

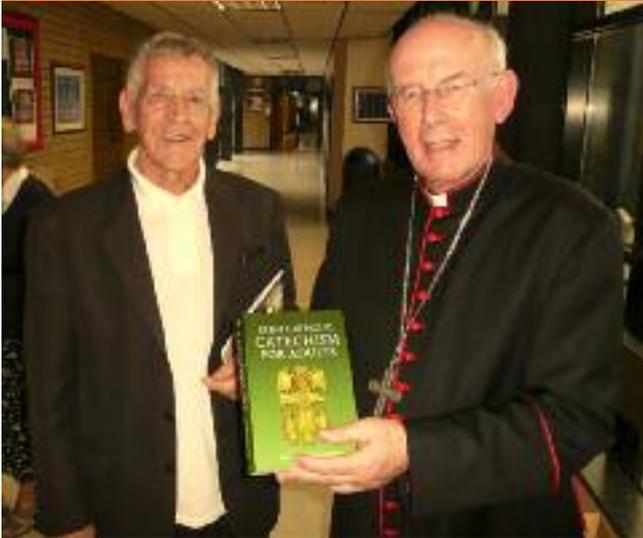


September - October 2014

THE HARP



Bulletin of the Divine Word Missionaries, Irish-British Province



The Divine Word Missionaries wish **Cardinal Sean Brady** much happiness and good health following his retirement as **Archbishop of Armagh**. We acknowledge his courtesies towards us over the years, especially when we were doing Mission Awareness in his Archdiocese during 2007. In this picture, the Cardinal is talking to **John McAteer SVD** about the newly published Irish catechism for adults.

Our Visitator

Arlindo Pereira Dias SVD was born in the city of Cipotânea, state of Minas Gerais, Brazil. This small town of about 5,000 inhabitants, strongly Catholic, has offered about 40 priests and 20 religious to the Church.

His father, Corsino Dias Lopes, who died in 1997, was by profession a farmer and builder. His mother Belmira Pereira Dias is housewife and is currently 79. Arlindo is the second of four children.

After receiving his first assignment for the SVD BRC province, from 1989 to 1996 together with a group of religious and lay people he founded the NGO called **Street Network**, dedicated to the homeless in S. Paulo. He was at the same time Mission Secretary of the province. From 1997 to 2001 he was prefect of the SVD theologate in S. Paulo. During this time he did a master degree in Social Communication at the *Universidade Metodista de S. Paulo*. From 2001 to 2006 he was Provincial of the BRC province. He was elected to the General Council at the 2006 SVD General Chapter.

<https://fielsvd.wordpress.com/tag/fr-arlindo-pereira-dias-svd/>



Prayer for Water

O God, pour out on us the water of life that we may quench our thirst and draw our strength from you.

We lift to you those who walk hours to distant streams, who kneel beside rivers and ponds to collect all that they will use to drink, cook and wash.

We lift to you those for whom clean water is not a basic right but a luxury, not a common good but an expensive commodity, out of reach for those who cannot pay.

We cry out, O God, against conflict and violence that leaves crops to wither and drives families from their homes to lands where fresh, clean water is only a dream. Amen.

(SVD Vademecum, p. 164)



Our newly ordained deacon, **Cyril Ma SVD**, second from left, pictured in Donamon with **Bishop Christopher Jones**, the Bishop emeritus of Elphin. Also pictured are Fr. **Michael Mullaney**, vice-president of St. Patrick's seminary, Maynooth; Deacon **Sean O'Donnell** from Derry and Fr **Paul Prior**, director of formation, St Patrick's College, Maynooth. Cyril has been appointed to Ghana.

PROVINCIAL NEWS

Timothy Lehane SVD is in the Tantur institute in Bethlenhem for three months while doing a bible course.

John Ryan SVD is attending a course on the Word of God in Nemi. He will return to PNG at the end of it.

Bro **Gerhard Osthues** SVD and Sem. **Joseph Yang** SVD have taken up residence in St Patrick's College, Maynooth, while they pursue their studies for the priesthood.

