

The Irish Catholic

PAPAL VISIT

40 days
to go
Page 12-15



BREDA O'BRIEN

Ridding the Church
of clericalism
Page 7



FEELING ISOLATED

Coping with
loneliness
Pages 27 & 29



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Plea for Pope to use visit for climate change 'wake-up call'

Chai Brady

Pope Francis has been urged to use his visit to Ireland next month to highlight Government inaction on climate change as targets continue to be missed despite political promises.

Eamonn Meehan, executive director of Trócaire, said that the Pope's leadership on a vital issue like climate change that imperils the future of the planet "will resonate with the public" during his August 25-26 visit.

"I would really hope that Pope Francis would address climate change when in Ireland in the context of the urgent need to care for our common home," he said.

Huge fines

Mr Meehan warned that Ireland currently faces huge fines if it doesn't reach its targets set out under the Paris climate change agreement.

Since the Paris agreement in December 2015 Ireland has "made no progress really", he told *The Irish Catholic*.

"We're absolutely without question going to miss our 2020 targets for emission reduction, and there is also a strong possibility that if we just continue under present policies that we will miss our 2030 targets as well," he said.

He added that he feels there is a lack

» Continued on Page 6

The fight goes on...because life matters



Some of the thousands of people who travelled to Stormont for the All Ireland Rally for Life in Belfast on July 7 to uphold laws in the north of Ireland "that protect unborn babies". See Pages 8-9.

Papal Mass fully booked out with six weeks to go

Matthew Carlson

All events in the World Meeting of Families (WMOF) are booked out, with all 500,000 tickets for the closing Mass being reserved by Sunday, July 8, according to WMOF organisers.

The Mass, which will be celebrated by Pope Francis, will take place in Dublin's Phoenix Park at 3pm on Sunday, August 26.

Within 24 hours of tickets being first available for booking at 5am on June 25, 285,000 tickets had been booked, this number rising to 400,000 within the next 24 hours. Several thousand tickets were reserved each day over the following days, with the last ones being claimed just short of two weeks after the original release.

WMOF Secretary General Fr Timothy Bartlett said he was not surprised at the high levels of interest shown by the entire WMOF being booked out.

"While I was cautious at the beginning, and while

» Continued on Page 4

DAVID QUINN

Measuring an Irish 'Francis effect'

PAGE 10



CELIBACY

The case for self-sacrifice

PAGE 26



MARY KENNY

The gradual chipping away of the Constitution

PAGE 5



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Inside this week

Books

The great achievements of the medieval Church Pages 32 & 33



TV & Radio

'Rebel Pope' doc was a missed opportunity

Page 31



Personal Profile

People like Orla don't grow on trees

Page 30



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Michael Kelly's Editor's Comment returns on July 19

Harris talk of 'safe' abortion clinics dismissed

Colm Fitzpatrick

Pro-life taxpayers will have to foot the bill for abortions under new proposals approved by the Government this week, despite having a conscientious objection to the killing of unborn children.

Minister for Health Simon Harris secured Cabinet approval on Tuesday. He also announced controversial plans to create so-called 'safe access zones' around clinics providing abortion to prevent pro-life counselling agencies trying to help women experiencing crisis pregnancies to choose a different option.

Mr Harris said that his Government colleagues have agreed that "services for the termination of pregnancy will be provided on a uni-

versal basis - so that cost is not a barrier for women to access these services". Niamh Uí Bhriain of the Life Institute - which campaigned for a 'no' vote in the referendum - accused the minister of using "weasel words to mask the reality of what he is proposing".

Intimidation

Mr Harris described his plan as creating "areas around premises where abortion services are provided where patients and staff can go without fear of intimidation or harassment, and without being subjected to posters or protests."

However, on this controversial issue of buffer zones, Ms Uí Bhriain said that "everyone supports women being safe but that's not the issue here. The real issue is that

Minister Harris seems to want to ensure that anything that might assist women in making a life-affirming decision is outlawed.

"His description of anything to do with abortion clinics as 'safe' is deeply ironic since these places are always lethally unsafe for preborn babies," Ms Uí Bhriain told *The Irish Catholic*.

"The hypocrisy of funding abortion under the Maternity and Infant Scheme is staggering since the only aim of an abortion is to deliberately kill an infant."

Mr Harris said on Tuesday that he intended to bring the legislation forward before the summer recess this week. However, "that is not now possible due to ongoing court proceedings".

Kicking with Faith-filled boots

Matthew Carlson

Although it is a bit of a stretch to associate religion with the success rates of the World Cup, one can't help but wonder. Three of the four teams reaching the semi-finals of the 2018 World Cup come from predominantly Catholic countries.

Although this isn't really new, it's no doubt that this World Cup has been full of excitement and upsets. England defeated Sweden last weekend to continue to the semi-finals with the first of their goals coming from a Catholic player. Harry Maguire scored for the Three Lions at the 30-minute mark and Dele Alli scored again on 58 minutes.

Maguire, a graduate of St Mary's Catholic School in Chesterfield, Derbyshire in England, still often visits his old school as a role model for students, signing autographs and encouraging them to work hard.

The other remaining teams (France, Belgium and Croatia) all come from predominantly Catholic countries.

This trend goes far back in World Cup history, with most of the World Cup champions coming from Catholic countries for the last several cups, Germany and Brazil both winning several.

Whatever happens in the coming days of the World Cup, the Catholic faith is sure to be well represented.

Celebrating parish life



The Parish of Our Lady of The Holy Rosary of Fatima, Rialto in Dublin celebrates 50 years as a parish this month with Barbara O'Connor and one of the younger parishioners, Colleen Fennell, cutting the cake. The church opened in 1950 and was constituted as a parish from Dolphins Barn Parish in 1968.

JOE WALSH TOURS

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Parish left traumatised after Orange march attack

Colm Fitzpatrick

A number of parishioners and a priest have been left 'upset' and 'traumatised' after being subjected to an onslaught of sectarian abuse outside a Catholic church in Scotland.

Parish priest Canon Tom White was allegedly spat on twice and called "Fenian scum" as well as a "paedophile" by supporters of the Orange Order outside Glasgow's St Alphonsus Church following a vigil Mass on Saturday, July 8.

The police, who had originally been accompanying the Orange parade, were called to another incident leaving Canon White and the parishioners exposed to the march.

In an earlier statement on Facebook, the Archdiocese of Glasgow described the "vile abuse" Canon White went on to suffer, which included being spat on and lunged at by a man carrying a pole.

Intimidation

The Archdiocese said: "What kind of society is it that allows ministers of religion and churchgoers to be intimidated and attacked by a group which has a long history of fomenting fear and anxiety on city streets?"

Speaking to *The Irish*

Catholic, Canon White said the incident was "disturbing", in particular because children following the march were "laughing thinking it was acceptable".

He added that a priest had been assaulted on the same road a number

of years ago, and that he personally has had his car spray painted with sectarian remarks.

Response

In response to the incident, the Orange Lodge of Scotland said: "We can confirm

that no members of the parade were involved in this or any of the reported incidents." Canon White, however, disputes this.

"Certainly, in the shouting of some of the abuse – I would say that wasn't correct. One man in the regalia

of the Orange Order came and insisted on shaking my hand.

"In some respects, I appreciated the gesture but in hindsight what it actually did was single me out and interrupted the flow of the parade," he said.

Coppinger denied chance to grandstand on papal visit

Greg Daly

A prominent left-wing TD was left red-faced after questions on Government expenditure and staff deployment around August's papal trip showed the Department of the Taoiseach is not being unduly stretched by plans for Pope Francis's visit.

In a series of written questions, Solidarity Dublin West TD Ruth Coppinger asked the Taoiseach how many staff in his department are working on the papal visit, what the overall cost of his Department would be for the visit, and what the operating costs were for a webpage devoted to the visit.

Questions

Responding to the questions in the Dáil, Taoiseach Leo Varadkar explained that staff from the department's protocol division are involved with several elements of the papal trip, with two other staff also involved in media elements of the visit, working closely with protocol and press staff at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Event Management Unit at the Office of Public Works (OPW).

"There will be a minimal cost to my Department for the event which Pope Francis will attend in Dublin Castle on Saturday, August 25," he continued, explaining that the OPW will bear most State expenditure around the visit.

"The development and management of the public safety information regarding the upcoming visit of Pope Francis on gov.ie is managed by in-house resources and therefore no direct costs were incurred with these aspects," he added, noting that the cost of translating the webpage into Irish had been €1,216.

Playing their part



Some of the more than 60 members of Clogher don Óige Youth Ministry who were volunteering during the Clogher Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes this week.

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Church must be able to get its ‘hands dirty’ – bishop

Colm Fitzpatrick

The Church needs to “go back to basics” if it wants to continue the work of Christ in a “more secular society” and “different place” today, Waterford and Lismore’s bishop has said.

Writing in the *Irish Examiner*, Dr Alphonsus Cullinan said: “With the emergence of a more secular society and the decline in the Church’s influence some will say ‘good riddance’, while others fear the onslaught of secularism and may feel tempted to despair.

“How then is the Church to react and how must she see herself in this new era? We must go back to basics.”

The bishop stressed that parents, and particularly young people, can “benefit from the Church’s spiritual nourishment and moral guidance” as now they face an “array of moral choices” which challenge their Faith, ranging from peer pressure, to our “throwaway” pop culture as well as addictions facilitated by alcohol, drugs and negative aspects of the internet.

Minority

In order to realise the work of the Church, the bishop said that we must be a creative minority whose task is “the rebuilding of Christian culture”, and also be willing to get our “hands dirty” by being like a “hospital in a battlefield”.

“In Ireland right now, there are many green shoots of a new Church, very different in appearance to the old but in continuity at the same time where the laity wake up to their true role, not to be like glorified clerics but living their Faith fully in the middle of the world,” the bishop

said, noting the impact of new Christian movements such as Youth 2000, John Paul II Awards, and NET Ministries.

Commenting on whether young Catholics are the future of the Church in Ireland in light of Bishop Cullinan’s remarks, Lana Wilson-O’Driscoll, Youth 2000’s National Leader said: “We certainly aim to try and cater for that, absolutely. We put on several events throughout the years focusing on the basics of Catholicism and trying to bring young people into the Church, adding that those who attend the events are “countercultural”.

Stations allow pilgrims to follow Christ

The new Stations of the Cross which were recently installed at Knock Basilica provide pilgrims with an opportunity to follow Christ on his way to Calvary, Tuam’s Archbishop has said.

On Sunday, July 8, Archbishop Michael Neary blessed the new Stations, which were the final touch to the church interior.

The work was undertaken by Westport-based artist Ger Sweeney and took over 18 months to complete.

Each Station is a large piece of artwork (over two metres square) and painted using oil paint on raw linen fabric, mounted on bespoke stretchers.

Commenting on the new Stations, Fr Richard Gibbons said: “There were a lot of practical elements to consider such as the lighting, fitting in with the church interior and the Mosaic but also in providing pilgrims with one of the most important elements of our Faith, the representation of Christ’s final journey.

“The Stations are performed every day at the Shrine and are a very personal aspect of pilgrimage and for the contemplative engagement of pilgrims.”



Fr Tony Coote, PP of St Thérèse in Mount Merrion and former chaplain in UCD, is pictured with Des Cahill of RTÉ before he began walking 550km from Donegal to Cork on Tuesday to raise awareness and support for Motor Neurone Disease (MND) – which he suffers with – under his Walk While You Can initiative. The remarkable priest plans to raise €250,000 to improve conditions for those with MND, who currently contend with a lack of specialists, medication that hasn’t changed for 24 years and only three specialist nurses who cater for 400 people.

Call for funding for struggling Men’s Sheds

Chai Brady

Chairpersons from local Men’s Sheds from across Ireland say they are struggling to find funding and stay afloat.

With help from the local community and the Church some have managed to continue but several have reportedly closed across Dublin and Cork, which could just be the tip of the iceberg according to organisers.

This comes as the Government has cut funding

for the Irish Men’s Sheds Association (IMSA) by 7%, amounting to €18,700. The HSE confirmed the order was followed after a decision by the Government to apply cuts to Section 39 Grant Aid Funding and to the Health and Wellbeing Division.

Tom McCleary of Bandon Men’s Shed in Cork said they have received little to no funding from the IMSA anyway.

“What people don’t realise is the amount of help that the sheds offer to men in general, especially on

things like depression and mental health,” he said.

“The time these sheds start falling away, you’re never going to get them back again.”

He added that many Men’s Sheds help the local community, and much of the support they receive is from local businesses and individuals.

“We do a good bit of work, we help people in the community, help old people with fixing their furniture, do a bit of gardening or do something,” he said.

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Papal Mass fully booked out

» Continued from Page 1

I am a little surprised every part of the event is booked out six weeks in advance,

including the Mass for half-a-million people in Phoenix Park, I am not surprised at all by the incredibly high levels of interest. Family is important

to all of us. People like what Pope Francis is saying about family and the Church.”

Aside from the 500,000 tickets reserved for the papal Mass in the Phoenix Park, 45,000 tickets were booked to join the Pope at Knock Shrine within four hours of tickets being available, while the WMOF Pastoral Congress in the RDS was also fully booked, with a record-breaking 37,000 registered attendees.

Urging those coming to Phoenix Park to plan their trips carefully, Fr Bartlett acknowledged that not everybody who would like to

attend Mass with the Pope in the Phoenix Park would be able to do so, explaining that attendance limits had been set by statutory agencies with responsibility for health and safety.

“While I know many will be disappointed they have not managed to get tickets for Knock Shrine or the Phoenix Park, we will be broadcasting these events live for those who were unable to secure a ticket,” he said, adding that parishes and dioceses are also arranging gatherings to help those unable to attend join in the events remotely.

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The gradual chipping away of the Constitution

Has the time come to abolish the concept of a written Constitution? As clause by clause is unpicked from our present Constitution – first composed in 1937, and with added amendments since – a self-evident truth emerges: what is accepted as a general good in one generation will often be dismissed as an outdated irrelevance 70 years on.

And so, referendum follows referendum to dismantle old values, to be replaced by more contemporary ideas. But 70 years hence, many of the values currently in vogue will seem as outdated as a 1930s fashion plate today. As the aphorism by W.R. Inge puts it: "Whoever marries the spirit of the age will find himself a widower in the next."

Common good

Take the upcoming Referendum to delete Article 41.2 from the present Constitution: "...the State recognises that by her life within the home, woman gives to the State a support without which the common good cannot be achieved." This is colloquially known as "the woman in the home" clause, and there is reckoned to be widespread support in favour of deleting it, on the grounds that "This is 2018!"

Yes, but by 2088 whatever may be inserted in its place, or even otherwise, is likely to be regarded as "old hat".

The usefulness of a written Constitution is that it can act



Mary Kenny



● Sport certainly can be a force for good in the world, and the current world football championship seems to have been an occasion of a harmonious internationalism, while also making space for national pride.

The fans display their national culture with folkloric costume allusions – Viking helmets for the Swedes, Russian headdresses for the Russians, and, for the English, the Crusader costume of St George. Maybe many of the world's political disputes could be better solved with a game of footie...

as a "mission statement" for a nation, and describe the way in which the constitutional framework operates – the

relationship between President, government, local government, and administration. It can also set a basis for certain rights,

but as we have seen with the removal of the Eighth Amendment, rights can be withdrawn as well as extended.

A Constitution can, if considered thoughtfully, act as a guide to the values of a culture, and explain the context in which values arose. The "woman in the home" clause was, in its time, a tribute to the contribution women made to the common good by home-making.

Disadvantage

An agricultural society was aware that bachelor farmers were at a disadvantage: a farm thrives best when run by a family, and the "ban a tige" certainly makes an equal contribution to that family economy.

Article 41.2 could be analysed like that, but it seldom is: instead, it's seen through the prism of today's values – a form of "patriarchal oppression", seeking to chain woman to the kitchen sink and prevent her fulfilment in the public sphere.

Once this clause is deleted, I would predict that the next to be undone will be the preamble itself, which begins "In the Name of the Most Holy Trinity, from Whom is all Authority...". This will soon be described as "offensive to secularists", "sectarian", and "divisive". Wouldn't it be a shorter cut to scrap the written Constitution altogether than to go through its dismembering section by section?

There's more in a name than you may think...

Theresa May may not be in residence much longer at 10 Downing Street, as her leadership is so continuously challenged. But wherever she is, isn't she entitled to be addressed by the title she chooses – which is "Mrs May"?

She was Theresa Brazier: she married Philip May, and she subsequently chose to identify herself by her married title.

Yet, all through her premiership, the *Irish Times* has always referred to her as "Ms May", because it is their house style to dub all women with the marriage-neutral honorific 'Ms'.

Every newspaper, magazine and mainstream publication in the world accepts that Theresa has chosen to style herself 'Mrs' – except the *Irish Times*.

I've taken the matter up with Denis Staunton, their esteemed London correspondent, who has occasion to write frequently about Theresa May, and he says he agrees with me – Theresa should be described as 'Mrs May', since that is what she wants.

Editorial panjandrums

He has often written "Mrs Theresa May" in his reports. But the editorial panjandrums at the *Irish Times* are implacable: the "Mrs" must be altered to "Ms", the inclusive form of feminist address. It their decision, not the British Prime Minister's, what she is to be called.

It is a civil freedom – and always has been – that an individual can style themselves howsoever they please. I can call myself the Duchess of Plaza Tora if it takes my fancy (not a bad idea, maybe!). And it is a universal form of politeness to respect whatever name or style of address that individual wishes to use.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Prayer Book Launch from Knock Shrine

A brand new Knock book of prayers will be available on July 14 at the Rest and Care Centre in Knock Shrine. The prayer book will feature new prayers from Fr Richard Gibbons, who has been the rector at Knock Shrine for over five years. Fr Gibbons draws on his own personal knowledge and experience living in Knock.



The *Knock Prayer Book* is illustrated by captivating images and features a special affinity to Our Lady and Knock as well as the impact the shrine had on pilgrims, visitors and parishioners. The book also serves as a guide for those walking along the pilgrim road of life.

Priest leaves almost €1m in will

A Co. Cork priest who died last year left behind an estate worth almost €1m, it has been revealed.

Aged 94 when he died last October, Fr Jeremiah Hyde had been the oldest priest in the Diocese of Cork and Ross, and died leaving estate worth €918,399 in his will.

Born in Bandon, Fr Hyde was ordained in 1948 and began his ministry in England's Diocese of Southwark before returning to Cork, where he served in Ballinlough, Bantry and a number of other parishes before settling in Kinsale, retiring from active ministry in 2005.

Marriage to be focus of Pope's cathedral visit

Pope Francis will meet with dozens of recently engaged and newly-wed couples during his visit to Ireland next month it has emerged. The Pontiff is in the country to preside at the World Meeting

of Families. As part of the papal itinerary, he is scheduled to visit St Mary's Pro-Cathedral in Dublin's north inner-city on August 25. At the pro-cathedral, the Pope will greet couples who are engaged who were recently married from every diocese in Ireland.

Galway City parish plants family tree for WMOF

The Parish of Knocknacarra in Galway City has planted a family tree in preparation for the WMOF in Ireland. The tree was planted after Mass on Saturday, July 7 at 6.30 pm following a series of Masses each celebrating a different element of family, including a marriage renewal Mass and a youth Mass.

The tree was planted in the church grounds after a Mass that celebrated the gift of families of different nationalities and those with special needs.

A discussion group in the parish was created to talk about Pope Francis' encyclical *The Joy of Love* leading up to the Pope's visit.



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Climate change ‘wake-up call’
» Continued from Page 1

of urgency pointing out that when Ireland does fail to reach its 2020 target to cut carbon emissions it will be subject to fines of hundreds of millions of euro.

This comes as the Oireachtas is expected to pass the Fossil Fuels Divestment Bill this week, which aims to drop investments in coal, gas and oil from the Ireland Strategic Investment Fund (ISIF).

The hope from climate change activists is that there will be investment in renewable energy instead of over 100 fossil fuel based companies that the ISIF currently buy into.

Mr Meehan described it as a “good start” and said that it was a “key component” in changing the narrative of the future.

Conversion

Mr Meehan was speaking after attending a conference in Rome entitled ‘Saving our Common Home and the Future of Life on Earth’ marking the third anniversary of the publication of Pope Francis’ encyclical on the environment *Laudato Si’*.

Mr Meehan said Pope Francis is calling for a political and ecological conversion.

“By that he means leaders and citizens across the world understand the dangerous state of our planet and the fact that we need to respond in a very dramatic way to climate change and the destruction of the environment that is taking place all around us.”

