of months. In August the Capuchins elected a new Minister General in Rome, Brother Roberto Genuin from the Province of Venice, the Pope paid a visit to the Capuchin Day Centre for Homeless People and we had a strong presence at the World Meeting of Families in the RDS, Dublin. September saw the celebrations to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the death of Padre Pio (as outlined above), as well as one hundred years since he received the stigmata. In September we also said goodbye to Mr Diarmuid O'Mathuna, Principal of Rochestown College Cork, after twenty years' service as Principal and welcomed the new Principal, Ms Marie Ring, who joins the school from Loreto Secondary School in Fermoy. October is the month of Jubilees in the Irish Province as we mark the golden (fifty years) and diamond (60 years) jubilees of a number of our friars.

We hope you enjoy this issue of *Capuchin Connection*. If you have any comments or suggestions please feel free to email them to ofmcapcoms@gmail.com.

The Capuchin Connection Team

Our New Capuchin Minister General



Brother Roberto Genuin OFM Cap. was elected Minister General on the first vote at the Capuchin General Chapter in Rome. Brother Roberto will take over from Brother Mauro Johri who has served the Order as Minister General for the last 12 years. Brother Mauro (Left) and Brother Roberto (Right) are pictured here. We wish both Brother Mauro and Brother Roberto every blessing for the future.

Pope Francis Visits the Homeless in the Capuchin Day Centre

On Saturday 25th of August Pope Francis visited the Capuchin Day Centre for Homeless People as part of his two-day pastoral visit to Ireland. The Pope was greeted by Brother Kevin Crowley and Brother Sean Donohoe before entering the centre where he met with the homeless people gathered in the main hall as well as some of the Capuchin Friars from the Church Street Community.

During his visit the Pope reminded us Capuchins to always stay close to the people, especially those most in need. The Pope was presented with a rucksack, containing a sleeping bag, on behalf of all the homeless people who come to the centre. In return the Pope presented a magnificent icon of St Francis to the Day Centre as a memento of his visit.

The visit was a very moving one not alone for those present but for the thousands who watched the encounter on television. Pope Francis is a champion of the poor and this visit was an acknowledgement of the contribution made by Brothers Kevin and Sean, the staff, volunteers and all the benefactors of the Day Centre.

Pictured:
Brother Kevin Crowley
greet
Pope Francis
in the
Capuchin Day
Centre.

Photo Credit:
www.zenit.org



Congratulations to our brothers celebrating Jubilees this year

This year we are blessed with Jubilarians as nine of our brothers celebrate diamond jubilee and golden jubilees. Most of this year's Jubilarians have served as Capuchin Missionaries Overseas in Zambia, South Africa and the Western American Capuchin Province.

Pictured is Brother Kenneth Reynolds OFM Cap. as he renews his vows into the hands of our Provincial Minister Brother Adrian Curran who is assisted by Brother Dermot Lynch, Guardian of Holy Trinity Friary, Cork.

The renewal of vows is an important part of a jubilee celebration and often a very moving one as a friar professes his vows once again. We thank God for the witness of our brothers and pray that the Lord will continue to bless and guide them in their vocation.



From the Archives: Archival Catalogues Accessible Online



As Capuchin Friars we have been at the heart of Irish life since our arrival on these shores in the early seventeenth century and we have ministered through war, uprising, civil strife and strike. Some detailed catalogues of records held in the Irish Capuchin Archives have recently been made available online and can be accessed on our website at www.capuchinfranciscans.ie/about/archives-and-heritage/

These descriptive catalogues provide detailed listings of the contents of some of the manuscript collections held in the Irish Capuchin Archives. Collections include the correspondence and papers of Capuchin Friars detailing their

involvement with participants in the struggle for independence including material relating to the 1916 Rising, the War of Independence and the Civil War. Other sources relate to seventeenth and eighteenth-century Irish Capuchin Friars in France which offer an insight into the singular existence of an Irish émigré community in Early Modern Europe. Collections also include papers relating to Fr. Theobald Mathew (1790-1856), the famed nineteenth century temperance campaigner, and records relating to the history of the Capuchins in Dublin, Cork and Kilkenny dating back to the seventeenth century.

The catalogues are available in downloadable PDF format which will allow researchers to access and examine our collections. The addition of the catalogues complements our digitization of the complete run of *The Capuchin Annual* (1930-77) also available on our website. The catalogues will be particularly useful for academic researchers and Leaving Certificate history students undertaking project work. In the coming months, we will be uploading additional catalogues to our website. All enquiries relating to the catalogues and the Irish Capuchin Archives can be sent to the Provincial Archivist:

Provincial Archivist, Irish Capuchin Archives, Capuchin Friary, Church Street, Dublin 7, D07 HA22.

Email: capuchinarchives@gmail.com **Tel.** +353 (0) 1 873 0599



Capuchin Vocations at the World Meeting of Families in the RDS

Pictured are the Capuchin Vocations Commission along with Bishop Fintan Monahan (Killaloe) at the Capuchin Vocations Stand in the RDS for the World Meeting of Families.

(L-R):

Br Richard Hendrick (Guardian Ard Mhuire Friary, Co Donegal)

Br Martin Bennett (Provincial Vocations Promotor & Chaplain to St Francis College, Rochestown)

Br Bryan Shortall (Parish Priest, Halston Street, Dublin)

Bishop Fintan Monahan (Killaloe Diocese)

Br Sean Kelly (Vicar Provincial & Guardian Kilkenny Friary).

For more information on the Capuchin way of life visit our website or contact Brother Martin on capuchinvocation@gmail.com



St Francis College, Rochestown

On the 26th of September we said goodbye to Mr O'Mathuna who served as Principal of St Francis College Rochestown for almost 20 years. In that time the school population has grown from just over 100 pupils to 714 pupils this year. The following day we were delighted to welcome Ms. Marie Ring to



Rochestown College. Originally from Dublin Ms Ring was most recently the Principal of the Loretto Secondary School in Fermoy, Cork. We wish both Mr O'Mathuna and Ms Ring every success for the future.

Pictured right: Mr Diarmuid O'Mathuna at the staff farewell.

Above: Ms Marie Ring along with Mr Liam O'Murchu (Deputy Principal, Left) and Lord Mayor of Cork Cllr. Mick Finn on his recent visit to the school.



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