



Br Michael Gilleece died on 18 June 2016, having given many decades of service to his Redemptorist community and to the people of Belfast through his work in Clonard church. For more than 56 years Michael lived the life of a Redemptorist Brother, celebrating his Golden Jubilee of profession in 2010. He spent 46 of those years in Belfast, in Clonard Monastery, apart from a six year spell in St Gerard's, on Belfast's north side.

Born in Kinawley, Co. Fermanagh, he worked locally after leaving school; then a few years later emigrated to Canada. While working in the oil industry in Western Canada he attended the local Redemptorist church, and ended up joining the Canadian Redemptorists as a brother.

About 1970 he returned to Ireland to train in youth work in Belfast, and was given a transfer to the Irish Province. His pride and joy was establishing the Clonard Youth Club with the support of the Clonard community and lay co-operators. This was undertaken at a very difficult time in the history of West Belfast and was a welcome asset to the area and its young people. Brother Michael had a profound love of Clonard and through his work in the youth club, prayer groups and in the monastery reception, he developed lasting friendships that assisted him greatly in his last days. His funeral Mass was celebrated in Clonard on 25 June, followed by burial at Milltown Cemetery