

HOW TO DEFEND THE FAITH

WITHOUT RAISING YOUR VOICE

Helping Catholics answer common criticisms of the Church

The Irish Catholic

VOCATIONS SUNDAY

A journey towards God
Pages 14-26

BIG TOM

Tributes paid to man of Faith Page 3

ANAM CARA

Supporting bereaved parents
Pages 31 & 33

Thursday, April 19, 2018

€1.80 (Stg £1.50)

The-Irish-Catholic-Newspaper

@IrishCathNews

www.irishcatholic.com

Irish Church urged to close parishes to grow the Faith

Greg Daly

A leading cardinal has said the Church in Ireland must be prepared to consider closing hundreds of churches to concentrate resources on building strong faith communities.

Speaking in Dungarvan on Monday, April 16, on 'What the Irish Church could learn from the recent history of the Church in Holland', Utrecht's Cardinal Willem Eijk said that withdrawing from underused churches could be necessary if the Church is to build for the future.

Painful

"It's very painful for a bishop to have to close down a church," Cardinal Eijk told *The Irish Catholic*, but stressed "closing down churches is working for the Church of the future".

Explaining how the cost of maintaining near-empty churches can detract from

the Church's missionary ability, the Dutch cardinal said "we should not spend all the financial reserves we have – the next generation should not be left with empty hands in announcing the Gospel".

There are currently 250 open churches in the Archdiocese of Utrecht, the cardinal said in his speech, down from 400 and with around two thirds of all diocesan churches expected to be closed by 2025.

Although the closure of churches, even following consultations, can be painful, the cardinal said that it ultimately tends to be welcomed by parishioners who participate at Mass in packed churches filled with people there through conviction rather than convention.

"Sometimes people will say 'if you close down my church I will not go to church anymore', and some people

» Continued on Page 2



Maura Rossiter, sacristan at the Church of St Alphonsus, Co. Wexford shows off the new parish app developed by YourParishApp to Bishop of Ferns Dr Denis Brennan after the confirmation ceremony at the weekend. For more information see www.yourparishapp.ie

Commission dodges questions over insulting tweet about bishop

Chai Brady

The Referendum Commission has refused to answer queries about a senior member of a company assisting with their referendum information campaign, who tweeted that bishops were "hypocritical old eunuchs".

Dylan Cotter, the Executive Creative Director of BBDO Dublin, linked an article about a pastoral message Bishop Kevin Doran had sent to parishioners, which stated that if abortion was legalised it could lead to euthanasia being made legal in Ireland.

Commenting on the pro-life message he said: "Hypocritical old eunuchs talking s**** about the rights of independent young women does a lot more to pave the way for euthanasia to be honest."

» Continued on Page 2

PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA

9 AUGUST | 7 NIGHTS

- Daily breakfast, lunch & dinner
- Staying at the 4* Cinquentenario Hotel
- Accompanied by Spiritual Director
- Contact Ann & Charlie Kelly for more info:
028 9020 0163 OR 079 5569 6107

€799 pps



Joe Walsh Tours
www.joewalshstours.ie
info@joewalshstours.ie
01 241 0800
T.O. 052 | T.A. 0689 | ATOL 5163

Inside this week

Mary Kenny

New report, old knowledge

Page 5



Fr Ron Rolheiser

Awash with moral outrage

Page 30



Personal Profile

Bringing Faith to the screens

Page 34



Managing Editor: Michael Kelly, editor@irishcatholic.ie

Features Editor: Mags Gargan, mags@irishcatholic.ie

Chief Reporter: Greg Daly, greg@irishcatholic.ie

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

Newsroom: news@irishcatholic.ie 01 6874029

Books Editor: Peter Costello, books@irishcatholic.ie

Layout: Declan Moroney

Advertising: advertising@irishcatholic.ie 01 6874094

Accounts: accounts@irishcatholic.ie 01 6874020

Magnificat: magnificat@irishcatholic.ie

Office hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
9.30am–5.30pm

Shop: shop@irishcatholic.ie

Managing Director: Garry O'Sullivan

Annual Subscription Rates: Ireland €125. Airmail €145.
ISSN 1393 - 6832 - Published by The Irish Catholic,
23 Merrion Square, Dublin 2.
Printed by The Irish Times

Place an Advert

Phone 01 687 4094 or advertising@irishcatholic.ie

Smoke and mirrors hiding the real issue facing schools

Ireland's educational infrastructure is in deep trouble. You'd be forgiven for thinking that the biggest single issue facing schools is the teaching of religion. Minister for Education Richard Bruton has latched on to the issue of the place of Faith in education as a convenient diversion from the real issues facing pupils and teachers on a daily basis.

This week it was revealed that there are now 1,300 prefabricated units at schools across the country being used as classrooms. The number of such 'prefabs' has increased by 30% on two years despite assurances from the Department of Education that they are merely temporary while new buildings are completed.

Reality

The reality is, prefabs are now a ubiquitous and near-permanent feature of Irish schools as pupil numbers continue to grow.

Yet, rather than face this Mr Bruton instead fixates on the place of Faith in schools. He has focused on the so-called 'baptism barrier' – a crude



Editor's Comment Michael Kelly

term coined by a US billionaire funded lobby group and now dutifully used by politicians – that he says is preventing non-Catholic children from being admitted to Catholic schools. As any parish priest or teacher will tell you, children of all faiths and none are welcomed at Catholic schools across the country. Where schools are over-subscribed, principals are forced to deny entry to some children and being a Catholic school, priority is given to Catholic children. What's the solution to over-subscription? Provide more places. But, instead of doing this Mr Bruton, cheered on by agenda-driven sections of the media, continues to deny that resources are the key issue preventing children attending schools that are over-subscribed.

Mr Bruton has also passed rules

which make religion optional at second-level schools. However, he has not provided any additional resources to schools to cater for students who may be opted out of religious classes by their parents. This is despite the fact that the Teachers Union of Ireland (TUI) said such a move would require schools to employ additional teachers.

There are many issues facing schools, and the process of the divestment of some Church-owned schools will continue as will ongoing discussions about the place of religious education and catechesis in schools. But these discussions should not be allowed to be used as part of a smoke and mirrors operation to distract from the fact that schools in Ireland are chronically under-resourced.

'Don't be afraid to retreat to grow'

» Continued from Page 1

will not go anymore but the real faithful will come nonetheless," he said.

"Afterwards they come in a church which is more filled on Sundays – it's fuller on Sundays, and they say that's more inspiring," he continued. "Afterwards many people are glad that we decided to combine churches and to bring people together in one church that remains."

Describing this as better than maintaining an overstretched and underfunded infrastructure, the cardinal also said the Church must direct funds towards the solid formation of seminarians and of catechists and other parish and diocesan staff.

Despite declining numbers and involvement throughout the Church in the developed world, the cardinal

maintained there was reason for confidence, noting how Irish and Scottish missionaries had provided a model for how the Church could be rebuilt, with his own diocese having been founded by St Willebrord, an English monk who had studied in Ireland.

"We are now as strangers in a pagan hostile society – less so in Ireland but very much in Holland – and we must have the courage to be strangers like Jesus and the apostles, like St Willebrord, like the Irish-Scottish monks of the past in order to have the possibility to announce the Gospel in our regions," he said.

"It's the real evangelisation," he continued: "I find it encouraging and inspiring to view it in this way, to be like the apostles, beginning with nothing."

Commission dodges questions

» Continued from Page 1

The advertising company BBDO Dublin is tasked by the Referendum Commission to help run an impartial media campaign aiming to promote voter turnout and inform the public about what they'll be voting on in the upcoming referendum on abortion.

The Commission refused to answer questions about the tweet but said: "The Referendum Commission will provide an accurate, independent and neutral account of the referendum proposal as per its remit which is set out in law."

"Decisions on the content of information material including advertisements and statements are made solely by the commission, which is independent in the performance of its functions. No decisions are made on behalf of the Commission by its service providers," a spokesman said.

Attempts to contact Mr Cotter through BBDO Dublin were directed back to the Referendum Commission's spokesperson.

JERUSALEM & TIBERIAS

OCTOBER 2018 | 8 NIGHTS

€1,550
per person

- Selection of **two departure dates**:
20 - 28 October and 28 October - 5 November
- 4 nights **Jerusalem** | 4 nights **Tiberias**
- English speaking **Christian guide** throughout
- Daily **breakfast** and **evening meal** served at hotel
- Luxury **air-conditioned coach** for all transfers and tours

**DIRECT
FLIGHT TO
TEL AVIV**



Joe Walsh Tours
www.joewalstours.ie
info@joewalstours.ie
01 241 0892

T.O. 052 | T.A. 0689 | ATOL 5163

**LEAVE A LEGACY
FOR LIFE -
SUPPORT THE
PRO LIFE CAMPAIGN
IN YOUR WILL**

Contact us today to order a copy
of our Wills Information leaflet

The Pro Life Campaign promotes pro-life education and defends human life at all stages, from conception to natural death. For more info visit www.prolifecampaign.ie



prolife
campaign

Pro Life Campaign
Suite 60, Clifton House,
Lower Fitzwilliam Street,
Dublin 2
info@prolifecampaign.ie
01 6629275

**What do
you
think?**



**Let us
know
by writing
to:**

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

Older homelessness crisis must be tackled

A leading Irish charity has called on the government to take urgent measures to ensure that no one over the age of 65 is homeless.

Focus Ireland has launched the online petition after the latest figures from the Department of Housing showed that there were 119 people over 65 years old living in emergency accommodation in February 2018, a 40% increase on the February 2016 figure of 85.

Report

The charity has requested that each regional authority prepares a report on the level and causes of older people's homelessness in their area, and to prepare support plans for each older homeless person.

"It is shameful for our government and society that we have seen a 40% rise in the number of people over 65 who are homeless," said Focus Ireland's director of advocacy, Mike Allen.

"Every man, woman and child should have a place they can call home, and the housing and homeless crisis is hitting the most vulnerable people throughout our society," he added.

Tributes paid to man of Faith, Big Tom

Chai Brady

Dubbed Ireland's king of country music Big Tom was also described as a man who was "very committed to his locality and parish" after his death this week. Tributes have streamed in for the music legend, who died aged 81 on Tuesday. Thomas McBride [his real name] dominated the showband scene in the 1960s and is known for defining country music in Ireland.

Fr Brian D'Arcy said Tom attended a Mass he held every year for people in the entertainment business. They would "go and have a Mass and a quiet little talk about things, and maybe a sing-song after the Mass too," Fr Brian said, "it's a chance for a spiritual get together as well as a community get together".

"Tom always came to those, always enjoyed them



Big Tom.

very, very much, and always sang at them. He'd sing a religious song if you asked him and afterwards he'd sing whatever kind of song he wanted to. He was a very respectful man and knew what was important in life."

Fr Brian told *The Irish Catholic* that the late star's

2005 hit 'The Same Way You Came In' was an expression of his philosophy of life: "Don't get above yourself, know what your gifts are, know where your gifts came from and always enjoy using them."

His death comes shortly after his wife Rose, who passed away in January. They

had been married for 50 years.

"His wife Rose of course was the centre of the parish activities there in Oram and she died recently and we all knew that in the graveyard that day that Tom wouldn't last long without Rose, because she had cared for him

so well and they had been so close. So it transpired," Fr Brian added.

Msgr Joseph McGuinness released a statement on behalf of the Diocese of Clogher saying Big Tom brought "great joy to many people, both in Ireland and worldwide, through his singing and his music".

Strong team

'But Tom McBride was more than just a singer. Above all, he was a family man. He and his late wife Rose formed a strong team in their household and in the wider community. Tom was a pivotal member of the community in his native Oram, where he contributed greatly through farming and sport. He was very proud of that community and of Co. Monaghan in general."

Big Tom and Rose are survived by their four children Thomas, Dermot, Aisling and Siobhán.

Derry nun honoured through film



Sr Clare Crockett (on right).

Staff reporter

The second anniversary of the death of the young Derry nun, Sr Clare Crockett, who died in an earthquake in Ecuador, was marked this month with the release of a film about her remarkable life.

The 33-year-old Servant Sister died when the school building she was in collapsed on April 16, 2016, but her positive influence on other people compelled the Sisters to produce a film about her life.

The documentary *All or Nothing: Sr Clare Crockett*, which was shown in the Brunswick Moviebowl, Derry, on April 16 and 18, includes over 15 years of photographs and videos of the life of Sr Clare, including interviews with her parents, close friends from her youth, Home of the Mother founder Fr Rafael, and Servant Sisters who were very close to her.

"It was a very full house and a very big cinema. Very well done, I must say it was very well presented," Derry's

bishop Donal McKeown told *The Irish Catholic*.

"It was very much a local thing, there were people there who had grown up with her. It was very much a local celebration for local people."

Bishop McKeown added that we have to find all sorts of possible ways to ensure that the message of the Gospel is spread, and that films can be one outlet that can touch "the head, and the heart, and ultimately the hands of people".

JOE WALSH TOURS | 2018



SHRINES OF EUROPE

16 JUNE | 9 NIGHTS

- Option 1: Lourdes, Santander, Santiago de Compostela, Fatima
- Option 2: Lourdes, Burgos, Avila, Fatima

€849
per person

SHRINES OF PORTUGAL

2 AUGUST | 7 NIGHTS

- 4 nights **Fatima** | Full Board
- 2 nights **Braga** | Full Board
- 1 night **Costa da Caparica** | Half Board

€825
per person

FATIMA | FEAST OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA

10 MAY | 7 NIGHTS

- Full Board at a 4* hotel
- Full religious programme

€799
per person

SHRINES OF FRANCE

FROM JUNE TO OCTOBER

- Visiting Lisieux, Paris, Nevers, Rocamadour and Lourdes
- English speaking guide throughout the pilgrimage

from
€799
per person

PADUA | SHORT BREAK

22 SEPTEMBER | 5 NIGHTS

- 5 nights 3* Hotel Casa del Pellegrino in Padua
- Daily breakfast and dinner served at hotel

€699
per person

ASSISI & ROME

2 SEPTEMBER | 5 NIGHTS

- 2 nights **Assisi** | Half board
- 3 nights **Rome** | Daily breakfast included

€799
per person

FULLY
ESCORTED
TOURS



E: info@joewalshstours.ie | www.joewalshstours.ie | 01 241 0800 | 143, Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2 | [f](https://www.facebook.com/JoWalshToursPilgrimages) Joe Walsh Tours Pilgrimages [@JWTWPilgrimages](https://www.instagram.com/JWTWPilgrimages)

Bonded and licensed as a Tour Operator and Travel Agent by the Commission for Aviation Regulation in Ireland and the Civil Aviation Authority in the UK. T.O. 052 | T.A. 0689 | ATOL 5163 | ABTOT 5332 | E&OE

Remove clerics who misled Pope, urges campaigner

Greg Daly

The Pope should do more than ask for forgiveness from the survivors of a prominent Chilean priest if the Church is serious about a 'zero tolerance' approach to fighting abuse, Marie Collins has said. Last week Pope Francis apologised for underestimating the seriousness of the sexual abuse crisis in Chile following a recent investigation into allegations concerning abuse and cover-up in the country. In a letter to the South American country's bishops, the Pontiff said he had made "serious mistakes in the assessment and perception of the situation, especially due to a lack of truthful and balanced information".

Abuse

Three men who were abused by Fr Fernando Karadima and who have claimed that Bishop Juan Barros witnessed their abuse while a young man, are scheduled to meet the Pope in the Vatican later this month so he can ask their forgiveness in person.

Welcoming this as "a step beyond just apologising", Mrs Collins, a former member of the Vatican's child protection commission, told *The Irish Catholic*: "I don't think things can stop at just apologising because obviously things in the Chilean hierarchy have been handled in the most appalling way."

Zero tolerance

Mrs Collins explained that anyone who had misled the Pope around these issues should be removed from office.

"At this stage I don't think that anything less than that is really acceptable," she said. "That would be 'zero tolerance': we've heard all the words, now we've got to see the actions."

Uni chaplains voice support against 'Celtic tiger era' rents

Chai Brady

University chaplains have voiced solidarity with students struggling to pay exorbitant student accommodation costs which have seen yearly increases in some cases, with some saying prices are back to "Celtic Tiger era".

Students from Dublin City University (DCU) have been protesting the large rent hikes of Purpose Built Student Accommodation (PBSA) facilities in the area. Some have increased their cost by 27% for the upcoming academic year.

DCU chaplain Fr Seamus McEntee told *The Irish Catholic*: "The whole issue is that right across Dublin, there's a lack of student accommodation and a lack of regulation in that industry. It has an

effect of marginalising students on low wages or come from families who are on low wages in Dublin or outside of Dublin as well in particular."

He said students are put under "mental stress" while trying to study because many are forced to commute long distances as they can't live close to their college, and in turn are not able to fully avail of services such as libraries.

Students in the university were originally paying €7,000 for an academic year in accommodation run by Shanowen Student Residences in Santry. This will increase to €9,000 in the upcoming year.

Another chaplain in the university, Fr Paul Hampson, said he "couldn't believe" the hikes, but said they can be put into the context of the housing crisis nation-

wide, saying: "It's matched with the price of properties that have recently gone back up to almost Celtic Tiger era."

Fr Paul added that he was impressed by the "resilience" of some students, who would not want to put pressure on their parents to pay fees, and work over the summer to put a dent in the cost of registration, books and rent.

Campus

Dublin Institute of Technology chaplain Fr Alan Hilliard said that when students aren't able to find affordable accommodation close to their campus "there's a knock on effect for things like involvement in the life of the college, because they're travelling so much to an outlying part of the city".

He added that some students

are also "stung in scams", particularly international students who are promised accommodation on arrival and find it doesn't exist after paying a deposit.

"If they are spending big money on rent they're foregoing money on things like food."

DCU students protested outside the Dáil in their final demonstration of this academic year, but the future SU have stated they will continue protests next year. Students were dressed as cows because they say the Government see them as 'cash cows'.

Students in PBSAs do not have the same tenant rights as public renters, don't need notification of eviction and can't complain to the Residential Tenancies Board.



The Horgan family: Norma, Stephen and their son Tadgh from Fries, Co. Kerry are pictured with the Icon of the Holy Family on display in St Mary's Cathedral, Killarney. Photo: John Cleary

Barrister challenges politicians over defamatory tweets

A barrister has lodged High Court proceedings against Health Minister Simon Harris TD and Senator Catherine Noone over tweets he has described as defamatory.

Benedict Ó Floinn BL claims that following a panel discussion on RTE Radio's *Saturday with Cormac Ó hEadhra* the politicians tweeted comments that were defamatory, disparaging and damaging to his professional reputation, with these forming the basis of a number of media articles that he says aggravated the damage he suffered.

During the March 31 show, Mr Ó Floinn said the upcoming abortion referendum was offering

people a straightforward choice around whether unborn children should be protected in the Constitution or not.

"The Supreme Court have told us, as recently as a couple of weeks ago, that if the Eighth Amendment is taken out of the Constitution then there will be no residual existing rights on the part of the unborn," he said.

Questioning how any legislative safeguards could withstand constitutional scrutiny under such circumstances, he said that voting yes would mean "removing those rights and giving a blank cheque to the politicians in terms of the legislation".

INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER
OFFERS EARTHY, POPULAR AND
DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS FROM
GLENSTAL ABBEY

'First of all, with instant prayer, beg that He would bring to completion every good you set out to do.'
— Prologue to the Rule of St Benedict

PRICE:
€12.99
Free P&P (ROI)

Coming from the Benedictine Community of Glenstal Abbey, *The Glenstal Book of Prayer* was first published in 2001 and sold over 150,000 copies worldwide. This prayer book draws on the wisdom of the Bible, enshrined in Benedictine liturgy, on the experience of modern monks, and on the wisdom of the Christian Church. It is now back in stock with a striking new cover.

columba press

01 687 4096 | sales@columba.ie | www.columbapress.com

Follow The Irish

Catholic on Facebook

The-Irish-Catholic-Newspaper

YOUR **LEGACY** CAN CHANGE THE CHURCH IN IRELAND

PLEASE REMEMBER US IN YOUR WILL

ENCOURAGING YOUNG PEOPLE TO LOVE JESUS AND EMBRACE THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

NETMINISTRIES.IE
+353 74 919 0606

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



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

Help Bro. Kevin continue providing this caring service.

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

New report, old knowledge



Mary Kenny

The report issued this week by the HSE on the harm that alcohol abuse does to others is described as “new”. ‘The Untold Story: Harms Experienced in the Irish Population Due to Others’ Drinking’ is to be welcomed, but its contents are anything but new, and anything but untold.

The same message could have been – and was – issued repeatedly over the last two centuries. Ever since Fr Matthew took up his first campaign of temperance in the 1830s, or the Pioneers launched their admirable organisation in the 1890s, or Alcoholics Anonymous came on the scene in the 1930s and 1940s. Not an untold story: more an oft-repeated lamentation.

Yes, the HSE report, compiled by Dr Ann Hope, Prof. Joe Barry and Prof. Seán Byrne, brings updated data and new statistics to the subject – and emphasises the harm, not just to the alcoholic, but all those around him (or her), including family, friends, colleagues and

the wider society.

But frankly, dear doctors, the information that alcoholism especially harms women and children is well established. It was a big crusade for American feminists in the 1900s who attacked saloon bars with hatchets – and were the driving force behind Prohibition in 1919.

Mocked

Prohibition is now mocked because it didn’t work in the long run, but the reasons for its enactment are usually ignored. Because women, most particularly, came to see how much collateral damage was caused by alcohol abuse.

And now Prof. Barry makes the point – it still remains a very forceful one – that drinking isn’t just about individual choice: it nearly always involves others. He called the abolition of the Good Friday pub closures “a further enabler” of the boozing culture.

The information in this report can always do with



● It’s good to see Martin Luther King [pictured] featured on an Irish stamp, not just because MLK deserves the accolade – also because Irish stamps could do with more human-interest themes. The most recent batch of national stamps I purchased earlier this month features a brown, round object which looks remarkably like a cow-pat: on closer inspection, it turns out to be a gold disc from 2,000 years BC.

It’s nice to advertise Celtic antiquity philatelically, but there is nothing to compare with the human face. John Bowman did a beautiful programme on RTÉ 1 last Sunday about the life of the great Irish diva Margaret Burke Sheridan, who died in 1958. The Castlebar-born *prima donna* would be a fitting candidate for a 2018 Irish stamp – a remarkable Irishwoman whose singing of *Madama Butterfly* enthralled Puccini himself.

reiteration, but we also need some fresh thinking on alcoholism.

I am coming, reluctantly, to the view that there is sometimes a genetic element in alcohol abuse. I am beginning to wonder if there is a case for special awareness-raising among

families where the addiction pattern re-occurs.

