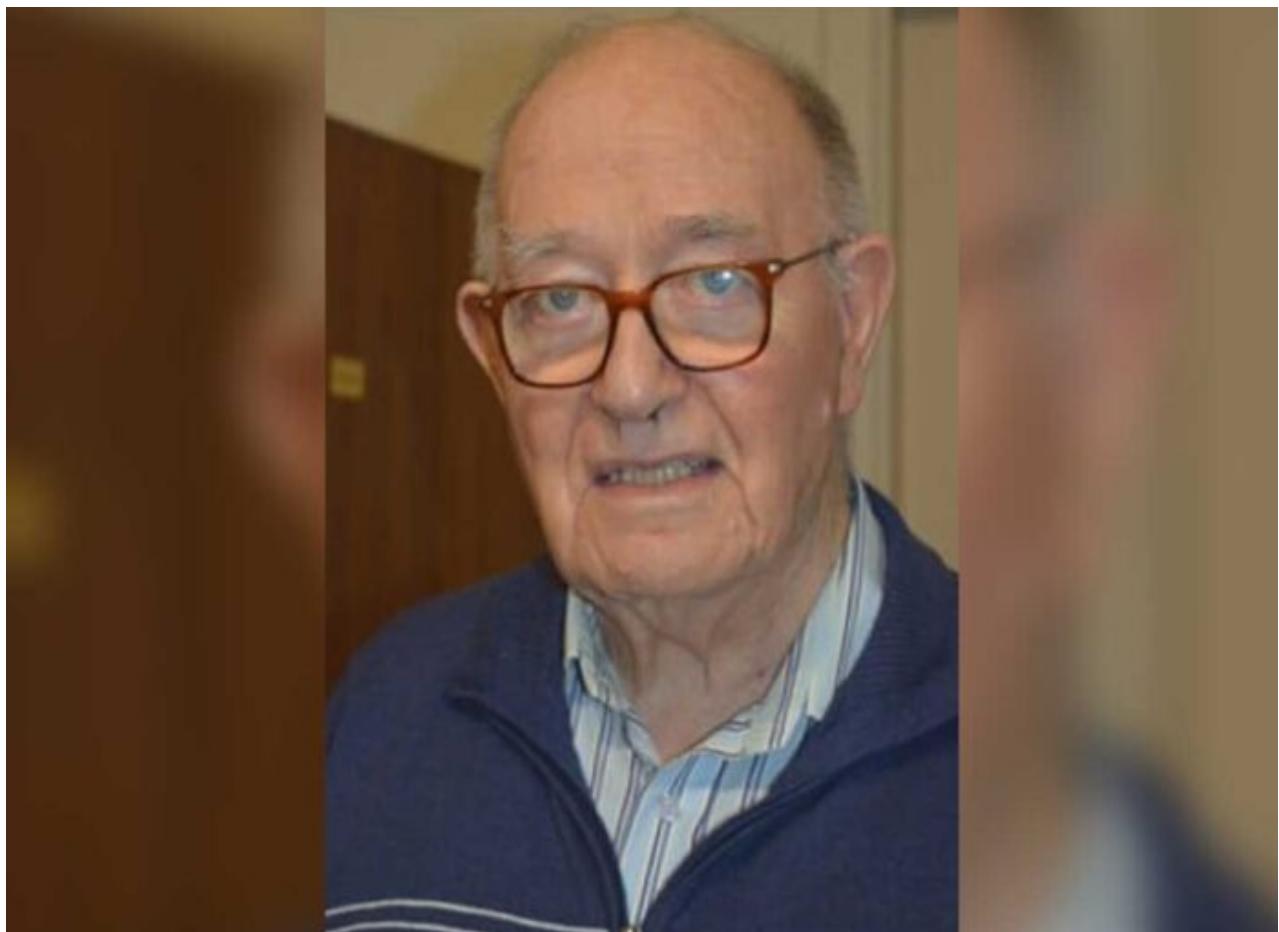


Father Patrick O'Connell, CSsR.

 negroschronicle.com/father-patrick-oconnell-cssr

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CIVIC CIRCLE

Wednesday last week, The Redemptorist community announced the passing of Rev. Fr. Patrick O'Connell, CSsR in Limerick, Ireland at 91 years old.

