



GLENSTAL ABBEY
CHRONICLE



Glenstal Abbey

Issue 5

Living Monastic
Life in Glenstal
Abbey
1927-2019

GLENSTAL ABBEY
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Spring/Summer Edition
2019



Welcome

As the days lengthen and the summer approaches it is our pleasure and privilege to share with you some news from our Abbey in this fifth edition of the Glenstal Chronicle.

These last few months have seen moments of great joy and also moments tinged with sorrow. On 10th April Abbot Celestine Cullen OSB went to his eternal reward. He had served as Headmaster, Abbot and Abbot President of our Congregation and will be greatly missed.

The Wednesday of Easter Week, 24th April, was a moment of great joy for us. Br Jarek Kurek OSB made his Solemn Profession in the Abbey Church. These and other stories we share with you in our Chronicle.

Brendan Coffey OSB
Abbot of Glenstal

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Abbot Celestine Cullen OSB 1927-2019



Abbot Celestine Cullen OSB, monk and Abbot Emeritus of Glenstal Abbey, President Emeritus of the Congregation of the Annunciation, died on Wednesday 10th April 2019 at the age of 91, in the 72nd year of his profession and the 65th year of his priesthood.

Austin Brian Cullen was born on 6th July 1927. Both of his parents were medical practitioners in Cavan. Having attended Glenstal Priory School from 1939 to 1945, Brian began studying medicine at University College Dublin, but after one year he abandoned this

track to enter the community at Glenstal, taking the monastic name of Celestine. Brother Celestine made his First Profession on 18th December 1947. Following studies in Dublin and Rome, he was ordained to the priesthood on 11th July 1954. Back in Ireland, Father Celestine taught French and Religion in the Abbey School. In 1961, he was appointed Headmaster, a post he held until 1979.

He was elected the third Abbot of Glenstal in December 1980 and was blessed as Abbot on 1st February 1981. In September 1992, the General Chapter of the Benedictine Congregation of the Annunciation, meeting in Trier, Germany, elected him Abbot President, a post he held until 2004. During these years, he visited every community of the geographically far-flung congregation, from California to India.

Throughout his priestly life and his time as Abbot and Abbot President, Abbot Celestine had an active ministry preaching retreats to many communities all over the world. Of particular interest was his pastoral care of a group of parents of former students of the school and their friends, for whom he preached an annual retreat and led several pilgrimages, especially to Rome. In retirement in Glenstal, a series of debilitating illnesses gradually restricted Abbot Celestine's activities, and he spent the last years of his life in a nursing home at a short distance from the

monastery. He died on the morning of 10th April 2019.

His body lay in repose in the Monastery Reception of Glenstal Abbey on Friday 12th April 2019, with removal to the Abbey Church at 5.00 pm that day and celebration of Vespers for the Dead. His funeral Mass was celebrated on Saturday 13th April at 12.10 pm, followed by burial in the Abbey Cemetery. We commend the peaceful repose of Abbot Celestine to your prayers.



Abbot Brendan's Homily at the funeral of Abbot Celestine Cullen

Abbot Celestine was a man of one book and that book was the Psalter. It now rests on his coffin, as he would very much have wished. His homilies were jam-packed with quotes from the psalms, his conferences were almost always on the psalms and the advice he

dispensed came straight from the Psalter. He made the words of the psalms his own, "like a weaned child on its mother's arms..." The very first time I met Celestine as a young student in Rome I came away thinking that I had just met a walking talking Psalter.

Austin Brian Martin Cullen was born the year this monastery was founded, 1927; he attended our school and entered the novitiate after a year in UCD on 15th September 1946 at the age of nineteen. Fr Bernard O'Dea was the Prior at that time and gave him the name Celestine. On the face of it he was not very appropriately named. Pope Saint Celestine V was Pope for just over five months in 1294 and became the first Pope in history to resign. He was manifestly unsuited to the task of the papacy, lacking in worldly wisdom and the ability to deal with complex human situations. Our Celestine could not have been more different, as we all know.

