

The Irish Catholic

MARY KENNY

A lesson in marriage mismatch

Page 5



AN TAOISEACH

Faith helped us deal with the death of our two children

Page 3



DAVID QUINN

The Church needs more voices from Africa Page 8



Thursday, September 1, 2022

€2.50 (Stg £2.20)

The-Irish-Catholic-Newspaper

@IrishCathNews

www.irishcatholic.com

Plea for parishes to come to the aid of desperate students

Ruadhán Jones and Jason Osborne

Parishioners across the country with spare rooms near universities are being asked to take in hard-pressed students who are struggling to find accommodation as the college year begins.

Third-level institutions across the Republic are warning of an unprecedented crisis with fears that some students may be unable to attend college because they simply can't find anywhere to live. There are also concerns about the effects on some who may opt to commute for several hours due to a lack of a place to stay.

Fr Seamus McEntee, chaplain at Dublin City University, told *The Irish Catholic* that he is reaching out to parishes across north Dublin to plead with parishioners to consider making a spare room available to rent to a student.

He is urging parishes to see the crisis as an "opportunity" to reach out to those who are struggling to attend college.

"They're not crises, they're opportunities in the sense for people to respond," Fr McEntee said, adding, "the Irish are really great at rallying around".

Fr McEntee said that by responding

» Continued on Page 2

The finishing touches...



Sr Stan Kennedy, founder of homelessness charity Focus Ireland, gets a few finishing touches from Sr Sile before receiving her honorary doctorate from the University of Limerick, August 25. Photo: Sean Curtin

Indian Catholics 'heartbroken' after Derry tragedy

Staff Reporter

Derry's close-knit Indian Catholic community has been left shaken and "heartbroken" after two teenagers died in a drowning tragedy on Monday evening.

Reuven Simon and Joseph Sebastian – Syro Malabar Catholics – died after getting into difficulty at Enagh Lough. Four other teenagers who are also members of the community survived.

Fr Joseph Karukayil told *The Irish Catholic* both boys "always displayed impeccable character and integrity and gave of their very best whatever the situation. I watched them grow from children into fine young men, full of potential and aspiration for very successful lives in the years to come".

He described it as a "terrible tragedy" and said that the local Syro Malabar community – many of whom work in healthcare – as well as locals in Derry are "heartbroken" at the news of the tragedy.

He said: "this tragedy is felt right across the community – as news spread people were just so sad, it's heart-breaking".

CREESLOUGH CELEBRATIONS

Crowds turn out for Donegal church's birthday PAGES 12-13



LEGACY EDITION

Leaving a life-changing gift PAGES 17-37



FAMILY FEATURE

Cleaning up communication PAGES 38-39



Faith in the future: new miracle innovations could save thousands of lives from climate disaster

Learn more about how you can be part of a world without hunger.

CONCERN
worldwide

AN IRISH CATHOLIC EXCLUSIVE

SEE PAGES 20 - 21

Inside this week

Jason Osborne

The value of a sense of sin

Page 9



Peter Costello

From the Old World to the New World

Pages 44-45



Brendan O'Regan

A revealing glimpse at pilgrimage

Page 41



Managing Editor: Michael Kelly, editor@irishcatholic.ie

Deputy Editor: Chai Brady, chai@irishcatholic.ie

Northern Correspondent: Martin O'Brien, martin@irishcatholic.ie

Multimedia Journalists: Ruadhán Jones, ruadhan@irishcatholic.ie

Jason Osborne, jason@irishcatholic.ie

Newsroom: news@irishcatholic.ie 01 6874026

Books Editor: Peter Costello, books@irishcatholic.ie

Advertising: advertising@irishcatholic.ie 01 6874094

Accounts: accounts@irishcatholic.ie 01 6874020

Magnificat: magnificat@irishcatholic.ie

Shop: shop@irishcatholic.ie

Annual Subscription Rates: Ireland €165. Airmail €250. Six months €85.

ISSN 1393 - 6832 - Published by The Irish Catholic,
Unit 3b, Bracken Business Park, Bracken Road, Sandyford,
Dublin 18, D18 K277.

Printed by Webprint, Cork.

Place an Advert

Phone 01 687 4094 or advertising@irishcatholic.ie



Michael Kelly's Editor's Comment will return next week

St Peter's house potentially found on the shores of the Sea of Galilee

Jason Osborne

A team of archaeologists has uncovered what may be St Peter's house by the Sea of Galilee, in what has been hailed by an Irish priest based in the Holy Land as an "extraordinary" discovery.

Speaking to *The Irish Catholic* newspaper, Vice Director of the Magdala Centre in the Holy Land Fr Eamon Kelly LC said that the discovery has found an "incredible resonance in the media" and that it's very significant.

"What was found this year is extraordinary. A medallion, it's a round medallion, but it would fit probably in a square metre....It's filled with Greek writing.

"It's going to take a bit of cleaning work to finalise the discovery and then to read the text, but they're already pretty sure of some of the words in there. Peter is addressed as the 'Chief of the Apostles' and there's a prayer for his intercession, so it's an extraordinary discovery," Fr Kelly explained.

While excavating a Byzantine basilica from the fifth/sixth Century at the el-Araj archaeological site on the shores of the Sea of Galilee in Israel, the archaeological team discovered the large Greek mosaic that seems to



Archaeological sites on the shores of the Sea of Galilee.

support the theory that the church was built over the home of Sts Peter and Andrew, CNA reported.

The mosaic is suspected to be over 1,500 years old.

Fr Kelly said that the academic director of the excavation that unearthed the discovery, Steven Notley, is "one of the world's top biblical geographers," and

that he's "had this scent for a long time".

"It's what some people refer to as the 'smoking gun,'" Dr Notley told CNA in an interview about the discovery, pointing to the fact that the mosaic sits on top of archaeological remains from the Roman period as part of a church that is directly associated with the chief apostle.

Plea for parishes to come to the aid of desperate students

» **Continued from Page 1**

to the call, parishioners "really are helping struggling, in-need students who really do find it difficult and are finding it very costly".

Fr Liam Boyle of Atlantic Technical University Donegal revealed that a similar plan is being undertaken in the Limerick area, as it "plants the idea in people's heads"

that they can do something to alleviate the situation.

"We've done that here, the SU [Students' Union] in ATU Donegal reached out to the parishes in the surrounding area, for rooms or accommodation or support that could be offered," Fr Boyle said.

While University College Cork hasn't yet sought the help of parishes to aid students in

their search for accommodation, college chaplain Fr Ger Dunne OP said that such a plan would be ideal as "UCC is centred around three different parishes in the city centre".

"I applaud the initiative," Fr Dunne said, continuing, "there is no reason why it couldn't happen. The situation is clearly critical at this stage."

However, the plan is not seen as a one-size-fits-all solution.

Chaplain at the University of Limerick Fr John Campion SDB said that while the plan is a good one, it wouldn't work as well in rural areas due to a lack of transport links.

"It's easier in Dublin because you have a public transport system but down

in the country, if it's not in Limerick City or the environs of Limerick City, if you go out into the country a student will need transport and that's where they're going to run into difficulties," he said.

"There's buses coming from Thurles, Nenagh, Tralee, Ennis, but Dublin would have a better transport infrastructure than Limerick would, and so a wider catchment area," he said.

Third-level students are planning a country-wide walkout from lectures later this year as a way of highlighting the current accommodation crisis.

The Union of Students in Ireland (USI) say the action is planned for October 13.



St. Angela's College, Sligo
Coláiste San Aingeal, Sligeach

**St. Angela's College, Sligo is recruiting for
Director of Merici Institute
for Religious Studies
(2 year contract)**

Job Specification available on
www.stangelas.ie

Please forward CV and Cover Letter to
hroffice@stangelas.ie
before 4pm on 15th September 2022

St. Angela's College, Sligo

❖ **Capuchin Day Care Centre** ❖
29 Bow Street, Dublin 7



Every day The Capuchin Day Care Centre provides
600 Meals for people who are homeless and each week
1000 Food Parcels for those on the poverty threshold.

**Help Bro. Kevin continue providing
this caring service.**

Bro. Kevin or Therese 01 8720770
www.homeless.ie



THE HOOK OF FAITH

THE HOOK OF FAITH PRESENTS
**'SUPPORTING CATHOLIC
PARENTS: SHARING THE
CATHOLIC VISION OF LOVE
AND HUMAN SEXUALITY
WITH OUR CHILDREN'**

With Fr Chris Hayden

**Tuesday 6th September 2022
8-9pm on Zoom**

To take part in this discussion, just email thehookoffaith@gmail.com
Parents, teachers, priests, religious and everyone welcome to attend

www.thehookoffaith.com

Taoiseach: Faith helped us deal with death of our young children

Staff Reporter

The Taoiseach Micheál Martin has revealed how his Catholic Faith has helped his family as they struggle to come to terms with the death of two of his five children.

Mr Martin also said the tragedies shook his faith but that he and his wife Mary received comfort from the ministry of their local parish priest.

The Taoiseach (62) was speaking to RTÉ's Joe Duffy in an interview to be broadcast on Sunday evening on the popular *The Meaning of Life* programme.

Reflecting on the loss of Ruairí and Léana, Mr Martin said: "It's hard. All your certainties are gone. But Mary has a great philosophy of how each person would deal with grief and trauma differently and, I think, by and large, that has stood to us. We allow that space for each person in the family to deal with it differently.

"I would say this much. At times of death and trauma, the

first person you meet sometimes is a priest - a chaplain in a hospital or your local parish priest. Fr James would have been very helpful to us at the time.

"[He] just came around chatting, because he would have known Léana. We talked things through and he had certain approaches which I found helpful at the time.

But it doesn't help you cope with things," Mr Martin said.

Their son, Ruairí, died at five weeks old in 2000 from sudden infant death syndrome while their seven-year-old daughter, Léana, died in 2010 shortly before her eighth birthday at London's Great Ormond Street Hospital after suffering from a heart condition.

Faith

Asked about his own Faith and whether he is a Mass-goer he answers immediately: "I do. I like getting a good message - a good sermon - just to reflect on. I think, the New Testament...if we all try to live by the principles in there, we won't go far wrong."



Taoiseach Micheál Martin with Joe Duffy.

Recalling his own experience as an altar boy he jokes with the presenter: "I kind of enjoyed it. I loved the mannerisms and the ritual, and I could nearly say Mass for you, Joe!"

In the interview Mr Mar-

tin sheds light on his Catholic upbringing recalling that his mother Eileen "had a deep, instinctive faith" with "a particular belief in Our Lady".

He said that an earlier childhood experience had affected

the relationship of his father Paddy with the Church. "He told me a story. His parents died when he was 14, one year after the other. And he went to the priest - the mother sent him to go to the priest, they

were very poor, and he says that the priest didn't come, because he didn't have money. That turned him a bit."

i The Meaning of Life, RTÉ One, Sunday September 4, 10.25pm.

DUBLIN
MARCH FOR
Life

**STANDING
UNITED
FOR LIFE**

Gather at **2.30pm** at University Church side of St. Stephen's Green and march with us to Leinster House, where we'll call for urgent action to address Ireland's spiralling abortion rate.



SATURDAY
17th
SEPTEMBER

Family friendly event. Placards available on the day. FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE WWW.MARCHFORLIFE.IE

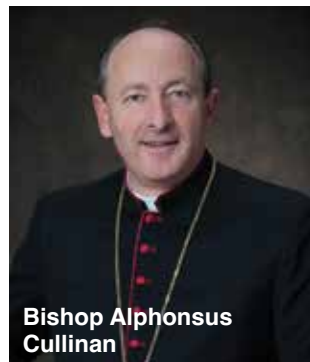
National synthesis 'revealing and disturbing', says Bishop Cullinan

Ruadhán Jones

Ireland's national synodal synthesis, sent to Rome in August, is "very revealing and very disturbing", the bishop of Waterford and Lismore has said.

Bishop Alphonsus Cullinan warned that a number of things challenging Church teaching emerged from the "rushed" synodal process.

He added, however, that the synthesis is helpful as it shows the "serious fault-lines of the Irish Church at the moment" and praised the hard work of all involved in organising it.



Bishop Alphonsus Cullinan

"It is a record of a moment in time. It shows us where those who participated are at," the bishop said in a statement, August 28.

The catalogue of issues emerging from parishes raise questions about who is forming them and where they are getting the ideas that are pre-occupying them, Dr Cullinan said. The gaps that emerged "are quite staggering".

"There is little or no mention of the poor, the sick, the homeless, drug abuse, the environment (and this after a lot of work on *Laudato Si*), the unborn, the housing crisis, the Word of God, the social and ecumenical outreach of the Church.

"This is very revealing and very disturbing."

He suggested that the Holy Spirit was more present in the gaps than in the utterances.

"I believe that we need to observe where the Church is flourishing in Ireland, where people, especially the youth, are being formed in character and in the Faith?

"In contrast there are others who continually pump out their negativity, disappointment and desperation

but have little else to offer. They have no growth."

Bishop Cullinan highlighted the "mildly dismissive" attitude towards 'traditional' Catholics in the synthesis, which identified key themes emerging from the nationwide synodal consultation as part of the global synod.

"From my own interaction with some 'conservative' or 'traditional' believers

it was clear that many did not engage with the synodal process at a parish level," he said.

"It would be interesting to research why this was so."

He finished by calling Catholics to "leave no one out of the conversation" as the synodal journey continues, adding we must have confidence in where the Spirit is leading.

Student leader to address March for Life

Chai Brady

The 'March for Life' taking place in Dublin on Saturday September 17 has been described by organisers as a "particularly important event" as it coincides with the three-year review of the abortion law nearing its end.

Autumn Lindsey, spokes-

person for Students for Life of America and Rachel Mackenzie, the well-known media contributor on abortion from England, are both scheduled to speak at the march.

Speaking about the event, Eilis Mulroy of the Pro Life Campaign said: "we are asking families and supporters of all ages to join us in Dublin

where we'll unite with pro-life Oireachtas members to seek proper representation for the pro-life viewpoint at the decision making table, to make way for policies that will help reduce Ireland's spiralling abortion rate.

For more information see www.marchforlife.ie or call 01 662 9275.

Irish missionary criticises colonial-like actions of IMF

Jason Osborne

Prominent Irish missionary Fr Shay Cullen has criticised the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for being "like an extension of colonial control".

The Columban missionary called the IMF, a United Nations agency and international financial institution, the "great lender and debt collector for the rich nations and banks that lend to poor countries".

"It's like an extension of colonial control," Fr Cullen continued.

"They pressure the poor nations that cannot pay to open their natural resources to multinationals for extraction and exploitation."

He cited the example of the Philippines, where Fr Cullen ministers, which now has \$109 billion in foreign debt.

The beneficiaries of this debt are "oil-producing nations" like China, Russia, Saudi Arabia and Brazil.

"They have the power to manipulate the world economy and cause inflation, a rise in prices, loss of jobs,

and social unrest that could threaten the stability of governments," Fr Cullen said.

Some rich countries pressure poor nations so they can "exploit" their natural resources like oil for profit.

Fr Cullen called on the rich to cancel the debt of poor nations, saying the rich nations "have massive responsibility and huge climate debts" to the poor nations that owe them money.

"A massive effort to mobilise international public opinion for this deal is needed," Fr Cullen said.

AVAILABLE NOW

MARY KENNY'S LATEST BOOK

The way we were

Catholic Ireland since 1922



"Mary Kenny provides the most balanced perspective on the Catholic Ireland of the past up to our own time of any writer I know."

- Charles Lysaght
Author, Historian, Biographer

Price:
€19.99
+ €4.50P&P

At a time when the values of Catholic Ireland are so often viewed in a negative, even hostile light, Mary Kenny's approach is a balanced and measured recollection of Ireland over the past hundred years. By interweaving stories from personalities involved in social history and some of her own life experiences, she provides a complex portrait of Irish life making for a stimulating and enjoyable read.

Order Today 01 6874025 | www.columbabooks.com

Co. Down Covid-19 memorial unveiled



Bro. James McKervey, Grand Knight CK 12, Fr Paul Alexander, Bro. Gerald Harbinson KSG, Revd Jackie Breen, Bro. John O'Neill and Bro. Peter Rooney.

Staff Reporter

A memorial to those who died during the pandemic and the carers has been unveiled on the slopes of Slieve Patrick in Co. Down.

The stone of commemoration and thanks was blessed by the custodian of Slieve Patrick and parish priest of Saul -

where St Patrick first came ashore on his missionary journey - Fr Paul Alexander. Fr Alexander was joined by members of Council 12, Downpatrick, of the Order of the Knights of St Columbanus.

At the blessing of the memorial Fr Alexander spoke of the Penal cross on the stone as it reminds people of the time when the celebration of Mass was forbidden.

A lesson in marriage mismatch...

It's just gone 25 years since the tragic death of Diana, Princess of Wales, and it was interesting to see, in one of the television documentaries shown about her life, a statuette of Jesus on her desk: she had draped a set rosary beads around the figurine.

Marking the anniversary, her biographer Andrew Morton has republished the transcriptions of interviews he conducted with her – and my, what a troubled young person she was.