Binoy Matthew SVD (Arklow) has commenced Human Resources Management studies in UCD. He continues to work in Arklow parish, Co. Wicklow.

The general visitation will take place in the province between Oct. 17th to Nov. 9th. Our visitor will be Fr **Arlindo Dias** SVD, who is Brazilian and who visits us from Rome where he is based.

The **VIVAT** group of Ireland have produced a beautiful booklet on "*water - a precious gift*" for reflection and prayer. If interested in a copy, please contact Fr Liam or Sr Carmen.

The **International Sheepdog Trials** took place on the lands of **Barra O'Brien**, in our parish of **Kilbagnet** near Donamon, in September. 20,000 visitors were expected to attend over the three days. Cuisle was booked out for months in advance as visitors from all over the UK and further afield descended on the area. The Trials were a major showcase event for Roscommon and surrounding counties, according to the President of the International Sheepdog Society **Con Mc Garry**. The official launch of the trials, which cost at least €70,000 to stage, was held in the **Cuisle Centre** in Donamon. Well done all!

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Pat Byrne SVD attended the **European Zonal** meeting at Nitra, in Slovakia, in September.

The **student block** in our SVD house, Maynooth, is once again full to capacity as students return to the University.

Congratulations to several former students of our **Divine Word Language School**, Maynooth, who have recently been ordained Deacons. They are **Jean Delvolve** (Paris); **Tomas Gerboc** SVD & **Stanislaus Orecny** SVD (Slovakia).

John Zhang SVD has sent greetings from Indonesia. He has arrived and is pleased with his situation. He is learning Bahasa Indonesian at present.

Welcome to **Neil Doogan** SVD who is on leave from Nicaragua. It was a bitter-sweet holiday for him as he saw Donegal win the Semi Final and lose the all Ireland Final! Good wishes to **Pat Dillon** SVD who returned to Brazil in October.

Bart Parys SVD is the European Communications Coordinator.

Binoy Mathew SVD is the European Biblical Apostolate Coordinator.

The European Zonal Meeting 2015 to take place in Donamon. It will mark the 25th anniversary of the influential **Roscommon Consensus document** which was produced there and which went on to open up Europe as a mission territory like any other. From that time, new SVDs could apply to work in Europe.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Our men in formation.

The people and clergy of Dublin Archdiocese
Our Benefactors.

All who have asked for our prayers.

All new Deacons & Priests ordained this year.

Liam McDermott, ill, (Bettystown)

Paddy Ruane SVD, ill (Santarem, Brazil)

Sr Renate Sistemich SSpS, ill, (Raheny).

Bill Kennedy, ill (Nenagh).

Fr Liam Hayes SVD, ill, (Argentina)

The Holy Souls.

Mrs Elizabeth O'Reilly, RIP and family. (Swords)

Anne Courtney, RIP, Ennis, sister of Fr Paddy.



SVD 75 YEARS IN IRELAND



JUBILEE LETTER FROM THE PROVINCIAL

Dear family members, friends and benefactors of the Divine Word Missionaries,



Greetings from the Provincial's office. I am particularly happy to greet all of you, through the pages of The HARP, as we are celebrating 75 years of SVD presence here in Ireland this year.



It all began in Donamon Castle, Co. Roscommon, in 1939, when the first German SVD missionaries arrived from their homeland and bought the property. So it is an important year for Donamon Castle as it too celebrates its 75th anniversary. We have been very fortunate to have been able honour this anniversary with some special celebrations. On June 27th one of our Chinese seminarians was ordained to the priesthood, and on August 29th a second Chinese seminarian was ordained a deacon. These were the first ordinations in Donamon in a long time.



I wish to thank God for all those who have passed through our formation programmes in these 75 years. Some just stayed a while, but many were ordained priests, or made final profession as Brothers. Many spent lifetimes in the missions travelling to the ends of the earth to bring the word of the gospel to all nations. I wish to thank also all those who made this possible, all the benefactors and friends who believed in us during these 75 years.