Joy as Thai cave rescue ends with success

Staff reporter

There was joy and relief as the news broke that divers in northern Thailand have rescued 12 boys and their football coach from flooded caves, 17 days after they got trapped underground.

The plight of the group and the dangerous work to free them has gripped the world’s attention. Parishioners in Ireland were amongst those across the globe offering prayers for their safe recovery.

Primate of All-Ireland Archbishop Eamon Martin tweeted to say that “people all over Ireland are praying for those involved in the #ThailandCave rescue mission, for those trapped, their friends and families”.

The first of the boys were brought out on Sunday but the last of the group were only freed on Tuesday afternoon.

They had got stuck deep inside the cave on June 23 after heavy rains caused flooding and cut off their route out.

Aged between about 11 and 17, the members of the Wild Boars football team had entered the cave system in the province of Chiang Rai during an excursion with their coach – a former monk.

After they were found by British divers last week, huddled in darkness on a ledge and cut off from the outside world for nine days, the race began to get them out before the weather deteriorated even further.



Onlookers wave as an ambulance carrying rescued schoolboys leaves a military airport in Chiang Rai, Thailand. Photo: CNS

The first eight boys to be rescued, on Sunday and Monday, are still in hospital but said to be in good mental and physical health.

They have undergone X-rays and blood tests, and will remain under observation in hospital for at least seven days.

A team of 90 expert divers – 40 from Thailand and 50 from overseas – worked in the caves.

They guided the boys and their coach through darkness and submerged passageways towards the mouth of the Tham Luang cave system.

FF vulture fund bill ‘too little’

Chai Brady

A leading homelessness charity has welcomed Fianna Fáil’s new bill that aims to ensure household loans can’t be sold to unregulated vulture funds, saying they “could be doing and could have done a lot more”.

Founder of Focus Ireland, Sr Stan Kennedy, criticised the party’s abstention in December 2016 when the Government voted down the Focus Ireland anti-homeless amendment. This called for the end of evictions of tenants in buy-to-let properties that were being sold or repos-

sessed.

“Had this amendment had been passed in December 2016 it would have prevented at least 250 families and over 500 children from becoming homeless in 2017 alone,” Sr Stan said.

Inspection

Fianna Fáil reached agreement with the Government on its private bill so that the Central Bank can oversee and inspect any vulture fund taking over domestic mortgages.

The issue became more urgent in March when Permanent TSB put up 18,000 mortgages for sale, they later pulled 4,300 homes linked to

Priest-defaming documentary prime example of bad journalism – Taoiseach

A documentary which falsely accused an Irish missionary of child sexual abuse and fathering a child while in Kenya was the sole instance of irresponsible journalism by RTÉ cited by Taoiseach Leo Varadkar at a New York event, Mr Varadkar has said.

Speaking in the Dáil about his controversial comments, the Taoiseach said: “My only reference to RTÉ was in response to somebody challenging me when I said that investigative journalism was not always true,” he said, “and the only reference I made to RTÉ *Prime Time Investigates* was specifically on the issue of the ‘Mission to Prey’, programme when false allegations against a priest fathering a child in Africa were broadcast and should not have been broadcast.”

He said the 2011 programme was an example of a case where “a story became more important than the truth”.

performing split mortgages from the loan sale.

Sr Stan said: “The Government’s logic for refusing to bring in the Focus Ireland Amendment is that it must balance tenants’ rights with property rights.

“We strongly believe this holds no water as how can it be balancing rights when a family or individual paying their rent every week – with a tenancy – can be forced out on the street if the property is being sold or reposessed? It is not ‘balancing rights’ it is clearly putting property rights ahead of the rights of tenants.”

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Breda O'Brien

The View



Ruffini's appointment harks back to the greatest 'yes' ever proffered

The appointment of Paolo Ruffini as head of the Vatican Dicastery for Communications should be an occasion for rejoicing, as the respected 62-year-old journalist is the first layperson to be appointed as prefect of a Vatican department.

The historic nature of the appointment may be overshadowed because the post has not gone to a woman. In a Reuters interview, Pope Francis said that he had approached a woman, "but she was not willing to do it because she had other commitments".

It is ironic that probably more women than men would turn down a papal request to make history.

The reasons why women often hesitate to take up prominent positions are complex. It is far too simplistic to attribute them solely to misogyny.

For example, in 2015, the Women in Parliament Global Forum found that "female politicians tend to start their careers later, have fewer children, spend more time caring for their families, and arrange their lives to have shorter commuting times than their male counterparts".

Equivalence

Given that the first lay woman to head a Vatican department is likely to be a religious sister, the question of children is perhaps not as relevant. Nor am I implying that a Vatican appointment is simply equivalent to a career in politics.

However, I believe that the Church needs more women in positions of leadership and responsibility. Unfortunately, some people believe the only way to achieve this is to ordain women, which reinforces the idea of a clerical caste and undermines the idea of a distinctive lay contribution.

Protestant Churches approach the question of priestly ministry very differently. For example, ordination of women in



Italian journalist Paolo Ruffini who has been appointed as head of the Vatican's Dicastery for Communication. Photo: CNS

the Church of Sweden grew directly from an 'Equal Rights Law' in 1945 since clergy (in what was at the time the established church) were considered to be the equivalent of the Swedish civil service.

If ordination of women were only a matter of equality, who could oppose it? But the Church, even though its practice has sometimes been lacking, has always proclaimed the fundamental equality of men and women.

As Pope Paul VI put it in his address to women at the end of the Vatican Council: "The Church is proud to have glorified and liberated woman, and in the course of the centuries, in diverse characters, to have brought into relief her basic equality with man."

Solely ordaining men makes sense in the light of acceptance of key Catholic teachings, such as apostolic succession and that Jesus instituted the Eucharist and the priesthood on Holy Thursday at the Last Supper.

Jesus was radical in that he had women actively involved in his ministry. However, he did not nominate any woman as a member of the 12 apostles. One cannot imagine that this was an oversight. The Church has no power to implement something that Jesus himself did not

mandate. This is the most fundamental reason for only ordaining men.

Secondly, Protestant Churches and Catholic Churches have a divergent view on the nature of priestly ministry.

“The reasons why women often hesitate to take up prominent positions are complex”

In the Catholic Church, all are called to be saints, and we are all radically equal due to our baptism.

Protestant Churches tend to see priestly ministry as based on baptism and do not recognise ordination as a sacrament at all. But in the Catholic tradition, ordination as a sacrament builds on, but is of a different sacramental nature to baptism.

The question of why Jesus did not choose women as members of the 12 is a difficult one, but successive Popes have referred to the idea of a Marian and Petrine dimension to the Church.

In a Christmas address to the Curia in 1987, St John Paul declared that Mary was the first disciple, because Mary's "yes" to the angel's message had made possible the incarnation of the Son of God.

Church formed in the image of a woman [Mary] and her discipleship, precedes, makes possible, and indeed makes sense of the Petrine church, the Church of office and authority formed in the image of Peter".

Inspiration

Weigel also says that St Pope John Paul taught that the Petrine Church has no other purpose "except to form the Church in line with the ideal of sanctity already programmed and prefigured in Mary." So Mary's "yes", a yes that is a model for everyone, layperson and priest alike, is the foundational inspiration

for Christians.

Priesthood is in service of the this fundamental "yes" and the Marian and Petrine visions are complementary, not in competition.

This beautiful complementarity could be much more readily realised if the Church were not riddled with clericalism, that is, an unhealthy kind of boys' club mentality where laypeople, both men and women, are excluded in unnecessary ways from positions of influence and authority.

Mr Ruffini's appointment could represent an important move away from this besetting sin.

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“If ordination of women were only a matter of equality, who could oppose it?”

Pro-life demonstrators vow



Chai Brady

Thousands of people travelled to Stormont for the All Ireland Rally for Life in Belfast on July 7 to uphold laws in the north of Ireland "that protect unborn babies".

Northern Ireland's Precious Life said the rally gave the people of Ireland an opportunity to send out a clear message to politicians that Ireland's unborn children must continue to be protected in law, and 'Our Laws Matter because Every Life Matters'.

The rally, now in its 12th year, alternates annually between Belfast and Dublin. The Keynote speakers were Bernadette Smyth from Precious Life in Belfast and Niamh Uí Bhriain of the Life Institute in Dublin.

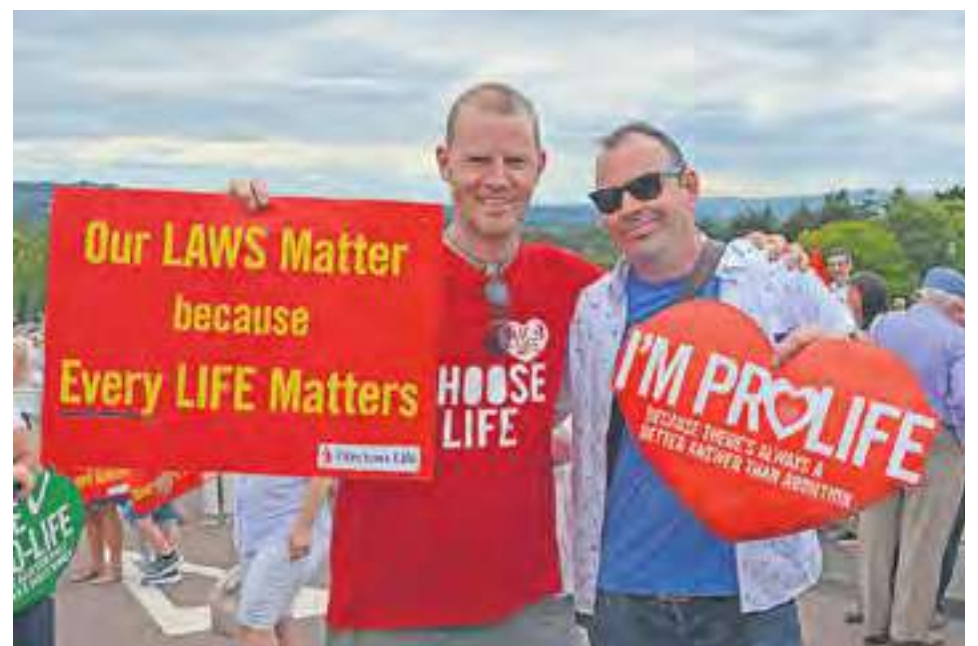
Bernadette Smyth said: "People from across Ireland – North and South – came to Stormont on Saturday and proudly stood 'Together for Life' in support of protecting unborn babies and their mothers from abortion."

She added: "After the tragic result of the abortion referendum in the Republic of Ireland, we are more determined than ever to keep fighting to uphold our laws that protect unborn babies. The threat to unborn children in the North has now intensified more than ever."

"And because of the stalemate at Stormont in restoring power sharing in Northern Ireland, pro-abortion MPs in Westminster are trying to ride roughshod over the democratic process here and force abortion on Northern Ireland. But the legislation governing these issues is a devolved matter for the Northern Ireland assembly only."

Both Bernadette Smyth and Niamh Uí Bhriain criticised Sinn Féin for supporting abortion legislation and politicians and organisations in Britain who are campaigning for abortion in Ireland.

Bernadette Smyth concluded: "To the pro-abortion politicians in Ireland who gloat that 'The North is Next' – we say 'The North Protects'."



The question is
how to thrive,
not just survive.



This new edition of *Tomorrow's Parish* sets out the priorities for the parish as the Church enters a new phase of both challenge and opportunity, particularly highlighting the role of the family with the celebration of the World Meeting of Families in Ireland.

'North Will Protect'



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A Year in the Life: Glencairn Abbey

With photographs by Valerie O'Sullivan



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Measuring an Irish 'Francis effect'

And so, all 500,000 tickets available for the Pope's Mass in Phoenix Park next month have been taken up. That is an impressive number by any reckoning, and especially in today's very secular climate. An additional 100,000 in total will attend the papal events in Croke Park and Knock. But how should we measure the success of the Pope's pending visit?

Well, numbers do matter. To this day, people refer to the massive numbers that turned out for Pope John Paul II in 1979 or for the Eucharistic Congress in 1932, or, for that matter, when a big music act is in town.

That 500,000 may be less than half the number that turned out for St John Paul almost 40 years ago, but insurance and health and safety considerations have limited the crowd to that size. If there were no limits, it's quite possible another 200,000 would attend.

But obviously numbers are not everything because if they were, then the success of the 1979 visit would have been enormous. What counts, of course, is a lasting effect and on that basis that first papal visit was probably a failure.

Mind you, that is setting a very high bar for success. Can one visit on its own, no matter how important the person is, really set in motion a social, moral and spiritual revival?

It could take years before we know if the papal trip has been a success, writes **David Quinn**



When John Paul made his first visit as Pope to his native Poland, not long after his election, it did have a seismic impact. It helped to undermine the foundations of Polish communism and in turn of the whole of East European communion including in the Soviet Union itself.

“We were the generation that really set about secularising the country with gusto”

However, the foundations were already cracking. It's easy enough to say that now in hindsight, but something had been building for a long time. To mix my metaphors, John Paul lit a fuse that was already laid, albeit in part by the work of people such as himself over several decades. The Catholic Church in Poland acted as a very strong alternative to a totalitarian State, as a focal point of resistance.

When John Paul came here in 1979, the trends were very different. I was a

teenager then and nominal Catholicism was already very widespread among my age group. Most of us went to Mass alright, but there was a lot of indifference around, a certain amount of hostility and very little ardent faith.

We all went to the Phoenix Park and we were glad to be there. It was an exciting event and an exciting time. But we barely talked about it afterwards, and the only thing any of us remembered the Pope saying was “young people of Ireland, I love you”, and that was in Galway. Asking the IRA on bended knee to give up violence probably registered also.

But his deeper messages had no impact on us and we were the generation that really set about secularising the country with gusto. Most of us secularised it passively, by stopping going to Mass and ceasing the practice of the faith, and some of us set out to do so systematically and ideologically.

What will happen after Pope Francis comes here? A social and spiritual revolution certainly won't happen, short of a literal



Pope St John Paul II greeting the crowd in the Phoenix Park during the 1979 papal visit to Ireland.

miracle. So instead the success of the visit will have to be measured in other ways.

For example, what will be the effect on vocations which are extraordinarily low, even by Western standards? Will even a dozen more men present themselves to train for the priesthood next year? It would really be dismal if that did not happen.

Will there be any measurable effect on Mass attendance, or at least a slowing of the downward trend?

Will currently practicing Catholics become more fervent in their faith? Will they pray more, get to know the Bible better, join their local branch of St Vincent de Paul?

Will Pope Francis succeed in his own terms by presenting a softer, less

judgemental version of Christianity to people, one that seems more inviting than what appears to be currently on offer? (In fact, that harder, more authoritarian version of Catholicism has been gone for years.)

But a big measure of success must be the effect on family life. He is coming here for the World Meeting of Families, after all.

Focus

The focus of the meeting itself seems to be more on the day-to-day practicalities of family life than on the general condition of the family in modern societies, including the social conditions that give rise to more divorce, more cohabitation, more children growing up without the presence of a father, not

to mention the ideological pressures coming from the likes of 'gender ideology' which pretends, among other things, that the gender or sex we claim to be is unrelated to our body.

If the meeting and the visit of Pope Francis is to have a lasting and measurable impact, we are most likely to see it over the long-term in the success or otherwise of families in passing on the Catholic, Christian faith to their children.

This is an extremely challenging task, as difficult as passing on the Irish language from generation to generation.

When a language is not spoken in the home, it is much less likely to be learnt by the children. Likewise, if the language of Faith is not heard at home, and if children don't see their parents living the Faith, then they are also much less likely to acquire it themselves.

What has to happen for the visit to succeed is for parishes to do what they can to create an immersive Faith environment that can help families to grow their Faith and grow their children in that Faith.

Over time, this ought to bear fruit. We won't see it next year or the year after, but in 10 and 20 years' time. If we see a growing minority of young people living out the Faith well, then we will know that the visit was a success.

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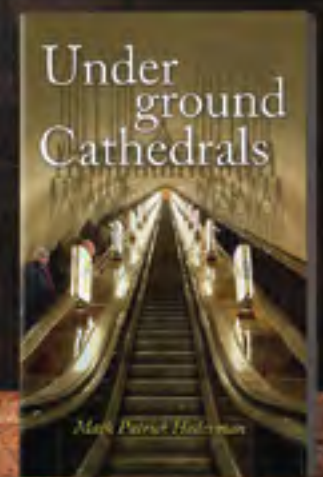
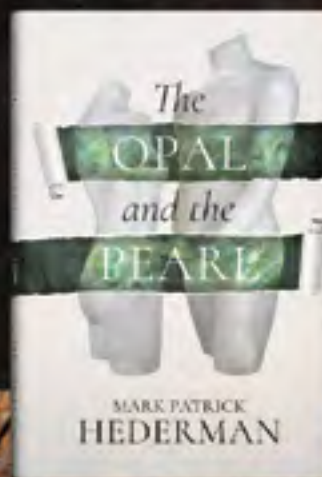
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Turning to marriage's experts for lived marriage expertise

"Priests do not have experience to prepare people for marriage," reads a headline in the *Irish Times* early last week. Summing up and quoting some key points in an interview with Cardinal Kevin Farrell in the Irish bishops' *Intercom* magazine, the article was quickly picked up by the New York deacon – previously an award-winning journalist with CBC – Rev. Greg Kandra, and has since prompted incendiary debate across the American Catholic internet.

Unfortunately, while some articles have at least tried to draw on the full range of quotations excerpted in the *Irish Times* piece, others have focused sharply on a couple of lines from the article, and presented them for criticism as though there had been no immediate or general context to them.

Cardinal Kevin Farrell, prefect of the Vatican's Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life, said "priests are not the best people to train others for marriage", they reported, continuing: "They have no credibility; they have never lived the experience; they may know moral theology, dogmatic theology in theory, but to go from there to putting it into practice every day...they don't have the experience."

Cue outrage, demands for clarity, indignation on the part of and on behalf of clergy, and eventually a follow-up *Irish Times* piece about a Dublin-based priest calling for the cardinal's resignation. Disappointingly, it seems that none of the journalists who've covered this story from abroad managed to track down the original interview, such that the vast amount of commentary on this has been based on comments shorn of any context.

Tendencies

The interview, in the July/August issue of *Intercom* is a lengthy one, taking up four pages in the magazine. While attention has focused on just 48 words spoken by the cardinal, the piece as a whole runs to more than 3,000 words, with the first question relating to how there can be tendencies in the Church to see lay people as somehow 'less' than clergy or to dislike the term 'laity' as though it has connotations of inferiority.

Acknowledging that his-

Criticism of Cardinal Kevin Farrell is misplaced, writes Greg Daly



Cardinal Kevin Farrell.

torically the laity often did play a second-class role in the Church, and adding that "unfortunately, in some countries, they still do", Cardinal Farrell explained that the role of the Vatican's Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life is to give prominence to laity, who he called "the most important people in the Church".

Although originally hailing from Drimnagh in Dublin, the cardinal clarified that he wasn't speaking either of Ireland, as he hadn't lived here since the 1960s, nor of the US, which he identified as a country where laity play vital roles in running the Church.

"The basis of all human life is the family, but in some countries the Church is so clerical," he said in contrast. "I travelled to a country to speak about *Amoris Laetitia* recently, and they organised a meeting of about six or seven hundred people. Eighty per cent of them were priests."

Summarising that talk, he continued: "My theme is that priests are not the best people to train others for marriage. They have no credibility; they have never lived the experi-

every day...they don't have that experience."

The first thing to note here is, of course, that the cardinal had condensed a full-length talk there into two sentences: there was obviously much more to it than that tiny summary, and anyone enraged on the basis of two lines should take a look at what the *Catechism* sections 2477 to 2479 says about rash judgement, detraction, and our duty to try to interpret others' words in a favourable way.

More broadly, this is an idea the cardinal has touched on before, of course, notably when speaking at Down and Connor's Faith and Life Convention last September. Towards the end of his keynote address on *Amoris Laetitia* he said: "I would request that you not have all the priests always doing marriage preparation. They have no credibility when it comes to living marriage – the reality of marriage. They may know the principles. They may know the values. They may speak to you of philosophy, of theology. But the reality of everyday...?"

