

# The Irish Catholic

**EARTHQUAKE OR TREMOR**



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**OUT OF THE SHADOWS**



Christians celebrate 4 Corners in Belfast Pages 12 & 13

**BREDA O'BRIEN**



With politics, be careful what you wish for Page 7

Thursday, February 13, 2020 €2.00 (Stg £1.70) The-Irish-Catholic-Newspaper @IrishCathNews www.irishcatholic.com

## Call for parishes to put fresh focus on the youth

Hundreds of young Catholics gather to celebrate Faith

**Chai Brady**

Ireland's leading Catholic youth movement has urged parish communities not to be afraid to reach out to young people and invite them to be more active in the Faith.

Youth 2000 – which is celebrating 30 years in existence this year – has just played host to almost 300 young Catholics at the annual St Valentine's Day Ball in Co. Kildare. It was almost double the number of people who attended last year.

Máire McAteer, development officer with the group, told *The Irish Catholic* that their experience was that "more and more young people are coming forward to be involved in the Church and want to act as evangelisers to other young people".

She said that "we have a great resource in our young Catholics who are on fire with the Faith. Our experience is that when parishes try things like prayer groups young people respond very positively and even those who may not have been practising Catholics enrich and deepen their Faith".

Emma Maloney, who works in the Youth 2000 national office and was one of the organisers at the ball, said she was "delighted" with the turnout.

"It's a great opportunity for normal young people who share a deep love for their faith to come together in a social atmosphere and have the craic," she said.

Emma also said that the group has ambitious plans for

**» Continued on Page 3**

### The belles of the ball for St Valentine



Some of the young Catholics at the annual Youth 2000 St Valentine's fundraising ball which was held in Naas, Co. Kildare at the weekend and was attended by over 280 people. See pages 14-17. Photo: Seán Blackwell

**MARY KENNY**

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**DAVID QUINN**

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Keeping hope alive in the Church in the present moment

Someone at the weekend asked me if I am optimistic about the future of the Church in Ireland. I replied that I preferred to use the word 'hopeful'.

In our regular discourse, we often use the words hopeful and optimistic interchangeably. But, in the Bible hope and optimism are not the same thing. Unlike optimism, hope is not determined by natural temperament or assessing what is possible. Hope is grounded in belief in God and the knowledge that God keeps his promises. While hope is eternal, optimism can be all too ephemeral.

It may not always seem it, but our Faith assures us that – ultimately – everything will turn out for the good. When Jesus talks about Faith, he identifies the enemy of Faith as anxiety.

There are numerous instances in the Gospel where he encourages people to have Faith and not let anxiety diminish their Faith or hope. That's why in the Lord's Prayer we ask for our "daily bread" not our annual bread or our five-year-plan of bread.

The good

Julian of Norwich summed it up when she said that "and all will be well, all manner of thing shall be well". In the end, all will be well. Maybe not at the beginning, or maybe not in the middle – but in the end, everything will turn out for good.

I think it's an important truth to know in the Church in Ireland in this present moment. We are experiencing what we

might even call a period of exile. But, while the Bible teaches us that exile for the Israelites was a time of great pain, confusion and anxiety it was also a time for growth and maturity.

“Today, we might use a phrase like ‘how can the Church be relevant in contemporary Ireland?’”

The challenges facing the Church in Ireland today are not a million miles away from the challenges facing the Jewish people in exile after the Babylonian conquest. The ancient Israelites had the dilemma “how shall we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?”

Today, we might use a phrase like “how can the Church be relevant in contemporary Ireland?”

It's a question that the Church must ask itself in every generation. And

Editor's Comment

Michael Kelly

Catholics must be able to read the signs of the time and interpret the times in the light of the Gospel.

Reflecting on the turbulent moments in his papacy, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI said in 2013: “I can say that the Lord has truly led me, he has been close to me, I have been able to perceive his presence daily.

“It has been a portion of the Church's journey which has had its moments of joy and light, but also moments which were not easy; I have felt like St Peter with the apostles in the boat on the Sea of Galilee: the Lord has given us so many days of sun and of light winds, days when the catch was abundant; there were also moments when the waters were rough and the winds against us, as throughout the Church's history, and the Lord seemed to be sleeping.

“But I have always known that the Lord is in that boat, and I have always known that the barque of the

Church is not mine but his. Nor does the Lord let it sink; it is he who guides it, surely also through those whom he has chosen, because he so wished. This has been, and is, a certainty which nothing can shake.

“Many Irish Catholics will identify with feeling that the Lord is sometimes asleep”

“For this reason, my heart today overflows with gratitude to God, for he has never let his Church, or me personally, lack his consolation, his light, his love,” Benedict said.

Many Irish Catholics will identify with feeling that the Lord is sometimes asleep. And yet, our Faith teaches us that it is often when we think that all seems lost that God shows his power to transform and heal.

Church to host UCD lecture

A lecture on the challenges faced by the Church during Ireland's struggle for independence in the 19th and early 20th Century will be held in a church in Dublin later this month.

The subject, titled 'Blessing the Patriots?': Funerals, Politics and the Church, is to be hosted in St Mary's Church on Haddington Road at 7.30pm on Thursday,

February 20.

The Patrick Finn Lecture Series traces how Irish bishops accepted “the identity of nation and state”, and became “less neutral and more supportive” about funerals of nationalists.

Prof. Michael Laffan of the UCD School of History will be giving the talk and admission is free.

Support Irish

Reaching 19,000 Youth

# Missionaries

As many fellow Irish might relate, for my whole life my faith has been there, but it was just something that I could list off rather than something I was passionate about, like I would say I was Catholic the same way I would say I have black hair. Then through a family friend I was invited to do NET. I can honestly say now after finishing my year that is was the best year of my life. NET helped me make my faith SO much stronger than it's ever been, and it's really helped me improve as a man of God.

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# All pro-life TDs retain their Dáil seats while repeal candidates miss out

## Chai Brady

Prominent pro-life politicians who were very vocal during the abortion referendum have retained their seats while prominent pro-choice candidates lost theirs in an election which has changed the face of Irish politics.

Many high-profile pro-choice politicians lost favour with voters including Katherine Zappone and Lisa Cham-

bers, Regina Doherty, Joan Burton, Ruth Coppinger, Jan O'Sullivan, Catherine Noone, Mary Mitchell O'Connor and Kate O'Connell in this year's General Election.

The 15 TDs who voted against abortion and retained their seats are Aontú's Peadar Tóibín, Fianna Fáil TDs Éamon O Cuív, Marc MacSharry, John McGuinness and Mary Butler, Independents Michael and Danny Healy-

Rae, Michael Lowry, Michael Fitzmaurice, Carol Nolan, Mattie McGrath, Michael Collins, Peter Fitzpatrick, Noel Grealish and Minister of State and Independent TD Sean Canney.

With those who campaigned on the pro-choice side being largely snubbed by their voter base, this could point to the abortion debate no longer being a factor in voters' decision making,

with the referendum already passed in 2018.

Pro-life politicians seem to have a more loyal following, but without more evidence it would be impossible to gauge how important their stance on abortion was to voters.

## Popularity

Pro-life Independent TD and Minister of State Sean Canney was the only independent politician who propped

up Fine Gael in 2016 who retained their seat.

The other five have all lost popularity with the electorate including Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Katherine Zappone and Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport Shane Ross – both Dublin-based.

The Pro-Life Campaign said in their newsletter that the news about the pro-life TDs was "truly uplifting" and "all

of them deserve our heartiest congratulations for standing up for life and prevailing".

"It is important to mention that other candidates were also elected who are solidly pro-life. Together, they have shown the leadership of the main political parties that the electorate appreciate people who stick to their principles and don't waver under pressure. Please take time to congratulate these TDs."

## Put focus on youth

### » Continued on Page 1

the year ahead and has set a target of increasing the number of prayer groups around the country by 20% as well as increasing numbers at the annual youth festival by the same margin.

Máire encouraged any parish that was thinking about setting up a prayer group or youth ministry to take the plunge. "Don't be afraid, young Catholics are there, they want to be engaged about their Faith and we find that they love sharing their Faith," she said.

She also said that priests should see young people who are

involved in Youth 2000 as "a huge resource to help them reach other young people."

"There are so many talented young Catholics who have a great passion for their Faith and can help bring other young people along with them and help them deepen their own Faith," she said.

## Blessing

Emma urged young people to have the courage to set up a prayer group in their own parish. "Approach the parish priest, talk to him – help find like-minded young people. It is such a rich blessing for a parish."

She also encouraged priests who may feel that young people are not interested in religion to think again. "Young people are there and they have deep spiritual needs to be met. Our experience is that if you can tap in to this there are great spiritual fruits," she said.

"Sometimes we don't see young people in parishes," Máire insisted, "and they love to come together with other young Catholics at events like the ball and they go back to their parishes renewed and ready to evangelise other young people around them".

Michelle Connolly from Dublin and Jonathan Hanley from Co. Roscommon at the shrine of St Valentine in the church of Mount Carmel Whitefriar St, Dublin. The couple plan to marry next year. Photo: John McElroy



## Irish boxer speaks about prayer and Rosary tattoo

### Chai Brady

A professional Irish boxer has revealed he regularly prays before fights and that he had Rosary beads tattooed on his neck so he'll never lose them.

Well-known boxer Michael Conlan, from Belfast, was speaking on RTÉ's *The Tommy Tiernan Show* when he revealed the story behind his tattoo.

"I always prayed before a fight but I could never bring the Rosary beads in with me so I just decided one day I'll get them tattooed on me so it saves me having to carry them all the time and losing beads, you know what I mean?" he said.

## Confident

When asked what he prayed, Mr Conlan said "three Our Fathers, two Hail Mary and hope to God that I'm going to win".

He admitted when he had done a lot of training and felt more confident he would just stick with the Our Fathers.

He added: "If I'm praying, I don't pray for the win, I just pray for the safety of me and the opponent, whether it's him winning or me losing, or me winning, as long as we both come out safe I'm happy."

During his amateur career Conlan was one of Ireland's most successful boxers, receiving a bronze medal in the 2012 Olympics and a gold at the 2015 World Championships among many other wins in major competitions. He decided to go professional after the 2016 Olympics and is enjoying a successful career.

Michael Conlan.

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# Nine out of 10 Aontú voters are weekly Massgoers

Aron Hegarty

Nine out of 10 voters for Irish political party Aontú attend religious services on a weekly basis, according to a recent exit poll.

The poll found that the all-Ireland Republican party had the most church-goers with 79% of its members attending once a week, with 11% saying they go to Mass every day.

Aontú, meaning “unity and consent”, was founded by ex-Sinn Féin TD Peadar Tóibín on January 28 last year. The party is pro-life and for Irish reunification and economic justice.

Ireland’s fastest growing political party, which has received more than 50,000 votes, excels in the numbers who go to services regularly at least once a week compared with other parties.

## Data

Data from the Ipsos MRBI exit poll for the *Irish Times*, RTÉ, TG4 and UCD shows Aontú, along with Fianna Fail (46%), Independents (38%) and Fine Gael (35%), have the highest weekly church attendance figures.

Meanwhile, a staggering 80% of Social Democrats said

they either never attend or only went to church on holy days or special occasions.

Members of the Green Party (67%), Solidarity–People Before Profit (65%), Labour (58%) and Sinn Féin (57%) also said they rarely go to religious services.

Church attendance in general, however, continues to fall with 74% of persons aged 18 to 24, 69% of 25 to 34 and 57% of 35 to 49-year-olds saying they only make an occasional appearance.

In Dublin, two-thirds (66%) of people were more likely to refrain from going to church.



John Paul II award winners Anna Sheridan and Kaci Rock from Holy Child School, Killiney, Co. Dublin in St Paul’s Church, Arran Quay, Dublin. Photo: John McElroy

## Tóibín ‘delighted’ despite not securing 2% of first prefs

Chai Brady

The leader of Aontú has said despite not reaching 2% of first preference votes in the General Election they are “delighted” at the support they’ve received from the electorate.

Although the party will miss out on State funding, which was just 0.1% from their grasp, Peadar Tóibín TD was positive about the party’s future.

“Obviously we’re a brand new political party, we’re not funded by the state whatsoever, we were locked out of most

of the media debates, and yet we managed against all the odds to actually build a political party...” he told *The Irish Catholic*.

Although Mr Tóibín is still the only TD in his party, he explained they are building up support, saying: “We have

really good results down in the likes of Cavan, Monaghan, in Cork North-West, in Mayo, we have good foundations in other places such as Donegal and more.

“I would be very hopeful now that we’re just going to go out there and work on

bread and butter issues and to build out organisation over the coming couple of years.”

## Agreed platform

Aontú received over 50,000 votes in the General Election. As this paper was going to print Mr Tóibín said he would be seeking to form a government, saying he has “started discussions with a number of independents in order to create a technical group to negotiate for government on the basis of an agreed platform”.

## Relic of Catholic saint stolen from Oratory

Staff reporter

A precious relic belonging to St John Henry Newman was stolen from the Birmingham Oratory, it was announced this week.

The Oratory said that the bone was stolen from its casket in the Newman Shrine.

The Fathers have appealed for anyone who had seen any suspicious activity to come forward.

“Sadly, the only piece of bone thought to have been St John Henry’s was stolen from its casket in the Newman Shrine,” read a notice in the Oratory’s February newsletter.

The bone fragment is one of very few existing first-class relics of St Newman, who was canonised in October 2019.

St Newman was a 19th Century theologian, poet, Catholic priest and Cardinal.

He was particularly dedicated to education, having founded two schools for boys, the Catholic University of Ireland (now University College Dublin) and built Newman University Church in Dublin. His *The Idea of a University* became a foundational text on Catholic higher education.

Newman died aged 89 and was buried in a cemetery in Rednal, outside Birmingham in 1890.

His grave was later excavated in October 2008.



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Sat 7th	6.00pm	Fr Martin Bennett OFM Cap
Sun 8th	12.00pm	Fr Patrick Flynn OFM Cap
Mon 9th	7.30pm	Fr Severino and Brazilian Catholic Community
Tues 10th	7.30pm	Fr Mike Burgess OFM Cap
Wed 11th	7.30pm	Fr Mike Burgess OFM Cap
Thurs 12th	7.30pm	Fr Mike Burgess OFM Cap

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### What do you think?

Let us know by writing to: Letters to the Editor, The Irish Catholic, 23 Merrion Square North, Dublin 2.



# Proof if it were needed – there is no anti-immigrant vote here

**A**nd so it emerges, as I had suspected, that there is no substantial anti-immigrant vote in Ireland. Yes, there is some concern about proportions and numbers in some parts of the country, but there is evidently no traction for an anti-immigrant party – as exists in France, Germany and to some degree in Italy and Greece.

In Britain, Nigel Farage's Brexit Party claims that they actually prevented a blatantly anti-immigrant party like the BNP (British National Party) from flourishing, by campaigning for ordered immigration controls and British sovereignty. That may be challenged by



**Mary Kenny**



some, but let's just park it there for the moment.

But in reference to Ireland, here's an interesting

point: could it be that the deposit of religious faith in Ireland has prevented an anti-immigrant or racist

## Respect is the cornerstone of any person

Seeing the election posters around Dublin over the past few weeks, the candidate who struck me as the most beautiful to behold was Kate O'Connell [pictured]. She has been blessed with the gift of pulchritude, for sure: a striking face in the tradition of Vivien Leigh, from that classical movie *Gone With the Wind*.

But with what ugly manners she treated her opponents on the life issue. She's on video, much-repeated on social media, screeching "We won! We'll get our way! Ye can talk for as long as ye like – ye lost!"



in a manner that suggests the spoilt brat in the playground.

Although a pharmacist by training, she also showed a poor grasp of biology

when she said that a pregnant woman is not carrying a life, she is "carrying a pregnancy". Every world expert on embryology affirms that where there is a conception, there is a life: she can use euphemisms as much as she likes, but this is the truth.

Yes, she was traumatised by a very difficult situation herself when she was told that her unborn son had a

fatal defect (thankfully, he had a corrective operation and is now in primary school). That has evidently marked her emotionally, as it would anyone.

Yet now that she has lost her seat, she needs to ask herself whether she was insensitive to the feelings of others, and alienated voters by her language and attitudes.

She says she wants another chance at being a politician. But to merit a second chance, a person needs to show that they have learned from previous failures. That is – don't insult your public, and show respect for your opponents whose beliefs and feelings are held just as sincerely as your own.

element emerging?

This is a thesis suggested in Ben Ryan's fascinating survey of European attitudes, *How the West Was Lost*, published last year. Ryan [pictured below], head of research at the British think-tank, Theos, claims that, in general, Catholics are more favourable to European integration than those of other religions and thus more open to people not born in their own country.

He also writes that religion often "inoculates" voters against being anti-immigrant or racist: it anchors people in a faith identity which must acknowledge the common humanity of all.

Yes, far-right or racist political movements have sometimes tried to use Christianity as a badge for their own values, including the AfD in Germany, the Dutch Freedom Party, and in Belgium, the Flemish Vlaams Belang – as

does Marine le Pen's party in France.

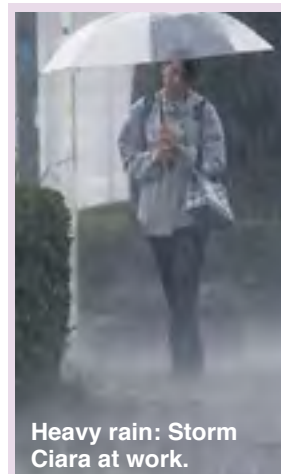
But this, writes Ryan, whose book is underpinned by social and political studies, is more a fig leaf than a genuine Christian commitment.

**“The Catholic Church...can be thanked by the political class for the enlightened values it has contributed”**



Church-going Christians generally tend not to vote for racist or anti-immigrant political parties.

If this is the case, then the Church, as the historic religion of the majority, can be thanked by the political class for the enlightened values it has contributed to the common weal. Will it be thanked? Not any time soon!



Heavy rain: Storm Ciara at work.

## Nature still rules

Storm Ciara certainly told us who was in charge: nature. Like many others – some much more seriously affected – we had a power cut and the heating and hot water has been banjaxed by Ciara.

My generation grew up in cold houses, so I can live with a cold house (for a while!) But two thoughts follow: (1) how stoical people used to be about the cold and (2) how totally and utterly dependent we are on electricity.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Pro-life discussion set for Queen's University

The Knights of St Columbanus at Queen's University Belfast have arranged a round table discussion on the issue of abortion.

Organisers are hoping to give the audience an opportunity to learn more about why someone might be pro-life.

The panel will comprise of a GP, Dr Andrew Cupples, Dawn McAvoy from pro-life group Both Lives Matter, Patrick Gallagher of Gaelic Athletes for Life, Kate Meenagh a crisis pregnancy counsellor, and Sarah Haire of Stanton Healthcare.

It will be chaired by Brett Lickhart, a permanent deacon and barrister. The event is open to everyone and there will be an opportunity to pre-submit questions to the panel. Called 'Why Support Life?' it takes

place in the Catholic Chaplaincy at Queen's University Belfast, Elmwood Avenue and starts at 7pm on February 19.

### Irish bishop welcomes Pope call for healthcare

The chair of the Council for Healthcare of the Irish Bishops Conference has welcomed Pope Francis' message for World Day of the Sick on February 11.