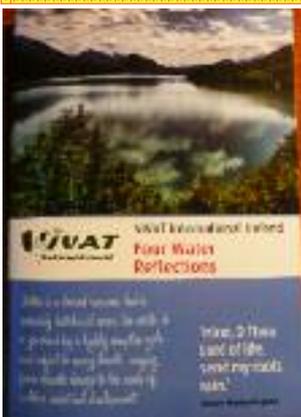
Life has changed very much in the last few years and we live in very challenging times. One wonders how things will be in the next 75 years. We will of course continue to participate in the life and death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus is the mainstay of our life. He guides us and protects us and gives us hope in what at times can be a very confusing world. Leo Tolstoy wrote: "everything I know, I know only because I love". May the love of God in our hearts continue to propel the Divine Word Missionaries out beyond their comfort zones, leading them still to those who are hungry to hear the word of God preached and proclaimed. Mission happens because God loves everyone, but not everyone knows this. We have to tell them.



Fr. Pat Byrne SVD,



Provincial Irish/British Province.



The cover of the Vivat Ireland book on water.



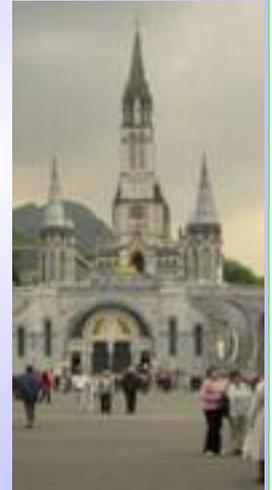
If you take a walk along the canal near the Pembroke Road House, you can see the poet Patrick Kavanagh in a pensive mood or a barge at anchor. (pictures courtesy of John Zhang svd)



Liam Dunne SVD recently had the pleasure of catching up with an old friend, former Provincial of PNG and currently Bishop of Goroka, (Papua New Guinea), **Francesco Sarego SVD**, from Verona. **John Ryan SVD** and **Michael Donovan SVD** are currently working in his diocese. They met at the “**Meeting**” of **Communion et Liberatione** in Rimini. At the “Meeting” this year there was a splendid exhibition about our **St Joseph Freinademetz SVD**, one of our first missionaries in China. In the course of the one week event, up to one million people can go through the doors of the exhibition centre to hear distinguished people speak and to participate in all kinds of events which aim at strengthening the role of Christians in the world of politics and culture now. Liam was informed by another SVD at the exposition, that one lay-man and member of C & L from the area of St Joseph, was so impressed by the story of his eminent countryman, that he decided that he should be more widely known and so he contributed to mounting the exhibition. **John Waters** of Ireland was one of this year’s speakers. In our picture, Bishop Francesco is pictured in the middle with at left, his brother; with **Pietro Irsara SVD**; and Signor **Carlo Rossi**.

2015 SSpS & SVD Pilgrimage to LOURDES

Initial preparations are already underway for our next SSpS and SVD pilgrimage. It will be to **Lourdes**, in France. It is being planned for **May 15 - 20**, of next year.



If you would like to be part of what promises to be a lovely experience, then please let the **editor** or Sr **Carmen Lee SSpS** know by phone, email or letter.

The last sibling of the Lynch family of Dingle, Co Kerry,
Mrs. Helen O’Sullivan

died recently in the United States following an illness.

She was the sister of the late Fathers **Daniel Lynch SVD** (Paraguay) and **Tom Lynch SVD** (India).

We extend our condolences to her daughter Patricia and to the members of her extended family in Co Kerry.

Well done, good and faithful servant.

SOME THOUGHTS ON SCRIPTURE



“God has made the most of all the possibilities of human language, but at the same time He has had to submit His

Word to the limitations of this language. True respect for the inspired Scriptures requires us to make all the efforts necessary to fully grasp their meaning”. As it is not possible for every Christian personally to carry out the research of every type necessary to arrive at a good understanding of Biblical texts, he added, “this task is entrusted to

exegetes, those who are responsible in this sector for the good of all. Therefore, alongside academic competence, the Catholic exegete needs above all, faith: received from and shared with all believers who, in their entirety, cannot be mistaken”.

