

# The Irish Catholic

**FR RON  
ROLHEISER**

Why still be a  
Catholic?  
Page 30



**MARY  
KENNY**

Football: it's a  
metaphor for life  
Page 5



**MARTIN  
MANSENGH**

NI Protocol is essential  
for peace process  
Page 7



Thursday, July 15, 2021

€2.50 (Stg £2.20)

The-Irish-Catholic-Newspaper

@IrishCathNews

www.irishcatholic.com

## Government pledges fresh energy in diplomatic relations with Vatican

**EXCLUSIVE**

Jason Osborne

The Government is hoping that a major diplomatic engagement with the Vatican can be the beginning of a new chapter in relations between Ireland and the Holy See.

Minister for Europe Thomas Byrne told *The Irish Catholic* that the coalition is keen to work more closely with the Vatican in areas of mutual interest including human rights and climate change.

He was speaking after being received at the Vatican by Archbishop Paul Gallagher, Secretary for Relations with States – effectively the Holy See's foreign minister.

Minister Byrne described the appointment as an opportunity for a "good exchange" saying the meeting was an important one given the "tension in the relationship to do with well-known issues over the last 10 to 20 years".

The tensions around clerical abuse led the government of Enda Kenny to downgrade diplomatic relations with the Vatican by withdrawing a resident ambassador. However, the decision was reversed two years later.

Minister Byrne said the Government believes that Ireland "can work constructively where we agree on the many items that we do, migration and climate change, a whole range of issues that are very important

» Continued on Page 2

### Small celebration on a big day



Queen's University Belfast teaching graduates with a specialisation in religious education (l-r) Eimear McErlane, Medbh McIlvenny, Niamh Brennan, Amy Murphy with Queen's University Belfast Catholic Chaplaincy Pastoral Manager Shannon Campbell. The chaplaincy organised a small celebration since the traditional graduation ceremonies could not go ahead due to Covid-19. See Pages 10 and 11.

**DAVID QUINN**

Why we need a social  
democratic party

PAGE 13



**MARIA BYRNE**

A misguided rush  
for romance

PAGE 32



**CHAI BRADY**

Ireland is missing the mark  
on human trafficking

PAGES 20-21



## THE JOURNEY

SAINT PATRICK'S COUNTRY

The  
Saint Patrick  
Centre

23rd-27th  
AUGUST 2021

5 DAYS / 4 NIGHTS

Cost - £798 / €933

all inclusive of accommodation, transfers, meals and activities.

£850 / €995 Single Supplement

WWW.SAINTPATRICKCENTRE.COM

TEL: +44 (0) 28 4461 9000



## Inside this week

### Books

**A lost soul from the Irish Diaspora**

Page 36-37



### TV and radio

**When we have politicians with a portfolio of values**

Page 35



### Lebanon

**Christians suffer under economic crisis**

Page 25



**Managing Editor:** Michael Kelly, editor@irishcatholic.ie

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

**Multimedia Journalists:** Chai Brady, chai@irishcatholic.ie

Ruadhán Jones, ruadhan@irishcatholic.ie

Jason Osborne, jason@irishcatholic.ie

**Newsroom:** news@irishcatholic.ie 01 6874026

**Books Editor:** Peter Costello, books@irishcatholic.ie

**Digital Editor:** Brigit Hirsch

**Intern:** William Schneider

**Advertising:** advertising@irishcatholic.ie 01 6874094

**Accounts:** accounts@irishcatholic.ie 01 6874020

**Magnificat:** magnificat@irishcatholic.ie

**Shop:** shop@irishcatholic.ie

Annual Subscription Rates: Ireland €165. Airmail €250. Six months €85.  
ISSN 1393 - 6832 - Published by The Irish Catholic,  
Unit 3b, Bracken Business Park, Bracken Road, Sandymount,  
Dublin 18, D18 K277.  
Printed by Webprint, Cork.

## Place an Advert

Phone 01 687 4094 or advertising@irishcatholic.ie



**Michael Kelly's Editor's Comment will return in the autumn**

# BAI upholds complaints over RTÉ's 'offensive' God sketch

**Ruadhán Jones**

Eight separate complaints against RTE's New Year's countdown programme were upheld by the Compliance Committee of the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland (BAI), July 7.

The programme featured a satirical news sketch by Waterford Whispers in which God is arrested for sex crimes, which complainants said mocked the Catholic Faith.

One complainant said she found the sketch "to be offensive in the extreme and it appeared to be an intentional and targeted insult directed

at a group of people who hold Christian beliefs".

The sketch concerned God being "the latest figure to be implicated in ongoing sexual harassment scandals".

The report showed a scene outside a courthouse of a Garda manhandling a handcuffed person, dressed to appear as God, into a police van, while he shouts, "that was two thousand years ago".

The news reader then says: "The five-billion-year-old stood accused of forcing himself on a young Middle Eastern migrant, allegedly impregnating her against her will, before being sentenced to two years

in prison, with the last twenty-four months suspended."

Directly following the sketch, an image of Harvey Weinstein was shown on screen.

The complainant noted the fact the sketch was pre-recorded and commissioned in advance, which means this could not have been a mistake on the night.

The viewer alleged a former RTÉ news reader lent credence to it by using words like "impregnating against her will" and "young migrant girl".

The complainant said if this had targeted another group in society like Muslim, Jewish

or members of the Traveller and LGBT communities, there would have been a "stampede to the airwaves to condemn it".

Considering the complaint, the BAI's compliance committee concluded the segment did not respect general community standards.

It said the likely offence caused to the audience was not justified for creative, editorial or any other reasons.

## Pope Francis set to visit Scotland this year

**Jason Osborne**

Pope Francis will visit Scotland for a "very short time" in November, a spokesperson for the Scottish bishops' conference revealed on Monday.

The Pope is due to attend the Glasgow-based 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) taking place November 1-12.

"The Pope will be in Scotland for a very short time, most of which will be spent participating in the COP26 conference," the bishops' conference spokesperson said July 12.

"While many pastoral, ecumenical, and interfaith gatherings would be desirable while he is with us, time constraints sadly mean such a full program will not be possible."

The Vatican has so far made no official statement about the Pope travelling to Scotland in November.

## Armagh archdiocese moves to next phase of their diocesan synod plans

**Chai Brady**

The first phase of the Archdiocese of Armagh's preparations towards a diocesan synodal assembly have ended, with the next stage now in motion.

Armagh's 'Year of Reflection and Prayer', which was extended due to Covid-19, began at the end of January 2020 and ended earlier this month with a ceremony in St Patrick's Cathedral.

Speaking at the closing ceremony, Bishop Michael Router said: "In many ways it was a blessing that we launched the Year of Reflection and Prayer when we did because, at that

time, we didn't know what lay ahead for us. Nothing could have prepared us for all that we have experienced over the past 15 months. In reality quiet reflection and prayer were often the only permitted responses."

There will now be a period of consultation for the next two years in preparation for the diocesan synodal assembly which will be held in Autumn 2024.

The final year before the assembly will be spent analysing what has been learned through the consultation and conversation process. A core group from around the diocese were officially commissioned

in St Patrick's Cathedral and have been tasked with organising the consultation and preparation for the assembly.

### Vatican II

Bishop Router said the changes brought on by Vatican II "prevented the Church from becoming a remnant of the past retreating into itself and becoming more and more distanced from people".

He added: "Pope Francis has identified the model of synodality as a means of responding to the challenges and issues through a slow, yet ultimately more effective process of listening consultation and conversation."

## Bishop Dempsey joins Carmelite novena



Bishop Paul Dempsey of Achonry Diocese meets Frs Praveen, Anthony and Rojan of the Kildare White Abbey Carmelite community at their annual Novena to Our Lady of Mt Carmel, July 11.

## Government pledges to put fresh energy in relations with Vatican

**» Continued from Page 1**

to the Vatican, such as humanitarian assistance and peacekeeping."

He said that it is vital the relationship is one of mutual respect between "sovereign states" and "no longer a relationship of religious subservience".

Minister Byrne said the meeting "was the first high-level ministerial interaction [between Ireland and the Holy See] in quite a number of years, and I think it's important."

"Clearly there has been tension in the relationship to do with well-known issues over the last ten to 20 years," he said. Mr Byrne was amongst those who while in opposition campaigned for a reversal of the decision to close the Vatican

embassy. "I am glad that we have a resident ambassador to the Holy See. I think it's very important."

He said that one of the things the Irish Government wants to tap into is the Vatican's vast network. "When we were discussing the issue of Syria, one thing the archbishop said to me which struck a chord with me was: 'Our people on the ground are telling us...', so it just spoke to me that the Holy See, the Vatican, the Church has people on the ground everywhere, who are able to see exactly what's happening and I thought that was very useful."

"It just served to remind of the importance of diplomatic relations with the Vatican," he said.



# God and men smile on Italian team

**Jason Osborne**

Skill and commitment saw the Italian team triumph against the English side in the 2020 Euro's final, but faith is what gets Italian manager Roberto Mancini across the line.

**“Mr Mancini has also visited Medjugorje in the past, travelling there ‘as a pilgrim’”**

The 56-year-old Italian is a devout Catholic, who previously said he has been “very religious” since he was a young boy.

Mr Mancini has a history of personal devotion, the *Sunday Mirror* revealed that the manager had a relic of St Therese of Lisieux in his pocket during Manchester City's victory over Queen's Park Rangers (QPR) in the 2012 Premier League final.

It was given to him in St Mary's Cathedral in Newcastle by Fr Marc Lyden-Smith, who said:

“I spoke with Roberto after Mass and agreed to loan him my relic of this great saint for the match, not in any superstitious way, but to call upon

the communion of saints in his prayers during the match, praying for players to use their God-given gifts and talents.

“Roberto kept the relic in his pocket for the match, and also Manchester City's last game of the season, the thriller that saw Roberto's team win the title in the last seconds of the season and be crowned champions.”

Mr Mancini has also visited Medjugorje in the past, travelling there “as a pilgrim” after his father recovered from a heart attack in 2012.

The former altar-boy attended Mass and a monastery during his two-day trip, as well as visiting two of the visionaries – but refused to say what they discussed.

## Football boss

However, the football boss said at the time that he doesn't ask God or the Virgin Mary for football help as it wouldn't be right.

“I have been very religious since I was a young boy. But I would not say that God or the Virgin Mary help me in my career. They have more important stuff to do,” he laughed.



The Italian team meets with Pope Francis in 2019, with manager Roberto Mancini seated at the helm.

## Continue to make a difference.

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

**Please Support Focus Ireland in your Will**

To join in Sr. Stan's vision please contact [cian.dikker@focusireland.ie](mailto:cian.dikker@focusireland.ie) or phone 01 881 5962

**FOCUS**  
Ireland



# Irish Govt 'failing' to tackle child trafficking

Chai Brady

The Irish Government is failing to tackle child trafficking, which has moved further underground during the pandemic making it harder to identify, according to an Irish Sister of Mercy.

Sr Patricia O'Donovan RSM, who founded the anti-human trafficking charity Mecpaths, told *The Irish Catholic*: "It is very disappointing. Ireland is really failing to meet the minimum standards of elimination of trafficking."

The US annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report 2021, which was published earlier this month, stated that Ireland has continued to maintain inadequate victim protection efforts.

Sr O'Donovan said: "The [TIP] report clearly states that 'Traffickers subject Irish children to sex trafficking within the country' which demonstrates the increased need for awareness training and victim

identification, especially for child victims in this country.

"Mecpaths exists in order to raise awareness of the presence of human trafficking in Ireland, especially the trafficking of children for exploitation, to educate around the signs that may indicate a child is or has been trafficked and to know the mechanisms available to report a concern or case of child trafficking."

Ireland has not demonstrated an overall increase in efforts "even considering the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on its anti-trafficking capacity", regarding victim identification, the TIPs report stated.

Sr O'Donovan said: "Definitely 2020 has been a time of heightened vulnerability and children definitely are being trafficked. Child trafficking is happening, it is difficult to identify under normal times, much more so now during the pandemic."

According to Mecpaths, traffickers can take advantage of the privacy and anonymity that hotels and accommodation providers offer,

using these unwitting venues to sexually exploit children. Within the services sectors, many companies who provide products and services are uniquely placed to engage and interact with children and young persons who may be at-risk of being trafficked.

Training people in this sector is "crucial" when it comes to identifying child trafficking, Sr O'Donovan said.

"It is one of the most horrendous crimes in the world and it's right across the whole world: I think particularly child trafficking, when you think of the vulnerability of a child."

Sr O'Donovan and Sr Mary Ryan established Mecpaths in 2013 after attending a UN conference focusing on violence against women and girls.

On World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, July 30, Mecpaths will launch an online e-learning platform for the various industries they work with, as well as for the general public.

See pages 20-21

# Limerick council make divisive call for ban on protests around abortion providers

Ruadhán Jones

*The Irish Catholic* understands that a number of Limerick City and County councillors opposed tabling a motion calling on the Minister for Health to create legislation for "safe access zones" around abortion services.

After a July 5 vote passed the motion calling on councillors to write to Minister Stephen Donnelly on the issue, councillors speaking to this paper called the vote "divisive".

## Gatherings

The councillors added that the council has no power to act on the vigils and prayer gatherings, as the protestors have a constitutional right to protest.

Though reports of ongoing

anti-abortion protests outside University Maternity Hospital, Limerick (UMHL) and other healthcare settings were cited as inspiring the motion, a spokesperson for University of Limerick Hospital Group said that UMHL "has not received any complaints from our service users or staff about protests that may be taking place outside our hospital", *The Irish Examiner* reported.

"There is no issue with regard to safety of access, and we would urge anyone who is aware of such issues or difficulties, to contact hospital management without delay," they added.

The motion came before the council's Corporate Policy Group and didn't make the agenda for the June meeting, but it made the agenda for July.

## Delight as Glencairn Cistercians welcome courageous new sister



(L-R) Fr Gerry Comiskey, PP Drumlane, Co. Cavan, with Sr Beatrice Brady, Drumlane, and Jordan Mac Gabhann, a student for the priesthood in Kilmore Diocese.

### Staff reporter

Sr Beatrice (Emma) Brady's home parish of Drumlane, Co. Cavan, have praised the "courageous young woman" who professed her vows at the Co. Waterford Cistercian convent, July 11.

Fr Gerry Comiskey of Drumlane shared the parish's

congratulations and best wishes to Sr Beatrice, saying they were praying for her.

Fr Enda Murphy, who works for the Congregation for Divine Worship in the Vatican and whose parish neighbours Sr Beatrice's home parish, said her profession brought "great joy".

He hopes her example may encourage young men and women "to do something really radical with their lives".

Sr Beatrice made her First Profession of Monastic Vows in St Mary's Abbey, Glencairn, which commits her to "stability, conversion of life and obedience for one year".

The community in Glencairn said they were "delighted" to welcome their newly professed member, who took the name of Beatrice after Blessed Beatrice, the Cistercian nun of Nazareth (1200-1268).



# Football: It's a metaphor of life...

I'm not sure I could give a coherent description of the protocols of association football, were I quizzed on the subject: the 'off-side' rule has been explained to me many times, but I still don't quite grasp it.

**“It was lovely to see the euphoric delight expressed by the Italian fans in celebration”**

And yet, like millions of others, I followed the course of the Euro finals between England and Italy at Wembley last weekend. I think part of the motive was simply participation. I was drawn to participate in a collective event which drew huge crowds people all over Europe. I wasn't invested emotionally in either side: I just wanted to be part of something big after experiencing so many months of feeling locked up in my own little world, with social and cultural events so restricted, or only allowed under certain circumstances,



**Mary Kenny**



Italian fans celebrate after Sunday's final.

and under constant surveillance and regulation.

May the best team win, was my approach – and by common consent, the best team, Italy, did win. It was lovely to see the euphoric delight expressed by the Italian fans in celebration. Vicariously, I could be part of that, too.

Football – like any other team sport – is a metaphor of life. There are happy times, and there are times of crestfallen disappointment. There are those who behave well – and there are those who behave badly. There is discipline in the play, and team spirit, but also individuals who shine.

And although it involves

pride in patriotism, there is also a sense of internationalism which isn't phoney or imposed by globalised treaty. Football fans who might not be great students of history or even geography can provide chapter and verse about Leonardo Spinazzola, Simon Kjaer, or Jérémy Doku.

## Community

We need that sense of sharing, community, collective joy, disappointment, and feeling involved with something bigger than ourselves. We need to feel the experience that 'no man is an island' – and to look beyond our own island life too.

● It's not often you hear a sermon these days denouncing adultery, or attacking divorce. The priest and the pastor have become more sensitive to personal feelings, and more aware of not being judgemental about individuals – since the New Testament tells us not to judge, lest we be judged.

Yet judgement may come from other quarters – sometimes the most unexpected ones. A 75-year-old English grandmother, Jenny Tarrant, has written to *The Financial Times* – an impeccably liberal publication – explaining why she takes a 'hardline' view on the breakup of marriage, and the consequences she has observed in her own 'patchwork' family. "Two of my siblings changed spouses. One of our children has children by three different people. Our grandchildren all have half- and step-siblings the other way. So much pain. So much disruption. Have you watched a beloved child have its nest broken? Or felt the emotions of an outsider in the family as the one born to adultery? No, it is not OK!"

Such an outspoken, robust, even distressing avowal. "They say the trouble with trouble is that it starts out as fun. Add blinkers, and a parental example of brainless self-interest and one has an insecure, weakened and unhappy world that does not know right from wrong, or the meaning of love."

"The trouble with trouble is that it starts out as fun" are tough words, but I could identify with them. No hellfire preacher could have hit home with such chilling truth.

## Shakespeare's Catholic background

William Shakespeare's father was a baptised Catholic, but when the Tudors began to suppress English Catholicism, it seems that he moved prudently to conceal his faith. Dr Jonathan Foyle, an architectural historian, has found the fragments of a *Last Supper* painting on the classroom walls of Will Shakespeare's school at Stratford. But his father, John, as a town official had

it painted over, so that it was no longer visible to the authorities. The last supper was frequently depicted on images in monasteries, and it would have been strongly associated with 'Papist' traditions.

## Bio

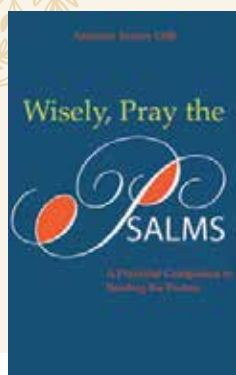
William Shakespeare was born in 1564, and by the time he was in his twenties, in the 1580s, it was certainly

not 'politically correct' to be a Catholic, and he disappeared from view for about seven years (he may have gone to Italy, or worked as a private tutor to a recusant family.) Perhaps his father, John, felt he was protecting his son from Tudor religious enforcement by occluding the image. But by the skill of modern artistic forensics, its existence has now been rediscovered.

## BOOKS TO SPARK INSPIRATION FOR THE

# Upcoming Synod

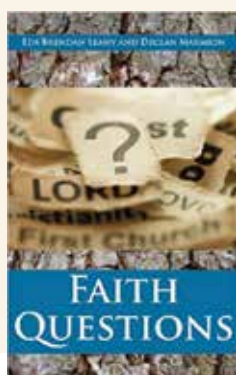
**€4.50  
FLAT RATE  
POSTAGE**



### Wisely Pray the Psalms

Explore the essential elements of the psalms including the symbols and meanings expressed in the versus to gain a deeper understanding of this section of the scriptures. Along with highlighting the value of the psalms today, Fr Ambrose also includes supplement reflections.

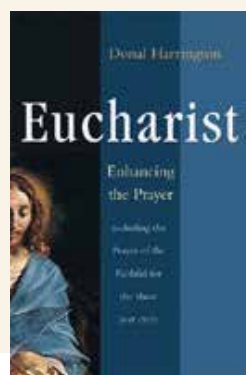
Price: €11.99



### Faith Questions

This short book offers a series of answers to some of the most commonly asked questions on faith, including: How do Christians understand faith in other religions? Are science and religion compatible? Why go to mass? *Faith Questions* is the perfect companion for those looking to expand their understanding of the Christian Faith.

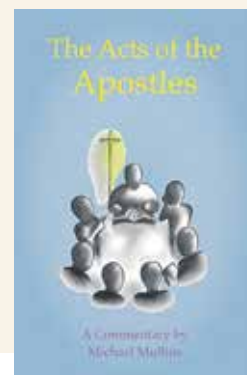
Price: €9.99



### Eucharist: Enhancing the Prayer

Much can be done during the Mass to enhance the celebration of the Eucharist. Offered here are reflections and suggestions for creating 'prayer moments' at seven different points in the liturgy to help along the journey. The book should bring about a feeling of positive evangelisation – perfect for synod inspiration!

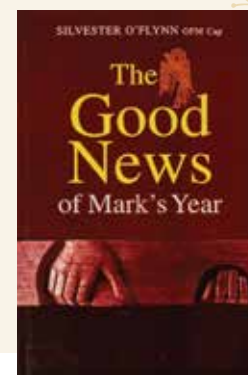
Price: €22.99



### The Acts of the Apostles

Many people are currently taking a serious interest in the scriptures and looking for reading material to deepen their spiritual understanding of the inspired Word. This commentary on the Acts of the Apostles serves as a guide to broaden knowledge of biblical scholarship.

Price: €24.99



### The Good News of Mark's Year

Fr Silvester O'Flynn's reflections to accompany the Sunday Gospels this liturgical year. For each Gospel a short introductory note is provided which puts the reading in scriptural context, the Good News is summarised and two reflections are provided. Perfect for enriching Sunday Mass.

Price: €14.99

**ORDER TODAY**

☎ 01 6874096 | 🌐 [www.columbabooks.com](http://www.columbabooks.com) | 📮 Unit 3B, Block 3, Bracken Business Park, Bracken Road, Sandyford, D18 K277



# Irish archbishop in South Africa mourns 'violent' unrest

Jason Osborne

The perceived unfairness of ex-president Jacob Zuma's jailing and hardship caused by the effects of the pandemic are behind the "violent" unrest currently taking place in South Africa, according to Irish missionary Archbishop Liam Slattery OFM.

At least 32 people have died during the unrest at the time of writing, the toll in KwaZulu-Natal province alone at 26.

"In response to this 79-year-old man, ex-president, being put in jail, he is a Zulu, from the province of Natal, KwaZulu – it's a Zulu province. Mainly in this province, people have reacted quite strongly to the jailing of this man," Archbishop Slattery explained.

Speaking to *The Irish Catholic* from South Africa, the apostolic administra-

tor of the Diocese of Mariannhill said many residents of this province have reacted to what is perceived as the injustice of Mr Zuma's jailing.

"One of their chief arguments is that many of the generals and government leaders in the old political apartheid regime simply went to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and got pardon for their offences, whereas Zuma, who was one of the leaders of the liberation.... is now being sent to jail, so this is the argument they use here in KwaZulu-Natal."

Last month saw South Africa's top court impose a 15-month term on Mr Zuma for quelling a probe into corruption during his nine years in office.

He began the sentence last Thursday, but is seeking to have the ruling set aside.

Archbishop Slattery described the reaction since then, ascribing it to

the difficulties people have endured under lockdown, too.

"What has happened since last Thursday is they've begun to react violently. First in small groups by disrupting traffic on the national roads, and this now, an awful lot of the looting has come into the whole process."

"It's worth remembering huge numbers are unemployed here, because we're at level 4 of the lockdown. We have 26-27,000 new cases every day of the coronavirus, and so people are very frustrated economically and socially at the moment. The Zulus see this as an unfair treatment of who they regard as a liberation figure."

Archbishop Slattery said it's "hard to predict" when the riots will conclude, but that the "majority of the people" are "very upset by this and they want peace and don't want this sort of insecurity".

# Wexford parish pays tribute to stalwart sacristan Joe Kinsella

Ruadhán Jones

"The beauty of human dignity" shone through the life of the long-time sacristan to Rowe Street Church in Wexford, who died suddenly June 24, said the local priest.

Fr Billy Swan said Mr Kinsella's tragic passing "has shocked us all", but his loss "unites us in sadness but also in constant prayer and hope".

Mr Kinsella was declared missing from his home shortly after 11pm June 24, and his body was found later the next day after a search.

The 74-year-old had served as sacristan in Rowe Street for more than 50 years, and was a well-established fixture in the commu-

nity, Fr Swan said.

In his homily for Mr Kinsella's funeral, June 29, Fr Swan said that "today we embrace Joe with our love and our prayer and enfold the Kinsella family with our acceptance and compassion".

"He was much loved," Fr Swan continued. "Fr James raised the very valid question of whether Joe realised how much he was loved... maybe, his biggest struggle was to love himself."

"He had his demons... for years and years he battled on and kept going as best he could with quiet dignity."

Ultimately, Fr Swan said, Mr Kinsella "allowed the beauty of human dignity to shine forth from his wounded life".

## Irish religious, charities call on Govt to address global vaccine inequity

Staff reporter

The World Health Organisation and UNAIDS have joined Irish religious orders and charities in calling the Irish Government to "take a stand for fairness" over Covid-19 vaccine inequity.

