

# The Irish Catholic

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## The road that lies ahead

### Turning a minority into a creative minority

Amidst the obvious hurt and disappointment felt in the wake of the passing of the referendum on the Eighth Amendment, those who stood up for the voiceless unborn and voted 'No' on May 25 can feel rightly proud of their stance. This is not a time to allow sadness to turn to despondency and inaction. Those who voted 'No' now have a job of work to do to hold the Government to account as it begins to draft abortion legislation.

Some commentators have said that the decisive nature of the 'Yes' victory which paves the way for a liberal abortion regime in Ireland up to 12 weeks' gestation means that those who voted 'No' should go away and allow others to be in the driving seat. This is to ignore the fact that a truly pluralist democracy allows all voices to be heard. Any society that does not have a creative minority critiquing the dominant political thrust or questioning cultural assumptions is all the poorer for that lack.

It's also worth remembering that the number of people who voted 'No' – 33.6%

### Editorial comment

#### The Irish Catholic

of those who voted – is more than any political party managed in the last general election. No one, for example, would suggest that Fine Gael is irrelevant because it attracted just 25.5% of voters in the 2016 general election.

Those who canvassed, put up posters, spoke in the media and took a stance in favour of the Eighth Amendment should be proud of their efforts and take comfort from the fact that they spoke for a third of the people.

The road that lies ahead is not an easy one for the pro-life community. But has it ever been easy? The first task will be to hold the Government to account on their proposed abortion legislation.

Taoiseach Leo Varadkar has said the law will mean that abortion will be rare

in Ireland. He will have to prove how he will ensure this, for in every other jurisdiction where abortion is introduced it soon becomes commonplace. What will the Government do to make Ireland unique? The Tánaiste Simon Coveney says he wants to ensure that the legislation cannot be further liberalised. What are his proposals to do this?

Minister for Health Simon Harris has also said that abortion on grounds of disability will be illegal – there is no sign of this in the draft legislation – what safeguards will he put in place to be true to his word?

**“It would be wrong for the Government to use their ‘Yes’ as if it were a *carte blanche* for abortion”**

It's also worth considering the fact that of those who voted 'Yes', only 52% of them according to the exit poll were comfortable with abortion being unrestricted during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy. This means that there are a considerable number of people who might be described as 'soft

Yes' voters who opted to vote for abortion in the hard cases rather than on demand. Pro-life people need to reach out to these people and find common cause in ensuring that abortion does not become even more liberal in Ireland. It would be wrong for the Government to use their 'Yes' as if it were a *carte blanche* for abortion.

Those who voted 'No' also have a wider political responsibility to ensure that the Government does not get off the hook on the broader social justice and culture of life issues.

Being pro-life means standing up for the unborn, but it also means calling attention to the dreadful way this State treats asylum seekers, to the seeming indifference of authorities to homelessness, to the crisis that has become almost accepted in our health system, to the chronic underfunding of schools and the isolation felt by so many people in rural Ireland.

Those who voted 'No' on May 25 are a minority – but they have a choice whether they are content to be dismissed as an irrelevant minority or whether they will fight to be a creative minority. Be not afraid!

**DAVID QUINN**

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I grieve for those who will not be born  
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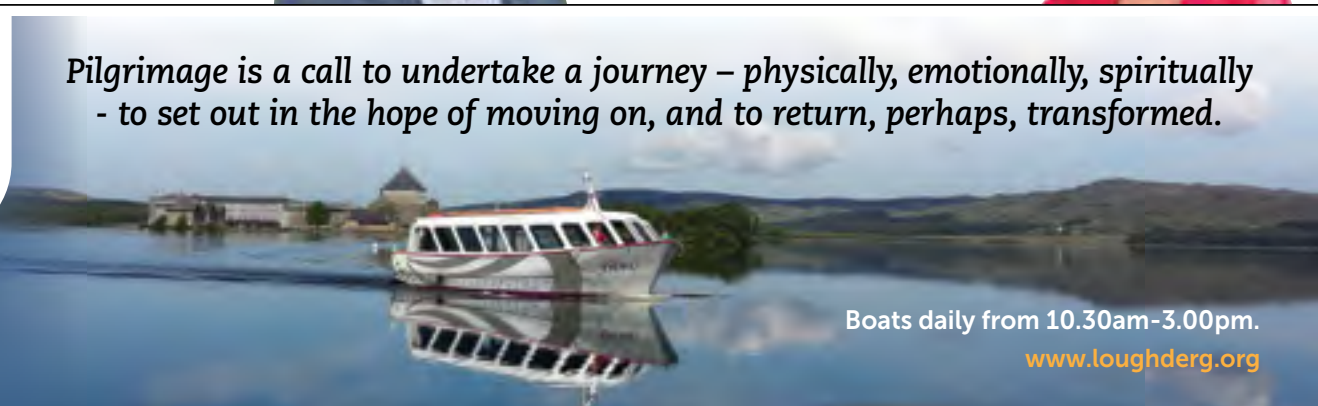
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# The challenge of the referendum result for Catholics



## Editor's Comment Michael Kelly

In the Bible, the whole of salvation history is one crisis after another: expulsion from Paradise, the destruction of Babel, the Flood, exiles, and the obliteration of the monarchy. The history of the Israelites in the Old Testament – God's Chosen People – is a story of being stripped of everything that they believed gave them meaning and their identity.

But, they learnt that crises can also be times of blessing.

Recent decades have seen what we call Irish Catholicism being stripped of power, prestige, status and control – all things which Catholics once thought gave meaning to their Church. In reality, however, if we discern the signs of the times we can see in the Catholic Church in Ireland an institution that clung to things like power and control really for their own sake.

There will be much soul searching to be done in the Church in the wake of the decisive vote to remove the Eighth Amendment from the Constitution. Like the ancient Israelites, many Catholics who voted 'No' are now asking themselves "how can we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?" But there is also the reality that many Mass-going Catholics voted 'Yes' in a referendum that will pave the way for a liberal abortion regime.

### Reality check

This is a reality check for the Church. It would be easy to dismiss Catholics who do not share the Church's vision that all human life is worthy of legal protection, but they are present in the pews in every parish in Ireland. Pretending that modern Ireland is a competition between Catholics and everyone else would be as foolish as it is wrong.

And yet the Church will continue to uphold the right to life of unborn children and will never waver from this commitment – regardless of how many Catholics disagree. The Church has to ask how so many Catholics can identify themselves with legislation

that will lead to abortion on demand in many circumstances and still continue to describe themselves as Catholic.

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin has observed that while there are many indications that "residual cultural Catholicism" is still strong in Irish culture it would be foolish "to ignore the fact that that Irish cultural Catholicism has a clear generational sell-by-date printed on it."

**Those who voted 'No' deserve huge credit for standing up for those who cannot speak for themselves. They are a minority voice"**

The Taoiseach Leo Varadkar said at the weekend that the referendum was the culmination of a quiet revolution. A quiet revolution has also taken place within the Church. Many people who see themselves as committed Catholics don't share a worldview informed by the tenets of their Church. There are serious questions to be asked about Faith formation.

The religious education of most Mass-going Catholics ended when they were 17, their only regular exposure now is a few minutes of a homily on a Sunday morning. The issue of Catholic schools and Catholic education more widely also needs to be addressed.

The vast majority of Irish people spent their entire educational career in schools managed by the Church and nominally operating under a Catholic ethos. Indeed, many of those pushing for legislative reform on issues like abortion were educated in prestigious

fee-paying Catholic schools.

Frederick the Great observed that "he who defends everything, defends nothing". As Catholics we need to reflect on this seriously. Are we holding on to old structures and ways of thinking simply because we used to be a large institution? Wouldn't it be better to relinquish control of vast numbers of schools to prioritise resources into the fewer schools that remain? Rather than dominating education and as a result being the default provider, might it not be better for Catholic schools to be a vibrant minority presence in a pluralist educational landscape?

Many people have told me that they are heartbroken by the outcome of the referendum. There is a need for healing and reflection. Those who voted 'No' deserve huge credit for standing up for those who cannot speak for themselves. They are a minority voice – but this should not leave people disheartened. It's worth reflecting on the fact that the 'No' side in the referendum attracted a bigger percentage vote than any political party managed at the last general election.

### No retreat

This is not a time to retreat into quietism or a Jansenistic pessimism about the human condition. The Church arose in a pagan culture by being willing to die for truth – the call to the Church in modern Ireland is one of profound humility and joyful witness.

We can't predict what the future holds for Irish Catholicism, but we know it will be smaller, much smaller. The challenge is to ensure that we are a creative minority rather than a pathetic irrelevant minority.

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# Theologian defends bishop's 'sin' comments

## Priest describes remark as 'offensive'

Chai Brady

There has been mixed responses from Catholics after Bishop Kevin Doran said those who voted 'Yes' in the abortion referendum should consider Confession, with some dubbing it "offensive".

Laois-based priest and author Fr Paddy Byrne said that dozens of priests were "absolutely furious" at the bishop's comments, saying that it was furthering a sense of polarisation after an intense debate. "I think in terms of where we find ourselves to be, to try and come out in a juridical manner and start being prescriptive in relation to how people voted with their conscience – and many of them are members of the Catholic community – I feel is both offensive and has caused a further sense of polarisation to many members of the Christian family we belong to," Fr Paddy told *The Irish Catholic*.

Bishop Doran made his comments on RTÉ Radio One, saying: "What I'd say to a Catholic who voted 'Yes' is this, if you voted 'Yes' knowing and intending that abortion would be the outcome then you should consider coming to Confession."

### Compassion

He added that those who want to come to Confession "will be received with the same compassion as any other penitent".

Fr Paddy said that following the referendum result, now should be a time to "press the pause button" and for all members to reflect and heal. He believes the majority of people who voted 'Yes' "didn't vote for abortion [on demand]" but did so to allow

women to have a choice in tragic circumstances.

"What I would say to them is to stay with us. Do not walk away, and together we can be stronger."

DCU theology lecturer Dr John Murray said he was "struck" by the shock registered by the Irish public after Bishop Doran spoke of sin.

Dr Murray said it "is not a good situation at all" that the Irish population, and Catholics, are not accustomed to hearing about sin.

"In my opinion, Catholics should have heard a lot more of it during the lead up to the referendum, and indeed before then," he said.

Speaking about Catholics who voted 'Yes' with their conscience, he said it was a vote that facilitated abortion in Ireland if the proposed legislation is implemented as suggested in the Heads of Bill. This would allow the procurement of abortion on demand up to 12 weeks of pregnancy and up to six months on physical or mental health grounds.

"Even if one voted with the hope that few would choose abortion, or only in the 'hard cases', one's vote, as a means to an end, directly enabled the Government to widen the provision of abortion," he said.

The lecturer added that if 'Yes' voters believed they were not voting for this, and had been misled, then they need not go to Confession despite their act being wrong – but should repent.

He added that if their "ignorance was due to negligence...or wilful deception" then even if they followed their conscience "they ought to consider confessing the sin".

## JPII awards in Killala



22 Transition Year students from the Diocese of Killala are presented with the John Paul II Award from Bishop John Fleming at the Newman Institute in Ballina, Co. Mayo.

## Catholics want Church to pull back from education – poll

Staff reporter

Almost three out of four Irish Catholics now believe it is time for the Church to mount a tactical retreat from education and divest many schools to the State, according to an online poll of readers of *The Irish Catholic*.

The findings also reveal that people believe

this will allow the Church to devote more energy to ensuring that the Catholic schools that remain will authentically faithful in ethos.

The Facebook poll – which attracted almost 1,000 votes in less than 24 hours – asked readers: "After the referendum result, is it time for the Church to mount a tactical retreat and pull back

from education, divest many schools to the State and prioritise Faith formation in the fewer remaining schools?"

It also asked: "Should the Church stop taking State funding, even if it is for good causes?"

The poll found that 72% of respondents agreed with the proposition that the Church should pull back from

education and divest many schools to the State. On the other hand, 28% of those who answered the poll voted 'no' indicating that they believe it would be a mistake for the Church to mount such a tactical retreat.

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# Diocese hopeful of importing more priests to ease vocations crisis

Colm Fitzpatrick

The Bishop of Killaloe has said he hopes to bring more priests from India and Africa to Ireland in a bid to tackle the current vocation crisis.

Speaking about the increasing number of international priests now ministering in Ireland, Dr Fintan Monahan said that "they're an indication of the changing Faith of the culture in Ireland", noting that many parishioners in the Killaloe diocese are from the Asian and African continents.

"It's kind of a reversal of the trend in many ways that Irish priests used to go abroad like to England, America, African and India – there is now really a reversal of the situation," he told *The Irish Catholic*.

## More following

"It is an indication of the changing times in Ireland because we are badly stuck for priests now we're looking to the African and Indian continent to help us in that regard."

Bishop Monahan explained that alongside the two Indian priests that have arrived in the diocese this year, there will be two more international priests coming, and potentially more following a review of current diocesan structuring.

He added that religious and laity should be praying for more priests to minister in Ireland and be encouraging young people to consider the call to the priesthood, as well as supporting lay involvement in the Church.

"[We need] home grown vocations, a little bit of help outside the country, and very much encouraging people to take responsibility for the Faith", Dr Monahan said.

He also noted that the

## Four new deacons ordained at Maynooth



Ordained as deacons on Sunday May 27 in Maynooth were (l-r): Ricky O'Connor (Diocese of Ferns), Yan Bo Chen (SVD), Gerhard Osthuus (SVD) and Fergal Cummins (Diocese of Meath).

diocesan Indian priests have been well-received by the parish community and that their "interesting take" on Faith means they're not shy about proclaiming the message of the Gospel and showing the power of prayer.



# Church should ditch State funding – bishop

Staff reporter

The Church should no longer depend on State funding for worthy pastoral initiatives, Bishop Kevin Doran of Elphin has said in the wake of the abortion referendum.

Currently, organisations such as the Church's marriage agency Accord and crisis pregnancy agency Cura get some of their funding from taxpayers. However, Dr Doran, writing in *The Irish Catholic* this week insists that "we should no longer expect

or depend upon State funding for pastoral initiatives, even when they seem to coincide with the good of society".

## Generosity

He insists that "if the Church is to be active in the public space, it will have to rely on the generosity of the faithful. "In previous generations, when buildings were required, that generosity was never lacking. Today it is about investing in people rather than buildings," he said.

See page 13.

Former illegal migrant thanks God for helping him save child

Chai Brady

A young Malian migrant said "God helped me" after becoming an internet sensation this week for climbing four floors to rescue a child hanging from a balcony in France.

Dubbed by fans 'Le-Spiderman', France's President Emmanuel Macron gave the former illegal immigrant citizenship status for his courage.

He was also offered a job by the Paris fire brigade.

Mamouda Gassama (22) was invited to meet President Macron in the Élysée Palace this week. When asked why he did it, he said: "I didn't think about it, I climbed up and God helped me."

The now viral online videos, some of which have millions of views, show Mr Gassama scale the building in seconds, eventually pulling the child to safety with one arm.