She suffered from constant bulimia, self-harm – she several times started cutting her wrists – and constantly felt “torment and anguish in my head”. She was haunted by a feeling of never being “good enough”. Although she was in love with her husband, she described the honeymoon as “grim”. She also found Balmoral wretched and “draining”.

Wavelength

Charles wasn't on her wavelength at all: his idea of a jolly evening with his young wife was to open a book written by his guru Laurens van der Post, or a tome on Jungian psychology. Diana was also obsessed with the thought that her husband was still in touch with Camilla Parker-Bowles.

Much of this is known, but the republication



Mary Kenny

amplifies what a mismatch this royal marriage was. It is said that the match was originally plotted by the Queen Mother and Diana's granny, Ruth, Lady Fermoy. But according to Diana's own words, Lady Fermoy was a hostile witness, and did a “hatchet job” on the reputation of her mother, Frances. In consequence, everyone at the palace (said Diana) had a low opinion of Diana's mum – a stigma which rubbed off on Diana herself.

“It would have been much better for Diana to have married someone who shared her interests”

It was all such a tragedy whose reverberations can still be felt, in the next generation, especially prompting Prince Harry's continuing resentments.

Diana was just too young and too vulnerable to be thrown into the public life that awaited her – or to cope with the stuffy protocols around royal life. On the eve of her wedding,

she longed to be with her flatmates, giggling girlishly at their Kensington apartment.

Old Irish matchmakers, when setting up a possible match, used to ensure that the couple would have lifestyles and interests in common, besides feeling attraction or the seeds of affection.

Interests

It would have been much better for Diana to have married someone who shared her interests: and for Charles to have found a young woman who knew the rules, and the limitations, of a dynastic union.

Unfortunately, the only continental princesses available were Catholic: Marie-Astrid of Luxembourg was suggested as a candidate, but the bar on Catholics ruled her out.

Ideal marriages are based on love: but enduring wedlock requires more – common interests, family support, mutual understanding, and spousal attention to sensitivities. Diana's experience is reiterated as a parable of matrimonial calamity.

“It was all such a tragedy whose reverberations can still be felt”

The fate of Italy...

Georgia Meloni is expected to become the first female prime minister of Italy after the general election on September 25. She is usually described as ‘far-right’ – although that label can now mean anything.

Ms Meloni avers that she is a democratic politician and that her political mentor is the English philosopher Roger Scruton, who

was a Burkean conservative. She's also a follower of J.R.R. Tolkien, the devoutly Catholic *Lord of the Rings* author. However, her party, the ‘Brothers of Italy’ can be surely described as strongly anti-immigration.

Georgia Meloni, now 45, had a complicated start in life. Her father didn't want a second child and encouraged

her mother to book herself an abortion. But on the way to the clinic, the mother, Anna, stopped off for a coffee and a snack, and while doing so, had second thoughts. And so, Georgia was born, although her father did indeed abandon the family afterwards, sadly.

And now the fate of Italy may hang on her hands.



Diana with Mother Teresa.

Bewley's BIG COFFEE MORNING SOCIAL FOR HOSPICE
30TH ANNIVERSARY 1992-2022



Please host a Coffee Morning Social for St. Francis Hospice on Thursday 22nd September

SCAN HERE WITH YOUR PHONE CAMERA TO REGISTER



OR

CALL 01 8327535 or online www.sfh.ie EVERY CUP COUNTS!



Charity Regulator Number: 20027193
CHY Number: 10568



● There's a neighbour I used to see regularly in passing – she was an admirable volunteer for charitable causes, such as organising coffee mornings for cancer – and I'd normally stop for a brief chat.

Since I hadn't seen her for a while, I asked another resident how she was. “Oh fine,” he replied. “But when the pandemic first occurred, she sought medical advice for what she should do, and was told ‘stay indoors – keep your distance from other people’. And she has stayed indoors ever since 2019 – and no one can persuade her to venture out. We've tried telling her that there is no great risk in leaving her home now, but she is adamant about remaining enclosed in the house.”

Some people have always chosen to be reclusive, but in this case it seems like someone who was quite gregarious being over-alarmed by warnings from the authorities. I suspect quite a few older people have had their lives changed by the pandemic, and in some cases, have been intimidated into a form of post-Covid solitude.

Church calls for practical supports as vulnerable face 'tortured' winter

Chai Brady

People on low incomes and in rented homes are going to be "tortured" this winter with energy bills and the increased cost of living, according to Fr Peter McVerry SJ.

Following the record high numbers of people availing of emergency accommodation reported by the Department of Housing on Friday and the extreme price hikes for energy announced by providers, Fr McVerry told *The Irish Catholic* it will be a "grim winter".

"I think a lot of people are going to find it very difficult to survive this winter, they're going to be struggling. It's going to be a

question of heating their accommodation or buying food. I think children are going to go hungry. People have to heat their accommodation so they'll cut back on food," Fr McVerry said.

Charity

Fr McVerry, who is the founder of homelessness charity the Peter McVerry Trust, also said the Government must ensure that vulnerable people are protected.

"The Government's first priority is to look after the needs of its citizens," he said, "Now those who are relatively well off, they're able to manage, they're able to deal with the problems themselves. It's

those who are on low incomes, or low disposable incomes, they need and require and are entitled to adequate Government support.

There is no way any child in this country should go hungry, there is no way that any person in this country should feel they cannot heat their apartment properly, and that's the Government's responsibility to make sure that that happens."

This comes as new figures show there were 10,568 people in emergency accommodation in July – the highest number ever recorded. This includes 5,140 single adults and 3,137 children.

Christian Church leaders,

including Primate of All Ireland Archbishop Eamon Martin, last week called for more "practical support" to be given to households affected by the increased cost of living.

Autumn

In their statement the Church leaders said that projections for the autumn point "to the situation worsening" and that "too many people are already struggling to afford essentials like food and fuel and are in real danger of losing their homes, health or lives".

"As leaders of Churches with a presence across the island we are deeply concerned by what we are

seeing on the ground, with the increasing energy and food prices disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable, often leaving people with impossible choices to make, missing meals, and falling into arrears on bills," they said.

"We are also deeply concerned regarding the Government response in both jurisdictions, in meeting immediate needs and also in relation to longer term strategy... We want to join our voices with many others, calling for more practical support to be delivered urgently through direct Government initiatives in both jurisdictions and also via grassroots charity and community partnerships."

Franciscan Friars open arms to all at St Pio Café

Jason Osborne

The Franciscan Friars of the Renewal (CFRs) invite all to come and enjoy a free cup of tea or coffee at their St Pio Café in Galliagh, Co. Derry.

Located beside St Joseph's Church, Fr Charles of the Derry Franciscans said

that their goal is to reach out to everyone, "to those who we're not in contact with yet, those who are not 'churched', if you will".

"We're planning a campaign starting September to go out in the neighbourhood with leaflets to let more people know about

it," Fr Charles told *The Irish Catholic* newspaper.

The Franciscans are already starting to see "beautiful fruits" from their initiative, Fr Charles said, adding that "it's been very positive".

"Initially, it was parishioners, churchgoers who came, but we can see now a few

people who are not necessarily churchgoers, or at least not weekday Mass-goers, who are starting to come and see how it is," he said.

The inspiration for the café came from the realisation that there "seems to be

quite a few people who are lonely".

"Also, there's a lack of places where people can go and feel safe. The traditional places to socialise for a lot of people have become dangerous for them for many differ-

ent reasons," Fr Charles said.

The Friars are trying to provide a place to help people "break out of isolation".

The St Pio Café is open every Tuesday and Thursday from 11:30am to 2:30pm.

The Irish Catholic

FREE HOME DELIVERY

*geographical restrictions apply

Don't miss breaking news delivered directly to your home each week



WE LIVE IN EXTRAORDINARY TIMES...

Stay up to date with analyses that represent your voice on the national stage.

Regular contributors provide commentary to hot button issues of the day.

Local voices highlight the ongoing work of parishes and communities throughout the country.

News Delivery brought to you by THE IRISH TIMES

For further details

Ph: 081 846 4465 | Email: info@newsdelivery.ie | www.newsdelivery.ie

Irish theologian appointed to Australian Catholic University

Staff reporter

Fr Eamonn Conway has been appointed the Professor for Integral Human Development at the University of Notre Dame Australia.

A priest of Tuam archdiocese and heading Theology and Religious Studies at Mary Immaculate College in Limerick until recently, Prof. Conway will be relocating to Perth to take up his new role in October.

"I very much welcome the opportunity this

new role in the University affords me, to work with colleagues to strengthen and develop an appreciation of the unique Christian understanding of the dignity of the human person in all its dimensions," Fr Conway said of the appointment.

Notre Dame is a private Catholic University situated on both the east and west coast of Australia, which aims to "embrace the ancient and esteemed traditions of Catholic universities in Europe, North America and 2,000 years of the Catholic intellectual tradition".

Novices learn the ropes...



The Augustinian community in Ireland welcomed three new young men, as Adeel and Fearghal joined the novitiate while Bro. Mark took his simple vows. They are pictured with provincial Fr Tony Egan OSA (second from left) and vocations director Fr Colm O'Mahony OSA, August 28.

Young priests hurt by 'rigid' stereotype in synod report

Chai Brady and Ruadhán Jones

Young Irish priests have expressed their hurt at being characterised as "rigid" in the national synodal synthesis sent to Rome recently.

The synthesis, which identified key themes emerging from nationwide consultation, made one mention of younger priests, saying: "some participants were concerned that some younger priests are very traditional and rigid in their thinking".

This characterisation "was actually quite hurtful", Fr David Vard told this paper, "we were never spoken to as a group when it comes to the synthesis".

"I think if people see a young man who is in love with the Church and with what the Church teaches, it's almost seen as a negative thing.

"I don't think it's a negative thing I think it's a beautiful thing," said Fr Vard, CC Portlaoise parish.

Fr Vard added that "we're all doing our best and I think people are happy with their young priests".

His view was echoed by Fr Jamie Twohig SAC, who questioned what the word "rigid" means.



Fr Jamie Twohig SAC

"I don't personally take offence, but I do think it's just a very flawed generalisation," Fr Twohig said.

"Does that mean we're orthodox, that we actually believe what the Church believes? If that's rigid, then I'm happy to be rigid."

Despite the negative characterisations of young priests,

Fr Declan Lohan in Renmore, Co. Galway says "I love what I do, love the pastoral care of people".

"I wouldn't like anyone to think that I have anything but the greatest of respect for everyone I meet, wherever they



Fr David Vard

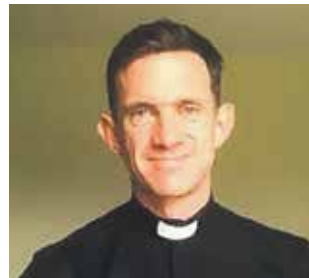
are on their faith journey."

Fr Lohan criticised the narrowing-down of what a younger priest does to doctrinal questions as "a short-sighted view".

"A younger priest is there when a person is dying, is there for the housebound of the parish for the first Friday calls, is welcoming very often

families distant from the Church for baptisms, journeying with couples on the way to marriage, meeting with families who are in grief.

"We are fully there for everyone at difficult moments, doing the hidden work of a



Fr Declan Lohan

priest day in day out."

Fr Lohan acknowledged that there may be "reticence" about wearing traditional priestly garb given Ireland's past, "but it's more than counterbalanced by the need for a visible sign of a pastor among them and with them".

Synod organiser says Church should change attitude, not doctrine

Staff Reporter

One of the Pope's key advisers organising the unprecedented synod consultation process has insisted that what is needed is a change of attitude, not a change of doctrine.

Chairman

Jesuit Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich, who is serving as chairman of the synod, insisted at a Vatican press conference on Friday: "I am not in favour of changing any doctrine, I am in favour of a Church where really everybody can feel welcome.

"This welcome does not mean that there cannot be discussion, this welcome does not mean that there cannot be different positions," he said during the press conference when asked about homosexuality.

Cardinal Hollerich described the synod as an "ecclesial dialogue without

precedent in the history of the Church" which had begun with more than 100 bishops' conferences out of a global total of 114 sending in reports to Rome.

Cardinal Mario Grech, who leads the Holy See's synod office, told reporters that the next phase of the synod process would again include ordinary Catholics and is not just a gathering of bishops. He explained that a document synthesising the material local Churches had submitted would be drawn up and released by the end of October or early November.

Reflection

The cardinal explained that this text would then be sent to the local Churches for further discussion and reflection, with each bishop requested "to bring the document to the knowledge of his [local] Church".

Game of Thrones star ties knot in Kerry church

Staff reporter

Jack Gleeson, one of the stars of hit series *Game of Thrones*, tied the knot with actress and comedian Róisín O'Mahony, in the Glen Church, Ballinskellings, Co. Kerry.

The simple pre-wedding ceremony – the couple will marry in London – was led by Fr Patsy Lynch, August 26, who praised the "humble" power-couple.

The Kinsale-born actor, who starred as boy-king Joffrey Baratheon in the fantasy series, and his family are regular visitors to the Kerry village.

"They're very familiar with the community for many years, and Jack's family would have known the church as a warm and prayerful place of welcome," Fr Lynch told *The Irish Catholic*.

The ceremony was "simple, prayerful and dignified", he added, praising Mr Gleeson's humility.

"He's just an ordinary, lovely bloke. When you see the pictures of the two of them, they're simple, down to earth people, no airs and graces about them."



Game of Thrones star Jack Gleeson (right) pictured with bride Róisín O'Mahony in the Glen Church along with Fr Patsy Lynch, August 26.

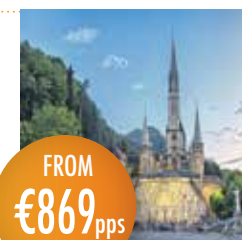
JOE WALSH TOURS

PILGRIMAGES 2022



LOURDES | 12 SEPTEMBER 2022

Direct flights from Dublin
20kg bags included
Airport transfers in Lourdes
7 nights full board accommodation
Guided tours & full religious programme



FROM
€869pps



FATIMA | 11 OCTOBER 2022

Return flights from Dublin
7 nights full board accommodation
Guided tours and visits to Aljustrel and Valinhos
Full religious programme led by Spiritual Director

FROM
€799pps

SHRINES OF FRANCE | 2 OCT 2022

Fly to Lourdes & return from Paris
Fully escorted pilgrimage
7 nights in Lourdes, Rocamadour, Nevers, Paris, and Lisieux
Led by Spiritual Director



FROM
€925pps

For more information: joewalshstours.ie | 01 241 0800

Joewalshstours.ie | info@joewalshstours.ie | 01 241 0800 | 89 Harcourt St, D02 WY88

Tours are operated by Petri Limited t/a Joe Walsh Tours who are bonded and licenced by the Commission for Aviation Regulation T0273 & TA0804.

The Church needs more voices of renewal from Africa



Pope Francis should appoint more cardinals from areas where Catholicism is growing rapidly, writes **David Quinn**

Ireland has no cardinal of voting age, and given that Pope Francis is now 86 and in visibly declining health, it will probably mean that the Church in Ireland won't have a representative at the conclave that will one day elect his successor.

This would not be an unusual state of affairs for us. Since Ireland received its first red hat in 1866 (it went to Paul Cullen of Dublin), quite a few conclaves have lacked Irish representation. For example, while Cardinal John D'Alton, the Archbishop of Armagh attended the conclave in 1958 that elected Pope St John XXIII, we did not have a member of the Irish hierarchy at another conclave until 2005 when Cardinal Desmond Connell took part in the one that elected Pope Benedict XVI.

Cardinal Seán Brady (now aged 83) participated in the conclave of 2013 that chose Pope Francis.

At the weekend consistory in Rome 20 new cardinals received the red hat, 16 of them of voting age, that is, under the age of 80. It is possible this was Francis's last consistory given his advanced years. He has not ruled out retiring if his health declines enough and, of course, God could call him away before then.

Surprises

He is a Pope of surprises, though. He does not follow the rule book when it comes to appointing cardinals. Another consistory in his lifetime cannot be ruled out, and he might give Ireland a voting age cardinal while it still has a retired one.

He might pull off an even bigger surprise by overlooking both Armagh and Dublin



Pope Francis leads a consistory for the creation of 20 new cardinals in St Peter's Basilica at the Vatican August 27, 2022. Photo: CNS

for the red hat. It could go to a small rural diocese no-one expects, if he was sufficiently impressed with the bishop of that diocese. That would create a very unusual situation at meetings of the Irish hierarchy whereby the bishop of one of those dioceses, if made a cardinal, would be more senior in the universal Church than the archbishops of Armagh or Dublin. It would be interesting to watch the dynamics of the quarterly meetings of the bishops under those circumstances.

“Why is the Pope doing this? The most oft-cited reason, and probably the correct one, is that he wants to reach out to the margins of the Church”

Mind you, it would be seen as astoundingly insulting to either Archbishop Eamon Martin or Archbishop Dermot Farrell if he was to do something like that. On the other hand, the Pope has consistently overlooked the dioceses

you would expect to receive a red hat in favour of dioceses no-one would have predicted.

Traditionally, a red hat typically goes to a large, historic diocese. In Italy that might be Milan, or in America Los Angeles. In Ireland it would be Armagh or Dublin, for obvious reasons.

