

OBLATE CONNECTIONS

May 2026 | Nº68

CELEBRATING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE APPROVAL OF
THE OBLATE CONSTITUTIONS
AND RULES

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200 YEARS
CONSTITUTIONS AND RULES
1826 – 2026

OMI
The Missionary Oblates
of Mary Immaculate

Pope Leo greets members of the OMI Community in the Vatican on February 17th 2025, the 200th Anniversary of the approval of the Oblate Constitutions and rules. © Vatican Media

CONNECTIONS

This year, we are remembering and celebrating the 17 February in 1826 when Pope Leo XII formally approved our Constitutions and Rules, and we became The Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. The word 'oblate' or 'oblation' means gift or offering. We are called to offer ourselves to God as Mary did.

When Eugene heard that our Rule had been accepted, he wrote, 'May we really understand who and what we are! I hope the Lord will grant us this grace with the help and protection of our holy Mother Mary.' (1826) Our current Constitutions remind us that Mary Immaculate is patroness of our Congregation... she received Jesus in order to share him with the whole world, whose hope he is.' (C.10).

We are not only called to honour or even worship Mary, we are asked to follow her radical example and faith in God. She said 'yes' to what God asked of her everyday of her life. She followed Jesus from her initial Annunciation and walked with him during his public ministry. She saw him being betrayed and denied. Finally, she saw him being crucified, die and being buried. We are told in the Acts of the Apostles that she was waiting and praying with followers of Jesus before Pentecost. She was present when they were all filled with power of the Holy Spirit and the missionary church burst into existence. Mary Immaculate is truly Mother of the Oblate Family and the Church.

In every sense of the phrase, Mary was a 'missionary disciple'.

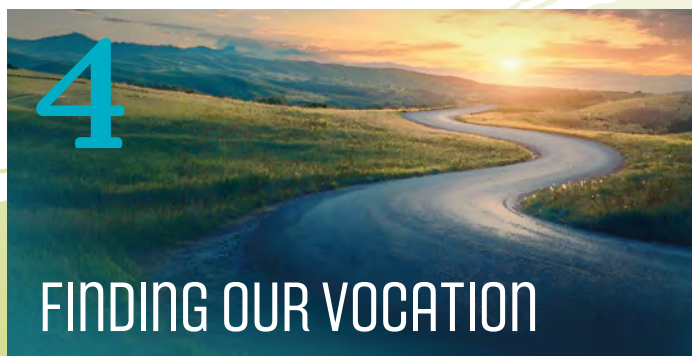
She received Jesus in order to share him with the world. As Oblates and members of the growing worldwide Oblate family, we are called to follow Mary's example. God calls each of us today by our name saying, 'Do not be afraid, I call you by your name.' (Is. 42.1). And having been called personally by God, we are sent to share Jesus with the world as Mary did. Through the quality of our daily lives, through what we say, what we do and how we treat others, we are called to follow Jesus and bear witness to him as Mary has shown us.

Like Mary, we too have received and experienced Jesus, may we also share him with the world today.

May Mary our Mother help us to celebrate this Jubilee year with joy, faith, courage and a renewed sense of missionary purpose.

Praise be Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate.

- Br. Michael Moore, OMI



FINDING OUR VOCATION



MARKING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF CONSTITUTIONS AND RULES IN ROME



200 YEAR CELEBRATIONS ACROSS THE PROVINCE



PROMOTING & NURTURING VOCATIONS TO THE OBLATE WAY OF LIFE



CHARTING NEW PATHWAYS FOR OBLATE LAITY

A word from Fr. Lorcan O'Reilly, OMI

St Eugene lived through a time after the French Revolution, when the world around him was being shaken and remade. The past was often dismissed, while the future was entrusted to new ideas and ideologies that claimed to be more realistic and more relevant than the wisdom of the Gospel. It is not difficult to hear echoes of that same spirit in our own day, as we see many of the values that once guided society being questioned or set aside.



Yet St Eugene held firmly to one truth: that Jesus Christ remains the hope of every age. He knew that faith is never a relic of the past, but a living gift, renewing the heart and drawing us again into the love of God. He believed that within the life of the Church, people could find healing, purpose, and the courage to begin again.

That conviction still speaks to us today. In a world marked by conflict and division, the Gospel continues to offer light and peace. We see this clearly in the witness of Pope Leo, whose continued calls for peace reminds us that Christ's voice still speaks gently but powerfully in our wounded and at times hostile world.