## Solutions

Speaking to US media he said he was in the area to watch a football match. "I like children, I would have hated to see him getting hurt in front of me. I ran and I looked for solutions to save him and thank God I scaled the front of the building to the balcony," he said.

The Paris fire brigade tweeted: "Mamoudou shares the values of the Paris fire brigade. We are ready to welcome him."

The father of the boy dangling from the balcony of the apartment block was arrested by police, after it was discovered the child was left unattended while he went shopping.

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# Be careful of offering hostages to fortune

There were many who found the street celebrations after the abortion referendum somewhat distasteful, and this extended to the British media, even among those who endorsed Repeal.

In the *Daily Mail*, Richard Littlejohn wrote that "while the Irish referendum result is welcome, I found the near hysterical reaction to it pretty nauseating".

A correspondent to the *Daily Telegraph*, Marilyn Parrott of Cheshire, wrote: "It was sad to see the jubilation of so many at the result of the referendum in Ireland, which can only lead to many more abortions."

Even Libby Purves in *The Times*, who supported Repeal conceded that "the campaigners' rejoicing may seem odd with a topic so painful: nobody likes the idea of abortion or hopes to need one".

I will not, however, condemn or judge those young women laughing, cheering and holding up clenched fists in the 'right-on' Marxist victory sign. I probably participated in similarly inappropriate street demos myself when young: it's easy to get carried away by a kind of mob excitement in these situations.

## Campaign

The end of any campaign can bring a kind of 'post-war fever'. The end of a war itself is marked by hugely triumphalist victory parades: only afterwards do people turn their thoughts to the awful cost, and the many dead and wounded victims of war.



**Mary Kenny**



The scene at Dublin Castle as the Referendum result became known on Saturday last.

Only the passage of time brings reflection, because time brings experience, and the life lesson that events seldom turn out as anticipated. Among that celebratory crowd will be women – and men – whose life experiences in the future will prompt rueful thoughts about celebrating the right to abortion.

There will be women who will find, after all their abrasive demands for 'reproductive rights', that – as someone I know experienced – it took 11 miscarriages before she could bring a live baby to term. There will be men, told they are to be a father, are then devastated when a wife or girlfriend informs them she intends to terminate the pregnancy. There will be couples who spend thousands of euro to pay for repeated cycles of IVF.

There will be women who – again I cite another case I know – are reproached by their own daughter-in-law for upholding abortion rights: "If the birth mother of our adopted child had had an abortion, we wouldn't have the chance to be parents today. Don't be so insensitive on this issue!"

**“It's easy to get carried away by a kind of mob excitement in these situations”**

There will, in the senior years, be men and women who are disappointed at not becoming grandparents – because their own daughter has terminated a pregnancy since it didn't fit in with her lifestyle. They'll say nothing about it to anyone, but the sadness will be in there in

their hearts.

There will be men and women who lose an only child to a fatal illness – leukaemia, in another awful case that I have known – and then repine, for the rest of their lives, over an abortion decision they made in a second pregnancy.

Yes, there will be individuals who have no regrets about celebrating abortion rights or even abortion decisions. People are varied in their responses to any issue, including any moral idea. It is human to justify one's own values – what a late friend of mine called "preaching what they practice".

But life takes us all on a journey of twists and turns, and many a high-spirited street demo of youth is recollected later on in quite a different light.

Be careful of offering hostages to fortune.

## Benefit of hindsight makes Jilly feel a bit silly

Fifty years ago, the novelist Jilly Cooper [pictured] wrote a book called *How to Stay Married*, which made all kinds of breezy recommendations, such as that a good wife should keep a tidy house and please her husband with fine cooking – "if you keep the house in a mess, and serve vile food, he has every right to complain", and that a wife shouldn't spend too much time nattering on the phone to her mother, as this will make her husband jealous.

A wife, wrote Jilly, should do the housework when her husband isn't looking so as to make it look effortless. A wife should always look attractive in bed – eschewing curlers or night cream, which are "grounds

for divorce". And a husband is justified in "straying" if his wife isn't enthusiastic about conjugal rights, she averred.

She is now horrified at what she wrote, and describes her early self as "a smug, opinionated, proselytising little know-it-all".

She was also



publicly humiliated as, for all her nostrums, her late husband, Leo, did "stray", and was disclosed as having a mistress over the course of six years.

When asked why her perfect marriage formula didn't keep him faithful on BBC *Woman's Hour*, she was simply dumbstruck and couldn't talk about it.

Leo Cooper later developed Parkinson's Disease and Jilly cared for him tirelessly throughout the long years of his helplessness.

Perhaps he, too, learned some life lessons in the end.

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# Young warned of an 'epidemic of loneliness'

Chai Brady

The bishop of Derry warned students of a culture of "throwaway relationships" which has led to an "epidemic of loneliness" at an end of year Mass this week.

Speaking at a Mass celebrating the upcoming World Meeting of Families in St Mary's School in Limavady, Bishop Donal McKeown said we live in an environment "where many doubt the possibility of love and faithfulness".

"Very many of our public role models seem unable to maintain long term faithful relationships. Throwaway relationships end up produc-

ing what one recent report called 'an epidemic of loneliness,'" he told the pupils.

"In a culture that doesn't offer anything much deeper than 'obey your thirst' or 'let's feel good', a lifelong commitment can seem a loss rather than a gain."

He said there is an implication that people need to "have fun" before settling down, with the average age of marriage being 32 in England and Ireland.

By implication, he said, settling down seems to be a loss.

"We develop by taking on serious relationships, not by playing at them. We grow up by moving from dependence

to independence to interdependence, not by treating life as a joke."

He added that it's no surprise a "relationship-light culture" is leading to high levels of loneliness and mental distress.

The bishop went on to say the gospel teaches self-discipline so that the human body be used in the service of human dignity, and that "if I am not a master of my instincts, then my instincts master me".

"The 'me' culture is promoting too many people who are dying for want of a reason for living."

## Attendance

The closing Mass for the World Meeting of Families this August 26 will be the largest single event to take place in Ireland this year – preparations are being made for an attendance of 600,000 people – with Bishop McKeown saying it can be a chance to proclaim God's dream for the world.

"It will be a chance for the young parents of the future to say that they believe in God's dream for this country and for this world. Changes in borders or changes in laws will not make a new Ireland. Changed hearts alone can do that," he said.

## Welcome to Lough Derg!



The Papal Nuncio to Ireland, Archbishop Jude Thaddeus Okolo and his party were welcomed to Lough Derg over the weekend by Diocesan Administrator Msgr Joseph McGuinness and Prior Fr La Flynn.

## Irish kids asked to design Pope garb for WMOF

### Staff reporter

Boys and girls across Ireland are being tasked with a unique challenge – to design Pope Francis clothes.

Pope Francis' charity for overseas mission, World Missions Ireland (WMI), are commemorating the Pontiff's visit for the World Meeting of Families (WMOF) this August by gifting him with a specially designed set of vestments.

Julieann Moran, National Secretary for World Missions Ireland, said: 'Pope Francis is

a person who truly embraces creativity. We've seen this time and time again, especially when he invites young people to dream big and not to be afraid."

### Creativity

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WMI will also be displaying a replica of the winning vestment at their stall, number 23 and 24, during the WMOF in the RDS in Dublin. The competition is open to all children aged 16 and below, and the deadline is June 1.

Full details and a downloadable design template can be found at [www.wmi.ie/pope-francis-competition](http://www.wmi.ie/pope-francis-competition)

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Lough Derg buses gearing up

Bus Éireann this week launched its Lough Derg bus service for this year's pilgrimage season.

Operating for four days a week, the Route 486 service begins on June 1 and ends on August 13.

Based on demand, the service will be available from Friday to Monday each week, including the upcoming June Bank Holiday, and August Bank Holiday.

Day Return fares to Lough Derg from Enniskillen cost €18 with standard monthly return costing €21. From Ballyshannon it will cost €19.50 with standard monthly return costing €21.

Free Travel passes will also be accepted on these services.

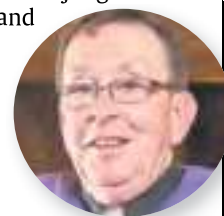
Passengers travelling from the Dublin area will be able to use this service by taking Bus Éireann's Expressway Route 30 Dublin to Donegal bus services and connecting at Enniskillen.

### Singing priest has spark of talent

A Meath Irish priest has made it through to the live shows of *Britain's Got Talent* (BGT) after 35 acts were put through.

Fr Ray Kelly [pictured], from Oldcastle, impressed the judges with his singing talents and they were happy to elevate him to the semi-finals of the competition. He wowed the judges and the audience in April with his rendition of R.E.M.'s 'Everybody Hurts'. During his performance, judge Simon Cowell said that it was one of his favourite auditions.

Fr Kelly said before getting through to the semi-finals: "I have visions of going home to my parish and telling them I got through to *Britain's Got Talent*. "That would blow their mind, you know."



### Fota IX international liturgy conference

St Colman's Society for Catholic Liturgy has announced that the Fota IX International Liturgy Conference will be held in Cork, from July 7-9 this year. The subject of the conference is on the divine office entitled 'Psallite Sapienter: The Liturgy of the Hours' and will be explored by a panel of experts drawn from the United States, Germany and Italy.

The provisional speakers will be discussing topics such as the history of the Church in the divine office, the role of hymns, and the Second Vatican Council.

The Fota Liturgy Conferences bring together panels of distinguished international scholars on Catholic liturgy who, with Conference attendees, reflect on various themes with special reference to those highlighted as worthy of greater attention by Pope Benedict XVI.

Themes addressed in the Fota Conferences to date have included Beauty in Sacred Art and Architecture; Music and the Sacred Liturgy; and the Roman Missal.



Nuala O’Loan  
The View



As the dust settles on the repeal of the Eighth Amendment to the Irish Constitution, I watched the joy, the rapture, the excitement, the delight of those who voted ‘Yes’ in the referendum with disbelief. They argue that what they were celebrating was the recognition of a woman’s right to choose what she wants to do with her pregnancy.

What though of all the little girls, the daughters and granddaughters and nieces who will now never be allowed the gift of life? For it was the right to kill those little unborn baby girls, and all the little boys too, that they celebrated. It was the right to terminate lives yet to be conceived; to inject into the heart of a tiny baby girl in the womb, who was too big to just abort through medication, potassium hydrochloride, so that she would die, and then to take her from her mother’s womb, the one place where she should have been safe.

Unwanted

Like many I am grieving, grieving for all those little girls, and all the little boys, deemed expendable and unwanted. I grieve too that so many other woman rejoice that Ireland will now routinely kill babies in the womb. It is a terrible moment for those of us who want above all to cherish and protect all life, providing support, comfort, compassion, respect and dignity for both the mother and the unborn child.

It was never the case that the Eighth Amendment prioritised the child over the mother, despite what has been said. Savita Halappanavar did not die because she was refused an abortion. She died because she was suffering from sepsis which kills so rapidly, and which was not properly diagnosed and managed.

Now Ireland’s doctors, not having been consulted about how abortion will be provided face the expectation that they will be the on the front line providing abortions. Such has been the language of choice during the campaign, that it admitted of no acknowledgement that whilst abortion will be available as a matter of choice during the first twelve weeks of pregnancy, actually it would, under the Heads of Bill, only be available thereafter in certain

I grieve for those who won’t be born

circumstances. The circumstances prescribed are where two doctors certify that there is a risk to the life of, or serious harm to the health of a pregnant woman and the unborn child has not reached ‘viability’ something yet to be defined although we know that life is viable now at 22 weeks of gestation, or in cases of emergency when one doctor will be able to make the decision and carry out the abortion.

In addition, in cases in which the unborn baby suffers from a condition which is likely to lead to its death either before or shortly after death, that child’s life will be able to be terminated right up to birth. There is no definition of such situations and it will be interesting to see how the Dáil defines them in it’s forthcoming legislation. Children do live on occasion long after birth with such conditions.

“The proposal appears to require nurses and midwives to participate. All that is required is that one doctor certifies”

How will this work? Risk to life and serious harm to health are high thresholds. Yet the expectation generated, and the language of all the politicians, is about respecting a woman’s right to choose. So what will happen if a doctor identifies no risk to life, no threat of serious harm to health? There would be no automatic right to an abortion, it would not be the woman’s choice, if the law were applied properly.

Above all will Ireland protect those doctors who have a conscientious objection to being asked to perform a surgical abortion, or to prescribe the medication which will end the life of the unborn child. In 2010 the Council of Europe’s Parliamentary Assembly adopted Resolution 1763 affirming the right of conscientious objection for medical

professionals. This resolution states: “No person, hospital or institution shall be coerced, held liable or discriminated against in any manner because of a refusal to perform, accommodate, assist or submit to an abortion, the performance of a human miscarriage, or euthanasia or any act which could cause the death of a human foetus or embryo, for any reason.”

It is non-binding but it reaffirms the normative understanding of freedom of conscience. The conscientious objection provision in Britain’s Abortion Act appears to be wider than the corresponding Irish proposal. It states that, apart from emergency situations, no person shall be under any duty, whether by contract or by any statutory or other legal requirement, to participate in any treatment authorised by this Act to which he has a conscientious objection.

The Heads of Bill published by the Government provide that medical practitioners, nurses and midwives shall not be obliged to “carry out or assist in the carrying out of” an abortion. This is much narrower than the wording of Resolution 1763 or the UK provision.

It also says that no medical practitioner shall be forced to carry out a termination in an emergency. However in an emergency situation the current Heads of Bill provide no corresponding protection for nurses and midwives, comparable to that provided in situations where there is no immediate risk to life.

The proposal appears to require nurses and midwives to participate. All that is required is that one doctor certifies, or decides that there is an emergency and that an abortion must be carried out to avert that emergency. This is something which nurses across Ireland may wish to consider.

It had been thought that the UK provision protected doctors and nurses from participating whether directly or indirectly in

managing, arranging, supervising or carrying out abortions.

“It is a terrible moment for those of us who want above all to cherish and protect all life”

That all changed in 2014 when the Supreme Court decided that two senior midwives who conscientiously objected to having to delegate tasks to, supervise or support

those directly involved in abortion, had no protection under the law. They had been able to assert this right of conscientious objection for their whole nursing careers – which started very shortly after the Act was passed – until an amalgamation of hospitals led to their being required to do this work. Those skilled, compassionate, experienced midwives were unable to continue to serve as midwives, doing what they had done all their professional lives: helping women through the

sometimes difficult process of carrying and bearing a child. They could no longer work as midwives.

It cannot be consistent with conscience to say, “I cannot do this, but I will order you to do it”. Surely if one delegates, supervises or supports an activity, one is not unreasonable in concluding that one shares moral responsibility for what happens. For that reason I have introduced a bill into Parliament at Westminster seeking to change the UK law and protect medical practitioners in this situation.

One question with which Ireland must now grapple is how will Ireland’s doctors, nurses and midwives, who came into medicine to “do no harm” and who object to being involved in any way in abortion, be protected?