It’s a reluctant view because essentially I believe in free will, but I think we must also be open to the question of genetic vulnerability to alcoholism. The boffins should put some more research into this question.

Keep pro-life issues separate

I believe it is a tactical (and perhaps factual) error to link the issue of abortion with euthanasia, even if there is some common ground.

It isn’t necessarily true that abortion legislation is followed by legalised assisted suicide. Britain has a very liberal abortion law, as we know, enacted in 1967, but every attempt so far to usher in euthanasia has been defeated in the House of Commons. Prime Minister David Cameron, generally liberal on social issues, was strikingly opposed to legalised euthanasia when it was proposed under his stewardship.

Euthanasia

British citizens who favour euthanasia – a very active lobby – complain repeatedly that they are “forced” to go to Switzerland to kill themselves, and thus they are deprived of “bodily autonomy” in their own country.

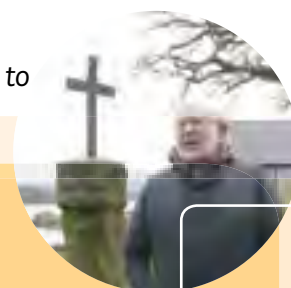
Yet Switzerland, while renowned for its liberal regime of assisted suicide, is rather conservative about abortion, and by European standards, has relatively low abortion rates.

So it doesn’t always follow that one practice is linked to the other.

In the debate about abortion, just one pro-life point can effectively be made: the truth about the development of human life from conception.

One Day Retreats on Lough Derg, now in their 27th year, offer an opportunity for quiet and respite in the midst of a busy life

I look forward to our One Day Retreats in 2018 and to welcoming to Lough Derg many Irish Catholic readers, perhaps with a family member or a friend, or as part of a parish or other faith-support group. I am recalling Jesus’ invitation to his friends as they got into their boat on the lake in Galilee, ‘Come apart, and rest for a while.’ – Fr La Flynn, Prior



ONE DAY RETREATS 2018

30 dates to choose from

MAY – Sat 5th, Sun 6th, Mon 7th, Tues 8th, Sat 12th, Sun 13th, Tues 15th, Sun 20th, Tues 22nd, Sat 26th, Sun 27th, Mon 28th

AUGUST – Sat 18th, Sun 19th, Mon 20th, Mon 27th, Tues 28th, Wed 29th

SEPTEMBER – Sat 1st, Sun 2nd, Tues 4th, Wed 5th, Sat 8th, Mon 10th, Tues 11th, Sat 15th, Sun 16th, Sat 22nd, Sun 23rd, Sun 30th.

Detailed information from the Lough Derg office, contact;
T. +353 (0) 71 9861518 E. info@loughderg.org
Book Direct: <http://booking.loughderg.org/>



www.loughderg.org

Disabled unborn must be defended – pro-life group

Colm Fitzpatrick

The decision by Inclusion Ireland to join the Together for Yes campaign to remove the Eighth Amendment from the Constitution is a betrayal of those that it claims to represent, a disability rights group has said.

Inclusion Ireland, the National Association for People with an Intellectual Disability, announced on April 13 that it was joining the Yes campaign and also launched a new policy paper highlighting the harmful impact of the Eighth Amendment on people with disabilities.

In response, Michael O'Dowd of Disability Voices for Life said that "by supporting a proposal that will enable and facilitate the termination of the lives of unborn children with Down syndrome and other disabilities it is clear



Constitutional lawyer Mr Alan Daveron (right), who was the keynote speaker at a referendum information meeting in Dunmanway, Co. Cork, on Friday, April 13. Other speakers included Former MEP Kathy Sinnott, and Mr Joe Walsh. The meeting was chaired by Rosarie O'Leary. Mr Daveron spoke about the legal consequences of repealing the Eighth Amendment, while Kathy Sinnott urged voters to remain silent on the issue of abortion.

that Inclusion Ireland has lost its way.

"Any analysis of abortion

shows that where it is introduced it is those with a disability in the womb that are targeted," said Mr O'Dowd, whose son Conor has Down syndrome.

Mr O'Dowd added: "Inclu-

sion Ireland has styled itself as the National Association for People with Intellectual Disability.

"They can no longer make that claim as they have shown that they are callous and

uncaring in their consideration of the unborn child with a disability."

Echoing similar sentiments, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin Denis Nulty said in a Pastoral letter on April 15 that we must advocate for all who are in need of protection in our society, otherwise, we will continue to be "walking with our eyes closed into an era of eugenics".

Defence

"Once we deny the right to life of the unborn, we can no longer defend ourselves from what flows from an abortion culture," the bishop said.

"For instance, we are in deep denial if we cannot recognise that an abortion culture fundamentally alters our attitude towards disability."

'12 weeks' campaign to educate voters

A pro-life group has begun a new online campaign called "12 weeks" to inform the electorate about the humanity of the unborn in preparation for the upcoming May referendum to remove the Eighth Amendment.

Save the 8th will show social media users a video of a scan of an unborn baby at 12 weeks gestation and ask them if the unborn child is deserving of constitutional rights. The video will be promoted to Facebook users over the age of 18 in Ireland and may be extended to other platforms.

The campaign says it will be asking media organisations to include such a video in their coverage of the referendum campaign.

Speaking about the campaign, Save the 8th's Niamh Uí Bhriain said: "It is important that this debate is informed and that people have access to basic information. The Government is asking us to legalise abortion for any reason up to three months. In effect, the legislation proposed says that these babies are not human at all and will have no rights.

"In that context, a fully informed debate need not show graphic images. But it should show, at a very basic level, what a child in the womb at that age looks like. Every mother who has had a child in the modern era has seen one of these scans – but most voters have not," she added.

Enduring Questions. Global Issues. Big Ideas.

MA in Theology

DCU School of Theology, Philosophy, and Music
PAC Codes: DC 693 (one year Full-time)
DC 694 (two year Part-time)

Taught by staff with international reputations in their fields, this programme welcomes students from varied religious and secular backgrounds. Key topics include:

- Ecumenical perspectives on key theological questions
- Biblical Studies
- Sacred texts and languages
- Interreligious dialogue between Judaism, Christianity, and Islam
- Political Theology in the 21st century
- Theology and Literature

A flexible programme delivered over one or two evenings per week to suit those with careers and other commitments.

For more Information please contact:

Dr Joseph Rivera

E joseph.rivera@dcu.ie

T (01) 700-7053

W dcu.ie/dc693 dcu.ie/dc694

What do you think?

Let us know by writing to:
Letters to the Editor, The Irish Catholic,
23 Merrion Square, Dublin 2,
or email: letters@irishcatholic.ie

Please consider adding GOAL to your Will.

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

Let me tell you more about what your gift could do. Contact Courtenay, in confidence, on 01 2809779, cpollard@goal.ie or drop me a note at Carnegie House, Library Road, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin

Govt 'baby boom' strategy inconsistent with abortion

A new Government natality initiative to increase birth rates to curb the increasing economic demands resulting from Ireland's ageing population has been criticised as being 'inconsistent' with the removal of the Eighth Amendment, a pro-life group has said.

The initiative, led by Minister for Children Katherine Zappone, plans to look at ways of encouraging families to have more children. The first key policy of the Government's new strategy will be the national roll-out of 'baby boxes' for all new parents.

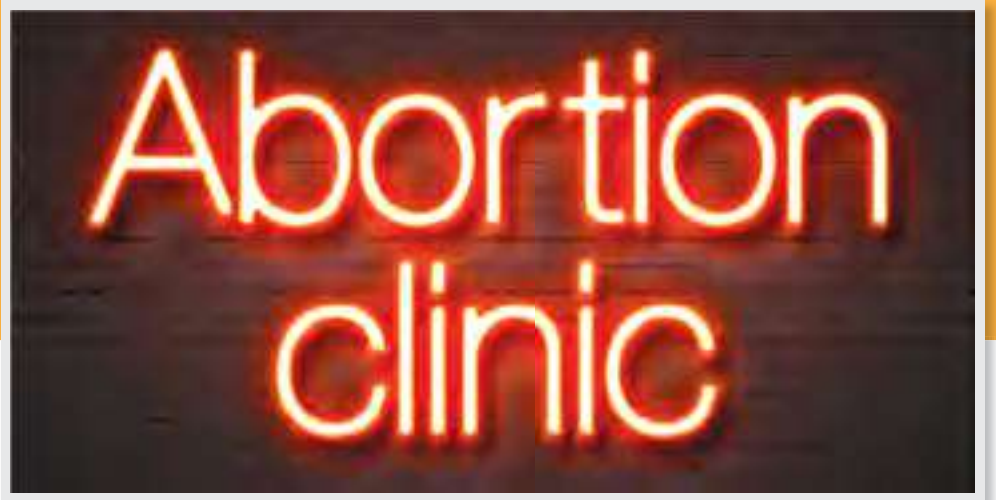
Commenting on the initiative, Cora Sherlock of the Love Both campaign said: "Genuine initiatives designed to assist and support new parents are obviously a good

thing. But the timing of this latest announcement from the Government is not accidental. I think a lot of people will find it more than a little strange that at the very time certain cabinet ministers are proposing to introduce abortion on demand, these same ministers are proposing 'baby boxes' for all new parents.

"Can Katherine Zappone not see the irony and inconsistency in trying to encourage parents to have more children while backing a referendum that would open the door to wide ranging abortion?"

Ms Sherlock added that babies should never be seen as a means to an end, as it will lead to "assessing human worth through a purely utilitarian lens".

COMING SOON TO ALL PARTS OF IRELAND?



Without immediate action, we will soon see signs like this throughout Ireland. And make no mistake: Legalised killing of unborn babies - for any reason - is what the 25th of May referendum is all about.

Dear Fellow Pro-Life Catholic,

My name is David Manly and I'm coming to you on behalf of Family & Life, Ireland's oldest and largest pro-life organisation. I'm going to be exceptionally blunt. Here goes...

You can absolutely count on these horrors if abortion-on-demand is legalised

- 1) Destruction of the family will accelerate. Ireland's history as a country of strong, loving families will be on the way out.
- 2) Some babies will survive abortion and be born alive. They will be left to die. Their bodies will be disposed of as "medical waste."
- 3) Some women will be injured and maimed by abortion "doctors," then rushed to overcrowded emergency departments where patients already wait on trolleys.
- 4) Abortion businesses will move into Ireland from abroad.
- 5) Powerful elites will help the abortion industry avoid unwelcome scrutiny.
- 6) Abortion will be advertised as a "compassionate solution" to a crisis pregnancy.
- 7) Abortion "clinics" will pop up in Dublin, Waterford, Cork, Limerick and Galway.
- 8) Babies with disabilities will be singled out as prime abortion targets.
- 9) Pharmacies will display and sell abortion pills as over-the-counter "medicine."
- 10) Children will grow up thinking that abortion is normal. When children start believing that, Ireland will have fallen into a culture of abortion, probably never to recover.

Immediate action is required - here it is ...

Working with other pro-life organisations, Family & Life has 1,600 canvassers going door-to-door. We hold public meetings almost nightly. We're reaching over 600,000 people online every week. Family & Life billboards are on the road 16 hours a day. Our speakers regularly appear at public forums and on TV and radio.

Family & Life has brought a team from Poland to campaign among Poles in Ireland who have become Irish citizens plus we have a full-time organiser in England working to bring Irish pro-lifers home to vote in the referendum.

But that's not enough! If we stop now, we will lose this referendum and Ireland will have the most liberal abortion laws in all of Europe. So here's what must be done immediately and what it will cost...

- €100,000 is required to print leaflets for our canvassers to leave with voters
- Another €100,000 is needed now for more billboards, beer mats, bathroom advertising and an even larger digital campaign.
- €45,000 is required to pay additional staff around the country.

If we drop the ball, I can tell you what will happen in three short words: **Abortion on demand.**

That threat requires a last-minute financial sacrifice from me, you and every other pro-lifer! And I'm asking for your support right now because we have very little time left for essential last-minute campaigning.

"David, how much should I send today?"

- If you can send €50 right now, then I'm asking you to sacrifice and make it €75 instead.
- Is €100 the amount you're thinking of sending now? If so, I'm asking you to find a way to rush €150 instead. Better yet, double the €100 you might be considering and make your cheque or credit card donation for €200.
- My wife and I have sent our cheque for €250. Will you match our gift and send €250?
- Support of €500, €1,000 and €1,500 will really help us meet the last-minute deadline. Will you send one of those amounts? Do your means allow you to send €2,500? That could be the gift that puts us over the top!

There is no time for delay - NONE!

Even just a day of lost campaigning could be the difference between winning and losing. So right now is the time to RUSH your last-minute help.

Abortion-on-demand is what we're staring at. May I hear from you immediately, please?

Yours for the defeat of abortion-on-demand,

David Manly

Family & Life

PS I just listed 10 horrible things that will strike Ireland if abortion-on-demand is legalised. I can't think of better reasons to immediately give as generously as possible, can you? And time is so short that you can call us with your vital last-minute support. The number is 01-8552145. Whether by phone or post, please let me hear from you today!

PPS Even if you've already made a financial sacrifice, more is needed. For pro-lifers, this is a "now-or-never" fight. And for unborn babies, it's "life-or-death." So even if you've already sacrificed, please sacrifice again!

Clip and Post This Reply TODAY!

☐ YES! I'll help keep abortion-on-demand out of Ireland with a critical last-minute campaign gift to Family & Life.

Enclosed is...

- ☐ €50 ☐ €75 ☐ €100 ☐ €150
☐ €200 ☐ €250 ☐ €500 ☐ €1,000
☐ €1,500 ☐ €2,500 ☐ Other € _____

Please make your baby-saving gift payable to **Family & Life**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please charge my: ☐ Credit/Laser card ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ Other

Card number: _____

Expiry date: ____/____/____ CVC Number (last three digits) ____

Signature: _____

Please return this reply to:
Family & Life
FREEPOST, 26 Mountjoy Square,
Dublin 1

You can also donate by phone:
01-855-2145

Where the Eighth Amendment is concerned, we are the legislators

Each of us will soon have the opportunity to vote on whether or not to remove an amendment to the Irish Constitution that defends the right to life of unborn children.

There is no point in beating around the bush: a vote to remove this protection from unborn children will be a vote for abortion. It is not possible to vote to repeal the Eighth Amendment and to consider oneself to be pro-life.

Already, doctors in Irish hospitals are permitted to act to save the life of a mother even if a regrettable consequence is that her unborn child will die.

Savita Halappanavar died, tragically, due to the late diagnosis of a septic miscarriage as three independent reviews of her case have shown. She did not die because of the Eighth Amendment. If the correct diagnosis had been made in time doctors could have acted to save her life

In what many consider to be the key insight of the post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*, Pope Francis says the Church is “called to form consciences, not to replace them”. With this in mind over the coming weeks staff from the Department of Theology & Religious Studies at Mary Immaculate College will be considering particular aspects of the referendum on the 8th Amendment. We are grateful to Dr Patrick Connolly, Prof. Eamonn Conway, Dr Tom Finegan and Dr Myra Hayes for their co-operation.

even if this would have resulted in her baby's death.

Widespread abortion

To the surprise and indeed shock of many citizens across the political spectrum, the Government has decided to delete the Eighth Amendment entirely rather than amend it to allow for certain restricted categories of abortion. A vote to repeal the Eighth Amendment is therefore a vote for widespread abortion.

Its deletion will mean that the issue of abortion will be taken out of our hands as

the people of this country and placed in to the hands of politicians present and future. The matter of whether a 12-week limit will apply, as proposed, or one of 24 weeks as is the current situation in Britain, could, for instance, be a 'bargaining chip' between political parties as they try to form a future government.

There's no rowing back from a repeal of the Eighth Amendment. As voters, we must reckon with unrestricted abortion as the eventual outcome if the amendment is repealed.

Committed Catholics must therefore face the fact that they are being asked by the Irish Government to vote in favour of something that fundamentally contradicts a core belief they hold as Christ's disciples, namely, that human life is sacred and inviolable from the moment of conception.

Therefore, committed Catholics who are considering voting yes or deliberately abstaining in the referendum need to ask themselves what this means in terms of their personal relationship with God, the author of human life.

The legislators

Catholic politicians abroad often have to stand up and be counted when it comes to abortion. Here in Ireland, Lucinda Creighton and her colleagues did just that in 2013 when she opposed the Protection of Life in Pregnancy Act. She sacrificed her ministerial career because she judged that the legislation she was being asked to support did not sufficiently recognise that two human lives, that of the mother but also of the baby, needed protection.

Seldom, however, do Catholics find themselves in the same situation as their elected Catholic representatives. Yet that is the situation in which Irish Catholics now find themselves. In the forthcoming referendum we are the legislators.

Some, even some Catholics, will argue that the issue of how to vote in the forthcoming referendum is not clear-cut.

For instance, they will argue that the Church didn't always teach that human life is present from the moment of conception.

However, Christians have always held that the intentional killing of innocent human beings is wrong ('Thou shalt not kill'). Today, science leaves no doubt that human life begins at conception. The position of those who are pro-life is more consistent with the evidence of modern science than is that of those who are pro-abortion.

False compassion

Some argue that abortion should be permitted, on compassionate grounds, where the baby has been conceived

through rape or incest, or where there is medical certainty that the baby will die shortly after birth.

Compassion in such tragic circumstances is both vital and essential. However, abortion is, as Pope Francis has said, 'false compassion.' It compounds and prolongs the pain. The deliberate killing of an innocent human life inevitably diminishes everyone involved. It can add to the sense of violation in the case of rape and incest. It can increase the sense of loss in the case of fatal fetal abnormality.

Our personal beliefs

Some will claim, as Micheál Martin has, that "we must each question how far we are willing to go to impose our personal beliefs on others".

This point needs careful consideration. When we vote in a democracy where every other eligible citizen also has a vote we are not 'imposing' our beliefs. We are exercising the same democratic right everyone else has to take their personal beliefs into account in deciding on the laws that govern us.

When we vote, whether as citizens or as politicians, we should always do so in accordance with our personal beliefs. Otherwise, privately we believe one thing, yet in our vote, which is in effect a public statement of what we believe, we are stating something else. We are being hypocritical.

“The conviction that we shouldn't let our personal beliefs influence how we vote is the opposite of what Catholics believe”

Of course, personal beliefs can change, as seems to be the case with politicians who have said that their views on abortion have 'evolved'. Their personal belief now seems to be that the decision to have an abortion should be a matter solely for those who find themselves in such situations, at least for the first twelve weeks after conception.

They are entitled to this belief but it is seriously at odds with justice and with

truth. This is because from the moment of conception there are always two human lives in need of support and protection as far as is humanly possible, even in tragic circumstances such as rape, incest or fatal fetal abnormalities. Support and protection should include protection of the law.

“Catholic politicians abroad often have to stand up and be counted when it comes to abortion”

The direct and intentional killing of an innocent human being is always wrong. This is true regardless of how the baby is conceived. The perpetrator of rape or of incest is, of course, guilty of a crime, but an unborn baby resulting from rape or incest is not and has not forfeited the right to life.

It is also true regardless of the health of the unborn baby. The Church's teaching is consistent here, as Bishop Kevin Doran has rightly pointed out. If as a society we permit the killing of weak and vulnerable unborn babies because they may not live long after birth we have crossed a line that could see the intentional killing of other weak and vulnerable people such as the elderly. The non-voluntary killing of the sick and elderly is already a reality in other liberal countries.

A lot more than we might think is at stake in the Eighth Amendment. The conviction that we shouldn't let our personal beliefs influence how we vote is the opposite of what Catholics believe. Catholics hold that beliefs, though personal, can never be private. Christians have convictions about what serves human dignity and the common good, and, as Pope Francis has said, have a responsibility to speak of these even if they are unpalatable (*Evangelii Gaudium*, n. 65).

Christians are required to "help build a more just and peaceful world through morally acceptable means, so that the weak and vulnerable are protected and human rights and dignity are defended" (*Familiaris Consortio*, 20).

The Eighth Amendment protects the weakest and most vulnerable in our society and that is why committed Catholics ought not support its repeal.

GET A RARE INSIGHT INTO THE DAILY LIFE OF THE ONLY CISTERCIAN MONASTERY FOR WOMEN IN IRELAND

With photographs by Valerie O'Sullivan



PRICE:
€24.99
FREE P&P
(ROI)

A Year in the Life: Glencairn Abbey portrays the colour and variety of life in a female religious community. Nestled in the rich heartland of County Waterford, the Sisters of St Mary's Abbey live out their days through work and prayer, following the Rule of St Benedict. There is a true mysticism and rhythm to their daily life, which is intertwined with the seasons of nature and liturgies of the year. The proceeds from this book go towards the Abbey's building project.



columba press

Reign of the illiberal liberals

Liberalism is an extremely aggressive and domineering ideology. In the name of 'tolerance' and 'inclusion', it intimidates opponents into submission by denouncing them as 'bigots' and 'haters'.

Like Christianity when it was politically and socially very powerful, liberalism will brook no rivals. It sees the Catholic Church as a rival, albeit a greatly diminished one, because on some of the big issues of the day – sex and gender, the family and the right to life – where it does not conform to liberal ideology. Huge pressure is therefore being exerted on the Church to change its views on all these things. There are plenty of Catholics, including senior clergy and religious, who are perfectly happy to cooperate with these efforts.

Here in Ireland, the pressure is mounting ahead of the World Meeting of Families in August. Last weekend, a conference was organised with that event in mind and with a view to pressuring the Church to change its teachings on issues like divorce and remarriage, and same-sex marriage.

Change

Former TV3 journalist Ursula Halligan told the conference: "As a woman and a gay person, I'm not putting up with it any longer. I'm not sitting at the back of the bus any more. The institutional Church has to change on this."

She continued: "I believe my love is as good as anyone else's love and as a Catholic I'm looking for full sacramental marriage for same-sex couples."

Susan Casey, a divorced mother of two, criticised the Church's "demonisation" of divorced and separated families and warned that "the Eucharist is being used as a weapon rather than nourishment" against people whose marriages fail.

The conference was called

Politicians are forcing their views on the Church, writes David Quinn



'Future Families: Challenges for Faith and Society'.

Meanwhile, Fine Gael TDs Regina Doherty and Josepha Madigan, both of whom describe themselves as practising Catholics, criticised those bishops who released pastoral letters at the weekend defending the right to life.

Doherty said we should "support" and not "judge" the women who have abortions.

Madigan said women contemplating abortion need "care and compassion".

“The Church has to stand its ground. If it succumbs it will not serve the world well”

This, of course, sets up a false dichotomy. You can both oppose abortion and offer support to women considering a termination. It's not either/or. Indeed, the various pastorals referred to the support that is on offer to women in this situation. The truly compassionate response to an unwanted pregnancy is to protect the child and support the mother.