This year, the Feast of St Eugene invites us to reflect in three ways. First, it begins our annual novena of prayer for Oblate vocations, encouraging us to pray with hope for those who will continue Eugene's mission among the poor. Second, because his own family life knew suffering, St Eugene remains a source of comfort for wounded families and for all who carry the pain of broken relationships. Finally, his feast invites each of us to walk more closely with Jesus and to share the Good News in the ordinary places of our daily lives.

In a troubled world, St Eugene reminds us that hope is never lost when it is placed in Christ. Even in difficult times, God is present. He is still calling, still healing, still leading us forward in faith.

- Fr. Lorcan O'Reilly, OMI
Province Leader

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FINDING OUR VOCATION

– Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Many of us are familiar with a famous line from C.S. Lewis who, when writing about his conversion to Christianity, shared that he was “the most reluctant convert in the history of Christendom.” When he first knelt down it wasn’t with enthusiastic fervour, but with the sense that this was something he had to do. What gave him this sense?

His words: [I knelt down against my resistance] because I had come to realise that God’s compulsion is our liberation.

What’s God’s compulsion? It’s the deep irrepressible moral sense we have inside that tells us what we must do rather than what we want to do. And this can be very helpful in finding our vocation and place in life.

What is a vocation, and how do we find ours?

A vocation, as David Brooks suggests, is an irrational factor wherein you hear an inner voice that is so strong that it becomes unthinkable to turn away and where you intuitively know that you don’t have a choice, but can only ask yourself, what is my responsibility here?

That’s the story of my own vocation to the priesthood and religious life, and I share it here not because it is in any way special; it isn’t. It’s ordinary, one among millions. I share it with the hope that it might help someone else discern his or her vocation in life. Here’s my story.

I grew up in a Catholic culture which at that time basically asked every boy and girl to consider whether he or she was being called to the vowed religious life and/or to the priesthood. I heard this explicitly from my parents and from the Ursuline nuns who taught me in school, and I heard it in the ethos of Roman Catholic culture at the time.

But I always felt a strong resistance inside. This is not what I wanted to do with my life! I did not want to be a Catholic priest. I nursed this resistance through my high school years and graduated with the intention of going to university, ideally to become a psychologist. But a voice in me would not stay quiet.

I spent the summer after graduation from high school working on two farms, our own and one of our neighbour’s. Mostly I worked outside, often alone, on a tractor for long hours working in a field. And in those long hours God’s compulsion began to wear away at my resistance. The idea that I was called to become a priest simply would not be silenced, though I tried. I remember one particular afternoon while working alone on a tractor, I tried to push the thought out of my head by singing out loud, but God’s voice isn’t shut out that easily.

This came to a head in late summer, just two weeks before I was scheduled to go off to university. I came home one evening after working another solitary afternoon on a tractor. My parents weren’t home so I tried to distract myself by tossing a football around with my younger brother. Peace didn’t come then. It came later as I was going to bed, after I had made the decision to pursue becoming a priest. I shared my decision with my mother and father in the morning. They smiled, and took me to see our local parish priest, a Missionary Oblate of Mary Immaculate.

In fairness, the priest told me that, while he was an Oblate, there were other options for me, such as becoming a diocesan priest or a Jesuit. I chose the Oblates because they were what I knew and because I already had an older brother in the order. Two weeks later I was in the Oblate novitiate – as one of the most reluctant novices in the history of the Oblates!

But from day one, it was right. I knew it was where I was called to be. That was sixty years ago and, whatever the struggles I’ve had in my priesthood, I have never doubted that this was my vocation – the priesthood and the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

And God, life, ministry, and the Oblates have been life-giving beyond what I deserve. Ministry has been grace-filled beyond measure and the Oblates have given me healthy community, exceptional educational opportunities, a series of wonderful ministries, and a pride in our congregation’s charism to serve the poor.

“I have never doubted that this was my vocation – the priesthood and the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate.”

Sixty years in this vocation and I have only this to say: Thank you God, for taking me where I didn't want to go.

I made that choice at the age of seventeen. Today our culture would say that such a decision cannot be made with sufficient maturity and clarity at so

tender an age. Well, I have never seriously doubted my choice, and I look back on it now as the clearest, most unselfish, and life-giving decision I have ever made. That's my story, but there are many life-giving stories different from mine. God's compulsion has an infinite variety of modalities.

