

THE PROVINCE OF THE VENERABLE BEDE

125 YEAR REVIEW



L I M I T E D E D I T I O N



Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God



Contents

WecomePage 3

Introduction.....Page 4

The Early Days.....Page 6

A New Century Begins.....Page 8

The Foundation ExpandsPage 10

Carnage in Europe.....Page 12

Spartan Lives.....Page 14

The Good Work Continues.....Page 16

Years of Grim Austerity.....Page 18

The Hospital GrowsPage 20

Female Nurses at Scorton.....Page 22

Queen Elizabeth silver jubilee Wing.....Page 24

A Pastoral Presence.....Page 26

New Ways of Supporting People.....Page 28

The New Millennium.....Page 30

Epilogue.....Page 32

List of Provincials.....Page 34

Hospitaller BrothersPage 35

List of services.....Page 36

Thanks for the Memories.....Page 38

First Provincial.....Page 40

The Founder.....Page 42



Welcome

We hope you will enjoy this publication - an overview of the history of the family of Saint John of God in Great Britain since our Hospitaller Brothers arrived at Scorton in North Yorkshire in 1880. Religious life and the life of our services have changed dramatically in 125 years and we aim to give a flavour of this throughout.

Brother John Martin, OH

Introduction

The Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God

The Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God is an international Religious Order of Brothers providing health, social care and pastoral services to sick, vulnerable and disadvantaged people in around 50 countries throughout the world. The legacy of its founder, Saint John of God, is a mission of hospitality that has continued and grown over five centuries. Today over 400 services impact daily of the lives of millions of people.

The Hospitaller Order in Great Britain

The Brothers came to England in 1880 and started a hospital at Scorton in North Yorkshire. Over the years this developed into a modern, dynamic hospital and nursing home. In 1930 the Brothers started a work in Potters Bar caring for people with a learning disability. In 1948 the Order opened a small hospital for the physically disabled near Darlington and another work in Lancashire. Zambia was added to the Brothers work in the 1960's.

The Hospitaller Order moved with the times and developed new services, always following the founder's maxim "meet the need". The care within institutions was superseded by Care in the Community, and care for people in their own homes. The Brothers also adapted their own community living to live and work alongside those whom they serve.

Today in Great Britain, the Brothers with their co-workers, staff and volunteers, offer a variety of professional services. The Hospitaller care that their founder Saint John of God promoted in Granada in the 16th century continues today.

Today the Order supports in excess of 1000 people in England, Scotland and Wales.

Hospitality is still alive and active in the spirit of Saint John of God.



the Brothers 1880-1889



Brother Anastasius Goethe

In 1880 the French Province of the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God received an invitation to take possession of buildings in Scorton, a peaceful small village in the North Riding of Yorkshire. The idea was to create a foundation for 'unwanted people', known then as cripples and incurables.

The property had been a private house for some 300 years - owned in turn by the Tancred family, the Bowyer family, Gabriel Fielding and then sold to Sir John Lawson of Catterick. He bought it on behalf of the Poor Clare Nuns in 1807, who then established a boarding school for girls. After being in residence for some 50 years, they moved to a new convent in Darlington in 1857. The house then stood empty for some four years before it was offered for sale at £2,000 to Father Austin Collins, a Cistercian priest.

Father Collins wrote to Brother Norbert of the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God, who was then Prior of Sandymount, Dublin, offering the Order the house at Scorton in order to start a foundation work. Brother Norbert travelled to North Yorkshire to inspect the property and was favourably impressed. He wrote a report for Brother Anselm Cortial, Provincial of the French Province, proposing that

Father Collins' offer should be accepted. Following this recommendation, Brother Anselm wrote to Bishop Richard Lacy of Middlesbrough requesting the establishment of the House at Scorton.

The new hospital was to be for the old and infirm and, in time, was to receive wonderful support from a predominantly Methodist population. The original community was made up of four Brothers assigned to Scorton from Sandymount, Dublin: Brother Louis Gandet, Brother Aristides Merimée, and Brother Anastasius Goethe (who had all been Founder Brothers in Dublin), and Brother Norbert Paveleck who was nominated Prior of the new community. Thus, the Hospitaller Order at Scorton was established. The four Brothers were later joined by five English-speaking postulants from France to begin their novitiate with Father Louis Gandet as Novice Master and Chaplain.



Clockwise from Top Left:

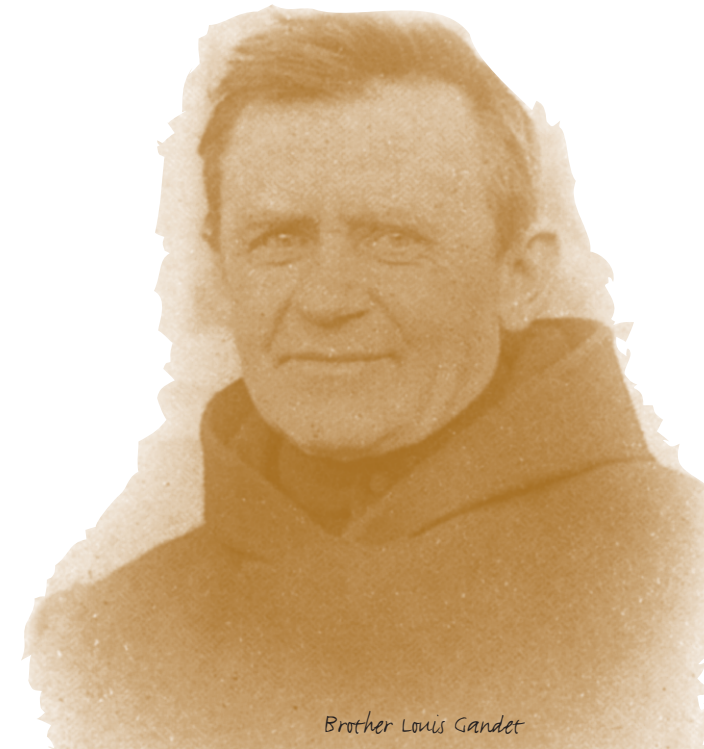
Members of the 1st
Community Group 1882

Scorton 1880

Saint Clares, Scorton 1850



The Early Days

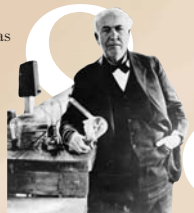


Brother Louis Gandet

WORLDWIDE HISTORY - 1880-1889

In Menlo Park, New Jersey, Thomas Edison performs the first test of his electric railway.

1880



End of the First Boer War - The Boers defeated the British at the Battle of Majuba Hill

1881



Krakatau volcano erupts. 163 villages destroyed, 36,380 dead.

1883



1885

The Statue of Liberty arrives in New York Harbour.

Professional football is legalised in Britain.

John Boyd Dunlop invents the pneumatic tyre.

1886



1887

Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee took place on June 20 and 21.



Jack the Ripper Terror spread in London as a murderer attacked prostitutes in the slum area of Whitechapel in the East End. At least six women were killed and brutally mutilated.

1888



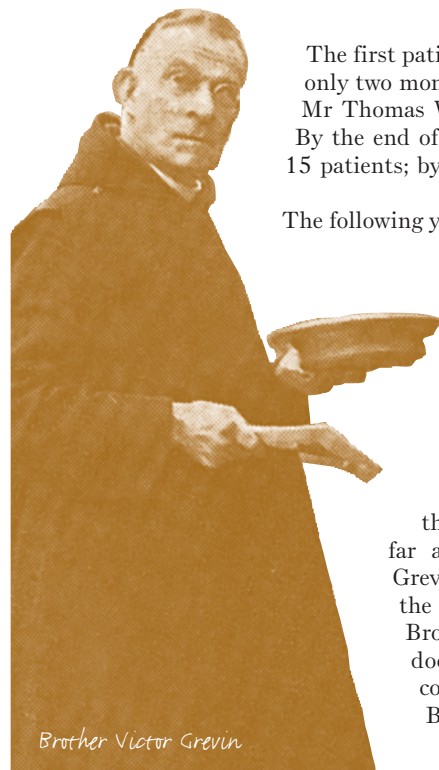
Eiffel Tower opens. Contemporary critics regard it as aesthetically displeasing.

Washington is admitted as the 42nd US State.

1889



the Brothers 1890-1899



Brother Victor Grevin

The first patient to be received into the new foundation, only two months after the arrival of the Brothers, was a Mr Thomas Wilkinson who was blind, deaf and dumb. By the end of the first year, the hospital was caring for 15 patients; by 1905, there were 96.

The following year the number of patients rose to 110 and in 1912 the number of resident patients totalled 135. It's a testimony to the conscientious care they received that it was not until 1907 that the first patient died.

The soaring costs of the hospital required Brothers to collect money in order to support their mission. 'Brother collectors' became well known, not only in the immediate vicinity of the hospital but as far as Leeds and Newcastle. Brother Victor Grevin, was a very well known collector all over the north of England for more than 50 years. Brother Victor collapsed and died in a shop doorway at Richmond in 1951 whilst collecting. He was the last of the French Brothers at Scorton.

In the early days, the Saint John of God Hospital had its own farm of about five acres of land which supported cows, pigs and poultry, along with a couple of horses. There were two kitchen gardens and a greenhouse. There were also outbuildings and a dairy, laundry, linen and boot rooms, and outside the walled enclosure, several cottages. Among the first lay staff were two farm labourers.

In 1885 the chapel at Scorton was registered as a place of worship and later, in 1897, was duly registered for the solemnisation of marriages.

In 1893 Brother Cassian Mary Gasser was elected Prior General and made a canonical visitation of the house at Scorton in 1894. He complimented the Brothers on the achievements they had made in the relatively short time they had been in residence. But, ever-vigilant for the Brothers' spiritual welfare, he advised them against reading newspapers and reminded them that it was forbidden to take lady visitors to the parlour without the permission of the prior. He did, however, announce one significant alteration in the strict rules of the Order. A recent Decree of the Sacred Congregation for Religious, he informed the Brothers, released them from the obligation to confess their particular faults in public each month as had been the monastic practice until then.

