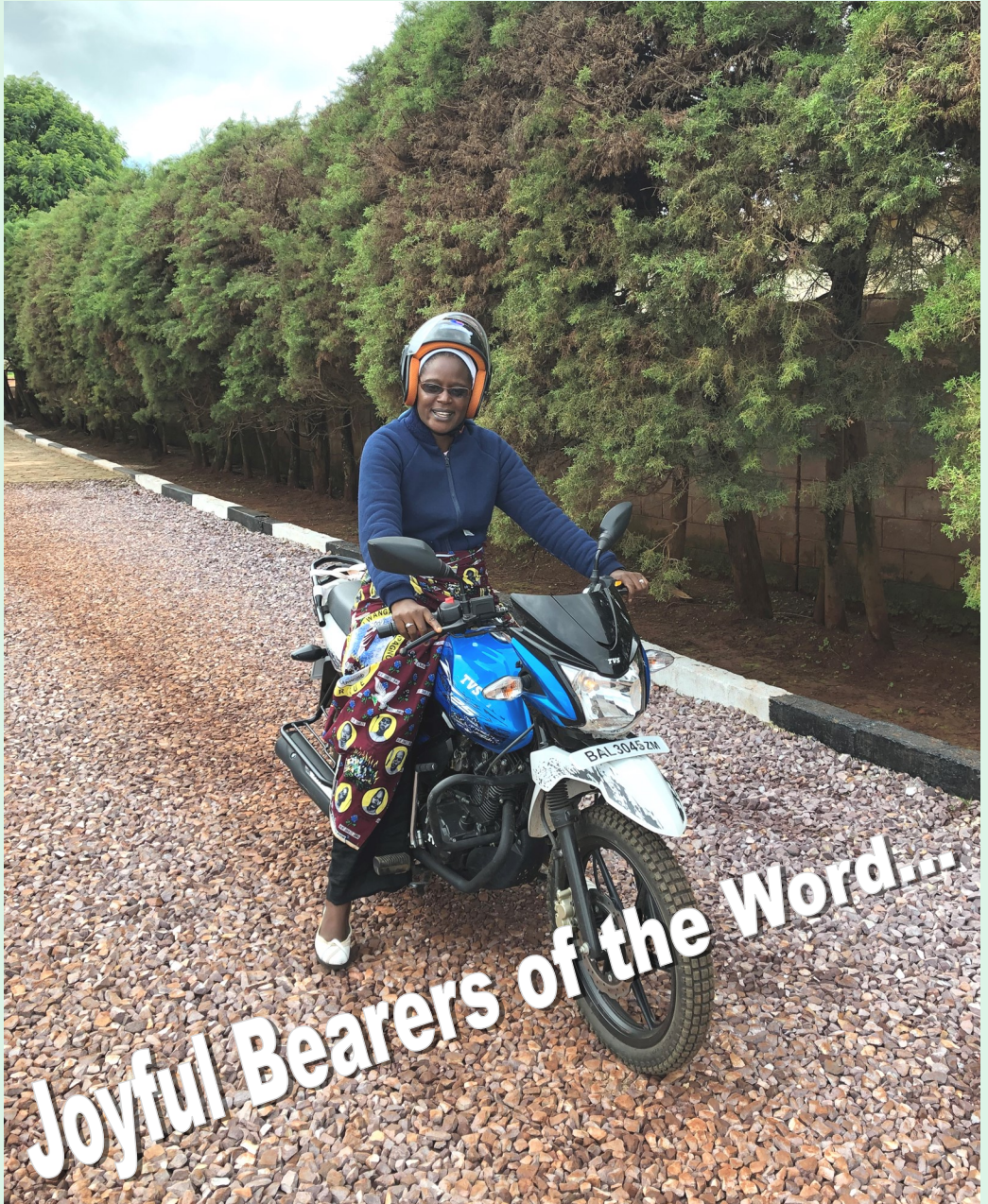


KEEPING IN TOUCH

SSHJM



FEBRUARY 2020

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Editorial

2020 and we enter this New year with our hopes and prayers fixed on the approaching Chapter; Joyful Bearers of the Word at the Heart of our Fragile and Wounded World.

In this edition we have lots to thank God for; the evidence of many years of service in Roscrea as well as individual milestones in big birthdays and Jubilees. The witness to New Life is inspiring with new members in all areas of initial formation and the wonderful Final Vow celebrations of Srs Lucky and Teddy. A new/old house opens in Zambia – what joy. In the midst of it all life moves on as is witnessed in the article on development from Lusaka and through it all lessons are learnt as Sr Siobhan teaches us in her inspiring ‘lemon’ parable.