More probably he was called after Abbot Celestine Golenvaux, our founding Abbot from Maredsous, a sign of what was to come. Celestine cherished the years he spent in our school and the school always held a special place in his heart, together with all those who studied there under his watchful care and his group of devoted ladies who were the mothers of those boys and who have been so good to him over the years. All held him in great esteem and affection. In the monastery Celestine was teacher, headmaster,

Abbot and Abbot President, chaplain in Kylemore and confessor and spiritual guide to a great many people. At every one of these offices he excelled, but as a spiritual guide he had a particular gift. All sorts of very different people found in him a willing ear and a wise guide. His passion was to introduce others to what he called the "spiritual path". For Celestine, a monastery, must always be a place where people can come easily, a place where they can find God.

Lest anyone think that Celestine was a jack of all trades, let me add that he had absolutely no aptitude whatsoever for technology or machinery of any kind. Even the domestic toaster proved beyond him! We have all had the experience of being summoned to assist with his photocopying, which meant that you go and do it for him, and on arriving at the photocopier discovering that he had enlisted three other members of the community to do the same job. That too was Celestine.

As Celestine advanced in years his experience became more and more that of Psalm 18, "I love you Lord my strength, my rock, my fortress, my saviour". This became his reason for living. In later life his work as headmaster, Abbot and Abbot President was done and he threw himself wholeheartedly into his quest for the inner life and gave most generously of his time to help others. He wrote copious letters in his illegible hand offering support and advice. On Saturday afternoons he sat in

the monastery parlour hearing confessions, sometimes long beyond the allotted time, listening to people and introducing them to another dimension of reality. The Word was made flesh and that Word was the cornerstone on which our brother Celestine built his life. Introducing others to the Word of God was his greatest joy and lifelong passion. It sustained him to the end and was his most prized possession. This love of the Word was the sermon his life preached most eloquently to us and the abiding memory he leaves us.

The final chapter of his long life was written in Millbrae Lodge Nursing Home and we thank them for their loving care for Celestine. As his health declined he was in need of this extra care. He found this last chapter difficult and he missed his monastery and monastic life. The psalms, however, remained his friends and he told me that he still found his Lord in them after all these years.

“O where can I go from your spirit, or where can I flee from your face? If I climb the heavens, you are there. If I lie in the grave, you are there...”

If I say, ‘Let the darkness hide me and the light around me be night,’ even darkness is not dark to you, the night is as clear as day.”

Celestine has now entered into that light where the night is as clear as the day and where the darkness is no longer dark. We accompany him with our prayers and ask the Lord that he not

disappoint our brother Celestine in his hope. May he rest in peace..



Solemn Profession: Br Jarek OSB



The Monastic Community had the great joy of celebrating the solemn monastic profession of Br Jarek Kurek OSB on Wednesday 24th April in the Abbey Church.

The community were joined by visiting monastics and Br Jarek's family and friends from Poland. Br Jarek is currently finishing his doctoral studies at the University of Oxford and is a resident of St Benet's Hall. During the liturgy the litany of the saints was sung, invoking their aid before Br Jarek read his

profession chart, made his vows and placed it on the altar.



He then sang the *suscipe* and was received into the monastic community as a full member.



Br Jarek comes from Katowice, in Upper Silesia, Poland. After post-graduate business studies he began an MA in the Music Academy of Katowice and later he studied philosophy and theology in Kraków.

His first experience of monastic life was in the Abbey of Tyniec, near Kraków, but the time was not yet right. During his time in Tyniec Br Jarek first visited Glenstal to improve his English. That visit was to prove a very important moment both in his life and in the life of our community.

In 2015 Br Jarek entered the Abbey of Glenstal, having left Tyniec the previous year. After spending an initial year with us in Glenstal, Abbot Patrick

sent him to begin an MA in theology at St Benet's Hall in the University of Oxford where he is currently completing his doctoral studies.