As the century drew to a close, the Brothers purchased two portions of land on the east side of the hospital.



A New Century Begins



WORLDWIDE HISTORY - 1890-1899

The longest bridge in Britain, the Forth Bridge (1710ft) in Scotland is opened.

1890



The world's first finger-printing bureau formally opened by the Buenos Aires Chief of Police.

1892



Wilhelm Röntgen discovers a type of radiation, later known as x-rays.

1895



1896

Olympic Games The first modern Olympic Games took place at Athens, Greece. Fourteen countries took part. Britain won three gold medals.



Queen Victoria celebrates her diamond jubilee.

1897



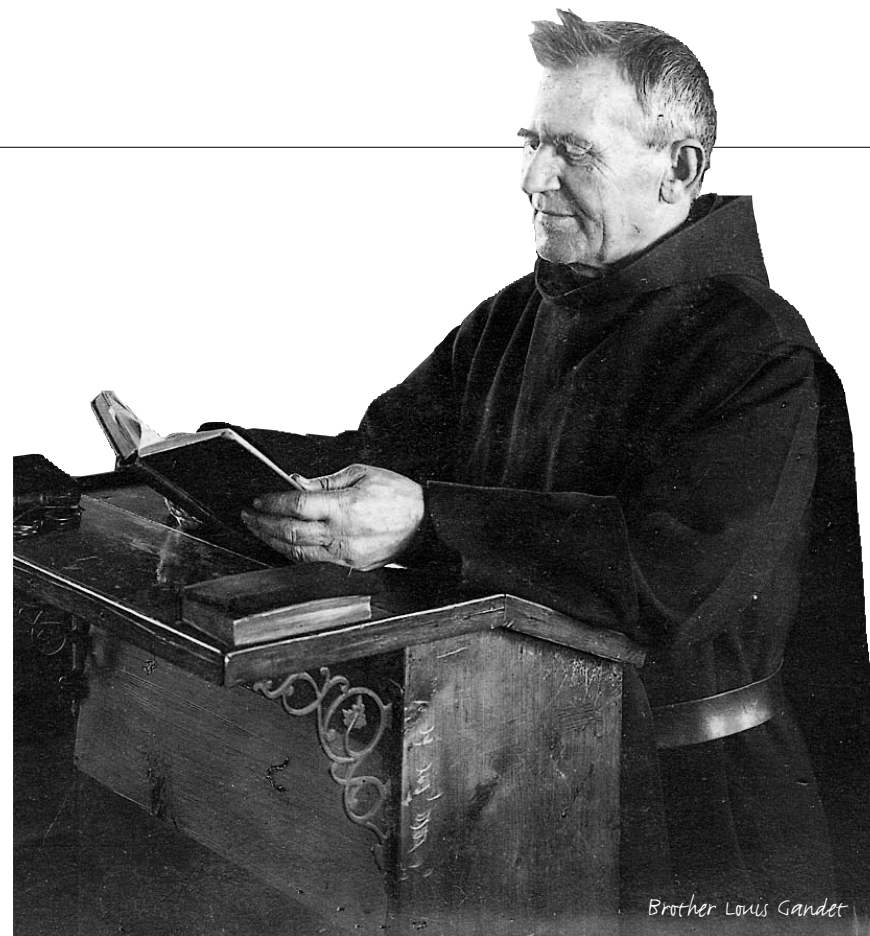
Felix Hoffmann patents Aspirin.

1889



the Brothers 1900-1909

During the first decade of the 20th century, the foundation continued to expand. In 1901 more land was purchased at Scorton and in 1907 the cemetery was extended. A year later, an even greater undertaking was unveiled at the October Chapter meeting. Plans for a new hospital were perused, discussed and approved. The Prior suggested purchasing a statue of Saint Joseph to stand at the front of the hospital. He was confident that this would assist in raising the necessary funds. Two hundred hospital beds were bought for the new hospital and two new houses were built on the Darlington Road adjacent to the two houses already there.



The Foundation Expands



WORLDWIDE HISTORY - 1900-1909

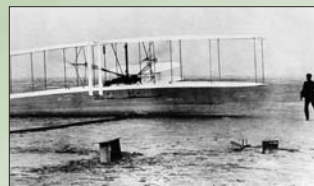
Conservatives stay in power. At the general election, the Conservative Party with Lord Salisbury as Prime Minister stayed in power.

1900



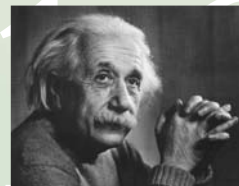
1903

Manned flight on December 17, Wilbur and Orville Wright's biplane covered a distance of 852 feet and the American brothers became the first men to fly.



1904

Albert Einstein publishes the article "On the Electrodynamics of Moving Bodies" where he discovers special relativity



On February 10, the largest warship in the world was launched by Edward VII. The Royal Navy's HMS Dreadnought took just four months to build at a cost of £3 million.

1906



Scouting is founded by Robert Baden-Powell in the United Kingdom.

1907



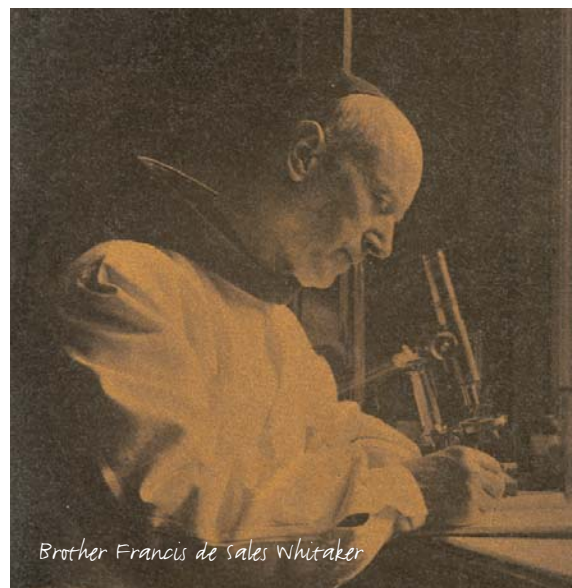
Frenchman Louis Bleriot flew across the Channel and landed at Dover in his monoplane. His flight took 43 minutes.

1909



the Brothers 1910-1919

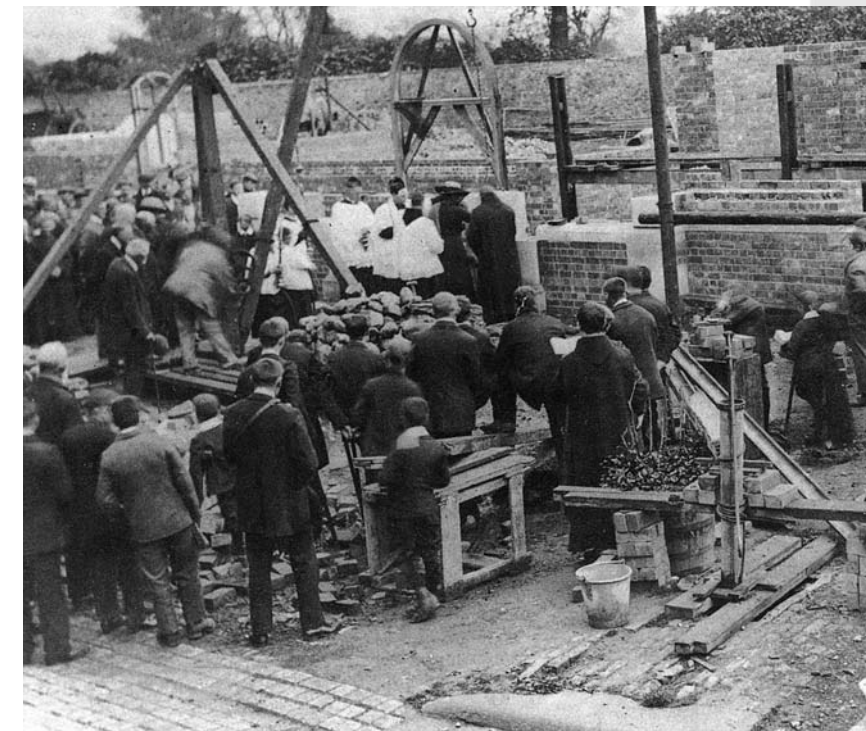
The hospital at Scorton flourished and in 1912 a new hospital with accommodation for 200 patients was built. Besides offering better accommodation and care, it had now doubled the bed spaces available.



On 29th September 1913, the new hospital was officially opened and solemnly blessed by Bishop Lacy, Bishop of Middlesbrough. The Prior at this time was Brother Marin Sur. Less than a year later, the country was plunged into the horrors of the First World War. Some of the German-speaking Brothers were natives of Alsace and it was decided that they should return to France for fear that they might be interned in England. As the carnage in Europe continued, the hospital opened a Red Cross ward for soldiers returning from the front. Brother Francis de Sales Whitaker was sent from Lyon to manage the hospital.



Carnage in Europe



WORLDWIDE HISTORY - 1910-1919

1912

RMS Titanic left Southampton on April 10 headed for New York. On the night of April 14 to 15, Titanic hit an iceberg in the North Atlantic, near Newfoundland. The damage was too severe and Titanic began to sink. There were more than 2,200 people on board but the lifeboats could fit a total of 1,178. Titanic sank and 1,513 people died.



1913

British explorer Captain Robert Falcon Scott and his party were found dead in the Antarctic. Scott reached the South Pole in January 1912 and saw he had been beaten by Norwegian Roald Amundsen. On their return, Scott and his companions were trapped in a blizzard and died from cold and starvation.



