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'An Tobar', Ardbraccan



A Spiritan community has existed in Ardbraccan, near Navan in Co. Meath, since the 1950s when the formation of Spiritan Brothers was located there. Pentecost 1983 saw the addition of 'An Tobar' which, through the creative ministry of many Spiritans and their co-workers, has since provided a place of healing, welcome and spiritual nurture.

An initiative, with members of other religious families and lay-people where fellow pilgrims participate in the community according to their own particular calling, inclination and time, *An Tobar* currently offers:

- A reflective Sunday Eucharist;
- An opportunity to reflect on one's faith journey in an environment that fosters justice, peace, sustainable living and care of the earth;
- Celebrations at key moments during the year;
- Welcome and hospitality, healing and reconciliation, counselling and wellbeing;
- Spaces for meetings, capacity-building, retreats and contemplation;
- Courses in mindfulness, ministry-training, spiritual living, wellness, care of the earth, conflict-resolution and relationship enrichment.

The next phase in the evolution of the facilities at 'An Tobar' includes the extension of walk ways, the opening up of the woodlands, the development of a "Men's Shed Project" with space for allotments, and the cultivation of an organic kitchen garden.

Stained-glass window at An Tobar.

Kimmage Development Studies Centre

The Spiritans first ran courses in development education in Kimmage Manor in the mid-1970s. Evolving from the fourth-year pastoral theology course for seminarians, the initial focus was a one-year pastoral course for missionaries and development workers. Today the Kimmage Development Studies Centre (KDSC) offers an MA and a BA in Development Studies.

In the academic year 2012-2013 a total of 55 students, the majority doing the MA course, came from 21 countries. These included Ethiopia, Uganda and Zambia which had a combined total of 5 fellowships from *Irish Aid*, as well as Brazil, Burma, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Guinea, Ireland, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Rwanda, South Korea, Somalia, Togo, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe.

Students of KDSC include employees of governmental agencies, NGOs, religious congregations and the private sector, and typically bring significant levels of prior contact with development issues and / or are pursuing a career in development.

The majority of Irish students are self-financing or have received a Higher Education Grant.

Sponsoring agencies this year have included the Mill Hill Missionaries, the Sisters of St. Louis, the Society of Missionaries of Africa, *Trócaire* and the Vincentians.

In addition to those on site in Kimmage, a further 12 students took single modules by flexible and distance learning (FDL) mode. This was the first year that the FDL mode has been offered in the MA course and the option is likely to be expanded over time.

BA programmes are also offered through MS-TCDC, a partner institute, which is based in Arusha, Tanzania and which currently has a total of 57 students completing studies over a two-year period.

From September 2013, the Level 7 BA Degree in Development Studies in Kimmage is discontinued. Instead a new Level 8 Honours BA Degree in International Development is being done at, and in collaboration with, NUI Maynooth.

Other exciting new ventures by KDSC include:

- the offering within the MA programme of 3 new Specialist Pathways: *Globalisation and Change*; *Faith and Development*; *Development and Management*.
- the launch of a new distance-learning course on *Child Protection in Development* through the Kimmage Open and Distance Education programme which is run as part of the capacity-development services offered to the development sector. See www.kimmagedsc.ie

NEWLANDS INSTITUTE FOR COUNSELLING, CLONDALKIN

HAPPY 21st BIRTHDAY

This year Newlands Institute for Counselling in West Dublin is twenty-one years old. Set up by the Spiritans in a room in Bawnogue Parish House in 1992, it has been based in Monastery Road, Clondalkin for many years. From the outset it sought to make available, at minimal or no cost, a range of preventive and remedial counselling services for personally or socially distressed individuals, couples and families.

Newlands Institute receives funding from the Family Support Agency. Counselling services are provided by two Spiritan confrères and by one Spiritan associate as well as by over twenty trainee-counsellors on clinical placement as part of their professional training. More than 3,500 individual hours of client counselling were provided in 2012.



Students and staff of Kimmage Development Studies Centre (KDSC) and Minister Joe Costello at the certificate-presentation ceremony in KDSC on 21st May 2013.

Support for flood-relief work in Kenya

A total of €45,000 of Irish Aid funding has been received from *Misean Cara* for relief work in Kenya in a number of areas affected by floods in early 2013. The projects are in Kilimambogo, where the Spiritans have had a presence since the 1970s, as well as areas around the capital, Nairobi, and the southern city of Mombasa.