Meanwhile, we have had Children's Minister Katherine Zappone telling the bishops in the context of the abortion debate that they "cannot determine the laws of the land", while at the same time feeling free to travel to Rome for St Patrick's Day and publicly support Mary McAleese's condemnation of the Church as an "empire of misogyny".

If it is a senior Government Minister's

business what goes on in the Catholic Church – which no-one has to belong to – then why is it not a Catholic's business what the State does, given that we all live under the laws of the State? The State is a far more powerful entity than the Catholic Church.

Taoiseach Leo Varadkar has also jumped on the bandwagon. Speaking about the World Meeting of Families, he said: "The Government is very much of the view that there are many different types of family and all types of family should be celebrated."

He added: "We will make it known in our meetings with the organisers that that is the Government's view, that families in all their shapes and forms should be celebrated. That's in line with the Government's commitment to personal liberty and equality before the law".

The debate about abortion is between those who think the right to life of the unborn child is the most important thing, and those who believe the woman's right to choose is more important.

But in all the flashpoints between liberalism and Christianity, the conflict is around the 'right to choose'.

Christianity says men and women should marry before they have children, and then do their best to stay married for life. (Will the World Meeting of Families gather up the nerve to actually say this?)

Liberal society says people should be free to choose to live in whatever kind of family they want: cohabiting, single parent, same-sex, divorced and remarried and so on.

Christianity says we must live out our lives until natural death. Liberal society says we ought to be allowed choose assisted suicide if we become sufficiently old or unwell.

Christianity says we are made male and female. Liberals societies say we have a right to choose between numerous different genders, not just male and female.

To put it another way,

Christianity says some things are not simply a matter of personal choice. Whether you are male or female is a given, not a choice. Men are different from women. The conjugal union of male and female is different from a same-sex union by any objective reckoning.

Choosing to kill an unborn human being is wrong, and so is assisted suicide.

Liberal critics of Christianity say we lack compassion when we don't help a person to do what they want, or worse, stand in their way. We say it is wrong to help someone do the wrong thing. It is wrong, therefore, to facilitate abortion or assisted suicide, and it is wrong to pretend one type of family is just the same as another.

But then the Church finds itself condemned as 'judgemental'. Politicians are quick to take this line and feel perfectly entitled to pressure the Church to bend to their ideology of choice or find itself ostracised, marginalised.

The Church has to stand its ground. If it succumbs it



will not serve the world well. The world is only ever served by speaking and acting in truth. Not all choices are the same. Some choices are better than others.

Neither women nor babies are well served by abortion. Children ought to be raised by a loving mother and father whenever possible. Lifelong marriage is a great good. Assisted suicide is not compassionate. Help-

ing the old and infirm to live with dignity until natural death is true compassion.

Liberalism ought to know that every dominant idea needs its critics, as the Church did in its day. Liberalism has its own pathologies, and the biggest one is a totally exaggerated individualism. The Church cannot be silent about this, or allow itself to be silenced.

The Iona Institute stands up for your values

Please support our work with a donation today

What they say about us

"I see David Quinn and Breda O'Brien [of The Iona Institute] as a fundamental part of our democracy"
- Author, Colm Toibin.

"I don't agree with them [David Quinn and Breda O'Brien], but I admire their guts"
- Sunday Times columnist, Brenda Power.

"My Blood was boiling watching David Quinn"
- Ray D'Arcy



MARIA STEEN
Iona Institute

DAVID QUINN
Director, Iona Institute

The Iona Institute promotes the place of religion and traditional marriage in Ireland.

You can help the valuable work of The Iona Institute by sending a cheque or postal order in pounds or euro to:
THE IONA INSTITUTE, 23 Merrion Square, Dublin 2, Ireland.



Minister Katherine Zappone.

Ursula Halligan.

Time to talk – about foreign funding

Amnesty International Ireland may have fallen foul of the State's ethics watchdog, but that hasn't stopped Health Minister Simon Harris from endorsing the organisation in its campaign to remove Ireland's constitutional protections for the unborn.

Such, at least, was the unavoidable message of his involvement last week in the launch of Amnesty's 'It's time to talk' campaign to repeal the Eighth Amendment to the Constitution.

Amnesty, of course, has been in dispute with the State since November when the Standards in Public Office Commission (SIPO) directed it to repay a €137,000 donation from the US-based Open Society Foundation, funded by the Hungarian-American billionaire George Soros.

Political purposes

Irish electoral law forbids 'third parties' from receiving donations for political purposes from foreign individuals and organisations, with SIPO holding that 'political purposes' includes the running of campaigns intended to promote particular outcomes with regard to Government policies or functions.

Despite this, Amnesty's executive director Colm O'Gorman

Government involvement in the Amnesty repeal launch glosses over the organisation's flouting of Irish law, writes **Greg Daly**



has said Amnesty would not be complying with SIPO's instruction that it return the foreign funding; it is currently bringing a judicial review against SIPO, the State and the Attorney General.

However, at the 'It's time to talk' launch Mr O'Gorman explicitly stated that while foreign funding is not being used in the current referendum campaign targeting the electorate, it had indeed been used in a campaign to persuade the Government to work towards changing Irish law.

"It relates to a campaign that was targeted at Government to secure a commitment to changing Irish law on abortion," he told *The Irish Times*. "It was seeking to change Government's thinking on the whole issue of reproductive rights."

All of which throws a very strange light on how Minister Harris joined independent senator

Lynn Ruane in campaigning alongside Mr O'Gorman on Dublin's Moore Street on April 10, proudly displaying Amnesty materials as though the organisation wasn't currently defying Irish law and the State's ethics watchdog, or challenging the State in the courts.

“It simply doesn't wash: actions speak louder than words”

Following criticism by the Pro Life Campaign last week, a Fine Gael spokesperson said Minister Harris supports a campaign encouraging people to have a conversation about voting 'yes', and said Amnesty had assured the minister it would be complying with SIPO rules and regulations during the referendum campaign.

This assurance is, however, clearly false: Amnesty has been

refusing to comply with SIPO's instructions for some months, and continues to do so.

Further, when asked by *The Irish Catholic* in what sense Minister Harris understood this assurance from an organisation that is publicly refusing to comply with the State's ethics watchdog, a Fine Gael spokesperson refused to answer this question and simply reiterated: "The Minister has been assured by Amnesty that they are registered with SIPO for the referendum campaign and will fully comply with the rules and regulations."

Acceptable

Asked why the minister believes it is acceptable for him to campaign alongside an organisation that is currently defying SIPO regulations and Irish law, the spokesperson similarly reiterated an answer previously given: "The issue in relation to the Open Society Foundations donation is a matter that is currently before the courts so the Minister is precluded from commenting."

This is nonsense. The head of Amnesty International Ireland has admitted that the organisation took and used foreign funding with the intention of procuring a Government commitment to



Health Minister Simon Harris.

changing Irish law, publicly stating this at a launch in which the Government minister responsible for changing the relevant law took part.

Minister Harris may claim that he is precluded from commenting on issues surrounding the OSF donation, but this simply doesn't wash: actions speak louder than words.

Whatever his intentions may be, the minister's presence alongside Mr O'Gorman at the Amnesty launch speaks eloquently about where he stands.

CONFERENCE

5 YEARS TO SAVE THE IRISH CHURCH

BALLROOM, THE GRESHAM HOTEL,
23 O'Connell Street Upper, Dublin 1

Hotel parking available

**SATURDAY
19TH MAY 2018**

REGISTRATION 8.30 AM

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL PRICE

€30

VALID UNTIL 19TH APRIL
TEA & COFFEE INCLUDED
REGULAR PRICE: €35



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

MARY MCALEESE

Former President of Ireland

TIMETABLE:

9.00-9.45 BRIAN D'ARCY

9.50-10.30 JOE MC DONALD

10.40-11.20 SR STANISLAUS KENNEDY

11.20-11.45 TEA BREAK

11.50-12.45 MARY MCALEESE

12.45-1.55 LUNCH

2.00-2.40 MARK PATRICK HEDERMAN

2.40-3.20 PANEL - MARY MCALEESE
AND MARK PATRICK HEDERMAN

ORGANISED BY



columba press

WWW.COLUMBABOOKS.COM

CONTACT garry@columba.ie | 01 687 4028

SATURDAY APRIL 28

HOW TO DEFEND THE FAITH WITHOUT RAISING YOUR VOICE

Helping Catholics answer
common criticisms of the Church



RED COW HOTEL, DUBLIN

REGISTRATION 9.00AM - CONCLUSION 3.00PM

€30

TEA & COFFEE
INCLUDED

BOOK NOW

PHONE 01 6874028 | EMAIL EVENTS@IRISHCATHOLIC.IE
WWW.IRISHCATHOLIC.COM/PRODUCT/DEFEND-FAITH

SPEAKERS

AUSTEN
IVEREIGH

Catholic Voices



MICHAEL
KELLY

Manager Editor
The Irish Catholic



BREDA
O'BRIEN

Columnist



RONAN
MULLEN

Senator



PROF. FRANCIS
CAMPBELL

St Mary's
University



CORA
SHERLOCK

Pro-Life
Campaign



MARIA
STEEN

The Iona
Institute



Out&About

Thanksgiving for organ donors



MAYO: People attend the Mass of Thanks for Organ Donors which took place last Sunday in Knock Basilica.



TIPPERARY: Bishop Fintan Monahan ordained Bro. Malachy Thompson to the Diaconate in Mount St Joseph's Abbey Roscrea.



TIPPERARY: Presentation Primary School students receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in St Mary's Church in Irishtown, Clonmel. Photo: John Kelly.



FATIMA: Parishioners from the Diocese of Kildare and the Diocese of Killaloe pictured on a pilgrimage to Fatima which was organised by James Treacy, who brings a group every year to Fatima and to the Holy Land at Christmas.



DUBLIN: Renua Ireland launches the party's referendum campaign to retain the Eighth Amendment to the Constitution with the slogan 'Be My Voice'.

Edited by Chai Brady
chai@irishcatholic.ie



Events deadline is a week in advance of publication



▲ **ITALY:** Fr Michael Toomey, John McEneaney, and pilgrims from Clonmel in the Irish College in Rome after Mass with Pope Francis earlier in the Vatican.

◀ **TIPPERARY:** St Mary's CBS school students receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in St Mary's Church in Irishtown, Clonmel. Photo: John Kelly.



LIMERICK: Girls from Doon Convent of Mercy Primary School and boys from Doon CBS Primary School pictured with their principals Derek Walsh and Joanne O'Connell, Fr Jimmy Donnelly PP and Archbishop Kieran O'Reilly of Cashel & Emly after their Confirmation ceremony in Doon Parish Church.

IN SHORT

Celebrating Family Life in Armagh Parish

In preparation for the World Meeting of Families 2018, a special evening of celebration for all families in Armagh Parish will take place in St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh on Thursday, May 10 at 7.30pm.

All families in the parish are encouraged to make an effort to attend the celebration in order to give thanks for all that's good in family life and to pray for God's blessing on all our homes and families. As part of the celebration, special prayers will be offered for

family members who are doing exams in the coming weeks.

Families are invited to bring along a small picture of their family and place it in the Sacred Space in the sanctuary of the Cathedral on the evening. These pictures will be pieced together to make our 'Parish Family Collage' and it will hang in the Cathedral in the coming months and the families will be remembered in prayer during the countdown to the World Meeting of Families. All families who attend on the evening will also be given a ticket and a draw will be made as part of the evening for two families to attend the

World Meeting of Families in Dublin in August of this year.

An invitation is extended to all young people throughout Armagh Parish, and they're encouraged to attend what promises to be a very uplifting and memorable evening for all.

Amoris discussion to begin in Kilmore

As part of the preparations for the forthcoming World Meeting of Families later this year, Fr Eamonn Bredin will facilitate a six-week discussion group, entitled 'Family Matters', on themes from Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia*

(The Joy of Love).

They will begin in the Kilmore Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Cavan, on Thursday April 26 from 7.30pm to 9.30pm.

Among the themes being discussed are 'The Experiences and Challenges of Families', 'Love in Marriage', 'Towards a Better Education of Children' and 'The Spirituality of Marriage & the Family'. Pre-registration is necessary which can be made by contacting the Pastoral Centre on 049 4375004 or by email to pastoralcentre@kilmorediocese.ie. The cost of the course is €30, payable on the first night.

ANTRIM

'Amoris: Let's Talk Family', a six-session programme, will continue in Clonard Monastery, Belfast, from 7.30-9pm, on April 24 and May 1, 22, 29. To book your place, phone 00 44 2890 445950 or email reception@clonard.com.

ARMAGH

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

Adoration chapel, Edwards St, Lurgan, adoration weekdays, 9am-9pm.

CLARE

Celebration of new life and blessing of expectant parents in Ennis Cathedral Thursday, April 26 at 8pm.

Mass and Anointing for people with disabilities and chronic illnesses in Ennis Cathedral on Wednesday May 16 at 2pm. The celebrant and homilist will be Bishop Fintan Monahan.

CORK

A pro-life Mass is held on the last Friday of every month at the Poor Clares monastery, College Road, at 7.30pm.

DERRY

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

DUBLIN

Life to the Full (Jn 10: 10) Book Club, Thursdays in St Paul's Church, Arran Quay 7-8.30pm. Join others in their 20s and 30s to meditate, share and discuss life and Faith. Email st.pauls@dublindiocese.ie

Mass commemorating the 74th anniversary of Venerable Edel Quinn in St Saviour's Church, Dominick Street on May 12 at 6pm with rosary prayed before Mass.

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

Avila Charismatic Prayer Group – 'If you only knew what God is Offering' Life in the Spirit Seminars – each Wednesday from April 18 to June 6 at 8pm. Speakers include: Fr Brendan Walsh, Charles Whitehead and Fr Gerry Campbell. Avila Carmelite Centre, Bloomfield Avenue, Donnybrook. For more information call 087 6823543 or 086 3203512.

FERMANAGH

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

GALWAY

Special Healing Day for Families in Emmanuel House of Providence, Clonfert, on Sunday April 22 from 11am-5pm. There will be time away for couples, with supervised activities for children provided.

The Poor Clares Cloister Day on

Saturday April 21 from 10-5pm is designed to help young women who are exploring a religious vocation find out more about the Poor Clare way of life. If you are between the ages of 21 and 40 and would like to attend contact: poorclaresgalwayvocations@gmail.com

KILKENNY

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

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

LEITRIM

Padre Pio Healing Mass in St Patrick's Church, Ballinamore on Friday May 25 at 7pm. The celebrant will be Fr Sean Kelly, OFM Cap from Kilkenny.

LIMERICK

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

LOUTH

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

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

MEATH

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

OFFALY

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

ROSCOMMON

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

TYRONE

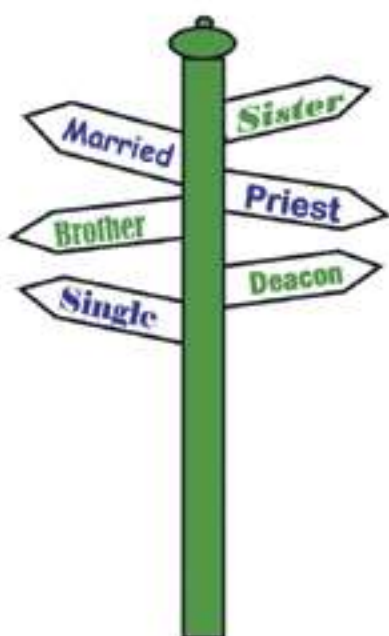
Life in Spirit Seminars in Sacred Heart Church in Omagh at 7pm every Thursday until May 17 with unique speakers and themes each evening organised by the Omagh Charismatic Prayer Group.

WICKLOW

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

Don't wait to be perfect before you

It is 'beautiful' to be consecrated to Christ



Men and women contemplating a vocation to the priesthood, consecrated life or marriage should not be afraid because God wants only for them to experience the joy that comes from serving others, Pope Francis has said.

"Our slowness and our sloth" should not delay a response and Christians need not be "fearful of our limitations and sins, but instead open our hearts to the voice of the Lord", the Pope said in his message for the 2018 World Day of Prayer for Vocations which is held on April 22. "It will not fill our hearts if we keep standing by the window with the excuse of waiting for the right time, without accepting this very day the risk of making a decision," the Pope writes. "Vocation is today! The Christian mission is now!"

The theme of the papal message this year is 'Listening, discerning and living the Lord's call.'

In his message, Pope Francis



said God's call "is not as clear-cut as any of those things we can hear, see or touch in our daily experiences" because God "comes silently and discreetly, without imposing on our freedom."

Christians, he said, must learn to listen carefully and "view

things with the eyes of Faith" in order to listen to his voice which is "drowned out by the many worries and concerns that fill our minds and hearts".

Enclosed

"We will never discover the special, personal calling that

God has in mind for us if we remain enclosed in ourselves, in our usual way of doing things, in the apathy of those who fritter away their lives in their own little world," the Pope insists. Listening is increasingly difficult in today's society, which is "overstimulated and



Where is the SPIRIT calling you?

WHO WE ARE

We are an international missionary community of catholic priests, brothers and lay people who seek to live our lives in the SPIRIT of Jesus Christ and in the service of the poor and the suffering.

HOW WE LIVE

We live in community sharing our life and our prayer. Our community life is open to the SPIRIT alive in each one of us.

WHAT WE DO

We seek to build up the Kingdom of God by recognising his SPIRIT present in all peoples. In particular we work among the poor and oppressed allowing ourselves to be evangelised by them. Irish Spiritans are working on all continents. In Ireland we work with asylum seekers and refugees, in parishes, in education and in ministries of healing.

For more information you can contact in complete confidence:

Fr. Paddy Moran C.S.Sp.
St. Mary's College, C.S.Sp.
Rathmines D06 CH79

t | 083 815 2665
e | youth@spiritan.ie

answer God's call – Pope Francis



bombarded by information” and “prevents us from pausing and enjoying the taste of contemplation” and discerning God's plan, he said.

Often stifled by “the temptations of ideology and negativity”, he said, Christians need spiritual discernment which allows them to “discover the places, the means and situations through which” God's calls them.

“Every Christian ought to grow in the ability to ‘read within’ his or her life”

“Every Christian ought to grow in the ability to ‘read within’ his or her life and to understand where and to what he or she is being called by the Lord, in order to carry on his mission,” Pope Francis insists.

Consecrated life

He also urged men and women to live out their calling once it is discovered and “become a witness of the Lord here and

now,” whether in marriage or priesthood or consecrated life.

“If (God) lets us realise that he is calling us to consecrate ourselves totally to his kingdom, then we should have no fear!” Pope Francis says.

“It is beautiful – and a great grace,” he said, “to be completely and forever consecrated to God and the service of our brothers and sisters.”



DO YOU HAVE UNUSED SPACE IN YOUR BUILDING?

Office Accommodation Required for Rental in Dublin South/South West

By Le Chéile Schools Trust

Due to our current offices closing, we require 5 unfurnished rooms/offices, kitchen area and car parking for an 18-24month period from early June 2018

We are willing to share a building and install our own telephone/IT requirements.

For further details please contact us **01.5380104** or **admin@lecheiletrust.ie** before 30th April.

Le Chéile Schools Trust is a collaborative Trust carrying out the role of the Patron in 62 second level schools. The Trust is committed to the future of Catholic education in Ireland.



“Wake up the world! Be witnesses of a different way of doing things, acting, living! Show it's possible to live differently in this world.”
(Pope Francis)

Founded in 1924 in Italy by Blessed James Alberione (1884 -1971), the Disciples of the Divine Master form part of the larger Pauline Family. This is a family of priests, religious and lay people whose mission is: ‘to live and give Jesus Master to the world’ using the latest means of social communication. Our charism is lived out in missionary and multicultural communities. We have two communities in Ireland, one community in Dublin and another in Athlone with a total of 9 sisters from all 5 continents!

Loving silence and contemplative prayer are important for our communities. These are the means by which we strengthen our interior life and learn the true art of listening, communication and discipleship.

Through our apostolic activity we seek to make the Eucharistic Jesus known, loved and adored. Our main mission is to be ‘living lamps’ before Jesus present in the Eucharist, offering our prayer and Adoration for the intentions of the whole world. In particular, prayer is offered in thanksgiving for,

and in reparation for the ways in which media is often used to sow seeds of darkness.

Our life of prayer energizes us in our mission of hospitality and service. The treasured gospel icon we seek to live is that of Martha and Mary of Bethany who welcomed Jesus into their home. In like manner, we want to do the same in our retreat centres in Athlone and Dublin.

Creating a prayerful and attractive environment for liturgical worship is part of our ministry. We use the language of art and creativity in order that the Church's liturgy is celebrated with dignity and grace. We are involved in promoting liturgical formation and animation with clergy and laity. This liturgical ministry is carried out primarily through our life of prayer and in our Liturgical Centres where, through the work of our hands, we produce liturgical items and provide all that is needed to celebrate liturgy and the sacraments with fitting honour.

We are also closely associated with

the minis try of the priest, just as Mary was with Jesus. In this aspect, we offer spaces of prayer and hospitality as well as personal accompaniment to priests in need of rest and spiritual renewal through community support, and prayer.

You too can help us to ‘wake up the world’ which is sleepwalking through life! This is an invitation to young women who are generous of heart and would like to make a difference in this world through a life of worship and life totally consecrated to God, to consider the way of beauty as a calling of God and mission for their life.



Visit our website for more information:
www.pddm.ie



The Disciples of the Divine Master are having a discernment day on the 28th of April 2018 in Athlone from 10am to 6.00 pm, for single women aged 21-40.

Open House in both communities on Saturdays (please ring one week beforehand to book).

As Disciples of the Divine Master, we assure you and your families of our daily prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

Prayer intentions can be sent to:

- ✉ Divine Master Convent, Newtownpark Avenue, White's Cross, Blackrock, Co. Dublin
- @ pddmdublin@eircom.net or find us on
- f PDDM Dublin

"Nothing is stronger than love as it is the spring of all things"
(Servant of God, Fr. Peter Joseph Triest, Founder)



Congregation of The



Brothers of Charity

The Brothers of Charity is a Religious Congregation with a presence in 30 countries. The Communities live and pray together and provide overall governance for the Services under the aegis of the Congregation.

Bro. Noel Corcoran, fc

Belonging to an internationally active movement and rooted in the values of the Christian Gospels, the Brothers of Charity value the dignity and humanity of each person and strive to provide quality services to support people who are in danger of being marginalised.