Trócaire, Oxfam Ireland, the Association of Missionaries and Religious of Ireland (AMRI) and other organisations launched the

People's Vaccine Alliance July 8, along with Dr Mike Ryan of WHO and Winnie Byanyima of UNAIDS.

Ireland should ensure that pharmaceutical companies share know-how on vaccine production, the Alliance said, by supporting the TRIPS waiver and by endorsing WHO's Covid Technology Access Pool.

"Pharmaceutical company monopolies

could leave countries in the Global South waiting years for widespread vaccination," the alliance said in a statement July 8. "This must change, so they too can protect their citizens."

The Alliance added that to produce sufficient vaccines for everyone globally, "manufacturing capacity must be greatly increased" and called on pharmaceutical companies to share their know-how.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Bishop decries break-in at Covid-19 test centre

Bishop Kevin Doran of Elphin diocese has decried a break-in at a Covid-19 pop-up test centre in Athlone, saying "it is hard to believe anyone would stoop so low".

A number of items were stolen or damaged in the centre after the building was broken into overnight late last week. Several acts of vandalism were also carried out with anyone with information encouraged to contact Athlone Garda Station.

Bishop Doran said on social media that his diocese is happy to assist the Covid-19 test centre programme by making the St Aloysius College building available as a test centre.

"It is hard to believe that anyone would stoop so low as to undermine this vital work by breaking into the test centre and stealing equipment," Bishop Doran said.

"I hope that anyone who has relevant information – and someone certainly does – will contact the Garda."

### Govt launch campaign to protect historic sites

A new Government campaign aimed at protecting heritage sites and monuments including churches has been launched after evidence of graffiti and anti-social behaviour were discovered.

The Office of Public Works (OPW) and the National Monuments Service launched 'Protect Our Past' this week. It highlights the need for visitors to Ireland's heritage sites and monuments to be mindful of their actions over the summer.

There are over 145,000 recorded archaeological monuments around the country in private and public ownership, with latest research suggesting evidence of human activity in Ireland well over 10,000 years ago.

Examples of archaeological monument types in Ireland include megalithic tombs, stone circles, standing stones, rock art, ecclesiastical enclosures, churches, graveyards, ringforts, souterrains, crannógs and castles.

This campaign aims to increase understanding and appreciation of these monuments so everyone can play a part in protecting them for the next generation. The campaign information is available on [www.gov.ie/opw/](http://www.gov.ie/opw/)

## A misty mountain view



Bishop of Killaloe Fintan Monahan makes his pilgrimage up the Reek on Croagh Patrick, where he met pilgrimage steward John O'Callaghan, July 9.



## Martin Mansergh

### The View



# The Protocol is the only possible way to secure the peace process

**T**he late Fr Denis Faul acknowledged that the one luxury he permitted himself was a television subscription that permitted him to access French and German channels. As a country, we can afford even less today to rely exclusively on the Anglo-sphere for our information. Happily, it was possible to order from a French delivery company Michel Barnier's secret diary of the Brexit negotiations into early 2020, *La Grande Illusion*.

The young Michel Barnier from Provence was an enthusiastic supporter of General Charles de Gaulle. He is conscious that General de Gaulle, when he resigned from the presidency of France in 1969, spent several weeks in Ireland, the country of McCartan ancestors from Co. Down in the maternal line, and memorably in Derrynane, home of Daniel O'Connell. While strongly committed to the European Union, in the spirit of Gaullism Mr Barnier is not a Euro-federalist. The EU is about helping 27 distinct nations to survive and prosper, facing global challenges together. Earlier as Regional Affairs Commissioner, he visited, to know this whole island well and to like it. This familiarity was certainly an advantage when he was chosen to lead the Brexit negotiations for the EU.

### Result

One result of Brexit is that unfortunately Ireland and Britain are no longer EU partners. Ireland would not have been able to join the EEC without Britain, but, once in, ploughed its own furrow, having a quite different attitude and interests in relation to both the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and the level of regional policy funding needed by poorer members. Within five years of entry, parity between the Irish pound and sterling was broken, when the European Exchange Rate Mechanism, a precursor to the single currency, was agreed. The Irish State no longer wished to be so tied to the fluctuating fortunes of the British economy.

Bilateral relations warmed considerably as a result of the peace process and the close rapport that was necessary between Irish and



Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier meeting then Pope Benedict XVI at the Vatican in 2013. Photo: *L'Osservatore Romano*

British political leaders. The two countries shared the belief that tax rules in the EU should be subject to unanimity. Since Brexit, Ireland's primary orientation is the EU and the US, as we are a valuable access point to the EU for the mainly US multinational sector based here.

While there is much worry about potential loss of revenue and employment, should we have to join the international consensus on raising the minimum level of corporation tax, the cost of that would be far less significant than if the Irish State could no longer access the single market in the absence of the Protocol, or if we decided to follow Britain outside the EU.

### “He queries the broad-brush rhetoric of ‘Global Britain’”

There was a fear in the immediate aftermath of Brexit that Ireland's difficulties might be overlooked in the departure negotiations between Britain and the EU. Instead, as Mr Barnier's diary reflects, they became central to the negotiation, with the EU determined to minimise collateral damage to the peace process and to protect the integrity of the single market and Ireland's place within it. They did not accept any obligation to be neutral between

a country that had decided to leave and one determined to stay. Mr Barnier was particularly effective by constant and indefatigable shuttle diplomacy between the capitals of the 27 in ensuring that divide-and-rule tactics, still being attempted over the Protocol, did not work.

Mr Barnier pays tribute to Chancellor Angela Merkel for her tenacity, her simplicity, her desire to see things in detail, while taking time to understand them properly. He queries the broad-brush rhetoric of ‘Global Britain’, asking what prevented it from being that up till now, and objecting that Germany is just as much ‘Global Germany’ inside the European Union.

### Achievements

Early on in his diary, he summarises the EU's achievements as follows. Shared post-war reconstruction was the best guarantee of a durable peace. The CAP provides food security, preserved landscape diversity, and made products traceable. Commission President Jacques Delors' cohesion policy has helped less-favoured regions to catch up. The single market encourages company expansion. The Euro provides some protection from US dollar hegemony. In addition, 100 million EU citizens were freed from dictatorships.

On a visit to America in 2018, he was received at a high level by the administration. All

he met considered that the UK in quitting the EU was acting against its own interests. From the perspective of American interests, there is a big difference between a European single market of 450 million people and a British market of 60 million.

Northern Ireland has exceptionally been afforded the right of continued access to the European single market and customs union, while remaining part of the UK economy. This special arrangement provides great economic opportunities, which many NI businesses wish to take advantage of, and nor do they want a disruption of all-island economic integration already achieved. Scotland would love to have the same facility. Most of

the costs and inconvenience associated with the Protocol can be ironed out in constructive negotiation. The original *Governance of Ireland Act 1920* envisaged in a number of spheres the continuation of an all-island economy, and this was effectively reinstated in the Good Friday Agreement. For most of the last 100 years, trade levels were well below those that would be normal between friendly contiguous territories, something needing correction.

The Protocol is the only possible way to reconcile cutting Britain's moorings to the EU; preventing a hard Brexit, in Mr Barnier's words, from re-creating a hard border in Ireland,

which would be unworkable without public consent; and protecting both the peace process and the integrity of the European single market and respecting Ireland's absolute right and determination to stay part of it. No constitutional change or loosening is involved, only a degree of pragmatism.

### Bumptiousness

Sunday saw Rome rule at Wembley. Italy deserved the break. The bumptiousness associated with Brexit had an off-putting effect for many people. The centenary of the Truce was marked by a simple and dignified plaque at the monument in Sologhead placed by the Third Tipperary Old IRA Commemoration Committee.



## Have your say SYNOD SOAPBOX

The Church in Ireland is moving towards holding a national synod in the next five years. It is part of the vision of Pope Francis of laypeople, religious, priests and bishops working together to discern where God is leading the Church and charting a future vision for Irish Catholicism.

As part of the process, The Irish Catholic wants to give a space for readers to share hopes and dreams for the future of the Church and what they would like to see as part of the synod process. The 'synod soapbox' will appear regularly in the paper as a space for dialogue and discernment.

If you would like to be part of the conversation, please send a submission of no more than 300 words to [editor@irishcatholic.ie](mailto:editor@irishcatholic.ie)



# Voluntary contribution 'necessary' without more State funding, say Catholic schools bodies

**Ruadhán Jones**

After TDs called for an end to voluntary contributions in schools, Catholic schools' bodies hit back, saying "nobody wants to fundraise for necessities, but schools have to".

Ireland spends less than either the European Union or the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) average on education, Seamus Mulconry told *The Irish Catholic*.

## Contributions

"The only reason we have the contributions is that around 50% of running costs are supplied by the Govern-

ment and the rest has to be made up somewhere," Mr Mulconry, secretary general of the Catholic Primary Schools Management Association (CPSMA), continued.

"Nobody wants to fundraise for necessities, but schools have to."

**"The bill implies a division between students/parents and schools"**

His comments came after a Dáil debate on the *Education (Student and Parent Charter) Bill 2019* centred on the schools seeking voluntary contributions from parents to fund running costs.

Mr Mulconry said the practice is "not sustainable", but to abolish them, schools would need increased funding "so that the State at least supplies schools with enough to cover running costs".

"People don't understand how little is spent on primary schools," Mr Mulconry said.

## Agree

Catholic secondary schools' bodies agree, with 30% of funding at second level coming through voluntary contributions.

"Where there is that gap, we have to make it up," said Mr John Curtis, of the Joint Managerial Body/Association of Management of Catholic Secondary Schools

(JMBAMCSS).

Mr Curtis added they have "no issue" engaging on the subject, but to phase out the contribution would need more State funding.

Speaking about the *Education (Student and Parent Charter) Bill 2019* itself, Mr Mulconry also added that they have "concerns" over the bill's wording.

"The bill implies a division between students/parents and schools," Mr Mulconry said. "But schools aren't buildings or a service provider, they are a community and everybody within it has rights and responsibilities. The bill would be better called 'the school community charter' to reflect this."

# Gratitude given to Our Lady after Argentina claims football victory

**Chai Brady**

The Basilica of Our Lady of Luján in Argentina gave thanks to Our Lady after Argentina's victory over Brazil in the Copa América football championship.

Taking to Twitter, the basilica said "with great joy and gratitude we salute" Selección de fútbol de Argentina [Argentina's national football team] for their win. They added: "We give thanks to Our Lady of Luján."

Argentina's 1-0 win over hosts Brazil in the Copa America final took place on Sunday, July 11.

The victory in Rio de Janeiro ended Argentina's 28-year wait for a major trophy and ended Brazil's almost seven-year unbeaten home record.

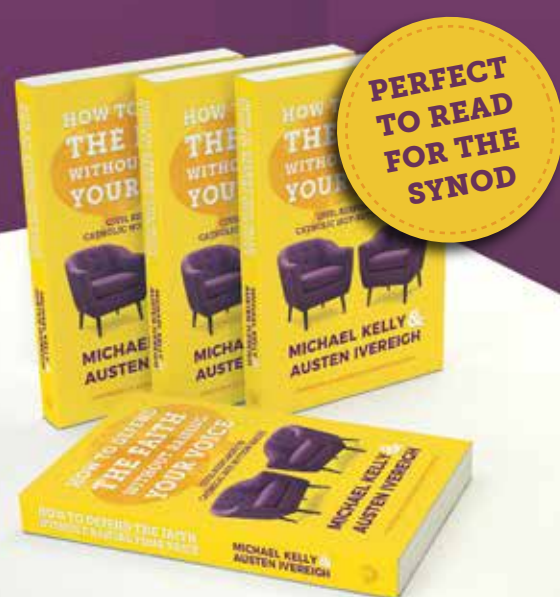
Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni said: "It's a great title, especially for our people. The fans support the team unconditionally. I think they can identify with this team that never gives in."

## Dreamt

Man of the match and goal scorer Ángel Di María said: "We fell short so many times, we dreamt so much about this, fought so hard. Many people said we wouldn't manage it, we were criticised a lot. But we kept knocking at the door and kept going until... we knocked it down and entered."

Argentina's last major tournament success was in 1993 in a 2-1 win over Mexico in the Copa final in Ecuador.

## How to Defend the Faith Without Raising Your Voice



**The** book to answer some of the most common criticisms of Catholicism and help Catholics and non-Catholics alike to understand where the church is coming from on controversial topics like abortion, euthanasia, same-sex marriage and the use of condoms in the fight against HIV.

PRICE: €14.99 + €4.50 P&P



**ORDER TODAY**

☎ 01 6874096 or

🌐 [www.columbabooks.com](http://www.columbabooks.com)

## Church pays respects to military dead on truce anniversary



Bishop Cullinan pictured with Waterford Mayor Joe Kelly and friends as they commemorate those who died in wars and serving the UN, July 11.

**Jason Osborne**

"Blessed are the peacemakers," Archbishop Dermot Farrell of Dublin said Sunday, July 11, as he prayed for "all who seek to resolve differences and conflict through peacekeeping, respectful dialogue and negotiation instead of resorting to violence and oppression".

Last weekend saw the National Day of Commemoration held in Collins Barracks, in honour of the men and women who died in past wars or in service with the United Nations.

Archbishop Farrell thanked God for the "freedom and stability we enjoy because of their self-giving," continuing, "You can have no greater love

than to lay down your life for your friends.

"With reverence and profound respect, we prayerfully remember those Irishmen and Irishwomen who gave their lives in past wars or on service with the United Nations... May God's tender mercy embrace them and sustain those who mourn them."



# Pope Francis: Climate change 'causing immense hardship for the most vulnerable among us'



Korea.net / Korean Culture and Information Service / CC BY-SA / www.creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0

Extreme weather causing widespread droughts and floods, destroying crops and food supplies in world's most vulnerable countries.

**T**he Pope expressed concern over the increasing intensity and frequency of extreme weather phenomena and the desertification of the soil. With climate change related hunger and malnutrition increasing, Pope Francis warned, "We have caused a climate emergency that gravely threatens nature and life itself, including our own."

The Pope made his comments as part of a written appeal for the 'World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation'.

**Worldwide, droughts and floods have more than doubled since the early 1990's with Africa particularly badly affected.**

An increase in droughts – combined with ongoing conflict and unemployment – means dry spells have an increasingly destructive impact on people living in already vulnerable communities. Such as those in Niger, Western Africa where 80% of the population relies on agriculture for their livelihoods.

This year droughts and floods have already caused a 12% drop in cereal production in Niger compared with the already poor yields of 2018/19. 2.7 million people are now projected to be in severe acute food insecurity – urgently needing food if they are to survive.

**“Listen to the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor, who suffer most because of the unbalanced ecology.”**

**– Pope Francis**

Since 1968 Irish charity Concern Worldwide has worked around the world helping alleviate hunger caused by natural or man-made disasters. Over this period climate change has become one of the key drivers of hunger.

In 2019 alone, Concern helped 28.6m people in 24 of the world's poorest

countries – including Niger.

Concern doesn't just provide emergency food to those affected by hunger. The charity continues to work alongside communities so they are able to feed themselves long into the future.

*People's lives are transformed when they are equipped and empowered to do it for themselves. This is how real progress is made.*

One of Concern's most vital funding sources – on which it absolutely depends – is gifts in the Wills of its supporters. These gifts ensure Concern will always be there for people in need of a helping hand.

## What Concern's help looks like

In Niger life is a *constant* struggle for survival. A struggle which becomes almost impossible during the annual 'hunger gap'.

*Causing untold suffering, the annual hunger gap is a desperate period.* Food from the last harvest has run out and it will be months until more is available.

During this time, normal life grinds to a halt. Children leave education to help with agricultural chores at home. Adults travel anywhere they can to find work to earn even the smallest amount to support their families.

Every day becomes a terrifying battle to find food.

The hunger gap used to last 3 months, ending when the harvest was ready. But *climate change has made this terrible problem much worse*, with infrequent rainfall and rising temperatures drastically reducing crops.

As a result this torturous period now lasts 5 months from April to September, with people spending almost half their year struggling to stay alive.

And Covid-19 has further exacerbated an already dreadful situation. Restricted movement and border closures are impacting supplies to local markets, pushing prices up. Now even those who manage to work can't buy food because it's too expensive. Seeds for next season's crops are also being affected by these shortages. This means the pandemic's

deadly effects will be felt next year too.

**Vulnerable families, who already have little to eat, are in grave danger.**

But thanks to gifts in Wills, Concern is able to immediately support families in desperate need and equip them to support themselves long into the future.

For families affected by climate change in countries like Niger, one of the ways this is achieved is by providing communities with drought-resistant seeds, *proven* to yield more food ... the tools needed to farm their land ... and training to adopt climate-smart techniques. For example, crop rotation and composting to keep the soil in the best condition. And methods to capture and keep as much rain as possible.

Thanks to generous people leaving Concern a gift in their Wills, families can now grow their own food in their own vegetable gardens. The food they're growing now will feed them this year. **The knowledge and skills they gain will make sure they have enough food to eat every year from now on.**

Chawada Aboubacar is a mother of five. Thanks to her own hard work and support from Concern, she now has a thriving kitchen garden of her own. Her family own a small piece of land where they grow the grain, millet. When it runs out between harvests, it used to be a struggle to provide the food they needed to survive.

But Chawada now grows tomatoes, onions, cabbage and carrots in her kitchen garden. This garden will provide nutritious food for her family this year and for years to come. Keeping her children safe from hunger so they can thrive.

*"We will start eating cabbage, carrot and lettuce in one month and then the onion in about six weeks. This garden helps me and my family. It makes me happy."*

– Chawada Aboubacar  
Having enough food prevents life threatening malnutrition, meaning Chawada and her children have the opportunity to live long and happy lives. What's more, any surplus food from

the kitchen garden can be sold, giving the family money to buy other nutritious food and essential items.

Best of all, a regular, dependable source of food means Chawada's children don't have to work on the

Your gift ensures your legacy lives on, supporting Concern to help people like Chawada and her family long into the future.

Many who do leave a gift in their Will have been so affected by the suffering of



Photo: Apsatou Bagaya / Concern Worldwide

**With Concern worker Mounkaila's help, Chawada can now grow food to help her family survive.**

land and can go back to school. Getting the education essential for a brighter future for them.

By passing on the skills she has gained to her children, Chawada is ensuring they will be self-sufficient in the future; able to provide for both their own families and the wider community – helping to pull everyone out of poverty.

## Be part of a world without hunger

**“What would induce anyone ... only to be remembered for their inability to take action when it was so urgent and necessary to do so?”**

**– Pope Francis**

As you've just seen, gifts in Wills transform lives both immediately and long into the future.

Won't you help Concern fight poverty and hunger – to end it in some of the world's poorest communities – by leaving a life changing gift in your Will?

the world's poorest, most vulnerable families, they have chosen to make a lasting commitment: to be part of a world without hunger.

***"I have two children and if they were in need, I would hope that somebody, somewhere would reach out to help them. With my legacy, I will be that person for somebody's loved ones – you could be too."*** – Fiona, Co. Louth

To discover more about how leaving a gift in your Will transforms and saves lives, please request your complimentary copy of 'Be Part of a World Without Hunger', Concern's legacy booklet.

Inside you'll see how legacies left by people like you are helping the world's poorest people. Both today and for years to come.

The booklet also answers many of the common questions people have about leaving a gift in their Will. And explains how to start the process.

Of course requesting your free booklet does not oblige you to leave a gift, or do anything else.

***"Moments of kindness shine in the darkness and give so much comfort – that's the final gift I intend to leave to the world."***

– James, Co. Wicklow

To receive your free, no obligation booklet – in complete confidence – please contact Concern's Legacy Manager, Siobhán O'Connor. Call **01 417 8020**, email **siobhan.oconnor@concern.net**, or visit **www.concern.net/bequest**



**CONCERN**  
worldwide

**ENDING EXTREME POVERTY  
WHATEVER IT TAKES**



# Chaplaincy hosts low-key Queen's



James McKenna.



Anna Foy.

● Another graduation season has come and gone under Covid-19 restrictions, and whilst the traditional ceremonies could not take place – Queen's University, Belfast made available graduation hoods and gowns for students to celebrate privately with family and friends.  
The Catholic Chaplaincy at Queen's hosted a small reception to toast the success of students.



Niamh Brennan and Medbh McIlvenny.



Anna Foy with parents Tony and Sheena Foy.



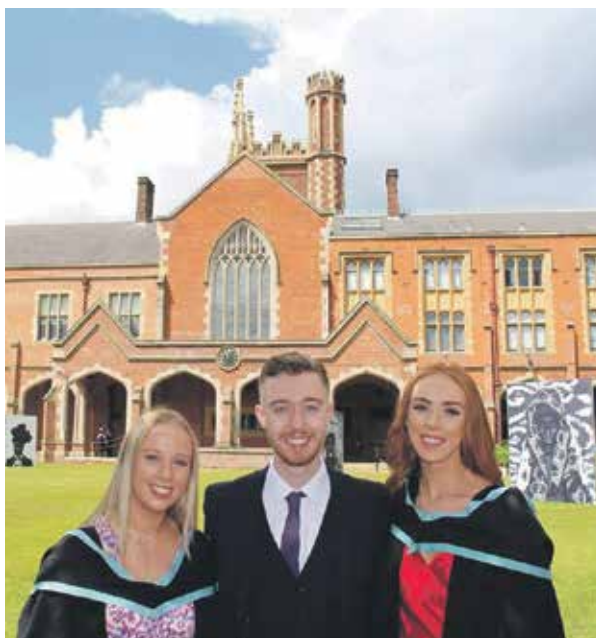
Amy Murphy and pastoral manager Shannon Campbell.



Shannon Campbell and Eimear McErlane (teaching).



Fr McGrattan with local parish priest Fr Edward O'Donnell.



Amy Murphy, Ruairi Crummey and Shannon Campbell.



Emily Nelson.



QUB Chaplain Fr Dominic McGrattan, Amy Murphy, Shannon Campbell and James McKenna.



# graduation celebrations



Students were able to enjoy refreshments in lieu of the traditional graduation reception.



James McKenna and Ruairi Crummev.



Anna Nelson.




Alice Mackle and Amy Murphy.



Eimear McErlane, Medbh McIlvenny, Amy Murphy, Niamh Brennan and Shannon Campbell.

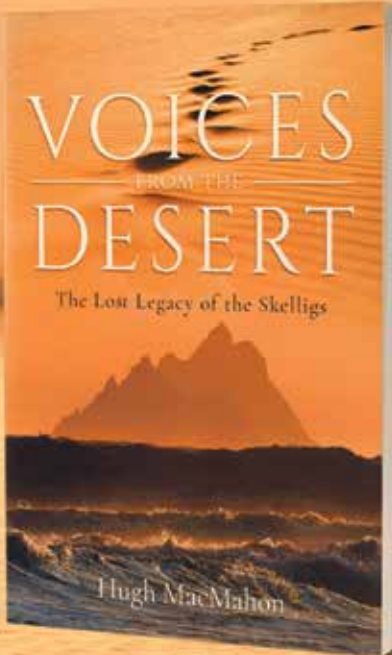


The chaplaincy team Fr McGrattan and Shannon.

NEW FROM  **columba** BOOKS

## VOICES FROM THE DESERT

The Lost Legacy of the Skelligs



The legacy of Skelligs and other famous monastic settlements in Ireland is remarkably brought to life in the writings of a young monk who travelled the deserts of Egypt to discover the origins and practices of the movement which inspired them.

Despite the many visible changes in the world, the inner hopes and struggles of humans remain unchanged.

Individuals looking for a fresh view of what it means to be a Christian, or to understand the Skelligs' legacy, will appreciate its authenticity, clarity and relevance.

PRICE: **€14.99 + €4.50P&P**

**PREORDER TODAY**

Estimated Shipping Date August 6 | 01 6874096 | [www.columbabooks.com](http://www.columbabooks.com)

Unit 3B, Block 3, Bracken Business Park, Bracken Road, Sandyford, D18 K277



# SVP says an Ireland without poverty can be a reality



Fundamental reform of the Irish economy can benefit everyone the Catholic agency insists, writes **Michael Kelly**

**T**he Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP) has proposed a package of reforms beginning with the forthcoming budget that the agency believes would lay the foundation for a future without poverty in Ireland.

Entitled 'Foundations for an Equal Ireland' the SVP submission includes proposals for further investment in education, housing, energy, climate justice and income adequacy.

The budget is due to be presented to the Dáil on Tuesday October 12.

Its five main pillars it claims can eliminate poverty are:

- Adequate social welfare that meets people's minimum essential needs;
- Access to decent work, a living wage for workers and supporting parental employment;
- Quality public services that support the well-being of people, society, and the economy;
- A just transition to a low carbon society;



Rose McGowan

- Poverty proofing of all economic and social policy including budgetary decisions;

SVP claims that these actions would put the Republic on a path to deliver a society where the quality of life for all is improved and where the experience of poverty is the exception, rather than the experience it is for hundreds of thousands of people right now.

## Details

In introducing the details of the SVP pre-budget submission 2022 Rose McGowan, SVP national president insisted that: "We must not return

to the pre-pandemic 'normality' where almost a quarter of children are experiencing deprivation; where thousands of people have nowhere to call home and many more are experiencing hidden homelessness doubling up with friends and family or living in poor quality housing; where over 240,000 people cannot afford to heat their homes and where a young person from a disadvantaged area has a less than one-in-seven chance of going to third level education.