Bishop Michael Router said that the Pope requests us to promote a more holistic approach to those sick or suffering, asking healthcare professionals to "reject any compromise in the direction of euthanasia, assisted suicide or suppression of life".

"Pope Francis asks us to remember that life is sacred and belongs to God; hence it is inviolable and no one can claim the right to dispose of it freely," he said.



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# Bishop McKeown says Church had weak voice during the Troubles

Róise McGagh

Bishop Donal McKeown acknowledged the shortcomings of the institutional Church in response to the Troubles at the end of the 4 Corners Festival Belfast on Sunday evening.

He discussed the book *Considering Grace – Presbyterians and the Troubles* by Gladys Ganiel and Jamie Yohanis in St John the Evangelist Parish Hall, West Belfast.

The book records the “deeply moving stories” of 120 ordinary people’s experiences of the Troubles.

“Many Catholics would echo the sentiments of some contributors that statements and condemnations from leaders were often distant and meaningless,” said the bishop.

He said that the stories in the book showed how “Church personnel on the ground did many great things, individual bridgebuilders were inspired by their faith – but the Churches as institutions struggled to make any difference at the micro or macro level”.

## Leadership

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland due to its structures, he said, had limitations “in that local pressures could be easily exerted. The short term of office of the Moderator means that no medium-term leadership figure could appear. On the Catholic side, there was less susceptibility to political agendas.”

Speaking to *The Irish Catholic* he said he wonders if they could have done any-

thing to help ease the tensions in Northern Ireland. “The Churches as organisations don’t seem to have a lot of affect in peacebuilding.

“That’s the question, are Churches in a position to influence the macro issues? I am wondering are they fit to do it, are they capable of doing it?”

He said at the event that that “structures are not frozen in stone but at the service of the mission” and that we should reflect and learn from the mistakes of the past.

*Considering Grace* was commissioned by the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. The event was originally meant to have Seamus Mallon as a speaker; due to his passing he was remembered at the evening of talks, poetry and music.

## New deacon for Kilmore



Newly ordained deacon Rev. Thomas Small of the Diocese of Kilmore stands with Bishop Michael Router, Auxiliary Bishop of Armagh who ordained him in Maynooth, Co. Kildare. Thomas was joined by Kilmore priests, friends, family and members of the seminary community.

## Tackle NI gambling says charity after MLA revelation

Chai Brady

A Northern Irish charity has dubbed an MLA’s decision to speak openly about gambling’s severe impact on his life as “exceptionally brave”.

CARE NI Policy Officer-Mark Baillie welcomed Philip McGuigan’s openness regarding an addiction to gambling that cost him more than £100,000.

“Stories like his help to raise awareness about the harms problem gambling can cause, not only to individuals but to families and communities,” Mr Baillie said.

Sinn Féin’s Mr McGuigan said he wanted Northern

Ireland’s gambling laws to be changed to protect others from falling into the same trap he fell into. He developed an addiction to online poker and over the course of eight years lost £100,000.

## Outdated

Mr Baillie said that “now that the Executive is restored, reforming our outdated gambling laws should be a top priority”.

“Hopefully the public consultation being run by the Department of Communities will lead to genuine root and branch reform of the law.

“Mr McGuigan’s own experience highlights the need for stronger protections, both

online and offline and the need for a mandatory levy to ensure gambling companies are made to do their bit.”

Gambling legislation in Northern Ireland is different than the rest of the United Kingdom, with the key legislation being the Betting, Gaming, Lottery and Amusements (NI) Order 1985.

This was passed decades before the rise of highly addictive Fixed Odds Betting Terminals (FOBTs), the development of online gambling and smartphones that support all sorts of sophisticated online gaming which can be done anywhere, without much-needed restrictions.

## A ‘positive change’ for the parish of Finglas West

Staff reporter

The new church in the parish of Finglas West will be a positive change, said Fr Eamon Cahill, parish priest.

Planning permission was granted on by Dublin City Council for the demolition of the Church of the Annunciation and the building of a new, smaller replacement seating 300 instead of 3,500.

“It was so uncomfortable for everyone and so we’re replacing it with a smaller church which will be clearly warmer and more welcoming.”

The closure was announced in 2017 due to structural issues. It was first built in the 1960s had begun falling into disrepair. The parish has been operating through the

support of their neighbouring parishes since October 2019.

“We can’t wait to get back into our new church, but we’re managing it extremely well.”

## Negotiations

Just under six acres of the land was acquired by Dublin City Council with the residual land to be used for senior citizens’ housing. The council is in negotiations with the Health Service Executive about the possibility of it being used for a primary care centre.

“Our intention would be, and we’ve been in discussion with Dublin City Council, that it’s specifically housing for the elderly, it won’t be our call at the end of the day but that’s our wish.”



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## Breda O'Brien

### The View



# Be very careful what you wish for with Sinn Féin in power

**I**t really is a case of being careful what you wish for. When I wrote before the election that it was time to move away from the politics of Tweedledum and Tweedledee, I had no idea that the country would instead vote for Tweedledodge.

In fairness, neither did Sinn Féin, which could have comfortably elected two people in many constituencies where they only ran one candidate. It is clear that this is a vote for change and for Mary Lou McDonald as an avatar for that change.

For example, Patricia Ryan topped the poll in Kildare South. She herself obviously believed she had so little chance that she went on holidays for the last days of the campaign.

Violet-Anne Wynne in Clare topped the poll with more than 8,700 votes but got 385 votes in the local election. This has been repeated right across the country.

It may seem unfair to refer to Sinn Féin as Tweedledodge, but Peadar Tóibín of Aontú, who was a member of Sinn Féin until he parted ways with them over abortion, has claimed that rank and file TDs have zero influence on policy. It is often dictated by unelected officials.

More importantly, leader Mary Lou McDonald was embroiled in controversy over the death of Paul Quinn, a young man beaten to death in grisly circumstances thirteen years ago. Conor Murphy, finance minister in the Stormont government, had made comments connecting Quinn to criminality (Murphy himself was sentenced to five years in jail for IRA membership and possession of explosives). McDonald, when confronted with what Murphy had said, was obviously discomfited and ended up saying that Murphy would have to apologise. Even this did not affect Sinn Féin in the polls to any significant degree.

### Necessary

In the context of a Sinn Féin surge, it was an even greater achievement for Peadar Tóibín to get elected in Meath. Aontú will fall short of the 2% of the vote necessary to secure government funding.

However, Becky Kealy in Cork and Sarah Reilly in

Cavan Monaghan put in very creditable performances.

In my own constituency of Dublin Rathdown, filled with heavy hitters like Catherine Martin of the Greens, Josepha Madigan of Fine Gael and Independent Shane Ross (who lost his seat), Liam Coughlan of Aontú managed to secure some 1,400 votes.

There is definitely a foundation to build on here but anyone looking at the election would say that there was a curious indifference to issues like abortion. It seemed neither to help nor harm candidates.

Certainly, Fianna Fáil's courting of the liberal/left and 'woke' electorate did them little good. Fine Gael's characterisation of those who oppose abortion as 'backwoodsmen' did them no additional harm.

The election results seem to have come down to a boiling over of frustration with housing (for younger people) and health (for older people). Yet Simon Harris was re-elected even though he was the worst Minister for Health in living memory, as was Eoghan Murphy who was Minister with responsibility for (not enough) housing. Climate change did not feature much as a motivation for voters, even though the Greens did well.

Volatility and unpredictability are the new political realities. How do Catholics, who tend to have

unchanging priorities, such as the right to life, decent living conditions for all and care for the planet, fit into such a scenario?

The only way to bring about change in politics is to get out and get stuck in and help candidates who mirror your values.

**“ Catholics will have to stop compartmentalising their vote as something separate from their Faith”**

No political party is perfect and no government will bring about the reign of the kingdom of God. But nothing can excuse us from the long unglamorous slog of everyday politics, even if it takes decades. It means supporting parties like Aontú and Independents who reflect our values most closely.

Catholics will have to stop compartmentalising their vote as something separate from their Faith. They will have to stop voting for parties that hold views that are completely at odds with Catholic values.

Some parties bank on Catholics not punishing them at the polls.

One of my daughters did some canvassing for a pro-life politician and said that it was the first time that she understood why someone would want to be a politician.

**“ The only way to bring about change in politics is to get out and get stuck in and help candidates who mirror your values”**



Aontú's Peadar Tóibín.

Canvassing brought her in contact with lots of young families struggling with long commutes, suffering from inadequate facilities for children with disabilities or mental health problems, or

simply unable to afford a secure home.

It made her realise that there is a vocational aspect to politics that is motivated by a desire to make a positive difference in people's lives.

Even in a rapidly

shifting and volatile political landscape, that unglamorous but vital aspect of politics is both important in its own right and also makes people more inclined to listen on issues like abortion.



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# New nuns to give Waterford and Lismore diocese ‘new life’

**Chai Brady**

The foundation of a religious community of sisters in Tipperary has been described as “new life” for the diocese of Waterford and Lismore according to the bishop.

The Sisters of the Home of the Mother began their foundation in Cahir at the beginning of this month with Mass in the parish church, St Mary’s.

Bishop Phonsie Cullinan said the two Irish and two American sisters have “energy and enthusiasm, which is always welcome”.

“They’re here to encourage and to help the Church here, why would I refuse such an offer of this new life? There are wonderful things happening in our Church, we probably don’t recognise them enough, but you know as St Paul says if one part of the Church is ailing – and the Church of course is the body of Christ – if we get help from another part of the body of Christ well surely we should accept it.”

“You know the Irish Church



Bishop Phonsie Cullinan with members of the Sisters of the Home of the Mother and Fr Rafael Alonso Reymundo (founder).

sent out missionaries all over the world to help the Church in foreign parts, and now we are the beneficiaries often of evangelical outreach,” he said.

The four sisters will take up residence in the old parochial house and will assist in

pastoral work in Cahir and surrounding areas, helping to spread the Gospel and reach out to the marginalised.

The superior of the sisters will be Sr Therese.

Bishop Cullinan was the main celebrant and was

joined by a number of priests including Fr Rafael Alonso Reymundo the founder of the congregation of the Home of the Mother.

## Presence

Bishop Cullinan said: “The presence of many young people at the Mass gave testimony to the appeal which these young religious have

for the young.”

“I think that these young religious are an inspiration, and an inspiration to me and to all. If you see a religious with a smile on his or her face, I suppose you begin to think. If you see a religious who is joyful, you begin to think about what inspires that person...these people make us reflect.”

## Bishop has Faith in Accord despite falling figures

**Róise McGagh**

Bishop Denis McNulty has expressed his faith in the work of Accord Catholic Marriage Care, of which he is president, despite falling numbers.

“A huge number of people are coming to our preparation’s courses, 15,000 that’s a huge number of people. And a huge number are coming to our counselling services.”

A report from Accord released on Tuesday stated that the number of people attending sacramental marriage preparation courses fell by just under 2,000 to 14,894 in the last two years. The number of counselling sessions provided by the three Accord companies fell by 2,940 in the same timeframe.

“What’s important is how many people are helped and how many people are accompanied on that journey and we in Accord welcome them very warmly,” he said.

“Marriage is the bedrock of society so it needs it be funded to support people in relationship as well and where relationships break down, the cost to society is huge as well.”

## Discrimination

In 2018 there was fear that a move from Tusla requiring any agency funded by them to agree to non-discriminatory policies forbidding discrimination on several grounds including sexual orientation, would impact publicly-funded Catholic counselling agencies.

However, Accord have continued to receive around €1.6 million per year in funding for their marriage and relationship counselling services. “If in counselling someone needs support accord will welcome people, its non-judgemental its gently accompanying people,” said the bishop.

The marriage preparation courses are funded by fees.

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Sisters of the Home of the Mother at Mass in St Mary’s.

## Church leader wants young people to join the PSNI

**Aron Hegarty**

The head of the Catholic Church in Ireland has encouraged more young people to “seriously consider” a career in the police.

Archbishop Eamon Martin has previously called for the reinstatement of 50/50 recruitment to increase the number of Catholic officers in the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI).

Latest PSNI figures show only 32% of the 6,848 police officers in Northern Ireland are Catholic.

On February 11, Dr Martin wrote on his Twitter account: “As the latest #PSNI recruitment campaign continues. I encourage the very best of our young people to seriously consider a career in the #Police.

“Help to shape the future of policing here and serve your community with generosity, concern, respect and courage.”

The PSNI recently launched a campaign to recruit up to 600 new members this year, with applications open until February 25.





The new Spring/Summer programme of Faith Renewal at Knock Shrine encompasses a range of events, developed to give participants the opportunity to enliven and engage on a range of topics and take time-out from busy life.

The programme will run over a number of months and includes workshops, talks and retreats run by well-known facilitators, all devised with the aim of reaching out to people to support and encourage faith.

## Upcoming Events

### ***Tasters in Theology***

with Reverend Professor Eamonn Conway  
*Head of Theology & Religious Studies, MIC Limerick*

**Thurs 20 Feb:** "Fashioned in Wisdom and in Love"  
- Reflections on Creation

**Thurs 27 Feb:** What happens to us and our loved ones after death? Theological reflections on heaven and hell.

Fee: €10 for each evening

Time: 8- 9.30pm

Location: Knock House Hotel

### ***Women of the Well***

Retreat with Moira McDowall RLR  
& Angela Marson

**Friday 21 & Saturday 22 February**

*'If you only knew...'* Inspired by Jesus' encounter with the Woman at the Well and other women in the gospels, as well as some of our contemporaries, this retreat for women will allow time for personal, as well as group prayer and reflection.

Come and allow yourselves to be nourished and, as we move from Winter into Spring, to receive the new life which is offered us.

Location: Prayer Centre, Knock Shrine

The retreat will begin with registration on Friday 21 Feb from 7.30pm-9pm

& Saturday 22 from 9.30-4pm

Fee: €50 includes lunch.

### ***Quiet Days for Busy People***

Nourish your soul and discover new life in the heart of the Gospels, through Guided Meditation and quiet reflection.

**Saturday 14 March**

**Deirdre Ní Chinnéide**

Come Away to a Quiet Place – Music, Reflection & Prayer

**Saturday 25 April**

**Lizzie Harrison**

'Resting in God's Gaze of Love'

Times: 10.30am – 4pm

€30 includes lunch

Location for retreats: Prayer Centre, Knock Shrine

### ***Scripture Summer School***

**9- 12 June**

**2020 Vision – Faith into the Future –  
Biblical Nourishment for Hungry Pilgrims**

Kieran O'Mahony, Jessie Rogers and Sean Goan  
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Fee: €200 per person incl. lunch.

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### ***Jesuit Week***

**Sun 26 July – Sun 2 August**

'My Life, My Story, Missioned with God'

Includes preached retreats, themed talks, prayer time, question time, and Daily Examen.

Facilitators: Terry Howard SJ & Jesuit Team

Location: Prayer Centre, Knock Shrine

**To find out more or to book a place at any of these events:**

T. (094) 93 75355/ (094) 93 88100 E. [faithnewnewal@knockshrine.ie](mailto:faithnewnewal@knockshrine.ie)





# The future of Catholic voters is in our own hands

In the run up to the general election, there were a handful of statements from bishops such as Eamon Martin, Kevin Doran and Alan McGuckian but for the most part the Church kept as low a profile as possible during the election.

For example, there was no joint statement from the hierarchy, or there were from the hierarchies of Scotland, and England and Wales prior to the December general election in Britain. In that country, at least one group of parishes sent out a questionnaire to all candidates in their area to obtain their position on various issues. In this country, none that I am aware of did that.

Why the difference? I think one big reason is that we have become very defeatist. We have been

The concerns of Catholics were invisible in the election because Catholics made themselves invisible, writes **David Quinn**



extremely badly rocked by the scandals and continual negative coverage of the Church. We saw how bad it was in the run-up to the visit by Pope Francis to the country in August 2018 and the depleted crowds for him.

It's interesting to compare the relative fortunes of Sinn Féin and the Catholic Church in light of last week's election. Sinn Féin, like the Church, is scandal-ridden. It has countless skeletons

in its closet and voters were reminded of them as election day drew near. But it is still proud of the IRA and is unrepentant about the campaign of violence in the North, even if it regrets some of the civilian casualties.

It has had sex abuse scandals which it covered up and lots of allegations of bullying of party members by other party members.

But here it is now, full of confidence and self-belief



having achieved its best ever election result in the south. Its history of violence, the scandals, its continued alleged connection to the IRA army council have not held it back this time.

## Strong support

What's more, its strongest support was among young voters, who tend often to be the most disdainful of the Church, partly due to the scandals. It also grew its support considerably among middle-aged voters who are old enough to remember the IRA at its bloody height but still decided to forgive and forget and vote Sinn Féin.

Why isn't Sinn Féin's unrepented, violent past holding it back in the way it should be, while the Church, which has repented of its scandals many times, remains scared to offer a truly prophetic and evangelistic voice to society, or even its own people? Why is the public more forgiving of one than the other? Why does one remain self-confident, while the other is so drained of confidence?

I will leave those questions hanging there because they go beyond the scope of this short article, but they are worth pondering.

Do we know how Mass-going Catholics voted in the election? Actually, we do, because the RTÉ exit poll revealed it.

For a start, of those who voted, 31% attend church on a weekly basis or more.

Of the three main parties, Sinn Féin's supporters are least likely to be regular church-goers. Just 17% attend church at least once a week. This would partly be a function of age, social class (middle class people are more likely than working

class people to be Mass-goers), but also of ideology.

Fianna Fáil has the highest number of regular church-goers of the big three at 46%, which is well above the national average.

**“Fine Gael has received no visible public boost from its aggressive pursuit of a very socially liberal programme”**

Of Fine Gael voters, 35% go to church once a week or more.

In the case of both Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael, this would partly be a function of age, social class, and the rural-urban divide.

Aontú, the party formed by Peadar Kirby after he split with Sinn Féin over its pro-abortion stance, has easily the highest number of regular Mass-goers among its supporters. A huge 91% of its voters go to church at least once a week. It attracted just under 2% support nationally, which is quite good for a tiny new party with almost no money or media backing.

It would have done even better if a lot more of the 720,000 people who voted pro-life in the 2018 referendum had voted more tactically this time. In many cases they obviously reverted back to old party loyalties.

## Attitude

On the other hand, Fine Gael has received no visible public boost from its aggressive pursuit of a very socially liberal programme. There was no electoral reward waiting for it.

It would also be interesting to know if the

ultra-aggressive attitude of the likes of Simon Harris and Kate O'Connell towards pro-life voters did Fine Gael harm? It is as if the party was actively trying to alienate such voters.

## Pro-choice position

Nor did Fianna Fáil receive any boost from switching to a pro-choice position. Micheál Martin bent over backwards to attract younger, urban voters, especially in Dublin, and the policy completely and utterly failed.

None of the main parties made the slightest effort to attract back some of the pro-life voters, probably for fear of a media backlash and possibly a voter backlash, even though the segment of the electorate that is the most pro-choice would be very slow to support Fine Gael, never mind Fianna Fáil.

**“None of the main parties made the slightest effort to attract back some of the pro-life voters”**

Going forward, a greater political consciousness needs to develop among Catholics. The Church has rich social teachings to draw on and a well worked-out idea of the common good. These ought to influence how practising Catholics vote, even if they don't dictate (and shouldn't) that we must all vote one way.

