

**Fr Brendan M. Fahey
(1930-2016)**

Fr Brendan Fahey was born on 8 May, 1930, in Cloonfad Co. Mayo and educated at Derrylea NS, Cloonfad NS and St. Jarlath's, Tuam, before joining the Columbans in 1947. He was ordained on 21 December 1953 and appointed to Japan. He began his ministry in Japan as an assistant in Wakayama Parish and worked there until he became pastor of Chigasaki, Yokohama in 1962. Ten years later he moved to the parish of Kisarazu in Chiba district. He developed great skills in Japanese language and culture and maintained his links with people there all his life.

He left Japan for the U.S in 1978 and took the opportunity to pursue his interest in spirituality and spiritual direction spending his first month at a House of Intercessory Prayer for Priests and then doing further studies in Cambridge, MA. Brendan was then assigned to Britain and to St. Bede's Parish in Widnes. After nearly ten years in the parish he was appointed to the staff of St. Bueno's Centre for Spirituality in Wales where his skills as a lecturer and spiritual director were highly regarded. Following this, he became pastor of the nearby Parish of Denbigh, where he spent ten happy years.

Returning to Ireland in 2002 he made himself available to help out in the Nursing Home and continued to care for less-abled colleagues till he needed that level of care himself. In Dalgan he was a very esteemed member of the Nursing Home Pastoral Team and much in demand for First Friday Reflections and other Spiritual Conferences. His health deteriorated rapidly in the last few months and he died peacefully in the Columban Nursing Home on 24 January 2016.

Brendan's quiet and caring personality, made him an attractive and approachable mentor and guide for many people. He left us with memories of a caring missionary, with an impish sense of humour, who introduced many people to the loving God whom he served so well.

May he rest in peace.