"In a compassionate and just society, we put things right, not just now for those who need it

but also in the future. Budget 2022 must lay the foundations to give everyone the opportunity to thrive," she said.

**"In a compassionate and just society, we put things right, not just now for those who need it but also in the future"**

Dr Tricia Keilthy, SVP head of social justice added her belief that: "The public health crisis has shown us how exhausting it can be to live in a survival mode all the time. For people in poverty this struggle started long before this pandemic. The impact of living in poverty is multi-dimensional, taking a physical, psychological, and social toll on the lives of children and adults.

"For children, even short-term exposure to poverty can have a long-term impact. It can limit their opportunities and make it more difficult to realise their full

emotional, educational, and social potential," she said.

## Poverty

Dr Keilthy said as well as the moral need to lift people out of poverty, there is also a strong argument for the overall benefits to society and the economy if poverty can be prevented in the first place.

She pointed to *The Hidden Cost of Poverty* report published last year which put the estimated cost of poverty to the State at between €4-5 billion every year, which is more than the respective annual Government budgets for housing, justice, transport and agriculture.

Dr Keilthy warned that: "The levels of poverty in Ireland prior to the pandemic and the uneven impact the pandemic has had on Irish society underlines the need for Government to pursue the right kind of recovery in Budget 2022.

"This requires increased upfront spending now, so that we can reduce expenditure on mitigating the effects of poverty in the long term," she said.

## SELECTION OF KEY PROPOSALS

### HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

- Provide funding for the building of 10,000 social homes provided by local authorities and approved housing bodies and 5,000 affordable cost rental homes;
- Ensure Government departments work together to identify households at risk of losing their rented accommodation;
- Support children experiencing homelessness by providing a discretionary fund to meet the needs of children with additional needs experiencing homelessness and by ensuring every child experiencing homelessness has a child support worker available to them.

### EDUCATION

- End 'voluntary' contributions in non-fee paying schools and make schoolbooks free for all primary and secondary students. Begin by restoring capitation rates to 2010 levels;
- Make SUSI fit for purpose by reviewing the income thresholds and means test to qualify for SUSI in line with average incomes and poverty thresholds and increasing the value of the maintenance grant levels in line with the cost of living;
- Expand eligibility for the SUSI grant to part-time students studying in publicly-funded further and higher education and training institutions to provide financial support to non-traditional, mature, and part-time learners.

### INCOME ADEQUACY

- Begin to close the gap between social welfare rates and the costs facing households by investing in both core rates and the qualified child increase to improve overall household income;
- Increase the personal rate of social welfare by €9.80 per week with a €10 increase for children aged over 12 and a €2.10 increase for under 12;
- Provide funding to support the implementation of the white paper on ending direct provision and increase daily allowance rates by increasing them in line with social welfare payments.

### ENERGY AND CLIMATE JUSTICE

- Extend the fuel allowance from 28 to 32 weeks;
- Recognise reducing energy poverty as an objective in national retrofitting plan and target the deep retrofitting of social tenancies and improvements in the private rented sector;
- Invest in the rural transport programme and develop a budget line to implement the rural transport commitments set out in Our Rural Future, thereby increasing the range of public transport options, promoting social inclusion for those in rural areas, and incentivising greater public transport usage.





# Still needed: an Irish Christian Democracy

German Chancellor Angela Merkel is arguably the most powerful politician in Europe and unapologetic about her Christian Democratic values. Photo: CNS



It is doubtful whether a party with the word Christian in the title would even see the light of day in Ireland, writes **David Quinn**

**T**he new leader of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) in Germany is a man named Armin Laschet. He will be unfamiliar to the vast majority of Irish people, but he is now in charge of what is arguably the most powerful political party in Europe. He has taken over the leadership from Angela Merkel, who retains her job as chancellor and is retiring soon. An election is due in Germany in September, and it is possible Mr Laschet will succeed her as chancellor also, in which case he will be the most powerful politician in Europe. Then we will hear a lot more of him.

The CDU, and its sister organisation, the Christian Social Union,

which has its electoral base in southern Germany, are the last two major parties in Europe that still have the word 'Christian' in their titles. It is doubtful whether a party with their names would even see the light of day in Ireland, such is the present climate here.

Indeed, it is doubtful if someone like Armin Laschet himself would get anywhere near a position of real seniority in any of our main political parties because of his views on various social issues. He was against same-sex marriage, for example, even though he now accepts it as a fact of life. But he still believes "a union between a man and a woman is the best and most dependable basis for a successful family".

## Major politician

What major politician in Ireland would dare to say such a thing?

His most influential adviser, Nathaniel Liminski, is a member of Opus Dei. That would have commentators here reaching for the smelling salts.

At a recent conference in Brussels, Mr Laschet, a practicing Catholic himself, said: "Catholics have a drive to shape things on a global level; embedded in the papacy, we are rarely nationalists".

He was obviously explaining why he has an internationalist outlook, but in Ireland what major politician would utter the sentiment, "Catholics have a drive to shape things?" Here, we think religion is best left inside the four walls of your home or church.

Mr Laschet, on the other hand, knows Catholics have as much right, as non-Catholics, to try and shape the world of affairs as anyone else.

In Ireland, such views would have him branded 'fundamentalist' and 'hard-right', even though

in Germany, and elsewhere in Europe, he is considered a centrist in the style of Angela Merkel and a committed European determined to defeat nationalist attempts to undermine the EU.

His nearest political equivalent in Ireland is probably John Bruton, who is long retired from politics and who, in today's climate, would probably find it very hard to get to the top of Fine Gael.

The Dublin Bay South by-election has been endlessly dissected since Labour's Ivana Bacik emerged victorious last week.

Ms Bacik is a long-time campaigner for abortion on extremely liberal and permissive grounds. She also supports euthanasia.

**“Their candidate attracted only 4.8% of the first preference votes, leading to more soul-searching in that party”**

Her victory is being interpreted as a sort of reward from one of Ireland's more liberal constituencies for her campaigning work down the years, although in last year's general election, in the same constituency, Fine Gael's Kate O'Connell lost her seat despite being a vociferous opponent of the Eighth Amendment.

The pro-life Aontú party won 2.8% of the first preference votes as against Ms Bacik's 30.2%. But this was about the same as Solidarity/People-Before Profit, despite all the

publicity they receive, and it is not much less than the 3.2% won by the Social Democrats, who also have a very favourable media profile.

Does Aontú's share of the vote mean that only 2.8% of Dublin Bay South voters are pro-life? No, because 21.5% of voters in that constituency voted to keep the Eighth Amendment in 2018.

It is simply a fact that voters rarely have social issues uppermost in their minds when voting in general elections or by-elections.

A feature of the by-election is that the governing parties did very badly. Fine Gael lost the seat it held. The 'Green Wave' faded to a ripple, and Fianna Fáil fared worst of all. Their candidate attracted only 4.8% of the first preference votes, leading to more soul-searching in that party.

We can be certain of one thing; Fianna Fáil will not go in a Christian Democrat direction.

## Christian Democracy

But what is 'Christian Democracy'? It's worth reminding ourselves. It emerged in the late 19th century and was shaped by some of the papal encyclicals of that era. It offered a sort of 'third way' between socialism and unbridled capitalism and was successful for a very long time, especially in countries like Germany and Italy.

It has traditionally been pro-family and pro-life. It favours State intervention where needed, but defends private property. It also defends the right of parents to choose the kind of education they want for their children.

The group of parties in the European Parliament that mostly have their roots in Christian Democracy is the European People's Party (EPP).

The influence of Christian Democracy, even if very faded, was still to be seen in the EPP's manifesto for the European Parliament elections in 2019.

It said: "What makes Europe unique in the world is our rich cultural heritage, our shared history and our common Judeo-Christian roots".

Try to imagine Fine Gael or Fianna Fáil saying that.

**“A 'third way' between unbridled capitalism and socialism is still need”**

Elsewhere the manifesto stated: "We have to protect our European way of life by preserving our Christian values and fundamental principles."

Such a statement is equally unimaginable here.

This is a disaster for Ireland, politically and socially. A Christian Democratic Party does not have to call itself that. It can call itself 'Aontú', if it wants. But the blend of policies and political philosophy it offers is as relevant as ever.

The present political tide in Ireland will have to change again before people are ready for Christian Democratic-style answers to our problems, but a 'third way' between unbridled capitalism and socialism is still needed, as is a politics that seeks to remedy the dire, inhuman effects of the unbridled social individualism now dominant in Ireland.



# ‘Come away and rest a little...’

## The Sunday Gospel

Fr Silvester O'Flynn OFM Cap.



I will always remember the first time I had to preach to a Sunday Mass congregation. All the prayers at Mass were then in Latin which very few understood, and the priest had his back to the people most of the time. I turned around to face the people for the sermon. The Gospel reading (Mark 6:30-34) was the one we have today. What struck me most was where Jesus looked with compassion on the people because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he set himself to teach them at some length. Was this for me an inkling of what my future should be like, looking at people with compassion and guiding them with the light of God's word? Fifty-five years later I think I wouldn't get great marks in compassion but I'd be happy enough in sharing God's word. That's enough about me.

### Come away and rest a little

Last Sunday our Gospel was about Jesus sending out the apostles in pairs for their first experience of preaching and healing. It was a great success. Obviously, they were over the moon with excitement, thrilled at the success of all they had done and taught. They could not wait for their next mission. How surprised they must have been when Jesus, instead of sending them out, did the exact opposite. They were so busy that they scarcely had time to eat. "You must come away to some lonely place by yourselves and rest a little." There must be a balance between activity and restfulness, between involvement with people and being alone.

There are two ways of being alone: loneliness or

solitude. Loneliness is the empty way of being alone: it is an emptiness which cries out for friendship. Solitude, on the other hand, creates a space for growth, for development in creativity and serenity. Above all, solitude creates more space for God in our lives - "Be still and know that I am God."

### Near restful waters he leads me

The responsorial psalm today is the beautiful shepherd-psalm. I love the image of the restful waters. In the land of the Bible, sheep pastured on the rocky mountainsides, allowing the fertile lowlands for crops and vines. In contrast to other animals, sheep need very little water. Apparently, they cannot drink from the swiftly flowing water of the mountain streams, so the shepherd has to find a still pool or create one with a dam of stones.

### “Little things can mean a lot, like having a meal with others instead of a snack alone”

The flowing water is an image of our busy time. Although God is everywhere, we find it hard to drink of the divine presence if the pace is hectic. We need the pool of still time, the quiet corner, the period of solitude. It is there that our drooping spirit is revived. Unless we regularly come apart, we run the risk of being torn apart.

### He guides me along the right path

It sometimes happens that our best made plans go astray. When Jesus and his disciples reached the place intended for their quiet retreat, they found the area packed with people seeking Jesus. Being a man of deep peace, he was not upset when his plan had to be changed. When he looked at the people, he took pity on them because they were like sheep without a

shepherd, and he set himself to teach them at some length. Once more he was fulfilling the role of the good shepherd. "He guides me along the right path, he is true to his name." The time we come apart, our moments of solitude offer the ideal space for listening to the guidance of God's word in sacred scripture. What is Jesus saying to me? Is he consoling me, challenging me, directing my way or instructing me? Many false shepherds are leading people down the wrong road today. The good shepherd is the true guide. He is the way, the truth and the life.

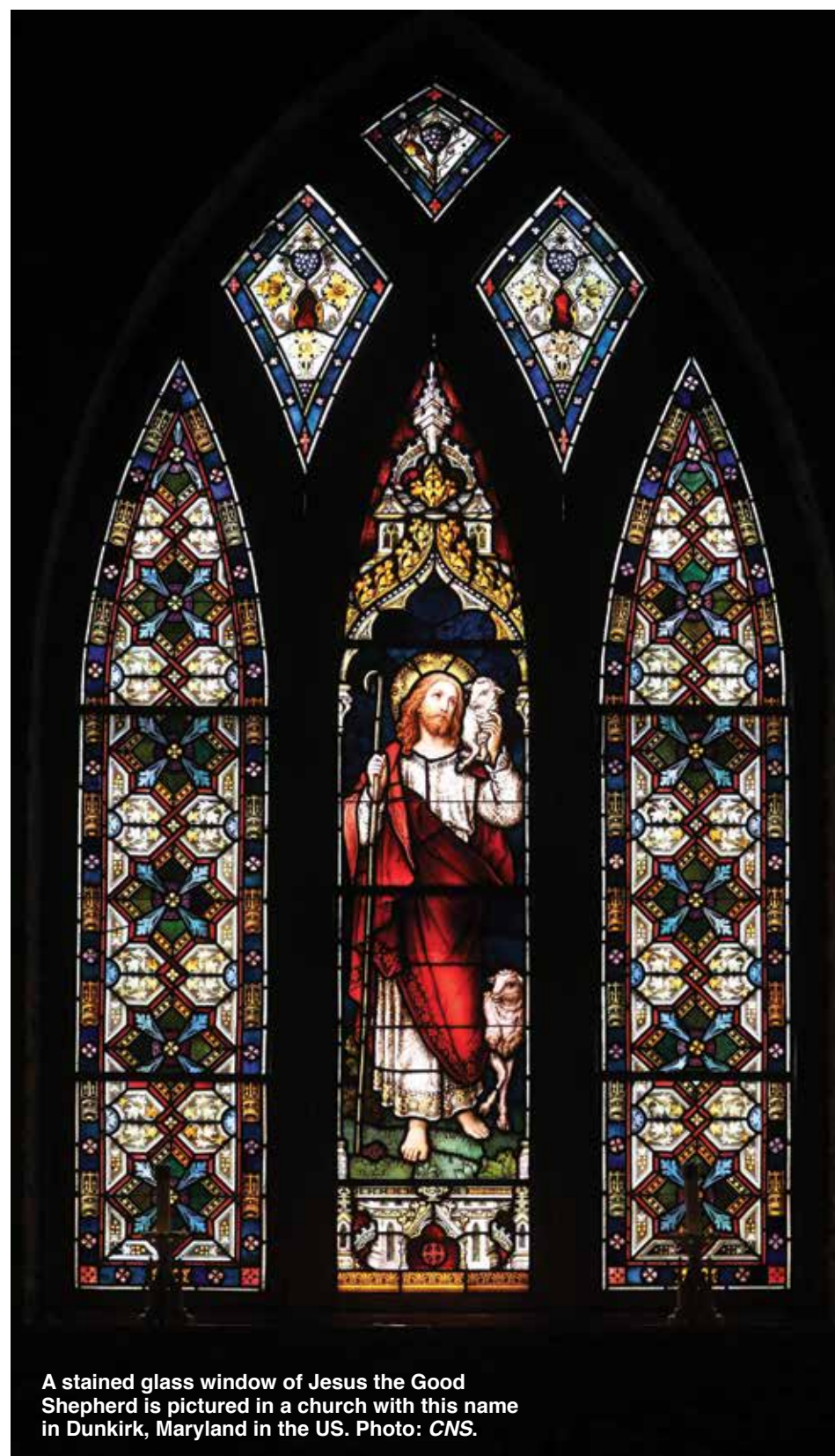
### They had no time even to eat

Life is hectic and loud today. We ask ourselves where has the week gone? It's July already, half the year has gone! The pace, pressure, productivity and profitability of business leave very little time for family, friends, fantasy and leisure. When busy-ness takes over, even recreation is called a work-out. And a work-out it is for the walker or jogger who is bossed by the stop-watch and every step is counted by the odometer. Is there space for the mind to listen to the chirping of a bird, to catch the scent of a hidden flower, to hear the gurgling of a stream or to be startled by a shaft of sunlight through the trees. Leisurely exercise feeds all the senses. I thank you, Lord, for the wonders of all your creation.

Little things can mean a lot, like having a meal with others instead of a snack alone. Sitting at a table instead of standing at a counter, using a teapot instead of bag-in-cup, placing a saucer under a cup.

What the world needs most of all are people of vision, contemplatives and people of true holiness to restore the big picture of life.

"They were like sheep without a shepherd, so he set himself to teach them at some length."



A stained glass window of Jesus the Good Shepherd is pictured in a church with this name in Dunkirk, Maryland in the US. Photo: CNS.

### Prayer

Be still and know that I am God.

Give yourself the gift of time and space where you can listen to God.

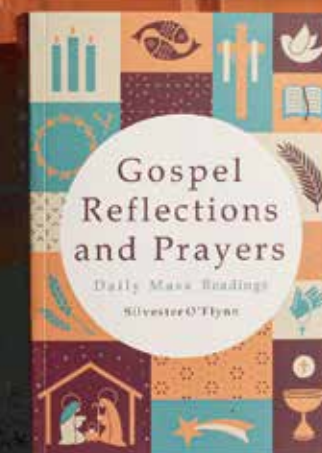
Gaze at the face of Jesus as he looks at us with compassion.

Allow yourself to be loved by God.

“What the world needs most of all are people of vision, contemplatives and people of true holiness to restore the big picture of life”

## More of Fr Silvester's Gospel Reflections

ARE AVAILABLE



ORDER  
Gospel  
Reflections  
and Prayers  
TODAY

€19.99  
+€4.50 P&P

columba BOOKS

Phone 01 6874096 | Visit [www.columbabooks.com](http://www.columbabooks.com)





Rumours out of Rome have upset traditionalists around the world, but the situation may not be as bad as feared, writes **Jason Osborne**

**R**umours have been swirling over the past two months concerning possible restrictions on the celebration of Mass in the Extraordinary Form.

The Catholic News Agency (CNA) reported that a source within the Congregation for the Divine Worship told that a document may soon be issued which would modify Pope emeritus Benedict XVI's *motu proprio Summorum Pontificum*.

*Summorum Pontificum* saw the celebration of the Mass liberalised, according to the Missal of St John XXIII. In a letter to bishops accompanying the *motu proprio* in 2007, then-Pope Benedict held that, "in the history of the liturgy there is growth and progress, but no rupture. What earlier generations held as sacred, remains sacred and great for us too, and it cannot be all of a sudden entirely forbidden or even considered harmful".

CNA's source within the congregation suggested that the modifications would restore the need to get the permission of the local bishop to celebrate the traditional Mass.

**"I don't know where these rumours start, but they go around and they cause a lot of confusion and a lot of hurt"**

The rumours have sparked resistance from advocates for and devotees to Traditional Latin Mass (TLM), with the International Federation Una Voce (FIUV) issuing a statement in defence of the widespread celebration of the ancient rite.

### Suppressed

There are "still people within the Church, including some bishops, who would like to see the Extraordinary Form of the Roman rite explicitly suppressed, or subject to further restrictions," the statement read.

"Today we only wish to be part of that 'great orchestra' of 'unity in variety' which, as Pope Francis said, reflects the true catholicity of the Church. The Apostolic Letter *Summorum Pon-*



A priest celebrates a Tridentine high Mass in this 2007 file photo. Photo: CNS.

*tificum* continues to transform the conflicts of the past into harmony: long may it to continue to do so."

An international body bringing together associations of lay Faithful attached to the Extraordinary Form of the Roman rite, FIUV offered the results of a worldwide survey which suggested the positive effects of normalisation of TLM.

### Context

In the Irish context, worry has also been stirred up about the potential restrictions on the older form of celebration. However, curate of Blarney parish and populariser of TLM in Ireland, Fr Gabriel Burke urged calm instead.

"I learned a long time ago not to pay attention to rumours that come out of Rome. I always say to people to wait until you get an official document," he told *The Irish Catholic*.

"I don't know where these rumours start, but they go around and they cause a lot of confusion and a lot of hurt."

Pope Francis isn't as antagonistic to the Extraordinary Form of the Mass as some traditionalists might be inclined to think, Fr Burke said, referring to the Pope's days in Argentina as an example.

"His own relationship with it is that when he was in Buenos Aires, he would send people regularly to the St Pius X, and he has since he became Pope more or less regularised the tenth.

"I mean, you can go to Confession to them now, you can get married by their priests. So, for instance, if you go to Shanakiel here to the Pius X, they're to send that marriage in to the bishop's house in Cork and Ross," he said.

The conversation in Rome about the TLM isn't "as black and white" as people think, Fr Burke

said, offering reassurance that when Benedict XVI issued his *motu proprio*, all he did was "say what we already knew – that the Mass was never abrogated, because you can't stop people from doing something that's been there for hundreds of years".

**"If you go to Shanakiel here to the Pius X, they're to send that marriage in to the bishop's house in Cork and Ross"**

"I think people should just relax, forget about rumours and if a document comes out, have a look at it, and then we can work on that," he concluded.

Fr Burke's advice will be gratefully received by a particular

cohort of the Faithful in Ireland, the TLM having a small, but devoted following. Former president of The Latin Mass Society of Ireland Peadar Laighléis said it has a "niche" following here in Ireland.

### Scheme

While it's a small following in the grand scheme of things, Mr Laighléis insisted that "on the other hand, it's not the minority that somebody writing for a paper like the *National Catholic Reporter* in the States will point out, either.

"And the other thing too is that I suppose there's a difference between hard traditionalism and soft traditionalism, and hard traditionalism is the person who'd say he'll never go to the new order of Mass. Whereas there's a lot of softer traditionalism that would attend both... There are lots of people out there that have an

affection for the traditional Mass and sacraments, but they may not always be in a position to avail of them. Or they might be in a situation that they go on a monthly, or more occasional, basis."

It's "very hard to quantify" just how many people are devoted to the Extraordinary Form in Ireland, but Mr Laighléis said he thinks "if you were to compare Ireland with France or even with England and Wales, it would be small when it's relative to both countries".

**"There are 'still people within the Church, including some bishops, who would like to see the Extraordinary Form of the Roman rite explicitly suppressed'"**

"The thing is, my approach is that it's an underutilised resource as well. I think there's a richness within the traditional liturgy.

"You go into an average parish, one of the great frustrations a parish priest probably has is to fire some of the parishioners up to do anything. They tend to be a passive lot. Traditionalists aren't a passive lot, they're a very active lot, and the problem with them is to cool them down.

"Now there's a tremendous potential there within the traditional community if it were harnessed, if it was handled properly... I think that potentially the sort of young people who go to the traditional Masses could be a great source for evangelisation if they were dealt with properly."







## The plight of Myanmar's Christians continues to worsen, Aung San Phyo tells Ruadhán Jones

In the way of the modern news cycle, the plight of Myanmar (formerly Burma) has disappeared from view, having once dominated our papers, screens and Twitter feeds. Since the military completed a violent coup February 1 of this year, the situation has gone from bad to worse, particularly for the Christian minorities, says Aung San Phyo.

### Military coup

Mr Phyo fled Myanmar as a refugee in 1988, the year of another military coup, and has been living in Ireland since 1997. Many of his family, however, are still living in Yangon (formerly Rangoon), the former capital of Myanmar. He explains that the escalating attacks on churches and church communities in Myanmar are a continuation of their oppression in the country.

"This government have been targeting the Christians, particularly the minority group Christians and Muslims," Mr Phyo tells me over the phone. "You've probably heard about the Rohingya Muslim in Myanmar. There was a genocide committed by the military against them, well known and well recorded."

**"For instance, for the Malay Christians, you are not able to get a senior position in the government"**

"But not many observers or people know about the operation against the Christians, particularly in the ethnic minority, like Chin, Kachin and more. Most of them are either Catholic or Baptist Christians. They have been oppressed all along the way, but not many people have heard of these oppressions," Mr Phyo explains.

The oppression of Myanmar's Christian minorities, who make up 6.2% of a population of 54 million, can be traced back to the early life of the nation. Since Burma/Myanmar achieved independence from Britain in 1948, its Christians have been largely excluded from positions of power, Mr Phyo says.

"For instance, for the Malay Christians, you are not able to get a senior position in the government," he continues. "There's hardly any Christian in the government. Even in the army, where there are quite a lot of Christians, they won't get a high rank. That's been going on a long time, but



not many people heard about it."

This mistreatment of Christians has escalated during the coup, with churches and church congregations deliberately targeted by military forces. The people of the Kayah State in eastern Myanmar, whose population is 45% Christian and which is a Catholic stronghold according to ucanews.com, have been the victims of many of the attacks.

### Attacks

"Recently at the Catholic Church in Demoso [in Kayah], the priest was giving shelter to the displaced people from their villages, after the military attacked those villages," Mr Phyo begins. "The priest gave them accommodation and shelter in the church. The military started bombing and then shooting that church."

"People taking shelter in the church were shot dead. Then quite a few got injured. So the church had to be evacuated and the priest and the boarders had to relocate to the jungle. That's where they are, making their own temporary accommodation."

"Particularly in Kayah state, they've been attacked and shelled by the military. It's very sad. The Catholic religious groups, they pleaded with the military not to bomb the places of worship. The military promised not to do it, but they didn't keep their word, they keep shelling and shooting at the churches."

St Joseph's Church in Demoso was one of three attacked in quick succession in late May and early June. Despite these attacks, the Catholic

Church continues to do its best to support refugees and internally displaced people, Mr Phyo says.

"The Catholic Church, they are very good," he continues. "They are helping all the people who are suffering, particularly in the Kayah state, they are giving out the food to refugees and internally displaced people. Even one of the sisters, she came out of the church because the military was attacking all these innocent protestors."