But they should have some bearing on us, and until and unless they do, politicians will continue to ignore Catholics and we can hardly complain if we won't do anything about it.

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# An electoral earthquake or a tremor heralding worse to come



In government, Sinn Féin will disappoint and entrench the growing divide between many of our people and the political class, writes **John McGuirk**

**I**n a country unused to earthquakes, even the mildest tremor in the ground might feel like the end of the world. When Mount Vesuvius erupted and swept through the Roman town of Pompeii in 79AD, the inhabitants were entirely unprepared, even though the mountain had been smoking and shaking for several weeks. The tremors were so great, in fact, that many residents assumed that it couldn't get any worse. They were wrong.

At about 8pm on election night, DCU's Gary Murphy, not a man usually given to hyperbole, declared that Ireland had just had "the most extraordinary election in the history of the State".

In a way, he wasn't wrong. The Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael parties have never both had such a poor election on the same day. For the first time since independence, neither of them was the biggest vote-getter in the election, coming second and third to Sinn Féin. Had Sinn Féin a little more courage, and run more candidates, Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil would probably have come second and third in terms of seats as well.

## Change

When so much change happens, all at once, it's tempting to think that this is it – that things must now settle down. If politics worked as it should, Government policy would change dramatically to address the concerns of Sinn Féin voters, and we would emerge a happier country.

At the time of writing, it is impossible to be sure,



Mary Lou McDonald, leader of Sinn Féin, celebrates her party's success in the RDS.

but it seems very likely that by the time this column is published, Fianna Fáil and Sinn Féin will be well on the way to a marriage that will make Micheál Martin Taoiseach and Mary Lou McDonald the Tánaiste, and *de facto* boss of the country. Even if events happen differently, Sinn Féin has achieved an extraordinary success. But there is still much upheaval to come.

It's popular to say that Sinn Féin are the beneficiaries of the failure of the outgoing Government: the crisis in housing and in health; the misery of many commuters; the plague of boarded up rural towns, and de-population in the countryside; the two-tier society that's emerging, etc.

But those are not uniquely Irish problems. They've been slowly afflicting most of the Western world for two decades now. Speak to someone in Yorkshire who voted for Brexit, or someone in Wisconsin who voted for Donald Trump, and you'll hear many of the same themes that emerge from Sinn Féin voters – alienation from the political class, a sense that politicians no longer represent people, a sense that their country is no longer really theirs.

Perhaps it was that sense of insecurity about who we are that made the proposal to commemorate the Royal Irish Constabulary into such an outpouring of national outrage just six short weeks ago and started the flood of voters towards Sinn Féin.

But identifying the

problems, and winning the votes of the alienated, are not the same thing as having the ability to solve those problems. Sinn Féin is a party that preaches radical change – but what if those changes, rather than solving the problems, make them much worse?

Remember, if you will, the media acclaim surrounding the election of Barack Obama in 2008. Mr Obama's view of the world is not, in many respects, much different from the kind of change Sinn Féin says it wants to deliver. Large scale government interventions in healthcare and infrastructure were the hallmarks of his presidency.

Government spending and taxes went up, but the bubbling discontent under the surface did not ebb away. Some of the issues driving the discontent actually grew in salience – immigration and the effects of globalisation, in particular, and the devastation of rural America.

Sinn Féin in government is likely to try and solve the country's problems by focusing on the economic discontent of the population – but what if economic matters are merely secondary? Ireland is a country fraying at the edges these days, but that's not purely economic.

A few days before the election, Sinn Féin's LGBT spokesman announced that in Government, Sinn Féin would change the law to allow judges, not parents, the final say on whether a child could change its gender

from male to female, or vice versa. The party believes wholeheartedly in open borders and no controls on immigration. Some of its leading lights are leftist culture warriors much more concerned with social and cultural issues than matters economic.

The sense of discontent in

the country, the detachment between the people, and the politicians, is growing, and it is not all related to economic affairs. Sinn Féin are just people – and they are people without any special answers to the problems in health, and people who can't wave a magic wand and make people start building houses. In government, they are likely to disappoint on economics, and entrench the growing, but unspoken, divide between many of our people and the political class.

**“In Ireland last weekend, a whole swathe of populist, right wing independents increased their vote”**

In the US, we know what followed Mr Obama. It was not noticed much in the bigger picture, but

in Ireland last weekend, a whole swathe of populist, right-wing independents increased their vote, or held their seats comfortably. When people had a credible option to say “we're not happy with the well-spoken, well-heeled, and well-off political class, including Sinn Féin”, they took it.

Ireland does not have a Donald Trump figure, and may never have. But what it does have are many of the issues that drove voters to Trump in the first place: a growing immigrant population; a declining rural population, growing relatively poorer; an entrenched cultural elite obsessed with things like gender and abortion and gay marriage; and a new left-wing voice, promising hope and change, but likely to deliver disappointment.

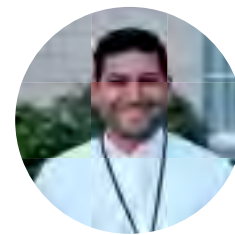
Last weekend may have felt like a tremor, but the real earthquake may well be yet to come.

## Why I became a Missionary Oblate...

Fr **Eduardo** Nuñez-Yepes OMI

“The Lord calls us and then sends us. I must say that my call to missionary life took me by surprise. Now, I realise that it has been the best thing that has happened to me in life.”

—Fr Eduardo, Darndale-Belcamp Parish, Dublin



Fr **Dominick** Zwierzychowski OMI

“Our Oblate call to be always close to the people is not just an empty phrase. As I was growing up, I saw that the Oblates were always close to the troubles and joys of the ordinary people. That's why I became an Oblate.

—Fr Dominick, Bluebell Parish, Dublin 12



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## The 4 Corners Festival brings Christians together in Belfast, writes Róise McGagh

**O**n Friday January 31 the 4 Corners festival kicked off in Belfast city. The series of events running until February 9 was aimed at bringing Christians in the city together, as one of the founders of the festival Rev. Steve Stockman said: “We want to believe that Jesus could be a peacemaker rather than a divider of communities and cities”.

The Friday morning saw secondary school students in a workshop, starting off the festival with a reimagining of their own city. Later that evening Gary Lightbody, lead singer of Snow Patrol brought together a packed audience and encouraged them to see each other as equal.

These were only a few of many walks, games, shows and talks that took place up until February 9 under the theme ‘Building a city of grace’.

The 4 Corners Festival was launched at Hydebank Wood Secure College and Women’s Prison on January 17. “Our prisons are a part of the community and not apart from the community,” said Ronnie Armour, Director General of the Northern Ireland Prison Service.

Fr Martin McGill founded the festival eight years ago with Rev. Steve Stockman.

“It really came about by accident out of a chance conversation between myself and a Presbyterian minister,” he said, “who had a similar experience of Belfast, of not knowing the city. I think because of the Troubles people stay within their own particular area and from a security point of view we didn’t travel very much to certain parts of the city.”

### Workshop

They decided to begin the festival by bringing young people together for a set of talks and a workshop encouraging them to imagine the future of their city.

Students from seven schools in different areas of Belfast attended a talk with Arthur Parke, an architect with FCB Studios who designed the Ulster University (UU) building where they were hosted. They were welcomed to the new Belfast campus by Andrew McAnallen, the UU Student Union president as well as the provost, Prof. Raffaella Folli. Arthur brought the students to



the top of the building where there is a lookout point and invited the students to view the possibilities of space within their city in which there might be room to build community. He showed them maps of Belfast, pointing out all of the vacant sites and their possible uses.

“Today’s activity has been for the students to find out more about their city and instead of feeling helpless about it to actually be able to come up with, through words and through creative art, and be able to communicate ideas,” he said.

### Design

He took them through the process of designing the UU building and how he felt it has the potential to cause a ripple of regeneration in the area. “The students seemed inspired by that, and the use of this

building is great, to get up high.

“One of my key interests was being able to get them to see Belfast from a different perspective, one that they wouldn’t already have experienced and maybe use that laterally to say – well maybe you can apply that idea of a different perspective to what you’re going to do throughout the course of the day.”

**“It shows hope for the future of Belfast, to see that young people who are about to finish school have a vision for the future”**

The students, once inspired, began a workshop with Shelley

Tracey, a poet and artist who does community and education work. She talked to the room of 17- and 18-year-olds about different kinds of poetry and art and how they can be used to express ideas. She showed them examples of how poets and artists have effectively portrayed ideas through different styles of work.

The students were then given materials to create a piece of work that expressed their ideas and hopes for the future of Belfast. Most of them wrote poems and made or incorporated it into an accompanying art piece.

One of the shorter pieces read: “Standing tall and strong; defiant bright and hopeful; we stand together.”

Shelley said she was impressed by the openness and creativity of the young people in the room.

St Anthony’s Catholic Church in Willowfield in east Belfast is filled for an evening of remembrance, song and speakers on February 3. Left, Gary Lightbody talks to the packed crowd in Fitzroy Presbyterian Church on Friday, January 31, kicking off the 4 Corners Festival. Photos: Bernie Brown

“What struck me was how the young people used the maps in their pieces,” she said.

“It shows hope for the future of Belfast, to see that young people who are about to finish school have a vision for the future which is about challenging divisions.”

Kate Greene from Our Lady and St Patricks College Knock said: “It’s been a really good experience. I want to work in civil engineering so the development and the future of the city is something that really important to me.”

St Malachys College student, Ethan Mackel said: “The 4 Corners Festival really lives up to its name, you see people from the north, from the south side of Belfast, from the east and west. It’s great to hear opinions from people about Belfast as a whole. From people in school I’ve never heard of before.”

When asked if sectarianism had affected his life he said “My mum and dad are very defined on their view, from their own personal experiences. But our experience as a generation – we didn’t live through the Troubles – it’s what we get from them, our ideas our beliefs usually come from our parents, if not from our communities or our schools.

“It’s up to us what we want to





Students from Tor Bank School, Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock, St Mary's Christian Brothers Grammar School, Ashfield School, St Malachy's College, All Saints College and Wellington College present their art and poetry to Shelly Tracey in a workshop about reimagining the future of Belfast. Photo: Róisie McGagh

do with them. We never saw the fighting but then it's up to us to make a decision on how we can help."

\* \* \* \* \*

The UU Presbyterian chaplain Cheryl Meban helped facilitate the event. She debriefed with Fr Martin. The students expressed their want to not be seen as a divided place of conflict by people who visit.

"This is the antidote to that kind of narrow nationalism and exclusion.

"This place has thrived on two dysfunctional nationalisms that intend to keep people apart and

for me this is not about stopping people voting for those parties but helping them to infiltrate those parties with a more healthy appreciation of their nation and their belonging and their future," she said.

**“She literally had an open-door policy where the Protestant reverend would come for tea...”**

That evening Gary Lightbody addressed the Fitzroy Presbyterian Church packed with hundreds of people who paid into the only

ticketed event of the festival.

Rev. Steve Stockman brought the crowd through the Bangor musicians' career and encouraged him to perform some recent songs. Gary said: "I think that whether we see it or not we all have a bond with each other and a lot of that is to do with music."

He said to Steve: "As you say you said you were having this experience where you realised everyone was connected, whether they were Catholic or Protestant or whatever religion while we were singing along to 'Run', I have those moments all the time".

He talked fondly about his grandmother and how she helped



Bishop of Derry Donal McKeown addressing the event.

him see that people are people despite their background. He told the crowd how she passed away reading the bible and the verse on one of those pages inspired the song 'Church'.

"She was born and raised in Derry as a Protestant, a very devout Christian and one of her best friends Margaret Monaghan was a Catholic from when they were very young, for their whole life they were best friends." He said

"She literally had an open-door policy where the Protestant reverend would come for tea, and the Catholic priest would come for

tea. Both sides would come for cups of tea round Betty's house."

As Arthur Park said earlier that day: "The city is not finite, it's not finished, its malleable and it has the ability to change."

"What we want most to do in Belfast is to take people out of different corners of their city, into places they've never been before, to meet people they've never met before, to listen to people they might never have listened to before and to move some direction that might bring Belfast together," said Rev. Stockman.



John Barry, Dympna Mallon, Gladys Ganiel (Chair), Chris McCracken, Naomi McKeown, and Jonny Hanson. Photo: Philip McCrea

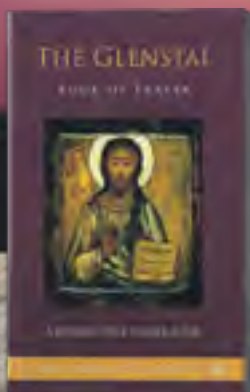
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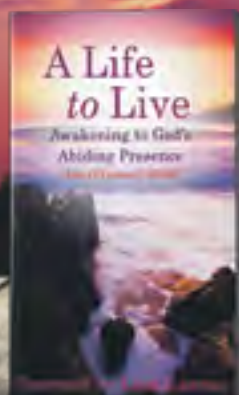
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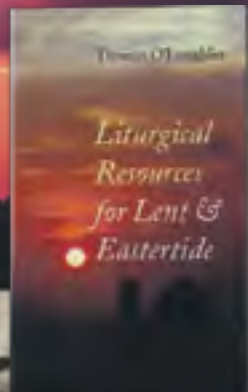
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# Young Catholics have a ball



Last Saturday night saw almost 300 young people from all over Ireland and beyond come together for the annual Youth 2000 St Valentine's Fundraising Ball.

The organisation – whose motto is youth leading youth to the heart of the Church – is celebrating 30 years this year.

The night began with Mass in the Church of the Martyrs, Naas, followed by a meal in the Osprey Hotel.

After the meal guests were treated to live music as well as a DJ. What followed in the early hours was the tea, chats, guitars and sing-songs that are characteristic of Youth 2000 events.

**i** All photos: Seán Blackwell









**Youth2000** Continued from Page 15







# Hold newly-elected leaders to account on health says archbishop



Students from Sion Hill and Rockford Manor schools holding up holy oil for blessing at Mass on Sunday in the Church of the Guardian Angels, Newtownpark Avenue to mark World Day of the Sick. Photos: John McElroy



A Massgoer is anointed with holy oil.



Above and below, altar servers in procession.



## Chai Brady

Irish people must hold their newly-elected leaders to account and make sure the crisis in Irish healthcare is tackled in order to stop sick children and the elderly “left waiting and exasperated”, according to Archbishop of Dublin Diarmuid Martin.

Speaking on the World Day of the Sick on Sunday, the archbishop commended doctors, nurses and carers who have “extraordinary human qualities and dedication”.

He lambasted Ireland’s health system, saying many areas of it are “scandalous” and “let down” medical staff. “Hopefully, the many commentaries and the many promises we have heard in these election days will not remain empty words. We have an obligation to keep our leaders to their word,” Archbishop Martin said in the Church of the Guardian Angels in Dublin.

“Our Church and we believers are called in our own way to be guardian angels for those who silently suffer and are troubled. In our time, despite the great progress of medical science, many of those who are sick suffer from a deep loneliness or abandonment or a sense of being rejected and the feeling that society simply passes them by and leaves them on their own.”

## Support

He said the Christian community came together on the day to welcome the sick as “privileged members of our community”, to support and learn from them, saying “the Faith of the sick is stronger than our own sense of self-sufficiency”.

**“At moments of darkness and turbulence, even a small light is a sign that we are moving out of darkness”**

“For us Christians, the unwavering love of Jesus constitutes the first service that we offer those who are sick. We are called to be beacons of light who proclaim the constant presence of the new light of Christ in our world with all its ambiguities,” Dr Martin said.

“At moments of darkness and turbulence, even a small light is a sign that we are moving out of darkness. Light is a reminder that hope is still possible in the darkness of distress.”



Members of Dublin Deaf Choir in service as priests approach the altar to celebrate Mass.



Priests and bishops processing to the altar in the Church of the Guardian Angels.



Archbishop Diarmuid Martin anointing a Massgoer with holy oil.



Some of those in attendance at the Mass on Sunday.



JULY 22 - 29

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# Out&About

## Confirmed in Laois



**LAOIS:** Bishop Fintan Monahan and Fr Tom Corbett with the Confirmation class of Gaelscoil Shlí Dála in the parish of Kyle and Knock.



**CORK:** Bishop Fintan Gavin and Fr Bernard Cotter with altar servers Aishling O'Sullivan, Aoibhinn Kerr and Declan Kerr during the bishop's visit to the parish of Murragh and Templemartin.



**DUBLIN:** Bishop of Cloyne, William Crean with Dr Fáiínche Ryan, Director of the Loyola Institute, Msgr Monsignor Francisco Javier Díaz Tenza, Deputy Head of the Apostolic Nunciature in Ireland and Dr Cornelius Casey, Founder Director of the Loyola Institute launch *The Church in Pluralist Society: Social and Political Roles*, edited by Cornelius Casey and Fáiínche Ryan.



**CAVAN:** Gerry and Anna Martin with their grandson Oisín at St Joseph's School, Kingscourt, marking Catholic Schools Week.



**DUBLIN:** In Clonliffe College three colleagues procure their three books. Pictured (l-r) are Gerard Gallagher (*Return to Me with all your Heart*, Veritas), Fr Kieran O'Mahony OSA (*Hearers of the Word*, Messenger Publications) and Fr Bryan Shortall OFM Cap. (*Sending Positive Vibes*, Columba Press).



Edited by Chai Brady  
chai@irishcatholic.ie

Events deadline is a week in  
advance of publication



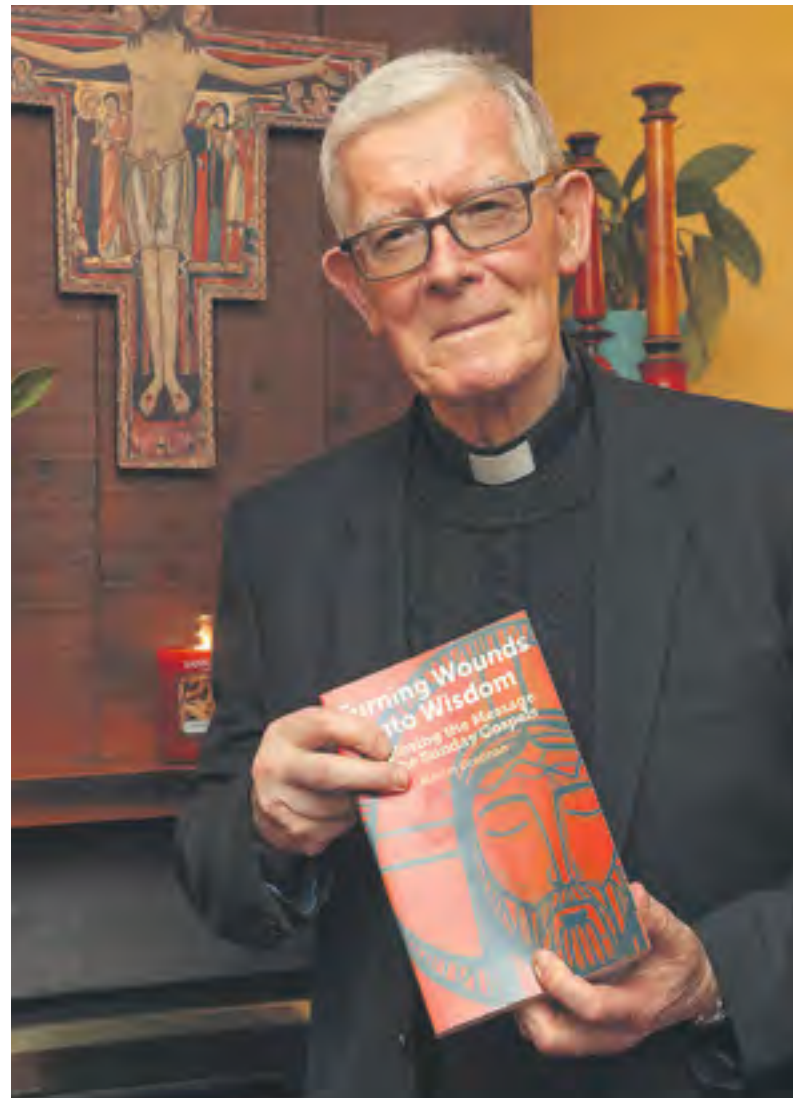
**CORK:** The Kelly family with Bishop Fintan Gavin and Fr Bernard Cotter before Mass at Farnivane church during the bishop's visit to the parish of Murragh and Templemartin.



