

Montfort Missionary Society News

Winter 2015 Montfort House Liverpool



Some of you receiving this newsletter may already know, the Province of Great Britain and Ireland lost three much loved priests in 2015. Obituaries for Fr. Fred Matthews, Fr. Fred Scragg and Fr. Jim Murray can be found inside.



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Pat's Uganda Mission and Montfort House, Nsiky

Pat Brennan lives in north-east England and helps raise awareness and funds to support many different projects, particularly concerning the Montfort Missionary work of Fr. Charlie Beirne in Uganda. Pat has now visited Uganda many times and set up various projects. Upon the most recent visit he has started to make people aware of the current situation of Girl-Child Education at various schools in the Mbarara area. Young ladies in Mbarara do not receive the luxury of secondary education as is customary in Western Europe.

After meeting a young mother named Medrine, who had never received a secondary education and could speak very little English, Pat arranged for her to receive some basic help to enhance her written and conversational English. He also organised sponsorship for the education of Medrine's young son, Aine.

Without the help of sponsors, many children will never have the basic commodity of a school education. While in Uganda Pat witnessed children who have such a strong desire to learn because they know that without the opportunities of education, their futures will be extremely difficult. Unlike more high profile charities, sponsoring directly through Pat allows 100% of all fees donated to go straight on the students' education with no "hidden" extras. As a sponsor, regular school reports and letters are sent directly to the sponsor (if they have an email address and agree to this) or alternatively sent to Pat, to pass on to the sponsors.

While Pat is in Uganda, he uses the Montfort House there as his base, staying with Fr. Charlie, Fr. John Mary and Fr. David, who together form the Nsiky Community. Montfort House was the Montfortian Novitiate for their East African Delegation until a few years ago. During



Pat and Fr. Charlie Beirne

his first two visits, Pat helped a group of Montfortian novices, as part of their ongoing formation. Three of this group of five, have been ordained and are ministering in Malawi. Although it is no longer the Novitiate, there are often guests staying at Montfort House while on retreat; some are there for days of quiet reflection, amidst the beautiful gardens and spacious grounds. At other times there may be guests staying who are medics from different parts of the world, including various African countries. Many are working at the nearby Holy Innocents Children's Hospital, Hospice Mbarara and in the hospital in Mbarara Town. Students often stay while volunteering in different educational and medical settings. The small chapel is so inspiring and a haven of tranquillity, peace and prayerfulness. It is easy to see why Montfort House is so attractive to so many guests for many reasons.

If you can help to sponsor a child towards their education you can contact Pat at

pb002A5509@blueyonder.co.uk

and for more information on Pat's fundraising for the Montfort Missionaries and the work of Fr. Charlie in Uganda you can visit Pat's website:

www.patsugandamission.wordpress.com



(left picture) Sr. Gladys (left), Head teacher and Sr. Jacinthe (right), Administrator at Immaculate Heart All Girls' High Rukungiri. (right picture) A level students at the school.

2016 TERCENTENARY



As 2016 marks the tercentenary of the death of our founder, St. Louis Marie de Montfort, there are events taking place until 28th April 2016 involving the Montfort Fathers, Daughters of Wisdom, family, friends and parishioners. The Province of Great Britain and Ireland is focusing on the spiritual journey during this time. There will be prayer services in which we can join together to celebrate the life of Montfort, opportunities to join the Montfort Fathers on retreats and have days of reflection. Every day is a spiritual journey towards the feminine face of God.

The Province plans to spend more time reflecting on its Wisdom heritage, networking with other Congregations and introducing people to Montfort's 33 Day Prayer Consecration to Jesus Through Mary. It aims to have a constant presence with the poor both locally and globally, supporting them both financially and spiritually.

GARDEN REONOVATIONS AT ASHURST

The final touches are being added to the gardens at Montfort House, Ashurst, with Noel and Fr. Des trying to get as much done as possible before winter takes hold. The area around the shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes has been cleared (shown below) and many bulbs have been planted. The shed area has been cleared of over-grown bushes, giving visitors a beautiful view of the lawn. Work has also been completed on the external boundaries of the property, which both looks much tidier and is safer for road users. Work has started on the barn, with a new roof scheduled to be fitted in order to create a dry space within the barn that can be used as a workshop with an outdoor kitchen and a possible new home for Poitiers Care. Poitiers Care is a food delivery service to poor families in and around the Southampton area. Many social care agencies used the former Poitiers Project to support vulnerable clients who needed help to put food on their tables. Poitiers Care has taken its place.



What's on at Sandymount?

Sandymount is a ministry of the Montfort Missionary Society offering a comfortable place to rest, reflect, pray and find space. It is homely and provides opportunities to experience the presence of God and the companionship of others.



Saturday 19th December 2015

Don't Miss the Meaning of Christmas, led by Father Daniel O'Leary
A day at the end of Advent to prepare to Christmas. Fr. Daniel is a regular contributor to *The Tablet*, a retreat leader and author of many books including *Treasured and Transformed: Vision of the Heart*, *Understanding of the Mind* and *Travelling Light: Your Journey to Wholeness*.