"The basis of all human life is the family, but in some countries the Church is so clerical"

Stressing the danger marriage faces in the modern world and the need for the Church – meaning committed Catholics across the world, not simply clerics and religious – to fight for it, the cardinal continued that experienced and properly trained married couples would be key to this. "Every parish should have couples who are prepared – and I underline the word 'prepared' – to teach and guide and accompany other married couples along the way of life," he added.

It should be an utterly unremarkable thing to say that as a general rule the people who know marriage best are married people, just as it should be utterly unremarkable to say

that people are more likely to come across as authoritative and plausible when talking about things they have experienced than about things they have not personally lived through.

"It generally doesn't make sense for priests to do the totality of marriage preparation"

That's what 'credibility' means, after all. It's a subjective quality, the quality of being believable, dependent not on the truth or wisdom of what a speaker says, but on whether a listener finds that speaker plausible. The mediaevals put it well when they said *quidquid recipitur ad modum recipientis recipitur*, roughly translating as "what people hear depends on who is doing the hearing".

That's not to say for one

minute that priests don't have valuable things to contribute to marriage preparation – that would amount to a dismissal of Pope Francis' *Amoris Laetitia*, after all, along with decades of reflections and teachings by St John Paul – let alone that it's not their responsibility to ensure that couples have been prepared for marriage.

No, it's merely to say that it generally doesn't make sense for priests to do the totality of marriage preparation and specifically that it doesn't make sense for priests to "train" couples for marriage; that's a peculiar word, after all, one that points to the nitty-gritty day-to-day experience of married life, an area where most priests would admit to knowing less about as a lived reality than would any number of married couples.

There are reasons, after all, why Accord and other marriage preparation courses in

Ireland and elsewhere tend to be run by married people. They can speak from their own lived experience, as well as from observation, study, and reflection.

It's worth thinking of it another way: while married and other lay people might be able to play vital roles in clerical formation, I don't think anyone would seriously argue that they would be the best people to train clergy. No matter how much they'd read or how many priests that had talked to, their lack of personal experience of priestly life would leave them without credibility in the eyes of their pupils.

Stressing that faithful married Catholic couples are, as a general rule, the Church's experts on marriage, and asking them to share that expertise seems to be the obvious thing to do. It's extraordinary that Cardinal Farrell should be criticised for saying so.

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Banner bearers from all 55 parishes of Tuam diocese leading the entrance procession.



Please contact World Meeting of Families correspondent Chai Brady with photos, news or articles relating to your parish or diocese's WMOF2018 preparations and events for inclusion in the weekly update:

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family and frolics on Ballinrobe Racecourse



Anne and Garry Keaveney from Mountbellew.



Isobel and Hannah Farrell, enjoying the day.



Archbishop Michael Neary celebrating Mass with the Diocesan secretary, Fr Francis Mitchell.

Mary Trench

A wonderful day of 'Family Faith, Fun and Food' was enjoyed by a huge crowd of people, from all 55 parishes in Tuam Archdiocese at Ballinrobe Racecourse.

The weather was thankfully very favourable and the venue was superb.

Following a sad and difficult week in the archdiocese, when one of its youngest priests, Fr Patrick Burke died suddenly in Westport, it was encouraging for all to witness the enthusiastic response to our Family Celebration Day.

People of all ages turned up, including families from other countries who have made their home within our Diocese.

Activities

There were activities for all ages! Children were entertained with bouncy castles, face-painting, balloon modelling, frolics in the playground and the very popular Mister Majestic, the Magician.

Food and ice-cream were provided too. Many brought along their musical



Ballinrobe Race Course, on the day.

instruments and had the opportunity to perform with John Kilkenny's Music Group.

Areas of great interest were the many stands and exhibits, showcasing the various groups and movements supporting family life in the West.

Beautiful stands were provided by Fr Frank Fahy and his team in Ballintubber Abbey. These included stands for Knock and all that happens there, the Family Centre in Castlebar, Faith and Light Group, a vocations stand, various religious orders, WMOF and Suzy the iconographer.

The central focus for the day was Mass, celebrated by Archbishop Michael Neary with concelebrants Fr Francis Mitchell, Diocesan Secretary

and Fr Michael Gormley PP in Ballinrobe.

Recently ordained Fr Gerard Quirke received a warm welcoming round of applause from the congregation.

Ballinrobe Parish Choir, conducted by Richard Crumlish and accompanied by Fr Peter Gannon, were joined with choir members from other parishes.

Archbishop Neary spoke of the centrality of family and its power in creating a home, saying: "Home is where the seeds of hope are sown, where we recognise there is a safe harbour into which we can sail, as we take shelter from what can often be a very competitive, calculating and constricting culture".



Fr Fergal Cunnane leading the Faith And Light group and getting the whole congregation involved in the rendition of their family song.



Ballinrobe Parish Choir leading the musical celebration at the Tuam Diocesan Family Day.



Crossmolina celebrates all parish nationalities during WMOF prep

Fr Francis Judge

In Mayo, Crossmolina Parish enjoyed an important and joyful gathering in recognition of the World Meeting of Families, which takes place August 21-26.

Thousands of families and individuals from all over Ireland and the world are expected to attend this very special occasion.

During our celebration in June a number of symbols of family were brought to the altar, including a hand-woven globe, representing our connection to each other across the universe.

The Icon of the Holy Family was presented, which told a



number of stories.

This icon takes the form of a triptych which looks, from the outside, somewhat like a house with front doors.

When the doors of this icon are opened we see in the centre the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph seated at table, sharing a meal and

sharing their Faith. This is a representation of a typical Passover meal – the symbols of which were brought to the altar (three bouquets of herbs, three spices and the unleavened bread and chalice).

On the faces of the altar steps are the words *Amoris Laetitia* which translates to 'The Joy of Love'.

Finally, a scroll with the words of Jesus, which is seen in the three panels of the icon was brought to the altar and read.

During our June 10 celebration, we remembered the people from 16 different nationalities living in our community, including: Eng-

land, Hungary, Poland, Latvia, Ukraine, China, America, Philippines, Germany, Pakistan, Russia, Albania, Scotland, Ghana, Lithuania, Holland, Brazil and Czech Republic.

We also remembered our emigrants living in Australia, Finland, France, Canada, Spain, UAE (United Arab Emirates), Norway and Portugal.

We remembered our community religious around the world and our forgotten emigrants.

We look forward to our opening service of prayer in St Muredach's Cathedral, Ballina on Tuesday August 21 at 8pm to officially open the World Meeting of Families.



Fr John, Bishop Denis and Wibbly Wobbly Wendy.



PJ & Liam Nolan cooking up a storm!



The Matthews family enjoying the entertainment.

Being together in the parish

Sally Casey

The parish of Dunloy and Cloughmills in the Diocese of Down and Connor enjoyed huge success after holding a 'Together in Parish' event organised by the parish pastoral council and local groups, to launch celebrations for the WMOF2018.

Bunting and flags of the world were erected on Saturday and these fluttered in the summer sunshine giving everyone a sense that something special was going to happen.

The day, held on Sunday June 24, began with a Family Mass celebrated in both Sacred Heart Cloughmills and St Joseph's Church, Dunloy by administrator Fr Liam Blayney with the youth of the parish and children from St Brigid's and St Joseph's Primary Schools.

Prayer tree

Each church had a 'Prayer Tree', organised by both schools and hung with petitions gathered from families in the parish.

The beautiful music of our local Comhaltas group, who played both at Mass and afterwards in St Joseph's Parish Centre, gave an extra special touch to the celebration.

Parishioners were



invited to gather for refreshments and chat after the later Mass and a large number enjoyed this, along with the lively music.

Fr Blayney, an accomplished musician, entertained us with a couple of sing-along songs!

The parish Holy Family Icon was visible along with a petition box and cards intended to be added to WMOF Icon when it comes to a nearby parish.

Rhona McAuley, Chairperson of the parish pastoral council had prepared a PowerPoint presentation of images and information

which was projected throughout.

She outlined our plans for August 26 which include an outdoor large screening of the Papal Mass from Phoenix Park during our Free Family Fun Day to take place in the GAA grounds.

This will be organised thanks to the assistance of members of the GAA, Comhaltas, SVP and other local groups who have been planning this event with the parish pastoral council.

Almost 100 parishioners plan to travel on Sunday August 26, tickets have been booked, a bus has

been chartered with many travelling on their own for part of the week or for the final day. For many of us, this will bring back memories of being in the Phoenix Park in September 1979 when St Pope John Paul II visited Ireland.

There is a real sense of anticipation and participation as the Parish of Dunloy and Cloughmills enters into the spirit of welcome for Pope Francis to Ireland.

Sally Casey writes on behalf of Dunloy and Cloughmills parish pastoral council.

“For many of us, this will bring back memories of being in the Phoenix Park in September 1979 when St Paul John Paul II visited”

Keep informed of road restrictions for Pope Mass – Govt

Those planning to drive to Dublin for the Papal Mass on August 26 in the Phoenix Park should be aware there will be some major diversions and road closures in place.

The Government has advised travellers to leave “plenty of time” for any journeys to and across Dublin City from 6am to 11pm on the day.

As half a million people will swarm to Dublin from across Ireland and around the world, attendees are asked to note details of the roads and streets that will be affected by diversions and restrictions. They will appear on dublincity.ie, garda.ie and theaa.ie.

According to gov.ie: “The event will

have an impact on local residents and businesses. We are aiming to ensure that any disruption to businesses and individuals is minimised as much as possible.”

“Necessary alternative arrangements are being developed and will be communicated to those impacted well in advance.”



Killeshin Pipe Band leading the parade to the festivities

Barbecue extravaganza for Carlow parish



Gillian Tierney Brennan busy face painting.



Mayor of Carlow Ken Murnane with Senator Jennifer Murnane O'Connor and Richie Kavanagh.

Ursula Hayden

Following the monthly family Mass in St Clare's Church, Graiguecullen, Co. Carlow the parish of Graiguecullen/Killeshin was treated to a spectacular family fun day and BBQ in the grounds of the church and the parish swimming pool.

The crowds were lead to the festivities from the church doors by Killeshin Pipe Band.

It's only a few short weeks to the WMOF in Dublin and the fun day was just one element of the year-long parish preparations for this great occasion for Ireland.

All year there have been great celebrations at the Family Masses on the first Sunday of every month with the singing led by the parish children's choir and Jessica O'Rourke and Sunday, July 1 was no exception. Families of all shapes and sizes and in some cases two and three generations attended.

With the sun splitting the trees there was great excitement when Mickey Mouse, Peppa Pig and Sponge Bob Square Pants made an appearance and the young volunteers painted lions, tigers, princesses and butterflies on faces young and old.

Musical entertainment

led by the Horohan Brothers and Helter Skelter included Fiacca Moriarty, Robbie Allen, Wiggly Wobbly Wendy, the Graiguecullen Youth Dancers and the wonderful parish choirs with Fr Liam Lawton.

Side shows included hook a duck, bouncy castles, slides and a Make a Wish Tree where people wrote a wish for their family on coloured ribbons and placed them on a tree. The tree will be included in the WMOF Sacred Space in the church until the end of WMOF 2018.

All this surrounded the fantastic BBQ with volunteers serving over 900 burgers and thousands of cups of tea/coffee and buns. The young volunteers made sure everyone was kept hydrated with water and juice and of course sweets and balloons galore.

Fr John Dunphy PP said he was delighted with the number of families that attended. Everything was free and it was a great opportunity to celebrate together as a parish family and to repay all those who support and volunteer in the parish during the year.

Ursula Hayden is the Youth Choir Director of Graiguecullen/Killeshin Parish.



Three generations of the Nolan family at the fun day.



The Pope's Mass in the Phoenix Park: frequently asked questions

How long is the Mass?

It is expected that the Mass will be under two hours in duration. You should allow for extra time to get to and from the event.

What time will the event be over at?

The event will be over at 4.45pm. Please be aware that it may take some time to make your exit, as there will be a large volume of people exiting at the same time.

Where can I see the Pope if I can't attend the Mass?

Live coverage of the Mass and of the entire visit will be broadcast on RTE and other media outlets [including *The Irish Catholic*, www.irishcatholic.ie]. More details will be available closer to the event.

What time can I access the Phoenix Park?

The exact opening time will be confirmed closer to the event.



Can I stay overnight in Phoenix Park?

You will not be able to stay overnight in the Park. No camping is allowed.

I have some accessibility issues what supports are available?

Every effort is being made to accommodate as many people with accessibility needs as is possible, within this unique location. We are currently consulting with disability organisations regarding this and will be communicating the finalised plans as soon as possible. In the meantime, please do register for a ticket, indicating your accessibility requirements.

Out&About

Mass for the celebration of jubilarians



CORK: Missionaries of the Sacred Heart congregation at the Mass for the Celebration of Jubilarians at Sacred Heart Church, Western Road. Included are Provincial Irish Province, Fr Carl Tranter, UK (25 years), Bro. Donal Hallissey, Macroom (50 years), Fr Eugene Clarkson, Sligo (60 years), Bishop Hugh Slattery, Nenmogh (60 years), Fr Patsy Kelly, Carlow (50 years), Fr Con O'Connell, Dublin (25 years) and Fr Terry O'Brien, Croom (25 years). Absent was Fr Eamonn Donoghue, Galway (60 years).



PORTUGAL: Pilgrims are pictured after attending the final Mass in Fatima during the Archdiocese of Armagh's youth pilgrimage.



LIMERICK: Three boys from Doon CBS Primary School who had full school attendance during the last school year 2017/2018, pictured with the school principal, Ms Joanne O'Connell, are Liam Ryan, Micheal Ryan and Paddy Ryan.



DUBLIN: Sr Brid Smith, cyclist, Chris White, CEO of NCBI, Nuala Carey from RTE and Dave Killian, Head of Application, Transformation and Integration at Fujitsu Ireland, launch NCBI's (National Council for the Blind of Ireland) 'Cycle of Light' on August 24.



CLARE: Frs James O'Brien from Feakle, Co. Clare, Michael O'Grady, Arizona and Noel Kennedy, Bournea, Co. Tipperary celebrate their Diamond Jubilees with Bishop Fintan Monahan in Bishop's House, Ennis. Missing from the photo is Fr Paddy Culligan, Carrigaholt, Co. Clare.

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Tomorrow's Parish

Donal Harrington

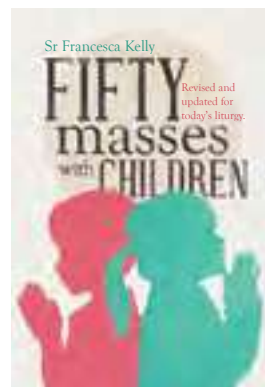


This new edition of *Tomorrow's Parish* sets out the priorities for the parish as the Church enters a new phase of both challenge and opportunity, particularly highlighting the role of the family with the celebration of the World Meeting of Families in Ireland.

was €14.99 **€9.99**

Fifty Masses with children

Sister Francesca

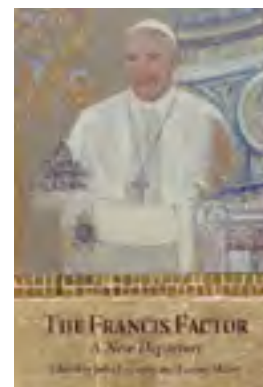


This revised edition of Sister Francesca's bestselling title includes ten new Masses along with the best and most popular Masses from her previous books, which have provided teachers and priests throughout the world with topical and engaging Masses for use with primary school children.

was €15.99 **€6.99**

The Francis Factor

Ed. John Littleton & Eamon Maher



This book of essays looks back at Pope Francis' first year in the papacy and seeks to explain what about this Pope in particular has made people reconsider their attitude to the Church and religion; also exploring his backstory, giving readers a better understanding of the Pope as both a public and private man.

was €14.99 **€6.99**

Trinity

Anne Marie Mongoven, O.P.



Trinity: A Story of Deep Delight delves into the mysteries of the Trinity through investigation of dynamic literary images and reveals what the love between the Holy Trinity can teach us about loving each other and ourselves.

was €14.99 **€5.99**

Mystics

Craig Larkin SM

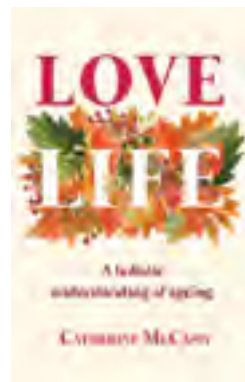


With *Mystics, The Beauty of Prayer* Fr Craig Larkin explores the lives and influence of fascinating characters like St Augustine, Julian of Norwich, Dante and Teresa of Avila. Their challenges and their spiritual journey are a source of guidance for those who want to learn more about the interior life of the spiritual masters.

was €12.99 **€5.99**

Love Life

Catherine McCann



Love Life is for those in retirement or about to retire aspiring to have a greater understanding of ageing. By portraying ageing as a positive process, Catherine McCann empowers us to opt for quality living over a long life without quality.

was €12.99 **€6.49**

All Will Be Well

Fr Paddy Byrne



In Fr Paddy Byrne's first book, he draws on years of parish ministry and pastoral care to outline the challenges we face, while offering hope and inspiration to readers, leading them towards what he sees as a positive future.

was €14.99 **€9.99**

Tired of all the Bad News

Fr Bryan Shortall



In this collection Fr Bryan Shortall, a Capuchin Friar who works tirelessly for those in need, seeks to share good news, as Jesus Christ did, to lift ourselves and those around us.

was €12.99 **€6.99**

Celtic Songlines

David Forsythe

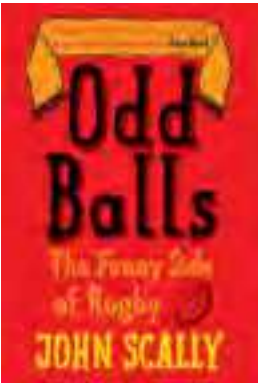


This book follows Dónal Lunny’s travels to all of Europe’s Celtic nations from the Hebrides in Scotland to Galicia in Spain. Along the way he meets with musicians, historians and folklorists who help to build a picture of what Celtic musical identity means in modern Europe.

was €19.99 €9.99

Odd Balls

John Scally

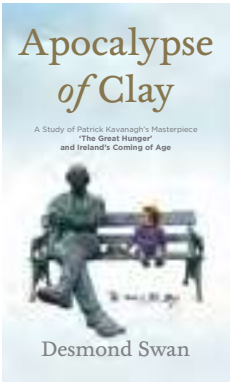


Odd Balls gathers together the best of the stories, adventures and mishaps of international rugby legends. The hilarious tales come from the greatest players and characters of the world of rugby such as Willie Anderson, Peter Clohessy, Gareth Edwards, Mick Galwey, Paul O’Connell and Brian O’Driscoll.

was €14.99 €4.99

Apocalypse of Clay

Desmond Swan



This book illuminates Patrick Kavanagh’s prophetic insights in his epic poem “The Great Hunger”. Even though it was disregarded when it was first published, it has now gained near unanimous critical acclaim for accurately diagnosing the emotional malaise at the heart of Irish society.

was €19.99 €5.99

Migraine

Dr Marie Murray & Patrick Little & Audrey Craven



Migraine is not ‘just another headache’ but a complex and disabling condition which affects an estimated 12-15% of the population. This publication covers the severe impact on sufferers and gives out helpful information on how to deal with the condition and get the best help possible.

was €12.99 €4.99

Fr Browne’s Trains and Railways

E.E. O’Donnell

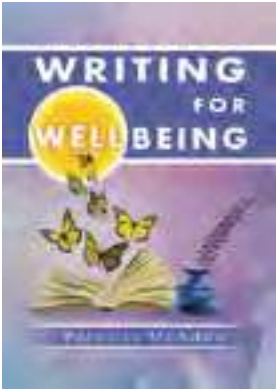


E.E. O’Donnell presents a collection of photographs taken in Ireland during the 1930s when 3,400 miles of railway track covered the country. The book features railwaymen involved in their various tasks as well as passengers and train crashes.

was €19.99 €9.99

Writing for Wellbeing

Patricia McAadoo



Did you know that writing was good for your mental and physical wellbeing? With exercises using imagery and metaphor, in this book you will learn how to write your own story, explore thorny issues, make sense of things while also having fun.

was €12.99 €6.49

Good Pope John

Michael Collins

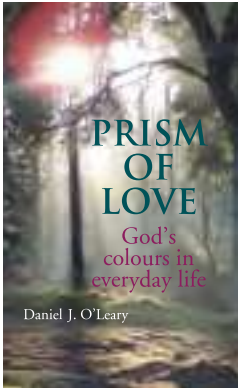


Michael Collins traces the life and times of Pope John XXII, one of the most popular pontiffs of all time. The reader travels with Angelo Roncalli from his birthplace in Sotto il Monte to the Vatican, gaining an insight into the mind and soul of Good Pope John.