"She came out and told them to stop doing that – and surprisingly, the police stopped."

She knelt in front of the police, she begged them please do not do that. There was praise for this nun. They are trying to help all these innocent people in Burma," he finishes.

They are up against it, however, as the experience of Mr Phyo's family shows. His sister has been particularly affected. She works as a teacher and, along with thousands of other civil servants, she has refused to work under the military government.

### Civil servants

"We call it the civil disobedience movement," Mr Phyo explains. "The majority of the civil servants are in this movement. The government either suspends them from their work or they fire them from their job. So my sister was fired from her job, along with 40 or 50 teachers in her school."

"This is really affecting the government mechanisms as well, because the government is not able to open the universities, all the hospitals, the banks are not able to work regularly,



Mr Aung San Phyo



Sister Ann Nu Thawng, a member of the Sisters of St Francis Xavier, kneels in front of police and soldiers during an anti-coup protest in Myitkyina, Myanmar, February 28, 2021. Photo: CNS

**"We need the international community to have more a decisive intervention to return peace and harmony in the country again"**

their transport – like train drivers – the trains are not able to operate regularly, it is affecting the whole country."

Mr Phyo says that he and his father are heartbroken that they cannot visit, as his father loves seeing his grandchildren.

"I started visiting regularly every year until two years ago, because of Covid last year and this year I can't go because of the military coup. It is a bit heart-breaking for my father who is 85 years old, and my two sisters and brother, particularly my father because he likes to see his grandchildren. I have four children here, so he is heartbroken as well."

Mr Phyo's family still live in Rangoon, the former capital, where the infrastructure had been improving steadily for the last ten years, since the democratic election of a civilian government in 2010.

"We had proper buses and electricity, people are free to talk and to pray," Mr Phyo says. "Now sadly, they are all lost. In places like Rangoon, people are so desperate and they hate the military so much. All of the country, people started fighting the military with whatever weapons they can. In

Rangoon, it's particularly bad, there's bomb explosions everywhere. They are trying to attack the police, the military, whatever way they can."

"My family, my father and my sister, they are all scared. They say to me, we just want to die – they don't want to live under the military government because there's so much oppression and so much fear. You're afraid to go out because the military can stop anyone for any reason... They are all living with fear: nobody wants to live with the fear, you know."

### An impassioned plea

Mr Phyo finishes our conversation with an impassioned plea to Myanmar, and the world: "I just want to plead, to all people, to pray for Burma and ask the military government not to commit further violence and try to have a peaceful dialogue to return to democratic government in the country. We need the international community to have more a decisive intervention to return peace and harmony in the country again. But we can only get this through negotiation, violence is not going to work."



# An Invitation to Join **FRIENDS OF** The Irish Catholic



I passionately believe that Irish Catholics need a strong and independent Catholic media to present the beauty and truth of our Faith, but also to challenge the distortions and untruths about our Church that are too often present in other media. Will you join me in this mission?" – Managing Editor Michael Kelly

Along with supporting the newspaper, Friends receive exclusive access to:

## From the Editor's Desk

our premium video series which sees Michael Kelly in conversation with distinguished guests.

## 25% off books

from *The Irish Catholic* shop, including the best-selling *Freedom from Evil Spirits* by Fr Pat Collins, David Quinn's *How we Killed God*, and more.

## Monthly e-Newsletter

with featured highlights and special features.



**CONTACT** ☎ 00353 1 6874094 ✉ [info@irishcatholic.ie](mailto:info@irishcatholic.ie)

Or send us the order form below

☐ MONTHLY CONTRIBUTION AMOUNT - ☐ €10 ☐ €20 ☐ €30 ☐ €\_\_\_\_\_

Monthly contributions are billed each month. You can cancel your contributions at any time.

### METHOD OF PAYMENT

PAY BY CREDIT/DEBIT CARD: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

Card No: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ CVV No: \_\_\_\_\_

### MY DETAILS

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

POST IT TO :

**THE IRISH CATHOLIC**

Block 3b, Bracken Business  
Park, Bracken Road, Sandyford,  
Dublin 18, D18 K277.

Alternatively, if you would simply like to make a contribution to support Catholic journalism, you can send a cheque to The Irish Catholic.



# Building diplomatic bridges between Ireland and the Vatican



Brexit, the pandemic and Church/State relations were discussed as Ireland and the Vatican seek to deepen ties, writes **Jason Osborne**

Last Thursday saw the resumption of high-level ministerial interaction between Ireland and the Holy See after a fraught decade. Minister for European Affairs Thomas Byrne met with the Holy See's Foreign Minister Archbishop Paul Gallagher to discuss a range of issues, from Brexit to the current Church/State relations.

Speaking to *The Irish Catholic* newspaper, Minister Byrne said he had a "good exchange" with the archbishop, which was an important one given the "tension in the relationship to do with well-known issues over the last 10 to 20 years".

"I think Church-State relations and Irish-Vatican relations have changed dramatically in recent years, but at the end of the day, we have diplomatic relations, we have friendly relations," Minister Byrne said.

"I think that we can work constructively where we agree on the many items that we do, migration and climate change, a whole range of issues that are very important to the Vatican, such as humanitarian assistance and peacekeeping."

There will be "lots of areas" where the Irish Government and people will disagree with the Vatican, Minister Byrne said, the relationship one between "sovereign states," and "no longer a relationship of religious subservience", which he said is a "matter for the individual person".

The Government recognises the usefulness of having good relations with the Vatican going forward though, he said, continuing that "which we have".

## Discussions

The diplomatic channels were opened through discussions on Brexit, and while the Vatican didn't set out a stance on it, Minister Byrne said Archbishop Gallagher received positively the case he made for multilateralism and bilateralism.

"I can't say that the Vatican set out a stance on Brexit. What I would have done, and I think it was taken very positively, was,

and I'm doing this everywhere I go really, is appealing to multilateralism and bilateralism, so asking the Vatican, asking Italy, asking France, asking everywhere we go, when they're talking to Britain and when they're making public statements on the issue, to emphasise the need for a bilateral and a multilateral approach when it comes to Northern Ireland."

Unilateralism "only causes problems", he said, "and certainly that was the case I would have made very, very strongly and I think was heard positively by Archbishop Gallagher".

Referring to the flare in tensions the ongoing Brexit disputes have inspired in the North, Minister Byrne said the Vatican is concerned about it and that his appeal for a multilateral and bilateral approach was "favourably received".

"I paid tribute as well to the role of the Catholic Church and other Churches in Northern Ireland in trying to calm tensions, in trying to bring people together in terms of the work they do for Christian unity, so there clearly is a role for the Church and the Churches in Northern Ireland," he said.

**“It's always worthwhile from the Irish Government's point of view to explain our position on Brexit when we go abroad”**

Currently making a number of trips to European Colleagues, Minister Byrne said "Brexit is obviously very high up the agenda" during these meetings, and that he took the chance to bring it up with Archbishop Gallagher during his trip to Rome, whom he didn't get to see while he was in Ireland last summer.

"It's always worthwhile from the Irish Government's point of view to explain our position on Brexit when we go abroad," he said.

On the topic of the pandemic, Ireland and the Vatican found common ground in their emphasis on vaccine sharing, Minister Byrne said.

"I would have set out our position on what vaccine sharing will be taking place and obviously that's something that's of strong interest to the Vatican," he said, continuing, "I also paid tribute to the role of Church volunteers in Ireland on a very local level in terms of complying with Covid rules and regulations."

Minister Byrne credited the churches' ability to stay open

**“The Government recognises the usefulness of having good relations with the Vatican going forward though, he said, continuing that ‘which we have’”**



Minister Thomas Byrne meeting with Holy See Foreign Minister Archbishop Paul Gallagher.

throughout the pandemic, "when they're allowed to be open", to the work of the volunteers, and the work done at the parochial level.

## Ban

Asked whether Ireland's ban on public worship during the pandemic, which saw churches in the Republic closed longer than anywhere else in Europe, was discussed during the meeting, Minister Byrne said that "specific issue wasn't discussed".

When it came to Church/State relations, Minister Byrne said the mother and baby homes were on the agenda, as well as "other concerns" people had, "particularly on the financial side".

"To be fair to Archbishop Gallagher, [he] was well-apprised of the situation. Indeed there are other, similar situations now arising in other parts of the world,

including in Canada," Minister Byrne said.

"It was the first high-level ministerial interaction in quite a number of years, and I think it's important. Clearly there's been tension in the relationship to do with well-known issues over the last 10 to 20 years."

**“Minister Byrne credited the churches' ability to stay open throughout the pandemic, ‘when they're allowed to be open’”**

"And indeed the other tensions in the relationship as well when the previous government closed the embassy, which at the time I

would have campaigned with other colleagues to reopen, and I am glad that we have a resident ambassador to the Holy See. I think it's very important."

## Ties

The importance of maintaining diplomatic ties with the Vatican was evident to Minister Byrne, he said, "when we were discussing the issue of Syria and one thing the archbishop said to me which struck a chord with me was, 'Our people on the ground are telling us...', so it just spoke to me that the Holy See, the Vatican, the Church has people on the ground everywhere, who are able to see exactly what's happening and I thought that was very useful...It just served to remind of the importance of diplomatic relations with the Vatican".

Asked whether there were any "sticking points" during the meeting, Minister Byrne responded positively.

"There will always be sticking points in any relationship between two countries and, you know, we would have different emphasis on certain issues. But no, the meeting was positive."



# Covid hits Irish missionaries hard, but still much to offer



## The CEO of Misesan Cara tells Ruadhán Jones about Covid's unique challenges for Irish Missionaries

**A**s Misesan Cara's new CEO says, it is not a secret that the Irish missionary is ageing and declining in numbers at home and abroad, a fact exacerbated by Covid-19. The face of the Irish, faith-based missionary organisation is changing, as new missionaries are now predominantly indigenous. However, as Misesan Cara released its annual report for 2020, CEO John Moffett told *The Irish Catholic* that Irish missionaries are as determined as ever and still have much to offer.

To begin with, Mr Moffett lays out the massive challenges the onset of Covid presented to missionaries on the ground. Due to the age-profile of the Irish missionary, many of Misesan Cara's members were themselves badly hit.

"The Irish missionary is aging and declining in numbers overseas," Mr Moffett begins. "So it's been a tough year for many of our members. I mean, a lot of them have actually lost people within their congregations to Covid, the death rate has been higher than in normal years in both serving and retired missionaries. That takes a toll on members – people who have lived together, worked together, shared their lives. Losing those members takes a massive toll. That has to be appreciated."

The challenges weren't exclusively within the congregations, as you would expect, and the missionaries' had to adapt quickly to the emerging needs, Mr Moffett explains.

"Health projects, the shortage of supplies in PPE, delivering adequate health services – those are some of the major challenges for our missionaries on the ground," he says. "The lockdowns had a huge impact on the communities that they work with. If you can imagine, the majority of communities that missionaries work with are the poorest and most vulnerable people."

### Economy

"These people make their money through the informal economy. If they are not able to work for a day, they're not able to buy food for a day. If they're not able to work for a week or a month that has a massive impact on the household and being able to support a household adequately... So food distributions have been really helpful and that's something that they've all been able to pick up on and respond to really quickly."

Flexibility was the key and, while there was a great deal of uncertainty, Mr Moffett has only praise for the manner in which the missionaries responded.



Dinah Chenangat (second from left) with a group of women she has supported through her work with the Chepnyal Development Project, an initiative of the Daughters of Charity in Kenya.

"As you can only expect from Irish missionaries, dealing with shocks and change is second nature to them. There was a determination and flexibility that they brought to their work that was appreciated by the communities they work with and ourselves in Misesan Cara. It was terrific," he finishes.

In 2020, the member congregations of Misesan Cara implemented 384 projects "aimed at bringing positive and lasting change to the lives of 1.87 million people around the world", the 2020 report says. "Their work in 2020 was carried out in 51 countries with Misesan Cara funding totalling €13.7 million."

## “Access to vaccines is really, really slow in the developing world”

As debates regarding the role of the Church in Ireland continue to rumble on, and despite declining numbers of Irish missionaries, Mr Moffett believes missionaries are still integral to the communities in which they work.

"Absolutely," Mr Moffett begins. "I don't want to get into Church-state relations, around where they should be separate, but the long and the short of it is that a lot of the countries where our missionaries work at present, education systems, health systems – which are increasingly integrated

into state systems – but they wouldn't function and they wouldn't be there without the presence of missionaries. There very much still is a need for and a demand for the services that missionaries provide."

### Framework

To that end, Misesan Cara have continued to develop a conceptual framework for the missionary development approach, which they are now sharing with other international agencies.

"The Missionary Approach to Development and Intervention (MADI) – it's not rocket science, it's trying to pool together how missionaries have worked and continue to work, what sets the missionary approach to development apart from and unique to other kinds of ways of doing development," Mr Moffett explains. "One of the ways we've taken this forward, in the previous year, is use that framework and model to look at how missionaries particularly are well placed to reach the furthest behind."

"Most development actors or programmes, their programmes are not set up in a way that would actually reach the real poorest or meek in a society. They tend to build on people with agencies or assets. Generally those who are at the bottom of the pile neither have agency nor assets."

"Those are the people the missionaries generally work with and to bring on... It takes time to reach any kind of level of transformation but it's important that we continue with those



Fr Gabriel with members of the Mtopanga Parish in Mombasa North at a recent event where 1000 mangrove trees were planted in 3 hours for World Environment Day. Photo: Haki Yetu.

people. In terms of how missionaries operate, the language we would use is 'the last, the lost and the least'.

"It was very much drawn from missionaries own experience and pulled together into a conceptual framework. We've been able to take that a little bit forward, so not only sharing it with our Irish members, but with trusts and foundations who support Catholic missionaries in the US. We've recently shared that learning and approach in a workshop with them to take it out further, out of the Irish missionary experience and into a global approach," Mr Moffett says.

## “Mr Moffett has only praise for the manner in which the missionaries responded”

When asked about the challenges facing Misesan Cara and its members for the coming year, the long shadow of Covid unsurprisingly looms large. Its effects on the workings of the organisation, its members and the people they help is going nowhere fast.

"The big challenge of Covid continues to loom," Mr Moffett says. "In terms of where our members work, while we're moving ahead with vaccine rollout in Ireland, Europe and the developed world, access to vaccines is really, really slow in the developing world. Our members are facing fourth

or fifth waves of infection in places they operate. Places like Uganda at the moment have gone back into a really strict complete lockdown, which is having a massive impact on people and communities there."

### Questions

Beyond that, there are broader questions on the horizon for Misesan Cara, as the demographics of religious orders continue to change. The number of Irish missionaries currently on mission is 634, according to the Association of Leaders of Missionaries and Religious of Ireland, and the missionary organisations members are increasingly local and indigenous.

"Some of the big issues for us at the moment are about the changes our members are undergoing as the Irish missionary ages and declines in numbers overseas," Mr Moffett says. "It's handing over the charism and purpose of their mission work to local and indigenous missionaries. We're starting to see a really vibrant, younger indigenous missionary taking on the role."

"Our members are working through what that means about passing on the mantle if you like. That's something Misesan Cara is very supportive of, but we have to start thinking through how Misesan Cara responds to that to be able to continue to support the members in this new way of working in the future, and how we transition along with that as well."



Daughters of Charity staff at the member capacity development training session in Kumasi, Ghana in January 2020. Pictured (from left) are Sr Okonok Acheneja, Jessica Deh, Sr Toyin Abegunde, Sr Olivia Umoh, Moses Akrug, Sr Angelina Mark, Sr Geraldine Henry.





Good conquers evil, but awareness and action needed as Ireland is 'disappointing' on human trafficking, charity founder and Irish RSM sister tells **Chai Brady**

**I**reland and Romania are the only countries in the EU that are on 'tier two' of a US watchlist due to inadequate responses taken to tackle human trafficking, which Pope Francis has called "an open wound on the body of contemporary society".

The US annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report 2021 was published earlier this month and has served to highlight Ireland's failings in the area.

The issue of human trafficking has not gone away during the pandemic but further moved underground, making it harder to identify, according to Sr Patricia O'Donovan RSM, who founded the anti-human trafficking charity Mecpaths.

"It is very disappointing. Ireland is really failing to meet the minimum standards of elimination of trafficking," Sr O'Donovan told *The Irish Catholic*.

"In the Irish context, they identified 38 people trafficked in 2020, 26 sex trafficking and 12 in labour trafficking. The thing is, they identified 42 in 2019 and they identified 9 children. This year there were no children identified.

**“There were people there who were amazed, saying, ‘Could this possibly happen?’”**

"The fact they are saying there were no children identified, that cannot be true. That really necessitates the work of Mecpaths which is really about raising awareness that child trafficking does exist. Our message, in relation to child trafficking, is: Know it, see it, and say it.

"Know the facts. Oftentimes we can turn a blind eye, and say 'I didn't see that, none of my business'. Know how to report. That's really what our message is. The identification of human trafficking is very difficult but we need to know the signs, be alert."

### Efforts

The TIP report stated that Ireland has continued to maintain inadequate victim protection efforts,

# 'Ireland failing to eliminate child trafficking'

**“Child trafficking is happening, it is difficult to identify under normal times, much more so now during the pandemic”**

with 2020 being the fourth consecutive year of decreasing victim identification and the fewest victims identified since 2013.

Looking at the issue of no children being identified as having been trafficked in 2020, the report stated that it may have been due to the Office of the Department of Public Prosecution's 2018 decision to reclassify child trafficking victims as victims of sexual exploitation, which consequently excluded children from trafficking statistics.

"The [TIP] report clearly states that 'Traffickers subject Irish children to sex trafficking within the country' which demonstrates the increased need for awareness training and victim identification, especially for child victims in this country," said Sr O'Donovan.

"Mecpaths exists in order to raise awareness of the presence of human trafficking in Ireland, especially the trafficking of children for exploitation, to educate around the signs that may indicate a child is or has been trafficked and to know the mechanisms available to report a concern or case of child trafficking."

Ireland has not demonstrated an overall increase in efforts "even considering the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on its anti-trafficking capacity", regarding victim identification, the TIPs report stated.

Sr O'Donovan said: "Definitely 2020 has been a time of heightened vulnerability and children definitely are being trafficked. Child trafficking is happening, it is difficult to identify under normal times, much more so now during the pandemic.

"I think it's got worse during the pandemic; it has gone undercover. Do traffickers ever stop? I don't think so. A phrase we often use with human trafficking, child trafficking, is it's hidden in plain sight. I think it's certainly hidden during this present pandemic."

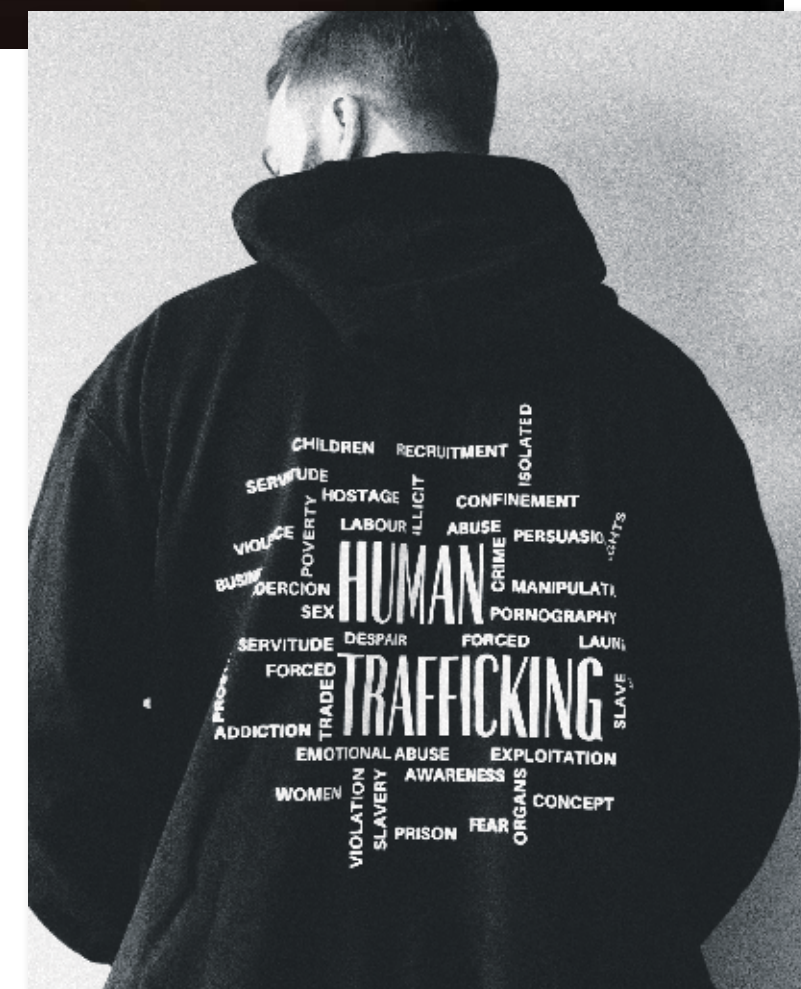
It is estimated that the human trafficking industry generates €128 billion per year worldwide and that 40.3 million people remain trapped as victims.

### Mecpaths

Sr O'Donovan and Sr Mary Ryan established Mecpaths in 2013 after attending a UN conference focusing on violence against women and girls.

**“Oftentimes we can turn a blind eye, and say ‘I didn't see that, none of my business’”**

Sr O'Donovan said: "We attended many workshops and presentations but one of the ones that spoke to both of us was a presentation given by a CEO of a US hotel chain and he spoke about



hotels being possible venues of trafficking of all people, including child trafficking.

"That was something new to us, I'm talking about 2013. I suppose as a Mercy Congregation our focus has been very much with women and children so the issue of child trafficking really was not being addressed in Ireland at the time and we felt there could be a possibility that this was happening in hotels in Ireland.

"Also, at the time I had very young nieces and nephews, they

were 3-4, and I thought 'My God, this is horrendous stuff'," she said.

From that moment the two sisters felt motivated to spread awareness about the issue of child trafficking and the forms it takes in Ireland. After a conversation with the leadership team, they were given the green light.

"Some of the sisters got involved by visiting local hotels, we made out a programme as to what to do and we actually had the first meeting with hoteliers and general managers which





Sr Patricia O'Donovan RSM of Mecpaths.

took place in January 2014 in the Department of Justice at Stephen's Green and that was hosted by the anti-human trafficking unit. That was our first meeting with hoteliers.

"They came from all over the country that day. There were people there who were amazed, saying, 'Could this possibly happen?' That was the beginning of it really and it has developed hugely since that time."

**“There is no one indicator that can be used to make someone certain a child is being trafficked”**

Mecpaths are currently engaged in the delivery of anti-human trafficking training across the country for front-line professionals working in the areas of healthcare, social work, law enforcement and immigration.

They are dedicated to supporting the hospitality industry and services sectors and have forged working relationships with hoteliers and hotel groups since its inception.

Their focus on training staff in the hospitality industry is due to the fact that they work in a sector in which they are more likely to encounter a victim of child trafficking.

**“Their focus on training staff in the hospitality industry is due to the fact that they work in a sector in which they are more likely to encounter a victim of child trafficking”**

According to Mecpaths, traffickers can take advantage of the privacy and anonymity that hotels and accommodation providers offer, using these unwitting venues to sexually exploit children. Within the services sectors, many companies who provide products and services are uniquely placed to engage and interact with children and young persons who may be at-risk of being trafficked.

Training people in this sector is “crucial” when it comes to identifying child trafficking, Sr O'Donovan said.

"I remember when I started talking about human trafficking, people said: 'Human trafficking, that doesn't happen here in Ireland.' So really our big thing was about raising awareness. What we have done is organise workshops for hotels – our big focus at the beginning was hotels – and we brought them on board."

Mecpaths also works in direct partnership with, and provides training to hospitality training colleges, frontline professionals and industries (airline, taxis, security), universities, and private industries, to raise awareness and help to protect children from exploitation.

On World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, July 30, they will officially launch an online e-learning platform for the various industries they work with, as well as for the general public.

**Distress**

There is no one indicator that can be used to make someone certain a child is being trafficked, with Sr O'Donovan saying one sign could be the child is exhibiting distress, fear and anxiety.

**“Training people in this sector is ‘crucial’ when it comes to identifying child trafficking”**

She says there may be “very little interaction – dissociation to avoidance of interaction with others. Maybe there is restricted or controlled communications and freedom of movement within the hotel or their checking into the room appears coerced”.

Regarding hotels specifically, she says it could be that a guest is occupying a room with a minor and they may not have originally registered with the minor, or the same person might have booked multiple rooms and there are chil-

dren there. It could also be that “individuals are leaving rooms infrequently and the children are not being let out of the room, or the cleaning staff not allowed into the room to clean,” Sr O'Donovan explains.

"Housekeeping are very important because they see what's happening if they go in to clean the room. There may be refusals of cleaning services for multiple, successive days."

Prior to Covid-19, conversations had begun in exploring ways of moving Mecpaths' training from face-to-face classroom style learning to e-learning. This was accelerated as Covid 19 restrictions would not allow face-to-face meetings. In March 2020, Mecpaths launched an accredited module on human trafficking with Maynooth University (Applied Social Studies).