Favour

But in the case of the United States, Francis keeps by-passing obvious candidates for the College of Cardinals in favour of ones few would have predicted. For example, this time around he gave a red hat to the diocese of San Diego, rather than to Los Angeles.

Elsewhere, Pope Francis has decided to award red hats to parts of the world with tiny numbers of Catholics, such as Singapore, Tonga, East Timor, Myanmar (formerly Burma) and even Mongolia.

The Catholic population of these countries is, respectively, 350,000, 17,000, one million, 750,000 and 1,300. Added together, that is barely two million, or less than a third of the population of the island of Ireland.

Why is the Pope doing this? The most oft-cited reason, and probably the correct one, is

that he wants to reach out to the margins of the Church and bring them more to the centre, and a strong argument can be made in favour of that.

Pope Francis very much wants to be a Pope for the whole world. In the past, the College of Cardinals was hugely dominated by Italians, for the obvious reason that the Holy See is in Rome.

For example, when Benedict XV was elected pope in 1914, 59% of the cardinal-electors were Italian and almost all of the rest were from other parts of Europe.

When Pope St John XXIII was elected in 1958, 42% were Italian. This dropped to 23% in 1978 when Pope John Paul II was chosen, and it is probably not a coincidence that he was the first non-Italian pope in 400 years.

Now, the share of Italians who are cardinal-electors (that is, of voting age) is down to 18% and the rest of Europe to 23%.

Fondness

But the Pope's fondness for giving red hats to unexpected parts of the Catholic world is throwing up some anomalies that might create discontent elsewhere.

For example, Asia, with its 160 million or so Catholics, now has roughly the same number of cardinals as South and Central America which have over 400 million Catholics. But about half of Asia's Catholics are in the Philippines which has only one resident cardinal, which seems almost impossible to fathom.

Africa is by far the fastest growing part of the Catholic world with around 240 million Catholics. But it accounts for only 13% of cardinal-electors versus 18% for Asia.

“He does not follow the rule book when it comes to appointing cardinals”

If the Pope really is interested in reaching out to the margins, which is undoubtedly the case, then surely there should be a lot more African cardinals because Africa has often been the forgotten continent and is still the world's poorest. It also has the highest birth rate in the world by far. Across much of Asia, the birth rate is now well below replace-

ment level, just as it is in all of Europe, North America, and much of Latin America.

The latest consistory does not redress the relative lack of African representation in the College of Cardinals. On the contrary, only two of the 20 new red hats awarded this time go to Africa.

The College of Cardinals is not supposed to fully weighted according to a particular part of the Catholic world's share of the global Catholic population, but it should not be too far out of line either.

Overrepresented

On this basis, Asia seems over-represented, and Africa and Latin America underrepresented.

It just seems strange that tiny dioceses in Asia with almost no Catholics should have cardinals when many, far bigger dioceses in Africa and Latin America have none.

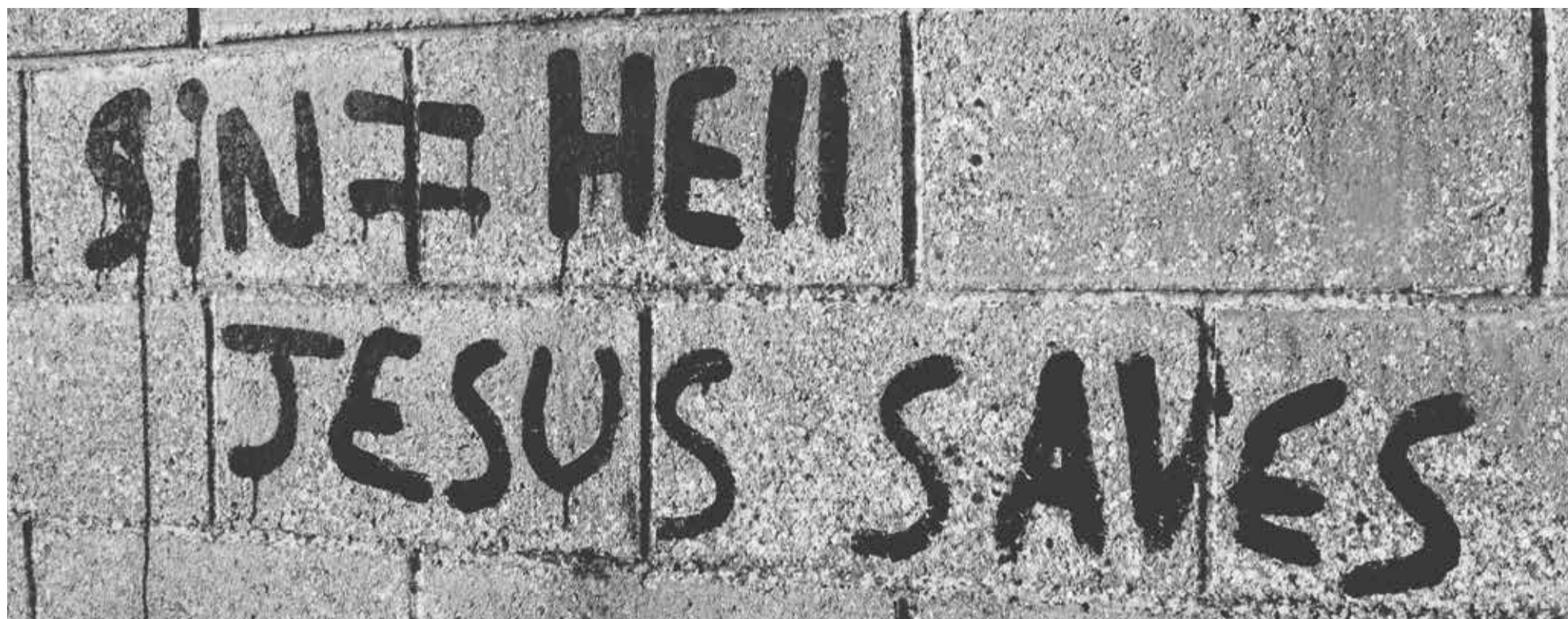
There is no particular problem with Europe's share of cardinals declining, because Europe is declining fast as a centre of Christian faith.

But Asia, short of divine intervention, is not an area of big future growth, especially with an ageing population for the most part, while Africa is clearly where a lot of Catholicism's future lies.

Therefore, Africa above all must be brought more into the centre of the Church's life, which is why it is somewhat mysterious, to this observer at least, why Pope Francis has not created more African cardinals, especially as his aim is to reach out to the peripheries.

“If the Pope really is interested in reaching out to the margins, which is undoubtedly the case, then surely there should be a lot more African cardinals”

The life-giving value of a sense of sin



Far from being oppressive, understanding sin and its effects points the way to liberation and freedom, writes **Jason Osborne**

An old clip of a prominent Irish priest recently went viral online, in which he lamented the fact that young priests talk about sin. Far from being an isolated sentiment, I've encountered a number of Catholics in recent years who subscribe to the idea that sin is a radically exclusionary concept. The sense of the saying, "hate the sin, love the sinner" has largely been lost, as the idea that critiquing someone's way of life or behaviour is to attack them directly has taken hold.

"A healthy understanding of sin makes us aware of the source of a great many of our problems, without causing us to obsess over it"

This is not without reason, of course. We Catholics are a work in progress here on earth, and

at times we, as much as anyone, interact with others in a distinctly un-saintly manner, which can be incredibly off-putting. It's no wonder someone will listen less to our exhortations against sin when we seem to be mired in it as much as they.

Human error in communication aside though, we throw out the baby with the bathwater if we decide to airbrush sin from the picture of the human condition because it's difficult or unpleasant to talk about. The reality is that what the Church teaches about sin is an utterly sensible gift in what can often seem like a senseless world.

Sin

Sin exists whether we talk about it or not, but talking about it at least helps us to make sense of it. St Paul in his letter to the Romans put into words the stupefying mystery humans face; we do that which we don't want to do:

"I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate... So then it is no longer I that do it, but sin which dwells within me... I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin which dwells within me."

The original understanding of sin is becoming increasingly popular these days, as it captures exactly what St Paul speaks of. In his day and earlier, sin was understood as meaning "to miss the mark". It conveyed the idea that we're systemically prone to falling short or wide of the good that we aspire to with our lives. This is a universal human reality, and while not the only reason, it's one of the reasons so many of us feel so miserable so much of the time, whether we're conscious of it or not.

The thing with the Church's teaching on sin though, which

"We Catholics are a work in progress here on earth, and at times we, as much as anyone, interact with others in a distinctly un-saintly manner"

many of the young priests I've met grasp, is that it's nothing more than a starting point on a person's journey to God. Perhaps this is what we got so wrong in the past – we focused excessively on sin for no greater purpose – whereas God's purpose now is that we should flee from sin into his arms.

"Sin exists whether we talk about it or not, but talking about it at least helps us to make sense of it"

If there's no sin, then we have no need for a saviour. The Church in this case is not the "field hospital" that Pope Francis so wisely speaks of, and it loses much of its appeal to a world that is labouring under the effects of sin: war, ecological destruction, greed, etc. If we adopt a sinless worldview, these disastrous phenomena and more become opaque, and our persistent relationship with them will remain a mystery.

Helpful

An analogy for sin that's been quite helpful for me in the past is that of bowling bumpers. They're erected during a game of bowling to keep us on the straight and narrow, so that we don't fall by the wayside and miss our goal. Not to over-trivialise a serious matter, but the Church's teaching on sin works somewhat similarly. The Church teaches us that sin exists and it's why we keep "missing the mark". It has identified many sins and their effects and

sets them out for us so that, much as the bumpers in bowling, we don't stray off the path and miss our goal – God.

Understanding

A healthy understanding of sin makes us aware of the source of a great many of our problems, without causing us to obsess over it. Rather, it should see us obsessing over the one who has set us free from sin, which is a different reality entirely. Labouring under the oppressive shadow of sin, the world seems dark and our journey to heaven impossible. Focused on God's love, though, we

understand that there are things we must strive not to do, but that if we do them, we're forgiven time and again, and encouraged to keep striving to love him with his help.

A Church that doesn't speak about sin would be fine in a sinless world, one in which we could come together in our unfallen state and praise our king and creator, but not our saviour, for he didn't save us from anything. But we don't live in that world. We live in a world as people who keep "missing the mark", and if we don't speak about sin we'll never know why.



Understanding sin as that which isn't good for you is a key step in the spiritual life.

Out&About

A principaled gathering



LAOIS: Recently appointed deputy principals of Ceist schools gather in Portlaoise for introductions, August 23.



CORK: Author Mary Kenny is pictured signing copies of her latest book, *The Way We Were: Catholic Ireland Since 1922* in Dubray books, August 22.



CARLOW: Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin Denis Nulty joins the Poor Clare's in Carlow as they take advantage of the late summer sunshine, August 19.

IN SHORT

Clerical changes for Cloyne

The clerical changes for Cloyne Diocese, covering northern and eastern parts of Co. Cork, have been announced and will come into effect September 17.

Bishop of Cloyne William Crean said that "the 2022 clerical appointments for the Diocese of Cloyne reflect the adjustments that we need to make to ensure the pastoral care of all the parishes in the diocese".

Canon Donal Leahy PP, Kilworth is to retire and reside in Saleen and be available on request to minister in the area.

The following priests will take up new or additional appointments:

Fr Patrick Corkery, CC Youghal to be CC Fermoy to reside in Kilworth.

An t-Ath Seán MacCarthaigh, SP Ballyvourney, also to be Adm. Cill na Martra.

Fr Brian Boyle, Adm. Fermoy, also to be Adm. Kilworth.

Fr Joseph O'Mahony, Adm. Cill na Martra to be Adm. Aghinagh.

Fr James Greene, CC Mallow to be Adm. Clondrohid.

Fr Patrick McCarthy, returning from Sabatical to be CC Inniscarra.

Fr Damien Lynch, CC Inniscarra to be CC Mallow.

Doras to assist migrant victims of crime

Migrant and refugee support organisation Doras is launching a new Migrant Victim Support Project that will provide specialised assistance for migrant and refugee victims of crime.

The initiative comes as a response to the "growing demand to meet the complex and increasing needs of migrant and refugee victims of crime", according to a press release from the charity.

Speaking in advance of the launch, Doras CEO John Lannon said the Department of Justice-supported initiative is timely and much needed.

"All victims of crime need support but we see firsthand how migrants, asylum seekers, and ref-

ugees often need specific and sometimes more specialised support," Mr Lannon said.

"They may be victims of crimes such as human trafficking, racism, hate crime, gender-based violence (GBV), human trafficking, labour market exploitation, or modern slavery."

He warned that victims may not know where to turn for help and "barriers" including sometimes language, immigration, or cultural barriers are a factor.

Certain groups are "particularly vulnerable", such as those who have fled war or persecution, and may already be dealing with a complex range of challenges.

The project will work to overcome the significant barriers faced by migrants and refugees with regard to accessing justice and appropriate support services.

Edited by Ruadhán Jones
Ruadhan@irishcatholic.ie

Events deadline is a week in
advance of publication



ROSCOMMON: Bishop of Achonry Paul Dempsey joined Fr Paul Kivlehan and the people of Brusna to bless their new community facilities, August 21.



DONEGAL: Pilgrims from Kingscourt parish who recently took part in the one day retreat at Lough Derg are pictured at the ancient pilgrimage site.



WEXFORD: Vice Rector of the University of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Fr Ketema Woldeyes Asfaw, has returned to Ferns diocese for a post Covid visit. Fr Ketema studied in Dublin and served in Ferns diocese between 2003 and 2006. He will stay at the parish of Glynn/Barntown with Fr John Carroll (left) and return to the University in September.



MAYO: Knock parishioners play the parts of the witnesses to the apparitions of Our Lady at the International Marian shrine, August 21. Photo: Sinead Mallee

ANTRIM

There will be prayers offered for the deceased in: Antrim/Belmont/Sixmile Cemetery on Sunday September 4 at 3pm and in St Comgall's Cemetery on Sunday September 11 at 3pm.

CLARE

A zoom conference to support Catholic parents sharing the Catholic vision of love and sexuality with children will take place September 6, 8-9pm. The speaker is Fr Chris Hayden. Email thehookoffaith@gmail.com to register.

CORK

The adoration chapel at St Colman's Cathedral is open each week, on Wednesdays from 11am until 9pm, and on Thursdays and Fridays from 11am until 6pm.

DONEGAL

Rosnowlagh friary will host a Healing Sunday September 4, beginning with the rosary at 2.45pm, followed by Mass and the Anointing of the Sick.

DOWN

Eucharistic Adoration in St Patrick's Church, Downpatrick, will resume on Friday September 2 at 11am until 7.30pm.

DUBLIN

Legion of Mary Centenary concert takes place September 3 in St Patrick's Cathedral. Featuring Celine Byrne, the Dublin Concert Band and many more. Begins 8pm, tickets cost €20 or €30. Visit Eventbrite.ie or contact 087 230 5946.

GALWAY

First Saturday devotions to Our Lady of Fatima will take place September 3 from 11am to 5pm at Emmanuel House, Clonfert. The day will include talks, music, rosary, Mass and confessions. Please bring a packed lunch. The regular schedule for healing services are: Wednesday at 12 noon and Thursday at 7pm.

KILKENNY

The rosary is said at 2.30pm on Fridays in the Grotto Graiguenamanagh.

LIMERICK

Eucharistic Adoration takes place in the Adoration Chapel Abbeyfeale, every Friday after 10am Mass until 8pm.

LONGFORD

The diocesan pilgrimage to Knock takes place Sunday September 4 with ceremonies beginning at 2.30pm.

MAYO

The Franciscan Friars, Galway, are leading a two-day young adult pilgrimage from Ballintubber Abbey to Croagh Patrick, September 3-4. For more information, contact youfragalway@gmail.com or office@westportparish.ie.

OFFALY

Clonmacnoise pattern day takes place Sunday, September 11. The pattern begins at 2.45pm with Mass at 3pm.

WATERFORD

The Chosen: Season 2, a nine week zoom series, takes place Tuesdays October 4 to November 29 from 8-9.15pm. Registration is essential, contact events@waterfordlismore.ie

WESTMEATH

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place in the Cathedral of Christ the King from 2.30pm-7pm Monday-Friday.

WEXFORD

A 'Come and See' vocations discernment residential weekend will take place in Ballyvaloo Retreat Centre, Blackwater from September 16 to 18. It is open to men 18 and over who would like to know more about the priesthood as a beautiful way of life and vocation from God. For further information contact Fr Billy Swan at: billyswan68@hotmail.com

Crowds descend on Donegal church to mark 50th anniversary

Ruadhán Jones

Creeslough community turned out in force to mark the 50th anniversary of the opening of St Michael's Church, Co. Donegal.

Bishop of Raphoe Alan McGuckian was the chief celebrant of Mass, and he was joined by diocesan priests and clergy from other churches locally.

The church first opened on August 15, 1971, designed by renowned Irish architect Liam McCormick and built by John Hegarty at a cost of £55,000.