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Part 1	3pm - 4pm	12 Noon	
Part 2	4.30pm - 5.30pm	Celebration of Eucharist	
Part 3	7.30pm - 8.30pm	Part 3	3pm - 4pm
		Part 4	4.30pm - 5.30pm

Fri 15 June (for all)		Sat 16 June (for all)	
'Mark's Portrait of the Disciple - then and now		Part 1	9.30am - 10.30am
A prayerful journey into selected encounters in the First Gospel.		Part 2	11am - 11.45am
(Optional for clergy if needed)		12 Noon	
		Celebration of Eucharist	
Part 1	3.30pm - 4.30pm	Part 3	3pm - 4pm
Part 2	5pm - 6pm	Part 4	4.30pm - 5.30pm
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# Bringing Christ to the streets

Staff reporter

Catholics groups across Ireland have been invited to attend the annual Cork Eucharistic Procession this Sunday, in a celebration of witnessing to the Faith.

The Procession, now in its 93rd year, commenced in 1926 when a group of businessmen in the city approached the then Bishop, Daniel Coholan, with a view to having a Eucharistic Procession in the city to mark the Feast of Corpus Christi. Since then it has become a feature of Catholic life in Cork.

Speaking about the importance of the Procession,

Bishop of Cork and Ross, John Buckley, said: "Our Faith is not something that we celebrate behind closed doors, it is something that is meant to affect our daily lives. Five years ago, while speaking at the Procession, Archbishop Brown said that we worship Jesus in our churches for fifty-one Sundays of the year. On the Feast of Corpus Christi, we worship Him publicly in the streets.

"We should seek opportunities to celebrate our Faith in public and give witness to the Faith that has been given to us. The Eucharistic Procession is an ideal way of doing that."

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# Secular songs now more popular at funerals

Colm Fitzpatrick

With news that Ireland's favourite funeral song is Andrea Bocelli's classic hit 'Time To Say Goodbye', composers and musicians are insisting that liturgical music is still relevant today.

In response to the research about the song, composer of Catholic liturgical music and a contemporary Christian songwriter Ian Callanan, said that he wasn't surprised about the popularity of the 1995 song, pointing out that secular music is common during religious ceremonies such as funerals.

"It's a song that resonates with people, it says something to the people. It kind of gives a comforting message,"



he said, stressing that it can be hard to find a balance between religious and liturgical music.

"You get a lot of singers that have connections with the funeral home and they're wedding and funeral singers,

and they're not necessarily liturgically trained if that makes sense," Mr Callanan told *The Irish Catholic*.

"They tend to often use an awful lot of secular music but now more and more priests are insisting that during a Christian burial, you have Christian music."

He added that the pastoral dimensions of religious services need to be discerned, especially when a family might want to use a song during a funeral that was a favourite of the deceased.

## Experience

In his experience, Mr Callanan said that he'll include a secular song somewhere in the service, but "the rest of the content needs to be of a

religious nature because it is a Christian burial".

Echoing these sentiments, liturgical composer Sr Marie Dunne explained that unless the song mentions reuniting with one another it doesn't "bear" much.

"It's Good Friday more than Resurrection – you know what I mean. It doesn't surprise me but it's not liturgical. It doesn't reflect Resurrection, it just reflects goodbye.

Sr Marie added that there is "lovely" liturgical music which can provide hope to people, but that because many people are no longer practicing Catholics, they may not be aware of it.

## Young pioneers in Limerick



Boys and girls from the Mercy Sisters Primary School and the CBS in Doon, Co. Limerick, were enrolled in the Juvenile Pioneer Total Absence Association at Doon Parish Church. Fr Pat Coffey was the celebrant with teachers Derek Walsh and Joanne O'Connell and Sr Joan Bradshaw in attendance.

# Community mourns loss of 'kind' Cameron Reilly

Chai Brady

Hundreds of people attended a candlelit vigil this week after the body of an 18-year-old, described as a "kind young man" by the parish priest, was found in a field in Louth.

Fr Michael Murtagh, PP of Dunleer parish, said he saw Cameron almost every day, and that he was "a delightful kid to meet and a delightful kid to watch grow up".

The priest, who has spent 12 years in

the parish, said: "He was a very quiet, shy, respectful kid, always out playing, lots of friends. I've seen him go through primary and secondary school and now on to first year in college.

The community are said to be "devastated" with Fr Murtagh saying "people are crying openly" in Beechwood, the estate where the family come from.

A post-mortem report confirmed the teenager was killed in violent circumstances, with there being a possibility of strangulation.

About 800 people attended the vigil in St Brigid's Church in Dunleer on Monday, and 18 candles were laid out to represent the 18 years of Cameron's life.

Mr Reilly's body was found on agricultural land off the Ardee Road.

Gardai have been "appealing to anyone who was in the vicinity of Shamrock Hill, Dunleer, between 4pm on Friday and 8.30am on Saturday morning" including taxi drivers, bus drivers or anyone with dashcam footage.



# The pro-life movement must become a long-term dissenting voice in society



True compassion helps someone carry their burden until the time hopefully comes when it doesn't feel like a burden anymore, writes

**David Quinn**

A friend who is good at number-crunching tells me that 34% of weekly Mass-goers who voted opted for abortion on May 25. He gleaned that figure from exit poll data. It is a horrifying statistic.

More than 1.4 million people voted 'Yes', versus 724,000 who voted 'No'. Of the 1.4 million who voted 'Yes', about 200,000 were regular Mass-goers. If they had all voted 'No', as they should have done, the 'Yes' side's margin of victory would have been 300,000 votes, not 700,000 voters. The right to life would still have been repealed, but not by a two-to-one landslide. The margin of victory would have been roughly 56/44, not 66/34.

Voting for abortion is clearly completely against the Catholic Faith and against Christian morality. That is especially so given the nature of the law the Government intends passing and the fact the unborn have now been stripped of all explicit Constitutional rights. Almost no abortions will be refused under the legislation the Government wants to pass.

## Succour

A Catholic who voted to repeal the Eighth either doesn't understand their own Faith properly, or else comes to Mass as a form of spiritual succour and the contents of the specific faith of the specific Church they attend doesn't matter all that much to them. They think they can call themselves 'Catholic' no matter what they think, do or say.

Thus, we had various politicians proudly announcing themselves to be both 'Yes' voters, and



Catholic, which would be a bit like insisting on saying you are a Fine Gaeler while regularly voting with Fianna Fáil.

Fine Gael politicians were particularly fond of announcing themselves to be Catholic and in favour of repeal. The Catholic Church was almost dared to do something about it. Fine Gael itself has no hesitation imposing the party line when it suits it. After all, it expelled six members of its parliamentary party in 2013 for voting against the abortion bill of that year. This is the political version of excommunication.

**“Compassion has to extend both to the mother facing an unplanned pregnancy”**

Some of the ordinary Mass-goers who voted 'Yes' will have done so out of a misguided view of compassion. That makes their vote understandable. But the compassion has to extend both to the mother facing an unplanned pregnancy, and to the unborn baby. Nothing less will do.

On Monday on *Today* with Sean O'Rourke, Bishop Kevin Doran said it was a sin for a Catholic to vote for abortion. Strictly speaking, that is correct, depending on the state of a person's conscience. (It is possible for someone in perfectly good conscience to do absolutely the wrong thing.)

But if a Catholic, knowing and understanding what

their Church believes about abortion, still voted 'Yes', then that is a sin, especially if they know deep down that abortion is wrong but voted for it anyway.

For the record, here is exactly what Bishop Doran said, because it is more nuanced and subtle than the headlines would have us believe. He said that if a practicing Catholic "voted 'Yes', knowing and intending that abortion would be the outcome, then you should consider coming to Confession, where you would be received with the same compassion that is shown to any other penitent".

Needless to say, Bishop Doran has been roundly attacked for what he said. But then again, those of us who are pro-life have been roundly condemned as miscreants and much worse on social media for daring to stand against 'progress'.

Pro-choicers have their own version of sin, and for them it is a sin to resist 'progress' and both the sin and the sinner must be expunged from society. Hence there are calls for the likes of Sen. Rónán Mullen, The Iona Institute, Cora Sherlock and John McGuirk among other leading pro-life voices to be silenced and never allowed in the media again.

This is incredible stuff. The pro-choice side lost the 1983 referendum by a two-to-one margin, which is the scale of their victory this time. But I don't remember anyone that mattered telling anti-repeal campaigners that they should withdraw from public life.

In fact, the campaign

against the Eighth back in 1983 had nearly the entirety of the media on their side, just like now, and there were immediate calls for the Eighth Amendment to be

repealed.

This makes clear that the battle to repeal the pro-life amendment from our Constitution began not last year, but 35 years ago, and the media have thrown absolutely everything at it in the time since then.

This probably goes a long way towards explaining the size of the repeal side's victory. The conditioning of public opinion in a pro-choice direction has been going on for decades.

## Swing voters

In addition, for many people, including very clearly many swing voters, abortion is now regarded as a part of modern life, a 'necessary evil'.

Many voters will have reasoned that Irish women are having abortions anyway and that it would be better to simply legalise it. If that means repealing the right to life of the unborn, then so be it. That's very sad, but it is the 'lesser' of two evils.

It didn't seem to occur to them to properly question

the social conditions that seem to make abortion such a widespread part of modern life, to wonder about the morality that says we have a right to eliminate unchosen burdens.

It is now vitally necessary that the pro-life movement become a long-term dissenting voice in society, one that says we should not do away with unchosen burdens like an unplanned pregnancy.

'Choice' is not the be-all and end-all. True compassion helps someone carry their burden until the time hopefully comes when it doesn't feel like a burden anymore. That is the task of all Christians who take their Faith seriously. This should go without saying.

Finally, the Catholic Church needs to do a far better job educating its members in the basics of their own Faith because if so many were so willing to vote down the right to life of the unborn, then something has gone very badly wrong.

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After the referendum result, Catholics need to remain clear, firm and passionate in the defence of life, writes **Archbishop Eamon Martin**

**T**he result of Friday's referendum on the Eighth Amendment confirms that we are living in a new time and a changed culture for Ireland. For the Church it is indeed a missionary time, a time for new evangelisation.

During the referendum campaign the Church sought to proclaim the Gospel of Life – that every human life is a precious gift from God – including the lives of all mothers and their unborn children. Choose life, we said. Every human life is beautiful, every human life is sacred, every human life is precious.

This remains true after the referendum result.

The right to life is not given to us by the Constitution of Ireland or by any law. All human beings have it 'as of right', whether we are wealthy or poor, healthy or sick.

Like many others who advocated a 'No' vote in the referendum, I am deeply saddened that we appear to have obliterated the right to life of all unborn children from our constitution and that this country is now on the brink of legislating for a liberal abortion regime.

### Concern

I am very concerned about the implications for society of interfering with the fundamental principle that the value of all human life is equal and that all human beings, born and unborn, have inherent worth and dignity. At a time when scientific and medical evidence is clearer than ever about the beginning of life, we have effectively decided that some human lives – in this case the lives of the unborn – are less significant and deserving of protection than others.

We have elevated the right to personal choice above the fundamental right to life itself.

# We have elevated the right to personal choice above the fundamental right to life itself



Protesters hold up banners on a bridge in Dublin. Photo: CNS

In January, I called upon Catholics to be 'missionaries for life' in their families and communities. As a bishop I have been overwhelmed by the witness of so many people who made such a huge effort to remind us that in pregnancy we are dealing with two lives – both in need of love, respect and protection. In particular I have been humbled by the witness of lay women and men, many of them mothers and fathers themselves, who became the voice for voiceless unborn children.

The pro-life cause in Ireland is now more important than ever as we endeavour to touch the hearts of women who will continue to face crisis in their pregnancy and find new ways of supporting them and their unborn children. The increased prevalence of violent death on our streets reminds us that striving to build a culture of life in Ireland is more relevant and pressing than ever.

**“We have effectively decided that some human lives – in this case the lives of the unborn – are less significant and deserving of protection than others”**

We are told that people voted 'Yes' for many reasons. Like many others I too found myself challenged by the personal stories of so many

women in Ireland both on the 'Yes' and the 'No' sides. I have realised how little I know personally about the pressures these women can be under and how so many of them feel isolated, neglected and alone in their distress.

**“This is our time for mission and teaching the truth of the Gospel”**

Tragic, and sometimes desperate, situations like these will not go away just because, as is now expected, abortion is made widely available in Ireland. The question remains: how can we channel the obvious care and concern of so many good people in Ireland to genuinely and practically help vulnerable women who feel that the only way out of crisis is to end the life of their unborn child?

How can we together show genuine 'compassion' in the literal sense of 'suffering with' women in their vulnerability? What new supports, apart from the option of abortion, will be in place for mothers and fathers at the point of crisis? And will our compassion extend to the life of the unborn child?

These questions remain for the whole of Irish society, including the Church.

At a time like this it is easy for faithful Catholics to become despondent. However, there is no point in standing transfixed, like the early apostles gazing into the sky, hoping this will all go away. This is our time for living. This is our time for believing. This is our time

for mission and teaching the truth of the Gospel.

In the midst of so much disappointment for those who voted 'No' to repeal-

ing the Eighth, it remains as important as ever to affirm the sanctity of all human life, and that the direct and intentional taking of the life of

any innocent human being is always gravely wrong.

Sadly, in many countries of the world the Church must proclaim this Gospel of Life in the context of abortion being widely available, and where people are increasingly becoming desensitised to the value of every human life.

To continue to proclaim this truth, in love, may sometimes seem like a 'mission impossible', but Pope Francis makes it clear in his Apostolic Exhortation *Gaudete et Exsultate* – published in April, on holiness in today's world – that this is not optional for Catholics: "Our defence of the innocent unborn...needs to be clear, firm and passionate, for at stake is the dignity of a human life, which is always sacred and demanding of love for each person, regardless of his or her stage of development."

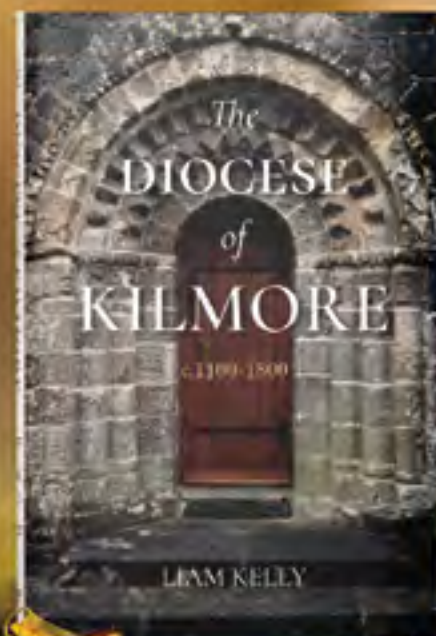
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# It was no silent revolution

The tsunami of the vote in favour of abortion was no silent revolution, it was the biggest wake-up call ever given to the Church in Ireland and each one of us who claim to be Catholic must listen to it and take it very seriously. One thing is clear after last Friday's vote; things can't go on as before for the Church here in Ireland.