Br Jarek was joined for his profession by his mother, Alicja, his brother, Witek, sister-in-law, Mirka and his three nieces, Agata, Kasia and Ania. Also present at the celebration was Br Jarek's parish priest, Fr Stanislaw.

On the evening of the profession three friends of Br Jarek from his days at the Music Academy of Katowice provided a beautiful concert for the assembled guests.





Easter at the Abbey

We began our celebration of Holy Week on a wet Palm Sunday Morning. This year we were unable to have the usual procession to the church because of the weather. Despite the weather the community was joined by a large number of local people for the Palm Sunday celebrations.



On Holy Thursday the guests for the Triduum arrived and gathered in the Abbey church for the Mass of the Lord's Supper. On this solemn occasion we



commemorate the Last Supper and the institution of the Eucharist. The liturgical celebration is accompanied by the washing of the feet. This liturgical action

commemorates the action of Christ in St John's Gospel where he rose from the table, took off his outer garment and wearing a towel began to wash the feet of his disciples. The Mass of the Lord's Supper concludes with the procession to the altar of repose with consecrated hosts which will be used at the Good Friday Liturgy.

On Good Friday the liturgy strikes a very sombre note. All the crosses and images are veiled and the altar is stripped bare. The liturgy begins with the celebrant and his assistants lying prostrate before the altar in a moment of profound silence. The first part of the

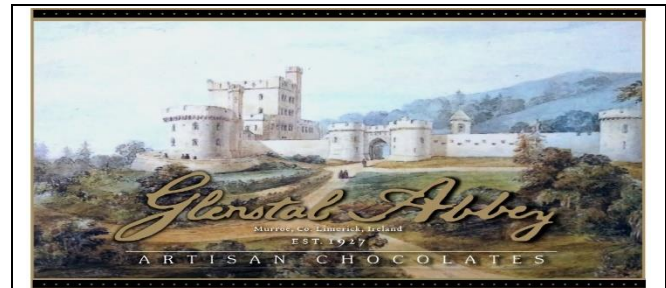


celebration is the Liturgy of the Word, which includes the chanting of St John's Passion and the long Good Friday Intercessions. The Adoration of the Cross follows and everyone present has the opportunity to come forward and in a very personal moment reverence the cross on which the Saviour died. Finally there is a short service of communion.

On Holy Saturday we celebrated the Great Vigil, with its ceremony of light, the Liturgy of the Word, the Liturgy of Baptism and the Eucharist. This is the centre of the Liturgical Year, the night on which we celebrate the passage of Christ the Lord from death to life. In his paschal mystery he takes us with him into this new life of Easter. By our participation in this mystery through our baptism we also become participants in the new and risen life of Easter.



We had a full house in Glenstal on retreat with us over the Triduum and it was, as always, a very special time for everyone. The world of nature all around us also rejoices in the full bloom of spring and the grounds are particularly beautiful this time of year.



Glenstal Abbey Artisan Chocolates specialises in the use of liqueurs from monasteries of Europe to flavour the fondants of chocolate truffles, in particular, famous liqueurs such as Chartreuse and Bénédictine. We also use a Mandarin Orange liqueur which we import from the Abbaye de Lérins, on an island off the coast at Nice, where St Patrick is said to have studied in the fifth century, and a walnut liqueur, Nocino, which we source from an Italian Cistercian convent. In addition our range includes an alcohol-free collection derived from desserts for monastic feast days. The boxes are in 260g and 130g sizes. We also have 75g chocolate bars with quotes from the Rule of Benedict in English and the original Latin and a range of dairy-free bars with fruit from our garden.

