



**Commemoration
of the Golden Jubilee of the
ordination to the priesthood of
Fr. Pat Tumilty OP**

Sunday 5th July 2020.

Compiled by James Mc Arevey

OUR DOMINICAN COMMUNITY IN NEWRY TODAY ARE:

Fr. David Tohill, Prior and Jubilarian. Belfast.

Br. Mark Mc Greevy, Sacristan and Jubilarian. Roscommon.

Fr. Noel Mc Keown, Secretary and Librarian. Derry.

Fr Pat Tumilty, Jubilarian. Newry.

Fr. Adrian Farrelly, Sub Prior. Ardee.

Fr. Joseph Ralph, Director Lectio Centre. Dundalk.

Fr Cesare Decio, Bursar. Italy.

In Residence.

Fr Noel Molloy, Jubilarian, Province of India.

**We thank the Dominican Order for
their faithful service to the people
of Newry since 1871.**



FOREWORD.

**IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO COMPILE THIS
COMMEMORATIVE PUBLICATION MARKING THE GOLDEN JUBILEE
OF THE ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD IN DUBLIN, ON
SUNDAY 5TH JULY 1970, OF FR. PAT TUMILTY OP.**

Assigned to St. Catherines Newry in 2000, Fr. Tumilty has endeared himself to the local community.

A quiet, humble and unassuming man, Fr. Tumilty preaches a message of forgiveness, compassion and understanding from a God of love. His requirements are modest and if there is a coffee and an accompanying cigarette, Fr. T is quite happy. Prior to lockdown, he was a familiar figure sitting outside local cafes having a coffee and smoke whilst conducting his “urban ministry”, always approachable and welcoming. As a result of these assignments with the populace Fr. Pat is certainly a cleric very well equipped for the complexities of the 21st. century.



I know you will all join me in congratulating Fr. Pat, a Newry man, on reaching the momentous occasion of his Golden Jubilee. 50 years in any job is a very long time and an achievement worthy of esteem and recognition. Fr. Pat is now the 4th Jubilarian in the community of St. Catherines joining his confreres, Fr. Tohill, Br. Mark and Fr. Molloy. We wish him many more years in fruitful ministry.

**James Mc Arevey,
5th July 2020.**

FR. PAT TUMILTY OP. THE PEOPLES PASTOR.



Pat Tumilty was the eldest of 6 children born to Michael and Mary (nee Mc Kigney), a home birth, in his Granny Mc Kigneys house in Lower Chapel St. Newry on 10th March 1945.

The family set up home on Pound Road and the happy couple had a further 5 children, Ann, Martin, Sally, Tony and Mary. Tony and Mary were very special children, born with Autism and Downs Syndrome respectively.

Post war, times were challenging and for a family rearing 2 special needs children, especially so. Poor housing stock and lack of sanitation was a major problem in the town and Newry Urban Council embarked on a major scheme to provide much needed social housing. The man spearheading the scheme was the Town Surveyor Charles Blaney, a native of Fanad Co. Donegal. Mr Blaney married a local girl, Alyce Flood, whose brother Richard was a surgeon doctor. Another brother, Jimmy,

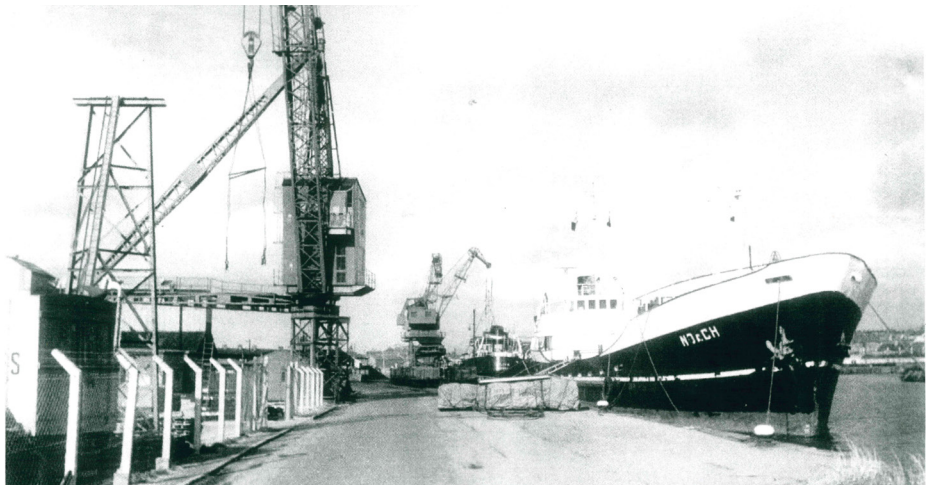


was a Dominican priest based in Waterford and he married them in St. Saviours Dublin in 1908.

