

## Christopher O'Flaherty OP (1943 - 2020)



Christopher O'Flaherty, of our Dominican Community at The Claddagh died on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May in University Hospital Galway.

Christopher was born on Christmas Day 1943 and grew up on the family farm in Killina near Kinvara, Co. Galway. It was through his contact with the late Dominican, Bertrand Naughton, a fellow Galway-man, and also a giant, that Christopher learned about the Dominicans. He made his profession in the Dominican Order on July 19, 1970. He was a man of God until his death on Sunday!

Christy lived in Dominican priories in Tallaght, Limerick, Cork and Galway, where he has been for almost twenty years. He focused his aesthetic eye on the churches attached to these priories and attended carefully and artistically to their interior design; he cultivated gardens and turned each place into a fabulous place of beauty, with the display of roses, window boxes, hanging baskets etc. Always known as Christy, he was a perfectionist and a genius. He has always attracted teams of helpers at all our priories, anxious to help him. As a Dominican he developed his skills as a carpenter, fitter, picture-framer, block-mounter, a chef with exceptional cooking skills, as a gardener, painter, decorator, candle-maker, sacristan and bursar. But above all he was a man of deep faith and personal prayer. His love of God was the driving force in his life and with his gentle nature, he forged lasting friendships with so many people.

He frequently travelled to Lourdes, where he worked with the late Fr Columba Leahy's CLM. And also had a devotion to Fatima. The Rosary was ever an important part of his prayer-life. So many people have spoken of his kindness and holiness, and some saw him as a star and a saint. And everywhere he lived it was the same story.

His outreach to people, who were associated with Dominican priories and churches, was all about the message of the Gospel, a message of kindness and goodness. But it was all done under the radar. Christy was not a man of fanfares and headlines. He was gentleman to his

fingertips. He became ill early in 2020 and was a patient in UCHG and Beaumont Hospital in Dublin. He continued to receive treatment in UCHG.

Bro. Christy is survived by his brothers John and Fr. Michael (Florida) and by his sister Phil (Sr. Ita, Sisters of Mercy, Loughrea), sister-in-law Ann-Marie, brother-in-law Brendan, nieces, nephews.

The O Flaherty Family and Dominicans have lost a giant; as have all his friends and parishioners in Galway and elsewhere.

May he rest in peace.



A private Requiem Mass at 10 a.m. and funeral to the cemetery will take place on this coming Thursday. 21st. May, 2020. This will be broadcast live on ([www.dominicanscladdagh.ie](http://www.dominicanscladdagh.ie) and MCN media). In light of the current restrictions on funeral attendance at Mass and cemetery those who would like to attend the funeral but cannot are invited to leave a message on the condolence page below.

“Like a candle in the wind”

May he rest in peace