

Irish Spiritans Remembered III

July 2018 – December 2018

Fr Seán Kealy	11 July 2018
Fr Eamonn McMahon	5 October 2018
Fr Norman Fitzgerald	7 October 2018
Fr Colum Duggan	25 October 2018
Fr Gerry Tannam	28 November 2018
Fr Tony Heerey	21 December 2018

JULY

11 July

KEALY, Fr John P
1937-2018



Fr John (Seán) Kealy was born in Thurles, Co Tipperary on 29 March 1937. He completed his secondary education in Thurles CBS and moved at the age of 17 to the Spiritan Novitiate in Kilshane where he made his first profession on 8 September 1955. He prefectured in Rockwell College 1958 to 1960 and having been awarded an M.A. in Classics from UCD, he went on to study in Rome. Seán was ordained in Kimmage on 4 July 1965 by Monseigneur Marcel Lefebvre and made his Consecration to the Apostolate on 26 June 1966.

After his ordination Seán returned to Rome where he did further study in both the Gregorian University and the Biblical Institute and was awarded an S.T.L. and LS.S. He loved to recall that he was in Rome for both the 1962 opening of the Second Vatican Council and its closing in December 1965. In 1966 he returned to Ireland and taught in Kimmage Manor followed by the University of Niagara in the USA in 1969. In 1970 he began a decade of teaching scripture in Kenya, initially in the national seminary, and for some eight years in Nairobi's Kenyatta University. Seán return to Ireland for most of the 1980s and early 1990s where his many roles included director of theologians, provincial councillor for education, and president of Blackrock College and superior of its community.

Seán went on to lecture extensively in Africa, America and Europe on biblical studies. A prolific writer, Seán had some 18 books published, at least one of which was translated into Chinese. He did a number of studies in the spirituality and commentaries on the Gospels. He had articles / reviews published in *AFER*, *Doctrine & Life*, *The Irish Theological Quarterly*, *The Tablet*, *The Furrow* and *The Catholic Biblical Quarterly*.

Having been a visiting professor in the department of theology in Duquesne University for a brief period in the early 1980s, he returned there in 1995 as a staff-member of the university until he was appointed to Kimmage in 2014. In Kimmage he was known for his fine tenor voice and Gaelic singing skills and a man who loved poetry and theatre, as well as a good novel or film. Fr Seán later moved to Marian House Nursing Home where he died on 11 July 2018 and was buried in Shanganagh Cemetery, Co Dublin.

OCTOBER

5 October

McMAHON, Fr Eamonn J

1933-2018



Fr Eamonn McMahon was born on 21 March 1933 in Sligo and grew up in Dromahair, Co Leitrim. He attended Shivdillagh National School in Drumkeeran where his mother was a teacher and he completed his secondary school education as a boarder in St Patrick's College, Cavan. Eamonn entered Kilshane in 1952 and was professed the following year. He was awarded a B.A. in English and Philosophy by UCD. He prefected in Blackrock College from 1956 to 1957. Eamonn was ordained in July 1960 in Clonliffe College, Dublin by Archbishop John Charles McQuaid.

Eamonn's first appointment was to Nigeria in December 1961 where he served in Owerri Diocese. He initially worked in the Ikedru region doing pastoral and evangelical work. Following on from this he taught English, Latin and Scripture in St. Saviour's Secondary School in Umuaka and then became a principal teacher first in Uli, and later in the secondary technical school in Ogbaku. From 1967 to 1970, he did pastoral and relief work in Orodo and also spent some time fundraising in California during the Nigerian Civil War. He subsequently returned to Nigeria in October 1969 where his final days there were spent in a humanitarian relief role before being expelled with many others in early 1970.

Eamonn's next appointment was to Brazil which began a relationship of well over forty years with this Latin American country. As well as having a substantial involvement in founding and promoting Child-Development and Learning Centres, and working with the Legion of Mary, he served in pastoral roles at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel parish in Vila Alpina, São Paulo for some sixteen years; Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Vila Diva (from 1989 to 2008) and Mogi das Cruzes Parish (from 2010).

Fr Eamonn McMahon died 5 October 2018 in the Santa Virginia Hospital in Belenzinho, São Paulo and he was buried in the cemetery adjoining the Church of Getsemani, in São Paulo.

7 October

FITZGERALD, Fr Norman E

1925-2018



Fr Norman Fitzgerald was born on 8 February 1925 in Ballinrobe, Co Mayo. He went to primary school in the local CBS and completed his secondary school education in Rockwell College. From there he moved to Kilshane where he was professed in 1944. He then moved to Kimmage Manor to study philosophy and theology. He professed in St Mary's College, Rathmines from 1946 to 1948, and was awarded a BA in philosophy by UCD. He was ordained in Clonliffe College in 1953.

Norman's first appointment was to Sierra Leone in 1954. He served in this west African country for over twenty five years. He taught in Christ the King College, Bo for six years. In 1960 he was the founder/principal of St Paul's Secondary School in Pujehun where he spent the next eight years. Following a sabbatical he moved to Freetown to become education secretary, a post he remained in until his return to Ireland in 1981. During his tenure in Africa he was also heavily involved in youth chaplaincy and development work sectors which he retained a life-long interest in.

After his return to Ireland Norman was appointed bursar of the Blackrock College Community for the next eight years. One of his first successes was dealing with the aftermath of a school fire that had caused extensive damage to the chapel. From 1989 he served in a pastoral role in Shankill parish. He became the first executive director of the humanitarian aid agency Refugee Trust (now Vita) and was the familiar voice of its long-running early morning advertisement on RTÉ radio. He later served as its chairperson for a ten year period and was subsequently made honorary president. He was also a board member of Aidlink for a number of years.

