



NEA NEWS & VIEWS



AUGUST 2024

BLACKBERRY PICKING *by Seamus Heaney*

Late August, given heavy rain and sun
For a full week, the blackberries would ripen.
At first, just one, a glossy purple clot
Among others, red, green, hard as a knot.
You ate that first one and its flesh was sweet
Like thickened wine: summer's blood was in it
Leaving stains upon the tongue and lust for
Picking. Then red ones inked up and that hunger
Sent us out with milk cans, pea tins, jam-pots
Where briars scratched and wet grass bleached our boots.



Round hayfields, cornfields and potato-drills
We trekked and picked until the cans were full
Until the tinkling bottom had been covered
With green ones, and on top big dark blobs burned
Like a plate of eyes. Our hands were peppered
With thorn pricks, our palms sticky as Bluebeard's.
We hoarded the fresh berries in the byre.

But when the bath was filled we found a fur,
A rat-grey fungus, glutting on our cache.
The juice was stinking too. Once off the bush
The fruit fermented, the sweet flesh would turn sour.
I always felt like crying. It wasn't fair
That all the lovely canfuls smelt of rot.
Each year I hoped they'd keep, knew they would not.



NEA Sisters who featured on 175 faces during the past month



UNUSUAL 95th BIRTHDAY VISITORS for Sr Mary Lambie, Arrowsmith House, Liverpool



Mary had some unusual visitors to help her celebrate her 95th Birthday. Her room is full owl figurines, toys and pictures and she (and the rest of us) thoroughly enjoyed meeting real life Misty, a barn owl, and Boo, just seven weeks old. Mary fearlessly put on the protective gauntlet and stroked them, saying it was all wonderful!! A day to be remembered.

Barbara



BIRTHDAY / PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATION for Sr Deirdre Kavanagh in Madonna House, Ferrybank



On the Feast of Our Lady of Knock, 17th August, the spirit of joy hovered Madonna House and the sister communities Grianán and Naomh Bríd for the occasion of Sr Deirdre Kavanagh's 90th birthday and Platinum Jubilee. The festivities commenced with Mass in Madonna House which was greatly uplifted by the beautiful voice of the celebrant Fr. Roderick Whearty PP. The Kavanagh family was represented in strength and appreciated joining in the liturgy. The Mass concluded with a special request to Fr Whearty who kindly gave a solo rendition of the well known hymn to Our Lady of Knock composed by Dana – to a round of applause!

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Sr Kate Nolan and our bursar Miriam Grace put much thought into accommodating the needs of individuals when selecting the venues for the refreshments – choosing both Madonna House and Grianán. All enjoyed the culinary expertise of Breda O'Neill and Mary Grimes. Deirdre, Patricia and family thoroughly enjoyed the get-together, and, as many of them had not met up for some time, made the most of the opportunity to catch up on family news.

A celebration without music in the Kavanagh household would be unheard of and a lively sing song covering all the 'classics' from 'Molly Malone' to 'Eibhlín A Rún' providing a fitting closure to a really joy filled occasion. Grateful thanks to all our Carers who contributed enormously to the comfort of everyone present.

Ad multos annos to Deirdre! *Clare*



Sr Deirdre Kavanagh wishes to thank all those who contributed in any way to her special celebration – those who sent greetings, promise of prayers and gifts.

Mass will be offered for the intentions of all.



*to all the NEA
Jubilarians*

Platinum

Sr Deirdre Kavanagh
Sr Christina Clune

Diamond

Sr Ursula Canavan
Sr Margaret Fielding
Sr Philippa O'Sullivan



May the blessings
of love, peace
and joy fill
your life



TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2024



The firstfruits of hope
(Rom 8:19-25)

1st September - 4th October (Feast of Saint Francis)

Prayer for the Season of Creation

Triune God, Creator of all,

We praise you for your goodness, visible in all the diversity that you have created, making us a cosmic family living in a common home. Through the Earth you created, we experience love and nourishment, home and protection.

We confess that we do not relate to the Earth as a Mothering gift from you, our Creator. Our selfishness, greed, neglect, and abuse have caused the climate crisis, loss of biodiversity, human suffering as well as the suffering of all our fellow creatures. We confess that we have failed to listen to the groans of the Earth, the groans of all creatures, and the groans of the Spirit of hope and justice that lives within us.