**SLIGO:** Fr Pat Lombard PP of St Anne's Sligo and Dr John O'Keeffe, Director of Sacred Music in St Patrick's College Maynooth with representatives of Sligo and north Roscommon parish and school choirs following the Elphin diocese's workshop for parish and school choirs in The College of the Immaculate Conception.



**LIMERICK:** Sr Mary Brigid Dunlea, Fr Peter McVerry SJ, Sr Eileen Lenihan, Bishop Brendan Leahy and Sr Dolores Madigan at the celebration of the World Day for Consecrated Life held at the Milford Salesian Centre.



**GALWAY:** Bishop Martin Drennan, retired Bishop of Galway, launches his new book *Turning Wounds into Wisdom* which is a collection of reflections on the three-year Sunday Mass cycle of scripture readings in the Chapel of St Columbanus beside National University of Ireland Galway (NUIG).



**MAYO:** Msgr Patrick Gallagher, Una Loftus and Regina Deasy received the Benemerenti medal from Pope Francis to mark the service given by them to St Muredach's Cathedral Choir.



# Out&About



**LIMERICK:** Religious Jubilarians of the Diocese of Limerick pictured with Bishop Brendan Leahy and Fr Peter Mc Verry SJ, who was the guest speaker, at the celebration of World Day for Consecrated Life at Milford Salesian Centre.



**CLARE:** Frank and Mary Kelly-Boyle, from Inagh visit St Brigid's Well in Liscannor on St Brigid's Day. Pilgrims visit the holy shrine and cave, lighting candles and filling water bottles from the holy well. February 1 also heralds the first day of spring. Photo: Valerie O'Sullivan



**DERRY:** Pupils from St Mary's School in Magherafelt make St Brigid's crosses as part of Catholic Schools Week celebrations.



**KILDARE:** Students from several different classes in Scoil Dara in Kilcock, learn how to make St Brigid's crosses in art class.





**DERRY:** Year 7 students from New Row PS in Magherafelt learn about St Brigid and making St Brigid's crosses with help from seven pupils from St Mary's Grammar School.



**SLIGO:** Ray Cotter of Carraroe, Clare Devaney, Drumcliffe, Dr John O'Keefe and Grainne O'Keefe, St. Patrick's College Maynooth, Patrica McCaffrey and Marian Roycroft and Fr Pat Lombard PP of St Anne's following Elphin diocese's workshop for parish and school choirs in the College of the Immaculate Conception.

## IN SHORT

### Cork nuns to open their doors

The Benedictine nuns in Cobh, Co. Cork will be opening their doors to those who would like to know more about monastic life and how they live it in the 21st Century.

On March 21 this year a retreat day will be held at St Benedict's Priory which will include Mass, the Liturgy of the Hours, Eucharistic Adoration and talks by a priest, a lay theologian and one of the sisters on monasticism, the monastic saints and life in a contemporary monastery. Mother Catherine,

prioress of the community of seven sisters of different nationalities said: "Our Church is longing for the new evangelisation, our world is hungry for a spirituality that will bring peace and order back into our lives. Since the 4th Century, monasticism has played a crucial part in both these types of renewal, since it takes everyone back to the basics of what it means to be Christian. That is why we are inviting people to come to our monastery and touch base with a praying community."

Later, from April 16-18, there will also be an opportunity for women who are discerning a call to religious life to

participate in the life of the community for a couple of days. Organisers say the event in March would be a good introduction for those wishing to apply.

To find out more about either of these events contact Mother Prioress on 021 4811354 or email cobhtyburnconvent@gmail.com or write to St Benedict's Priory, The Mount, Cobh, Co. Cork.

### Faith-filled event for youth in Dublin

In St Paul's Arran Quay an event aimed at engaging young people will take place at the end of February.

The Encounter, which brings together young adults in their 20s and 30s, is a night of live acoustic music, reflective prayer in Adoration, with guest speaker on life, faith and purpose. This is followed by social, pizza and refreshments.

The next Encounter takes place on Friday, February 28 at 8pm. Organisers say: "We are delighted to announce that our Musician will be Lenin and Lionel Pinto."

Guest speakers for the night will be Maria Siddi and Kiara Vanmaele. For more information email st.pauls@dublindiocese.ie or follow us on Instagram @theyoungchurchdublin

## CLARE

Cloughleigh Oratory will continue to pray the Novena Prayer to St Anthony every Tuesday morning at the 9.30am Mass.

## CORK

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

A Pro-Life Mass is held on the last Friday of every month (except December) at the Poor Clares Monastery, College Road, at 7.30pm.

A Weekend of Praise Worship and Healing in the Rochestown Park Hotel, Douglas, on Saturday and Sunday March 7 and 8. Mass and confessions on both days. Keynote speaker is Maria Vadia Florida. Also Fr John Keane Macroom and Msgr Finbarr O Leary and Mir Music Ministry. Commencing 9.30am both days. Enquires: Celia 087 2405568

## DERRY

Dungiven Parish: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Monday to Friday, 8-12pm and 3-9pm.

St Maria Goretti Prayer Movement: Prayer for healing for victims of abuse and reparation for the Church. First Holy Hour of prayer in the Immaculate Conception Church, Trench Road, at 8.15pm led by Fr Sean O'Donnell on the third Tuesday of every month.

## DONEGAL

New Holy Face of Jesus prayer meeting: The oratory St Mary's Buncrana, Tuesdays following Rosary after 10am Mass. Contact: 085 2525 612

## DUBLIN

Our Lady of Knock prayer meetings take place on the last Thursday of every month in St Gabriel's Nursing Home, Glenayle Road, Raheny, Dublin 5, from 8-9pm.

## GALWAY

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

Life in the Holy Spirit Seminars at Immanuel House Clonfert, Ballinasloe, beginning Sunday, February 23, at 2.30pm – taking place for the next seven consecutive Sundays. Chief celebrant for Mass is Bishop Michael Duignan.

Emmanuel House, Clonfert. Life in the Spirit Seminars, Sunday February 23 at 2.30pm for 7 consecutive Sundays to April 5. Speakers Bishop Michael Duignan, Fr Joseph Neary, Greyfriars, Fr John Mockler, Eddie Stone, Fr Pat Deeley, Frank McGuinness, Fr Michael Kennedy.

## KERRY

Weekly Monday prayer meetings led by Ben Perkins, from 8-9.30pm in the Ardferret Retreat Centre.

## KILDARE

Praying, reading and sharing the following Sunday's Gospel in Resurrexit, Kilmeague, every Wednesday from 8-9.30pm. See www.resurrexit.ie for details, or ring 087-6825407.

## KILKENNY

Traditional Latin Mass every Sunday at 5pm in St Patrick's Church, College Road, Kilkenny (opposite St Kieran's College).

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the Church of the Assumption, Urlingford, every first and third Friday, from 2.30-5.30pm.

## LIMERICK

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Adult Formation Course Level 1 Part 1 offered at St Saviour's Dominican Church from February 28 – March 3, 2020. For more information email: limerick@op-tn.org.

## LOUTH

Mass in reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary will take place at 10.30am every first Saturday of the month in St Malachy's Church, Anne Street, Dundalk. Organised by the Legion of Mary, Presidium of Our Lady of the Listening Heart. Spiritual Director Fr Bede McGregor OP.

A Centre Prayer Meeting is held at Mount Oliver (near Ballymascanlon, Dundalk) every Wednesday evening at 7.30pm. Contact 00353 863623361 from the North of Ireland or 0863623361 from the Republic of Ireland.

## MAYO

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place in the Church of St Joseph and the Immaculate Conception Bohola every Wednesday from 10am until 10pm.

## MEATH

Enfield Prayer Group meets every Monday afternoon from 2.30-3.30pm in the parish centre for Adoration, Rosary, Chaplet and petitions. Also once per month a Lay Apostle meeting.

Adoration in St Patrick's Church, Stamullen, after 10am Mass every Thursday until 5pm, and in St Mary's Church, Julianstown, on Wednesdays from 9am and after 10am Mass.

## ROSCOMMON

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at St Bride's Church, Ballintubber, every Wednesday, 7.30-8.30pm.

Eucharistic Adoration takes place in Drumboylan Church on the first Friday/month from 9am-11pm.

## WATERFORD

A Day of Prayer and Healing takes place on Sunday, February 16 from 11am-5.30pm in the Woodlands Hotel with Fr Patrick Cahill of Holy Family Mission Glencomeragh. Contact Sile 0868590394

## WESTMEATH

Holy Face of Jesus prayer meeting: La Verna retreat centre beside private hospital Ballinderry, Mullingar. Thursdays AT 7.30pm. Contact: 085 2525 612

## WEXFORD

Taizé prayer services every first and third Friday at 8pm in Good Counsel College Chapel, New Ross.

## WICKLOW

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





# World Report

## IN BRIEF

### Two prominent US Catholics pass away

● A Catholic Sister who set a national standard for women's education and a famous writer of courageous fictional Catholic protagonists have died in the US this past week.

Sr Margaret Claydon (97) of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur passed away in Cincinnati, while Mary Higgins Clark – known as the “queen of suspense” – died aged 92 in Florida.

Ms Clark was a widely-read author of over 50 novels with a strong Catholic upbringing and was a regular parishioner.

Sr Claydon, meanwhile, played a significant role in advocating governance changes for Catholic colleges and universities to empower more lay leaders.

### China charity appeals for medical aid in face of ‘severe shortages’

● A Catholic charity in China says the country is experiencing a severe shortage of medical supplies in the wake of the coronavirus epidemic.

Jinde Charities has appealed to the universal Church for help with supplying face masks, surgical masks, goggles and eye masks.

However, the government-registered organisation says “hundreds of masks and protective clothing are consumed daily”.

“There is a serious shortage of medical supplies,” said Jinde in a message on February 2.

Despite increased efforts to contain the spread of the virus, including over 700,000 medical masks sent by the Vatican, China is struggling to meet the soaring demand.

### German cardinal sparks outrage after Nazi comparison

● A cardinal in Germany has caused uproar by likening the German Church reform talks with Adolf Hitler's rise to power.

Cardinal Gerhard Ludwig Müller criticised a bishops' synod in Frankfurt last week for being a “self-appointed assembly” designed to rescind the Constitution of the Church.

He controversially compared the “synodal path”

discussions as a “suicide process” akin to the Nazi Party's seizure of power in 1933.

The synodic process is intended to address a long-running protest by KDFB Catholic German Women's Federation and other groups to end celibacy, create ministries for women, debate sexual mores and abuse of minors.

### Polish archbishop wants John Paul II as Europe's patron saint

● An archbishop in Poland is calling for St John Paul II to be named a Doctor of the Church and co-patron saint of Europe.

Archbishop Stanislaw Gadecki, head of the Polish Episcopal Conference, says the late Pope should be recognised for his efforts.

“John Paul II ‘brought back’ half of Europe from ‘nonexistence’, [he brought back] grand and wonderful heritage of cultural and Christian roots,” he wrote in a letter to the bishops of the world asking for support.

The archbishop described his countryman as “a protector of European values that constitute an irremovable foundation of the modern-day civilisation”.

### Argentina to build 400 grottos for Virgin Mary celebration

● Four hundred small grottos are being constructed in Argentina to commemorate the anniversary of a statue of the Virgin Mary. The statue of Our Lady was discovered 400 years ago in a rock niche on the side of a remote slope in the province of Catamarca.

To mark the occasion, the bishops of Argentina have declared December 8, 2019 to 2020 a National Marian Year. The year 2020 also celebrates the 500th anniversary of the first Mass on Argentina soil.

Our Lady of the Rosary parishioners in Hualfin suggested the idea, which was approved by Bishop Luis Urbane of Catamarca and parish councils in the area.

## Pope calls for protection of Syrian women and children

Pope Francis has appealed for the protection of women and children fleeing violence in Syria, where more than half a million people have been displaced in the past two months.

Around 520,000 have been displaced from their homes since December during the Syrian government's offensive in Idlib province – Syria's last rebel-held territory – which borders Turkey.

According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 80% of displaced persons are women and children.

Calling for peaceful negotiation and humanitarian protection, the Pope prayed a Hail Mary for those threatened with violence in north-west Syria.

“Painful news continues to arrive from the northwest of Syria, in particular on the conditions of many women and children, people forced to flee due to military escalation,” said Pope Francis in his Angelus address on February 9.

“I renew my heartfelt appeal to the international community and to all the



A mother and her children pictured in a refugee camp in Syria.

actors involved to make use of diplomatic instruments, dialogue and negotiations, in compliance with international humanitarian law, to safeguard the life and fate of civilians.”

### Patriarchs

A day earlier, on February 8, the Holy Father held a private meeting in the Vatican with Catholic patriarchs of the Middle East over the survival of Christians in the region.

They provided Pope Francis with an overview of conditions in the area as a result of persecution, extremism,

economic insecurity and immigration of Christians to the West.

Lebanese Cardinal Bechara Rai (and patriarch of the Maronite Catholic Church) said the occasion highlighted the “importance of the word and stance” of the Pope's awareness and concern regarding the Middle East.

He noted “the importance of the presence of Christians, their role and mission” in coexisting with Muslims and the Holy See in “its diplomatic relations with the international family to put an end to the wars and conflicts that

our Arab world suffers from.”

Syrian Patriarch Ignace Joseph III Younan noted “in an atmosphere of frankness, respect and appreciation” the Pope gave reassurance that “he was closely concerned with the situation in the Middle East”.

He stated that the Pope “endeavoured with all his strength to stop the powerful of this world from interfering in affairs of the Middle East region”.

Patriarch Younan added Pope Francis feels people have rights to have honest governments who respect citizens and seek the good of the homeland.

The patriarch concluded that the Pope said he would continue to defend Syria and stated that the country is “always in his heart and mind”.

Other patriarchs at the meeting were Iraqi Cardinal Louis Sako (Chaldean patriarch), Melkite Catholic Patriarch Joseph Absi, Armenian Patriarch Gregory Peter XX Ghabroyan and Coptic Patriarch Ibrahim Isaac Sedrak.

## Bangladesh court supports ban on prenatal gender detection

The Bangladesh High Court has called for the government to justify its stance on allowing prenatal gender detection technology, which groups favouring gender equality and the right to life are seeking to ban.

The court stated that the government must explain its failure to regulate the technology should not be considered as illegal.

Supreme Court lawyer Ishrat Hasan filed a petition in January claiming that the prenatal tests violate constitutional protections for gender equality and a baby's right to life.

A court order issued on February 4 from the High Court has given government officials six weeks to

respond to why they believe such procedures are constitutionally acceptable.

### Financial security

Rita Roselin Costa, who works in women's ministry for the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Bangladesh, said there is a preference for male babies; that a boy will become the provider and ensure a family's future financial security.

“In our society people of all religions – Muslims, Hindus and Christians – prefer a son over a daughter while having their first child. Behind this deep-rooted social practice is our patriarchal societal

system,” she said.

Dr Edward Pallab Rozario, head of the community health and natural family planning for Caritas Bangladesh, says mothers face significant pressure to abort a child if they learn that they are having a girl.

He noted that in neighbouring India there is already a law banning the gender detection of unborn babies, and voiced hope that Bangladesh will follow suit.

“All human beings are created by God and we must welcome each and every one, men and women, boys or girls alike. This is our responsibility to welcome each child as a gift from God,” he stressed.

## Pope shakes hand of woman who ‘grabbed’ him

Pope Francis has met and shook hands with the woman whom he lost his patience with and slapped in St. Peter's Square on December 31.

The Holy Father spoke briefly to the woman after a general audience in January during the “baciamento”; the

time reserved for pilgrims to greet the Pope.

In the photos, both parties could be seen smiling towards one another as they shake hands with a priest standing near the woman appearing to be acting as an interpreter.

The Pope had apologised

for losing his temper with the woman during his Angelus address on January 1.

“Many times we lose our patience, me too. I apologise for yesterday's (December 31) bad example,” he said in his speech on New Years' Day.

The incident occurred

while Pope Francis was greeting the crowd in front of the Vatican on New Years' Eve.

A woman in the crowd yanked his arm while holding on to his hand causing a visibly upset Pope Francis to slap her hand and walk away frustrated.





Edited by Aron Hegarty  
aron@irishcatholic.ie

## A weight off her mind



Sr Rashmi Mattappally of the Sisters of Notre Dame with a child while taking his weight at a local dispensary in Loiborsiret village, Tanzania. Photo: CNS

## Media must develop culture of respect, says Vatican communication head

The Prefect of the Vatican's Dicastery for Communication has claimed that media has degenerated into platforms on which to disseminate hatred.

Dr Paolo Ruffini said that communication is supposed to be constructive, connect people and promote understanding.

However, the Vatican representative states that just as "evil cannot be fought with evil, truth cannot be served with misinformation".

Dr Ruffini was speaking in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE) at the 'Arab Media Convention for Human Fraternity' on February 4 with his speech text later released by the Vatican.

The event at the Manarat al Saadiyat, which included religious leaders from around the world, marked a historical anniversary celebration of the signing of the Document of Human Fraternity.

Pope Francis and Sheikh Ahmad el-Tayeb, the grand imam of al-Azhar and a leading religious authority for Sunni Muslims, signed the Document in the Emirate state last year.

During that 2019 meeting, Pope Francis on his apostolic visit to the country said: "There is no alternative: we will either build the future together or there will not be a future."

"Religions, in particular, cannot renounce the urgent task of building bridges between peoples and cultures."

### Commitment

The Document includes a commitment to promoting Christian-Muslim dialogue and working for religious freedom for all.

Additionally, it denounces violence committed in the name of religion and discusses the role of the media in promoting respect and understanding.

Dr Ruffini said the Document calls upon journalists to "work together, as people of goodwill, so that the digital era, the era of the mass media, the era of communication might lead us to the culture of mutual respect".

He said that journalists should strive to remove "the false necessity of controversy, the false imperative that one's identity depends on having an enemy".

"The world is hungry for peace, truth and justice," said Dr Ruffini, adding that it is up to journalists to satiate that hunger.

For the Vatican and for participants at the Abu Dhabi conference, he said marking the anniversary of the human fraternity document is a time to renew "the commitment to always be instruments of peace, even – or perhaps above all – in the way in which we communicate".

