

The Irish Catholic

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Govt urged to re-think 'sneaky' tax on prayer

Ruadhán Jones

A proposal to apply VAT to devotional candles has been described as effectively "a tax on prayer".

The 2020 Finance Bill proposes to remove a historical protection on white candles which, according to Fr John Carroll of the Ferns Diocese, is akin to taxing "counselling or stress" given the solace many people feel lighting a candle in a church.

Fr Carroll said "It's certainly new territory to be introducing a tax on prayer - and at a time when we've come to value its necessity even more!"

"It certainly would be a very poor showing from Government at a time like this to be introducing a tax on prayer candles," Fr Carroll told *The Irish Catholic*. "You'd have to wonder at the wisdom of the decision maker. "At a time of a pandemic, introducing a tax on candles in churches - you might as well introduce a tax on counselling and stress...It amounts to a tax on prayer," he said.

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Lighting a candle against hate



Candles stand next to stumbling blocks commemorating the deportation and murder of Jews in Hamburg, Germany on Monday evening – the 82nd anniversary of the Kristallnacht against the Jews by the Nazis. Photo: Christian Charisius/DPA

Cork priest celebrating Mass publicly warned by Gardaí

EXCLUSIVE
Staff reporter

A priest in Co. Cork was warned by gardaí that they would "apply the full rigours of the law", after he celebrated Mass with a small congregation *The Irish Catholic* can reveal. The priest, who did not wish to be named, said the garda involved did not specify what the penalty would be, but insisted that one would be applied. "I mean, the reality is that the priest can be arrested based on my understanding of what was signed into law," the priest told *The Irish Catholic*, "and that people flaunting the rules can be fined €400 as far as I know. But he [the garda] didn't define what the penalty would be." The Cork priest described himself as a "conscientious objector" with regard to the restrictions on public worship. "The churches are spotlessly clean: there's hand sanitiser everywhere, people are social distanced and they're wearing masks, why

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Recognising our
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**ENDING
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WHATEVER
IT TAKES**

Rabbi Sacks taught us to move from self-esteem to other-esteem

The world has lost a great man in the death of Rabbi Jonathan Sacks at the weekend. I last met him in London in early March just before Covid-19 lockdown restrictions were imposed. He had just published a new book *Morality* and was as full of energy and ideas as ever. Lord Sacks – who died of cancer at the age of 72 – has left a considerably body of work behind and his towering intellect will inform debates and discussions for decades to come.

“He believed passionately that society rested on shared values and that these shared values were important to a healthy society”

As we sat in his living room, he asked me almost as many questions as I asked him. He had the rare ability for a man of such learning and thought to genuinely listen to other people. Here was I sitting with a philosopher of phenomenal stature, and yet he was asking



Editor's Comment Michael Kelly

me questions as if I could offer a fresh insight on issues that he has spent decades mulling over, writing about and lecturing about.

Sense of humour

Rabbi Sacks also had the self-deprecating sense of humour of a man who was comfortable in his own skin and had nothing to prove to everyone. He loved ideas, and he loved to hear from people who had different ideas to him. He was unashamed of his Judaism and his unshakable belief that Judeo-Christian values have something vital to bring to the world. But there was nothing exclusive about his thinking – he used to often describe the task of creating society as the home we build together.

Not that he was a blind follower of ideas like multiculturalism – he believed passionately that society rested on shared

values and that these shared values were important to a healthy society. That's why he was such a strong supporter of marriage. Again and again he pushed politicians to embrace the evidence that strong families make strong societies and that – all things being equal – marriage offers the best possible outcomes for children.

“Instead of self-esteem, other-esteem. Instead of self-respect, other-respect”

Rabbi Sacks was a colossus, but his thought and philosophy was not for lofty debate alone – he sought to apply it in a way that would help make the world a better place.

In recent years he diagnosed a selfishness in contemporary culture that is wreaking havoc. He told me in March that he believed that the culture of self-help has gone too far.

“Self-esteem, self-respect, self-fulfilment, self-actualisation, the selfie – almost everything in today's culture is about me,” he said.

Co-operation

He remained upbeat in his advice for young people: “Just realise that an important part of life is co-operation, not just competition. That what often matters is not just self-interest, but the common good. And that we are stronger when the ‘we’ is strong. So, any football team of 11 divas is not going to win its matches, but any football team that really works as a team is going to win its matches. So, every time there is a really strong sense of the team being bigger than the player, that is when you get the moral sense.

“Do a search and replace operation in your mind, and every time you see the word ‘self,’ delete it and write ‘other’. So instead of self-esteem, other-esteem. Instead of self-respect, other-respect. Just do that, and you'll find that you will be much happier, your relationships will improve, and you will feel that your life is meaningful in a way that it wasn't before,” he insisted.

It's surely worth a try during lockdown, and certainly beats another failed loaf of banana bread.

May his memory be a blessing.

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Govt urged to re-think tax on devotional candles

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Desmond Wisley of Wisely Ecclesiastical Supplies said that it could also affect donations parishes rely on for the upkeep of churches particularly at a time when collections are down. He has contacted the Minister of Finance Pascual Donohue calling for the no-VAT policy on church candles be maintained. “The Government are trying to sneak this in as if you look in the finance bill you will not see it directly,” Mr Wisley said. “It's going to add 23% to the boxes of candles, which will be a major effect. The way it's going at the moment, churches can't afford things – things are very tight.”

Colin Carroll of the Candlemakers Association of Ireland said he was “very surprised” at the timing of the Government's move. “This isn't directed at the Church, but the Church will be majorly affected by it,” he said. “It's not something that's been publicised, we had to dig deep to find it. “In the current context of Covid-19 and the challenges we face, the timing of this is not a good thing. I don't think they understand the effect it will have.”

Mr Carroll and the Candlemakers Association are calling for the change to be deferred indefinitely.

Trinity Catholic society pressured to stop praying

Jason Osborne

The Trinity College Catholic society has been warned they must stop organising prayer meetings, amidst fears of suspension or funding cuts.

Correspondence seen by *The Irish Catholic* reveals that the Central Societies Committee has written to the Catholic Laurentian Society to inform them that they can no longer advertise or hold prayer meetings under the society's banner, as the committee claims it is in breach of the society's status as a "cultural" society.

A source told this newspaper that the society has held prayer meetings for years without issue, and that it is only now that a line has been drawn between worship and culture. The source – a TCD student said: "I think my first take on this is that it's simply unjust.

"If it's not equally applied, then this is discrimination. If it is evenly applied [to all religious societies], this is anti-religious discrimination. It's either troubling anti-religious policy from a body that shouldn't show discrimination to any group of students

– their job is to promote college community. Or at best, it shows just a huge indifference and ignorance of what religious culture and Catholic culture specifically is," the source said.

Needs

The CSC has argued that other capitulated bodies, such as the chaplaincy, in the college provide for the students' worship needs, and that they may continue to meet and pray as part of that community. They stipulate only that these worship-based events are in no way connected to the Laurentian

Society, due to the society's status as a "cultural society".

The Laurentian Society has taken issue with what they see as an arbitrary divide between worship and culture, arguing that for practicing Catholics the two cannot be separated.

The source revealed the feeling among members of

the society after the request to cease prayerful activity in the society's name was made, saying: "We're all very unhappy with it. It feels like an attack on our society. The committee is very upset, the members are upset, this is something that was a really helpful practice for a lot of students. It was a moment of

peace, like the prayer meeting was the moment of peace in the week.

"It's sort of a thing where if you're a practicing Catholic or a practicing person of any religion, and you see this sort of thing, it's good reason to reconsider you know, going to a place like Trinity, which is unfortunate but true."

Legal challenge launched over religious restrictions

Chai Brady

Irish entrepreneur Declan Ganley has begun a constitutional challenge to the ban on attending Mass and other religious ceremonies.

Co. Galway-based Mr Ganley, who has been a vocal critic on social media of the ban on Mass, initiated judicial review proceedings against Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly and the State last week and the matter was mentioned in court on Friday.

The Irish Catholic understands that the court postponed the matter until next month.

It comes as Primate of All-Ireland Archbishop Eamon Martin used a column in *The Irish Catholic* to urge Catholics to write to their elected representatives calling for restrictions on Masses and other religious ceremonies to be eased.

Archbishop Eamon said: "In making the case for public worship at all stages of lockdown we are not claiming special privilege over other places – like gyms, restaurants or sports. We are simply stating the fact that, for Christians, gathering to worship God is not an optional extra – it is a profound expression of who

we are as individual spiritual beings and as Church.

"The communal celebration of Mass and the sacraments is an essential source of nourishment and well-being which is not only positive for individuals, but is also healthy for community resilience and for social cohesion," the archbishop wrote.

Mr Ganley's legal team is expected to argue before the High Court that the State's Covid-19 restrictions preventing public worship are unconstitutional since Bunreacht na hÉireann enshrines the right to worship as a key part of religious freedom.



Siblings Jess and Finn Walker helped to launch Trócaire's Christmas 'Gifts of Love' for 2020 in Rathangan, Co. Kildare. This year the Irish charity has added a new gift aimed at helping people respond to the Covid-19 crisis. The 'quarantine care kit' will help families in 17 countries during the global pandemic. Photo: Mark Stedman.



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Co. Louth parish celebrates Joe Biden's election success

Jason Osborne

A Co. Louth community has been busy celebrating the success of president-elect Joe Biden in the 2020 American elections. Speaking to *The Irish Catholic*, parish priest of Cooley, Fr Malachy Conlon, said, "There would be a palpable feeling of pride. Absolutely."

Fr Conlon welcomed Mr Biden to the area during his 2016 visit to Ireland, as he travelled to a family grave in Kilwirra Cemetery.

This week saw a pipe and drum band play *An ode to local Joe* at a ceremony beside the Thomas D'Arcy McGee monument, a specially-composed piece to celebrate his victory.

On the prospect of a return visit to Co. Louth, Fr Conlon said

"People would be delighted if he did. He'll certainly get a warm welcome."

President-elect Biden has been widely-hailed in media as the second Catholic president the US has seen after John F. Kennedy. Mr Biden is a baptised Catholic, and has spoken many times of the sustenance he has drawn from his faith. In a campaign advertisement, Mr Biden spoke of how "faith is what has gotten me through difficult times in my life," including the deaths of his first wife, eldest daughter, and son.

In the same commercial, he said: "Personally for me, faith, it's all about hope and purpose and strength, and for me, my religion is just an enormous sense of solace."

"I go to Mass and I say the Rosary. I find it to be incredibly

comforting," Mr Biden added.

However, many Catholics have been critical of Mr Biden's Catholicism, pointing to discrepancies in his stances throughout his political career.

He has been routinely criticised for his acceptance of widespread abortion, as well as for his support of repealing the Hyde Amendment – legislation which bars the use of federal funds to pay for abortion or other contraceptives.

In October 2019, Mr Biden was refused Holy Communion at a Catholic church in South Carolina, with the priest invoking diocesan policy that prohibits politicians who have been supportive of legal protections for abortion from receiving the Eucharist.

 See Page 8.

GARDAÍ WARNED CORK PRIEST

» Continued from Page 1

can't we have maybe 20 people coming into a church which has a capacity for 500?" he asked.

He explained that he and another priest had been celebrating Mass publicly for the last few weeks. On average, ten people attended the Masses, which were also streamed on the church's webcam.

"Obviously someone saw it on the webcam and... they got onto the guards," he said.

The gardaí contacted the priest and asked him if he

had been celebrating Mass with a congregation, which he admitted.

"He [the garda] rang me back and said that he was onto the sergeant and the sergeant said he'd leave it go for today, but if there were people in for public worship after that he would have to enforce the law," the priest said.

The next day, another priest held a Mass with people in attendance and a garda patrol spotted people exiting the church.

The priest was contacted again by the gardaí and warned that "if there were

people in the church again, they would have to apply the full rigours of the law. He didn't indicate what the penalty would be but he did indicate that there would be a penalty."

At a recent Dáil debate, Minister for Justice Helen McEntee said that priests would not be arrested or fined for saying public Mass.

The Department of Health offered a similar interpretation last week following a request from *The Irish Catholic*. However, confusion remains since the law as written makes it clear that it is a prosecutable offence.

Belfast 4 Corners Festival will 'breathe hope' with online festival

Ruadhán Jones

The 4 Corners Festival have announced that their ninth annual gathering will take place online from 31 Jan–7 Feb 2021.

The theme will be 'Breathe', "emanating from the Hebrew word *Ruach* which means 'breath' or 'spirit' – the source of life, inspired by the numerous appearances of that word in the Bible," according to a statement from 4 Corners.

They hope to "breathe life and creativity into Belfast, and to foster resilience as we contend with the challenges of the pandemic. Join us as we celebrate our city through music, prayer, storytelling, discussion, and more".

A host of internationally renowned guests will speak at the event, including Professor John Paul Lederach, the internationally renowned conflict transformation expert, as the keynote speaker.

For more information about the event and to book your free place, email info@4cornersfestival.com or else visit their website, 4cornersfestival.com.

Order "overjoyed" after Pakistan road named after Irish missionary

Chai Brady

The Irish Order of Jesus and Mary are "overjoyed" after a road in Pakistan was named after an award-winning Irish missionary for her work in education there.

A road in Karachi was named after Sr Berchmans Conway RJM due to an initiative of parents of one of the schools in which she taught.

Speaking to *The Irish Catholic*, Sr Marie O'Halloran RJM who is based in Dublin, said "we're overjoyed for her".

"In Pakistan they think highly of her, what she taught and the values she held in the school and the respect she had for these girls touched them deeply," Sr Marie said.

"They're present parents of the school because they often send their kids back to the school... they wanted something permanent to honour Sr Berchmans and to have it in Karachi."

Sr Marie added: "I think the women were probably

very special, they'd be young mothers and whatever, they do think highly of the religious there and I suppose she was there for 62 years in Pakistan and they appreciated her giving so much of her life to the country in search for better education for them."

'Berchman Road' runs from Khayaban-e-Saadi to Shahrah-e-Bedal via Agha Khan Hospital Block-2, Clifton, Karachi. A function was held to mark the naming of the road last week and a plaque was erected.

Hailing from Co. Clare, Sr Berchmans was presented with the Benedict Medal by the Archbishop of Westminster and Chancellor of St Mary's University, Cardinal Vincent Nichols in July last year. She was also awarded the Sitara-i-Quaid-i-Azam in 2012 – one of the highest civil awards given by the President of Pakistan, and has been hailed as "outstanding" by President Michael D. Higgins.



Sr Berchmans Conway RJM, who now lives in Suffolk in England, holds a communique from Pakistan officials about a road in Karachi being named after her.

A change in wedding style?..fine by me!

The Covid-19 lockdown has brought about many changes in our lives – we have long lamented the closure of churches for Mass – and even if a vaccine becomes available, it will probably be some time before these changes are reversed. One shift I welcome is the trend towards smaller weddings. Hotels and wedding planners say that there is a real increase in smaller weddings, now and for 2021. One hundred and fifty guests were about the norm, pre-Covid. Those numbers have been compulsorily reduced – currently standing at a mere 25 (although there are hopes that when the present level changes, that will expand to 50.) At the beginning of the lockdown period, back in March, couples tended to postpone their wedding day. But now, there is more of a tendency to go ahead with the nuptials anyway, just keeping them to a smaller dimension. Surely this is a blessing in disguise? Wedding parties had become so lavish, expensive and ostentatious in recent years. The average cost of a wedding was said to be in the region of €25,000.

Pictures

I've been shown pictures of wedding feasts that went on over several days, what with the stag and hen parties, the hire of a wedding location with parkland, the frocks for the bride and bridesmaids (up to six), the church decorations, the banquets afterwards, the adornments provided by kites and balloons showering red roses on the assemblage, the subsequent disco, the going-away party lifted into a waiting helicopter, and the next-day lunches and transport arrangements for family and guests. The celebrations would not shame a Renaissance prince.



Mary Kenny



Lockdown nuptials... Aiyoyo Edefe and Darren Roche who were married in an intimate ceremony by Fr John Bracken in Foxrock, Co. Dublin at the height of lockdown on April 25.

But nobody wants to be a mean-spirited sourpuss and if the lavish wedding is what the folk want, why object? The minus side was that these very grand weddings were putting many young people off marriage. The statistics show a drop in marriage rates, and the anecdotal evidence is obvious. I know couples who have settled down together, put a deposit on a house, had a few children – and had them baptised – and are altogether devoted to one another. But they fear arranging a wedding because they think the cost is astronomical, and the fuss daunting. And now the coronavirus restrictions have come along

and provided the perfect excuse for an excellent compromise: to have a small, modest wedding with a limited guest-list. Some people will always want a wedding to be a special, even lavish, occasion, with the bride in a glorious dress and train. But many happy marriages started out with a simple wedding ceremony, with the bride decked out in a neat tailored costume, and the groom in his Sunday best. More co-habitees would marry if that type of wedding was also the norm. The Covid-19 restrictions are an opportune moment to reconsider wedding styles.

● The story has emerged of an Irish priest who was present at the Christmas truce in 1914 between German and Allied troops. Fr Ned Dowling was parish priest at Camross, Co. Laois between 1942 and 1960, but he had been a chaplain near Ypres in 1914. He ministered to the wounded and dying, and saw the friendly exchanges between opposing armies – “many a little souvenir changed hands... buttons, electric torches, cigarettes and cigars.” The football game, however, was “a washout”, because there was still some noise from the guns. The diaries of Father Ned have been uncovered by his nephew, David Walsh, the sports writer. A fascinating witness to history.

Rabbi Sacks had a gentle pastoral manner

When I interviewed Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks a few years ago, we spoke about his meeting with Pope Benedict XVI, which he said had been a very rewarding encounter. I then asked him – a sensitive topic – if he had felt any awkwardness about Benedict being German, and, as a young boy, having been made to join the Hitler Youth. Not at all, said Rabbi Sacks. The thought never entered his head. They met

as men of faith, and as fellow intellectuals. Lord Sacks – who has died from cancer, aged 72 – was a philosopher of international standing, who defended all faiths, and wrote brilliantly about science and faith being complementary, not adversarial. Jonathan Sacks – he'd been Chief Rabbi of Britain and the Commonwealth – was a social conservative in his views about the family. Liberal Jews thought him too conservative on issues like divorce and abortion – and yet he was

seldom met with the hostility that most social conservatives now encounter. He had a gentle pastoral manner, and in his popular broadcast preachings he often started with a story. Attending a football match where his team, Arsenal, took a beating, he was told by a disappointed fan “that shows there is no God!” “To the contrary,” replied Lord Sacks. “It shows that God favours Manchester United!” RIP to an admirable man of faith. (see page 11)

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New EU budget ruling a ‘bullying push’ for ideological conformity

Ruadhán Jones

A new EU budget ruling could violate national sovereignty in an “undemocratic and divisive move”, according to Niamh Uí Bhriain of the Pro-Life Campaign.

The EU recently reached an agreement that gives Brussels the green light to cut funding to EU member countries over issues such as human rights and the independence of the judiciary.

The deal was made following MEP’s demands that the €1.8 trillion budget and Covid-19 recovery package be linked to the rule of law.

Speaking to *The Irish Catholic*, Ms Uí Bhriain said that the deal threatens member states sovereignty and imposes a centralised ideology.

“We can see with rulings like this that the EU is increasingly encroaching on the sovereignty of states, particularly states with values

or laws which go against the trend in the EU,” she said.

MEP

“It’s interesting that the MEP’s are openly saying that this is a mechanism to target Poland and Hungary,” she continued, “two countries which have come under fire from liberal MPs because they value protections for unborn children for example and to families.”

Ms Uí Bhriain fears that the deal will prove divisive,

especially during a time of economic crisis.

“You’d have to ask yourself, we’re already looking at Brexit, we’re already looking at severe divisions in the EU and will this kind of bullying push others to want to leave the EU as well,” she said. “I think that’s going to cause a reaction and perhaps not one the European Union expects.”

Independent Senator Ronán Mullen echoed Ms Uí Bhriain’s concerns, saying the

EU “must not trespass into areas that are for member states themselves, for example the detail of how they secure judicial independence”.

System

“Every country has its system of appointing judges and there needs to be evidence of an agreed objective standard being breached before EU countries collectively stand in judgment over another member,” Mr Mullen said.

Students for Life hit out at Emmerdale storyline

Jason Osborne

Students for Life Ireland have criticised famed soap *Emmerdale*’s storyline which “suggests that unborn babies with Down Syndrome should be aborted”, describing the message as both “ableist and unacceptable”.

Down Syndrome

The spokesperson for the group, Leanne Lynch, said, “We all know someone with Down’s Syndrome, and we all see the joy they bring to our lives. In the wake of this controversy the producers of the soap have said that they hope the plot will ‘raise awareness’. What does that even mean?”

Awareness

Ms Lynch proceeded to say that if the soap were serious about raising awareness, they would highlight the fact that the Parliamentary Enquiry into Abortion on the Grounds of Disability published in the UK in 2013 found that 90% of babies diagnosed in the womb with Down Syndrome are aborted.