(From the address of Pope Francis to the

Thank you for sending me the link to the Peace Mass on RTE TV. I was happy to tune in! It was good to see Sr **Renata** & Fr **Henry Barlage SVD**. A beautiful celebration!

Pia Hawes, Sydney, Australia.

Thoughts for the
Missionary month of October.

The concept of mission developed by Vatican II made a significant shift from territorial missions to mission communities. It showed the way to listen to the world and to be receptive to the world and to the Spirit. In the years after Vatican II, there was a new interest in articulating theologies and spiritualities that were appropriate for specific contexts. Contemporary challenges in the realm of religions, cultures, justice and communications have made people think differently and to try and discern more deeply what the Holy Spirit is saying today. Thus it is necessary to listen to the Spirit and to listen to the world with its various challenges and prospects; dimensions and articulations. In the decades after Vatican II, a positive dialogic tone has emerged in the pluri-religious and multi-cultural global community which sees the Church that giving hope to the world and the cosmos.

The Second Vatican Council and the SVD Mission, p.5.

THE OPENING WORDS FROM POPE FRANCIS'
MESSAGE FOR MISSION SUNDAY 2014

“Today vast numbers of people still do not know Jesus Christ. For this reason, the mission ad gentes continues to be most urgent. All the members of the Church are called to participate in this mission, for the Church is missionary by her very nature: she was born “to go forth”. World Mission Day is a privileged moment when the faithful of various continents engage in prayer and concrete gestures of solidarity in support of the young Churches in mission lands. It is a celebration of grace and joy. A celebration of grace, because the Holy Spirit, sent by the Father, offers wisdom and strength to those who are obedient to his action. A celebration of joy, because Jesus Christ, the Father’s Son, sent to evangelize the world, supports and accompanies our missionary efforts. This joy of Jesus and missionary disciples leads me to propose a biblical icon, which we find in the Gospel of Luke” (cf. 10:21-23) .

**World
Mission Sunday**

takes place on the second last Sunday of October each year. Since 1926, the Church has traditionally remembered its universal mission during the month of October. This year Mission Sunday will be celebrated throughout the world on the 19th October 2014. In Rome the celebration of Mission Sunday takes place at the conclusion of the Synod of Bishops on the “Pastoral Challenges to the Family in the Context of Evangelization” which took place in Rome from October 5th to 19th.

Throughout the world the faithful reflected on the universal call to Mission of all the baptized and contributed what they could to support the development and growth of the young churches throughout the world. Mission Sunday is celebrated by every Church throughout the world, including the poorest.

This special Sunday in October provides Catholics with the opportunity to unite with their missionary sisters and brothers overseas, and to recommit themselves to bringing the Joy of the Gospel to everyone they meet in their daily lives at home and at work.

In October and especially on Mission Sunday Catholics are invited to be specifically conscious of the Church's missionary activity abroad (ad gentes) through prayer, sacrifice and financial contributions. The funds collected in all Churches throughout the world on Mission Sunday, is coordinated by the **Society for the Propagation of the Faith**, founded by **Pauline Jaricot** 190 years ago. The funds are used to assist Churches who need financial support and are directed towards communities in need, both spiritually and materially.

In October 2013, Irish Catholics contributed more than €1.6 million

on Mission Sunday. The Mission Sunday collection is made available, in its entirety, to be distributed to as many as 1,100 young Churches who are supported by the generosity of Churches that have been blessed with a greater quantity of financial and material gifts.

Contributions will be used to build simple mission churches, to educate seminarians as well as female diocesan religious novices. This support also assists in the formation of catechists and lay leaders. The Mission Sunday gift can also be used for building health facilities for children and adults as well as for providing emergency aid in times of war or natural disaster or to assist missionaries in their efforts to care for refugees.