Our founder

The Congregation was founded by the Servant of God Fr. Peter Triest, in Ghent, Belgium in 1807. A deeply spiritual man with an overarching interest in the poor, he initiated many projects to enhance their lives, e.g., education, nursing, and mental health care. He was inspired to found the Congregation, so that the Brothers could devote themselves fully to his projects and develop their spiritual lives. Fr. Triest is remembered for his many inspirational sermons and texts, particularly on the theme of commitment:

“Through your commitment to others you share in the mission of Jesus Christ. You could not represent Jesus more faithfully than by coming to the assistance of those who call for help. Is this not to resurrect them and lift them out of the depths of the earth? Is it not creating for them a new Heaven and a new Earth?”

– Peter Joseph Triest

The Brothers of Charity first came to Ireland in 1883 and opened a Psychiatric Hospital in Waterford.

Our services

Today our services focus on providing support services to people with an intellectual disability in Ireland and the United Kingdom and many other countries. We also provide a diverse range of services in health, education, social care and community development around the world.

Pastoral support is an integral part of the holistic approach in our services. Christian Celebra-

tion is an essential part of the life of our services and provide rich opportunities to build communities, to raise us above our daily routines, and to affirm the vitality of our Christian identity, our Catholic affirmation and our Charism. We respond to needs in local communities, promoting an supporting positive engagement and interaction between those who use our services and the community, and supporting them to participate in and be included in all facets of community life as equal and valued citizens.

The Brothers of Charity Services is a learning organisation whose responses are based on best practice, and in full recognition of the right of each person to self-determine their life goals and wishes.

More information on the Congregation and its Services is available from

The Brothers of Charity

Kilcornan House, Clarinbridge, Co. Galway

Tel: 091 796389

Website: www.bocstjosephsregion.org



DOMINICAN SISTERS CABRA

WE BELONG TO THE ORDER OF PREACHERS FOUNDED BY SAINT DOMINIC 800 YEARS AGO.

TOGETHER IN COMMUNITY WE PRAY, STUDY AND CONTEMPLATE IN ORDER TO

Proclaim, and witness to the liberating word of God through a variety of ministries, including:

PREACHING

ECOLOGY

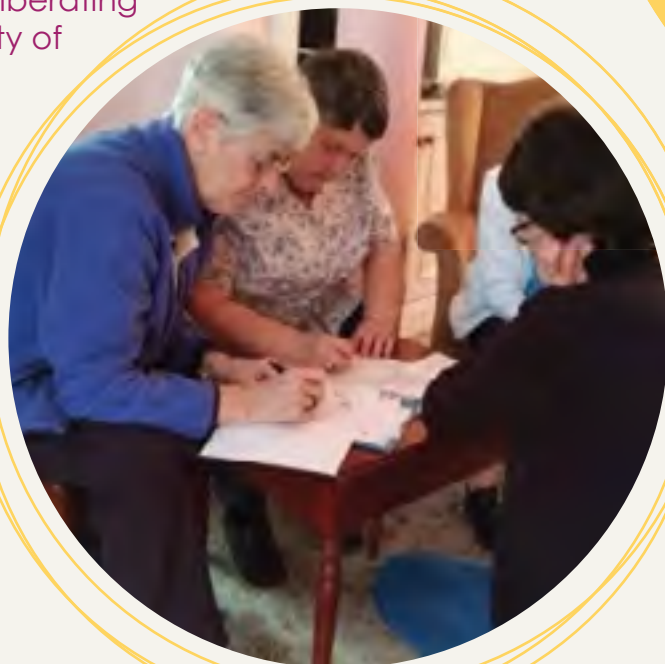
JUSTICE

EDUCATION

ECUMENISM

RETREAT WORK

PASTORAL CARE



CONSIDER JOINING US IN PREACHING A LIVING WORD FOR OUR WORLD TODAY

Contact

Sr. Marie McHugh O.P.

089- 458 5708

mariedominicanvocations@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/DominicanSrsCabra/

Website:

www.dominicansisters.com

What is the Tabar Ciborium?

Fr. Michael Murphy MSC, an Irish priest, greatly weakened by malnutrition, sickness, and months of captivity, was executed by the Japanese and buried on an uninhabited island during the World War II. His story and what happened next was an extraordinary example of faith and the power of love.

It's about the story of an Irish priest who was executed by the Japanese during World War II, because he would not abandon his people. In 1942 on September 11th Fr. Michael Murphy MSC, greatly weakened by malnutrition, sickness, and months of captivity, was executed by the Japanese and buried on an uninhabited island. Fr. Michael was one of millions of people who lost their lives in World War II, but his story and what happened next was an extraordinary example of faith and the power of love.

Born in 1911, he was the eldest son of James and Elizabeth Murphy, farmers from Co. Cork. He was ordained a priest with the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (MSC) in 1936. Only four years later, he travelled with two other MSC priests to minister to the people of the island of Tabar in Papua New Guinea. He spent the next two years working in the local villages, celebrating Mass, hearing confessions, baptising children, and caring for the people. He visited communities on horseback, but some were so inaccessible he had to hike through the jungle. Over time he gained the trust of his parishioners, who came to call him Fr. Mike.

Due to the growing danger Fr. Mike was given the opportunity to evacuate to Ireland, but he refused. Inevitably he was arrested and imprisoned by the Japanese. In 1942, at the invitation of some Japanese soldiers, he travelled to source more medicine for his parishioners. He was never to return. His parishioners knew nothing of his execution and waited for him to come back. In his absence



they maintained their church, the altar, and even took care of Fr. Mike's vestments. They only found out about his death in 1946. After the war Bishop Leo Scharmach of Rabaul came to parish to assess the devastation. On his arrival Fr. Mike's ciborium was presented to him by the villagers. They had protected it and had kept their faith alive under the most adverse of conditions.

Today Papua New Guinea is one of the strongest regions of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. Parishes and communities have continued to raise up men and women for the priesthood and religious life. The newly appointed Cardinal of Papua New Guinea, John Ribat is an MSC. Following the example of Pope Francis he is an outspoken proponent of climate justice and care of refugees.

This year Fr. Alan Neville, the MSC Vocations Director, is travelling around the parishes and communities of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart

in Ireland and England with the Fr. Mike's ciborium. It is being used in the celebration of Mass. The Tabar Ciborium is a symbol that the community of faith is responsible for raising up men and women as sisters, brothers and priests. As we prepare for the

World Meeting of Families, it reminds us that we are all responsible for helping create the Church of the 21st Century by encouraging people we know to respond to God's call to follow Him. As Pope Francis says, "All vocations make their first step within the family."

Called to live life from the heart as an MSC

Vocations Ministry has changed a great deal in Ireland over the past few decades. The profile of those who are exploring a call to religious life and priesthood has shifted upwards by around ten years. Now most people in accompaniment are in their mid-twenties to their early thirties. They have a greater sense of self and experience of life. They generally have some form of third level qualification and are successful in their chosen careers, but it's not enough. The question still endures. It's not a new question. For many they've thought about it for quite some time. Could



I be a brother? Am I called to be a priest? Is God inviting me to be a missionary?

As part of our young adult ministry in the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart over the past six years we've set up and developed a number of programmes that engage today's searchers. It's striking that Jesus didn't go directly to the temple or the synagogue to choose his disciples.

Instead he invited fishermen and tax collectors. He looked for those who felt a call to something great; who had a sense of commitment; and above all had an openness of heart.

This summer we will lead a young adult group along the Camino de Santiago de Compostella. We are going to be part of several youth festivals at home and abroad,

where people have shared and grown in faith. We'll also be running our MSC Lay Missionary Project, where people will be trained and sent to work with our sisters in South Africa who care for children who have been orphaned by HIV/AIDS and TB. It's about experiencing life as a missionary and allowing space to hear where God is calling you.

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2019, PANAMA



Irish, English and Venezuelan Pilgrims at WYD

Are you up for the largest gathering of young people on the planet?

From January 22nd to 29th next year we're going travel to Central America for World Youth Day Panama. The MSC Vocations team has already led groups to WYD in Rio de Janeiro, Cologne, and Krakow. Everyone had an incredible experience. WYD Panama is an opportunity to meet other young people from all corners of the world, while supporting the community. In WYD Krakow we helped build a multi-sensory garden for people with disabilities and ran a youth programme in a local parish. WYD is the largest youth gathering on the planet, with millions of young people joining Pope Francis for an unforgettable, life changing event. **Are you up for it?**

If you would like to know more, or if you have any questions, you can contact me by email on vocations@mscmiissions.ie or by phoning (086) 7857955. You can find further information about the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart on our website

www.mscvocations.ie



Our Patroness - Our Lady Help of Christians

Sisters of Bon Secours

core intention stays the same, to bring the healing hand of Christ to all those in need.

Today Sisters minister in healthcare, social services, pastoral and community based ministries.

ples' spiritual, psychological and emotional needs.

We are all called to serve. It is just a matter of finding the way that best suits your interests and talents.

“We are all called to serve. It is just a matter of finding the way that best suits your interests and talents.”



Foundress Josephine Potel

In Ireland Sisters of Bon Secours are based in Cork, Dublin and Tralee. Their ministry includes more than just the physical; it is a holistic approach which includes peo-

If you feel that God is calling you, you are welcome to contact our Vocations Director in confidence.

See our website (www.bonsecourssisters.ie) and Facebook ([sistersbonsecoursireland](https://www.facebook.com/sistersbonsecoursireland/)) page for opportunities to come and spend some time with us in prayer and get to know the Sisters. We regularly host retreat days and prayer events which are open to all young adults.

Sisters of Bon Secours



Our Mission as Sisters of Bon Secours since 1824 is to bring compassion and healing, by serving God's people in a diversity of ministries.



Contact us to learn more about the Sisters of Bon Secours

Website: <http://www.bonsecourssisters.ie/>

Email: eavopost@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/sistersbonsecoursireland/> @BonSecoursIre



The Christian Brothers



Working with Refugees in Salford, England

Our world needs compassionate people. Christian Brothers respond to this call. They are present in education, in ministry with young people and in social justice advocacy.

Christian Brothers work for a better world, addressing issues such as climate justice, homelessness, and refugees.

Above all, they are believers in Jesus of Nazareth and follow their founder, Blessed Edmund Rice.

To learn about becoming a Christian Brother visit our website www.christianbrothervocation.org.

Or contact Brother Phil Ryan, Christian Brothers, Mount Sion, Waterford. email: philr@edmundrice.ie.

Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Apostles

International Women Religious Respond to International Issues

In 1877, the first OLA Sisters brought a 'Message of Love and Mercy' to Western Africa, a region which was emerging from the shadow of the Atlantic slave trade. Those early missionaries had an international dimension with Sisters from France, Switzerland, Italy, Ireland and Argentina.

Today, OLAs continue to be an international congregation responding to the global issues of our time. 750 Sisters of 20 different nationalities are presently working in 19 countries across 3 continents.

Sr Juliana Fayad, a native of Lebanon and a fluent Arabic speaker, is one such Sister. Her current mission is to support Arabic speaking refugees who live in Ireland. Today Sr Juliana shares her story.

Sr Juliana's Story

Since the outbreak of the Syrian civil war in 2011, an estimated five million people have fled the country. Over two million of these men, women and children have streamed into neighbouring Lebanon, which has a population of six million people - similar to that of the island of Ireland. However, my homeland of Lebanon is a very small country in terms of area. To put it in an Irish context, Lebanon's total land area is equivalent to the size of counties Mayo and Galway!

My Mission

I arrived in Ireland last July to work, on a voluntary basis, with Arabic speaking refugees. For me, this certainly was a new mission, a new adventure, a new field of work and ministry.

To be a missionary Sister is to go where the needs are most urgent and now a new mission is emerging in Ireland with Arabic speaking refugees.

I am based at the OLA community in Ardfoyle [Cork]. The majority of the Sisters here are involved in the apostolate of prayer and contemplation and a minority in social commitments.

Why did I come to Ireland? The answer is simple. God is always calling us to take care of the people in our

world. We are so diverse and so complex - with different needs, cultures and expectations. I believe that only love that can save our world.

We must all believe and practice this.

I work with three groups here in Cork: The Irish Refugee Council, the Nano Nagle Migrant Centre and Nasc.

I spend most of my time visiting the homes of Arabic speaking people in the Donnybrook, Maryborough, and Wilton areas. They are mainly from Syria and Iraq.

I actively listen to them and help with their English and translating. Supporting young mother's is a big part of my role too because they are very isolated here.

The life of refugees in Ireland

Ireland represents a new start for these refugees. Millions have fled their homeland due to famine, violence, war and death. Those who left their homes did so because they needed a safe place to raise their children. The refugees arriving here are very fragile

OLA missionaries travel by canoe on the creeks around Lagos in the early 1900's. Image courtesy of the OLA Provincial Archive



“Know and love God so as to make God known and loved” – Fr A Planque, SMA (OLA Founder)

and this fragility is compounded by challenges such as language.

Many tell me that they are very happy here in Ireland. They are settled, safe, learning English and trying to find a job. That said, many yearn for their homeland and extended family thousands of miles away. Adjusting can be difficult.

Learnings so far

While I have been only in this ministry a short time, it has had a profound impact on me. The feeling I get when I see their faces light up as I arrive in their homes is simply indescribable. The impression I previous held

of refugees changed utterly in the face of the reality that has confronted me. Without humility, actively listening to 'the other' and questioning our own preconceived views, we are unconsciously creating boundaries. It is important to put aside our differences and help those who are in need of assistance - regardless of race, denomination or belief.

'Making a difference'

We all desire to 'make a difference' in life. I feel my current ministry with the refugees is making a real difference. I also believe in the power of prayer. The 'OLA Way' makes both

possible. When we are sent out on a mission, we discover what a delight it is to serve as Jesus served and become a 'Good Samaritan' wherever we are placed.

Love is a very powerful force; it can change the whole world. If we can treat everyone with whom we come in contact with love and compassion, without expecting anything in return, we can all help each other. Nothing should change our ultimate responsibility to show love and mercy to those in need. Jesus once said: 'Go and do likewise'. If we can put these words into action, the universe will be a better place.



About us

We, the Sisters of Our Lady of Apostles (OLA Sisters), are an international group of Missionary Sisters.

The Sisters dedicate their lives to the spread of the Gospel and strive to meet the needs of people wherever they are sent through their varied ministries. These include: education, health, social and pastoral works, justice and peace issues, care of the environment, inter-religious and trans-cultural dialogue.

Education and the betterment of the life of the African woman and child along with supporting the marginalized are priorities in all of our apostolates.

Would you like to volunteer overseas? Email: volunteering@olaireland.ie

Interested in joining our Lay Mission Movement [LMM]? Email: Imm@olaireland.ie

Do you feel God is calling you to be an OLA Sister? Email: vocations@olaireland.ie

www.olaireland.ie

OPEN
DAY

An Open Day will take place on Saturday 2nd June for anyone who is interested in finding out more about OLA and becoming involved in our mission.

For further details, contact Sr Mary by emailing vocations@olaireland.ie.

Franciscans Friars - OFM

Living the Joy of the Gospel

We Franciscans are a Fraternity in Mission, inspired by the life of St. Francis to bring the Gospel of Joy and Grace to the world. We devote our lives to the search for God in a communal life of prayer, simplicity of life and service to others. At the heart of Francis' Gospel vision is delight in the Lord and His overflowing goodness. We strive to continue our Order's 800-year-old mission as we serve the Church and the world as brothers and priests in a variety of ministries. We are part of the world-wide Franciscan Order present in 120 countries with some 13,000 friars.

Mission to the World

St. Francis was a man on fire with the desire to tell others of the love of God that Jesus had made known to us. Even when the numbers of his friars were very few, Francis sent them out two by two to preach the Gospel. Today



The novices in the friary in Killarney.

there are many thousand Franciscans witnessing to Christ in mission lands.

Irish Franciscans are present in Central America, South Africa and Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe is now the chief mission area for the Irish Franciscans. The friars came to Zimbabwe in the 1958. Young Zimbabwean men joined the Order and today there are about 40 friars in the Franciscan Cus-

tody of Zimbabwe.

We are still inspired by the words of St. Francis: "God has sent us into the whole world so that by word and deed we may bear witness to Him."

All God's Creatures

While still a young man, Francis began to feel God prompting him to question the direction of his life. Searching for inner peace, Francis vis-



The joy of being brothers in the Lord!

ited abandoned churches and lonely places to pray for God's guidance. Surrounded by wild flowers, tumbled down walls, and bird song, Francis found the solitude he needed to hear his deepest yearnings - God speaking to him.

Eventually, Francis found his true meaning and identity in being a child of God living in union with creation, reflecting God's generosity and love.

Through a life of prayer and relationship, Francis came to see God's goodness at the heart of all he has created. As God's children we are called to praise and thank God daily for the gift of creation, a world that mirrors God's beauty and goodness. Francis shows us how to live with a spirit of gratitude for the gift of creation and how to joyfully embrace our responsibility to care for that same creation.

Peace and Good

Pope Francis, who chose St. Francis as his patron and model when he became Pope, said, "Francis of Assisi - for me, he is the man of poverty, the man of peace, the man who loves and protects creation. He is the man who gives us the spirit of peace, who tells us we should work to build peace, within our hearts and among ourselves."

Francis greeted everyone "May the Lord give you peace." The peace he wished came from his own inner peace and his deep reverence for all of God's creatures. He urged the friars to be gentle,

peaceful, unassuming, courteous and humble in their dealings with others. In the time of the bitter Crusades, Francis went in peaceful friendship to meet the Sultan of Egypt.

"Pace e Bene!" (Peace and Good!) is a greeting used on all continents by Franciscan men and women since the time of Francis. It has grown to be an unofficial motto of the Franciscan family.

In the joyful and prophetic spirit of St. Francis, the Irish Franciscan friars are dedicated to sharing the Gospel of Christ by serving the poor and promoting justice, peace, and the care of creation.

If you would like to know more about following Jesus as a Franciscan Friar contact Friar Pat.

Friar Pat Lynch OFM

Mobile: 087 1346267

brpatofm@hotmail.com

Postal address: Franciscan Friary, Athlone, Co Westmeath
Check out: www.franciscans.ie

Ursuline Sisters...

We are Religious Sisters, who follow the inspiration of Saint Angela Merici (1474-1540), our foundress. In her day, Angela envisaged a way to bring religious life out of the monastery and into the heart of the family and local community. The first Ursulines lived at home or in their place of work in the town of Brescia, Italy before expansion and changes of circumstances saw the Sisters come together to live in community. We continue to live the vision of Angela Merici today, in the service of the Gospel, bringing Christ alive in the homes and families of our time and place as we commit our lives to the three vows of chastity, poverty and obedience; to prayer; to community and to a variety of ministries.

January 2018 saw a new chapter in our history as we became members of the Roman Union of the Order of Saint Ursula an international grouping of Ursuline Sisters. We are now the province of Ireland, Wales, Kenya - you are welcome to visit our website to find out more about us - our doors are always open to those of you who are considering a vocation to religious life...



Sr Karen meets Pope Francis



Our province website:
www.ursulines.ie

If you would like to know more about the Ursuline way of life contact:

Sr Karen

Email: ursulinesie@gmail.com

Our province facebook page:
[UrsulineSisters-IrelandWalesKenya](https://www.facebook.com/UrsulineSisters-IrelandWalesKenya)

Our congregation website:
www.ursulines-ur.org



THE CAPUCHINS

A life of Prayer and Service in the footsteps of St Francis of Assisi



OVER 400 YEARS OF SERVICE IN IRELAND

The Capuchin Franciscan Friars were founded in the early 1500's in Italy with the desire to return to a closer living of the rule of St Francis of Assisi. Capuchins arrived in Ireland in 1616 and since then have become an intrinsic part of the Irish story.

Today in Ireland we have Friaries in Cork, Dublin, Donegal, Carlow and Kilkenny as well as Irish Friars serving overseas in Zambia, South Africa, New Zealand, South Korea and California. Wherever we are found our mission is the same, to be an authentic Gospel presence as Brothers of the People.

SOME FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I know if I am called to be a Capuchin Friar?

The process of discovering what God is calling you to is called discernment. It oftentimes begins with a feeling or an experience or encounter that invites and compels us to seek deeper relationship with God, others, and all of Creation. This takes time, patience, prayer and guidance. It requires of us that we open our hearts and begin to trust in God in a whole new way. In many ways, it requires a step into the unknown.

Who can help me discern my vocation?

The Irish Province of the Capuchin Franciscans takes the discernment process very seriously. We are committed to helping men discover their call by means of a comprehensive vocation accompaniment programme. This programme enables people explore the questions they have and to discover some new ones. The aim of accompaniment is to walk with you as a brother as you discern, listen and reflect, while offering sound guidance and practical support. Each and every vocation journey is blessed and unique.

Do you wear a habit?

Yes! Capuchins wear a simple brown habit and white cord. The cord has three knots that serve as a reminder of the three vows we profess.

What are the vows that you take?

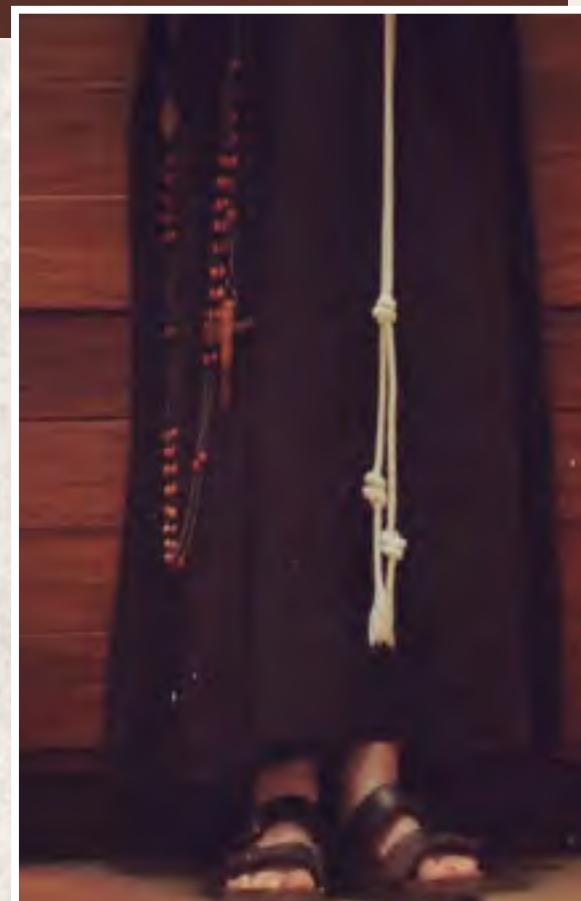
We take three vows: poverty, chastity and obedience. Poverty allows us to develop a deeper respect for the world around us and for all the good things that God provides. Chastity encourages us to live with hearts centred on God and obedience invites us to listen deeply to God's plan for us.

