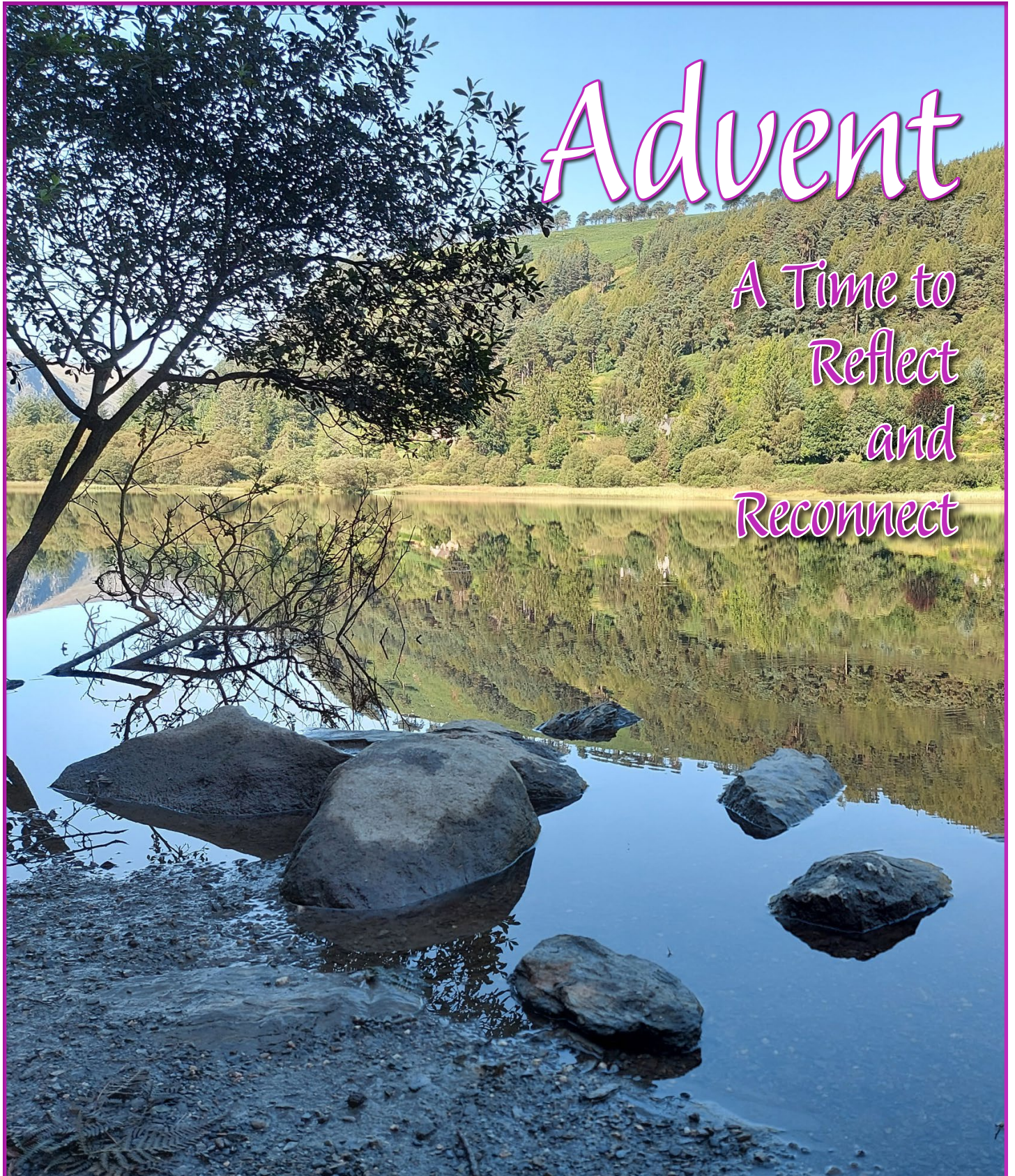


Capuchin Connection



CAPUCHIN
FRANCISCANS
PROVINCE OF IRELAND





Greetings one and all

Since we last published an issue of Capuchin Connection much has happened and much has changed. COVID 19 arrived onto our shores in March 2019 and from then on, our lives changed in ways we could never have imagined possible. COVID is still with us and we all still have to exercise caution and be vigilant. Although we are not free from this virus, we are moving into a space of living along side it. As we often hear – COVID is here to stay.

