The people of Dunganrun and District were deeply saddened on Wednesday last when they heard the news of the passing of Very Rev Pat Moran, OSA, Limerick and formerly of St. Augustine’s College, Dunganrun after a short illness which he bore bravely and with eternal calm and his eternal good humour.

One of the best known and best loved members of the Clergy to serve in Dunganrun, Fr. Pat, as he affectionately known in his communities and among his thousands of pupils, was a native of Coughat, Co. Tipperary, a fact he never lost in his work but bore tirelessly and effectively in all three counties in which he served.

Chief Concelebrant at his Requiem Mass in his home Parish of Ballybacron Grange, at which more than thirty priests attended, were Very Rev Fr. John Henney, OSA, Provincial, Very Rev. Gerry Horan, OSA, Former Provincial, his cousin, Very Rev. Ben Moran, OP, as well as Very Rev. Mt. Breton and Very Rev. Brennan, both of whom were ordained with him. His other clausman, Very Rev. John O’Caoif, OSA was unable to be present on the sad occasion.

In his homily, the Provincial of the Order, Fr. John Henney led the tributes, a fine servant to the people and a leader of the Church. He spoke of how Fr. Moran would be remembered by those who were close to him at his Religious Community, his family and his colleagues in education and the parishes in which he served.

"To forget is to die twice." As members of a religious Order we are blessed to have two families to belong to, those of birth and those by vocation. Those birth family, who gave us life, shaped and nurtured every aspect of our being and our vocations, and support us in our good and our bad times. They influence how we live life and for the most part they are with us all our lives. It is our faith that our vocation exists to be the second family we also ever can. And so our dearest sympathy and thoughts are with you his brothers and sisters, James, Nora, John and Mary. His brother in law and sisters in law, his nieces and nephews, (of whom he always spoke with the greatest pride and affection) and grand nieces and grand nephews. You grew up with him and loved him from start and together with your parents and the local community in Ballybacron you shaped Pat and encouraged and supported him in his decision to dedicate his life to the service of the Church. In our Order, the Order of Saint Augustine, we are truly one family and with you we grieve today that his time here is over and his presence among us is no more.

Fr. Henney also referred to the great numbers who had turned out the previous day in Limerick, where the Funeral Mass for Fr. Pat ‘a person whom they greatly respected and admired’.

A well earned tribute was paid to him by the Chairman of the Ballybacron / Grace GAA Club, Jackie Walsh whose members he had served as Coach and mentor for over thirty years and who won a County Championship under his guidance.

Mr. Walsh spoke of the encouragement and discipline he instilled in all the players he coached and of the new methods he introduced like the videoing of matches which would have been reviewed the following Tuesday night at training.

Under his leadership, the Club prospered and established a solid reputation as well as winning County honours.

"Even in his final weeks," said Mr. Walsh, "Fr. Pat attended the training and watched the progress of those whom he inspired to come into the sport.

As well as his GAA duties, the Tuesday visit also encompassed his late mother and other members of the family.

On both days of the funeral the Ballybacron Grange Club made extensive preparations for traffic control and safety as well as undertaking the major task of serving refreshments to the thousands who came to pay their respects.

Fr. Moran attended Secondary School in St. Augustine’s College, Dunganrun, and on completing his Leaving Cert in 1961 entered the Augustinian Novitiate in Orlagh, Co. Dublin.

He was Simply Professed in September, 1962 after which he studied Philosophy in Ballyboden for two years, going on to Sollemn Profession in 1964. He earned his BA Degree at UCD in 1967, after which, as one of six Irish Augustinians he left to study in the St. Monica’s International College in Rome for Theology.

In 1970, he was Ordained to the Priesthood by Bishop Michael Russell along with Fr. Michael Breton, Fr. John Daly and Fr. Brendan McDonnell. He spent the next year at Mount Oliver’s in Dundalk studying Catechetics, followed by a year in John’s Lane from where he studied for a H. Dip in UCD. He was subsequently appointed as a teacher in St. Augustine’s College in 1972.

Within five years, he was asked to accept the great responsibility of Principal of what was then, and for many years after, a boarding school with two hundred residential students as well as another three hundred day boys.

Fr. Pat would go on to serve a record twenty-eight years as Principal of the College, overseeing its smooth transition to a co-educational school and welcoming an ever-growing enrolment of girls, in whom he saw educational, sporting and social potential.

When retirement came it was after an exceptionally long term as Principal, a duration during which schools and colleges may never see again. As a teacher and Principal, he enjoyed a close and cordial relationship with his fellow staff whose interests he also held as a priority. He was dedicated to the welfare of his students and his philosophy was to give them, in association with the staff, a comprehensive education, embracing the spiritual, the academic and the physical. He encouraged the weaker students to achieve their ability, as well as those who were academically strong.

Under his leadership the College continued to operate a policy of open admission, with places being allocated on a first come, first served basis.

He also took a strong interest in the sporting programme of the school and in his time, due to the excellent Coaches and athletes, St. Augustine’s was recognised as a premier school for sporting achievement and won the coveted College of Science Cup. The College team also benefited from his shrewd assessment of play, his natural gift of leadership, his considerable managerial ability. His leadership is strongly maintained among the present academic staff, Coaches and administrative staff.

His proximity to home allowed him to stay in close contact with his family and he maintained a close relationship with the several generations, all of whom held him in high esteem and looked forward to his regular visits which were enhanced by his sense of humour.

There is hardly a sports or social organisation which could not cite an activity which has not at some time benefited from Mr. Pat’s support in some form or another.

In Dunganrun he was integral to the formation of the County’s Sports Awards Scheme in conjunction with the Park Hotel, Dunganrun. This scheme has served as a beacon of light to the hundreds of young people and their coaches who have gained from it.

In his last weeks in the College, he was always a helping hand and he often went further than the extra mile. He was a hard worker and an extra miles. He was a hard worker and an extra participator. He was especially mindful of those around him who had suffered bereavement. He was one of the last to know of his caring, his generosity, his concern and his Christianity, which was the hallmark of his life and his philosophy, a belief he lived to the end.

In his years at Duckpool, the College organised a very popular Parents’ Dinner Dance which at several hundred attended, cementing his position in the community between College and home.

In his time the College was the host to the Northern Ireland Social Studies Conference where the controversial Northern Ireland Easter Rising was held. This Head of the Orange Order, Mr. Johnことができます Distillates during the difficult years of the Northern conflict.

The College welcomed sporting organisations, local, county and sometimes national, especially his beloved GAA, and for over thirty years the National Basketball Camp was held there drawing many from the far corners of the Island. It was a true haven of welcome.

He also lent his considerable coaching talents to the young hurling teams of his native parish, which he showed for over thirty years travelled there every Tuesday evening without warning to train, help discipline and encourage his young charges. The effects of this training were witnessed as successive young players right up to their senior years.

He was especially missed by his brothers James and John and his sisters Nora and Margaret.

Many other tributes have been and will be paid to the late Fr. Pat at this sad time, an extremely likeable and good deeds and his amiable personality reached out to a very wide circle of friends and his friends during his long and fruitful priesthood and career as teacher and Principal.