Minister Patrick O'Donovan visiting Sr Louise Horgan, a native of Co. Cork, at the Good Shepherd Sisters Fatima Centre in Bangkok, March 2019.

Two nuns and a priest receive presidential award

Staff Reporter

Two nuns and a priest are among the 14 people who are to receive the Presidential Distinguished Service Award for the Irish Abroad for 2020.

Sr Patricia Murray and Fr Kevin O'Hara SMS are being recognised for their work for peace, reconciliation and development in Italy and Nigeria respectively.

Sr Louise Horgan is being rewarded for her charitable works in Thailand, where she has provided much need education and work training opportunities to disadvantaged women and children over many decades.

The Presidential Distinguished Service Award was established to recognise the con-

tribution of members of the Irish diaspora, and the first awards were made in 2012. This year’s recipients were announced by Minister for Foreign Affairs Simon Coveney.

“I am delighted to have the opportunity once again to formally recognise the achievements of some of the finest members of our global family, our diaspora,” Minister Coveney said.

“The 14 recipients demonstrate Ireland’s remarkable international influence,” he continued. “Their work has impacted so many, bringing joy through literature, theatre and film; improving social policy and providing care and support for the poor and underprivileged. I am deeply grateful for their service and commitment to this country.”

A person who buries a talent digs not just a hole but a cesspool of cynicism

The Gospel for this Sunday (Matthew 25:14-30) is a parable encouraging us to use whatever talents we have, no matter how small or trivial they might seem. While we are still on Level 5 of the battle against Covid-19, we need all the encouragement we can get. We accept restrictions on our movements and gatherings. Sometimes it’s annoying. But others are making sacrifices for our sake so why can’t I do the same for others?

Well done, good and faithful servants, all who carefully observe the health and safety guidelines, not just to protect yourself but to protect other people. Well done, all of you who keep on praying and helping others.

The parable of the talents is a contrast between the productive life and the unproductive life. The productive person is faithful in the little things of everyday life: keeps on going; doesn’t look for notice; doesn’t wait around for the big event to get going. Artists

The Sunday Gospel

Fr Silvester O'Flynn OFM Cap.

know that perfection is composed of trifles, but perfection itself is no trifle. Jesus said that the productive life is good and faithful.

A hole in the ground

The parable then turns to the servant who made no use of his talent. He is described as good for nothing. Look at what he did with his talent. He dug a hole in the ground and hid it. This is a very suggestive image. A person who buries a talent digs not just a hole but a cesspool of cynicism and negativity. See how negative and cynical he has become. He does not blame himself. He offloads blame to what others are saying. He even uses his

fear of the master’s severe reputation as an excuse for doing nothing. It’s always some other person’s fault, never mine.

A healthy lake needs a steady inflow and outflow. Otherwise it becomes stagnant. When somebody’s talents are not used there will be no healthy stimulation or spiritual inspiration. Instead, there will be hours spent every day in television passivity, internet addiction or waste of brain power on vapid reading. In the stagnant cesspool, cynicism takes over. And cynicism, as the parable says, is good for nothing. What the unproductive servant lacked was faithfulness in little things. Faithfulness in little things is what keeps the flow fresh. In God’s eyes no good action is small. The two productive servants are praised because they were faithful in small things.

Saint Teresa of Calcutta was sometimes criticised on the grounds that what she was doing was only a drop in the ocean and

that she was covering up for the governments and other major organisations for the lack of necessary structural changes. But she would repeat her motto to do the little thing with a lot of love. A candle is a small light, but if everybody lit a candle, what a bright world it would be.

Isn’t it grand to hear God compliment people for their faithful service?. I’m sure every one of us would love to hear God say to us at the end of life, “Well done, good and faithful servant”.

Examination of Conscience:
Where I walk or work, where I play or pray
In the little acre of God that I till
Is there anybody less hungry because I am there?

Prayer

As we reflect on the parable of the talents, we pray.
Thank you, Lord, for the gifts and talents that you have given us ... the gift of life, the gift of

family and friends, the good example of people, the people who serve us and provide for us each day.
Thank you for the talents of what we are good at and what we can do.
Remove from our hearts any unhealthy sort of fear that would paralyse us from doing anything. Open up our hearts to trust in the support of the Holy Spirit at all times.
Remove from our minds all cynicism, negativity and envy. Help us to rejoice in admiration of the talents of other people. Help us to be faithful to the little acts of kindness that help others every day.
May we take to heart the message of Saint Teresa of Calcutta, to do the little thing with a lot of love.

📖 Extract from Silvester O'Flynn, Gospel Reflections and Prayers, Columba Books.

Maria Steen

The View



In truth, modern feminism is rooted in a hatred of what is good and beautiful and true about womanhood

In his 1973 essay 'The Faith: The Nation, Prime Principles of Survival', Frank Duff – the founder of the Legion of Mary, whose anniversary was on Saturday – observed that the faith of the nation was in a crisis. He likened the Ireland of the 1950s to pre-revolutionary France. Both appeared on the surface to be extremely Catholic societies, but in both this was only a thin veneer, a mask.

What would he say today? He described how the majority of the Irish had a mechanical goodness, that they attended the Mass and the sacraments but had no depth to their religion. He said that society was bringing forth little better fruits than a respectable paganism would. How right he was: how many Mass-goers in this country voted for abortion just two years ago? Mr Duff saw how a thin veneer of religion was not going to be able to withstand the onslaught of adverse influences. He said: "What really corrodes the Faith are the materialisms, the sophistries, the alleged science, the sneers which search out the weak spots and do the deadly work on people whose appreciation of the Faith is not sufficient."

Crisis

More than anything, we are experiencing a crisis of faith. True faith requires deep roots. It must be nurtured and cared for. True faith starts in the family. Root it out there, and the job is so much easier for religion's opponents later on. Many rightly see abortion as an attack on the beginnings of human life, and an attack on the family. But what has really corroded the family stemmed from an attack at its heart, at motherhood. The influence of modern feminism on the family and in turn on society is all around for us to see.

Carrie Gress in her book *The Anti-Mary Exposed* draws a parallel between the anti-Christ and the anti-Mary. She regards this as a spirit, or movement, rather than an individual.

She highlights how many of the most influential feminists of the 1960s carried serious mother wounds in their hearts, leading to ruinous relationships with



men, and an embrace of the occult, goddess culture and lesbianism as the highest expression of a woman's sexuality. These feminists rejected men, but unlike the virgin saints who did so to give themselves to God, they embraced promiscuity and eschewed purity with a kind of aggression that mimicked the worst excesses of a ravenous male predator.

“The influence of modern feminism on the family and in turn on society is all around for us to see”

The hurts and resentments expressed by feminists are a rebellion against the words spoken by God to Eve in the Garden of Eden: "I will greatly multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children, yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you" (Genesis 3:16).

Everything that feminism hates and rages against is summed up in those lines: childbearing, motherhood, a longing for a husband, and man as ruling over woman. Feminism's 'cure' for these ills is abortion, a rejection of motherhood, of marriage and a desire to dominate men.

Girls are taught from an early age aggression, self-promotion, to look down on men and their weaknesses. They are taught the art of seduction for nefarious purposes and to dominate, to take without counting the cost.

Archbishop Fulton Sheen

“True faith requires deep roots. It must be nurtured and cared for. True faith starts in the family”

said that when a man loves a woman, he has to become worthy of her. The higher her virtue, the more a man has to aspire to be worthy of her.

Sadly, the opposite is also true, the less noble, the less virtuous the woman, so will the man be: rather than trying to aspire to be worthy of her, he will do the opposite – he will debase her, put her down rather than exalt her, disrespect her and leave her longing for that which she really desires.

Hatred

The men who do this are guilty of a hatred of womanhood – as are women who embrace the anti-Mary spirit, a kind of toxic femininity. In truth, modern feminism is rooted in misogyny, a hatred and abhorrence of what is good and beautiful and true about womanhood – and in particular about virginity and motherhood, both of which find their perfection in Mary.

Like so many apparent paradoxes that are found in Christianity, Mary shows us that it is in meekness and humility that strength and true power are found: the very things that feminism craves. Feminism is openly power-hungry. And yet where have women had the greatest influence – for good or ill – since the beginning of time? Within the family, the very thing they have sought to destroy.

For ill, it was Eve who whispered to Adam in

the Garden of Eden. For good, it was Our Lady who whispered in Christ's ear at Cana at the beginning of his ministry, asking him to do her bidding.

The thing is, even feminists acknowledge what they call women's 'soft power' – the effect that a woman has on her husband and children, or those within her care. We are all familiar with the proverb: "The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world".

That is why the destruction of the family signals the end of women's 'soft power' and the loss of women's influence – much of which has been brought about by the women's movement in its rejection of 'the patriarchy', marriage and motherhood.

Feminism claims victory: its principles have become

part of most programmes for government around the world. But how is this victory to be measured? By its spoils of course. In this case, the spoils are quite literally that: spoiled bodies, spoiled lives, spoiled families, spoiled societies.

“Mary shows us that it is in meekness and humility that strength and true power are found: the very things that feminism craves”

Family

With the family under attack and society debasing motherhood, faith has no fertile soil in which to grow. Feminists scorn the feminine virtue of mothering,

or nurturing, but nurturing speaks to the deepest need in all of us to grow physically, intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually. The example offered to us by Mary, the pre-eminent mother, is the opposite: fruitfulness and the power that is found in humility and service.

Mothers nurture, and all women, by virtue of their womanhood, are called to motherhood – whether literally, in a physical sense, or in an intellectual, emotional or spiritual sense. It is up to each to find which it is that God is calling her to. The world, and our society, is sorely in need of maternal love. That is the key to rebuilding the family and providing the right conditions for faith to grow in society. Only then will we reap abundant fruit.



The Dominicans

To Know and To Love Truth



"Truth is so obscure in these times, and falsehood so established, that unless we love the Truth, we cannot know it."

- Blaise Pascal

www.irishdominicanvocations.com

Joe Biden's presidency will be strongly pro-abortion



We can already see that the new US administration will not be a friend of religious freedom, writes **David Quinn**

The incoming US president calls to mind one of those Irish politicians who have 'evolved' on abortion. Once they were pro-life, but now they are firmly pro-choice, even some remain 'personally opposed'.

Back in the 1980s, Mr Biden backed a change to the Ameri-



Incoming vice-president Kamala Harris

can Constitution that would have allowed individual US states to decide their own abortion laws. In 1973, the US Supreme Court had imposed a liberal abortion regime across all of America in its infamous Roe v Wade ruling.

For several decades, Mr Biden also supported something called the 'Hyde Amendment', which bans

federal funding for abortion. The amendment goes all the way back to 1976. Back in those days, the Democratic party was not as firmly in the pro-abortion camp as it is today.

What Mr Biden supported back in the day, the effective reversal of Roe v Wade, is now unthinkable in the Democratic party.

Mr Biden has 'evolved' accordingly. He is now a full-throated supporter of Roe v Wade and said so repeatedly on the campaign trail.

Hyde Amendment

He has also reversed course on the Hyde Amendment. His change of position occurred during the battle earlier in the year to be the Democratic candidate in the presidential election. Under huge pressure from his rivals, not least his running mate, Kamala Harris, he said he now wants the Hyde Amendment reversed and for abortion to receive federal funding, which is to say from money raised centrally in Washington and not just from local state taxes.

On abortion generally, he says he is personally opposed but would not 'impose' his views on anyone else. This was the position worked out by fellow Catholic and fellow Democrat, Mario Cuomo, the late Governor of New York years ago.

As Mr Biden has said: "I'm prepared to accept for me, personally, [the] doctrine of my Church" about when life begins, "but I'm not prepared to impose that on every other person."

This raises the pertinent question; when should we 'impose' a view on when life begins? You have to do it at some point or there would be no law at all against killing other human beings.

In any case, under a Biden/Harris presidency, we can expect full backing for abortion. He will also restore federal funding to organisations that perform abortions in developing countries. Even if his heart isn't fully in it, he will not resist in any way the strident pro-choice voices in his party. In other words, he will behave like many of our politicians have in recent times and roll over on the issue.

He has already done the same on same-sex marriage and transgender rights. That 'evolution' occurred in 2012, four years into the Barack Obama presidency, after decades in politics.

We can see how far he has 'evolved' when we see his attitude to religious freedom, which he is happy to limit in the name of 'reproductive rights'.

Obama-era

Under the Obama-era health-care plan (often known as 'Obamacare'), employers are required to cover contraception and the morning-after pill in their employees' health insurance plans.

This was resisted by, among other groups, the Little Sisters of the Poor, who said this would force them to pay for something they considered immoral, in particular the morning-after-pill which can act as an abortifacient.

The Trump Administration, backed by a Supreme Court ruling, supported the

stance, as a senator, she supported a law that would force Catholic hospitals to perform gender transition surgeries, open women's toilets to men, and force girls and women to compete against boys and men in athletic competitions. Mr Biden will no doubt support a similar measure.

The incoming vice-president is Baptist by background, not Catholic.

We see a pattern here, and it is the same one playing out in Ireland. When religious convictions clash with so-called 'reproductive rights' and sexual freedoms, it is almost always the former which are forced to give way.

Catholic politicians

In the case of Joe Biden and Catholic politicians like him, they hide behind the 'personally opposed, but...' formula.

Mr Biden is almost certainly not ideologically pro-abortion the way Ms Harris is, and he has probably convinced himself of the validity of the above formulation, but it is incredibly badly thought through.

It relegates religious convictions on certain issues to the private sphere and essentially seeks to banishes them, and those who hold them, from political life.

'Reproductive rights' are held to belong to the private sphere, in a way (say) immigration rights do not, and religion, we are told, should never be allowed to interfere in the private sphere except purely as a matter of personal choice. (In other words, it must fit into a pro-choice worldview).

But of course, abortion is not purely a private matter because it involves the deliberate killing of a human being, and when a congregation of religious sisters are forced to pay for abortifacients, then who is doing the imposing?

Likewise, if Catholic hospitals are forced to perform 'gender realignment' surgery, again, who is doing the imposing?

What we can expect in a Joe Biden presidency, in other words, is the further suppression of anything and everything that stands in the way of the abortion and 'reproductive rights' juggernaut. Mr Biden might not be driving that juggernaut as such, but he will nonetheless grease the wheels and send it on its way. His Catholic Faith won't be allowed to get in its way.



Joe Biden meets with Pope Francis at the Vatican.

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Merchants Quay Ireland:

Bringing comfort to people who are homeless this winter – wherever they lie

Last year, 11,641 people who were homeless, in addiction, or struggling with mental health problems found a place to start again with Merchants Quay Ireland (MQI). However, now, as the coronavirus stalks the streets, social distancing means a severe curtailment in the number of people allowed into its Riverbank drop-in centre in Dublin. MQI Head of Communications, Carol Casey, spent a morning with the MQI Assertive Outreach team on their route, to see first-hand how rough sleepers are coping with COVID-19 and the restrictions that make life harder than ever before.

With COVID-19 restrictions, MQI's service has literally been turned inside out. Before the pandemic hit our streets, thousands of people came to MQI's drop-in centre in Riverbank. Every journey of healing for Ireland's hungry and homeless began with a nourishing meal, a warm shower and the decency of clean underwear. Clients could see the doctor and nurse upstairs, be supported through crisis by the mental health team, or meet a key worker to start progressing out of homelessness or addiction.

Now, MQI's Assertive Outreach team brings comfort and support to homeless people wherever they lie. They walk the streets and parks of Dublin city centre every weekday morning, to check on people who've slept overnight on pavements, in doorways, and in tents. They carry backpacks full of basic supplies like food, water, hats, gloves, wipes, and hand sanitizer.

Thanks to the generosity of donors, MQI have been able to expand its Assertive Outreach team and invest in vans and technology to allow them to link back in with their full

“We hear constantly of distancing and isolation, but that was their reality even before COVID-19. It has never been as evident as now – how far they were left behind.”

range of services. Donations help MQI take their drop-in centre out onto the streets, bringing the gifts of human kindness; warm conversation, advice, information, and a friendly smile for people who have nobody else to care for them.

Pushed so far into the background

Carol Casey, MQI Head of Communications, joined up with the Assertive Outreach team to get a better insight into how the pandemic is affecting Ireland's homeless. “Early that morning, driving into town I notice tents pitched along the canal. I wonder who is inside, about their story. We hear constantly of distancing and isolation, but that was their reality even before COVID-19. It has never been as evident as now – how far they were left behind.

“I meet the team – Jenny, Richie and Owen – and we load up our backpacks. Just a five-minute walk from Merchants Quay, we find a small group sheltering at the church gates on Thomas Street. Cardboard boxes underneath their sleeping bags insulate them from the cold stone steps. The team gently approaches each person, checking for breathing, any sign of movement. We greet those awake, “Good morning. Were you here all night, are you okay? Would you like a bite to eat?” One man, care-worn and exhausted didn't sleep at all and just wants to be left to rest. Jenny slips a note beside him with the number to call and the Riverbank opening times for food and medical help. We move on when we've made sure everyone's okay.

“At the Phoenix Park, there's a group of tents under



MQI Assertive Outreach team

“We reached 33 people on the streets that morning in just a few hours. There are so many new faces. Their despair is growing as the weeks wear on.”

some trees, out of the way but still within view of the joggers and dog-walkers out enjoying some exercise. It's a disturbing contrast; such healthy people passing only a few yards from the desperation of rough sleepers, some of them so young. The pandemic has unearthed a heart-breaking number of people new to homelessness – abandoned and in very real danger. The image of them waif-thin, vulnerable, cold, and tired, will forever be etched in my mind.

“In doorways on Henry Street there are people curled up in sleeping bags, bits of carpet or just cardboard. Some sit up, rubbing their arms and legs. Others just stare, dazed, at the pavement in front of them. Jenny, Richie and Owen immediately start their work, talking to each and every person. “Did you manage to grab a few hours? What's your plan for the rest of the day? There's hot food to take away at MQI if you come over. You might check in with the nurse when you're there about that sore, her name's Marguerite, she'll be

there.” Smiles are exchanged, bottles of water given out, vital information shared.

He looked up as if in slow motion

“Outside St. Stephen's Green Shopping Centre, a young man in his early twenties sits on the pavement. Dishevelled and miserable, he's wearing shorts, and the large red sores on his shins urgently need medical attention. Owen encourages him to come to MQI that day for treatment. The young fellow says he had a hostel bed last night but doesn't know where he'll end up tonight. Jenny checks the centralized system on her phone and confirms he is still actually booked into that same hostel. Relief washes over his face. He accepts a bar of chocolate from Owen, laughing when Owen says “It's a fancy one – only the best for you.” Friendly banter, a few minutes of lightness, is like healing balm.

“We walk back to Merchants Quay to pack up more supplies. It's clear that the work being

done by Jenny, Richie and Owen – MQI's Assertive Outreach – is absolutely vital. So many of the day services that clients rely on for food, shelter, social contact and support have been closed or reduced. We may not be able to welcome the great numbers of people into the warmth of the Riverbank drop-in centre for the time being, so we go out into the city to meet them where they lie. With comfort and kindness to show them they haven't been forgotten.

“We reached 33 people on the streets that morning in just a few hours. There are so many new faces. Their despair is growing as the weeks wear on. Please, help MQI to find and embrace the most forgotten among us.”

Let's go back together for the ones left behind. To donate please call 01-5240139, visit www.mqi.ie or return the donation form included in the attached insert. Thank you.



Every vote counts for new Co. Wexford Catholic school

Staff reporter

While the cry from across the Atlantic has been for every vote in the US election to be counted, there is another poll that is captivating residents of one Co. Wexford town just as much.

Just three weeks ago - to the great relief of many in the town and surrounding area - the Department of Education and Skills announced that Gorey would be getting a new, state of the art secondary school, in 2021.

Perhaps the most interesting part of this development is that the Department of Education has handed the decision as to who would run this school to parents; the parents in the area - and hinterland - who have children in 2nd to 6th class in local primary schools.

Clare Ryan CEO of one of the educational trusts (CEIST) hoping to run the new school said: "This is an awesome responsibility that these parents have been given; because their decision will have a deep impact not only on their own children's lives but on the

lives of future generations of children living in the town and surrounding areas.

"It really is a once in a lifetime opportunity to really impact on the educational landscape of the town, so we'd really encourage parents to choose really carefully; it's huge," she said.

CEIST - Catholic Education an Irish Schools Trust - held a virtual open evening for parents in Gorey on November 5.

“It really is a once in a lifetime opportunity to really impact on the educational landscape of the town, so we’d really encourage parents to choose really carefully; it’s huge”

Ms Ryan said that they “were completely blown away by the level of interest in the kind of high quality, state of the art Catholic

secondary school we’re seeking to offer to the town.

“The support has come through the local primary schools obviously and we’re really grateful to the principals and teachers, parents and young people who’ve gotten behind our efforts.

“The local clergy have also been really marvellous. Parents want the kind of superb school our trust is offering and they’re taking their role as arbiters of this decision for the town extremely seriously. It was incredibly heartening to be part of it,” she said.

CEIST is patron of 107 Catholic post-primary schools and co-patron of 34 community schools and community colleges.

