



Dear Parishioners, no doubt you have heard by now the sad news of our Canon Frank O'Connor's passing from this world on Thursday. In his final months, though he had had to retire from ministry in the parish, his priestly ministry was far from over. It had simply changed form, into 'the ministry of suffering'. To paraphrase the words of Pope St John Paul, in his suffering, he had become a co-redeemer with Christ. He had joined his suffering to the suffering of Jesus on the cross and offered them to the Father for the salvation of souls.

We are deeply grateful to Fr Frank for his caring ministry among us in St John's, his wonderful preaching, his prayer, his good humour, and finally, for his heroic suffering offered for souls.

The light of heaven to his gentle soul, may he rest in peace.

Canon Gerard



Since news of Fr Frank's passing broke last Thursday afternoon, I have struggled to think of words to fully encapsulate the man, and this has bothered me. I spoke to others who were close to him and what dawned on me was that Fr Frank (or more correctly Canon Frank) was so many things to so many people. Pastor, Friend Teacher, Son, Sports fanatic, Airplane buff (he once flew in Concorde) but above all Priest. Fr Frank was all of those things and more. To me Fr Frank would have succeeded at any occupation he had chosen when he left school. Because he he chose the path of religion and education all of our lives have been enhanced. It is easy to eulogise someone when they are gone but the words that I have heard about Fr Frank across both his educational and pastoral career are all the same, Fair, Dedicated, Interesting and interested but the one word common to every conversation was Respect, he treated everyone he met with a respect.

Fr Frank's illness came as a major shock to us all, but he did not let that define him. He bore it valiantly and in doing so he gave us all one last homily. Fr Frank knew that he would not recover but he remained faithful to his end. The last time we communicated we spoke of dignity and shared these words of John O Donoghue

*May your leave-taking be gracious,
Enabling you to hold dignity
Through awkwardness and illness.*

*May you see the reflection
Of your life's kindness and beauty
In all the tears that fall for you.*

*As your eyes focus on each face,
May your soul take its imprint
Drawing each image within
As companions for the journey*

As we remember Fr Frank let the tears turn to joy knowing that we have been blessed to know a man who "loved his God and his neighbour as himself"

Fr Frank we have learned much from you, we'll miss youRespect

George Lee