Remembering our past and linking in with it reminds us that little changes but our tragedies can also bring blessings if we allow the Lord to take charge as he did in Hayling Island over ninety years ago.

I thought you might like the front cover photo and be inspired like Sr Muda to launch out under the protection of the Sacred Heart to pastures new. Remember - there is always a back seat so you need never go alone. The question is; are you the driver, navigator or are you just going along for the ride?

Love and prayers

Anne and Emma

NEW LIFE BEGINS ONCE MORE THANK GOD



Welcome to our three Candidates who are now under the care of Sister Judith in Kasama (Judith's photo is on the front of this years calendar).

Annie Mukuka Chomba who comes to us from Kasama , Zambia

Sheraphine Joyce L.Asingua has travelled all the way from Cebu to complete this first phase of her formation in Zambia.

Monica Mbao is from Mbala in Zambia.



Here are the three with Sr. Judith (who will accompany them through candidacy), Sr Yvonne the Unit Leader and Sr Esther Soko who accompanied them through the 'Come and See' programme in Mbala.

RECEIVED AS NOVICES 02/02/2020



Sr Flaviour Chomba Kasonda and Sr Mary Chanda Lesa were received as novices and they join the novitiate to begin their Spiritual year together with Srs' Felistus, Fancy and Comfort who have completed their apostolic year of novitiate. We keep all five in prayer and Sr Esther Suico their directress.



PROFESSION OF FIRST VOWS



Four Sisters made profession of First Vows in Lusaka in the newly blessed chapel.

Middle four; Sister Cecilia, Sister Beatrice, Sister Christabel and Sister Mary Goreth are pictured here with Sr Jane Frances (Unit leader Uganda), Sr Esther (directress), Sr Yvonne (Unit leader Zambia) and Sr Angelo from the Leadership Team.



Above; Sister Beatrice professing her first Vows with Sr Angelo and Left; Sister Christabel receiving the Congregational cross.





Left: Sister Cecilia signing the Register.

below Sister Mary Goreth also signing the Register.





My Soul Glorifies the Lord. The four newly professed sisters, Beatrice, Cecilia, Christabel and Mary Goreth, singing the Responsorial Psalm during the Mass.



The choir sang with joy and enthusiasm and played drums, shakers, tambourines, guitars and key board - wish I was there!



Sister Jane Frances congratulating Beatrice and praying she will take her back to Uganda on the next flight—another party there no doubt.



Above; Sister Yvonne joins the congratulations on behalf of the congregation and looks just like a proud mother.

Right; Srs Sylvia and Mary Goreth enjoying the moment.



Profession of Final Vows, Sr Lucky



Dear sisters,

Greetings of love and peace
from Zambia!

I hope everything is going well
for you all in this New Year.

There is an old saying that,
“God has only two dwelling
places, one in heaven, and the
other in thankful hearts”. Just
saying the words “thank you” is
a mighty powerful prayer. God
has given us 86,400 seconds in

a day – but how often do we say thank you? It is against this prelude that
I thank Almighty God for bringing us together as a congregation in
humble service for His greater glory.

Let me begin by thanking the Congregational Leader Sister Mary Mangan,
an eminent personality who deserves all our gratitude. She is a person
whose service is full of joy and with a love for those most in need. Sister
Mary, together with the leadership team and our country representative
Sr Yvonne, have a challenging vision for the future.

Sister Eileen, thank you for receiving my vows and Sister Lorna for the
love and support you gave us, may the good Lord grant you your heart’s
desire.

I also want to thank Sister Mulenga for her tireless effort in uniting us
and seeing to it that this profession was a success.

I would like to express my gratitude to the superior of our community

here in Mbala, Sister Muda Chirwa for her leadership, guidance and also for her untiring effort in organising this great occasion.

My novice mistress Sister Angelo for her spiritual accompaniment in my years of intensive spirituality and formation, I am proud of you Sister. Further, I am grateful to all leaders of the communities.

Novitiate, Lake Road, thanks a million for the big surprise gift - you made my day, God will reward you.

To you all, my beloved sisters in Africa and overseas I say, "still waters run deep". Thanks for the support and encouragement.