Ferns Diocesan Secretary Fr John Carroll, said: “What we want parents to do now is simply exercise their vote; every vote counts and every vote will matter.

“From our perspective here in the diocese the worst thing would be if parents said - after the fact - that they hadn’t heard about it, or didn’t realise they had the choice in this; that would be a

terrible tragedy really and unworthy of the current Department of Education’s patronage process. So, I’d be encouraging every eligible parent to get out and vote; do your research, go to the various websites of the various patrons and see what resonates with you and your family.

“Think also what’s best for the town into the future,” Fr Carroll said.

Ms Ryan and Fr Carroll are encouraging parents to back the CEIST option. Ms Ryan said that “Excellence in terms of our care of students and excellence in terms of our results for students is the hallmark of all we do.

“Gorey doesn’t have a Catholic school in the town and the people of Gorey deserve to have one,” she said.

• For more information on the CEIST bid, go to www.ceist.ie where you’ll also find a link to vote. Parents will need their Eircode and child’s PPS number.

Ruhama expresses hope for review of sexual offences legislation

Jason Osborne

Irish charity Ruhama has expressed their hope that the review of current sexual offences legislation will result in improved law enforcement and greater public awareness around the issue of prostitution in Ireland.

In a statement to *The Irish Catholic*, Ruhama Communications Officer Aimée Miller said, “Ruhama has a firm belief that the best practice legislative approach is one rooted in the Equality/Nordic model in the way that the 2017 legislation is. However, we hope that the operation of certain elements can be improved in relation to the enforcement of the law and to increasing public awareness which is currently very low. This will allow for greater success in achieving the objectives of the law in respect of combating trafficking for sexual exploitation and the direct physical and psychological harms of prostitution.”

Speaking to the specific changes they’d like to see come about as a result of the review of the operation of part 4 of the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 2017, Ms Miller identified greater resources and further training for Garda in their efforts to enforce the current law, as well as provision for exit supports for those in prostitution across the country.

Speaking of the ways in which the current legislation has affected women working in prostitution since its passage in 2017, Ms Miller said, “women who use our service and have been subjected to aggravated violence in prostitution have reported experiences of better outcomes in the criminal justice system while others have reported feeling more confident to report these incidences to An Garda Síochána now that they have been explicitly decriminalised for the sale of so-called sexual services following passage of the 2017 legislation.”

Priests’ ministry lives on long after them – archbishop

Chai Brady

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin has insisted that the ministry of the 19 priests of Dublin Diocese who died over the last years lives on in their parishes.

“We miss them. Yet their memory remains. Their ministry is not forgotten,” he said in a homily at Mass livestreamed from Dublin’s pro-cathedral on Saturday morning.

“Much of that ministry was carried out with great discretion, without any seeking publicity, but we know that it had been of vital help and comfort to men and women at difficult moments in their lives.

“The ministry of Mass and the sacraments was at the centre of their spirituality and the inspiration for their preaching of the Word of God and their witnessing to the life of charity,” he said.

“These 19 priests are remembered in a special way by their fellow priests, as having been true examples of priestly ministry and as zealous members of the body of Dublin clergy,” the archbishop said.

Votive candle in memory of Covid-19 victims



A new votive candle globe and memorial to those who have died of Covid-19 was dedicated at St Finbarre's Cathedral, Cork, during a joint prayer service by Bishop Fintan Gavin and Church of Ireland Bishop Paul Colton.

'His soul thirsted for God' – Dublin rabbi pays tribute to Jonathan Sacks



Jonathan Sacks

Staff reporter

The rabbi of Dublin's Jewish community has paid tribute to the late Lord Jonathan Sacks who died at the weekend.

Rabbi Sacks (72) died after a short illness and was one of the most-respected voices of faith in contemporary Britain and was widely known across the English-speaking world for his writing on multiculturalism and inter-religious dialogue.

Dublin-based Rabbi Zalman Lent told *The Irish Catholic* that during his time as Chief Rabbi in Britain, Lord Sacks prioritised education amongst the Jewish community.

Contribution

Rabbi Lent said that he believed that one of Lord Sacks' great contributions was "to understand the dignity of difference".

"He stressed so much that the test of faith is whether I can make space for difference: can I recognise God's image in someone who is not in my image," Rabbi Lent said.

He served as Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth from 1991-2013 and was appointed to the House of Lords in 2009.

Rabbi Lent said he believed that Lord Sacks' impact spread far and wide outside the Jewish community and the wider faith community "because

of his great mix of so much intellect with compassion and humility. It's something you really only find in the greatest of the great," he said.

He said that Rabbi Sacks will be remembered as a man "who did not hide from challenges because he was firm in his own convictions and as such was a voice of stability for others and helped engender in them a feeling of security," Rabbi Lent said.

Recalling an episode of when Lord Sacks appeared on the BBC Radio Four programme *Desert Island Discs*, Rabbi Lent recalled that one of the musical choices was a version of Psalm 63. In the text, the psalmist sings of his desire for God saying "my soul thirsts for you".

"His [Rabbi Sacks'] soul thirsted for God," Rabbi Lent said. "He had a genuine solid faith and a thirst for God that he blended with a love of humanity, a love of family, a love of community and a love of prayer".

Rabbi Lent said that Lord Sacks will also be remembered as a man of great humour. "He combined it all with a wonderful self-deprecating sense of humour. He was very down to earth, and always ready to listen to people – to be absorbed in listening," Rabbi Lent said.

Meanwhile, Britain's most-senior Churchman Cardinal Vincent Nichols has paid tribute to a man

he describes as a friend and "an eloquent proponent of some of the greatest truths of humanity".

Great figure

Cardinal Nichols said: "I mourn the death of Jonathan Sacks. I express my sorrow to the worldwide Jewish community on the loss of this great figure. I assure them of my prayers and condolences.

"Chief Rabbi Sacks was a most eloquent proponent of some of the greatest truths of humanity, so often forgotten. I recall with clarity some of his forceful and persuasive presentations of the truths expressed in Judaism and indeed in the Christian faith, truths which help us to make sense of our lives, our communities and our destinies," the cardinal said.

Dr Nichols quoted words of Rabbi Sacks during a meeting with Pope Benedict XVI in London in 2010:

"In the face of a deeply individualistic culture we offer community. Against consumerism, we talk about the things that have value but not a price. Against cynicism, we dare to admire and respect. In the face of fragmenting families, we believe in consecrating relationships. We believe in marriage as a commitment, parenthood as a responsibility, and the poetry of everyday life; when it is etched, in homes and schools with the charisma of holiness and grace."

“Chief Rabbi Sacks was a most eloquent proponent of some of the greatest truths of humanity, so often forgotten”



IRELAND'S NATIONAL MARIAN SHRINE

Upcoming Events Online

Comfort on the Journey



— a series of online Vigils this November

In the special month of November, we remember our departed loved ones. Join us online each Friday evening as we come together virtually for a period of extended prayer and reflection.

Nov. 13: Remembering Our Dearly Departed

On this evening, we will remember in particular the deceased members of our own parish, especially those who have died in the past year.

Nov. 20: Comfort On The Journey

We gather comfort and strength in our moments of grief, loss and anxiety in these difficult times in this period of prayer and reflection.

Nov. 27: Facing The Future

In these challenging times, we come together as we pray for the strength to face the future with faith, hope and courage.

Join us online for Rosary at 7pm, Mass at 7.30pm and Holy Hour at 8pm on our website www.knockshrine.ie

'The Christian Vision of Life After Death'

— a series of online talks by Brian Grogan S.J.

These short talks will be streamed on our website www.knockshrine.ie at 8.30pm every Wednesday evening in November and on the Knock Shrine Facebook page.

Nov. 4: Christian Hope in a Doubting World

Nov. 11: The Resurrection: Stubborn Facts

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Pizza deliverers have more freedom than priests, says bishop

Ruadhán Jones

Bishop Kevin Doran has criticised the “narrow circumscription” of priests’ public ministry under the current travel regulations.

The regulations mean that pizza deliverers and bicycle engineers have more freedom to work than priests, the bishop of Elphin said.

Speaking to *The Irish Catholic*, Bishop Doran said that there’s an assumption that all priests do is “say Mass and look after death”.

“There’s no concept that priests are involved in all kinds of spiritual and pastoral support for families in difficulty,” Bishop Doran continued, “to the poor, people in all sorts of circumstances,

spiritual needs that can’t be met remotely.”

Regulations

Under current regulations, there are a list of essential services for which people are allowed to travel for work, Dr Doran explained.

“Clergy do not figure in any way on that list, other than a reference to those who are involved in death and funerals and then chaplains, and that seems to mean to institutions like hospitals,” Bishop Doran said.

There is a separate section which allows for exceptions to the travel ban and, following “significant lobbying” by the Catholic bishops, priests have been included.

“But we’re only included to

the extent that you can travel to put on an online liturgy, you can travel for a funeral or a wedding and can travel for pastoral care of the sick,” Bishop Doran added. “Other than that, priests are not allowed exercise their public ministry in anyway.”

Meanwhile, following a question regarding a return to public worship, Táiniste Leo Varadkar said that: “Nearly every day there is one group or another making a good case as to why the rules should be relaxed, whether it is hunting, coursing, tennis, golf, gyms or children’s clothes. We feel that if we start relaxing regulations on a piecemeal basis at the moment, that will undermine what we are trying to achieve.”



‘Exemplary’ redevelopment of Nano Nagle Place claims prestigious award



Presentation Sisters examine the newly refurbished gardens at South Presentation Convent, now Nano Nagle Place. Credit: Clare Keogh

Ruadhán Jones

The redevelopment of the first convent founded by Presentation Sisters’ founder Nano Nagle has won the Urban Design award in a prestigious national competition.

The Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland gave the award, describing the South Presentation convent in Cork City as “an exemplary urban renewal project”.

The project, completed in 2017, Nano Nagle Place (NNP) is a multi-faceted organisation incorporating the convent, ministry activities, a heritage centre, gardens open to the public and a café.

The Presentation Sisters initiated the project as a means of preserving “the heritage and ethos of Nano Nagle... by creating a sacred place

for contemplation and reflection and developing a new sustainable resource to share with the Cork Community”.

Jessie Castle of JCA Architects was part of the team who re-designed NNP. She said they were thrilled with the result.

“We are very pleased,” she said. “I think this award in particular does really reward the big team of people that were involved in the redevelopment of the site.

“There’s a lot of competition for these awards,” Ms Castle continued. “It’s good for the centre as well, it has been very successful. The masterplan has been realised fully in terms of the architecture but really it has been carried through by the people running the site now, the sisters and the user groups.”

Fr D’Arcy says Covid-19 ‘knocked me for six’

Staff reporter

Ireland’s unofficial chaplain to the showbiz community has warned people to be careful about Covid-19, revealing his own diagnosis.

Fr Brian D’Arcy has revealed: “Someone I was in the same room with - properly socially distancing I should add - tested positive. I had

no symptoms. I was feeling a bit off but I’d just had the anti-flu injection - I always have a mild reaction to it for a day or two. However, I was advised to be on the safe side and get a test because the symptoms could be masked.

“I was utterly shocked though when, 20 hours later, the text pinged on my phone to say I’d tested positive with instructions to

immediately isolate for ten days.

“That evening I was shocked by how anxious I became. I have underlying conditions and I’m no longer as young as I think I am. But it knocked me for six,” he said.

Having come out the other side, Fr D’Arcy added that “my most significant feeling now is total gratitude. I am overcome with this deep sense of graciousness”.



Fr Patrick Fogarty at a blessing of graves in the churchyard of St Mary’s, Carrigaline.

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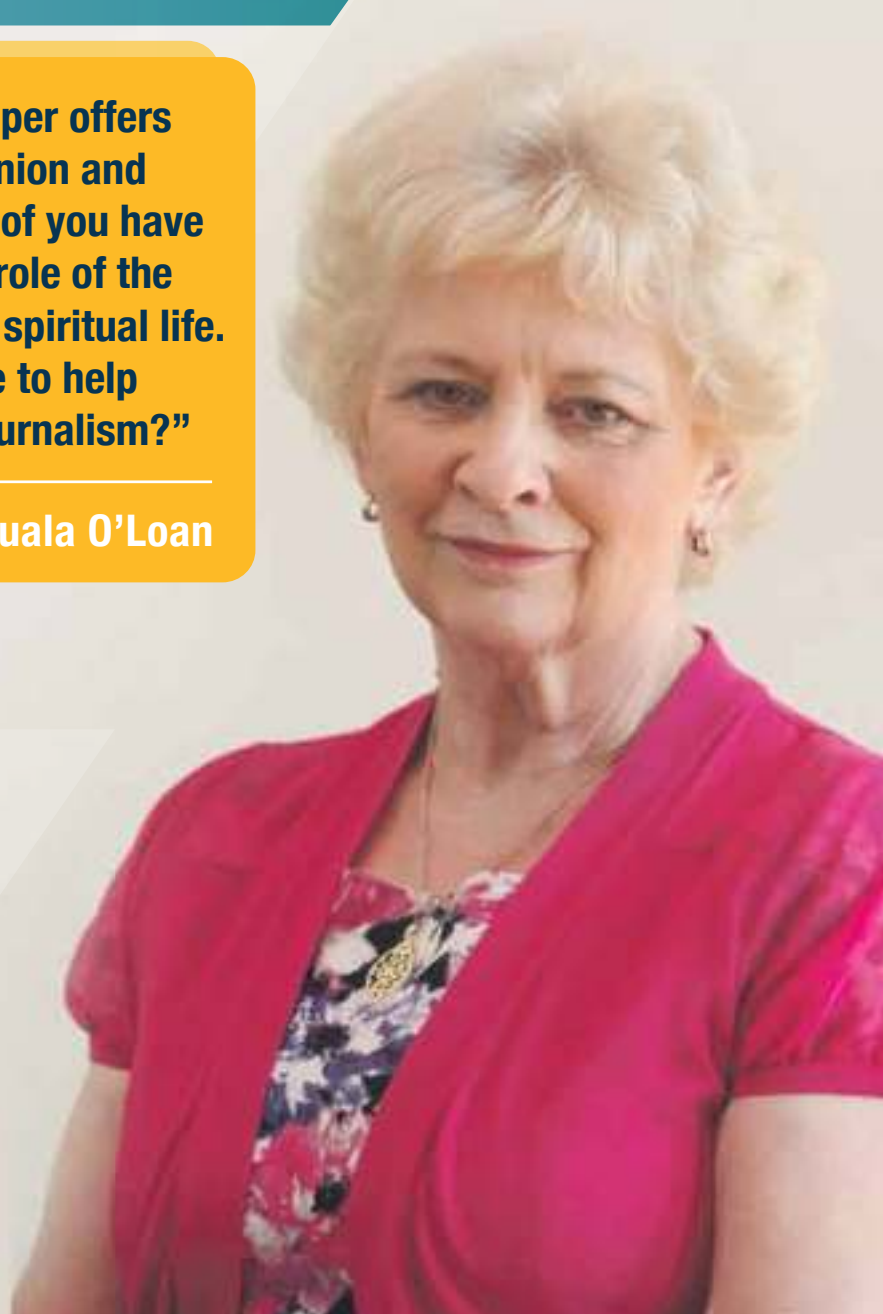
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Out&About

As good as gold



WEXFORD: 5th and 6th year students from Loreto Secondary School receiving their John Paul II Gold and Papal Awards in recognition of the contribution they made in their parishes and communities. They are pictured alongside their teacher and award co-ordinator Linda Jordan.



DUBLIN: Church of Ireland Archbishop Michael Jackson, parish priest of Newman University Church Fr Gary Chamberland and Colin Mackenzie of the Irish Kidney Association stand in Newman University Church for the IKA's televised event honouring organ donors which will be aired November 15.



DUBLIN: 2nd class students from St Brigid's GNS, Glasnevin enjoyed a walk to the local Met Éireann office.

IN SHORT

John Paul II awards 'going strong' in Diocese of Ferns

The fifth-year students of Loreto Secondary School, Wexford, recently received their John Paul II Gold Awards in a ceremony which took place in the school, hosted by their teacher Linda Jordan and Colette O'Doherty, the Director of Religious Education for the Diocese of Ferns.

The students received the awards based on the work they carried out in their parishes, communities and their school. Some of these tasks included bringing the elderly to Mass within a residential home, reading and singing at Mass, helping out in school liturgies, fundraising for charities such as Mary's Meals, Concern, the school box appeal as well as many other activities.

Fifteen girls in total received their Gold Award; Libby O'Connor, Katie Beth Gaynor, Aoife O'Connor, Molly Benson, Mai Ling Tynan, Aoife Kelly, Isabelle Murray, Hannah

Deveraux, Nessa Dunne, Charlotte Dowd, Bronagh Reilly, Megan Johnston, Sinead Hegarty, Sophie Dawson and Catherine O'Sullivan.

On the same day, two sixth year students, Nadine Goodison and Grace Rossiter received a Papal Award for their voluntary contribution to their parish and community. Both Nadine and Grace spoke at the award ceremony giving details of their John Paul II journey. They spoke of the value they felt from being part of their parish community and how their confidence and self-worth grew by challenging themselves to step out of their comfort zone.

This year, Loreto Secondary School are expecting an even higher number of their students to embark on the John Paul II journey with six of this year's Gold awardees going forward to try and achieve the Papal Cross.

"The programme is still very much active," says Colette O'Doherty, who

co-ordinates the awards for the diocese.

"There are always opportunities for us to volunteer our services and to support our parishes and communities even within these current restrictions. We just have to think creatively about how we can do this, and the young people are proving time and time again how helpful and creative they are."

Alone launches 'Gratitude' campaign to thank older people, staff, volunteers and supporters

Alone have partnered with Bonfire Advertising and JC Decaux to launch their Gratitude campaign, thanking older people, volunteers, supporters and staff for their assistance and support since the arrival of the Covid-19 pandemic in Ireland.

The campaign will see images of older people who have all been supported by

different services Alone provides, alongside images of volunteers, staff and donors. The Gratitude campaign has also been supported by Bonfire Advertising and JC Decaux, who designed the multi-media campaign and provided advertising space free of charge.

Alone CEO, Seán Moynihan, stated, "Our organisation has been working consistently to provide support and assistance to vulnerable older people since the beginning of the crisis. The arrival of Covid-19 has encouraged our identification as a national organisation that can provide all services on a community level across the nation, and we would like to extend our sincere thanks to each and every one of our older people, staff members, volunteers and donors for making this a possibility. We are so grateful to Bonfire and JC Decaux for their support on the Gratitude campaign and for helping us raise awareness, so that we can continue our work with older people in need amid the Covid-19 crisis."

Edited by Jason Osborne
jason@irishcatholic.ie

Events deadline is a week in
advance of publication



DUBLIN: Archbishop Diarmuid Martin welcomed presenter Miriam O'Callaghan to his home in Drumcondra to discuss grieving during the pandemic and his time as archbishop.



CORK: Fr Colin Doocey and Fr J.P. O'Riordan from Mahon parish blessing the graves in St Michael's Cemetery, Blackrock on All Saints Day.



WEXFORD:

Grace Rossiter and Nadine Goodison from Loreto Secondary School receiving their John Paul II Papal Award in recognition of the contribution they made in their parishes and communities.

CORK:

The Dominicans of St Mary's Dominican Church and Priory, Pope's Quay visited a graveyard on All Saints Day to pray for the members of their community who have died.



DUBLIN: Sr Shital Mary of the Redemptoristines of Drumcondra enjoys the autumn colours in the monastery garden.



Events

● In the current Covid-19 crisis, it is clear that most (and perhaps all) Church events, other than some Masses, are suspended. Consequently, we are withholding the popular Events Listing column until normal activities can resume in our parishes. However, please do email us if you know of any parish event planned and we will publish details.

Vatican report reveals little serious investigation of McCarrick rumours



Former cardinal Theodore McCarrick greets Pope Francis.



Cindy Wooden

Although dogged for years by rumours of sexual impropriety, Theodore McCarrick was able to rise up the Catholic hierarchical structure based on personal contacts, protestations of his innocence and a lack of Church officials reporting and investigating accusations, according to the Vatican summary of its report released on Tuesday.

In choosing then-Archbishop McCarrick of Newark in 2001 to be Archbishop of Washington and later a cardinal, St John Paul II likely overlooked rumours and allegations about McCarrick's sexual misconduct because of a long relationship with him, McCarrick's own strong denial and experience with communist authorities in Poland making accusations to discredit the Church, the summary said.

But, in fact, rumours of McCarrick's conduct, especially knowledge that he had young adult men and seminarians sleep in the same bed with him when he was Bishop of Metuchen, led the Vatican to decide it would be "imprudent" to promote him when looking for candidates to become Archbishop of Chicago in 1997, New York in 1999-2000 and, initially, of Washington in July 2000, the report said.

In June 2018 the Vatican suspended McCarrick from ministry after an investigation by the Archdiocese of New York found credible a charge that he sexually abused a teenager. McCarrick resigned from the College of Cardinals in July, and in February 2019, after a canonical process found McCarrick guilty of "solicitation in the sacrament of confession and sins against the

Sixth Commandment with minors and with adults, with the aggravating factor of the abuse of power," Pope Francis dismissed him from the priesthood.