May your Creator Spirit help us in our weakness, so that we may know the redeeming power of Christ and the hope found in him. May the groans of the Spirit birth in us a willingness to serve you faithfully, so that we may hear and heal Creation, to hope and act together with her, so that the firstfruits of hope may blossom.

Loving and Creator God, we pray that you will make us sensitive to these groans and enable us to have the same compassion as that of Jesus, the redeeming Lord.

Grant us a fresh vision of our relationship with Earth, and with one another, as creatures that are made in your image.

*In the name of the one who came to proclaim the good news to all Creation, Jesus Christ.
Amen.*

SOME NEWS FROM AROUND THE INSTITUTE

Young collaborators and volunteers from Portugal visited Timor and Mozambique during the summer vacation to participate in the UT VITAM Mission. We wish days of many blessings to all!





Marymount Rome students playing with the children of Choma, Zambia.

The young people spent a few days with our community in Choma and visited places like Kalundu Ka Maria Primary School and St. Mulumba Special School.



The Extended Family of the Sacred Heart of Mary in France is reflecting on the words of Father Gailhac and is sharing its thoughts with us.

Everyone is invited to read the reflections!

EN - <https://www.rscm-rshm.org/.../you-have-to-be-in-constant.../>

The Sacred Heart of Mary Community of Manje (Mozambique)

shares a photo from the visit of their Extended Family.



Celebration of Sending of the pre-novices who were in the Community of Beira to the Community of Manje (Mozambique). Prayers were offered for the pre-novices, novices, sisters and communities in Mozambique.

Information from the Formation Commission and the Communications Office

The Commission is promoting the workshop "Using Facebook to Connect and Share", with the aim of including those who are not yet on the social media and want to be!

INVITATION for the Workshop: "Using Facebook to Connect and Share"

We live in a context of many technological changes, when being online also means being present, informed, following the transitions and learning!

Thus, in response to requests from the Sisters, the Formation Commission and the Communications Office are promoting the workshop "Using Facebook to Connect and Share", with the aim of including those who are not yet on the social media and want to be!

The training will show how to sign up for Facebook, create and share content on the platform. It will also cover aspects of online security.

Workshop topics include:

- How to follow RSHM publications.
- The privacy settings needed to control who can see your posts.
 - Recognizing misleading or prejudicial content.
 - Searching for people by name or e-mail.
- How to interact with posts from friends and pages.
 - How to share interesting posts with friends.

The workshop will be led by Ana Possas, from the Institute's Communications Office.

WHEN: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2024

TIME: 5PM to 7PM (ROME TIME)

All Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary are invited to take part!

TO REGISTER:

Registrations must be made by September 5th, 2024 via the following link:

<https://forms.gle/Kf11c8cuQKPnHxYR8>

*Please click on submit at the end of the form to register.

The workshop will be given in Portuguese and English.
To participate, you must have a working e-mail address before the training.



BEREAVEMENTS

We offer our sympathy to:

The **Sisters of the NEA** and especially the community in Madonna House on the death of **Sr Nuala Mullins RSHM** on 28th July. She was 97 years of age and in the 77th year of her religious profession. Let us remember Nuala, her community and her family in our prayers at this sad time. May she rest in peace.

Sr Joanna Whooley on the death of her sister **Mary - Sr Christine DC** who died peacefully in their Care Home in Warley, Essex on 1st August. Our thoughts and prayers are with Joanna and the Whooley family at this time.

The Sisters of the EAA on the death of **Sr Maria Mercedes Gomez RSHM** who died peacefully on 13th August at Phelps Memorial Hospital. Sister Mercedes was 91 years old and in the 68th year of her Religious Profession.

Sr Sipiwe Phiri RSHM on the death of her sister Alice Betty on August 14th. Please pray for her, for Sipiwe's mother, her siblings and all the family at this time. May Alice Betty rest in peace in fullness of life with God.

Please remember in your prayers **Roger Brunt**, brother in law of the late **Sr Aline Leonard RSHM**, who died suddenly on 5th August. May Roger rest in peace. Roger attended Aline's funeral at the end of June.

A Poem for Late August

August rushes by like desert rainfall,
A flood of frenzied upheaval,
Expected,
But still catching me unprepared.
Like a match flame
Bursting on the scene,
Heat and haze of crimson sunsets.
Like a dream
Of moon and dark barely recalled,
A moment,
Shadows caught in a blink.
Like a quick kiss;
One wishes for more
But it suddenly turns to leave,
Dragging summer away.

—Elizabeth Maua Taylor

