

RELIGION

Dominicans departure ends an 800 year link with Limerick

by Daragh Frawley
daragh@limerickpost.ie

AN 800 year link with Limerick city came to an end last Sunday when the final Mass under the auspices of the Dominican Order was celebrated in St Saviour's Church.

The Limerick Diocese is to take on the running of the church with a team of Dominican nuns due to move into the Glentworth Street building in the coming months.

The Dominicans arrived in Limerick in 1224 and have been based at St Saviour's since 1816.

Speaking after the final Mass, Bishop Brendan Leahy said it was more than marking the departure of the Dominicans but was a major event in the order's 800 year history and a day of sadness, poignancy and gratitude.

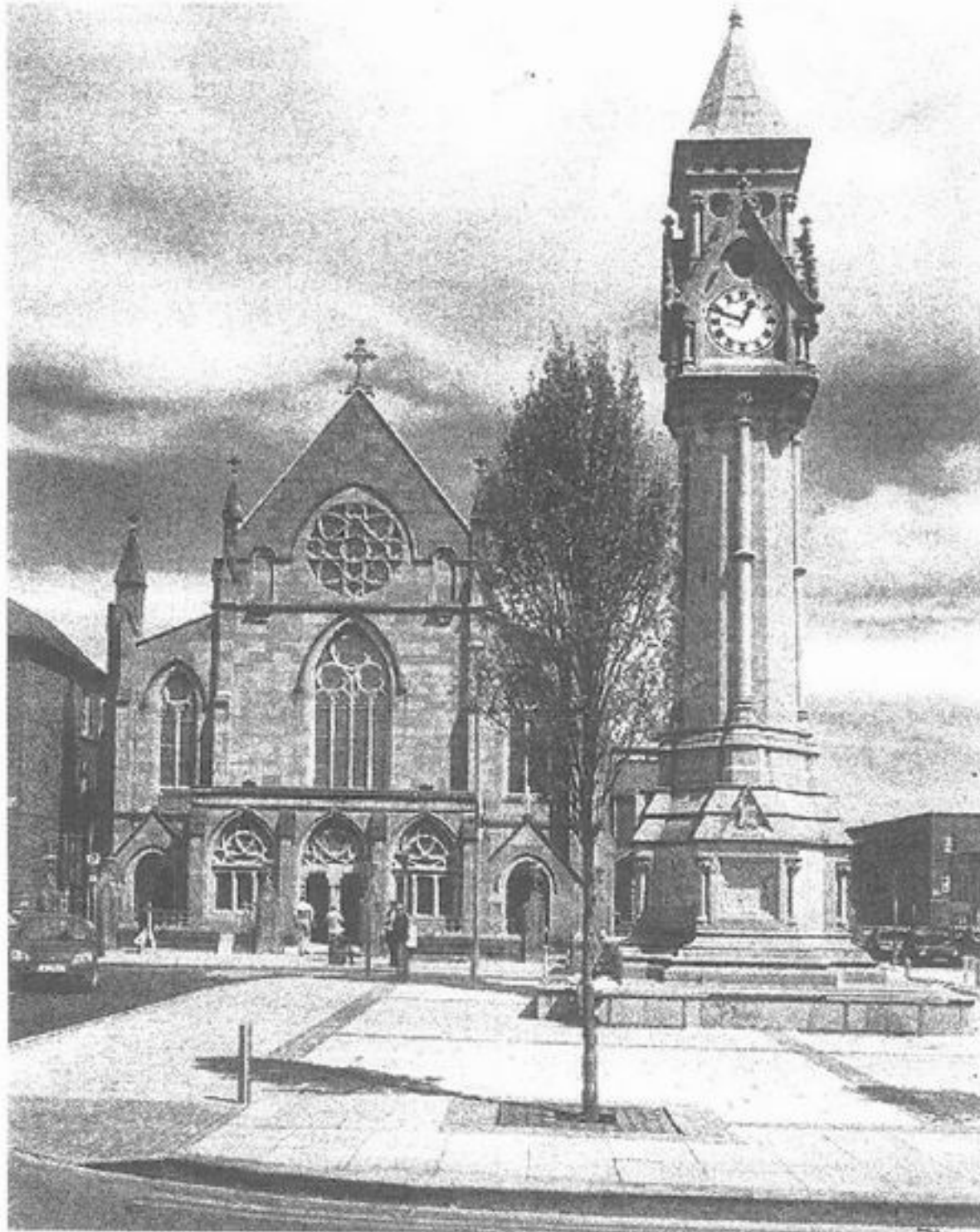
He added that the Dominican's presence in Limerick was a story of great resilience and that while the clergy are leaving, the Dominican's religious presence in the city will remain strong with the arrival of Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia to take over the Priory and breathe new life into St. Saviour's Church in the early autumn.

