Last night I watched in awe the RTE one Documentary " walking the walk " where 54 year old Dublin priest Fr. Tony Coote who was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease 5 months ago undertook the absolutely huge challenge of walking from Donegal to Cork. All this was being done to raise awareness and fundraising for the Irish Motor Neurone Disease Association and the huge 550 km journey from one end of Ireland to the other taking 27 days to complete. It was a decision he made to Professor Orla Hardiman when she diagnosed him with Motor Neurone Disease last April when he was in a better state of health. I think of the many volunteers with blisters on their feet who took turns to push Fr. Tony's very basic wheelchair up and down the many less known country roads throughout the country. All the time Fr. Tony was completely aware of what he was doing even though his poor body left him in no doubt of his limiting functions. He kept telling the people he met along the way that his reason for this walk was to raise much needed awareness and funding for Motor Neurone Disease nurses and towards much needed medical research. It was nice to hear Fr. Tony talk about his priestly vocation and god, and he had no fear of death. What a inspiration he was to all the 370 Motor Neurone Disease sufferers throughout Ireland but it was nice that many of these same MND sufferers turned out to greet him on his journey and he told them that he prayed for them all every day. Finally I want to say that it is such a scandal that our supposedly caring Government cannot see its obligation to funding such a deserving cause. Hopefully the Taoiseach and his Government Ministers may well have watched this RTE Doc. on Thursday night may feel compelled to come on board and provide funding and not to leave it all to the fundraising sector. Fr. Tony urges us all to make contact with our elected representatives to change Government policy. Finally it should not be forgotten the wonderful work being done free of charge by carers and family members of Motor Neurone Disease sufferers. Thanks again Fr. Tony for all you have done for the Motor Neurone cause and I wish you strength and peace going forward