Upcoming Events for Oblate Youth



Summer Adventure Camp

Join us this August for an exciting Summer Adventure Camp, taking place from 10th–14th in Lilliput, County Westmeath. Open to young people aged 11–14, this camp promises a fun-filled experience of outdoor activities, friendship and faith. Participants are welcome from across the province.

Lourdes Pilgrimage 2026

The Lourdes Pilgrimage will take place from 12th–19th September. Young people aged 17 and over are invited to take part in the Oblate Youth Service, offering a meaningful opportunity for faith, service and community.

Flame 2027

Looking ahead, FLAME will be held in March 2027 at Wembley, London. This inspiring gathering will serve as an important step in preparation for World Youth Day 2027 in Seoul.



GET INVOLVED

If you are interested in participating in any of these events, or would like more information, please contact:

Director of Oblate Youth Ministry,
Padraig Corcoran, at
p.corcoran@oblates.ie.

MARKING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF CONSTITUTIONS AND RULES IN ROME



In the days of February 15 to 21 the Congregation celebrated a very important event in its history, namely the 200th anniversary of the papal approbation of its Constitutions and Rules by Pope Leo XII on February 17, 1826, to which I, for some unknown reason to me, was invited by Fr. General, for which I'm deeply honoured and grateful. Besides myself, Fr. General personally invited many other Oblates from around the world.

Why is this event so important? Two reasons. First of all, the Congregation was recognised by the Church's highest authority as being for the universal Church, not just a local Church. And secondly, the Church's recognition that the Constitutions and Rules lead its members to the fullness of holiness. There is also a third reason and that is, celebrating the 200th mark is a powerful sign of the Congregation's spiritual strength.

I will not go into detail of the celebrations, but refer to Fr. Bonga Majola OMI's article on the Vatican News website. (To get the article search for Bonga Majola, OMI.) He gives an excellent description of the all the celebrations during that week in February. However, there are two events, that he does not mention in his article and they are: after the Mass with Cardinal Tagle on the 17th, a very festive meal was enjoyed, and the other was an audience with Pope Leo XIII in the forenoon of Saturday the 21st. This was a very worthy and blessed event to end the solemn celebration of the 200th anniversary of the papal approval of our Constitutions and Rules.

I will also refer to the article "a-week-of-prayer-and-remembrance-in-rome" at <https://oblates.ie>. Although the article was written as a preparation for the 200th anniversary of the papal approval of the Constitutions and Rules, it gives an accurate insight and content of the week's celebrations.

Reflecting on the week in Rome, I was grateful to again experience of the General House after more than 20 years. I was especially happy to meet the General Administration and many Oblates from around the world. A few I knew, but most I did not. I really felt at home, in a group of brothers, happy to see and be with each other. It was edifying to meet so many from the African and Southeast Asian countries. The Oblates are really strong there and are growing, and this fills me with hope for the future of the Congregation. But that for which I am most grateful was the celebration itself. I became more aware of how blessed I am to be an Oblate of Mary Immaculate. Experiencing St. Eugene's and the founding Oblates' deep spirituality and absolute trust in God, strengthened my conviction that the Congregation is truly a work of the Holy Spirit, and its Constitutions and Rules are a genuine guide to true holiness.





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Message to The Charismatic Family on The Bicentenary

“ Let us be transformed by the Spirit, following the inspirations of our CC and RR. “Do this and you will live,” it was told to us. Do this, and you will renew our family, do this, and you will live in prophetic communities, do this, and you will proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to the poor. ”

– Luis Ignacio Rois Alonso, OMI
Superior General



During the three months St. Eugene was living at San Silvestro, anxiously awaiting the outcome of the papal approval process, he was able to meet with Pope Leo XII at the Quirinale Palace, which was the pope's residence at the time. (Today it's the residence of Italy's president.) The pope told him that he only blessed the new religious communities, not approve them. But St. Eugene didn't let this remark discourage him. He kept on speaking with the pope, and after a while the pope sensed that St. Eugene and his little community were not just an ordinary, pious community, but were indeed an instrument of the Holy Spirit being given to the Church to carry out its mission of the bringing the Gospel of salvation to all the world. He told this to the cardinals, who were studying St. Eugene's Constitutions for Rules. As we know, the cardinals recommended to the pope to approve them, and this was done on February 17th, 1826, with the name of Oblates of Mary Immaculate, a name the pope himself gave St. Eugene's little community.