**Adherence**

The aim is to ensure adherence to international best practice when it comes to the hospitality industry's global efforts to counter child trafficking. This is achieved

**ACCORDING TO MECPATHS, SOME OF THE INDICATORS OF CHILD TRAFFICKING INCLUDE:**

- Signs of distress, fear, anxiety, submission or nervousness.
- Signs of disassociation or avoidance of interaction with others.
- No freedom of movement or being constantly monitored.
- Treated in a demanding or aggressive manner.
- No knowledge of current and/or past whereabouts.
- Signs of malnourishment, poor hygiene, fatigue, untreated illness, injuries and or unusual behaviours.
- Individuals leaving room infrequently, not at all, or at odd hours.
- Guest has few or no personal possessions for a prolonged stay.
- Looks intimidated and behaves in a way that does not correspond with behaviours typical of children their age.
- Avoids eye contact and interactions with others.

through the development of learning materials in alignment with the existing curriculum. They also work with students at Cork Institute of Technology, Shannon College of Hotel Management, Technological University Dublin (formerly Dublin Institute of Technology) and Griffith College.

"Despite lockdown, Mecpaths has increased its outreach substantially... people have gathered virtually to learn more about human trafficking be it through webinars, trainings to hospitality colleges, third level colleges etc. Many, including members of the public have availed of the opportunity to learn more," Sr O'Donovan said.

**Passion**

Asked about what influenced her passion for social justice and what called her to religious life, Sr O'Donovan said: "As a young person I had a desire to create a better world. I went to school to Mercy Sisters in Clonakilty, Co Cork. I was inspired by their lives of prayer and how they helped people, particularly those in need within the local community."

**“Despite lockdown, Mecpaths has increased its outreach substantially... people have gathered virtually to learn more about human trafficking”**

"At the age of 21 in preparation for my first profession, I learnt that the heart of our Mercy life is 'Union with God and love of those in need'. This very much resonated with my own desire for my life then and continues to inspire me today."

Pope Francis has been a "huge support" in the fight against human trafficking, Sr O'Donovan said. "It is one of the most horrendous crimes in the world and it's right across the whole world: I think particularly child trafficking, when you think of the vulnerability of a child. So I think it's wonderful that the Pope is very passionate about it and all through his years of papacy has highlighted it and is highlighting it."

"There is goodness, and goodness does conquer evil but I think we all have our part to play and I think if we play our part, goodness will overcome that evilness."

"As a congregation we are getting more elderly and I have asked them to pray for victims of trafficking and traffickers as well and we have issued a prayer card to communities and to any other people who may wish to pray for the victims of the trafficking and certainly the members of the congregations are very interested in that and do pray."

"Even though we may not always be able to do the work we are, as a congregation, supporting it, it is a project we feel very, very passionately about: the vulnerability of women and particularly children."



# Out&About

## 'Driving the Church forward'



**ARMAGH:** Pictured are the Armagh Diocese's core group, who will drive the diocesan synodal process forward, June 30.



**ARMAGH:** Archbishop Eamon Martin and Auxiliary Bishop of Armagh Michael Router celebrate Mass to conclude the diocese's Year of Reflection and Prayer in St Patrick's Cathedral, June 30.



**ROME:** Deacon John O'Laverty (right), was ordained Deacon at the Venerable English College's summer residence, Villa Palazzola, outside Rome on Sunday, July 4, as he continues his path to becoming a priest for Down and Connor.



**DUBLIN:** Deacon Joe Keegan is pictured with Archbishop of Dublin Dr Dermot Farrell after being ordained to the diaconate in Clondalkin Parish church, July 3.

### IN SHORT

#### Strengthen 'vital' poverty eradication strategies, Vatican tells UN

Strengthened recovery measures are "vital", as the pandemic has pushed an additional 119 to 124 million into "extreme poverty", the Holy See's observer to the United Nations said.

"Eradicating poverty... remains 'the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development'," said Msgr Fredrik Hansen, interim *Chargé d'Affaires* for the Holy See, July 7.

Msgr Hansen called for poverty eradication strategies to be "strengthened and fully integrated in the designing of recovery measures from the Covid-19 pandemic", in a talk to the UN.

He highlighted the new forms of poverty that have emerged, including unequal access to vaccine supplies.

"Ensuring that all countries, in particular the poorest, have equitable access to vaccines is an ethical imperative and a common responsibility," Msgr Hansen continued. "It requires the steadfast commitment of the entire international community."

#### Cervical Check believes women haven't been wronged, TD says

The Aontú leader told the Dáil that Cervical Check have told him they do not agree with the Government or courts' assessments of the Cervical Check scandal.

According to Mr Peadar Tóibín, the Clinical Director of Cervical Check told him "Women have not been wronged... they have just been unfortunate".

Speaking in the Dáil, July 7, on the

Cervical Check Tribunal Amendment Bill, the Meath West TD said Cervical Check "criticised me for suggesting that women had been wronged".

"When probed at the meeting, Cervical Check clarified that their position was in contradiction to the rulings of the courts and the position of the Government," Mr Tóibín said. "Remember the Government has issued a State apology to women affected."

"It is extremely significant that Cervical Check do not accept that women have been wronged," he finished.



Edited by Ruadhán Jones  
Ruadhan@irishcatholic.ie

Events deadline is a week in  
advance of publication



**LAOIS:** St Fiacc's NS planted a cherry blossom in honour of their departing sixth class, June 28. Pictured (from left): Aodhagan O Suilleabhán, William McCarthy, Saoirse McKeivitt, Shirley Lidieth and Fr John Dunphy.



**ROSCOMMON:** Bishop Paul Dempsey of Achonry (right) welcomes the recently retired Church of Ireland Bishop Patrick Rooke (left) to Ballaghaderreen, July 2.



**▲▼ CARLOW:** Students from St Leo's College Carlow complete a training course to become ministers of Holy Communion at Graiguecullen/Killeslin Parish, June 23.



**DONEGAL:** Denise Ward and Clive O'Donohue are pictured after being married at a beautiful ceremony in St Columba's Church, Burtonport, July 3.



**CARLOW:** Pictured is Presentation Carlow student Megan who completed her training at Graiguecullen/Killeslin Parish to become a minister of Holy Communion. They were commissioned recently by Fr John Dunphy PP.

### Events

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





# World Report

## IN BRIEF

### Polish Catholic bishops' leader: Church supports those opting for Covid-19 vaccine

● The president of Poland's Catholic bishops' conference said last Thursday that the Church supports those who opt to be vaccinated against Covid-19.

Archbishop Stanisław Gądecki issued the statement July 8 as the Polish government seeks to expand its vaccination program ahead of a potential fourth wave of the virus this Autumn, while a significant number of Poles remain hesitant about receiving the vaccine.

"Vaccination against Covid-19 is an important tool for limiting the spread of the infection and is seen by very many people as a hope for the possibility of returning to the normal functioning of societies," the archbishop of Poznań said.

### Abortion activists create children's abortion book

● Two women who call themselves "abortion doulas" are authoring a children's book about abortion.

Carly Manes and Mar recently designed a new children's book called *What's an Abortion, Anyway?*, which will be available to young children by Autumn 2021.

Described as a "nonjudgmental book about

abortion for children," the creators say they "believe in building a world for kids and adults where abortion is normalised as another outcome of pregnancy just like miscarriage and birth."

They decided to publish their book after failing to find any other books about abortion made for children under 13 years old.

### Brazilian priest denounces teaching of polyamory in school

● When Fr Chrystian Shankar, a priest serving at the diocesan shrine dedicated to Friar Galvão in Divinópolis, learned from a mother in the community that her child had been given classes in school on polyamory, he denounced the practice in his June 18 sermon.

The video of his sermon went viral and drew heavy criticism from professionals in education and psychology, who said they were offended by his remarks.

The Faithful decided to rally around their priest, and a few days later as he was about to begin Eucharistic Adoration they displayed signs saying "I support Fr Chrystian".

### Canadian indigenous leaders call for end of targeting of churches

● Canadian indigenous leaders and residential school survivors have called for suspected arson attacks on churches to stop.

Since June 21, five Catholic churches in Canada have burned completely to the ground, while other Catholic and Christian churches have suffered fire damage or have been vandalised with graffiti. Most of the church fires have occurred on tribal land.

The most recent church fires occurred this week in the provinces of Alberta and Ontario. The House of Prayer Alliance Church, a predominantly Vietnamese church in Calgary, was discovered burning, while Johnsbfield Baptist church on Six Nations land in Ontario was also discovered on fire early last Monday morning.

### Probe into Fr Jacques Hamel's murder shows attackers' links to ISIS

● An investigation into the murder of French priest Fr Jacques Hamel documents messages exchanged between the attackers and a senior ISIS operative based in Syria.

The information comes nearly five years after Fr Hamel was killed on July 26, 2016, while offering Mass

by two armed men who stormed Fr Hamel's parish in Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray in Normandy.

The French weekly *La Vie* published documents on July 6 that it said came from information from the French intelligence agency, the General Directorate for Internal Security (DGSI).

## Christian Movement calls for free elections amid protests in Cuba

On Sunday, July 11, the Christian Liberation Movement (MCL) called on Cubans to continue to pressure Cuban communist authorities to open general elections after thousands of people took the streets of major local cities to protest the unprecedented scarcity of essentials and the death rate produced by Covid-19.

After months of food and medicine shortages and the collapse of hospitals due to the pandemic, thousands of Cubans took to the streets shouting "Down with the dictatorship!", "Homeland and life!", "We want vaccines!", and "We are not afraid!", in the largest demonstrations that ever occurred in more than 60 years of Communist rule.

Protesters in some regions marched with the image of Our Lady of Charity, the national Marian advocate of Cuba.

Eduardo Cardet Concepción, National Coordinator of the MCL, released a statement received by ACI Prensa, saying that "thousands of Cubans are in the streets today peacefully demonstrating, demanding freedom and an end to repression and misery". They are doing so, said MCL, "in order for the tyranny to end".

"The MCL, as part of this people tired of oppression and injustice, is fully identified with their desires. We support our brothers and sisters of the Christian Liberation Movement and all Cubans who demonstrate peacefully, making use of this legitimate right," the statement said.



Pope Francis greets the crowd as he leads the Angelus from a balcony of Gemelli Hospital in Rome July 11, as he recovers following scheduled colon surgery. Photo: CNS.

The statement demands "the release of political prisoners, the annulment of the repressive laws against freedom, recognition of economic rights of free enterprise for Cubans, recognition of each Cuban's – inside and outside the island – right to vote and to be elected."

### Statement

The statement concluded with the demands "[t]o hold elections with all these guarantees" and "Freedom Now!"

The MCL was founded by Catholic dissident Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas in 1988 to

achieve a peaceful democratic reform in Cuba, explicitly inspired by the social doctrine of the Church. Taking advantage of a loophole in the Communist constitution, Mr Payá organised a collection of signatures to introduce democracy in Cuba. As a consequence, the movement was persecuted nationwide and 42 of its leaders ended up in prison during the 2003 wave of repression known as the "Cuban Spring".

On July 22, 2012, Mr Payá and another MCL leader, Harold Cepero, were killed in a car accident in suspicious circumstances.

The Sunday wave of protests started in the western town of San Antonio de los Baños and promptly spread across the island to Havana and the eastern city of Santiago de Cuba.

In a message on radio and television, the president of Cuba, Miguel Díaz Canel, blamed most of the unrest on the US and called upon "all the revolutionaries in the country, all communists, to take to the streets and go to the places where these provocations are going to occur" to counteract protests, thus sparking fear of a civil confrontation.

## Hundreds gather outside hospital to greet recovering Pope

Pilgrims and well-wishers gathered at Rome's Gemelli hospital to greet Pope Francis as he made his first public appearance in a week after undergoing intestinal surgery.

Appearing on the 10th floor balcony of his suite of rooms at the hospital July 11, the Pope was greeted with applause and shouts of *Viva il Papa* (Long live the Pope) from the crowd that stood under the scorching midday sun to see him.

"I thank you all," the Pope said. "I have felt your closeness and the support of

your prayers. Thank you very much."

Pope Francis arrived at Gemelli hospital July 4 to undergo "a scheduled surgical intervention for a symptomatic diverticular stenosis of the colon", the Vatican said. The Pope has recovered steadily from his surgery and resumed working from the hospital.

In his address, the Pope reflected on the Sunday Gospel reading from St Mark, in which Jesus sent out his disciples to anoint the sick with oil and heal them. The oil, he said, not only repre-

sents the comfort given through the sacramental anointing of the sick, but also symbolises "the closeness, the care, the tenderness of those who take care of the sick person."

"It is like a caress that makes you feel better, soothes your pain and cheers you up. All of us, everyone, sooner or later, we all need this 'anointing' of closeness and tenderness, and we can all give it to someone else, with a visit, a phone call, a hand outstretched to someone who needs help," he said.

## Petition urges Canadian PM not to slander Church over residential schools

More than 4,000 people have signed a petition requesting that Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau cease blaming the Catholic Church for the country's residential school system.

The residential school sys-

tem was set up by the Canadian government, beginning in the 1870s, as a means of forcibly assimilating indigenous children and stripping them of familial and cultural ties. The Catholic Church or Catholics oversaw more than two-thirds

of the schools.

"I am deeply disappointed in the comments you made on nationwide television on Friday calling for the Catholic Church to release records on the Residential School system," says the petition, which was

created in June on Change.org.

The petition's writer is not named, but the petition was created by Catholic Equalizer, which describes themselves as "a group of Canadians who chose Catholicism in adulthood".





Edited by Ruadhán Jones  
Ruadhan@irishcatholic.ie

## Crisis continues for Christians in Lebanon



Demonstrators block a road with garbage bins in Beirut, March 16, during a protest against the fall in Lebanese currency and mounting economic hardships. Photo CNS.

## Christian refugees in Lebanon live in abandoned mall amid economic crisis

In an abandoned mall on the outskirts of Beirut, an image of St Thérèse of Lisieux hangs in the window of what was once a storefront. This former clothing store now serves as home for Christian refugees who have been hit hard by the inflation caused by Lebanon's severe economic depression.

The living conditions for the refugees who were forced to move to the abandoned mall were documented on video by A Demand for Action, a Sweden-based NGO that aids minorities in the Middle East.

"I came from Iraq in 2017 when ISIS invaded Iraq," a man living in one of the former stores said in the video.

"We suffered from persecution against Christians, from terrorism, and kidnapping perpetrated by the militias, as well as the rape of Christian girls – or any girl who did not wear a veil or was wearing a cross. I was overwhelmed by fear and the great threat to my family and children, so I was forced to flee to Lebanon."

He showed the nearly windowless room with sparse walls, except for some holy

cards with images of the Virgin Mary and peeling paint from the ceilings.

"The place where I live now was previously a clothing store. There were no bathrooms or kitchen before; we tried as much as possible to make some modifications to be able to live in this shop."

Another refugee explained: "Because of the economic crisis and the difficult conditions that Lebanon suffers from, we as refugees, were forced to live in these shops because of the high rents of regular homes."

Lebanon's currency has plummeted in 2021. By June, the Lebanese pound had lost 90% of its value since October 2019.

The World Bank has described the current financial situation in Lebanon as among the "most severe crisis episodes globally since the mid-19th century".

Pope Francis hosted a day of prayer for Lebanon on July 1 which brought Catholic and Orthodox leaders to the Vatican to discuss the crisis facing the country.

## Belarusian president warns against singing of decades-old hymn

A Belarusian bishops' spokesman downplayed a police raid on Minsk's Catholic cathedral, although a prominent lay Catholic warned arrests elsewhere suggested the move could signal further police action.

"We don't really know what the police were seeking," Father Yuri Sanko, spokesman for the Minsk-based bishops' conference, told *Catholic News Service* July 8, four days after police arrived at Minsk's Blessed Virgin Mary Cathedral after the main Sunday Mass.

"Although they spoke with the cathedral clergy, no one was arrested and nothing confiscated, and we haven't heard of other similar incidents."

On July 3, President Alexander Lukashenko had warned Catholics against singing a hymn, *Magutny Bozha* (Almighty God), which has been a symbol for anti-regime protests.

In a July 7 Facebook post, Auxiliary Bishop Yury Kasabutski of Minsk-Mohilev said police officers had complained "some norm of law had been violated" by the hymn, but had appeared not to

"understand themselves" what this meant.

The bishop added that the hymn, composed in 1947, was "first of all a prayer for homeland and people", and had been proposed as a new national anthem in 1993 by a parliamentary commission.

However, an online editor from Belarus' Eastern Catholic Church said the director of a church choir had been arrested with at least 20 others in the western city of Brest after singing the hymn.

## Vatican roundup

### Pope offers condolences after assassination of Haiti's president

● In a telegram addressed to the Apostolic Nuncio in Haiti, Pope Francis said "Upon hearing the news of the heinous assassination of His Excellency Mr Jovenel Moïse, President of Haiti," he offers his condolences "to the Haitian people and to his wife, who was also seriously wounded and whose life he commends to God".

The 53-year-old Mr Moïse was fatally shot and his wife was injured when attackers stormed their home early last Wednesday. First Lady Martine Moïse has been flown to Florida where she is said to be in a critical but stable condition and is receiving treatment.

In the telegram, signed by Vatican Secretary of State, Cardinal Pietro Parolin on behalf of the Pope, the Holy Father said he's praying for the repose of the soul of the deceased.

Expressing his sadness he condemned "all forms of violence as a means of resolving crises and conflicts," wishing for the Haitian people "a future of fraternal harmony, solidarity and prosperity".

The Catholic Bishops of Haiti have also condemned the assassination describing it as despicable and unacceptable.

### Pope Francis names Jesuit cardinal to key synod on synodality position

● Pope Francis last Thursday named the Jesuit Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich as the relator general of the 2023 synod on synodality.

Cardinal Hollerich, the president of the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Union (COMECE), will help to oversee the gathering of the world's bishops in Rome.

The 62-year-old cardinal has served as archbishop of Luxembourg since 2011. His archdiocese covers the whole Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, one of Europe's smallest countries, bordering Belgium, France, and Germany.

He thanked Pope Francis for the new appointment July 8 via his

Twitter account.

As relator general, Cardinal Hollerich will take part in the meetings of the Ordinary Council of Preparation for the upcoming synod, formally known as the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops.

Cardinal Hollerich will be expected to present a report at the start of the assembly in October 2023, introducing the theme of synodality. He will also outline the synod's working document and the points that participants are due to discuss.

He will also preside over the preparation of the synod's final document, which is submitted to participants for approval.

### Holy See to UN: Children should not be 'collateral victims' of violence against women

● The Holy See's delegation at the United Nations in Geneva told the Human Rights Council that children conceived due to sexual violence should not be made "collateral victims" through abortion.

"The Holy See wishes to reaffirm the rights and dignity of children conceived as a result of sexual violence, beginning with their right to life," the delegation's statement said.

"These children should not become the collateral victims of the abhorrent violence perpetrated against women," it added. "Rather, they need to be supported and loved."

The Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations in Geneva presented the statement June 28, during the 47th regular session of the Human Rights Council, which was held through July 13.

The Holy See's statement was a response to a report by the special rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences.





# Letter from America



Carol Zimmermann

**I**t turns out there really is no place like home for a prized piece of movie memorabilia that came to The Catholic University of America's drama department about 50 years ago.

Missing for decades, the university's long-rumoured possession of the blue gingham dress worn by Judy Garland as Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz* showed up without much Hollywood fanfare this summer in a white trash bag stashed high in a theatre department's office.

The rediscovery of something that had almost seemed legend in the drama department – except for photos of it and descriptions from people who remembered seeing it – echoes a theme taken right from the classic 1939 movie.

Dorothy promises never to look for her heart's desire “any further than my own back yard” after likely taking to heart the wizard's advice that everything she was “looking for was right there with you all along”.

In early June, in preparation for renovation work to start on the university's Hartke Theatre, a department faculty member sorting through things noticed a white trash bag above the faculty mail slots. Inside it was a green shoe-sized box whose contents needed no explanation for Matt Ripa.

**“A retired drama department professor discovered it while doing some pandemic cleaning out and sorting”**

Mr Ripa, a lecturer and operations coordinator in the university's drama department, took one look inside and seeing the faded blue squares and the aged yellowing blouse of the classic film dress, he began laughing hysterically.

## Mission

For the past seven years, since he started working at the school where he earned his graduate degree, it's been his personal mission to find this dress. It was given to Dominican Fr Gilbert Hartke – founder of the drama department and namesake of its theatre – in 1972, two years before he retired.

There are pictures of the priest holding the dress and showing it to faculty members but after he died in 1986 no one knew what became of the iconic costume.

Mr Ripa had looked for it in the theatre's archives and storage closets and had essentially given up hope of finding it, so its unexpected appearance was a pretty welcome surprise. He and a co-worker got some gloves,

## Iconic Dorothy dress has been there ‘all along’ at Catholic University



Fr Gilbert Hartke, founder of The Catholic University of America's speech and drama department, is seen in this undated photo holding the dress worn by actor Judy Garland in the 1939 movie *The Wizard of Oz*. The name of the student standing with him is unknown. Photo: CNS

**“The Tower said she donated Garland's dress to be a ‘a source of hope, strength and courage’ to the students”**

held the dress up and took pictures and then called the university's archive department with the news: “We have Judy Garland's dress!”

The piece of movie history, one of six original dresses believed to be in existence, was a gift from Mercedes McCambridge, an actress and friend of Garland's, who was artist-in-residence at the university in 1972-1973.

McCambridge won an Oscar for best supporting actress in *All the King's Men* in 1949 and was nominated for the same award for the 1956 film *Giant*, but she became perhaps even more well-known for being the voice of the demon child in *The Exorcist* in 1973, even though Warner Brothers failed to credit her for the role.

A 1973 article in the campus newspaper, *The Tower*, said she donated Garland's dress to be a “a source of hope, strength and courage” to the students.

## Regret

The writer pointed out that in a small way it also answered Garland's expressed regret that she hadn't gone to college and her questions if “it all could have been different” if she had. “Judy's fan-

tasy has come true. A real part of her has made it to college,” the article said.

Although no one knows how McCambridge came to own the dress, it doesn't seem unusual that she gave it to Fr Hartke. Maria Mazzenga, curator of the university's American Catholic History Collections, noted the priest's flair for the unique, saying he also owned a silk jacket from India, a 6-foot-long aviator scarf and a Russian fur hat.

“People gave him clothes because they knew he would like it,” she said.

## Playwright

The priest, a playwright and director who started the university's theatre department in 1937, also was instrumental in Washington theatre efforts and civil rights advocacy. He was friends with US presidents from Harry Truman to Ronald Reagan and was one of two priests called to stay with the body of President John F. Kennedy at the White House prior to his funeral.

This renewed connection with Fr Hartke through the famous dress is what pleases Mr Ripa most.

He admits he is not a huge *Wizard of Oz* fan, so he hadn't gone

overboard for its link with the iconic film. Instead, what he loves is how the dress reminds him of the drama department's history.

Talking to *Catholic News Service* July 7 right alongside the famed-dress now safely stored in a temperature- and humidity-controlled environment – he said he has enjoyed all the comments Catholic University alumni have made on social media about the famous finding after he initially posted it.

“It reminds you: You are in a special club and Fr Hartke was the coolest,” he said.

**“School archivists are planning long-term conservation of the dress, which they say is too valuable to put on display”**

Mr Ripa is pretty sure the dress turned up now because a retired drama department professor discovered it while doing some pandemic cleaning out and sorting. A note taped to the bag said: “I found this in my office.”

Once the dress was in the careful – and gloved – hands of the university's archives department, the job of verifying its authenticity began.

Ms Mazzenga reached out to experts in cultural memorabilia at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History which has several *Oz* items – including its famous pair of Dorothy's ruby red slippers – on display. Museum officials who came to the campus measured the dress and looked it over meticulously.

## Authorised

They are not authorised to authenticate objects like this one, Ms Mazzenga said, but they could say with confidence that this dress, like the other five in existence, had the same verifiable characteristics: a secret pocket, Judy's name written by hand in similar script on a label and tears in the blouse's thin material.

For now, school archivists are planning long-term conservation of the dress, which they say is too valuable to put on display. They also are responding to questions from the pretty big and very curious *Wizard of Oz* fanbase.

One person who appreciates the school's find and its long-time connection with the dress is Steph Twomey, a 2015 graduate of Catholic University who has been playing Dorothy since 2017 at the theme park *Land of Oz* in Asheville, North Carolina.

“This. Is. INSANE!” she commented on an Instagram post about the find by the university's archives department.



# Institute aims to overcome modern challenges to effective catechesis



Jodi Martin

**A**ccompaniment is the key to addressing modern catechetical challenges, a method that's at the centre of a new entity being created under the direction of Bishop Frank Caggiano of Bridgeport, Connecticut, chairman of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops' Subcommittee on the Catechism.

A proposal to create an Institute for the Catechism was presented at the bishops' spring meeting in June, which took place virtually. Rather than a physical structure, the institute will be a new process by which publishers of catechetical materials and the developers of catechetical content will work with the subcommittee to address modern challenges to catechesis.