Yours in the heart of Christ
Sister Lucky Nambeye





Profession of Final Vows, Sr Teddy

This was a wonderful and very joyful occasion. Two Bishops presided, Bishop Christopher Kakoozai, Bishop of Lugazi Diocese and the Emeritus Bishop was also present. There were six priests celebrating including Sr. Teddy's two brothers and her uncle.

Sister Trinitor welcomed everyone and led us through the ceremony telling us what was going to be happening and the meaning of it. She did an excellent job.

The Church was beautifully decorated by members of the Parish Community. The choir had rehearsed all the hymns and made a joyful contribution to the ceremony. A group of young boys accompanied the processions with dancing.

Bishop Christopher gave a short, but meaningful, talk on the Gospel words 'Come, Follow me' reminding Sr. Teddy that Jesus had called her to follow Him and that was what she had said Yes to. Today she was now promising to follow him for the rest of her life serving the poor as a Sister

in the Congregation of the Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

Sr. Teddy Nankumbi made her Perpetual Profession in my hands as the representative of Sr. Mary Mangan, with Bishop Christopher standing at the altar to witness her profession for the Church.

At the end of Mass I gave a short talk expressing our joy as we welcomed Sr. Teddy into our Congregation.

Then the official photos were taken with Sr. Teddy and the Bishop. Everyone involved had a photo with the Bishop which was very important for them.

We then went outside to where tents had been erected for the continuing celebrations. The weather was very hot (31°C) but dry. Since it was the beginning of the rainy season this was a great blessing. The celebrations went on for hours with dancing, drumming, singing and speeches. How the entertainers kept up their dances and energy in all that heat was beyond me, but they did.



There was a lovely meal with plenty of food for all. Then the cutting of the cake took place. Sisters from other Congregations, as well as ourselves, took part in the ceremony to help Sr. Teddy with this task! As well as the main cake which was cut and shared with all present there were a number of smaller cakes which were given to different groups to thank them for their part in the celebration. I was very impressed to know how all the tasks had been shared out among the local community so that no one person had too much to do. It was a great example of cooperation.

It was evening by the time we finally returned to Mukono. A long and memorable day for all of us.

Sr Lorna





Sister Teddy with her parents in the Entry procession.



Dear Sisters,

Thank you all for all the prayers, Masses, support and all the gifts I received from each one of you. May the good Lord bless each one of you.

Sr Teddy Nankumbi

“EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT AND ADVOCACY FOR SYSTEM STRENGTHENING”



Greetings from Lusaka where we are experiencing climate change in a big way. We have chilly mornings and evenings which is unusual for September and daily power-cuts for hours due to very low water levels. In many areas people are faced with starvation due to the poor rain fall during the last rainy season. The good news is that the forecast predicts above average rain fall in all areas of Zambia this coming rainy season. We wait, hope and pray that their predictions are correct.

Recently I attended a meeting organized by Misesan Cara. The meeting was opened by Mr. Seamus O’Grady Irish Ambassador for Zambia who spoke of the impending hunger situations facing many people in Zambia especially communities in rural areas. He said that reading accounts of these situations reminds him of the horror of the famine in Ireland in the 1840s. That was a very bleak period in Irish history and like the present situation here in Zambia it was man made. A sobering thought.

Also present were Mr. Mike Williams from Dublin who led the session on “Misesan Cara Mid-Term Strategy Review,” and Pauline Faughnan who represented Misesan Cara Board.

The meeting was facilitated by Mr. Andrea Cortemiglia Misesan Cara representative for this area of Africa. Throughout the meeting Andrea with his friendly, calm disposition was able to simplify and explain some of the complex and demanding concept from Misesan Cara in both project

proposal writing and in reporting back at the end of the project. His performance was deeply appreciated by all.

Mr. Andrew Chongo gave a very inspiring input on “JCTR’s Approach to Advocacy for System Strengthen” It was encouraging to know that we have our own educated persons willing to negotiate with and challenge the Government to bring about justice for the people of Zambia. Mr. Chongo is an economist employed as a development officer with the Jesuit Society to promote their mission for Justice and Peace.

Mr. William’s afternoon session was a research to elicit how our programs are aiming to empower the people we work with to improve their standard of living

He was eager to know if there were other areas Misesan Cara could provide funding e.g. emergencies, but in the discussion that followed Education, Health and Livelihoods remained the most appropriate activities to benefit the poor.



Emergency situations would require many extra skilled staff and immediately available resources.

