

EXCHANGE - ECHANGE

NORTHERN EUROPEAN PROVINCE * PROVINCE DE L'EUROPE DU NORD

<http://www.rshm-nep.org>

April 2017



Upminster Convent Today - Rosemary



Recently I had the opportunity to visit our former convent in Upminster. Since we sold it in 2014 it was lying idle for quite a while. Then, a year ago work began on it to convert the house into 7 flats and to build 2 detached houses in the back garden. The transformation has been incredible. Where we used to have a chapel, they built a two storey flat, with the rest of the building being divided into 6 flats. All the features of the house have been kept and many beautiful fireplaces have been uncovered and exposed in all their glory. We just had them boarded up. All the wooden panels have been kept and the front staircase is now part of one flat. There is a chandelier in the hall which, at night time, looks beautiful as it lights up all the stained glass windows. The most stunning change is probably the 'penthouse' which is a 3 bedroom flat, taking in the whole

third floor where the archives and all the 'rubbish' used to be. They have extended the roof there to make it bigger.

The exterior of the building is amazing – all the brickwork has been cleaned, restoring it to its original red colour and the brickwork in the extension is a perfect match. The building really looks beautiful from the outside. They have done an excellent job. The man who showed us around told me that it was the most enjoyable job he had ever done as he enjoyed restoring it to its original splendour.

The property is now called Convent Close, St Mary’s Lane – a way of remembering our presence for so many years.

The two houses built in the back garden



Tribute to Sister Breda Campion RSHM

Sr Breda’s funeral 27th March 2017 Arrowsmith House, Liverpool

About fifty of us gathered in the chapel and overflowed into the corridor to celebrate Breda’s ninety six years of life and to say farewell . There were eight of her family from Ireland, RSHM from Carlisle, Barrow, Penmaenmawr, Fazakerley, former pupils from the prep school and Carers. All of us brought our own special memories and tales from different stages in Breda’s life. Tributes were given by Betty, her niece, speaking of her “Auntie Nun”. Barbara recalled her ministries in Seafield Preparatory School and in Ecumenism in Northern Ireland, Wales and Kirkby and Father Bob Douglas, the main celebrant, referred to the faith and joy of the “strong willed fragile lady “ he had got to know in her later years.

The following poem, which we would like to share with you, was read out ..and made us all smile!

A thank you to Breda on her 90th Birthday - 9th March 2011



*Oh, that smile softens me all round
And the hard ‘Ego’ crumbles, as did the Berlin Wall.
At a distance, I see you emerging from your cosy room
Looking slowly around and with stick in hand,
Gradually making your way up to join your waiting friends
Oh, that smile of yours softens me all round.*

*Our first encounter in August 1960 at Seafield Prep
You, Breda/ Madame Xavier our esteemed headmistress
Had the school awash with creativity; a splash of paint, a line of poetry,
‘The Three R’s, in Gregorian* fashion
And the ding dong, ding of percussion band.
Oh, that smile of yours softens me all round.*

*At two thirty daily, I was summoned to a little room
Where a small saucepan of milk was heating on a hob,
Irel Coffee was carefully poured in, stirred and swirled
Until a rich cream, brown fluffy froth rose to the surface,
The smell of that illicit coffee filled me with delight.
Oh, that smile of yours softens me all round.*

*And we drank our coffee without much ado,
And now again, fifty one years on we drink our coffee
Oh, that smile of yours softens me all round.*

Madeleine Fitzpatrick

**M. Gregoire was my vigilant mentor in the Prep School*

THANK YOU so much
to all those who kindly
sent messages and Mass
cards for Breda.

*Arrowsmith House
and
Seafield
Communities*

St Anne's Parish, Dunmurry

Two unusual things happened to me recently. Perhaps they might be of interest to some readers. There are five churches involved in ecumenical relations in the Dunmurry area and every year without fail we have three major services together. One of the five is Dunmurry Non-Subscribing Church which for the past one and a half years has been looking to appoint a new minister. After much searching the congregation decided on a woman called Mrs Linda Ballard. Her first career was as an archivist. Having pursued this career for some years she felt called to ministry and did the required theological preparation. Dunmurry Non-Subscribing congregation sought her out, tested her capacity for the ministry and invited her to join them. She consented. Many preparations were set in motion. Fr Feargal Mc Grady and I received invitations to attend the Ordination and Installation of Mrs Linda Ballard on Saturday 18 February 2017. I confess to being curious to see what would happen. I was invited to walk in the procession to the Church with the clergy and honoured guests, led by a woman playing the bagpipes. Our photograph was taken on the steps outside the Church by a professional photographer.