Fr. Frank Santucci OMI, the superior of the General House and his staff and all Oblates living in there, made me feel very welcome and at home with their hospitality. I'm truly grateful to them. Yes, it was a gift from God given through Fr. General to appreciate and strengthen me in the religious vocation of an Oblate of Mary Immaculate.

– Paul Marx OMI (Denmark)



200 YEAR CELEBRATIONS



Anglesey

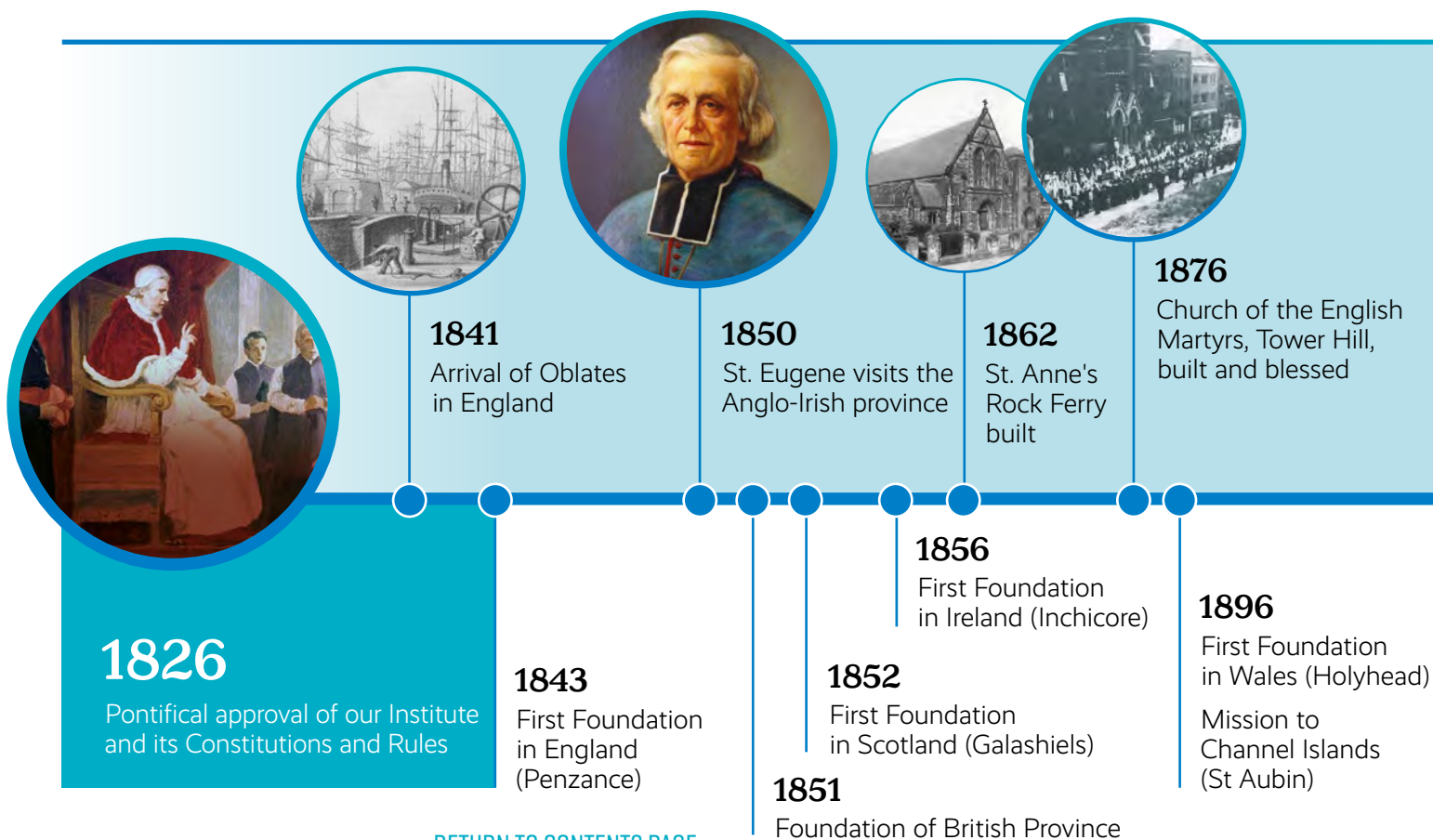
Commemoration of the 200th Anniversary in Anglesey. People from all six churches gathered in Holyhead for a Thanksgiving Mass, followed by cakes, tea, coffee, and light refreshments in the halls. The people expressed their deep gratitude for all that the Oblates have done for the island. We all thank the Lord for giving us the opportunity to live out the Oblate charism.