After the five days I attended the closing of the training workshop, held at Bauleni Special Needs Project, for 33 community volunteer workers for the Home-Based Education Program. Usually, visits by funders to the programs cause a certain sense of anxiety but on that day my deepest wish was that Mr. Williams and Pauline from Misesan Cara were present at the presentation of the certificates to the participants, whose passion to

deliver what they had been taught to help the people with special needs in their community was impressive.

From my experience, the effectiveness of community health workers is almost impossible to describe. They were the back-bone of the Home-Based Care Programs in the 1990's when the suffering from HIV/AIDS was horrific. At that stage we did not have anti-retroviral medications, there was an inadequate supply of effective pain relief and food was extremely scarce. The volunteers were there day and night to visit the sick and seek help where ever possible to the help them and their care givers. These present volunteers will now do the same for the people with Special Needs in their communities.

This is the evidence that Misesan Cara is asking for, impact that helps improve the lives of the beneficiaries The other remarkable point in the training was that it was facilitated mainly by the Bauleni staff who have been dedicated to the program for many years They are now very competent trainers as they are speaking from both a hands-on experience and as qualified teachers.

Sr Elizabeth Mooney



Our Home in Chingola, Zambia



At the request of Archbishop Banda, we have returned to 5 Pentagon Chingola after an absence of 13 years.

From 1991 to 2006 the community at the Pentagon managed HIV and AIDS programs in Chingola and Kitwe. That period was a bleak and painful time for the people of Zambia, as the HIV epidemic was ravaging the country. HIV and AIDS was only rearing its head in Zambia and treatment was not readily available. There was untold suffering for the people and the Home Care Program was the only support they received, as the hospitals were overburdened with the very sick and had little medication to treat them. Tuberculosis also became rampant when we thought we had conquered it. Our exit in 2006 was due to complex and varied reasons beyond our control.

The memory of our good work then lives on and it is for that reason we are now invited back to support and help the poor and vulnerable. Many community programs no longer exist leaving a big gap in the support and care of the poor and vulnerable. The most important thing needed is to be with and support the people.

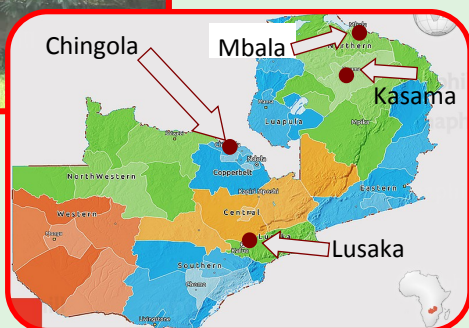
On 9th November 2019 Sisters Natasha and Elizabeth moved into the house once the renovations were complete, they were soon joined by Sisters Mervis and Felistus. “Our New Home in Zambia”. It is a beautiful five-bedroom house, with a newly furnished kitchen, community room, dining

room and a small prayer room. There is a accommodation for visitors in the grounds. The grounds are big with fruit trees and rose bushes which are in full bloom. Imagine, the sanctuary lamp on the wall was dusty with cobwebs surrounding it but when dusted and switched on it lit.

It is a convenient place to be as there are good places for third level education close by, so the Sisters can do their professional training and live in community. That is a great blessing for the congregation.

In the past the community truly fostered many vocations to the priesthood and religious Life. The priest handling the handover the of the house became convinced of his vocation by attending the vocation club organized by our Sisters in the house. A number of our own Sisters now preparing to lead the congregation here in Zambia attended the same vocation club, a good testimony to their dedication in promoting vocations. So, the challenge today to the present community is to follow in their footsteps and nurture good and faithful vocations to the priesthood and religious life and to serve the poor and needy with compassion and loving care.

I am sure you will join with us praying for God's blessing on the mission here in Chingola.



When life gives you lemons ...

I was a student nurse at an East London Hospital when we admitted a sixteen year old secondary school student in the midst of completing his A Level exams, which in England paves the way to educational success. Let's give him the name George. He was studying Chemistry, among other things. As it would be Guy Fawkes day soon, when youngsters in the UK like to set off fireworks, George and his friend decided to make their own. They took an amber bottle from the lab, filled it with an assortment of chemicals, guaranteed to give a successful explosion, and off they went.

