

# MEMORIES OF 2018 SPC TOUR OF IRELAND

Rev2, 10 June 2018

On 8 May 2018 Michael & Patricia Conroy, Murray & Maureen Cullinan, Garry & Maureen Mahon, Tony Williams and Gabrielle & Jim Smith assembled in Dublin for ten days touring Ireland together. The tour covered Dublin, Clongowes Wood, Slane, Saul, Armagh, Down, Belfast, Londonderry, Craggaunowen, Moher, Galway, Waterford, Glendalough, Enniskerry, Powerscourt, Donnybrook and many other places.

While each couple took probably 200 to 600 images of their interests in Ireland, the following are a record mainly of our St Patrick, Jesuit and spiritual experiences. (The abundant sight-seeing, fun, food, music, genealogy searches & visits and the group's Irish history learnings can be provided by the participants and from the SPOCA Digital Image Library.)



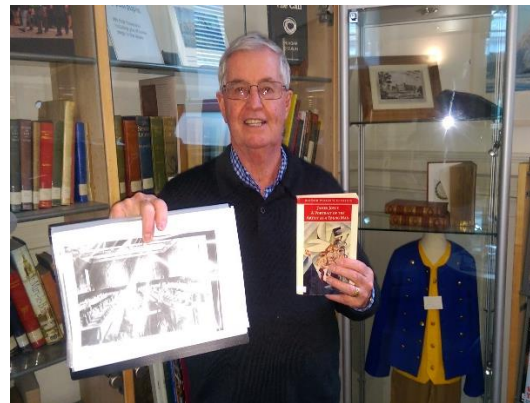
*"Patricians All" - setting out in tour bus around Dublin on first morning Wed 9 May*



*Front façade of Clongowes Wood Jesuit College for 450 boarders, 30 kms SW of Dublin. Castle built in 1450 & bought by Jesuits 1814. Joseph Lentaigne SJ was Rector in 1855-58 and first at SPC from 1865.*



*Rector Fr Michael Shiel SJ and historian Brendan Cullen hosting SPC group in Jesuit Community dining room at Clongowes Wood.*



*Murray Cullinan in James Joyce Library (a Clongowes alumni) holding earlier room use plans and his "Portrait of Artist as Young Man". Late 1800s school uniform is in display cabinet at right.*



*Climbers atop Hill of Slane (in icy winds and drizzle) where Patrick in 432, aged around 40 years, returned to Ireland and first lit a bonfire proclaiming the Christian alternative to pagan Druidic beliefs.*



*The first church built by/for Patrick in Ireland nearby at Saul in 430s. Original destroyed by Vikings in 700s and the subsequent Augustinian Priory (1100s) also destroyed in early 1300s.*



*St Patrick had a pre-eminent church built in Armagh in 445. There are now two St Patrick's Cathedrals in Armagh, one Church of Ireland and the other Catholic (shown above). A Relative of Garry Mahon (in statue) was Archbishop in 1800s.*



*Patrick dies in 461 in nearby Saul and is buried here at Down Cathedral, built/rebuilt in 400s by Christians, in 1000s by Augustinians, in 1183 by Anglo-Normans, destroyed in 1316 by Bruce of Scotland, then rebuilt in 1512. Believed buried under this stone are the three principal Irish saints - Patrick, Brigid and Columcille*



*Tony Williams & Gabrielle Smith in iron-age roundhouse of thatch, wattle & daub, reconstructed at Craggaunowen History Park.*



*SPC Group treated to performance of Bach Toccata & Fugue by Maureen Mahon, played on the 1866 SH Church pipe organ of his Donnybrook parish, as organised by tour guide Des Waddick*



*Graveyard in the ruins of Glendalough abbey, community and tower, established by Kevin in mid-500s on shores of a beautiful lake and hills in Co Wicklow.*



*SPC Group with Fr Michael Rodgers who lead reflections, story and walk around the lake and the ruins of the Abbey on 18 May 2018 – the last full day of our SPC Tour of Ireland.*