Throughout the pandemic and lockdowns people worked hard to find new ways to make meaningful connections. Many of our usual ways of connecting were taken away from us; we had to be creative and courageous. For many this meant moving to on-line conversations on one, or more, of the many web-based platforms that soon became household names. However, this virtual link only went so far in satisfying our need for connection with one another. We began to miss things that we had taken for granted: a handshake, a hug, a lingering cup of tea with a friend, a social occasion or a meal out.

In the midst of the pandemic, we suffered many losses – loss of freedom, loss of social connection, loss of earnings and of course the loss of our family, friends and neighbours who succumbed to the virus. As the daily figures rolled out on our screens we collectively groaned and mourned for the families of those who had died. Would this ever end, we wondered.

As we approach the Holy Seasons of Advent and Christmas, we do so as a people who have been changed by what we have experienced as individuals and as a group. Advent is the time of preparation. The liturgical colour used is penitential and we are invited during Advent to take time to deeply reflect on our lives and how we can allow the Light of the World illumine our hearts. We have much to reflect upon this Advent personally and as a Church. The Synod that opened in Rome on the 19th of October is an opportunity for us to reflect so that we can look forward together as a people of God. We pray that the Holy Spirit will guide our hearts and minds so that we may be able to truly embrace our experiences in a way that makes our hearts more open to loving God and neighbour. If the COVID pandemic has thought us anything it might be this – we need God and we need others in our lives.

In this packed issue of *Capuchin Connection*, we have great news as we welcome two men to our Postulancy in Raheny. We also had the great joy of celebrating the Solemn Profession of one of our Brothers in September. We have news on the new Padre Pio website and a feature on the recent meeting of Capuchin Friars from around Europe that took place in Poland. We also feature some stories for our missions and some words on vocation discernment from our Vocations Director. We hope you enjoy this issue and thank you for re-connecting with us.

It's really good to be back with you again.

The Capuchin Connection Team



Two Men Join our Postulancy Programme in Raheny

Deciding to do something new with your life is a very daunting prospect. Deciding to leave your job, family and friends to join a 600-year-old religious order, must be terrifying. However, that's exactly what Michal and Sean did.

On the first weekend in September, they arrived at the Capuchin Friary in Raheny to begin a nine-month Postulancy Programme. Once they join the programme they are known as Postulants. Both Michal and Sean have been in contact with the Capuchins for some time and both men have been part of a discernment process guided and supported by our Vocations Director, Brother Richard.

You might well ask 'What's a Postulant?' A Postulant is someone who comes to a religious order to listen deeply to what they Lord is calling them to in life. Over the course of the next number of months they will experience at a deeper level what Capuchin fraternal life is like. They will take on some introductory courses in liturgy, scripture and prayer, as well as beginning to learn some more about St Francis of Assisi and the Capuchin Order. It is a time of opportunity, challenge and grace. We are delighted that these two men have said yes to God and we wish them well over the coming months.



Pictured Left: Sean Ronayne. Right: Michal Kulgawczyk

Congratulations to our Jubilarians

As we celebrate the newest of our community we also celebrate those who have been living the Capuchin Way of Life for many years. This year we thank the Lord for the gift to our Capuchin Community of the following brothers who celebrate their jubilees this year:

Platinum Jubilarian (70 Years):

Brother Benignus Buckley OFM Cap.

Golden Jubilarians (50 Years):