Whatever we are doing simply isn't working. The teaching of the Church on the sacredness of human life is not a periphery doctrine, and yet there are Catholics who simply ignored this doctrine and presume it's business as usual. It can't be! However, as Christians, we believe in the power of the Risen Lord therefore we face this challenge with hope.

We must begin by applauding and recognising the extraordinary work done by thousands of volunteers on the pro-life campaign. Their energy and commitment to the cause against all the media, most of the political establishment and the ruling elites were amazing. As it



While the Church can never become a cult of the perfect, it has to help each of us along the narrow road to a deeper relationship with God, writes

**Fr John Harris OP**

has been noted by some foreign media outlets, given the weight of the pro-abortion lobby it is a miracle that the 'No' vote was so high.

Here is the first place we must begin to see hope for the Church. We have within our ranks thousands of enthusiastic and committed people of all ages. The pastoral challenge will be to harness this committed core for the future. I think every Church community needs to acknowledge the work done by those in their midst who went out and knocked on doors, those who put up posters and put them up again when they were pulled down and those who courageously went on various radio and television programmes.

That's the easy bit. Given

the new reality of what happened no one in the Catholic Church can be complacent, each of us and every institution run by or supported by Catholics need to have a deep look into their souls and organisations to see if they are truly advancing the message of the Gospel. Are they focused on facilitating the encounter with Jesus?

## Empire

CS Lewis once wrote: "If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next. The apostles themselves, who set on foot the conversion of the Roman Empire, the great men who built up the middle ages, the English evangeli-



Demonstrators hold posters in a pre-Referendum march in Dublin.

cals who abolished the slave trade, all left their mark, on earth, precisely because their minds were occupied with heaven. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this one. Aim at heaven and you will get earth 'thrown in', aim at earth and you will get neither."

Recently Pope Francis wrote an Apostolic Exhortation on the call to holiness in today's world, this of course is an echo of one of the central, but largely forgotten teaching of the Second Vatican Council, the universal call to holiness. This is the central mission of the Church. Each and every one of us need to ask ourselves, "am I advancing on the road to holiness".

The main task of the Catholic Church is to get souls to heaven, we seem to have largely forgotten this. Recently I heard of a lady who said that she has stopped going to Mass in a particular church because the priest there speaks too much about God.

## Choice

The real choice facing every human being is either heaven or hell, either to accept God or reject him. While the Church can never become a cult of the perfect it nevertheless has to help each of us along the narrow road to a deeper relationship with God. Let us begin by acknowledging and supporting those who are involved in the various movements in the Church which are bringing people to Jesus.

We need to look around and see the many green shoots in the life of the Irish

**“The main task of the Catholic Church is to get souls to heaven, we seem to have largely forgotten this”**

Church. We need to build upon and encourage those who want to be Catholics, by educating them better in the ways of the Faith, there is a profound need for basic catechesis.

Writing this as a Dominican I am acutely aware of the need for doctrinal preaching. From the results it is clear that for lots of Catholics our Faith is devoid of content. For most Catholics the only time they receive any intellectual input into the development of their Faith is the few minutes of the homily on a Sunday.

It seems that most of us

have forgotten that as Catholics we do stand for something and we do have central doctrines that we all required to believe.

In the midst of the ocean of the secular media the weekend homily may seem minuscule, but we have to start someplace to rebuild.

Last week made it obvious that we not only are we not reaching those on the peripheries we are losing those sitting in front of us every weekend. Let's begin with the doctrinal content of the weekend homily.



The cover of Pope Francis' exhortation, *Gaudete et Exsultate* ("Rejoice and Be Glad").

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The Church should no longer depend upon State funding for pastoral initiatives, even when they seem to coincide with the good of society, writes **Bishop Kevin Doran**

I awoke last Saturday with a heavy heart because it was already clear that the people of Ireland had voted by a significant majority in favour of abortion. My sadness is not only for the innocent children whose lives will be taken from them, even before they have a chance to draw breath. I am sad because Irish society, with all its creativity, seems to have nothing better to offer women. I am sad because of what this mean for doctors and nurses who are called to be advocates for life.

The abortion lobby has been trying to remove the Eighth Amendment for over 30 years. Since the 1980s, the National Union of Journalists (NUJ) has had a pro-abortion policy. Against that background, pro-life women and men, young and old, worked day and night to defend the right to life. They took on the role that the opposition would normally be expected to perform in a democratic society. Though unsuccessful, they gave an extraordinary public service.

### Comments

To judge by comments on social media since the referendum, some people still thought they could remove the Eighth Amendment and then negotiate for a more restrictive abortion regime. The party atmosphere at Dublin Castle and the long-line of self-congratulatory interviews on national media will have made it clear to them by now that this is not going to happen.

In public debate, when the truth is inconvenient, it is often replaced by something which sounds comfortably like the truth. This happened time and time again in the course of the recent campaign, when respectable peo-

# Pro-life supporters gave an extraordinary public service



A pro-life poster is seen in front of Christ Church Cathedral in Dublin and, right, a leading member of the Love-Both campaign, Katie Ascoug. Photo: John Mclloy



ple engaged in what George Orwell would have described as "doublethink".

They argued that abortion was necessary to save the lives of women. This was not true but, if you say things often enough, people begin to believe you. People these days seem to focus more on their feelings than on the facts.

The repeal campaign spoke about care and compassion, and people liked the sound of that. Many failed to notice that there was no hint of compassion for the baby in the womb.

The Catholic bishops did not seek to lead the national campaign, because this is a

role more appropriate of the lay faithful. There were plenty of competent lay Catholics among the leaders of the campaign.

**“Pro-life women and men, young and old, worked day and night to defend the right to life”**

The bishops, individually and collectively, were sensitive but clear about the teaching of the Church on abortion. We were unambiguous about the need to retain the Constitutional protection of the

unborn. Social media was used very effectively to promote the pastoral messages of the bishops and to provide attractive resources on the theme of respect for life. It tends to be forgotten, also, that other Christian traditions, most notably the Presbyterian Church and a number of bishops of the Church of Ireland also strongly advocated a 'no' vote.

Today, in many countries where abortion has been legal for years, Christians continue to bear faithful witness to the fact that every human being without exception has an inherent right to life which comes from God, in whose

image we are all made. That hope must inspire us now as we proclaim afresh the Gospel of Life, both in the political arena and in the renewal of our pastoral outreach.

As Church, we will need to explore new and effective ways of supporting women and their unborn children, families in difficulty and women who have had an abortion.

**“Serious Faith formation must become an integral element of the life of every parish”**

We should no longer expect or depend upon State funding for pastoral initiatives, even when they seem to coincide with the good of society. If the Church is to be active in the public space, it will have to rely on the generosity of the faithful. In previous generations, when buildings were required, that generosity was never lacking. Today it is about investing in people rather than buildings.

We also need to find new ways of helping Irish women and men in this generation to rediscover the dignity of human life from conception to natural death.

The exit polls would suggest that only about 10% of people allowed their religious belief to influence their decision. I accept that some

Catholics may be angry with their bishops for a variety of reasons, but that in itself would not be a reason to vote for abortion. I believe it comes down to Faith and the difference between Faith and religion.

Faith is a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and religion is the communal expression of that faith. For many people who would still consider themselves Catholics, religion has become divorced from Faith. This is partly because, for far too long, we have tended to rely exclusively on a model of faith formation which depends on the schools and which, apart from the Sunday homily, ends for most people at the age of 17. Serious Faith formation must become an integral element of the life of every parish.

The outcome of the referendum brings this into sharper focus, as does the fact that the present Government seems intent on weakening the structures of religious education even in Catholic schools.

St John speaks of Jesus as "a light shining in the darkness; a light that the darkness cannot overcome" (John 1). May the light of Christ now fill our hearts anew, so that we in our turn may be once again "a light to the world" (Matthew 5).

**Dr Kevin Doran is Bishop of Elphin.**





# We need to get used to being a minority

**T**he people have spoken, emphatically. While most of us who like to think we are in the political know saw the Eighth Amendment referendum campaign heading in a clear direction in the closing days, almost no one anticipated the comprehensive 66.4%-33.6% win for the pro-repeal side.

Much has been written and said already as to why this was the case. And there is something to the points made by the commentariat. There is also some debate now on what this means for the Catholic Church in Ireland. Some have contended that it signals, similar to the result in the referendum on same-sex marriage before it, the end of 'Catholic Ireland' – and would add the words 'thankfully' or 'at last' to their postscript. Others, noting the census figures revealing that 78% of the population still claim membership and referencing historic trends, opine that rumours of the Church's demise are greatly exaggerated.

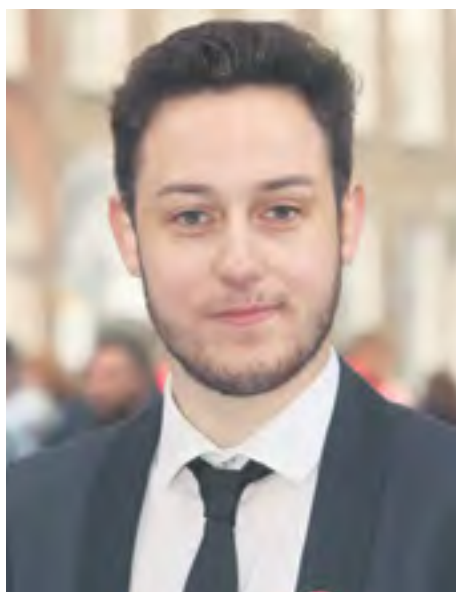
Regardless of one's view on the question, the institutional Church in Ireland must consider its position. It is a pity that its public profile now revolves around conservative stances on profound and complex cultural matters, as opposed to its progressive and efficacious advocacy for people on society's margins – here and around the world. If anything, the Church must do a better job of communicating this truth, so that it becomes more than just an oft-cited footnote to criticism from those who allege that it is out of touch with everyday life in 2018.

## Rejection

No matter how the Church pivots in the wake of the rejection of the Eighth Amendment it was so central to enshrining – I actually do not expect a dramatic retreat from sight or any conscious attempt to reassert itself – it is vital that the compassion that is arguably the defining element of the extraordinary message of Jesus Christ be stressed at every turn. Nonetheless, the challenges confronting Irish Catholicism are daunting.

In the referendum campaign, broadly speaking, the

After the referendum, the challenge for us Catholics is how do we ensure that the next generation embraces what means so much to us, writes Larry Donnelly



Among the personal stories aired during the Referendum campaign was that of Gavin Boyne, a 20-year-old philosophy student at Trinity College Dublin. His mother was 16 when she got pregnant after a one-night stand, and she considered an abortion abroad. Photos: CNS

Church did not play an active role, probably because the leadership did not believe that it would assist the 'No' side in the debate. The reaction to Bishop Kevin Doran's interview on Seán O'Rourke's radio programme on Monday, where he suggested that self-identifying Catholics who voted 'Yes' might go to Confession, indicates that this was a politically wise decision.

**“How do we ensure that the next generation embraces what means so much to us?”**

It was no surprise that those who are not Catholics and have little good to say about the Church attacked the bishop. It was striking, however, that numerous practising Catholics contacted RTÉ

**“I am hopeful that they respect those of us whose Faith, as well as other considerations, leads us to have sincere reservations about a liberal abortion regime”**

to say how disgusted they were by his comments. And in fairness to Bishop Doran, his statement was entirely consistent with Church teaching and with what we are called to believe about the sanctity of all human life from the moment of conception until natural death. May 25 demonstrates that lots of us either do not share this view or do not think we can impose it upon others.

This tacit endorsement of secularism from within the Irish Church, coupled with the eager embrace from those who long ago abandoned it, is in many ways a good thing. Church and State should be separate. This is a pluralist society. Archbishop Diarmuid Martin's agreement that many more schools should be divested of Catholic patronage reflects the Church's acceptance of what is incontrovertible. While the process of doing so has been



A young girl glances at a Referendum poster in the lead-up to the vote.



Fr Thomas Harrington arrives to vote at Knock National School.

slow thus far, it is likely to accelerate now.

All of this presents new challenges for we the people – men and women, boys and girls – who are the Church. In a country where its influence is in inexorable decline, how do we collectively maintain our personal Faith and our esteem for Catholic moral teaching? And even more importantly, how do we ensure that the next generation embraces what means so much to us?

## Minority

We are a minority. Over the past few weeks, the increasing omnipresence of 'yes' and 'tá' badges was an inescapable manifestation of our new status. I was particularly struck by the badges being worn and the conversations being

had by parents like me dropping and collecting their very young children to and from school.

I respect their opinion and their willingness to advocate accordingly. I am hopeful that they respect those of us whose Faith, as well as other considerations, leads us to have sincere reservations about a liberal abortion regime.

In this context, though, I have no doubt that it will not be long before my own five year old son, who accompanies me to Mass most weeks, begins asking the dreaded question: "Daddy, why do we go to Mass? Hardly any of my friends do." I have been thinking of how to respond. In so doing, two words keep coming to mind: humble and robust.

Humble in that I recognise

my own flaws, my Church's undeniable shortcomings and the absolute right of others to believe differently. Robust in that I do not apologise for my conviction – and am willing to defend my allegiance to Catholicism and all that it entails.

I am fairly certain that he will hear me out. But I really pray that he – and all of our children growing up in a changed Ireland – will agree. In any case, being simultaneously humble and robust may be the best way forward us and for our Church.

**1** Larry Donnelly is a Boston attorney, a Law Lecturer at NUI Galway and a media commentator on politics, law and current affairs in Ireland and the US. Twitter: @LarryPDonnelly



# ‘Homemade’ picnic and procession planned for Meath Diocese parishes



## Chai Brady

A Parish Family Day aimed at highlighting the “importance of families coming together” and to promote the upcoming World Meeting of Families will be held this weekend in Meath.

Organised by the Parish Pastoral Council in Trim, all their neighbouring parishes are invited to take part in their annual Corpus Christi Procession, as well as a picnic.

On Sunday, June 3, people are asked to bring a picnic and sit down on the grounds of St Patrick’s Church: coming together as a family.

## Families

Fr Seán Henry said: “It raises awareness of the whole idea of family and the importance of families coming together. It’s bringing to peoples’ attention that the Church itself is a family and the parish is a family of families.”

“People coming to Mass as a family is what we would like to see. When you talk about young people going to Mass, the ones who go tend to come with their families and the children as well.”

The annual procession will take place at 3pm and will be expanded this year to include other parishes in the deanery. The picnic will be held afterwards on the lawn – weather permitting – and local musi-



Mary Doyle, Mark Gannon, Rita Fleming, Frankie Dyar, Hannah O’Connor, Fr. Pat O’Toole visit the WMOF icon in St Patrick’s Church, Castlerea, Co. Roscommon over the weekend.

cians will provide entertainment. Some refreshments will be provided through the pastoral centre on the day.

“I would say awareness is most important, and these events tend to raise awareness of the World Meeting of Families. You’re promoting it, you’re heading it with the World meeting of Families,” Fr Henry said.

“Hopefully if we have weather like we’ve had in recent times, people will sit down and enjoy it,” he added, “it will be very much a home-made event”.