It replaced the old chapel at Doe originally built in 1784. This was the oldest church in use

in the Diocese of Raphoe and had served the people of the community for almost 200 years.

A number of those present had worked on building the new church, while others had been present at the opening 51 years ago. The celebration was due to take place last year but was postponed because of Covid-19.

Dan McTeague (88), who sang during the Mass, had travelled to the US to help raise funds to construct the Church.

Fr John Joe Duffy welcomed Bishop McGuckian, as well as Bishop-emeritus of Raphoe Philip Boyce, local priests including Fr Martin Doohan PP, clergy from throughout the diocese, the Capuchin Community at Ards Friary along with clergy from the other religious denominations.



Fr Lorcan Sharkey, Bishop-emeritus Philip Boyce, Ciara and Anthony Wilkinson, Fr John Joe Duffy and Michael Cavanagh.

▲ The many priests, religious and clergy from other denominations who participated in the anniversary celebrations are pictured in St Michael's Church: (front row, from left) Bro. Philip Baxter, Fr Seamus Murphy, Bishop of Raphoe Alan McGuckian SJ, Bishop-emeritus Philip Boyce and Fr Martin Doohan PP: (back row, from left) altar server Conor Breen, Canon George Irwin, Fr Pat McGarvey, Rev. David Griscome, Fr Wille McMenamin, Fr Lorcan Sharkey, Fr John Joe Duffy, Fr Francis Ferry, Rev. Adam Pullen, Fr Sean O'Gallchoir, Rev. David Skuce and Fr Eamonn McLaughlin. Photos: Declan O'Doherty.



Michael Gallagher, Evelyn McGinley, Fr Duffy and Michael Lynch at the celebrations.



Dan McTeague from Letterkenny sings solo during the Mass.





Members of the St Michael's choir in full flow.



Mary McNulty, Josephine Gallagher, Jessie McNulty, Rosaleen Gallagher and Colm McGettigan.



St Michael's Church, Creeslough, Co. Donegal.



World Report

IN BRIEF

Church in Costa Rica must pay \$100,000 to abuse victim

● A lower court in Costa Rica ruled that the Catholic Church in the Central American country must pay about \$100,000 to a victim of sexual abuse committed by a former priest. The judgment will be appealed.

According to a local media report, on August 23 a lower court issued the judgment against the Costa Rican Bishops' Conference; the archbishop of San José, José Rafael Quirós Quirós; and temporalities (income, properties, stipends, etc.) of the Archdiocese of San José, accused of covering up sexual abuse by former priest Mauricio Víquez Lizano.

The compensation to be paid to Carlos Alberto Muñoz Quirós, a victim of Víquez Lizano, amounts to 65 million colones, or about \$100,000. The court also ordered that the archdiocese pay the costs of the trial: 10.6 million colones, about \$16,000.

Ortega regime shuts down another Catholic station in Nicaragua

● Less than a week after abducting the bishop of Matagalpa and apostolic administrator of Estelí, Rolando Álvarez, the dictatorship of Daniel Ortega in Nicaragua has silenced another Catholic radio station.

Radio Stereo Fe of the Diocese of Estelí lamented August 24 on Facebook that "almost 28 years of radio

evangelisation on FM have ended today".

"Today we had a visit from the gentlemen of TELCOR (Nicaraguan Institute of Telecommunications and Post Office), Managua," who "handed us the notification informing us that our radio (signal) has to be turned off immediately," the Catholic radio station announced.

Chinese Church leaders vow to proceed with Sinicisation

● Chinese bishops allied with the government have promised to proceed with the "Sinicisation" of Catholicism in China.

During a national conference in Wuhan, two organisations elected leaders who vowed to bring the Church in China in line with the ideology of the Chinese Communist Party.

The 10th National Congress of Catholicism in China was attended by 345 Catholic bishops, priests, and religious of the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association, reported UCA News.

At the end of the three-day gathering, new leaders of the association and of the Bishops' Conference of the Catholic Church in China (BCCCC) were elected. Both of these organisations are sponsored by the Chinese state.

Father Stu honoured as Catholic award finalist after movie

● Father Stuart Long — the late Catholic priest recently featured in a film starring actor Mark Wahlberg — is one of seven finalists for a prestigious Catholic award called the Lumen Christi Award.

The Montana boxer-turned-priest known for his dramatic conversion is the only finalist not alive today. A press release announcing the finalists called Fr Stu's impact "legendary".

While Fr Stu was diagnosed with a debilitating terminal illness around the time of his ordination in 2007, the release said, it never deterred him from his ministry as a priest — even while in a wheelchair.

The Lumen Christi Award, presented by the papal society Catholic Extension, honours "people who radiate and reveal the light of Christ present in the communities they serve".

Pope Francis creates 20 cardinals for the Church

Pope Francis created 20 new cardinals for the Catholic Church during a liturgy in St Peter's Basilica Saturday.

"Jesus calls us by name; he looks us in the eye and he asks: Can I count on you?" Pope Francis said in a homily addressed to the College of Cardinals and its new members on August 27.

"The Lord," he said, "wants to bestow on us his own apostolic courage, his zeal for the salvation of every human being, without exception. He wants to share with us his magnanimity, his boundless and unconditional love, for his heart is afire with the mercy of the Father."

The Pope ended his homily mentioning that one cardinal-elect, Richard Kuuia Baawobr of Wa (Ghana), was not present. Francis asked for prayers for the African prelate, explaining Baawobr had been taken ill.

At the beginning of the consistory, Pope Francis pronounced the opening prayer of the ceremony in Latin.

During the ceremony, the new cardinals made a profession of faith by reciting the Creed. They then pronounced an oath of fidelity and obedience to the Pope and his successors.

Each cardinal then approached Pope Francis, kneeling before him to receive the red birretta, the cardinal's ring, and a document naming the titular church he has been assigned.

Pope Francis embraced each new cardinal, saying to him: "*Pax Domini sit semper tecum*," which is Latin for "the peace of the Lord be with you always". Each cardinal responded: "Amen."

Members

The new cardinals also exchanged a sign of peace with a number of the members of the College of Cardinals, representative of the whole college.

The new cardinals are:

-- Cardinal Arthur Roche, 72, prefect of the Congregation



Pope Francis prepares to place the red biretta on new English Cardinal Arthur Roche, prefect of the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Sacraments. Photo: CNS

for Divine Worship and former Bishop of Leeds (England);

-- Lazarus You Heung-sik, 70, prefect of the Congregation for Clergy and former Bishop of Daejeon (South Korea);

-- Jean-Marc Noël Aveline, 63, Archbishop of Marseille, the first French diocesan bishop to get the honour during Pope Francis' pontificate;

-- Peter Ebere Okpaleke, 59, Bishop of Ekwulobia in the central region of Nigeria, who was created bishop in 2012 by Benedict XVI;

-- Leonardo Ulrich Steiner, 77, Archbishop of Manaus, in Brazil's Amazon region, a Franciscan who played a leading role during the Amazon Synod and as Vice President of the recently created Amazonian Bishops' Conference;

-- Filipe Neri António Sebastião do Rosário Ferrão, 69, Archbishop of Goa (India), appointed bishop by St John Paul II in 1993;

-- Robert McElroy, 68, Bishop of San Diego (United States), whose diocese is suffragan to the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, led by the President of the USCCB, Archbishop José Gomez;

-- Virgilio do Carmo Da Silva,

68, a Salesian, since 2019 the Archbishop of Dili (East Timor);

-- Oscar Antoni, 71, Bishop of Como (Italy), appointed in January 2005 by St John Paul II, who is suffragan to Milan;

-- Archbishop Fernando Vérgez Alzaga, LC, 77, president of the Governorate of the Vatican City State and of the Pontifical Commission for the Vatican City State; the Spaniard is the first Legionary of Christ to become a cardinal;

-- Anthony Poola, 60, Archbishop of Hyderabad (India), a bishop since 2008 and the first dalit to become a cardinal;

-- Paulo Cezar Costa, 54, Archbishop of Brasília (Brazil), the fourth archbishop of the Brazilian capital to become a cardinal;

-- Richard Kuuia Baawobr, 62, Bishop of Wa (Ghana), former Superior General of the White Fathers, and bishop since 2016;

-- William Goh Seng Chye,

65, Archbishop of Singapore since 2013;

-- Adalberto Martínez Flores, 71, Archbishop of Asunción (Paraguay) and the first Paraguayan cardinal;

-- Giorgio Marengo, 47, Italian Missionary of the Consolata

and Apostolic Prefect of Ulan Bator in Mongolia, the youngest cardinal in recent history, along with Karol Wojtyła, who also was created a cardinal at 47, during the consistory of June 26, 1967.

Furthermore, Pope Francis appointed the following prelates over the age of 80, who are therefore excluded from attending a future conclave.

Cardinal Jorge Enrique Jiménez Carvajal, 80, Archbishop Emeritus of Cartagena (Colombia); Arrigo Miglio, 80, Archbishop Emeritus of Cagliari (Italy); Fr Gianfranco Ghirlanda, a Jesuit and former rector of the Pontifical Gregorian University, who extensively collaborated in the drafting of the Apostolic Constitution *Praedicate Evangelium*; and Fortunato Frezza, 80, (Italy) currently a Canon at the Basilica of St Peter, who collaborated for several years at the Secretariat General for the Synod of the Bishops.

Pope Francis had originally also nominated Ghent Bishop Luc Van Looy, 80, who later declined to accept the post because of criticism of his response to clergy abuse cases.

Nuns kidnapped in Nigeria released

Four Catholic nuns kidnapped in southeast Nigeria August 21 were released two days later, their order said.

"With hearts full of joy, the Sisters of Jesus the Saviour wish to announce the unconditional and safe release of four of our sisters," said a statement from Sr Zita Ihedoro, secretary-general. She thanked people for their "prayers and moral support during this difficult moment".

Fides, information service of the Pontifical Mission Societies, identified the four as Srs Johannes Nwodo, Christabel Echemazu, Liberata Mbamalu and Benita Agu, members of the Sisters of Jesus the Saviour.

The Nigerian order has more than 160 members, with formation houses in River and Abia states.

The four nuns were traveling from Rivers state to Imo state for a thanksgiving Mass when they were kidnapped.

Kidnappings for ransom have been common in northwestern Nigeria but are starting to spread to other areas of the country.

US-based National Public Radio reported that in June 2021 alone, about 45 people per day were kidnapped for ransom in Nigeria.

In May, Archbishop Matthew Ndagoso of Kaduna, vice president of the bishops'

conference, told an online forum: "Banditry has taken a new dimension in the last three to four years as bandits now use sophisticated weapons to massively destroy villages and their properties, kidnapping for ransom during the day time and at night."

He blamed the country's porous borders for the importation of increasingly sophisticated weapons that fuel growing insecurity. He also called on the government to control how arms and ammunition were being imported and to prosecute those found to illegally possess arms and ammunition.



Edited by Jason Osborne
jason@irishcatholic.ie

A glimpse behind the curtain



A Yemeni girl stands at the entrance of her family's makeshift shelter at a camp in Marib, Yemen, August 7. According to the World Food Program, at least 20 million people in Yemen are facing hunger, including nearly 2 million children who face starvation. Photo: CNS/Ali Owidha, Reuters

Civil claim against Cardinal Pell and Australian archdiocese to go forward

An Australian court August 24 ruled that a man can sue the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne and Cardinal George Pell for nervous shock over the alleged sexual abuse of his late son.

The man is the father of a former choirboy, who prosecutors alleged had been abused by Cardinal Pell. His son died from an accidental drug overdose in 2014, having never made a complaint against Pell.

The father is seeking compensation in a civil case against the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne and the

81-year-old Pell, who served as archbishop of Melbourne from 1996 to 2001.

According to court documents, the father claims his son was abused by Cardinal Pell and died from a heroin overdose "caused by the psychological impact of the abuse". In turn, he says, he suffered nervous shock for which he is making a claim against the archdiocese and the cardinal.

Australia's High Court unanimously overturned Cardinal Pell's conviction

for alleged sexual abuse on April 7, 2020. The cardinal, who has always maintained his innocence, was released after more than 13 months of imprisonment and returned to Rome, where he had served as the Vatican's economy czar.

The Supreme Court of Victoria ruled on August 24 that the man can sue over the psychological harm he says he suffered over the death of his son.

According to a report by the Age, this decision could pave the way for other families

to sue the Church.

Justice Michael McDondald ordered the archdiocese to pay the plaintiff's legal costs, but not Cardinal Pell, who he said played "no active role" in the hearing, the ABC reported.

A spokesperson for the Archdiocese of Melbourne told the Age: "We acknowledge the judgment handed down by his honour ... and will be working through what that means in coming days."

The case will return to court at a later date.

Heated debate awaits German Synodal Path plenary participants

Participants will face a packed agenda and heated debate at the upcoming fourth plenary assembly of the Synodal Path reform project on the future of the Catholic Church in Germany.

At their meeting September 8-10 in Frankfurt, the approximately 230 delegates will discuss 14 papers, reported the German Catholic news agency KNA.

These include texts on Church sexual morality, the role of priests, the partici-

ipation of women and the mandatory celibacy of Catholic priests. Another text advocates the establishment of a synodal council in the Catholic Church in Germany. Made up of bishops and laypeople, it would be a permanent "advisory and decision-making body".

That and other plans discussed in the Synodal Path have encountered strong opposition from more conservative Catholics and are also being viewed critically in the Vatican.

In a statement issued in July, the Vatican said the Catholic reform project in Germany "does not have the faculty to oblige bishops and the faithful to assume new forms of governance and new approaches to doctrine and morals".

An agreement first needed to be reached at the level of the universal Church, it added, citing a possible "violation of Church communion and threat to the unity of the Church".

Vatican roundup

Pope meeting off as patriarch cancels Kazakhstan visit

● Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill, who was expected to meet Pope Francis at the Congress of World and Traditional Religions in Kazakhstan, will not attend the interreligious gathering in September, a senior Russian Orthodox bishop said.

Metropolitan Anthony of Volokolamsk, head of external relations for the Russian Orthodox Church, confirmed to the Russian news agency Ria Novosti that the patriarch will not attend the September 13-15 meeting in the Kazakh capital of Nur-Sultan.

However, Metropolitan Anthony, who met with the Pope at the Vatican August 5, said there was still hope for the Pope and the patriarch to meet and that an eventual meeting between the two "must be an independent event by virtue of its importance".

Pope Francis has been wanting to meet with the patriarch for months, telling Univision, the Spanish-language network, in an interview that aired in the United States July 11 that he planned to meet with the patriarch during his visit to Kazakhstan.

Patriarch Kirill's outspoken support of Russian President Vladimir Putin's war on Ukraine, particularly his justification of the war as a defence against Western immorality, has caused ruptures within the Russian Orthodox Church and strained relations with the Catholic Church.

Ukrainian Foreign Ministry summons nuncio over papal car bomb comments

● The Ministry of Foreign Affairs summoned Archbishop Visvaldas Kulbokas, Pope Francis' ambassador to Ukraine, to express disappointment about papal comments regarding the death of Darya Dugina, a 29-year-old commentator with a nationalist Russian TV channel.

In an August 25 briefing, Foreign Affairs Minister Dmytro Kuleba told journalists that summoning a nuncio to the ministry was unprecedented. He said more details about the meeting would be forthcoming.

"I will say frankly that the Ukrainian heart is torn by the Pope's words. It was unfair," Mr Kuleba added.

At the end of his general

audience talk in the Paul VI hall at the Vatican August 24, six months after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Pope Francis repeated his calls for peace and spoke of how so many people were affected by war.

He noted that no nationalities were spared when it came to children becoming orphans in war, and he said "war is madness" on all sides.

As an example, the Pope spoke of "that poor girl flown into the air because of a bomb under her car seat in Moscow. The innocent pay for war. The innocent."

While the Pope did not identify the person by name, Vatican News confirmed the Pope was referring to the August 20 killing of Dugina.

Former Vatican spokesman: Benedict ready to meet the Lord

● Fr Federico Lombardi, director of the Vatican Press Office from 2006 to 2016, said that Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI is ready for "the definitive encounter" with God.

The Jesuit priest made the observation in an interview with *Avvenire*, the newspaper of the Italian bishops, on the occasion of his upcoming 80th birthday, which he will celebrate on August 29.

In the interview, published August 22, the priest, who was also provincial superior of the Italian Jesuits and director of the Vatican Television Center, recalled that he was able to accompany Benedict XVI "for almost his entire pontificate from 2006 until his resignation from the Petrine ministry in February of 2013".

Fr Lombardi stressed that Benedict XVI "is a scholarly man" and would define him as "a pope theologian with very clear ideas".



Letter from Rome



John L. Allen Jr

Pope Francis August 27 created 20 new cardinals, including 16 under the age of 80 and thus eligible to vote for the next pope. It was Francis's eighth consistory, and whenever we get a new crop of Princes of the Church, several chronic misconceptions tend to head once more unto the breach.

Herewith, three conceptual mistakes to avoid in thinking about the men who wear the red.

It's not about liberals v. conservatives

To begin with, there's a natural tendency for Western handicappers to try to divide up the cardinals like they do everyone else, meaning in terms of where cardinals stand on the liberal/conservative divide.

