



O'Malley Clan Association Monthly Newsletter

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2017

Just over a month to go to the Annual Rally!

There's just over a month to go to the Annual O'Malley Clan Rally in Claregalway, so if you've been meaning to book your place at the various events and just haven't gotten around to it, now's the time!

One of the highlights will be The Medieval Banquet on Saturday evening the 24th June in Claregalway Castle. There's a limit on tickets for this so if you're planning on attending please get your booking organised asap!

Also to note, the 2 Special early bird booking packages available on the website for online booking shut down at midnight on the 1st June, so get in early and don't be disappointed!



Get in touch and share your O'Malley Heritage!

Have you got an article or old photographs that you'd like to submit for future editions of "O Maille" The O'Malley Clan Association Newsletter.

We'd love to hear from you wherever you're based around the world. Old photographs and stories to go with them, old letters, family trees or just an arti-

cle that you'd like to share with the rest of the clan. Drop us a line and We'll get right to it!



Fr Padraig O'Malley R.I.P.

Fr Padraig O'Malley sadly passed away in March of this year.

Ordained in 1957 he worked on the missions first in Nigeria and then in Malawi for many years. He then led a very active retirement in Ireland, where he served until recently as the Honorary Consul of Malawi. Throughout his retirement he continued to write extensively. He spent the last couple of years in Kiltegan as an ever enthusiastic member of the community. May Pádraig rest in peace.



From Deportee to Honorary Consul!

Dr Jack Mapanje's tribute to Fr Pat O'Malley on his retirement as Consul of Malawi

Fr Patrick O'Malley (Pádraig Ó Máille) is retiring as Malawi's Honorary Consul to the Republic of Ireland. What will Malawians in Ireland do without this extraordinary Irish priest? Indeed why and how did Fr Pat, a one time deportee, become consul to an independent African country in this day and age? It's mind-boggling. Miss Happiness Mwase, the chairperson of the Association of Malawians in Ireland, invited me from England to attempt to explain.

Fr Pat, as we prefer to call him, was an Irish Language enthusiast as a young student at home, in Ireland. Later, as a young missionary priest, he found himself building and teaching at St Columbanus Secondary School, Ikwen in Nigeria. The Nigerian Civil War broke out. Fr Pat decided to experience another life in southern Africa.

In March 1970 he landed in northern Malawi, the heartland of the Scottish Presbyterian Church. He began to mingle with the locals and to immerse himself in chiTumbuka, the main language of the north. At first he marvelled at the audacity of his own homilies given in broken chiTumbuka. But in the tradition of St Patrick's Missionaries, he quickly learned the language and soon spoke it like a native!

After about seven years Fr Pat decided to fulfill what we jokingly called "the modern missionary role" – that is, the role of a missionary who wanted to be more useful and more relevant than hitherto to his newly adopted country. He moved south for that. A revolution against the country's dictator was brewing up there. Dr Hastings Kamuzu Banda had been imprisoning his own people. Political opponents and rebels of every shade were being detained without charge and without trial. At one point, government economists and university lecturers, mostly from the north, were the greatest victims. Fr Pat was provoked. This sounded like the Nigeria he had left behind.

Having studied African writing while in Nigeria, Fr Pat now decided to study Nigerian Literature more deeply in Malawi. An excellent dissertation on the writings of Nigeria's John Pepper Clark earned him a Masters degree from the University of Malawi and a teaching job in the Department of English, at Chancellor College. His salary may have been small; but the lecturers who were still in prison had found a true friend who spoke their language. And in the spirit of St Patrick's Missionaries, Fr Pat did not disappoint them. He religiously looked after their families until they were all released from prison.

From Deportee to Honorary Consul !

Fr Pat taught English and served as chaplain to the Catholic community. Out of the blue, a bombshell exploded. I was head of the Department of English at the time. I was arrested, detained and imprisoned without trial, without charge. The department and the college were in confusion. This is where Fr Pat showed his true colours. After quickly discovering the notorious prison in which I had been dumped and left incommunicado, Fr Pat dashed to nearby Zomba Catholic Secondary School, grabbed their phone and, ignoring the security services who listened in to all telephone conversations going outside the country, he spoke in Irish to a friend in Galway in the Republic of Ireland. The Special Branch tuned in were flabbergasted; they understood not a word!