The second main component of the institute will be a yearly, in-person training conference and retreat for diocesan catechetical leaders, with a separate track for publishers.

Current challenges to effective catechesis are many, Bishop Caggiano said, including the fact that parish resources often don't allow for extensive formation of catechists and that catechetical resources in Spanish lack crucial cultural considerations.

The influence of the secular world, the strain families are under, and the fact that many parents, teachers and catechists were part of a generation that was not well catechised, he said, also are significant barriers to catechists' ability to lead others to a genuine encounter with Christ through catechesis.

"They need some support," said Bishop Caggiano.

**“If questions arise during the creation of materials, the consultants also will be available as a resource”**

Although he presented the idea of launching the institute on the last day of the bishops' June 16-18 virtual spring assembly, it has been in discussion since 2017. Publication of the new Directory for Catechesis in 2020 added to the certainty of those involved that the time to launch the institute was in 2021.

Through the Institute for the Catechism, the process for evaluating new catechetical materials as to their conformity with the Catechism of the Catholic Church will change. Instead of evaluating a finished print curriculum and recommending changes, theological consultants will be involved earlier in the process, weighing in on the scope and



Bishop Frank Caggiano of Bridgeport, international chaplain of Rosary for Life, is assisted by Deacon Gerard Devine as he celebrates the annual Rosary for Life Mass October 1, 2020, at Resurrection Church in Brooklyn, New York. Photo: CNS.

sequence, glossary and the writing stage of production, for example, and reviewing digital products as well.

The publishers of catechetical materials used by parishes have always been conscientious about ensuring their products are theologically sound, Bishop Caggiano noted. Since the mid-1990s, annual meetings have taken place between publishers and the subcommittee, and a review process to ensure that printed catechetical materials are theologically sound has been in place.

"The relationship has been good and collaborative. Publishers want to do what's right, what's in conformity with the Church. This is the next evolutionary stage," Bishop Caggiano said.

## Evolution

In an interview with *Catholic News Service*, the bishop added that he feels there has been a natural evolution in the landscape of catechesis and catechetical materials.

"The catechesis has changed in that the larger society has become more secular, and catechetical materials have migrated to different forms of materials that were not common 25 years ago – particularly the electronic platform," he said. "It's entirely possible that already, for example, a

majority of catechetical resources a parish uses could be online versus in print. We're in a whole new world."

The difficulty of reviewing digital catechetical resources is that there are two kinds: static and dynamic, the bishop said. Some materials, once posted or printed, do not change much over the following months; but dynamic ones are interactive and frequently updated, posing a challenge to evaluation by the consultation team.

The solution will be for theological consultants appointed by the subcommittee to work with publishers during the process of creating print and online materials, instead of asking them to submit finished products.

Sabrina Magnuson, a catechetical consultant for Loyola Press, has worked in development of catechetical content for publishers William H. Sadlier, Our Sunday Visitor and Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. She was among the first group of publishers to meet with the Subcommittee on the Catechism when the process to review catechetical materials for conformity with the catechism was inaugurated.

## Materials

Since then, not only have the methods of delivery for catechetical materials changed, so have many of the faces who generate those materials, Ms

Magnuson said. Wanting to get everyone back on the same page, she added, is understandable and needed in the face of increased disaffiliation, secular pressures on young people and the cultural diversity of the United States.

**“Catechetical materials have migrated to different forms of materials that were not common 25 years ago”**

But for publishers, there are still more questions than answers. Ms Magnuson is certain that having a theological consultant involved in earlier stages of the process will add time to that process and increase costs, making it hard for publishers to be responsive to the needs of ministry.

"On the plus side, if it's found that a publisher has skipped some foundational parts, those can be corrected early on. I can see the consultants' involvement on the front end, the accompaniment in those early stages, as ensuring authenticity," she said. "It will make it easier for them to achieve conformity later in the process. That balance will eventually be achieved, but it will be tricky."

Ongoing direction and formation for Catholic catechetical publishing

will take place at the annual conference. If questions arise during the creation of materials, the consultants also will be available as a resource.

Mike Raffio of catechetical publisher Plaum agreed that the vision for the institute has the potential to change the fundamental relationship between the publishers and bishops into a process that's less reactive to a finished product and more collaborative.

## Mission

However, leading people to a meaningful encounter with Christ through catechesis and an understanding of their role in the mission of the Church is something many catechetical materials attempt, "but we must admit our own limitations", said Mr Raffio, who also is president of the Association of Catholic Publishers.

"Any person's faith development is a lifelong journey. That journey, even for young people, includes so many more variables than catechetical texts can be expected to provide," he said.

Ms Magnuson agreed, noting that forming leaders who will in turn inspire and form parents, teachers and catechists in their home diocese is always a daunting prospect.

"At the end of the day, the textbook is a resource, a tool. Encounter is so much more than that," she said.

Mindful of lingering pandemic restrictions, this autumn an initial group of publishers and diocesan catechetical leaders will be invited to a virtual formation conference. Next year, likely in November, the first in-person conference will take place. The cost of realising the event is expected to be shared among dioceses, donors and publishers, Bishop Caggiano said.

**“Parish resources often don't allow for extensive formation of catechists and that catechetical resources in Spanish lack crucial cultural considerations”**



# Letters

## Letter of the week

### Death penalty and abortion cannot be compared

**Dear Editor,** Breda O'Brien suggests that if President Joe Biden is to be excommunicated then William Barr, President Trump's Attorney General should also be excommunicated because of his support for the death penalty [IC 01/07/2020].

While I totally support Breda in her opposition to the death penalty, I contend that there is no comparison with it and the worldwide slaughter of innocents through abortion. It should be pointed out that it was only under Pope Francis that its abolition was sought as until then it was left open for 'rare cases', which I found unacceptable.

We now have President Joe Biden hypocritically claiming to be a practis-

ing Catholic with particular devotion to Our Lady, Patroness of the Unborn, when he has overturned every restriction on abortion achieved by President Trump and, through funding International Planned Parenthood, the biggest provider in the world, is intent on imposing abortion on those countries which have not legalised it. This means that many more millions of babies will be killed during his tenure.

As I said, I am totally opposed to the death penalty and am in contact with someone on death row, and actually it is what drew me into defending human rights. Being realistic, the most urgent task now is to halt the increasing tide of killing babies in the womb, which any-

one with any interest in human rights must support but it certainly does not preclude also speaking out against the death penalty. As Breda stated, no right can apply without the right to life.

I am saddened that President Biden is allowed to use his faith to win votes, while disrespecting the Holy Eucharist. Yes, it is important that, not only politicians but all claiming to be practising Catholics, adhere to the teaching of Christ, but it is also important to try to ensure that, where there is evidence of open defiance of this teaching, this is called out by the Church.

*Yours etc.,  
Mary Stewart,  
Ardeskin, Donegal Town*

## An apple of God's eye

**Dear Editor,** Joyce's portrait of Cardinal Cullen in *Ulysses* came to mind recently when I read of his second burial in the vaults of the Pro-Cathedral and although it was not meant as a compliment it did catch a sense of the huge intellectual gifts which God gave to him as a linguist and a theologian who most famously worked on drafting the doctrine of papal infallibility. The disturbance of his rest marked the final chapter in the story of the great Dublin Diocesan seminary at Clonliffe where he had been buried in 1878. It also marks the passing of the great institutional Church which he helped build and presided over in the 19th Century with its epic parochial and religious structures. There certainly was a death here but also a birth of a new way of being Church which will be radically different from the old and which will be painful in its coming.

*Yours etc.,  
Fr Peter O'Reilly  
Artane, Dublin 5*



## Group-think at large in EU over Hungary's policies

**Dear Editor,** The fabled 'belt of the crozier' that Irish legislators were cautious of when drafting social legislation in times past was a mere 'love-tap' compared to the coercive influence wielded today by the LGBTQ movement on governments, politicians and media.

Take the events of last week. Hungary, a sovereign state with a right-of-centre government (not yet a crime) enacts legislation to limit LGBTQ content and transmission-times on programmes aimed at minors, on the grounds that such

programmes encroached on the exclusive rights of parents in respect of sexual education. Meltdown in LGBT circles.

No such 'pass' can be given to the foreign ministers of another 14/15 EU states (all more-or-less on the Atlantic side) who despite the clarification offered by Hungary's foreign minister penned a formal letter of protest to Budapest alleging that the legislation breached European Commission 'values'. Group-think writ large!

One of the signatories of that letter was Ireland's foreign minister who can

hardly be unaware of the fact that Ireland's Constitution also states, in Article 42.1, that "the State acknowledges that the primary and natural educator of the child is the family and guarantees to respect the inalienable right and duty of parents to provide, according to their means, for the religious and moral, intellectual, physical and social education of their children". Sounds almost Hungarian!

Does Ireland have a two-track foreign policy? One for domestic consumption, another for running with the

pack in Brussels. Happily we only have one Constitution.

The now-Venerable Robert Schuman, architect of the edifice that is now the European community, must be turning in his grave as he watches the antics of the current custodians of his legacy. Thank God for the former Eastern Bloc member-states and for the common sense that they bring to the table. They have paid their membership dues many times over after half a century of Nazi and Soviet occupation.

*Yours etc.,  
Michael Gill  
Dalkey, Co. Dublin*

## Pro-choice movement fooled Irish public

**Dear Editor,** It's fascinating how quickly the pro-choice movement forget their own slogans and the promises they made the public before the abortion referendum in 2018. 'Free, Safe, Rare'. Abortion is certainly not rare in Ireland as we can see by the figures released for 2020.

Clearly their campaign was not about informing the Irish public of the realities of abortion, but to sugar coat and obfuscate what the public was voting for. I'm sure many people who were reluctant 'Yes' voters, who were convinced by the 'hard cases' constantly being pushed by

the media, are realising they were lied to, that they were fooled. Hopefully there is more pushback against the horrors of abortion now the penny has dropped.

*Yours etc.,  
Deirdre Kennedy  
Cork City, Cork*

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

### European Parliament backs 'extreme' abortion report despite protests

Union founder Robert Schuman must be spinning in his grave. The EU is yet another organisation, like Amnesty International, which has been infiltrated and corrupted by a toxic mixture of cynical careerists and single-issue fanatics who care nothing for its founding principles. To these people it's just a useful vehicle to get what they want. — **Charles Glenn**

Just finished reading *How we killed God, tales from modern Ireland* by David Quinn. It is scary what the potential manifestations will be within a generation if this aggressively populist pursuit of 'individualism at all costs' is continued upon society by our body politic. — **Padraig Cosgrave**

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

## More divestment means more authentic Catholic schools

**Dear Editor,** The current school admissions policy in Ireland was introduced for good reason, no parent should be left in a difficult situation in which their children are constantly at the bottom of waiting lists because of their faith. This was the issue in several oversubscribed schools mainly in Dublin I believe. They had a Catholic ethos and Catholic students were prioritised.

I think it's extremely important that any parent who wants their children to receive a Catholic education should be able to send their child to a Catholic school – and a truly authentic Catholic school at that.

Without a doubt, many parents want to send their children to particular schools not because of the religious ethos, but because of proximity or the good outcomes of previous students.

The issue is the majority of schools are under Catholic patronage and due to the lack of diversity in school patronage in Ireland there are many students and parents involved in Catholic schools who actively dislike or even abhor Catholicism. This has a watering down effect on the ethos.

For this reason, the speedy divestment of Catholic patronage of schools is desperately needed – once communities are consulted of course. Although Catholic schools will be fewer, hopefully they will be truer to what they stand for in the future. This brings me to the article I read in your paper in which Bishop Tom Deenihan says there is a need to scrap the school admissions policy which stops religion being part of the criteria for acceptance into the school in a post-divestment landscape [IC 01/07/2020]. I agree totally. Less Catholic schools mean less choice for Catholic parents, which means priority should be given to parents who want a Catholic education for their children. Simple really.

*Yours etc.,  
John Byrne  
Malahide, Co. Dublin*

## 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



▲ **SOUTH SUDAN:** South Sudanese celebrate the 10th anniversary of the country's independence in Juba, July 9.

◀ **ITALY:** Hundreds of pilgrims and well-wishers greet Pope Francis outside Gemelli Hospital in Rome July 11. The Pope, who led the Angelus prayer from the 10th-floor balcony of the hospital, is recovering from colon surgery. Photos: CNS.



**HAITI:** A man prays at the entrance of a church during Mass in Port-au-Prince, July 11, following the assassination of Haitian President Jovenel Moïse last week.



**YEMEN:** Workers in Sanaa prepare foodstuff for recipients at a food distribution centre supported by the World Food Program.



**USA:** A statue of Our Lady of Mount Carmel processes through the streets of Brooklyn, New York, during the Our Lady of Mount Carmel – St Paulinus of Nola street festival July 7.



**USA:** A group of kids at Cardiff State Beach in California paddle out into the waves during sunset.



# Why stay in the Church?



Several weeks ago after giving a lecture at a religious conference, the first question from the audience was this one: How can you continue to stay in a Church that played such a pivotal part in setting up and maintaining residential schools for the indigenous people of Canada? How can you stay in a Church that did that?

The question is legitimate and important. Both in its history and in its present, the Church has enough sin to legitimise the question. The list of sins done in the name of the Church is long: the Inquisition, its support for slavery, its role in colonialism, its link to racism, its role in thwarting women's rights, and its endless historical and present compromises with white supremacy, big money, and political power. Its critics are sometimes excessive and unbalanced, but, for the most part, the Church is guilty as charged.

**“There is no pure Church anywhere for us to join, just as there is no pure country anywhere for us in which to live”**

However, this guilt isn't unique to the Church. The same charges might be leveled against any of the countries in which we live. How can we stay in a country that has a history of racism, slavery, colonialism, genocide of some of its indigenous peoples, radical



**Fr Rolheiser**

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

inequality between its rich and its poor, one that is callous to desperate refugees on its borders, and one within which millions of people hate each other? Isn't it being rather selective morally to say that I am ashamed to be a Catholic (or a Christian) when the nations we live in share the same history and the same sins?

## Society

Still, since the Church is supposed to be a haven for a society and not just a mirror of it, the question is valid. Why stay in the Church? There are good apologetic answers on this, but, at the end of the day, for each of us, the answer has to be a personal one. Why do I stay in the Church?

First, because the church is my mother tongue. It gave me the faith, taught me about God, gave me God's word, taught me to pray, gave me the sacraments,

showed me what virtue looks like, and put me in contact with some living saints. Moreover, despite all its shortcomings, it was for me authentic enough, altruistic enough, and pure enough to have the moral authority to ask me to entrust my soul to it, a trust I've not given any other communal entity. I'm very comfortable worshipping with other religions and sharing soul with non-believers, but in the Church in which I was raised, I recognise home, my mother tongue.

**“I stay in the Church because the Church is all we've got! There's no other place to go”**

Second, the Church's history is not univocal. I recognise its sins and openly acknowledge them, but

that's far from its full reality. The Church is also the Church of martyrs, of saints, of infinite generosity, and of millions of women and men with big, noble hearts who are my moral exemplars. I stand in the darkness of its sins; but I also stand in the light of its grace, of all the good things it has done in history.

## Stay

Finally, and most important, I stay in the Church because the Church is all we've got! There's no other place to go. I identify with the ambivalent feeling that rushed through Peter when, just after hearing Jesus say something which had everyone else walk away from him, Peter was asked, “do you want to walk away too?” and he (speaking for all the disciples) replied: “We'd like to, but we have no place else to go. Besides we recognise that, despite everything, you still have the words of everlasting life.”

In essence, Peter is saying, “Jesus, we don't get you, and what we get we often don't like. But we know we're better off not getting it with you than going any place else. Dark moments notwithstanding, you're all we've got!”

The Church is all we've got! Where else can we go? Behind the expression, “I am spiritual, but not religious” (however sincerely uttered) lies either an invincible failure or a culpable reluctance to deal with the necessity of religious community, to deal with what Dorothy Day called “the asceticism of church life”. To say, “I cannot or will not deal with an impure religious community” is an escape, a self-serving exit, which at the end of the day is not very helpful, not least for the person saying it. Why? Because for compassion to be effective it needs to be collective, given the truth that what we dream alone remains a dream but what we dream with others can become a reality. I cannot see anything outside the Church that can save this world.

**“There are good apologetic answers on this, but, at the end of the day, for each of us, the answer has to be a personal one”**

There is no pure Church anywhere for us to join, just as there is no pure country anywhere for us in which to live. This Church, for all its checkered history and compromised present, is all we have. We need to own its faults since they are our faults. Its history is our history; its sin, our sin; and its family, our family – the only lasting family we've got.

**“I recognise its sins and openly acknowledge them, but that's far from its full reality”**



# Family & Lifestyle

The Irish Catholic, July 15, 2021

## Personal Profile

Just reward for  
the 'silent member'  
of Radharc

Page 34



# Getting back to jet-setting



**F**ollowing a 16 month hibernation, Europe is slowly emerging into the bright light of day once again. The member states are slowly, cautiously emerging from their isolation to a new world, one in which people are no less eager to fly to and fro.

For my own part, I can't wait to get back out there. Having grown up in a hyper-connected world, in which it's as easy for me to get to central Europe as to the other side of the county during rush hour (between two and three hours each, depending on conditions), the past year has been difficult for my generation in terms of the sudden restrictions on movement.



**With Europe cautiously emerging from Covid, knowing the new terms under which we travel is essential, writes Jason Osborne**

However, the governments of the EU have decided the state of the pandemic meets their criteria for the reintroduction of travel, albeit in a highly controlled, regulated manner. Their Digital Covid Certificate (DCC) is central to this, as essential now to passage between countries as a passport.

There's been much talk about the return to travel in recent

news, so a summary of where the country is currently at and what's around the corner in terms of travel access and restrictions is worthwhile. It occurs to me that if I as a journalist have to research the current state of restrictions, the average person who doesn't dabble as extensively in news probably doesn't have much hope of knowing the

ins and outs of the present situation. Time to rectify that!

## The current state of travel to Ireland

The important thing to remember with regards to international travel is that you have two sets of rules to deal with – Ireland's and whichever country you're travelling to. To deal with Ireland's first, there are a number of conditions that must be satisfied when entering the country:

- It is currently the law (as of July 15) that you should not travel to Ireland unless you have an essential reason for your journey.

- If you do have to travel to

Ireland, you must have proof of a negative or 'not detected' Covid-19 Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) test taken within 72 hours of your arrival into the country.

- It's currently the law that you must quarantine when you arrive into Ireland – unless you're travelling from Northern Ireland. Mandatory Hotel Quarantine (MHQ) is also in place for arrivals from certain countries.

- An online passenger locator form must be filled out when travelling to Ireland.

As mentioned, an "essential reason" is required for travel into

» Continued on Page 33



## Family News



## AND EVENTS

## AUSTRIAN MAN BITTEN BY SNAKE AS HE SAT ON THE TOILET

An Austrian had a nightmarish morning when a python slid through his drains and bit him as he sat on the toilet, *Reuters* reported.

The 65-year-old in the city of Graz turned around shortly after 6 am to see a 1.6-metre albino reticulated python in the toilet bowl, police in the province of Styria said in a statement.

The snake, a constrictor native to Asia that can grow to more than 9 metres long, is thought to have escaped a neighbour's apartment unnoticed and slid into the toilet through the drains, though its exact route was still unclear, the police said.

A reptile expert contacted by the emergency services removed the snake from the toilet, cleaned it and returned it to its owner. Its victim was treated in hospital for minor injuries.

## DUBLIN MARATHON CANCELLED FOR SECOND YEAR RUNNING

The 2021 KBC Dublin Marathon has been cancelled for the second year in a row, with the organisers claiming there are "too many unknowns" ahead of the event, which was due to take place October 24.

Last year's marathon was also cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic, but this year organisers said they didn't feel it was advisable to hold such a large event with "recent updates on the modelling around Covid-19".

The race director, Jim Aughey said it is with great regret that "we are cancelling the KBC Dublin Marathon for the second year in a row. Despite vigorous evaluations, there are still too many unknowns to be confident that we could provide a safe event given the pure scale of the marathon."

All entries for the 2021 KBC Dublin Marathon will be valid for the 2022 event, with those who do not wish to avail of this being offered a full refund option.

This can be accessed from Wednesday July 7 to Saturday July 31 via the 'Manage My Bookings' page on Eventmaster.

## TOKYO ANNOUNCES STATE OF EMERGENCY AHEAD OF OLYMPICS

Japan has declared a state of emergency in Tokyo which will run throughout the Olympic Games, according to the BBC.

This comes as coronavirus cases rise in Tokyo, with the July 23 opening ceremony drawing closer.

Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga told reporters it would remain in place until August 22.

Bars and restaurants will not be allowed to serve alcohol and must close by 8pm, a government official announced.

There has been widespread opposition to the Olympics in Japan, with calls for them to be postponed or cancelled.

"Taking into consideration the effect of coronavirus variants and not to let the infections spread again to the rest of the nation, we need to strengthen our countermeasures," the prime minister said.

## A misguided rush for romance but not friendship



I love the C.S. Lewis quote about friendship: "Friendship is unnecessary, like philosophy, like art... It has no survival value; rather it is one of those things which give value to survival." In his book *The Four Loves*, he examines the four types of human love-affection, friendship (*philia*), romantic/sexual desire (*eros*) and charity/God's love (*agape*).

On the official C.S. Lewis website, friendship is referred to as "the love dismissed". The one most ignored in the modern world. It's suggested that maybe friendship is viewed as the love that requires a lot of our time and effort and maybe the one that's least celebrated. We see this, even in Christian circles, where a great romance is cause for celebration while a wonderful friendship is not talked about much and rarely celebrated. There's often a rush to find romance and to attain the high of falling in love but, in the intense focus on romantic love, the great value of good friendships can be overlooked. It's not unusual today to see children as young as 13 or 14 talking about going on a date or pairing off. One of the problems with this early dating is that it fast forwards a relationship in a way that's not reflected by the teenagers' stage of development and maturity. How many times have budding friendships been ruined by the introduction of a romantic element that young people are not yet ready to cope with? Often, relationships in the early or mid-teens are characterised by their passion and fervour, with ample amounts of drama and unpredictability. At a time when the young people should be spreading their wings and building good friendships with others, they only have eyes for each other.

In authentic friendship, romance and the exclusivity of being a couple are not the focal points of the relationship. Lewis

A parent's perspective  
Maria Byrne

describes that wonderful moment of connection when one person says to another "What! You too? I thought I was the only one".

It's no surprise that he thought that friendship exhibited a glorious "nearness by resemblance" to Heaven where each soul will be united in their unique visions of God. He spoke about how God reveals to us the beauty of others believing that we don't choose friends but that friendship itself is chosen, a gift given to us through the love of God. In ancient times, friendship was often viewed as the superior way to achieve happiness. Given these lofty views of the blessings of good friendships, do we spend too little time and effort pursuing and nurturing these most joyful of relationships?

## How do we foster these Christian friendships and encourage them in our children?

Jim Rohn, the author and motivational speaker is often quoted for having said that we're the average of the five people that we spend the most time with. This has been broadened out to include a much wider sphere of influence with some studies even suggesting that having happy friends makes you happier. True Christian friendship goes beyond natural affection and fondness, striving to build a relationship based on our common jour-

ney to holiness. How do we foster these Christian friendships and encourage them in our children? In *True Friendship: Where Virtue Becomes Happiness*, philosopher, Dr John Cuddeback, says that true friendship and a life of virtue go hand in hand and are the key to human happiness. Being virtu-



ous, he says, simply means that we "act from a desire for what is truly good and noble". In a virtuous friendship, each person is valued by the other for who they truly are. Many friendships are based on shared interests or a desire to share good times together. This is fine but, if we only see another as a source of fun or a useful study partner, we are missing out on forming a deeper friendship which Cuddeback describes as "one's desire, extending beyond private fulfillment, is for the fulfillment, the flourishing of the friend". A true friend wants what is best for the other, for the other's own sake. Many of the petty dramas we see in childhood friendships are based

on the fact that small children often want to exert control and haven't yet learnt about mutual self-giving. Friends, at this age, can be viewed as merely players in a game with cries of "It's my game!" or "I'm in charge" if companions break the perceived rules of engagement. As children get older, we help them to reach the point where they understand that good friends must be united in doing good for one another.

## Let us pray every day for good friends for ourselves and our children

John Cuddeback refers to true friendship as "an art" and that, "like great music, is a masterpiece" happening because people know what they want and "develop the skills called virtues, necessary to achieve their great goal". As parents, we wish that our children will have friends who will assist them in their struggle to become the best version of themselves. Peer pressure is often viewed negatively but positive peer pressure from good friends is a great benefit on the uphill road to greatness. A good friend who can share good times, great conversations and who shares the quest to find justice and truth is a treasure beyond compare. St Maximilian Kolbe spoke of friendship saying: "God sends us friends to be our firm support in the whirlpool of struggle. In the company of friends we will find strength to attain our sublime ideal." Let us pray every day for good friends for ourselves and our children. There are few better gifts.



» Continued from Page 31



Ireland at the moment, but what constitutes an essential reason? While it doesn't include social visits, it may include: caring for children; caring for older or vulnerable people; exercising your legal right of access to a child; going to a court hearing; going to a funeral. These are the acceptable reasons for essential family travel, according to the Government.

Essential business travel means people whose presence in Ireland is critical to the functioning of a business.

Other essential reasons for travel include:

- To go to college or school if you have to be there in person.
- To go with a child or vulnerable person to school if they have to be there in person.
- To go to a medical or dental appointment, or to go to an appointment with someone you live with, or a vulnerable person.
- To seek essential or urgent medical, health or dental services, or to accompany someone you live with or a vulnerable person who needs essential service.

If you arrive into Ireland from another country, you have to fill out an online passenger locator form before you arrive.

You also have to fill out this form if you arrive in Ireland through Northern Ireland and were overseas in the 14 days before your arrival.

The information on the form may be used to contact you to check your location, or to contact you if there is a confirmed or suspected case of Covid-19 on whatever form of transport you took to Ireland.

From July 12, the paper version of the form was phased out, meaning that the passenger locator form is available only online, and must be filled out in advance of travel to Ireland. You will be sent an email receipt, which you will have to show when boarding – it will be a pre-boarding requirement.

As of the time this paper went to print, these were the rules in place with regards to travel to Ireland. However, come July 19, the EU DCC will change the state of travel in the EU for Irish citizens.

### Digital Covid Certificate

From July 19, Ireland plans to operate the DCC for travel originating within the EU and EEA. These plans are still subject to the public health advice at the time, though.

The Covid certificate, which was previously titled the 'Digital Green Certificate' will be used to maintain control of travel within the EU during the Covid-19 pandemic.

It is proof that you have been either:

- Vaccinated against Covid-19
- Received a negative test
- Recovered from Covid-19 in the last six months

As a result, being vaccinated won't be a pre-condition of travel. The certificate will contain only certain information pertinent to the pass, including your name, date of birth, date of issue, relevant information about your vaccine, test or recovery and an identifier number.

### “People arriving without a DCC will also need proof of a negative RT-PCR test taken no more than 72 hours before arrival”

It will be available both electronically and in paper form, with both offering a QR code to avoid fraud.

To sum up, subject to the public health advice come July 19, if you arrive into Ireland with a DCC, you will no longer need to quarantine. If you have the DCC and have been fully vaccinated, there'll be no need for an RT-PCR test either.

If you arrive with a DCC on the basis of a test other than an RT-PCR test, such as an antigen test, you will need proof of a negative RT-PCR test taken no more than 72 hours before arrival. People arriving without a DCC will also need proof of a negative RT-PCR test taken no more than 72 hours before arrival.

Children between seven and 18 who have not been vaccinated must also have a negative RT-PCR test.

As the name might suggest how-



ever, the EU DCC will only apply smoothly to travel in and around the European Union, as well as Norway, Switzerland, Liechtenstein and Iceland. For travel from countries outside this zone, different procedures apply.

It is important to note in the Irish context that if you are fully vaccinated and having difficulty accessing your DCC, it is expected that a national call centre will be established to assist any and all inquiries.

### Travel from outside the EU

From July 19, Ireland will roughly follow the EU approach to non-essential travel into the EU from third countries.

An “emergency brake” system will be applied to countries where a variant of concern “arises, and this will be coordinated at EU level to protect against the importation of variants.

If an emergency brake is applied to a country, the Government advice will be to avoid travel to that country.

If you're arriving from outside the EU and no emergency brake has been applied and you have proof of vaccination, you will not need to do any travel-related testing or quarantine.

If you do not have valid proof of vaccination, however, you will be obliged to:

- Show evidence of a negative RT-PCR test result within 72 hours before your arrival
- Home quarantine
- Undergo post-arrival testing, which will be provided through the HSE

If you're arriving from outside the EU and the emergency brake has been applied to the country you're coming from, the rules will depend on whether you've been vaccinated or not

If you have proof of vaccination, you'll need to:

- Show a negative result from a RT-PCR test taken no more than 72 hours before arrival
- Home quarantine
- Undergo post-arrival testing – this will be provided through the HSE.

If you don't have proof of vaccination, the steps remain the same, but it's MHQ rather than home quarantine.

As can be seen, travel is not the simple thing it once was, but it's a glimmer of hope where once there was none. I for one look forward to getting back out there towards the end of the summer.

# Dad's Diary

Rory Fitzgerald



“I really love you dad.” Such words, when so sincerely spoken, by such a small girl, would melt the hardest heart. Her follow-on phrase, however, led me to better understand the proximate cause of this profound outburst of affection, “I also really love your chocolate,” she said, in a pointed reference to the piece of chocolate I'd just given my newly-minted three-year-old daughter. Well, it's not every day you turn three, I had reasoned, and so treats were the order of the day. Hence the chocolate induced love.

Her big third birthday celebrations began with the whole family roused at an unearthly hour for the ritual unwrapping of presents. The birthday girl's face beamed brightly as each new toy was slowly revealed from behind sparkling wrapping paper. Her older brother and sisters then helped her put them together, and played kindly with their littlest sister, upon whom they all dote.

Our ordinarily healthy breakfast regimen is merrily abandoned on the kids' birthdays, when a box of ordinarily contraband Coco Pops is permitted for one day only. Chocolate smudged and slightly hyperactive children therefore begin the morning of each birthday just as they mean to go on, on a sugar induced high.

The birthday girl loves lions and tigers and so her birthday outing was a trip to the wildlife park. All the morning's excitement had taken its toll on her, and she slept for the entire journey to the park. Upon arrival, when she blearily awoke, her older sister made the error of pointing this out, saying “you slept the whole way!” The reply was instant and furious, “No I didn't! I'm a big girl!” I've long found that it's wiser to

simply agree.

The big girl hardly needed any buggy assistance, even on the long walk around the park, as she ran excitedly from the ostriches to the buffalo to the giraffes and back again. The rhino were in a similar mood to her – perhaps also having started the day with giant bowls of Coco Pops – they were also running frantically in circles at top speed. We gazed for a long time at her very favourite creatures, the lions, before settling for an ice cream break near the tiger enclosure.

As she watched the tiger repeatedly prowling back and forth along the perimeter of its enclosure, she asked, “Dad, why is the tiger walking up and down there all the time?” Just then, a cheeky grim came across her face, as she asked me conspiratorially, “Is he looking for the keys?” I laughed, “I hope he doesn't find those keys”!

We rolled onward through the park, past monkeys, pelicans, seals and eagles before collapsing back into the car for the ferry journey to my father's house, where a special birthday tea was waiting. There were games in the garden, another present from her beloved granddad along with a lovely big birthday cake with three candles to be blown out.

The fun continued at home, perhaps a little later than was ideal. However, the excitement, the new toys and the unusual amount of sugary treats all added up to a late evening for the special girl. When sleep eventually won out, and the house grew quiet, we exhausted parents were left to take a breather, and to think back upon the three magical years we've had so far with a beautiful little girl, whose smile brightens all our days.





# Just reward for the 'silent member' of Radharc

## Personal Profile



### Ruadhán Jones

**O**n July 6, Mr Peter Dunn was awarded a Papal Honour by the Archbishop of Dublin, Dr Dermot Farrell. Archbishop Farrell said the award recognised Mr Dunn's "tireless" work for the Radharc Trust "to ensure that the Radharc programmes and the essential Christian values they embody should not be forgotten".

Mr Dunn self-deprecatingly knocks down a suggestion that it was a reward for hard work: "I don't know that it was that hard, it was a bit over the top as far as I'm concerned," he says, finishing with a laugh.

**“After he died, I took an interest in it and I wanted to preserve and promote the archive as best I could with my limited experience”**

Mr Dunn has worked for 25 years and more in promoting and preserving the archive of Radharc films. Radharc was a series numbering more than 420 documentary films produced in 75 countries between 1962 and 1996. Although the driving force behind the project was Peter's brother, Fr Joe Dunn, Mr Dunn says that he was never involved in Joe's lifetime, describing himself as a "silent member" of the Radharc Trust.

"He [Joe] did all the work with his own group of priests, they all worked



Peter Dunn (right) with Archbishop Eamon Martin at a Radharc Award ceremony.

together in making the films," Mr Dunn explains. "When Joe died [in 1996], he didn't want Radharc as a film company to continue, because he couldn't get any priest that would have the knowledge of film making to take his place.

"After he died, I took an interest in it and I wanted to preserve and promote the archive as best I could with my limited experience. I was in business all my life, so I didn't know anything about filmmaking or anything like that. I had to get other people to do all the work for me."

In his modesty, Mr Dunn understates the work he has put in. He has led the work of digital media preservation and restoration, as well as negotiating proper care of the collection with national archives and institutions. More recently, he has

encouraged new talent and challenged moral thinking through screenings, film festivals and awards including The Radharc Award at the Fresh Festival and the prestigious biennial Radharc Awards.

### His praise

But most of his praise is reserved for his colleagues, including Mr Peter Kelly, formerly of Esras Films, and Ms Francis Rowe. Mr Dunn calls Peter Kelly "a great support and a fund of knowledge".

"He made a number of Radharc films himself around the world," Mr Dunn says. "I rely on him an awful lot for the technical side of things. But we got a lot of money from the BAI archiving funds to preserve a lot of the films. They're not all done by any means, yet, but it got a lot of them into high defi-

nition standard. That's ongoing work. Then we did a lot of work on the documents as well. Francis Rowe, she's an archivist with us, and she scanned and copied all the documents from all the 420 films. That was a terrific job to have all that done, all the original scripts. All the written copies connected with the films, they were all scanned and archived."

For many years, Mr Dunn would promote and screen the Radharc films, until he lost mobility. But he and the Radharc Trust are still looking for new ways to keep its mission alive.

"I'm looking for other ways, if anybody would be willing to show the films I'd be happy to give them DVDs of them. I have a few hundred of the DVDs made. We're also on our website, we're doing a lot of work, Francis Rowe and Peter Kelly are doing a lot

of work putting them on Vimeo. It's just parts of the films – there's a bit of a copyright issue – you could pay something small to view them. That's our ongoing work."

When asked if he hopes someone could make something like Radharc for the modern age, Mr Dunn says that it's unlikely.

"You wouldn't have the money to do it today, it was a project of its time and RTÉ were willing to fund the films because they were popular and they got a good audience," he continues. "It was one of the most popular programmes on RTÉ at its time. Nowadays, I don't know who'd be interested in them or would put up the money – you'd want a philanthropist with deep pockets!"

**“We’ve one film on the lake in Galilee, we did about six films on the Holy Land”**

But Mr Dunn finds the films still have the ability to entertain and inspire, and he takes pride in the positive feedback he has received in the past.

"I tried showing them in the local area and the few people that came were very interested, when they know about it and realise how well made they are and they're very interesting," Mr Dunn explains. "We've one film on the lake in Galilee, we did about six films on the Holy Land. [Journalist] Richard Crowley, he did the voice over on them and more – he was acting in them and explaining the film as it went along. We've one on the Holy Land and I showed that one time not so long ago and a man came up to me afterwards and he said, I know more about my religion now than ever I did. It's a nice testimony."

For more information, visit the Trust's website, [Radharc.ie](http://Radharc.ie). The Radharc awards 2021 are accepting entries until September 3.



## Children's Corner

Chai Brady

# A better way to blow up balloons

**C**hemical reactions make for some great experiments. There is nothing wrong with conducting experiments which do not seem to have any immediate practical, real world benefit. However, sometimes we discover things that can make our lives just a bit easier. Perhaps you are tired of blowing up balloons before a party (hopefully there will be a return to lively parties in future as more people are vaccinated).

Make use of the carbon dioxide given off by a baking soda and lemon juice reaction by funnelling the gas through a soft drink bottle and in to an awaiting balloon.

### Apparatus:

- Balloon
- About 40ml of water (a cup is about 250ml so you don't need much)
- A bottle

- Drinking straw
- Juice from a lemon
- 1 teaspoon of baking soda

### Method

- Before you begin, make sure that you stretch out the balloon to make it as easy as possible to inflate.
  - Pour the 40ml of water into an average sized bottle.
  - Add the teaspoon of baking soda and stir it around with the straw until it has dissolved.
  - Pour the lemon juice in and quickly put the stretched balloon over the mouth of the bottle.
- If all goes well, your balloon should begin to inflate. Adding the lemon juice to the baking soda creates a chemical reaction. The baking soda is a base, while the lemon juice is an acid, when the two combine they create carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). The



gas rises up and escapes through the soft drink bottle, it doesn't however escape the balloon, pushing it outwards and blowing it up. If you don't have any lemons then you can substitute the lemon juice for vinegar.

This is a great way of giving your lungs a rest while you prepare for your upcoming celebrations.

Does changing the amount of baking soda and lemon juice change the size of the balloon when it inflates? What would happen if you used another acid, like vinegar, instead of the lemon juice? Would it react the same with the baking soda?

Science is all about discovery and if people never asked questions, we certainly wouldn't have all the technology we are so used to in the modern world. Sometimes it can be a simple question like, do I really have to blow up all these balloons with nothing but my lungs? Some readers may smugly say they have no need of such an experiment as they have a pump, but where is the fun in that!





# TVRadio

Brendan O'Regan



## Many politicians seem to have a portfolio of values

**W**riting this column is not a dangerous business, but some journalists do put their lives on the line in pursuit of their stories.

Recently we had the shooting of Dutch journalist Peter R de Vries in the Netherlands and he's still in critical condition at the time of writing. On **Times Radio Breakfast** last Saturday Jenny Kleeman spoke to Jeremy Dear of the International Federation of Journalists about the problem. It used to be journalists in war zones that were most at risk, and Ms Kleeman in her time as foreign correspondent had colleagues who were killed in such circumstances. But now journalists could be targeted on home ground, even while bringing their children to school. It was a timely item on an issue that deserves more widespread coverage.

### Incisive reporting

During last week's by-election some journalists didn't cover themselves in glory though many provided incisive reporting and commentary throughout the count. It seemed particularly unfair that Aontú was the only Dáil party to be excluded from the high-profile debate on the edition of *The Week in Politics* that preceded the vote. And then RTÉ issued an apology for inadvertently,



Art historian Elizabeth Lev gave a fascinating insight on the art of Raphael. Photo: CNS.

they say, broadcasting a programme close to voting that featured poll winner Ivana Bacik in a favourable though not necessarily political context. However it was more in the print media that I found Ms Bacik getting nudge-worthy promotion. Prior to the vote several commentators on radio and television spoke of 'front runners', presumably relying on polls and experience, though there is a certain self-fulfilling prophecy about it. I wouldn't agree with many of Ms Bacik's

policies but at least with her and activists like her you know what you're getting, unlike those from the main parties who seem to have a portfolio of principles to choose from, depending on which way the 'woke' wind is blowing.

If only 'woke' applied to its core definition of being aware and awake to social justice issues we wouldn't have such polarised public debates. Irish missionaries have been inherently aware and committed to social justice for so long. I was

impressed by the contribution of Sr Orla Treacy, a Loreto sister from Bray on **The News at One** (RTÉ Radio One, Friday). On the occasion of South Sudan's Independence Day - it's the tenth anniversary - she spoke of the challenges facing her work as director of the mission in Rumbek. The Loreto sisters have brought education for girls to the area - initially the idea of education for girls was new and unfamiliar but now their school in Rumbek is oversubscribed, and despite some internal conflicts since independence, there is hope and optimism. As with journalists, security can be an issue. As Sr Orla pointed out, with civil war and internal conflict comes greater instability and proliferation of guns, even in the hands of young people, though in Rumbek they've been largely secluded from national conflicts.

### Discussed

Back on **Times Radio Breakfast** on Sunday morning the issue of Britain's cuts to overseas aid was discussed. It seems a group of philanthropists is planning to make up any resultant shortfall in order to protect various projects in the developing world. The effect might be to shame the government, even into changing its mind. No doubt there are many worthy projects deserving of support, though when I heard 'repro-

### PICK OF THE WEEK

#### ST THOMAS MOORE: A HERO FOR OUR TIMES

**EWTN Saturday July 17, 8am**

Dr Gerard Wegemer of the University of Dallas discusses the life and heroic virtues of St Thomas More, who gave his life defending the Faith during the reign of Henry VIII.

#### MASS

**RTÉ One Sunday July 18, 11am**

Fr Pat Malone celebrates Mass with the Cill Eoin, Clarecastle and Ballyea Parish Music Group, Co. Clare. The musical director is Claire Connellan.

#### SONGS OF PRAISE

**BBC One Sunday July 18, 1.15pm**

Katherine Jenkins visits Arundel in West Sussex and the Catholic cathedral built by the 15th duke of Norfolk as a statement of his faith. Radzi Chinyanganya is invited to the convent of the Poor Clares in Arundel to hear how they came to top the charts with their classical album.

ductive health' being mentioned I wondered what they have in mind. Like the 'woke' concept, the basic meaning of the words should be appealing - who could object to better healthcare for pregnant women? However, the phrase is often used as a euphemism for abortion. As regards the cuts, many in Britain seemed okay with them provided they were temporary and had the approval of parliament, but the government seems to be making a hash of it. I was struck by a question from presenter Jenny Kleeman - she wondered about unaccountable and tax-avoiding billionaires having influence on government policies. Now there's another topic to explore more thoroughly.

On a more calming note, I enjoyed last Sunday night's **Vaticano** (EWTN) an exploration of the work of Renaissance artist Raphael who died 500 years ago. The art historian Elizabeth Lev gave us an enthusiastic overview of his work in the Vatican for the reforming Pope Julius II. She described the harmony and peacefulness in his work, the patience desirable to appreciate it and the spirit of teamwork that he exemplified.

Now there are some qualities worth cultivating in these fractious times.

✉ [boregan@hotmail.com](mailto:boregan@hotmail.com),  
@boreganmedia



# Film

## The man who knew too much

It seemed stranger than fiction. An Englishman living with a Welsh woman is suspected of killing a French woman on the west coast of Cork two days before Christmas in 1996.

Sophie Toscan Du Plantier, as most people in Ireland must know by now, was a documentary film-maker whose love affair with our country ended in the dreadful circumstances of that Christmas 25 years ago when her skull was crushed in the ironically-named Schull. The photo-journalist Ian Bailey has always been the prime suspect.

"Evil can't co-exist with beauty," says local priest Fr Denis Cashman in Jim Sheridan's compulsive documen-

tary on the subject, *Murder at the Cottage* (Sky Crime), "It has to destroy it."

Sophie first came to Ireland to escape the hurly-burly of the French film world. Her husband Daniel was a producer who'd worked with people like Fellini and Marcello Mastroianni. It was meant to be a sanctuary for her. Instead it turned into a killing ground.

### Murder

Bailey reported on the murder from the outset. Was he hiding in plain sight?

When he was interviewed by police he had scratches on his hands. He said he got them cutting down a Christmas tree. He also had a mark on his face. He said he got that



Sophie Toscan Du Plantier

from killing a turkey.

His knowledge of the circumstances of the case intrigued the police. They

said he knew things only the killer could have known.

He's been convicted of the murder *in absentia* in France.

If he's extradited there he'll be imprisoned immediately. Ireland is unlikely to do this. There's no smoking gun, they say, no damning DNA evidence. Bailey claims it was nothing more than a show trial.

He's always protested his innocence but he's been violent with his partner, Jules Thomas. She recently insisted he leave the house they've shared together for many years. He's homeless as I write.

Sophie's parents declined to allow their contribution to Sheridan's six-part series be included in the final cut. Originally supportive, when they saw it they didn't approve of him saying police 'cooked up' a plot to convict Bailey.

A witness called Marie Farrell said she saw a man fitting his description looking at Sophie outside a shop

she owns in Schull and that she also saw him on the night of the crime. Afterwards she changed her testimony. She's now been totally discredited as a witness.

The second documentary currently showing on the case is the more polished *Sophie: A Murder in West Cork* (Netflix). It points the finger clearly at Bailey as the killer, suggesting he knew Sophie and that he confessed to the murder.

People's appetite for this kind of thing is insatiable. We all hunger for justice.

Sadly, it seems that hunger will never be satisfied for the beautiful woman whose residence in her isolated bolthole was cut so cruelly short on that dark night in 1996 when so many lives as well as her own were destroyed by a random, savage act.

Aubrey Malone







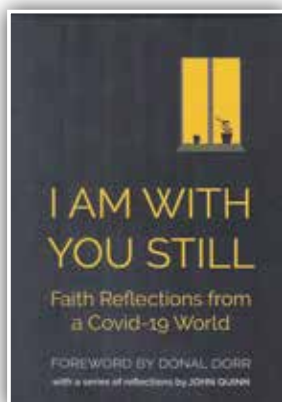
# BookReviews

Peter Costello



## Recent books in brief

*I am with you still: Faith reflections from a Covid-19 World*, edited with a series of reflections by John Quinn, foreword by Donal Dorr (Veritas, €12.99/£11.70)



In his new book popular writer John Quinn has drawn together some 18 people of all kinds from the corners of Ireland to give thought to the situation we have been passing through. These are a very varied group, with very varied responses. Readers, while engaging with their views, will be able to give some shape to the often even more varied responses in their own minds.

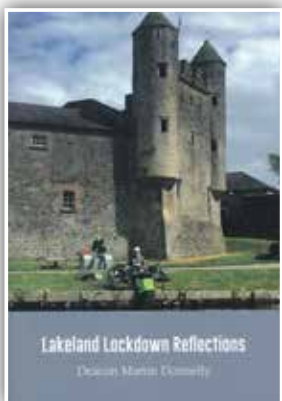
The main question haunting our minds are why, why does God allow this to happen? This has been the question posed by all kinds of events in the past, and there is no easy answer. But though there is pain and anxiety there have also been many positive aspects to the last years.

The positive actions of ordinary people has been unsurpassed and often magnificent in their aid to others, their care for those nearest them, and the way in which things have been kept going.

Reading these insights may be a reassuring experience. We don't need to ask why God is not here, when we can see we are all here in the place as he would want us to be, and therefore is with us. God cannot be experienced directly but only through others.

## Lakeland Lockdown Reflections,

by Deacon Martin Donnelly (Shanway Press, £10.00/€11.70)



The married deacons with which many parishes are now familiar present in their views a different view of life, and crisis, as in the present times. Deacon Martin Donnelly ministers among the fields and lakes of Co. Fermanagh, a place where many of us would like to be on these fine summer days. The book is illustrated by his friend Fr Brendan McManus SJ, with some very fine views and vignettes of the region.

*Lakeland Lockdown Reflections* is published by Shanway Press, Belfast, and can be purchased via the publisher, or through the Parish office at St Michael's, Enniskillen; telephone 028 (048 from ROI) 6632 2075 (ext. 3), or by emailing parishcentre@st-michaels.net. Copies can also be had directly from appropriate book shops.

# A lost soul from the Irish Diaspora

Peter Costello

## London-Irish voices from our great Diaspora 1851

*These days we hear a great deal about the Irish Diaspora. But all too often this means the life stories of those who did well in other parts of the world; the mass of emigrants become in a sense an amorphous cloud of exiled poverty. Now and again though we catch the voices of individuals.*

*The interviews Henry Mayhew (one of the founders of Punch) made on the streets with London poor and working people are a monument of social inquiry - the like is unknown here.*

*From his pages some Irish voices speak out, and they remind us that when we speak of hard times, they were once for many far harder. Mr Mayhew calculated their sale, at the time he wrote, at nearly fifteen and a half million oranges annually.*

*The orange trade was almost entirely in the hands of the Irish and a poor Irish-woman, neither squalid in appearance nor ragged in dress, though looking pinched and wretched, gave Mayhew the following story. Her history was one common to her class.*

## The orange street seller

"I was brought over here, sir, when I was a girl, but my father and mother died two or three years after. I was in service then, and very good service I continued in as a maid-of-all-work, and very kind people I met; yes, indeed, though I was Irish and a Catholic, and they was English Protestants.

"I saved a little money there, and got married. My husband's a labourer; and when he's in full worruk he can earn 12s. or 14s. a week, for he's a good hand and harrud-worruking man, and we do middlin' thin.

"He's out of worruk now, and I'm forced to thry and sill a few oranges to keep a bit of life in us, and my husband

minds the childer. Bad as I do, I can do 1d. or 2d. a day profit betther than him, poor man! for he's tall and big, and people thinks, if he goes round with a few oranges, it's just from idleniss; and the Lorrud above knows he'll always worruk whin he can.

"He goes sometimes whin I'm harrud tired. One of us must stay with the childer, for the youngist is not three and the ildist not five.

"We don't live, we starruve.

"We git a few 'taties, and sometimes a plaice. Today I've not taken 3d. as yit, sir, and it's past three. Oh, no, indeed and indeed, thin, I don't make 9d. a day. We live accordingly, for there's is. 3d. a week for rint.

"I have very little harrut to go into the public-houses to sill oranges, for they begins flying out about the Pope and Cardinal Wiseman, as if I had

anything to do with it.

"And that's another reason why I like my husband to stay at home, and me to go out, because he's a hasty man, and might get into throuble. I don't know what will become of us, if times don't turn."

## A girl with a fruit stall

Mr Mayhew also took a statement from another young woman, of whose age it was not easy to form a conjecture,





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.



as she looked much older than the 18 or 19 years old she thought herself to be.

