

## Ecumenical Service at SMA Dromantine



Dromantine Retreat & Conference Centre was the location for an Ecumenical Theological Conference on Pentecost Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> May 2009.

The theme was:

*“Reconciliation in Scripture and on the streets: No sitting on the fence”*

More than one hundred people came together for the session which was seen as a completion of the

first two semesters of the Theological Programme begun at Dromantine in September 2008 and jointly run by

Edgehill Theological College, Belfast,  
Mater Dei Institute of Education, Dublin and  
The Society of African Missions.

The event was also part of the SMA celebrations of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the death of the SMA Founder, Bishop Melchior de Marion Brésillac, at Freetown, Sierra Leone, in 1859. The Feast of Pentecost is the great feast of Church and its missionary outreach.

The Conference took the form of an ecumenical service with prayer, scripture readings, reflections and discussion.

Rev Dr Ken Newell, former Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, who has been a missionary in Indonesia and is currently serving in Fitzroy, Belfast, addressed the theme: *“Reconciliation in the Scripture: Turning Strangers into Friends”*.



Fr Gerry Reynolds CSsR, Redemptorist priest from the Clonard Monastery, Belfast, and long associated with the Clonard Reconciliation Project, spoke on the theme: *“Reconciliation on the Streets”*.

Fr Des Corrigan SMA, Director of the Dromantine Retreat & Conference Centre welcome the visitors and Fr Damian Bresnahan SMA, Provincial Councillor, introduced the speakers. Rev Dr Ruth Patterson, Presbyterian minister and Director of Restoration Ministries, lit the ecumenical candle for the service. Representatives of Edgehill College, Mater Dei Institute and SMA were present.