Life took a welcome upturn for the Tumilty family in 1952 with the completion of the building of the Dromalane Housing estate and their award of a new 3-bedroom home, No. 116.

Moving house also meant that Pat (7) had to change schools from St Josephs Convent PS to Abbey CBS Primary.

Like most of the children in the estate, Pat walked through what was then a busy port on his way to school. Michael, his father, worked in



the coal yard of SJ Lockington and many of his neighbours also found work in the port as dockers, labourers or seamen. The port was a key economic driver and the mainstay for many families in the town.

Having passed his 11+, young Pat now moved into the CBS Abbey Grammar School where one of his teachers was another Dromalane man, Jimmy Haffey. Jimmy became somewhat of an institution during his 34 years tenure in our Alma Mater. Around this time, young Pat made a solemn promise to God, "To work hard, pass my exams and become a priest".

At the age of 13 he wrote to the director of vocations for the Dominican order and told him he wanted to be a preacher.

The Director replied, telling him that was a good reason to become a Dominican and he kept in regular touch. As a Mass server in St. Catherine's, Pat met two men who were to have a powerful influence on his future. One was Br. James Philips, a native of Mayo and the other was Fr. Stephen Murphy.

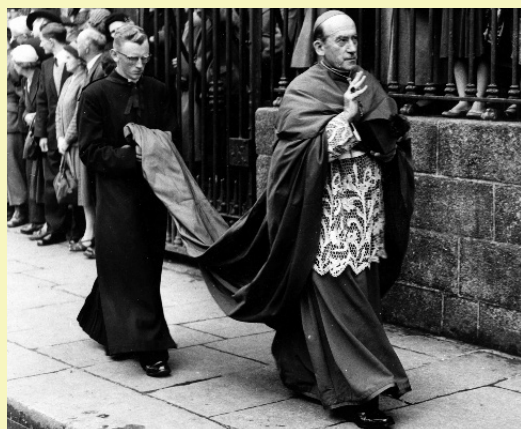
Fr Murphy was a very charismatic man who had a great affinity with his Mass servers and a fascination for all things mechanical. His crib, with special effects, was a huge draw for young and old alike every Christmas.

A hurling fanatic, Fr Murphy was a native of Kilkenny and the village of Ballyhale now home to the most successful club and player in Ireland, Ballyhale Shamrocks and Henry Shefflin. At weekends, Fr. Murphy was a familiar sight around the Bernish Mountain accompanied by a large entourage of boys, including Pat, indulging his passion for flying model aeroplanes which he had built. On one such occasion, whilst sheltering from a heavy downpour under a tree in Corrinshigo Pat confided his aspirations to Fr. Murphy and from then on, Fr. Stephen mentored the young altar boy to achieve his goal.

On June 2nd 1963 Pat Tumilty finished his school days at Abbey CBS and he was now on course to further his dream. Pat received the Habit of the Dominican Order on 14th September 1963 at St. Marys, Popes Quay, Cork where he spent a year as a novice. On completion of his novitiate, Pat moved to Tallaght, Dublin for 6 years of study for the priesthood.

Finally, after 7 years, the big day had come. The Archbishop of Dublin, John Charles Mc Quaid ordained Pat and 11 other seminarians at St Patricks Training College Drumcondra, Dublin on Sunday 5th July 1970.

After the obligatory photos and handshakes, the newly ordained priests bade their



farewells and set off for their homes across the country. Fr Tumilty travelled North to the Parish of Upper Killeavy and the Townland of Dromalane, Newry.

Fr Pat recalls a carnival atmosphere when the family arrived in Dromalane.