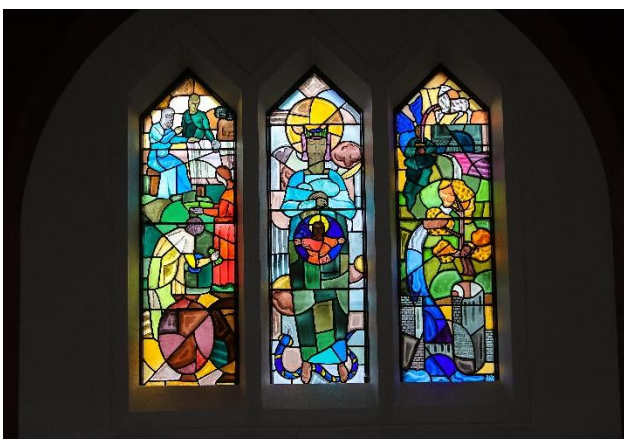
Enquiries welcome at chocolates@glenstal.com



Courses and Events at Glenstal

Luke Macnamara OSB

A busy term is scheduled for the autumn. Beginning on Saturday September 7th, a provocatively entitled course: *Here Come the Girls. Women who know their place!*, explores the women of Luke's Gospel through narrative and art. Luke's Gospel includes many resourceful women who employ various strategies to subvert their powerful male counterparts and access divine blessings. Anne Lanigan, a PhD student in St Patrick's College Maynooth, will examine how to get Mary and Martha in and out of the kitchen, while Fr Luke will examine the anointing woman at the home of Simon the Pharisee. Anne Dyer, the Anglican Bishop of Aberdeen and Orkney, a frequent contributor on art and theology, will explore how these and other of Luke's women are depicted in art through the ages.



There will be a day retreat for university students entitled *Come and See* on Saturday September 21st. An opportunity to rest, reflect and refresh with inputs on meditation and prayer by Br Pádraig, guided visits to the Mass Rock (weather permitting) and Icon Chapel by Br Colmán, guided reading of scriptural passages and especially the parables with Fr Columba and Fr Luke. The day will provide much needed time out to tune in. Students from all colleges are welcome.

Next up, on Saturday October 12th is a day entitled *The Pharisees: Characters not Caricatures*. This day was inspired by a recent conference in Rome on Jesus and the Pharisees where careful analysis unpicked much of the stereotypical notions on Pharisees. Fr Luke will open the day with an exposition of the sources for our knowledge on the historical Pharisees, and it may be an advance to say that we know less than we think we do. Anne Lanigan will break the group think about Pharisees and examine the stories of individuals who were Pharisees. Fr Luke will then explore how Pharisees have been depicted in art, drama, film and popular culture through the ages. The day will conclude with an examination of how the Pharisees are portrayed in the Religious Education textbooks at both primary and secondary level in Ireland and also internationally. There is a pressing need to correct long-established stereotypes and to avoid using the term Pharisee as an expression of abuse against any

persons of faith, Jews, Muslims and Christians.

There will be a retreat for university students from Friday to Sunday November 8th-10th. The weekend long retreat will allow participants to link in with the rhythm of the monastic community, in shared prayer, meals and work. The monastic day provides a structure which paradoxically gives freedom to be oneself. The Rule of Benedict is designed to enable monks to live life well. Occasional immersion for a few days allows others to draw from Benedict's spring of wisdom. Over the weekend, there will be input on prayer, reading the Bible, living life as a Christian today and some group discussion in addition to the shared meditation and shared Bible reading. Students from all colleges are welcome.

Finally, the *Advent at the Abbey* series continues this year. The talks will take place on the first three Sundays of Advent (December 1st, 8th, 15th) at 4.30pm in the monastery library and will be streamed live. The recordings will be available afterwards on the website at www.glenstal.com. This year's series focuses on the Gospel readings for the year which come from Matthew. Dr Jessie Rogers, lecturer at St Patrick's College Maynooth will open the series with a talk entitled: "Stay Awake – The Lord is Coming". Fr Luke follows with an exploration of Jesus' family tree and Fr Cuthbert concludes the series with a meditation of the role of *Joseph* as

guardian of the mystery of the word. Those coming on December 8th also have the opportunity of attending the Advent Carol Service which will be held at 3.00pm in the Abbey Church.



Glenstal Website and Webcam

In the modern world it is very important to make use of social media and information technology to get your message across. The wider Glenstal community have spent a great deal of time reflecting upon and increasing our presence in this area.