Norman became chaplain of St Andrew's Parish, Westland Row, from 1995 to 2000, and then he served for a further eight year period as chaplain to the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity in Drumcondra. He moved to Marian House in late 2017 from the Blackrock College Community where he had returned to live some years previous to this. Fr Norman died on 7 October 2018 in Marian House, Kimmage Manor, and was buried in Dardistown Cemetery, Co Dublin.

25 October

DUGGAN, Fr Columbanus I

1925-2018



Fr Columbanus Duggan (Colum) was born on 7 July 1925 in Bridgetown, Co Clare. He completed his secondary school education in St Flannan's, Ennis in 1944, and then entered Kilshane. He made his first profession the following year and moved to Kimmage Manor where he studied philosophy and theology. He professed in Blackrock College from 1947 to 1950. He was ordained on 5 July 1953 at Clonliffe College.

Colum's first appointment was to Kenya in 1954 and he served in this east African country for more than fifty years, ministering in what became the diocese of Machakos. He served for a time in its diocesan seminary. Initially, he worked in Mbitini and Kilungu and then moved to Kanzalu followed by Kaumani where he spent several years in pastoral roles and also served as novice master to the Brothers of St Peter Claver. He was awarded a diploma in religious studies by St Patrick's College, Maynooth in the 1970s and became heavily involved in education.

He returned to Kenya in 1975 where he was appointed to Tawa in the diocese of Machakos. He loved young people and wanted them to have a brighter future. He undertook the building of secondary schools in three different missions. He foresaw the great value in educating girls who as future Christian mothers would influence family life or, in the case of those who would go to Teacher Training College, the wider community. At Tawa he began a girls' secondary school with dormitories and a science lab. He taught local young men how to build, guiding them in the construction of several churches and a number of secondary schools. An expert in the Kikamba language, he was keenly attentive to religious instruction and to the proper training of catechists, and was responsible for a number of publications, including *Celebration of the Eucharist for Secondary Schools*.

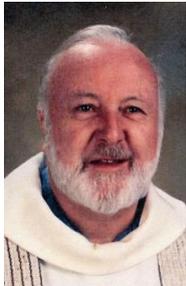
Colum was appointed to the Kimmage Community in 2008 and later to Marian House. Fr Colum was one of the first fifteen confrères to transfer to Nazareth House, Marino, in September 2018. Fr Colum died on 25 October 2018 and was buried in Dardistown Cemetery, Co Dublin.

NOVEMBER

28 November

TANNAM, Fr Gerard

1929 – 2018



Fr Gerard Tannam (Gerry) was born 22 May, 1929 in Dublin. He completed his secondary school education in St Mary's, Rathmines. He entered Kilshane in 1947 and made his first profession on 8 September, 1948. He was awarded a B.A. by UCD in 1951 and prefected in Blackrock College from 1951 to 1952. He was awarded the H.Dip. Ed. in 1953 and then went on to study in Fribourg where he was awarded an M.A. in Education the following year. Gerry was ordained to the priesthood on 14 July, 1957.

Gerry's first assignment was to Tanzania where he taught at St Francis College, Pugu, from 1959 until 1962. In 1962 he was assigned to teach at the Bigard Memorial Seminary in Nigeria which he subsequently left during the Biafran War. Gerry was assigned to the Generalate Community in Rome in 1970 where he served as the secretary for information.

In 1971 Gerry took up a teaching post at the Missionary Institute in London, England. In 1974 he moved to Canada to become the founding chaplain of York University in Toronto. Gerry served there until 1983 when he transferred to the chaplaincy department at Queens University in Kingston, Ontario. The following year Gerry took up pastoral ministry, first at St Joseph's in Scarborough and later at St Thomas the Apostle in Toronto. Gerry also served in Agincourt and was involved in chaplaincy work at the Toronto Hospital from 1994 to 1996. Following a short sabbatical he semi-retired to the Laval Community in Toronto where he served as bursar from 2004 to 2007. Notwithstanding this he also kept up with various part time ministries.

Fr Gerry was known for his fondness of reading, his love of discussion and debate, his story telling and good humour. He died peacefully on 28 November, 2018 in the Laval Community and was buried at Holy Cross Cemetery, Thornhill, Ontario.

DECEMBER

20 December

HEEREY, Fr James Anthony

1935-2018



Fr James Anthony Heerey (Tony) was born in Clonkeefy, Castlerahan, Co Cavan on 13 October 1935. Having completed his secondary school education in Blackrock College in 1953, he entered the novitiate in Kilshane. He professed the following year and moved to Kimmage Manor to study philosophy and theology. He profected in St Mary's College, Rathmines for two years. Tony was ordained, by Archbishop Charles Heerey C.S.Sp. (his uncle), in 1961 in his home parish of Castlerahan.

Tony's first appointment was to Nigeria in 1962 where he undertook evangelical and pastoral ministry in the diocese of Enugu for five years and was involved in humanitarian work for a period during the Nigerian Civil War before being deported. Having spent a short time in the USA and Canada, he was appointed to Zambia in 1971 where he served as superior.

Leaving Zambia in 1984, Tony worked in pastoral ministry in the diocese of Arundel and Brighton in England until 1998 when he was appointed superior of the community attached to Blackrock College.

In 2002 he took up an appointment in Craigavon, Co Armagh, moving to the parish of Parke-Crimlin, Tuam Diocese, in 2005 and to St Ciarán's Parish, Hartstown, Co Dublin two years later. His final appointment, to Kimmage, was in 2009 where he took a keen interest in putting together a living archive box which he added to over time and finally deposited in the Provincial Archives in 2017. Fr Tony moved to Mountpleasant Lodge, Kilcock, Kildare in 2018 where he died on 20 December 2018. He was buried in Dardistown Cemetery, Co Dublin.