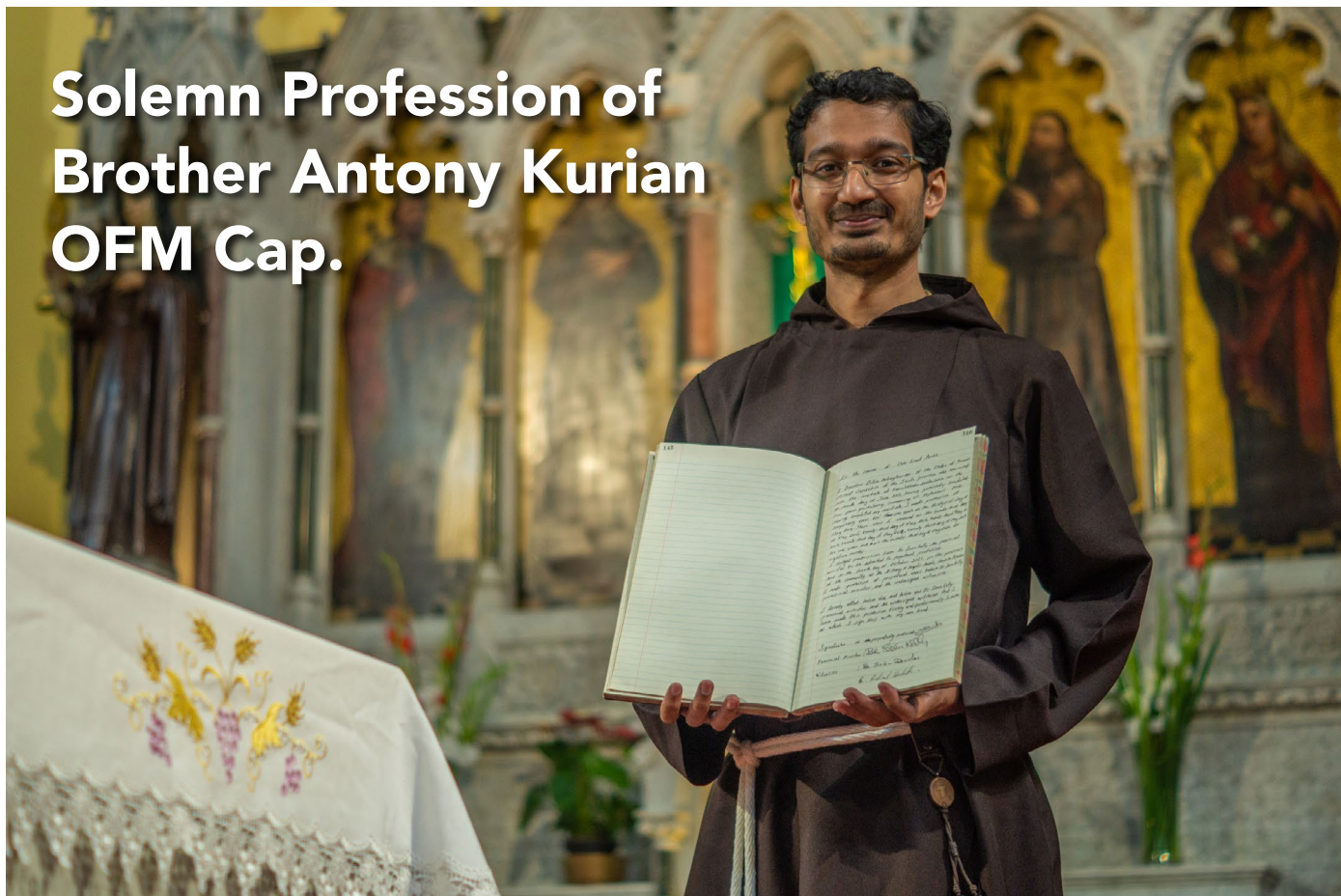
Brother Vianny Holmes OFM Cap.,
Brother Paul Tapley OFM Cap.,
Brother Bernard McAllister OFM Cap.,
Brother Owen O'Sullivan OFM Cap.

From the Western American Province :

Brother Alejandro Magallanes OFM Cap
and Brother Alan Wilson OFM Cap.

Congratulations!

Solemn Profession of Brother Antony Kurian OFM Cap.



(Above: Brother Antony holding his vows written in the Provincial Solemn Profession Book.
Photo: Leandro Oliveira. Instagram: @leandro_oliveira999)

On the Feast of St Francis (04 October 2021) Brother Antony Kurian made Solemn Profession of Vows as a Capuchin Franciscan Friar. The ceremony took place in St Mary of the Angels, Church Street, Dublin and was attended by Friars from around the country. The Mass was livestreamed allowing Antony's family and friends to join from his native India.

The chief celebrant was Brother Sean Kelly OFM Cap. - Provincial Minister of the Irish Capuchin Friars. Brother Antony has now returned to Oxford to complete his studies. This is the first Solemn Profession the Irish Province has had in seven years.

We wish Antony well as he continues his preparation for ordination and we ask you to keep him in your prayers.



(Pictured L to R: Brother Antony listens to the homily of Brother Sean Kelly.

Brother Antony makes his vows into the hands of Brother Sean before exchanging a sign of peace and welcome.)

Meeting of European Friars in Czestochowa, Poland



The Provincial Ministers and Delegates from Europe gathered for a conference in Czestochowa, Poland from 11 to 16 of October 2021. The Friars gathered at the National Marian Shrine of Poland under the theme 'The Capuchins in Europe: The Dream of Fraternity'. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the realities facing Capuchin Fraternities through Europe and in particular the challenges faced by the Fraternities in Northern Europe.