World War I begins.

1914

1916

Battle of the Somme From July 1 to November 18, the British and French troops took part in the Battle of the Somme, France.



1917

Air raids - the Germans began using aeroplanes to bomb London. Previously planes were used only for spying purposes.



1919

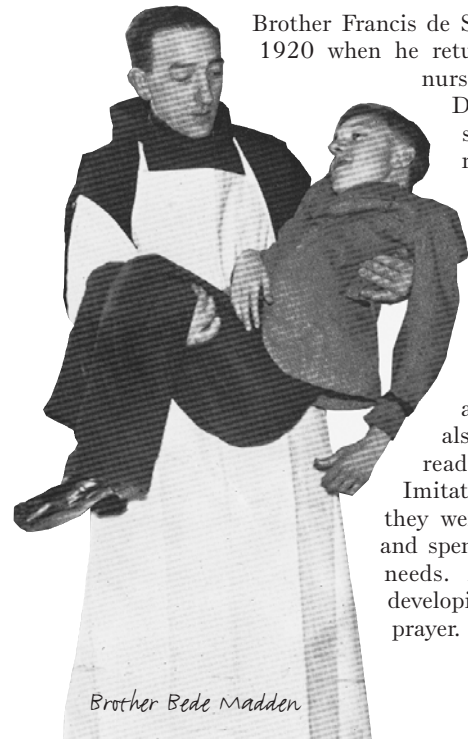


The Peace Treaty to end the First World War was signed at the Palace of Versailles, June 28

1919



the Brothers 1920-1929



Brother Bede Madden

Brother Francis de Sales Whitaker remained in this post until 1920 when he returned to Lyon where he had served as a nursing Brother. In 1924 he was appointed Director of the Nursing School there and also served as assistant Novice Master with responsibility for the Novices from England and Ireland.

Meanwhile, at Scorton the daily lives of the Brothers were very spartan. They rose at daybreak, washed in cold water, attended chapel four times each day, and when they retired to bed after the night prayers were not permitted to speak until after the next morning's prayers. Meals were also eaten in silence while one of the Brothers read from devotional books such as *The Imitation of Christ* by Thomas à Kempis. But they were completely committed to their charges and spent many hours each day attending to their needs. Any remaining time was dedicated to developing their spiritual life through lessons and prayer.



Spartan Lives

WORLDWIDE HISTORY - 1920-1929



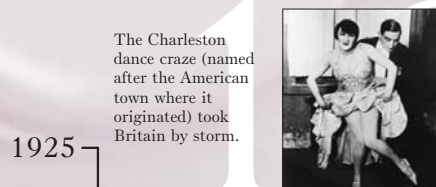
1920

The League of Nations was launched in London in February. The League was an international association of countries working together to avoid further conflict. Founder members included Britain, France, Japan and Italy. The United States did not join.



1923

Ladies fashion was for short skirts and short hair (in a bob style). The Twenties look was boyish and young, far away from constricting dresses of the past. Many people were scandalised by young women dressing and behaving in a new way.



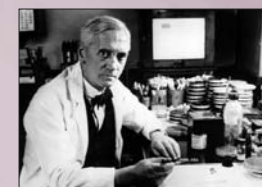
1925

The Charleston dance craze (named after the American town where it originated) took Britain by storm.



In May, the first British general strike began and ran for nine days. The dispute began as a miners' pay issue with protests about proposed cuts in pay.

1926



Doctor Alexander Fleming of Queen Mary's Hospital in London discovered penicillin

1928

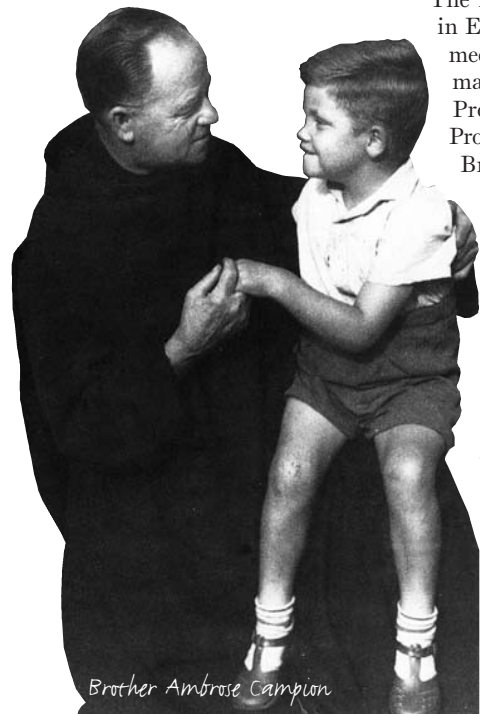


America's Black Thursday On October 24, the New York Stock Exchange crashed. Panic selling set in during the morning and by the afternoon the market collapsed. Many investors lost everything and America entered the Great Depression.

1929



the Brothers 1930-1939



Brother Ambrose Campion

The French Brothers continued their good work in England until 1930. At a General Definitory meeting in April of that year, the Irish Brothers made a request to separate from the French Province. The Superiors of the French Province were prepared to grant the Irish Brothers the house at Stillorgan in Ireland with its grounds, and allow the Irish Brothers in the Province to go there.

The Indult of the Holy See granting the Irish-English Delegation was issued by the Congregation for Religious on 11th July 1930. Scorton remained with the French Province. Brother Aristides Donegan was nominated Provincial Delegate, Brother Francis de Sales Whitaker, 1st Assistant and Novice Master and Brother Norbert McMahon, 2nd Assistant. During the early 1930s living conditions at Scorton Hospital were greatly improved when the building was wired for electricity. Also, a silent film projector was purchased so that patients could enjoy film shows during the long winter evenings.

A major project during this period was the re-ordering of the chapel at Scorton. The builders stripped out the partitions, steps, staircases, gallery and pillars. It had long been the wish of Father Louis Gandet to have the steps in the chapel removed, in order to ease the way for the disabled among the patients in the hospital who could not gain easy access. A new wing for the parishioners was constructed and a new spacious sacristy and bell tower added, along with a new marble altar and stained glass windows.

Through contact with Father Higley since 1911 concerning the possibility of the Order having "a colony in England for Catholic male adult mental defectives and epileptics", the Irish-English Delegation took possession of Barvin Park in Hertfordshire at the request of the Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Francis Bourne. The Brothers were not called to make any payment on the property for three years, after which they would make an annual repayment of a sum to be fixed by the Cardinal and his committee. The religious community was canonically erected on 19th December and His Eminence Cardinal Bourne officially opened the centre on 1st October 1931. Brother



Barvin Park

Ambrose Campion was Prior from 1931 to 1937.

At a local chapter meeting on 4th September 1932, the community decided to accept a tender of £120 for the installation of central heating to Saint Clare's. A former convent, this Grade II listed building now served as the Provincial Curia Offices of the English Province.

In December 1932, at the request of Cardinal Bourne, the Brothers took over the running of Wiseman House at Walthamstow in London which was an orphanage for boys between 11 and 15 years of age. Two years later, the Brothers also took over the management of the Blessed John Southworth Hostel in Vauxhall Bridge Road, London.

In April 1934 the General Chapter approved raising the Delegation to the status of Province. The title Province of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary was granted on 31st May 1934.



Saint Joseph's



Wiseman House

The Good Work Continues



In 1936 the Archbishop of Westminster, His Grace Arthur Hinsley, laid the foundation stone of the new chapel at Barvin Park on 30th August. It was decided to use the ground on the south side of the chapel as a cemetery.

In 1938 the Wiseman House at Walthamstow became a hostel for working boys. The Brothers withdrew and the orphans were transferred back to Mill Hill.

Blessed John Southworth Hostel was transferred to Osterley Park at the end of 1938. Named St Joseph's Hostel, the new premises came into operation on 24th December 1938 and were officially opened by Cardinal Hinsley on 5th February 1939. Brother John Brown was Prior.



WORLDWIDE HISTORY - 1930-1939

1930

Mahatma Gandhi publicly rebelled against the Salt Law which gave the British a monopoly on salt production in the country. Gandhi walked from Ahmedabad to the sea at Dandi, a walk of 300 miles, where he distilled salt from the seawater as a protest



1932

Sydney Harbour Bridge opens



Alcatraz becomes a federal prison.

1934



1936

The BBC began broadcasting television with sound from studios at Alexandra Palace.



Oil is discovered in Saudi Arabia

1938



World War II begins
Air raid shelters were distributed to homes particularly at risk of bombing if a war began. Low income households were given the shelters free of charge.

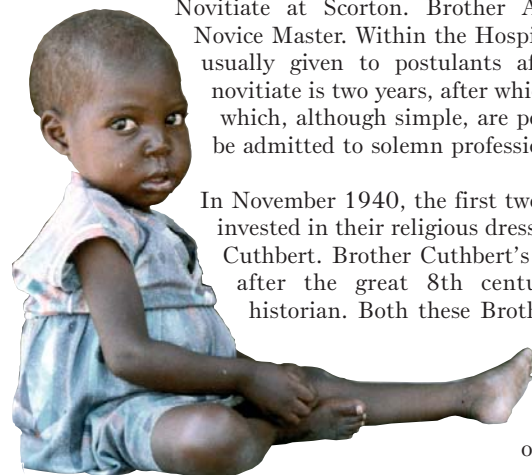
1939



the Brothers 1940-1949

While the world was convulsed by the most apocalyptic conflict it had ever known, the Hospitaller Brothers continued to pursue their pastoral mission. At Scorton conditions were particularly adverse. Because the village was close to the RAF base at Leeming the danger of air raids was constant. Wartime restrictions, rationing and the lack of communication with the Mother House after the fall of France made life very difficult for the Brothers, several of whom were not English and therefore felt isolated.

