



# Dolen Mynyw Menevia News

Official Newspaper of the Menevia Diocese

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Issue Number 148

**JULY 2009**

## GOLDEN JUBILEE OF Fr. OWEN McGREAL

**O**n Friday, 2nd June, family, friends, Civic guests, clergy, religious and parishioners gathered together at Holyrood & St Teilo's Catholic Church, Tenby to attend a Concelebrated Mass of thanksgiving for Fr. Owen's Golden Jubilee of his Ordination to the priesthood. His brothers, Lt.Col Patrick McGreal and Mrs McGreal, Fr. Micael MacGreil, S.J., and many nephews, nieces, great nephews and great nieces came from the Republic of Ireland to celebrate this great event. Sadly, his brother Austin McGreal and his wife Margaret, who live in Philadelphia, his brother, Sean, who is seriously ill in Ireland, were unable to attend.

Among Fr Owen's guests were, Rt. Rev. Bishop Thomas Burns S.M, recently appointed Bishop of Menevia; Bishop Emeritus Rt. Rev. Daniel Mullins, former Bishop of Menevia; fellow clergy from the Diocese of Wrexham, North Wales; Brother Gabriel Collins, O.C.S.O., who

represented the Abbot of Caldey, the Rt. Rev. Daniel van Sanvoort O.C.S.O., and a number of Mercy Sisters from Fishguard and St Nons. The Sisters of Mercy are well known in the town, having served the Church in Tenby for more than 70 years, and who established a Catholic School in Tenby, the precursor to St. Teilo's Catholic School. Also present were Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary, Pembroke Dock.

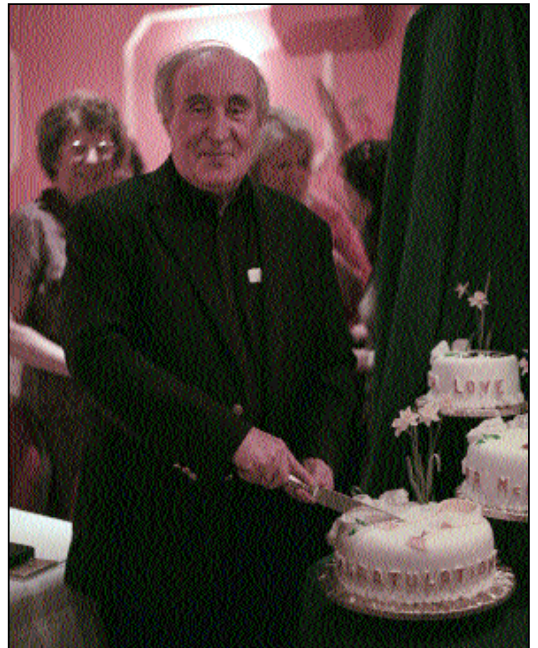
Civic guests were - The Mayor of Tenby, Cllr. Sue Lane, County Councillor Michael Williams and Mrs. Y. Williams, Rev. Michael John, who represented Rev. Andrew Davies, Vicar of St Mary's Church, Mrs. Brenda Harris who represented St John's Methodist Church, Mr Nick Atherton, Head of St. Teilo's Catholic School. Also in attendance were many parishioners of St. Teilo's Catholic Church, Tenby and St. Bride's Catholic Church, Saundersfoot. So too, were parishioners from Llanelli, Haverfordwest and Pembroke Dock Catholic Churches, and children from St Teilo's School and Immaculate Mary School, Haverfordwest, who sang 'Ave Maria' during Mass.

With great wit and knowledge of Fr. Owen, his brother, Micael MacGreil S.J., gave the eulogy outlining the spiritual growth of Fr. Owen's road to the

priesthood, which began when he was a very young boy, nurtured by his devout mother and father, and his late sister, Mary, who herself became a Religious Sister. Fr. Micael also referred to Fr. Owen's academic achievements in obtaining a B.A and later an M.A, and his subsequent teaching at Catholic schools in North Wales. His priestly ministry began in the (old) Menevia Diocese, firstly in North Wales, and then South West Wales. It was the love of God, who planted the seed of priesthood in Fr Owen, and the love of Mary, mother of Jesus (to whom Fr. Owen has a great devotion) which has sustained him throughout his life. During his eulogy his brother, Fr. Micael S.J., said that it was through his brother, Fr. Owen, that he himself became a priest, giving up successful career as an officer in the Irish Army.

After the Jubilee Mass, many attended a Buffet at the Giltar Hotel, during which Fr. Owen was presented with generous gifts from his parishioners and friends, and on behalf of Tenby Town Council, The Mayor of Tenby, Cllr. Sue Lane, presented Fr. Owen with a medallion - recognition of his fifty years as a priest and service to the Town.

We wish to thank the joint proprietors of the Giltar Hotel, Malcolm Brace and Pat Jenkins, for their kindness and professional help in planning the Buffet, and for the way in which they were able to accommodate such a large



above: Fr McGreal cuts the traditional cake during his Golden Jubilee celebrations

gathering to celebrate Fr. Owen's Golden Jubilee - and we also wish to thank their staff for their kindness.

Michael Doyle

[Photos by James Van Ngumen]



Fr Owen thanks all for their many messages of congratulation on his Golden Jubilee



Fr. Owen's guests, including fellow clergy from the diocese, Bishop Thomas Matthew and Bishop Emeritus Daniel J Mullins

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