On their way to set off the fireworks George's friend said he had an appointment for chest x-ray. So, they soon found themselves at the hospital in a crowded waiting room. Fortunately, a nurse happened by and saw the crowd. Wishing to reduce the number of people in the room she asked if there was anyone there who was not waiting for an X-ray. As it so happened our young friend was the only one fitting the bill so she escorted him to an empty waiting room which was completely enclosed in glass windows.

As he sat waiting for his friend, George was reading a magazine with the image of Flamingos on the cover. This was to be the last image George would ever see and for a long time it remained engraved on his memory. While waiting and reading George had begun to rotate the bottle inadvertently mixing its contents. Suddenly there was a great explosion. All the waiting room windows were shattered and the shards of glass from both bottle and window penetrated his young, perfect body. He was blinded and covered with cuts requiring many sutures.

It soon became obvious George was blind and every hope was dashed when the bandages were removed. I was standing at his side the day the bandages were taken off and my heart broke for him and for his parents. An only son, a student en route to University, it seemed in that moment he had lost more than his vision. His entire future was in jeopardy. This was a life blow such as one would dread for anyone we loved to have to experience.

Over the days and weeks that followed George and I became well acquainted. He was very bright and had a good sense of humor. He knew my footsteps and commented on everyone and every ward happening. He wanted to know all that was happening around him and around the hospital. Over the days I walked him to the ward's veranda to get some fresh air. Soon he was able to tell me how many steps it took to reach the veranda or any other part of the ward.

The day his sutures were to be removed I happened to be on duty and the task fell to me. I can't recall the number of sutures but you can imagine they were all over his face arms and torso. We chatted as nurses and patients are in the habit of doing. Every time he winced I apologized ... it was so often he said he would call me Sister Sorry from then on!

He eventually went home to his parents, forever blind but young and with the enthusiasm of youth, looking forward, not to bleakness, but with the hope to life's possibilities. The memory of this boy encourages me. He found himself facing a future he had not planned.

As Sisters we have experience a different kind of loss but one that almost halted us in our tracks. There were years when no one entered the community and when many still were leaving. Then slowly women of

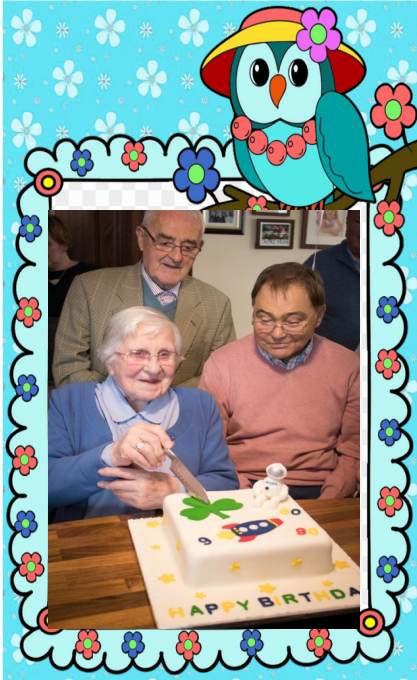
courage began to join us and we had the rich experience of welcoming Sisters from Africa, Asia and Central America as well as the UK and Ireland.

Let us remind one another that the worst to happen is not maybe the thing we dread most. Let's look forward to all our possibilities which include not only our Sisters renewing vows, two have just made final vows in December , but also our relationships with our Sisters in Federation and with our Sacred Heart Companions.



Sister Siobhan

Big Birthdays



Sister Simeon ,
surrounded by loved
ones as she
celebrated her 90th
birthday in 2019.
At last the wise old
owl has arrived!





Sister Bridget McCourt is also joining the 'nineties club' and doing it in style in her new community in Cork.

Of course the 'leader-of-the-pack' is our dear Sister Christine Hawkins. At 98 she is counting the days for when she can enter the three digits. Looks like she is going strong and giving good example to the rest of us.

Thanks to Sr Annie Mary and our wonderful staff in Cork for all their care.