The service in a packed Church consisted of opening prayers, three Scripture passages followed by the exposition of the Presbyterian Church Order. Then Linda listened to the four questions from the Church Code of Discipline to which she responded affirmatively and then made a

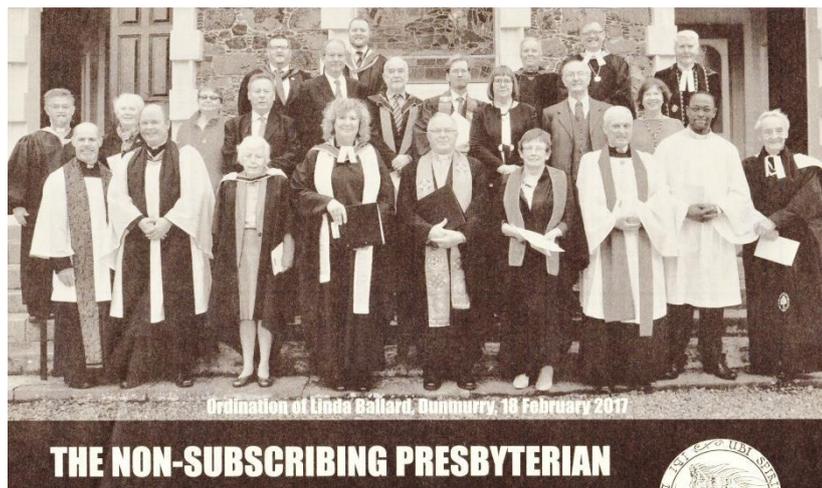
Statement of Principles and objects. As far as I remember one of them dealt with upholding private interpretation of Scripture. After this she knelt for the Laying On of Hands by the clergy of the Synod of Munster. Then the hand of friendship was offered to Linda by her colleagues. There were further prayers and then the whole congregation said the Grace together and Linda was now ordained and installed.

As usual a scrumptious tea was provided in the Church Hall. The Reverend Linda mixed with and chatted with everyone. She is a warm hearted smiling person who can give a really good sermon. It was a happy occasion in which all of the local churches were represented and many from places in Ireland and England. I enjoyed the occasion and thought how good it was that relationships among the five Churches are so good. The other Presbyterian Church in Dunmurry has just appointed a woman as their new minister and she is to be installed in May. Watch this Space!

The second interesting event was our Parish Mission from 19th to 26th of March given by two Redemptorists and organised by the Parish Pastoral Council. We had two months of preparation for it involving publicity - communications, a Mission Prayer, getting musicians, representatives from all the groups in the Parish for the first evening service, Readers and Eucharistic Ministers for the two Masses. Each evening we had a Prayer Service with different themes: the Parish as a Family, the importance of the Word of God, a healing service, a Penance service, the domestic Family, coping with bereavement, Anointing of the Sick. In each of the Services the congregation was involved in an action. The local schools and the Parish youth were also part of the Mission. All the housebound in the Parish were visited as were the four nursing homes.

I discovered that a Parish Mission is a major but worthwhile undertaking. It was well attended and those who came were very happy with it. The Parish Pastoral Council was very pleased with the outcome of their efforts. It will probably be a few more years before the Parish has another such event.

Mary Murry, parish sister



Mary is second from left in the back row.



Dear Sisters, I would like to thank each of you who sent Mass cards / sympathy cards, emails, and made phone calls at the time of my brother Tommy's death. Such gestures of support meant a lot to me. May you all be richly blessed. *Kathleen Buckley*

Dear Sisters, **GOOD NEWS**. My sister Kathleen completed chemotherapy and radium therapy. This was followed by a rest period to recover. Then a scan. The result – she is free of cancer, DEO GRATIAS. We give thanks for this wonderful result. THANK YOU to each one for your prayers. It is truly an answer to prayer. Thank you so much. Holy Mass will be celebrated in Thanksgiving and for your intentions. Love, *Aline*

Continuing the contributions from the province

Where I am – Grianán Close - *Teresina O'Byrne*

I arrived in Grianán Close on 20 August 2014. One day, shortly after my arrival on 20 August I went into Gwen's apartment and found her knitting. "What are you knitting Gwen?" I asked. She proceeded to show me baby jackets, scarves, blankets, woolly head gear and all sorts of things she had done. Gwen then explained that, together with Dolores, some local women and a few community members, they were knitting for



"foreign parts" - Belarus, Sierra Leone, Romania, Ukraine etc. Since I know how to knit simple patterns, I joined the knitters. And for the second year since then we prepared boxes of knits and clothes requested by the international group.