Our website for both the monastery and school can be found at www.glenstal.com.

We continue to receive a lot of positive reaction to our church webcam service from right around the world. It is now possible to tune in to all our liturgies, live, or to play back a recorded liturgy later. The webcam service is of particular benefit to the elderly and housebound and those who are no longer able to get to their local church. It is our privilege that so many have decided to join us in prayer each day and we give thanks to God for this blessing.

Glenstal Studium

Colmán Ó Clabaigh OSB

The focus of the Studium for 2019 has been on the origins of the monastic movement and some of the major figures of the early monastic tradition. Fr Columba Stewart's course on Passions and Prayer in early monasticism initiated the series in October and this was greatly appreciated by all participants. Fr Columba is an internationally renowned scholar of early monasticism and the director of the Hill Museum and Manuscript Library (HMML) at St John's



Abbey, Collegeville, Minnesota. HMML's work in digitising

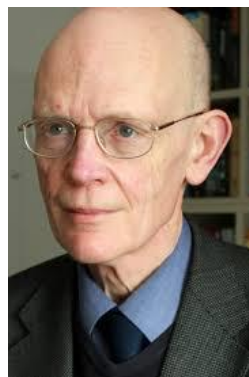
endangered Middle Eastern manuscripts has won widespread acclaim and Fr Columba also provided a fascinating account of this work in Iran, Iraq, Syria and Mali.

In November, Dr Makrina Finlay OSB gave a course on the



theology and monastic spirituality of the Life of St Anthony and the Life of Makrina. Both works are foundational

texts of the monastic tradition and the Life of Makrina provides an important feminine perspective on the movement. Sr Makrina is an American member of the Benedictine community at Dinklage in Germany and in addition to her scholarly work, acts as an advocate for Yazidi refugees in her diocese. In December, Dr David Kelly OSA taught a comprehensive introductory course on the life, work and theology of St Augustine. Fr David is an Augustinian friar and was for many years Professor of Patristics at the Milltown Institute in Dublin. His course provided a very clear exposé of the significance of one of the towering figures of the Christian tradition. Professor Terence O'Reilly also gave a fascinating lecture on the formative influences on St Ignatius Loyola and Martin Luther.



The courses to date have been much appreciated by the novices and juniors in the community as well as by more senior members who've been glad of the opportunity to refresh their knowledge of these areas. They've also proved very popular with members of other Cistercian and Benedictine communities in Ireland, England and even as far afield as China and Japan.

The series continues with a course on Celtic Monasticism: The Irish Tradition (8–13 September 2019) and An Introduction to the Liturgy (9–13 December 2019). Both of these courses will be taught by members of the Glenstal Community. Professor Janet Burton will also give a course on the Monastic Revolution of the Twelfth Century (14-18 October 2019). Professor Burton was for many years professor of Medieval History at the University of Wales, Lampeter. A widely respected scholar, she is regarded as one of Europe's foremost experts on Western Monasticism.



Daily Timetable

Visitors are welcome at all liturgies,
which take place in the Abbey Church.

SUNDAYS

- 8.35 pm** Resurrection Office/Vigils
(on the preceding evening)
- 7.00 am** Lauds (Morning Prayer)
- 10.00 am** Conventual Mass
- 12.35 pm** Sext (Midday Prayer)
- 6.00 pm** Vespers (Evening Prayer –
in Latin)
- 8.35 pm** Compline (Night Prayer)

WEEKDAYS

- 6.35 am** Matins and Lauds
(Morning Prayer)
- 12.10 pm** Conventual Mass
- 6.00 pm** Vespers (Evening Prayer,
in Latin)
- 8.35 pm** Compline (Night Prayer –
Monday excepted)

All services, except Vespers are chanted in English, with some Latin hymns and antiphons. While the Eucharist is celebrated in English, the ordinary and proper chants are sung in Latin. Please note that the timetable may change slightly on certain solemnities and feastdays.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) is available in the church on Saturdays between 3.00pm and 4.00pm. At other times, please inquire at the Monastery Reception.

