

FROM THE PAPERS:

Western People

Peyton place: New sculpture of Attymass priest



Cardinal Brady, above, blesses the sculpture of Rosary Priest Fr Patrick Peyton after the unveiling on the centenary of his birth in the grounds of the Fr Peyton Centre, Attymass. Also included are Minister of State Dara Callery, Cannon Pdraig Peyton and Cllr Annie Mai Reape.

CHRISTIANS across the world can honour the memory of Mayo-born “Rosary priest”, Fr Patrick Peyton, by taking his legacy to the next level, says Cardinal Sean Brady.

Fr Peyton, who was born in the parish of Attymass near Ballina, took the pioneering step of using the television to promote the great power of prayer and the Rosary from the 1940s on.

Huge crowds gathered to mark the centenary of the birth of the Rosary priest - now a candidate for sainthood - in Attymass on Sunday, April 26, where Cardinal Sean Brady urged that Christians should use modern communications like texting, e-mail, twitter and the internet, to continue Fr Peyton’s mission to share the power of prayer.

The Cardinal addressed the crowds at the unveiling of a statue of Fr Peyton at the Fr Peyton Memorial Centre and said that prayer had the power to overcome the difficult times we are currently experiencing.

He said Fr Peyton had shown the present generation the way forward by spending his lifetime promoting prayer and a devotion to Our Lady. The ‘Rosary Priest’ had been pioneering in the use of television to communicate his message, attracting support from many of the famous film stars of that day.

The cardinal speculated that Fr Peyton would probably have rejoiced in the power of the internet to bring people together instantly in prayerful solidarity. He urged Irish Christians to use modern social networking mediums to establish prayer groups.

“Make someone the gift of a prayer through text, twitter or e-mail every day,” he urged.

Relatives of Fr Peyton were also in attendance at Sunday’s events as were the Bishop of Achonry, Dr Brendan Kelly, and the parish priest of Attymass, Fr Tommy Mulligan.



Mayo County Council Cathaoirleach, Cllr Joe Mellett, paid tribute to Fr Peyton at the sculpture unveiling in Attymass. Also included are, from left, Primate of All-Ireland, Cardinal Sean Brady, sculptor Joey Valesco, Canon Padraig Peyton, nephew of the Rosary Priest and local PP Fr Tom Mulligan.

IRISH TIMES

Cardinal urges Christians to twitter

HARNESS THE powers of modern communications such as texting, e-mails and the internet to create a worldwide solidarity of prayer, Cardinal Seán Brady urged yesterday.

Speaking at the unveiling in Attymass, Co Mayo, of a 7ft statue of Fr Patrick Peyton, who was known worldwide in the mid-20th century as the “Rosary Priest”, said prayer had the power to overcome the difficult times we live in.

In 1940s America, Fr Peyton, who dedicated his life to the Blessed Virgin Mary after his life was spared from tuberculosis, coaxed Hollywood stars of the time, such as Grace Kelly and Bing Crosby, to the rosary on television, then a new but hugely influential medium.

Fr Peyton died in 1992 after a lifetime spent promoting prayer and devotion to the Blessed Virgin. He conducted 40 rosary rallies worldwide that drew 28 million people.

At ceremonies yesterday in Attymass, near Ballina, where Fr Peyton was born in 1909, Dr Brady said the Mayoman had shown the present generation the way forward.

“Fr Peyton had a great gift for using the most up-to-date means of social communication. He was pioneering in his use of television to communicate the gospel and the power of prayer through the rosary,” said Cardinal Brady.

“He attracted the support of many famous film stars along the way. I am sure if there had been

mobile phones in his day Fr Peyton would have been big into texting and twitter. He would rejoice in the power of the internet and e-mail to join people together in prayerful solidarity instantaneously and across the world.”

Dr Brady, who was joined in the centenary celebrations by Bishop of Achonry Dr Brendan Kelly and local parish priest Fr Tommy Mulligan, as well as relatives of Fr Peyton, appealed to “every Christian in Ireland” who sends texts, twitters or uses e-mails to think about setting up prayer groups using these modern means of communication.

“Make someone the gift of a prayer through text, twitter or e-mail every day,” Dr Brady said.

BBC NEWS

Twitter your prayer says Cardinal

Why not 'tweet' a prayer every day, the head of the Catholic church in Ireland has asked.

Twitter - the social messaging network - or text or email is a fine way to spread the gift of prayer, Cardinal Sean Brady said.

Speaking at a Mass in County Mayo on Sunday he urged people to send their prayers 21st century style.

"Make someone the gift of a prayer through text, twitter or e-mail every day," he said.

"I ask young people in particular to think of sending their friends and family an occasional twitter or text to say that you have prayed for them."

The cardinal was speaking a centenary celebration of the life of Fr Patrick Peyton who was known as "the Rosary priest".

Cardinal Brady said Fr Peyton had "a great gift" for communication and would have been "big into texting and Twitter" if that had been available in his time.

The cardinal said people should consider setting up prayer groups using modern communications.

"Such a sea of prayer is sure to strengthen our sense of solidarity with one another and remind us those who receive them that others really do care," he said.