Colwyn Bay

Celebrations were held in Colwyn Bay to mark our 200 anniversary of our Oblate Constitutions and Rules. Fr Lorcán O'Reilly OMI (Provincial) and Fr Vimal Parunanthu OMI celebrated Mass and also welcomed 8 new members to the Friends of Saint Eugene Group as they made their first commitments. Followed by a buffet and cake in the parish community centre to celebrate as a community.

200 Years of Growth and Service in Our Communities

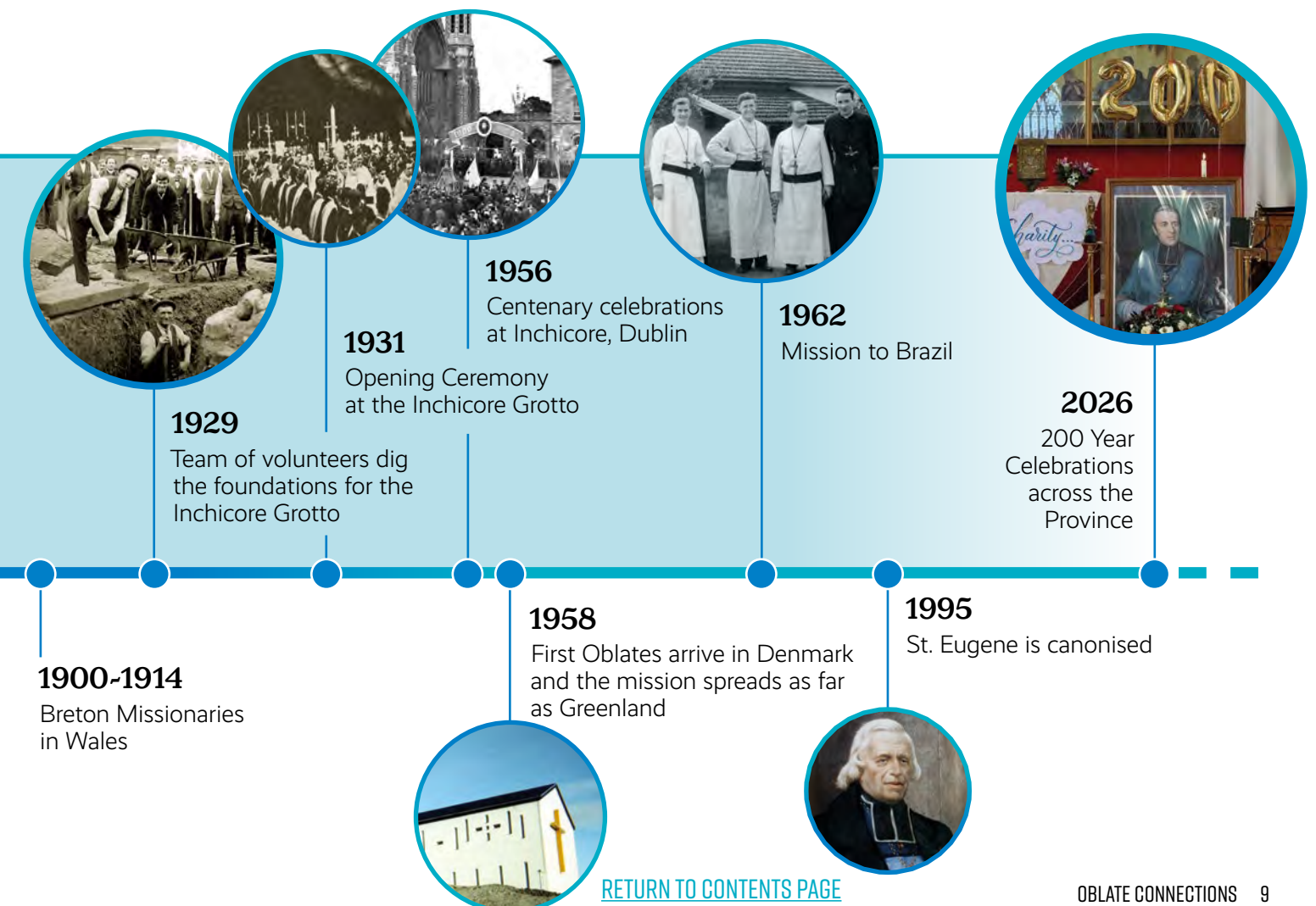


ACROSS THE PROVINCE

Friends of St Eugene

During weekends in February 2026 members from Oblate parishes of Colwyn Bay and Kilburn as well as former Oblate parishes of Crewe and Birmingham took a significant step of faith by enrolling themselves as new Friends of St Eugene for the first time as well as to renew their annual commitments. These joyful promises were received across the various locations by Fr. Lorcan O'Reilly OMI (Provincial), Fr. Oliver Barry OMI (Wistaston Hall, Crewe) and Fr. Tom Devereux OMI (Parish Priest, Kilburn), while the Nunhead Friends chose to make their commitment at Lourdes in keeping with their annual service there. Each celebration concluded with fellowship and plenty of refreshments, embodying the ideal of being 'one heart and one soul' for the Oblate mission. Finally, my deepest appreciation to all our FoSE members as well as to my colleagues whose quiet steadfast commitment continues to inspire us to live the Oblate spirit through our daily lives and draws us closer to the Risen Christ.

– Kirk Jacob, Friends of St. Eugene Co-ordinator





Kilburn

The Oblate Parishes of Kilburn wished the Oblates a very happy Feast day of the 200 year anniversary of Rules and Constitutions, thanking them for their missionary zeal, service, and perseverance. On the first Sunday of Lent at the 12pm Mass in Sacred Heart Church Kilburn, celebrations in honour of the 200th Anniversary of the approval of the Oblate Constitution and Rules continued, and members of the Kilburn Friends of Saint Eugene group made and renewed their commitment in the presence of the parish community to living the Oblate Charism for the coming year.



Darndale

On Sunday February 15th our parish community gathered for Holy Mass with our First Holy Communion children, along with their parents, families and parishioners. Afterwards we shared refreshments a beautiful celebration cake in honour of this milestone for the Oblates!



Crewe