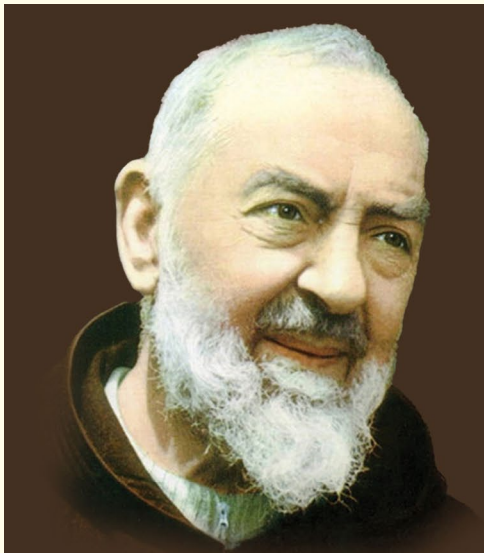
The interests of the Irish Province and the Delegation of Great Britain were represented by Brother Sean Kelly OFM Cap (Irish Province) and Brother James Boner OFM Cap (Delegation of Great Britain). Brother Sean presented to the Conference on the work of the Capuchin Day Centre for Homeless People in Bow Street. Even through the most difficult of recent times, Brother Kevin and the team have continued to provide support to those most in need.

The meeting discussed issues such as the reality of life in the Europe of today; the challenges of new evangelisation; how to reach out to young people in our modern world; Capuchin vocation and formation ministry and how we can work together in light of the challenges we all face today.



Over the coming months and years, Capuchins across Europe will be invited to collaborate at an even deeper level in the face of rising age profiles and falling vocations. We ask for your continued prayers as we face into the future together.





The Irish Centre for Padre Pio



New Padre Pio Website

On the Feast of St Pio of Pietrelcina (23 September 2021), we were delighted to launch the new website for The Irish Centre for Padre Pio / National Shrine of St Pio. The website has some innovative features such as an extensive on-line shop and the option to light a virtual candle at the National Shrine in Church Street, Dublin.

The website address is www.padrepio.ie. The development of the new website was a collaborative venture between Michael Mc Cabe (Manager of the Irish Centre for Padre Pio), Capuchin Communications and web designers www.actonbv.ie

Padre Pio Ministry in Ireland

Br Bryan Shortall OFM Cap. is the National Director for Padre Pio Ministry.

For more information on Padre Pio Ministry in Ireland, the Irish Centre for Padre Pio, the National Shrine at St Mary of the Angels in Church Street or to locate your nearest Padre Pio Prayer Group visit www.padrepio.ie or make contact with the Padre Pio Office by emailing padrepiocentre@capuchinsirl.com

The National Shrine of St Pio at St Mary of the Angels Church, Church Street, Dublin 7 is open daily and has the first-class relics of St Pio on permanent display. The Sacrament of Confession is available at the Shrine upon request.



Capuchin Foreign Missions

On Sunday 24th of October we celebrated World Missions Sunday. This is an annual event that invites us to reflect upon the valuable work carried out by missionaries around the world. The Irish Capuchin Missions to South Africa, South Korea and Zambia featured in a full-page article in the Irish Catholic Newspaper's supplement for Mission Sunday 2021. The article featured accounts of missionary life from Brothers Pat Kelleher (South Korea), Sean Cahill (South Africa) and Noel Brennan (Zambia). Thanks to Brother Patrick Flynn OFM Cap (Mission Secretary) for his work on the article. The article from the Irish Catholic can be read in full on our Provincial Website:

<https://www.capuchinfranciscans.ie/our-work/overseas-missions/>

You can support the work of the Irish Capuchin Mission through our Mission Office on Church Street in Dublin. The Office can be contacted by phone (01 873 10 22), email (capuchinmissions@gmail.com) or by dropping into the office on Church Street to speak to Fr Patrick and the team.