"The road was closed and bedecked with bunting and there was a large crowd of around 500 people"

Fr Pat set about giving individual blessings to the assembled



neighbours and well-wishers but after 2 euphoric hours he was brought down to earth. His mother, Mary, was a creature of habit and some semblance of normality had to be maintained.

"Come on in now Pat", she called. "Your tea is ready" !!! He smiles as he recalls, "We had cooked ham that evening and it was lovely"

Next morning, Monday 6th July, Fr. Pat, his proud parents and family made their way to St Catherine's for the celebration of his first Mass before a packed congregation. The preacher on this auspicious occasion was his friend and mentor, Fr. Stephen Murphy and Philip Russell was the Mass server. Following another dispensation of blessings to a very proud and appreciative congregation a reception was hosted for the newly ordained Fr. Pat in the Ardmore Hotel, Newry. The hotel owned by Damian Scallon and his wife, singer Dana, was bombed out of business on 29th July 1977.

Fr. Tumilty then received his first assignment with the Order when he



Ardmore Hotel, Newry



was posted to the Dominican house in San Clemente, Rome to study for a degree in Theology. Newry men, Fr Ray Collins and Fr. Gerard Fearon, both now deceased, have served as Prior here.

Fr. Pat was next posted to St. Marys, Popes Quay, Cork from where he attended Cork University to study a 3-year Bachelor of Arts degree. Whilst in Cork, Fr. Tumilty became involved in youth work and initiated a folk Mass assisted by 3 groups of young people on a rotational basis. The Sunday night folk Mass drew regular attendances of over 800 people. Fr. Tumilty also engaged with the Simon Community and SVP and was Assistant novice master in St. Marys. With his studies completed in Cork by summer 1974, Fr. Pat was assigned to a teaching post in Newbridge College. The following 6 years saw him teach History, English and Religion in the Co. Kildare college as well as holding the positions of Sub Prior and Dean of Students. 1980 saw Fr Pat transferred to St. Malachys Dundalk where he taught in the Vocational School. Sadly, it was then that he was hit by severe depression. He battled on, attending school every morning even though he had been deprived of sleep for 3 months. Finally, he succumbed and was hospitalised in St. Patricks Dublin for almost 3 months.

Following his discharge from hospital and a period of convalescence Fr Pat was assigned to St. Saviours, Bridge St. Waterford. Following a year of teaching in the local De La Salle School Fr Pat was deployed on pastoral work but his battle with depression continued. He is very candid, brave and totally honest as he chronicles this very dark and traumatic period of his life and also very happy that mental health issues is no longer the taboo subject which it once was across Irish society. Eventually diagnosed as bi-polar, Fr. Pat, with the aid of medication and expert professional help, has enjoyed stable health for over 20 years.

In 2000, Fr. Pat was assigned to Newry and his beloved St Catherines where his vocation had matured under the guidance of Fr. Murphy and Br. James and where he continues in ministry today.

Sadly, since his ordination, he has been bereaved by the loss of his parents, brother Tony and sister Mary but derives much comfort from the companionship of his remaining siblings, nephews and nieces.

Fr Tumilty follows a long line of Newry Dominicans who were mass servers. From their ranks came a Prelate, Bishop John Crawford of the Solomon Islands, 23 priests and 3 lay brothers.

There have been 4 pairs of clerical brothers, Barrys, Dowdalls, Keenans and Greenans.

The Barrys, Norbert and Reggie, were sons of Captain Matt Barry a merchant seaman from Cork who married a daughter of Newry harbour master, James Mc Veigh. Captain Barry died at the wheel of his ship, "SS Retriever" having suffered a



massive heart attack when sailing from Garston in 1910. Fr Reggie served in Trinidad and USA whilst Fr Norbert became one of the best known Dominicans in Ireland. During a career spanning 73 years Fr Barry was Prior in Newry on 4 occasions and he was responsible for commissioning a shrine to St. Martin De Porres.

The shrine is a popular place of worship and the level of devotion to St. Martin is reflected in the large attendances at the annual novena. Other Newry Dominicans to have served as prior of St Catherine's are, Fr. John O'Rourke (3 terms), Fr Ray Collins RIP (2 terms) and Fr. Gerard Fearon RIP, (2 terms).