This generally works fairly well for Americans and Europeans – it's not wrong, for example, even if it's a little reductive, to think that new Cardinal Robert McElroy of San Diego is to the left of the traditional centre of gravity within the American bishops' conference, or that new Cardinal Arthur Roche of the Vatican's Dicastery for Divine Worship is more progressive than his predecessor, Cardinal Robert Sarah.

The left/right taxonomy tends to break down, however, once you exit Western airspace. Care to take a stab, for instance, at locating new Cardinal Anthony Poola, India's first Dalit cardinal, on that spectrum? What about Cardinal Virgilio do Carmo da Silva of East Timor?

There's also a natural tendency for outsiders to assume that if a guy's a cardinal, he must know the ins and outs of the Vatican

It's not just that we don't know which side these guys are on – it's that the left/right classification system often just doesn't apply. Prelates from the developing world often can be quite traditional on doctrine, for instance, but extremely progressive on matters of social justice.

Moreover, their perspectives are informed mostly by their local situations. Presumably, new Cardinal Peter Okpaleke of Nigeria is far more concerned about corruption, sectarian violence and security, the issues that dominate his country right now, than transgender rights or the legal status of abortion, which define the left/right fault lines in America.

The bottom line is that Catholicism is a global faith, a fact increasingly

Debunking three persistent myths about cardinals post-consistory



New cardinals visit with Pope Francis and retired Pope Benedict XVI at the Mater Ecclesiae monastery after a consistory for the creation of 20 new cardinals in St Peter's Basilica at the Vatican August 27. Photo: CNS

“Three conceptual mistakes to avoid in thinking about the men who wear the red”

reflected in the College of Cardinals in the Pope Francis era. As a result, we have to stop trying to analyse it in primarily Western terms.

They're not Vatican experts

There's also a natural tendency for outsiders to assume that if a guy's a cardinal, he must know the ins and outs of the Vatican. That's just not so – in fact, most of these cardinals would be the first to admit that the corridors of power in Rome are every bit as much terra incognita to them as the tundra of the Arctic, or the isolated islands of the Pacific.

I'd be willing to bet, for example, that of the 16 new cardinal-electors named yesterday, only two of them likely could name more than, say, three of the 10 defendants currently facing trial in the Vatican for alleged financial crimes.

I'm presuming most could correctly identify Italian Cardinal Angelo Becciu, especially since he's on the guest list for the cardinals' get-together thanks to Pope Francis despite the fact his privileges were stripped in 2020. But after that, I'd guess none could pick Raffaele Mincione or Gianluigi Torzi out of a lineup, the two lay Italian financiers accused of swindling the Vatican,

possibly save for Cardinal Roche and Cardinal Fernando Vérgez, both of whom work in the Vatican.

Based on 25 years of experience of interviewing cardinals, I can testify that the usual dynamic is that we spend some time on the record with me asking the questions, and then another few minutes with the recorder switched off while they pose queries about what the hell is going on in Rome. Anybody who covers the Vatican probably has had similar experiences.

This long-standing reality today is compounded by the fact that Pope Francis has named so many cardinals from the world's peripheries who not only don't work in the Vatican, but who've spent precious little time in Rome over the years. Half the time, the waiter serving them dinner in a Roman trattoria probably could speak more knowledgeably about Vatican power games than they could.

Of course, if you're a rank and file Catholic out there with a concern about the Vatican, there's nothing wrong with expressing it to your cardinal – they are, after all, supposed to be the pope's closest advisors. Just don't necessarily expect him to know any more about what's actually going on than you do.

They're not BFFs

Speaking of natural but mistaken assumptions about cardinals, there's also a tendency to assume that because it's such a small club – as of yesterday's consistory, 226 cardinals in all, of whom 132 are electors – they must all be tight.

They hold the highest office in the Church short of the papacy itself – but that doesn't make them experts on everything

Yet when Crux recently asked one of the new inductees how many of the world's cardinals he knew personally, the answer was revealing: “About seven.”

While that reply may be on the low end of the average, it's nevertheless true that many of today's cardinals are effectively strangers to one another. Given Francis's penchant for distributing red hats to improbable locales, that's the most natural thing in the world – after all, what are the odds, really, that the cardinal of Ekwulobia in Nigeria would be the BFF of his colleague in, say, Singapore or Mongolia?

In fact, many observers assume that the real purpose of the two-day gathering of cardinals isn't so much to discuss Vatican reform, which is the ostensible motive – after all, as noted above, most of these cardinals don't know much about the Vatican, and two days is hardly enough to give them a meaningful crash course.

What the session will accomplish, however, is to afford them a chance at least to meet one another, and to form some fleeting sense of one another's concerns and experiences.

All this can't help but have an impact on electing a pope, whenever that moment may come.

I recall that in 2005, one cardinal who took part in the conclave had a thick briefing book on various reputed papabili, or candidates, which he studied on the flight to Rome, later explaining that he felt compelled to do so because he really didn't know much about most of them. (In the end, that conclave ended up selecting Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, whom pretty much everyone knew, but no one could be sure of that outcome going in.)

This unfamiliarity has been compounded under Pope Francis, which means that a great deal of what will have to happen the next time the cardinals gather for an election isn't so much campaigning as introductions.

Perhaps the moral of this story can be summed up as follows.

When you look upon a cardinal, try to moderate your expectations. Yes, they hold the highest office in the Church short of the papacy itself – but that doesn't make them experts on everything, including, frankly, a lot of the stuff you'd really love to know.

Family & Lifestyle

The Irish Catholic, September 1, 2022

Cleaning up communication

Consistently listed among the reasons marriages break down and families fall apart is a failure of communication. It need not necessarily be some big fall-out or argument either that sets things in motion; the gradual slipping into an uncommunicative way of being in marriage or in the family is sufficient.

My wife and I see how easy this could be without constant effort and maintenance. When we get hooked on a new series for example, the temptation is always there to fill every free moment with it, rather than to sit down and chat when we have a chance. It's always easier to pursue the many distractions on



Communication is vitally important in any relationship, but all the more so when it comes to the deepest relationships of marriage and family, writes Jason Osborne

offer than it is to slow down and talk with those closest to you.

We availed of the wonderful Tandem Teams programme for couples over the past year and a half, which took us from our engagement through to early married life. One consistent theme throughout was the importance of listening and proper communication. Without

those, we came to understand, your marriage and family life were likely to flounder.

So, in an age of superficial engagement, how do we go about communicating better at home? It has to start with listening.

Listening

Listening so that you hear what another person is saying, espe-

cially a spouse or family member, is not as easy as we might think. A lot of our interactions with others are marked by divided attention, which sees us listening but not hearing. How are we to turn that around?

● Pay attention: When someone is speaking to you, get rid of distractions. I recognised that I have a terrible habit of continuing to look at my computer when someone addresses me during work, which does both them and I a disservice. Give your interlocutor your full attention, turning your face away from whatever screen you have at hand, and tuning out from the multifarious distractions around you. Only then are you ready to listen.

● Don't interrupt: It's very tempting to interrupt when someone says something you disagree with. However, if you want to hear what they have to say, or are trying to say, it's vital that you let them finish before responding. As with the point above about paying attention, don't tune out either or just wait until you get your turn to respond; be attentive to what they're saying.

● Try to put yourself in their shoes: In the spirit of charity that we try to inhabit as Catholics, it's a good idea to put your own views aside (as best you can) as you listen to what the other person is saying. Try to acknowledge the validity of how they're feeling, even if



you don't necessarily share those feelings.

- **Identify what's most important:** People often talk or share their feelings because they're trying to communicate something they feel is important. Be up front with them and ask what the most important point is, in their opinion, that they're trying to make. Far from being dismissive, it shows that you're trying to take what they have to say seriously.

- **Don't be afraid of silence:** We have a paranoid fear of silence in conversation today, and we shouldn't. Expressing yourself is difficult, and it takes time to put deeply held sentiments into words. If you're trying to improve your listening skills, get used to giving the other person some space as they speak, without suggesting words or sentiments of your own.

“Give your interlocutor your full attention, turning your face away from whatever screen you have at hand”

True listening is a skill that takes time to develop, but it's well worth the effort. If you haven't been making a specific effort with this recently, it might take a while before you can give your utmost to listening effectively to your spouse or a family member. It's essential, though, because communication is a two-way street, give and take. A strong marriage, and a strong family, values what everyone has to say equally, no matter the final outcome of the discussion, and everyone can only be heard equally if they're listened to.

Communicating your perspective

Of course, as mentioned above, communication is a two-way street, which means that an equal amount of thought and consideration has to go into conveying your own thoughts and feelings. It's very possible to communicate badly or ineffectively, and we do ourselves a disservice by not giving ourselves the opportunity to say what we feel needs to be said. Just as with listening, there are a couple of rules of thumb that lend themselves to speaking your mind well.

- **Think/pray before you speak:** If you're having an important conversation with a spouse, family member or anyone else, it's a good idea to consider what exactly it is you want to say. Turn it over in your mind and examine how best to convey what you want the other person to understand. God can of course be invited into this process, and so prayer affords us a nice space to figure out what exactly it is we're trying to say. I find writing out my thoughts in God's presence particularly helpful in this regard.



- **Speak the truth:** When dealing with those we love, and ideally with everyone else, we owe them the whole truth and nothing but the truth. The truth is the only firm foundation to build a stable relationship, and ultimately a family, on, and so it's vital that you nip lies in the bud. This doesn't mean you have to wield the truth as a hammer, especially during sensitive conversations, but it does mean understanding that lies and dishonesty won't bring you any closer to a strong relationship.

- **No assumptions:** As you speak, try not to make assumptions about what the other person is thinking. As well as you think you know them, you're not them, and it's entirely possible that they're receiving what you're saying very differently to the way you imagine it. Give them the benefit of the doubt.

“When dealing with those we love, and ideally with everyone else, we owe them the whole truth and nothing but the truth”

- **Start specific:** It's most important to convey initially that which you feel is most important, so that your point is heard. I used to suffer from trying to cram everything I wanted to say into my first couple of sentences, and it often resulted in an unintelligible jumble. Just as with listening, hone in on the most important thing/s, and then you can expand outwards later once you know you've been heard.

Communication is an enormous subject that book after book has been written about, so do continue to consider the topic. It will strengthen your marriage, relationship or family life immensely.

Dad's Diary

Rory Fitzgerald



The kids are in denial about the end of the summer holidays. I'm happy for them to stay that way for as long as is possible. Just occasionally, as the end of August draws nearer, they say things like, “wow, in six days I'll be back in school”. Then, they laugh and the absurd thought quickly passes from their mind.

They quickly return to the dream state of summer holidays, where they are tanned, free beings with sand in their socks. They get up at their leisure and usually end up at the beach, in the water or playing with friends – or all three at once. It has been a beautiful summer for them.

Kids live in the moment. They cannot truly compute that we are just days away from a return to the drama and chaos of the school day morning, where – under the pressure of a ticking clock – four kids must somehow find their uniforms, their lunches, their bottles, their schoolbooks and somehow also have breakfast and wash, while simultaneously practising spellings for their spelling test, even as the dogs try to get involved in all the fun.

Yet September is inexorably approaching. For now, the evenings are balmy and dusk lingers long. The blackberries are ripe, and the kids have already made pots of jam. Yet soon a cool bite will come into the air, and we will find ourselves surprised by the unduly early arrival of the night.

There is a big milestone for one of our kids this back to school season, as they take the step into secondary school. There is much growing to do in the next few years, in that transition from being a child to becoming an adult, and stepping out into the world alone. And what a strange world they are stepping out into.

Attack

Currently, the largest nuclear power station in Europe is under threat of attack, but it barely makes the news. The fact of an industrial land war in Europe has become normal, even as millions flee their homes, and find homes amongst us. Inflation is running rampant as economic woes threaten once again. The Covid pandemic which upended all our lives, and took loved ones from us, is not yet over. Yet war, poverty and disease have always been with us, in one form or another.

The deeper strangeness now lies much closer to home. It increasingly lies in the minds of our compatriots, and in the strange ideas that have recently taken hold across the western world. This gives many a sense of unease as our children return to the classrooms, where questionable ideologies are increasingly presented as fact.



For example, in Ireland, the State promotes material which casually tells children that there are many genders and that they may choose whichever one they prefer. This is done casually, despite the fact that many parents do not believe this to be true.

Medical treatments

Controversial gender affirmational surgeries and related medical treatments are presented as being perfectly normal to Irish children, even as the London clinic which actually provided such treatments to Irish kids is being shut down as unsafe, and even as the children harmed by such experimental treatments take legal action. The quaint idea that sex in mammals is both binary and immutable doesn't seem to get a look in any more. It is this sort of ideological morass which our children will have to navigate as they come of age.

The Irish State has fallen completely under the spell of such thinking, even though the Irish people as a whole have not. This sets up an inevitable enmity between the Irish people and the State, which will play out in the years to come.

The Irish State was founded to protect and foster the traditional Irish culture and way of life, which includes of course Ireland's Christian tradition. It is remarkable that this very State is increasingly making itself an enemy to the very traditional culture it was set up to protect. It is silencing the very culture it was supposed to give a democratic voice to. And the schools to which our children will cheerfully return are becoming a key battleground in Ireland's undeclared culture war.

Letters

Letter of the week

I sought my God but he eluded me

Dear Editor, I was touched by the story of Tommy in the column by Fr Martin Delaney [*The Irish Catholic* – August 11, 2022].

It reminded me of a poem which I shall share at the end and of the Prodigal Son experiencing the love of his father through his father's tears and warm embrace at the joy of reuniting.

Tommy was an atheist and a student of Fr Powell's 'Theology of Faith'.

After handing in his final exam, he asked Fr Powell, "Do you think I'll ever find God?"

"Tommy, I don't think you will ever

find God but I'm sure he will find you," said Fr Powell. Years later Tommy had terminal cancer. He banged on God's door, but God didn't come out. Then he remembered something Fr Powell had said. "It is sad to have lived and not loved nor told the ones closest to you that you had loved them."

His time was short so he decided to tell his dad he loved him. He was surprised at his dad's reaction when his dad cried and hugged him. Then they talked all night long. It felt so good to be close to his father to see his tears and feel his hugs. Then Tommy realised that God was

there when he opened up to his dad. God wasn't there when he banged on his door, he was there in his dad's tears, warm embrace and in his hugs.

It reminded me of a poem by William Blake:

"I sought my soul
but my soul I could not see
I sought my God
but he eluded me
I sought my brother
and found all three"

Yours etc.,
Fintan Tracey
Bettystown, Co. Meath

Supporting married priests financially

Dear Editor, It is with interest I am following the synod and the changes that seem to be in the air. Perhaps hyper-feminists and neo-reformists advocating married priests will have to be prepared to dig deep into their pockets to support the wives and children financially. Also, if the couple divorce, will the former be again ready to pay for two households? Just a thought.

Yours etc.,
Brid Fitzpatrick
Terenure, Dublin 6W



Synod synthesis reveals serious need for instruction

Dear Editor, The concept of synodality needs explanation. Predictably, the secular media have provided the dominant narrative on the national synthesis document. The narrative is primarily a sociological analysis of the Church, amounting merely to reports of changes of opinion on certain matters by the members of the human organisation known as the Catholic Church.

Within the Church different groups have already engaged in filtering the syn-

thesis document in pursuit of specific agendas.

Despite maintaining elsewhere that the "Church is synodal in her constitution", Cardinal Mario Grech, general secretary of the Synod of Bishops has stated that "we still have difficulty to figure out now what synodality means". Casting it as an experiment? The concern here is not the presentation of the themes outlined in the synthesis document to help promote lay participation in the transmission of the Faith. I

participated in that exercise. The concern is that both the process and the synthesis document lack adequate awareness of or reference to Pope Francis' own vision of synodality, outlined when commemorating the institution of the Synod of Bishops (2015).

At that time, he perceived the core as a mutual listening. The responsibility of the bishops is both to listen and to teach. Laity can't wholly listen to God simply by "listening to one another". Not every utterance of a

group of Catholics is a message from the Holy Spirit? The synthesis document, inadvertently, reveals a serious need for instruction on discernment, synodal process, the 'breathing' of the Holy Spirit, the Eucharist, the laity's own obligatory ministry in the secular world, and the sacramental nature of authority in the Church. It is difficult to acquire these understandings by chance.

Yours etc.,
Neil Bray
Cappamore, Co. Limerick

Excluded from deliberations on Relationship and Sexuality Education

Dear Editor, Ruadhán Jones' article [*The Irish Catholic* – August 11, 2022] on the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) proposals for RSE in our schools carries some interesting quotes from Dr Patrick Sullivan. He emphasises the importance of consulting communities before implementing changes in sensitive topics like RSE. He claims that NCCA wants to avoid the situation that has arisen in other countries where consultation did not take place.

From the perspective of the Catholic

Secondary Schools Parents Association (CSSPA) the nation's oldest and largest second level parent grouping, there is something deeply disturbing in these utterings from NCCA.

Three years ago NCCA invited our organisation to nominate a parent to its Relationships Curriculum Working Party. Our very well qualified male nominee was rejected and instead thirteen females were appointed.