The theme for World Mission Sunday in Ireland this year 2014 was

"That they may have Life"

With thanks to WMI, Rathmines.

LETTERS

Thanks for more news HARP. You give us plenty of information and it is good for us.

Thanks for your services to INC. You had been very resourceful for INC especially during my tenure from 2008-2014. You have helped our Missions who are at the edge and marginalized! You have brightened their lives. Jan Vikas, Kendra, Indore is in my Campus. Fr.Roy is doing a commendable job!

Nicholas Martis SVD India

I arrived back home from a really extraordinary pilgrimage with a good friend of mine recently. We did an 8 day pilgrimage on foot from my home in Bavaria to Oies in the Südtirol, to the birthplace of St. **Josef Freinademetz**, about 250 kms. over the Alps. We went totally without money, in radical openness to God's presence in nature and people along the way. Thanks to the help and support of people we met, we accomplished our goal. It was really a great experience.

Severin Parzinger SVD, Germany

Warm greetings and thanks! Glad to receive the HARP. A few days ago I was surprised to get an e-mail from our former confrere Walter Boyle. He will be coming to India shortly. That revived my memories of Ireland once again. I had visited Kildare, his home, when I was in Ireland in 1977 and again in 1978. I had a great time in Ireland working with Veritas Dublin. I used to stay in the SVD house at Booterstown in Dublin and visit Maynooth during the week ends.

I was happy to read the history of Donamon Castle. You mentioned Bro. Florinus Ochs, SVD, great carpenter brother. He came later to India and one of his last works was for me at Satprakashan Sanchar Kendra, in Indore. I also enjoyed reading the interview with Reginald and the rest of the news. Thank you.

Clarence Srambikal SVD Asta, Bhopal, India

For some reason our newspaper didn't arrive this morning, so after breakfast I had this empty feeling inside. Then I opened my computer and there was the latest Harp. I have just finished devouring it. So now I feel ready to face the day's work. Thank you very much for sending it.

John Ledwidge SVD, Mexico

Thank you for the lovely edition of the Harp! I especially enjoyed seeing the coffin made as a Bible. What a wonderful idea for the tribute to acknowledge the

devotion to God's word. Maybe you could start a new ministry here in Ireland of creating coffins made as bibles for the devout!

Sr Kathryn, PDDM, Athlone.

The brief history of Donamon was very interesting. I never knew about the Christian Brother connecton! I enjoyed the interview with Reginald, too. I'm off to Australia to baptise two babies, children of a former parishioner from Fulham who is from Sydney.

With the new school year starting we will begin with 1st Confession preparations which will lead us to 1st Communion preparations in January. We have 45 kids ready to go!

I've done 10 years here in Homerton now and it has flown by. I recently had the **Cardinal, Vincent Nichols**, here for a visit. He asked me how long I'd been here so I told him I was keeping my head down. He said not to worry, he doesn't move people for the sake of moving them!

A good friend of the SVD was made **Bishop of Plymouth** earlier this year at the end of January. **Mark O' Toole** was a curate in Willesden Green for a number of years and knew us well. He went on to teach at the Seminary in Chelsea before becoming secretary to Cardinal Cormac Murphy O' Connor and finally rector of the Seminary. He was here for dinner, to celebrate my 40th anniversary last September, just before his appointment was made. His mother lives in Lettermore, Co. Galway.

Fr Tony Doyle PP, Homerton parish, London

Thanks for sending the issues of the Harp! Great update on the IBP Province. Enjoyed every issue! I am forwarding the issues you sent to me to our men who are working in California. Thanks again! **Gerry O'Doherty** is a great blessing for Riverside. I enjoy his Irish humour and he is a great community man! What a blessing from Ireland. Come visit us!

Pons Ramos SVD, California, USA

It is the rainy season so storms and typhoons are part of the scene. However, nothing terribly destructive so far, although we did get a direct hit here last month. It knocked down quite a few trees and we are only finishing the clean-up process now.

