



## Monsignor John Anthony Brennan

April 5, 1930 - September 20, 2021

Monsignor John A. Brennan, one of the original priests of the Diocese of Tyler and a former vicar general of the diocese, passed away on September 20, 2021, at Padua Place in San Antonio. He was 91.

Visitation, including the Office for the Dead and a Rosary, will be held on Sunday, September 26 at 6 p.m. at Stewart Family Funeral Home in Tyler. The Funeral Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Joseph E. Strickland on Monday, September 27 at 11 a.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Tyler; Bishop Edmond Carmody will be the homilist.

Brennan was born in Waterford, Ireland, on April 5, 1930, one of eight children of the late John and Bridget Grace Brennan. He studied at St. John's College in Waterford and St. Patrick's College in Carlow.

He was ordained to the priesthood on June 10, 1956, for the Diocese of Dallas-Fort Worth, coming to the United States to serve due to the shortage of priests.

Father Brennan served numerous pastoral assignments in Dallas-Fort Worth, including time as an assistant pastor at Our Lady Queen of Peace (Wichita Falls), Good Shepherd (Garland), St. Augustine (Dallas), St. Paul (Fort Worth), St. Andrew (Fort Worth), and St. Elizabeth (Dallas).

In 1968, he was named pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Denison. He also served as pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Grand Prairie before being named pastor of St. Mary Parish in Longview in 1982; he became a priest of the Diocese of Tyler with the establishment of the new diocese in

February of 1987.

In 1995, Father Brennan was named vicar general of the diocese and chaplain at Mother Frances Hospital in Tyler. In 1996, he was named a Prelate of Honor by Pope John Paul II and given the title of "Monsignor." In his final assignment before retirement, Brennan served as pastor of St. Jude Parish in Gun Barrel City from 2002 to 2007.

Msgr. Brennan served on the College of Consultors, Presbyteral Council, was an auditor for the diocesan marriage tribunal, served as chaplain to the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, and was Dean of the East Central Deanery.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to Catholic Charities, 202 W. Front St., Tyler, Texas 75702 ([www.ccetx.org](http://www.ccetx.org)).

# Cemetery Details

**Ballyneale Cemetery**

## Previous Events

### Visitation and Rosary

SEP **26.** 6:00 PM (CT)

Stewart Family Funeral Home  
7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy  
Tyler, TX 75703  
(903) 581-2008

### Funeral Mass

SEP **27.** 11:00 AM (CT)

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception  
423 S. Broadway  
Tyler, TX 75702

# Tribute Wall



“ *Stewart Family Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Monsignor John Anthony Brennan*



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**Stewart Family Funeral Home** - September 25, 2021 at 11:28 AM

BB

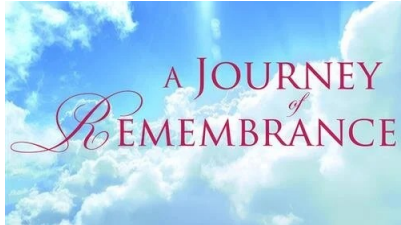
*I was honored to be counted among his friends!*

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**BILL Bellenfant** - September 28, 2021 at 05:47 PM



“ *Stewart Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Monsignor John Anthony Brennan*



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**Stewart Family Funeral Home** - September 24, 2021 at 04:04 PM

BB

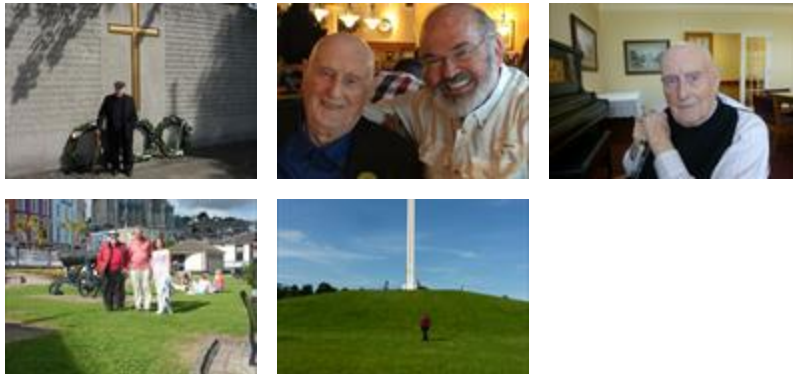
“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



**BILL Bellenfant** - September 28, 2021 at 07:34 AM

BB

“ 9 files added to the album LifeTributes



**BILL Bellenfant** - September 27, 2021 at 10:11 AM

EF

“ 2 files added to the album Elizabeth



**Elizabeth Foley** - September 27, 2021 at 05:02 AM

M?

“ *Mary Ronan & Family Niece From Cork 🙏 lit a candle in memory of Monsignor John Anthony Brennan*



mary Ronan & family Niece from Cork 🙏 - September 26, 2021 at 07:03 PM

M&

*Sending many blessings to Uncle John in Texas along way from Cork ... but we are with you in spirit and joining in prayer on the web camera. So many happy Summer memories with Uncle John spent with us when he stayed with Mam & Dad. Rest in peace Uncle John I'm sure there will be a big welcome in heaven 🙏 Mary & Kieran Darren & Rebecca Ronan /Collins*

mary Ronan & family Niece from Cork 💎💎 - September 26, 2021 at 07:20 PM

JC

“ *Uncle John, like most of the Brennans had a great sense of humour and loved hearing and telling jokes. Though he spent most of his life in Texas and made great friends their, he loved Ireland too and spending many Summers hear with us and his late dear sister Maura. He really enjoyed playing cards and spent many long nights having a good laugh at the card table with us. I am sure he is reunited now with most of his family and loved ones and looking forward to being dealt infinite number of good hands as he led a very good life totally committed to God. We will miss him dearly, may he rest in peace.*

*John, Kerrie, Jack and Alan Collins*

John Collins - September 26, 2021 at 03:59 PM

EF

“ Today is a sad day for all. Even though we are parted by miles, We join with you in spirit praying for John, as his funeral Mass is celebrated in Tyler Texas.