Vocations

Every Christian is invited to respond to the calling lovingly offered to them by God. Monastic life is one such response.

Since 1927 men have sought God at Glenstal Abbey; in prayer, in work and in community living.

Monks are not superheroes. They know their need for God's mercy and for the support of their brothers. Monks are not fugitives. Monasticism is not a flight from the world but life lived in loving, prayerful connection with the Church, the Body of Christ.

Monks do many things, and sometimes do them well, but they are not defined by their job descriptions. At all ages and stages of the monastic journey, the search for God is the primary focus, the one thing necessary.

Monastic life is not for everyone, but it may be for you. How can you know this?

You will have a desire for God, a need to spend time in prayer, an attraction to the Eucharist, the Liturgy and to the Word of God, a taste for solitude and reflection. You will be

curious about this lifestyle and about this place. You will sense that this life may make sense of your life.

As a community, we also have some requirements.

Candidates must be male, Catholic, free from debt and family obligations and ideally aged between 24 and 45.

We value life experience, a demonstrable capacity to complete an education, hold down a job and live independently.

Our life is challenging and rewarding. It requires a loving heart, robust mental and physical health and an ability to live generously with others.

If this is you, then perhaps you should get in touch.



Br Colmán Ó Clabaigh OSB
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Glenstal and Murroe

The word “Glenstal” means The Glen of the Stallion, and is an English rendering of the Irish Gleann Stail. The glen is a very impressive geological feature, consisting of a mile-long valley, formed during the last ice-age. It is rich in all kinds of wild flowers, but is especially famous for its Killarney Fern.



Glenstal is a Norman Revivalist Castle, with a Windsor-style round tower, all fronted with an impressive facade and Norman gate-house. The main building faces south, and commands an unbroken view of some thirty miles towards the Galtee Mountains. It is built on a height of some three hundred feet above sea-level, and can be seen from many miles away. It was designed by William Bardwell, an English architect, who evidently intended Glenstal to look like a twelfth-century castle, for when he inscribed his name on the turret,

Bardwell *me fecit* (Bardwell made me), he added the date 1839, but cut in such a way as to look like 1139.

The name Murroe means ‘The Red Plain’, from the sandstone deposits



commonly found in the district. Glenstal Castle is built with a red sandstone, as are also the local Church of Ireland and Catholic churches. The building of Glenstal Castle by the Barringtons in the 1830s meant an influx of tradesmen and artisans, who settled near the entrance to the estate, and thus formed the



nucleus of the present village. In former times the principal centre of the parish was Abington, about a mile to the south-

east of Murroe. Thus Murroe is a fairly modern village, and it achieved further status when it was chosen as the place for the district Dispensary and Post-Office about the same time as the Barringtons settled in Glenstal. Murroe had its own monthly fairs, a court-house where quarterly sessions were held throughout the nineteenth century and, indeed, right up to the 1950s, two schools,



modernised and enlarged by the Barringtons in 1852, and a very attractive forge, the centre of village life in the days when the horse was the chief means of transport. Murroe has one other claim to distinction in that it must be the only village in Ireland which, up to recent times, had only one public-house. The Barringtons were responsible for this particular restriction!



School News

A lot has been happening in Glenstal Abbey School in these last few months. In this short section we hope to give you a flavour of life here from the perspective of our students.

A View from Abroad

Balthazar Descamps

When I first made the choice to go to Glenstal Abbey School I began slowly to realise what it would actually mean. It was nothing less than one year away from my home, family and friends. But I knew it was a unique opportunity and experience for me and not one to be missed.



Therefore I arrived in Glenstal from my home in France somewhat green and apprehensive. The place was unreal. Surrounded by lakes, forests and hills, with a huge castle sitting on a hill.

Despite a warm welcome from everyone the first few days and weeks were difficult for me. I felt alone and homesick. And as you can all imagine, making friends was not so easy because all the students knew and lived together for many years even though there were all very kind and nice to this newcomer. But little by little I moved on and began to experience the joy of living in Glenstal. And what an incredible school it is!