Quiet Days at Sandymount

- * Monday 7th December 2015
- * Monday 11th January 2016
- * Monday 8th February 2016
- * Monday 21st March 2016

See website for themes and further information...

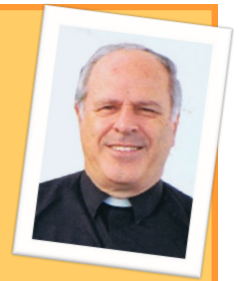
www.sandymountretreats.org.uk

John Frederick Matthews was born on 25 September 1926 in Blackpool, the son of Sidney Matthews and Mary Helen Barry. After completing primary education in Blackpool he went to Montfort College in Romsey. He entered the novitiate of the Montfort Missionaries in Ashurst, Hampshire in 1944 and made his first religious profession there in 1945. He then began his studies in philosophy at Leagram Hall, Chipping. When the scholasticate moved in October 1946 to Church Stretton in Shropshire, Fred continued his studies in philosophy and theology there. His ordination to the priesthood took place in St. Cuthbert's, Blackpool on 7 October 1950.

Father Fred's first obedience was to teach at Montfort College in Romsey. Then he was sent to Southampton University in 1955 to study for a degree. In 1958 he returned to Montfort College, Romsey to teach Latin, French and Roman History. However, in 1965 he was sent to Barrhead in Scotland to be director of the new hostel seminary and act as Vocations Director for Scotland. One year later he returned to Romsey to be Superior and headmaster of the school, a post he held until 1970 when he became the first Provincial Superior to be elected by the

confreres of the Province.

In 1975, Father Fred was made President of the Conference of Major Religious Superiors for England and Wales. This resulted in him greeting Pope John Paul II on behalf of all the Religious of England and Wales on the occasion of the Pope's visit to England in 1982.



When his second term as Provincial ended in 1982, Father Fred moved to Liverpool, where he was appointed by Archbishop Worlock to be Episcopal Vicar for Religious for the Archdiocese. When he retired at the age of 82 he returned to the community in Liverpool, but continued to serve some of the local convents for a few years, until ill health made it necessary for him to enter the retirement home, Nazareth House, in Crosby. As his health deteriorated, he was taken into St. Joseph's Hospice where he died on 22 January 2015. He is remembered with great affection by many people, especially the Religious and former Religious that he helped during his years as Episcopal Vicar for Religious. May he rest in peace!



Frederick William Scragg was born on 6 August 1936, the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord, in Seaforth, Liverpool. His parents were John and Christina Scragg and he had a brother Jack and a sister Joan. After starting secondary education in Liverpool Fred moved to Montfort College, Romsey. He entered the novitiate in St.

Joseph's, Totton, where he made his first religious profession in 1955. He completed his philosophy and theology studies at St. Mary's Scholasticate, Church Stretton, Shropshire and was eventually ordained a priest there on 25 February 1961.

After his ordination, Fred spent three years in Rome, studying at the Urbanianum, where he obtained a doctorate in Canon Law. He then left for Malawi to teach at Chingale Seminary, then he was appointed Rector of the Child Jesus Seminary in Nankhunda, a post he held for 22 years. He is remembered very fondly by the many priests that served there.

From 1987 to 1999 Fred served as General Assistant and Bursar of the

Montfort Missionaries, travelling to most of the places in the world where Montfort has a presence. After those 12 years, Fred took a sabbatical in the United States, completing further study in Canon Law. In 2000 he was elected Provincial of the Province of Gt Britain and Ireland. This was a post he held through the difficult times of closing a number of Montfort Houses but constantly encouraged the confreres in the Province, placing a special emphasis on community life.

In 2009 he returned to his beloved Africa as he was appointed to the International Scholasticate of the English-Speaking General Delegation of Africa in Nairobi. After four years he decided to retire to Malawi (age 78) when he began to experience memory loss. He was diagnosed in Nairobi as having a tumour on the brain and returned to England to undergo treatment. Gradually his condition worsened and he was taken into St. Joseph's Hospice to receive palliative care. On 20th September, while attending a Mass celebrated by Fr. Bob. Douglas, his confrere, he began to be quite confused, and a short time later, he died peacefully. May his beloved Mother Mary receive him and bear him to her divine Son. May he rest in peace!

James Thomas Murray was born in Airdrie, Scotland, on 16 July 1940, the eldest child of James Murray and Mary Helen and is survived by his sister Maureen and his brother Tom. After secondary education, he entered the novitiate in St. Joseph's, Ashurst, where he made his first religious profession of vows. From there he went to St. Mary's Scholasticate, Church Stretton, Shropshire, for his studies in philosophy and theology. He was eventually ordained a priest in St. John's, Barrhead, Scotland on 5 March 1966.