In August 2018, Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, former nuncio to the United States, called on Pope Francis to resign after claiming that he had informed Pope Francis of McCarrick's abuse in 2013 and that top Vatican officials knew of McCarrick's abusive behaviour for years.

“But in October 1999 Cardinal John O’Connor of New York wrote to Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, then nuncio in the United States, summarising allegations about McCarrick, then-archbishop of Newark”

The report summary said, “No records support Vigano’s account” of his meeting with Pope Francis “and evidence as to what he said is sharply disputed”.

Until the allegations about child sexual abuse were made to the Archdiocese of New York in 2017, “Francis had heard only that there had been allegations and rumours related to immoral conduct with adults occurring prior to McCarrick’s appointment to Washington,” it said.

“Believing that the allegations had already been reviewed and rejected by Pope John Paul II, and well aware that McCarrick was active during the papacy of Benedict XVI, Pope Francis did not see the need to alter the approach that had been adopted in prior years,” the summary said.

In a statement issued with the report, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, said the contributions of survivors were “fundamental”. The introduction

of the report cautions survivors of abuse that certain sections “could prove traumatising” and warns that some portions of the document are “inappropriate for minors”.

He also said that over the course of the two years it took to complete the investigation and compile the report, “we have taken significant steps forward to ensure greater attention to the protection of minors and more effective interventions to avoid” repeating errors of the past.

According to the summary, St John Paul’s decisions to name McCarrick bishop of Metuchen in 1981 and archbishop of Newark in 1986 were based on “his background, skills and achievements. During the appointment process, McCarrick was widely lauded as a pastoral, intelligent and zealous bishop”.

The summary also said that, at the time, “no credible information emerged suggesting that he had engaged in any misconduct”.

But in October 1999 Cardinal John O’Connor of New York wrote to Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, then nuncio in the United States, summarising allegations about McCarrick, then-archbishop of Newark. The letter was given to St John Paul, who asked Archbishop Montalvo to investigate.

The nuncio did so by writing to four New Jersey bishops, the summary said without naming the bishops. Besides the Archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey has only four other dioceses: Camden, Metuchen, Paterson and Trenton.

“St John Paul II ‘personally made the decision’ to name him Archbishop of Washington and a cardinal, it said”

“What is now known, through investigation undertaken for preparation of the report, is that three of the four American bishops provided inaccurate and incomplete information to the Holy See regarding McCa-

rick’s sexual conduct with young adults,” the summary said.

In response to Cardinal O’Connor’s accusations, the report said, McCarrick wrote to now-Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz, St John Paul’s secretary, claiming: “In the 70 years of my life, I have never had sexual relations with any person, male or female, young or old, cleric or lay, nor have I ever abused another person or treated them with disrespect.”

“McCarrick’s denial was believed,” the summary said, adding that because of “the limited nature of the Holy See’s own prior investigation, the Holy See had never received a complaint directly from a victim, whether adult or minor, about McCarrick’s conduct”.

“The archbishop, the report said, noted that ‘the allegations remained unproven,’ but he suggested opening a canonical process to investigate”

“Though there is no direct evidence,” the summary added, “it appears likely from the information obtained that John Paul II’s past experience in Poland regarding the use of spurious allegations against bishops to degrade the standing of the Church played a role in his willingness to believe McCarrick’s denials.”

In addition, McCarrick had a relationship with the Polish Pope going back to his days as the cardinal of Krakow. The summary said, “McCarrick’s direct relationship with John Paul II also likely had an impact on the Pope’s decision-making”.

St John Paul II “personally made the decision” to name him Archbishop of Washington and a cardinal, it said.

The report also concluded that now-retired Pope Benedict XVI did not initiate a formal canonical process against McCarrick or even impose sanctions on him because “there were no credible allegations of child abuse; McCarrick swore on

his ‘oath as a bishop’ that the allegations were false; the allegations of misconduct with adults related to events in the 1980s; and there was no indication of any recent misconduct.”

However, after initially asking McCarrick to stay on in Washington for two years past his 75th birthday in 2005, the summary said, new details related to a priest’s allegations about McCarrick’s sexual misconduct emerged and Pope Benedict asked him to step down in 2006.

At the time, the summary said, Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re, then-prefect of the Congregation for Bishops, told McCarrick “he should maintain a lower profile and minimise travel for the good of the Church”.

“While Cardinal Re’s approach was approved by Pope Benedict XVI, the indications did not carry the Pope’s explicit imprimatur, were not based on a factual finding that McCarrick had actually committed misconduct and did not include a prohibition on public ministry,” the summary said.

Archbishop Vigano, while working in the Vatican Secretariat of State, wrote memos in 2006 and 2008 “bringing questions related to McCarrick to the attention of superiors,” the summary said. The memos referred to allegations and rumours about McCarrick’s “misconduct during the 1980s and raised concerns that a scandal could result given that the information had already circulated widely.”

The archbishop, the report said, noted that “the allegations remained unproven,” but he suggested opening a canonical process to investigate.

Archbishop Vigano, who was appointed nuncio to the United States in 2011, was “instructed” in 2012 to conduct an inquiry into allegations by a priest who claimed he was sexually assaulted by McCarrick, the summary said.

Archbishop Vigano, it continued, “did not take these steps and therefore never placed himself in the position to ascertain the credibility” of the priest’s claims.



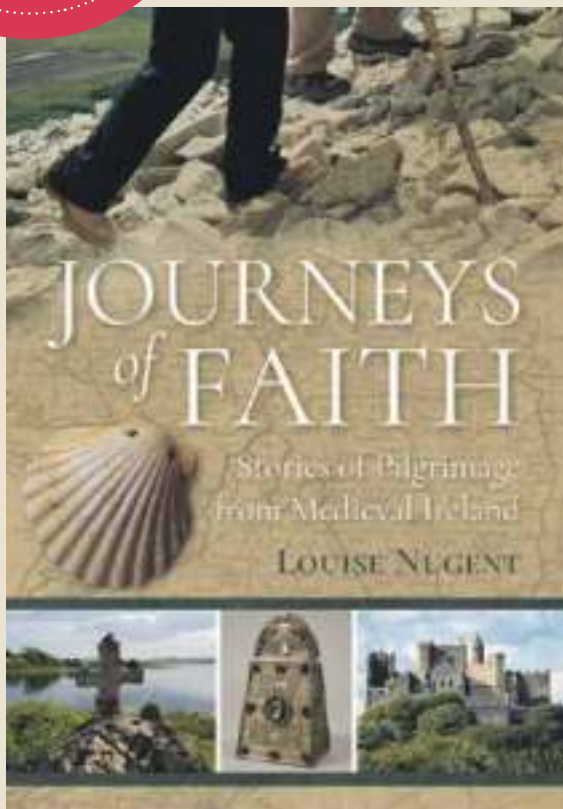
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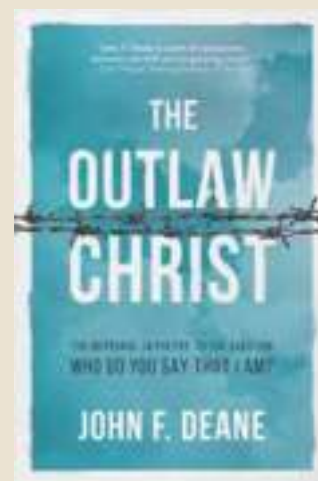
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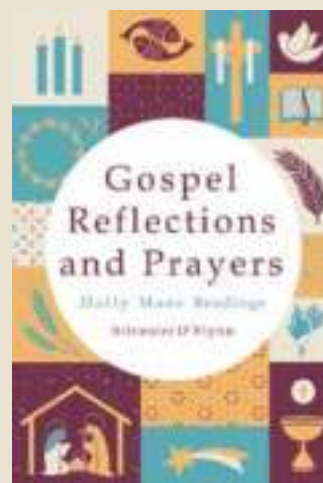
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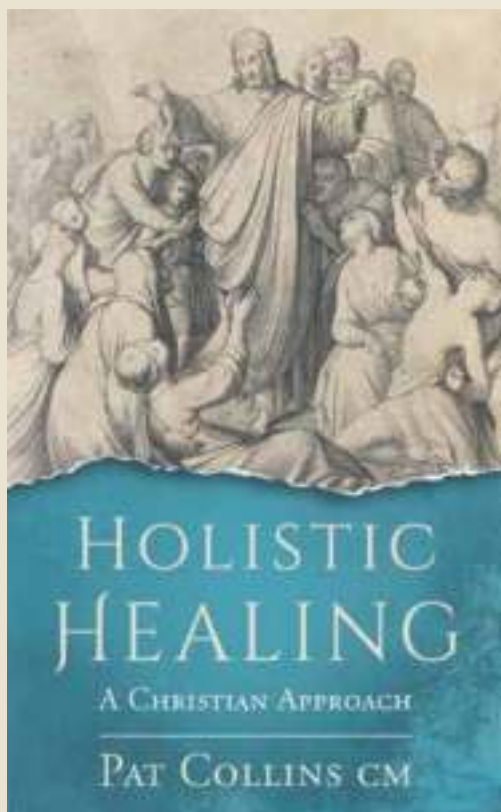
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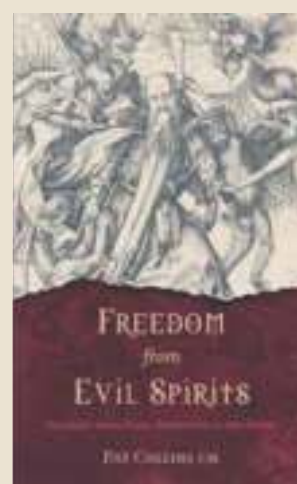
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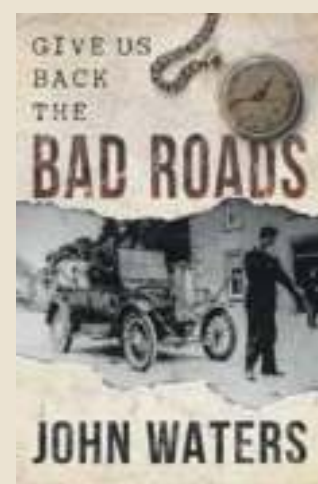
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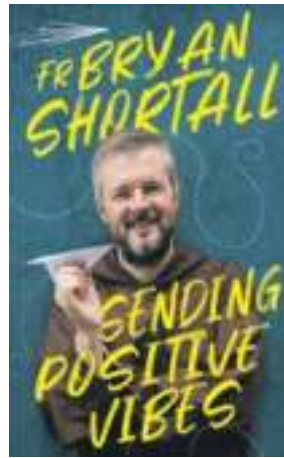
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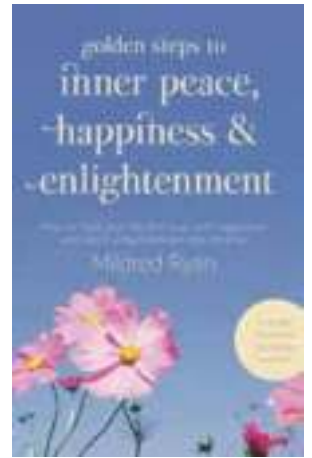
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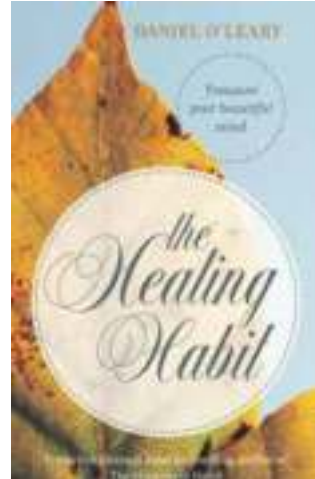


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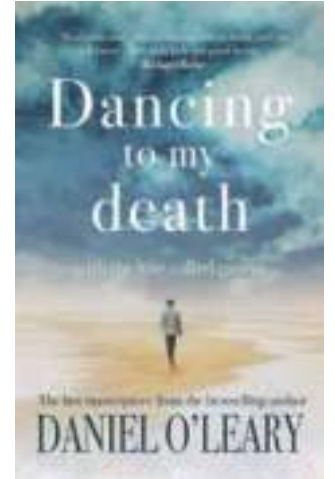
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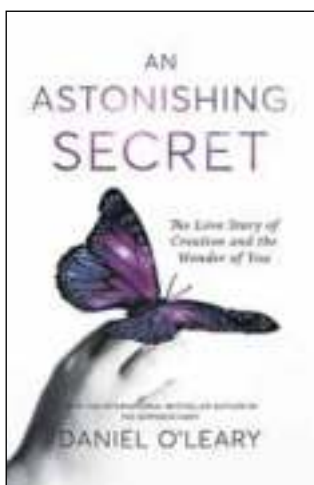
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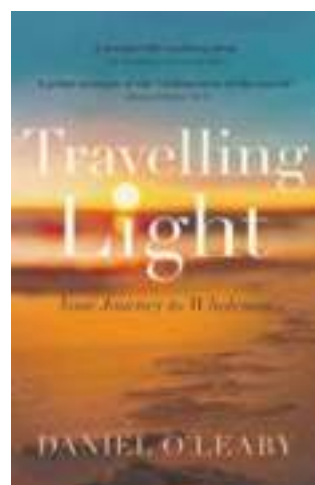
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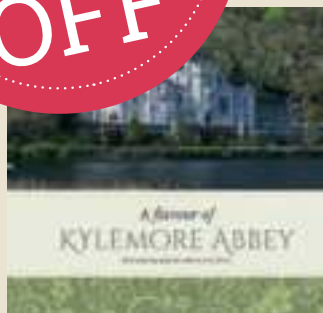
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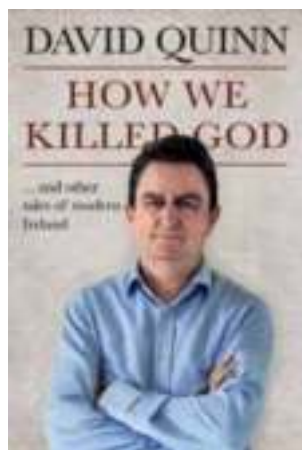


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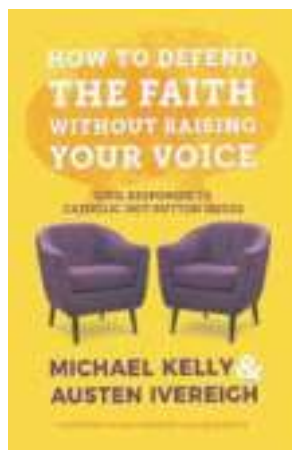


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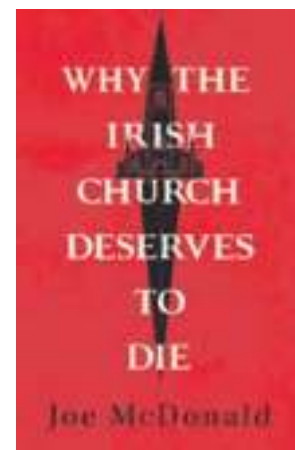
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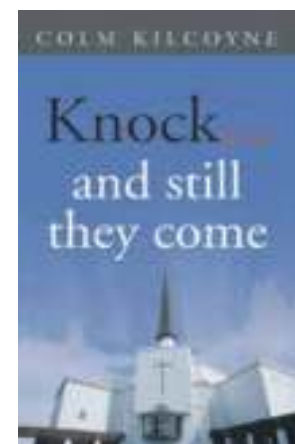
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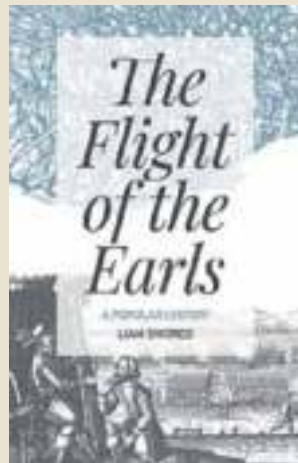
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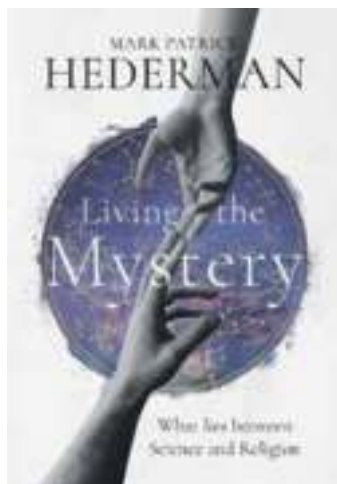
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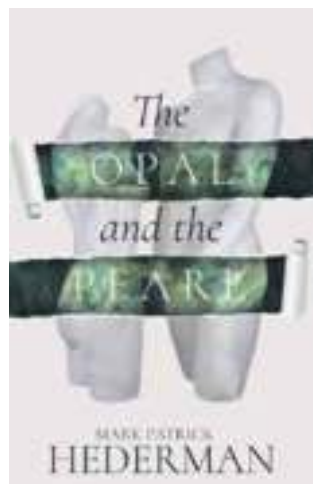
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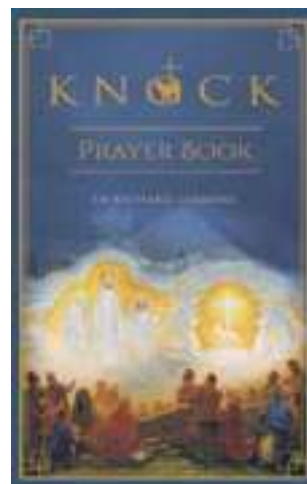
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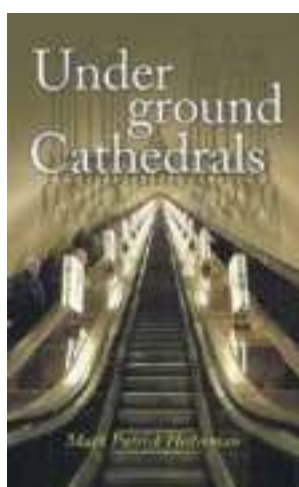
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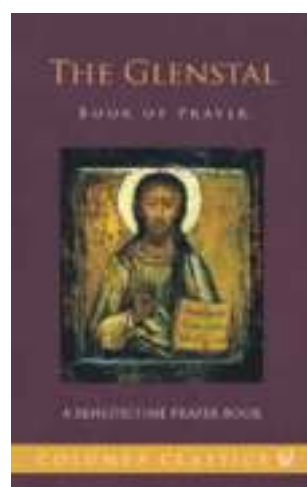
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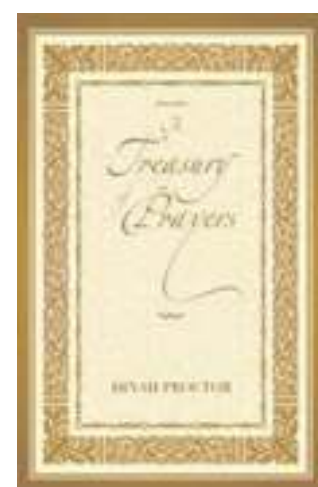
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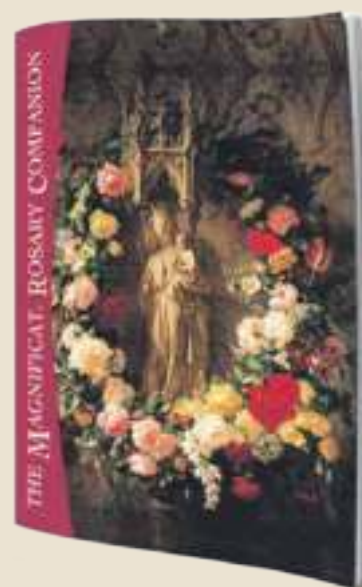
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Letter from America



Carol Zimmermann

The nation's political divide was never going to be solved by the final tally of presidential votes or when the political signs came down.

And the talk of moving forward and finding healing, or at least turning down the vitriol, can seem an unsurmountable task for a nation still reeling from the pandemic, with its rising death count and economic fallout.

Catholic leaders have acknowledged the long road ahead and the need for calm resolve.

No one is saying there will be an instant "Kumbaya" moment of collegiality, but in discussion about where the nation stands right now, a U.S. woman religious and a bishop used that very word to describe where the nation definitely isn't.

"I doubt that any of us expected to wake up on November 4th ready to hold hands and sing 'Kumbaya' with the neighbours whose yard signs offended us for the last several weeks," wrote Bishop John E. Stowe of Lexington, Kentucky, in a November 4 statement.

Similarly, Sister Marcia Hall, vocation director of the Oblate Sisters of Providence in Baltimore, said prior to the election that even if it were to go smoothly, "we won't all be holding hands and singing 'Kumbaya,' no matter who wins. ... It's going to take more than the election for us to start talking about coming together."

Sister Hall and other women religious told Global Sisters Report, a project of *National Catholic Reporter*, no matter how the election played out, Americans would still have to find a way to live together, something that politicians can't do for them.

Boston Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley, in a November 5 statement on the election, pointed to an ideal postelection view, but said it will take some work to get there.