THE NEXT GENERATION.

FR. DAVID ROCKS OP.

Following the ordination of Fr. Tumilty 40 years elapsed before another Newry man was raised to the priesthood for the Dominican Order.

Fr David Rocks OP was ordained by Bishop George Stack, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Westminster, in London on 3rd July 2010. Fr. Rocks is Prior and Parish Priest of Holy Cross, Leicester and chaplain to the 2 universities there.





THE DOMINICANS IN NEWRY.

It proved a seminal event for the Dominican Order and the people of Newry when 3 priests and a lay brother arrived in the town on 7th March 1871 to set up a foundation. They moved into a house in Mc Allisters Terrace, now named St. Colmans Park, and remained there for 3 months until "The Hermitage" in Upper Chapel St. was ready for them. The Dominicans took over St. Marys, the "Old Chapel" and ministered from there until their new church was built.

A wealthy Newry hardware merchant, Mr John Quinn, offered the friars a quarry field which he owned in Ballybot on a 999 years lease at an annual rent of £20.

The eminent Cork born architect, George C Aislin, designed the magnificent edifice on Dominic St. known as the Church of the Sacred Heart and St. Catherine of Sienna.

The foundation stone was laid and blessed on 23rd May 1873 in the presence of the Prior, Fr. TA O Callaghan, later to become Bishop of Cork. The new church, complete with spire, was dedicated on 17th October 1875 by Dr Leahy and 30 priests. The preacher was the Bishop of Cashel, Dr Croke after whom the GAA named their stadium in Dublin.

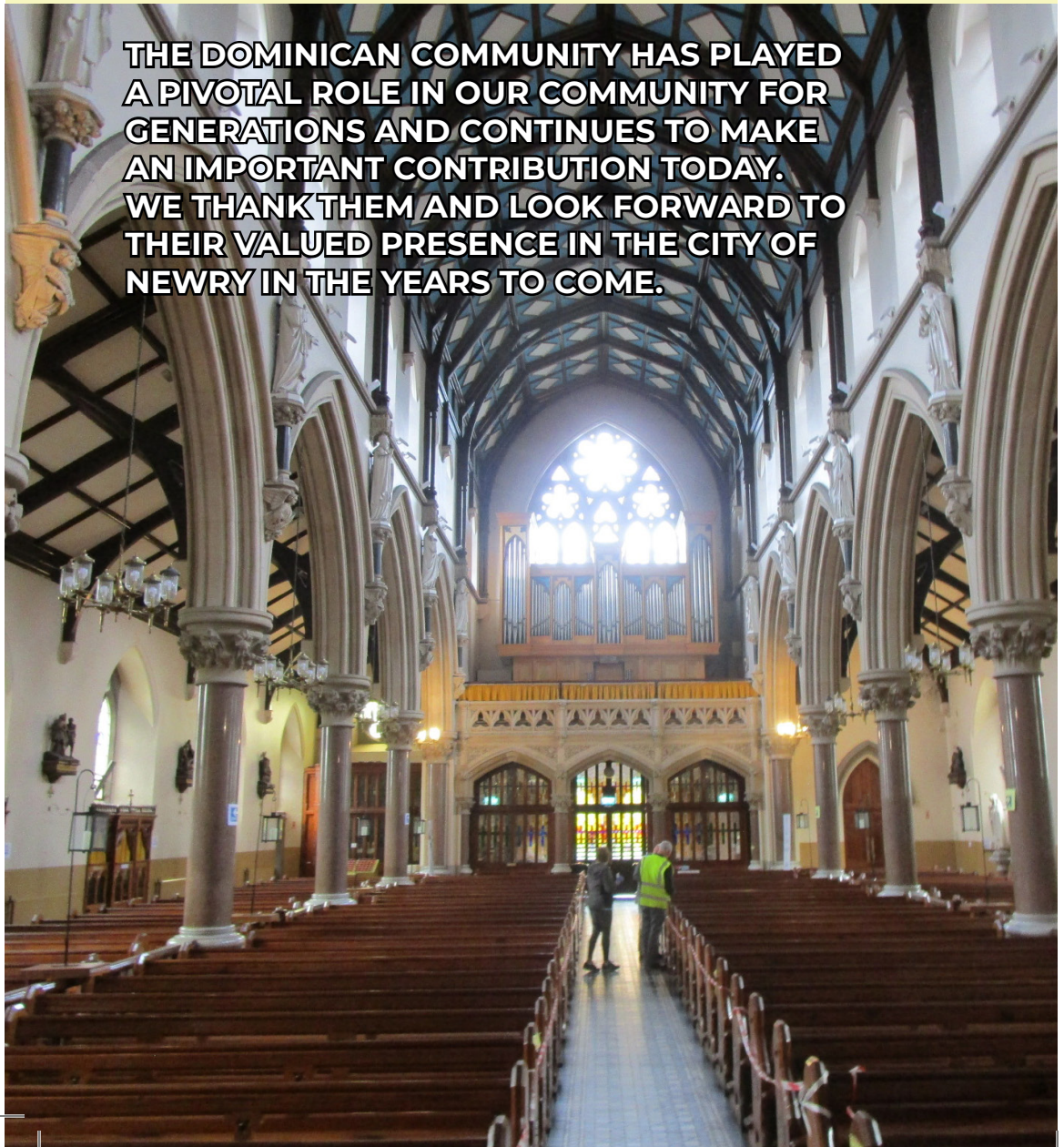
By late Autumn 1879 the church was finally completed and thanks to the generosity of the people of Newry, through weekly collections, the church was declared "free of debt" in 1889.