In May 1940, permission was received from Rome to establish a Novitiate at Scorton. Brother Anselm Wendling was appointed Novice Master. Within the Hospitaller Order, the religious habit is usually given to postulants after three months. The time of novitiate is two years, after which the novice pronounces the vows which, although simple, are perpetual. Three years later, he can be admitted to solemn profession.

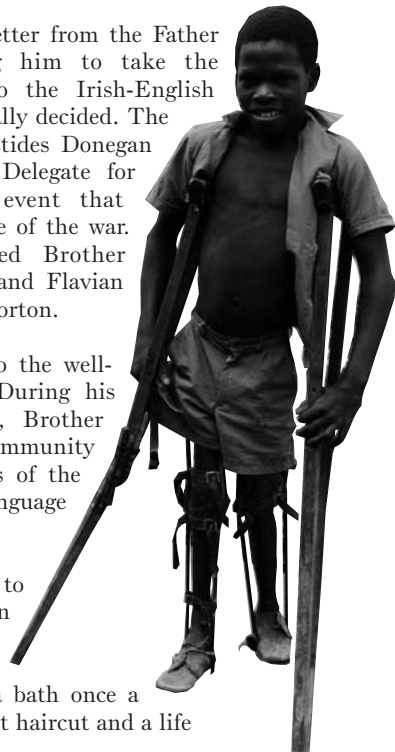


In November 1940, the first two Novices were “clothed” - that is, invested in their religious dress. They were Brothers Casimir and Cuthbert. Brother Cuthbert’s name was later changed to Bede, after the great 8th century Northumbrian scholar and historian. Both these Brothers led an exemplary Hospitaller life. Brother Bede died at Scorton on 19th December 1972, and Brother Casimir died at the mission in Monze, Zambia on his Feast Day, 4th March 1993.

In April 1941, the Provincial received a letter from the Father General, Ephrem Blandeau, instructing him to take the community and hospital at Scorton into the Irish-English Province until such time as the General finally decided. The Provincial Council nominated Brother Aristides Donegan as Prior at Scorton. He was appointed Delegate for England on 12th May 1941 in the event that communications should break down because of the war. Brother Christopher Bridgeman replaced Brother Aristides, who was Prior at Barvin Park, and Flavian Leonard was appointed Novice Master in Scorton.

In 1942 a significant change was made to the well-established customs of the Hospitallers. During his visitation on 29th June, the Provincial, Brother Norbert McMahon recommended that the community at Scorton should conform to the customs of the other house of the Province - the French language was no longer to be used.

The war ended in Europe in May 1945, only to be followed by years of grim austerity. Later in this booklet, Brother Joseph Carroll recalls his days as a young initiate at Scorton following a strict regime that permitted “a bath once a week, one clean bed sheet a week, a very short haircut and a life



governed by bells. And I don’t mean the whisky!” he adds. Just before Brother Joseph arrived at Scorton, the Provincial Chapter (4th Chapter of the Irish-English Province) had decided to form the English Delegation of the Order. Brother Norbert McMahon was appointed Delegate Provincial for England with his headquarters at Scorton. He was to occupy this position for only a few weeks. At the General Chapter, held from the 24th to the 29th of April, 1946, Brother Norbert was appointed 5th General Councillor. He was replaced as Delegate Provincial for England by Brother Bernard Burke, the story of whose life is recounted on pages 40 & 41.

Following the establishment of the National Health Service in 1946, the hospital at Scorton was accorded the status of a general hospital. It was then decided that the Order should acquire a property to accommodate the chronically sick. On 28 August 1948, Brother Benignus Callan, Provincial, and

Years of Grim Austerity



Brother Bernard Burke, Delegate Provincial, signed the contract to purchase part of Rockliffe Park in Hurworth, near Darlington in County Durham, which was formerly owned by Lord Southampton. Named Saint Cuthbert’s Hospital, it was established to treat patients with disabilities such as cerebral palsy, spina bifida, muscular dystrophy, and other incurable conditions. It also served as a tuberculosis sanatorium and an orthopaedic centre.



WORLDWIDE HISTORY - 1940-1949

1940

Winston Churchill becomes Prime Minister

1941

Attack on Pearl Harbour by Japan bringing the United States into World War II

1942

Holocaust: Future essayist Anne Frank receives a diary for her thirteenth birthday.

1944

The D-Day landings gave the Allies a foothold in France. By the end of July, the Germans were pushed back out of Normandy. On August 25, the Allies liberated Paris after four years of Nazi occupation.

1946

Bananas returned to the British diet when banana boats delivered the fruit for sale for the first time after the war.

1947

Her Royal Highness Princess Elizabeth marries the Duke of Edinburgh at Westminster Abbey, London

18

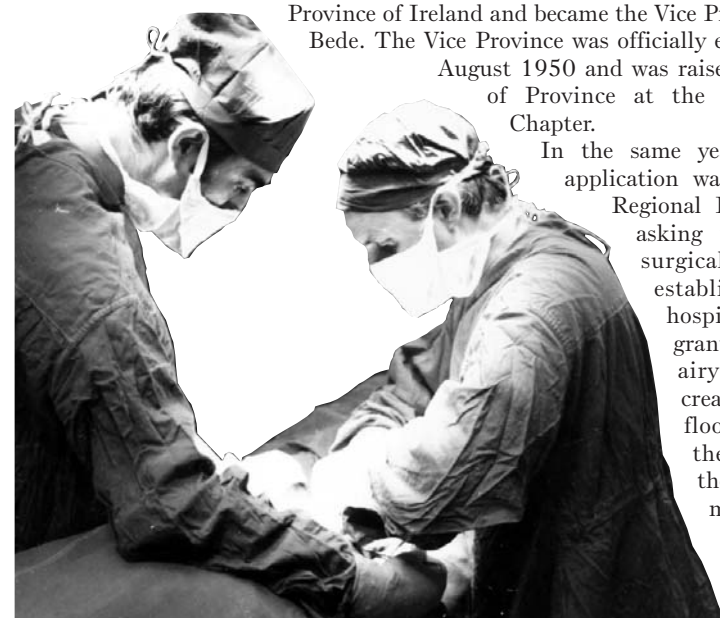
19



the Brothers 1950-1959

At the Intermediate Chapter of the Irish-English Province held at Stillorgan in April 1950, it was proposed that the Irish-English Province should be divided into two separate Provinces. By a rescript of the Sacred Congregation of 26 July 1950, the houses of the Order in England were separated from the Province of Ireland and became the Vice Province of Saint Bede. The Vice Province was officially erected on 15th August 1950 and was raised to the status of Province at the 1953 General Chapter.

In the same year at Scorton, application was made to the Regional Hospital Board asking that a 17-bed surgical ward be established in the hospital. This was granted and a large airy ward was created on the first floor adjacent to the operating theatre. The first major operation here was performed in July 1950.



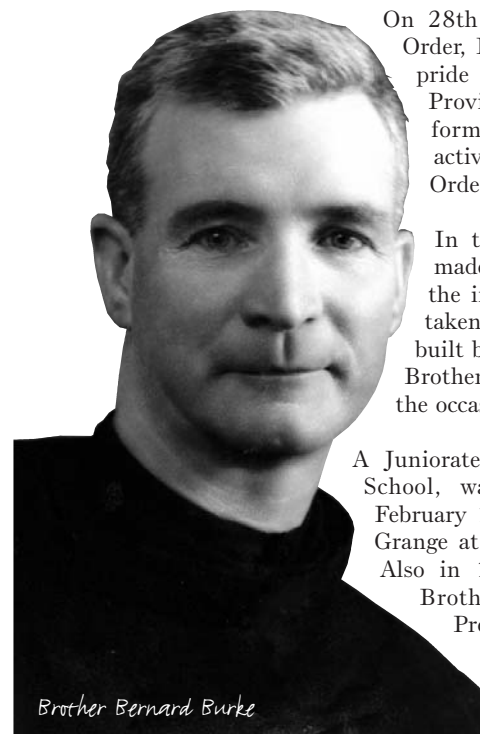
In June that year, following a request by the president of the Provincial Chapter, the formal title of 'Father', until now given to superiors, was discontinued, being replaced by the title 'Brother'.

In 1951 the Brothers at Scorton gave up the hospital farm and milk was purchased from a local dairy. The piggery was converted into a mechanical workshop and the existing workshop remodelled at the end of 1951 to provide a nursing school. In November 1951, it was announced that the General Nursing Council had approved the hospital for part of the training for State Registration in Nursing. This consisted of eighteen months of the three year period. Of this period, three months could be spent at Saint Cuthbert's, Hurworth Place.

In 1952 a new foundation was established. Saint John of God at Silverdale in Lancashire was a hospital for the chronically sick and opened towards the end of the year. Also in 1952, the Brothers withdrew from Saint Joseph's Hostel at Osterley Park, but the work there continued under the care of a married couple.

1953 saw the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. One of its side effects was a huge increase in the sale of television sets to loyal subjects avid to watch the ceremony live. At Scorton the Brothers responded to the national enthusiasm and a television set was installed in Saint John of God Hospital day room and some of the wards.

At the 1st Provincial Chapter of the English Province, Brother Bernard Burke was elected as Provincial.



Brother Bernard Burke

On 28th July 1955, the Prior General of the Order, Brother Mose Bonardi, observed: "With pride we can state that the young English Province, in programmes of religious formation, in professional and cultural activities, is one of the most admired in our Order".

In the same year, the hospital at Scorton made a major addition to its amenities with the installation of a swimming pool. It had taken three years to construct and had been built by the Brothers in their recreation time. Brother Aristides Donegan opened the pool on the occasion of his Golden Jubilee of Profession.

A Juniorate School, known as the Holy Family School, was established at Scorton on 11th February 1956. It later transferred to Hurworth Grange at Hurworth Place, and closed in 1967. Also in 1956, at the 2nd Provincial Chapter Brother Bernard Burke was re-elected Provincial.

The Hospital Grows



In 1957 a new church at Silverdale in Lancashire was opened and blessed by Bishop Pearson of the Lancaster Diocese on 21st December.

At the 3rd Provincial Chapter in 1959, Brother Wilfrid Benning was elected Provincial.

On 20th October 1959, care of the Northern Rhodesian Mission was formally handed over to the English Province from the Irish Province.



WORLDWIDE HISTORY - 1950-1959

1950 Sister Mary Teresa begins her charity work in Calcutta and becomes known as Mother Teresa.



1951 Edmund Hillary and Tenzig Norgay became the first people to reach the top of Mount Everest as part of a British Expedition



1954

On May 6, student Roger Bannister became the first person to run a mile in less than four minutes. The record time of 3 minutes and 59.4 seconds was made at Oxford University.

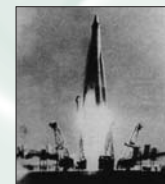


1956 In July, President Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt took control of the Suez Canal.

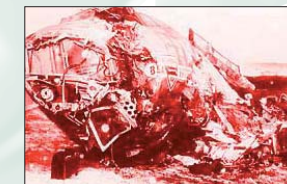


1957

Sputnik I - first satellite launched



1958 Eight Manchester United footballers were killed in an air crash in Munich, West Germany.



1959 Explorer VI sends the first picture of Earth from space.

1959



the Brothers 1960-1969

In 1961 Brothers Sebastian and Stanislaus began working with the Sisters of Our Lady of Africa in the leprosarium at Mua, Ntkataka in Malawi. They were to remain there for a period of nine years.

At the 4th Provincial Chapter in 1962 Brother Wilfrid Benning was re-elected as Provincial.

By the mid-1960s, the hospital at Scorton was providing a wide range of services. In addition to the operating theatre and X-Ray departments, the hospital now had departments specialising in psychiatry, geriatrics, neurology, occupational therapy and physiotherapy, as well as an outpatients department. Other amenities included



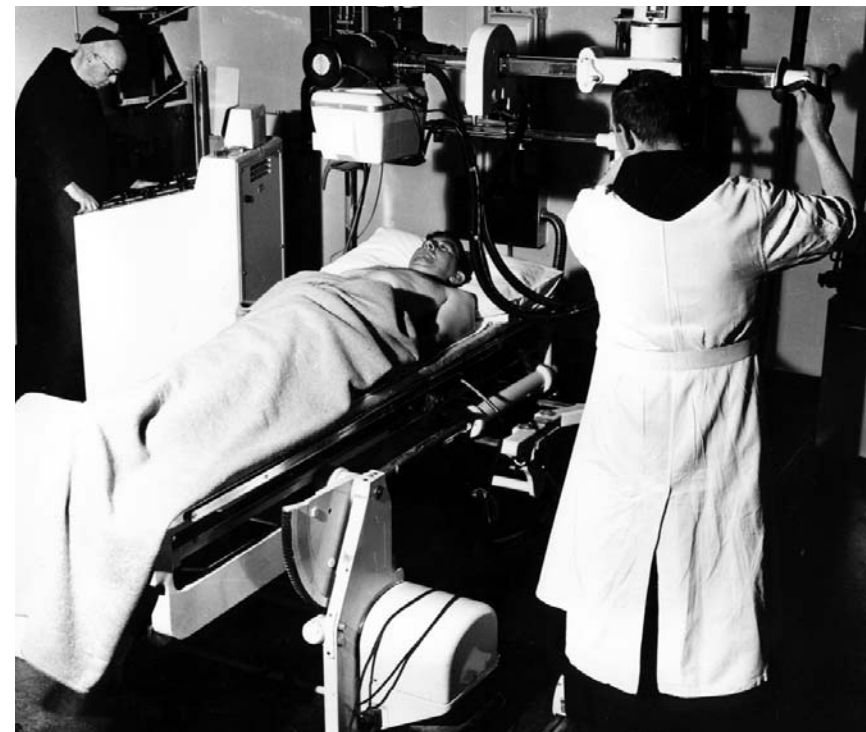
a shop for patients and staff, a patients' library, a café for visitors and a laundry.

In 1965, Brother Cyril Martin was elected as Provincial at the 5th Provincial Chapter.

In 1966, the Order in England became registered as a charity.

In the following year, permission was given by Rome to withdraw the religious community from Saint John of God Hospital at Silverdale, Lancashire, and for its sale to the Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of the Apostles. The Brothers left the hospital on 31st December and the Sisters took possession on 1st January 1968.

The Juniorate at Hurworth Grange was closed at the end of



Female Nurses at Scorton



the summer term. Permission was given for the sale of the Juniorate House at Hurworth Grange on 20th October. The land and buildings were sold to the Parish Council for £17,500 and were to be used as a recreational centre for the village of Hurworth.

The year 1968 saw an important change to the working practices at the hospital as women became members of the nursing staff at Scorton for the first time. At the 6th Provincial Chapter that year, Brother Cyril Martin was re-elected as Provincial.



WORLDWIDE HISTORY - 1960-1969

1960
The United States announces that 3,500 American soldiers are going to be sent to Vietnam.



Assassination of John F Kennedy

1963



1964

The final acts of capital punishment in the UK were carried out on August 13. The executions of Peter Anthony Allen and Gwynne Owen Evans took place at the same time.



England won the Football World Cup on July 30. The British team beat the West Germans 4-2 in extra time.

1966

1968

The Hippy movement influenced music, clothes and lifestyle as it gained popularity across Britain. Love and peace were the key words of the day.



First manned landing on the Moon by Aldrin and Armstrong using Apollo rocket. On July 20, the first manned mission to the Moon reached its target. Apollo 11's lunar capsule, called The Eagle, touched down on the Moon.



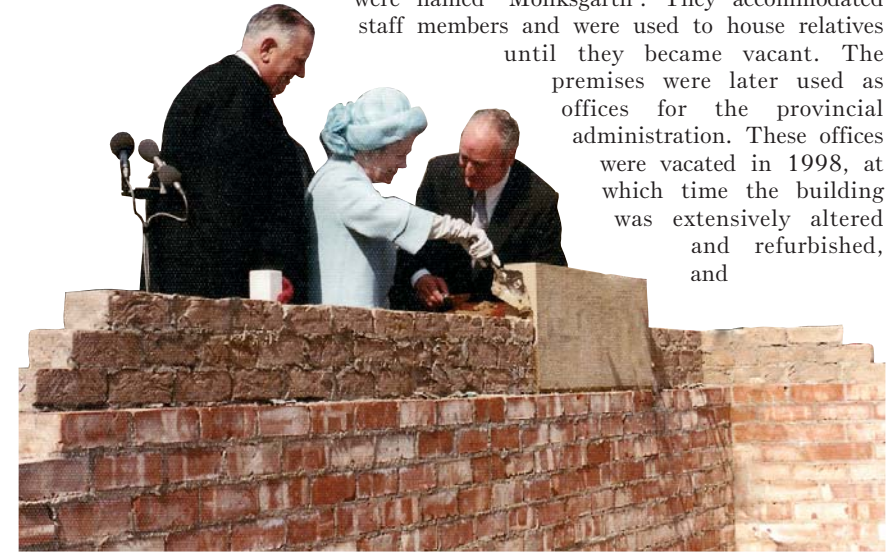
1969



the Brothers 1970-1979

In 1971 approval was given from Rome for the establishment of a ward for women at Saint John of God Hospital, Scorton. It was stipulated that the ward was to be completely separate from the male wards and to be staffed entirely by women.

At Scorton in 1972, two old cottages on the south side of the common approach road were demolished and replaced by modern flats which were named 'Monksgarth'. They accommodated staff members and were used to house relatives until they became vacant. The premises were later used as offices for the provincial administration. These offices were vacated in 1998, at which time the building was extensively altered and refurbished, and



then used as accommodation for Brothers. In the same year, at the 7th Provincial Chapter, Brother Joseph Carroll was elected as Provincial.

In 1974, at the 8th Provincial Chapter, Brother Benet Ormerod was elected as Provincial.

Throughout 1977 Britain celebrated the Silver Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. Scorton was highly honoured when Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother visited Saint John of God Hospital on 29th May in order to lay the foundation stone of the £500,000 rehabilitation unit, which was named "The Queen Elizabeth Silver Jubilee Wing". In the same year, at the 9th Provincial Chapter, Brother Benet Ormerod was re-elected as Provincial.


In 1979 permission was granted by the Father General and his Council to establish the Novitiate at Saint Cuthbert's, Hurworth Place. Brothers would no longer have to go to Ireland for training.



Queen Elizabeth silver jubilee wing



The 8th Provincial Chapter



WORLDWIDE HISTORY - 1970-1979

1971

Decimal currency is introduced

1972

The first call was made with a cell phone in New York.

1974

Richard John Bingham, Lord Lucan, went on the run after his children's nanny, Sandra Rivett, was found battered to death in November.

1975

First oil from the North Sea comes ashore

1977

The King of Rock and Roll, Elvis Presley died on August 16 aged 42. He died from heart failure at his home, Graceland in Memphis. Graceland was opened to the public in June 1982.

1979

Conservative leader Margaret Thatcher became the first female Prime Minister.

24

25



the Brothers 1980-1989

The early 1980s saw the closure of two overseas missions. The Canonical closure of Chianama community and the consequent withdrawal of the community took place in 1980, and in the following year the Brothers withdrew from the Mission Hospital at Lukulu in Zambia.

At the 10th Provincial Chapter, Brother Benet Ormerod was elected as Provincial for a third term.

On 17th November 1983, the Brothers were honoured



with a second visit by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. She came to Saint Raphael's, Barvin Park to inaugurate the Abbotswood Project, part of the Hospitaller Housing Association. A few months later the first female residents were admitted to Barvin Park. At the 11th Provincial Chapter, Brother Stanislaus Neild was elected as Provincial.

In 1985 the Order extended its services at Scorton when a unit for the elderly with psychiatric disorders



opened at Saint John of God Hospital. The unit had provision for 14 beds and was operated in partnership with Northallerton Health District. Another new venture was initiated the following year, 1986, when Bishop Augustine Harris of Middlesbrough invited the Brothers of the English Province to assume a 'pastoral presence' and undertake a work in the district of Hemlington within the Cathedral Parish of Saint Mary in the Diocese of Middlesbrough. This year also saw the formation of the provincial administration



At the 12th Provincial Chapter, re-elected Provincial, Brother Stanislaus Neild, and his Council made the decision to establish a provincial administrative structure in order to centralise the administrative functions of the Province. Following the invitation of the Bishop of Middlesbrough in 1986, a house was purchased in Purbright Grove, Hemlington. Brothers Casimir and Padraig took up residence in the house with a remit to study the requirements of the area with a view to a foundation in Hemlington. At Scorton, the St John of God Community moved into cottages 1 and 2 Saint John's Terrace at Scorton. The elder Brothers elected to stay in Saint Richard's, the east wing of the hospital.

In 1989 the top floor of Saint John of God Hospital, Scorton was completely renovated to provide a nursing home with 33 rooms for residents. This new facility was officially opened on 26th January 1990 by the entertainer, former star of the Goon Show and popular presenter of a Sunday religious programme, Sir Harry Secombe. A new operating theatre was also opened.

At the 13th Provincial Chapter Brother Stanislaus Neild was re-elected Provincial for a third term and Brother Robert Moore appointed 30th Prior of Saint John of God Community, Scorton. Also in 1989, some residents of Saint Cuthbert's Hospital, after many years of institutional care, moved to Rockcliffe Court. Built at the end of the hospital drive by the Hospitaller Housing Association, this provided residential and sheltered housing. In November 1989, three Hospitaller Priests for the Order - Brothers Wilfrid, Stanislaus Neild and Michael Francis - received their Diaconate. These Brothers were ordained on 1st May 1990 at Middlesbrough Cathedral by Bishop Augustine Harris.

A Pastoral Presence



Dr. Roy Heylings

WORLDWIDE HISTORY - 1980-1989

1980

Former Beatle John Lennon was shot dead on December 8. He was killed in New York by an insane fan, Mark Chapman.

1981

Heir to the throne, Prince Charles, married Lady Diana Spencer on July 29.

1982

Falklands War begins

1985

Live Aid - On July 13, top names of rock and pop took part in two major concerts to raise money to fight the famine in Africa.

1988

On December 21, a Pan Am jumbo jet travelling to New York exploded over the Scottish town of Lockerbie, Scotland. The plane was destroyed by a terrorist bomb.

1989

The Berlin Wall in Germany was taken down



the Brothers

1990-1999

In 1991, Middlesbrough Council approved plans for a chapel of ease and community house for the site at Hemlington. In the same year, Saint Cuthbert's, Hurworth Place was closed, and a decision was taken by the Provincial Definitory to sell the property. The remaining residents were transferred to Saint Mary's unit in Saint John of God Hospital, Scorton, until purpose built accommodation would be completed for them at Lindisfarne Court in Haughton, Darlington. These premises were opened in 1992.

The archives from Saint Cuthbert's were transferred to Saint John of God Hostel in Scorton, along with the museum items. Approval was given for the Roman coffin housed in the archives to be offered to Darlington Museum.

During the last and this decade, considerable emphasis had been placed on the concept of 'normalisation'. The Order acknowledged the need for change and to look at new ways of supporting people in less institutionalised settings: residential care homes, supported tenancies, domiciliary care and nursing home provision. This policy allowed the Order to continue to provide care and support to people with a wide range of special needs and to help them move towards a more

independent life-style. These measures would involve them being more active in making their own decisions concerning their own well-being and lifestyle. In accordance with this policy, a four year process of extensive resettlement and training programmes began for the residents of Barvin Park, Potters Bar, a long stay home for 150 people with learning difficulties. They were moved out into the community to live in self-supporting accommodation in all kinds of different properties in the community.

In the same year the property known as Balmaclellan in Catterick and a year later, Brentwood in Leyburn, North Yorkshire, were purchased for the resettlement of residents from Thornton Lodge in Leyburn. Portsdown in Colburn was also purchased and became home for 6 adults with learning disabilities. This home was to close in early 1999 because of its unsuitability for people with mobility problems.

In the Tyne Tees and Durham area, the Order purchased Eagle Cottages in Jarrow and White Lodge in South Shields, in order to accept residents from Monkton Hospital.

Also in 1992, the Prior General, Brother Brian

O'Donnell, laid the foundation stone for Saint John of God Pastoral Centre at Hemlington. The site was dedicated by Bishop Augustine Harris. The new community moved into the Centre and the house at 11 Purbright Grove in Hemlington was sold.

At the 14th Provincial Chapter in 1992, Brother Robert Moore was elected as Provincial.

In the following year a fundraising campaign was mounted to provide two purpose built bungalows for eight young adults with physical disabilities. Known as Dalby View, the bungalows were built in Coulby Newham near Middlesbrough. The Enfield and Hertfordshire Supported Housing services were established as well as a Leisure Education & Occupational Service (LEOS).

Two six-bedroom bungalows were opened at Queensbury, Bradford, West Yorkshire for people with learning disabilities in conjunction with Bradford Health Authority who were placing people out into the community from Westwood Hospital. A further two bungalows at Clayton and three at Thornton were opened on the 16th March. Provision was also made for a 15-place Leisure, Education and Occupational

centre. A small community of Brothers also resided on the Thornton site.

Continuing the policy of care in the community, Barvin Park in Potters Bar was closed in 1994. After an extensive resettlement and training programme residents were accommodated and supported in their own homes within the community. Beach Road in South Shields and the Minims in Hatfield were opened.

At the 15th Provincial Chapter in 1995, Brother Robert Moore was elected as Provincial for a second term. In the same year two new facilities were opened at Billingham, Co. Durham: the Saint John of God Resource Centre, a 60-place Leisure, Education & Occupational Services Centre, and Sandown Road, a group home for 8 adults with physical disabilities.

In 1996, the Barvin Park community and regional office for administration moved to new premises - Saint Vincent's Church, Presbytery and Parish Hall, Potters Bar, belonging to the Diocese of Westminster, had been recently vacated by the Spanish Fathers. However, the accommodation was not able to be altered in order to support a day centre for residents. In April

1999, the administration moved into office accommodation within Potters Bar and the community bought a small four bedroom house.

Also in 1996, Luddendenfoot, Halifax, West Yorkshire, formerly Saint Walburga's Catholic Church, was purchased from the Leeds Diocese in order to be demolished. A six bedded respite care home was built on the site.

Later that year, the Hospitaller Housing Association was created by the Brothers of the English Province to explore ways and means of providing a better quality of life and increased independence for those in long-stay establishments. Thornborough House in Leyburn, Wensleydale was acquired by the Hospitaller Housing Association to provide more independent living for mentally handicapped adults.

In September 1997, the Community Fund awarded the Order £125,931 as capital funding to develop Saint John of God Horticultural Training Centre, formerly owned by Welwyn Hatfield Council as a horticultural nursery.

In 1998, Saint John of God Resource Centre was

established in Durant's Road, Enfield and at the 16th Provincial Chapter Brother John Martin, O.H. was elected Provincial of the English Province.

In the following year Saint John of God Hospital opened a dedicated day-case theatre and six-bedded unit. The 'Hospitality Rose' was created to mark the work of the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God in the English Province and named after the spirit that is extended throughout all aspects of the Order's services.



Brother John Martin



New Ways of Supporting People



WORLDWIDE HISTORY - 1990-1999

1991

Gulf War - Britain joined an international coalition to force the Iraqis back out of Kuwait.



1993

British exploration Explorers Sir Ranulph Fiennes and Dr Michael Stroud reached the end of their crossing of Antarctica. They were the first people to cover the 1,350 miles of ice on foot without other support.



1994

The National Lottery was launched on November 19.



1995

Tony Blair becomes Prime Minister.



1997

Dolly the sheep was cloned by scientists in Edinburgh, an exact replica of the sheep she was created from.



1998

The Good Friday Agreement, signed in April, achieved a peace in Ireland.



1999

On August 11, a total solar eclipse was visible in Cornwall.





the Brothers 2000-2005

At Scorton in 2000, four palliative care beds were established within Saint John of God Nursing Home. Later that year, the RIVER Project in Bradford (Realising Independence Via Empowerment and Recreation) was awarded £183,189 over three years by the National Lottery Charities Board.

Nationally, the Order was recognised as an ‘Investor in People’.

Brother Joe Carroll and Brother Felix O’Neill celebrated 50 years of Religious profession and Brother Bernard Burke, the founding Provincial, celebrated his 90th birthday.



In 2001, the Acute Services at Saint John of God Hospital closed. In the same year work began in Hatfield on the building of Mike Mably House, an accommodation project to provide 36 one-bedroomed flats for vulnerable homeless people.

2001 also saw the acquisition of St Mary’s Nursing Home, Barrhead, East Renfrewshire. Brother Francis Stevens celebrated 50 years of Religious profession and Brother George Larkin celebrated his 90th birthday. At the 17th Provincial Chapter Brother John Martin was elected Provincial for a second term.

At Barrhead in 2002, two people who had used the service at Saint Mary’s moved into a home of their own in the local community. They continued to receive support from the Order and this initiative went on to develop into the Supported Living Service in Scotland.

At Calderdale, the Order established its first supported living service under a new central government funding regime called ‘Supporting People’. At Hatfield, Mike Mably House accommodation and resettlement service, was officially opened by Welwyn Hatfield MP, Melanie Johnson and the wife of the late Mike Mably, Sheila. The project was developed a partnership between

Welwyn Hatfield Council, Paddington Churches Housing Association and the Order. The Floating Drug and Alcohol Service became established.