Living in a boarding school and in a community was new for me. But I really enjoyed the way the school became a home; students became a family; and teachers and monks my guardians. The atmosphere in the school and between each of us was great. And I remember especially the rugby matches and how we all went out supporting the team: cheering, screaming and singing. Another good memory for me is the nights in dormitories: a new experience but also funny. Moreover thanks to Glenstal I learned many skills for life, such as how to become organized, self-governed and how to keep myself busy. So I tried to be involved in as many activities and projects as the school

could offer me. For example: the choir, the tennis team etc...

However, I can't talk about Glenstal without saying a word about the amazing monastic community and monastery who live there: the Benedictine monks. To have monks with us involved in the school was a privilege. Their presence truly added something to the place. And I shall always remember their songs, Masses, talks, trips and gardening that I had with them.

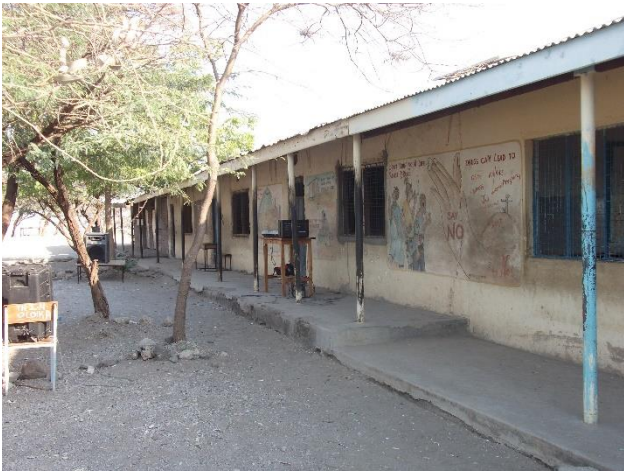


Finally thank you to Glenstal for having received me during this year. It was an amazing experience. You are a part of my life from now on.



Gearing up for Kenya

Ten students from Glenstal Abbey School will be traveling to the Rift Valley region of Kenya in July to improve facilities and opportunities for young people at the Oloika School.



The team, along with project coordinator Fr John and teacher Thomas Franklin, will spend 23 days on this aid mission to build two classrooms and girls' toilets as well as providing computers for the school.

The Oloika School has 415 Masai boys and girls up to the age of 16 and ten teachers.

To quote Fr John, "It has the barest of facilities, although they have electricity. The floors need cement, the walls should be upgraded from corrugated iron and there is a great need for toilets."

"Computers are also needed. Any donations go directly to meet these needs and the renovations will be

carried out by local skilled help while our 'Kenya Crew' members share their computer skills, and mix with the Kenyans in sport and music."

Since 2008 Glenstal Abbey School has been supporting schools in Tanzania and Kenya, leaving a lasting impact on hundreds of African schoolchildren.

This year's 'Kenya Crew' includes students Matthew Cannon, Seán Carey, Max Downing, Richard Enright, Peter Fahy, Antoine Japy, Art Keane, Matthew Lyne, Tiernan Ryan and Harry Swan.



"Our young Irish students provide basic tuition in computer skills to their African peers, and enjoy doing so. It is a win-win situation for both groups of young people. The expenses of the project are paid by the parents of the Irish boys so that any funds donated go exclusively to the school in need."

"We have never worked in a school with greater needs. Our hope is to pay for a proper classroom to be built. They currently study in ones made from corrugated iron, which are too hot. We

also want to renovate a room for laptops that we bring and also provide toilets. Currently four latrines are available for over 400 students."

Glenstal Abbey School is currently trying to reach its €20,000 fundraising goal before heading to Kenya this summer. More information is available on the 'News / Kenya project' page of the school website.



Equestrian Team Win Clonshire Interschools Showjumping Cup

Calum Blake

The Glenstal Abbey Equestrian Team triumphantly took first place in the Equestrian Interschools open 80-centimetre show jumping competition that was held in Clonshire Equestrian Centre on Friday 12 April 2019.