But within hours of my arrest, world radio stations were broadcasting that a young African poet and academic had been abducted in Malawi. Fr Pat had asked his friend and neighbour Fr Leo Morahan in Rosmuc to tell my story to our mutual friend, Landeg White, at the University of York, in England. And Landeg White told the BBC, then PEN International, Amnesty International, Africa Watch, Human Rights Watch, and later Linguistics and Literature Associations in Africa, the Commonwealth and the world at large. And for the next four years while I remained in prison, Dr Banda and his government officials were embarrassed by the global protests they encountered from individuals and human rights organisations wherever they visited.

The surreptitious communication, which Fr Pat had begun with Malawian prisoners while we were still behind bars, continued in earnest once we were released. With David Kerr and Brown Mpangira, Fr Pat embarked on a project of conscientization: they circulated letters challenging the tyranny of the one-party state. With financial and logistical support from Bakiri M'luzi, they prepared the ground for the social and political eruptions that were to follow.

The churches joined in. The Malawi Catholic Bishops' Pastoral Letter appeared. Dr Banda's government least expected the serious and constructive criticism contained in the bishops' pastoral letter. Kamuzu was forced to hold a referendum on the issue of one-party government: he lost, and after a quarter century of one-party tyranny, democracy, in the shape of multiparty politics came to Malawi. General elections were held. The election results were astounding: Bakili Muluzi of the United Democratic Front won by a landslide. All along the Special Branch had been baffled. They had to find a scapegoat to report to their life president. They suspected Fr Pat's involvement. He continued to say Mass for his troubled adopted country. Eventually, after accusing him of fomenting opposition among his students at Chancellor College, they decided to act. As he was leaving the country for convalescence at home in Ireland from a serious illness, they declared him a 'prohibited immigrant' and deported him.

Fr Pat was still recovering from an illness that had suspicious origins – reliable doctors at the Seventh Day Adventist Hospital in Blantyre, where he had been admitted for weeks, feared that he had been poisoned. Fr Pat himself characteristically thought it was 'only' cerebral malaria. When Bakili Muluzi was sworn in as the second president of the Republic of Malawi, replacing Dr Kamuzu Banda, the country celebrated. Fr Pat's deportation was revoked. He visited Malawi as a guest of the nation. On his return to Ireland, Fr Pat was appointed Malawi Honorary Consul to the Republic of Ireland. And the University of Malawi showed their appreciation by awarding him an honorary Doctorate in Letters.

We all know Fr Pat's hard work as Consul; we remember his dedication to duty; we recall his help in organizing funerals in the community; when we required visas to continue our studies because the colleges that enrolled us had closed without notice, we loaded it on Fr Pat. Everyone just goes to him when they are in any trouble.

Since Bakili Muluzi's presidency Fr Pat has worked selflessly and tirelessly for Malawians in Ireland. Happiness Mwase and her committee, therefore, deserve our gratitude for organizing this party for his retirement. We should have given him a more glorious send off for saving the education and lives of hundreds of Malawians in Ireland. So Fr Pat thank you for a job well done



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The O'Malley Clan Association aims to reach out to O'Malleys from all around the world and foster links between the O'Malleys around the globe and the clan at home here in Ireland.

The Clan Association formed in 1953 has been connecting O'Malleys around the world in The US and Canada, Britain, Australia, South Africa, New Zealand, South America, and anywhere else you can think of for over 60 years now.

We hope with our new website, and newsletter, that We can go from strength to strength in our aim to connect all the O'Malleys around the world.

The O'Malley Clan Rally 23rd to 25th June 2017

The Annual O'Malley Clan Rally for 2017 takes place in beautiful **Claregalway**, County Galway on the weekend of the **23rd to 25th June 2017**. It'll be a fabulous weekend for O'Malleys from all over the globe. Highlights will include Medieval Banquet, Castle Experience, Abbey Visits, Talks and Tours, music, dancing, ceol agus craic!

It's time to begin planning your trip, there's only just a month to go!!!.

The full programme of events is up on the website and you can book online there too!, We hope to see you all there.

If you need any help with planning your trip, Or with further information on the Annual Rally, drop us a line by email (the address is at the top of this page), and We'll get back to you right away!