"The task we face is not fully captured in the data, the

numbers, charts and graphs, the task is also a spiritual challenge," he said. And quoting Pope Francis' recent encyclical *"Fratelli Tutti,"* he said people are called to promote "friendship and an acknowledgment of the worth of every human person, always and everywhere".

"An election is never only about who wins and loses. It is always about a moment in time when a new beginning is possible," he said, noting the nation is "now at a moment when a new beginning is not only possible but urgently necessary".

The Boston archbishop said the work ahead "calls us to respect the opinions of others, to dialogue about differing perspectives, to seek reconciliation where there has been estrangement, to work for healing among the people of our country".

“The task we face is not fully captured in the data, the numbers, charts and graphs, the task is also a spiritual challenge”

That's not all though. He also said it means not giving in to "resentments based in divergent political views and divisions that have emerged from the stress of recent months".

This same idea was reiterated at a November 4 webinar at Le Moyne College in Syracuse, New York, about moving forward after the election.

Jesuit Father David McCallum, the school's vice president for mission integration and development, said: "These times are not easy, loving those who hold very different perspectives than ourselves is not easy; loving at a time when the conditions don't seem to support love is not easy and yet this is what we are called to."

Dialogue with those we disagree with calls for humility, he said. He also said to give it time and that Thanksgiving dinner might not be the best day to start this.

Divisions were clearly pronounced in this year's election, but they aren't new.

The "Prayer after an Election," in the 2007 "Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers" from the U.S. Confer-



North Carolina supporters of President Donald Trump and Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden argue after media declared Mr Biden had won the presidential election. CNS.

ence of Catholic Bishops, seeks God's blessing on the country and its leaders but it also prays for healing.

"Heal us from our differences and unite us, O Lord, with a common purpose, dedication, and commitment to achieve liberty and justice in the years ahead for all people, and especially those who are most vulnerable in our midst," it says.

Many turned to prayer both before and after the election.

Manhattan College in Riverdale, New York, held a postelection interfaith prayer service for "Hope and Healing" November 4, bringing together students, faculty and staff outside the campus chapel. The service included a prayer for forgiveness for not living up to Gospel challenges, a Jewish prayer for the country and a passage read aloud from the Quran.

At the end of the service, participants recited together one of the prayers in the last section of *"Fratelli Tutti,"* where Pope Francis invites believers to ask God to "pour forth into our hearts a fraternal spirit and inspire in us a dream of renewed encounter, dialogue, justice and peace."

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World Report

IN BRIEF

US Supreme Court looks for compromise in Catholic foster care case

● The Supreme Court, now with a full bench, seemed willing to find a compromise during November 4 arguments about a Catholic social service agency shut out from Philadelphia's foster care program for not accepting same-sex couples as foster parents.

In the case, which pits the rights of religious groups against state discrimination laws, the justices looked for middle ground. Justice Neil Gorsuch said he was concerned that the city of Philadelphia could "effectively take over a service that had been provided privately for some time and take it over so much so that it regulates it pervasively" preventing the free exercise of religion.

The case, *Fulton v. Philadelphia*, centres on Philadelphia's 2018 exclusion of the foster program of Catholic Social Services of the Philadelphia Archdiocese because of the agency's policy of not placing children with same-sex couples or unmarried couples because these unions go against Church teaching on traditional marriage.

UK health secretary permits travelling abroad for assisted suicide during lockdown

● U.K. health secretary Matt Hancock said that people traveling abroad for assisted suicide would not be breaking strict new coronavirus lockdown rules in England.

Mr Hancock told MPs November 5 that the authorities would consider going to another country for assisted suicide a "reasonable excuse" for leaving home under new lockdown regulations.

He said: "Under the current law, based on the Suicide

Act 1961, it is an offense to encourage or assist the death of another person. However, it is legal to travel abroad for the purpose of assisted dying where it is allowed in that jurisdiction.

"The new coronavirus regulations, which come into force today, place restrictions on leaving the home without a reasonable excuse; travelling abroad for the purpose of assisted dying is a reasonable excuse, so anyone doing so would not be breaking the law."

Pope Francis offers Mass for souls of 169 deceased bishops, cardinals

● Pope Francis encouraged Catholics to pray for the dead and remember Christ's promise of the resurrection at a Mass offered for the souls of cardinals and bishops who died in the past year.

"Prayers for the faithful departed, offered in confident trust that they now live with God, also greatly benefit ourselves on this, our earthly pilgrimage," Pope Francis said November 5.

The Mass, celebrated at the Altar of the Chair, was offered for the repose of the souls of six cardinals and 163 bishops who died between October 2019 and October 2020.

Kenya's internet service frustrates students as learning goes online

● Kenyan college students are frustrated that their studies have been interrupted because the country's internet infrastructure is too inadequate to maintain an online learning environment during the coronavirus pandemic.

They have complained of disruptions in service and slow speeds that cause long delays in communication. They also said the high cost of connecting online has prohibited their full participation in college coursework.

"Many a times, you would need a technician next to you to ensure all is smooth-going," said Reagan Kocholo, a Sudanese student studying journalism at Catholic-run Tangaza University College in Nairobi.

Online, or e-learning as it is known in Kenya, has become the primary educational alternative during government-mandated lockdowns because of the pandemic.

Archbishop Gomez: Nation's leaders must now 'come together' with election of new president

With Joe Biden now elected as the nation's 46th president, it is "time for our leaders to come together in a spirit of national unity," said Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

They also must "commit themselves to dialogue and compromise for the common good," he said in a statement issued late November 7.

A few hours earlier news organisations such as The Associated Press, The New York Times and Fox News announced Mr Biden and running mate Kamala Harris had won the race.

The projection came following the announcement from Pennsylvania officials that Mr Biden had won the state's cache of 20 electoral votes, putting him over the 270 electoral-vote-threshold needed to secure a victory.

The statement read, "we recognize that Joseph R. Biden Jr, has received enough votes to be elected the 46th President of the United States. We congratulate Mr Biden and acknowledge that he joins the late President John F. Kennedy as the second United States president to profess the Catholic faith. We also congratulate Sen. Kamala D. Harris of California, who becomes the first



Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden gestures during his election rally after news media declared he won the presidential election. CNS

woman ever elected as vice president."

"We thank God for the blessings of liberty. The American people have spoken in this election," Archbishop Gomez said, congratulating Mr Biden and Ms Harris on behalf of the USCCB.

"As Catholics and Americans, our priorities and mission are clear," he said. "We are here to follow Jesus Christ, to bear witness to his love in our lives, and to build his kingdom on earth."

Archbishop Gomez said

he believes "at this moment in American history, Catholics have a special duty to be peacemakers, to promote fraternity and mutual trust, and to pray for a renewed spirit of true patriotism in our country."

"Democracy requires that all of us conduct ourselves as people of virtue and self-discipline," he added. "It requires that we respect the free expression of opinions and that we treat one another with charity and civility, even as we might disagree deeply in our

debates on matters of law and public policy."

The archbishop asked Mary, as "patroness of this great nation," to "intercede for us."

"May she help us to work together to fulfil the beautiful vision of America's missionaries and founders – one nation under God, where the sanctity of every human life is defended and freedom of conscience and religion are guaranteed," Archbishop Gomez said.

Lawyer downplays suspended Vatican official's role in London property deal

A lawyer for Msgr Mauro Carlino downplayed the suspended Vatican official's involvement in a controversial London property deal, saying that his role was limited and ultimately benefited the Secretariat of State by saving five million euros.

Msgr Carlino was secretary to Cardinal Angelo Becciu when he was "sostituto," or the second-ranking official, at the Secretariat of State. In October 2019, Msgr Carlino was also one of five Vatican employees suspended after a raid on Secretariat of State offices.

While the Vatican has not com-

mented on his current status, Msgr Carlino is listed as a resident of the Italian city of Lecce on the website of the local archdiocese.

Salvino Mondello, Msgr Carlino's lawyer, responded this week to claims about the suspended secretariat official in an October 15 article in Italian newspaper *La Stampa*.

The lawyer's letter appeared as the Vatican announced that Pope Francis had decided to take away the Secretariat of State's responsibility for financial funds and real estate assets, including the London property.

Referring to the Secretariat of State's purchase of a luxury property development in west London, Mr Mondello wrote that it was "absolutely erroneous and improper to define Msgr Carlino as 'one of the protagonists of the scandal'."

Mr Mondello said that Msgr Carlino intervened in the affair only from February to May 2019, when he was asked to help reach an agreement with the broker Gianluigi Torzi for handing over the voting shares of the property at 60 Sloane Avenue.

Belarus president accused of 'insults and slander' against exiled archbishop

A Catholic bishop in Belarus accused President Alexander Lukashenko of "insult and slander" after the government official charged the Church's exiled leader with planning to "destroy the country" and called for a bar on foreign clergy.

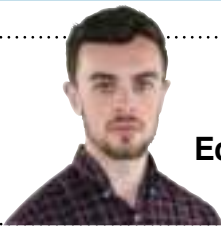
Auxiliary Bishop Yury Kasabutski of Minsk said in social media post November 3 that he believed President Lukashenko's words about Minsk Archbishop Tadeusz Kondrusiewicz represented "a completely unfounded lie".

The bishop said on Face-

book that the Church prays for the government as it carries out repression of people protesting the Lukashenko regime and has issued repeated calls for unity, solidarity and mutual support that the nation come together in a time of unrest.

"The Catholic Church

opposes violence, bullying and torture. It prays especially for political prisoners, and opposes repression and persecution, human rights abuses, humiliation, and dismissals and expulsions for dissenting views," Bishop Kasabutski's post said.



Edited by Jason Osborne
jason@irishcatholic.ie

A moment of mourning



People pause near a makeshift memorial in Vienna following a deadly shooting that authorities described as a terrorist attack in the city two days earlier.

Pope expedites transfer of management of Secretariat of State assets

After the Vatican Secretariat of State missed a November 1 deadline to hand over the management and monitoring of its own assets to two separate Vatican bodies, Pope Francis set up a commission to make the transfer and external oversight happen.

The Pope established the commission, whose mandate went into effect “immediately,” during a November 4 meeting with top Vatican officials to “bring to completion in the next three months, the provisions set forth in the letter to the secretary of state,” said Vatican spokesman Matteo Bruni in a statement released November 5.

The Vatican also released a copy of Pope Francis’ letter to Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican Secretary of State. Dated August 25, the letter said that by November 1, all assets held

by the Secretariat of State must be managed by the Administration of the Patrimony of the Holy See, which handles the Vatican’s investment portfolio and real estate holdings. It also said the control or supervision of those assets would be handled by the Secretariat for the Economy.

Pope Francis also said the Vatican should disinvest “as soon as possible” from a controversial property development deal in London and from the Centurion Global Fund based in Malta, which has seen significant losses while incurring exorbitant management fees.

Meeting

The aim of the November 4 meeting, Mr Bruni said, was “to foster the implementation of what the Holy Father requested in the letter”.

The Pope led the meeting with Cardinal Parolin; Archbishop Edgar Peña Parra, substitute secretary for general affairs in the Vatican Secretariat of State; Bishop Fernando Vergez Alzaga, secretary general of Vatican City State; Bishop Nunzio Galantino, president of the Administration of the Patrimony of the Holy See; and Jesuit Father Juan Antonio Guerrero Alves, prefect of the Secretariat for the Economy.

The three members of the new commission – Archbishop Parra, Bishop Galantino and Father Guerrero – have the next three months to oversee and guarantee the transfer and control of the assets, Mr Bruni said.

In the two-page letter addressed to Cardinal Parolin, the Pope said he recognised the Secretariat of State’s unique position in most directly and closely supporting him and his mission.

Louisiana voters approve, Colorado voters reject state-wide abortion measures

Louisiana voters by a wide margin November 3 passed a measure declaring there is no state constitutional right to abortion, while Colorado voters defeated a proposal to ban abortion beginning at 22 weeks of pregnancy.

Unofficial results show that the Louisiana measure, known as the Love Life

Amendment, passed 62.1% to 37.9%. It will add language to the state constitution that declares a right to abortion and the funding of abortion shall not be included in the document. Despite the language being added, abortion remains legal in the state, amendment supporters said.

In Colorado, Proposition

115 went down 59.1% to 40.9%, according to unofficial results. The measure included exceptions to save the life of the pregnant woman but not for instances of rape or incest. If it had passed, doctors who continue to perform abortions at 22 weeks would have faced a fine up to \$5,000.

Under the measure, the mother was not subject to any criminal penalties. Voters in the state had defeated previous initiatives to limit abortion in 2008, 2010 and 2014. The abortion-related measures were among 120 proposed state laws and constitutional amendments on the ballot in 32 states.

Vatican roundup

Covid-19: Vatican Museums, Pontifical Villas close again to public

● A statement issued by the Holy See Press Office November 4 said the Vatican Museums will be closed to the public from November 5 to December 3, in compliance with the Italian government’s latest anti-Covid regulations. The statement also said that, due to the current health situation, the Museum of the Pontifical Villas and the “Scavi” – the Vatican Excavations Office – will also be closed. A note on the Vatican Museums website informs that all tickets that have already been purchased will be automatically refunded.

Similar precautionary measures to curb the spread of the coronavirus infections and protect the health of the public had already been implemented from March 9 to June 3 this year, in line with the national lockdown during the first wave of the pandemic in Italy.

The Vatican Museums are currently running an online campaign called “Snapshots for Creation” aimed at helping keep the public in touch with creation through images from the beauty of nature.

The initiative sees a picture from the Vatican Gardens published every Sunday.

Pope issues Motu proprio on the establishment of institutes of consecrated life

● Pope Francis, with an Apostolic Letter issued *motu proprio*, and entitled *Authenticum charismatis*, has modified canon 579 of the Code of Canon Law concerning the erection of institutes of consecrated life. With this amendment, new institutes of consecrated life and societies of apostolic life must receive written approval by the Apostolic See, which alone has final judgment as regards their erection. Previously the law stated that Diocesan Bishops could establish new institutes with prior consultation with the Holy See.

The new law will be promulgated a publication in *L’Osservatore Romano*. It will enter into force on 10 November 2020 and will be subsequently published in the official commentary of the *Acta Apostolicae Sedis*. The Apostolic Letter underlines that “it is right to respond to the gifts which the Spirit inspires in particular Churches, welcoming them generously with thanksgiving” but it is also necessary to “avoid the imprudent emergence of institutes which are useless or lacking sufficient vigor” (Decree *Perfectae caritatis*, §19).

Caritas Philippines appeals for aid to help in recovery from super typhoon

● The Catholic Church’s humanitarian aid arm and a Jesuit university appealed for aid to help in recovery efforts after Super Typhoon Goni struck the Philippines. Caritas Philippines and the president of Ateneo de Naga University sought aid from domestic and international sources in response to the strongest storm this year that killed at least 20 people and sparked mudslides that buried hundreds of homes.

The typhoon also forced about 390,000 people to seek shelter at evacuation centres, many of whom have yet to return to their homes.

Caritas Philippines also sought aid from the parent Caritas Internationalis in Rome, which is headed by Manila’s former archbishop, Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle.

“Initial help would be to provide food, water and emergency shelter to people in the evacuation centres,” Bishop Colin Bagaforo of Kidapawan, secretary of Caritas Philippines, said in a statement.

The storm brought “greater poverty” to communities that were suffering from job layoffs in metro Manila caused by the coronavirus, he said.

Letters

Letter of the week

We must never lose faith in our youth

Dear Editor, Gerard Gallagher placed the spotlight on a very important challenge and presented a great opportunity for our Catholic Church to address in Ireland 2020 [IC 22/10/2020], how to reach out and evangelise our young people in an effective way?

Young people will identify with the Church's commitment to social justice and works of charity. Pope Francis has placed a great emphasis in his encyclicals on social justice. Organise a campaign based on one of his encyclicals, homelessness (*Fratelli Tutti*), the environment (*Laudato Si'*). Start with what young people find most readily attractive about Catholicism. Lift up and emphasise socially minded saints like Teresa of Calcutta.

Secondly, I would address the whole issue of science vs religion.

Many of our young people think that it's an either/or question. How many of them know that the 'big bang' theory was put forward by a Jesuit priest and is not necessarily in conflict with the book of Genesis?

A lot of our young people may have been baptised and confirmed but have a lot of questions about God and the Church that have never really been answered effectively. This needs to be addressed. Catholicism is such an intellectually rich faith which has unfortunately been dumbed down by the RE curriculum.

The historicity of our Faith is very strong, but little known. There is more historical evidence for the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ than for the life of Julius Caesar. Do we ever doubt or question

whether Julius Caesar was a credible historical figure?

If a young person has a curiosity or a question about the faith, they are far more likely to go to a parish website in the safety of their home, rather than wander into the church building.

What do our websites and social media platforms look like? Are they compelling, captivating and impactful or are they flat and uninteresting? Are we willing to reach out and adapt as parishes and use the digital age to evangelise the culture?

They may have lost faith in him but he will never lose faith in them. Nor should we.

*Yours etc.,
Brian O Hanlon,
Dundalk, Co. Louth*

Poland's abortion ruling sets example for world

Dear Editor, Pro-abortion activists often claim that they are on the side of tolerance and compassion. However, the reaction of pro-abortion activists in Poland following the country's Constitutional Tribunal ruling that eugenic abortions were unconstitutional, shows the true reality.

Following this humanitarian ruling, pro-abortion activists in Poland interrupted Masses, harassed priests and vandalised Catholic churches in an attempt to bully the Polish government into reversing this decision. Hopefully, the Polish government and people will stand up to this campaign of intimidation. Under Communism, abortion on demand was legal in Poland, but since the end of Communist rule there, the law has steadily turned in a pro-life direction. Poland deserves to be commended for the court's decision to courageously vindicate the human rights of the disabled. In banning eugenic abortions, Poland has set an example for Ireland, Europe, and the world, to follow.

Yours etc.,

Nicola Davenport,
Galway City, Co. Galway



Homilies the flock need to hear

Dear Editor, Congratulations to Fr Seán Mulligan and Fr Gearoid Walsh for recent homilies re: impact of Covid lockdown especially on our freedom to practice our Faith in public.

"We are gradually moving towards a totalitarian approach to government where our freedom is slowly

being stripped away..." (Fr Mulligan, [IC 29/10/2020]. The Church is divine and only answers to God. Saving lives from Covid is chanted by many governments, yet many have abortion, euthanasia etc... in their countries. Comments like we can't go to Mass in case of catching/giving Covid, and priests can't

risk their lives, shows a real lack of faith in then real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist who is the only healer, and insults our ancestors and saints who defended their faith in times of persecution. It is a priority to save our souls for eternal life rather than our bodies for short terms compromised gain for this world.

"Without Sunday we cannot live" said the Christian Martyrs of Abitene before they were executed in 304 by Emperor Diocletian because they had opposed his ban on the celebration of Sunday – history is repeating itself now.

*Yours etc.,
Ann Campbell,
Scotstown, Co. Monaghan*

'Please open our churches for public worship'

Dear Editor, I am writing to implore our Government and our bishops to please open our churches for public worship again. As you know, we are the only country in Europe (besides Britain) where the faithful cannot currently attend Mass. I don't feel that this is right. There is no medical or scientific reason for our churches to remain closed. Our supermarkets and grocery stores are wide open as many people pass through each day.

The souls of many of the Faithful are suffering without the Eucharist at present, just as our bodies would be if we didn't have food.

Due to the lockdown in March, we were unable to attend our Easter ceremo-

nies in our respective churches. Are we now going to have to celebrate Christmas online too?

It is very painful to conceive of another major Catholic feast to be celebrated yet again virtually. So many of us wish to partake in the celebration of Mass within the sacred walls of our churches that have been made so safe with all the measures currently in place.

I am asking you all, and on behalf of many, many fellow practising Catholics, to please reopen our churches for public Mass and the Sacraments?

When the restrictions were lifted on June 29 this year, the safety measures that had been put in place in

all the churches around the country effectively guaranteed a safe haven for public worship. The measures and lengths that so many priests and lay faithful went to, in order to minimise any infection outbreaks of Covid-19 were exemplary.

We need Jesus in the Eucharist and I have no doubt that he certainly wants us to receive him also.

Please be assured that my voice and this letter, is united to several hundreds of faithful Catholics across Ireland, who echo these very same sentiments.

*Yours etc.,
Dr Aisling Bastible
Clontarf, Co. Dublin*

facebook community

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

She is everything we aspired to... [Amy Coney Barrett]

Too perfect a person?? I am sure she has humility too. Her actions will be so carefully screened, no doubt. A brave woman. – **Deirdre Quinn**

A strange version of Women's Liberation illustrated - you are cleverer than men and you prove it by working incredibly hard to achieve more than men in every area of life... just so a gang of other women can demand control of what you think, say and do. – **Charles Glenn**

Very pleased that Amy Coney Barrett, has become a new justice on our [US] Supreme Court. In the event that President Trump, doesn't win a re-election, at least he's made sure that we have a Pro-Life Justice – it means so much! – **Cynthia Neary**

Petition gains momentum as archbishop says he's hopeful about a return to Mass

What's this? Are we back in Cromwell's dark days? – **Aurelian O'Dowd**

Time for hierarchy to stand up to the bullies and as we all know once bullies are confronted the situation improves. – **Edel Jones**

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

How should we prepare for Christmas and Advent?