was €9.99 €4.00

Prism of Love

Daniel O’Leary



In Prism of Love, Daniel O’Leary continues to share his passion for enriching the lives of his readers by guiding them through a daily reflection that allows readers to see beyond the present and realise the presence and profound mystery of our Lover-Creator in the everyday.

was €11.99 €4.80

Understanding Suicide

Lucy Costigan & Anthony E. Walsh



Understanding Suicide looks to society, rather than the individual, for both cause and solution and presents a new perspective on solving it, by analysing the social factors that enable and facilitate suicide, such as education, religion, the media, politics and the law.

was €19.99 €4.99

Three French Saints - Thérèse of Lisieux

Críostóir Ó Floinn



‘The One who Hid Away’. Popularly known as “The Little Flower of Jesus”, Thérèse of Lisieux became famous worldwide through her autobiography The Story of a Soul, published after her early death. Discover the strong will of this very young nun who became an inspiration for Christians the world over.

was €9.99 €3.50

Real Irish Ghost Stories

Paul Fennell

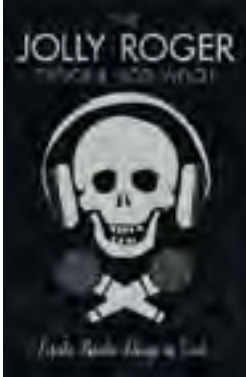


This collection of stories of ordinary people will persuade the sceptics that there are more things in this world than we are aware of. From stories of revenants and grounded spirits, poltergeists to demonic possessions, Paul Fennell has collected reports from all over Ireland.

was €12.99 €6.49

The Jolly Roger

Trevor & Noel Welch

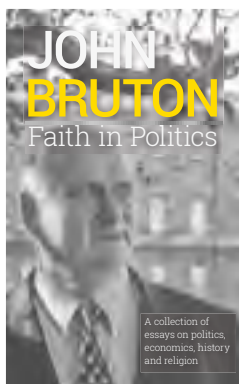


This is the story of pirate radio in Cork from the late 1970s to early 1980s, when for a single glorious decade, broadcast studios were in old caravans and every DJ lived in constant fear that the Gardai might shut their station down.

was €14.99 €4.99

Faith in Politics

John Bruton



This collection gathers together speeches, articles and blogs on politics, economics, history and religion by the ex-Taoiseach John Bruton, giving the reader an extraordinary insight into the man who served Ireland from 1994 to 1997.

was €19.99 **€9.99**

Healing & Wholeness

Kathleen Glennon



Intended for those who are ill or dying and their carers, this book offers readers blessings, psalms and prayers that can be adapted according to their own needs. These blessings, psalms and prayers can be prayed by the sick person, a friend, or a group, and provide spiritual comfort during life's most difficult moments.

was €9.99 **€3.50**

Holy Cross

Aidan Troy



Fr Aidan Troy became a symbol of true courage when he protected frightened Catholic schoolgirls who had to walk past loyalist protestors to go to Holy Cross school in the contentious Ardoyne area of Belfast, an incident which left him with one simple belief: the rights of children must be paramount.

was €15.99 **€5.99**

Afterlife

Audrey Healy



Experience the beyond as varied people from all over the world unite to share their experiences of after-death communication through vivid and moving stories, while independent experts give their opinion on this divisive subject.

was €9.99 **€4.99**

The Quiet Revolution

Peter Hannan



This book is about a choice that each of us faces: the choice between placing importance on material things, or on love. Since the first of these choices is already ingrained in society, to choose the second one involves a revolutionary change of mind and heart. The nature of this quiet revolution is the theme of this book.

was €12.99 **€3.50**

Relentless

Mary White

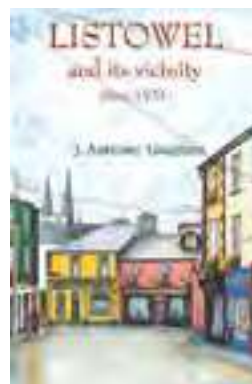


This is the incredible story of the rise of the Cork ladies football team from having never won a senior title, to winning nine All-Ireland titles in 10 years, nine National League titles, and 10 Munster titles after coach Eamonn Ryan and manager Mary Collins stepped in to lead the way.

was €14.99 **€4.99**

Listowel and its Vicinity

J. Anthony Gaughan



Perhaps most renowned for its literary offsprings, the town of Listowel is also a thriving sporting, industrial, as well as artistic hub. In this book, J. Anthony Gaughan looks at the town and its hinterland and tells a fascinating modern history.

was €15.99 **€5.99**

Medjugorje & the Eucharist

Wayne Weible

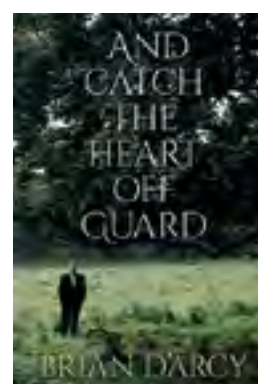


Medjugorje and the Eucharist offers personal experiences of pilgrimage to Medjugorje that will add to readers' faith. The messages of the Blessed Virgin and Holy Eucharist have brought so many Medjugorje pilgrims to a new zenith of belief, and this book aims to inspire readers to similar heights of faith and contemplation.

was €14.99 **€5.25**

And Catch the Heart Off Guard

Brian D'Arcy



In this collection of thoughts, reflections and stories Fr Brian D'Arcy reaches out to people to share something of his deep faith. What he has to say speaks to the heart and the great human longing for acceptance and love.

was €14.99 **€5.25**

A Tale of Two Cities

John Hall

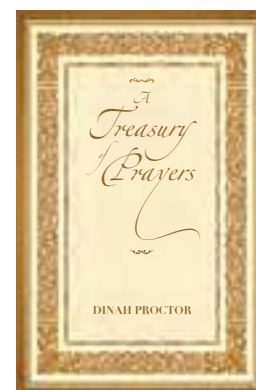


Photographer John Hall brings to life two great cities. Cork, a rebel port in Munster, much of whose maritime greatness is in the past, and Dublin, a capital city that was once the second city of a great empire.

was €19.99 **€9.99**

A Treasury of Prayers

Dinah Proctor



This is a gathering of special prayers for different occasions to help us to ground ourselves in God always. Despite our failings, God doesn't stop reminding us how much he loves us and continually gives comfort in our daily lives; he forgives those who are wicked and provides for those who are in need. His teaching will always make us whole again.

was €9.99 **€3.50**

Padre Pio of Pietrelcina

Fr Francesco Napolitano



This revisited biography follows the saint from humble beginnings in Pietrelcina through his life of profound sacrifice and goodness. It recounts stories of the obstacles he overcame, the people he touched, and the stigmata he bore.

was €14.99 **€6.49**

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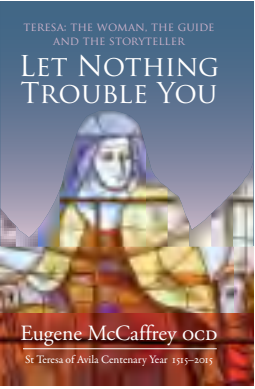
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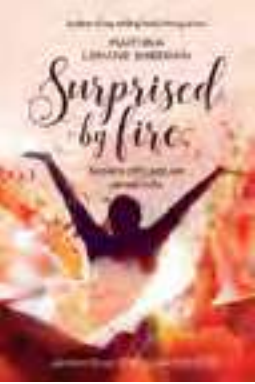
Let Nothing Trouble You
Eugene McCafferty



Let Nothing Trouble You explores the remarkable story of St Teresa of Avila and the influence of this charming, attractive, witty woman, who openly shares her humanity with us and teaches us how to make our own dreams come true.

was €9.99 **€4.99**

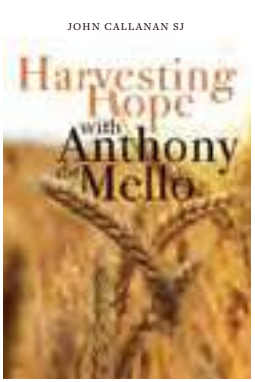
Surprised by Fire
Martina Lehan Sheehan



The author's vibrant creativity and inspiring wisdom will work wonders on all of our flattering and wayward hearts, telling us that we are no longer victims and giving us glimpses of the enchanted place we one day hope to inhabit.

was €14.99 **€6.99**

Harvesting Hope with Anthony de Mello
John Callanan SJ



Harvesting Hope with Anthony de Mello looks at the areas of hope and fear which can come into our lives from the stresses and strains of our life today. Using the wisdom of one of the finest spiritual teachers of modern times, Fr John Callanan outlines how to deal with hopes unfulfilled and disillusionment.

was €14.99 **€6.99**

Sr Maureen's Selection of Irish Art
Maureen MacMahon



This book presents Sr Maureen MacMahon's critique of two hundred years of Irish art history. In this visually beautiful and spiritually uplifting book are included artists from the past and present, men and women, painters and sculptors.

was €9.99 **€4.99**

Cancer, A Circle of Seasons
Anne Alcock



What do you do when life hits you a sucker punch, such as a cancer diagnosis? Do you talk? Do you journal? Do you pray? When Anne Alcock was diagnosed with breast cancer, she did all of those things. This book is her way of helping anyone to reflect creatively about their life-experiences.

was €14.99 **€6.99**

Crazy Chronicles of a Parish Life
Michael Collins



There is a touch of craziness in every life, and the clerical life is no different. The author, Fr Michael Collins, shares some of the good, bad, and the ridiculous experiences he went through in the fifty years he spent working at the Diocese of Derry. "Only a very foolish clergyman will take himself too seriously."

was €14.99 **€6.99**

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Edited by Chai Brady
chai@irishcatholic.ie

Events deadline is a week in
advance of publication



KERRY: Couples celebrate significant anniversaries of marriage in Our Lady and St Brendan's Church in Tralee. Fr Padraic Walsh PP stands with Gerard and Catherine O'Mahony, 20 years, Denis and Sharon Cahill, 25 years, Fearghal and Ann Grimes 25 years, John Casey and Monica Griffin Casey, 30 years, Larry and Breda Byrne, 30 years, Brendan and Julia Fealy, 30 years, John O'Connor and Jacky McCull, 30 years, John and Angela O'Donnell, 30 years, Martin and Marie Williams, 30 years, Tim and Joan Hallissey 40 years, Vincent and Eilish Hayes, 40 years, Micheal and Ann Moran, 50 years and Michaela and Dolores Bourke, 59 years. Photo: John Cleary



◀ **KERRY:** In Penal times the Mass was celebrated in woods and hedgerows, this Mass was celebrated by Fr Francis Nolan for residents of Derrymore East and West, at the Killeen, beside the sea for souls of children buried here, and those who were lost at sea. Photo: John Cleary



FRANCE: Parishioners from Athea Parish attend Limerick Diocese's pilgrimage to Lourdes joined by Bishop Brendan Leahy and 560 pilgrims. Back: Sarah O'Connor, Jade McMahon, Ciara Hunt, Shannon Brady, Alison Brady, Fr. Brendan Duggan CC, Denis Mullane; front: Jacqueline O'Connor, Betty O'Connor, Thady Hunt, Margaret McAuliffe, Mary Horgan, Peggy Casey, Billy Casey, John Fitzgerald, Joan Boylan, Denis Casey, Christine Mullane, Mary Mullane.

IN SHORT

NCBI pedals through the night for sight

'Cycle of Light', The National Council for the Blind of Ireland's (NCBI) innovative night cycle is taking place this year on the August 24.

The event, now in its second year, is a unique night time cycle stretching from Dalkey to Howth and back, along Dublin Bay.

Participating cyclists will ride the scenic return route from Dalkey to Howth, which spans some 85km. Participants will start peddling at 8.30pm and ride into the darkness in a highly symbolic fundraising initiative to support the vital work of NCBI for

people affected by sight loss.

Joining the 'peloton' for Cycle of Light 2018 is RTE's Nuala Carey. Speaking at the launch Nuala said: "I love the concept of Cycle of Light, it is a magical idea. It will be a super and highly symbolic event and one that I am proud to support. The NCBI provides very valuable services for people with sight loss and Cycle of Light is a wonderfully symbolic fundraising idea which also serves to raise awareness and vital funds for people who are blind or vision impaired. So, pedal on for NCBI, and light up the night for sight!"

Speaking at the launch of Cycle of Light 2018, Chris White, NCBI CEO said: "NCBI's Cycle of Light had a hugely successful launch last year and we

are delighted that this truly unique occasion has captured the support of the public and because of that we are doing it bigger and better this year."

NCBI's services include emotional support and counselling, low vision solutions like magnifiers, assistive technology advice and training, rehabilitation training (including independent living skills and using a long cane), a large print, audio and Braille library. The organisation also has an online shop with lots of practical solutions.

To join the team and participate in the Cycle of Light visit www.ncbi.ie to register. Alternatively, contact cycleoflight@ncbi.ie or call 01 882 1970. Registration closes on August 1.

ARMAGH

Eucharistic Adoration in St Malachy's Church, Armagh daily from 6am to midnight, and all night on Wednesdays.

CLARE

Annual Killaloe Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine will take place on Sunday July 29, led by Bishop Fintan Monahan. Ceremonies begin at 2.30pm. For bus transport please contact: Glynn's Coaches at 065 6828234.

Ennis Parish, led by Fr Tom Hogan, will make a pilgrimage to Italy on October 15-22. Details: Mary 087 1247669.

CORK

Medjugorje prayer meeting in the Presence of the Blessed Sacrament every Wednesday night at 8pm in Holy Trinity Church, Fr Matthew Quay. Prayers for healing are on the first Wednesday of every month.

The Alliance of the Two Hearts first Friday and first Saturday Vigil of Reparation and Adoration, Church of the Real Presence, Curraheen Road, Bishopstown. Rosary 8pm. Mass 9.30pm. First Saturday Mass at midnight Friday. Vigil ends 3.30am. Come for all or part of the night.

DERRY

Dungiven Parish: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Monday to Friday, 8am-noon and 3-9pm.

DUBLIN

Divine Mercy Devotions in the Church of Three Patrons, Rathgar every First Friday at 7pm. Mass, Benediction, chaplet & blessing with relic of St Faustina. Confessions available.

Agape Charismatic prayer meeting in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, Tuesdays, 8pm (Mass last Tues of the month), Disciples of the Divine Master Oratory, Junction of Newtownpark Av/Stillorgan Rd. Bus: 46A/C/D or 58C. Tel: 087-6509465.

Our Lady of Knock prayer meetings take place on the last Thursday of every month in St Gabriel's Nursing Home, Glenayle Road, Raheny, D5, from 8pm-9pm.

FERMANAGH

A Mass to St Peregrine for all the sick is prayed each Wednesday evening in St Patrick's Church, Derrygonnelly at 7.30pm. www.churchservices.tv/derrygonnelly.

GALWAY

The annual Mass of St Feichin will be concelebrated in St Feichin's Cemetery, Lackan in Abbey parish in the Clontarf Diocese on Sunday July 15 at 7pm. Covered seating is available and a large car park. A cup of tea for all after Mass. Those attending should go to the village of Abbey (near Woodford) and follow the signs.

KERRY

The Alliance of the Two Hearts First Friday and First Saturday Vigil of Adoration and Reparation in Caherciveen parish church at 3pm: Divine Mercy Chaplet, Adoration, rosaries. Ends with Mass at 7.30pm.

KILKENNY

First Saturday Devotions, Adoration, Rosary, Divine Mercy and Prayer for Healing from 7-9pm in St Fiacre's Church, Loughboy.

LIMERICK

Eucharistic Adoration takes place each Friday in Raheen church following 10am Mass until 10pm, Crecora on Thursdays, following morning Mass until 12noon and from 6-10pm, and in Mungret Church on Wednesdays, from 10am to 12noon.

Young adults ages 18-35 are invited on a pilgrimage with the Dominicans to Bracciano and Rome from October 25-29. Please email limerick@op-tn.org for more information or to request an application. Spaces are limited so please apply soon.

Night prayer with the Dominican Sisters every Tuesday at 5.30pm in St Saviour's Church on Dominic Street.

LOUTH

A Centre Prayer Meeting is held at Mount Oliver (near Ballymascanlon, Dundalk) every Wednesday evening at 7.30pm. Contact 00353 863623361 from NI or 086 3623361 from Rol.

Mass in reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary will take place at 10am every first Saturday of the month in St Malachy's Church, Anne Street, Dundalk. Organised by the Legion of Mary, Presidium of Our Lady of the Listening Heart. Spiritual Director Fr Bede McGregor OP.

MEATH

Christ the King Prayer Group, Enfield, meeting every Monday evening, 7.30-8.30pm, Enfield Parish Centre.

OFFALY

Clonmacnois Prayer Vigil in Cluain Chiarain Prayer Centre on Friday July 20 and every third Friday. Mass at 9pm. Adoration and Prayers follow until 2.10am. All Welcome. Enquiries to Dave: 085 7746763.

ROSCOMMON

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at St Croan's Church, Ballymoe, every Monday, 10-11am and Thursday, 8-10pm. Also at St Bride's Church, Ballintubber, every Wednesday, 7.30-8.30pm.

WEXFORD

Join Fr Patrick Duffy and parishioners from The Church of St Mary Magdalene, Kilmishall for a live Mass broadcast. Listen live on South East Radio on 95.6fm to 96.4fm on August 12, at 10am.

WICKLOW

The Glencree Parish Group hold a special Mass for healing in St Kevin's Church, Glencree on the first Saturday of every month.

Baltinglass Parish Fun Day will take place on Sunday, July 22 from 2-5pm on St Joseph's Parish Centre grounds with entertainment, face painting, fun activities and more. Bring a picnic.

St Patrick's Prayer Meeting on Tuesday evenings at 8pm in the Scout Hall, South Quay, Wicklow.

World Report



Edited by Chai Brady
chai@irishcatholic.ie

IN BRIEF

China orders registration of poor Catholics

● A priest in China's Henan province claims to have received a notice from municipal authorities requesting churches in the province to gather statistics on the backgrounds of their congregations, especially those from poor families. But he is refusing to cooperate out of fear that anyone named in the register could be barred from receiving state subsidies as punishment for practicing their Faith. "This is totally unreasonable. I suspect their hidden agenda may be to cancel people's low-income subsidies," said the man, who declined to give his name for fear of reprisals from the state. China has forged an uneasy truce with the Vatican in recent years despite the Communist country being officially atheist.

Schedule for Francis' visit to Baltic region is revealed

● Twenty-five years after St John Paul II visited Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, Pope Francis will make the same three-nation visit from September 22-25. The four-day trip will take the Pope to two important Marian shrines, two major ecumenical encounters and places that commemorate each nation's fight for freedom from oppression. Abortion and the disintegration of families have been serious challenges for the Church and society in these three former Soviet republics, according to past reports from bishops during their visits Rome.



Pope expresses fear for Christians fleeing Middle East

Pope Francis said that if Christians continue to flee the Middle East, it would cease to be the Middle East. The Pope spoke at an ecumenical gathering in Bari on the Southern Adriatic coast of Italy to heads and representatives of 19 different churches.

In Syria, more than 600,000 Christians have fled and in Iraq, the Christian population is now one third of what it was five years ago. The Pontiff said that if the "dark clouds of war, violence and destruction" continued, the presence of Christianity in the region might be wiped out.

Cardinal praises US anti-gun march

Hundreds of protesters led by Chicago priest Fr Michael Pfleger and anti-gun activists filled a major Chicago highway for about an hour on July 7, demanding that city officials act to stop gun violence.

Chicago Cardinal Blase J. Cupich said he was thankful that law enforcement officials co-operated to allow the

protest to take place. "Now it is time for all of us, especially our leaders, to take up with vigour the concerns raised by our young people and all those who marched today," he said.

Days before the event, he issued a statement applauding "the courage shown by young people in our city and across the country".

Nigerian Bishops criticise govt as violence continues

Nigerian Catholic Bishops have criticised the action of President Muhammadu Buhari as violence against Christian farmers continues. Feuds between Muslim semi-nomadic herders and predominantly Christian farmers has escalated recently with 200 people being killed in central Nigeria's plateau state.

Bishops claim that due to President Buhari's inaction in combatting fellow Muslims' attacks, the president has lost the trust of the people.

