

Closure Of Ballina Convent

The announcement was greeted with total shock, and silence, as it was not expected at that time. Each Sister was invited to meet with two PLT members to discuss/indicate where each would like to relocate. All were encouraged to start making plans immediately. Sr. Nollaig O'Horo, Local Leader in the Convent, requested that she would move temporarily, to an apartment in Castlebar.

Sr. Martina contacted the local Parish Priest, Fr. Brendan Hoban, to announce at all the weekend Masses in both St. Patrick's Church and in the Cathedral, that the Ballina Convent would close by Easter 2009.

Srs. Áine McGarty (Sligo) and Anne Glennon (Athlone) were given responsibility for items left in the Convent. PLT employed the Services of Meely's Auctioneers from Kilkenny. The PLT took charge of fulfilling monetary entitlements of the Staff. Beds became available in Cuan Chaitríona, where three Sisters were accommodated.

Around that time, a decision was taken by the PLT to close the Convent on December 19th 2008, instead of at Easter 2009! A few Sisters went to other accommodations: Árd na Gréine (Nursing Home) Enniscrone, Co Sligo; to Dún Mhuire (Assisted Living) Athlone; Carrigoran (Nursing Home), Co Clare; Árd Bhríde, (Assisted Living) Castlebar; Loughrea Convent, Co Galway; Belgarrow, Foxford; Ballisodare Convent (as a base); rented accommodation in Ballina town. Remote preparations already underway for Christmas in the Convent, had to be shelved. A thriving comfortable home-space took on a stunned silence. The townspeople gave voice to their shock. But there were no answers. The Convent was closed!

However, the Mercy Apostolate in the Killala Diocese continues to the present day, through prayer, pastoral care, Lay Associates, visitation, social work, community work, nursing, cooking, housekeeping, education, religious instruction, Spiritual Companionship, and volunteer work. Thank you God for enabling us to be your work of art!