The funds are being used to procure blankets and mosquito nets as well as to buy powdered milk for children and cooking oil, maize, beans and protein-rich foods to help affected communities regain their strength. Assistance is also being provided towards the reconstruction of damaged housing and the continuation of children's education.

Kenya has the largest group of Irish Spiritans in Africa. They minister in a range of pastoral, educational and development-related roles.



Flood scene in Kenya in 2013

Other countries in which members of the Province have been involved in recent years in post-flood rehabilitation include Pakistan.

Misean Cara funding has also supported development projects led by Spiritans in Angola, Bolivia, Brazil, Ethiopia, Ghana and Moçambique.

Irish Spiritans and Indian Ocean islands

Among Spiritans paying a visit to Ireland earlier this summer was Bishop Denis Wiehe of the Seychelles. He and his fellow-Mauritian, Maurice Piat who is Bishop of Port Louis in his home country, studied in Kimmage Manor in the 1960s.

Both future bishops (pictured) had, within a few years of each other, taken the same route as teenagers in coming to the then Spiritan novitiate in Kilshane, Co. Tipperary on completion of their secondary schooling in *Collège du St. Esprit* in Port Louis. The long list of past teachers of the renowned school includes Fr. Bernard Farrelly and Fr. Pat Murphy who, though no longer attached to the school, remain on in the Indian Ocean island to this day.



Bishop Denis Wiehe



Bishop Maurice Piat

Fr. Marc Whelan, the Spiritan Provincial, spent a number of years in Mauritius and on the island of Réunion where he was rector of the Inter-Island Seminary of the Indian Ocean.

Spiritans in the Diocese of Elphin

The Spiritan connection to Ballintubber, Ballymoe and Kilmurry dates back to late 2009 when, home from mission in Angola, Fr. Joe Poole arrived in the parish, initially on a short-term basis.

Four years on, the parish – as well as four parishes in Dublin – is now administered by the Spiritans who also undertake prison ministry in Castlereagh prison. Along with Fr. Joe, the parish team now also includes two other Spiritan priests, Fr. John Laizer from Tanzania, whose previous mission experience includes a number of years in Zimbabwe, and Fr. Pat O'Toole, who transferred in 2013 from the Spiritan community in Ardbraccan.

Four other Spiritans minister elsewhere in the Diocese of Elphin: Fr. Jimmy Heneghan in Roscommon town works with Brazilian migrants throughout the diocese, Fr. Vincent McDevitt is in Caltra, Fr. Larry Shine is in Ballyleague while Fr. Steve Walsh is based at St. Anne's, Sligo.

The Gambia

The Gambia was once considered the most challenging mission confided to Irish Spiritans and in one short period in the 1930s all six Spiritans who went there either died or had to leave because of illness.

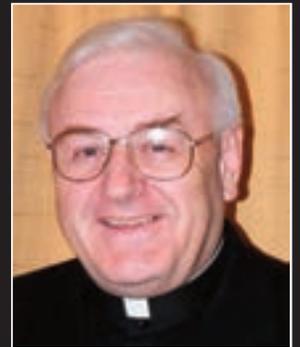
One of the Spiritans who ministered longest in The Gambia was Fr. John Meehan from Donegal, in whose memory a beautiful High Altar was donated to Banjul Cathedral (pictured) which had been built by French Spiritans. Today six Irish confrères are based in the small West African country.



Gone to their reward in 2013

Spiritans who died in 2013 include Fr. Peter Raftery (pictured), Fr. Stephen Darcy, Fr. Cothraí Gogan, Fr. Tom Meagher, Fr. Liam Murphy, and the Province's longest-serving Associate, Ms Betty Whelan. Among others who went to their reward earlier this year is Mr. Joe Carpenter, a long-time Promoter of the work of the Province.

May they rest in peace.



"Be balanced in the way you scrutinise any plans... neither being too slow nor letting things drag on and on. It is wrong to be reckless but it is sometimes even worse to remain uncertain and timid."

(Francis Libermann, 1845)

New Appointments

Fr. Michael Kilkenny, who was community leader in Kimmage Manor from 2007 to 2012, moves to Rome this autumn to take up the position of General Secretary of the Congregation.

Fr. John Kingston from Clonakilty, who served for several years in the Spiritan Generalate in Rome prior to completing sabbatical studies in The Holy Land, has been re-appointed to Moçambique.

A total of 815 Blackrock College students set a world record in March 2013 for the largest human shamrock and raised some €30,000 for the work of Aidlink and Goal.



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