DEPARTURE FROM ROSCREA



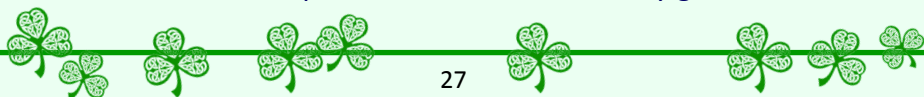
The departure of the Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary from Roscrea, after a residency and service of 88 years, was indeed a most poignant event in the history of our Congregation. The final day came on 16th November, 2019 with the celebration of a Mass of Thanksgiving and Reparation in the parish church of St. Cronan. The chief celebrant was the Most Reverend Fintan Monaghan, Bishop of Kilaloe. The nine co-celebrants were the four priests of the parish, the neighbouring parish priests and two priests from Mount St Joseph Abbey, Roscrea, Dom Malachy Lynch, Abbot, and Dom Laurence Walsh, former abbot. The Mass was particularly emotional for Dom Laurence, a native of Roscrea, who has known Sean Ross Abbey and the Sisters throughout all of his ninety Years. A large congregation of parishioners, Companions in prayer, Service Personnel (including many retired), friends and relatives supported Sister Mary Mangan and the twenty-one SHJM Sisters who were able to attend.

It was a great realisation of community, friendship and grateful remembrance. The parish choir embellished the celebration and added gusto to our opening and final hymns, O Sacred Heart of Jesus and The Salve Regina.

Bishop Fintan's homily and Sr. Mary Mangan's address recalled the two services rendered at State request – The Mother and Baby Home, 1931-1970, and the St. Anne's Service for Persons with Special Needs, 1970 and continuing. Both the Bishop and Sr. Mary Mangan had been personally deeply involved with the latter service. The Bishop's own brother with special needs lived at St. Anne's for some years. The Bishop gave outstanding praise to the Sisters for their care and kindness



He called Sr. Mary Francis (RIP) “the Mother Theresa of her day”! He was equally aware of the delicacy and confidentiality required of the Sisters in caring for unmarried mothers and their babies. That work continued right up to the last “minute” at the Lodge, when a man phoned, out of the blue for information on his father who was born at Sean Ross in 1960. We directed him to TUSLA keeper of our records. Sr. Mary gave a resume of



the expansion of provision for adults as well as children, and all the fund raising that entailed. On Mother's Day in 1990 Sr Mary announced that she was extending the services to include care for adults. This was best ever Gift given to the listening mothers! Both speeches, the Bishop's and Sr. Mary's delighted the hearts of all present.

After the Mass and the picture-taking tea, coffee and delicious finger food were served in the Scouts' Hall across the road from the church. The Scouts' service was impeccable. During this happy gathering Sr. Mary Mangan presented Mr. Jim McManus with a special award in recognition of his 27years as head teacher at St. Anne's Special School. Jim had really absorbed our charism and made it live in the school and in the minds and hearts of staff and pupils alike. Sadly poor health has suddenly overtaken Jim and forced his early retirement. We keep him in our prayers and wish him well.



At the end of all those celebrations Sr. Mary Mangan led the Sisters to the Sisters' cemetery and to the Babies ' cemetery to bid them all a fond, prayerful adieu. Both cemeteries remain in the possession of the

SSHJM and a contract is in place for their maintenance.

Prior to the church ceremonies the St. Anne's Care Staff organised a Mass and Party at the Villas, especially to thank Sr. Brigid for her 38 years of dedicated service with them. The reception room was packed with Users, care staff, admin and maintenance staff, and catering staff.

Fr. Tom Corbett celebrated the Mass. I shall never forget it! Once Fr. Tom began silence descended on the room. It was remarkable. Not a noise or distraction! All the prayers were recited reverently by the whole group. The hymns with lively music accompaniment were sung lustily. It felt as if Jesus was present walking in our midst. It was a deep spiritual time. Fr Tom is very good with the special needs people. After the Mass there was a great party, delicious food, songs, chat, flowers, cards and gifts. Sr. Brigid now has a gorgeous book full of pictures. Sr. Margaret and I were delighted to see Sr. Brigid so honoured. God bless the Users and the Staff.

*Sister Brigid Finn
with some of the
young residents of
St Anne's, taken
some years ago
when Brigid was
still active in the
services.*



A footnote!

Sr. Margaret spent 17 years at Sean Ross Abbey. Her assignment was challenging, arduous and heavy with responsibility. Her leadership qualities were appreciated in community and beyond. She had a full exposure to Irish life with all its inuendoes. God grant her peace and joy in Colwyn Bay.

Sr Brigid was familiar with Sean Ross Abbey from childhood when she visited her cousin, Mother Brigid who had returned from our mission in Australia. Sr. Brigid slept in Sean Ross Abbey the night before she entered Chigwell.

What a host of memories the place holds for her!