Some months ago NCCA held a consultation on its RSE findings to date. Teachers and students were sur-

veyed: Parents were not surveyed. Our uninvited submission pointing out the all-female nature of the working party was not even noted in the subsequent report.

Bearing in mind Dr Sullivan's observations, one wonders why NCCA is so determined to exclude Catholic and other parents from its deliberations.

Yours etc.,
Alan Whelan
Vice-President CSSPA
Killarney, Co. Kerry

facebook community
Each week we publish a selection of comments from *The Irish Catholic* Facebook page

Mother reveals how Padre Pio aided daughter's cancer fight

What a pleasure it was to listen to Roseanne speaking about her faith journey with the family and how strong they are with the help of God and St Padre Pio, God bless them all Amen. – **Emily Gregan**

She is a wonderful lady God and Padre Pio Bless her and Saoirse Amen. – **Eilish Higgins**

May her prayers be answered. St Pio is a very powerful intercessor. – **Charles Glenn**

She couldn't have done a better thing. Hopefully Ryan Tubridy and The Late Late Show may promote and highlight this! – **Michael Holland**

Bless this beautiful girl and her family. – **Catherine English**

I have great faith in Padre Pio please God he will look after your daughter. – **Nora McNamee**

Amazing what having faith and believing can do for us all. – **Margaret Walsh**

Five-day trial set for Cardinal Joseph Zen

Many prayers for Cardinal Zen. A wonderful cardinal who spoke out about injustice and oppression. May God grant him great strength in his upcoming trial. – **Margaret Nealon**

What do you think? Join in the conversation on *The Irish Catholic* Facebook page

A warning to Catholics on synodality and disunity

Dear Editor, In his review of Kenneth Milne's history of the Church of Ireland [*The Irish Catholic* – July 28, 2022] Peter Costello tells us that Catholicism has "real lessons" to learn from that denomination.

As an ex-Anglican who was received into the Church eight years ago, I can say with some confidence that the most important lessons to learn from Anglicanism are negative.

This current Lambeth Conference has reminded us that Anglicanism is deeply divided and that many of its representatives differ from Catholicism in their opinions, especially on questions of morality. The presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church in the United States is a good example of this: his response to the decision of the Supreme Court to repudiate Roe versus Wade was to defend what he calls abortion rights.

In contrast the Catholic bishops in that country welcomed that decision. Anglicanism's synodal structures should provide a warning to Catholics: autonomy for individual Anglican Churches has increased disunity over the last 50 years and three Anglican provinces are boycotting this year's Lambeth Conference.

Yours etc.,
C.D.C. Armstrong
Belfast, Co. Antrim

Letters to the Editor

All letters should include the writer's full name, postal address and telephone numbers (day and evening). Letter writers may receive a subsequent telephone call from *The Irish Catholic* as part of our authentication process which does not amount to a commitment to publish.

We regret that we cannot give prior notice of a letter's publication date, acknowledge unpublished letters or discuss the

merits of letters. We do not publish pseudonyms or other formulae to conceal the writer's identity, such as "name and address with editor". We do not print letters addressed to someone else, open letters, or verse. Letters to the Editor should only be sent to *The Irish Catholic*, and not other publications. Letters should not exceed 300 words and may be shortened for space requirements.

TVRadio

Brendan O'Regan



A revealing glimpse at pilgrimage

It used to be very annoying when you missed a programme you wanted to see or hear, especially if it was your own fault. Nowadays you can watch back or listen back via the various catchup services.

And so **The Leap of Faith** (RTÉ Radio One, Friday) made a surprise and low-key return in August. I didn't find it flagged in any of RTÉ's promotional materials, so I was caught on the hop, my eye was off the ball – I didn't even know there was a ball! I finally caught up on last week's episode and who was on it but *The Irish Catholic* editor Michael Kelly, in conversation with presenter Siobhán Garrigan about his new book *An Irish Pilgrimage Guide to the Holy Land*, a work based on research and personal experience. His first trip there was when he was 18, when he was "intoxicated with every corner". It was, he said, a cosmopolitan place, with people of many backgrounds, and important to the three world religions that share the land. His interest in the inter-faith links was influenced by his experience of conflict in Northern Ireland. He saw it also as a chance for those who wouldn't make the long journey to have a mini-pilgrimage at home,



Michael Kelly was reflecting on his new book on RTÉ Radio One.

reflecting on relevant scripture passages. He particularly liked the area around the Sea of Galilee which had seen little change since the time of Jesus. The mood was more sombre in Jerusalem, especially on the Via Dolorosa, but he loved the simplicity of the Church of the Nativity. Sometimes, he said, we over-complicate religion.

Poet

The programme also featured poet Mary O'Malley, a native of Connemara who taught in NUI Galway. She loved music – it "gives you the beat of the world", and she found music and poetry "as necessary as breath". She linked it to the element of incantation in every religion and referenced traditional rituals and practices – "most of

what we practised wasn't in the Roman Church calendar at all". Yet, unlike many today, she found no tension between these elements. I liked her poem *The Blessed Well* with its image of "bracelets of ripples" and how the stone that was dropped in "disappeared like a confessed sin".

Ancient practices and pilgrimage also featured on **Countrywide** (RTÉ Radio One, Saturday). Reporter Lorna Siggins was climbing Croagh Patrick to check in on efforts to improve and preserve the pathways walked by 120,000 pilgrims every year. This traffic had degraded the landscape on 'The Reek' though I wondered about calling the path "a scar on the landscape". Now a local initiative was in progress, supported by Mountaineering Ireland. The 'path manager', Matt McConway from Scotland, was conscious of the expectations around this site, but the erosion was the worst he'd seen and he feared it would get worse if nothing was done. He wanted to develop a proper pathway with the mountain's own stone and wanted the improvements to be as natural and subtle as possible.

Favourite place

Also involved was local man David Doyle – this was his favourite place in the world

PICK OF THE WEEK

MASS

RTÉ One Sunday September 4, 11.00am

Fr Pius Faruna celebrates Mass in the RTÉ Studios, Donnybrook, with music from the Aontas Youth Choir, Lucan, Co. Dublin.

THE MEANING OF LIFE

RTE One Sunday September 4, 10.25pm

Joe Duffy returns with a new series – his first guest is Taoiseach Micheál Martin, who talks about his family, motivation and principles.

REWIND WITH JAMES KILBANE

Shalom World (online) Wednesday September 7, 9.30pm

Music and special guests with the Irish Gospel singer.

and he wanted to have a good pathway available for future generations. On a lighter note, we heard of the smart comments from the passing climbers – "are ye puttin' in an escalator?". "When is the cable car going in?"

The Aran Islands aren't too far away from Croagh Patrick, and that's where singer Deirdre Ní Chinnéide finds inspiration. She gave a very reflective interview on **Rewind With James Kilbane** (Shalom World, Wednesday). She had gone from being a primary teacher to psychotherapy, and was much influenced by her experiences in Bosnia and Kosovo during the war there. The *Pieta* in one of the Aran Island churches resonated with her as she thought of the mothers who had lost their sons during that war. She said

she was always a "searcher", wanting to explore "the mystery of it all". She came from a Catholic family with a – "consistent faith" though she experienced her faith journey more as an adult. She has released two albums, and if the two beautiful songs she sang on the show – *Little Bird* and *I Will Sing to You* are anything to go by these must be very special indeed.

James Kilbane was a relaxed and confident presenter on this new show (available online, via Shalom World websites and apps) – the only flaw was the distracting background music during the interview – no need!

✉ boregan@hotmail.com,
[@boreganmedia](https://www.boreganmedia.com)

Film

Aubrey Malone



Double diet of Austenesque adaptations

It is a truth universally acknowledged that nobody understands a woman better than another one. That's why it's a relief that the Jane Austen-themed *Mr Malcolm's List* (PG) is both directed by a woman (Emma Holly Jones) and scripted by one – Suzanne Allain from her own (self-published) novel.

Partly filmed in Ireland, it comes hot on the heels of the recent *Bridgerton*, which I had mixed feelings about. It echoes it in many ways. The plot concerns a nobleman, Jeremiah Malcolm (Sope Dirisu) who 'lists' some pretty exacting demands in his search for a bride.

After one potential candidate, Julia Thistlewaite (Zawe

Ashton) fails to live up to his expectations, he discards her. Feeling humiliated that she didn't tick his boxes, she vows revenge by hatching a plot with her boarding school friend Selina Dalton (Freida Pinto).

Unmonied

Dalton is unmonied and from the wrong side of the tracks. She's groomed a *la Eliza Doolittle* to meet his requirements. The idea is that he'll fall for her and then she'll reject him like he rejected Julia. "Revenge is a dish best served cold," and all that.

The scheme adds a dash of post-Austen feminism to the proceedings. But what if Malcolm finds out about it? Or if he genuinely falls for Dalton?



A scene from the 2022 film *Mr Malcolm's List*.

We've been here before. Austen would have been more subtle. But it's still good fun.

There's a subplot involving Julia and a captain played by Theo James. Expect lots of flowing gowns, elegant danc-

ing and banter about that pesky class system which underlines so much of Austen's work. The mixed-race cast adds an extra *soupcou* of exoticism to things. Or is it just tokenistic ethnicity?

This is also a feature of the Netflix version of Austen's last novel *Persuasion* (PG), directed by Carrie Cracknell.

Awful

There's almost a kind of perfection in this film's persistent awfulness. The coy knowingness of Dakota Johnson's asides to camera (which make her as much into a narrator as a character), the ridiculous anachronisms in the script, Dakota's unfunny pratfalls, her vulgarity, the dull blandness of the film's low rent Darcy (Cosmo Jarvis), our quote unquote 'hero', all make this into an epic fail.

Jarvis is the guy Dakota gave up eight years ago when he was down and she was up.

Now she's down and he's up. You get the message.

It's all very well to 'update' classic texts. In doing so one should make sure the process adds something to make up for what's 'lost in translation'.

Cracknell doesn't. As a result the film flounders in the kind of quasi-Regency limbo Amy Heckerling neatly sidestepped in 1995 with *Clueless*, a latter day *Emma*. It did so by going for all-out modernism instead of mixing its drinks.

Directors should realise that art is timeless. What's good for a day is good forever. Nothing is as out of date as a bad film made yesterday.

That sound you hear behind you is Ms Austen spinning wildly in her grave.

Sharing the pattern of the cross...

Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way and he turned and spoke to them. "If anyone comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:1-2).

The size of the crowd did not impress Jesus. He could read their minds and intentions. Some were genuinely interested in what he taught, others came for healing, and some came out of curiosity. But also, there were those who thought he might be the Messiah who would ignite a political revolution to oppose Roman rule. And there were some who came to find fault with him and set a trap question. The time had come for Jesus to make it known to them that following him would be costly and demanding. There would be no half measures like an unfinished tower or going to war with half an army.

The Gospel of Luke which we follow this year is noted for its emphasis on mercy, gentleness and prayerfulness, yet this is no softly, softly writing as it asks for a discipleship with the backbone of discipline. "If anyone come to me without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple". Does this surprise you? How could Jesus ask one to hate anybody, especially the family? When Luke was writing, many converts to Christianity were disowned by their family. Obviously, Jesus would want them to continue to love their family but to hate what they stood for. St Francis and several other saints had to cope with huge opposition from their families in following their calling. Francis handed back the clothes he was wearing to his father saying, "Up to now I called Peter Bernardone my father, but from now on, only God is my father."

Popularity

Courting popularity with great crowds was not on the agenda of Jesus. In the political world of today popular slogans have become more powerful than reasoned debate. Truth and morality are too serious to be left to the swings and sways of passing fashion and public opinion. The gospels give us an instance of the power of public opinion. That was the day when the voice of the people asked for the release of a noted criminal,

The Sunday Gospel

Fr Silvester
O'Flynn
OFM Cap.



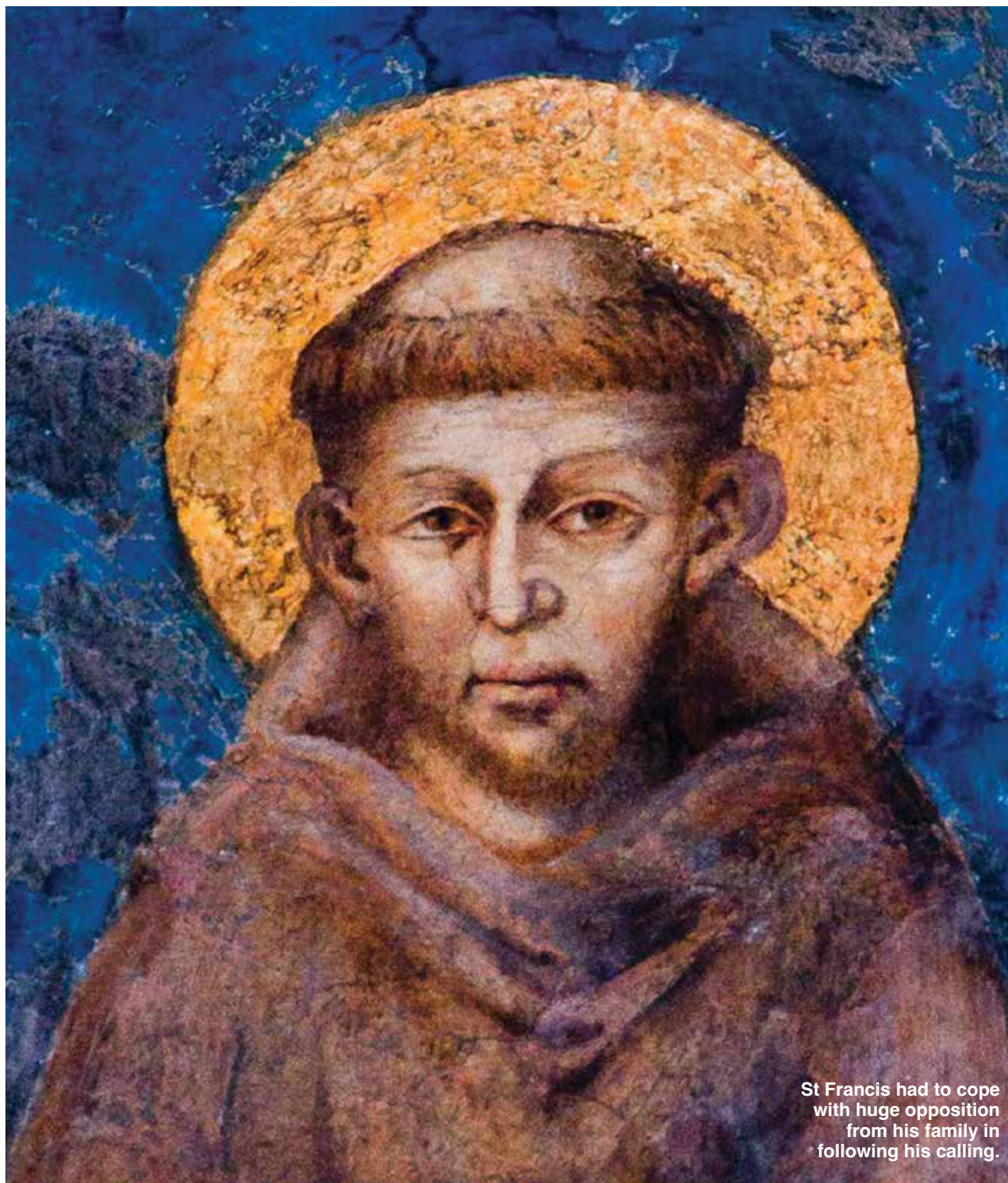
Barabbas, while Jesus was condemned to death on the cross. In today's first reading it says: "The reasonings of mortals are unsure and our intentions unstable."

“In the political world of today popular slogans have become more powerful than reasoned debate”

Jesus, rejected by the opinion poll, took up the cross which would be the instrument of death but also the door to his Resurrection. Before the death of Jesus, death on the cross was regarded as a terrible curse, but he defeated evil on its home pitch, as it were, and transformed the tree of death into the tree of new life. Where he has gone, his disciples are asked to follow. "Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple." Take the cross out of Christianity and what have you got? À la carte picking and rejecting from Christ's teaching. A pick and choose approach takes what one likes from religion but rejects what does not appeal. This is an age of permissiveness. This reminds me of a school retreat when a student disagreed with what the priest was saying. He replied that this was what Jesus said. To which the student responded, "Well, he was entitled to his opinion!" As Chesterton put it, when Jones says that he is following his conscience, then Jones is following Jones...which may not be the same as following Jesus. The teaching of Jesus is a solid rock to act as an unshakeable foundation for life.

Preaching Christ crucified

St Paul found that the idea of a crucified Christ did not appeal to many people. "While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, we are preaching a crucified Christ, a Christ who is the power of God and the wisdom of God" (1 Cor. 1:22-24). Elsewhere, Paul said that all he wanted was to know Jesus Christ in the power of his resurrection and in sharing his



St Francis had to cope with huge opposition from his family in following his calling.

suffering by imitating the pattern of his crucifixion.

Sharing the pattern of the cross means accepting the unavoidable difficulties and pains of life while knowing that the crucified Christ is with us because he entered into solidarity with all who are suffering.

Disciple

"Anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:33). One of Mother Teresa's sisters was heading out one morning to serve among the poor, but her face was the picture of sadness. Mother Teresa gently called her aside and asked her: "What

did Jesus say, go in front of me or follow me?" The sister replied, "Follow me", and she began to smile. The Good News is that when suffering comes our way, when we have a cross to carry, Jesus is there in front of us, leading us, showing us and accompanying us. Make sure there is a crucifix in your home. St Francis used to call the crucifix a book. When you look at Jesus on the cross, you can read the story of Christ's total self-giving out of love for us.

"How much do your love me, Lord?"

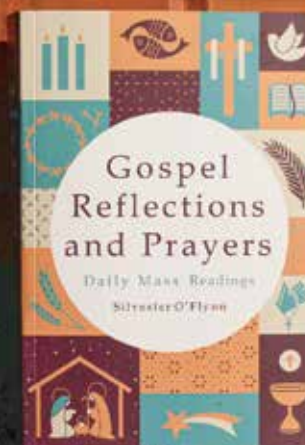
Then he opened his arms on the cross. "That's how much I love you."

Prayer of St Francis

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

More of Fr Silvester's Gospel Reflections

ARE AVAILABLE



**ORDER
Gospel
Reflections
and Prayers
TODAY**

€19.99
+€4.50 P&P

columba BOOKS

Phone 01 6874096 | Visit www.columbabooks.com

The ultimate prayer for the poor

A wise old Augustinian priest once shared this in class. There are days in my life when everything from the pressures of my work, to tiredness, to depression, to distraction, to flat-out laziness make it difficult for me to pray. But, no matter what, I always try to pray at least one sincere, focused Our Father every day.

In the Gospels, Jesus leaves us the Lord's Prayer, the Our Father. This is the most precious of all Christian prayers. However, the Gospels also leave us another precious Christian prayer, one that is not nearly as well known or practiced as is the Lord's Prayer. This is the prayer the Gospels place inside the mouth of Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Known as the Magnificat it is, for me, the most precious Christian prayer we have after the Lord's Prayer.

“We see it in the resurrection of Jesus and the vision of hope given us in that reality”

The Gospel of Luke paints the scene. Mary, pregnant with Jesus, goes to visit her cousin, Elizabeth, who is pregnant with John the Baptist. Traditionally we call this “The Visitation” and what transpires between these two women is much more than what first meets the eye. This is no simple gender-reveal party. Written more than 80 years after the event itself took place it is a post-resurrection reflection on



Fr Rolheiser

www.ronrolheiser.com

the world-altering significance of what each of these women was carrying in her womb. As well, the words that they speak to each other also speak of a post-resurrection reality. It is in this context that the Gospels have Mary speak the words of the Magnificat. What are those words?

Praise

They are words which thank and praise God for having taken the side of the poor, the humble, the hungry, and the oppressed in this world, having lifted them up and given them victory, even as he toppled the powerful off their thrones and humbled them. However, her prayer puts this all into the past tense, as if it was already an accomplished fact, already a reality in our world.

However, as the cartoon char-

acter, Ziggy, once reminded God in a prayer, “The poor are still getting clobbered down here!” For the large part, this seems so. Looking at our world, we see that the gap between rich and poor is widening, hundreds of millions of people go to bed hungry every night, corruption and crime are everywhere, and the powerful seemingly can simply take whatever they want without repercussions. We have nearly 100 million refugees on our borders around the world, and women and children are still victims of violence of all kinds everywhere. Worse still, it would seem things are getting worse, not better. So where do we see that God has cast down the mighty from their thrones, lifted up the lowly, filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty?

Resurrection

We see it in the resurrection of Jesus and the vision of hope given us in that reality. What Mary affirms in the Magnificat is a deep truth we can only grasp in the faith and hope, namely, that even though at present injustice, corruption, and exploitation of the poor, seem to reign, there will be a last day when that oppressive stone will roll back from the tomb and the powerful will topple. The Magnificat is the ultimate prayer of hope – and the ultimate prayer for the poor.

“The Magnificat is not so much about Mary’s personal exultation as it is about the exaltation of the poor”

Maybe it is my age, maybe it is the discouragement I feel most evenings as I watch the news, or maybe it is both, but, as I grow older, two prayers (outside of the Eucharist) are most precious to me, The Lord's Prayer and the Mag-

nificat. Like my old Augustinian mentor, I now make sure no day goes by where pressure, tiredness, distraction, or laziness keep me from praying at least two prayers with focus and attention, The Lord's Prayer and the Magnificat.

Exultation

That hasn't always been the case. For years, I looked at the Magnificat and saw there only the exultation of the Mary of piety, all the litanies and praises of Mary bunched into one. Not that there is anything wrong with that since the Mary of piety is someone to whom millions upon millions, not least the poor, turn to in need, seeking the guidance, comfort, and sympathy of a mother. Few would argue against the goodness of this since it constitutes a rich mysticism of the poor, and of the poor in spirit.

However, the Magnificat is not so much about Mary's personal exultation as it is about the exaltation of the poor. In this prayer, she gives voice to how God ultimately responds to the powerlessness and oppression of the poor. Henri Nouwen once wrote that watching the evening news and seeing the suffering in our world can leave us feeling depressed and powerless. Depressed because of the injustice we see, powerless because it seems there is nothing we can do about it.

What can we do about it? We can pray the Magnificat each day giving voice to how God ultimately responds to the powerlessness of the poor.

“In the Gospels, Jesus leaves us the Lord’s Prayer, the Our Father. This is the most precious of all Christian prayers”

BookReviews

Peter Costello



The World of Books

The Stabbing of Salman Rushdie: Are there limits to freedom of speech?

Felix Larkin

The recent attack on Salman Rushdie, like the massacre of the *Charlie Hebdo* cartoonists in 2015, raises fundamental questions about the limits of free speech. There are no easy answers.

Those of us who live in liberal democracies are predictably appalled by the very idea of restrictions, formal or otherwise, on our freedom of speech. Nevertheless how do we react when the target is something sacred within our own culture?

For example, were we in Ireland not aghast about the proposal by Channel 4 to develop a comedy series about the Great Famine? The project was eventually abandoned because of the adverse reaction to it.

And what about the impossibility of satirising the obligatory wearing of the poppy on the BBC in November each year – a point made by the distinguished British theologian, Tina Beattie, in the wake of the *Charlie Hebdo* massacre?

Remember

We should also remember the outcry when the Monty Python film *Life of Brian* was released in 1979. We need to be careful not to be hypocritically one-sided in our defence of free speech.

So, are there any limits to freedom of speech?

Most of us would agree that nobody is entitled to knowingly speak an untruth or to use abusive language. Nor do we have a right to articulate naked prejudice, to present material or images that are irredeemably racist or xenophobic, anti-Semitic or anti-Islamic, sexist or homophobic. It is wrong to target individuals for what they are, as distinct from what they do.

There is a world of difference between these two approaches. Both may give offence, but whereas the first is gratuitously offensive and hateful, the second is aimed at making people think and question their actions, values and received orthodoxies – and that is an entirely valid pursuit.

“We should also remember the outcry when the Monty Python film *Life of Brian* was released in 1979”

As the great American jurist, Oliver Wendell Holmes, once observed, “the best test of truth is the power of the thought to get itself accepted in the competition of the market”.

Of course, it is important not to overestimate the extent of the offence that may result from the exercise of freedom of speech – or to be too sympathetic to the allegedly offended. There

are, undoubtedly, some people who make it their business to take offence at the slightest thing – in other words, professional offendees.

It is not necessary to take account of them: they are just a nuisance. As for the few who may be genuinely offended – those, in other words, who cannot bring themselves to entertain an idea that is foreign to them – it is open to them simply to disregard the offending item. Nobody is forcing them to read it; they are free to exercise their right to ignore it. Offence is thus very easily avoided.

Offence

In reality, however, much of so-called “offence” is contrived – and calls to suppress the offending material not actually about avoiding offence, but rather about control. Those who exercise control over others – political, religious, economic or otherwise – wish (understandably) to retain it and if possible expand it, and will try to exclude anything and everything that might undermine their authority and the value system, beliefs and thought processes upon which their authority rests.

Protestations of offence are all too often just a cover for denying those they subjugate, or wish to subjugate, the intellectual means to challenge them. It is an insidious manifestation of tyranny, and should be resisted.

Summer excursions to places of faith: Part 4 – From the Old World to the New World

Cologne Cathedral.

Peter Costello

Under pressure of space this week, the series on places of faith, having encompassed lesser known aspects of Northern Europe, crosses the Atlantic, moving from the shrines of the Old World in Germany to the shrines of the New World in South and North America, from very ancient places honouring Jesus and the Three Kings, to those celebrating some of the world's newest saints.

Some of Europe's oldest shrines and relics

The Germanic nations of Germany, Austria, and northern Switzerland seem to me to be quite unfamiliar to Irish tourists in search of shrines and sites of faith.

Take Cologne Cathedral, for instance, one of the first places where the new Christian faith would have been established in the time of the late Roman Empire.

The Cathedral is a very beautiful creation, which has survived the hazards of war and social turmoil over the centuries, as well as the disruptions of the Reformation. Cologne's early claim to fame, in the eyes of medieval pilgrims, was that it preserved relics of the “Three Kings”, those Magians from the Chaldean region of Mesopotamia who travelled across the intervening deserts to pay homage to the newly born baby Jesus.

“In recent decades there has been much controversy about the Turin Shroud”

What Scripture knows of them can be read in a minute or two in Matthew 2:1-2:12. What tradition claims is a more complex matter. What the pilgrim can see are relics which while being of middle eastern derivation, are as doubtful as most other relics of their kind.

In recent decades there has been much controversy about the Turin Shroud, again a matter that arouses passionate feelings. But few seem to pay any attention to the Holy Coat preserved at Treves. Again this is a debatable matter, but such doubts should not prevent anyone from visiting Treves itself, which is a place of very great interest.

It was in these early cities that the millennia long urban



St Martin de Porres 1600s.



Salman Rushdie in defiant mood.

Readers should note that *The Irish Catholic* circulates throughout the island of Ireland and the book prices listed are the retail price recommended by the Irish or British publishers, in either euros or sterling, as a general indication of what purchasers may expect to pay.



culture of northern Europe had its beginning, and in which, alas, civilisation may well come to any end.

The hallowed places of the Americas

One of the first saints outside of Ireland that I can recall the good nuns bringing to my attention was St Martin de Porres (along with St Juan Macias). In Dublin, at least, he has long been a popular saint thanks to the promotion of his cause at the shrine in Parnell Square, maintained by the Dominicans. Though beatified in 1837, he was not actually canonised until 1962.

But in South America, especially in his native Peru, he has a special place as a black saint, as a large proportion of the populations in some states are of black descent. Slavery, we need to recall, lingered long in Latin America; in Brazil, for instance, it was abolished only in 1888. He is buried in the Basilica of Santo Domingo in Lima, the capital of Peru.

But for the fervour of its devotees we have to turn to the shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Tepeyac Hill in Mexico City, Mexico. This warm popular devotion to her is derived from claims made about a series of Marian apparitions in 1531. The legend was the subject of a very detailed book for general readership, which is still widely read, by Frances Parkinson Keyes.

By contrast in its brutal modernity is the martyrdom of Archbishop Oscar Romero, murdered by an agent of the Salvadorian government on March 24, 1980. After much delay Romero was beatified by Pope Francis in October 2018. The social justice that he promoted for ordinary people everywhere is still hard to attain.

“The 10th anniversary of her canonisation will be marked on October 21 this year”

Also among the recent American saints is the native American saint Kateri Tekakwitha. Tekakwitha was her tribal name as an Algonquin Mohawk, when she was born in 1656, though she was later baptised Catherine, and informally became known as “The Lily of the Mohawks”. She died in April 1680, a virgin dedicated to God. Her birthplace was the Mohawk village of Ossernenon, on the south bank of the Mohawk River in upper New York State.

The 10th anniversary of her canonisation will be marked on October 21 this year. Details of this celebration can be found from the website of the National Shrine of the Saint.

In their very variety these American saints suggest the vitality of faith in South and North America. Though many kinds of Christian faiths now abound in the Americas, religion in traditional form is in decline in these continents as elsewhere, or at least entering a period of transition, which may have surprising outcomes.

Certainly the changes in these nations require attention, for the lives of these saints are in themselves examples of just how varied the human experience of the divine can be.



Kateri Tekakwitha

A side light on Catholic America

Who stole the Papal Stone back in 1854 ... and why?

Peter Costello

I recently came on details of what might be called an American Catholic mystery, which I thought I might share with readers.

I am always amazed at the enthusiasm with which Irish Catholics, and indeed many American Catholics, embrace American conservatives. I am all for brotherly love, but Catholics, certainly Irish Catholics, owe American conservatives, with their anti-foreigner views, little or nothing over the years. The mystery of who stole the so-called “Papal Stone” and what really became of it illustrates this. It is a strange tale and quite unknown to those I have been talking to about it over the last few weeks, but one which needs some background development.

In 1843 a movement got under way to build a monument to George Washington, the General of the Continental Army and first President of the United States of America. Not everyone was in agreement with this. They felt that a revolutionary republic should not in any circumstance be raising monuments to “great men”. (The same argument used here against any kind of Irish *Legion d'Honneur*.)

However, many thought it a good idea. Yet though Washington, who was said in his funeral oration to be “first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen”, there were few subscribers to the building fund. “Ah yes,” a friend said to me the other day, “Americans don't do that sort of thing”.

Enough money came in for the National Monument Society, to start the project in 1848, but not nearly enough to complete it. The society

appealed to Washington's admirers world-wide. Many countries contributed a stone. Siam (today's Thailand), China, Turkey and the recently (1832) liberated Greece. Their gifts are part of the structure today.

Pius IX

Among those answering the call was a stone sent by the Pope, then Pius IX, the famous “Pio Nono”, as he was familiarly called.

“In 1843 a movement got under way to build a monument to George Washington”

But, writes the journalist from whom I derive the story, this was at the time of the American Party, a nativist, anti-foreign, anti-Catholic, and by extension, an anti-Irish organisation, was coming into national prominence. They were called “the Know-Nothings”, because as a highly secret movement that was their answer to anyone who asked members about it.

The movement demanded that the National Monument Society return the stone to the Pope. The Society, then as now made up of the Federal District's leading citizens and their wives, ignored them.

Movement

At night, on March 6, 1854, nine of the members of the movement, armed with guns, under the leadership of one Sam Briggs, took action. They held up the night-watchman, broke open the shed where the stones were being worked on, and stole “the Papal Stone”.



Pius IX, Pio Nono, by Adolphe Braun, 1875

They were said to have trundled it down to the boat waiting in the nearby Washington City Canal and to drop the stone into the Potomac, beyond recovery.

But, according to ‘those really in the know’, they didn't. Sam Briggs and his gang were supposed in fact to have buried the Papal Stone in the woods. But they didn't do that either, to keep it as a wonderful souvenir of their power, much as an ex-president today might hold on to boxes of top secret documents about the nuclear weapons he once controlled.

But in 1959 a Washington DC journalist, the legendary George Kennedy, who wrote the “The Rambler” column in the *Evening Star*, the city's popular afternoon paper, shared a secret with his readers.

Pavement

The truth really was as Kennedy's “deep-throat” told him in person (having refused to talk about it over an open phone), was that the stone is two feet under the pavement at 21st and R Streets. It was uncovered there by workmen dealing with the public utilities. “It was the stone aright. It had a Latin engraving stating it was a gift from Pius IX to the United States.”

But 1927 was a difficult time for politics. Al Smith, a Catholic, was running a heated campaign for the Presidency. So the District Engineers Commissioner's Office told the men to cover it up again and tell nobody about it. And so they did.

But Kennedy's ‘revelation’ was doubted. And in 1982 a facsimile stone, for which a priest provided an inscription in Latin about its papal origin, was put in place at long last.

There may be an air of an urban legend about Kennedy's story. But there is no doubt at all about the anti-Catholic, anti-Irish sentiments of 19th Century American nationalists. That so many Irish-Americans are now themselves nationalists in their turn is an ironical turn of history.

But think: even American tigers do not change their stripes.

i This article draws largely on a causerie by George Kennedy in “The Rambler” column of the *Evening Star* (Washington, D.C.), May 21 1959, section B, page 1.



Washington Monument in the course of construction.

Classifieds

The deadline for advertising in the classifieds is 10.30am, the Friday before publication. Contact the Classified Team on 01 687 4094 or email advertising@irishcatholic.ie

Inspired by the vision and passion of Sr. Stan, many people are choosing to leave a loving gift in their will to support people who are homeless to find safety and a place they can call home.



To join in Sr. Stan's vision please contact cian.dikker@focusireland.ie or phone 01 881 5962

FOCUS
Ireland

Hoping...
to be in a relationship?

Seeking...

someone who shares your faith?

Finding...

it difficult to meet the right person?

Then call Heavenly Partners on 01 568 6568

www.heavenlypartners.ie



Please remember GOAL in your Will

45 years on we continue to deliver lifesaving support to the most vulnerable people in our world. Leaving a gift in your Will is priceless.