The Diocese of Meath have shown a true commitment to family as a second WMOF family event, reported last week and organised by Kinnegad parish, will take place with Mass on Sunday June 17 starting a 12 noon.



Patricia Heneghan, Gertie Kelly, Fr John McManus PP, Olivia Vaughan, Frankie Dyar, Mariah Kelly also visit the WMOF icon Castlerea.

## Calling all choirs – music is an integral part of WMOF2018

Music will be an integral part of all liturgical celebrations at WMOF. Organisers are now seeking applications from thousands of choirs across all dioceses in Ireland to participate in the WMOF2018 liturgies.

Choirs of up to 1,000 singers will participate at liturgies on each day of the Pastoral Congress in the RDS and up to 5,000 singers will perform at the Papal Mass in the Phoenix Park.

Many choirs in Ireland will be aware of this opportunity, as the WMOF offices have already shared the details with delegates in each diocese.

Interested parties are asked to apply now as registrations for choirs are closing soon.

Visit our website to learn more how your choir can apply and learn what music has been chosen by the Liturgy Committee to be part of the WMOF liturgical repertoire.

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

**email [chai@irishcatholic.ie](mailto:chai@irishcatholic.ie)**

**01 6874020**

**Twitter @ChaiBradyIC**



## Families from all over the world register for WMOF

Of the over 25,000 people already registered to attend the World Meeting of Families 2018 (WMOF2018) Pastoral Congress, 10,000 are from overseas, with the remaining being registrations from within Ireland. Organisers hope to welcome between 10,000 – 12,000 international visitors to WMOF2018 – this would be the largest international attendance at a World Meeting of Families gathering to date.

Single day tickets for Friday’s programme in the RDS are now booked out, but three-day tickets – which include Friday, or single day tickets for Wednesday or Thursday – are still available at the moment.

Those planning to come to the WMOF2018 family programme in the RDS from August 22-24 should book now, as the organising team believe they will reach capacity for tickets in the RDS before August.

Presently, tickets for the Festival of Families in Croke Park and the Closing Mass in Phoenix Park are not directly available on general release until the completion of consultations with the relevant statutory agencies on capacity, transport, security, safety and other issues. When these tickets become available they will be free. Further details will be released in the coming weeks.

Tickets for the Festival of Families and the Final Mass can be booked now as part of the Congress Registration at: <https://www.worldmeeting2018.ie/en/Tickets/Congress-Registration>.

## Pope Francis grants indulgences for WMOF pilgrims

Pope Francis has granted the gift of plenary indulgences on the occasion of the World Meeting of Families 2018.

The indulgences will be extended to attending pilgrims who participate at events during WMOF2018, including the Closing Mass in the presence of Pope Francis.

Those who are unable to be physically present and are following events from afar may also obtain the plenary indulgence if “united in spirit and in thought with the faithful present in Dublin” they prayerfully participate, particularly in the Holy Father’s broadcast words and messages”.

“Partial indulgences will be granted to those who participate in and extend their own prayers for families.”



# Out&About

## Celebrating Pentecost in Fermanagh



**FERMANAGH:** Clergy and students attend the annual ecumenical prayer service marking the feast of Pentecost, which was held at Camagh Bay on the shores of Lower Lough Erne.



**SLIGO:** Bishop Kevin Doran is pictured with Bishop John Kirby and Archbishop Dermot Clifford at the funeral of the late Bishop Christy Jones in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Photo: Mary Regan



**DUBLIN:** Lord Kevin Shinkwin, a disabled member of the House of Lords, chats to Monica Hadarean and her son Cris who has Down syndrome while he was on a visit to Hugh's House which provides accommodation in Dublin adjacent to the Temple St and Rotunda Hospitals for families and parents forced to move to Dublin while their sick children are in hospital. Photo: John McElroy

### IN SHORT

#### Mass marks first year of day in Roman calendar

To mark the first year the Memorial of Mary – Mother of the Church was inserted into the Roman calendar for the Monday after Pentecost, local schools and residents of a local nursing home attended Mass in Ss Peter and Paul's in Clonmel.

At the Mass the 5th and 6th classes of the Sisters of Charity and Ss Peter and Paul's National School, Clonmel, led the singing at Mass proclaimed the Word of God and led the prayer of the faithful and offertory. Residents from the local nursing home in Melview also attended with the help of the Clonmel and District

Wheelchair association, along with many local parishioners.

Under the theme 'All generations will call me blessed', it was described as "a wonderful prayerful Mass with the students meeting some of the residents, who recalled the May Altar, and processions from years gone by".

There were some lovely comments of Our Lady's Altar and some of the residents were in tears as they remembered the "good old days". The children were given a chance to focus on past generations and stories of years gone by and see how the line from the *Magnificat*, which was sung after Communion, came to life as the generations gathered to celebrate this historic day in the Church.

#### Annual Pentecost ecumenical prayer service held in Fermanagh

The annual ecumenical prayer service to mark the feast of Pentecost was held at Camagh Bay on the shores of Lower Lough Erne in mid-May.

Camagh Bay looks out at the ancient Christian site of Innishmaccsaint, an important monastic settlement which can trace its roots back to the 6th Century.

Approximately 100 people from all over the Diocese of Clogher took part in Sunday's service, which was presided over by the

Church of Ireland Bishop of Clogher, Right Rev. John McDowell and Catholic Diocesan Administrator, Msgr Joseph McGuinness.

Also participating were local clergy from the surrounding parishes of Innishmaccsaint and Botha, Rev. Chancellor David Skuce, Rev. Sampson Ajuka and Fr Jimmy McPhillips. The music was led by Michele Elliot. During the service, two young people, Blathin Bogue from Mount Lourdes Grammar School and Lewis Anderson from Erne Integrated College spoke of the power and influence of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

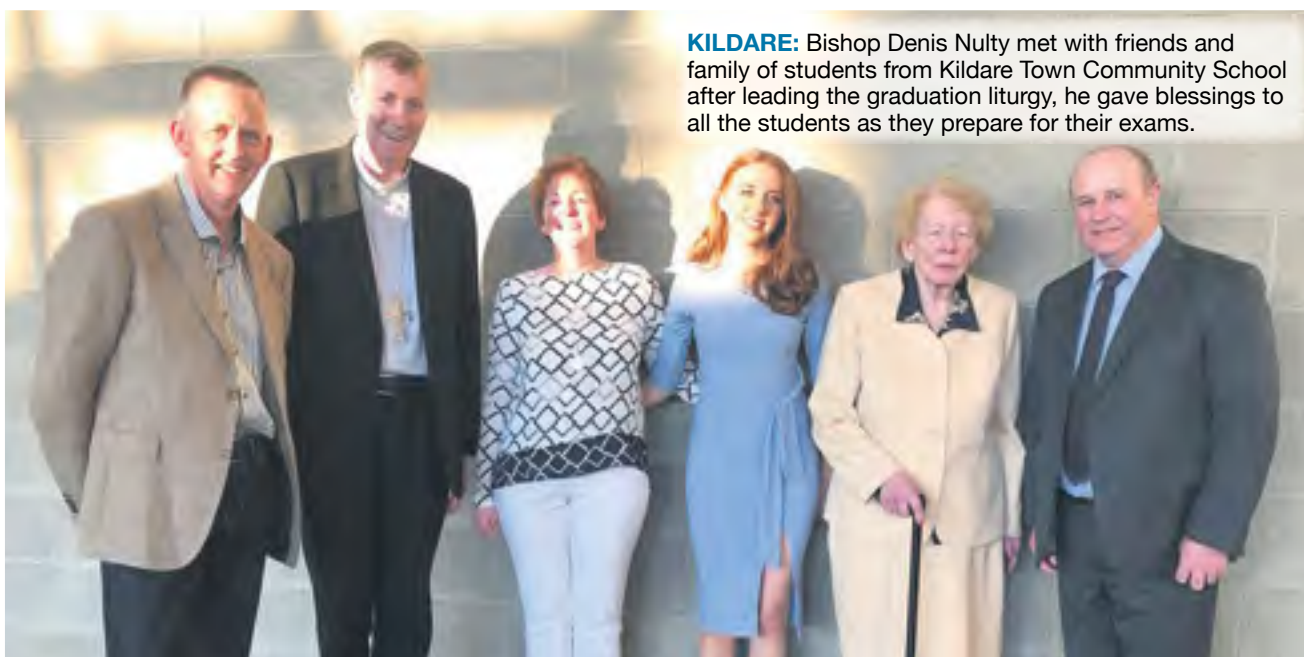
Bishop McDowell delivered a short sermon in which he spoke of the importance of Christians gathering together in places associated with the rich heritage of Christian faith, such as Innishmaccsaint. He compared



Edited by Chai Brady  
chai@irishcatholic.ie



Events deadline is a week in advance of publication



**KILDARE:** Bishop Denis Nulty met with friends and family of students from Kildare Town Community School after leading the graduation liturgy, he gave blessings to all the students as they prepare for their exams.



**ITALY:** Declan and Carmel Waters pose with Cardinal Burke after a conference where prayers were said for Ireland in Chiesa Maria dei Camponelli.

▼ **CLARE:** Parishioners attending Rosary and Benediction at the grotto in St Michaels Villas were described as a "powerhouse of prayer for the month of May" by Fr Brendan Quinlivan, PP.



**CAVAN:** Bishop Michael Smith is pictured with the Smith family, who presented him with a specially engraved Cavan crystal bowl and a copy of Fáilte Pope Francis to mark his 35th Confirmation ceremony in the parish during Kingscourt Parish Confirmation on Pentecost Sunday.



the gathering that day with that of the disciples on the day of Pentecost. He urged all present to recognise and utilise the gifts of the Spirit in their daily lives, including those moments of tension and challenge.

## Relics of St Oliver Plunkett to visit Cavan

First class relics of St Oliver Plunkett will visit the Conaty Chapel of the Kilmore Diocesan Pastoral Centre in Cavan on Tuesday, June 5.

The relics will arrive at the Centre at 10am and will be available for

veneration until 10pm that evening.

There will be a lunchtime Mass in the Chapel at 1.15pm offered by Rev. Callistus Isara, CC Munterconnaught and Visiting Chaplain to St Clare's College, Ballyjamesduff, for those doing examinations at this time.

Fr Ultan McGoochan, Diocesan Director of Pastoral Services and Adult Faith Development, will celebrate Mass at 5.45pm and deliver the homily.

Bishop Leo O'Reilly of Kilmore, will be the principal celebrant at the 8pm Mass. Fr Philip Gaffney PP, St Mary's Parish in Drogheda will be the homilist. The music for this Mass will be provided by the combined choirs

from the parish of Kilmainhamwood and Moybologue.

There will also be opportunities to avail of the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the course of the day from 12 noon to 1pm; 4.30pm to 5.30pm and 6.30pm to 7.45pm.

Petitions/Offerings may be sent to the Kilmore Diocesan Pastoral Centre, The Conaty Centre, Cullies, Cavan H12 E5C7.

All petitions received will be placed beside the relic during its visit. Please write 'St Oliver on the top left hand corner of the envelope. For further information, please ring the Centre on 049 4375004.

## CLARE

As the Leaving Cert and Junior Cert exams approach students and their families are invited to the Church of Our Lady, Roslevan on Saturday June 2 at 6pm for an exam Mass, organised by Mid Clare Youth Council.

Nurses for Lourdes: The Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes needs nurses to help with the sick during this year's pilgrimage from June 26 to July 1. Retired or active nurses are equally welcome and will help to give the sick a memorable experience. Volunteers can contact Michael: 086 381 3677

## CORK

Annual Novena in honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus will commence in Mogeely Church on Thursday, May 31 to Friday, June 8. Rosary Novena Prayer with reflection and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament each evening at 8pm. Mass celebrated on final night of Novena.

Cloyne Diocesan Pioneer Total Abstinence Association's annual Mass will be held on the Feast of the Sacred Heart, Friday June 8, from 7.30-8.30pm in the Church of the Immaculate Conception.

## DUBLIN

An afternoon of prayer will be held in the Church of the Mother of Divine Grace, Ballygall Road East, on Saturday June 9 from 2-5pm. Fr Thaddeus Doyle will conduct the event. Contact: 01 8379596.

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.

Sacred Heart Novena at St John Vianney on Ardlea Road from May 31-June 8. Mass with invited preacher at 10am each day and at 7.30 pm on Friday, June 1 and 8, also at Sunday, Masses at 6pm, 9.30am and 11.30am. Holy Hour on Thursdays, May 31 and June 7 at 7.30 pm. Contact: 01847 4123.

Avila Charismatic Prayer Group - 'If you only knew what God is Offering' Life in the Spirit Seminars - each Wednesday until June 6 at 8pm in Avila Carmelite Centre, Bloomfield Avenue, Donnybrook. Speakers include: Fr Brendan Walsh, Charles Whitehead and Fr Gerry Campbell. 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.

## KERRY

Music Ministry Together 2018 will be held July 3-8 in Cistercian College Roscrea. 'Come to Me' is the theme of this year's course and is based on Matthew 11 'Come to me all you who are burdened and I will give you rest'. Details available on www.musicministry.ie.

## KILKENNY

First Saturday Devotions, Adora-

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

## LIMERICK

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

## LOUTH

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

Mass in reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary will take place at 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.

St Anthony's Novena from Tuesday June 5-13 with Fr Liam McCarthy OFM in St Peter's Church, West Street in Drogheda. Masses: 10.30am and 7.30pm daily except Saturday, June 9 which is 10.30am and 6.15pm. Sunday: Mass at 11am and Holy Hour at 7.30pm.

## MEATH

Family Picnic Day in the grounds of St Patrick's Church, Trim, on Sunday, June 3, at 3pm, after a Feast of Corpus Christi processions around the grounds. All welcome, please bring a picnic. Tea/coffee available.

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

## 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.

Annual Jubilee of Marriages takes place on June 10 from 3pm-8pm in the Sacred Heart Church, Parish Office on Abbey Street, followed by an optional celebratory meal at the Abbey Hotel. Further info: 090 6626298 or email: rosparof@eircom.net

## TIPPERARY

A day of prayer for families at Rackett Hall Hotel, Roscrea. Date: Saturday, June 9; Time 9.30am-5pm. Rosaries, Confession, Mass, Adoration, guest speakers, healing ministry. For more info, please call 061 380382.

## WICKLOW

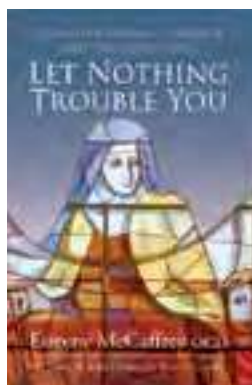
The Carmelite Nuns in Delgany will have a Corpus Christi procession after 9.30am Mass on Sunday June 3. First Communicants are especially welcome to lead the procession. Refreshments afterwards.