Would you have any Mass stipends to share with us?

John O'Mahony SVD, Tagatay, Philippines

SSpS NOTES

SSpS Generalate, ROMA,

Dear Sisters,

I cannot close this letter without at least briefly drawing your attention to the many people who, near at hand or far off, are homeless, fleeing from terror and war, not knowing where to turn. It leaves us no peace and cannot leave us in peace. Many of our fellow Sisters are directly affected, such as in South Sudan and in the Ukraine; others are challenged to search together for ways to take in the many people who have unexpectedly come to their countries and are suddenly knocking at their door. During my home leave I personally saw how our former St. Mary's Hospital, which we had handed over to other owners in 1994, has become an emergency shelter for several hundred asylum seekers from Syria, Iraq, Pakistan and various African countries. Here in Italy, too, many people arrive almost daily, refugees hoping for a better and more secure life. Together with other congregations and organizations we are endeavouring to find out how we can really help. The challenge to widen our circle and to live communion with the marginalized and excluded is becoming very concrete. Let us pray for one another that we may recognize the need of the hour and be willing to respond according to our capabilities, even if that means letting go, or facing insecurity, uncomfortable situations and our fears.

With thanks for all that is already being done in that respect through raising awareness, active help and prayer and with very warm greetings also from the councillors,

Sincerely yours,

Sr. Maria Theresia SSpS
General Superior



Our "pink" Sisters, the **Congregation of the Holy Spirit of Perpetual Adoration**, in Steyl, recently celebrated the centenary of their convent there. They were joined by representatives of their "blue" sisters, the SSpS, and by members of the SVD and friends for the happy occasion.



Members of the SSpS came together in Maynooth, on September 6th, with SVDs, family and friends to mark the 125th anniversary of the foundation of their Congregation in 1889. These sisters are from six different countries.

Sr Renata Sistemich SSpS continues to recuperate in her convent in Raheny. It is hoped, at this stage, that her recovery will continue and that she will regain more of her strenght and memory.

On the 27th, Sept., the sisters in England celebrated the birthday of **Sr. Marilda Danes** SSpS, an Englishwoman, who is the oldest sister (94 years) in the Region and of **Sr Ewa** SSpS who had her birthday on the 25th.(one of the youngest). **Sr Ewa** will coordinate the 2015 Pilgrimage to Lourdes. (She is second from the right in the above picture.)



Severin Parzinger SVD from Bavaria, rests in the Alps on his pilgrimage to the homeland of **St Joseph Frienademetz** SVD. Severin, who is pursuing his priestly formation in **Sankt Augustin**, Germany, also spent some time in the Divine Word Language School in Maynooth and in Bolivia. Well done!



This is the beautiful monument to **Pope Paul VI** in the Cathedral of his home diocese of **Brescia**, northern Italy. We rejoice that he is to be beatified on **Mission Sunday**, 19th October, 2014. Pope Paul produced a wonderful document on Mission, called **EVANGELII NUNTIANDI** in 1975. The sculpture, by **Raffaele Scorzelli** (1921- 1997), portrays him kneeling at the “**Holy Door**” of Saint Peter’s Basilica, at the opening of the Holy Year in 1975.



John Zhang SVD gets to know and admire the culture of Indonesia in Bali.



SVD seminarian **Juraj Begany** SVD, Bratislava, in his Mosaic workshop, in our seminary. He recently spent one month in Rome with the renowned Mosaic Master, Fr **Ivan Rupnik** SJ, learning more about the art. Note, that an image of one of Fr Rupnik’s works, from the Irish College in Rome, adorned the sanctuary during the Eucharistic Congress in Dublin.



A picture of our two new deacons in Bratislava with **Bishop Jozef Hal’ko**. They are from left: **Stanislaus Orecny** SVD, who has been appointed to the Southern Province of the Philippines; **Tomas Gerboc** SVD, who has been appointed to Slovakia & **Bernard Melis** OP of the Dominican Order, who was ordained with them. Our congratulations to them all.