

FATHER PATRICK BREEN. S. D. B.

The death took place on May 29th, in Milford Nursing Home, Castletroy, Co. Limerick, at the age of 88, of Father Patrick, who was a native of Monienacloy in the Donagh area of Lisnaskea.

Father Patrick, a late vocation, came from small farming stock and received his early education at Kilturk National School, a little school, now closed, sited up the mountain among the heather and the rocks. There was no pathway to it, save for stiles heading in different directions. After leaving school, the deceased served his time with Mr. Noble's coach-building firm in Clones, and then went to work in Monaghan, for Treanor and McMahon, coach-builders.

Around this time he thought of becoming a Christian Brother and he wrote for advice to his aunt – then based in Carndonagh – Rev Mother Mary Patrick. She suggested to him that he become a priest and she mentioned the Salesian Congregation. Her encouragement overcame his anxieties about his lack of formal education and in August 1921, Father Breen entered the Salesian College, Battersea, London. After completing all his Church studies in England, he was ordained on December 14th 1930 – about a week after the death of his uncle, Fr. Pat Breen, P. P. of Clones parish. News of the death of his uncle, whom he admired greatly, was withheld from him until after he was ordained. He was also a nephew of the late Fr. Hugh Breen, Eshbrally, Lisnaskea (who served in an American diocese) and of Rev. Mother Benedict of the Mercy Order, who is buried in Enniskillen.

After serving in England for some years, Fr. Patrick was asked to go back to Ireland and he was appointed the bursar of the Salesian Agricultural College at Warrenstown in County Meath. A short time later he returned to England – to Shrigley Park, Macclesfield for two years before returning to Ireland once more. He was then asked to spend the greater part of his time as the director of vocations for the Congregation. He continued this good work until about three years ago when his health began to fail and he moved to the Provincial House at Crumlin, Dublin.

A saintly man from his early days, Fr. Breen was a most popular man who made instant friendship wherever he went. He possessed a keen sense of humour and, at all times, maintained very close links with his family. He enjoyed excellent health until a few years ago and despite his years, thought nothing of travelling the length of Ireland to see his relations in Co. Fermanagh. He was one of a family of six, of whom he was pre-deceased by two brothers and a sister.

He was buried at Pallaskenry on May 31st, the Funeral Mass being attended by many Salesian priests and nuns and other clergy, including Mgr. Horan of Knock, where Fr. Breen often supplied.

MAY HIS FAITHFUL SOUL REST IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST.