



CLONGOWES  
FOUNDATION

FR RECTOR MICHAEL SHEIL S.J. OC'56  
& CLONGOWES WOOD COLLEGE S.J. WELCOMES  
OLD CLONGOWNIANS & FRIENDS OF THE COLLEGE TO

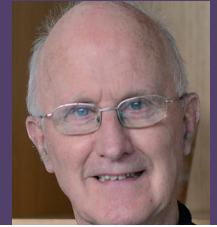
# FR. PETER KENNEY DAY

WEDNESDAY 14TH JUNE, 2023  
CLONGOWES WOOD COLLEGE S.J.

AMDG



# WELCOME FROM FR RECTOR MICHAEL SHEIL S.J. OC'56



It is good to have the **occasional still-point** in the year's calendar – when we can step aside for a while from our daily routine.

In Clongowes – as the current Rhetoric are sitting their Leaving Certificate Exam - **Founder's Day** is one such point as OCs and their Families celebrate another *AC year* [*BC=before-covid and AC=after-covid!*] We have been marking this day every covid-free year since 2006.

Another long-standing such still-point is the **Annual Past Kairos Day** [of restful reminiscence and reflection] on Good Friday, which still attracts the faithful few – and it is good to see some younger faces joining every year! I am happy to renew the invitation for next year's *pause-and-take-stock* on 29<sup>th</sup> March for what we call *Kairos* [God's time] – to share with other OCs a very important *stop-on-the-road* which is open to any OC, regardless of age.

To-day is a more recent but also important date for all of us who have shared the experience of our time together in Clongowes – as **we celebrate Founder's Day**. The *Ancients-of-days* among us welcome the latest Graduate Year of 1983, as they fulfil the only qualification necessary – OC for 40+ years !

*Fr Kenney Day* is an **opportunity for us to honour our Founding-Father and his Companions** to whom we owe so much. We are truly standing on the shoulders of those Giants, as we conclude our 209<sup>th</sup> Academic Year. We gather to celebrate Fr Kenney's legacy and thank God for his foresight which ensured that the College continued to thrive and develop from the very start.

We have just concluded our **quasiquintennial Anniversary Year** of our Union, set up by **Chief Baron Palles** [donor of the magnificent High Altar in the College Chapel] in 1897.

On behalf of all of us, **I thank and congratulate our recent President**, Tom Lane [OC'81] and the current incumbent, Peter O'Meara [OC'88] and their Committee on a wonderfully successful year of grateful celebration.

This year has seen national and international celebration with the name of a very famous OC from the early days of Clongowes to the forefront. Thomas Francis Meagher's [OC 1840] unfurling of the first tricolour flag in Waterford 175 years ago has been marked across the world. I am very grateful to Dr Pat McCarthy for kindly accepting Harman Murtagh's [OC'62] request to share his learning, wisdom and insight into this giant of former days, who, having made his student's mark on Clongowes, went on to take-the-world-by-storm in later life.

But let me not steal Dr McCarthy's thunder! ..... listen and learn!! As an OC myself, - though not yet quite *quasiquwhatever* - **I look forward to meeting you** and your Families - to share memories - and to hear of how life has turned out for you.

**This will also be an occasion when we remember classmates** whom God has called home in the past year and when, in gratitude for their companionship, we pray with and for their Families – as they join us to-day for a trip down Memory-Lane – and as they try to find out if all/any of the oft-repeated tales of derring-do are for real !

Under the protection of our Patron Saints, Aloysius Gonzaga and Stanilaus Kostka – **let us record our thanks to all those who have contributed to our education** in Clongowes in days gone by. Today, as we celebrate the achievements and life stories of all our OCs – let us thank God for His presence in their and our lives. **I hope that everyone will enjoy the day** and rejoice in recalling days of long ago.

## FR PETER KENNEY SJ DAY PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

**10.00** - Arrival, Registration and Refreshments

**11.00** - Celebration Mass in the Boys' Chapel

**12.00** - Thomas Francis Meagher Talk by Dr. Pat McCarthy

**13.00** - Lunch in the Refectory followed by a stroll in the grounds

# THOMAS FRANCIS MEAGHER COMMEMORATION

Representatives from Clongowes Wood College celebrated their alumnus Thomas Francis Meagher OC 1839 by attending a special ceremony for post primary schools hosted by the Thomas Francis Meagher Foundation on March 6th. A group of Syntax students (including Calum Delehanty great-great-grandson of TF Meagher) accompanied by Elizabeth Clarke, Director of Ethos, Antoinette Kelly, Clongowes Foundation and Mrs Eileen Lumb travelled to Waterford for this event. This ceremony was organised as part of the celebrations of the 175th anniversary of the first flying of the Irish flag. On the 7th of March 1848, Thomas Francis Meagher flew a Tricolour flag at the Wolf Tone Club in Waterford City. It flew continuously for eight days and nights before being removed by the authorities.

Calum Delehanty represented Clongowes Wood College to receive the national flag from members of the Defence Forces. Each flag presented on the day had been flown from the same building as the original flag 175 years ago.

An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar was in attendance during the ceremony and spoke about the act of raising the green, white, and orange in Waterford 175 years ago, how it symbolised peace between communities and expressed the hope of a shared future on a shared

island together, a message that continues to inspire today. Other speakers included Chairman of the TFM Foundation Rev. Michael Cavanagh and Senator Mark Daly.

The students presented the Flag to Headmaster Mr Lumb on their return to Clongowes.

**Pictured below: Back Row: Elizabeth Clarke, John Benson, James Elliott, Ruairi Hegarty, Isaac Behan, Max Reva**

**Front Row: Noel Andrews, Margaret Doyle, Calum Delehanty, Headmaster Chris Lumb, Oliver Browne, Antoinette Kelly.**



## CLONGOWES FOUNDATION

Clongowes Foundation was established as a separate charitable trust in 2004 with the aim to support the College in its mission to educate pupils according to the best traditions and highest standards of Jesuit schooling.

In the past 19 years, the Foundation and the College together have overseen a significant enhancement of the school's infrastructure and through the introduction



The Foundation team – Emma Robinson, Development Officer, Joe Rooney, Chair of Fundraising (OC'79 and past parent), Antoinette Kelly, Director of Development

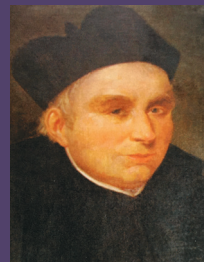
of the Alberto Hurtado Bursary Programme (AHP), have widened access to a Clongowes education.

These achievements could not have taken place without the financial support of some 800 past pupils, parents, past parents, friends of the college as well as the Jesuit Community and Province who have given so generously.

The AHP is a bursary scheme which offers opportunity to boys who might not otherwise fulfil their potential because of socio-economic disadvantage. Now in its 16th year, the impact of the AHP has been significant and positive for the entire Clongowes Community. 66 boys have graduated from the programme as Old Clongownians with 38 boys currently attending the College. The Alberto Hurtado Endowment Fund was created in 2020 to secure the Bursary Programme into the future.

If you would like any information about Clongowes Foundation or wish to support Capital developments projects or the Bursary Programme, please contact the Foundation Office 045 902334 / antoinettekelly@clongowes.net

# FATHER KENNEY LEGACY SOCIETY (ESTABLISHED 2006)



On Holy Thursday 5th April 1814, Father Peter Kenney S.J. blessed and dedicated a new college for young men at Clongowes Wood. Now, more than 200 years later, boys continue to be educated in the Jesuit tradition and spirit at Clongowes.

Members of the Father Kenney Legacy Society honour the memory of the college's Founding fathers and support the development goals of the college by including Clongowes as a beneficiary in their estate.

**For further information on the Father Kenney Legacy Society and leaving a Legacy to Clongowes please contact: Antoinette Kelly, Director of Development, Clongowes Foundation Tel: 045 838215 Email: [foundation@clongowes.net](mailto:foundation@clongowes.net)**

## FATHER PETER KENNEY S.J. AND CLONGOWES WOOD COLLEGE

Peter Kenney was an Irish Jesuit credited with restoring the Society of Jesus in Ireland after their suppression, as well as with establishing several colleges and devoting much of his life to the education of youth.

There were seventeen Jesuits at the time of the suppression in Ireland. No longer members of the Society, they were forced to act as diocesan priests. One of these last remaining Jesuits, Fr Thomas Betagh, taught children of poor families in Dublin. One of his students was Peter Kenney, the son of a coachmaker. Sponsored by Betagh, Kenney entered Maynooth College. From here he travelled to Palermo in Sicily to continue his religious training, as Sicily was allowed to maintain its branch of the Society of Jesus. Here in 1808, he was ordained as a priest.

Kenney travelled back to Ireland in 1811, the same year that Fr Betagh, the last remaining Jesuit in Ireland, died. Kenney arrived intent on re-establishing the Jesuits in his home country. Using money that had been put aside by the previous Jesuits, he bought Castle Brown in 1813. This would become the site of a new Jesuit school, Clongowes Wood College, which opened the following year.

On May 18th, 1814, the first pupil, James McLorinan of Dublin was admitted to the school. His parents were drapers and belonged to the evolving prosperous class of Catholics who were willing to take advantage of the classical education, which Fr Kenney proposed to offer. The annual fee was 50 guineas, and the boys spent 11 months in the school with the annual holidays confined to the month of August. The reputation of the school spread rapidly and by 1815 there were 110 pupils enrolled.

In 1818 a further school was opened in Tullabeg, Offaly. Tullabeg College was originally planned as a novitiate for the Society but became in time a proper college.

In 1822 Kenney travelled to America to visit the missions. In Missouri he met Jesuit farmers and was appalled that they owned slaves, ordering them to set their slaves free. Back in Ireland, Kenney and three others founded the Jesuit Church of St. Francis Xavier in Dublin after the Catholic Emancipation Act of 1829 was passed. For his remaining years, he continued his work across Ireland, both as a preacher and as an educator, until he passed away in 1841, worn down by constant toil and travel.

*Peter Kenney, Inspirational Jesuits, [www.jesuit.ie](http://www.jesuit.ie)*

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THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING FR PETER KENNEY DAY 2023

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