



Prior's Corner 3



Servite Priory, Main Street, Benburb, Co. Tyrone

February 2015

A new year is upon us and already we turn our focus to the bright days of Spring and Summer. Already many of us have started to plan our breaks and holidays. Almost a sense of "wishing our lives away" as we look to the future and allow the present to pass almost un-noticed.

It is a time of newness and hope. A time when we close the door on a year that is perhaps best left to history and we can at least attempt to right the wrongs of the past.

It is a time of planning—what we will do and what path life may bring us along. It is a time for decisions.

As Christians we are asked to listen to where the Spirit is calling us. We are asked to choose the way of life that best helps us to fully express our faith and create a world of love, justice and peace.

Among the many vocations we can reflect on the church asks us to consider the call to the service of priesthood and religious life. The expression of this has changed much over the years but it remains essentially a call to serve in Love—for God is love.

This edition of Priors Corner is mainly dedicated to Vocation searching—a help, hopefully, to all in consideration as to where our calling lies. It is a small presentation of our story—how do we respond to the "Call" to "Come follow Me". Hopefully in this can be found something to help in discerning where God calls each of us.

Gabriel OSM



Commitment and Lifestyle:

Like Mary, a Servite friar, priest or brother, as well as sisters, and secular order/institute members are called to the same life of total commitment in his search for God and service and ministry to people whatever their need. This commitment is lived out in community. Fraternal communion characterises the Servite way of witnessing the Gospel. It directs our life, our work and our prayer.



Our programme of events and courses is available from the Priory. If you would like information sent to you contact us at the above address or

phone : 028-37548241

e-mail: servitepriory@btinternet.com

Facebook: [servitepriorybenburb](https://www.facebook.com/servitepriorybenburb)

Help us answer the call

Since coming to Benburb back in 1949 we have been blessed by the help and support you've given us over the years in ensuring our presence at the Priory. Unfortunately due to the lack of vocations in the past number of years our presence at Benburb may not be possible as old age and other health issues are taking their toll.

At our recent orientation day we made the promotion of vocations priority in our planning for 2015. We are calling on your help and prayers that God will bless us with new vocations. We invite those of you who would like to help form our vocations promotions group to contact us with your names and addresses and phone numbers. We can then come together and share ideas on how best to promote and attract young people who may feel called to serve God as a Servite Priest or brother

Servites

The Servites were founded in Florence. In 1233 a group of seven merchants reflected the penitential spirit of the times by meeting regularly as members of a lay society dedicated to the Virgin Mary, Mother of God.

Gradually, the seven drew further away from the predominating values of the day - the thirst for wealth, status and prestige. The seven companions formed a group of penitents responsible for the running of a hospice dedicated to the care of the sick, the poor and pilgrims.

They finally left their comfortable homes, put aside their wealth and went to live together in a hermitage on Monte Senario. The lifestyle of the seven attracted others who wished to join them in their newly found joy of fraternal living for the sake of the Gospel dream.

God our Father,
 You call us to believe in You,
 to accept lovingly Your Son Jesus
 and to be open to the Holy Spirit
 for the service of our brothers and sisters.

We thank You
 for the confidence You show us
 in calling us to share in Your plan of salvation.

Help us to discern
 how we can work with You
 as committed lay people, married or single,
 as priests or deacons,
 as religious or missionaries.

Awaken in each of us
 the courage to respond to Your call
 by an ever-growing gift of self.

Grant the grace of fidelity and eternal life
 to those who are called, like the Apostles,
 to follow Christ wholeheartedly.

Amen.

Authorized by Albert LeGatt,
 Archbishop of Saint Boniface

married
single *priests*
deacons *religious*
missionaries



Servite Priory masses and Prayer times

Monday to Friday

Morning Prayer	8:45 a.m.
Mass	9:00 a.m. Eve-
ning Prayer	5:45 p.m.

Saturday

Mass	9:00 a.m. Eve-
ning prayer	5:45 p.m.

Sunday

Mass	8:00 a.m. Eve-
ning prayer	5:45 p.m.

Mass in honour of St Peregrine on the 1st and 3rd
 Monday evenings at 8:00p.m. with sacrament of
 reconciliation beforehand.

All are welcome to join us

REST IN PEACE

On Sunday 7 December in USA the death occurred of Fr Anthony O'Connell OSM. Tony was a native of Cork and had spent many years in Ireland serving as Vicar Provincial of the old Irish Vicariate. He died peacefully after a long illness.

On Monday 8 December in Dundee (Scotland) the death occurred of Fr Andrew Walls OSM a member of our Province. Andrew had served as Provincial of the old English Province but had not enjoyed good health for many years. He died peacefully aged 80 at the nursing home where he had been resident for a period of time.

On 14 December the death occurred in Chicago of Bonnie McGovern (a native of Newry Co. Down) He was 81 years of age and a member of the USA Province of our Order

On 28 December in Manchester Fr Tom Robinson died. Tom was a member of our Province and died after a short illness. He was 82 years of age and had served the Order in England, Scotland, Swaziland and Dublin

Please remember them in your prayers



Library Project Up-date



We are now ready to embark on phase two of our library and museum project thanks to funding from the Heritage Lottery.

This is a timely and very welcome boost to the Priory in its continuous efforts to provide support for the local and wider community. It will restore and make accessible the wonderful book collections and artefacts to people of all ages as well as restoring the stable area and providing up to date meeting facilities for various community groups that are dependent on the Priory. We are very grateful to the Heritage Lottery Fund for its support and vote of confidence in our plans



At the Priory a priest is on duty and available at the following times:

Morning 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Afternoon 2:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

If you need to see a priest outside of these times please make an appointment