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



### Let Nothing Trouble You

Eugene McCafferty



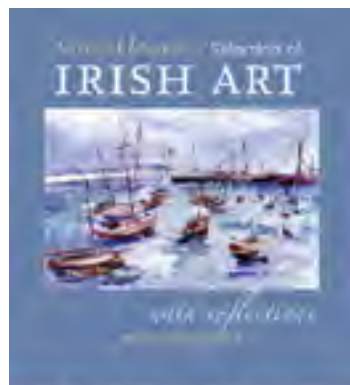
*Let Nothing Trouble You* explores the remarkable story of St Teresa of Avila and the influence of this charming, attractive, witty woman, who openly shares her humanity with us and teaches us how to make our own dreams come true.

was  
€9.99

€4.99

### Sr Maureen's Selection of Irish Art

Maureen MacMahon



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

was  
€9.99

€4.99

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Seán Ó Duinn



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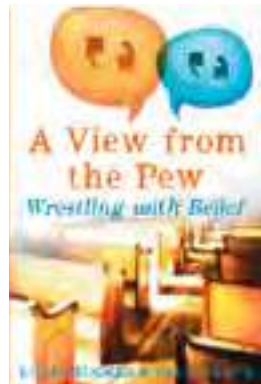
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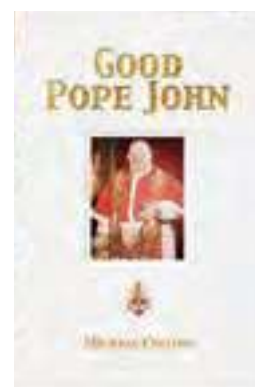
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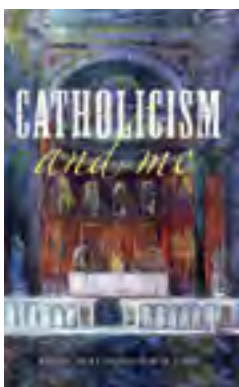
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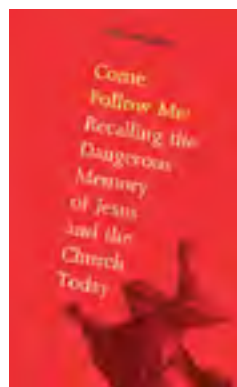
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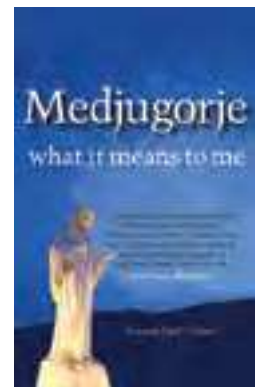
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# World Report

## IN BRIEF

### Catholics condemn killing of protestors by police

Thousands of Catholics marched in solidarity with those protesting a multi-million euro copper-processing unit in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu on May 27 after an earlier showdown with police left 13 dead.

The demonstrators' clashes with security officials last week resulted in officers opening fire. At least four Catholics were killed, according to media reports. One Catholic priest was also injured.

Some five days later all of the parishes belonging to Madras-Mylapore Archdiocese, which covers the state capital of Chennai, conducted meetings and marches in their areas condemning the police brutality in the port town of Tuticorin, a Christian centre in coastal Tamil Nadu.

### Priest contracts Ebola in Africa

A Catholic priest has contracted the Ebola virus in the Democratic Republic of Congo amid a continuing outbreak that began in the nation earlier this month.

The priest, whose name was not released, serves in the eastern diocese of Mbandaka-Bikoro, which has around one million residents. Medical sources said that the priest who tested positive for Ebola has been quarantined.

The Catholic priest joins more than 50 other individuals in the nation infected with Ebola, according to new statistics released by the Congolese Health Ministry.

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## Pope rebukes FIFA for reports of slave labour abuses in Qatar

A papal foundation is tackling modern-day slavery as reports have surfaced that hundreds of trafficked victims have died building facilities that will be used to host the football World Cup in Qatar in 2022.

In October 2017, during an encounter Pope Francis had with the Pontifical Scholas Occurrentes foundation, Argentine Guillermo Whpei, President of the Foundation for International Democracy, presented the Pontiff with a report called 'Behind the Passion' on the tournament.

"I gave him this report, and due to our encounter and the reading of the material, His Holiness sent a letter to the president of FIFA through Scholas, asking for an explanation of these allegations he'd received from us," Whpei said.

"We know that some 2,000 migrants have died in the construction of the tournament's facilities already."

The Pope's letter was addressed to Italian Gianni



Pope Francis receives a jersey with his name from Gianni Infantino, president of FIFA, the international soccer governing body, during a meeting of Scholas Occurrentes at the Vatican in 2016. Photo: CNS

Infantino, president of the Fédération Internationale de Football Association, better known as FIFA. The missive is signed by the two global directors of Scholas, Enrique A. Palmeyro and José María del Corral.

### Violations

The letter details that Francis received the report with accusations of cases of slavery

found in Qatar for the building of the infrastructure of the World Cup.

"The description of situations of flagrant submission and violation of the human rights of workers and immigrants in Qatar has motivated our concern and that of the [Scholas] sports council," the letter says.

Del Corral and Palmeyro also told Infantino that they

want to meet with him to "urgently" address the issue, and that they can either welcome him in the Vatican or go to his offices.

In 2016, Infantino was in the Vatican, where at an informal encounter, Francis asked him to fight the corruption that plagued the international soccer federation.

In 2015, US federal prosecutors disclosed cases of corruption by officials and associates of FIFA. As a fall-out of that investigation, which saw several defendants pleading guilty and agreeing to forfeit more than \$40 (€34.7) million, Sepp Blatter resigned from his position as president of the organisation. In addition, an investigation was launched into Qatar 2022 regarding accusations of bribery in the bidding process.

FIFA and Scholas signed an agreement to carry out together activities linked to promoting peace in different soccer matches, part of a program called 'Fut-Val', akin to 'soccer with values'.

## Crowds gather for alleged crying Virgin Mary statue

A Virgin Mary statue at a Hispanic Catholic church in southeastern New Mexico is drawing visitors from around the region because it appears tears are flowing from the statue's face.

Visitors of the bronze statue located inside the auxiliary building of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church said the statue wept. "There were tears coming down her face again," said church manager Judy Ronquillo, who was in the building last Tuesday when it took place.

Ronquillo said the statue began crying as the group inside the church finished a Rosary. "It's beautiful," she said. "The tears aren't watery, they are

an oil-like substance and the tears smell like roses."

Fellow parishioner Laura Cisneros, who was with her family at the Sunday Mass when the statue began crying, was also present Tuesday. She says it was "amazing".

Tuesday's visitors came from throughout southeastern New Mexico and west Texas, as far as San Antonio and El Paso, Ronquillo said.

Odessa resident Brian Morales was one of them. He said he believes God saved his life in a car accident a year ago.

"God touched me," Morales said.

"Since I have seen him, I am a changed man and I felt the need to come here. He has me (alive) for a reason. I want to start college and eventually help people who are diagnosed with cancer. What's happening here with the Virgin Mary is great."

The church has not closed since the statue began weeping on May 20, Ronquillo said. Parishioners and church staff have taken turns watching the statue. The line to visit last Tuesday afternoon was around 100 people long and reached from one side of the auxiliary room to the next, near the building's entrance.

## Caritas reacts to Indonesia volcano eruptions

Church social action charity Caritas has rushed to distribute thousands of face-masks and provide eye drops to people living in Indonesia's Semarang Archdiocese following a series of volcanic eruptions.

Considered one of Indonesia's most active volcanoes, Mount Merapi, in central Java, has seen at least nine eruptions over the last month, sending steam and ash clouds 6,000 meters

into the sky, seriously affecting air quality for thousands of people.

The last eruption of the 2,930-meter volcano occurred last week.

As of Monday, a three-kilometre exclusion zone around the mountain was yet to be lifted.

Fr Martinus Sutomo, deputy director of the local Caritas branch, said at least 15,000 masks and eye drops had been

distributed to those living in the volcano's vicinity, and who had complained of the air quality and irritation to people's eyes as a result of the ash.

"We will continue to distribute them until the alert status returns to normal," he said.

### Cooperation

Distribution of the aid was carried out with the cooperation of 11 parishes

in the archdiocese, including St Mary of Lourdes Parish in Magelang district.

Tarsisius Sugiono, a parish volunteer, said his parish established four distribution points.

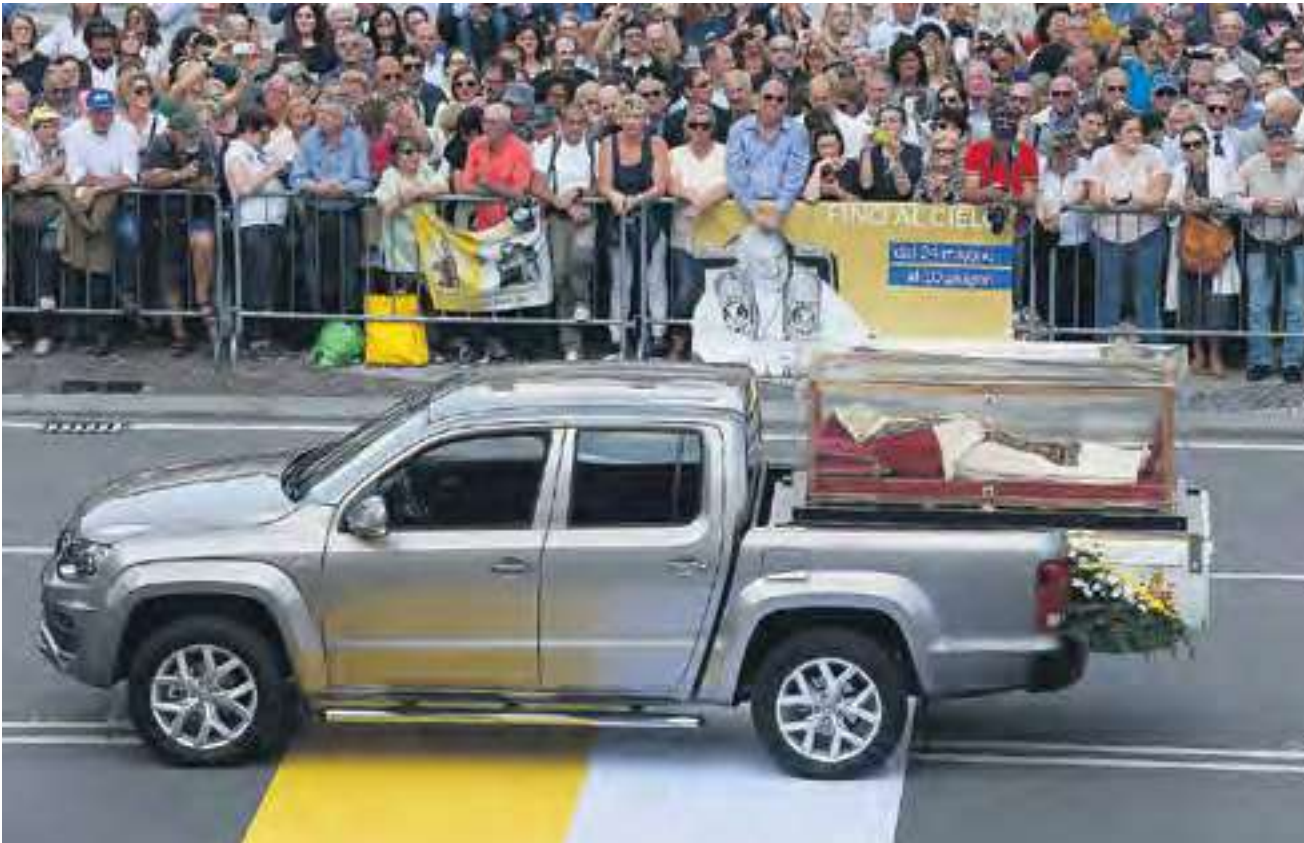
"We have given out masks and eye drops to school students and to people living in dozens of villages within a six-kilometre radius of Mount Merapi," he said.





Edited by Chai Brady  
chai@irishcatholic.ie

## Honouring remains of St John XXIII



The coffin containing the body of St John XXIII is seen during a ceremony in Vittorio Veneto Square after its arrival in Bergamo, Italy. Photo: CNS

## US veteran praises life-changing 'Warriors to Lourdes' pilgrimage

Veterans taking part in the 2018 Warriors to Lourdes pilgrimage to France said the journey has positively influenced their lives and benefited those around them.

Maj. Jeremy Haynes, a first-time spiritual pilgrim and Lourdes visitor, said he is a changed man since visiting the shrine, where Mary appeared to St Bernadette Soubirous in a series of visions in 1858.

"The trip has been life-changing for my wife and me," Maj. Haynes said. "With Faith as our compass, we remain committed to moving forward."

Maj. Haynes was shot four times in Afghanistan and sustained injuries that have left him struggling to overcome the physical constraints of paralysis. It has been a difficult journey. He also seeks healing for wounds in his family life that occurred prior to his physical injury.

"With a minimum emphasis on

Faith, my family life was a disaster and divorce was imminent. After being shot multiple times, I recall sinking into a dark place," said Maj. Haynes. "Despite being a sinner, God showed mercy by sparing my life and allowing me to witness the birth of my son. Taking part in this spiritual journey has cleansed my soul and created a stronger connection with my wife."

### Retirement

Maj. Haynes previously served within the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), 82nd Airborne Division, and the American Red Cross national headquarters. He commanded a parachute rigger company, served as an *aide de camp*, and taught at the Army Logistics University.

He is currently assigned to the Walter Reed National Medical Center and soon will retire from the military. He has been awarded the Purple Heart,

Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Combat Action Badge, Jumpmaster, Parachute Rigger Badge and Air Assault Badge.

Maj. Haynes, who went on the Lourdes trip to seek healing "mentally, physically, spiritually, and emotionally," said he was honored to visit Lourdes with military from around the world. The Warriors to Lourdes trip – sponsored by the Archdiocese for the Military Services and the Knights of Columbus – occurred in late May, during the 60th annual International Military Pilgrimage to the Marian shrine in France.

"We broke bread together, worshipped together, and promoted peace together. Although we speak different languages, Faith connected us," Maj. Haynes said. "I experienced the power of prayer as being a universal language that led me to encounter awesome individuals."

## Christians call to remove Iran control in Iraq

In the aftermath of Iraq's elections, Christians want to see a government formed that is free from the sectarianism that has torn apart the country, and they want Iran's influence to diminish. Both issues have played a huge role in politics since the 2003 US-led invasion.

Fr Emanuel Youkhana, a priest of the Assyrian Church

of the East, said that fiery Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr has gained the majority of parliament's seats. However al-Sadr's uncompromising nationalism, stand against corruption and against foreign meddling seem to have struck a chord among ordinary Iraqis, who are fed up with what many call Baghdad's broken political system.

"Iraq's Shiite politicians,

whose population forms the country's majority, are of two streams: one pro-Iran and the other freer from Iranian influence, and Sadr is the leader of this latter group," the priest explained.

"Al-Sadr has called for a cabinet of technocrats, not politicians. So far, he is more acceptable with the public because of his slogans. But can he realise forming a

coalition government? In Iraq, it's very complicated," Fr Youkhana said.