Dear Editor, As I write we are two months away from Christmas Day. Understandably most of our parishes and dioceses have gone very quiet. I hope and pray that in this time of great silence our bishops and pastoral planners are proactively preparing for the various scenarios that might encounter as we seek to gather to welcome and worship the baby Jesus.

Are there any national Advent plans? Will we be able to avail of the Sacrament of Reconciliation? What about Advent candles and wreaths for our homes? What about suitable online Advent liturgies? Can we have some online instructions on homemade Cribbs?

Through Trócaire we need to find ways by which we can meet our obligations to the world's poorest. At home we need to support SVP more than ever before. How can we be encouraged to meet this year's increased needs? And how will we support the hungry and the homeless in our parishes?

How do we ensure that this year's Christmas dues meet the financial needs of our clergy as they suffer financially in church lockdowns?

*Yours etc.,
Alan Whelan,
Beaufort, Co Kerry*

Letters to the Editor

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

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

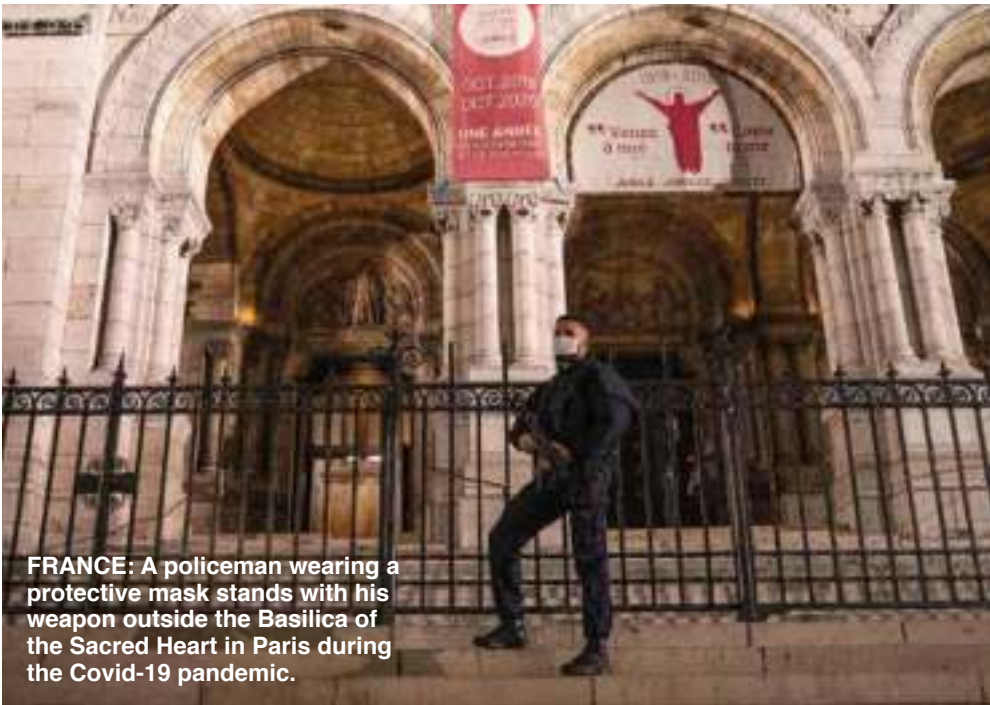
merits of letters. We do not publish pseudonyms or other formulae to conceal the writer's identity, such as "name and address with editor". We do not print letters addressed to someone else, open letters, or verse. Letters to the Editor should only be sent to *The Irish Catholic*, and not other publications.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

Around the world



▲ **TRINIDAD:** Sustainable food advocate, Charlene Woo Ling, harvests okras planted among other edibles and ornamentals in front of the main entrance of Archbishop's House.

◀ **AMERICA:** People ride down Fifth Avenue in New York City a day after the news media declared Democrat Joe Biden winner of the presidential election.



FRANCE: A policeman wearing a protective mask stands with his weapon outside the Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Paris during the Covid-19 pandemic.



HONDURAS: People stand alongside floodwaters in La Lima, Honduras, in the remains of Hurricane Eta.



IRAQ: People maintain social distancing while attending Mass at a church in Mosul during the Covid-19 pandemic.



ITALY: Members of the Knights of Malta participate in a procession as they meet to elect a new head of the order at their headquarters in Rome.



The Law of Gravity and the Holy Spirit...

God is erotically charged and the world is achingly amorous, hence they caress each other in mutual attraction and filiation.

“So, in reality, the law of gravity and the gifts of the Holy Spirit have one and the same aim”

Jewish philosopher Martin Buber made that assertion, and while it seems to perfectly echo the opening line of St Augustine's autobiography (“You have made us for yourself, Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.”) it hints at something more. St Augustine was talking about an insatiable ache inside the human heart which keeps us restless and forever aware that everything we experience is not enough because the finite unceasingly aches for the infinite, and the infinite unceasingly lures the finite. But St Augustine was speaking of the human heart, about the restlessness and pull towards God that's felt there.

Martin Buber is talking about that too, but he's also talking about a restlessness, an incurable pull towards God, that's inside all of nature, inside the universe itself. It



Fr Rolheiser

www.ronrolheiser.com

isn't just people who are achingly amorous, it's the whole world, all of nature, the universe itself.

Human heart

What's being said here? In essence, Dr Buber is saying that what's felt inside the human heart is also present inside every element within nature itself, in atoms, molecules, stones, plants, insects, and animals. There's the same ache for God inside everything that exists, from a dead planet, to a black hole, to a redwood tree, to our pet dogs and cats, to the heart of a saint. And in that there's no distinction between the spiritual and the physical. The one God who made both is drawing them both in the same way.

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, who was both a scientist and a mystic, believed this interplay between

the energy flowing from an erotically charged God and that flowing back from an amorous world, is the energy that undergirds the very structure of the universe, physical and spiritual. For Teilhard, the law of gravity, atomic activity, photosynthesis, ecosystems, electromagnetic fields, animal instinct, sexuality, human friendship, creativity, and altruism, all draw on and manifest one and the same energy, an energy that is forever drawing all things towards each other. If that is true, and it is, then ultimately the law of gravity and the Holy Spirit are part of one and the same energy, one and the same law, one and the same interplay of eros and response.

At first glance it may seem rather unorthodox theologically to put people and physical nature on the same plane. Perhaps too, it some might

“In terms of God relating to physical nature, orthodox Christian theology and our scriptures affirm that God's coming to us in Christ in the incarnation is an event not just for people, but also for physical creation itself”

find it offensive to speak of God as 'erotically charged'. So let me address those concerns.

“Physical creation, no less than humanity, is God's child and God intends to redeem all of his children”

In terms of God relating to physical nature, orthodox Christian theology and our scriptures affirm that God's coming to us in Christ in the incarnation is an event not just for people, but also for physical creation itself. When Jesus says he has come to save the world he is, in fact, talking about the world and not just the people in the world. Physical creation, no less than humanity, is God's child and God intends to redeem all of his children. Christian theology has never taught that the world will be destroyed at the end of time, but rather (as St Paul says) physical creation will be transformed and enter into the glorious liberty of the children of God. How will the physical world go to heaven? We don't know; though we can't conceptualise how we will go there either. But we know this: the Christ who took on flesh in the incarnation

is also the Cosmic Christ, that is, the Christ through whom all things were made and who binds all creation together. Hence theologians speak of “deep incarnation”, namely, of the Christ-event as going deeper than simply saving human beings, as saving physical creation itself.

I can appreciate too that there will be some dis-ease in my speaking of God as 'erotic', given that today we generally identify that word with sex. But that's not the meaning of the word. For the Greek philosophers, from whom we took this word, eros was identified with love, and with love in all its aspects. Eros did mean sexual attraction and emotional obsession, but it also meant friendship, playfulness, creativity, common sense, and altruism. Eros, properly understood, includes all of those elements, so even if we identify eros with sexuality, there still should be no discomfort in applying this to God. We are made in the image and likeness of God, and thus our sexuality reflects something inside the nature of God. A God who is generative enough to create billions of galaxies and is continually creating billions of people, clearly is sexual and fertile in ways beyond our conception. Moreover, the relentless ache inside of every element and person in the universe for unity with something beyond itself has one and the same thing in mind, consummation in love with God who is Love.

So, in reality, the law of gravity and the gifts of the Holy Spirit have one and the same aim.

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Family & Lifestyle

The Irish Catholic, November 12, 2020

Personal Profile
Máire McAteer: 'Come
and see' the Lord
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November, the month of saints and souls



At the beginning of November, the liturgical calendar turns our minds heavenward with the feasts of All Saints and All Souls. As many of our pagan ancestors did, we take the time to commemorate, pray for and commune with the dead. It is a time to celebrate a special closeness to all our brothers and sisters of the Mystical Body of Christ.

For those in the secular world, this has all the markings of superstition and irrationality. Two recent converts capture this perfectly in their autobiographies. Contemporary English poet and Catholic convert Sally Read evocatively describes an atheist's understanding of death, that of her father.



Superstition to many, but the Church recognises our connection with the dead, writes Ruadhán Jones

He lectured her, shortly before his death, on how his funeral was to be carried out: "No vicars or religious, no ceremony of any kind. Go up to the crematorium and press the button. That's it. No poem or piece of music, certainly no prayer. His atheism was sincere and profound; once dead, he would be utterly extinguished. The rest was expensive sentiment."

Is it any wonder then that the pandemic has caused such fear and anxiety, despair in some cases – when life ends, that's it. We are faced with the annihilation of death. The Catholic perspective could not be more opposite to this – we believe in an afterlife where the dead may live more completely than they ever did on Earth.

Communion

But this might in some vague way be accepted by an atheist, that there is a world beyond this one or other than it. Catholics, however, go further. To explain, I turn to our second convert, the American comedienne Jennifer Fulwiler.

In her autobiography, she writes: "In my recent reading I'd learned that Catholics believe that supernatural forces act in a real way in our world and that the Church has never wavered on ancient mystical beliefs that would be sure to get you laughed out of enlightened social circles today.

"[Catholics] believe that people in heaven are aware of what goes on here on earth, and

that they pray for us... A tingling sensation rippled under my skin. I suddenly wondered if my deceased grandfather might be very much alive, even present in a certain sense... I wondered if he had been praying for me all this time – if he was perhaps praying for me right now."

Not only does the Church teach that there is life after death – those who die continue to be active in our lives.

The Holy Souls

Consider November now in this light. The Church dedicates the month to the Holy Souls in Purgatory. We are especially reminded

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Family News

AND EVENTS

EARWAX TEST COULD REVEAL STRESS LEVELS

Unlikely as it seems, your earwax could provide insight into your mental health, new research suggests. A study of 37 participants has shown a build-up of the stress hormone cortisol can be measured from the oily secretions around your ear canal. This could open the door to better ways of diagnosing psychiatric conditions including depression, according to lead author Dr Andres Herane-Vives. Cortisol is known as your “fight or flight” hormone. When it sends out alarm signals to the brain in response to stress, it can influence almost every system in the body. But its role in disorders including anxiety and depression is not fully understood. It’s early days but Dr Herane-Vives, a psychiatrist at University College London Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience hopes this could eventually help him establish an “objective biological measure” for psychiatric conditions. Currently, mental health diagnosis is largely subjective, so this could provide professionals with an additional tool to help make their assessments more accurate.

‘MAN’S BEST FRIEND’ ALSO HIS OLDEST COMPANION, DNA SHOWS

A study of dog DNA reveals that dog domestication can be traced back 11,000 years, to the end of the last Ice Age. This confirms that dogs were domesticated before any other known species. Dr Pontus Skoglund, co-author of the study and group leader of the Ancient Genomics laboratory at London’s Crick Institute, told *BBC News*: “Dogs are really unique in being this quite strange thing if you think about it, when all people were still hunter gatherers, they domesticate what is really a wild carnivore - wolves are pretty frightening in many parts of the world. “The question of why did people do that? How did that come about? That’s what we’re ultimately interested in.” Many animals, such as cats, probably became our pets when humans settled down to farm a little over 6,000 years ago.

LIBRARY HOSTS AN INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCHING FAMILY HISTORY

A new series of online talks offer the opportunity to make the most of lockdown by getting started on your family history. South Dublin Libraries presents a series of genealogy talks with Fiona Fitzsimons of the Irish Family History Centre and Declan Brady of Maynooth University every Thursday evening for 6 weeks, beginning on November 5th at 7:00pm. The talks will cover everything you need to know about starting your research, including Church Records, Census, Griffith’s Valuation, Burial and Cemetery records and more. Each talk will consist of a 45 minute workshop delivered by the facilitator followed by a 45 minute Q and A clinic. If you wish to attend the other genealogy talks, you must register for each talk separately on Friday mornings following each class from 10am. For more information, visit eventbrite.ie/e/introduction-to-family-history-church-records-tickets-127320640463?aff=ebdssbdestsearch. A valid email address is required to register for the sessions and first preference will be given to those living in the South Dublin region.

Christ may dwell in your hearts

In the Church calendar the season of Advent starts on the fourth Sunday before Christmas; this year advent begins on Sunday, November 29. The word ‘advent’ derives from Latin, via the Old French word ‘to come’ and signals the coming of Jesus into the world, which we recall and celebrate each Christmas.

But we are not merely celebrating a singular event that happened over 2,000 years ago when Word became flesh, we are also celebrating the Good News that the spirit dwells within each one of us. The birth of the Word in the soul is a constant theme throughout the sermons of Meister Eckhart, the medieval theologian and mystic. Speaking about the birth of Christ in our hearts, he said: “That it should happen in me is what matters.”

“Christians believe that we are made by God in his image and likeness”

The contemplative nun, Teresa of Avila, now a doctor of the Church, famously wrote that “Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks with compassion on this world...” This reminds us that Christ’s action in the world today depends, to a significant extent, on each of us. The symbolism at the heart of the Nativity story – there was no room at the inn on the night of Jesus’ birth – poses an important question for us: how do we, in our daily lives, make room for Jesus in our heart?

Do our daily worries and concerns, our hurried, busy pace through life, our preoccupations

Mindful living

Dr Noel Keating



with the many urgent tasks of family and work life – do they so occupy our attention that we leave little, if any, time or energy to listen to our heart, no time to nourish the development of the Spirit within? What do we do in practice to create a space where the birth of Christ can be renewed in us?

Christians believe that we are made by God in his image and likeness. The theologian Richard Rohr suggests that the image refers to our eternal essence in God (which cannot be increased or decreased), our true-self; while likeness refers to how each person embodies that inner divine image – in other words, how we live it out in our daily lives. While we are all created in the image of God, it is up to each of us to work on the likeness – to put on the mind of Christ, as it were (Philippians 2:5). Any practice that stills the body and the mind can become a doorway, a portal to this mystery deep within us. Christian Meditation, the practice of being still in body and mind – awakens the heart to this mystery and nourishes our spirituality.

While the Church defines prayer as ‘the raising of the mind and the heart to God’, the enduring emphasis, for ordinary people, has been on prayer as a mental activity. Christian

meditation, the prayer of the heart, can help us to restore a necessary balance. It is a form of prayer that sets aside mental activity and simply opens the heart to God.

“Build up the time slowly, starting with one minute and building up to four minutes by Christmas Day”

Christian Meditation is not intended to replace other kinds of prayer but is understood as adding a depth of meaning to all prayer. John Main, who recovered the practice of meditation for the ordinary person, wrote that meditation is about “a readying of our heart for the birth of Christ ... we must let go of everything else, so that there is space for him in our hearts”.



As part of my work as a teacher of meditation, I lead a project where children in primary schools meditate together. In a video clip that is part of the in-service for teachers, two eight-year-old boys explain what meditation is about. As one explains that when we meditate, we sit up straight

and still, the second boy adds “And we think of Jesus”; but the first boy smiles and says: “No, we be with Jesus, but we don’t think about him.” He truly understood what Christian Meditation was about.

Why not try meditation with your child or grandchild this advent? Simply take a few minutes every now and then to sit in silence and explain to your child that because the mind finds it hard to stop thinking, we give it something else to focus on. We repeat a single word, returning to it every time we realise our mind has started thinking again.

The word could be ‘Jesus’, or ‘Abba’, but many use the Aramaic word ‘Maranatha’ which means ‘Come, Lord’. We say it slowly and lovingly, as if it were four little words ‘Ma-ra-na-tha’. That’s all you need to know. We learn to meditate by doing it, not by thinking about it. So go ahead. Build up the time slowly, starting with one minute and building up to four minutes by Christmas Day. You might ask your child to imagine, like 12-year-old Alex does: “When I hear the chimes in meditation, I imagine Jesus is ringing my doorbell. I answer him and welcome him into my heart.”

i After 40 years in the education sector Noel Keating was awarded a PhD for his research into the child’s experience of meditation and its spiritual fruits. Noel now leads, in a voluntary capacity, a project which offers free in-service to primary schools who may wish to consider introducing meditation as a whole-school practice. Noel is author of *Meditation with Children: A Resource for Teachers and Parents*.

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to pray for the dead – family, friends, acquaintances, enemies, leaders, stars, etc. In doing so, this reminds us of their presence and their connection with us. They are not annihilated, but active in our lives and we in theirs.

“In November, then, both nature and the Church call us to reflect on our intimate connection with the dead”

When we think of the liturgical year, we might think of it as being dead or inanimate. We can forget that it is, in some sense, alive, a cycle much like the seasons and just as important. November is a season of ‘dying’ both liturgically and naturally – leaves are falling, animals are hibernating, life is winding down.

Similarly, the liturgy calls us to focus on the Four Last Things: death, heaven, hell, and final judgment. It ‘animates’ our understanding, bringing to mind those who have gone before us and who might be in need of our prayers, as we are of theirs.

In November, then, both nature and the Church call us to reflect on our intimate connection with the dead. How then can we do this?

Visiting graveyards

Learning from the previous lockdown, it is a blessing that the Government allow us to visit graveyards, even under these present restrictions. Given that we are often afraid of death, it would seem to make more sense to hide it away – instead, we go to elaborate lengths to commemorate and symbolise the lives of the deceased. If graveyards often have a negative connotation, this pandemic has served as a reminder of their worth as sites of mourning, remembrance and communion.

Visiting graveyards is a significant way we can devote ourselves to the Holy Souls this November. Beginning with our own deceased family members and friends, visiting their graves is an opportunity for reflection and

meditation. Personal offerings, such as candles and flowers, could be picked or purchased for dedication.

While it might not be an immediate thought, I would encourage where possible making this a family event. Obviously there are strict limits on gatherings and meetings between households, so this may not be practicable. But as we wander through, praying for the dead, the stones of young and old reveal stories of life, love, grief and loss. Walking through the graves teaches empathy.

Jennifer Gregory Miller, a Catholic journalist and authority on the liturgical year, writes: “Besides being an opportunity for contemplation and prayer, we are providing opportunities to be comfortable and familiar with the cemetery. We do not need to be afraid of death, but understand that we are deeply connected with those who have died.”

She continues: “Having the familiarity with cemeteries keeps our departed brothers and sisters in Christ in the forefront of our minds. Our visits bring tangible memories. All this helps us remember to pray for the Poor Souls in November.”

Saint of the day

Another way of commemorating the community of believers is reflecting on the saints, those who are already in Heaven. Here, we become more aware of the active participation of the dead in our lives. As St Thérèse of Lisieux said, “I will spend my time in Heaven doing good on Earth.”



The saints serve as an example for imitation and also a reminder of our heavenly destiny. Their lives are often heroic and dramatic, making them an ideal means of conveying the universal call to holiness. For children especially the lives of the saints are a good introduction to the Faith in action.

A practice which has become daily one in my household is that someone will look up the saint of the day – often this task falls on my father. We then discuss their lives, typically over lunch or dinner. This is quite a simple task, but an enjoyable one and easily integrated into our daily lives. We also integrate the saint into our family prayer, making sure to ask the saint of the day to pray for us.

Memorial shrines

We have an innate desire to build shrines of different kinds. Trophy cabinets as shrines to our, or our children's, achievements; photo albums of family trips or of marriages; altars with statues, rosaries and so forth. All in one way or another work for the same purpose – to commemorate something or someone.

For November, a possible means of commemorating our dearly departed is to create a display in their honour. It can be as elaborate or as simple as you like. A general plan might be for a photo, a candle and an object of personal significance.

If you're in a situation where this is feasible, you could take a ‘Christkindl’ approach. Everyone writes names of the beloved departed on strips of paper to put into a basket. Then draw names out to pray for that person or persons for the month.

All of these small signs and activities are a means of devoting ourselves to the Holy Souls. In a time of suffering such as this, knowing that our beloved dead are still active in our lives can be a great comfort. Our prayers and actions during November for the Holy Souls are opportunities for us to make internal and deeper, connections with the members of the Communion of Saints.