How long does it take to train as a Capuchin Friar?

Our training is known as formation and usually takes between six to eight years. A Friar in formation will study, work, pray and minister while growing into what it means to be a Capuchin Friar in the world today. Formation is an exciting and deeply meaningful time.

Was Padre Pio a Capuchin Friar?

Yes, the Capuchin Franciscan Order are blessed to have many saints and St Pio is certainly one of the best known, particularly in Ireland. Saints like Pio, all went through a time of discernment, in fact it was something they did throughout their lives. As St John Paul II reminds us 'we are all called to be Saints'.



That's great, what do I do now? I'd like to find out some more.

To arrange a conversation with our Vocation Promoter, simply e-mail: capuchinvocation@gmail.com

You can also visit the vocation page of our website www.capuchinfranciscans.ie



Cork Poor Clare Sisters

I grew up in Waterford with my younger brother in a happy home, full of love and the simple joys of life, among our family, extended family, and friends, with life's usual share of ups and downs. I wanted to be a vet, a jockey and win the Aintree Grand National, and oh yes, to change the world!!

After school I went to college, and enjoyed all the diversity of friends and activity, while also searching for the true meaning of life. In my final year the question of a religious vocation came up and, with the guidance of a Franciscan friar, I discerned and prayed about it. One little booklet I read at that time was called, "The man who got even with God". It was the story of John Green Hanning an American cowboy, who having discovered all that God had done for him wanted nothing else but to get even with God, so he became a Trappist monk! This delightful true story made me reflect on my own life in a new way, and it opened my eyes to all God's gifts beginning with the gift of life itself... the love of my parents, my brother, family and friends and of course the great gift of faith, which gives us the whole truth about the human person. My heart filled up with deep gratitude, and I

felt if I spent the rest of my life just thanking God it would not be wasted.

As I continued to go to daily Mass and receive Jesus in Holy Communion, and simply pray: "Come, Holy Spirit", my search for God's will reached a new pitch. Finally one day I went into the back of a church, knelt down and fixing my gaze on the tabernacle begged Jesus to tell me what He wanted me to do. In that instant I just knew in my heart He wanted me to become a contemplative nun. It was like a marriage proposal, and I said, "Yes"! Thank God I have found true happiness in my vocation. God wasn't lacking in generosity to my parents either, for their big hearted acceptance of my vocation. My brother married a lovely Leitrim girl, and the arrival of their three beautiful children brought Mam and Dad great joy and new life. My brother and sister-in-law were truly wonderful in the love and care they gave our parents to the end of their lives.

"It was like a marriage proposal, and I said, 'Yes'! Thank God I have found true happiness in my vocation."



Sr. Mary Francis, Poor Clares, Cork.

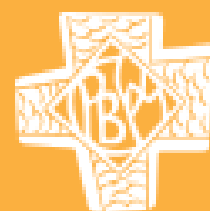


SAVE THE DATE! There will be a **Vocations Afternoon** at the Poor Clare Monastery, College Road, Cork, on **Saturday June 16th** for young women interested in finding out more about the Poor Clare Contemplative vocation. See our website: www.poorclarescork.ie

Next October, Pope Francis will have a special Synod dedicated to "Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment".

For more information, go to www.synod2018.va

If you think that God may be calling you to religious life as a Poor Clare contemplative Sister, please visit our website www.poorclarescork.ie or find us on Facebook. You may email us: vocationspoorclarescork@gmail.com



Presentation Sisters Union
NORTH EAST IRELAND

DO YOU WANT TO LIVE WITH PURPOSE?

WILL YOUR LIFE LEAVE A GLOBAL FOOTPRINT LIKE NANO NAGLE'S ?

HAVE YOU THE PASSION TO TAKE AN INITIATIVE THAT CHANGES LIVES FOR THE BETTER?

WHY NOT HAVE A CONVERSATION WITH THE PRESENTATION SISTERS?

Further Information

Email: enquiry@presprone.com

Website: www.presentationistersne.ie

Twitter: @PresSisNE

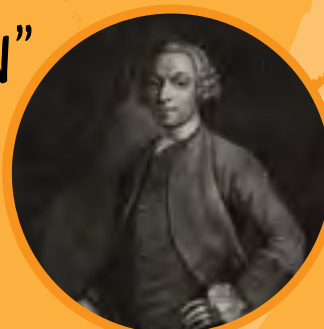
Facebook: Join Presentation



Garrett Nagle, Father
Inspirer of Call



Ann Matthews, Mother
Home of Welcomes



David Nagle, Brother
Open Door Hospitality



Ann Nagle, Sister
Model of Compassion



Joseph Nagle, Uncle
Funder of Vision



David Nagle, Grandfather
Courage in Adversity

"It TAKES A FAMILY — to make — A WOMAN OF VISION"

- NANO NAGLE 1718-1784



REDEMPTORIST MISSIONARIES

CHRIST COMMUNITY COMPASSION

A LIFE WORTH LIVING



For more information on the Redemptorist way of life
visit www.redemptorists.ie or contact Fr. Tony Rice C.Ss.R

Email: vocations@redemptorists.ie

Tel: +353 (85) 804 0877

+44 7786 596964



SISTERS OF ST JOSEPH OF THE APPARITION

Who are we?

A group of women from all over the world. Each one is unique and chosen by God to be part of this Congregation. This is who God created us to be. By being ourselves and following His lead, we are changing the world for the better.

While we are each one unique individual, we share the same spirit. This helps us to approach God and other people in a similar way. Because we share the same spirit we are comfortable with each other. We feel as if we belong together.

This spirit leads us to want to go out as missionaries, that is people who have experienced God's touch, and above all His love, in our own lives and who God has gifted with a special ability to help others experience this love.

God has led us to form missions in five continents, at home in the various countries we come from and also in some of the most needy parts of the world. Our mission includes Teaching, Hospital Work, Social Work and Parish Ministry. He has and is still sustaining and protecting us in war torn areas as well as in those areas where faith is scorned and ignored.



'Our only desire is to make him known'

- Foundress, Emilie de Vialar (1797-1856)

A Sister bringing Holy Communion to the sick

We believe that there are women who have this call from God to join us. Maybe it is you?

Please contact **Sr Catherine Casey** in Ireland, St Joseph's Convent, Dun Bhrí, Ballymote, Co Sligo
071 9183973 | stjsligo@eircom.net

In England, **Sr Janet Arrowsmith**, St Joseph's Convent, Oakhill Park, Old Swan, Liverpool L13 4BP
0151 2288849 | srjanet@ladyofthevale.org.uk



CONGREGATION OF THE SACRED HEARTS OF JESUS AND MARY

"I HAVE HEARD MY PEOPLE CRY"

The Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary was founded in 1800 in France in the aftermath of the French Revolution. It was a time of great disorder and fear. One of God's responses to the cries of the people of that time was to call together a community of men and women who committed themselves to contemplating, living and proclaiming God's compassionate love for all and especially for the most poor and the marginalised.



MORE HEROES NEEDED!

On 10th May, 1873, a young Belgium Missionary priest belonging to the Congregation, having heard the cry of men, woman and children who had been banished to the Island of Molokai due to an outbreak of leprosy (Hansen's Disease), volunteered to go to the Island. His name was Damien De Veuster. He was 33 years of age. From that time until his death in 1889, aged 49, he placed himself at the service of his 'beloved lepers'.

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

YOU, TOO, CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE AS A SISTER, BROTHER OR PRIEST OF THE CONGREGATION OF THE SACRED HEARTS OF JESUS AND MARY, WORKING AT HOME OR ABROAD SPREADING GOD'S LOVE.

"WHOM SHALL I SEND?"

Today's world is no different. The cries of the poor can still be heard in many places throughout the world. There is a great need for men and women to be messengers of God's compassionate love. Is God calling you?

EUROPE, NORTH & SOUTH AMERICA, AFRICA, JAPAN, INDIA, INDONESIA, PHILIPPINES, FIJI, TONGA...

For more information contact:
Congregation of the Sacred Hearts (SS.CC) Ireland
27 Northbrook Road, Ranelagh, Dublin 6

ssccdublin@sacredhearts.ie | www.sacred-hearts.net | www.sscpcipus.com

Knock Bicentenary Celebration for RJMs



Knock Basilica was the venue last October for a Mass of Thanksgiving to celebrate the foundation of the Congregation of the Religious of Jesus and Mary (RJM) and its 200 years of education in schools and colleges in 28 countries and five continents.

Students and staff from the four primary schools, and four secondary schools in which the Sisters have worked since 1912 in Ireland joined with Sisters, past pupils, former staff, parents, ex RJMs, families and friends in participating in the Mass. Over 2000 people assembled in the Basilica to give thanks to God for all that has been and to look forward in hope to the future. The main celebrant was Fr Michael McLoughlin from the Diocese of Galway, assisted by Bishop Christy Jones and 18 other clergy who were past pupils or who had worked with the

Sisters down through the years. Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, Bishop Drennan and Bishop Fleming sent their apologies. The theme of the Mass was "Journeying with Claudine, woman of faith, forgiveness and communion".

The Congregation was founded by St Claudine Thevenet in Lyons, France in 1818 in the aftermath of the French Revolution. It was founded for the education of the young and to create school communities that nurtured the holistic development of young people. In 1842 it spread to India and on the 6th of October there was a simultaneous gathering of Sisters from each Province of the Con-



A representation of the journey of the Religious of Jesus and Mary from 1818-2018

gregation in India to mark the occasion and to engage in a missionary conference.

Sr Mary Mulrooney, Provincial of the Irish Province, welcomed pupils and staff from Crossmolina, Dublin, Enniscrone and Galway. She invited into the sanctuary 7 pupils from each of the primary schools, carrying flags of the 28 countries and these were reversed on a board which eventually revealed the face of Claudine Thevenet. Choirs from our parishes and schools provided the beautiful music, (under the baton of Fiona Watts, and organist Marie Moore) the highlight of which were the solos sung by Sr Máirín McDonagh RJM, Michael McGowan-Hannon and Darragh Jordan. The Communion reflection was a hymn written specially for the occasion by Ms Fiona Watts, from Gortnor Abbey titled "He waits in the Least".

The Basilica was beautifully adorned with flowers and symbols created Srs

Fionnuala and Marie and the Crossmolina Ladies Committee. A unique creation by Anne Marie Cawley past pupil of Crossmolina was a visual representation of one of Claudine's favourite pieces of Scripture "Unless the wheat grain dies...it cannot yield fruit". Her creation based on the wheat grain included many of St Claudine's sayings and the theme of the Bicentenary Mass.

The combined prayers and

offertory procession included Dr Eilis Humphreys, Executive Director of Le Chéile Schools Trust, members of Boards of Management, Parents Councils, Family of Jesus and Mary, sisters and students. After the mass, refreshments were provided by Patrick McGuinness catering and his team in St John's Centre.

Ms Teresa Irwin, deputy Principal, on behalf of all gathered, thanked Fr Richard Gibbons and Fr Nigel Woollen

and all the staff in Knock for accommodating us on the day and for the use of the beautiful Basilica which was a fitting venue for the occasion. She also congratulated the sisters of Jesus and Mary for their contribution to education. She remembered those Irish Sisters abroad on mission and Sisters who are ill or in Nursing Homes. She concluded with the motto of the congregation "Praised forever be Jesus and Mary".



Sr Mary Mulrooney, Provincial with portrait of St Claudine Thevenet

Celebrate our Bicentenary

The Symposium on St Claudine's Life will be held in Lyon October 3 - 7, 2018.

International Gathering of AFJM in Lyon October 7 - 9, 2018.

The closing Mass of Bi Centenary Year will be held in Lyon on October 6, 2018.

A group of eleven students and a staff member, from Jesus and Mary Secondary School, Enniscrone, Co Sligo, will travel to Lyon July 19 - 22, 2018 for the Youth Gathering.



Ms Marie Flannery (L), Deputy Principal Salerno and Ms Carol Dunleavy, Staff member Salerno



Sr Angela Maugham (L), Sr Gerarda Lawler, Sr Carmel Clarke (Carmelite), Ms Mary McGlynn (Sr Carmel's sister) and Sr Maria O'Toole from Galway.



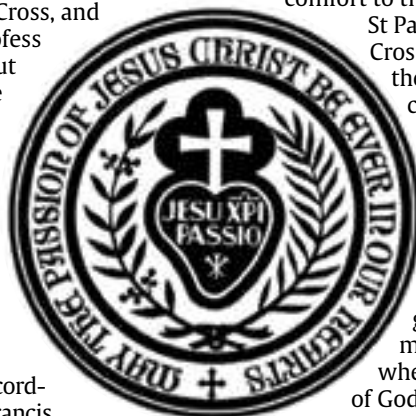
Sr Gerarda, Principal of Salerno Secondary School Galway, leads the Entrance Procession with the Special lighted candle making the start of the Bi Centenary Year.



Remembering the Love that flows from the Cross

Paul Francis Spencer CP

In his first homily after his election, Pope Francis said: 'When we walk without the Cross, when we build without the Cross, and when we profess Christ without the Cross, we are not disciples of the Lord.' This might seem a stark message from a pope who radiates so much joy wherever he goes. But, according to Pope Francis, 'the Cross of Christ contains all the love of God, his immeasurable mercy.' (Way of the Cross at the World Youth Day, 2013).



closeness, we need simply to look at the Cross. On the Cross Jesus opens his arms to welcome the poor and the suffering, giving strength and comfort to the weary.

St Paul of the Cross founded the Passionist community to remind people of the Passion of Jesus which he described as 'the greatest and most overwhelming work of God's love'. The

Cross teaches us that God's love is shown not just in words but in deeds and that if we are to walk with the Cross, build with the Cross and profess Christ with the Cross, then our discipleship must also express itself in deeds of love.

It was Jesus on the Cross who moved St Charles of Mount Argus to spend thirty years ministering to the sick and suffering, the poor and abandoned in Dublin and all over Ireland. His healing blessing cured many of

their illnesses and his simple preaching of the message of the Cross brought hope to those whose lives he touched.

“The Cross teaches us that God's love is shown not just in words but in deeds and that if we are to walk with the Cross, build with the Cross and profess Christ with the Cross, then our discipleship must also express itself in deeds of love”

As Passionists we recognise that 'the Passion of Christ and the sufferings of his Mystical Body form one mystery of salvation' (Passionist Constitutions, 65). Through our preaching, retreat ministry, parishes and chaplaincies, we seek to help God's people to remember the love that flows from the Cross.

Crosses

Sometimes we feel we want to run away from the crosses we face in life: sickness, loneliness, depression, bereavement. At times like these, we can feel isolated or abandoned. But the Psalm tells us that 'the Lord is close to the broken-hearted' (Ps 34: 18), and to see that

FAITHFUL COMPANIONS OF JESUS WOMEN ON MISSION

Are you searching for a life that's:

Christ Centred

Rooted in Love

In Service of Others

Challenging

Risk Taking

Meaningful



Contact:

Sr Marion Dooley FCJ at 087 268 8561

Email: fcjwildgoose@gmail.com

f FCJ Young Adult Network



World Report



Edited by Chai Brady
chai@irishcatholic.ie

Bishops express 'heartfelt prayer' for murdered journalists in Ecuador

Ecuadorian bishops have expressed their "deep concern" and "sorrow" at the killing of two journalists and their driver who were kidnapped after crossing their country's border into Colombia.

A statement from the Ecuadorian Episcopal Conference has called for an end to violence and injustice by armed political and social groups following the "violent murder" of the team of three who had gone to the border to investigate a rise in drug-fuelled violence.

The deaths of reporter Javier Ortega, photographer Paul Rivas and their driver Efraín Segarra were confirmed by Ecuador's President Lenin Moreno.

The trio, who worked for the newspaper *El Comercio*, were kidnapped by dissidents of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) after they crossed a military checkpoint in the province of Esmeraldas in northern Ecuador on the border with southern Colombia.

In their statement the Bishops of Ecuador express



Women place flowers on pictures of three press workers from the newspaper *El Comercio*, after Ecuador's President Lenin Moreno confirmed their deaths in Quito. Photo: Dolores Ochoa

their "heartfelt prayer for the eternal rest of our brothers" and talk of their "closeness and solidarity with their families for such irreparable human losses, as well as to all journalists who risk their lives to make us know the truth of the facts".

The Bishops call on the governments of Ecuador and Colombia to work on the creation and consolidation of "more dignified, more fraternal and fair living conditions, particularly in the border area, developing sources of work and social assistance

policies, and strengthening security systems".

The statement urges the armed groups "to put aside the use of force in order to overcome injustices and to adhere to the initiatives of dialogue and respect to build a genuine democracy free of all forms of corruption and violence". Those who make money by inhumane activities are urged "not to submit to economic interests deriving from human trafficking and the production and trafficking of arms and toxic-addictive substances".

In their message, the Bishops reaffirm their "firm commitment to continue working for a more peaceful, just and supportive society," since they are aware of the concerning situation in the country, including "the weakness of institutional structures, economic crisis and corruption".

President Moreno offered a reward of \$100,000 (€80,680) for information that leads to the capture of the rogue guerrilla leader known by the alias 'Guacho', who is believed to be responsible for the abduction and murder of the journalists.

The president said that Ecuador was "grieving" over the killed men, having previously given the captors 12 hours in which to prove that the hostages were alive before facing a military response.

He immediately ordered the resumption of military operations on the border after they were confirmed dead, and dispatched representatives from the Church in order to mediate the recovery of bodies.

Stop 'beating drums of war' in Syria, cardinal implores

Lebanese Cardinal Bechara Rai appealed to world leaders to stop the war in Syria and to work for comprehensive peace through diplomatic means.

"As the great powers are beating the drums of a new war against Syria, we regret the absence of a language of peace from the mouths of senior officials in our world today," said Cardinal Rai, patriarch of Maronite Catholics, in an address directed to the international community.

In reference to the stance of world leaders toward Syria, the cardinal said: "Most tragically, their hearts are devoid of the slightest human emotion toward

the millions of innocent Syrians who have been forced to flee their land under the fire of war, its crimes, destruction, terror and violence."

"We appeal to the conscience of the great powers and the international community to work to end the war and to bring about a just, comprehensive and lasting peace through political and diplomatic means – not military," Cardinal Rai stressed.

Tranquility

"The people of the Middle East are entitled to live in peace and tranquillity. The

declaration of war is very weak," he said, adding that peacebuilding is the ultimate heroism. "Among the great powers, you will remember that we all know how to start wars, but we do not know how they end."

Noting that Lebanon has hosted more than 1.1 million refugees, or nearly half of its population, "at a time when most European countries have closed their doors", Cardinal Rai continued: "We ask today, did these countries which are beating the drums of war bear a fraction of the hardship due to the displacement of the Syrian population?"

At least eight Canadian dioceses withhold cash after 'alarming' revelations in overseas aid charity

Citing "alarming concerns" related to an ongoing investigation, Cardinal Thomas Collins of Toronto has joined bishops from other dioceses across Canada in withholding funds from the overseas development agency of the Canadian bishops' conference.

At least eight dioceses have suspended financial support to Development and Peace following preliminary results of a probe that found some of the agency's partners conflict with Catholic moral and

social teaching, particularly on abortion, contraception and gender theory.

The Canadian Catholic Conference of Bishops issued a statement confirming that a "joint research project" with Development and Peace is underway in response to questions raised about some of its partners. Following preliminary findings, the CCCB "expressed concern" to the agency, and now both parties are "hopeful that any necessary clarifications will be determined shortly", according to

the statement.

Among dioceses withholding funds are Toronto and St Catharines in Ontario; Calgary, Edmonton and St Paul in Alberta; Vancouver and Nelson in British Columbia; and Whitehorse, Yukon.

Cardinal Collins noted the Canadian bishops' review of the Development and Peace partners "has produced alarming concerns about dozens of overseas organisations".

IN BRIEF

HIV increase among Filipino migrant workers causes alarm

● At least 11% of 52,280 Filipinos who have tested positive for the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or who have developed AIDS are migrant workers, a new report shows.

The Philippines' Department of Health revealed there are 5,537 Filipinos working abroad who tested positive for HIV or AIDS.

Church leaders have voiced alarm at the rising number of cases, especially among young people, for several years. Clergy have also been advised to undergo tests for sexually transmitted diseases including HIV.

"It is destructive and deadly," said Bishop Ruperto Santos of Balanga, head of the commission. The prelate said everyone needs to work together to address the issue.

Pro-democracy activist jailed for 9 years in Vietnam

● A court in central Vietnam has jailed a Catholic activist after convicting her of subverting the communist state.

The People's Court in Ha Tinh Province sentenced Teresa Tran Thi Xuan to nine years in prison for "attempting to overthrow the people's government", the state-run *Ha Tinh* newspaper reported.

Xuan, 42, also faces another five years under house arrest after finishing what observers called a very harsh sentence.

The newspaper said Xuan shared articles and video clips on social media from "reactionary groups" to undermine the government.



You can support the work of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith (POF) in a number of ways:

Prayer
Leaving a gift in your Will
Regular donations
Mass stipends



©Missio

POF is responsible for building much needed infrastructure in predominantly remote areas. Through POF, your support transforms lives and creates a hub from which the Young Church can flourish and grow, spreading the Good News of the Gospel. Priests in mission dioceses with a large number of outstations in remote rural areas cannot pay regular visits to the scattered communities of the faithful. They rely on the support of catechists and lay pastoral leaders, who travel long distances to lead prayer and minister the Sacraments. Funding received through POF enables the training of more catechists and pastoral leaders who are essential to the growth of the Church overseas.

☐ YES, I want to help the Propagation of the Faith
I enclose €

Name

Email

Address

Fr Martin Kelly CSSp
National Director WMI

64 Lower Rathmines Road, Dublin 6, Ireland.

Web www.wmi.ie | Tel +353 1 4972035

WORLD MISSIONS
IRELAND

Charity No.
CHY2318

Letters

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

Letter of the week

Time to look closely at how Catholic SVP is

Dear Editor, For many years I was a member of the Society of St Vincent de Paul. I was shocked to read the article which said that the society will adopt no stance in the referendum on the Eighth Amendment, and will offer no advice to its members, regarding their decision on how to vote as a personal one (IC 12/4/2018).

In my time as a member, the society while having its own organisational and governance structure, saw itself as an integral part of the Catholic Church and was deeply embedded in the parish structure. In relation to the referendum on such a fundamental issue as the life of the unborn, there is only one Catholic position, that is to defend the life of the unborn, and as the bishops have made clear the

retention of the Eighth Amendment is required to do that. This is not like other referenda where a range of attitudes might be consistent with a Catholic faith position. A 'no stance' position is not consistent with being a Catholic organisation.

I am equally disturbed when I look at the website of the society in Ireland. Remarkably the sections 'About Us', 'Mission Statement' and 'History and Spirituality' do not contain the word Catholic. Reference to the founder Frederic Ozanam makes no reference to his being one of the leading Catholic intellectuals of his time, and that his founding of the society was the outworking of his deep Catholic faith. In my time as a member, there was no ambiguity about the position that the

society was a Catholic organisation which welcomed other Christians as members.

Something has changed at a fundamental level. I have spoken to two parish priests who have expressed deep concern about the position now adopted by the society on the referendum. It is time for a close examination of the SVP in Ireland. It is a wonderful organisation with a simple and powerful model of charitable assistance. I hope it can return to its roots as a Catholic organisation with its primary activity delivered through the Catholic parish structure.

*Yours etc.,
Declan O'Loan,
Ballymena,
Co. Antrim.*

The lost must see God reflected in lives of believers

Dear Editor, "Twelve months of winter and the rest is summer" was an expression known by every Zek (prisoner) in the Gulags during the Soviet era and I understand that much of Europe has had a share in the Siberian Spring this year. Coldness is unpleasant and the more severe and protracted the more painful it becomes.

It's not the only thing that has gone cold in Europe though; they made the

same mistake as the Soviets, as Solzhenitsyn put it describing his nation's woes "Men have forgotten God".

Recent studies among European youth back this up; even the leftovers of a vague identification with cultural Christianity are evaporating with only small percentages in some countries still believing, even less attending church weekly.

We cannot imagine how it feels for the Lord to live in

hearts that have frozen over with the frigidity of atheism or indifference. What a cold dark space he must now occupy, much like that of a forgotten prisoner!

In a continent that has replaced God's authority with its own autonomy, those who are still faithful will need to strive all the more to keep faith alive in their own hearts, gathering round the tabernacles as those who are cold get in close to a stove,

and have Him warm their hearts. Then, as they are ignited by prayer and works of mercy, His love can grow in them and overflow into the world. The only way for the lost to find their way home is to see God reflected in the lives of believers and to be the recipients of the fruits of their life of prayer and service.

*Yours etc.,
Stephen A. Clark,
Manila, Philippines.*

Pope's words more relevant

Dear Editor, It is to be hoped that the Holy Father will visit Northern Ireland next August after all (Reports/Comment, 29/3/2018). But where the Pope goes matters less than what he says. A message from him in advance of next month's referendum in support of the retention of the Eighth Amendment would certainly increase the pro-Life vote; it might even make the difference between defeat and victory for that essential cause.

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



Bishop Xiaoting's make-believe views

Dear Editor, John Allen Jr's 'Letter from Rome' (IC 29/3/2018) stretched credibility. His primary foundation for his assertion – "Vatican pact with China is not 'deal with devil'" – was the Vatican/China State approved Bishop Xiaoting, in effect an agent of the state. Mr Allen is surely more streetwise than to swallow Xiaoting's make-believe, and hopefully not so hubristic as to think informed readers are naïve enough to accept his own hypothesis.

Unfortunately for Mr Allen, in early April global secular media subsequently reported on China's new ban of online sales of the Bible. This on top of the already banned sale of Bibles in shops. This is yet another restriction on religion which negates Xiaoting's "optimistic" (a la John Allen) fantasy that the state does not attempt to control education.

During a recent briefing on religious affairs in China, an official, Chen Zongrong said: "I think there is no

religion in human society that is above the state."

He brings to mind Pharaoh in Exodus chapters 7 to 10. However God insisted then that worship (liturgy and observance) can take place only according to God's measure and therefore eludes the rules of the game of political compromise.

*Yours etc.,
Neil Bray,
Cappamore, Co. Limerick.*

Aren't we all taxpayers, after all?

Dear Editor, The Minister for Education keeps talking about the 'Baptism Barrier' in Catholic schools. More schools are needed not the removal of the so-called barrier.

I am always bemused by the fact that some people constantly trot out the idea that the state should not fund teachers' salaries, capitation grants and other supports in denominational schools because taxpayers' money is involved!

It is conveniently forgotten that over 90% of the population belong to these denominations, if only in name, including the Catholic Church (the most traduced denomination of all). We all pay our taxes, in one way or another, and are, therefore, entitled to whatever benefits are available from the state. It is surely not unreasonable that Catholic and Church of Ireland schools and others should prioritise their own members in their admissions policy only when there is pressure for places.

The problems in overcrowded schools are lack of schools and the pupil-teacher ratio rather than policy or patronage. As a member of boards of management for many years I have never been aware of interference by the patron.

I find the mantra "taxpayers' money" rather tiresome!

*Yours etc.,
Murt McInerney,
Doonbeg, Co. Clare.*

Senator Catherine Noone's homage to GUBU

Dear Editor, Congratulations to *The Irish Catholic* for taking a proactive position on highlighting the comments of Senator Catherine Noone, who, after attending Mass at Knock, wrote on social media "an octogenarian priest took at least three opportunities to preach to us about abortion" (It's not for politicians to try and tell the Church what to teach, 5/4/2018).

For me it truly was a 'GUBU' moment; grotesque (referring to an elderly priest as an "octogenarian"), unbelievable (that one might be surprised by a Christian prolife message at Mass), bizarre (that she could then wish everyone a Happy Easter as part of her message) and unbelievable (that the so called impartial Chair of the Oireachtas Committee on abortion could actually make such comments).

*Yours etc.,
Frank Browne,
Templeogue, Dublin 16.*

The people behind the Agreement

Dear Editor, Mattie McGrath's call to recognise the contribution of all those who built the Good Friday Agreement (IC 12/4/2018) should be heeded not merely by those who want to do justice to our present, but those who want to build a real future for Ireland. It is shocking to see how even John Hume's contribution is being played down nowadays.

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

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



VATICAN: Pope Francis greets a baby during his General Audience in St Peter's Square. Phpts: CNS



VATICAN: Pope Francis smiles after blessing one of the electric cars that is part of the Formula E racing circuit. The Pope blessed the car outside his Vatican residence ahead of the Rome EPrix street race April 14.



INDONESIA: A blind high school graduate is assisted with a test to gain admission to the University of Indonesia in Jakarta. Two top Catholic universities in Indonesia have been chosen by the government to help underdeveloped universities improve education quality.



HOLY LAND: A Franciscan blesses a Christian pilgrim at the baptismal site known as Qasr el-Yahud on the Jordan River near the West Bank city of Jericho.



USA: US Navy Fire Controlman 1st Class Nathaniel Miller hugs his wife goodbye before boarding the guided-missile destroyer USS Bulkeley, part of the Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike Group deployment to the Middle East from Naval Station Norfolk in Virginia.



SYRIA: A Syrian soldier walks amid destroyed buildings in the war-torn town of Ghouta. Lebanese Cardinal Bechara Rai appealed to world leaders to stop the war in Syria and to work for comprehensive peace through diplomatic means.

MORAL OUTRAGE



Fr Rolheiser

www.ronrolheiser.com

Moral outrage is the antithesis of morality. Yet it's everywhere present in our world today and is everywhere rationalised on the basis of God and truth.

We live in a world awash in moral outrage. Everywhere individuals and groups are indignant and morally outraged, sometimes violently so, by opposing individuals, groups, ideologies, moral positions, ecclesiologies, interpretations of religion, interpretations of scripture and the like.

We see this everywhere, television networks outraged at the news coverage of other networks, church groups bitterly demonising each other, pro-life and pro-choice groups angrily shouting at each other, and politics at its highest levels paralysed as different sides feel so morally indignant that they are unwilling to contemplate any accommodation whatever with what opposes them.

“Genuine morality and religious practice are always characterised by the opposite of what's seen in moral outrage”

And always, on both sides, there's the righteous appeal to morality and divine authority (however explicit or implicit)

in a way that, in essence, says: “I have a right to demonise you and to shut my ears to anything you have to say because you're wrong and immoral and I, in the name of God and truth, am standing up to you. Moreover, you're immorality gives me the legitimate right to bracket the essentials of human respect and treat you as a pariah to be eliminated – in the name of God and of truth.”

And this this kind of attitude doesn't just make for the angry divisions, bitter polarisations and the deep distrust we live with today within our society, it's also what produces terrorists, mass shootings, and the ugliest bigotry and racism. It produced Hitler – someone who was able to capitalise so powerfully on moral outrage that he was able to sway millions of people to turn against what was best inside themselves.

But moral outrage, however much it tries to justify itself on some lofty basis, religion, morality, patriotism, historical hurt, or personal injustice, remains always the opposite of genuine morality and genuine

religious practice. Why? Because genuine morality and religious practice are always characterised by the opposite of what's seen in moral outrage.

Charity

Genuine morality and genuine religious practice are always marked by empathy, understanding, patience, tolerance, forgiveness, respect, charity and graciousness – all of which are glaringly absent in virtually every expression of moral outrage we see today.

In trying to draw us into a genuine morality and religiosity, Jesus says this: unless your virtue goes deeper than that of the Scribes and the Pharisees you will not enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

What was the virtue of the Scribes and Pharisees? On the surface, theirs was a very high virtue. To be a good Scribe or

Pharisee meant keeping the Ten Commandments, being faithful to the prescribed religious practices of the time and being a man or woman who was always just and fair in your dealings with others. So what's lacking in that?

What's missing is that all of these things (keeping the commandments, faithful religious observance and being fair to others) can be done with a bitter, accusatory, unforgiving heart just as easily (and perhaps even more so) than with a warm, empathic, forgiving heart.

“How we're living helps create the ground the breeds mass killers”

Keeping the commandments, going to church and being a just person can all be done (as is only too clear sometimes) out of moral outrage. To paraphrase Jesus:

anyone can be gracious to those who are gracious to you. Anyone can love those who love you. And anyone can be good to those who do good to you...but can you be gracious to those who are bitter towards you? Can you be loving towards those who hate you? And can you forgive those who kill you? That's the litmus test for Christian morality and religious practice – and nowhere

inside of anyone who passes this test will you still find the kind of moral outrage where we believe that God and truth are asking us to demonise those who hate us, do us evil, or try to kill us.

Moreover what we do in moral outrage is deny that we are ourselves morally complicit in the very things we demonise and pour our hatred out on. As we watch the world news each day and see the anger, bitter divisions, violence, injustices, intolerance and wars that characterise our world, a deep, honest, courageous scrutiny should make us aware that we cannot fully separate ourselves from those things.

We live in a world of longstanding and present injustice, of ever-widening economic inequality, of endemic racism and sexism, of countless people living as victims of plunder and rape in history, of millions of refugees with no place to go and in a society where various people are branded and ostracised as ‘losers’ and ‘sickos’.

Should we be surprised that our society produces terrorists? However sincere and innocent we might personally feel, how we're living helps create the ground the breeds mass killers, terrorists, abortionists, and playground bullies. We're not as innocent as we think we are.

Our moral outrage is not an indicator that we are on the side of God and truth.

More often than not, it suggests the opposite.



Family & Lifestyle

The Irish Catholic, April 19, 2018

Personal Profile

Bringing
Faith to our
screens

Page 34



The value of a helping hand

Anam Cara holds regional and national Family Days throughout the year. Every spring at Barretstown Castle in Kildare, families come together to commemorate their children in a special way, including by planting a new tree in their memory.



Family bereavement is a sad reality for many parents across Ireland, but the journey from turmoil to healing is one that parents don't have to face on their own.

In the hope of addressing the shortfall of information and support that was lacking in the country for bereaved parents, the group Anam Cara was established in 2008, and for over a decade still continues to offer pastoral guidance to families.

The group provides online and face to face peer support services in 10 locations throughout Ireland and Northern Ireland. The groups meet monthly between September and June and give bereaved parents a chance to



Colm Fitzpatrick learns about bereavement support

talk to others who have a similar experience, and the opportunity to learn and be supported.

Anam Cara has always been rooted in the lived reality of bereavement, as it was founded by parents who had experienced a death in the family, ultimately prompting them to create the organisation where people could express their grief and grow from it.

"Bereavement is a huge part

of our society and I suppose the death of a child is not natural, it's not the natural order of life – it's out of sync so it's hard on parents – you know to find their way through the grief," says Sharon Vard, CEO of Anam Cara.

"We've found in our experience by bringing parents together in a safe and comfortable place where they can access information through our Anam Cara information

pack and by meeting with other parents, it just helps them feel less alone and I suppose in one way normalises something which is absolutely abnormal in terms of your child dying before you," she adds.

Grief

Around 2,500 families each year experience the death of a child between the ages of 0-44 years, and with many sudden deaths outside a hospital or hospice system parents often find themselves beyond the realms of any bereavement support. In most cases, the intense grief of these deaths can last far longer than society realises.

"When a child dies – no matter what age that child is,

we're talking about adult children as well – it does change the dynamic of the family because you can have someone that has become an only child, when there were two children in the family, or you can have somebody who was the middle child is now all of a sudden the oldest child," Sharon explains.

"Sadly, with the death of child it's not just about your child dying it's also about all those future milestones and occasions you thought you would have had with them. It's a loss of future."

Since its establishment, the group have connected with over 8,000 parents, holding a minimum of 100 events each year across the 32 counties. It

» Continued on Page 33

Family News

AND EVENTS

Harmonious day planned for Birr

For those in the family with an ear for harmonies, the Birr Festival of Music and Voice will be returning for its second edition this May Bank Holiday weekend after an extremely successful debut last year.

Focusing on choral, classical, and chamber music, the festival features a variety of Irish singers and musicians performing recitals in the picturesque setting of the Birr Theatre and Arts Centre, which hosts nightly concerts from the Friday until the Monday.

Highlights include a performance by Cara O'Sullivan, one of Ireland's leading sopranos and a recital by pianist Finghin Collins with John Finucane, the principal clarinettist with the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra and a true virtuoso.

The event takes place from May 4-7 in the Birr Theatre and Arts Centre with admission prices ranging from €10 to €26.

LINK BETWEEN OBESITY AND LIVER HEALTH FOUND: Obesity may negatively affect liver health in children as young as 8 years old, a new study had revealed.

The study, which was carried out by researchers at Columbia University Medical Center, analysed the waist circumference of children aged 3 to 8 years old and found that children with a bigger waist circumference were more likely to have markers for non-alcoholic fatty liver disease.

Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease is the most common chronic liver condition in adults and children, and in some cases can lead to liver cancer.

"Many parents know that obesity can lead to type 2 diabetes and other metabolic conditions, but there is far less awareness that obesity, even in young children, can lead to serious liver disease," said Jennifer Woo Baidal, Director of Pediatric Weight Management at Columbia University Medical Center, adding that we need better ways to screen, diagnose, prevent and treat the disease.

The weight-fighting fork

It is ubiquitously accepted in the medical community that eating too fast leads to poor digestion and weight control. For example, food that is eaten too quickly is often poorly chewed and this makes the work of the digestive tract much more difficult.

Attempting to combat this problem, the HAPfork, powered by Slow Control, is an electronic fork that helps you monitor and track your eating habits. It also alerts you with the help



of indicator lights and gentle vibrations when you are eating too fast. Every time you bring food from your plate to your mouth with your fork, this action is called: a 'fork serving'. The HAPfork also measures how long it took to eat your meal, the amount of 'fork servings' taken per minute and intervals between 'fork servings'.

Slowing down your eating may be the first step is seeing those pounds drop.

More about that frog in your throat...



Ear, nose and throat complaints can be a source of much discomfort and are frequent accounting for a significant proportion of GP visits.

One of the most common symptoms is a sore throat that in the majority of cases is caused by viral infections and doesn't generally require treatment with antibiotics. Gargling with salty water or aspirin can be soothing as well as using lozenges.

If very uncomfortable, local anaesthetic sprays can help but their effect is short-lived. If your sore throat is not improving within a few days or you have swollen nodes in your neck or ongoing fever then you may have a streptococcal infection and should go on a course of antibiotics.

Acid reflux from the stomach can also cause a sore throat, a sensation of something sticking, a cough and also hoarseness. It can persist for days to weeks and often occurs in the absence of any symptoms of heartburn.

Irritation

In particular, gastric acid can reflux into the gullet at night when lying flat and cause significant irritation to the throat and vocal cords. If symptoms are due to reflux they usually resolve within a few weeks of taking regular antacids with meals and medications that suppress gastric acid secretion.

Hoarseness is commonly caused by viral laryngitis which often happens in conjunction with a cold or sore throat but also other factors like excessive vocal use and drinks that are acidic or high in alcohol content. Resting your voice, avoiding vocal cord irritants including

Medical Matters

Dr Kevin McCarroll



cigarette smoke and using humidified air or inhaling steam can help.

However, hoarseness persisting for more than three weeks may need further investigations with a laryngoscopy (camera test) to visualise the vocal cords especially if you smoke or take alcohol in excess. Hoarseness secondary to voice misuse or overuse is not uncommon in teachers, lecturers and singers and can be helped with vocal training.

“In Ireland, the most common allergen is grass pollen and spores that come from fungi or mould”

Up to 20% of the population suffer with hay fever and tend to get a relapse of symptoms in the spring and summer due to increasing levels of airborne pollen or spores.

In Ireland, the most common allergen is grass pollen and spores that come from fungi or mould. The usual symptoms are a runny or blocked nose, sneezing and also watery eyes.

To prevent flare ups, you should consider avoiding grassy areas or cutting grass and where possible going outdoors when the pollen count is high. You should also keep windows shut and avoid fresh flowers and pets in the house.

Over the counter tablets such as antihistamines can help with sneezing itching and watery eyes but may not be as effective for a runny nose which responds better to nasal decongestants. Some steroid nasal sprays are available without prescription and are very effective at relieving nasal congestion though work best when used regularly.

If your sinuses are congested



you may also have facial pain around your nose or forehead and as well as taking the above treatments may require a course of antibiotics.

With nasal congestion from a cold, the Eustachian tube can also get blocked and cause fluid to accumulate in the middle ear causing hearing loss. This is also problematic when flying as failure to equalise pressure between your ear and nasal passage on airplane ascent or descent can cause the eardrum to be stretched outwards or inwards, which can be very painful and occasional result in it perforating.

Taking decongestants in advance can help prevent this

as well as yawning and other manoeuvres (like blowing out with your nose pinched and mouth closed).

Wax in the ear canal shouldn't be overlooked as a cause of hearing loss. Ear drops can be used to help dissolve it but often it will have to be removed with ear syringing which your GP can do. Removal by microscopic suction at an ENT outpatient clinic is sometimes required when wax is deeply impacted.

Vertigo or the sensation of things spinning around is often due to an ear problem. It can occur with an acute viral infection of the inner ear and is often associated with nausea. It usually settles down after a few days and medications can be given that are effective for symptoms. Intermittent vertigo that happens when moving your head or changing posture can sometimes be treated with special physical manoeuvres of the head that can correct middle ear dysfunction.

Tinnitus or a ringing / buzzing in the ear is usually associated with hearing impairment and damage to the inner ear but can also occur with irritation from impacted wax or infection and occasionally other medical conditions.

Unfortunately, in the absence of a reversible cause treatment is limited. However, low volume background noise can help mask tinnitus and you should avoid loud noises and stress which may make it feel worse. Reducing alcohol and caffeine intake may also help.

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

» Continued from Page 31



Kerryman and bereaved parent volunteer Michael McEnery speaking at Anam Cara's National Remembrance Event held every November in Athlone.

visions that every family throughout Ireland will have the relevant support services they need following the death of their son or daughter.

"It's about helping families adjust to that change in the family and in a way learning that although their loved one is no longer physically with them that the connection and the bond with them, be it child or with a brother or sister, continues on," says Sharon.

Anam Cara does not receive any state funding and relies on local fundraising and donations to cover the costs of providing their services.

During the parent evenings, which range in location from Dublin to Donegal, attendees can have a cup of tea or coffee in a relaxed environment and chat with other parents. A professional facilitator oversees and manages the evening, and concerned parents are able to express their worries or fears.

“Remembrance events also take place, such as family days, which are not as intense as the parent evenings”

What Sharon stresses the most is that there is no pressure on parents to talk, which is sometimes expected of those who attend support groups, but all are welcome to sit and listen.

Alongside the parent evenings are bereavement information evenings where a guest speaker gives an overview or talk on issues concerning bereaved parents such as the complexity of grief or how to support other family members. This is the perfect opportunity for parents to garner some wisdom from a professional perspective and understand their current situation in a more informed and wholesome way.

Remembrance events also take place, such as family days, which are not as intense as the parent evenings but give young children in particular the chance to meet other siblings who have had a younger brother or sister who has died.

"We're 10 years in now and were constantly striving to do this better. We seek feedback from parents who have been at the groups. There are a steady flow of parents, sadly, and that's life. There are parents coming in and hopefully getting what they need and moving on. Sometimes parents will come in and they might only come to one or two meetings but they know we're there. We're almost like a safety net," says Sharon.

Influences

For her, one of the most positive influences and benefits the organisation has is that parents are able to accompany others on their bereavement journey, as well as draw inspiration from them. In this way, a battle that seems so impossible to combat can be incrementally encountered and fought.

"They're going to meet parents who are little bit further on who look stronger, are coping better, and it just gives them some sense that 'I am going to get through'. They could be at the very early stages - very, very fragile, very vulnerable - and not seeing any way out of this desperate grief that swallows you up."

The group does not work in isolation but also guides parents to other appropriate support services or resources in the community. Anam Cara recognises that bereavement manifests itself in different forms and so various organisations can tackle the minutiae of this process in more refined and pastoral ways.

"We really try and link in with other services in the community. We would be aware that there may be parents who have been bereaved by suicide or parents who have lost a

little baby in and around the time of birth. There may be other support that they need at that time. It's not just about grieving their child, it's also about what happened to their child, how they've died, so we would link them with other organisations who would be more specialised in that area," Sharon explains.

“The group is completely secular, and accepting of all religious and spiritual beliefs”

Even if attending a support group may seem like an intimidating option, the Anam Cara website offers a variety of resources where bereaved parents can begin to deal with their grief. According to Sharon, grief is not monolithic but affects family members in different ways depending on the relationship they had with the person who died. Each person addresses their feelings in a unique way, and the website outlines what parents may be experiencing and how to cope with this. Resources range from addressing a mother's and father's grief to the important role of self-care.

Although Anam Cara - which in Irish means 'soul friend' - may often be perceived as having religious connotations, Sharon points out that the group is completely secular, and accepting of all religious and spiritual beliefs. The group operate under a set of core values such as compassion, empathy, and trust. However, Faith does have an important role for bereaved parents and during the meetings many of them speak about how their religious beliefs helped them through the bereavement process. In contrast, Sharon explains, other parents lose their Faith because of the experience they and their child have endured.

"You question everything, you absolutely question everything. It rocks you to your core - no doubt about it, it rocks you to your core."