*It was once said" Into each life some rain must fall".*

*Today, In Ireland the rain is spilling down. Yes, death brings an air of sadness to friends and family. However, John had a Happy life, He too would understand that his passing would bring a measure of darkness to our hearts. He would be the first to remind us that happiness would lose its meaning if it were not balanced by sadness.*

*So today we give Thanks for his great life and vocation to the priesthood. We have great memories of Uncle John.*

*Uncle John was devoted to his Calling and prayer was a daily ritual for him.*

*“Christ is the morning star*

*Who, when the night of this world is past,*

*Brings to his saints*

*The promise of the light of life*

*And opens everlasting day”*

*God Bless Fr John*

*Till we all meet again.*

*Our homeland is in Heaven.*

*Elizabeth Lawrence & Family,*

*Tralee, Ireland*

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**Elizabeth Foley** - September 26, 2021 at 12:35 PM

EF

“ 3 files added to the album Elizabeth



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**Elizabeth Foley** - September 26, 2021 at 11:59 AM

BB

“ 2 files added to the album John with Bill and Rosie



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**BILL Bellenfant** - September 25, 2021 at 07:27 PM

“ Sent from his nephew Professor Patrick Collins-Ireland

*Msgr. John Brennan was one of seven children born in Waterford, Ireland to John Brennan and Bridget Grace Brennan. His father died when he was 13. His mother was left to raise 7 young children and run the family drapery business. She continued working for another 27 years up to 1970. The family lived in St Patrick parish which was the oldest church in Ireland.*

*The first stained glass window in the church is dedicated to the memory of John Brennan, Senior.*

*Fr. Brennan was educated by the Irish Christian Brothers founded in Ireland by Blessed Edmund Ignatius Rice. Fr. John studied for the priesthood in Waterford and Carlow. He was ordained in 1956.*

*Bishop Thomas K. Gorman of Dallas, Texas requested him to come and serve Queen of Peace parish, Wichita Falls in 1956. Since then he spent 65 years serving across Texas in Dallas, Denison, Grand Prairie, Dallas, Longview, Tyler, and Gun Barrell City.*

*He would return to Ireland each summer visiting his mother up to the time of her death in 1984 and continued annual visits up to 2013. Fr. John was influenced by his mother's deep faith leading him to give service to the Church and its people. Influenced by many as he spread the word, I think he found heaven on earth and this accounts for a long and fruitful life.*

*Even when his health began to fail these last few years, he was content to worship with the other Priests and receive kind devoted care from the Staff at Padua Place retirement and Nursing Center in San Antonio, Texas. Special Thanks to Sister MaryAnn, Nurses Rose, Teresa, Lisa, Elisa, Arcia, Marie, Jesus, Melinda, Oralia, Ryan and Christus Hospice and all other.*

*Thanks to the Diocese of Tyler , Bishops Strickland and Carmody, and all other priests and deacons and nuns, who served, worked and visited my uncle. A particular word of thanks to Bill and Rosie Bellenfant for their care and support and kindness for their friend...*

*Further, I would also thank his oldest friend Ms. Bernie Jensen, 101 yrs old, of Gun Barrel City for her service, prayers, phone calls, meals and other kindnesses over the years.*

*During our family visits to our uncle in Texas over the past seven years, we were greatly touched by the warmth, kindness and friendliness of the people...It is a pity we cannot be with you now...Thank-you all....*

*FR John , "Slan do foil" ....Goodbye for now.....*

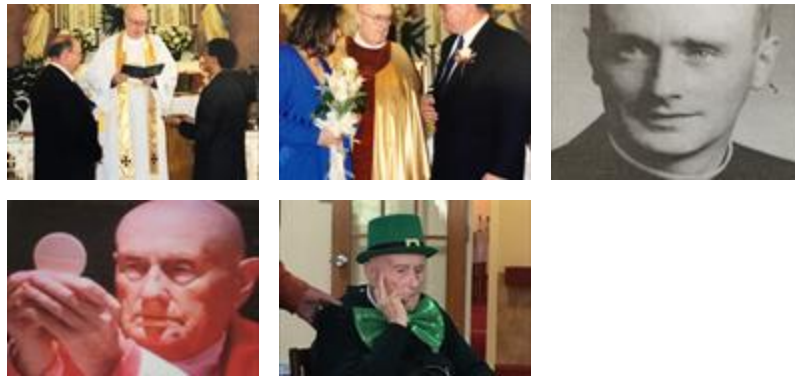
*Patrick Collins and your family in Ireland and USA*

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**BILL Bellenfant** - September 25, 2021 at 02:38 PM

CO

“ 22 files added to the tribute wall



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**CODY** - September 25, 2021 at 01:20 PM



“ 65 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**Stewart Family Funeral Home** - September 24, 2021 at 04:01 PM