18 Mission Sunday

The Irish Catholic, October 21, 2021

Capuchin Overseas Missions

SOUTH AFRICAN MISSION

Brother Sean Cahill OFM Cap

Three Irish Capuchins arrived in Cape Town in October 1929 at the invitation of Bishop Bernard O'Reilly. They began their pastoral work on the so-called 'Cape Flats' a vast area of sand and bush stretching out from Table Mountain and home to mostly very poor people. The three missionaries were later joined by more of their Irish confreres. They extended their pastoral presence to ten vibrant parish communities in what later became the Archdiocese of Cape Town. In February 1954 the Capuchins began accepting local vocations. About this time the Capuchins moved into the KwaZulu-Natal Province. In 1997 the Vice-Province was opened over two parishes in Quthuba (Port Elizabeth) and in 2000 opened a retreat centre in Pretoria. In 2010 the Vice-Province was entrusted with a large pastoral area known as Siyabusa in the northern Limpopo Province. Our presence was further extended to two parishes near the city of Durban in 2016.

We cannot speak about South Africa without mentioning the long years of Apartheid endured by the black majority. The 1950s saw the start of the implementation of the apartheid policy. Segregation became the law and created great problems for the Church. The friars together with the people experienced the pain of those dark years. As Franciscans we believed that our presence could, in some little way at least, bring about the reconciliation and peace most people prayed for. April 1984 saw the sun rising over the 'New South Africa' with its first fully democratic elections.

The covid-19 pandemic, with its first lockdown beginning March 2020, has only compounded the many other political, economic and social challenges facing South Africa today.

We Capuchins follow the rule of St Francis and live in fraternity with our brothers. Today our Vice-Province is comprised of South African, Indian, Tanzanian and Irish friars - a multi-cultural community in a country of many diverse cultures.



Celebrating 90 years in South Africa with the Archbishop of Cape Town, His Grace, Siripian Brisson.

On a personal note, the past 48 years living as a Capuchin Franciscan in South Africa have been years of great joy and happiness. No one, of course, is exempt from the crosses and challenges of life. But through them all the promise God made in the prophet Nehemiah (8: 10), the 'joy of the Lord is your strength' has been fulfilled.

CAPUCHIN MISSION TO ZAMBIA - BEGINNINGS



Foundations for Church at Chavuma Mission.

FRIARS OF SOUTH KOREA

Brother Pat Kelleher OFM Cap

The Church in Korea was founded by lay people. In 1783 a young Korean scholar, Yi Seung-hun, spent a couple of months in Beijing as a member of a diplomatic mission to the Chinese Imperial Court. During his stay he met Jesuit missionaries and obtained catechisms and devotional books from them. He smuggled the texts into Korea and began to study them with a trusted group of fellow scholars. The following year he managed to get to Beijing again. He received baptism taking the name Peter and on his return to Seoul he baptized his study group members. The Church began to grow. Eventually they were discovered by the civil authorities and were branded as dangerous subversives. An attempt was made to exterminate them but the blood of martyrs became the seed of Christians. Over the next 90 years the Catholic faithful endured wave after wave of persecution. It is estimated that over ten thousand laymen and women were martyred.

In July 1986 four Irish Capuchins arrived in Seoul. The local Church was back-



Korean friars celebrating the feast of St Francis, October 4th.

ing in the aftermath of the canonizations of the Korean martyrs. The seminaries were full, there were thousands of people preparing for baptism. We were warmly greeted by Cardinal Kim who confessed a soft spot for the Capuchins from his days as a poor clerical student in Germany in the mid 50s. The local friars had insisted that he take lunch with them every day.

Thirty-five years have elapsed. Some 40% of the 20 to 35 age group are electing not to marry or have children. They want to spend their hard-earned salaries on themselves. Korea has the lowest birth-rate in the world. Covid 19 has devastated small businesses and the tourist industry.

Church life has been severely curtailed for almost two years. When restrictions were eased a little in early summer it was remarkable that many of the daily Mass attendees did not turn up. If things ever get back to normal it will be interesting to see how much has changed. Over the past five years vocation numbers have plummeted. Currently there are 20 Capuchins in Korea. Our main ministry is Sacramental Confession service but that has fallen victim to social distancing regulations. Some friars volunteer with Church and Local Government social services. We continue to be optimistic and to proclaim the Word of God through our daily contacts with the people.

Brother Noel Brennan OFM Cap

In his message for Mission Sunday 2021, Pope Francis says this is an opportunity to 'recall with gratitude all those men and women who by their testimony of life help us to renew our baptismal commitment to be generous and joyful apostles of the Gospel. Let us remember especially all those who resolutely set out, leaving home and family behind, to bring the Gospel to all those places and people thirst for its saving message.'