For more information about Anam Cara, see: <https://anamcara.ie/>

Faith — IN THE — family

Bairbre Cahill



I find myself wondering where Mary is and what her thoughts are in this time between Easter and Pentecost, between the resurrection of Jesus and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The Gospels do not tell us about the encounter between Jesus and his mother - and we can scarcely begin to imagine it. Mary's rebellious hope that cross and tomb could not be the end of her son is proved right. What liberating, overwhelming joy she must have known when she saw him on that Easter day.

And yet, it is not simply a return to how things used to be. Mary knows that what has happened in Jesus' triumph over death is not just joy for her, or for his followers. It is not just to frustrate the Scribes and Pharisees. No, this is something much more. The resurrection of Jesus changes everything. It is a cosmic event which still impacts upon our world now 2,000 years later.

So, Mary, his mother, knows that her boy is not simply returned to her. She knows she cannot hold on to him. She cannot demand that he come home now. From the beginning, from that wholehearted "fiat - let it be" to the angel, Mary has handed over her life and her future.

Simeon, in the Temple not long after Jesus was born, had reminded her of just that: "And a sword will pierce your own soul too" (Luke 2:35). In welcoming the child within her womb Mary accepted that her life would no longer simply be her own.

Parent

Many of us know that becoming a parent is, more often than not, a painful learning curve. The sense of responsibility, vulnerability and love for our child can be overwhelming. A mother I spoke to today commented, "we never stop worrying about them do we" and she is so right. We should not wonder at that - even if we are exhausted by it sometimes. The relationship between a parent and child is one of the most powerful, life-shaping, energising and challenging forces.

We are created for relationship. We do not become ourselves through splendid isolation but through engagement with others and

with the world around us. The challenge is to become the best, truest, most honest me I can be. When I see any of my own or their friends enter into a relationship I am always keen to see that they can be themselves, that they do not have to put on any sort of an act.

So, if my daughter is a strong, sassy young woman, no relationship with a young man should force her to be less than that. A good relationship should bring out and nurture the best in us. The psychologists call this 'self-actualisation' - becoming your true self. For us as Christians that is about becoming your true self, created in the image and likeness of God - and that happens through relationship.

So, I have problems with all this talk I hear in the media at the moment about personal autonomy. It seems to suggest that a person should be able to make the choice that works for



them without reference to other people. In discussions about the upcoming referendum there is a mindset that sees the personal autonomy of the woman as more important than anything else.

“I have problems with all this talk I hear in the media at the moment about personal autonomy”

So, the child in the womb is to be excluded from consideration. Some have suggested that men should not even be allowed to vote in the referendum because ultimately abortion is a woman's choice. We do not make decisions in a bubble. The decisions and choices we make reverberate in the lives - or indeed in the deaths - of others.

The Annunciation is celebrated - normally - on March 25. The referendum happens on May 25. Where would we all be if Mary had decided that a pregnancy impinged too much on her personal autonomy?



Colm Fitzpatrick speaks with religious filmmaker Jonny Somerville

Some of the youth in Ireland today may object to the Faith because it seems outdated, but one filmmaker is hoping that the history of Christianity is the very thing that can persuade people of its truth.

NUA, an evangelical video series produced by the Scripture Union (SU) group has engaged with over 15,000 students in 267 different schools, with another 4,000 young people experiencing it in youth groups, in the last year.

The eight-episode short film series which offers an engaging perspective on the Christian faith is the brain-child of Dubliner Jonny Somerville who got involved in youth ministry when he was just 16.

"I'm the youngest of four boys and Faith development was always certainly a part of our upbringing - you know being part of church was normal for us," says Jonny, adding that his mother would try to normalise Faith so that it would have an actual impact on the family, and instil God into their lives.

Doubts

Despite this religious upbringing, Jonny still experienced many doubts about his beliefs during his teenage years and decided to engage with the historicity of Christianity and arguments against it in order to combat these uncertainties.

"I know, even in school, I really

hated history and I would have ran from history. It was interesting that it was my historical discoveries of Christianity that really helped me and so from once running from history I was now running to history - looking at the historicity of Jesus, his life, the historical context of Jerusalem at the time, looking at the small pieces of evidence we have for the lives of the disciples," he explains.

"The history of all that became a real pillar in my Faith and helped to counteract the doubts that I had," he adds.

It was important for Jonny to be able to answer the tough and complex questions about Christianity as this entailed gaining a deeper understanding of his Faith and gave him the tools to present the Faith to others in a more

wholesome way.

"I think living in Western culture, one thing that challenges life of Faith the most is engaging with your peers or engaging with the atheistic or agnostic voices in the world," he says, noting figures such as Richard Dawkins or the late Christopher Hitchens.

"Their heads are so screwed on to the point that they should challenge our Faith because they're asking really good questions...I am thankful for people like them for making me have to dig deeper."

"If I can't communicate why I believe, or if I don't have a response to some of those good questions, then how deep really is my Faith - how far does it go?" he says.

His Faith became much stronger during this process, but Jonny stresses that this formative journey

was not done in isolation, but with the help of others who guided him throughout it. Without this type of engagement, it would have been much more difficult for him to be where he is today.

"I certainly would have allowed myself to allow others to speak into my life. I would have looked for wisdom from those who were older than me like a spiritual guide and that was really helpful. That kind of makes sense to me, particularly looking at the Gospels, looking at Jesus with his disciples, and that kind of mentoring role.

"It's hard to navigate Faith without help and it's hard to look for real depth unless people are out along the journey with you," he says.

During this time, Jonny volunteered at youth camps in

"I would have looked for wisdom from those who were older than me like a spiritual guide and that was really helpful. That kind of makes sense to me, particularly looking at the Gospels, looking at Jesus with his disciples, and that kind of mentoring role"



Jonny Somerville.

Avoca, Co. Wicklow, run by SU. An internship with SU followed, after which Jonny studied theology at the Irish Bible Institute - then accredited by the University of Wales - before returning to work full time with SU in 2008.

He began working in schools evangelising as the 'Alpha Youth Coordinator', and after four or five years in this role realised that although he was quite good at engaging with questions of Faith, some youth workers and parish leaders didn't feel as well "equipped" to deal with these tough questions.

NUA was the resource he created in response to this problem, recognising it could enable a better and deeper conversation around Jesus and Faith. Topics covered in the series include an in-depth look at the person of Jesus, the struggle between science and religion, and an honest examination of the Church over the last 2,000 years.

Good sense

"I just think evangelism today needs to be quite destructive, in a good sense. We need to be able to engage with young people today and make them stop and think because life is so hectic for young people today," says Jonny, stressing that the young are consumed with data and information.

"We did choose the video format because it's something they watch a lot of everyday but we wanted it also to be a film that would not just be consumed like the rest, it would be something that would cause a destruction - that would make them think," he says.

"Evangelism is going to take many different shapes and forms but we thought let's make some really good videos that would be like the videos that they're watching but would be different. It will have depth, it will have meaning, it will be genuine. They can't but help think about it."

i For more information about NUA, see: <https://nuafilmseries.org/>



Children's Corner

Colm Fitzpatrick

Let me tell you which colour you're thinking of...

Magic tricks are a fun and enriching way to impress your friends and family, as well as learn some of history's ancient secrets. Although not confirmed, many people believe that magic has been performed since the time of the pyramids - in fact, the Beni Hasan necropolis in Egypt has hieroglyphs showing men manipulating what looks like cups and balls.

In this trick, the magician usually places a ball under three cups, and with some conjuring practice, the balls disappear, reappear, and even penetrate the solid cups. It's an amazing piece of skill, and one of the first tricks a magician learns when they're beginning.

The cups and balls trick comes under the branch of close-up magic, but there are actually lots of different categories of magic such as stage magic or mentalism. In mentalism, the performer appears to have mind-reading skills, where they can read the thoughts of the audience, and even work out what hidden object an audience member

may be holding in their hand. In modern times, mentalists claim to be experts in psychology and body language, but more often than not, traditional magic techniques are used in their demonstrations.

Trick

A great mind-reading trick that you can learn and perform is deducing what colour of crayon a participant has picked even though you're looking away the whole time. For the trick, all you need is a bunch of crayons.

To begin the trick, put some crayons behind your back and mix them up. Then ask the participant to stand behind you and take one of the crayons and remember the colour. Once they have done this, ask them to hand you back the crayon in your right hand. When you can feel the crayon,

turn around and face the participant so that neither of you can see the crayons behind your back.

Now here comes the tricky part! Scrape the crayon with your right thumbnail so that the wax gets stuck between your finger and nail. Remember to talk to the participant during this to ease any suspicion they might have. Once you have the wax on your thumb, return the crayon to the rest of the bunch and bring both of your hands out in front of you. Begin waving your hand mysteriously and while doing this, take a peek of the colour of the crayon wax on your thumb. Now that you have this secret information you can reveal it in any creative way you'd like.

Perhaps you could say that you're going to read the participants mind or work out the colour from their body language. The possibilities are endless! Once you have this trick down, you can start learning even more mind-blowing and entertaining tricks.



TVRadio

Brendan O'Regan



Life matches drama a little too closely

The sense of dread that came over me when Donald Trump was elected President of the USA was heightened considerably last week.

There were silly tweets from him about launching missiles “nice, new and smart”, after the reported gas attacks near Damascus. In a sleepless moment last Friday night, on an extended *Newsroom* programme (BBC World Service) I heard that he had carried out that threat. It was in trepidation that I tuned in to the 8am news next morning, but thankfully things seemed to have stabilised, with no military response from the Russians, who also had been throwing shapes.

Funny peculiar thing was, the plot of last Thursday's episode of *Designated Survivor* (Netflix) also featured a US President launching a retaliatory missile attack on a Middle-Eastern state. He wavered between angry desire to hit back at US enemies and reflective concern over the damage he was doing. The show has improved a bit of late, but can still be corny and contrived, with an uneasy mix of liberalism and gung-ho patriotism.

Also last Saturday morning there was an articulate defence of the Eighth Amendment from barrister and media person Theresa Lowe on the *Saturday Sit-In* (Newstalk). She thought the right to life was primary and



Kiefer Sutherland stars in *Designated Survivor* (Netflix).

that it was “almost inconceivable” that we would take such a human right out of the Constitution.

She saw the Government proposal as “abortion on demand” up to 12 weeks gestation and said this was more “drastic and draconian” than the UK regime. Dr Lara Dungan was pro-repeal and was factually incorrect when she stated that the Eighth Amendment had itself been amended in 2013. I was amazed to hear a doctor saying that there was “no such thing as science for when life begins”. I prefer not to know where presenters stand on controversial issues but the sympathies of presenter George Hook seemed to lie with the pro-life side.

However, he made one puzzling statement, that he knew women that had “carried a dead foetus or child for the entire nine months” because they thought abortion was wrong. Surely if the unborn baby, tragically, is dead, neither the Eighth nor abortion is remotely relevant?

Posters

Also on the Eighth, Newstalk had a poster obsession last Thursday, covering the issue over three programmes. It was obvious that it was about pro-life posters. There was much use of the term “graphic”, but I've seen hundreds of referendum posters and they display pictures of living unborn babies only.

It's ironic how people take offence at such posters but don't express offence at abortion itself.

On *Lunchtime Live* presenter Ciara Kelly interviewed psychotherapist Stella O'Malley about what one might say to children about abortion if confronted with these posters. Her suggestion was to describe it thus: a woman didn't want a pregnancy to continue and so “the doctor fixed it up”!

The *Pat Kenny Show* (Newstalk) was hosted last week by Jonathan Healy. On Tuesday he conducted a very challenging interview with John McGuirk of the Save the 8th campaign. Worryingly, Healy seemed to think that

PICK OF THE WEEK

VOX NOSTRA WITH VLAD SMISHKEWYCH
RTÉ Lyric FM, Sunday, April 22, 7am

The sacred music of Carissimi set the bar high in the 17th Century, and shines on this morning's *Vox Nostra*.

MASS

RTÉ 1, Sunday, April 22, 11am

Mass for Vocations Sunday with choir from the National Centre for Liturgy, Maynooth.

TOLKIEN'S 'THE LORD OF THE RINGS' – A CATHOLIC WORLDVIEW

EWTN, Sunday, April 22, 4pm, also Thursday, April 26, 9am

Host Joseph Pearce uncovers the Catholicism found in J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy.

it was only on threat to life grounds that abortions could be carried out after 12 weeks. McGuirk had to correct him, pointing out it was also on threats to health, including mental health, the grounds under which most UK abortions take place. Healy used emotive and loaded terms that suit only the pro-choice side – talking about “people forced onto boats” (for abortions abroad) or women being ‘incubators’ if carrying babies with life limiting conditions.

On Wednesday, he interviewed Dr Louise Kenny, a pro-repeal obstetrician, and it was a softer interview, though he did put some pro-life views to her for response. The interview was inherently unfair as Healy doesn't have the medical knowledge to challenge her arguments. She was not challenged when she said that

the Eighth “states that the termination of pregnancy can only be allowed when there is a substantial and immediate and substantial threat to life”. It doesn't. She repeated “immediate and substantial” and while Healy put a counter view from a pro-life obstetrician he didn't point out that Medical Council Guidelines say “real and substantial” and that this ‘may not be immediate or inevitable’.

It's great that Dr Kenny does life-saving work on high risk pregnancies, but I'd prefer to see obstetricians working in a medical environment that requires full support for mother and baby “as far as practicable”.

✉ boregan@hotmail.com



Aubrey Malone

Film

Terrifying tale of disease and its horrible aftermath

The Cured (15A)

If we draw a line from, say, *King Kong* to *The Elephant Man*, we can see a pattern. The mistreated ‘beasts’ become the victims of corporate forces trying to wipe them out. In such cases our sympathies lie foursquare behind such pariahs.

The problem with *The Cured*, which focuses on a group of incarcerated Irish people supposedly recovering from a disease called ‘the Maze’ which causes them to turn into vampires, is that no clear delineation between heroes and villains exists in the perspective of director David Freyne.

We don't know who we're



A scene from *The Cured*.

Fair
★★★★

meant to root for. Is it Senan (Sam Keeley), who goes to his sister-in-law Abigail (Ellen Page) to enhance his recovery from the disease? He's the obvious hero but he can be gruesome sometimes. Is it his friend Conor (Tim Vaughn-Lawlor), the sullen terrorist? Hardly. He seems more bad than mad. It's certainly not Cantor (Stuart Graham), the

sneering leader of the military.

Having a gruesome (anti-) hero and two contrapuntal villains skews the film thematically. We can't become apologists for soldiers mowing down escaping prisoners and neither can we be expected to cheer when the prisoners cannibalise the soldiers.

Should we support the Cured Alliance, a group of insurgents intent on doing down the military? For some reason they reminded me of the IRA – perhaps because of the Maze reference. Not these either, I'm afraid – even if it would mean the liquidation of Cantor.

The film tries to re-invent the zombie genre with some post-apocalyptic noises about ethnic cleansing. Unfortunately, its thematic fuzziness renders these largely impotent.

It resists few opportunities to shock, becoming more Wes Craven than M Night Shyamalan. This is a pity because there's a good story trying to get out here.

Senan situates himself somewhere between the subversive intent of Conor and his role as protector of maiden-in-distress Abby and her son. Which way will he go? In the end it doesn't really matter. Freyne nails his colours so much to the horror mast, this pretty much knocks everything else out of the ballpark.

There are stomach-churning jumpcuts. An ear-piercing soundtrack. (The hyperventilating Mazers resemble a saw cutting through wood.) A plethora of the ‘uncured’ scream out in agony. They occasionally break free of captivity to kill – or eat! – their captors.

I was surprised this didn't

get an over-18s certificate. It should have come with a Government health warning. I was fortunate to see it at a morning show. (If it was night-time I'd probably have been under the seat.) Parts of it make *The Exorcist* look like *Mary Poppins*.

That said, if you have nerves of steel you might be perversely fascinated by the serpentine power of Conor. Here's a man possessed of Mephistophelean self-righteousness as he drones on with his “It's them or us” mission statement.

He delivers his revolutionary rants in a basement canten with the door open. The IRA would never have been this lax.

BookReviews

Peter Costello



Angels of hope in a broken world



Ships of Mercy: The remarkable fleet bringing hope to the world's poorest people
by Don Stephens
(Hodder & Stoughton, €9.99)

J. Anthony Gaughan

The United States is the wealthiest country in the world. Among its citizens are some of the most charitable and generous persons to be found anywhere. This is clear from this memoir by Don Stephens [pictured], founder of the Mercy Hospital Ships.

Don was born in the mid-1950s and raised on a farm in Colorado. In his teens he travelled abroad with other young evangelical Christians to assist people in some of the poorest parts of the world. From a young age he conceived the idea of bringing medical services to such people on a hospital ship.

Notwithstanding the challenges, he set about raising funds for this project. Eventually he purchased a former cruise liner and had it transformed into a floating hospital. With a crew and medical personnel, largely composed of volunteers, the Mercy Ship *Anastasis* sailed to Guatemala in 1978 on its first relief mission.

Visits

It then headed for West Africa where, after successful visits to Togo and Ghana, it berthed at ports in Benin, the Gambia, Guinea and the Ivory Coast.

Subsequently, apart from providing medical services in parts of some of the poorest countries in the world, the Mercy Ships were also involved in relief missions following a hurricane in the Caribbean, the civil war in Sierra Leone and earthquakes in Greece, Guatemala and El Salvador.

By the year 2000 a second hospital ship had been launched, the *Africa Mercy*, and the Mercy Ships were delivering medical services free of charge to over a million people each year. In his narrative Don Stephens includes personal testimonies which indicate what a life-changing experience it was for some of the recipients of that medical assistance.

Initially Don and his family resided on board the hospital ship, where he was able to micro-manage its operations. Later, after he and his family settled in Switzerland, he handed over his management responsibilities to a company. He was to have no regrets in so doing.

Mercy Ships International issued the following noble mission statement: 'Mercy Ships, a global charity, has operated a growing fleet of ships in developing nations since 1978. Following the model of Jesus, Mercy Ships bring hope and healing to the poor, mobilising people and resources worldwide'.

The Mercy Ships continue to conduct their noble mission. In the meantime, this memoir describes some of their achievements and a life well spent in the service of humanity.



Jacob Blessing the Sons of Joseph (c.1620) by Giovanni Francesco Barbieri (1591-1666) © NGI.

One of the National Gallery's most famous pictures restored to new life

The National Gallery now has on display the newly restored Jacob Blessing the Sons of Joseph (c. 1620) by Giovanni Francesco Barbieri, better known as Guercino.

This is a baroque masterpiece with an interesting history, for it was the very first painting purchased by Sir Denis Mahon, the connoisseur and scholar in 1934 for £120. He made the artist an object of particular study which was a central achievement of his life. The picture was presented to the NGI in 2026, but had to be sent to the Getty Museum in Los Angeles for restoration.

The painting now glows with energy and passion, illuminating the moment described in Genesis 48. The exhibition material fills out the process of the creation of the painting, its acquisition by Sir Denis, and the restoration.

The painting was commissioned by Cardinal Jacopo Serra, the Papal legate in Ferrara. In 1623 it passed to his successor, who twenty years later gifted it to a Spanish nobleman. It eventually vanished from sight in 1859, but was rediscovered by a German art historian in Paris in 1932, two years later becoming the property of Sir Denis. Such are the curious misadventures of great works of art.

But it struck this reviewer that the blessing of Ephraim and Manassas is one of the incidents in scripture and legend around which the British Israelite movement fabricated the strange belief that the British (as the descendants of Ephraim) and the United States (as descendants of Manassas) where the true heirs to Israel - one of the strangest Christian cults of the last two centuries, yet one followed by Queen Victoria and other

members of the British Royal family; evidence that religious belief too can have strange misadventures.

Alas these days many pictures of this kind are closed off to some extent from modern viewers as they are no longer so deeply steeped in the Bible as their ancestors were.

The restoration process is described in great detail. But the viewer is struck too by how the process described is one that applies to many aspects of our lives: to see the truth in its original state we have to remove layers of dirt, varnish, and pious repairs to a crumbling fabric. Revived paintings of this kind carry lessons not only for the art experts, but in fact for all of us, in other parts of our lives. **P.C.**

i The exhibition, in the Hugh Lane Room (Room 31), runs until May 27.

What really makes us succeed

Win: Proven Strategies for Success in Sport, Life, and Mental Health
by Brent Pope and Jason Brennan
(Hachette Ireland, €16)

Peter Hegarty

'What's wrong friend?' said the Samaritans volunteer at the other end of the line. Brent Pope poured out his sadness, describing how low, helpless and lonely he had been feeling. Since his childhood he has been suffering from dysthymia, an episodic condition he describes as a 'chronic state of discontentment'.

The long talk with the Samaritans, Pope tells us, probably saved his life.

He tells the story to illustrate a central point of a clear, insightful book: good communication is essential in our struggles to succeed and deal with all of the negative aspects of the human condition.

The importance of talk and discussion may seem obvious, and yet we overlook it.

Psychotherapist Jason Brennan notes that businesses no longer rely on individuals in well-defined roles: they tend nowadays to rely on teams.

When these underperform it's often

because people aren't clear with each other.

It's easy to praise a colleague for a job well done, but we often find it difficult to offer constructive criticism or, where it is warranted, severe criticism. People grow frustrated without feedback, without honest criticism. People enjoy praise, but bland praise is worse than none at all.

We've all been at meetings attended by people who make no contribution. Do they make no contribution because they have nothing valuable to say? Or do they fail to contribute because the person chairing the meetings doesn't encourage them to talk?

Pope suggests that technology is stripping us of our communication skills in our working and social lives.

“The authors ask us to accept that what we do does not define us”

We do everything from our desks now, no longer enjoying the little social interactions that the trip to the fax-machine or the filing cabinet once involved. It's common these days to see silent groups of people staring at

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.

Redmond and Carson: a study in failure

Judging Redmond and Carson: comparative Irish lives

by Alvin Jackson
(Royal Irish Academy, €30)

Felix M. Larkin

This dual biography by one of Ireland's most distinguished historians, Professor Alvin Jackson of Edinburgh University, is premised on the notion that – to quote its author – “the parallel lives of great rivals or great antagonists (or great friends) ... [can] achieve an analytical traction that might not otherwise be possible with the consideration of an individual life”.

It certainly succeeds in challenging many popular perceptions of its subjects, John Redmond and Edward Carson, through a skilful comparative study of their personalities, values and actions. Its ultimate conclusion – that Carson was, by temperament and style, better suited than Redmond to lead an Irish popular movement – is, however, a highly contentious summation of the careers of these colossi of modern Irish history.