Contact Courtenay on 01 2809779 or via email at cpollard@goal.ie

Registered Charity No. 20010980; CHY 6271

Operation Smile

Charity Regulatory Authority No. 20054588 Revenue Number: CHY 15661

By remembering Operation Smile in your Will, you are leaving the gift of a lasting smile for a child born with a cleft condition.

Operation Smile envisions a future where health and dignity are championed through safe surgery.

Get in touch with Kristen Bell, Legacy & Fundraising Manager, on

01 667 6659 or kristen@operationsmile.ie or visit operationsmile.ie/LastingSmile

Remembering
MEMORIAM CARDS
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
CARDS & NOTELETS
BOOKMARKS

Samples / Information
KENNEDY PRINTERS
BANTRY, CO. CORK, IRELAND
Tel. 027 50102
www.kennedyprinters.ie
email: info@kennedyprinters.ie

Prayer for Inner Healing



www.lausdeo.eu

087-7743685

Support Irish Missionaries



'NET helped me make my faith SO much stronger than it's ever been, and it's really helped me improve as a man of God.' – Michael (19), Dublin

Please help support young NET missionaries like Michael to minister to the youth of Ireland.

Phone 074 919 0606 to make a donation today.

Classifieds: 01 687 4094



A WORLD WITHOUT HUNGER

A gift in your Will is an act of kindness that has the power to help end hunger and extreme poverty for generations to come.

Your legacy could help families overcome the life-threatening challenges caused by climate change and the devastating effects of poverty and hunger, by providing the tools needed to support themselves long into the future.

Your compassion today could change the future.

For more information, please request your free copy of Concern's legacy guide. Contact Siobhán on 01 417 8020, email siobhan.oconnor@concern.net or visit www.concern.net/legacy – finding out more does not, of course, oblige you to leave a gift.

Concern Worldwide, a company limited by guarantee, Registered Company Number: 39647, Registered Revenue Number: CHY 5745, Registered Charity Number: 20009090, Registered in Ireland, Registered address is 52-55 Lower Camden St, Dublin 2
Image: Roge Wavio (29) of Kalacha, Marsabit, Kenya holds produce she has grown with support from Concern. Photographer: Jennifer Nolan / Concern Worldwide

SERVICES

ALL UNWANTED home waste removed. Cookers, fridges, beds, suites, wardrobes, carpets etc. Removed and disposed of in a proper manner. No job too small or big. Contact Tommy, 087 6406015.

EXPOSITION OF BLESSED SACRAMENT

CHURCH OF THE HOLY NAME, Beechwood Avenue, Ranelagh, Dublin 6. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament every Tuesday from 10.30am to 11.30am.

CHURCH STATUE OF ST PHILOMENA REQUIRED

CHURCH STATUE of St Philomena required. One needing repair work will be considered. Replies to comeragh21@gmail.com or 087 9224271.

We will pass on the flame of faith.

For over 130 years, *The Irish Catholic* has been a voice of hope and inspiration for Catholics in Ireland. Help us pass on the flame of faith by remembering us in your Will.

Phone 01 6874028
info@irishcatholic.ie

The Irish Catholic PREPAID CLASSIFIED AD COUPON

Please print your advertisement in the coupon, placing ONE word in each space. Below, please print your name and address. Do you require a Box Number? YES ☐ NO ☐ (Please tick ✓) Box Number €6 extra.

1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					€24.60
7					€29.52
					€34.44

Name and contact detail form MUST be filled out

Name

Address

Landline Mobile

The Irish Catholic, Unit 3b, Bracken Business Park, Bracken Road, Sandyford, Dublin 18, D18 K277.

STATE UNDER WHICH HEADING YOUR AD IS TO APPEAR:

Minimum charge of €24.60 (inc. VAT) for 5 lines (25 words). Extra lines €4.92 each.

No. of insertions: weeks
Miracle Prayer €40

I enclose Cheque/PO: €..... I wish to pay by Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Laser ☐

My Visa/Mastercard/Lasercard number is:

.....

Expiry Date: Signature

Phone: 01 687 4094



**Follow The
Irish Catholic
on Twitter**

IrishCathNews

The Gift Of A Lifetime

Be there for others after you're gone.

A gift in your will to Irish Hospice Foundation is a meaningful way to help ensure no-one faces death or bereavement without the care and support they need.

Email Clare Martin at clare.martin@hospicefoundation.ie or call 01 679 3188

www.hospicefoundation.ie

MQI

Merchants Quay Ireland

Homeless & Drugs Services

Y

o

u

r

h

e

a

r

t

f

o

r

t

h

e

h

o

m

e

l

e

s

Merchants Quay Ireland reaches out with kindness to people living on our streets, sleeping in doorways, suffering and alone.

Your legacy, of any amount, can enfold the most vulnerable and lonely in wrap-around supports. You may wish to keep the details confidential. But we want to give you this little wooden keepsake, made by a client, for you.

This is your heart for the homeless and those on the road to recovery.

To receive your little wooden heart and information on remembering

Merchants Quay Ireland in your will, ring Emma Murphy, Legacies Manager at 01-524 0965 or email emma.murphy@mqi.ie

Please pray for the beatification of

Little Nellie of Holy God

“May God enrich with every blessing all those who recommend frequent Communion to little boys and girls proposing Nellie as their model”

– Pope St Pius X, June 4, 1912

Will the MSC Missions

Missionaries of the Sacred Heart bring hope to the poorest people living in over 48 countries worldwide.

Please help us with a gift in your Will

Contact:

MSC Missions Office, PO Box 23 Western Road, Cork.

Tel: 021-4545704 Email: info@mscmissions.ie

www.mscmissions.ie

When you remember

Trócaire in your

Will, you bring hope

to people living in

the world's

poorest places

It's easy to get started, and we'll help you every step of the way. Call Grace Kelly on 01 629 3333, email grace.kelly@trocaire.org or write to me at Trócaire, Maynooth, Co Kildare.

One day, parents and their children will tell the story of how your legacy of love changed their lives.

Thank you for considering a gift to Trócaire in your Will.

trócaire

Leisure time

Crossword Junior

Gordius 448

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

- Across**

1 A country that votes for a president (8)

6 We get our oxygen from it (3)

7 Not safe (9)

8 Use it to open a lock (3)

12 You bounce up and down on this (10)

14 You use it to steer a boat (6)

16 She will grow up to become a woman (4)

17 A gorilla, perhaps (3)

18 Travelling by plane (6)

19 Uses a needle and thread (4)

20 Have some food (3)
- 2 A huge canal runs through this country in Central America (6)

3 The wolf huffed and puffed and ____ the house down (4)

4 There is a TV show called American ____ (4)

5 Huge group of soldiers (4)

6 Enquire, make a question (3)

9 Two lines of hair on your forehead (8)

10 Bravery (7)

11 Largest (7)

13 The capital city of Spain (6)

15 Like Cinderella's two step-sisters (4)
- Down**
- 1 There's one in each room as part of central heating (8)

SOLUTIONS, AUGUST 25

GORDIUS NO. 573

Across – 1 Nod 3 Needlepoint 8 Vivien Leigh 9 Prophecy 10 Reuse 13 Build 15 Dodgems 16 Laughed 20 Swoon 21 Gaunt 23 Villa 24 Troused 25 Aghast 26 Park and ride 27 Kid

Down – 1 Never-ending 2 Devoured 3 Niece 4 Deposit 5 Pupil 6 Iberia 7 Try 12 Hardhearted 13 Bombs 14 Drain 17 Hallmark 18 Founder 19 Rumour 22 Tanya 23 Vogue 24 Top

CHILDREN'S No. 447

Across – 1 Ham sandwich 6 Log cabin 7 Echo 9 Cockles 12 Medium 14 Postman 15 Nimble 16 Eight 17 Uranus 18 Pint

Down – 1 Helicopter 2 Magic 3 Nobleman 4 Wine 5 Cobb 8 Climbing 10 Kitchen 11 Senior 13 Meets

Crossword

Gordius 574

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

- Across**

1 Float up-and-down in the water - like Mr Geldof? (3)

3 Rests and recuperates (11)

8 Item of jewellery in which you might keep a small photo (6)

9 Aquatic pet (8)

10 See 6 down

11 The fourth-largest city in Belgium (5)

13 Being feisty, use part of a zebra shoulder (5)

15 Circus act involving swings (7)

16 Behind schedule for arrival (7)

20 Surname shared by writer Mark and singer Shania (5)

21 Informal language, jargon (5)

23 Sign of the Zodiac - The Scales (5)

24 Piece of religious music (8)

25 Type of glove (6)

26 Strange hint - try golf (once every two weeks) (11)

27 Seafish (3)
- Down**

1 Style of trousers traditionally worn by sailors (4-7)

2 Germs (8)

3 A citizen of Prague or Pilsen, perhaps (5)

4 One of great experience (7)

5 Swashbuckling actor Flynn (5)

6 & 10a Tree or hedge plant with distinctively coloured leaves (6,5)

7 Moral transgression (3)

12 Treated nine differently, but kept them amused (11)

13 The composer of 'Carmen' (5)

14 Sheltered port (5)

17 Such a person may need to inject insulin (8)

18 Postimpressionist artist who signed his work 'Vincent' (3,4)

19 Fete, fair (6)

22 Sound of weariness or disappointment (5)

23 It is not the clergy who are the undoing of Italy (5)

24 Not on (3)

Sudoku Corner

448

Easy

Hard

8

4

6

9

2

9

3

1

5

6

2

8

3

9

4

1

1

4

5

8

4

8

2

3

1

2

7

6

9

7

5

8

4

3

8

9

9

6

2

7

3

5

6

8

1

3

9

4

9

4

8

1

7

9

7

1

1

7

3

5

Last week's Easy 447

Last week's Hard 447

5

6

9

1

2

8

7

4

3

1

8

4

7

6

3

9

2

5

7

2

3

5

4

9

1

6

8

9

5

7

6

3

4

8

1

2

6

4

1

8

5

2

3

7

9

8

3

2

9

1

7

6

5

4

4

7

5

3

9

6

2

8

1

3

1

8

2

7

5

4

9

6

2

9

6

4

8

1

5

3

7

8

3

5

1

7

4

2

9

6

4

9

1

8

2

6

7

3

5

6

2

7

9

5

3

8

1

4

2

8

4

6

3

1

9

5

7

5

6

9

7

8

2

3

4

1

7

1

3

4

9

5

6

2

8

3

4

6

2

1

7

5

8

9

1

5

8

3

6

9

4

7

2

9

7

2

5

4

8

1

6

3

Notebook**Fr Vincent Sherlock**

Don't wait to meet friends, the reunion is now

I WRITE THESE LINES in advance of a class reunion in St Nathy's College, Ballaghaderreen. It will see former pupils and classmates, who sat the leaving cert in 1981, gather to mark the 40 years that have passed since those June days

The intention was to have this gathering in 2021 but, like lots of other things, that idea had to give way to the unwelcome presence that was, and is, Covid-19. In any case the idea remained and, thanks to a few members of the class who were anxious this would happen, the reunion takes place with people travelling from England, Australia and the United States as well as from all over Ireland. A WhatsApp group has kept us in contact for many months now and the sharing there was a bit of an eye-opener, tear-jerker and memory awakener.

Sadly, some of our classmates have died and some were not contactable but more than 40 of that leaving cert class have responded and will meet. What will happen? What will be said? What will come of it all?

Forgotten names

One of the things that surprised and shocked me was the number of names that appeared in the WhatsApp group that I had forgotten. No



doubt, my name, likewise, for others in the group. I suppose this really should not be that surprising as we all went our different ways that summer and, unless you lived local to someone or happened to go to the same college or profession, chances are that paths would not regularly cross. They didn't for most of us and names brought back many memories.

Many of our teachers, including most of the priests who were on the staff of St Nathy's during our time there (1976-81) have grown old, retired or died. As a priest of the diocese of Achonry, I was in contact with all of them through the years but not so for my classmates.

The same is true of many of our lay teachers. I think of people like Frs Michael Joyce, Tom and Bob Flynn, Andy Johnston, Michael Giblin, Greg Hannan and some of our lay teach-

ers like James Flanagan, Peadar O'Flaherty and Liam Carron – may they all rest in peace. My classmates were generally saddened to hear of these deaths, though we might not always have seen eye to eye with every teacher, nor they with us!

Reflected

As I have reflected on this class reunion, I am reminded of Masses I have celebrated through the years with children in sixth class of many primary schools. I have heard myself speak to them, asking them to roll the clock on 20 or 30 years into that place we call the future. I tell them that they might be still in the parish or maybe in Adelaide or New York, Boston or Birmingham and whatever technology will be used for communications will alert them to a class reunion of their sixth class. I ask them to think about how they will respond. Will they delete? Will they

re-read and decide: "Yes, I am going to be there." If that is the response, plans will be made around travel, family, and work so that the reunion can take place. Could they imagine themselves not wanting to be there? I think most of them, could not.

Certainly, they would not believe that names mentioned might lead them to ask: "Was he/she in my class?" As I speak to them in their classroom or assembly hall, they can't imagine each other so well. They can't imagine that the passing of time might change that but, sadly, it does.

I finish by saying to them: "Don't wait for 30, 40, 50 years. The reunion is happening now – it happens every time you see each other, speak to other, share a game with each other, learn from each other and laugh with each other.

"The reunion is now! Yours too, dear reader. Don't wait to meet friends. Do it today."

What of vocations?

Forty-one years ago, I was one of 75 students who entered Maynooth to study for diocesan priesthood. Alongside Maynooth, at that time, were seminaries in Waterford, Wexford, Thurles, Carlow, Clonliffe, All Hallows, Irish College Rome, religious and missionary houses of formation and each of them took in students that year too. Maynooth is the only seminary left in Ireland now, with some religious orders and chances are a handful will enter this year. As the college year begins, maybe we could say a quick prayer for an open ear and an open heart to God's call: "Come follow me." I think it was Bishop Leahy I once heard say that when he was going to college his father said: "Never close the door on the priesthood." Wise words.

Speaking of reunions

A thought and prayer for all who are beginning school this year. We think of those four- or five-year-olds going to 'big school', the teenagers moving to secondary school and of all those embarking on third level education. For all, it is a time of change, making friends and learning life's lessons. I often think some of the most valuable lessons are not confined to classroom or lecture hall but to the playground, sports field or wherever meetings take place, that shape character and bring growth.



FOOD IS NEEDED BY MANY FAMILIES IN MONGOLIA

Sr Anne Waturu works for Caritas in Mongolia and wishes to improve food security and create sustainable livelihoods for those struggling to heat their homes in winter, as well as to improve the nutrition and living standards of all concerned.

She tells The Little Way Association: "We work in an area of the capital where the people live in gers, the traditional tents of Mongolia. A very large number of families in Ulaanbaatar have very little food and other needs, with children under the age of five the worst affected, suffering stunting in height and muscle wastage. The funds we hope you will send us will enable us to provide food for the poorest of the poor who are really struggling to survive and then the little money earned from menial jobs can be used for fuel and other basic needs such as clothing, hygiene materials and education."

Hunger is painful, and you will have the deep gratitude of many people

The Little Way Association receives many requests each week from missionaries who want to assist the poorest and most vulnerable people in deprived areas throughout the world. A donation to our fund for the hungry, sick and deprived will help The Little Way Association to continue to say "yes" to deserving and viable missionary projects for the needy.

The Little Way Association will send your gift, without deduction, to the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception for this much-needed Home for the abandoned elderly in Peru.



"A word or a smile is often enough to put fresh life in a despondent soul."
~ St Therese

WELLS NEEDED

Missionaries constantly appeal to The Little Way for funds to sink wells in order to provide clean water, the lack of which causes much illness and many medical needs. On average, women in Africa and Asia walk around three hours every day to fetch water, often in scorching heat.

Can you help provide a well?

Your kind gift will be forwarded intact and gratefully received.

MISSIONARIES NEED YOUR MASS OFFERINGS

In these fraught times, missionary priests rely more than ever on stipends for their daily subsistence and for helping the poorest of their communities. The Little Way Association will convey your stipends and your intentions to the clergy overseas.

We like to send a minimum of €6 or more for each Mass



Crossed POs and cheques should be sent and made payable to:

THE LITTLE WAY ASSOCIATION

Sacred Heart House, 119 Cedars Rd, Clapham Common, London SW4 0PR
(Registered Charity No. 235703) Tel 0044 20 76 22 0466

www.littlewayassociation.com

I enclose €..... to be allocated to:

€..... **HUNGRY, SICK AND DEPRIVED**

€..... **UKRAINE APPEAL**

€..... **WELLS AND CLEAN WATER**

€..... **MASS OFFERINGS**

(Please state no. of Masses _____)

€..... **LITTLE WAY ADMIN EXPENSES**

☐ Please tick if you would like an acknowledgement

Name (Rev. Mr. Mrs. Miss)

(Block letters please)

Address

To donate online go to
www.littlewayassociation.com

DONATIONS FOR THE MISSIONS ARE SENT WITHOUT DEDUCTION FOR ANY EXPENSES.

IC/09/01