

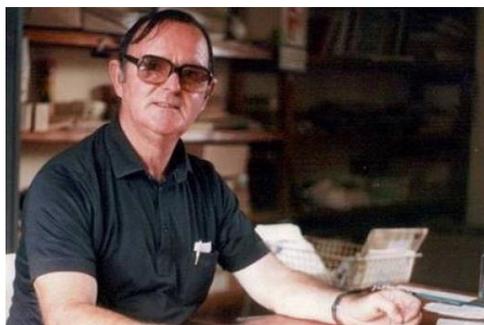
St. Nicholas News

Francis Street Parish, Dublin 8. ---- 01-4530387 ---- 01-5611390



20 August 2017

IRISH FRIAR POSTHUMOUSLY AWARDED ZIMBABWE'S HIGHEST HONOUR



An Irish Franciscan friar has been posthumously awarded the highest honour the Zimbabwean government can bestow on a foreigner, The Royal Order of Munhumutapa. A native of Ballinacargy in Co Westmeath, Fr Paschal Slevin, who died in May aged 83, was being honoured by President Robert Mugabe's government for his work for the people of Zimbabwe. He joins six others in the Royal Order of Munhumutapa, five of them native statesmen who led their African nations to

independence. A citation penned by vice president Emmerson Mnangagwa praises Fr Slevin for his anti-racist initiatives in local Catholic schools in 1966 and 1971. These include the building of primary and secondary schools at Mt St Mary's Mission in Wedza. Here many students were subsidised by a special sponsorship fund established by the Franciscans under Fr Slevin's leadership. This enabled many to further their education at third level, qualifying them to take up key positions of influence in the new nation.

Fr Slevin's attitude to the Liberation struggle was remembered as a pragmatic one. The priest found himself caught between the laws laid down by the Rhodesian Regime and the demands of the liberation struggle. The friar was also remembered for his compassion for his students in the schools he taught in. He knew that many of the students from his schools were absconding to join the combatants and frequently delayed reporting them until they were safely on their way. He facilitated staff from the hospital in Wedza to bring medical supplies to injured combatants after curfew. In 1977, the Smith regime closed his schools, and expelled Fr Slevin and fellow-Franciscans from Rhodesia. Fr Slevin returned three years later when Zimbabwe won independence.

For the next decade, leading the local branch of the Franciscans, he educated former guerrilla fighters and helped develop the local rural economy in Wedza, building a dam and grain storage silos and establishing a farmers' co-op. "While recognising Paschal's sympathy for the cause of liberation, it must be added that the award bestowed on him by the Government surely includes recognition of the efforts of many priests and religious, native and foreign, during this time of nation building. "The bestowal of this great honour by the Government of Zimbabwe is a fitting one in many ways and a wonderful sign that Paschal Slevin's dedication to the cause of peace and justice for that country will not soon be forgotten," said a spokesperson for the Franciscans. Fr Slevin's family told The Irish Times that they were delighted with the award bestowed upon their uncle for his life's work. "It's a great honour for Paschal and it's a pity he's not still with us to share in the delight. It's a fantastic honour for a man who spent his whole life doing the most incredible work. "Unfortunately, he passed away in May of this year, but as anyone who would have known him, he was a man who worked tirelessly for others," Carmel Slevin said. Two of Fr Slevin's nieces and representatives of the Franciscan order from both Zimbabwe and Ireland will be among those attending the Defence Forces' Day ceremony.

Courtesy Irish Times

NOTICES

Money Matters

Sunday 13 August 2017

Thank you for your contributions.

1st Collection: p215
2nd Collection: p240
Share: p50
Family Offering: p445
St. Vincent de Paul p550



Remembered at Mass

Recently Deceased:

John Edge, Gerard Smyth

Sat 6pm: John & Catherine May, John & Pauline Harrison, Edith Wojtkiw, Margaret Hewson, Jane & Patrick Timmins, Mary - Patricia Fairbrother.

Sun 11.30am: Tom & Maggie Ryan, Peter O'Brien, Betty Bacon, Harry Marshall, Mary Rice (Months Mind), Ethel Brown (30th ann)



Barcelona & Cambrils



We remember all who have been murdered in Barcelona & Cambrils in Spain. We remember also, all those who were injured and their families. There is no cause, political or religious which can justify the violence that has taken place in Spain. We must never allow ourselves to think that violence and hatred are answers to anything. We must continue to believe that the Love of God is more powerful than any evil.



NEW PAPAL NUNCIO TO IRELAND



The first African to hold the role of Papal Nuncio to Ireland arrived on Monday and was met at Dublin Airport by a delegation from the Irish Bishops' Conference. Archbishop Jude Thaddeus Okolo is from Nigeria and has served as Apostolic Nuncio to the Dominican Republic and Apostolic Delegate in Puerto Rico. The 60-year-old was ordained a priest in 1983. Following postgraduate studies in Rome he was appointed to the diplomatic service of the Holy See in 1990. Archbishop Okolo is fluent in his native Igbo and in English, as well as

French, Italian, Czech, Spanish and German. His interests include sacred music, piano, reading and table tennis. One of his first tasks in Ireland will be the appointment of a number of new bishops, as several dioceses have been vacant for some time. He replaces Archbishop Charles Brown who was appointed to Ireland in November 2011 and served until March 2017. The Irish American prelate is now Apostolic Nuncio to Albania.

Catholic Young Adults Conference

The 16th Annual Young Adults Conference takes place in All Hallows College, Gracepark Road, Dublin 9 on Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd September. The conference organised by - Legion of Mary Project invites young adults together to learn, share and discuss our Catholic faith. The schedule includes a host of exceptional speakers and group activities. Theme: "Know Mary, Know Jesus ... Dare to Believe!" 2 days non-residential: €50, Residential: €80. Meals included. For further information call Keith on 086-8899123 or Lucy on 087-9959803 or Email: deusetpatria@gmail.com or www.facebook.com/deuspatria



Annual Pilgrimage

The Grandparents National Annual Pilgrimage takes place on September 10th in Knock Shrine at 2.30pm. Everybody welcome to honour & thank grandparents for all they have done for us down through the ages. Chief Celebrant Archbishop Eamon Martin - Ballina School Choir - Dana sings 'Our Lady of Knock'. All welcome.



20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

A reading from The Prophet Isaiah 56:1. 6-7

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest. Foreigners who have attached themselves to Yahweh to serve him and to love his name and be his servants - all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant - these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

Psalm 66

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help. R/

Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth. R/

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing.
till the ends of the earth revere him. R/

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans 11:13-15. 29-32

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice. Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now - and only because of the mercy shown to you - will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!
My Soul is waiting on the Lord,
I count on his word.
Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew 15:21-28

Jesus left Genesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel'. But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs'. She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table'. Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Enlightenment

The Master was an advocate both of learning and of Wisdom. "learning," he said, is gotten by reading books or listening to lectures." "And Wisdom?" "By reading the book that is you". He added as an afterthought: "Not an easy task at all, for every minute of the day brings a new edition of the book!"

From "One Minute Wisdom" by Anthony de Mello