Generation

As Jackson shows, the two had much in common. They were of the same generation and educated at the same university; both had pursued a legal career in the same circuits, and they sat together as MPs in Westminster for 26 years; and each was a marginal figure in the party he led – Redmond as a loyal Parnellite in a party overwhelmingly anti-Parnell in the Split of 1890-91, Carson as a Dubliner in a largely northern Unionist party.



Moreover, they both failed in their main political aims: Redmond, while getting Home Rule onto the statute book, was denied a Home Rule parliament in which he would have been prime minister; Carson likewise did not succeed in his objective of saving the union of Great Britain and Ireland as constituted in 1801.

Neither man wanted partition, and the Ulster problem was for Carson initially a tactic to defeat Home Rule. The tactic eventually became the compromise, reluctantly accepted by Carson and Redmond, and opposed by many of their followers – though final agreement foundered on the areas to be excluded from Home Rule and whether exclusion was temporary or permanent.

Jackson argues that the Parnell Split defined Redmond's politics and moulded his “political personality – demanding caution, pragmatism, consensuality, loyalty”.

In contrast, Carson's political personality was confrontational and robust, no doubt owing much to modes of operation honed

in his successful legal work. Jackson describes him as “contemptuous, charismatic and studiously unimpressed by the conventions of British politics” and so ironically closer to the “spirit of Parnell and Parnellism” than Redmond, Parnell's more emollient successor.

No comedy

Carson, however, went beyond anything Parnell would have countenanced. As Jackson writes:

“Carson abandoned his constitutionalism in 1911-12, in presiding over the development of an armed and paramilitary unionism, and in promoting the illegal importation of arms.” One of Carson's friends described this episode as “*opéra bouffe* treason”, but it was far from comedy.

In the context of the Ulster Volunteers, Jackson addresses the question “whether or not he [Carson] introduced ‘the gun’ into Irish politics”.

He rejects that claim by reference to recurrent nationalist insurgency since 1798, but this fails to take account of the fact that the New Departure negotiated by Parnell, Davitt and Devoy in 1878, had effectively removed guns from Irish politics for the 35 years before the Ulster Volunteers landed their arms at Larne.

Prof. Jackson has, accordingly, posed the wrong question. The correct question is whether Carson reintroduced “the gun” into Irish politics. The answer to that must be an emphatic “Yes”. The island of Ireland has lived with the murderous consequences ever since.

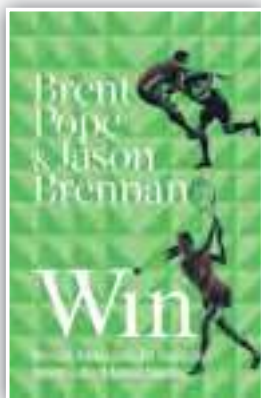
and left him feeling useless.

It took him a long time to realise that he had built up a great store of knowledge about rugby that would stand to him if he went into coaching and commenting.

His experience of dysthymia informs his work for mental health charities.

Failure is instructive: it reminds us that we are sovereign beings.

We make our choices; we own our failures.



phones in pubs and restaurants. We're all getting used to silent banking.

We need to be open with ourselves as well as with others. Failures and setbacks lie ahead of all of us: the injury that cuts short a sporting career, the downturn that costs us our job. How well prepared for them are we?

The authors ask us to accept that what we do does not define us. A bad injury in 1987 pitched Pope into a deep depression,

WebWatch

Greg Daly

Medicine for a miserable world

At this stage it probably goes without saying that *Gaudete et Exsultate*, the Pope's new exhortation on holiness in ordinary life, was always going to be dismissed by some as like the proverbial curate's egg: good in parts.

Writing at catholicworldreport.com, for instance, in a piece headed ‘Pope Francis “takes aim” in *Gaudete et Exsultate* – and misses?’ Carl Olson admits that he found parts of the exhortation “challenging, engaging and compelling”, but adds: “Unfortunately, the document also contains more than a few remarks or suggestions that are either puzzling or disconcerting – and not, I think, for the right reasons.”

Fr Dwight Longenecker, in a piece at dwrightlongenecker.com called ‘*Gaudete et Exsultate*: coming in from the scold’, commends the document's “good parts” as “encouraging but unremarkable” before turning to the more challenging parts of the document, observing that the Pope's “scolding” is, to his mind, counterproductive.

“Are Pope Francis’ magisterial teachings not worth more than a day to read, ponder and meditate upon prior to critiquing?”

“The good things he has to say and do are forgotten or lost in the scolding, and that undermines his teaching and the authority of his office,” he says, adding: “When you scold the self-righteous they either deny that they are the ones to whom you are referring or they stick out their jaw, fold their arms and hunker down. The truly self-righteous are impervious to criticism. So just smile and let them stew in their own juices and move on.”

In ‘An Ambiguous Exhortation’ at firstthings.com.



Matthew Walther.

com, Dan Hitchens says the papal document “contains much wisdom” but also other things which, he says, “may count for more in the long run”.

After blurting out a string of challenging phrases, he says these can be read simply as the Pope “reminding Catholics that our religion is more a love affair than a theory”, but points out that others may read things differently, with different readings perhaps gaining the upper hand.

I'm not sure the Pope can be blamed for people reading his writings against their plain meaning, and we should be grateful that there are plenty of people out there who have recognised just how clear and joyous the document is, with Mike Lewis's ‘*Gaudete et Exsultate*: reaction roundup’ at wherepeteris.com pointing to a range of positive takes on the document.

Instant takes

Strikingly, however, at the same site Peter Vere writes in ‘Not an apologetic for Pope Francis and *Gaudete et Exsultate*’ that he's wary of instant takes on the document, especially ones written on the day it was

published.

“It is clear Pope Francis has put more than a day's thought into this document,” he writes. “As successor to St Peter, to whom Christ entrusted the keys of the Church, are Pope Francis' magisterial teachings not worth more than a day to read, ponder and meditate upon prior to critiquing?”

A very good point, but with so many willing to sneer at the document and even dismiss it with a tweet, some positive quick takes can be very valuable, Matthew Walther's ‘Pope Francis and the saints next door’ at theweek.com being an excellent example of such.

“Every sentence of Pope Francis' latest apostolic exhortation contains medicine for our miserable world,” he begins, in a marvellous reading of a “wonderful document” about the importance of saying yes to God and seeing this as a cause for jubilation.

“I'm not sure the Pope can be blamed for people reading his writings against their plain meaning”

Describing the Pope's third exhortation as “the happiest piece of writing I have come across in ages”, he rightly places it in the tradition of St Francis de Sales, observing that “there has never been a more pressing need for practical spiritual advice of the old-fashioned sort”.

It's a superb piece of writing, by far the most compelling piece I've seen on the document, and something anyone intimidated or sceptical about *Gaudete et Exsultate* should read and absorb before turning to the Pope's practical medicinal manual that reminds us, as Walther says, “of the simple fact that we are all called to be saints next door as well as in heaven, and the plain truth that he is a good and pious shepherd of souls”.

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

Please make a little room in your will for people who are homeless

Contact our Fundraising Department in strictest confidence

Tel. 01 8815 900
Email: info@focusireland.ie
www.focusireland.ie



LITTLE FLOWER PENNY DINNERS

Little Flower Penny Dinners have been providing meals and services to the homeless and the elderly for over 100 years.

Please help us continue and donate what you can on our website www.LFPD.ie

or by phoning us with your credit/debit card details or by post to Little Flower Penny Dinners, 11 Menth St, D8

Phone 01 4536621 or 01 4546795
e-mail: srbrigid@littleflower.ie



Remembering

**MEMORIAM CARDS
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
CARDS & NOTELETS
BOOKMARKS**

Samples / Information

KENNEDY PRINTERS

BANTRY, CO. CORK, IRELAND

Tel. 027 50102

www.kennedyprinters.ie

email: info@kennedyprinters.ie

BÓTHAR

PLEASE REMEMBER BÓTHAR IN YOUR WILL. €1,800 will allow us to give an Irish, in-calf, dairy heifer to a struggling family in Rwanda, completely transforming their lives. Your gift will live on for generations. Phone the office on 061 414142 or info@bothar.ie

Leave a Legacy of Hope

When you are making your will, please remember the vulnerable families you can save from homelessness. Contact Cora at Threshold in strictest confidence.


Solving housing problems
preventing homelessness

Call: 01 635 3607
Email: Cora@threshold.ie
Visit: www.threshold.ie






Follow the Irish Catholic on Facebook

 The-Irish-Catholic-Newspaper

National Pro-Life Prayer Rally

Saturday
May 5th 2018
Limerick

For the protection of the 8th Amendment and Our Unborn Children



A DAY OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE, WHERE WE AS A NATION COME TOGETHER TO BEG OUR LADY TO INTERVENE FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF THE 8TH AMENDMENT AND HER PROTECTION FROM THE EVILS OF ABORTION

Dedicated to Our Lady of The Rosary of Fatima, with First Saturday Devotions, Holy Mass at 12.00 noon followed by Public Rosary Procession. Assembly Sacred Heart Church, The Crescent, 11am. Concludes 2:30pm.

"Only Our Lady of the Rosary can help you"
Our Lady at Fatima.

Classified Ads

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.

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

Please remember

THE IRISH HOSPICE FOUNDATION

when making your Will so that everyone, everywhere will have access to hospice care one day.

Tel: 01 679 3188
E-mail: info@hospicefoundation.ie
www.hospicefoundation.ie






Mary Matches

Meet singles who share your values
Speed Dating | Mingles for Singles

Coupon Code: **Love2018**
www.marymatches.com



JOHN'S LANE CHURCH

Feast of Our Mother of Good Counsel
THURSDAY 26TH APRIL

The Triduum in preparation for the feast begins on MONDAY 23RD APRIL

MASS EACH DAY
11.00 A.M. and 3.00 P.M.

MASS ON FEAST
11.00 A.M.

Rosary will be recited each day beginning 15 minutes before Mass Commences

Preacher: Fr. Declan Brennan O.S.A.

The Irish Catholic

PREPAID CLASSIFIED AD COUPON

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

1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						

Name and contact detail form **MUST** be filled out

Name
Address
Landline Mobile
The Irish Catholic, 23 Merrion Square North, Dublin 2.

STATE UNDER WHICH HEADING YOUR AD IS TO APPEAR:

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

I enclose Cheque/PO: €..... I wish to pay by Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Laser ☐
My Visa/Mastercard/Lasercard number is:
.....
Expiry Date: Signature

No. of insertions:	weeks
Miracle Prayer €40	

€24.60
€29.52
€34.44

Phone: 01 687 4094

Leisure time

Crossword Junior

Gordius 228



ACROSS

- 1 Shape with four sides (9)
 7 We get our oxygen from it (3)
 8 Very small town (7)
 9 Cardiff is in this country (5)
 11 Huge group of soldiers (4)
 13 Tall, pink bird which often stands on just one foot (8)
 17 It's usually the best card (3)
 18 Thirteen is said to be this kind of number (7)
 19 Little devil (3)
 20 Not wild (4)
 21 A person who uses a bow and arrow (6)

perhaps (5)

- 2 Part of a shirt that goes around the neck (6)
 3 You set it to help you wake up (5,5)
 4 Got bigger (4)
 5 Nobleman (4)
 6 This insect got its name because it jumps in the meadow (11)
 10 Storeroom in the roof of a house (5)
 12 Room where a judge is in charge of a trial (5)
 14 Dick Whittington became Lord _____ of London (5)
 15 The sound a horse makes (5)
 16 Type of fruit (4)

DOWN

- 1 The Clyde or Shannon,

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

GORDIUS No.346

Across – 1 People movers 7 Tip 9 Clip 10 Rotund 11 Beer 14 Slump 15 Rival 16 Brae 18 Flood 21 Horus 22 Angle 23 Strut 24 Loot 25 China 26 Brace 29 Elan 33 Supper 34 Ache 36 Sum 37 Saint Andrews

Down – 1 Pal 2 Oops 3 Lord of the Dance 4 Metal 5 Venom 6 Styx 8 Perseverance 9 Church elders 12 Overdo 13 Class 14 Safer 17 Regain 27 Rouen 28 Copra 30 Arms 31 Trod 32 Male 35 His

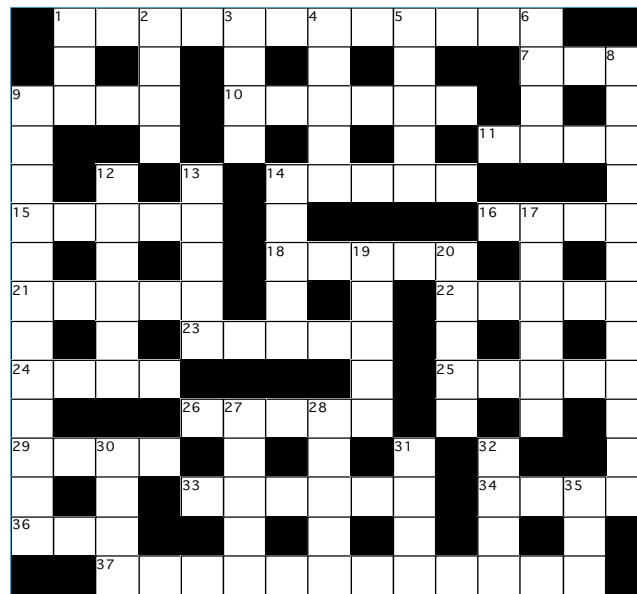
CHILDREN'S No.227

Across – 1 Beach 5 Cooler 6 Stir 8 European 9 Visitor 12 Proverb 14 Brush 15 Moon 16 Teenager

Down – 1 Bus 2 Cure 3 Sleeve 4 Grandfather 5 Cargo 7 Tidier 10 Invent 11 Ribbon 12 Pump 13 Rung

Crossword

Gordius 347



ACROSS

- 1 It's of top priority to have the patrolman lit up (3-9)
 7 The West, as it used to be (3)
 9 Many enquire for a barrel (4)
 10 & 29a Ad lib, without preparation (3,3,4)
 11 Depend (4)
 14 & 17d Tasty food cooked indoors? Fine (5,6)
 15 Grammatical words for the sisters to take in, love (5)
 16 Drill (4)
 18 Many find it's inclined to injury (5)
 21 Aristocratic (5)
 22 "One from the continent of the Himalayas", I announce (5)
 23 Japanese rice dish with raw fish (5)
 24 Helpful suggestion (4)
 25 Sign for a take-away? That's grand in America (5)
 26 & 36a Part of the keyboard where astronauts drink? (5,3)
 29 See 10 across
 33 Informal violin (6)
 34 Small bouquet (4)
 36 See 26 across
 37 Just give the word, worm - dine out on this casement! (6,6)

DOWN

- 1 Solid fuel cooker found finally in Malaga (3)

- 2 & 5d Lo, eat hake cooked in an American waterside resort (4,5)
 3 Earth's natural satellite (4)
 4 Bid, tender (5)
 5 See 2 down
 6 Sentimentally pretty (4)
 8 Does this day in Holy Week follow Agent Monday and Spook Tuesday? (3,9)
 9 Despite the foot ailment on the swan, it makes an appetising dish (4,2,3,3)
 12 One finds many a metropolitan city in South Africa (6)
 13 What remain after a fire (5)
 14 Pieces of information (5)
 17 See 14 across
 19 In the embrace of Lincoln, I'd dwell here (5)
 20 The trees of quiet charity (5)
 27 Should Ma rip out a Trojan king? (5)
 28 One must be firm bringing a communist up as a computer programmer (5)
 30 A river crossing for many (4)
 31 Fairy found in superior environs (4)
 32 Informal potato (4)
 35 7 across turned up to get a tool (3)



Imagine just for today
 you are homeless.
 Hungry. You have no
 money and no phone.

Join us for Tea and a private Tour of our homeless centre. See confidentially how Merchants Quay Ireland uses donations and legacies to bring relief and hope. All welcome.

to find out more visit www.mqi.ie

Ring Emma Murphy at 01-5240965 to be included on the guest list for the May 10th tour.



Giving Family & Life a gift in your Will is a hugely inspirational, lasting and dignified way to leave a loving mark on countless lives.

A gift in your Will ensures that the most effective pro-life/pro-family organisations will continue working for the kind of society we all desire.

Remember, everything we do to save babies and strengthen the family relies on you and our other generous friends.

For further advice or to avail
 of our Solicitor's free Wills
 service, please contact us
 today on

01-8552790

Family & Life

Ph: 01 8552790

email: fandl@iol.ie

26 Mountjoy Square, Dublin 1

www.familyandlife.org

Will the MSC Missions

Missionaries of the Sacred Heart work in poor parishes in Africa, Russia and Venezuela

Please remember them in your Will

Contact:

Mission Support Centre, Western Road, Cork.

Tel: 021 - 4543988

www.mscmissions.ie

Trócaire is working for a just world
 and an end to poverty.

Please remember this work
 when making your will

If you would like further information please
 contact Trocaire, Maynooth, Co. Kildare



01-629 3333

info@trocaire.ie

www.trocaire.org

Sudoku Corner

228

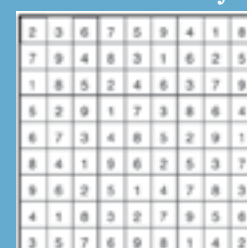
Easy



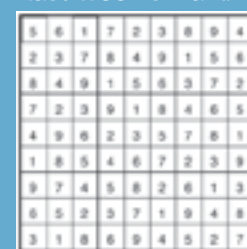
Hard



Last week's Easy 227



Last week's Hard 227



Notebook

Fr Bernard Healy

If only Sunday was as precious as the Sabbath...

I WAS LUCKY enough to spend a few days in Jerusalem this spring. Whilst there, I was able to visit a site sacred to our Jewish brethren, namely the Western (or Wailing) Wall. The Wall stands as a visible reminder of the destruction of the Jewish Temple by the Romans in 70AD and is an extraordinary place of prayer and pilgrimage. Having visited the aboveground part of the Wall, I also took a guided tour underneath present-day Jerusalem in order to see the excavations that have uncovered even more of the structure, getting down as far as what was street-level at the time of Christ.

My guide was an American rabbi who explained the history of the place. The Wall wasn't holy in itself. It wasn't part of the Temple, but was a retaining wall built by King Herod the Great around the Temple Mount. Its importance lies in the fact that it is as close as the Jewish people can get to the holiest place in their tradition, the site of the Temple where God made His home.

Tradition also associates the Temple Mount with a key place in the scriptures, namely Mount Moriah, where Abraham was willing to sacrifice his son Isaac



Pope Benedict XVI visiting the Wailing Wall.

in the 22nd chapter of Genesis. Christianity and Judaism both recognise Abraham as being, in the words of the Mass, 'our father in faith,' but what does this unsettling bible passage say about Abraham and about God? The rabbi explained it as follows: whilst the neighbouring nations practiced human sacrifice, Mount Moriah was the place where God

revealed a fundamental truth to Abraham. If he wished to worship God, the right way to do that was by loving his son rather than sacrificing him. Judaism, the rabbi said, was thus established as a religion of life!

In later centuries this would be one of the defining cultural distinctions between Judaism and the culture of the Roman Empire.

Whilst the Roman *paterfamilias* had the power of life and death over his children, and sickly new-borns could be left to die, the Jewish ethos of life meant that families recognised a God-given responsibility to care for the weak and would not countenance infanticide.

Attention

This trip to the foot of the Temple Mount drew my attention to two foundation stones of the Christian faith. The Jewish ethos of life was inherited by the early Christians who bore witness to the sanctity of life and the duty of charity by rescuing infants that had been abandoned according to the Roman custom. Secondly, I'd never quite appreciated how the faith of Abraham also carried with it a message about fatherhood. The message that Abraham received about how to be a father was a

necessary preparation for Christ's showing us how God is our compassionate Father.

An unforgettable event in Jerusalem is the beginning of Sabbath. Every Friday, as day slips into evening, a siren sounds throughout the city letting everyone know that Sabbath is near. In the Jewish areas, the streets are full of families rushing on foot towards their synagogue or the Western Wall to joyfully welcome the Sabbath with prayer, dancing and song. It's notable how hands-on fathers are in helping their sons learn the ritual of Jewish prayer.

It would be a beautiful thing in Ireland if we were so keen and joyful in our observance of Sunday, and if we had a stronger culture of both fathers and mothers enthusiastically teaching the traditions of our faith.

IN JERUSALEM ONE CAN ALSO visit the top of the Temple Mount, but it is under the strict control of Islamic authorities. All non-Muslim prayer is strictly banned, with visitors forbidden to enter with bibles, prayer books or any religious items. Most Orthodox Jews won't visit for fear of accidentally stepping on the location of the Holy of Holies, the place where the Ark of the Covenant was kept. In the time of the Temple,

only the High Priest could enter this place, and then only once a year. A story is told about the 19th Century Jewish nobleman Baron Moses Montefiore. He dearly wanted to visit the Temple Mount, but didn't want to offend against tradition. In order to square the circle, it is said that he made his visit in a sedan chair, carried by Muslim porters, so he could say for certainty he visited the Temple Mount but did not set foot on holy ground.



HELP TRAIN A YOUNG MAN FOR THE MISSIONARY PRIESTHOOD

YOUR EASTERTIDE GIFT TO OUR RISEN SAVIOUR

Each year THE LITTLE WAY ASSOCIATION receives numerous requests from Religious Orders in mission lands for help to train their seminarians.

It costs approximately €80 a month (€960 a year) to feed, clothe and educate a student for the priesthood

The great majority of young men who come forward to offer their lives to God, and His people, come from poor families. Their parents do not have the means to support them financially. The cost of educating and maintaining seminarians is often a heavy burden on the Religious Orders. It costs approximately €80 a month (€960 a year) to feed, clothe and educate a student for the priesthood. We appeal wholeheartedly, this Easter/Pentecost, to all readers to help train and support a candidate for the priesthood.

Any donation you can send will be most gratefully received, and will be sent without deduction, to help to train a young man for the priesthood.

EVERY EURO YOU SEND WILL BE VERY GRATEFULLY RECEIVED AND FORWARDED WITHOUT DEDUCTION.



MISSIONARIES NEED YOUR MASS OFFERINGS

Your Mass offerings help to provide the missionary priest's maintenance and assist him to extend the Kingdom of God upon earth.

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

WELLS NEEDED

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

Can you help provide a well?

Your kind gift will be forwarded intact and gratefully received.

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

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

I enclose €..... to be allocated to:

€..... **TRAINING FOR THE PRIESTHOOD**

€..... **NEEDS OF MISSIONARIES**

€..... **HOLY OFFERINGS**
(Please state number _____)

€..... **LITTLE WAY ADMIN EXPENSES**

☐ Please tick if you would like an acknowledgement

Name (Rev. Mr. Mrs. Miss) (Block letters please)

Address

IC/04/19