Faith — IN THE — family



Bairbre Cahill

We had a liturgy of remembrance recently for those who have died over the past year, brought via Facebook into the homes of those in the parish and further afield. One of our own, a man from the parish shared his reflections on the death of his wife six years ago and of his son at the beginning of this Covid-19 pandemic. He spoke of loss, of grief, of how different it was to have no wake, no funeral Mass, no means of gathering to celebrate the life of his son. It was powerful, emotional and uplifting because throughout there was a deep sense of the presence of God. Even in the midst of suffering and death God was experienced as one who loves, who strengthens, who searches us out and who holds us tenderly.

I thanked God for this man's wisdom and insight, the simple beauty of his words and his courage to share so openly with us his intimate experience of grief and love. I thought of those listening and how this reflection could impact on them, how deeply it would speak to their hearts and the possibility that they too would allow themselves to be held within the tender love of God at such a time of grief.

I also found myself thinking back to a very different experience. Last year I was not in my own parish for All Souls Day. I went to Mass elsewhere and was taken aback when the priest appeared in black vestments. It was as if I had tumbled back through time, to the years before the Second Vatican Council. The homily did little to reassure me. We were sternly warned not to presume that our loved ones were in heaven, no matter how long ago they had died. They may well be in purgatory, depending on us to pray for them and languishing until enough prayers have been said to secure their release. If their debt had in fact been covered by our prayers then any excess would be passed on to other unfortunate souls who have no one to pray for them.

This is the language of fear. Surely our relationship with God should be motivated by love, not fear? I remember sitting there

feeling angry and wondering how many people in that packed Church had been left wracked with distress and guilt that perhaps their mother or father, a sibling or grandparent had been left to suffer because of a lack of prayer. What God is this? I for one did not recognise the image of God who would tally prayers against debt, who would leave destitute those who lack family and friends to pray



for them. Where is the Holy Spirit in such language and imagery? Where is the ‘Abba’ that Jesus spoke of?

I believe that we are all fragile and capable of sin. I believe that there is a necessary transformation between death and encountering God. I also believe however that all I can do, all I need to do, is place the one I love into the hands of God. I quoted a psalm the last time I wrote, which speaks of one's soul being ‘like a child on its mother's breast’ in the presence of God. And so when I pray for those who have died I pray that they know the tender love of God and I entrust them into God's care.

So I pray for each one of us this November that we will continue to take time to think of those we have loved and lost. I pray that we will allow ourselves the memories, even for the hurt it may bring, so that we can rejoice again in the joy and love we shared. Where relationships have been difficult or even destructive, let's pray for healing and forgiveness, for the capacity to entrust all, even the most painful memories into the hands of our loving God. Above all may we know that, together with those who have gone before us we are sustained by one who loves, who strengthens, who searches us out and who holds us tenderly.

Máire McAteer: 'Come and see' the Lord

Personal Profile



Jason Osborne

A veteran of Youth 2000, Máire McAteer has seen the organisation grow and bear much fruit during her time there. "I've seen how it has grown. Like everything we have to be patient to see growth. Like, the mustard seed starts so small, but it takes time to grow into the huge bush, and I mean, Youth 2000 is now 30 years in existence and I have seen incredible fruit out of that. It's still only at 30 years old, still only a very young tree that will continue to grow because it's planted in good soil."

If Youth 2000 can be likened to a tree bearing good fruit, then Máire has been instrumental in the business of tree planting. She tells *The Irish Catholic* where this zeal came from:

"I just have lovely memories of watching my dad in chapel as a child, copying him, like noticing the difference when he would genuflect on one knee and then when he was on two knees, you know, if the Blessed Sacrament was being adored. Of course, being unaware at that stage what was really happening, but knowing I wanted to copy everything my dad did."

She tells of a "normal, traditional Irish family" life, replete with memories of prayer and holy water being sprinkled about the house. A real awakening took place, however, when she experienced echoes of an intellectual rousing of her faith as she had an icon explained to her.

"I always remember the parish missions growing up, you know,



and being so excited, children got to sit up at the front, and I can remember the Redemptorist missionaries coming and – that was one of my favourite memories, actually. It was them explaining the image of Our Lady of Perpetual Help and being fascinated with that as a child," she shares.

"I just loved that the little shoe was falling off, his sandal was falling off of his foot and he was looking up at the cross and I remember actually talking then to my grandmother about it and Granny was like, 'Oh, because, you know he sees the cross and he's afraid and he knows what's going

to happen.' And then it's amazing because you know in later years in life when you begin to grow in your Faith and study as an adult...I remember reading about that and going, 'Oh my goodness!'"

Engaging the intellect is a large part of Youth 2000, and it has affected Máire's approach with the young people she encounters. She knows the power catechesis has, having experienced it herself. She explains, "In my heart I had a love of God, in my heart. But what Youth 2000 did, it kind of put flesh on the bones of my faith and, kind of, formed my intellect and helped me understand why I loved God so

much, and I began to understand the teachings of the Church and to learn scriptures and I was part of the first catechesis course that Youth 2000 organised in conjunction with Maryvale University."

"I learned so much in my early days in Youth 2000," she adds.

Máire's understanding of matters of the Faith is fully in-line with Youth 2000's, and it's a good thing too, with her being the organisation's Development Officer. It's a role that includes "fundraising, making the public aware of the great work that the young people are doing and how much they love the Church and promotion of the

mission". It also involves the co-ordination of prayer meetings for the youth of Ireland.

Extremely passionate about her work, Máire explained where her love for youth ministry comes from, saying "I love that it's young people. That it's volunteering and giving their time, their creativity, their gifts, completely for free, just for the sheer love of it. That they're giving their time because they have come to know and believe in the love that God has for them."

“And then Youth 2000 is a springboard into life – into all walks of life”

And it's just that for Youth 2000, and for Máire – missionary efforts must be centred on God.

"Also, of course, the biggest thing about Youth 2000 is the Eucharist. It's Eucharistic. I think I see Youth 2000 as like St Andrew, you know, bringing people to Jesus. Youth 2000 is an instrument saying, 'Come and see, come and see the Lord.'"

Describing the effect these encounters have on the youth, Máire explained, "Just the joy. I think Youth 2000 spreads a lot of joy, and now in the future, like, the young people – they're grounded now because they know who they are in Christ when we give them that sense of their identity, and then they are the ones in social media that are part of building the pro-life community. For me, I see Youth 2000 as an encounter with Christ in the Eucharist. That's our objective, to bring people to encounter. And then Youth 2000 is a springboard into life – into all walks of life. All the different ministries."

Sweet Treats

Laura Anderson



Have a happy honeycomb Christmas

Although there are very few ingredients to this recipe it makes the tastiest treat! The key to success here is the preparation beforehand as the formation of the honeycomb happens quite quickly. Be sure to have all utensils to hand and read through the method a few times before you begin.

As the baking soda is the transformative ingredient it is important that it is fresh to achieve that bubbly honeycomb texture. Wrapped in some brown paper and tied up with pretty ribbon, this makes the perfect Christmas gift for loved ones. Or alternatively, it is a delicious dessert crumbled into vanilla ice cream!

Ingredients

- 100g caster sugar
- 4 tbsps golden syrup
- 1½ tpsps bicarbonate of soda

(AKA baking soda/bread soda)

- 1 large bar good quality milk chocolate (optional)

Method

Line a baking tray about 12cm x 6cm with greaseproof paper.

Of course, the depth and size of the baking tray is a personal preference as to how thick you would like your honeycomb pieces to be.

Add the sugar and golden syrup to a deep saucepan, as the sugar mixture will greatly expand in size later, and give it a mix together. Place the pan on a low heat and let the sugar melt.

Be patient, try not to stir the mixture too much and do not increase the heat!

Once the sugar grains have disappeared turn the heat up to medium and let the mixture bubble for about three minutes (or until it reaches 154°C, if you have a sugar thermometer).



It should be the colour of maple syrup. Now is the time to move fast as the sugar will continue to cook and can burn at this point.

Taking the pan off the heat, whisk in the baking soda until it has all been incorporated. The mixture should expand and take on a golden foamy texture. Quickly pour the mixture into your prepared tray using a spatula to get it all out.

Be careful with this step as the mixture is still extremely hot! It is a good idea to wash the pan soon after with hot water to dissolve any residue.

Shards

Leave the honeycomb to set at room temperature for an hour and a half, then using the end of a wooden spoon break it into medium-size shards. The honeycomb can of course be eaten like this and will keep for two or three days in an airtight container.

To make it last longer and make it even tastier, melt some milk chocolate and dip the honeycomb in the chocolate using a fork to cover it completely.

Let excess chocolate drip off and place on a wire rack to set. This will keep for about three or four days at room temperature in a sealed container.

TVRadio

Brendan O'Regan



The death throes of Trump or fair journalism?

It's all a bit of a blur, a fog of red and blue as numbers like 253 and 214 flit through my mind and phrases like 'without proof' invade my consciousness. No, it's not a dream or a hangover, just too many late nights watching US politics.

When Donald Trump was elected president of the US, I wrote that I felt a sense of dread. It was a divisive presidency but at least world peace wasn't torn asunder. Now I feel some relief, as Joe Biden declares his intention to "lower the temperature", but I also feel unease at what Mr Biden and Kamala Harris will do, especially in promoting abortion and 'woke' culture in general. I hope Mr Trump's judicial appointments in the Supreme Court will bear good fruit - at least that part of his legacy will live on.

While we have been watching the death throes of the Trump administration, we also seemed to experience the death throes of objective journalism. Ironically some liberals and journalists worried about Mr Trump's Supreme Court nominees being partisan but they need to get their own house in order.

The pro-Biden and anti-Trump bias in the media was obvious over here and blatant over there. CNN is normally anti-Trump though for election night they mercifully concentrated on the facts,



the results, and they did an excellent job of it. They soon reverted to form and by last weekend we were getting ticker tape headlines like 'Trump's first day as a lame duck President'. Of course, if you wanted cringe on the other side you'd watch Fox News, and after both you'd yearn for some journalistic neutrality. Most even-handed was EWTN's **News Nightly** (available on YouTube) - just a pity it wasn't on more often especially at the weekend.

Some commentators impressed - for example Larry Donnelly, though an avowed Democrat supporter, was reasonably even-handed and was critical of the Democrats

for alienating middle-ground people who were not keen on the Democrats' extreme stances on moral-cultural issues - on **The Pat Kenny Show** (Newstalk) last Friday he referenced "the cultural agenda of the coastal elites". One thing that annoyed me later last week was that when Mr Trump made a claim reporters, including RTÉ's Brian O'Donovan whose reports I've usually enjoyed, felt the need to add "without proof". This became so tiresome. Politicians are much prone to dodgy claims but up to now they didn't constantly get the "no proof" stamp of disapproval. Many of Mr Trump's claims were indeed dodgy, but please

let the viewers assess and decide for themselves, or at least be even-handed and apply it across the board! Mr Trump was playing a dangerous and irresponsible game when he claimed victory before he had it. His victory narrative was more the sin of presumption than the virtue of hope. Interestingly that was the very strategy recommended by former Trump campaigner Steve Bannon when he was interviewed on RTÉ's **Drivetime** on the Tuesday evening.

One of the worst instances of media bias at home was last Saturday morning's **Playback** (RTÉ Radio 1). An anti-Trump fest, it came across to me

PICK OF THE WEEK

SUNDAY MORNING LIVE

BBC One Sunday November 15, 10.30am

Last episode as Sean Fletcher and Sally Phillips take a look at the week's talking points and explore the ethical and religious issues of the day.

SERVICE

RTÉ One Sunday November 15, 11.00am

The Irish Kidney Association's annual Ecumenical Service of Light from Newman's University Church, Dublin.

THE NIGHT NOTRE-DAME BURNED

BBC 4 Monday November 16, 9pm

A Storyville documentary that tells the dramatic story of the devastating fire at Notre-Dame Cathedral on April 15, 2019.

as sneering, condescending and contemptuous as Philip Boucher-Hayes gathered the worst collection of clips to show Mr Trump in a bad light (admittedly he often needs no extra help there!) When he played commentators that were favourable to Mr Trump (for example, the Mr Bannon interview referenced earlier) it felt just to mock. RTÉ did better with a more balanced review of the papers on the **Brendan O'Connor** show (RTÉ Radio 1) on Sunday. I liked Karl Deeter's contribution that Mr Trump's personality eclipsed his achievements, while Brian O'Donovan spoke of the friendly, articulate and nice people he met at Trump rallies and how important it was to get that side of the story.

It struck me as strange how across a whole range of Irish, British and American outlets

they were all using the same language and tactics - Mr Trump's claim were "without proof", "without evidence", "unsubstantiated". More like campaigning than reporting, it felt like coordination and/or a severe case of groupthink.

Sky News on Sunday night led with scenes of Mr Biden going to Mass that morning, and commentary about how his religion was "at the core of his life". The massive moral blind spot on abortion wasn't mentioned. It might explain liberals worrying about Justice Amy Coney Barrett's Catholicism but giving a free pass to Mr Biden for his Catholicism and very faith-themed acceptance speech.

① boregan@hotmail.com,
[@boreganmedia](https://twitter.com/boreganmedia)

Music

Pat O'Kelly



Recalling the genius of Vierne

I have mentioned Beethoven's 250th anniversary at various times during the year but another composer's significant anniversary should also be remembered. The one in question is that of Louis Vierne, maybe better known to church organ enthusiasts than general music lovers.

Born in Poitiers in the west-central region of France on October 8, 1870, his 150th anniversary has been commemorated around the globe. Here at home, through the intrepid planning of David Leigh, Pipeworks artistic director and assistant master of the music at Dublin's St Patrick's



Louis Vierne.

Cathedral, a selection of his works was streamed by a number of our leading organists on the actual day.

Louis Vierne was one of four children of journalist Henri-Alfred Vierne and his wife Marie-Joséphine Gervaz. Almost blind from birth, the lad was discovered to have exceptional musical gifts early on. Aged two, hearing a piece by Schubert, he promptly picked out its notes on the piano.

When the family moved to Paris, Louis had operations on both eyes enabling him to distinguish shapes and people and to read large print. He studied at the National Institute for the Blind from 1880 but an organ recital by César Franck proved a pivotal point in his life.

Master

The experience led to meeting the master who recommended he study the instrument. As a result Vierne had private lessons from Franck and attended his classes at the Paris Conservatoire where he became a full-time student in 1890.

Franck's death later that year brought Vierne into contact with another great organist/composer, Charles-Marie Widor and becoming his deputy at the Church of Saint-Suplice. In 1894 Vierne was awarded first prize in the conservatoire's organ class and six years later won a competition for the

position of titular organist at Notre Dame. By then he had married the singer Berthe Arlette Taskin, with their union resulting in two sons and a daughter.

Besides his duties at Notre Dame, Vierne initially taught at the conservatoire before moving to the rival Schola Cantorum in 1912. Here Vierne's students included many who would become outstanding organists in their own right among them Marcel Dupré and the redoubtable Nadia Boulanger who was later one of the most respected and influential composition teachers of her time.

Besides his eyesight problems, Vierne bore other crosses - his divorce, on the grounds of his wife's infidelity, the suicide of his eldest son, Jacques, and a street accident

in which he almost lost a leg and compelled him to relearn his pedal technique.

Despite these vicissitudes, Vierne made a number of concert appearances abroad including several in the US as part of a fundraising campaign for the renovation of Notre Dame's organ.

On June 2, 1937, while giving his 1,750th recital in the cathedral and with some 3,000 people in attendance, Vierne suddenly collapsed. His expressed wish to die at the console of the great instrument he loved was granted.

Vierne has left a considerable legacy of compositions not least his six magnificent organ symphonies that are romantically rich, musically eloquent and ingenious in their use of the instrument's special sonorities.



Recent books in brief

Peter Costello

Inspiring Faith Communities: A programme of Evangelisation

by Michael Hurley
(Messenger Publications, €12.95/£11.95)

Inspiring Faith Communities: A programme of Evangelisation: a Booklet for Renewal in the Holy Spirit,

by Michael Hurley
(Messenger Publications, €4.95 / £4.50)

These two books together make up a way forward for renewal. It is built up around three points that seem essential to Fr Michael Hurley, an effective and popular faith leader with experience of guiding people not only in Ireland, but in Europe, Africa and the USA. The programme itself is developed in the book, the booklet containing a selection of passages from scripture, with reflections for every day of the programme.

The scheme is built around a belief that God invites us to know him personally, that as followers of Christ we have to reach out to others in faith and charity, and that the parish is the best basis for this development.

Many parish groups and individuals will find great support in what Fr Hurley writes. Individuals can prepare for a return to open parish life by absorbing all he has to say during the present term of trial.

Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times

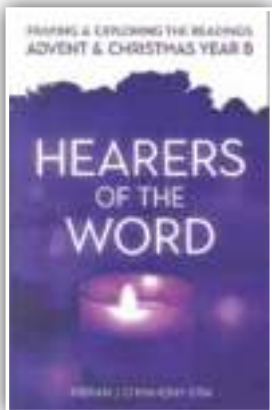
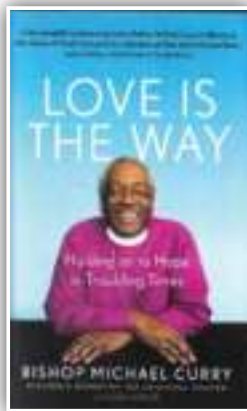
by Bishop Michael Curry with Sara Grace
(Hodder & Stoughton, €16.99)

Here is another prominent Black Christian advocate. Michael Curry is the presiding bishop and primate-elect of the Episcopal Church in the US. As we know from the elevation of Cardinal-elect Wilton Gregory, such faith leaders are now challenged in these very adversarial times. They are called on to give with both their faith and their colour. Bishop Curry is known as a popular preacher, and this book composed with the help of Sara Grace, presents Christianity's essential message of love of both God and neighbour. This is a book which calls every reader to look again at the way they live, and to put aside conflict which impairs both faith and love.

Hearers of the Word: Praying & Exploring the readings Advent & Christmas Year B

by Kieran J. O'Mahony OSA
(Messenger Publications €19.95/£18.95)

Fr O'Mahony will be a familiar figure to many. This book covers the reading for Advent and Christmas and was intended for groups involved in Lectio Divina. But with the return of lockdown (for a time at least) it will provide a most helpful and encouraging resource for those whose worship is now reduced to following Mass (daily or weekly) from their sitting room. It may indeed provide a more intimate way of family worship which will allow for a good discussion using this book as a resource. The home Church comes home, so to speak.



Saving the State: Fine Gael from Collins to Varadkar

by Stephen Collins and Ciara Meehan
(Gill Books, €24.99/£22.50)

J. Anthony Gaughan

Representatives of Cumann na nGae-dheal, the National Guard and the National Centre Party established Fine Gael on September 2, 1933. Eoin O'Duffy, leader of the National Guard - also known as the Blueshirts because of the apparel of its members - was the first president of the party. He was replaced as leader by W.T. Cosgrave in 1935.

The roots of every living organism are its most important element, a fact also true of institutions such as Fine Gael. This is recognised by the authors and they provide excellent early chapters on the mixed antecedents of the party. Initially it was named the United Ireland Party - Fine Gael but within months it became known simply as Fine Gael.

The book's title claims that Fine Gael has played a crucial role in ensuring the survival

of the State. The party has earned that plaudit. Like its predecessor, Cumann naGae-dheal, it has never wavered from its commitment to the country's democratic institutions. This aspect of the party's core belief has rightly been described as the 'Cosgrave legacy'. No other leader of Fine Gael has defended the State with more courage and determination than W.T. Cosgrave and his son Liam.

“The authors narrate the history of Fine Gael through the lens of its leaders”

On December 6, 1922 on the establishment of the Free State, W.T. Cosgrave became president of the executive council. He and his colleagues pursued military and political victory with determination and ruthlessness over opponents that threatened the existence of the new State and chaos. In the years following the Civil War his government restored law and order, established the political process and restored and developed the country's infrastructure. They also were successful in



Liam Cosgrave at unveiling of bronze bust of him in his years of power



The end of the party 1932

having the new State recognised internationally, when it became a member of the League of Nations in 1923. In the general election of 1932 to Cosgrave's disappointment, Fianna Fáil gained a sufficient number of seats to form a government with the Labour party. But he showed his absolute commitment to the democratic process by the exemplary manner in which he conducted the transition of power to the new government.

The authors narrate the history of Fine Gael through the lens of its leaders. To date five did not succeed in form-

ing and heading a government: Eoin O'Duffy (1933-34), Richard Mulcahy (1944-59), James Dillon (1959-65), Alan Dukes (1987-90), and Michael Noonan (2001-2). Six succeeded in this regard: Liam Cosgrave (1965-77), Garrett FitzGerald (1977-87), John Bruton (1990-2001), Enda Kenny (2002-17) and Leo Varadkar (2017-20).

Liam Cosgrave served as leader of the opposition and head of the government during times almost as dangerous and tumultuous as those experienced by his father. But both in government and in opposition

Changing the appearance of our past

Peter Costello

Old Ireland in Colour

by John Breslin and Sarah-Anne Buckley
(Merrion Press, €24.95/£22.90)

The idea of this book will delight many people, and it should prove to be a huge Christmas time bestseller. The creators have taken a wide range of historical photographs, some very familiar already in monochrome, others little seen. These have been colourised, admittedly with great expertise. To “see the past in colour”,

it is claimed, makes it more “real”. Colourisation was introduced originally to extend the life of popular Hollywood movies by using a computer to add colour to each image. The early attempts were appalling: does one really want to see *The Maltese Falcon* in colour?