On the eve of the Feast Day, the Oblates from Wales joined the team at the Oblate Retreat Centre in Wistaston Hall, Crewe, for a heartfelt and celebratory renewal of their Oblate vows.



House of Retreat

In preparation for the 200th anniversary, we started a reflection group in the community before Christmas, meeting on a weekly basis to reflect and pray on one Constitution per week. It was a very rich experience and was greatly appreciated by all who participated. We decided to continue to meet weekly and this is ongoing. On the day itself, the Oblates in Ireland gathered for Mass in the House of Retreat, followed by a celebration meal.

Tower Hill Mission

Our 200th Celebration of Thanksgiving for the Oblates at Tower Hill Mission was a joyful and deeply meaningful occasion, shared in front of students from the Catholic Chaplaincy. The celebration was made even more special with the renewal of vows by Fr Eduardo Nunez OMI at English Martyrs and Fr Irvin Morastil OMI at Queen Mary University, offering a powerful witness of faith, commitment, and service to the young people gathered. Together, we gave thanks for the past 200 years and renewed our hope and dedication for the mission ahead.



Leith

The Anniversary was celebrated within the context of the Mass and we invited people into the hall afterwards to enjoy Oblate hospitality.



PROMOTING & NURTURING VOCATIONS TO THE OBLATE WAY OF LIFE

Photo by Romauld Tiangco

In his Letter for the Bicentennial of the Pontifical Approval of our Congregation last February 17, 2026, Father General mentioned: “Recognising that the charism is a gift from God moves us to work with greater passion & effectiveness for the cultivation of new vocations for all forms of charismatic life. We must also help one another to be formed in the charism that inspires us so that we can serve together in the mission with the poor. I invite everyone to renew our vocational ministry from this perspective. I make a specific appeal to promote and nurture vocations to the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, which is, from the beginning, the historical ecclesial body through which the charism has been channelled to this day.”

This coming 21st of May (Feast Day of St Eugene de Mazenod) until the 29th of May (Feast Day of Blessed Joseph Gerard), we do again our Annual Novena of Prayer for Oblate Vocations.

On this Year of Grace, commemorating the 200th Anniversary of our Pontifical Approbation, with renewed fervour, let us once again unite our minds and hearts to pray for Vocations to our Oblate way of life.