"I live by keepin' this fruit stall. It's a poor livin' when I see how others live. Yes, in thruth, sir, but it's thankful I am for to be able to live at all, at all; throth it is, in these sore times.

"My father and mother are both did. God be gracious to their sows! They

was evicted. The family of us was. The thatch of the bit o' home was tuk off above our hids, and we were lift to the wide worruld — yis, indeed, sir, and in the open air too. The rint wasn't paid and it couldn't be paid, and so we had to face the wither.

"It was a sorrowful time. But God was good, and so was the neighbours. And when we saw the praste, he was a frind to us. And we came to this counthry, though I'd always heard it called a black counthry.

**“There's a good many young payple I know is now sillin' in the streets becace they was evicted in their own counthry”**

"Sure, an' there's much in it to indhure. There's goin's on in it, sir, that the praste, God rewarrud him! Wouldn't like to see. There's bad ways. I won't talk about thim, and I'm sure you are too much of a gintlemin to ask me; for if you know Father, that shows you are the best of gintlemin, sure.

"It was the eviction that brought us here. We walked all the long way to London. My parints died of the cholera, and I live with mysilf, but my aunt lodges me and sees to me. She sills in the sthreet too. I don't make 7d. a day. I may make 6d. There's a good many young payple I know is now sillin' in the streets becace they was evicted in their own counthry. I suppose they had nowhere ilse to come to.

"I'm nivir out of a night. I sleep with my aunt and we keep to oursilves sure. I very sildom taste mate, but perhaps I do oftener than before we was evicted — Glory be to God."

[Extracted from *The Street Trader's Lot - London 1851, being an account of the lives, miseries, joys and chequered activities of the London Street Sellers as recorded by their contemporary Henry Mayhew, edited by Stanley Rubinstein (London: The Sylvan Press, 1947). The illustration is an engraving based on a photograph, one of a series, by a Mr Beard, commissioned by Henry Mayhew.]*

# Recalling the ups and downs of a great Clan

**The O'Mahony Journal (No. 43, 2020)**

ed. Nora M. Hickey (The O'Mahony Society who produces this annual can be contacted through Cristeoir D. F. O. O'Maony 'Rosbrin', 27 Woodlands, Montenotte, Co. Cork. email: dfomahoney@gmail.com

**J. Anthony Gaughan**

**H**ere in Ireland there are many people who are well-known, and enjoyed by all but who never rise to the honour of a biography. One of those I have often wondered about is that wandering relator of things past, Éoin ('The Pope') Mahony.

But with the clan journal newly to hand I find there are many others too.

Fittingly, the lead article is on John O'Mahony, the best-known member of the O'Mahony Clan. He founded the Fenian Movement in the US in 1858 and was its 'head centre' until 1865. During the American Civil War (1861-65) he organised a Fenian regiment, the 69th Regiment of the New York State Militia (national guard), in which he held the rank of colonel.

## Fenian Movement

Brian Sayers provides an insightful account of Colonel O'Mahony's involvement in the early years of the Fenian Movement. Of particular interest is his account of the uneasy relationship between Colonel O'Mahony and James Stephens, who founded the Irish Revolutionary Brotherhood, also in 1858.

Mr Stephens emerges from Mr Sayers' analysis as a devious autocrat. He appointed Colonel O'Mahony supreme organiser and director of the Fenian Movement and the IRB in America. However, at the same time he directed members of the Fenian Movement to report directly to him. In effect, while Colonel O'Mahony saw the Fenian Movement as an equal partner with the IRB, Mr Stephens considered it a subsidiary body, whose role was simply to provide money and arms for the IRB.

There are profiles of other distinguished members of the O'Mahony Clan. Ellen Woodlock (O'Mahony), of the Blarney Woolen Mills family, established the Children's Hospital in Dublin in 1872 and had the Religious Sisters of Char-

ity take charge of it from 1876 onwards. Later she assisted the St Louis Sisters with their foundation in Monaghan and established the St Joseph's industrial institute for girls in Fairview in Dublin.

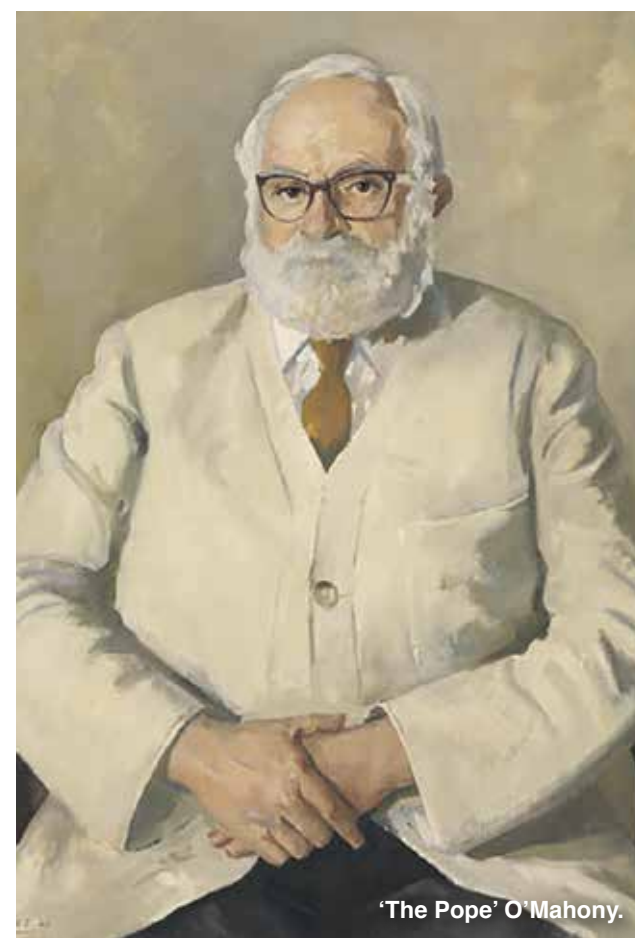
Sr Lorraine Mahony, OP, is fondly remembered. She died in 2020, following a life-time spent in education, as a teacher and administrator in the Archdiocese of New York. There is a profile of Diarmuid Ó Mathúna, renowned mathematician and research associate in the school of theoretical physics at the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, with an illustrated report of his reception of the Clans of Ireland Order of Merit in 2019.

**“In the 1960s Eoin became a national figure as compere of a Radio Éireann programme called Meet the Clans”**

The main feature in this issue of the *Journal* is a report on a meeting at the Royal Irish Academy in February 2020 to highlight the legacy of Eoin O'Mahony. Charles Lysaght presented the keynote address on Eoin: barrister, genealogist, columnist and broadcaster. Commemorations were Eoin's special interest. He was a moving spirit in the campaign to save Derynane, the Kerry home of Daniel O'Connell.

An inveterate attendee at the annual Ivy Day commemoration of Charles Steward Parnell, he was to the fore in organising the event in Wexford in 1956 to mark the centenary of John Redmond's birth. In the 1960s Eoin became a national figure as compere of a Radio Éireann programme called *Meet the Clans*. Eoin did not neglect his own Clan. He organised the first 'gathering' in 1955 and subsequently every year until his death. Thereafter they have continued, courtesy of Eoin's cousin, Peter Tynan O'Mahony.

The joy of the celebratory meeting in 2020 was overshadowed by the announcement by the Royal Irish Academy that it was discontinuing its association with the Éoin O'Mahony Bursary. This was funded by the friends of Eoin after his death "to



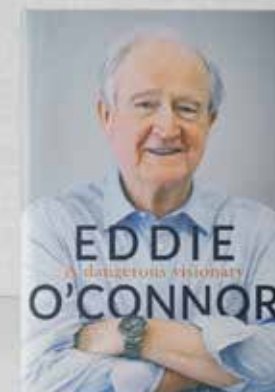
'The Pope' O'Mahony.

keep alive his memory in tangible form". It was administered by the RIA and grants were presented to promising scholars from 1979 onwards. The RIA claimed that a ruling of the Comptroller and Auditor General's Office was the reason for winding up the bursary. However, his office,

it seems, has stated that it "did not advise or direct the RIA to wind up the bursary".

This has prompted Eoin's next of kin to request the academy to return the bust of Eoin by Séamus Murphy, deposited in the academy in connection with the bursary, as they wish to offer it to the Crawford Art Gallery in Cork.

## A Dangerous Visionary



*"Eddie O'Connor's opinions electrify"*

-The Irish Times

*"a must read"*

-Business Post

Price: €19.99 + €4.50P&P

Green energy tycoon Eddie O'Connor looks back at an industrious and ground-breaking life in business. Coming in at an opportune time, his invaluable experience combined with a confident vision and unshakeable faith has created a powerhouse legacy that will inspire the next generation of environmentally conscious business leaders.



ORDER TODAY

01 6874096 [www.currachbooks.com](http://www.currachbooks.com)



# 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)

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



To join in Sr. Stan's vision please contact [cian.dikker@focusireland.ie](mailto:cian.dikker@focusireland.ie) or phone 01 881 5962

**FOCUS**  
Ireland



## Please remember GOAL in your Will

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

Contact Courtenay on 01 2809779 or via email at [cpollard@goal.ie](mailto:cpollard@goal.ie)

Registered Charity No. 20010980; CHY 6271

## APPEAL TO POPE FRANCIS, THE IRISH SISTERS OF CHARITY AND THE PRIMATE OF ALL IRELAND.



*"My life at 12 weeks will be taken in a hospital built on Land gifted by the Church. My Pain will be small compared to that inflicted on the Person of Christ"*

## Can you help our campaign?

Replies to Chairperson Emmanuel Sweeney at [repealthedecision@gmail.com](mailto:repealthedecision@gmail.com)

## Remembering MEMORIAM CARDS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT CARDS & NOTELETS BOOKMARKS

Samples / Information  
**KENNEDY PRINTERS**  
BANTRY, CO. CORK, IRELAND  
Tel. 027 50102  
[www.kennedyprinters.ie](http://www.kennedyprinters.ie)  
email: [info@kennedyprinters.ie](mailto:info@kennedyprinters.ie)

## 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.

J.M.

## The Miracle Prayer

Dear Heart of Jesus,  
In the past I have asked for many favours.

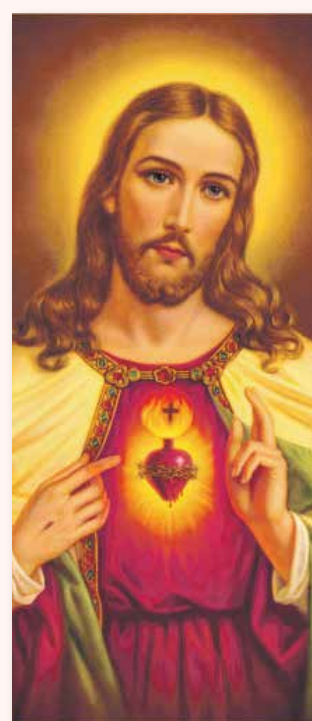
This time I ask for a special one. (mention here)

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 and promise publication.

M.B.



## Who will pass on the flame of faith?

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

Phone 01 6874028 in strictest confidence



Follow The  
*Irish Catholic*  
on Twitter

**IrishCathNews**

Enjoy the peaceful end to the weekend with the

## SUNDAY EVENING MASS AND A BLESSED NOVENA SEASON

Irish Catholic Pilgrims have traveled to the Shrine of The Basilica of Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré, Canada in such huge numbers that the Basilica constructed The St Patrick's Chapel in honour of the the numerous Irish Pilgrims, The Novena to Saint Anne is from July 17 to July 25. Although we can't yet travel to Canada, the entire Novena will be live streamed to Ireland.

During the Sunday Evenings leading up to the Novena there will be a

**LIVE ONLINE MASS FROM THE BASILICA  
@ 7:30pm in Ireland**

Access to the live streamed Sunday Evening Mass and the Novena is easily available directly from the Basilica's website, [www.sanctuairesainteanne.org](http://www.sanctuairesainteanne.org)

## By remembering Missio Ireland in your Will, you are leaving a gift of hope for all God's children

Missio Ireland is the Holy Father's official charity for overseas mission and missionaries.

Please help your Church to survive & flourish!

To learn how, call Fiona on 01 497 2035 or email [info@missio.ie](mailto:info@missio.ie)



## SERVICES

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

## Keep your Magnificat Safe with Beautiful Covers

LEATHER €25  
(Black, Brown, Red)

SEMI  
LEATHER  
€9.50

CLEAR  
PLASTIC  
€4.50



+ €4.50 P&P Leather Covers  
+ €2 P&P for Others

01 6874024 | [www.irishcatholic.com/shop](http://www.irishcatholic.com/shop)  
Block 3b, Bracken Business Park, Bracken Road, Sandyford, Dublin 18 D18 K277



# Leisure time

## The Gift Of A Lifetime

Be there for others after you're gone.

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

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



www.hospicefoundation.ie



## Your heart for the homeless

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

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

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

To receive your little wooden heart and information on remembering

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

Please pray for the beatification of

## Little Nellie of Holy God

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

— Pope St Pius X, June 4, 1912

## Will the MSC Missions

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

Please help us with a gift in your Will

Contact:

MSC Missions Office, PO Box 23 Western Road, Cork.  
Tel: 021-4545704 Email: info@mscmisions.ie

www.mscmissions.ie

When you remember Trócaire in your Will, you bring hope to people living in the world's poorest places

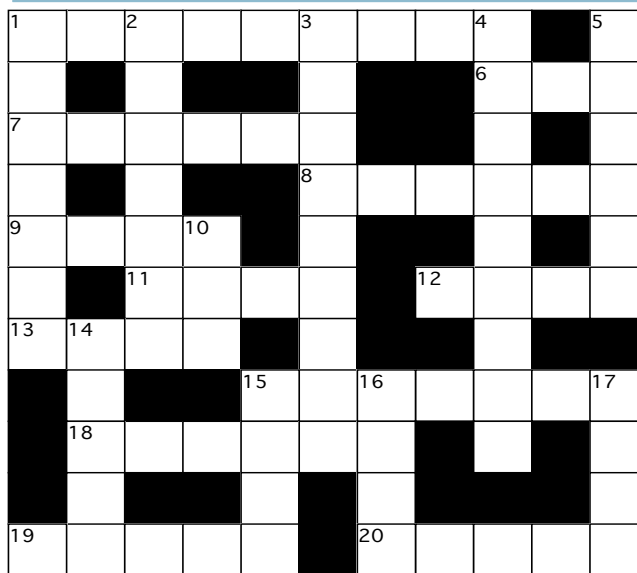
trócaire

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

One day, parents and their children will tell the story of how your legacy of love changed their lives. Thank you for considering a gift to Trócaire in your Will.

## Crossword Junior

Gordius 391



### Across

- 1 Insect that is named after a fire-breathing creature (9)  
6 Australian bird that can't fly (3)  
7 Playing a part in a movie or play (6)  
8 The Mad \_\_\_\_\_ had a tea party when Alice was in Wonderland (6)  
9 Above (4)  
11 Chamber (4)  
12 If you brought someone breakfast in bed, you might carry it on this (4)  
13 Fine, powdery dirt (4)  
15 Our island (7)  
18 Ran after and tried to catch (6)  
19 A group of these birds is

- called a gaggle (5)  
20 More pleasant (5)

### Down

- 1 Precious stone usually found on an engagement ring (7)  
2 A deer's horns (7)  
3 Horrible dream (9)  
4 24 hours ago (9)  
5 Place where lots of rock is taken out of the ground (6)  
10 Leave food out for a long time and it will \_\_\_\_\_ (3)  
14 The brother of your mother or father (5)  
15 15 across is often called the Emerald \_\_\_\_\_ (4)  
16 Adam and Eve lived in the Garden of \_\_\_\_\_ (4)  
17 You open it to go into a room (4)

## SOLUTIONS, JULY 8

GORDIUS NO. 515

Across — 1 Sympathise 6 Over 10 Waltz 11 Safety pin 12 Potomac 15 Cargo 17 Amok 18 Fury 19 Evita 21 Stifled 23 Inept 24 Flat 25 Aida 26 Dated 28 Prodigy 33 Evacuated 34 Sable 35 Seek 36 T-bone steak

Down — 1 Sows 2 Melbourne 3 Anzio 4 Hosta 5 Soft 7 Viper 8 Random acts of kindness 9 Stacked 13 Meat 14 Cat flap 20 Illegible 21 Stadium 22 Elmo 27 Trade 29 Rodin 30 Dusts 31 Stab 32 Week

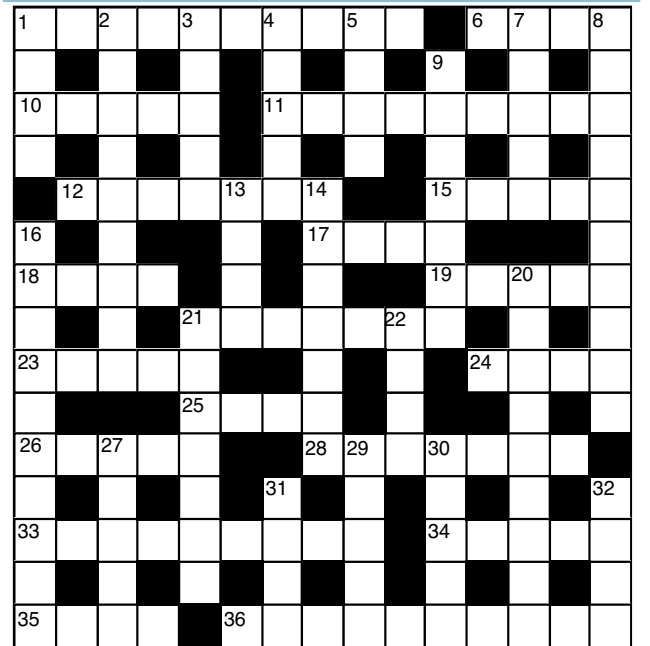
CHILDREN'S No. 390

Across — 1 South Africa 6 Nibble 8 Lying 10 Cheese 11 Idle 13 Ladies 14 Tea 15 Lark 16 Pasta 17 Edge 18 Need 19 Guard

Down — 1 Sandcastles 2 Umbrella 3 Hills 4 Rain 5 Admire 7 Eyelids 9 God 11 Island 12 Larger 15 Peg

## Crossword

Gordius 516



### Across

- 1 Continent surrounded by the Southern Ocean (10)  
6 Recess found in a church (4)  
10 The main artery of the body (5)  
11 Committing homicide (9)  
12 I'd burst out if you were to upset this (7)  
15 Lean meat from the neck (5)  
17 Nomadic Europeans, or the Italian name for Rome (4)  
18 Thai money arranged literally in the bath (4)  
19 Surname of the German brothers who collected a great number of fairy tales (5)  
21 Squirm (7)  
23 The royal line of Henry VIII (5)  
24 Eager (4)  
25 Topped the cake with broken dice (4)  
26 It's a town in Meath, whichever way you look at it (5)  
28 Head of State of Japan (7)  
33 Protected against heat loss (9)  
34 Host city of this year's Olympics (5)

- 35 Overly-inquisitive (4)  
36 Out of work (10)

### Down

- 1 The first man, according to the Bible (4)  
2 Sullied (9)  
3 Cook in an oven (5)  
4 More domesticated (5)  
5 Ringlet (4)  
7 & 8 It was arranged earlier - did it involve a diamond ring for the abbot's deputy? (5,10)  
9 A communication (7)  
13 The junkie is sure to be upset (4)  
14 How to abridge part of the army (7)  
16 A refusal to vote (10)  
20 This sport features a face-off with a puck (3,6)  
21 Crease on the skin (7)  
22 Jump (4)  
27 Put cut flowers in these (5)  
29 Formal term of address to a lady (5)  
30 Praise highly (5)  
31 Knock senseless (4)  
32 Frog-like amphibian (4)

## Sudoku Corner

391

### Easy

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

### Hard

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

## Last week's Easy 390

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

## Last week's Hard 390

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



## Notebook

Fr Martin Delaney



# Will the intimate wedding outlast the pandemic?

**WHEN I WAS A STUDENT** at the Irish College in Rome back in the 1980s one of the features of our lives was the interaction we had with Irish couples who came out to Rome to be married. Sometimes there were four or five couples each week. Many of them travelled to Rome on their own and so we were drafted in as witnesses to fulfil the legal requirements. I'm sure there are many couples all over Ireland who, when they look at their wedding pictures, wonder who in the name of God were those guys who doubled up as bridesmaids and best men!

The upside of this for us was that we got invited for the dinner after the wedding. Inevitably the conversation at the table would involve asking the couple why they decided to come to Rome for the most important day in their lives. I remember being struck by how often couples had opted to choose a quiet wedding in Rome to avoid the pressure of a 'big splash' at home. They spoke of how difficult it was to have a small wedding in Ireland because of the expectations to do it in a certain way. That 'certain way' involved a lot of expense. In my years as priest I have witnessed how the average Irish wedding has evolved in a way that causes huge stress and cost for couples and their families.



## Conversations

In recent Covid times I have been reminded of those dinner table conversations with newly married couples back in my student days. The predominant narrative in the media around weddings during the pandemic has focused on the disappointment and frustration of couples as the plans for their big day were postponed or cancelled over and over again.

Yes, I have witnessed some of that myself among the couples whose weddings I was to be part of. However, I have also detected another narrative which, as time moves on, is becoming more prevalent.

Many couples have confided to me and other priests too, that they are 'relieved' to be able to have an intimate wedding of 25 or 50 close family and friends. Most importantly during the pandemic a 'small' wedding is now socially acceptable and the pressure to invite every aunt and uncle and every couple whose wedding you attended is off the agenda. Couples are saving themselves thousands of euro and investing that money in their homes and their future plans. My sense is that with less emphasis on the big reception couples have focused more on the ceremony itself and the significance of the Sacrament they are celebrating together.

## Question

The big question is will this more simple and intimate wedding out-

last the pandemic? I'm sure the hotel industry and those who organise wedding fares will be hoping that this is only a blip and that next year we will be back to business as usual.

What I have said about weddings could easily also apply to how we celebrate other sacraments like First Communion and Confirmation. The widespread feedback from the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation in the autumn of 2020 was that the simple ceremony with smaller numbers re-focused attention on the sacraments themselves and less on the 'performance' which sadly many of our First Communion and Confirmation ceremonies have become. Let's hope and pray that, as we emerge from this pandemic, we can harvest its more positive effects rather than rushing back to the way things were.

## Value for money

A husband and wife are shopping in their local Tesco and the husband picks up a crate of Heineken cans and puts it in the trolley. "What do you think you're doing?" asks the wife. "They're on offer – only a tanner for twelve cans!" he replies. "Put them back – we can't afford them!" declares his wife, and so they carry on shopping. A few aisles further along, the wife picks up a €20 jar of face cream and puts it in the trolley. "What do you think you're doing?" said the husband. "It's my face cream. It makes me look beautiful," replies the wife. Her husband retorts: "So does twelve cans of Heineken, and it's half the price!"

## In sickness and in health

"I remember a couple of years ago at a Mass seeing a woman who because of her illness could not hold her head erect. But her husband held her head up in the palm of his outstretched hand like an arm stretched out on a cross and I thought that years before on their wedding day he had promised to cherish her in sickness and in health and I gave thanks to God for what I witnessed. At the end of Mass she smiled at him. It was pure gold – indeed pure God. That is the sacrament of matrimony." – Fr Ronan Drury.



## KENYA'S SLUM CHILDREN DESPERATELY NEED YOUR HELP

The Holy Ghost (Spiritan) Fathers are helping afflicted children and their families in the slums of Migombani, Mombasa, Kenya.

Fr Peter Ndegwa CSSp writes to The Little Way Association: "Children as young as 13 are used as drug-runners and even younger children (girls and boys) become addicts. There is a culture of violence and sexual exploitation. Crime begins with petty theft escalating to major acts of stealing and violence."

Fr Ndegwa lists multiple problems caused by this culture in the slums. He adds: "Covid has only made things worse. A key way to alleviate this crisis is to offer beans, maize and oil to vulnerable families, especially those led by single mothers with small children. If families have food, they are less likely to resort to crime."

**The Little Way Association wants to send the Spiritans sufficient funds initially to help 600 households and 400 children of drug-affected families through a six-month programme.**

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:  
€..... **HUNGRY, SICK AND DEPRIVED**  
€..... **CHAPELS IN THE MISSIONS**  
€..... **MASS OFFERINGS**  
(Please state no. of Masses \_\_\_\_\_)  
€..... **LITTLE WAY ADMIN EXPENSES**

☐ Please tick if you would like an acknowledgement

Name (Rev. Mr. Mrs. Miss)

(Block letters please)

Address

To donate online go to  
[www.littlewayassociation.com](http://www.littlewayassociation.com)

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



Donations to The Little Way will help the Holy Ghost Fathers' feeding programme bring smiles to the faces of vulnerable families in Kenya.

## Can you help us?

Every cent that you send to our Hungry, Sick and Deprived fund goes to help people such as the drug-damaged families of Mombasa. **Please be generous towards these endangered children and their struggling parents.**



## MISSIONARIES NEED YOUR MASS OFFERINGS

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

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

## 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. **You and your intentions are remembered in a daily Mass offered in the Missions for all our friends and benefactors.**