## Catholics call for reinvestigation into attack on Indian girls

Catholics have joined activists in Kerala in seeking justice for two young Dalit sisters who were raped and murdered three years ago.

The protest walks and fasts saw 4,000 people urging Kerala's government to reinvestigate the deaths of the girls near Valavar in south India.

The body of one girl, aged 13, was found hanging inside her house on January 13, 2017 while her sister, aged nine, was also discovered hung in the

same room on March 4, 2017. A police probe concluded that the sisters were raped and murdered, and four suspects were arrested.

However, a court acquitted and cleared all four of them in October 2019.

Activists, which include Catholic priests and nuns, though say that police officials have "sabotaged" and covered up the case because of the criminals' political connections.

"Police have erred in the investigation," claimed nun Rose Anto. "Caste and financial backwardness have contributed to denying justice to two minor girls."

"Except for the government and its officials, everyone knew how the sisters were sexually exploited and killed," Sister Anto, a former member of the Holy Family congregation, said media reports suggest that the accused were

linked to the ruling Communist Party in Kerala. All the suspects are known to the family of the victims. Two of them are the girls' close relatives. Police booked the suspects on charges of abetment to suicide and rape. However, no murder charges were made against them.

"This is a case that proves might is right in present-day Kerala," she said.

## Vatican roundup

### Make Rome a city of fraternity and peace – Pope

● Pope Francis has urged residents of Rome to make the Eternal City a place of solidarity, peace and a "home for all".

The Pope made his plea at the opening ceremony for the 150th anniversary of the declaration of 'Rome Capitale', which was read out by Cardinal Secretary of State Pietro Parolin.

The occasion was held on Monday, February 3 at the Opera Theatre in the presence of Italy's President Sergio Mattarella.

"Rome is a great resource for humanity," he said, calling the city a "unique beauty" which must be renewed "in openness to the world and in the inclusion of all".

Pope Francis mentioned how Rome has changed over the course of a century and a half, and that the Church has "shared in the joys and trials of Romans".

He said the Church offered refuge to many Roman Jews between 1943 and 1944, welcomed hundreds of Council Fathers between 1962 and 1965 plus offered Rome as a "home for all".

The Holy Father claimed Rome could "promote unity and peace in the world", and become "a fraternal city".

### New two-day Vatican event set for 2021

● The Vatican has approved of a new two-day event which aims to create a global alliance for the future of humanity and our common home.

The 'Global Compact on Education' initiative, which is scheduled to take place in spring 2021, seeks to raise awareness and create responsibility for the common good of humanity.

Archbishop Angelo Vincenzo Zani, Secretary of the Congregation for Catholic Education, will be in charge of coordinating the event.

He explained that the event is an opportunity for "giving value" to

what many people and institutions are doing in the world.

Dr Zani said: "It [the event] is a starting point for setting out and sharing objectives in order to give life to new projects that promote models of coexistence that offer an alternative to those of an individualistic society that is poor in human values and prospects of hope."

Pope Francis has invited people from all walks of life to the Vatican on May 14 to help shape the future of humanity by forming mature individuals who can overcome division and care for the planet.

### Pope Francis to visit Malta and Gozo in May

● The Holy Father will visit the islands of Malta and Gozo on May 31 this year, the Vatican announced on February 10.

The one-day trip is the first and only international journey officially on the Pope's schedule for 2020 so far.

Malta is named in the Acts of the Apostles as the site where St Paul was shipwrecked on route to Rome in 60 AD. The theme of the papal trip is taken from chapter 28 of the book of Acts: "They showed us unusual kindness."

"The hospitality of the Maltese islanders is repaid by the miracles of healing that God works through St Paul on the island."

"If the people of Malta were a sign of God's Providence for the Apostle, he too bore witness to God's merciful love for them," said the Pope.

The Vatican's announcement on Monday coincided with the feast of St Paul's Shipwreck, a major public holiday in Malta.

More than 80% of the island's population of 493,559 are Catholic. However, Mass attendance has fallen in recent decades in the traditionally Catholic country.





# Letter from Rome

## Pope: International debt should not be paid with costly sacrifice



**Inés San Martín**

**T**he fact that five million children under the age of five will die this year due to extreme poverty is something that should motivate the world to act, according to Pope Francis.

Speaking at a summit in Rome with some of the world's most powerful financial officials, the Holy Father also alluded to the situation in his home country of Argentina.

The South American nation is facing a renegotiation of debt with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that could save the country from a default.

"These are solvable problems, there is no lack of resources," he said. "There is no determinism that condemns us to universal inequality. Let me repeat: We are not doomed to universal inequality."

Knowing this, Pope Francis said, can lead to creativity in finding and generating responses to the suffering of so many innocent people, as it is, in fact "avoidable".

"In not a few situations, we are facing a lack of will and decision to change things and mainly, the priorities."

### Conference

The Pope was speaking to participants of a February 5 Vatican conference titled 'New forms of Solidarity: Towards Fraternal Inclusion, Integration and Innovation', organised by the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, headed by Argentine Archbishop Marcelo Sanchez Sorondo.

Francis began his prepared remarks, delivered in Spanish, by saying that the world is rich, yet the number of poor people continues to increase. This year's worldwide income, he noted, will be almost \$12,000 (€10,900) per capita, yet "hundreds of millions of people are still mired in



Pope Francis poses with a priest and a group of children during his general audience in Paul VI hall at the Vatican. Photo: CNS

extreme poverty and lack of food, housing, medical care, schools, electricity, drinkable water and sanitation services".

"It is estimated that approximately five million children under five years of age will die this year from poverty," he said. "Another 260 million will not get an education due to lack of resources, wars and migration."

This situation of extreme poverty, he said, has led to millions of people being victims of human trafficking and new forms of slavery, such as forced labour, prostitution and organ trafficking: "They have no rights and guarantees; they can't even enjoy friendship or family."

Pope Francis also noted that if the world's 50 wealthiest people decided to do so, they could save the lives of millions of people each year.

"If there is extreme

poverty in the midst of wealth (also extreme) it is because we have allowed the gap to widen to become the largest in history," he said. "Those fifty people by themselves could finance the medical care and education of every poor child in the world, be it through taxes, philanthropic initiatives, or both. Those (50) people could save millions of lives every year."

\* \* \* \* \*

Pope Francis said that this "globalisation of indifference", which his predecessor Pope St John Paul II defined as "structures of sin", finds a conducive atmosphere to grow when the common good is reduced to certain sectors and when economy and finances become an end in themselves.

"It is the idolatry of money, greed and speculation," he said.

The Holy Father then

went on to name what he saw as "structures of sin," such as "repeated tax cuts for wealthy people, justified many times in the name of investment and development; tax havens for private and corporate profits, and the possibility of corruption by some of the largest companies in the world, often in harmony with the ruling political sector."

**“The world’s wealthiest 50 people ...could save the lives of millions each year”**

"Every year hundreds of billions of dollars, which should be paid in taxes to finance medical care and education, accumulate in tax haven accounts preventing thus the possibility of decent and sustained development

of all social actors," he added.

"Poor people in heavily indebted countries bear overwhelming tax burdens and cuts in social services, as their governments pay debts contracted insensitively and unsustainably."

"In fact, the public debt incurred, in a few cases to boost and encourage the economic and productive development of a country, can become a factor that damages the social fabric."

Even though he never mentioned his home country by name, Pope Francis' remarks were widely viewed as a wink to Argentina's finance minister Martin Guzman, who was seated next to him, together with the head of the IMF, Kristalina Georgieva and several Nobel laureates.

"It cannot be expected that the debts which have been contracted should be paid at the price of unbearable sacrifices. In

such cases it is necessary to find – as in fact is partly happening – ways to lighten, defer or even cancel the debt, compatible with the fundamental right of peoples to subsistence and progress," he said, quoting John Paul.

That quote was later tweeted from the official Twitter account of Argentina's finance ministry.

"It is not right to demand or expect payment when the effect would be the imposition of political choices leading to hunger and despair for entire peoples," said the Pope, continuing to quote his predecessor.

**“Guzman needs to restructure \$100bn (€90.8bn) in sovereign debt”**

"The moral demands of St John Paul II in 1991 are surprisingly current today."

On the eve of the Vatican summit, the head of the IMF and Guzman had dinner together in what was the first official meeting between the two officials since Guzman took office late last year.

Guzman, appointed by newly inaugurated Peronist President Alberto Fernandez, needs to restructure \$100 billion (€90.8 billion) in sovereign debt with the country's creditors – \$44 billion (€40 billion) of it with the IMF – amid a steep recession and more than 50% inflation.

Pope Francis also recalled the Sustainable Development Goals unanimously approved by all nations in 2015, urging all peoples to "help developing countries achieve long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at promoting debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate, and address the external debt problem of heavily indebted poor countries to reduce debt distress".

Addressing those gathered as the "financial leaders and economic", Pope Francis called on them to work together in eliminating the injustices of the current global economy.

① Inés San Martín is Rome Bureau Chief of Cruxnow.com

**“Pope Francis also recalled the Sustainable Development Goals unanimously approved by all nations in 2015”**





Bishop Robert Guglielmone celebrates Mass and Confirmation with inmates at Perry Correctional Institution in South Carolina. Photo: Prison chaplaincy

# A US Catholic prison ministry changing lives and lifting spirits by ‘doing time’

Perry West

A prison ministry in South Carolina offering catechetical formation and sacrament preparation has helped change the lives of five inmates brought into the Church in the winter. The inmates at Perry Correctional Institution had been attending RCIA in the prison since July 2019. Three of the men were baptised at a December 10 Mass at the facility with Bishop Robert Guglielmone of Charleston, while two others had already been baptised in Protestant denominations and were brought into full communion with the Church. At the Mass were Deacon John Leininger and Fr Rhett Williams, who handles the sacramental responsibilities at Perry. Different inmates were attracted through different aspects of the faith, Fr Williams said, “whether it’s the history of [Church], whether it’s the sacraments, or whether it’s God working through the community”.

**Importance**

He emphasised the importance of the prison’s catechetical classes, which were able “to put a little

flesh on the bones of what the faith is and what [is] God’s grace and how it is that he works.” Inmates were allowed to invite family members and fellow prisoners to the Mass. *The Catholic Miscellany*, the diocesan newspaper, said those receiving the sacraments were deeply touched by the support they received.

**“The class reviews the Eucharist and the history of the Church”**

“So many loving, caring people attended to watch me being welcomed into the Church. I truly felt the spirit of God throughout the Mass,” said Timmy, one of the inmates receiving confirmation. “[Confirmation was] the most important day of my adult life. The understanding of the role Christ plays in my life has taken new shape. I have come to love the Catholic Faith, and the more I learn, the better my life becomes,” said James, another inmate. Fr Williams attributed this year’s success largely to the team assembled by Deacon Leininger, who has been involved with the prison for the last four and half years. He said the deacon and his team have developed a consistent ministry, where the inmates can

rely on the volunteers and the presence of the Church. Leininger also stressed the importance of consistent volunteers and commitments made by the ministry. “Now, we’re up to about six volunteers,” he said. “In general, there’s almost always two volunteers...and so even if somebody doesn’t make it [as] planned, you still have somebody showing up. The men know it’s going to be there and...they feel welcomed.” Deacon Leininger added that the ministry tries to avoid placing an undue focus on sin and repentance. “I’ve been there when other Churches have come in and they’re preaching out in that way, and we’re just trying to live with them and talk about God’s word,” he said. The ministry is divided into two weekly commitments: Thursday Mass and Friday catechesis. Mass is celebrated by alternating priests: Fr McClellan from St Andrew in Clemson, Fr Dwight Longenecker

from Our Lady of the Rosary in Greenville, Fr Patrick Tuttle from St Anthony of Padua in Greenville, and Fr Williams, who is also the parochial vicar at St Mary Magdalene in Simpsonville.

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A specially selected inmate known as an ‘inside coordinator’ sets up the altar, passes out Rosaries or Bibles if requested, and obtains permission slips for men to exit their cells for the service. The attendance for Mass can range between eight and 18 men. “We have a number of people that come to Mass on Thursday that aren’t Catholic either,” said Deacon Leininger. “They’ll come in just like in a regular church, cross their arms, and get a blessing. Now that was happening last year, and then we asked some of these men if they want to get brought into the Church. Then we started a formal catechism with them.” The weekly catechetical classes are two hours long. Similar to

**“A specially selected inmate known as an ‘inside coordinator’ sets up the altar, passes out Rosaries or Bibles if requested, and obtains permission slips for men to exit their cells for the service”**

RCIA, they study a variety of theological topics and sometimes watch Christian movies on the lives of saints. Among other lessons, Deacon Leininger said the class reviews the Eucharist and the history of the Church, including discussions on the Church councils and major heresies. The class is also based on prayer, he said. At a recent session, Deacon Leininger printed out worksheets for a novena and initiated a nine-day series of prayers for the sanctity of life. Catechesis in prisons does pose its own set of obstacles, he noted, and it often takes longer than other RCIA programs. He said there are times when the prisons are on lockdown and outside religious groups cannot enter or prisoners get sent back to their cells early before the meeting has finished.

**“We’re all sinners and need to draw closer to God”**

There are also inmates who transfer from another prison during the catechesis process but have to start all over because RCIA can differ depending on the institution. He said this will be a point of discussion at an upcoming meeting of prison volunteers. The hope is to unify the process enough that someone who transfers will not have to restart the program. Deacon Leininger said prison ministry has been a powerful experience for him, witnessing the joy and life this ministry brings to inmates. He recalled one instance when a prison lockdown resulted in him and the inside coordinator being the only people present at a catechetical class. After talking for about an hour, the inmate – who was serving a life sentence – told him, “the two hours I get to spend with the Catholic Church each week are when I feel more at home than any other time of the week”. “That one statement keeps me going – when I take an hour drive to get there, and then they won’t let me in, but I’ll still come back the next week,” he said. “If I don’t get in, I know they’re missing it more than I am and it keeps me going every week.” Fr Williams stressed that while the inmates in prison may have made mistakes in their lives, their circumstances do not detract from their value – or their need for the sacraments as “spiritual food for the journey.” “There’s nothing greater that we can give than our love and attention [and] God’s grace working through us to help them see themselves for who they are and where they need to go. We’re all sinners and need to draw closer to God,” he said. “No matter whether we are in prison, no matter whether we’re in an elderly home, no matter whether we’re here in the parish or in the home, the sacraments are given for all to guide all of us there.”

**1** Perry West writes for Catholic News Agency.



# Letters

## Letter of the week

### University retreat was so refreshing

**Dear Editor,** It was wonderful to see over 100 people attending a Catholic retreat in University College Dublin, reported on in your paper (IC 23/01/2020). I believe universities in Ireland are a difficult place for students to openly speak about and practice their Faith, a view that is most certainly shared by many.

Looking at the pictures of the 'Ignite' retreat, it was so refreshing to see so many students together enjoying talks and having a good time, more of this is needed in all universities so students of Faith know they are not alone. In an increasingly polarised society, many university

students in Ireland (and in Western society in general) seem to be becoming more and more intolerant of beliefs that jar with their own in the name of some form of liberalism. They don't realise they are becoming the very authoritarians they seek to defy.

It seems the organisers of the retreat had to decide against having US-based Catholic author and speaker, Jason Evert, being one of the speakers at the retreat. It seems threats of protest by other students caused them to make this decision. I don't like to see people bullied like this, and being forced to change their programme

under pressure from outside forces. Once students where one of the biggest voices for free speech, now it seems free speech only means voices they want to hear, voices that don't challenge any of their precious beliefs. How sad.

I wish to congratulate the organisers of Ignite and wish them well in the future, I hope they continue with this initiative – bringing students together to meet others so they can be affirmed and supported in their Faith.

*Yours etc.,  
Deirdre Ryan,  
Blackrock, Dublin.*

### Housing crisis effecting many strands of society

**Dear Editor,** There has been copious amounts of discussion regarding the provision of social housing in Ireland and with good reason. Overall in Irish society there is a lack of housing, simply supply and demand is certainly one of the main issues driving up prices for those who want to buy.

Many less fortunate people are being left

languishing on waiting lists while staying in emergency accommodation which can be hubs for drug dealing and general substance abuse. This is particularly difficult for those already suffering from an addiction.

Families too, are having to bring children from one insecure accommodation to another. My heart really goes out to the kids who are being deprived of a childhood

and extremely disrupted education.

However, we must not forget about young professionals who have no way of getting on to the property ladder, the help to buy scheme seems to be a failure and more must be done. They end up spending huge amounts of their hard-earned pay on extortionate rents rendering it impossible to save for

the future. While people in emergency accommodation must be housed, we must not forget about affordable housing for those who fund social housing but have no choice but to emigrate as they face increasing financial pressures due to poor Government decisions.

*Yours etc.,  
Derek Dunne,  
Cork City.*

### Elites, listen!

**Dear Editor,** Mary Kenny cautions against rhetoric on 'mass' migration. She does not believe that an influx of hundreds of thousands of foreigners constitutes mass migration (IC 30/01/2020), and we are not supposed to even discuss it! Mary must know that the Brexit turmoil that engulfed Britain would not have occurred if the political and media elites had listened to ordinary people about the social and economic problems caused by mass immigration.

*Yours etc.,  
Mark Corrigan,  
Artane, Dublin 9.*



### Bishops, priests must do more than 'talk' about youth

**Dear Editor,** I'm sick and tired of this plethora of bishops and priests talking about the need to engage young people, and how important it is to have youth actively participating on our Church.

I'd say the majority of them enjoy

making these 'prophetic' statements but in reality they sit on their thumbs and head home for a nice snooze and a whisky after Mass. Support and promote Alpha, Youth 2000, Catholic Youth Ministry Ireland, Pure in Heart

and all the others I say. Less of the rhetoric and more action I say.

*Yours etc.,  
Gerard Malone,  
Mullingar,  
Co. Westmeath.*

### Racist commentary in Ireland must be tackled

**Dear Editor,** There has certainly been a rise in racist commentary in Ireland which Bishop Kevin Doran highlights on your front page (IC 30/01/2020). This is becoming an increasingly important issue to tackle. Politicians are using the fear some small rural communities have of migrants and asylum seekers to gain support.

It's dishonest and most certainly doesn't even factor into the huge

issues facing Ireland at the moment, particularly health and housing. Immigration to Ireland is relatively very small. However, I would say people who have these fears must be listened to and not demonised, tackled in a dignified manner and their arguments picked apart – otherwise racism will continue to fester in Ireland and we'll be moving towards an Irexit.

It must be said that even if someone

questions some aspect of immigration to this country on some media platforms they are immediately lambasted and criticised – sometimes very personally – this is no way to engage in a dialogue and better understand one another.

