

Fries 1 February.

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Dear Daddy,

Thanks for your letter. Thank Kathleen for the papers - In fact I find I read very little of them - I just wonder is it worth all the cost & trouble involved sending them. Perhaps just sending cuttings which have to do with Kerry would be better because quite honestly I find myself reading very little of the papers - The ~~World~~ I read ~~some~~ but the rest very little. I was delighted to hear Kathleen is thinking of 'settling down'.

Well my holidays have come to an end. I'm sure you've got the post card I sent from Asgwin. When I came back from there I spent 4 days camping with a group here at the River - then I went back to Córdoba for a course of pastoral of 1 week. It was interesting in getting to know Córdoba, the second largest city in Argentina - it is very industrial - In a way it is the Belfast of Argentina as it is in open rebellion against the Government. 2 years ago it all began when students & workers took over the city. Now the army has its toughest units there to control the situation, so the methods by the army here would even embarrass the worse of the British Troops in Belfast. Special Powers are in force here for a long while now.

Tony Cote wrote to me the other day. He had problems in his first parish but now he has moved to another & is getting on better. It is a fright what the English troops done in Derry on Sunday. It seems like open murder. They probably losing their patience. Jack Lynch seems to be reaching very strongly. The problem here is that all the news is controlled by British Agencies so you always get a very mixed up picture.

According to their accounts - the IRA fired first - 2

They will be no stopping things now as the South seems to be getting involved. Lynch seems to have spoken out very strongly about the situation. It will be very hard now to stop the violence.

In March I will move to live in the parish house but I will spend most of the day here in the Faculty - working here etc. This year I will have to take some classes so little by little I'm getting in on things in the Faculty. This month I am dedicating to studying the language. They are a lot of things which I have to improve on before I'll really speak it well. In Cordoba I visited an Irish Priest Denis O'Sullivan who comes from Whitechurch - He's come here about the same time as I so we have a lot in common although he works in a very different situation to me - Here the people are of European extraction there are direct descendants of the Indian - Spanish Stock. The first i.e. are very conservative & closed, there the people are much more open to change etc. but are very superstitious in a lot of things.

I had a letter from F.A. Ryan, the leader of the Peas, In fact I must get around to answer the letters because some people sent me money for Christmas. Economically here the country is in a terrible crisis - every month things are 15 to 20% dearer - I just don't know how long the people will bear the situation. In the north the farmers are in a very bad state burning all their tea, mares etc. - with cotton the price doesn't even cover the costs. People endure things here which in Ireland would cause an open rebellion in the morning. Politically the army are running everything & it seems they're thinking of changing

Presidents once again. Retire the present one on a good salary & ~~move up~~ move up the next in line. People couldn't have less interest in what goes on. It's incredible how the army is organised here. They get the best wages, do nothing, in any honest place they ^{have} skeletons, etc. - They say that out of 22 million Argentines, 1 million belong to the army. It certainly would not surprise me.

Jon seems to have had a very good time at Frank Kaur's Dohimition. He wrote to tell me about it. He also told me about the Late Late Show. They must have inner contacts in order to get on the Show. John Feighery, the chap with the accent I'm sure wasn't caught for words. The Belfast lad Tom Morrison wrote to me only a few weeks ago.

This summer has been a very dry one here - we've had very little rain. For that reason there are few mosquitoes here. The ~~may~~ mosquitoes breed in ponds etc. of water. Also I've got used to them so they give me no trouble now. Last year when one stung me I used to swell up - now I don't react in anyway to the stings. We're lucky that none of them carry malaria - if they did half of Argentina would be suffering from it. Garrett is getting on in the world. Now he's his own boss, pp. etc. I haven't heard from Vincent for a long time, I'm sure he's buried in his books somewhere. I'm glad at least that I haven't had to study like him. Last week I just finish a course on Pastoral here - It was quite interesting. As things

are very different here, the way of working in the Church is also different. One night I went to a folk music Festival in Languin - like a French Boil except there was very little beer. Here they drink the beer ice-cold & only in very hot-weather - During the night one couldn't drink iced beer. They were the world of people & enjoyed it very much about the whole presentation was very commercialised. They had a stage set up in an enormous square & from 10 PM until 6 in the morning ^{different} groups perform. It is perhaps the most famous festival in all South America.

I hope all at home are keeping well. It won't be long ~~now~~ to wait now for Spring. Here the people only worry about the weather when it gets dry, which I think is far worse than the rain. For example coming back from Cochabamba on the Train, we all got covered with dust inside in the train - the wheels of the train were churning it up. Luckily I was wearing old clothes - This year a lot of the maize crop was ruined because of the draught.

I had a letter from Paula Rice - She seems to feel she has a lot of time on her hands now that she's married. I seem to have got any amount of letters for Christmas this year -

Well best wishes to all at home - Hope Mummy is well - and the lads are still winning in Rugby - Love & God Bless to all
Your fond son Pat