At Scorton, a decision was taken in March 2002 to relocate the three services there - the nursing home, the dementia care homes and the LEO Service - into community settings in the local area.

At the Saint John of God Resource Centre, Billingham, the involvement of the Order in the centre ceased as the commissioning authority, Stockton Social Services, assessed that a different sort of service was required.



May 28th 2003 marked the golden jubilee of the founding of the Province of the Venerable Bede, formerly the English Province of Bede the Venerable.

Saint John of God Management Services, working in partnership with other religious orders and congregations, commenced while Supported Living Services carried out further developments in Bradford, Scotland and Richmondshire. A Floating Drug and Alcohol Service was also established as well as an outreach support service in Hertfordshire for 30 people with drug and alcohol problems.

At the Saint John of God Pastoral Centre, a decision was taken to develop the property for other purposes since it was being under-utilised. At the Woodhall Community Centre, the Order took over the running of the premises and the management of the community centre programme which had the potential to bring real and lasting improvement to the lives of people living in the Woodhall area.

In 2004, the 18th Provincial Chapter took place and Brother John Martin was elected as Provincial for a third term. Brother Bernard Burke celebrated his platinum jubilee. At Scorton, Saint John of God




Also in 2004, the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Littlehampton invited the Brothers to work in partnership with them to ensure the future of Saint Francis Nursing Home in Littlehampton. And at West Lane, Bradford, a new 12-bed registered care home offering 24-hour nursing care for people with learning disabilities opened.

In the following year another new facility came into operation at 3 and 4 Cuthbert’s Close, Bradford. The two new 4-bedroomed nursing homes provide 24-hour nursing care and support for people with physical disabilities.

During the course of the year it became clear that the nursing home in Littlehampton was no longer viable. The residents were resettled into other suitable accommodation.

In April, acceding to the wish of the Charity Commission to introduce greater clarity into the relationship between the life of the Order as recognised by the Holy See, and the care, support and pastoral services provided by the Order, the services were transferred to the Order’s new charitable company: Saint John of God Care Services.



WORLDWIDE HISTORY - 2000-2005


2000

The new millennium was celebrated across the world with spectacular firework displays and 24-hour parties.



2001

Terrorists hijacked planes in America on September 11 and used them as flying bombs. The world watched as the World Trade Centre was hit by two planes and collapsed to the ground killing thousands of people.




2002

The Bali Bombings occurred on October 12, 2002 in the town of Kuta on the Indonesian island of Bali, killing 202 people and injuring a further 209.




2003

War in Iraq. US forces and allied supporters advanced into Iraq.




2004

British explorer David Hempleman- Adams set an altitude record for a flight in a wicker basket balloon, rising 37,000 feet in the skies over Colorado.



2005

London Bombings - on Thursday 7 July 2005 a series of four bomb attacks struck London's public transport system during the morning rush hour.



30

31



the Brothers Epilogue

This chronicle of 125 years is an account of the Hospitaller Brothers of Saint John of God and their mission of service to thousands of sick, poor and disadvantaged people in England, Wales and Scotland, from the time of their arrival in 1880 to the present day.

The past 125 years has been a time of unprecedented change, especially the technological changes of the last 50 years.

When the Brothers arrived in Scorton, North Yorkshire in 1880, the Liberal leader, Gladstone, had just unseated Disraeli's Government. Within a year, Disraeli was dead, and so were many British troops in the Transvaal Revolt (the First Boer War). These were troubled times for South Africa, as they were for the Balkan States, Sudan and Ireland: this was the era in which British Colonial power peaked.

Fifty years after the Brothers arrived in England, the Great War had passed and the road to the Second World War already loomed ahead. The days of colonial power have all but passed into history, maps have been redrawn, political regimes have risen and fallen, but conflicts are still waged and new threats and challenges have arisen.

In the midst of all these political, social and cultural upheavals there are, for the Brothers of Saint John of God, two constants: the continued cry of people in need, and the undying values of Saint John of God's life and mission.

Over the past 125 years, the Brothers of Saint John of God have striven to extend the hospitality of their founder to those in need by reflecting his compassion towards them and to alleviating their condition.

It is within the context of this chronicle that the Brothers extend their profound gratitude to all who have, in any way, assisted them in their mission of hospitality from 1880 until this present time and into the future.



Reflecting Compassion 



List of Provincials of the English Province / Province of the Venerable Bede



Brother Bernard Burke
1953 and 1956
1st and 2nd Provincial Chapter



Brother Wilfrid Benning
1959 and 1962
3rd and 4th Provincial Chapter



Brother Cyril Martin
1965 and 1968
5th and 6th Provincial Chapter



Brother Joseph Carroll
1972
7th Provincial Chapter



Brother Benet Ormerod
1974, 1977, 1980
8th, 9th and 10th Provincial Chapter



Brother Stanislaus Neild
1983, 1986, 1989
11th, 12th and 13th Provincial Chapter



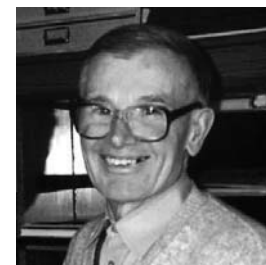
Brother Robert Moore
1992 and 1995
14th and 15th Provincial Chapter



Brother John Martin
1998, 2001 and 2004
16th, 17th and 18th Provincial Chapter



Hospitaller Brothers of the Province of the Venerable Bede - 2006



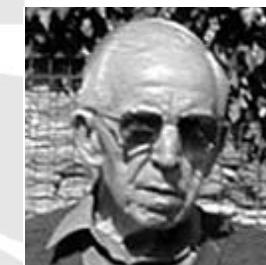
Brother Felix O'Neill



Brother Joseph Carroll



Brother Bartholomew Battigan



Brother Francis Stevens



Brother Ignatius Halloran



Brother Stanislaus Neild



Brother Michael Francis



Brother Robert Moore



Brother John O'Neill



Brother Bonaventure Garrard



Brother Michael Newman



Brother Mark Morgan



Brother John Martin



Brother John Stretton





Services of the Order in Great Britain 1880-2005

Saint John of God Hospital, Scorton	1880 - 2004
Saint Raphael's, Barvin Park, Hertfordshire	1931 - 1994
Wiseman House, Walthamstow	1932 - 1938
Blessed John Southworth Hostel, Vauxhall Bridge	1934 - 1938
Saint Joseph's Hostel, Osterley Park	1938 - 1952
Saint Cuthbert's Hospital, Hurworth Place, Darlington, Co Durham	1946 - 1991
Saint John of God, Silverdale, Lancashire	1952 - 1967
Eagle Cottages, Jarrow.....	1992
White Lodge, South Shields	1992
Lindisfarne Court, Darlington	1992
Portsdown, Colburn.....	1992 - 1999
Balmaclan, Catterick Village	1992
Supported Living Service, Hatfield.....	1993
Leisure, Education & Occupational Services, Hertfordshire	1993
Supported Living Service, Enfield	1993
Dalby View, Coulby Newham	1993
Pastoral Centre, Hemlington.....	1993 - 2003
Brentwood, Leyburn	1993
Bede's Close, Thornton	1993
Station Road, Clayton	1993



Changing with the Times



1&2 Cuthbert's Close, Queensbury.....	1993
The Minims, Hatfield	1994
Beach Road, South Shields	1994
Sandown Road, Billingham.....	1995
LEOS, Billingham	1995
Saint John of God Respite Service, Luddendenfoot.....	1996
Saint John of God Horticultural Training Centre, Welwyn Garden City	1996
Saint John of God Resource Centre, Enfield	1998
St Mary's Nursing Home, Barrhead, Scotland	2001 - 2004
Resettlement Service, Mike Mably House, Hatfield.....	2002
Floating Drug and Alcohol Service, Hatfield.....	2002
Supported Living Service, Calderdale	2002
Supported Living Service, Scorton.....	2003
Woodhall Community Centre, Welwyn Garden City.....	2003
Supported Living Service, Bradford.....	2003
West Lane, Thornton.....	2004
Supported Living Services, Scotland.....	2004
Management Services	2004
Services For Elderly Religious, Littlehampton	2004 - 2005
3&4 Cuthbert's Close, Queensbury.....	2005





Thanks for the Memories



What follows is a personal reminiscence by Brother Joseph Carroll OH, a former Provincial, on what life was like for a young Brother in the early 1950's, around the time the English Province was founded.

Thanks for the memories....

In 1948 this young beginner en route from Scorton's pre-beeching railway station and smoking his last cigarette, believed his was a divine call to follow Christ in this distinctive way and he expected sacrifice. He would not be disappointed. That beautiful blue double-breasted pin-stripe suit which cost £18 of the demob pittance, the wristwatch, the radio and the cigarettes, "Forbidden!" No newspapers, no days off and your next trip home will be in three years me lad. You used to sing "If I was single my pockets would jingle" but now no pocket money either. Allowed a

bath once a week, one clean bed sheet a week, a very short haircut and a life governed by bells (and I don't mean the whisky).

Ear shattering, at the crack of dawn, and the injunction to rise as though the bed were on fire. Take your enamel basin for a cold water splash, then proceed to the chapel where you will meet with the rest of the Community four times each day to pray the Divine Office, in Latin, and if you make a mistake, lean forward and kiss the bench. After morning prayer we had thirty minutes of silent meditation. The breakfast will be strong coffee and good plain food. During the meals we listen to a reading which will include on a Sunday at lunchtime "The Imitation of Christ" and at supper "The Rule of St. Augustine". We sit in the refectory in strict hierarchical order with the superiors on the top table. Sometimes, for the fun of it, you will be asked to eat your meal whilst kneeling on the floor as a small penitential exercise. On Saturday night we

sing an antiphon to our Blessed Lady, and each night we gather for thirty minutes recreation, which ends when a bell is rung. You must respond to this immediately even if it means stopping in the middle of a sentence. Then follows night prayer and the 'magnum silentium', a silence not to be broken until after breakfast the next day.