*Yours etc.,  
Aisling Murphy,  
Clonmel,  
Co. Tipperary.*

## facebook community

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

### Mary Immaculate decision 'deeply regrettable' – Mattie McGrath

I'm very puzzled – according to the article the college authorities have blocked this course because it's in healthcare; it was originally described as a course in Christian Ethics! #confused – **Mary McDaid**

St Mary's University Twickenham had no difficulty offering a similar course in England. The Bishops of E&W were/are very proud of the course. – **Alan Whelan**

### Fr Ray Kelly – 'I could win the Eurovision'

Unfortunately I don't think that all these antics are doing anything whatsoever to bring anyone back to the Church or to make the Church attractive – quite the opposite I would say. Meanwhile his parishioners are missing their parish priest, of which we all know there are precious few nowadays. Priests should really be able to rise above the lure of popularity and 'fame'. I think this is sad really. – **Elaine Noonan**

Priests and seminarians are people too. They may have given up marriage, they may unlike most people work seven days a week for a single cause, but they should not have to give up all their hobbies in life. Good for him, it is a lonely life, why not dance too? – **Jack Flannery**

Well done to Fr Ray. I like to see him enjoying himself. Nothing wrong with having innocent fun and enjoying life. He is human after all. He is a breath of fresh air to the Catholic Church. – **Caz Wilson Bennett**

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

### Religion replaced

**Dear Editor,** David Quinn is spot on (IC 23/01/2020) when he says that consumerism and status has replaced religion. There is certainly a connection between this and our violent society. I particularly found it interesting when he discussed fatherlessness and how gangs become young people's parent figure. Why does the Irish Government refuse to acknowledge or realise the importance of children having a mother and a father? It confounds me.

*Yours etc.,  
Lisa McMahon,  
Mullingar,  
Co. Westmeath.*

### 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



▲ **USA:** Bob Fu, president of Texas-based China Aid for Chinese Christians, speaks during a forum at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington DC last week. Photos: CNS

◀ **MEXICO:** Migrants from Central America trying to reach the United States react as police approach them near Frontera Hidalgo.



**CUBA:** Cardinal Timothy Dolan blesses women at the Shrine of Our Lady of Charity in El Cobre during his six-day trip to the Caribbean island.



**PALESTINE:** A demonstrator reacts during a protest in the Gaza Strip against US President Donald Trump's Middle East peace plan.



**VIETNAM:** A worker sews protective masks at the Garment 10 company in Hanoi as efforts to prevent the spread of the coronavirus ramp up.



**GHANA:** Archbishop John Bonaventure Kwofie launches the Brain Battle quiz, where students from 21 Catholic schools will compete over three days, at Holy Spirit Cathedral in Accra.





# On hallowing our diminishments

**T**hirty years ago, John Jungblut wrote a short pamphlet entitled, *On Hallowing Our Diminishments*. It's a treatise suggesting ways we might frame the humiliations and diminishments that beset us through circumstance, age and accidents so that, despite the humiliation they bring, we can place them under a certain canopy so as to take away their shame and restore to us some lost dignity.

And we all suffer diminishments. Certain things are dealt to us by genetics, history, circumstance, the society we live in or by the ravages of aging or accidents that, seen from almost every angle, are not only bitterly unfair but can also seemingly strip us of our dignity and leave us humiliated.

## Bodily defect

For example, how does one deal with a bodily defect that society deems unsightly? How does one deal with being discriminated against? How does one deal with an accident that leaves one partially or wholly paralysed? How does one deal with the debilitations that come with old age? How does one deal with a loved one who was violated or killed simply because of the color of his or her skin? How does one deal with the suicide of a loved one? How do we set these things under some canopy of dignity and meaning so that what is an awful unfairness is not a permanent source of indignity and shame? How does someone hallow



**Fr Rolheiser**

[www.ronrolheiser.com](http://www.ronrolheiser.com)

his or her diminishments?

Soren Kierkegaard offers this advice. He, who was sometimes publicly ridiculed during his lifetime, including newspaper cartoons that made sport of his physical appearance (his 'spindly legs'), offers this counsel: in the face of something like this, he says, it's not a question of denying it, covering it up or trying various distractions and tonics to deaden it or keep its sharpness at bay. Rather we must make ourselves genuinely aware of it, "by bringing it to complete clarity".

By doing this, we hallow it. We bring it out of the realm of shame and give it a certain dignity. How is this done?

Imagine this as a paradigmatic example: a young woman is walking alone along a deserted road and is forcibly picked up by a group of drunken men who rape and kill her and leave her body in a ditch. Her shocked and horrified

family and community do as Kierkegaard counsels. They don't try to deny what happened, cover it up or try various distractions and tonics to deaden their pain. Instead, they bring it to 'complete clarity'. How?

They pick up her body, wash it, clothe her in her best clothing and then have a three-day wake that culminates in a huge funeral attended by hundreds of persons. And their ritual honouring of her doesn't stop there. After the funeral they gather in a park near where she lived and after some hours of testimony that honours who she was, they rename the park after her.

What they do, of course, does not bring her back to life, does not erase in any way the horrible unfairness of her death, does not bring her killers to justice and it does not fundamentally change the societal conditions that helped cause her violent death. But it does,

in an important way, restore to her some of the dignity that was so horribly ripped away from her.

Both she and her death are hallowed. Her name and her life now will forever speak of something beyond the unfairness and tragedy of her death.

We see examples of this on the macro level in way the world has handled the deaths of people like Martin Luther King [right], John F. Kennedy, Bobby Kennedy [above], Malcolm X, Jamal Khashoggi and others who were killed by hatred.

**“The indignity of death is eclipsed by proper clarity around the very diminishment that brought about death.”**

We have found ways to hallow them so that their lives and their persons are now remembered in ways that eclipse the manner of their deaths.

And we see this too in how some communities handle the deaths of loved ones who have been senselessly shot by gang

members or by police, where their manner of death belies everything that's good.

The same is true for how some families handle the diminishments of their loved ones who die by drug overdose, suicide or dementia.

The indignity of their death is eclipsed by proper clarity around the very diminishment that

brought about their death. Their memory is redeemed.

In short,

that's the function

of any proper

wake and any

proper funeral. In

bringing to

clarity the very

indignity that befalls

someone we restore her dignity.

This is true not only for those who die unfairly or in ways that leave those they left behind grasping for ways to give them back some dignity.

It's also true for every kind of humiliation and indignity we, ourselves, suffer in life, from the wounds of our childhood which can forever haunt us, to the many humiliations we suffer in adulthood.

We cannot change what has happened to us, but we can hallow it by 'bringing it to clarity' so that the indignity is eclipsed.





# Family & Lifestyle

The Irish Catholic, February 13, 2020

## Personal Profile

Bernie Kane: an unshakeable faith

Page 34



# It's no longer as easy as meeting the perfect spouse at a dance



**R**omance might be something you've contemplated recently, with the week that's in it.

Valentine's Day, while a bit of a card holiday and having no real connection to St Valentine - as Colm explained in 'Questions of Faith' a few weeks ago (IC 30/01/20) - can be a nice day to appreciate your loved one or maybe start a new romance. You might even be inspired this year, if you're a woman, to pop the question to your partner as is traditional on a leap year.

It might seem a little counterintuitive for this to be the day of love as we creep closer to the infamous "Spring Clean" of March, the end of cuffing season. According to Facebook's relationship status data, it's one



## Matchmaking in Modern Ireland Róisie McGagh

of the peak times to break up in the year, next to right before Christmas.

The fact that 'cuffing season' is a thing, shows how the dating scene has gone in recent years. With the introduction of Tinder, Hinch, Bumble and a plethora of other online methods of dating, it can be really difficult for people, young or old, to make a real connection.

Feargal Harrington, co-founder of Intro Matchmaking Agency

talks to *The Irish Catholic* about how difficult it can be for people looking for a serious relationship in modern Ireland. "A lot of people we know had been saying that it's getting harder and harder to meet genuine sincere people who are well intentioned who are looking for a long-term relationship."

He said a lot of people were able to meet strangers in a pub or while online dating sites "but it's not knowing who has genuine

intentions and who doesn't". Feargal says it makes a lot of people feel jaded about finding someone.

"The lack of communication and the inability to know who was misrepresenting themselves was killing the whole scene of dating."

He thinks that in Ireland the fear of rejection is so great that people don't put themselves out there. However, we know people are open to dating because of how popular apps and dating sites are. "But if you're on Tinder or Plenty of Fish, you can let on that you're in it for the craic. Whereas if you join something like Intro, which shows that your intentions are actually honourable and you want it

to work out - that scares the daylight out of people."

"They think 'I've told everyone that I'm doing it' and if it doesn't work out people are going to think, 'what's wrong with me'. This judgemental attitude, this begrudging nature of the Irish character, actually stops people from doing anything," says Feargal.

Him and his wife Rena set up Intro just over nine years ago in Dublin "to bring it back to more traditional dating yet with a modern twist".

They have an astonishingly high success rate with one in four people ending up in a long-term relationship or marriage. Feargal attributes this to their strict criteria for taking on clients, "It is really only for those who are looking

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## AND EVENTS

### BRING YOUR IMAGINATION

If you happen to be in the south of the country near Cork city there is a great opportunity available to get creative at The Glucksman contemporary art museum in University College Cork. They are running a free art workshop on Sunday afternoons between 3 and 4pm every week up until Sunday March 22. The events are led by professional artists and invite children and parents to learn all about making art to “just come along at 3pm equipped with your imagination”. Places are limited and are filled on a first come first served basis. While the event is free, a small donation is advised. The museum is also currently hosting an exhibition that encourages families to explore their understanding of rights through illustration and picture book activities called *Viewpoints: Children's rights in imaginary spaces*. If you're there anyways, it might be worth a visit!

### PLUG IN

Something that can be incredibly handy, whether you just really like gadgets, find it difficult to bend down or get behind furniture are remote control plug sockets. They are plugs that go into a regular socket with another socket on them that you can plug anything into; lamps, TVs kitchen appliances, whatever. They require no fancy wiring and most can carry up to 1000W of power on each plug – this depends on the make of course. All you have to do is click the remote to which a set of 3 or 4 plugs are connected, and go. They are also not too expensive – often popping up in the middle rows of Aldi and Lidl for quite cheap; they are also always available in Woodies for €25.

### ELDERLY PEOPLE THINK THEY LEARN BETTER FROM PEOPLE - NOT MACHINES

Older people have been found to pick up new skills better when they believe they are learning from a person rather than from a computer, according to research from the University of Edinburgh. The researchers used what's known as the Wizard of Oz system to create the illusion that the task each person was set was created by either a machine or a human. When people thought they were interacting with a machine and not a human, they were slower and less accurate in completing a task. “These findings suggest that beliefs affect how efficiently older people learn with technology, which could be taken into account when making technology systems user-friendly,” said Dr Catherine Crompton of the university's Centre for Clinical Brain Science.

# Avoid anxiety meds dependency



Last September the Medical Council issued warnings about the over-prescribing of medications for anxiety and insomnia. Belonging to a class of drugs known as benzodiazepines, they first took prominence in 1963 with the arrival of Valium, a safer and better alternative to hitherto existing hypnotics. Its use skyrocketed along with newer versions in its class to become one of the most popular prescription medications worldwide. Now in the same genre of tablets is 'Xanax' also used for anxiety as well as a number of sleeping tablets.

While not known initially, it later emerged that dependency could develop quickly and over time tolerance, meaning higher doses to achieve the same effect. In fact, benzodiazepines should not be prescribed routinely for any more than 2-4 weeks precisely for this reason.

So how do they work? They act by boosting the effect of an inhibitory neurotransmitter (GABA) in the brain thereby dampening activity in areas like the amygdala which is linked to anxiety. But they also have more global effects sedating other brain areas as an unintended consequence.

In practice, trying to limit or reduce dosing can be difficult especially in those who suffer with major anxiety or insomnia and develop dependency. A typical example might be someone who goes on treatment after a bereavement but lack of access to psychotherapy or counselling means that they may become reliant on tablets. Indeed, they may even turn to the internet to get supply. Then when it comes to stopping there may be concerns about withdrawal side effects including rebound insomnia,

## Medical Matters

Dr Kevin McCarroll



tremor and feelings of panic.

Indeed, a problem that has arisen in recent years is a 'black market' for tablets like Xanax that in many cases contain dubious ingredients. In fact, such is the demand that there has been several large seizures of counterfeit medications.

**“But anxiety and insomnia are common and in at least more severe cases, tablets may be needed to help get someone over a difficult period.”**

In the 1990's, a new class of tablets for sleep called Z drugs (zopiclone and zolpidem) also became popular. Though working in a similar way, they have a shorter duration of action and are considered to have a better side effect profile. For example, they are less likely to produce a “hangover effect” the next day and for this reason their use has increased significantly over the last decade as an alternative to benzodiazepines. However, tolerance, dependency and withdrawal symptoms can still occur.

Overall, it's estimated that about a third of all benzodiazepine use is long-term with older adults accounting for the greatest proportion of these patients. A recent report found that Ireland had the highest rate of chronic benzodiazepine use (in the over 65s) among OECD countries. In fact, about 7.5% of this group were on treatment for over one year, yet are more sensitive to side effects including daytime drowsiness, confusion, falls and road traffic accidents. Some studies point to regional variation in the rate of use with a difference of up to threefold reported in one small investigation in Ireland. This may reflect in part differences



in clinical need but also prescribing practices.

But anxiety and insomnia are common and in at least more severe cases, tablets may be needed to help get someone over a difficult period. As an alternative for generalised anxiety a class of antidepressants similar to 'Prozac' also work well.

For chronic insomnia, always try and look for causes before reaching for tablets. Some bodies recommend cognitive behavioural therapy as an initial

treatment combining education on sleep hygiene with changes in behaviour. Unfortunately, such a holistic intervention is hard to come by but addressing some simple factors may greatly help.

For example, try and keep your sleep for bedtime only and establish a regular time for getting up every day. It's important to wind down in the evening and avoid anything which is mentally demanding or too stimulating at least 90 minutes before bedtime – so choose your TV and reading material carefully! Avoid using smartphones or other devices at night which emit blue light. Drinks that contain caffeine may keep you awake and alcohol, though helping to get you off to sleep, can reduce your sleep quality and result in you getting up to go to the toilet. Make sure the bedroom is well darkened and quiet and not too cold or warm. If you're awake for more than 20 minutes consider getting up and even going to another room.

In summary, sedative hypnotics in the benzodiazepine class should only be used for about 2-4 weeks unless otherwise necessary. Sleeping tablets also reduce sleep quality with less time spent in the deeper or REM phase of sleep. Some studies also suggest that long-term use might increase the risk of dementia but research is conflicting. If you take tablets for anxiety or insomnia, consider talking to your GP about the option of reducing the dose and/or stopping.

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



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for genuine long term committed relationships or marriage, that's why we get the success that we get."

It is also a commitment to join with the price of €795 for membership which gets you five introductions. There's no time limit set on this and their staff on Grafton Street are very thorough. They are on call seven nights a week, during any date and always look for feedback and ensure that no one doesn't get a response.

"In year one we took everyone on and that was a mistake," said Feargal. He says they had issues with people who were "treating matchmaking like a shop window, saying I want this I want that like they're buying a fancy car". Now they turn a lot of people away who won't be flexible with what they want.

He says they began researching data from the Central Statistics Office (CSO) to find out the reasons people were finding it difficult to match. The main few are high expectations, unwillingness to travel and leaving things late.

"In an urban areas in Ireland there are twice as many women as men and that's why there are a huge amount of single professional high achieving women in cities, because women spend longer in education and so for every one women in Ireland with a third level qualification there's only 0.6 of an equivalent man," he says.

Irish men might get into entrepreneurship, start a business, be in a trade or farming and they might have good emotional intelligence, great communication skills and intellect, "but a lot of women purely equate intelligence with academic achievements. We turn away seven or eight women every day from intro matchmaking who are not willing to date a guy unless he has a third level qualification," says Feargal.

"When men hit 40 they start becoming quite difficult and picky

on age," he says that there's a lot of men with Peter Pan Syndrome or men who are commitment phobic.

They get calls from older men every day, "who would be living and grew up in a really Catholic family. He might be the eldest son."

"At 45 he'll say 'Mammy should I meet a nice woman' and she'll say 'No don't do that, no woman is going to cook or clean the way I do, they're only after your land.' So, some, mammies are guilty of making men paranoid of being robbed," says Feargal.

After they pass away Feargal says that person might be left wanting a family and an heir to pass on land to. He says three or four men will ring on average every day asking for a 35 to 40-year-old to have a baby with.

"We're here at intro trying to manage expectations. Trying to deal with the men and with the women and ensure that they meet in the middle and compromise and are flexible in terms of their expectations."



Around 90% of the people that join Intro are Catholics, maybe not all are devoted mass attendees but "ultimately they do want to raise their children as Catholic," says Feargal, "they do want to have children, they do want to get married first. A lot of the time people aren't giving themselves a chance."

"People might be thinking oh well I'm 38, I'm a woman and he's 41. Do we spend two more years going out? Maybe preparing a wedding and then have a child after that? Or do they say let's just have a child now, because I can't really wait for this."

According to the most CSO statistics, more than one-third of all births are outside of marriage, "We as a nation are the eldest we have ever been to get married. Men are 36 and a half on average and women are 34 and a half. Its because were really concentrating on career on self-development and on travelling," says Feargal.

He says that both men and women leave it too late. With men thinking they can wait as long as they want and women not being vocal about their wants to have a child before their time runs out.

"Back in the day, when a lot of your readers would have met their wives or husbands, there would have been, 'will you dance?', 'yeah I will'. And they're married in a year," says Feargal. He think Nathan Carter might be bringing it back, but we still have a long way to go.

"That slagging mentality – that kind of attitude need stop."

Maybe as we draw closer to Valentine's Day, it might be an idea – if you're looking for love – to be a little more open to putting yourself out there. Those fairy tale, long term, romances seem to take a lot more work than the movies might let on.

# Dad's Diary

Rory Fitzgerald



A child's first words are a huge milestone. At first, amongst the babble that emerges from a baby, something resembling a word occasionally emerges, like "da" or "yeah". Yet, you cannot be quite sure if it was merely accidental. Perhaps, you think, she is also inadvertently saying the occasional coherent word of Swahili or Russian, as she toddles around chatting amiably to herself.

Then, some consistency begins to develop, usually around key words expressing a need for something, like "mama", "dada" or "mook" – ie milk. Non-verbal communication, such as pointing becomes supplemented by the word "dah". Likewise, the universal toddler sign language for "pick me up and cuddle me" – being to arms outstretched upwards to their intended giant carrier – becomes supplemented by "up!". Yet, long before these first words emerge, it's already clear that the baby understands many words. She could be asked, "do you want some raisins?" which would be greeted with enthusiastic nodding. The older kids would teach her names, by asking her where someone was, and as she turned triumphantly to point at the right person with a beaming smile, they all cheered.

The older kids also take great delight in teaching their baby sister to talk. A regular game for the older kids is to ask her to say various names and words. They ask her to say someone's name, or words like "apple" or "juice", and delight in her cute mispronunciations. Soon, for those conversant with her very particular iterations of words, she is now able to ask for lots of things. She can tell you if something is sore, and can ask where someone is. This was a huge de-stressor for her, as before if something was amiss, the only thing she could do was cry and hope we figured it out. Now she can state the issue, and can be given an explanation.

When her older brother was in hospital recently, my wife spent a number of nights staying with him. When waking in the middle of the night, the baby would always enquire as to her whereabouts, by saying, "Mammy?" I could then explain,

"Mammy is in hospital and will come back later, brmm brmm in the car, and then she will give you a cuddle". Then, she would nod calmly, satisfied as to the explanation given. In the past, she would just have felt upset at her mother's absence and would have cried. That would have been met with various unnecessary attempts to resolve the crying, such as changing nappies or offering milk – which might have only exacerbated matters.