Fr. Patrick, popularly known as Fr. Pat, is remembered and well loved among Dumaguetenos. He speaks Visayan like or even better than a Bisaya. I am among the many who consider him a friend and hold him in high esteem for his ministry and great service to the Dumaguete Community. I first met him as the Parish Priest in the Our Mother of Perpetual Church.



With his many friends in different parts of the world, I am so touched that he remembers to keep in touch with me through emails every Easter, Christmas and special occasions. In fact, a few days before he died, I posted and tagged him on Facebook about the Bell Church Marker with the picture of the first bell used in the Redemptorist Chapel in the Macias area way back in the 60's.

Fr. Pat has the special touch of reaching out to the young and the mature, keeping real friendships and uncanny gift of making people comfortable around him. He gives the aurea of gentleness, simplicity and sincere care for his parishioners.

He has touched the lives of many Filipinos specially in the Dumaguete, Cebu, Davao and the Filipino immigrants in Ireland. Tributes and letter of gratitude for his ministry, specially from the parishioners from Dumaguete, Cebu, Davao and the Filipino immigrant community in Ireland flood the Facebook Limerick Redemptorist account and Fr. Pat's account.

I have requested Rev. Father Allen O'Brian, CSsR to allow me to share his tribute for Fr. Patrick O'Connell which he gave during the January 19, 2021 Mass.

"Many people have expressed their appreciation for Fr. Patrick during the past week, and how he touched their lives.

The Philippine Consulate in Ireland said: 'It is with great sadness and heavy hearts that we acknowledge the passing of Fr. Patrick O'Connell on January 13, 2021. He died after a long battle with cancer. Not only was he a very supportive and inspiring Spiritual Adviser who brought peace, hope and harmony in different Filipino groups, households and events, but he was also a good friend to many all over the world. He was the National Chaplain to Filipino immigrants in Ireland. He was greatly loved'

During the homily at the Funeral Mass last Saturday celebrated by Fr. Seamus Enright for Fr. Pat, he said: 'Fr. Pat was a person with a wonderful pastoral heart and selfless. He saw his role wider than the spiritual. He had a great capacity in forming and retaining friendships.

He preached missions throughout Negros Oriental and in Mindanao. He built up many friendships during his more than 30 years assignment in the Philippines. He was among the Founding fathers-members of the Redemptorist Community in Dumaguete and helped establish the PHCCI (Perpetual Help Community Cooperative. He was the first Parish Priest here and was responsible for building our Davao Church and he updated the Cebu Community Accounting And Financial System. In all these places where he served, he made and kept many friends. Even last Christmas, he sent them greetings, with an Irish Blessing.

When He returned to Ireland, he served as Chaplain for the Filipino community there, specially with the Filipino immigrants nurses who have to navigate the complexities of the Irish immigration system to be able to stay in Ireland. He helped new Filipino arrivals settle into their new homes and place of work. Fr. Pat worked tirelessly and effectively in assisting the Filipino migrants settle into their new Country without looking for credit for his achievements.

Last October when he learned that he had only a few months to live, his response was: 'I am in God's hands" It was his Faith that motivated his ministry. He died as he lived, peacefully and patiently, handing himself over to the loving hands of God." – **Rev. Fr. Allen O'Brian CSsR (By Lele Martinez)**

In Memory Of



Fr Pat O'Connell CSsR

Born: 28 August 1929
Professed Redemptorist: 8 September 1948
Ordained Priest: 19 August 1956
Returned to God: 13 January 2021



Fr Pat O'Connell R.I.P.

Sadly, we announce the death of Fr Pat O'Connell CSsR. Fr Pat died Wednesday night at 10.30pm at Milford Hospice, Limerick. Pat was a retired member of the Limerick community, after spending many of his priestly years in the Philippines. Please hold Fr Pat and all who mourn him in your prayers.

Fr Patrick O'Connell CSsR

Born: August 28, 1929
Professed as Redemptorist: September 8, 1948
Ordained Priest: August 19, 1956
Returned to God: January 13, 2021

*Grant, we beseech you O Lord,
that the soul of your servant Patrick,
who did you honour with the sacred office of priest,
may rejoice with you in the glory of heaven
for ever more. Amen*