Pope appoints first lay person as head of Vatican comms office

Pope Francis has named an Italian journalist with decades of experience in print, radio and television broadcasting to head the Vatican's Secretariat for Communication, the first time a lay person has headed a Vatican department.

Paolo Ruffini (61), who was in charge of the Italian conference of Catholic bishops' TV and radio network, was named prefect of the dicastery last week, making him the first lay person to head such a high-level Vatican dicastery.

Born in Palermo in 1959, Ruffini received a degree in law at Rome's La Sapienza University. He worked for a number of major Italian newspapers beginning in 1979, then began working for radio news programs in 1996. He started working in television news in 2002.

He served as the head of the Italian Conference of Catholic Bishops' television and radio stations – TV2000 and Radio InBlu, from 2014 to 2018.

He has received numerous awards for journalism,



Paolo Ruffini.

according to a Vatican press release.

Pope Francis created the Secretariat for Communication in 2015 to streamline and co-ordinate the Vatican's many news and communications outlets and make them more effective. The Vatican has since changed its name to Dicastery for Communication.

The development of digital media, with its converging technologies and interac-

tive capabilities, required "a rethinking of the information system of the Holy See" and a reorganisation that proceeded "decisively toward integration and a unified management," the Pope wrote in the letter establishing the new dicastery.

Speaking with news agency *Reuters* in late June, the Pope said that there had been a woman considered among the candidates for the

job, but she reportedly wasn't "available because she had other commitments".

He succeeds Italian Msgr Dario Vigano, who resigned as prefect in March after a controversy involving the use and photographing of a letter from retired Pope Benedict XVI.

He released a digitally altered photo of Benedict's letter which blurred the portion of the page where the Pope emeritus said he did not read the works and could not write a commentary due to other commitments.

Viganò said in his letter to the Pope that he didn't want the issue to cause any "delay, damage or even block" the reorganisation of the Vatican's communications, which he said is entering its final phases.

In a March 21 letter accepting Viganò's resignation, Francis insisted the reform would continue, specifically mentioning the upcoming integration of the Vatican printing office and *L'Osservatore Romano* within the larger communications apparatus.

English bishop cautions Catholics on NHS care of the seriously ill

An English bishop warned Catholics to be alert to the possible deliberate killings of seriously ill patients in state-funded hospitals.

Bishop Philip Egan of Portsmouth issued a pastoral message to clergy and laity after the publication of a report, which concluded that 650 people died in a hospital within his diocese after they were given large doses of painkillers without medical justification.

Bishop Egan said he was "shocked and saddened" by the report, published in late June by the Gosport Independent Panel, and he described the deaths at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital from 1989 to 2000 as "a terrible tragedy".

The panel began in 1998 to investigate the medical care and deaths of patients at the hospital.

The bishop warned the faithful that gravely ill patients continued to face threats within Britain's National Health Service.

Over-sedation

He suggested that over-sedation and dehydration were so commonplace that people were safer receiving care at home than being hospitalised.

"The NHS is a huge blessing, but we must ever be vigilant to the policies, values, priorities and procedures that operate within it," Bishop Egan said.

"If you or a loved one is terminally ill, consider whether it might be practicable to die at home," he said.

"Ask whether it is possible for drugs to be used that do not totally withdraw consciousness and a chance to pray and commune with family and friends," he continued. "As next of kin, gently insist on being involved in decisions. It might be appropriate to ask staff for a second opinion or a re-evaluation of treatment."

Bishop Egan called for a review of geriatric and end-of-life care "in relation to fundamental moral principles," adding that it was "not morally permissible until the very last to withdraw feeding and hydration".

New document on vocation of consecrated virgins

The Vatican has released a document that establishes norms and principles for women who dedicate their lives as consecrated virgins, outlining their place in the life of the Church.

Presenting the new document at the Vatican press office, Cardinal Joao Braz de Aviz, prefect of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and

Societies of Apostolic Life, said it is the "first document of the Holy See that delves into the character and discipline of this way of life".

Congregation

"The instruction on the *Ordo virginum* ('Order of Virgins') intends to respond to the requests that numerous bishops and consecrated virgins in these

years have presented to the congregation for consecrated life regarding the vocation and witness of the order of virgins, its presence in the universal Church and, particularly, its formation and vocational discernment," Cardinal Braz de Aviz said.

Consecrated by her local bishop, a member of the order of virgins makes a promise of perpetual

virginity, prayer and service to the Church while living independently in society.

The publishing of the document, *'Ecclesiae Sponsae Imago'* ('The Image of the Church as Bride') comes two years ahead of the 50th anniversary of the promulgation of the renewed 'Ritual for the Consecration of Virgins'.



John L. Allen Jr

In a new interview, Libero Milone, the lay Italian financial expert who was named the Vatican's first-ever Auditor General in 2015 and who resigned under murky circumstances two years later, asserts that a Vatican criminal investigation against him has ended with no charges being filed.

Speaking to the Italian state TV network RAI, Milone said his lawyers were informed by the Vatican's magistrate that the case has been archiviato, effectively meaning that it's over.

So far the Vatican hasn't issued any comment, which, in effect, amounts to a round-about confirmation, since if Milone's claim that the case is closed were false, presumably a spokesman would want to correct the record.

News that the Milone affair apparently has ended with a whimper rather than a bang can't help but seem a bit curious, given the seriousness of the charges that were hurled at the time Milone left.

After his resignation in June 2017, Milone broke his silence three months later in an interview in which he insisted that he hadn't quit voluntarily but had been threatened with arrest by Vatican *gendarmes* on the basis of what he called "pre-fabricated" charges, and he said he was forced to sign a prepared resignation letter.

"Evidently, they didn't want me to report some things I'd seen," Milone said, implying he was brought down by enemies of transparency and financial reform.

Irregularity

Milone said that he was presented with two receipts for roughly €28,000 from the same company, suggesting he was involved in some sort of financial irregularity. He claims, however, that the signature on one of the documents wasn't his, even though both carried the seal of his office.

What's more interesting is what the money was for: having his office inspected and cleaned of bugging devices, as Milone is convinced he was being spied on. Conversely, he was informed during his interrogation by the *gendarmes* that he was suspected of spying on others in the Vatican illegitimately.

That charge was made public by then-Archbishop Giovanni Becciu, at the time the Pope's 'substitute', or chief of staff. Becciu was recently made a cardinal by Pope Francis and is now the head of the Vatican's Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

"He went against all the rules and was spying on the private lives of his superiors and staff, including me," Becciu told Reuters, speaking



Pope Francis greets Libero Milone, then the Vatican's auditor general, at the Vatican in 2016. Photo: CNS

Cloud of obscurity surrounds Vatican's ex-auditor general

of Milone.

Those are clearly serious charges, which therefore raises the question of what to make of the fact that the Vatican apparently has decided not to proceed with a criminal trial. (Such trials, by the way, have become routine over the last several months, making it even more puzzling why prosecutors decided to give this one a miss.)

Logically speaking, there

are only a handful of possible explanations.

The first is that upon examination, investigators determined that the charges against Milone are false. If so, then seemingly he'd be entitled either to have his job back or to financial compensation. If neither of those things is forthcoming, it would suggest that from the Vatican's point of view, this is something less

than a clean bill of health.

The second possibility is that prosecutors believe Milone is guilty, but they're concerned they wouldn't be able to prove it at trial. That's possible, although given the way rules of procedure in Vatican criminal trials tend to favour the prosecution, one wonders what the basis for such a concern might be.

“Without closure in either direction, it seems Milone is fated for a sort of professional limbo”

A third possibility is that the decision not to move ahead is political rather than evidentiary - that whatever the truth of the matter, the greater good in this case is served by letting sleeping dogs lie. If that's the reality, what's unclear is what exactly that 'greater good' might be, and why it outweighs getting to the bottom of the implosion of what was supposed to be a lynchpin of the Pope's overall financial reform.

Finally, a fourth possibility is that someone in the system with the power to influence which charges come forward and which

drop by the wayside wanted this case to go away, presumably on the basis of vested personal interests. Of course, that too would leave open the question of what those interests might be.

At this point, it's impossible to determine which of those four scenarios, if any, is closest to the truth, or whether elements of all of them are actually in the mix.

Transparency

What is clear, however, is that at a time when Francis is attempting to move the Vatican in the direction of greater transparency and accountability on multiple fronts, here we have a case in which serious charges of misconduct and abuse of power have been exchanged, yet a year after they surfaced, an investigation is apparently being allowed to expire quietly with no public explanation.

Further, Milone's reputation has been badly damaged by the fallout from his ouster, which is either entirely justified if he's guilty or a serious injustice if he's innocent. Without closure in either direction, it seems he's fated for a sort of professional limbo, never actually indicted but not quite exonerated either.

Ironically, a man who was hired to inject transparency into the Vatican's operations is leaving under a cloud of obscurity. Whatever else one might think about that, it would, at least, seem to suggest that the spirit of full disclosure which was the original point of the whole reform is still, sometimes, more honoured in the breach than the observance.

1 John L. Allen Jr. is the Editor of Cruxnow.com



Archbishop Giovanni Angelo Becciu, Vatican substitute secretary of state.

Letters

Post to: Letters to the Editor, The Irish Catholic,
23 Merrion Square North, Dublin 2,
or email: letters@irishcatholic.ie

Letter of the week

Gay people must be treated with respect

Dear Editor, I was glad to read in your paper Fr James Martin's words of advice on how to welcome gay people into our church communities (IC 5/7/2018). His direction that we should genuinely listen to gay people is, sadly, the sort of thing that's too often dismissed by those who would much rather talk at gay people, if they acknowledge them at all.

That's the thing: the Church in its catechism is clear that gay people must be treated with respect, compassion and sensitivity – they must be loved as must anyone made by God in his image. For too many Catholics, unfortunately, 'loving' gay people

is expressed almost exclusively by what they euphemistically term 'fraternal correction'. Small wonder that Ballyfermot's Fr Joe McDonald has warned against what he calls "latent homophobia dressed up as religion".

Fr Martin is often criticised as a controversial figure because he doesn't spend time reminding gay people or underlining for others what the Church teaches about homosexual acts, but this seems unfair.

In an article a few years ago he pointed out that everybody knows homosexual acts are contrary to Catholic moral teaching, and that the too frequent refusal of opponents of

same-sex marriage to say anything positive of gay people without adding a warning about sin contributes in no small part to why many gay people feel judged and worse within the Church.

With no other group, he rightly said, do Catholics so habitually link identity with sin, acting as though love must always entail and be preceded by admonition. The story of Jesus and Zacchaeus, where a sinner's conversion follows upon love and welcome, offers us a kinder and more Christian way of behaving.

*Yours etc.,
Louise Clarke,
Clonsilla, Dublin 15.*

Hypocrisy should be called for what it is

Dear Editor, I would like to congratulate Greg Daly on his excellent article on Josepha Madigan conducting a Eucharistic service and on those who vote for abortion but continue to describe themselves as practising Catholics. Of course it is obvious that this is sheer hypocrisy and it should be described as such. I cannot understand how Ms Madigan was permitted to remain a reader in her Church when she headed the Fine Gael campaign to legalise abortion.

This was in defiance of the Fifth Commandment, you shall not kill,

so there is no question that it was anything other than sheer hypocrisy for her to continue to call herself a 'practising Catholic'. There are no locks on the doors of our Churches keeping people inside. It is a choice to remain a Catholic but, please, would those who openly disregard the law of God in the case of abortion, please either repent or desist from describing themselves as Catholics?

I must say that I disagree with David Quinn when he stated that "a leading member of a parish can be openly

pro-choice". As mentioned above, disregarding the Fifth Commandment surely, debars one from claiming to be such.

Hopefully after the disgraceful lack of balanced debate in the run-up to the abortion referendum, efforts will be made to ensure that this will not happen again and that fact and truth will in future form the basis of debates on vital issues.

*Yours etc.,
Mary Stewart,
Donegal, Co. Donegal.*

Every voter counted...

Dear Editor, A number of fellow students of mine in NUIG are non citizens, but some of them have told me that they voted illegally in the referendum on May 25. I also have friends who claim to have voted multiple times on May 25.

When Minister Simon Harris was at my University on Monday July 2, I raised this issue with him: I asked him to his face what he thought I should say to those students and what action he would be taking to clean up the register? I also asked him why the register wasn't cleaned up prior to the referendum. I found his refusal to answer my question quite rude. Have any of the readers of this paper had any issues with multiple polling cards or with the register of electors?

*Yours etc.,
Kaitlyn Cocuzzo,
Galway, Co. Galway.*



Pope's visit can bring hope and caring

Dear Editor, As we look forward to the visit of Pope Francis to our shores we hope that he will experience a warm and enthusiastic welcome.

There are, however, those who disagree with the teachings of the Church, handed down by God to his disciples in preaching the Gospel in all parts of the world. Cultural Catholics,

headed by people in power, are trying to force the Church to succumb to their liberal views and dictating to the Church what it should believe and how it should act.

We in Ireland should remember how a militant force during the Penal Times tried to silence the Church by forcing priests to say Mass

in hidden mountainous regions. The consequences for people practising their religion were frightening, but the Faith survived stronger than ever.

Pope Francis knows the problems people are experiencing in our modern liberal society. He sympathises with people and wishes he could do more to help them, but it's

not his remit to change or water down God's law in the 10 Commandments or the Sacraments.

Hoping his visit to Ireland will give hope and caring to the marginalised, the homeless and to those in need in body and soul.

*Yours etc.,
Breege Murray,
Adare, Co. Limerick.*

Isn't it time to close underused churches?

Dear Editor, As you sow, so shall you reap seems an apt quote for the times we are in. For decades the Irish Catholic Church has sown heavily in the field of nominal Catholicism, and reaped a poisoned harvest.

The recent abortion referendum result, and the public act of sacrilege performed in St Therese's Church in Mount Merrion, is the greatest wake-up call the Irish Church has received in decades.

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin has expressed an interest in divesting some Catholic schools so that the remainder are more fully Catholic. This is a very laudable aspiration, but surely it is now time to close down many churches in the archdiocese so that what remains are truly Catholic.

Recently, *The Irish Catholic* reported on a talk given in Dungarvan by the archbishop of Utrecht on the Dutch experience of closing Churches in order to better use resources. Based on church attendances in Dublin, as many as 30 to 40% of churches could be closed. This would create vibrant faith communities in the remaining churches, would provide a financial windfall and free a large number of personnel for evangelisation.

*Yours etc.,
Gerard Rooney,
Ballymacoda, Co. Cork.*

'We Are Which Church'?

Dear Editor, Recently we are hearing about the group 'We Are Church'. At least not Catholic Church! What is their aim?

The Church is the body of Christ. He came on Earth that we might be saved. He was obedient to the Father and we are asked to try to obey the Commandments, given us to safeguard and guide us on our journey.

The intention – the mission – of the Church is that every person gets to Heaven. When we hear important, educated people arguing for direct abortion does it not bring home the sadness and folly of not listening to and heeding the Church?

When we see the compassion and caring of Pope Francis, can we not unite and show some love in return.

*Yours etc.,
Carmel Ni Chuinin,
Blackrock, Co. Dublin.*

Eaten bread is soon forgotten

Dear Editor, I entirely endorse the sentiments of Mr Frank Browne (IC 5/7/2018) regarding our nuns. They, like our good clergy, have, in the main, been given a shockingly biased, scurrilous and unjust press.

Regarding the nuns' care of children...who else wanted these youngsters? The State certainly did not and their being looked after by nuns saved the Government a great deal of money. Perhaps these children's parents were dead or ill, unmarried or simply unable to look after them.

Their fathers are seldom, if ever, mentioned; yet some of these fathers may still be alive. They did not, it seems, claim them either.

Regarding the dedication of these good nuns, eaten bread, as they say, is soon forgotten. We all owe a debt of gratitude to these religious, who have borne painful insult and lies with fortitude and dignity. If still alive, may God console them, and rest their souls if they are dead.

*Yours etc.,
Isabella Corr,
Greyabbey, Co. Down.*

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.

Around the world



INDIA: Indian police stand outside the premises of the Missionaries of Charity home in Ranchi, where a nun was arrested on child trafficking charges. Photos: CNS



USA: Tom Dea and Andre van Hall, part of Team Samaritan House cycling team, take part in the Ride the Rockies in Frisco, Colorado. Participating in the high-altitude ride of more than 400 miles in the Colorado Rockies over six days, the team raised money for programmes and services provided by Denver Catholic Charities for homeless people.



VATICAN: Children perform at the start of an international conference marking the third anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si'*.



USA: People enjoy fireworks during Independence Day celebrations on a beach in Rose Haven, Maryland.

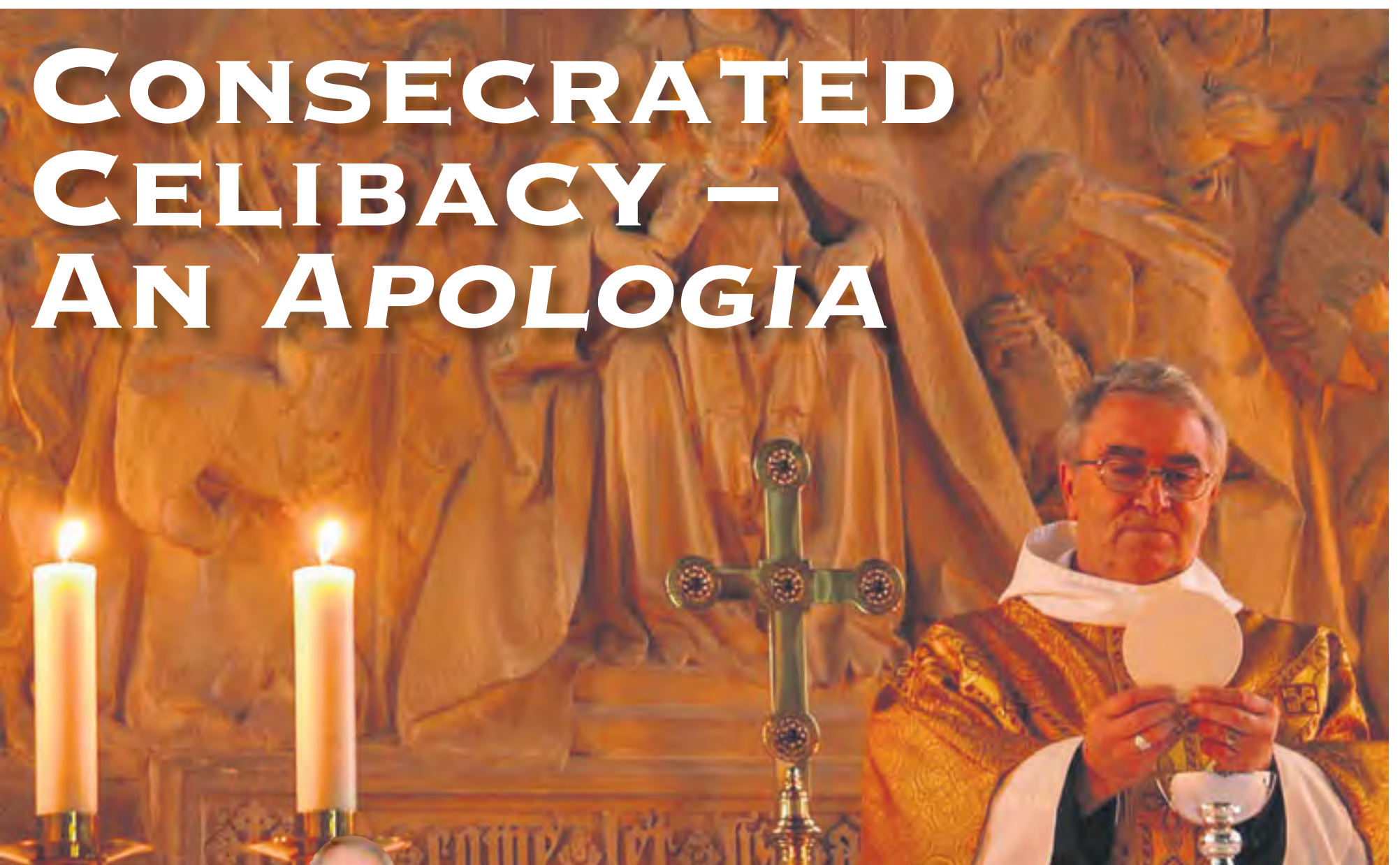


USA: A street performer celebrates Independence Day in Washington, July 4.



ITALY: Pope Francis and Pope Tawadros II of Alexandria, patriarch of the Coptic Orthodox Church, release doves as they stand with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople outside the Basilica of St Nicholas in Bari.