Finally, the most momentous occasion came on Saturday 4th August 1906 when the church was consecrated by Dr. Henry O Neill, Bishop of Dromore and after whom O Neill Avenue is named. The daughters of John Quinn gave the rights of freehold forever to the Dominicans and also that of the large garden opposite the church.

Over the last 149 years the Dominican order has served our community faithfully and we, in turn, have supported them in their ministry. They have been with us in good times and bad, for the happy occasions and perhaps, more importantly, the sad ones.

The people of Newry can be justifiably proud of the vocations that have come through for the Order from our town and who have served with distinction. In modern times we think of, Norbert Barry, Jubilarian (RIP) John O Rourke, Jubilarian, Raymond Collins, Jubilarian (RIP) Gerard Fearon (RIP) Pat Tumilty, Jubilarian and David Rocks.

THE DOMINICAN COMMUNITY HAS PLAYED A PIVOTAL ROLE IN OUR COMMUNITY FOR GENERATIONS AND CONTINUES TO MAKE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TODAY. WE THANK THEM AND LOOK FORWARD TO THEIR VALUED PRESENCE IN THE CITY OF NEWRY IN THE YEARS TO COME.



THOUGHTS OF THE JUBILARIAN.

When asked how he reflects on his ministry Fr. Tumilty says, simply "It has been very fruitful, fulfilling and happy and I give thanks for my stable health. Undoubtedly, Vatican 2 has been a defining sequence of events for the Church and the people and the introduction of Mass in the vernacular has increased, greatly, the level of participation of the congregation. I am pleased to see vocations coming through and I pray that we may see more. The laity will play an ever-increasing role in our Church going forward and I welcome their support and input. I have always enjoyed working with young people over the years, in Cork, Newbridge, Dundalk, Waterford and here in Newry."