Soon, assertive words like "no!" are also learned – most commonly used to express a desire not to go to bed, or not to eat something healthy. Yet this word gives small children a sense of their own rights and autonomy, and an ability to set limits if, say, an older sibling wants to play a game that they find too much. Soon after comes the word "mine!" which gives them an idea of the things they can lay claim to, and a way to prevent other kids taking their toys away. Yet these two words have also become a game for our one year old, who jokingly attempts to claim things she knows are not hers, such as my phone, wallet or glasses, which she theatrically clutches to her chest and laughingly says "mine!"

It's amazing to see a sense of humour developing in a baby. At first, laugh along if someone makes a joke at the dinner table – even though they don't understand the joke, they do pick up on the mood, and enthusiastically laugh along, looking at everyone in turn to share in the fun. Before long, they begin to learn what is funny. When the older children do something slapstick to make her laugh, like falling over in a silly fashion, she might do her own take on it, to be greeted by laughter all round.

As more words come, toddlers begin express their feelings and desires in more complex ways. For example, this morning at 5am, our one year old very eloquently expressed her desire to get up, and then put on her wellies, to have her hair put up, and to have a banana, while ambling around the kitchen singing, with the lights flashing in the soles of her pink wellies. I, meanwhile, blearily expressed a desire for a strong coffee.



# Bernie Kane: an unshakeable faith

## Personal Profile



Róise McGagh

**B**ernie Kane has had a life full of extraordinary moments. For about 30 years he was a radio DJ with Ocean Fm, NorthWest Radio, Q101 and Glencoe Radio.

"I should be retired but I'm still working," he says, for the White Hotel Group based in Ballyshannon. Originally from Roscommon he moved with his family to Wales in 1960. He has been living in Donegal since 1973, the connection to the area was through his mother's family. He lives in Frosses now.

Bernie says he has "unshakable faith" for a number of reasons.

He tells *The Irish Catholic* about the car crash he had in 2004: "I was at a junction (in Inver Donegal) and whether I took off when I shouldn't, or they were going too fast - it was neither here nor there - no one was killed thank God."

"For some reason I didn't put on my seatbelt but luckily that saved my life. I got catapulted out of the side window. When I came around, lying beside me was my Bible."

He says he was lucky he was so healthy and didn't drink or smoke because he had a punctured lung and was in hospital for around 9 weeks after the accident.

However, he doesn't regard this lucky incident as the most extraordinary thing that has ever happened to him.

"My son died when he was 29, the same year I had the accident,"



he says. Brian Kane worked with the United States Air Force and died suddenly on October 23, not long after his birthday. "He died at three minutes to 6pm Irish time."

Bernie says, "now I wanted a sign that he was happy, you look for all kinds of signs especially if you lose a son or a daughter." He says the first sign was that his son was brought home remarkably quickly.

"The American Air Force was amazing. They got him home within a week, the next Saturday."

Bernie says he went with his cousin to meet the remains in Dublin, and the car broke down three miles outside the Kells side of Navan. "He was all upset that we would be late getting there, I said don't worry

Tommy there's a reason for this."

They eventually got help from someone in Dunshaughlin. They collected Bernie's son and headed home, stopping in Cavan along the way as many people heading that direction would.

Once they were near home he says, "We passed where Brian used to work and stopped, passed his grandfather's house and stopped there too."

"When we got to the house it was exactly three minutes to 6pm. Three minutes later the Angelus bell rang." Bernie says it was the sign he had been looking for.

"I wanted him home at three minutes to 6pm, the same time he died in America, you couldn't

arrange that with the best logistics team in the world, vv" he says.

The last incident is one that stuck with him. A year after Brian died he said he had a friend over from Roscommon for the weekend and who called to him on the Friday. They talked about Brian and Bernie told her: "Brian never missed an occasion, he always sent a card, Father's day card b-day card, whatever it was. There will be no card this year."

On the Sunday, Bernie says: "I have this old shed at the back of the house and I never go into it, on the Sunday, on the Fathers Day, we were looking around in a corner I hadn't looked at in years. I saw old vinyl records I had from when I was

involved in music, I used to love that old vinyl stuff."

He said to himself he would have a look around since he hadn't in years. "I went across and the first thing I saw was a card with 'Dad' written on it."

"It was a Father's Day card from Brian. How it got there, I don't know, where it came from I don't know. That is Gospel."

He says, "I don't remember getting it. There was no stamp, just a white envelope with 'Dad' written on it, I still have it."

"That's why my Faith is so strong."



Bernie says that before these incidents he would have gone to mass every Sunday as he was raised a Catholic, but didn't have a strong connection to his Faith. "I feel my faith is stronger with God now."

"I don't believe in any particular religion, I believe were all equal in the eyes of God," says Bernie "But my Faith is unshakable I have great Faith."

"The one great things about the Catholic Faith, I do think to myself, is our attitude toward forgiveness. I think that's the greatest gift anyone can get."

Bernie passes on his story as a way of spreading his Faith: "I tell my story and I'm very proud of my son. I wear his ring all the time and I feel he's with me all the time. I do feel he's certainly guiding me through life."



## Green Fingers

Paul Gargan

## No excuse not to build your spring garden

*God Almighty first planted a garden. And indeed, it is the purest of human pleasures.*

— Francis Bacon

**I**t is estimated that by 2050, 66% of the world's population will live in cities and a recent study shows the average American adult spends 93% of their time indoors. A recipe for an unhealthy existence.

Numerous studies from all over the world have shown that connecting with nature reduces stress and improves your mental health and physical health. Hospital patients have a quicker recovery rate if they have a window with a view of nature or even just a tree.

So, what are you waiting for? It's spring, start planning your gardening year. There's no excuse, no reason to say you can't. Even if you haven't got a garden or that it's too small or too big. There is no such thing as a person who can't garden. Gardens are not born, they grow. Rome wasn't built in a day, start small and expand your project.

If you haven't got a garden, you at least have a windowsill or a door step or footpath. A window box can be filled with herbs, a planter with a dwarf apple tree. A hanging basket with dwarf tomatoes as well as flowers and herbs.

If you underplant with a selection of spring bulbs, you now have three seasons of interest.

Gardening is not about cutting the grass on the weekend, hoping that the weather is dry. That is a chore, not enjoyment. If you don't get it cut today, so what, let it grow. If you cut it on a six week rotation it gives wildflowers a chance to grow, much better for you and the natural environment. If you enjoy cutting it weekly, just cut the centre of it or paths through it. Now instead of having just a lawn, you now have a wildflower meadow also.

Turn some of the lawn into a flower/shrub bed. Start small, it's easy to expand it in the future if you want. Start now, think about the best place for it. The part that gets the most sun is probably best to start with.

Cover your area with a layer of cardboard, then a 3-4cm layer of mini-chip bark for mulch.

This will stop the grass getting sunlight and will kill it. When the good weather comes you will be ready to plant into it.

When buying plants always ask for advice. The person selling them will know best what they have for sale and questions will be answered.

Don't go and buy all your plants at once. Plants are stocked for sale

when looking their best, so spread your purchases over the year so as to spread the flowering season of your bed. Remember there is no garden too small for a tree.





# TVRadio

Brendan O'Regan



## Elections not a matter of life and death after all

As I wrote a few weeks ago, I've always thought that religious belief and practice has to make sense on a human level. One of our human characteristics seems to be a need for ritual. Some rituals are faith related, but when the ritual lingers after the faith has been left behind I feel there's an emptiness.

On Friday's **Leap of Faith** (RTÉ1), presenter Michael Comyn spoke to broadcaster Ruth Scott, once a Catholic now a humanist. She says she's "100% atheist" and takes the scientific view of things, including nature. But then many people of Faith take a scientific view as well, a point that would have been worth making.

After deliberately cutting ties with the Catholic Church, she attached herself to the humanist movement, but again there are people of Faith that are humanist, another point that would have been worth making, so again I felt there was a false dichotomy, an unnecessary polarisation.

She said she missed the rituals of religion, that she missed "the smell of the church". Comyn asked if she saw no mystery or greater power when she observed nature (they were on a walk by the Dodder river). She didn't but also wondered "who is to say I have the right answer?"

On her idea that everything



The late Keelin Shanley of RTÉ.

can be broken down to constituent parts, Comyn asked her where the atoms came from – her response was "was that not the Big Bang?" (the theory developed by a Jesuit priest Fr Georges Le Maitre). Now a secular celebrant, she has the rituals, but, I feel, with much of the meaningful content hollowed out.

There followed another interesting interview with a woman who favoured science over religion (false conflict again) – this time Sasha Sagan, daughter of the

famous astronomer Carl of TV show *Cosmos* fame. She also was into ritual, divorced from religion. She came across as quite a pleasant character and seemed to get good fun out of Comyn's gently challenging question about her wanting to have her cake and eat it, wanting "the best bits" but not committing to "the whole deal". Laughingly she accepted that might be "fair criticism".

Maybe a person of Faith committed to religious rituals would have been a useful

addition to the show, but the final guest Nick Spencer of Theos, a UK organisation that stimulates the debate about the place of religion in society, in speaking of the need for religious literacy in the media and society, said that it was important that commentators needed to be religiously literate about rituals if they were going to be discussing them.

### Elections

You could say that elections, like religion are replete with rituals too – the postering, the door knocking, the voting, the counting, the cheering, the weeping and finally the negotiating.

It was a great few days for political anoraks and I found myself glued to the TV and radio last weekend and early this week, especially to RTE's **Election 2020** (which bumped the TV Mass



Michael Comwyn (RTÉ).

### PICK OF THE WEEK

**LEAH DARROW: FROM TOP MODEL TO ROLE MODEL**  
EWTN, Sunday, February 16, 9pm

Fashion Model Leah Darrow on how modern society's expectations of women have become detrimental to them.

**HISTORIC CATHOLIC CONVERTS**

EWTN, Monday, February 17, 7am, also Tuesday (night), February 18, 12.30am

The life and faith of Dorothy Day, a Catholic champion of non-violent approaches for social and political reform.

**CONFRONTING HOLOCAUST DENIAL**

BBC2, Monday, February 17, 9pm

David Baddiel explores the multi-faceted nature of Holocaust denial and why it is on the rise.

over to RTÉ2). Commentators reached for the superlatives – even to talk about a Sinn Féin "surge" seemed an understatement. And so there was "seismic", "tsunami" and the clear winner, "unprecedented".

By Monday's **Morning Ireland** (RTÉ1), I was hearing 'earthquake election' and sure enough even by then it was looking likely that even if they got together Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael wouldn't have an overall majority – never thought I'd see that day.

Various media outlets ran the exit poll on voting day, and I thought it was significant that Brexit and immigration did not figure significantly in the reasons for people voting the way they did. I heard no mention of the right to life or the broader liberal agenda, but it seems to me that the media has decided that these issues are off the table

at election times, and most other times too.

At the start of RTÉ's election coverage their staff was hit with yet another high profile bereavement, with the passing, all too young, of journalist, reporter and presenter Keelin Shanley who should have been there in the thick of it.

The obvious emotion shown by newsreaders and presenters (I especially noticed it from Eileen Whelan and Miriam O'Callaghan) reminded us of our common humanity no matter where we stand on fractious political issues.

May Keelin rest in peace and may her family and colleagues find comfort.

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Pat O'Kelly

# Music

## Fidelio's long trek brings it to stage in Dublin's NCH

In 1803 Emanuel Schikaneder, who collaborated with Mozart on *The Magic Flute* but was then director of Vienna's Theater an der Wien, approached Beethoven with an operatic *libretto* – *Vestas Feuer* (Vestal Flame). Initially the composer reacted favourably and completed almost two scenes before becoming disenchanted and laying it aside. However, two of its arias would re-emerge elsewhere.

The following year, Beethoven came across a subject more to his liking. It was a play – *Leonore* – by French writer Jean Nicolas Bouilly. It had already been set to music by Pierre Gaveaux and Ferdinando Paër, both contemporaries of Beethoven



Sinead Campbell Wallace.

but now almost forgotten.

The story appealed to the composer who identified himself with heroic figures and held the belief that

worthwhile goals are only to be achieved through great effort. So his opera would portray good over evil, liberty over captivity.

Viennese musician and lawyer Joseph Sonnleithner supplied a German translation of the French *libretto* and the satisfied Beethoven completed his score remarkably quickly. *Leonore* (or *The Triumph of Married Love*) was produced in Vienna on November 20, 1805. With the overture we know as *Leonore No.2*, the opera was not a success and ran for only three performances. Beethoven had already replaced his original overture – *Leonore No.1*.

Another of Beethoven's friends, Stephan von Breuning, took matters in hand and

abridged the *libretto*. This version, seen at the Theater an der Wien on March 29, 1806, was preceded by the overture *Leonore No.3*. Success still eluded the piece leaving Beethoven disappointed.

### Overture

Eventually, Leipzig-born playwright, actor and stage manager Georg Treitschke rewrote the text and, now called *Fidelio*, the opera was enthusiastically received at the Theater Kärntnertor on May 23, 1814. It had a new, shorter overture.

The plot unfolds in and around a jail in Seville, where political opponent and prison governor Pizarro incarcerates nobleman Florestan. Despite reports that Florestan is dead,

his wife Leonore believes otherwise. Disguising herself as a man – Fidelio – she persuades prison guard Rocco to engage her as his assistant working in the dungeons.

On hearing reports of serious injustices in the jail, Minister Don Fernando decides to inspect. Pizarro acts swiftly to execute Florestan. Terror and despair strike the heart of Leonore/Fidelio and in her powerful aria 'Komm, Hoffnung' (Come, hope) she vows her everlasting love for Florestan will give her strength.

The emaciated Florestan resigns himself to death and in an impassioned aria imagines seeing an angel resembling Leonore. She and Rocco arrive to dig his grave. Pizarro, intent

on murder, follows them but is confronted by Leonore who reveals her true identity and threatens to shoot him.

At this point trumpets announce Fernando's arrival and Pizarro's downfall. Leonore and Florestan, in one of Beethoven's superlative moments, sing an ecstatic duet affirming that hope overcomes despair and the opera ends with a magnificent chorus praising love and faith.

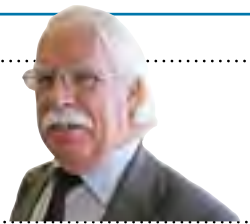
In a Lyric Opera production, with soprano Sinead Campbell Wallace and tenor Sam Sakker in the principal roles, *Fidelio* comes to the National Concert Hall on Saturday and Sunday, February 22 and 23.





# BookReviews

Peter Costello



## When fierce local quarrels

**Days of the Blackthorn: Faction Fighters of Kerry**  
by Seán Moraghan  
(Mercier Press, €16.99)

J. Anthony Gaughan

In the early part of the 19th Century especially, faction fighting was a feature of rural life throughout Munster.

The Catholic clergy were unable to prevent it, despite their strenuous efforts, local magistrates turned a Nelson eye on it and some landlords actively encouraged it. Hardly a fair concluded without a faction fight taking place.

The most celebrated faction fighters were the 'Caravats' and the 'Shanavests' of Limerick, Tipperary and Waterford, the 'three-year-olds' and the 'four-year-olds' of both Limerick and Tipperary, the 'Coffeys' and 'Reaskawallahs' (Ryans) of the area along the Limerick-Tipperary border, the 'Ryans', and 'Dwyers' of the district around Cashel and the 'Cooleens' and 'Lawlor-Mulvihills' of north Kerry.

### Fairs

Apart from fairs, faction fighting took place on town streets, green fields and at race meetings and Saints' patron days. The rival factions attacked each other with cudgels, blackthorn sticks, reaping hooks and even guns.

Hundreds and sometimes even thousands of men and women were involved. The women employed the same strategy as was adopted by David when he vanquished the giant Goliath in the Bible story. This faction fighting continued in one



A faction fight – 'fair but foul'.

form or another for more than 200 years.

**An initial police report on July 7 stated that the number of the dead totalled 18"**

Many faction fights were held across Co. Kerry. Factions squared off frequently in Tralee, the county town.

Similarly, faction fighting was rife

in Killarney, where the 'Moynihans' and the 'O'Donoghues' were in a state of perpetual feud for half a century. In Castleisland the 'Brosnahans' regularly clashed with the 'O'Connors'. At Ballymacelligott the 'Carmody's' faced up to the 'Slatterys'. The major annual faction fight in Dingle was between the 'Fitzgeralds (Na Gearaltaigh)' and the 'Moriartys'. It was claimed that the enmity between these parties stemmed from the betrayal of the Earl of Desmond – a Fitzgerald – by a Moriarty in 1583!

The Beara Peninsula, Cahirciveen, Kenmare, Killorglin (at Puck Fair) and the Sliabh Luachra area all had their ritualistic faction fighting.

The faction fighters were involved in riots surrounding the county elections in the 19th Century. In every instance fighting was fuelled by an excessive consumption of whiskey by the combatants.

The most notorious faction fight was held at the race meeting on Ballyeagh Strand, near Ballybunion, on St John's day, June 24, 1834. The 'Cooleens' crossed the Cashen river to challenge the 'Lawlor-Mulvihills'. According to a subsequent police report 1,000 people were involved in the fight on the side of the 'Cooleens' and about 1,500 on the side of the 'Lawlor-Mulvihills'.

### Battles

With such numbers involved – in fact, more than took part in a number of important battles in Irish history – it is not surprising that there was serious loss of life. Because of the greater numbers on the opposite side the 'Cooleens' were driven back to the water's edge. When they attempted to get into their boats and escape they were savagely set upon, some were bludgeoned to death on the strand, others were drowned.

An initial police report on July 7 stated that the number of the dead totalled 18. But a later report recorded that 29 'Cooleens' had been killed, while among the Lawlor-Mulvihills 12 "were carried home with broken jaws, hands and legs".

As a result of the public outcry at the appalling loss of life, no faction fight was ever again held

on Ballyeagh strand and some years later the race meeting was transferred to Listowel.

Faction fighting petered out rather than ended. There were a number of influences to this end. Bishops excommunicated and parish priests censured from the altar the organisers of fights, O'Connell railed against them. Fr Mathew's Temperance Movement discouraged the excessive drinking.

The Land War in the 1890s absorbed the attention of the leaders of the various factions. Magistrates and the police implemented the law more forcibly with regard to faction fighting.

**A vote of thanks is due to Seán Moraghan and his distinguished predecessors in the field"**

Following the establishment of the GAA, teams were formed on which leaders of opposing factions played side by side.

Nationalists were embarrassed by the savagery and thuggery at the heart of the faction fighting. Hence it has tended to be overlooked and even ignored completely by academic historians. Yet it was an integral part of the social history of 18th and 19th Century Ireland.

Thus, a vote of thanks is due to Seán Moraghan and his distinguished predecessors in the field – Pádraig de Brún and Patrick O'Donnell – for recording this important yet neglected element of our country's recent history.

## Modern idols in the service of profit

**The Enchantment of Mammon: How Capitalism became the Religion of Modernity**  
by Eugene McCarragher  
(The Belknap Press / Harvard University Press, \$US39.95/£31.95)

Frank Litton

This is a vitally important book, likely to attract considerable attention among critics and readers. I reckon it could have an impact similar to Alasdair MacIntyre's *After Virtue* back in 1997. Certainly it is a book people concerned about the state of the world and moral theology should be aware of.