Fr Youkhana runs the Christian Aid Program Northern Iraq (CAPNI), for displaced Iraqis around the city of Dohuk, in addition to rebuilding homes and restoring livelihoods in several towns in the Ninevah Plain following its destruction by Islamic State since 2014.

## Vatican roundup

### Ethical intervention in economy needed – Pope and Patriarch

Pope Francis and ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople called on Christians to work together to build a culture of solidarity in the face of growing economic inequality and a lack of respect for the human dignity of the poor and of migrants.

The two leaders met privately on May 26 before addressing an international conference sponsored by the Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice Foundation, which seeks to promote the teaching of St John Paul II's 1991 encyclical on social and economic justice.

"The current difficulties and crises within the global economic system have an undeniable ethical dimension," Pope Francis told some 500 business leaders, theologians and proponents of Catholic social teaching.

The crises clearly "are related to a mentality of egoism and exclusion that has effectively created a culture of waste blind to the human dignity of the most vulnerable", the Pope said.

A "growing globalisation of indifference" is seen in the uneven pace of development, "not only in materially poorer countries but increasingly amid the opulence of the developed world," he said. He added it is also obvious in people's reactions to migrants and refugees.

### Pope visits students after school in Italy

Continuing his occasional series of 'Mercy Friday' visits, Pope Francis surprised the students at a school renamed in March in honour of a student who died of leukaemia at the age of 11. For the May visit to the Elisa Scala Comprehensive School, which includes students from the age of three to 14, the Pope also brought books for the school library.

Before the city of Rome and the Italian department of education allowed the whole school to be named after Elisa, the library was.

Her parents, Giorgio and Maria, said their daughter loved to read and, after she died in 2015, they started the library, which now holds more than 20,000 volumes, all of which were donated.

The couple gave the Pope a guided tour of the shelves.

Pope Francis arrived after classes had ended, but more than 200 students were there preparing for a year-end show featuring dance, sport and theatre. After five months of rehearsals, they sang for the Pope.

### Sacrament of marriage proclaims 'love is possible'

Marriage is a sacrament not only for the bride and groom, but for the entire Catholic Church, because it proclaims that "love is possible", Pope Francis said.

"It is true there are difficulties, there are problems with the children or with the couple themselves – arguments, fights," he said at morning Mass in the Domus Sanctae Marthae. Seven couples celebrating their 25th or 50th wedding anniversaries were among those present at the Mass.

But the witness of couples who continue in love, who overcome the difficulties, he said, proclaims the beauty of God's plan for humanity.

In the day's Gospel reading from St Mark, Jesus is asked by the Pharisees if it is lawful for a husband to divorce his wife.

He said the Pharisees were interested only in trying to trip up Jesus by trying to reduce religion to a list of "yes you can" and "no you can't" items.

But Jesus raises the bar, talking about creation and describing "marriage as if it were the most beautiful thing" that God made at the beginning of the world, he said.



# Letter from America



Michael W. Higgins

## Pope 'bravely' admitting failure responding to Chile sex abuse accusations

It was an interesting moment – a disturbing as well as inspiring one. I was listening to an early morning National Public Radio programme – the award-winning public affairs *All Things Considered* – and the interviewer was speaking to the survivor of prolonged and horrific clerical sex abuse. It had the potential to be a deeply emotional broadside against insensitive ecclesiastical authorities, and given the appalling history of sexual predation and cover-up in the Catholic Church it would have been perfectly justifiable, if not predictable, if it had.

But it didn't. The abused victim had only recently spent many hours of open, intense, personal conversation with the Bishop of Rome regarding his experiences and he spoke movingly and articulately, without rage or vindictiveness, non-combative, breathtakingly sincere and impressively humble. The Pope listened for hours and entered his pain.

### Admonishment

Juan Carlos Cruz of Chile, and two other victims, Dr James Hamilton and Jose-Andres Murillo, must have felt emotionally validated at last. All three had tenaciously pursued justice from the Church hierarchy over their sustained abuse by the notorious clerical predator and charismatic pastor, Fernando Karadima. The bishops, and not just one of them, stalled, prevaricated, and even admonished the accused rather than punish the perpetrator.

Cruz and the others were outraged by the failure of the Chilean hierarchy to acknowledge the evil done, their lives sacrificed to reputation, precisely the behaviour deplored by Pope Benedict XVI in his Letter to the Irish.

**“Francis acted promptly and summoned the entire Chilean hierarchy to Rome, interviews with the victims was given priority...”**

Pope Francis's unprecedented decision to meet with the victims privately in the Vatican, for hours, a no-holds-barred conversation



Pope Francis and 34 Chilean bishops meeting late to discuss the clerical sexual abuse crisis in Chile in mid-May. Photo: CNS

in which he primarily listened and believed his interlocutors, was in some ways a corrective pastoral strategy. Previously, he had remonstrated them for what he perceived as calumnies against Bishop Juan Barros when profound objections were publicly made against his appointment to the Diocese of Osorno because of his alleged complicity in cover-ups.

But then something edifying occurred at the highest levels. The Pope acknowledged his own personal errors of judgment, dispatched the highly respected scourge of abusers, Charles Scicluna, Archbishop Primate of Malta, to unearth the truth of the allegations, to investigate the responses of the Chilean bishops to the history of charges, and to prepare a report that could be shared.

Archbishop Scicluna and his

assistant did so. Francis acted promptly and summoned the entire Chilean hierarchy to Rome, interviews with the victims were given priority, the Pope scolded the bishops for their individual and collective behaviour and, in an unparalleled move, the bishops offered their resignations en masse to the pontiff.

Whatever the next move no one can gainsay the personal courage of the victims, the bravery of the Pope, yes, bravery, in confessing his personal failure in charity before he addressed the moral culpability of his brother bishops.

Contrast Francis' leadership on this matter with Pope John Paul II, who kept a compromised cardinal archbishop of Vienna in power for years in spite of pressure from the Austrian hierarchy to remove him, refused to believe the substantial and credible charges against the

corrupt founder of the Legionaries of Christ, declined to act against a curial Polish prelate with a history of abuse, and on and on.

**“Contrast Francis' leadership on this matter with Pope John Paul II, who kept a compromised cardinal archbishop of Vienna in power for years”**

The current Pope has had a chequered and inconsistent history regarding the utmost gravity of clerical sex abuse. Although he established and staffed the first Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors he appeared impotent in the wake of several controversial resignations from the

Commission, as indicated, he was often defensive in the face of what he considered unsubstantiated allegations, and was reluctant to give the issue the high priority it deserves.

That's now changed. Utterly. Unlike John Paul II, Francis has been galvanised. He has learned that personal as well as institutional humility is the foundation for genuine reform.

Now it is time for national hierarchies to act likewise. Once again, in his ministry as Peter, Francis has set a model for gospel-infused leadership.

**① Michael W. Higgins is co-author with Peter Kavanagh of the award-winning *Suffer the Children unto Me: A Critical Inquiry into the Clerical Sex Abuse Scandal and Distinguished Professor of Catholic Thought at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Connecticut, USA.***





Pope Francis listens as Archbishop Konrad Krajewski, the papal almoner, offers an explanation during the Pope's visit to a new homeless shelter for men in Rome in 2015. Housed in a Jesuit-owned building, the shelter was created by and is run with funds from the papal almoner. Photo: CNS



Paulina Guzik

# Newly appointed cardinal will wear red hat for the poor

**H**e may be one of the figures closest to the Pope and a soon-to-be Prince of the Church, but Cardinal-designate Konrad Krajewski hardly spends his time moving in circles of wealth and power. Instead, his milieu is among those that don't have anything: the poor, the homeless and migrants.

Krajewski, 54, invites the poor every day into his Vatican apartment for lunch. Around 15 needy people eat in his dining room, surrounded by the old furniture of Pope emeritus Benedict XVI.

Lunches – for the record, featuring perhaps one of the best pastas in the city – are cooked by a strong and tall former prisoner, who told me: “When you journalists write about the Church, you should write about what this man is doing.”

Right now seems an opportune time to do so, as “this man” was just promoted to the Church's major leagues.

A native of Łódź, Poland, Krajewski is one of the few cardinals-to-be walking around the Vatican in a black soft-shell sports jacket. Affectionately known as ‘Don Corrado’, Krajewski has been a

Vatican insider since the pontificate of St John Paul II, at which time he was responsible for papal ceremonies.

Pope Francis appointed him Papal Almoner, a position which requires distributing Vatican charity funds and putting into action what the Pope calls the “field hospital” of the Church. One could say, after observing him, it's a job Krajewski enjoys to the core – in fact, one of the reasons Francis chose him may have been hearing stories about the Polish bishop in the Vatican who gives out blankets and food to the poor in his free time.

## Smell like sheep

For that reason, Krajewski may be one of the best personifications of what the Pope always says to priests, that they should smell like their sheep: “Once, I visited the Holy Father right after eating breakfast with the homeless,” Krajewski said. “All the guests in those elegant rooms could smell the Church!”

His life journey seems to be marked by words he once told

me in his hometown of Łódź:

“You don't give people what they deserve, but what they need. When a kid has a fever, you don't tell him, ‘You didn't behave today, I won't give you medicine.’ You just give him medicine, because that's what he needs!”

**“The philosophy of action for him is based on the Gospel: ‘If, in this homeless or poor individual, you see Jesus, what will you give him? Damaged clothes that you don't need any more?’”**

Krajewski may well be the cardinal who's physically closest to the Pope. He lives just around the corner from Porta Sant' Anna in the Vatican. He organises everything from dinners for the homeless to giving out food in Rome's subway stations twice a week, as well as on-the-ground assistance for earthquake victims.

“You need to see Jesus in the face of every single person to whom you hand a can of tuna at Termini train station,” he said. And, whatever he does, he says he's doing what the Pope asked.

Krajewski rarely agrees to interviews saying: “The Holy Father appointed me almoner to help the poor, not to give interviews.”

The philosophy of action for him is based on the Gospel: “If, in this homeless or poor individual, you see Jesus, what will you give him? Damaged clothes that you don't need any more? Old food? No! You'd give Jesus the best you have!”

That's precisely why those in need get a multi-course, homemade lunch every day in his apartment. To top it off, Italian coffee and dessert are included afterwards. He's built showers and set up laundry and barber services for the homeless. The barber himself is a homeless person, one of many to find work through Krajewski's handiwork.

“Many wealthy people come to the Pope's office and want to give money,” Krajewski said. “The Holy Father says, ‘Give them [poor and

homeless] a job!’”

In fact, one of the homeless I encountered at Krajewski's lunch table in Rome told me, “I'm starting a job at Hilton soon”. This very man was living on the street merely months ago.

Krajewski's perspective regarding refugees and migrants can't be more opposed to that of his mother country, Poland, which right now is anything but eager to welcome them.

“Jesus was not looking in anybody's wallets. You can't tell people they don't deserve to look for a better life,” Krajewski said.

He's challenged the Polish Church as well. A friend of Don Corrado in the Polish bishops' conference, Archbishop Grzegorz Rye of Łódź (Krajewski's hometown), commented on Krajewski's nomination as a cardinal: “It reminded me of the first cardinals in the history of the Church, seven deacons who were acting every day in the service of mercy. His appointment is a day of happiness for us, but [also] a reminder that putting mercy into practice is our duty.”

**“It reminded me of the first cardinals in the history of the Church, seven deacons who were acting every day in the service of mercy”**

Once, Krajewski gave up his apartment for a family of refugees, moving to his office for a while. He told the Pope once that he may go to prison due to his work with refugees, which, he said, a lot of time is “not that compatible with the law.”

“I will pay you a visit!” he said Francis replied.

According to the joyful Christian philosophy of the Francis era, Krajewski is also the one who organises *divertimento* – that is, entertainment for the poor and migrants. He distributed 3,000 ice cream cones to the homeless on the feast of St George, because that's how Francis wanted to celebrate his birthday. Krajewski also organised a circus trip for refugees, as well as summer getaways by the seaside for the disabled.

Krajewski was not only surprised, but clearly angry with the decision of the Pontiff to appoint him a cardinal. As a friend of Krajewski explained: “He never liked anything that is exclusive. If I were to call him anything, it's ‘walking humility’. When we were hiking in the mountains, he often picked places to sleep with no water.”

Krajewski said, however, that the basis for the Pope's decision was soon explained and justified to him by those he cares for the most – the poor. They told him at the Rome train station a few days ago: “It's our red hat. It's for the poor.”

**Paulina Guzik was an organiser for World Youth Day 2016 in Krakow, Poland, and is co-author of WYD 2016 Krakow, The Largest European Event of the 21st Century.**



# 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

### Sacraments should not be weaponised

**Dear Editor,** Bishop Kevin Doran has been roundly criticised for saying that it was a sin to vote for abortion. Many will agree with him, but it's worth re-stating exactly what the bishop said because it is more nuanced than the headlines suggest.

Dr Doran said that if a practicing Catholic "voted 'Yes', knowing and intending that abortion would be the outcome, then you should

consider coming to Confession, where you would be received with the same compassion that is shown to any other penitent".

It's unfortunate that Bishop Doran allowed himself to be pulled down this rabbit hole by the media. He should've known that in a media environment that is often hostile towards the Church, such comments would be seized upon to caricature the Church as being

authoritarian and dogmatic.

At a basic level, the sacraments shouldn't be weaponised against people. Nonetheless, the Church has a long way to go to ensure that Mass-going Catholics understand the responsibilities of their Faith.

*Yours etc.,  
Mary Harris,  
Galway,  
Co. Galway.*

### Are all our schools worth fighting for?

**Dear Editor,** After the marriage referendum, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin talked of the vote being a wake-up call for the Irish Church, but if it was a wake-up call it seems the Church just hit 'snooze' and rolled over. There can be no such dozing now that the Irish electorate has screamingly rejected the notion that the most vulnerable human beings among us have even a right to live.

According to Friday's exit polls, barely one in eight young adults

voted to retain the Eighth Amendment. As much as anything, this stands as a staggering testament to the failure of Catholic education in today's Ireland, with the vast majority of these young adults having been taught in Church-owned schools, at least at primary level. Were they listening at all? What were their teachers teaching them?

Those who screech about Church domination of Irish education have a habit of complaining about indoctrination, as though

we're brainwashing our children. I think it has to be said now that if we're in the business of indoctrination we're not very good at it.

At the same time, perhaps this rejection shouldn't surprise us, as we all know that despite most of our citizens spending a dozen or more years in schools learning Irish, most can barely string together more than the proverbial cúpla focail. Is it really that startling that religious education sticks no better?

Still, we at least have to ask ourselves now what our schools are for, and how we can regroup. Are our schools worth fighting for? Are they all worth fighting for? One thing that should be certain is this: this is not a time for panicking, but for a calm and studied pause for breath while we think of what to do now. We shouldn't pause forever, though.

*Yours etc.,  
Cormac O'Leary,  
Tullamore,  
Co. Offaly.*

### On self-determination

**Dear Editor,** The Good Friday Agreement, the 20th anniversary of which we celebrate this year, had the principle of consent at the heart of the accord. The document was key, politicians said, in ensuring that the people of the North decided for themselves about their future.

