

15 June 2014 • 143



L to R: John Gaul, Dodo Fernandez, Mark Blake, Oliver Rogers, Columba Gleason, and Tom Lavin at the lobby of Miguel House

Visit to Miguel House and Castletown, Ireland. After seven weeks in the Mother House I traveled to Ireland to visit our missionary Brothers who worked in Asia but are now back in Ireland. It has been my plan since the new District began to pay a visit to our Brothers who retired back to Ireland but due to visa complications I was only able to do this now.

Together with Tom Lavin, we flew to Dublin on Monday, the 9th of June. After a delay of about 3 hours we landed at Dublin airport early evening and were met warmly by the Visitor of Ireland, Frank Manning. We spent the evening in the Provincialate in Howth Road, a quiet part of Dublin. In the community were the Director, Br. Pat Collieras well as Bursar Br. Joe Reid.



On Tuesday we travelled leisurely to Castletown. The first person who met us was Br. Columba Gleeson who spent many years in Kuching in Sarawak. He brought us to meet the Director of Castletown, former Visitor, Br. Stephen Deignan. I met Stephen in the 2004 Intercapitular and in the 2007 General Chapter so we took time catching up. He was very interested, as indeed were most of the Brothers, in news from the recent General Chapter.

We had lunch at Miguel House, the retirement home of the Brothers. There we met with many of the Brothers who worked in old District of Penang including Br. Mark Blake, blood brothers Br. John Gaule and Br. Adrian Gaule, and Br. Kevin Byrne who was instrumental in the transfer of SJI from Bras Basah to its current location. Br Oliver Rogers is still active and resides in the main house and works as archivist of the District. Supper was with “active” Brothers at the main house. After supper, Tom and I had the chance to do some walking around the small town including by the banks of the river Nore.



After mass the next day, we drove back to Dublin via a scenic route in the Wicklow Mountains and on the way we visited the ancient monastic site of St. Kevin at Glendalough. Tom had the chance to show me around Dublin including where they were living as scholastics. The evening was capped by supper with Br. Joe and Br. Damien Kellegher,



Auxiliary Visitor. I flew back to Hong Kong on the 12th.

It was a meaningful, almost moving visit for me to meet the Brothers who devoted their lives to propagating the Lasallian Mission in Asia and to be in the District that has produced so many committed missionary Brothers.

My sincere gratitude to Br. Frank Manning, Br. Damien Kellegher, Br. Stephen Deignan, Br. David O'Riordan (Director of Miguel House) and all the Brothers who made our short visit deeply meaningful. My thanks also to Br. Tom Lavin for accompanying me throughout.

Fraternally,

Br. Edmundo L. Fernandez FSC
Malaysia