This year, 2021, is a special one for the Capuchins of the Irish Province. It marks the 90th anniversary of the arrival in Livingstonia, Zambia (formerly Northern Rhodesia) of the first group of friars who 'left home and family behind

to bring the gospel' to the western part of Zambia. They established their residence in the town of Livingstonia and their area of work was one and a half times the size of Ireland. In 1950 Timothy Phelim O'Shea was appointed bishop of the Diocese of Livingstonia.

From that core group in 1931 to the present day, a total of one hundred friars of the Irish province have heard the call to mission and gave of their time and energy in the work of building the Church. Many ended their days and were buried in Zambia, from the young Gerard Joyce (from Lifford, Co. Kildare) who died in 1944 at the age of 38, to the more senior in age, Donatus McNamara (from Glenties, Co. Donegal), who died in July this year at the age of 90. The latter spent the last ten years of his life in the

vital ministry of religious formation, at the Capuchin Novitiate on the outskirts of the capital, Lusaka.

In November this year the Capuchin friars of Zambia will hold their 3-yearly Chapter in Lusaka. They will give thanks for the blessings of the past ninety years. They will elect a new leadership team and plan together for their life and ministries in the years to come. As many as forty finally professed Zambian friars will be in attendance, an indication of the growth that has taken place in the Capuchin Order in Zambia. On Mission Sunday our prayer should be that the Zambian Church, in its turn, will hear the call 'to bring the Gospel to all those places and people thirst for its saving message' (Pope Francis).

Capuchin Mission Office, Church St, Dublin 7, D07 NNH4 | 01 8731022 | capuchinmissions@gmail.com | www.capuchinmissions.ie | www.capuchinfranciscans.ie

Capuchin Vocations

Brother Richard Henrick OFM Cap is the Vocation Director for the Irish Capuchin Franciscan Friars and is always happy to talk to anyone discerning God's call in their lives.

Vocational discernment is more an art than a science and it requires patience, prayer and perseverance. The Lord often reveals His will slowly and through the very ordinary experiences and encounters of our lives.

As Capuchin Franciscan Friars, we are called to join in the work St Francis of Assisi began over 800 years ago. If you feel the God is calling you to join in this work too, please contact us by emailing capuchinvocation@gmail.com or by visiting the vocations page on our website - www.capuchinfranciscans.ie

Vocation

A vocation is a calling to a particular way of life

Like Saint Francis of Assisi we all experience our calling in life through both deep listening to and encounter with God.

Saint Francis listened deeply as he called to 'go rebuild my Church' and experienced a life-changing encounter with a leper outside Assisi that altered the course of his life forever

Today, God continues to call and reach out to invite people to join in the footsteps of St Francis

Are you being called?

The Capuchin Vocation

A life of Prayer and Service in the footsteps of St Francis of Assisi

Friary Contact Details

Friary	Address	Friary Phone
Provincial Curia	12 Halston Street, Dublin 7	01 873 3205
Holy Trinity, Cork	Father Mathew Quay, Cork City	021 4270827 or 021 4275419
Rochestown, Cork	Capuchin Friary, Monastery Road, Rochestown, Cork	021 489 6244
Church Street, Dublin	Capuchin Friary, Church Street, Dublin 7	01 873 0599
Raheny, Dublin	Capuchin Friary, Station Road, Raheny, Dublin 5	01 831 3886
Priorswood, Dublin	Capuchin Friary, Clonsaugh Drive, Priorswood, Dublin 17.	01 847 4469 or 01 847 4358
Kilkenny	Capuchin Friary, Friary Street, Kilkenny	056-7721439
Carlow	Capuchin Friary, Dublin Street, Carlow.	059 9142543
Ard Mhuire, Donegal	Capuchin Friary, Ard Mhuire, Creeslough, Co Donegal	074-9138005 or 074-9138031

Our Parishes / Other Ministries

Ministry	Address	Friary Phone
Capuchin Day Centre	12 Bow Street, Dublin 7	01 872 0770
The Oratory	Yellow Entrance, Blanchardstown Shopping Centre, Dublin 15.	01-8200915
St Francis of Assisi Parish	Priorswood, Dublin 17	01 8474469
Halston Street Parish	St Michan's Church, Halston Street, Dublin 7.	01 873 0675
Capuchin Mission Office	Church Street, Dublin 7	01 872 1022

For general queries, please visit our website or email ofmcapcoms@gmail.com



Irish Capuchin Franciscans

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