Each beginner had a small pocket book on deportment. Walk with the hands under the scapular. If passing a superior kiss your scapular and say "praised be Jesus Christ". Steps are to be climbed one at a time and avoid mannerisms such as touching your face with your finger. Should you require a razor blade or toothpaste enter the novice master's room, kneel down, kiss the floor and then make your request (I kid you not). I remember thinking this is just plain ludicrous. I tried to cover my embarrassment by saying "I've come shopping" only to be told "not shopping Brother but as a poor man come begging". There was a voice within

me crying, "look I'm 26 years old, you must be joking". Later, as one of the Brothers starting to train as a State Registered Nurse at a Darlington Hospital, I thought here we go again. If you broke a thermometer, value 6p, you were required to take the pieces to the matron and apologise. And there was this same hidden voice threatening "Madam, I fought in a war, you must be joking". Today all of this sounds surreal to say the least, whilst humility is lauded as a supreme Christian virtue, it is still in fact the least practiced.

I look back with near incredulity at that controlled, ordered life and work ethic, which was simply staggering. The hospital at Scorton in those days was an all-male environment consisting of 120 to 130 patients. They were of all creeds and none, and all were the victims of severe long-term illness or disability. There were only the Brothers to care for them and the work was demanding. Ours was work for the strongest.

It proved a strenuous apprenticeship. My recollection is of a seemingly endless round of sheet changing, bed making (no duvets), shaving bristly chins (no electric razors), washing, bathing, toileting, dressing wounds, and of course so many patients to be fed. It was not uncommon to see a Brother within a circle of patients giving each a mouthful in turn. To add to the delight we also did the cleaning. We had no domestics.

Oh the delight, the sheer delight, on the rare occasion of an afternoon off and a bicycle ride into the country. Such bliss! You will note that while purporting to speak of the Province my remarks so far have been confined to Scorton. We did have other works in the country but, in our formative years, it is there we were grounded in every sense.

In the business pages of a newspaper I recently saw the headline "Innovate or Die". On our journey of discovery that could have been our motto. Brother

Bernard, our founding Provincial, was ever the innovator, always open to change. He took us into the National Health Service structure from its inception and through its pre-Thatcherite glory. He somehow had Scorton registered as a State Registered Nurse training school and was the first to employ women in the hospital. He hired one of those early massive TV screens so that we might see the Coronation (half the village came in) in grainy black and white, and see Wolverhampton Wanderers in a cup-tie. He sought to brighten the lives of the novices by introducing football, running and recreational quizzes. This man at the age of 70 went out to Zambia to start a new work of the Province.

I have known eight Provincials and they were all fallible. But those who do not make mistakes do not make anything else. So, as the wartime song enjoined us "Bless 'em all, Bless 'em all, the long and the short and the tall".



Joseph Carroll, OH





First Provincial

FIRST PROVINCIAL - BROTHER BERNARD BURKE, OH

Brother Bernard was the first Provincial of the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God's English Province. He was a man who was ultimately responsible for establishing two hospitals - Saint Cuthberts, Hurthworth Place and Saint John of God, Silverdale. He was a man who established the Nursing School at Scorton; the only all male one in the country at that time. He was a man, who in his late sixties, was a founder member of a Rehabilitation Centre in Monze, Zambia.

What follows is a personal account of Br Bernard by Brother Joseph Carroll OH (Editor).

We look here at the one Brother who was here long before we became a Province and has been even since his death in 2004, an inspirational figure throughout.

THE MAN

On my first visit to Scorton in 1948 there was this tall fresh faced Brother, probably mid-thirties I thought, black robed, hands under scapular, warmly welcoming smile, one Brother Bernard Burke, then head of the English Province, the man I would later think of as ever the innovator. Over the years I would come to appreciate his qualities as a leader, his readiness to accept responsibility, the courage of his convictions, his decisiveness and being unafraid of making mistakes, always open to change and, above all, his deep faith. Not everybody's cup of tea mind of course, as some thought him too stubborn but you cannot please them all. Some years later I learnt that when I was being voted on by the community for admission to Profession of Vows I was black-balled, considered not suitable for Profession. I never knew the nature of my crimes but in fact Bernard over ruled them all, so maybe my summation is biased!

IN OLD AGE

The Bernard who was always a good bluffer and given his educational background, an almost scandalous over-achiever, became blind in his later years, 'leader now no longer' and away from his immediate environment, had to be led by the hand. How can a sighted-person understand the deprivation which is blindness and yet he quietly accepted to be seen as unimportant, has never become soured, grumpy,



resentful, and never known to complain. He still wanted the Mass passionately and seemed to spend most of the day in prayer.

Contemplative

In the distant past one Brother Benignus, on a visit from Ireland, told us the more your life seethes with activity, the greater your need for prayer. Christ our Lord was contemplative. His prayer and action follow one another as constantly as the inhaling and exhaling of breathing. Bernard, I believe, was always contemplative in action. The terms are complementary. Thomas Merton used to speak of the spring and the stream.

DYING

In the Genesis myth the serpents classic line of seduction is "You will be like Gods." Gods who are in control. So easy to satisfy this desire for divinity by knowing every one else's business, by criticising and judging the neighbour. By wanting to be the centre of ones small universe. Bernard's claim was that because we are pre occupied with ourselves, we have in some sense to die to that self and over the years he has exemplified a path of increasing selflessness and self-emptying.

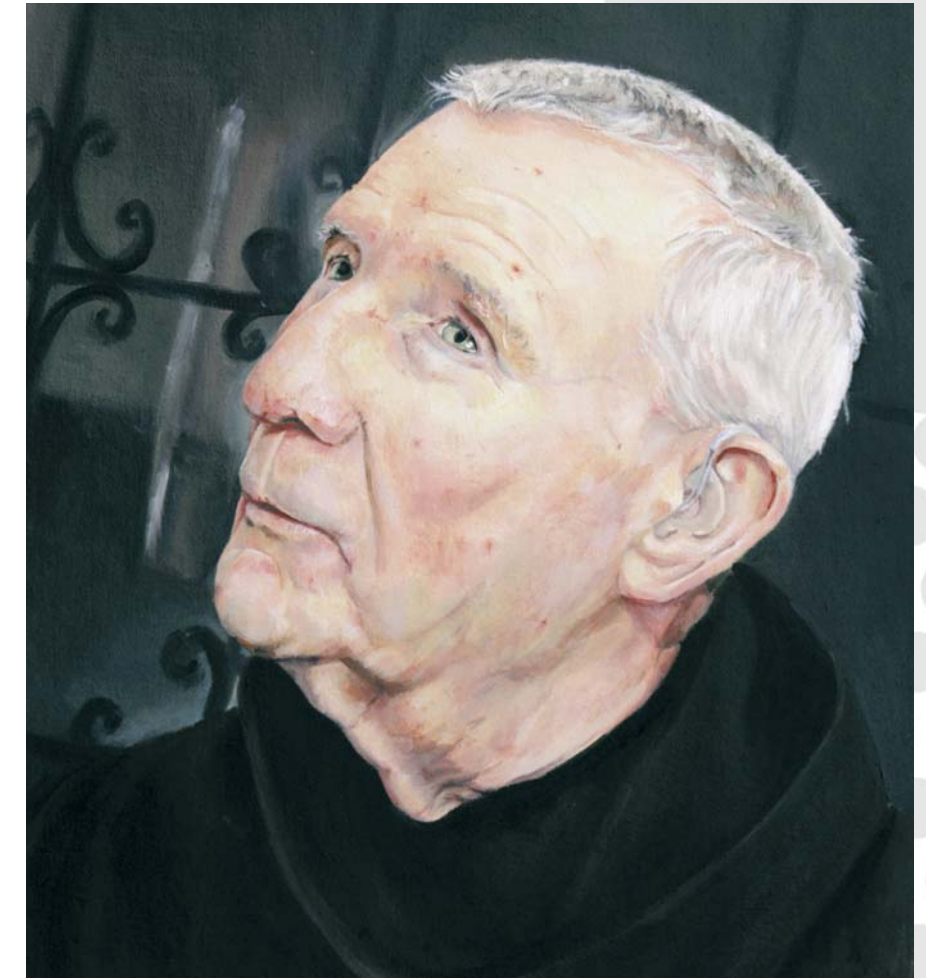
I've always thought of Bernard as the Father of the English Province. His leadership and example always pointed the way. I am not in the business of the Canonisation Bernard, you were always on the stubborn side but if I were an examiner I would put ticks against increasing selflessness and simplicity. A charity that knows no bounds, a man who for all his great achievements accepts to be seen as unimportant, and a man who now prays without ceasing.

We still need his prayers.

Br Joseph Carroll, OH



Brother Bernard Burke, OH





The Founder: Saint John of God

Saint John of God was born in Montemor O Novo in Portugal in 1495. Leaving home before his tenth birthday, he lived as a shepherd at Oropesa in Spain before joining the Spanish army. In 1538 he returned to Gibraltar, where he became a book-seller. In 1539 John dedicated himself to a radical Christian manner of living after hearing a sermon preached by Saint John of Avila in Granada. His life at that time was very disturbed and he was admitted to the Royal Hospital for the insane. Through this experience, John's life was directed towards concern for the poor treatment of the patients of the Royal Hospital. Determined to change the practice of the day, he opened his first hospital in Granada. John gathered the support of many people, including the Bishop of Granada.

He died in 1550 on his 55th birthday, worn out with his labours of charity. He was canonised in 1690 and became patron of the sick and dying, and of nurses.