But since then we have had the Great War colourised and many other such like projects on television.

I cannot deny the results are popular and profitable. But a critic exists not to court popularity, but to make known his doubts about a book as well. This, as I say, will be a popular book. But will that make a good book,

or indeed a moral book? I believe that photographs and films are historical documents. They should not be tampered with in this way to make them ‘more real’, ‘more interesting’. Colourisation makes images more popular but untrue.

Take for instance the third picture in the book, a simple one of a housewife making bread on her kitchen table. It is very attractive. But one quickly realises that the colour of the two mixing bowls is quite wrong. Historically these bowls were in fact a lighter creamier colour. The colour additions are chosen by the renovators: they are not a record of reality.

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.

for democracy



he did not refrain from ensuring that Fine Gael remained a bulwark to law and order and the democratic process taking a hard line against the IRA and facing down many challenging situations. When in opposition in 1970 he informed the Taoiseach, Jack Lynch, of plans to illegally import arms, destined for the North, into the country and forced him to act immediately and with effect against the conspirators, lest the incipient conflict between the Provisional IRA and the armed forces spill into the Republic.

In 1948 when Fine Gael had an opportunity to form a

government Richard Mulcahy was leader. But he had been officer-commanding of the pro-treaty forces during the Civil War, hence with memories of it still fresh, the other parties to a proposed inter-party government refused to have him as Taoiseach. Thus John A. Costello, a distinguished lawyer, was summoned from the backbenches and as the authors note, expertly managed two inter-party governments; from 1948 to 1951 and from 1954 to 1957.

Garrett FitzGerald also headed two coalition administrations: 1981-82 and 1982-87. The authors write engagingly and with obvious enthusiasm about his social-reform campaign in the party and in the country at large. They rightly emphasise that before he left office he had made a significant beginning to the peace process.

John Bruton headed another coalition government from 1994 to 1997. His efforts to reform and make more equitable the taxation system is not overlooked in this account of Fine Gael.

Enda Kenny led a Fine Gael coalition government from

2011 to 2017. Leo Varadkar who succeeded as leader headed another Fine Gael coalition government from 2017 to 2020. The authors provide a detailed account of the highs and lows of those administrations as they steered the ship of State through very rough waters.

“The authors provide a detailed account of the highs and lows of those administrations as they steered the ship of State through very rough waters”

Then, prompted by their joint determination to prevent Sinn Féin from participating in Government, Fine Gael and Fianna Fail combined to form a government with the Green Party in 2020. And, on a happy note, the authors conclude that this combination was generally welcomed as it signalled an end to animosities which had lingered on since the Civil War.



Of course, some people like their history all dressed up, the sort of thing that the engaging and hyper-active Lucy Worsley does so well on television, play-acting a Tudor tyrant. By all means buy and enjoy this book. But be aware it is not a real historical record. In this matter I have to admit I am a puritan: but the process confuses people about the historical developments of colour photography and printing. Back before the Great War the National Geographic made regular use of autochromes, one of several systems in the early 1900s; they were real colour photographs of the period, but what colourisation provides is not. We simply cannot change the past at a whim to make it more attractive: many aspects of the past, as all grown-up people realise, were very unattractive.



The World of Books

By the books editor

A record of Irish civilisation: the Book of Lismore returns to Ireland



The announcement that Peregrine Cavendish, the 12th Duke of Devonshire, based in England, has presented the celebrated Book of Lismore to University College Cork, comes as a delightful surprise.

In effect, some might say, it give Munster an ancient book to play off against Leinster's Book of Kells.

“The Book of Lismore contains, for instance, a version of what used to be called *The Colloquy of the Ancients*, the 12th Century *Acallam na Senórach*”

The history of the book is wonderfully romantic and now ends on a very happy note. During renovations at Lismore Castle in 1814 the volume was found sealed up in a cavity in a wall. It had been created for the McCarthy clan originally, and like most of our famous handwritten books, was compilation of texts from various periods.

Illuminated copy

The Book of Kells is an illuminated copy of the Gospels, and not a compilation. The text was well-known: it was its artistic presentation that was important. But with other Irish books it is the content which is important. Kells was intended for use in a liturgical service. The Book of Lismore is a volume of historical records.

The Book of Lismore contains, for instance, a version of what used to be called *The Colloquy of the Ancients*, the 12th Century *Acallam na Senórach*. A translation of the text by Ann Dooley and Harry Roe is currently available as a paperback from the Oxford University Press World Classics series as *Tales of the Elders of Ireland*

(£8.99). This effectively replaces the more familiar version from the era of the Celtic revival by Standish Hayes O'Grady.

Medieval Christian Ireland

This tale is one of the most extraordinary texts from medieval Christian Ireland, a book from which derives the path of creative literature that runs on to *Finnegans Wake* and *At Swim-Two Birds*. In it St Patrick, on his travels round Ireland, comes to what is called the tomb of Finn and brings the ancient pagan Fenian hero alive again to answer the saint's questions about the past. (My friend Prof. Glyn Daniel used to describe this the record of the “first archaeological excavation in Ireland”.)

In these pages much of the lore and legends of Celtic Ireland are recounted. It ends with the saint enrolling the warrior in the new Faith and blessing his second death.

But at the other end, the Book of Lismore included a version of the travels of Marco Polo from the 13th Century. The Lismore text was written out in the 15th Century - which was not long indeed after the Irish traveller, James of Ireland, the Franciscan accompanied Oderic of Pordenone to the distant realms of China and the Orient, to Cambaluc and perhaps even Tibet and Lhasa.

The Book of Lismore casts itself back into the most remote past of Ireland as well as a vision of the world at the end of the Middle Ages. It provides an overview of the wide intellectual outlook of Gaelic civilisation on the cusp of its final collapse under the hand of Tudor, Jacobean, and Cromwellian violence.

A national treasure indeed, the Book of Lismore will be given an appropriate home by UCC close to where it was created as dark clouds gathered over Ireland.

Classifieds

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I have been visiting China since 1979 and working systematically there since 2000. In 2014, we were able to open an Augustinian Sisters' Active contemplative Monastery (pictures below). I unhesitatingly call this a wonder and a miracle in the context of Communist China. The foundation of this monastery can be sourced to many, including the prayers and financial support of many in Ireland and Britain, but in a special way to the extraordinary faith of two people: the Mother Foundress, Sr Mary, who with her family lived through all the oppression of the '50's and '60's in China and the positive response of an elderly bishop despite his suffering during the same period.

I once asked Sr Mary's Bishop how was it possible for him to say yes when asked to sponsor

this Contemplative Monastery in his diocese in such difficulties for Christians in China. His reply was profound: "When Sister Mary told me her story and the dream of her contemplative vocation, my twenty years in prison, ten of these in solitary confinement, flashed to memory, painful as they were. But in a moment I saw the point of it all. It was a grace that allowed me to recognise and understand her call to initiate a contemplative monastery, as that was the only option available to me while in prison – Contemplation."

The Monastery was formally opened in 2014. However, permission to open the Monastery was given by the government with a BIG CONDITION, namely, that a Nursing Home for the Aged would be attached to the monastery. This was acceptable

to the sisters and would constitute the "active" part of their mission.

We expect the cost of the nursing home to be about one million, nine hundred thousand US dollars. The Catholics of China have collected \$500,000 to date and now I'm seeking support outside of China to raise another \$1,000,000.

I am most grateful for your generosity to us over the past twenty year which has helped strengthen the Church of China in its mission of proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ. Please continue to support the mission of the Monastery with your prayers. If you wish to support with a donation, please return the coupon on the lower left or donate via Paypal on our website: www.ccschina.co.uk.



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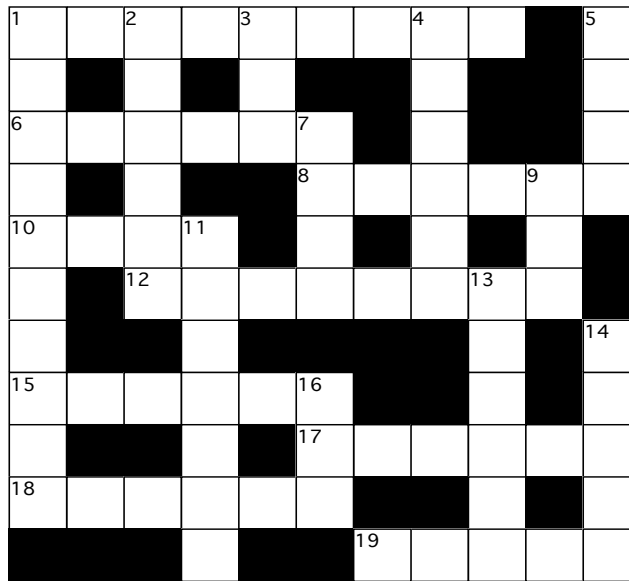
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Leisure time

Crossword Junior

Gordius 358



Across

- 1 Rings, bracelets, and other such pieces (9)
- 6 You can climb on its rungs (6)
- 8 Baby (6)
- 10 The yellow part of an egg (4)
- 12 How many holes in a full round of golf? (8)
- 15 This person will sell you food and things for the house (6)
- 17 You might pick them in an orchard (6)
- 18 This person might be called Bob for short (6)
- 19 Person who rules in a courtroom (5)

Down

- 1 Pirates' flag (5,5)
- 2 Walk like a duck (6)
- 3 This river flows through Cork (3)
- 4 You hope to win a prize in this (6)
- 5 You wear it round your waist (4)
- 7 Having a lot of money (4)
- 9 Lady who is a member of a religious order (3)
- 11 Room where meals are prepared (7)
- 13 You move one when you wink (6)
- 14 You should recycle _____ paper (5)
- 16 Creature that followed the Pied Piper (3)

SOLUTIONS, NOVEMBER 5

GORDIUS NO. 480

Across – 1 Mysterious ways 10 Whale 11 Gastritis 12 Agitate 15 Verse 17 Cave 18 Lute 19 Lobes 21 Unwinds 23 Scrap 24 Mail 25 Barn 26 Liver 28 Ailment 33 Gulliver's Travels 34 Jeans 35 Team 36 Wage freeze

Down – 1 Mown 2 Slaughter 3 Elect 4 Ingot 5 Ursa Major 7 Aster 8 Sister ship 13 Amin 14 Echidna 16 Flashlight 20 Brainwave 21 Upbraid 22 Deel 27 Volga 29 Issue 31 Vera 32 Ashe

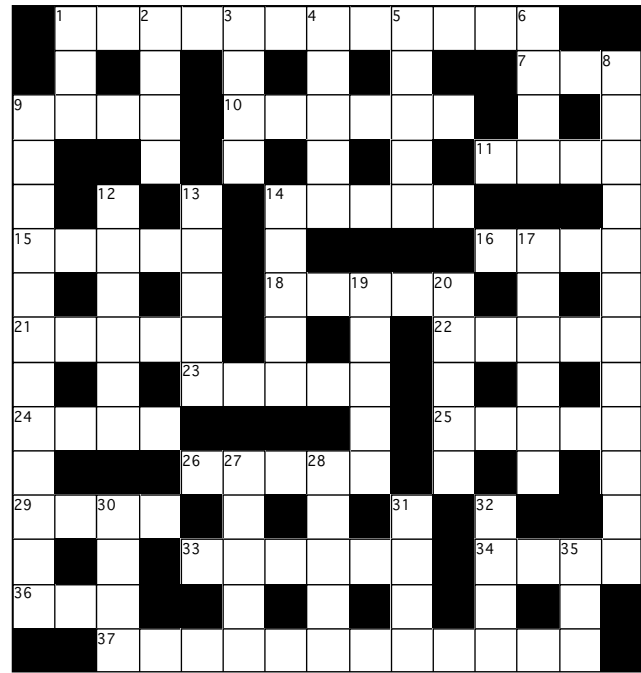
CHILDREN'S No. 357

Across – 1 Schoolbooks 6 Apple 8 Often 9 Pink 11 Idol 12 Cold 14 Alive 16 Cat 19 Stomach 20 Room 21 Noises 22 Baking

Down – 1 Stadium 2 Hippo 3 Oven 4 Office 5 Kneel 7 Lilac 10 Knitting 13 Duchess 15 Las 17 False 18 Work 20 Rib

Crossword

Gordius 481



Across

- 1 I gave marrows up as nuptial promises (8,4)
- 7 Paid readies only at first? Not an amateur then (3)
- 9 Ode (4)
- 10 Workers here are not on the hard stuff! (6)
- 11 Periphery (4)
- 14 The 'ticker' (5)
- 15 'Ink' for a printer (5)
- 16 With a change of direction, I depart an Italian city (4)
- 18 Male rabbits worth having in America! (5)
- 21 Lies in readiness in a sinister way (5)
- 22 Held on desperately (5)
- 23 "The Father of the Symphony" is handy to have around (5)
- 24 Such charity as is seen around Leitrim (4)
- 25 The first letter of the Greek alphabet (5)
- 26 & 31d Might a spy use ham as a traditional accompaniment to fish & chips? (5,4)
- 29 You'll find fresh water here - still! (4)
- 33 Suffer greatly for lack of food (6)
- 34 Not at home (4)
- 36 This eastern religious

concept transcends all other starting points (3)
37 Rents baloney out as a fabled source of eloquence (7,5)

Down

- 1 How can you make mother love this Chinese guy? (3)
- 2 It's inclined to break a pram (4)
- 3 & 35d Historic era of a certain laundry task? (4,3)
- 4 Social blunder (5)
- 5 Clergyman (5)
- 6 Informal potato (4)
- 8 The physical geography of marine areas (12)
- 9 Disrupting a ball, altos opt to use it to vote (6,6)
- 12 Ulster county famous for its glens (6)
- 13 Collision (5)
- 14 & 28d Is it one's pet idea to ride this as a pastime? (5,5)
- 17 Appropriates unjustly (6)
- 19 The American term for what we call sweets (5)
- 20 Clear off and make the Pole study hard (5)
- 27 Speak (5)
- 28 See 14 down
- 30 Door handle (4)
- 31 See 26 across
- 32 Connacht county (4)
- 35 See 3 down

Sudoku Corner

358

Easy

5		3		8	4		2	6
2			6			3		
	1		9					7
3			2		5	4	7	
7								2
	8	2	4		9			3
8				6		9		
		7		2			1	
9	3		8	4		2		5

Hard

		6						4
	9			6	4			
	1					8	5	
				5	7			8
5		2		8		3		7
8			9	4				
	7	5					3	
			3	9			6	
3						1		

Last week's Easy 357

8	1	2	6	3	9	5	4	7
7	6	5	8	1	4	3	2	9
4	9	3	2	5	7	1	6	8
1	2	7	4	6	3	9	8	5
6	3	8	1	9	5	2	7	4
5	4	9	7	8	2	6	1	3
9	7	4	5	2	6	8	3	1
3	8	6	9	7	1	4	5	2
2	5	1	3	4	8	7	9	6

Last week's Hard 357

8	1	9	5	4	2	3	7	6
2	7	3	1	9	6	4	5	8
6	5	4	3	7	8	1	9	2
7	2	6	8	5	3	9	1	4
9	4	8	2	1	7	5	6	3
5	3	1	9	6	4	8	2	7
4	9	2	6	3	5	7	8	1
3	6	5	7	8	1	2	4	9
1	8	7	4	2	9	6	3	5

To become moral and Christian is a lifelong struggle

I SPENT MY FIRST 12 years in parish ministry as a curate, seven years in a suburban parish, then five in the commuter belt. They say a curate is “a mouse training to be a rat” (!); sometimes I wonder just how scarily effective that training was.

You look at the photo adorning this column and imagine that I must be a dream to minister in your parish. This is far from the case. In fact, I have had rows and arguments with people in every parish I have been assigned to, and I have invariably been in the wrong. You would think that having to write so many letters of apology over the years would teach me to avoid such situations. It never seems to, though.

I once heard an indirect assessment of my fitness for parish ministry: “He preaches a mighty sermon and he is always praying, but he’s a nightmare to work with!” The words weren’t meant for me but they reached me. And maybe there’s truth in them?

Schools

Sometimes when I visit schools I become jealous of the way children are taught now: they often learn in groups, do projects together, they learn that for an assignment



to be successful, everyone has to play a part. This is mighty learning, but not the way I was taught in national school. The very individual path to knowledge was reinforced for me in secondary school, college and seminary.

Somewhere along the way, I picked up skills to form teams,

to lead and coordinate them, but I am not so sure if I ever learned to be a member, a ‘team player’. And yet this is a key skill for parish life. I wonder if those being ordained today learn it?

In my 36 years of priesthood, I have worn many hats; curate, editor, writer, pastor. At one stage

“A Christmas like no other” seems terribly likely this year

● Will we have Mass for Christmas, and if so, how many will be allowed to attend? Will we sing carols, bless a crib, or gather food parcels for the poor? This year’s Feast of the Nativity won’t be anything like Christmas 2019. As with everything else since March, we will adapt to the circumstances, as Catholics in Ireland have shown themselves amazingly adept at doing.

(And any time you find yourself in lockdown, you’re welcome to my kitchen table for Sunday Mass — at 11.30am on Murragh and Templemartin Facebook page).

I was diocesan director of parish renewal. I visited parishes all over the diocese, encouraging priests to set up parish pastoral councils. I have put a lot of work into doing likewise in the parishes in which I’ve worked. I wonder how effective a member of such bodies I have turned out to be?

Reopen

Take the parish where I am now located. We faced a crisis last summer. When the call came to reopen our churches for worship, we were far from ready. I knew the tremendous effort involved was more than I could manage. I thought the pastoral council might carry the can, so tried to ‘shoehorn’ them into the task. I ignored the reasons that they might find this hard: their vulnerabilities, the challenges exposure to the virus might bring. And when they wouldn’t row in, I ‘bad-mouthed’ them in these pages: for causing offence, I am sorry.

To become moral and Christian is a lifelong struggle: this human condition continues to drag us mortals down. Without prayer, we’re in trouble, all of us. So pray for priests like me, that we might become as Christian as you.

Goodbye to good council

● Is it too late to praise the pastoral council in Newcestown whose term has just come an end? Probably. But here’s what they did: every year they organised bereavement, thanksgiving and graveyard Masses. In the year of the World Meeting of Families, a family picnic in the GAA field followed our Eucharistic procession. A parish native led us in a few days of retreat one Lent. Council members raised funds for the Simon Community. And each January they had a party for people living alone, arranged for January because people had too much on in December and nothing in January — inspired!



YOUR GIFT COULD SAVE A CHILD’S LIFE

The Little Way Association is receiving many desperate requests from missionaries asking for funds for food and health-supplies for hungry deprived children. Sr Lucy of the Visitation Daughters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Eldoret, Kenya, reports that her area had previously been afflicted by the closure of a large farm, infertile land, HIV/AIDS and political violence which orphaned many children. Almost all the local population are below the poverty-line, with children at particular risk, some turning to crime. Sr Lucy writes: “Due to Covid 19 they are faced with many sufferings. The poor guardians are not able to go out for casual jobs to feed them. They lack food, soap and sanitizers to keep them clean and healthy. Most of the children do not have basic necessities and are sleeping hungry.”



“Do not fear. If you are faithful in pleasing Jesus in little things, He will be obliged to help you in the greater things.”

- St Therese

YOUR NOVEMBER MASS IN THE MISSIONS FOR THE HOLY SOULS

Remember the Holy Souls in November. We will be pleased to send your Mass intentions to missionaries. By helping poor priests in this way you are aiding the work of the Church in mission lands.

We like to send a minimum of €5 or more for each Mass.

Our benefactors will be glad to know that in addition to the daily Mass offered for their intentions, Mass is offered each day for their deceased relatives and for all Holy Souls.

HELP FEED THE HUNGRY

Please spare a thought for the thousands who die each year of hunger and disease in mission lands. Your donation will be forwarded to a missionary without deduction.

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

THE LITTLE WAY ASSOCIATION
Sacred Heart House, 119 Cedars Rd, Clapham Common, London SW4 0PR
(Registered Charity No. 235703) Tel 0044 20 76 22 0466
www.littlewayassociation.com

I enclose €..... to be allocated to:
€..... **HUNGRY, SICK AND DEPRIVED**
€..... **NEEDS OF MISSIONARIES**
€..... **MASS OFFERINGS**
(Please state no. of Masses _____)
€..... **LITTLE WAY ADMIN EXPENSES**

☐ Please tick if you would like an acknowledgement

Name (Rev. Mr. Mrs. Miss)

(Block letters please)

Address

To donate online go to
tinyurl.com/lwadonations

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

IC/11/12

Please can you spare a donation, large or small, to relieve a child’s suffering

Every euro you send to The Little Way Association’s fund for hungry, deprived children will be used, without deduction, to relieve suffering among infants and adolescents.