The same OMI Constitutions and Rules have it speaking to us:

“The apostolate of vocations concerns all Oblates.” (R53a)

Jesus never ceases to call people to follow Him... We will pray and have others pray that the Lord send labourers into his harvest.” (C52)

“Christian families, youth groups and Christian communities, provide a favourable environment for the growth of vocations.” (C53)

**“...we can serve together
in the mission with
the poor.”**



As an Oblate Vocations Director, I can attest and confirm some signs and fruits of our constant prayers and sacrifices for Oblate Vocations. It may be some small signs only and also with a slow process and progress, but like seeds being planted on the ground, it will eventually grow and bear fruit in due time.

May God bless and grant success to the works of our hands! (Psalm 90:17)

– Irvin Morastil, OMI
Vocations Director, Anglo-Irish / Denmark Province



Charting New Pathways for Oblate Laity

At the end of January this year, about 36 people gathered at the Oblate Retreat Centre in Crewe for a weekend of input, reflection, and discussion, all built around the theme: “Charting New Pathways for Oblate Laity.” This group comprised five vowed Oblates, two religious sisters and the rest were lay people. And to leave it there, and say the rest were “lay people” doesn’t really tell the full story; there was a common thread that held all of us together – we were, and are, all members of the Oblate Charismatic Family, a term that describes us all as a family, of vowed and lay. In truth, we could easily have had twice that number in Crewe. If so, why did we not? Because we had reached the capacity for Crewe.

It might be appropriate if we were to wind the clock back a little and see how we all ended up there on that weekend. We could choose more than one starting point – the launch of the Partners in Mission team fifteen years ago and pioneering work of that team. Perhaps a more immediate reference is the Second Oblate Lay Associates Congress that brought together Oblates, lay and vowed all around the world – online and in-person - at the end of May 2022 sharing, listening, and celebrating what it is to live as an Oblate.

This led into the General Chapter of September 2022 (an assembly of the leadership of the entire Oblate Congregation from all parts of the world). Some key decisions emerged that described the role of lay people, their relationship with the Congregation, and how that relationship would be promoted, nourished and, supported. Real, concrete actions!

Following this, a significant review of the work of the Oblates across England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, and Denmark took place in the context that the needs of yesteryear are not the needs of today. Part of this was an in-depth engagement with lay people throughout the Province. Emerging from this, a document entitled, “Directions, Priorities, Actions” was produced by the Provincial Council, and of the three priorities set out in that document, “Collaboration with Laity” was one.

The Provincial document sets out what is intended by this priority and could be summarised as follows:

That collaboration is rooted primarily at local level, where faith communities are called to witness to this mission by developing vision statements shaped by Church teaching and recent chapter directives on lay involvement. At provincial level, the focus is on strengthening formation programmes, especially in servant leadership and the Oblate charism, updating existing initiatives, and encouraging wider lay participation through accessible opportunities and financial support.





“That short time in Crewe was very special, and this was clear to the team as the weekend progressed.”

To advance this mission, new structures will be established to support lay collaboration, including the appointment of a Coordinator of Lay Participation and team, along with strengthened adult faith-formation resources. The document also highlights the importance of building strong relationships with those employed in ministry, promoting shared formation and mutual support.

The Province affirms and encourages groups such as the Friends of St Eugene, promotes broader participation in key events and celebrations, and seeks to sustain engagement through follow-up initiatives and ongoing formation across the Province.

As part of bringing this priority to life, a new team has been created – the Lay Collaboration Team – which is made up of myself as Coordinator of Lay Participation for the Province, with Pauline Thomas as Assistant Coordinator, and with Kirk Jacob and Dawn Benbow being the other members of the team.

That short time in Crewe was very special, and this was clear to the team as the weekend progressed. The conversations and the sharings were deep, personal, and imbued with motivation and enthusiasm to accept the challenge offered to each of us as set out in the priority of the Province of collaboration with laity.

We have an exciting road ahead. To paraphrase a mantra used in an election campaign quite a few years ago, “there is much done, and more to do.” The Collaboration Team is a service to the Province as a whole and most importantly, is a service to the lay people of this Province who are engaged in so many ministries and expressions of lay commitment and acceptance of the vocational call to be lay.