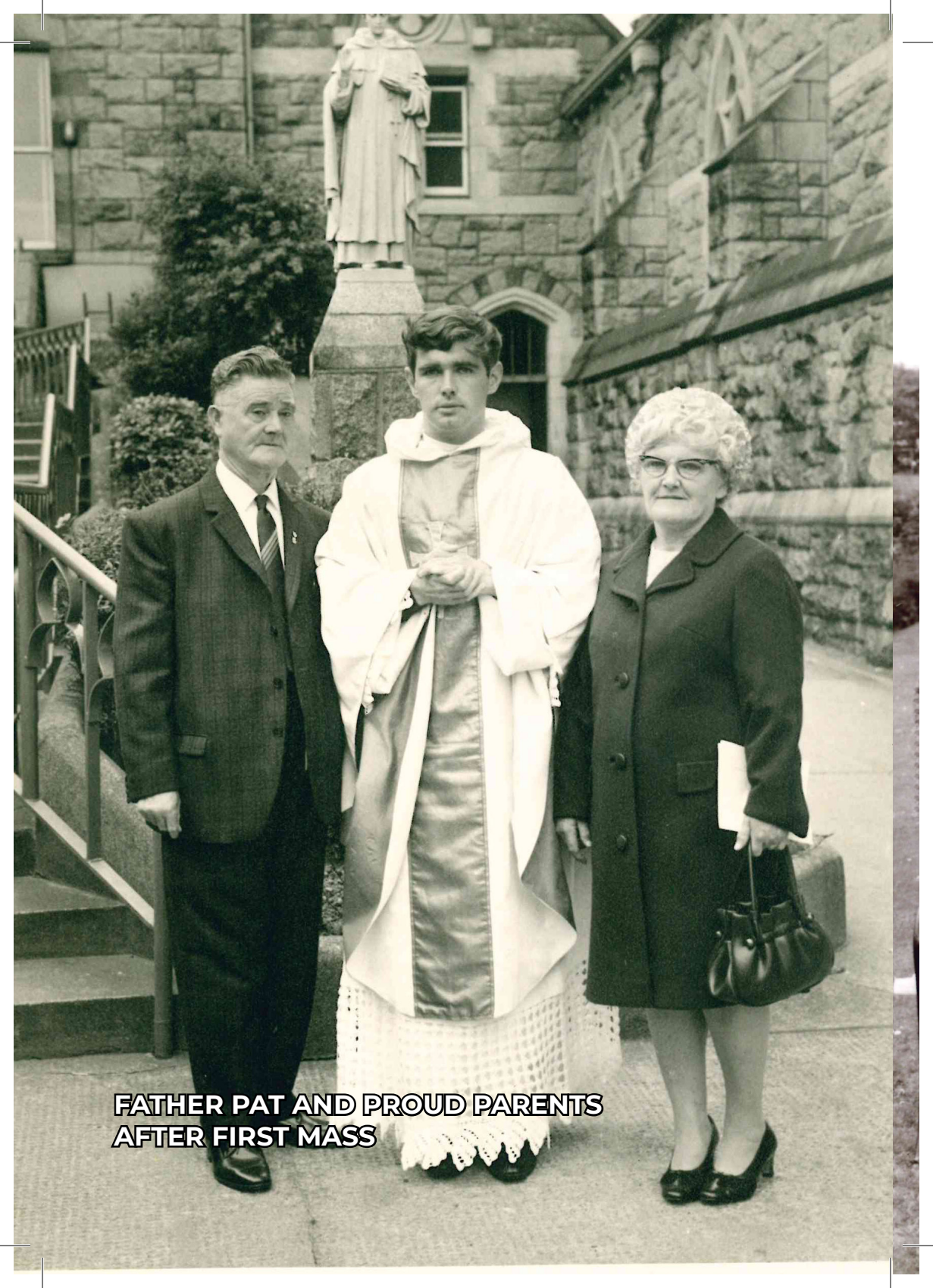
"THROUGHOUT MY MINISTRY, I HAVE ALWAYS TRIED MY BEST TO LIVE BY OUR DOMINICAN MOTTO,

**LAUDARE, BENEDICTERE, PRAEDICARE.
PRAY, BLESS, PREACH.**

I LOVE PEOPLE, BUT I DON'T TRY TO CHANGE THEM".



**OFFICIATING THE WEDDING OF
SISTER, SALLY, AND
BRIAN MCCONVILLE**



**FATHER PAT AND PROUD PARENTS
AFTER FIRST MASS**



**FATHER PAT, WITH HIS FAMILY, ANN,
MARTIN, SALLY, MARY AND AUNT SARAH**

**FAMILY CELEBRATIONS AT SALLY & BRIANS
40TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY**



PAT WITH SALLY ON HOLIDAYS



**40 YEARS ORDAINED AND
FAMILY CELEBRATION**



HAPPY TIMES





PROUD PARENTS



PROUD MOTHER, MARY



AUNT SARAH AND PAT



STILL LOOKING YOUNG



LOOKING WELL PAT

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THIS BOOKLET FOR FATHER TUMILTY.

MICKY KEENAN,



COLIN TONER,



PAT O'HARE



JIM CONVERY,