I think of the beautiful, colourful crochet blanket – Deirdre's first effort at using needles since her accident, or Celine's and Nuala's dressing gowns. And of neatly packed boxes of new clothing handed in by Carers and friends.

Breda Shelley RSHM EAP worked with Kathleen O'Keeffe and now works with Kate Nolan in Mísean Cara Projects. Breda got her sisters in Cork into knitting and they have sent, for the second time, 50 colourful baby jackets.

In all we packed 10 boxes and then informed our collectors that we were ready. The lorry came next day, 2 December 2016, and the collection cost was part paid for by a contribution from the NEP Provincial Council.



Manor Park – Part 2



CAFOD(Catholic Agency For Overseas Development)

This a charitable organisation based on Catholic Social Teaching

A CAFOD coordinator works in each diocese with a large number of volunteers who spread the word of global needs by giving talks in schools and parishes so as to raise awareness and funds for CAFOD's work. Being a volunteer means I give talks in Manor Park and work in the office of Brentwood Diocese. Prayer is a very important part of our work and enabling people, through education, to have a better life for their families. Campaigning is often done with other charities so as to have a bigger impact e.g. The 'IF' campaign against world hunger and more recently 'Climate Change'.

TRAC (Trafficking – Raising Awareness – Campaigning) was formed as part of Medaille Trust which was begun by sisters of various congregations including RSHM, to found places of safety for trafficked people. Each congregation was given a special day to pray for this intention – ours is Tuesday when we pray for trafficked people. Medaille now have eight houses both for men and women and are eligible for grants from the government. As TRAC campaigns often work against the government it was decided it was better to work independently so as ‘not to bite the hand that feeds you’.

During the last couple of years we have campaigned for the Modern Slavery Act and given out hundreds of postcards with useful telephone numbers to use if there is a suspicion of trafficking. At the moment we are campaigning for the criminalisation of the users of trafficked women (Nordic Model). If there was no demand there would be no need of a supply of women.

Dorothy Ward

My Ministry at Saint Francis Hospice

I am a part time chaplain at Saint Francis Hospice in Havering-Atte-Bower, near Romford, working there 2 days a week. The hospice cares for people with life limiting illnesses in Havering, Barking & Dagenham, Redbridge and South Essex.



Most of my work is with patients in the Inpatient Unit and in the Day Hospice. Sometimes I am asked to visit patients at home. Some patients, whom I get to know quite well, ask me to take their funeral service.

When I spend time with patients in the Day Hospice and the Inpatient Unit, I begin to get to know them by encouraging them to chat about themselves and their families. After a while, patients will talk about what troubles them and about their spiritual journey which may be a difficult one. I try to help them find peace.

I visit and talk to all our patients in the hospice, whatever their religion or if they have none. When it comes to Catholic patients, I bring them Holy Communion if they wish. If necessary, I can call on the local priest to give the Sacrament of the Sick.

Four times a year we hold Remembrance & Thanksgiving Services where we invite bereaved families to attend and, at Christmas, we hold several Light up a Life services for them. I share in the preparation and leading of these services.

My ministry is very emotionally draining at times but it is also very rewarding and I enjoy it. I feel it is a privilege to be able to accompany people in their last days, months of life. They will share their anxieties with me because they don't want to worry their families. It is very hard when we have young patients, mothers with small children and many of them will stay in my mind when I go home.

Rosemary Lenahan



Sunflower Group meet: 18 – 21 April 2017





LEAVEN for MISSION PROGRAMME

22 – 30 April, Fatima

Team Co-ordinator: Madeleine Fitzpatrick
Translation: Kate Nolan
Ursula has been invited to attend the meeting

Millenium Group meet: 2 – 5 May 2017



ENLARGED GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING, NODDFA

29 May – 8 June

Participants may arrive in the province beforehand.
The Provincial Team will be in Noddfa from 25 May to make final preparations.



A donation of £500 has been made, on behalf of the province, to CAFOD's appeal for help in relieving famine in East Africa. This does not preclude any sister or community from making an individual contribution.

BEREAVEMENTS



Our sympathies are with:

The Communities in Arrowsmith House and Seafield on the death of **Sister Breda Campion RSHM** on 15 March 2017, in Liverpool. She was 96 years of age and in the 76th year of her Religious Profession.

The Sisters of the EAP on the death of **Sister Margaret Mary Dunleavy RSHM** at Marymount Convent, Tarrytown 19 February 2017. She was 87 years of age and in the 64th year of her Religious Profession.

Sister Kathleen Buckley on the death of her brother **Tommy** on 9 March 2017.

May they rest in peace