CONSECRATED CELIBACY – AN APOLOGIA



Huston Smith, the renowned commentator on world religions, submits that you should not judge a religion by its worst expressions, but by its best, its saints. That's also true in terms of judging the merits of vowed, consecrated celibacy. It should be judged by its best, not perverse, examples, as is true too for the institution of marriage.

I write this *apologia* because today consecrated celibacy is under siege from critics in almost every circle.

Celibacy is no longer understood or deemed realistic by a culture which basically refuses to accept any restrictions in the area of sexuality and in effect sees all celibacy, lived for whatever reason, as frigidity, *naïveté* or a misfortune of circumstance.

Our culture constitutes a virtual conspiracy against celibacy.

More critical still is how consecrated celibacy is being judged in the wake of the clerical sexual abuse scandal. More and more, there's a popular conception both within society and within church circles that sexual abuse in general and paedophilia in particular is more prevalent among priests and religious than in the population at large and that there's something inherent in consecrated celibacy itself that makes priests and vowed religious more prone to sexual



Fr Rolheiser

www.ronrolheiser.com

misconduct and emotional ill health. How true is this? Are celibates more prone to sexual misconduct than their non-celibate contemporaries? Are celibates more likely to be less healthy and happy in general than those who are married or who are sexually active outside of marriage?

“Sex is meant to lead us out of ourselves, out of aloneness, out of selfishness, into altruism, into family...”

This must be adjudicated, I believe, by looking at the deepest intentions of sex itself and, from there, assessing where both married persons and celibates for the most part tend to end up.

What's the ultimate intention of sex? What is this powerful archetypal energy meant to do in us? Generically, the answer is clear: sex is meant to lead us out of ourselves, out of aloneness, out of selfishness, into altruism, into family, into community, into generativity, into mellowness of heart, into delight, into happiness and ultimately (perhaps not always this side of eternity) into ecstasy.

Viewed through the prism of this criterion how do marriage and vowed celibacy compare? Mostly we see parallels: some people get married, become healthily generous and generative, remain faithful to their spouses and age into wholesome, happy, forgiving persons. Others write a different chronicle. They get married (or are sexually active outside of marriage) but do not become more generous and generative, do not remain faithful to their commitments in love, and age instead in sullenness, bitterness, and unhappiness.

The same is true for vowed celibates: some make the vow and become healthily generous and generative, remain faithful to the vow, and age into wholesome, happy, forgiving persons. For some others, most everything in their lives belies the transparency and fruitfulness that should stem from their celibacy and they do not become more selfless, generative, mellow, or happy. Instead, like some of their sexually active contemporaries, they also grow sullen, bitter and unhappy.

Sometimes this is the result of breaking their vow and sometimes it's the result of an unhealthily repressed sexuality. In either case, their vow isn't fruitful and generally leads to unhealthy compensatory

behaviors.

Celibacy, admittedly, comes fraught with some extra dangers because marriage and sex are the normal path that God intended for us. As Merton once put it, in celibacy we live inside a loneliness which God, himself, has condemned: it is not good for the man to be alone!

Sex and marriage are the norm and celibacy deviates from that. But that doesn't mean celibacy cannot be highly generative, meaningful and healthy and make for wholesomeness and happiness.

Some of the most generative and wholesome people that I know

are vowed celibates, aging into an enviable mellowness and peace. Sadly, the reverse is also true for some celibates. Of course all of this is equally true, both ways, for the married people that I know.

By their fruits you shall know them. Jesus offers us this as a criterion for judgment. But in judging celibacy and marriage (just in judging religions) we might add Huston Smith's counsel that we should judge each by its best expressions, by its saints, and not by its unhealthy expressions. Looking at marriage and celibacy we see in each both healthy and unhealthy manifestations; and it doesn't seem that either side trumps the other in terms of manifesting sanctity or dysfunction.

Willingness

That's not surprising since, in the end, both choices demand the same thing, namely, a willingness to sacrifice and sweat blood for the sake of love and fidelity.

Some celibates are unfaithful and some are paedophiles, but some become Mother Theresa. It's worth mentioning too that Jesus was a celibate. Some married persons are unfaithful, some are abusive, and some murder their spouses, but some give tangible, embodied, holy expression to God's unconditional love for the world and Christ's unbreakable bond with his church.

Sexuality is a reality that can be lived out in different modalities, and both marriage and celibacy are holy choices that can, sadly, go wrong.



Family & Lifestyle

The Irish Catholic, July 12, 2018

Personal Profile

People like
Orla don't
grow on trees

Page 30



Alone in a torrent of chat



It is perhaps the greatest contradiction of our modern age that even as avenues of communication have multiplied, allowing us spend more and more time in contact with others, we seem to feel increasingly isolated and alienated from those around us.

A tidal wave of technological advancements has empowered us to express ourselves to anyone who will listen as never before, but if one simply looks around at the people sitting next to you on your morning commute, it's difficult to shake the sneaking suspicion that those glowing screens are doing more to separate us than to bring us together.

It appears these are not



Loneliness is rife in modern Ireland, writes Davis Clark

unsubstantiated fears. In January, Britain appointed a Minister for Loneliness in order to combat, as British Prime Minister Theresa May put it, the "sad reality of modern life".

The Netherlands, in a similar move, recently invested €25 million into addressing widespread loneliness and isolation. Across the world, governments have slowly begun to take notice of the growing

body of research that has found that loneliness can have harmful consequences on the mental and even physical well-being of those who experience it.

And more people are experiencing it than ever. Eurostat, the statistical office of the EU, has found that 6% of all Europeans reported that they had no one to ask for help if they needed it, and the same percentage reported that they

had no one with whom they could discuss personal matters. With such troubling statistics, scores of scientists and public health advocates have called for more research and increased government efforts to help remedy this new widespread problem.

Not insulated

Ireland is in no way insulated from this problem. Founded by Dublin fireman Willie Bermingham in 1977, ALONE works to raise public awareness about loneliness, as well as to create potential solutions. CEO Seán Moynihan says of the current predicament: "The number of people who are isolated and lonely is on the

increase, but there are few to no initiatives supported by governments – no public health policies, nobody responsible."

The organisation recently launched an initiative known as the 'Loneliness Taskforce', which in turn released a report on the state of loneliness in Ireland. "What we want to do is make people aware of it, and give recommendations for action to support all people, regardless of age, who may be isolated and cut off from their communities to the extent that it does affect their health," says Moynihan.

The report, entitled 'A Connected Ireland', contains collations of hundreds of submissions, providing data from

» Continued on Page 29

Family News

AND EVENTS

Durrow's scarecrow hay day heyday

For those who've only seen scarecrows at a distance or in classic movies like the *Wizard of Oz*, the Durrow Scarecrow Festival is sure to offer an interesting and educational experience. Taking place in Durrow from July 29 to August 6, the festival will host the All-Ireland Scarecrow Championship, in which competitors from all over Ireland will be judged on who has created

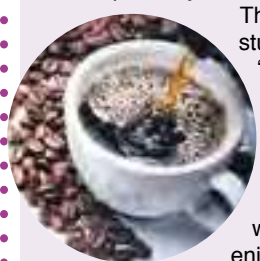
the most impressive scarecrow.

The festival will also include a Scarecrow Village with a food and crafts fair, as well as a playground and the

Scarecrow Electric picnic, where families can kick back and relax. With arts and crafts, an interactive zone, and even laser tag, the award-winning Scarecrow Festival truly has something for everyone. It's sure to be one of the liveliest family festivals in Ireland this summer.



COFFEE IS THE NEW ELIXIR: Many previous studies have shown that moderate coffee intake has many health benefits, but it seems like there is more good news for the coffeeholics among us. A recent study by both the National Cancer Institute and the National Institutes of Health found that coffee drinkers had a lower risk of premature death than non-coffee drinkers, and that this benefit extended to those who drank eight or more cups a day.



The authors of the study conclude that "these results provide further evidence that coffee drinking can be part of a healthy diet and may provide reassurance to those who drink coffee and enjoy it."

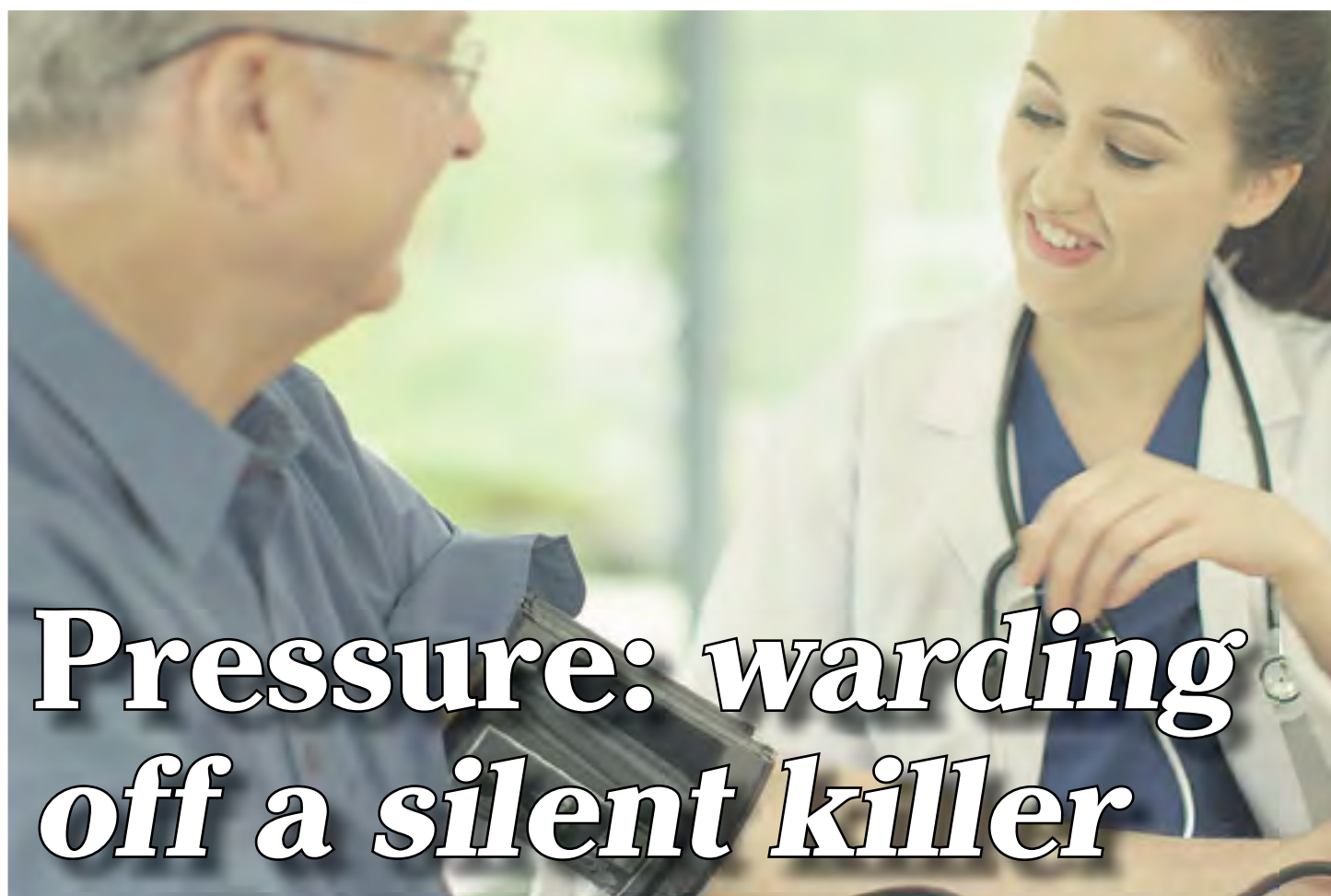
There is still much we don't know and research is bound to continue into coffee's specific effects on the human body, but it seems coffee lovers can enjoy their mornings free of guilt.

Keeping it snappy

The beautiful weather always sends friends and families on adventures, creating wonderful moments waiting to be recorded. Whether it be a pool party, a hike or even just a relaxing day on the porch, the summer is sure to bring memories that can be cherished forever.

The Fujifilm Instax Mini 9 Instant Camera provides an inexpensive and retro-feeling way to quickly photograph these moments. With a depth of settings as well as a durable build and the easy-to-use instant-photo system, the Instax can be used by both lovers of photography and young children alike.

It also comes equipped with a selfie-mirror, recommended aperture settings, and a High Key mode for portraits. Overall, this is a fun and vintage way to commemorate your summer, and you can be sure that these photos will be viewed for generations to come.



Pressure: warding off a silent killer

Do you keep an eye on your blood pressure? High blood pressure (hypertension) is one the biggest contributors to heart and stroke disease and premature death.

While having high cholesterol is often talked about, its negative effect is much less significant than hypertension.

Last year saw new guidelines being introduced by several organisations including the American Heart Association that lowered the threshold for diagnosis and treatment of high blood pressure.

So what constitutes high blood pressure? There are no clear-cut biological distinctions between what could be described as normal or high blood pressure. However, blood pressure tends to rise with age and even small increases above levels seen in healthy younger adults carries an increased risk.

There are two readings for blood pressure, the higher one (systolic) resulting when the heart is contracting and the lower reading (diastolic) when it relaxes in between.

“Higher pressure in our blood vessels causes more damage over time, leading to hardening of the arteries in our heart, brain and other vital organs”

A typical healthy reading would be 120/80 in a young person though some increase in readings with age has

Medical Matters

Dr Kevin McCarroll



traditionally being considered as normal and acceptable. However, a large study of more than 9,000 adults aged over 50 published in 2017 showed that treating blood pressure to reduce the systolic number to no more than 120 versus the standard target of 140 lowered the chance of a heart attack, heart failure and stroke over a three-year period. Indeed, risk was found to double at 130 versus 120.

Put simply, damage from blood pressure starts at levels lower than previously thought. This is not surprising in some ways as higher pressure in our blood vessel causes more damage over time, leading to hardening of the arteries in our heart, brain and other vital organs.

These guidelines caused some controversy as if applied they mean that about 15% more individuals will have either elevated blood pressure or stage 1 hypertension, yet would have been previously assigned as being normal range or pre-hypertension. However, the proportion of adults who require medications with new cut-offs is still low as many will be advised to adopt lifestyle changes.

More importantly, the approach is no longer to determine who gets medications based solely on blood pressure level but on overall risk of stroke or heart attack over the next 10 years which can be formally estimated. For example, if you already have had a heart attack or stroke then treatment target should be 130/80. If you are otherwise well with no risk factors then medications are usually started at readings of 140/90 or above.

“Having a blood pressure as near as possible to your own healthy baseline level when young is probably the ideal”

Blood pressure levels should be based on the average of two to three readings on at least two different occasions. It is not uncommon for some patients to have blood pressure monitors at home which are relatively inexpensive.

However, devices can lose accuracy over time and in addition, it's important that certain basic steps are followed when taking readings. For

example, avoid caffeinated or alcoholic drinks for up to 30 mins before your check. Make sure you are seated for about five minutes before, with the arm being checked supported at or near heart level and your legs uncrossed. When there is possible 'white coat' hypertension where readings are high on visiting the doctor, then a 24-hour blood-pressure monitor should be considered.

Excess weight

While up to 90% of all cases of high blood pressure have no clear obvious cause, excess weight, smoking, alcohol and salt intake can all help to push it up. For those who are overweight, it can be expected that for every one kilogram of weight lost, there will be a drop in your systolic blood pressure (top reading) by about one unit.

Overall, about two thirds of adults have high blood pressure and in many cases medication will be required. There are several classes of tablets available that are effective and indeed it is not uncommon to be on several different medications to achieve optimal control.

In essence, having a blood pressure as near as possible to your own healthy baseline level when young is probably the ideal. However, there are some exceptions. Too tight a control of blood pressure can lead to dizziness and falls especially in older adults.

In summary, high blood pressure is a 'silent killer' and yet very common so make sure to keep a check on it!

Dr Kevin McCarroll is a Consultant Physician in Geriatric Medicine, St James's Hospital, Dublin.

» Continued from Page 27



Seán Moynihan.

people of all age groups around the country. The report is meant to be useful to the untrained reader – “it’s very readable, you could read it in 20 minutes”, says Mr Moynihan.

The report also contains a series of five recommendations to help combat these issues. Among these, the taskforce calls for a government body to take some sort of responsibility for addressing these problems.

“At the moment, no Government department is responsible, and if no one is responsible no one is accountable,” says Mr Moynihan, noting the recent efforts made by Holland and Britain, although he also says that the taskforce isn’t necessarily calling for a minister. The group also seeks to galvanise more research into isolation and its effects. “We know enough to know that we need to take action,” says Moynihan, “but we need more research”.

Most significantly, the Loneliness Taskforce calls for the creation by the Government of a fund of around €3 million to aid in the fight against loneliness. The money would be used “to deliver funding streams to agencies whose primary goal is battling loneliness and isolation”, Mr Moynihan says.

“We currently have 1,200-1,300 volunteers befriending and visiting day in and day out”

ALONE itself focuses primarily on the older population, a demographic which has been shown to be particularly susceptible to isolation. “People may not be aware that around a third of people over 65 live on their own, and around 10% of people over 65 struggles with isolation to the extent that it will shorten their lives,” Moynihan says.

ALONE has been working to provide support to these populations, primarily through volunteer placement. “We currently have 1,200-1,300 volunteers befriending and visiting day in and day out, supporting older people with friendship,” says Mr Moynihan,

but the group still has ground to cover. “Our goal is to recruit another 9,000 volunteers and even then we’d only be helping 10% of people who are lonely.”

In addition to ALONE’s historical focus on older people, the creation of the Loneliness Taskforce represents a push to recognise the presence and effects of loneliness in the everyday lives of people of all ages, including younger people.

Within their report is a series of personal story submissions. Mr Moynihan points to a story about a civil servant, still of working age: “He looks very good, but has no contact week after week.”

New mediums

He also cites the personal account of a young college student. The young man realised that, “after seeing loneliness help ads, although it was Sunday and he had been going to college and the gym every day he still hadn’t spoken to anyone since Wednesday”, says Moynihan. Even the generations of people who are most adept with the new mediums of communication suffer from isolation.

To help explain this contradiction, Mr Moynihan points to changes within our society brought by the modern age. “What we’re trying to do is say that maybe some of the traditional support systems of friends and relations and businesses that provided interaction, maybe these links have changed. It could be people moving away, or people living in smaller families. Maybe now we have to work to create those links that used to be natural,” he says.

And this is just what ALONE

and the Loneliness Taskforce are seeking to raise support to do, but it’s a complex issue, and Mr Moynihan points to the various misunderstandings surrounding loneliness. “When you’re hungry, you go get food, but when you’re lonely what do you do? Not everybody has the confidence to link back in. There’s also a lot of work to be done focusing on destigmatising mental health.”

It’s important that we work to remove this stigma, Mr Moynihan says, because loneliness can actually affect mental and physical health in various ways. “Our experience is that an awful lot of loneliness ends up as depression. People who are lonely stop minding themselves. It’s hard to get motivated to do something when you have no one to share dinner with, no one to talk to. People’s physical and mental health starts spiralling downward.”

“It’s hard to get motivated to do something when you have no one to share dinner with”

Along with structural changes, Mr Moynihan asks individuals experiencing loneliness to understand that they can express their problems. “Individuals need to recognise their situation, like the student, realising and understanding that there are many people in their situation and they should reach out to someone. Older people can reach out to us at ALONE, people can go to the Irish Youth Council. Ultimately they can go to their GP and primary healthcare. We need to destigmatise mental health, and people shouldn’t be afraid to reach out.”

Moynihan also suggests that anyone feeling isolated try to do some volunteer work: “Volunteering is both a great way to combat loneliness and a great way to contribute to your community.”

And the doors at ALONE are always open, Mr Moynihan says. “Of course if they want to come volunteer for us, we welcome them to apply.”

Faith — IN THE — family

Bairbre Cahill



At Mass on Sunday I found my eye drawn towards a father and his small child, aware of the gentleness and tenderness of the father towards his son. That involved keeping the little adventurer in his seat but in a way that encouraged the boy to keep close to his daddy. The father was a source of snuggles, loving touch and tenderness.

I have similar memories of going to Mass when I was small. An aunt of mine sometimes came with us and she would run her fingers up and down my arm, reducing me to a state of quiet relaxation and good behaviour.

