



## Fr. Brendan

Born in Dublin in 1943, the youngest of five children whose parents came from Co. Offaly. I went to St. Vincents school in Glasnevin and did my Leaving Certificate in 1961. I joined the Franciscans on the same day as Fr. Pat and, like him, studied at U.C.G (Galway). I then went to Rome to study Theology and was ordained in 1969.

On returning to Ireland I was sent to our Limerick Friary where I spent nine very happy years. During that period I was the Vocations Director for the Province and that allowed me to travel all over the country. In 1978 I was appointed Guardian of our house in Merchant's Quay. The funny thing is that Fr. Pat was the Parish Priest at the same time. I moved on to the parish we had in Bray and remained there for nine happy years. Early in 1990 I came to Louvain for five months, due to the death of Fr. Kevin Jordan. I had to go back to Dublin as I was appointed Provincial Bursar for 12 years. I did not take it too seriously but did my best.

I later spent 12 years in Cork before going to Gormanstown College as Chaplain before arriving back here in Kraainem.

Since my youth I have been very addicted to sport particularly involving a ball - cricket, basketball, golf, soccer, Gaelic (both codes), hockey, squash, etc. I played for Dublin Minors in hurling and football and won a Leinster minor medal with them in 1961, losing the All Ireland semi-final by one point just two days before joining the Franciscans. I was lucky enough to play for an Italian soccer and Rugby team and on my return to Ireland, I played for Shannon rugby team as well as winning three senior county medals with Treaty Sarsfields in Limerick and lucky enough to play for the county as well.

I had great parents with my father being the holy one in the family. He received a Bene Merenti medal for his work with the poor. My poor mother died, from cancer, when I was just 14 so my big sister looked after us very well. Life was great even if, I am told, that I was an imp and that I caused much trouble in my growing up years. I don't believe a word of it.

Our home was a great place to be in and I am sure that the first thing my mother said to the Good Lord when she entered in was "**why did you take me up now just when I was enjoying life to the full?**". My sister is still living in the same house in Skreen Road, Navan Road, Dublin 7. Looking forward to my new life in St Anthony's.

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