We live in a disenchanted world. Both believers and secularists agree, at least on this. While the believer laments the fact, the secularist rejoices that superstition has been vanquished along with the



oppressive hierarchies that it sustained. Both are wrong.

This is the message of this important book: religion has not departed from the western world. Eugene McCarragher, associate professor of the humanities at Villanova University explains how capitalism has become the religion of the modern world.

What does religion mean in this context? Religions are ubiquitous. All societies have their theologies and liturgies that place us in a world where the transcendent promises salvation and communion.

**McCarragher makes clear the importance of advertising in recounting how it was understood"**

McCarragher documents the considerable efforts that have been made to sanctify the capitalist order, promoting it as the best hope of our fulfilment. His focus is on the US where capitalism found its greatest welcome and most secure home.

An impossible task as

the followers of the Catholic tradition of social thought must suppose. They will, for example, have learnt from Frederic Ozanam, founder of the society of St Vincent de Paul, how workers were compelled to live close to destitution while the fruits of their labours enriched the few. Chesterton and Belloc will have instructed them in how the exigencies of factory production denied workers the opportunity for creative self-expression through work in companionship with their fellows while the conflicts inherent in capitalism together with the inequalities in power that it generated distorted and weakened democracy.

Dorothy Day and the Catholic Worker movement shows them, in their thought and practice of charity, the distance between the imperatives of capitalism

and the Gospels.

Herbert McCabe OP, a preeminent English-speaking theologian of the twentieth century teaches them how capitalism negates the account of human flourishing found in Aquinas.

The list could be extended and the voices from other traditions introduced. McCarragher gives them all their due. He reports, however, that they have been drowned out, sidelined, by stronger voices, more pleasing to the powerful.

McCarragher guides the reader with wit and insight through an immense amount of material, never losing control of the narrative. Nonetheless the book, which runs to 679 pages, excluding notes, is a daunting read. I extract three points to indicate

something of how capitalism found transcendence, promises salvation and aspires to communion.

Not all religious traditions shared the Catholic perspective. The Puritans, so important in shaping the religion and culture of the US, found in their reading of Christianity good reason to support the capitalist dynamic. Profit was clear evidence that one was doing God's work.

### Dissonance

So the dissonance between God and Mammon was reduced and their religion's transcendence seeped into capitalism endorsing the motives that drove it onwards. McCarragher traces the complicated route whereby the same religious sensibility shaped the individualism that is an essential ingredient of the capitalist ethos.



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.

# came to blows St Thérèse, the Little Flower in Scotland



A Munster faction fighter.

## St Thérèse of Lisieux in Scotland 2019

(The Bishops Conference of Scotland / Scottish Catholic Observer, €6.99 + €6.99 p&p. Order from books@sconews.co.uk, phone 0044-141-241-6106. Arrangements are being made to distribute the book in Ireland.)

**Peter Costello**

The tour of the relics of St Thérèse of Lisieux in Ireland is still for devotees of the saint a warm memory. This brochure continues the story with a record of the saint's tour of Scotland for 21 days in September of last year.

It is admirably produced with excellent typography, well selected and reproduced illustrations (which for once are treated with the respect which historical documents deserve, they are not printed over, coloured up or simply used as design elements).

Aside from the itinerary and images of the events and celebrations in places associated with the long and ancient history of Catholic Scotland – such as Dunkeld, the ancient capital of the Picts – it contains some 14 essays on various aspects of the saint's family, early life, vocation, spirituality and theology. It comprises in fact an attractive album of the life and times of the saint and doctor of the Church which many people outside of Scotland would love to have.

## Respect

One of these by Fr Christopher O'Donnell O Carm is on the question of why the Church promotes respect for the relics of the saints and their role in spiritual life.

“Take a rose,” the saint seemed to be saying to him, “I want it for someone”

Naturally these essays are largely written from a Scottish perspective, which gives them a special interest. But for Irish readers I would draw attention to an account of some five pages with an Irish connection entitled ‘The story of a Rose’ by an anonymous Irish priest from Kerry.



St Thérèse.

He had been on retreat in All Hallows in Dublin. He was inspired to select from a vase of lush roses beside the Tabernacle a single stem: “Take a rose,” the saint seemed to be saying to him, “I want it for someone.”

He then went on by bus into the city centre to Veritas, but he lost his way and ended up in the Pro-Cathedral. He thought he would say a prayer before he caught the bus back to Kerry. A funeral was taking place. He was inspired to place the rose on the coffin.

It was the service for

Frank Patterson the singer, a devotee of the Little Flower. Only 15 minutes before a whole heap of flowers had been removed from the coffin. He walked up the aisle fortified by the saint, and placed the single rose on the lid. And there it rested through the whole service. And there, he later saw on TV, it remained up the interment in Clonmel.

This story, told in more detail, is a very moving piece, which will appeal at once to many readers. This is a small book, but one with a powerful presence.

McCarraher makes clear the importance of advertising in recounting how it was understood and practised. Its role goes far beyond supplying the information that markets require. It makes ‘sacraments’ of products endowing them with the power to transform your life.

“This detailed account of the idolatries of our age deserves wide readership”

So a soft drink does more than sate your thirst with its pleasant taste, it transports into a colourful social whirl. This motor car does more than transport you from A to B in safety, it transforms you into an adventurer, brave and strong. Watch an evening's TV and count the

number of enchantments on offer, promising salvation through consumption.

Capitalist enterprises commend themselves as ‘scientific’ and ‘rational’. Frederick W. Taylor exemplifies such claims. He believed, with religious fervour, that technology could break down the divisions between management and workers. His ‘scientific management’ would resolve all conflicts, transforming a zero-sum game into a ‘win-win’ where all could find communion in profitable service to the corporation. If his promise of communion found few takers among the bosses, his scientific management did provide a useful tool for the supervision and control of workers.

He was among the first in a long line of management ‘thinkers’ surveyed in the book,

whose rhetoric, clothed in the appearance of science, sought to convince managers that the business of controlling their fellows in the interests of profits was ‘professional’ with the promise of self-fulfilment.

Their work continues. Next time that you are in an airport check out the shelves of management books and discover the diverse ways in which service to Mammon is purveyed as a spiritual good.

So superstition and oppressive hierarchies have not gone away.

This detailed account of the idolatries of our age deserves wide readership and detailed examination. It surely will encourage believers to preach the gospel where our true God is found, salvation promised and real communion established.




The Reliquary of St Thérèse.



Classifieds

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



Merchants Quay Ireland  
Homeless & Drugs Services

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**Come for Tea and a Tour**, in private while Riverbank is closed for a couple of hours. See confidentially how Merchants Quay Ireland uses donations and legacies to bring relief and hope. All welcome, bring a guest if you wish.

**Ring Emma Murphy at 01-5240965 to be included on the guest list for the March 12th Tour.**



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Phone 01 4536621 or 01 4546795  
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[Daniel.morgan5@btconnect.com](mailto:Daniel.morgan5@btconnect.com)

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### The Miracle Prayer

Dear Heart of Jesus,  
In the past I have asked for many favours.

This time I ask for a special one. (mention here)

Take it, dear Heart of Jesus, and place it within your own broken Heart where your Father sees it.

Then, in his merciful eyes, it will become your favour, not mine. Amen.

Say this prayer for three days.

E.McD.



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## The Irish Catholic

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# Leisure time

Please pray for the beatification of

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

— Pope St Pius X, June 4, 1912

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One day, parents and their children will tell the story of how your legacy of love changed their lives. Thank you for considering a gift to Trócaire in your Will.

## Crossword Junior

Gordius 319



### Across

- 1 Popular kind of pet (6,3)  
6 1, 3, 5 and 7 are \_\_\_\_ numbers (3)  
7 Houses made of snow and ice (6)  
8 Large birds of prey (6)  
11 Spies are sometimes called secret \_\_\_\_ (6)  
13 Travels by plane or helicopter (5)  
16 Handy (6)  
17 Metal block used by a blacksmith (5)  
18 She's a movie star (7)  
19 Flying toys controlled by string (5)  
20 Notices a sound (5)

### Down

- 1 Stringed instrument (6)

### 2 Sickness (7)

- 3 Donkeys (5)  
4 A score in soccer (4)  
5 Puts numbers together to get a total (3)  
9 You might put it in your hair (3)  
10 What you see with (3)  
12 Sweets you might chew (7)  
13 You carry hot drinks in them to keep the drinks hot (6)  
14 Ask someone to a party (6)  
15 Gives something away for money (5)  
16 The brother of your mother or father (5)

## SOLUTIONS, FEBRUARY 6

GORDIUS No. 441

Across – 1 Rid 3 Quarterdeck 8 Distil 9 Underpin 10 Night 11 Sprat 13 Wales 15 Airhead 16 Curling tongs 20 Hanky 21 Tweet 23 Syrup 24 Friendly 25 Guides 26 Numismatist 27 Ref

Down – 1 Riding habit 2 Designer 3 Quilt 4 Roughly 5 Reefs 6 Empire 7 Kin 12 The Grapes of Wrath 14 Saucy 17 Intruder 18 Encrypt 19 Medium 23 Squat 24 Fan

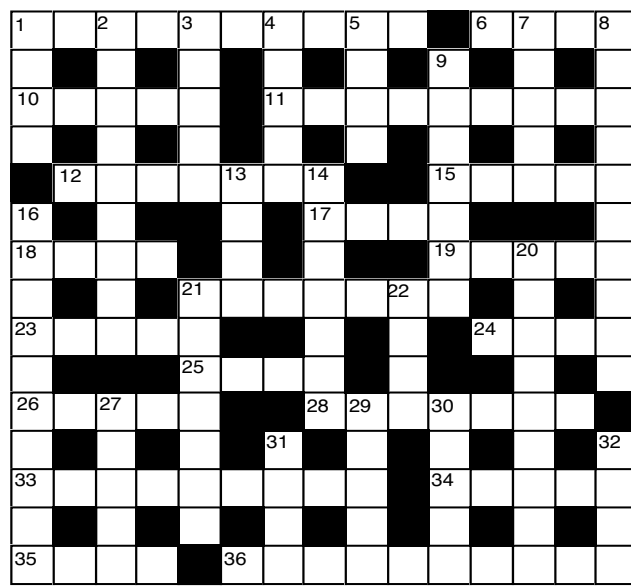
CHILDREN'S No. 318

Across – 1 New Year's Day 6 Annual 7 Adam 8 Everywhere 12 Rare 14 Audience 16 Fight 17 Ice 18 Plan 19 Heads 20 Got

Down – 1 Neater 2 Winter 3 Allowed 4 Shave 5 Awake 9 Vampire 10 Reached 11 Running 13 Desert 15 Italy

## Crossword

Gordius 442



### Across

- 1 Happen to be deemed donkey of the year, by the look of it! (4,2,4)  
6 Whip (4)  
10 & 24a Does one ride a sea-horse to play this sport? (5-4)  
11 Caring for and providing for (9)  
12 Cab seen going astray? There's something missing! (7)  
15 Elephants' teeth (5)  
17 Country identified in the paper Ursula delivered (4)  
18 Come to earth here in Paris on receiving light yoghurt starters (4)  
19 Right on, perform music! (5)  
21 Abandon for oriental booze (7)  
23 Girl's name which is Cockney rhyming slang for tea (5)  
24 See 10 across  
25 Duck a cuppa with a novice (4)  
26 Artist's stand (5)  
28 GGE? How tasty! (3-4)  
33 How one's pal copies what concerns the bishop (9)  
34 A greenfly will appear in the graph, ideally (5)  
35 Allows (4)  
36 This churchman relocates the radon cache (10)

### Down

- 1 Cattle (4)  
2 Dances, for those with a consuming interest in fashion, will be the end of them! (9)  
3 & 16d As eaten after fifty-four holes of golf? (5,6,4)  
4 Contagious fear (5)  
5 East European caught in a laser beam (4)  
7 A farewell in Spanish (5)  
8 Gosh, bingo's been broken up by the 'God particle'! (5,5)  
9 Winged scavenger (7)  
13 Emperor who is said to have fiddled while Rome burned (4)  
14 A letter from St Paul might advise that you sleep it off (7)  
16 See 3 down  
20 Ethnic oil spill? How primitive! (9)  
21 Part of a horse's leg which usually has a tuft of hair (7)  
22 Male monarch (4)  
27 Time allocated workers to produce a garment (5)  
29 That Australian bird will make a festive occasion hot! (5)  
30 Fiery feature (5)  
31 Train like a boxer with part of the rigging (4)  
32 A lair in a Yemeni city (4)

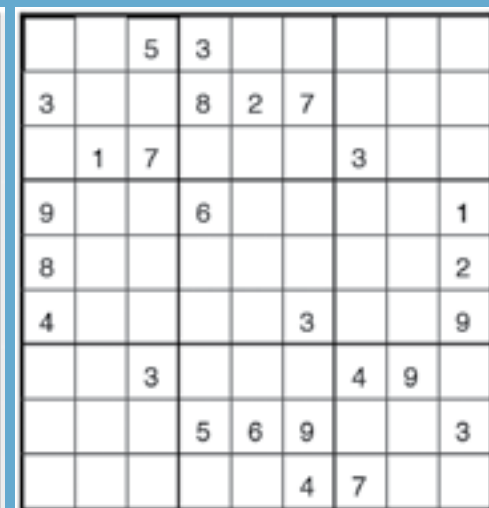
## Sudoku Corner

319

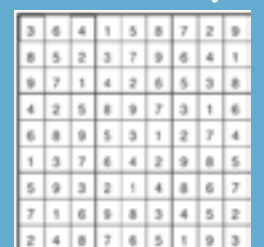
Easy



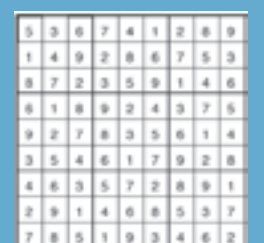
Hard



Last week's Easy 318



Last week's Hard 318





# Ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is...

**I'M SURE THERE** are other similar parishes around the country, but in my pastoral experience I have never experienced any community like the people of Ballycallan. After my appointment as curate in 1992, I visited the church for the first time and I was shocked and depressed.

I had just returned from studying in the hallowed and beautifully appointed halls of a Washington DC university and boy, did I come crashing down to earth. The church in Ballycallan in 1992 was probably in the worst condition of any church still being used in Ireland at the time. The walls were weeping and crumbling and, on that first visit, so was I!

The church had been built during the worst years of the Great Famine. What a monument to the sacrifice and resilience of a people racked by famine, but determined to provide a house fit for the Lord from their meagre resources and in the most difficult of circumstances. However, in 1992 this famine church dedicated to St Brigid was in serious disrepair mainly due to a 'debate' which had gone on for over 30 years, to renovate the building or replace it with a modern structure. The



deep divisions caused within the parish as a result of that debate had shades of Thomas Kilroy's novel *The Big Chapel*, ironically set in the neighbouring parish to Ballycallan. There certainly was material for a John B Keane play!

## Phase

When the idea to build a new church had originally been proposed in the late 60s and early 70s, Irish society was in a phase of throwing out the old and replacing it with the new and the modern.

I can recall a visiting American relative insisting that we throw out the dresser which my father had made from solid wood and she would replace it with a 'modern' kitchen cabinet made from chip-board and formica.

**THE SANCTUARY LAMP:** The red glow of the sanctuary lamp catches the eye of a bored and distracted child during Mass. She tugs at her father's arm and says: "Da, when that turns green can we go?"

Thankfully I lived to see the dresser come back in and kitchen cabinet consigned to the rubbish dump.

In the Church it was no different. The reforms of the Second Vatican Council had called for modern, simpler buildings to reflect our new understanding of the church and the liturgy.

All across Ireland, old churches were abandoned and replaced by modern structures. Many of those churches erected during the 70s have had to be substantially renovated costing multiples of the original building figure.

Acutely aware of the sacrifices made by their ancestors during Famine times, many of the parishioners in Ballycallan had resisted the pressure to abandon the building which cradled so many personal and community memories of Faith. Their persistence and patience (mixed with a little stubbornness) finally paid off because beginning in the late 80s there was a renewed interest in preserving what was older and also a greater respect

## A prayer on visiting my local church

May this building continue to be a place of mystery,  
a place of refuge,  
a place of warmth,  
a place of private prayer and petition,  
a place for lighting candles and passing the time of day with saints,  
a place for silent companionship with the One in the tabernacle.  
A place to be renewed.  
A place to celebrate,  
a place to be united with God.

for the quality of the workmanship which had gone into building these older churches. The green light was finally given in early 1994 for the renovation of Ballycallan Church to go ahead. In the ten months that followed the pace was hectic.

**Commitment**

What I remember most from that time was the extraordinary commitment of so many people both in terms of time and talent freely given. The fundraising was unbelievable, every farmer in the

parish raised a calf for the church, many other families pledged a portion of their income and then there was the Parish lotto.

In its first year it made a staggering profit of £44,000, over €50,000, all from a parish community of less than 1,500 people. The Ursuline Sisters in Waterford kindly offered the beautiful altar, tabernacle and reredos from their convent which was closing. Under the guidance of a skilled stonemason, Seamus Kelly, 30 Ballycallan men dismantled the precious pieces, transported them home and re-erected them in the sanctuary of their church.

The Famine church in Ballycallan was rededicated on St Brigid's Day 1995. Recently I was privileged to return for the 25th anniversary and it looks as magnificent as ever.



## Holy Spirit Sisters need water harvesting system for village school

In a remote area of India, close to the border with Myanmar, the Holy Spirit Sisters run a village school for children unable to travel to the parish centre, which is 33 kilometres distance away. At present the school has 220 pupils, most of whom come from deprived families, living by subsistence farming and struggling to make ends meet. The only source of water in the village is rain water and a nearby stream, as the land is not suitable for a well, or bore-hole. The Holy Cross Fathers, who are in charge of the parish, have appealed to The Little Way Association for financial help to install a rain water harvesting system for the Sisters and their village school.



"Jesus wills that we give alms to Him as to one poor and needy. He puts Himself as it were at our mercy; He will take nothing but what we give Him from our heart, and the very least trifle is precious in His sight."

- St Therese

## You can help repair a mission chapel

The Little Way Association has a long history of providing humble places of worship for far-flung parishes in mission countries. Nature can take its toll on these simple buildings, and we receive requests from priests for help with repairs.

We humbly ask that you allocate some of your kind giving to our chapels fund. By ensuring that these small but dignified churches are in good repair, you help to make possible the offering of Holy Mass in needy Catholic communities.

*The missionaries and people overseas who benefit from your generosity invariably promise to pray for their benefactors' intentions.*

## Can you help The Little Way Association make a big difference in the daily lives of the Holy Spirit Sisters and the children they teach?

A source of clean water is vital for the health and well-being of any community, large or small. Can you help The Little Way Association to assist those who do not have access to clean, safe water? We have new requests for grants to fund water projects every week. Any donation will be sent without deduction and gratefully received. Thank you, and may God reward your generosity.

**You and your intentions are remembered in a daily Mass offered in the Missions for all our friends and benefactors.**

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](http://www.littlewayassociation.com)**

I enclose €..... to be allocated to:

€..... **CLEAN, SAFE WATER**

€..... **NEEDY CHILDREN**

€..... **CHAPELS IN THE MISSIONS**

€..... **MASS OFFERINGS**  
(Please state number .....)

€..... **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](http://tinyurl.com/lwadonations)**

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