"The Dominicans have shown resilience. Again and again, they were threatened with banishment from Limerick. Their numbers were reduced and at one stage they were down to three priests.

"But each time they came back. And this time too, that resilience of their charism seems to be winning out. Just as we were faced with the dark day of the Dominicans leaving us, a new dawn has broken with the arrival of the Dominican sisters," he explained.

In his homily at the final Mass, Episcopal Vicar of the Diocese Fr. Eamonn Fitzgibbon said the Church in Limerick owed a great deal to the Dominicans.

"Today is a day for giving thanks and saying farewell. The Church in Limerick owes a great deal to the Dominicans – the Order will be greatly missed from Limerick and no matter



what new arrangement can be put in place it is impossible to replace what is irreplaceable.

"But all pastoral Ministry is about relationships and personal connections, and therefore, it is with very real affection and a true sense of loss that we say farewell to the current community. Fathers Vincent, Brendan and Jordan will be sorely missed.

“

Again and again, they were threatened with banishment from Limerick. Their numbers were reduced and at one stage they were down to three priests.

BISHOP BRENDAN LEAHY

"As a community they brought all the charisms of the Dominican life to bear. A genuine love of and generosity to the poor, a commitment to catechesis and adult faith formation, a dedication to breaking open the Word of God through teaching and preaching and showing people how the Word can nourish their prayer life, a generous giving in their pastoral care of the parish community here and those who come to celebrate daily and weekend Eucharist. Limerick will be the poorer for your absence", Fr Fitzgibbon added.

EDUCATION

Limerick workshop teaches the teachers

by Simon Bourke
simon@limerickpost.ie

A WORKSHOP designed to improve the quality of teaching brought science teachers and educators from all over the country to the University of Limerick last week to improve their knowledge and understanding of the sciences.

Dr Sarah Hayes, SSPC Education and Outreach Officer, said, "Courses like this are essential for teachers' continuous professional development. The focus of the course is to utilise demonstrations and 'mysteries' to promote pupil engagement, problem solving and inquiry skills."

The residential workshop, hosted at Synthesis and Solid State Pharmaceutical Centre (SSPC) headquarters at the University of Limerick (UL), provided an insight into the skills needed to promote problem and inquiry-based learning within the classroom. In addition over 40 engaging interactive science demonstrations were

conducted, all of which are linked to real world science applications.

Dr Hayes went on to say that the course offered teachers the chance to "fully immerse themselves in their own professional development, and develop a repertoire of demonstrations linked to the physical sciences and all aspects of the Junior and Leaving Certificate curriculum," and that supporting teachers' development was "vital for the enhancement of the Irish education system."

SSPC general manager Jon O'Halloran said that the workshop was linked with the European Union funded TEMI project, which placed a significant emphasis on inquiry-based skills, explicitly linking the course to the upcoming Junior and Senior curricula.

"This approach provides teachers with the time and space in which to develop new and exciting content for their lessons that will excite and stimulate students' interest in science and scientific careers", he said.



Nicola Alcorn, Gonzaga College SJ, Dublin solves the problem of the balancing nails at the 10th SSPC Chemistry Demonstration Workshop



SUMMER FAMILY BREAKS

2 Night Packages from €368

Includes

- B&B for 2 Adults & 2 Children in a Family Room
- 1 Evening Meal for Adults
- 1 Kids' Tea per child
- Complimentary Access to our Kids' Club
- Family Pass to Aqua Dome

Call us today to make a reservation 066 7199100 or book online www.therosehotel.com

The Rose Hotel, formerly Fels Point Hotel, Dan Spring Road, Tralee, Co. Kerry, V92 HK44