Negotiations to purchase Sean Ross Abbey began in 1929 the year I was born. My grandfather was on the committee supporting the opening of the Mother and Baby home in the Midlands. His daughter, Sr. Redempta entered Chigwell in 1931 the same year that the Sisters took up residency in Sean Ross Abbey. She was followed six years later by her sister, Sr. Kieran Marie. In time both sisters became midwives! Sean Ross Abbey played an important role in my family as the years rolled on. Farming issues were shared with my father. My parents were advised by the Sisters on care for Patricia, my special needs sister. My mother and siblings were comforted on the sudden death of my father. For me it was a tremendous grace to be able to wake Patricia in the lovely chapel in The Lodge. Praise God for all His loving care!

Sr. Mary Simeon



Sisters Margaret and Simeon (bottom left) with friends, SHC's and parishioners at the reception after Mass.



Comhghairdeas



Sister Catherine Murphy (above) and Sister Simeon were treated royally in Cork community on Feb 2nd 2020 as they celebrated their Platinum Jubilee of consecrated life. We are so very proud to present them continuing to celebrate their life-long commitment and giving a wonderful example and witness to us all especially those who are starting off in initial formation.





FIRE IN ST. PATRICK'S OPEN AIR SCHOOL HAYLING ISLAND 1929

Sister Celestine Harrington RIP

This is a part of our history that many sisters are unaware of and it is important to remember the commitment and bravery of those who went before us.

In 1929 we were still a very young congregation but were at the *listening heart* of the Church and society. We had several schools in London's East End and in other large cities in the UK and we knew well the diseases of the slums, the poverty which affected the weakest members, particularly the children. Pollution was high, malnutrition common and diseases like measles and TB were killers.

In those days there were no antibiotics and doctors prescribed 'fresh air' and a 'healthy diet' as the best treatment available.

Our response, together with the education authorities in London, was to establish an 'Open Air School' on the south coast of England for girls from the inner city areas of London. The children were referred there by the doctors and education authorities. There was plenty of rest, fresh sea-air and a good diet, far away from London's contamination.

St Patrick's Open Air School officially opened in February 1928. Mother Lawrence RMG sent 8 sisters to start, with Sr. Celestine as the acting superior. The following year it was agreed with the authorities also to accept boys under the age of nine. The school had a capacity for 70 children.

Sr. Celestine, (Sara Harrington) was born in Tipperary, Ireland in 1874, one of a large family of thirteen children, ten of her brothers and sisters emigrated to America. Sara entered our congregation in 1897 and made her first profession of vows in 1899. She was nurse by profession so would have been considered competent in caring for the needs of the sick children.

In St Patrick's school the children spent as many hours as possible in the fresh air, bedrest also was, when possible, outside and one of the first entries in the log book, April 26 1928 reads; *reading lessons taken on the beach as often as possible from today.*

In the first week of August 1929 the community and the school received a visit from Rev. Mother Lawrence. In those days children did not go home for holidays and although they did not have formal classes, the sisters found other ways to entertain and keep them occupied. There were, at the time 58 resident children, seven sisters and three or four resident maids (according to the newspaper reports).

There was back then limited access to banking and it is probable that RMG brought money or cheques for the community with her. For that reason it was possible that there was more money in the house than usual.

Mother Lawrence returned to Chigwell on the 8th of August in order to be in the Mother House for her feast on the 10th.

In the early hours (approximately 1.30 am) of the 9th, less than a day after Mother Lawrence left, a fire broke out in the east wing of the house and very quickly the sisters called the fire services and roused the children from their beds, some of the little ones, and those who were physically disabled had to be carried to safety. The children were used to fire drills so the exercise, for many of them, was simple and exciting as they thought it was just another drill. Some of the dormitories directly above the flames quickly filled with smoke and the sisters had to fight bravely to save some of the little ones. The children were taken down to the beach and shortly after neighbours came to help and took them to their home where they passed the remainder of the night. Few if any of them realised how close they were to death.

The sisters remained with the children but Sister Celestine, after she was sure that everyone else was safe and accounted for, went back into the house without informing anyone. She went to the superior's office which was next to the Chapel, some say she went back to save the Blessed Sacrament – but we will never know. Her charred remains were found outside the door of the superior's office and there was a quantity of money and valuables at her side. The fire report says that she must have been overcome by fumes and collapsed.

The Fire service people and the authorities praised the heroic work of the sisters *"they were brave and cool and their influence over the children was wonderful"*.

The sisters were very upset on hearing what happened to Sister Celestine but maintained a calm with the children so as not to upset them further.