It is no wonder that we respond so positively to gentleness. Scientists have found that when we have positive encounters with each other the hormone oxytocin is released in our brains. So that gentle, tender touch releases oxytocin, helping us to feel connected and loved. Indeed, oxytocin is known as the love hormone because it is so important in building human relationships.

Naturally released oxytocin is vital to help a pregnant woman go into labour. When she is in labour the presence of someone she loves helps to keep her oxytocin levels up and her contractions strong.

Ideally, when the baby is born he should be put on his mother’s chest – skin to skin contact allowing oxytocin to be released in the mother and in the baby. It is now recognised that this love hormone plays an important part in attachment and bonding – that vital building of relationship between a mother and her child.

Along with structural changes, Mr Moynihan asks individuals experiencing loneliness to understand that they can express their problems. “Individuals need to recognise their situation, like the student, realising and understanding that there are many people in their situation and they should reach out to someone. Older people can reach out to us at ALONE, people can go to the Irish Youth Council. Ultimately they can go to their GP and primary healthcare. We need to destigmatise mental health, and people shouldn’t be afraid to reach out.”

Opportunities

We have opportunities each day to experience the benefits of oxytocin and encourage that in others. Every positive encounter – laughter, touch, gentleness, encouragement – all release oxytocin. It boosts our mood, makes us feel connected, more positive and safer.

The opposite is the effect of cortisol, the stress hormone. Too much of that and we can feel anxious, isolated, unsafe. Cortisol is known as the ‘fight

or flight’ hormone – so either we become aggressive or run away. It is not surprising that the choices we make can be influenced by the levels of oxytocin or cortisol in our system.

This all came up in a conversation I had last week with two friends – one a doctor, one a midwife and birthing specialist – about how we can offer women better options than abortion.

From their shared experience it was clear that context is so important when a woman finds out she is pregnant. If that context is

screaming ‘crisis’ at her – be that emotional, financial, social, or whatever – then the cortisol response may mean she is more likely to choose abortion. Somehow, we need to offer women a positive, safe place in which to consider her future.

Part of that may be about encouraging positive conversations about pregnancy and birth. So many women are afraid of how their bodies will change, afraid of childbirth, afraid of losing control of their own futures by becoming mothers. There is another narrative there which needs to be heard, about the amazing power and strength of women, the wonderful transformation of life through parenthood.

We also need to back that narrative up with practical support. In *Amoris Laetitia*, Pope Francis encourages us to demand family friendly policies from those in government. Poverty, unemployment, homelessness – these all militate against family life and need to be challenged by every person that sees themselves as pro-life.

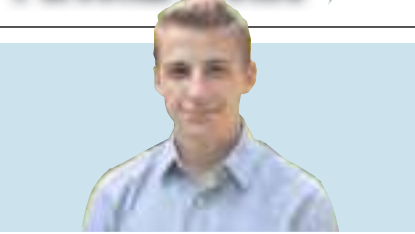
We also need to equip our young adults so that if a friend confides a pregnancy they can reach out with love and support creating a safe place, an oxytocin-rich environment in which decisions can be made.

I came away from the conversation with my friends buzzing with a sense of life and possibility. I find myself returning to Jesus’ words: “I came that you might have life, life to the full.” We are called to be sources of life in every sense. We can start with a smile, a hug, a shared laugh – we can be agents of oxytocin!



People like Orla don't grow on trees...

Personal Profile



Matthew Carlson speaks with environmental activist Orla Farrell

Most people on the street don't think much when they pass a tree. They walk past it without any thought or regard to it. Orla Farrell is not one of those people. In fact, she is one of the directors for an organisation called Crann which helps raise awareness for the environmental importance and significance of trees, with her specific emphasis working with school children. Orla has been involved in taking care of trees for almost 20 years. She says her fascination began as a little girl.

"I first heard when I was six that Ireland was at the bottom of the league for tree coverage," says Orla. She explains that after that her interest in trees grew. Her first opportunity to plant herself came in 1999. Since then, she has always been interested in trees, and jumped at the chance to plant a grove of native trees. That was only the beginning.

Orla says that after she saw Al Gore's film *An Inconvenient Truth*, which released in 2006, she started a Green Flag initiative at St Laurence in Baldoyle where she is a teacher. She was then inspired by a German teen by the name of Felix, who challenged the children of the world to plant one million trees in

each country. "We have one million school children here in Ireland including the North, so that comes out to on average one tree per kid."

Orla was inspired to begin this initiative in Ireland.

Orla realises that Ireland has a problem in the area of capturing carbons

"Last week we planted the last of 3,305 trees in our local park with ten different schools."

She doesn't plan on slowing down any time soon and says that her goal is to have all one million of Ireland's trees planted by the year 2023.

Orla helps put together tree academies, which educate school children on how to properly plant

trees and then continue to take care of them.

"For the first few years, the trees need help looking after them. The right knowledge is needed to know how to do that properly," says Orla.

Orla continued to say that Ireland stands at the near bottom of the league in terms of tree coverage, only above Holland. "Our tree coverage is sitting at 11.5%, which is not good," says Orla.

She explains how the UK used to be in a similar situation but has since put initiatives in place and they have seen improvement in their tree coverage. Orla is trying to get a similar agenda going in Ireland. Although a positive person, Orla realises that Ireland has a problem in the area of capturing carbons. "Trees are the best catchers of carbons that we have," says Orla. "They're tried and tested.



Orla (also inset) and team at the launch of the trillion tree campaign, Monaco



We could wait for some engineers to build great machines to capture carbons but in the meantime, planting trees is the best hope we have."

She continues that there is a lot of damage done in terms of carbons being in the air, especially in the realm of agriculture, and that trees are the best way to combat that.

Orla hopes that by the end of the year, there will be a new tree planted for every school in Ireland. "Citizens can do a lot in

finding a little corner a little space where they can plant two or three trees. All of these trees planted can be added to the global tree counter which is at 15 billion at the present," says Orla.

As it stands, Crann has aided in the planting of one tree for every primary school in Ireland. This winter they hope to continue and plant one for each secondary school as well as primary schools in the North. Orla says that their organisation is always looking for schools and individuals who want to run a tree academy for children, similar to the one started at her school.

Orla says that her organisation was even contacted by the organisers of Pope Francis' trip to Ireland. They are in coordination to incorporate a tree planting element to his visit in August. They are currently waiting to hear back from the organisers to decide on which event will be most suiting for the Pope.

Planting parties

Some of Orla's most recent work has taken her as far as Kilfenora and Kerry in Ireland where they host planting parties in which every child in a school will come out and participate in a tree planting.

Orla says that it is important to get people involved and talking about issues involving trees and the environment. "People are frightened about climate change and they feel like it is something too big for them to cope with."

Orla references a video that describes the 28 native trees in Ireland to help people in deciding what trees to plant themselves, because she believes that change will happen when people get involved even on a small scale.

"Bit by bit we will get these trees in the ground," Orla says.

i For more information about Easy Treesie, see: <http://www.easytreesie.com/contact-us/>



Children's Corner

Davis Clark

Get creative with some seaside treasures

The summer is sure to send many of us to the beach to soak up the sun and cool off. While you're there, you may stumble across some shells. Collecting shells is a fun and time-honoured activity, and a great way for kids to explore their environment. If they hold on to the shells they collect, there are many cool things they can do with them, while also getting quality time making arts and crafts.

Sea spelling

You can use rocks, shells, and seaweed to spell your name in a creative way! First, find a sheet of paper (preferably something heavy) and glue it onto a picture frame background. Next, take all of your shells and rocks you collected at the beach and try to spell your name! Get creative and move them around until you like it, then glue it all into place. When you're done, you'll have a cool nametag that you can put anywhere, like your wall or your bedroom door.

Rainbow rigging

If you want to add some happy colour to your

walls, you can make a rainbow out of shells. First cut out a rainbow shape from a piece of cardboard. Then, take all your shells and divide them into different piles, and decide on a colour to paint all the shells in each pile.

Once you have piles of shells that are all painted different colours and have dried, lightly draw arches on the cardboard that correspond to the different colours of shells. Glue the shells to the matching coloured arches. Once that's done, you'll have a rainbow made of seashells in four different colours!

Fossil forming

For an ancient feel, roll three medium size balls of clay into somewhat thick slabs, and cut circles out of them using cookie cutters. Press one of your favourite shells into the surface of the clay

circle and remove it after a few seconds. You can poke a hole in the top, and once it dries put a piece of string through it to wear it as a necklace! Otherwise, put your new fossil somewhere as a reminder of your expedition.

Mandala making

If you like patterns, you can place a shell in the centre of a circular piece of cardboard or wood. This will be your centrepiece, so choose your favourite shell. Working out from the centre, making some kind of repeating circular design – you could do rings of different-coloured shells, or shells of different shapes and sizes. Get creative, and no matter what your mandala will be unique!

There are a lot of great ways to use what you've found during your adventures on the beach, all while exercising creativity. So go and see what you can make!



TVRadio

Brendan O'Regan



Doc on rebel with a cause was poor fare

With the papal visit imminent we can expect some related documentaries, and on Tuesday of last week RTÉ1 was first in line.

Rebel Pope was a docu-drama from National Geographic, and while it was worth watching I wasn't that impressed. The most interesting aspects dealt with revolutionary times in Argentina when Jorge Bergoglio, later Pope Francis, was Superior of the Jesuits in Argentina. His evolution from 'authoritarian conservative' to a more pastoral person was treated rather simplistically and superficially, though the film makers did make some effort to convey his inner struggles after the mistreatment, in Government custody, of his more radical priests.

With so much archive footage and commentators available, the ropery dramatisations felt superfluous and even irritating, with dodgy South American accents in English and rather stilted acting. I did like the emotional scenes with his mother, who didn't seem too enthusiastic about his vocation, but the torture scenes when the 'slum priests' were arrested, were rather graphic.

His election as Pope was dramatised, though very little of the film was about that time, but at the end they used a montage of archive footage of Francis himself – I felt it was only then that the



Jorge Mario Bergoglio, a young Pope Francis, pictured with his family – his papal approach was the subject of *Rebel Pope* broadcast on RTÉ1.

warmth of Pope Francis really came through.

A straightforward documentary would have been much better, especially as they were already quite a bit down that road anyway, with news footage from Argentina, interviews with original witnesses and contributions from biographers like Austen Ivereigh and Paul Vallely.

Gratuitous

Back in the broader culture, political correctness can serve a useful function if it prevents gratuitous offence to vulnerable people, but sometimes

it can go too far. It can seem that we're happier riding the swinging pendulum than practicing a bit of sensible moderation. These thoughts were prompted by an item on **Weekend** (BBC World Service) last Sunday morning. Protests have halted a popular musical in Montreal – *Slav* was a performance of slave songs from the African American tradition, but a critic, Marilou Craft, objected to the cultural appropriation, fearing it would only be white people performing the songs.

The performer, Betty Bonifassi, was trying to show the

universality of the experience of slavery across several ethnicities, but this wasn't enough to save the show. Craft was adept in not answering questions, e.g. asked if whites should ever be allowed sing such slave songs, she answered that she had no problem with whites 'talking' about them. I can understand programmes like *The Black and White Minstrel Show* going out of fashion as culture matures and develops, but this latest example goes over the top.

Later that morning I heard on RTÉ Radio 1's **News** about Minister Regina Doherty progressing a bill to allow children change gender more easily.

More strange priorities I thought in the light of crises in health and housing, not to mention the recent referendum – abandoning the right to life of some children but giving others a right to pick



Minister Regina Doherty.

PICK OF THE WEEK

MURACH GUR THARLA

TG4, Saturday, July 14, 11am

Historians discuss Catholic Emancipation and what might Ireland be like today if it hadn't happened.

MASS

RTÉ, Sunday, July 15, 11am

Mass of the Family from Co. Laois, specially composed by Tom Conroy. Celebrated by Bishop Denis Nulty with soloist Orla Fallon.

FATHER BROWN

RTÉ1, Tuesday, July 17, 3,30pm

Unseasonal Christmas episode kicks off season 5 featuring Chesterton's priest-sleuth.

and choose their gender!

A related discussion on **Sunday Morning Live** (BBC 1) last weekend wondered 'Should children be raised gender neutral?' but the discussion focused too narrowly on skirts v trousers for girls. At least we got a variety of perspectives on the matter. Julie Lynn of Conservative Woman identified a 'creeping ideology' – she thought children shouldn't be forced to present as gender neutral and favoured choice – girls should be able to wear skirts in school if they wanted to.

Transgender actor Rebecca Root disagreed and wanted trousers to be obligatory for school uniforms. Pastor Clement Okusi was not happy with schools pushing the idea to kids that you can change gender – he thought it no more possible than him changing the colour of his skin.

It often puzzles me how people who identify as the

opposite sex get adulation while those who identify as a different colour (e.g. trans black) get lambasted for cultural appropriation.

Over emphasising sexual identity can be a trap, especially for the young, according to Daniel Mattson, who was interviewed on **Life on the Rock** (EWTN) last Saturday. Formerly in a gay relationship he now identifies as a loved child of God and lives in harmony with Church teaching helped by the Courage Ministry.

Without being in any way homophobic or insensitive he had lots of sensible and empathic advice, including for parents whose children show same-sex attraction, as outlined in his book *Why I Don't Call Myself Gay*.

📧 boregan@hotmail.com



Aubrey Malone

Film

House of horrors in rural America in 1969

The Secret of Marrowbone (15A)

There's a scene in this where a girl puts her hand into a hole in the ceiling with a morsel of food to feed a skunk that's living in her attic. When she does so, a human hand fondles her. I don't know about you, but if that happened to me I'd be out the door as fast as my legs could carry me. What does the girl do? She washes her hands.

I've said it before and I'll say it again: most people in horror films are masochists. Of course if they weren't, there would be no movies.



Some of the cast of *The Secret of Marrowbone*.

Very good
★★★★

So you accept it, just like you accept everything else in these films that flies in the face of reason.

The haunted house scenario is as old as cinema itself. Here it's a bit different because we see the person

who's haunting it. And he isn't too scary – apart from being a ghost, that is. (Okay, so that's a big 'apart'.)

He's the monstrous father of a British family of four. Jack (George MacKay) is the eldest. He kills his father – or does

he? – and they all move to America to live in the house where their mother grew up.

She dies here. To get the house put into their names they have to pretend she's still alive. This means forging her signature on the legal documents. Porter (Kyle Soller) is the lawyer they have to fool.

He wants to form a relationship with local girl Allie (Anya Taylor-Joy) but Allie is more interested in Jack. Will he cop onto the forged document and use it as a lever to prise Ellie away from Jack?

That's just one of the issues in this fascinating film, which lodges itself somewhere

between *The Waltons* and *The Shining*. Another one is the sum of money they have to pay Porter to expedite the transaction. This has been retrieved from the dead father, so it's blood money. It can't bring them luck, can it?

Surprise

There's a big surprise towards the end which I won't reveal. Sergio Sanchez directs with a mixture of warm family feeling and fear. You suspend disbelief and enter into his world wholeheartedly, even to the extent of thinking, "hmm, yes, a skunk would be nice as a pet all the same – you'd probably

get used to the smell after a while".

The cast is brilliant. Soller has one of those faces that's straight out of the past. So is that of Jane (Mia Goth) one of the siblings. The other two have more contemporary faces but their acting is so good it makes this not a problem.

The tension builds nicely towards the grim finale. I expected a further shock in the epilogue like the one in *Psycho* where Anthony Perkins has the last laugh on all of us but we don't get it. Maybe this is for the best. We've been through enough.

BookReviews

Peter Costello



The great achievements and lessons of the medieval Church

Heroism and Genius: How Catholic Priests Helped to Build – And Can Help Rebuild – Western Civilization

William J. Slattery
(Ignatius Press, \$24.95 / £18.82).

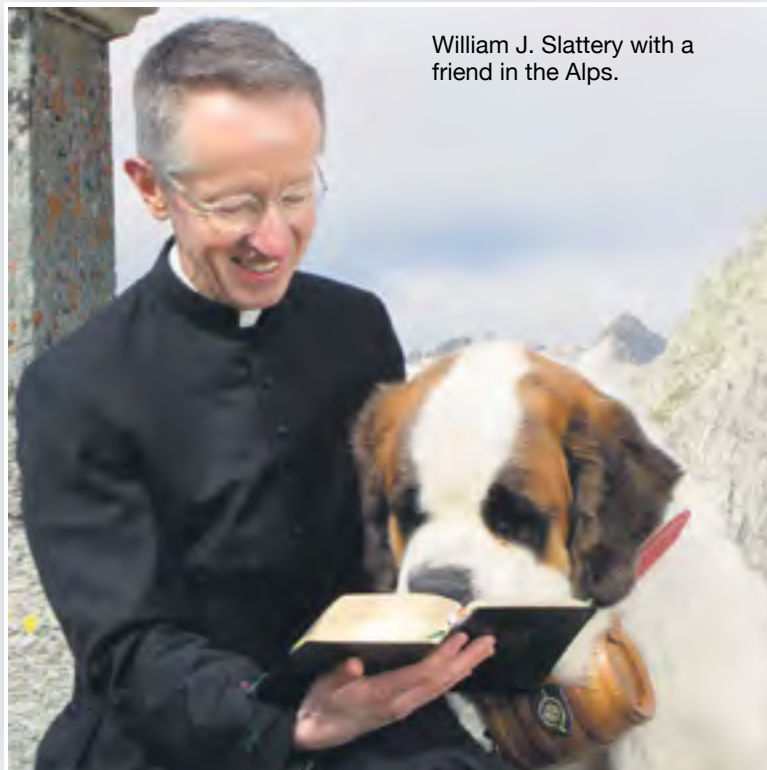
J. Anthony Gaughan

In this ambitious book the author records the significant contribution made by priests to the arts, literature, philosophy and the sciences. He ranges across the centuries. Among those he lists are Sts Ambrose, Augustine, Leo the Great and Gregory the Great. He credits them with rescuing civilisation during the Dark Ages which followed the Fall of the Roman Empire.

Apart from listing priests who had magisterial roles in the development of various disciplines, he sets out the Christian parish as the very core and guardian of civilisation.

Sacraments

The parish provided not only the sacraments, but also the other needs of soul and body. From the time of Charlemagne and Alcuin in the 9th Century the feature of a school attached to a church became common in the Carolingian Empire. Every boy and girl could attend school free of charge and acquire a basic education.



William J. Slattery with a friend in the Alps.

Likewise, if poverty struck at one's door, the parish was a refuge since it was a place where pastors, who were men of the people, showed sensitive compassion to the plight of the indigent and the vulnerable. With such leadership par-

ishes fostered an ethos of solidarity, sense of community and the civic virtues.

Complementing the communal life in the parishes was the transformative influence of the religious orders, not least that of the Ben-

edictines. Then there were the missionary monks. Outstanding among those were Saint Columbanus and his colleagues. They evangelised in France, Switzerland, Austria and Italy.

Every monastery they established became an important centre of learning. The last monastery to be founded by St Columbanus at Bobbio in Northern Italy, was to be an important champion of orthodoxy for two centuries and was reputed to have had one of the greatest libraries in the Middle Ages.

“The author discusses the long and tortuous road women have had to travel to achieve their true standing in society”

Slattery does not eschew the discussion of controversial topics. Modern Western-style democracies are based on free market economics. This is defined as the buying and selling of goods though free enterprise by peaceful social co-operation, without any form of coercion from governmental intervention.

It has been claimed that the theoretical principles of this market economy developed out of Calvinism and the Protestant mind-set

and were popularised by Adam Smith (1723-90) in his *The Wealth of Nations*. However, Slattery shows that the theoretical principles of the market economy were fully developed by the Spanish schoolmen of the 16th Century and drove the markets of Europe from that time onwards.

The author discusses the long and tortuous road women have had to travel to achieve their true standing in society and the role of the Church in that odyssey. In the pagan world, and that of the Roman Empire, women were treated as chattels. As the influence of the Church on the world increased that attitude changed. In Christian marriage men and women were set out as equals.

In the Middle Ages women exercised authority over the great female religious orders just as men in the corresponding male orders. Women, especially queen mothers, emerged as power-brokers in the evolution of medieval dynasties. But it has not been until the 20th Century that there has been clear gains for women's rights and people being more equal. Yet, the struggle for women's rights has much more road to travel, especially in regions beyond the Western world.

This book is a wonderful read. It is scholarly and meticulously sourced and has an excellent index.