Father Jim's first appointment after ordination was to Montfort College, Romsey, where he taught for three years before being moved to Montfort House, Liverpool to become the editor of *Queen and Mother*, but it was his sad task to wind up the production of the magazine in 1971. Father Jim was then appointed to Montfort House, Barrhead, in Scotland, to take part in the formation of young men from Scotland aspiring to become Montfort Missionaries. From 1974 to 1986 he conducted parish missions and retreats in various parts of Scotland as well as in Montfort House. From 1980-1983 he was Superior of the community in Barrhead. In 1986 he was appointed to the residence

of the Company of Mary in Monaghan, Ireland, as Rector. He was again transferred back to Barrhead in 1991 to join a new itinerant Mission team with Fr. Ronnie Mitchell, Fr. Bob Douglas and a small group

of lay associates who were called upon to conduct missions in various parts of the UK. In 2006, it was Fr. Jim's sad task to close the house in Barrhead, however, he remained in Scotland, helping a parish in Paisley, until in 2009 he was appointed to be the Superior of Montfort House, Liverpool. He held this post, together with various ministries to local religious communities, until his death on 13 October 2015.

Father Jim always had a very tender devotion to the Blessed Virgin. It is perhaps no coincidence that his life was bracketed by her presence: born on the feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, he died on the anniversary of the last apparition of Our Lady to the children of Fatima. May his beloved Mother now receive him and bear him safely to his heavenly reward.



The Liverpool Community

Fr. Bob Douglas regularly says Mass at Nazareth House and Jospice and belongs to the Advent Healing Group, the Little Way Healing Ministry and the Marian Movement of Priests. He also likes to visit and pray with the sick and elderly, of which he says is always a privilege.

Fr. Louis Catterall celebrated his 90th birthday in September and continues to be very involved in the day to day running of Montfort House Liverpool.

Fr. Paul Allerton still spends a lot of his time writing (details of his new publication can be found below) and translating as well as being the Mission Procurator.

Montfort Press has a new catalogue for 2016 featuring some new titles, media items and statuettes. We stock a range of titles on our founder St. Louis Marie de Montfort and Marian Spirituality. You can order a catalogue by dropping us an email at montfort_press@montfort.org.uk or giving us a call on **0151 287 6862** ext. 22. You can also visit our website and make online orders at www.montfort.org.uk/catalog

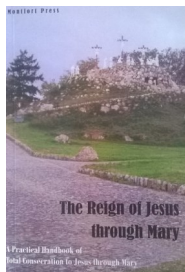


Featured Montfort Press Titles



The Man Called Montfort
by Fr. E. C. Bolger
A Biography of St. Louis Marie,
written in easy yet informative
style. First published in 1952 and
now offered in a revised edition
(£6.95)

The Reign of Jesus Through Mary
A handbook for those who have made
their consecration, with spiritual exer-
cises and various prayers (£6.95)



Until 31st January 2016 Montfort Press are offering a 15% discount on all orders over £10

Donations

Donations are kindly accepted for the continuing work of the Montfort Fathers both in Uganda (Fr. Charlie Beirne) and Malawi (Fr. Owen O'Donnell). 100% of your donations will be used for Montfort Missionary work.



New Publication:

Saint Louis Marie de Montfort

By Father Paul Allerton, SMM
New Booklet to be published in January 2016 by the CTS and Montfort Press

Next year, 2016, sees the 300th anniversary of the death of St. Louis Marie Grignion de Montfort (1673-1716), one of the greatest teachers of devotion to the Blessed Virgin that the world has seen. His teaching has inspired so many people, including Pope St. John Paul II, St. Maximilian Kolbe, Frank Duff (founder of the Legion of Mary), the late Cardinal Leon-Joseph Suenens, Ven. Mother Mary Potter (foundress of the Little Company of Mary), Father Frederick William Faber, Cardinal Herbert Vaughan (founder of the Mill Hill Missionaries) and a host of others. But he was not only a teacher of Marian devotion; he was a missionary preacher who, by his inspired preaching and holy life, brought renewal to vast areas of North-West France in his own short lifetime, a ministry which has been continued all over the world for three hundred years by his followers, particularly in the three religious institutes that owe their beginnings and their inspiration to him: the Company of Mary (Montfort Missionaries); the Daughters of Wisdom (Sisters of 'La Sagesse') and the Brothers of Saint Gabriel.

It seems opportune to present this great saint and missionary once again to the English-speaking Catholic Church, especially in the British Isles, as we remember the salient events of his life and the legacy he left to the whole Church. There have already been a number of biographies of the saint in English, including the slightly revised and re-issued *The Man Called Montfort*, by Father Edward Bolger, S.M.M., first published at the time of his canonization by Pope Pius XII in 1947—a deservedly popular life written in a lively style. Others are now, unfortunately, out of print. This little book cannot hope to supply the need for a new critical biography, but its author hopes that it will remind the Catholic people of such a great saint in the tercentenary year of his death.