The winning team comprised of:

- Michael Barry (2nd year) riding 'Lucy'
- Calum Blake (2nd year) riding 'Curious Pebbles'
- Aonghus Cooke (2nd year) riding 'Ardfrý Caspian'
- Ben Quinn (1st year) riding The 'Affinator'
- Chef d'Equipe: Ms Ann Aungier

The Glenstal Abbey Equestrian team was one of 22 secondary schools competing from counties Limerick and Kerry. We had a long wait as Glenstal were the last team to compete on the day but this did not discourage our spirits, we were raring to go - "ravens fly together" (but in this instance, ponies!).



The show jumping course consisted of jumping two courses with nine jumps in each in succession, one course in the indoor arena and the second in the outdoor arena - both courses set with a completion time of 90 seconds each against the clock and no faults (no pressure!). Aonghus and 'Caspian' took to the course with gusto and speed, followed by Michael and

'Lucy' who had style and pace throughout the course. Calum and 'Pebbles' delivered the first double clear followed by Ben and 'Alfie' which enabled the team to qualify for the jump-off for 1st, 2nd or 3rd place - the excitement was unbelievable.

The team nominated Ben and 'Alfie' for the jump-off. Whilst he took to the arena for the final jump-off, we huddled on our ponies and watched through our fingers as one by one he cleared each jump, ultimately declaring Glenstal the outright winners in 1st place. What a fantastic win and great team effort, we could not have been happier - the riders and ponies really did fly today!!

A big thank you to Ms Ann Aungier, Fr Denis and Mr Felix Ross for organising the many training events, support and organisation on the day. It was a super day, a great team win, and an equally super equine achievement for Glenstal.

Uiseann Cooke takes Bronze in National Swimming Championships

Congratulations to Uiseann Cooke (5th Year) who took Bronze in the

National Swimming Championships in the 200 metres Breast Stroke Open.



Uiseann has now qualified for the European Youth Championships in Russia this coming July. He has every reason to believe that he will qualify for the World Junior Championships in Bucharest this coming August.

Win at HTAI Junior Cycle History Quiz

Jack Nolan

Having qualified through the regional final in Munster, our team comprising of James Cannon, Daniel Kennedy, Jack Nolan, and Luke Nicholas marched on to the National Final in UCD which took place on Saturday 6th April. This was the inaugural year of the competition and as a result, motivation was high to become the first name inscribed on the Cup. Cruelly denied by Árd Scoil Rís in a tie-breaker in the

regional final, we were particularly keen on achieving vengeance!



On the day of the National Final, we boarded an early bus to Dublin, with our mascot - Br Colmán! We arrived in Dublin and after a scintillating Starbucks we journeyed on to UCD whereupon we commenced the Quiz. We led through nine rounds by a narrow margin...but we were caught by none other than Árd Scoil Rís in the final round. In a replay of the Regional Final, a dramatic tie-breaker was to again separate the men from the boys (as long as the Industrial Revolution didn't come up, we knew that the day was ours!). Thanks to a Nazi propagandist filmmaker, Leni Riefenstahl, victory ensued. Árd Scoil would have to settle for second place. Our Munster defeat behind us, the inaugural History Teachers Association of Ireland Quiz Cup was coming to Glenstal.

Many thanks to Ms Helena Foley for preparing the team so well.

SCT Win Munster Schools Plate

Congratulations to our Rugby SCT on winning the inaugural Br Matthew Corkery Plate on 10th April. They comprehensively defeated Castletroy College 24-5. The scorers were Darragh Hanly with one try; Conor O'Shea one try; Taylor Gleeson one try; and Harry Benner one try. Captain Caolan Dooley converted two of the tries.



It was a fitting end to a long season. Gamesmaster Nick Miller paid tribute to the SCT at Morning Assembly and made particular mention of the Sixth Year players who had put in so much effort over the years and who were receiving a just reward for those efforts.