The Irish Missionaries who helped create Europe

On the Summits of the Highest Love

by Enzo Farinella
(Edizioni Grafiser, €15.00)

Through Mountains and Valleys

by Enzo Farinella
(Edizioni Grafiser, €15.00)

Joe Carroll

The author is a former cultural attaché at the Italian embassy in Dublin, who has settled in Ireland as a journalist and RAI correspondent, and has made it his mission in life to research and publicise the exploits of the Irish monks who carried their Faith and learning to the Europe of what is often called (perhaps mistakenly) 'the Dark Ages'.

The Roman Empire was crumbling and the barbarians poured in from the East. The story of how the Irish 'saved civilisation' in medieval Europe, to use Thomas Cahill's phrase, has often been told. The late Cardinal Ó Fiaich used to warn that a number of these saviours were "doubtfully Irish", but there is growing evidence that the Irish contribution to preserving Christianity and its monastic culture

in what is today France, Germany, Italy, Austria and Switzerland was enormous.

These two books explore aspects of this era of achievement. Both books are illustrated and have a German as well as an English text, so that they can truly be shared by an international readership.

The first gives special attention to St Gall (560-646 AD) and the monastery and cathedral of St Gallen which developed from his pioneering efforts. The northern Swiss canton where they are situated also bears his name.

The library holds more than 400 Irish manuscripts and musical works copied by the monks. Among these is the famous 'Plan of St Gall', showing the layout of an ideal medieval monastery, an intellectual treasure of the first rank.

Invasion

A less known monastery is Reichenau, associated with the Irish monk St Pirmin (c.700-753 AD), which stands on an island in Lake Constance (the Bodensee), which lies between modern Germany, Switzerland and Austria.



This survived down to 1802 and the Napoleonic invasion of the region; some of its treasures were lost at that time, but many are preserved in the library in Karlsruhe (a creation of the 18th Century).

Farinella's second book deals more with Austria and the work of St Rupert, the first Bishop of Salzburg and founder of the monastery of St Peter there which still exists. His Irish origins are uncertain, but there are traces of his work in Bavaria and along the

Danube valley.

He was followed in Salzburg by the definitely Irish St Virgil, or Fergal, born around 700 AD in Co. Meath. He was also renowned as a geographer, and taught that the world was round. He clashed with St Boniface, the Apostle of Germany, over baptisms and the independence of the Celtic church. St Zachary, who reigned as Pope between 741 and 752, the last of the Byzantine Popes, who has been described as a capable

administrator and a skilful and subtle diplomat in a dangerous time, supported Fergal.

“They were territories, not countries, lands where the borders changed with each new local ruler”

It is impossible for a modern reader to visualise the conditions in which these pioneering monks worked in. In those centuries these regions, only just emerging as real nations, were akin to a forested wilderness (perhaps like North America a thousand years later). They were territories, not countries, lands where the borders changed with each new local ruler.

One can only marvel at the missionary zeal and achievements of these saintly scholars and sturdy pioneers. They can truly be called a group of nation builders, for they are to be counted among the people who laid the seed bed of modern Europe.

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.

The men who are really responsible for the sorry state of the world



Bean Counters: The Triumph of the Accountants and How They Broke Capitalism by Richard Brooks (Atlantic, £18.99)

Peter Hegarty

Brooks' theme is "the demise of sound accounting". Slipshod work by the 'Big Four' companies that dominate the profession – PricewaterhouseCoopers, Ernst & Young, Deloitte, and KPMG – have brought it into disrepute.

The author, an investigative journalist with *Private Eye* magazine, offers many revealing examples of the obvious going unnoticed.

KPMG offered unqualified endorsement of the finances of British bank HBOS as it went to the wall.

Ernst & Young, which audited the books of Lehman Brothers, was arguably responsible for the crash of 2008: "Without the deceptive accounting in which the bean counters were complicit, Lehman would not have reached the scale that it did or have been full of so much financially toxic waste. It might well have been saved, allowing for an orderly rather than chaotic resolution to the world's dysfunctional banking system."

Beggars belief

Brooks quotes Judge Donal O'Donovan, who presided over legal action taken here against Ernst & Young for its work on Anglo: "It beggars belief that Ernst & Young signed off on the accounts. How they signed off on the accounts as true and fair is a mystery to me."

Things become clearer if you accept Brooks' contention that the Big Four look the other way because they put business relationships before honest accounting. Nowadays they earn more from consultancy – offering advice – than they do from auditing. The consultant who tells it straight risks antagonising the client: no-one likes shelling out money to hear that they're making a bag of the business.

Deloitte learnt a hard lesson about the dangers of professionalism when the British government sin-binned the company for six months for pointing out gaps in its preparations for Brexit.

“He suggests state oversight of audits of companies and financial institutions that are systemically vital”

Consultancy today is about continuity, not candour, about identifying new areas for co-operation from which fees will flow: consultants offer advice, but also create the demand for it.

With multiple clients the Big Four inevitably find themselves in conflicts of interest. PwC, for instance, worked for Imperial Tobacco as well as the NHS, helping to sell cigarettes while trumpeting its commitment to a healthier Britain.

When it comes to the Big Four "nothing succeeds

like failure", the author says, offering the example of KPMG: "Although – more than any other firm – it missed the devaluation of subprime mortgages that led to a world banking collapse, before long it was brought in by the European Central Bank for a 'major role in the asset quality review process' of most of the banks that now needed to be "stress-tested."

Brooks argues for a break-up of the 'cartel'. He suggests state oversight of audits of companies and financial institutions that are systemically vital, "too big to fail", as they used to say.

Reform will be glacially slow in the teeth of determined opposition from corporate behemoths that employ hundreds of thousands of people around the world, make billions in profits, have become 'entwined' with the apparatus of state in Britain and the United States – and indeed Ireland – and can deploy armies of lobbyists.

This very engrossing book warns that a likely consequence of a failure to shake up the Big Four – and reform the financial markets – will be another crash.

WebWatch

Greg Daly

Barcelona's sign of the invisible God is building

It's unlikely that there's a more conspicuous or remarkable example of Catholic art in the modern world than Antoni Gaudi's Sagrada Familia basilica in Barcelona, described by Pope Benedict in 2010 as standing "as a visible sign of the invisible God, to whose glory these spires rise like arrows pointing towards absolute light and to the One who is Light, Height and Beauty itself".

The basilica's story has been a long and staggering one since construction began in 1882; less than a quarter of the project was complete by 1926, and even in 2010 it was thought to be only half-finished. Many will have had little hope of seeing the church finished in their lifetimes.

In recent years, however, advances in stone-cutting technology have transformed the pace of construction, and there is good reason to believe Sagrada Familia will be complete by 2028, if not by the anniversary of Gaudi's death in 2026. A July 4 post at blog.sagradafamilia.org raises and answers in enthralling style the question of whether today's church builders are truly following Gaudi, while two days earlier [@sagradafamilia](https://twitter.com/sagradafamilia) tweeted a video of the 18-tonne, 7.5m high and 4.25m wide 'Cross of Glory' being put in position on the basilica's Passion façade. Remarkable and faithful progress indeed seems to be being made.

Steady stream of snippets

Less ostentatious but in its own way no less important an achievement of Catholic art is the body of work penned in the 1950s and 1960s by the American author Flannery O'Connor, and those wishing to learn more about the remarkable writer of such tales as 'A Good Man is Hard to Find' and 'Wise Blood' could do worse than follow [@beataproduction](https://twitter.com/beataproduction), the Twitter account for the



Inside the basilica in Barcelona.

documentary *Uncommon Grace: The Life of Flannery O'Connor*.

Among other things, the account offers a steady stream of snippets of wisdom from the Georgia Catholic, ranging from "conviction without experience makes for harshness" and "the first product of self-knowledge is humility" to "you will have found Christ when you are concerned with other people's sufferings and not your own".

Lest these feel like the kind of wise sayings that almost anyone could have said, there are no shortage of observations there that could only have come from Flannery's own pen, with one especially cutting and thought-provoking one last week focusing on the price we pay when we take our eyes off Christ.

"In the absence of this faith now, we govern by tenderness. It is tenderness which, long since cut off from the person of Christ, is wrapped in theory," she wrote, continuing, "...it ends in forced-labour camps and in the fumes of the gas chamber."

The account links to clips and articles

too, including to, for example, such pieces as an americamagazine.org analysis of her relationship with Robert Giroux, 'Flannery O'Connor and the Catholic editor who nurtured her career'.

Contemplation as it used to be

Also of interest on the America site of late is a review by Greg Hillis – [@gregorykhillis](https://twitter.com/gregorykhillis) on Twitter – of Paul Quenon's *In Praise of the Useless Life*. 'Review: A Trappist monk tells of a life worth living'.

Hillis wrote of how "Western society is one that increasingly devalues the importance of leisure, the kind of leisure that is open to a contemplation that gives meaning to existence. We have instead structured our lives around 'useful' work, giving little or no time to the silence required for contemplation."

Viewed with the eyes of a work-obsessed culture, the monastic life seems meaningless, Hillis says, but Bro. Paul's book, if his reading of it is fair, shows that it can be anything but, and can have real lessons for us all.

● Finally, and recalling Flannery's comments on how our culture is one where sentiment has replaced a reasoned Faith and human lives are deemed disposable, it's worth taking a look both at David Mills' recent aleteia.org sampler from the writings of Dietrich von Hildebrand, '5 insights on patriotism from an anti-Nazi hero', and at Charlie Camosy's thefederalist.com analysis '7 reasons it is deeply misleading to claim Americans support Roe v Wade'.

Classifieds

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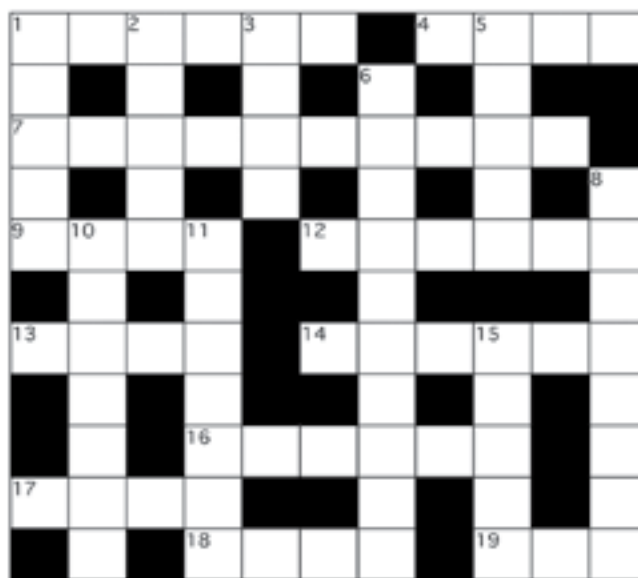


The-Irish-Catholic-Newspaper

Leisure time

Crossword Junior

Gordius 240



ACROSS

- 1 Harry Potter's owl (6)
 4 Mark left by an old wound (4)
 7 Thick-skinned, horned animal (10)
 9 2, 4, 6 and 8 are ____ numbers (4)
 12 Important person in the church (6)
 13 Make something with needles and wool (4)
 14 It was written by Matthew, Mark, Luke or John (6)
 16 You might post this (6)
 17 Strong wind (4)
 18 Sharp-tasting (4)
 19 Notice with the eyes (3)

DOWN

- 1 Black Beauty was one (5)
 2 Control a car (5)
 3 Type of metal (4)
 5 Material (5)
 6 Flying machine sometimes nicknamed a chopper (10)
 8 When you clap, you give someone a round of ____ (8)
 10 You might sprinkle it on your chips (7)
 11 These plants might sting you (7)
 15 The capital city of France (5)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

GORDIUS No.358

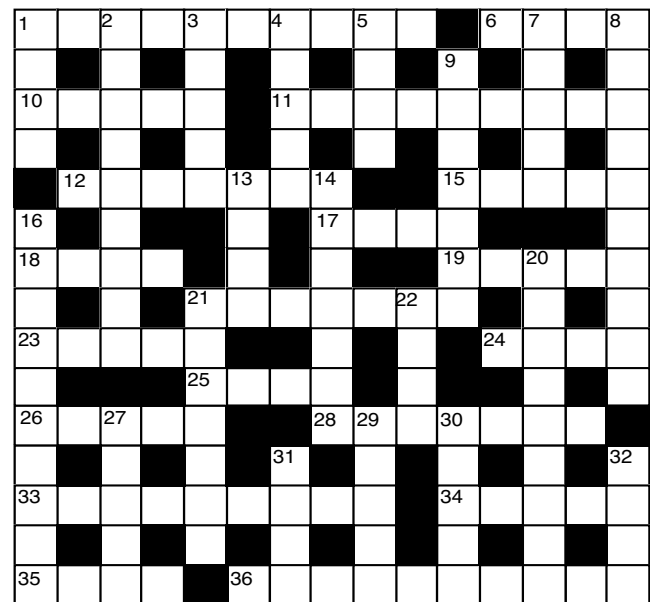
- Across** – 1 Hue 3 Beachcomber 8 Enough 9 Envisage 10 Olive branch 11 Licit 13 Monet 15 Instant 16 Sand bar 20 Diary 21 Aztec 23 Maths 24 Bully off 25 Monaco 26 Electricity 27 Pus
Down – 1 Haemophilia 2 Emotions 3 Bugle 4 Clement Attlee 5 Oriel 7 Roe 12 The Red Shoes 13 Mined 14 Toady 17 Boot camp 18 Pacific 22 Crypt 23 Moody 24 Bee

CHILDREN'S No.239

- Across** – 1 Pirates 6 Aunts 8 Ringlets 9 Ants 10 Limping 13 Owe 15 Dragon 18 Ducks 19 Shampoo 21 Sad 22 Players
Down – 1 Purple 2 Ran 3 Talking 4 Sat 5 State 7 USA 11 Mermaid 12 Gondola 14 Excuse 16 Ashes 18 Asks 20 Pip

Crossword

Gordius 359



ACROSS

- 1 & 6 An old-style ceremonial sacrifice may have terminated sins, literally (10,4)
 10 Tool used by turners (5)
 11 Make the novel keep to this ubiquitous placename (9)
 12 & 21d Temporising while gambling with a jail sentence? (7,3,4)
 15 Sign up (5)
 17 The first man was a beastly mother! (4)
 18 Smooth, level (4)
 19 Equipped with weapons (5)
 21 Downhearted, miserable (7)
 23 Parisians find such public transport to be beneath them! (5)
 24 Brother, that is some cheese! (4)
 25 & 30d Upmarket's another way of presenting this cut of meat (4,5)
 26 The automaton will nick half the Bible (5)
 28 Obliterated, broke utterly (7)
 33 Spoke with difficulty about mad meters (9)
 34 Black wood (5)
 35 Cowboy slang for townsman (4)
 36 Levee (10)

DOWN

- 1 Converse (4)
 2 How the client let slip about brainpower (9)
 3 & 27d The directors of a manicure firm? (5,5)
 4 Wood projection which is inserted into a mortise (5)
 5 This amphibian went astray (4)
 7 Sacrificial table (5)
 8 How one slept with the dread of making a climbing device (10)
 9 Troglodyte (7)
 13 Shakespearean villain found finally in the capital of Chile (4)
 14 The girl cuts a fast pace when she does this (7)
 16 Enthralled, hypnotised (10)
 20 Thus one dashes, with Dot featuring regularly (5,4)
 21 See 12 across
 22 Roster (4)
 27 See 3 down
 29 A play by Euripides may be performed early, in part (5)
 30 See 25 across
 31 A wee drop to drink (4)
 32 Unhealthy sac in the body (4)

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Sudoku Corner

240

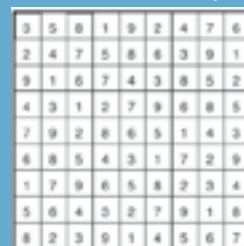
Easy



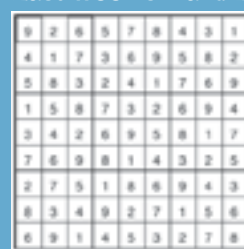
Hard



Last week's Easy 239



Last week's Hard 239



Notebook

Fr Vincent Sherlock



I REMEMBER the night Pope Francis walked out on the balcony overlooking St Peter's. My heart sank. He looked old to me and a little lost in his new clothes. I don't know what I expected but somewhere, in the back of my mind, I had an image of a younger man with a broader smile, stronger shoulders and quicker step. I have nothing but respect for older people and realise with the passing of each day, I am getting closer to being numbered among them!

I also am very aware that so much of the support I receive and the kindness I am shown comes from people who have travelled the road longer than I. Then he spoke! "*Buona Sera*" / "Good evening," he said and the crowd erupted and his smile found him. He asked us to pray for him, blessed us and wished us a good night's sleep. My heart melted and my spirit lifted.

Francis has never caused my heart to sink since that evening. I don't pretend to read every word he writes or listen to every word he says, but I read enough and hear enough to know he has a vision. He is moving at a pace that belies his age and, at times reminds me of James Horan telling Jim Fahy as a digger bulldozed Barr Na Cuige:

Francis' walk from balcony to gable wall



Francis waves to the crowd in Rome just after his was elected Pope.

can't be left alone. He sees there's more to church than buildings and preservation and much more to Jesus than being remembered as a good and holy man who died for us. He also rose for us and, like all risings, a new light emerged and a new hope. I'm convinced Francis has been dazzled by that light and, like Paul on the Damascus Road, feels duty bound to go where directed, say what he has been told and call people not just to follow but also to lead.

His message

This is the man who visits Ireland next month. He comes to share something of his vision and to walk our streets. His visit is short and already divisive with some looking forward to it and others objecting to it. Even among our own faithful, there are some who have no welcome in their hearts

for him because his message is out of step with a vision of Church they cling to.

There are even more, described as "mean-spirited" who have secured tickets, we are told, to events they do not plan on attending with the sole purpose of preventing others who want to attend from doing so. This goes to the core of mean-spiritedness.

The logistics of his visit – the costs, the disruptions, the walking, the delays – are all thrashed out in print and sound to a point where you wonder why? Why is it that a good news story, people wanting to meet the Pope – even if not totally sure why – in their hundreds of thousands is knocked head over heels with negativity? It baffles me. Were some band or entertainer to pack out the Phoenix Park, it would be lauded and the quicker the tickets sold out the better. Record-breaking!

So let us welcome the man on the balcony. He has come down the steps to meet us, to ask us to pray for him and to let us know he's praying with and for us. He will celebrate faith with us, share Eucharist and lead us in prayer.

The word we're looking for is "welcome"!

He hadn't seen me!

● A few weeks ago as I left one of the churches in the parish, I noticed an articulated truck parked across the road. The driver blessed himself and sat in the truck. He hadn't seen me and a second either way, I'd not have seen this happen but I did. As I got to my car, he waved to me and me to him. "I stop here every time I pass," he told me, "to have a chat with him."

My spirit lifted – I like when that happens to my Spirit! He didn't need to leave the truck but he had made a conscious decision to break the journey, take a minute and say "hello to him". Ah, there seemed something so right about it. Thanks be to God!



● There was a wonderful story told of Pope St John Paul's Mass in the Phoenix Park. He had a gift around languages and tried to use as many as possible. At the beginning of the Mass, he blessed himself in Irish and the echo ran from speaker to speaker among the million or so gathered. "In ainm an Athar (Athar, Athar, Athar...) agus an Mhic (Mhic, Mhic, Mhic...) agus and Spioraid Naoimh (naoimh, naoimh, naoimh...) and one woman turned to those around her and said: "Lord, save us, I hope he's not going to do the whole thing in Polish."



FLOODS AFFECT HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS IN EAST AFRICA. FAMILIES MADE HOMELESS AND DESTITUTE

The Little Way Association is currently receiving desperate appeals from missionary priests and Sisters working in Kenya, where severe flooding has swept away homes and inundated farm land, leaving many dead and countless families destitute. Claretian Missionary Fathers are helping flood victims in Isiolo and the Little Sisters of St Francis stationed in Bahati-Nakuru are organising food, shelter, clothing and medication for families who have lost all that they had. The Little Way Association has responded by sending some financial assistance immediately, but we are also expecting to receive further requests from missionaries working in other parts of the region as the situation unfolds.

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IC/07/12

MISSIONARIES NEED YOUR MASS OFFERINGS

Your Mass offerings help to provide the missionary priest's maintenance and assist him to extend the Kingdom of God upon earth. We like to send a minimum of €5 or more for each Mass.

HOLY MASS FOR YOUR INTENTIONS

You and your intentions are remembered each day in a Holy Mass offered by a missionary priest for all Little Way supporters.