

Press Release January 2016

RELIC OF BLESSED EDMUND RICE AT THE HEART OF ST AMBROSE COLLEGE

A relic of Blessed Edmund Rice is to be displayed at the heart of the new St. Ambrose College in their chapel.

St. Ambrose College Head of House and DT teacher Dale Krause, who wrote to the Christian Brothers in Dublin to obtain a precious relic, said: “It is wonderful to have such a tangible presence of the spiritual father of our school community. The life and works of Blessed Edmund Rice remain the inspiration for all that we trying to achieve at St. Ambrose and this relic will focus all our minds for years to come on his amazing global legacy.”

Blessed Edmund Ignatius Rice was born in Waterford in 1762 at a time when Catholics faced oppression under Penal Laws enforced by the British authorities. He forged a successful career in business but after a tragic accident which killed his wife and left his daughter disabled, he devoted his life to the education and service of the poor diving at the age of 82 in 1844.

The Christian Brothers have since spread his gospel to all four of the globe with many hundreds of Christian Brothers’ schools in Australia, Africa, Asia and the Americas as well as seven major schools in England.

St. Ambrose College's Headmaster James Keulemans said: “It is a privilege to have one of only 500 relics of the Blessed Edmund Rice in existence.”

“It was given to the school to bestow blessings on the school community and the wider family, specifically to be housed within Chapel. The hope is that it will bring a new type of prayer into the school, an abundance of blessings on all those who venerate it, and a sense of connection to the global Edmund Rice family.”

Mr Keulemans added: “From early days Christians have dug up the bodies of those martyred for the faith, and of Christian men and women of powerful holiness and virtue.

“Their bones have been venerated with gestures of respect, esteem and friendship as we ask them to pray for us and we try to follow their way of life. Their bones remind us that those in heaven and those on earth are not two communities, but one, the Church.

“They remind us of our belief, professed in Christian creeds, of the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. The occurrence through history of miracles associated with relics is seen as evidence indicating that they are in heaven.”

Rory McNicholas, 18, from Altrincham who is pictured in the foreground with the relic, said: “Blessed Edmund Rice is very present in our education today and we are constantly made aware of our duty to help those less fortunate and put our education to good purpose.”

Daniel McDonagh, 18 from Hale Barns who is the background, said: “It will be an ever present reminder of our part in what is a wonderful legacy.”