A Workshop on “Caring

The teaching of Pope Francis defines that “Care for creation is not just an ecological issue, but a moral and spiritual responsibility.” – the teaching of Pope Francis

The world we inhabit is a shared home, entrusted not only to humanity but to all living creatures. As we benefit from the resources of the earth, we are equally called to safeguard it for future generations. Caring for creation, therefore, is not optional—it is a responsibility that calls for awareness, commitment, and a deeper understanding of the world around us.

With this vision, the JPIC Commission has been actively organising seminars at the parish level, encouraging people to develop a renewed mindset towards caring for our common home. These gatherings provide space for reflection, learning, and practical engagement with ecological responsibility rooted in faith.

A recent workshop on “Caring for Creation” was held at the Oblate House of Retreat in Inchicore, Dublin. The session was led by Jane Mallett and Roisin from Trócaire, whose experience and dedication brought

both depth and inspiration to the day. Parishioners from Our Lady of the Wayside (Bluebell), the Oblates Church of Mary Immaculate (Inchicore), and St. Michael’s Parish (Inchicore) participated with great interest and enthusiasm.

The workshop offered a valuable opportunity to pause, reflect, and rediscover the spiritual dimension of caring for creation. Participants were invited to see ecological responsibility not merely as an environmental concern, but as a path towards inner and communal transformation. For many, it became a moment of awakening—leading towards what can be described as a genuine spiritual conversion.

Special thanks go to Willie for his efforts in organising this meaningful initiative in the Inchicore area, and to all who continue to support and promote this important mission.

Through such initiatives, the JPIC Commission continues to remind us that caring for our common home is both a shared duty and a sacred calling.

– Vimal Parunanthu

An Old Man's Thoughts on a May Evening

- Walking along the banks of the Crana River

When you have harrowed what I have ploughed,
You will indeed have earned your wage;
When you have walked the road I have trod
Then you will have come a long way,
Blessed, like me, with a long and happy day.

Years come and go with dizzying speed.
Trees blossom and seed across the
Seasons of a lifetime,
Thrilling our senses with all that's happening,
The beauty and the busyness of life.

Until with heavier step we make our way
Back to the hearth,
There to pray in gratitude and love
To God Unseen who reigns;
To sit in peaceful sweet content
As the world is buffeted by storms.

Any old man's prayer as he shuffles back
Through the labyrinth of memory.
Too many years have flashed by with too little time
To sit in peaceful contemplation.
So many responsibilities, so much to be done!

But now, listening to the past, you will hear
Beautiful echoes of your generosity, kindness... ,
Now too you will hear unspoken gratitude
For all your sacrifice, your support.
Time moulds us to appreciate and enjoy so much that
Was missed in the busy years.

It's time to roll back the tapestry of life,
To drink deeply of its beauty and sweetness,
To discover again what made you into
The lovable person you are today.

– Wm McGonagle, OMI
May 2006



for Creation”

MINDFULNESS SEMINAR

“The present moment is filled with joy and happiness. If you are attentive, you will see it,” teaches Thich Nhat Hanh. In a similar spirit, Jon Kabat-Zinn defines mindfulness as “paying attention in a particular way: on purpose, in the present moment, and nonjudgmentally.”

Mindfulness invites us to live fully in the present—with awareness, openness, and peace. At its heart lie simple yet profound attitudes: awareness of the present moment, acceptance without judgment, attentive focus, inner balance, and compassionate self-understanding.

Recognising its importance in today’s fast-paced world, the JPIC Commission has begun organising mindfulness seminars across our parishes. The initiative first took root in Colwyn Bay, where a one-day seminar was followed by a full series, drawing many parishioners eager to deepen their understanding.

More recently, the programme reached Kilburn Parish in central London, where around 35 participants engaged actively. Their thoughtful questions and keen interest reflected a deeper search for peace and meaning—something many desire, yet often struggle to cultivate in daily life. The seminar provided practical insights into calming the mind and embracing the present moment.

The sessions were led by Liz Lord, a tutor from Oxford University and an experienced educator. Her clarity, warmth, and engaging approach made the theme accessible and inspiring for all.

These seminars continue to remind us that amidst life’s pressures, learning to be present is not only relevant—but essential.

– Vimal Parunanthu

JPIC ZOOM SEMINAR

A SERIES OF ONLINE WORKSHOPS

Caring More Deeply For Our Common Home

INSPIRED BY LAUDATO SI
7.00PM – 8.30 PM



Conducted by Laudato Si promoter
– Jane Mellett

Organised by
Oblate JPIC Commission



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