News arrived early in Chigwell and by 7.30 a.m. Mother Lawrence, together with Mothers Antonia and Lucy, travelled by car to Hayling Island taking clothes for the sisters – I am sure that clothes for the children would be easily available but sisters habits less so.

The whole country was shocked by the event which was reported in both the national and catholic newspapers, hundreds of masses were offered for the repose of the soul of Sister Celestine and many donations received to help rebuild and repair the damage.

One remarkable event happened;

A Mrs Weguelin read the report in the newspaper and went to Hayling Island where she gave a gift of £100 to RMG (a large sum of money in those days). Shortly after, Mrs Weguelin donated her own house to the sisters to replace the school in Hayling Island. This very generous gift was accepted and became Mount Olivet, St Dominic's Open Air School for boys which continues today although not as an open air school. They have just celebrated the 90th anniversary of the arrival of the first students. *(the school is now owned and run by another group).*

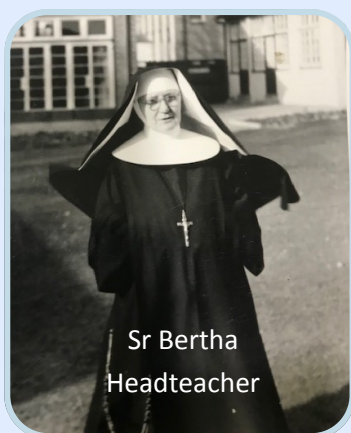
The school in Hayling Island was quickly repaired and continued for many years as an Open air School for Girls until 1972. Some of you will be interested to know that our Congregational Leader, Sr. Mary, and Sr. Anne Kieran taught in the school from 1967 to 1971, it was their first teaching appointment.

Some of these historical memories remind us of who we are and that we haven't changed that much.

Of course the moral of the story is that God can make great things happen out of what we consider a disaster.

In November past the family of Sr Celestine RIP held a 90th anniversary memorial Mass in the church in Havant, the mainland parish to which Hayling Island belongs and where our sisters' grave is situated. Sisters Anne Kieron and Angelo Roncalli represented the congregation and are pictured here by her graveside, Sister Marcela O'Connell RIP is also buried in the same grave

I have since discovered that Sister Bertha who was aunt to Sister Margaret Dobbin (now in Colwyn Bay) was also in St Patrick's at the time of the fire. Sr Margaret remembers her telling that after the fire she sat in the garden in her dressing-gown writing letters to the parents of the children to let them know that their child was safe and well and not injured by the fire. Many of us remember Sr Bertha, she was a very small woman with a very big character. She spent more than 50 years in Hayling Island—many of them as the headteacher. We also know that she was sent there following surgery and was only expected to live for 3 months—she was well over 90 when she died.



Above; Sr Anne Kieran and Sr Angelo at the anniversary Mass in November.

Right; a very young Sister Mary Mangan enjoying a moment on the beach.



Congratulations Sister Alexander



Congratulations Sister Margaret



Mother Winefride Tyrrell Award 2019

Sister Anne Healy

At Last the award arrived in Cebu with Sisters Eileen and Mary Ita and the celebrations started once again. We congratulate Sr. Anne for your dedication and generosity in Cebu you are an example to us all.



Below left; Srs Odette, Shiela, Marrisa and Luela.



Front row ; Srs Mary Ita, Eileen and Anne



During the visit Sr. Luela (above right) renewed her vows and Sisters Eileen and Mary Ita had the joy of visiting the projects and meeting with the staff and service users. They returned back in Chigwell tired but delighted with their visit.

Thank you

Dear sisters,

We would like to give our sincere gratitude to you, for the love, care, support and generosity that you rendered to us on the day of our First Profession of Vows. The day was made colorful because of your hard work and cooperation. First and foremost, we thank the organizers of the decorations, catering, singing, the Readers in the Mass, and finally all of you who were with us in spirit.

To you all we say thank you very much and may God send you all the graces you need.

With love and prayer,

Sisters Beatrice, Cecilia, Christabel, and Mary Gorreth.

Reminder

28th August

50 Years - Golden Jubilee

Sister Maureen Gavin

Sister Catherine Burns

Sister Mary Ita

60 Years - Diamond Jubilee

Sister Margaret Dobbin

Sister Mary Costello

70 Years - Platinum Jubilee

Sister Nora Hogan

Sister Sylvester

Sister Jane de Chantal

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