



Bio: Shane Daly SJ was appointed Provincial of Ireland in 2023. He entered the Society of Jesus at the age of 35, in 2008. Before joining the Jesuits, he taught young offenders and vulnerable children. After his novitiate in Birmingham, he taught at Coláiste Iognáid in Galway before theology studies at Regis College and the University of Toronto (2013-2015). Post ordination ministries include schools and Province administration. In 2022 he did tertianship in Portland, Oregon.

A LEGACY OF SERVICE, SOLIDARITY, AND HOPE

– Shane Daly SJ

I would like to welcome you all to this celebration and to express a special word of welcome and gratitude to all our keynote speakers, who are going to reflect on and celebrate 80 years of work by the Mission Office and IJI for the Kingdom of God.

It is appropriate that the celebration should happen here in Milltown Park, where the Mission Office was created 80 years ago to serve and support the work and needs of the Jesuits rebuilding the Hong Kong mission after the Second World War and support the emerging mission in Northern Rhodesia as then was.

The generosity, commitment, resilience, and faith of our Jesuit missionaries and lay colleagues has borne much fruit building up the Kingdom. Long before showing the way to God, walking with the excluded, journeying with youth, and care for our common home were spoken of as Universal Apostolic preferences, they were at the heart of what our missionaries did.

Our gratitude and appreciation go to the men and women involved in these works of service both in the past and today. In *Fratelli Tutti*, Pope Francis' encyclical on fraternity and social

friendship, he notes that we are called to *“a love without borders and for taking an active part in renewing and supporting our troubled societies.”*

Today, at a time when dark clouds of conflict gather over our world, which seems more intent on dividing peoples and nations, the generosity of those missionaries and the men and women who have taken up their cause, and continue their work, is more needed than ever; what they do and their generosity is a sign to our troubled world that a very different world built on fraternity and friendship is possible.

A special mention must be made of those who stayed at home who ran the raffles, cake sales,

and concerts organised across parishes and communities to raise monies for the work. It was less glamorous and adventurous but made so much possible. To that end we remember Fr Tom Martin the first “Mission procurator” from 1945 to 1972.

As I hand over to Fr John Guiney, the present IJI Director, I want to assure him and the team – Emer, Tim, Yanira, Joe, Amanda, Jim, and Rutsuko – remembering also Rosaleen who is now enjoying week three of retirement, and our missionaries of the Province’s prayers and support for your working building the just, livable, humane world that God desired, at the outset, for Creation.



*Kevin O'Rourke
SJ, who was IJI
Director from
1973 to 2008
and Rachel
McNeill, Nurse
Manager
Cherryfield Lodge*