

## Fr . Eugene – An Obituary

Fr. Eugene was born on the 26<sup>th</sup> May 1933. A native of Co. Longford, the family moved to Dublin when he was a young child. While in St. Mel's college he became aware of his calling in life and followed that calling and he entered Clonliffe College where he was Ordained in 1958.

His first posting was as a Chaplain to the Dominican Convent Sion Hill. He transferred to Clonskeagh in 1959. He went to Sean McDermott Street as a Curate in 1963. He was transferred to University College Dublin as a Chaplain in 1964. He then took up duty as a Chaplain to the Teresian Institute, but he returned to parish work as a Curate in Crumlin in 1967. He transferred to Celbridge in 1972 before being transferred to Ballygall in 1981 until his transfer to Laurel Lodge as Parish Priest in 1985. He retired in 2006.

The first residents in Laurel Lodge moved into their homes in 1979. Fr. Eugene arrived in Laurel Lodge as Parish Priest in 1985. He had about 5 acres of unkempt grass and a pre-fabricated building that had seen service as a church in many previous parishes. On the

upside, work on a new school was underway and the pupils of Scoil Thomais would no longer have to be bussed to spare classrooms in Hartstown. In 1989 Eugene set about building a parish church. He gathered together a group of parishioners and set up a Parish Finance Committee to assist in the building of a new church. That church was completed and officially opened and consecrated on the 6<sup>th</sup> June 1993. A community centre was built and completed two years later.

In 2003 Fr. Eugene and Fr. Dan Joe among others saw the need for a hospice. They met with some local people and St. Francis Hospice Dublin 15 Committee was founded. The new St. Francis Hospice Blanchardstown became fully operational in 2014. During that time the Dublin 15 Committee had raised more than seven million euro thanks to the generosity of the people in the locality and further afield.

Fr Eugene will be remembered as a hard worker, a strong motivator an eloquent preacher with a sense of humour, a kind approachable man who listened but never judged. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dilis.

Jim Lacey