How odd, then, to see politicians both in Dublin and London now insisting that they will impose abortion on the North regardless of what local people think.

*Yours etc.,  
Jim Cahill,  
Newry,  
Co. Down.*



### Voiceless must be given space to be heard

**Dear Editor,** A popular book a few years ago was Jonathan Haidt's *The Righteous Mind*, that argued that we have a 'moral palate' with different taste buds of morality: those of us who are more traditionally and communally minded make our moral judgements based on six factors, with those who see themselves as progressive, liberal, and individualist basing theirs on just three. Our referendum looks like being a case study in this sort of thing.

I write ahead of the formal election

count, but just looking at the exit polls it seems that over two thirds of voters have voted to abolish our constitutional protections for the unborn, with less than a third voting to keep them. It seems that in making these decisions, over 60% were driven by believing in the so-called 'right to choose', whereas barely 30% were influenced by considerations of the right to life of the unborn human child.

These are different moral universes, speaking different moral languages,

and it seems that – to follow Haidt – a radicalised notion of autonomy rules the roost in today's Ireland, though of course it's an autonomy only for those capable of exercising it, while they're capable of exercising it. The weak, the imperfect, the voiceless: there's to be no autonomy for them, and they'll only ever be allowed to make any choices if others allow them to.

*Yours etc.,  
Mark O'Connell,  
Rathmines,  
Dublin 6.*

### Referendum result is not a price worth paying

**Dear Editor,** Over the past few weeks it has been impossible to walk or travel about this country without being confronted by legions of billboards, with 'Yes' ones exhorting people to be compassionate and vote 'Yes' as though doing otherwise would be a merciless act, or claiming that private acts sometimes need public support as though there should be anything private about enlisting the help of the State in ending the life of another human being.

The 'No' ones, however people may have complained about them, at least attempted to engage in the referendum debate in a factual way. What on earth did 'Yes' voters think when faced with them? In England, for every four babies born a fifth is aborted – did people just shrug, and say "so?" Again in England, 90% of children diagnosed with Down Syndrome are aborted – again, did people just shrug it off, or do they think things will be all that different here, as though the 500 or so people who've aborted their children after finding in Rhona Mahony's private clinic that Down Syndrome was on the cards are weird outliers?

And then there's the fact that 97% of abortions in our nearest neighbour are performed on healthy babies, the children of healthy mothers – even Britain's Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists say that abortion is not better for mental health than pregnancy is. Did 'yes' voters, troubled by how we can help mothers in real difficulty, look at the sky-high abortion rates in a country where abortions are available after some medical rubber-stamping and just shrug, and think this would be a price worth paying, and that there couldn't possibly be another answer?

Who have we become?

*Yours etc.,  
Caroline Brady,  
Athlone, Co. Westmeath.*

### Irony missed by young voters

**Dear Editor,** One of the great, tragic, and all too predictable ironies of this week's referendum is that it seems that the overwhelming majority of our young adults voted to remove the Eighth Amendment. According to one exit poll, 87% of those aged 18-24 voted to remove our constitutional protections for the unborn, with 83% of those aged 25-34 doing likewise.

The irony, of course, is that all of these were born after the likes of their parents and grandparents voted for the Eighth Amendment in 1983. It seems, if an actuarial report commissioned by the Pro Life Campaign a couple of years ago can be trusted, that perhaps 100,000 of these – and perhaps far more – are alive today largely because the Eighth Amendment caused Irish mothers to think again and have their children rather than travel to England to end their pregnancy.

How many of our 'Yes' voters were alive to vote because of the Amendment? And how many 'Yes' voters have friends and family who are alive because of the Amendment? Despite this, however, they still voted to repudiate it. Maybe such ingratitude is built into us, though – Our Lord was never exactly inundated with former lepers rushing to thank him after he'd healed them.

*Yours etc.,  
Louise Fitzgerald,  
Belfast, Co. Antrim.*

### 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



▲ **CHINA:** Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Ha, Bishop Michael Yeung, and retired Cardinal John Tong concelebrate Mass on the feast of Our Lady, Help of Christians at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Hong Kong.

◀ **ITALY:** Young people venerate the body of St John XXIII in the cathedral in Bergamo. The body of the late Pope left the Vatican early May 24 to be displayed in his home region until June 10.



**IRAQ:** A nurse treats an Iraqi family in a CAPNI medical clinic after they were displaced by Islamic State militants.



**USA:** People carry a banner during an interfaith vigil titled 'Reclaiming the Integrity of Faith During Political and Moral Crisis' outside the White House in Washington.



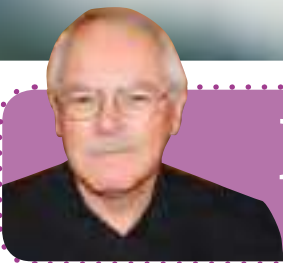
**NIGERIA:** Cameroonian refugees and Nigerians wait for consultations outside a health post in the Nigerian village of Ekang. Caritas Internationalis reported the conflict in Cameroon has forced 160,000 people out of their homes into the bush and a further 26,000 to cross into Nigeria.



**VATICAN:** Pope Francis exchanges gifts with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople during a meeting in the Apostolic Palace at the Vatican.



# Mercy, truth and pastoral practice



**Fr Rolheiser**

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

**R**ecently a student I'd taught decades ago made this comment to me: "It's been more than 20 years since I took your class and I've forgotten most everything you taught. What I do remember from your class is that we're supposed to always try not to make God look stupid."

I hope that's true. I hope that's something people take away from my lectures and writings because I believe that the first task of any Christian apologetics is to rescue God from stupidity, arbitrariness, narrowness, legalism, rigidity, tribalism, and everything else that's bad but gets associated with God. A healthy theology of God must underwrite all our apologetics and pastoral practices. Anything we do in the name of God should reflect God.

**“God has no favourites and that there must be full equality among races, among rich and poor...”**

It's no accident that atheism, anti-clericalism, and the many diatribes leveled against the church and religion today can always point to some bad theology or Church practice on which to base their skepticism and anger.

Atheism is always a parasite, feeding off bad religion. So too is much of the negativity towards

the churches which is so common today. An anti-church attitude feeds on bad religion and so we who believe in God and Church should be examining ourselves more than defending ourselves.

Moreover more important than the criticism of atheists are the many people who have been hurt by their churches. A huge number of persons today no longer go to church or have a very strained relationship with their churches because what they've met in their churches doesn't speak well of God.

I say this in sympathy. It's not easy to do God adequately, let alone well. But we must try, and so all of our sacramental and pastoral practices need to reflect a healthy theology of God, that is, reflect the God whom Jesus incarnated and revealed. What did Jesus reveal

about God?

First, that God has no favourites and that there must be full equality among races, among rich and poor, among slave and free and among male and female. No one person, race, gender or nation is more favored than others by God. Nobody is first. All are privileged.

Next, Jesus taught that God is especially compassionate and understanding towards the weak and towards sinners. Jesus scandalised his religious contemporaries by sitting down with public sinners without first asking them to repent. He welcomed everyone in ways that often offended the religious propriety of the time and he sometimes went against the religious sensitivity of his contemporaries, as we see from his

conversation with the Samaritan woman or when he grants a healing to the daughter of a Syro-Phoenician woman. Moreover he asks us to be compassionate in the same way and immediately spells out what that means by telling us the God loves sinners and saints in exactly the same way. God does not have preferential love for the virtuous.

**“It is important to set forth certain norms be followed in preparation for baptism, Eucharist and marriage”**

Shocking to us too is the fact that Jesus never defends himself when attacked. Moreover he is critical of those who, whatever their sincerity, try to block access to him. He surrenders himself to die rather than defend himself. He never meets hatred with hatred and dies loving and forgiving those who are killing him.

Jesus is also clear that it's not necessarily those who explicitly profess God and religion who are his true followers, but rather those, irrespective of their explicit faith or church practice, who do the will of God on earth.

Finally, and centrally, Jesus is clear that his message is, first of all, good news for the poor, that any preaching in his name that isn't good news for the poor is not his gospel.

We need to keep these things

in mind even as we recognise the validity and importance of the ongoing debates among and within our churches about whom and what makes for true discipleship and true sacrament. It is important to ask what makes for a true sacrament and what conditions make for a valid and licit minister of a sacrament.

It is important too to ask who should be admitted to the Eucharist and it is important to set forth certain norms be followed in preparation for baptism, Eucharist and marriage.

Difficult pastoral questions arise around these issues, among other issues, and this is not suggesting that they should always be resolved in a way that most immediately and simplistically reflects God's universal will for salvation and God's infinite understanding and mercy.

Admittedly, sometimes the long-term benefit of living a hard truth can override the short-range need to more quickly take away the pain and the heartache. But, even so, a theology of God that reflects the compassion and mercy of God should always be reflected in every pastoral decision we make. Otherwise we make God look stupid – arbitrary, tribal, cruel, and antithetical to Church practice.

Marilynne Robinson says Christianity is too great a narrative to be underwritten by any lesser tale and that should forbid in particular its being subordinated to narrowness, legalism and lack of compassion.





# Family & Lifestyle

The Irish Catholic, May 31, 2018

## Personal Profile

Translating  
the Faith  
of today

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## Big changes from small beginnings



Anne Lawlor with her daughter Aine celebrating 22q11 Ireland winning the GSK Health Impact Award.

**I** love what I'm doing because I can see the difference it's making. I can see the difference it's making to families."

These words come from a passionate mother fighting for the voices of suffering parents and children to be heard loud and clear.

Established in 2007, Anne Lawlor is the co-founder of the 22q11 Ireland Support Group, a charity which aims to provide help, support and accurate information to families who have been affected by the 22q11.2 Deletion syndrome.

Widely unknown in Ireland, the deletion syndrome is caused by a missing section (microdeletion) of chromosome



### Colm Fitzpatrick writes about a rare syndrome impacting Irish families today

22, which is present from the time a child is conceived. Present in one out of every 1,000 live pregnancies, in one in 68 children with congenital heart disease, and in 5-8% of children born with cleft palate, the 22q11.2 deletion is almost as prevalent as the better-known Down syndrome.

Anne, whose daughter was diagnosed with the condition when she was 15, says that it is a very complex illness, with

symptoms ranging from heart defects to kidney issues.

"The symptoms can range from more serious ones like congenital heart disease to a set of minor disparate symptoms. So, on their own, they might not be considered too much of a problem, but when you put them altogether it can cause a significant disability because you're dealing with several different things," she says, adding

there are still people being diagnosed at "all ages" because as children they don't present with enough explicit symptoms.

Notably, not every person with the syndrome is affected in the same way. Anne explains that there are upto 200 anomalies which affect sufferers, and so it's essentially a "roll of the dice" in knowing what your child will be impacted.

#### Harsh effects

The harsh effects of the condition are not only physical, and most sufferers experience mental health issues, including anxiety and other psychiatric illnesses. Indeed, one in four people diagnosed with the condition have a chance of developing

schizophrenia.

The 22q deletion is most often a 'de novo' event, meaning that it is not inherited from either parent and does not usually run in a family. Only about 10% of children with the 22q11.2 deletion have a parent who is also affected. For parents who do not have the deletion, the chance that a future child might be affected is very low. For individuals with it, there is a 50% chance of passing on the deletion to a child with each pregnancy.

"It's astonishing the number of people who are walking around and have this syndrome and don't know about it," Anne says, noting that parents can find it very difficult to come to terms with

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## Family News

### AND EVENTS

#### Portlaoise festival promises a memorable day

Archery, shield making and medieval heritage re-enactment displays will be amongst the highlights of this year's Old Fort Quarter Festival in Portlaoise, taking place from Friday, June 22 to Sunday, June 24.

The festival, now in its third year, will take place across various locations in the town centre from midday to late daily, with many events being free to attend and filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

"Following a packed-out festival last year, we're excited to be back for its third year and with our strongest line-up yet," said festival chairperson Ivor O'Loughlin.

"The Old Fort Quarter Festival has something to offer for all the family – from heritage re-enactments, to walking tours to a silent disco – and this year, we've expanded the festival by adding a second entertainment stage as well as a dedicated comedy stage."

#### AN EGG A DAY KEEPS THE DOCTOR AWAY:

Although eating too many eggs is usually frowned upon because of their high cholesterol content, a new study has found that a diet in which eggs are consumed on a regular basis may actually protect cardiovascular health.

Recent research from the School of Public Health at Peking University Health Science Center in Beijing was revealed that individuals who usually ate about one egg a day had a 26% lower risk of experiencing haemorrhagic stroke.

"The present study finds that there is an association between moderate level of egg consumption (up to one egg/day) and a lower cardiac event rate," Prof Liming Li and Dr Canqing Yu, the lead investigators of the study said.

The team warned, however, that this was an observational study, so it would be unwise to conclude that there is necessarily a causal effect between egg consumption and a lower risk of cardiovascular disease.



#### Sink or swim?

Holiday pics are the best way to capture memories and moments long after the adventure is over, but often cameras are limited by the environment they're in. While most phones are great for taking that perfect snap in the sun, many would not fare well under water. Providing a solution to this problem, WaterShot Pro is an exceptionally robust, professional dive camera housing kit which attaches to your phone making it completely watertight.

The kit has all the accessories for taking underwater pictures from your kids snorkelling to schools of fish, including an optional, optical quality lens port and a three-point integrated tripod mounting plate. Notably, the technology has a depth range of 60m, and so is perfect for the more proficient swimmer or diver. It attaches to almost all iPhones, so get snapping!



#### Science of life

Prof.  
William  
Reville

The magazine rack stands near the checkouts in my local Centra store and I often vacantly ponder the magazine covers as I stand in line waiting my turn to pay for the items in my basket.

Prince William and Kate Middleton are pretty much on permanent display and as a result of my lazy gazing I can inform you that their three children are called George, Charlotte and – the latest – Louis.

Pride of royal place is lately strongly contested by William's brother Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, who married on Saturday, May 19. Again I have learned in Centra that Meghan is a former American TV actress, who is divorced and a woman of mixed race.

My knowledge of the royal family is of the sketchiest variety, passively picked up from the unrelenting coverage they receive in the media. But we all know people who make a hobby of royal watching and who can build up an encyclopaedic knowledge of this subject – what royal is married to whom, who is getting on/not getting on with whom, names of children, detailed royal family trees, royal hobbies and interests, etc etc.

#### Fascination

Why are people so interested in the royals? Public fascination with the royals, and I refer in particular of course to the British royal family, is just one particular example of the general case of interest in celebrities.

American psychologist Professor Frank Farley, quoted in a *Time Health* article by Jamie Ducharme on April 26, 2018, tells us that we can live some of our lives through famous media figures. Farley goes on to say that human beings are social animals and we can exhibit "parasocial behaviour" whereby we create a one-sided relationship and become attached to a person, particularly to a celebrity, even though we never interact with them in any meaningful way.

This parasocial relationship could be with a sports team, a sports star, a TV show, a film actor, a popular singer, and so on, or with the royal family.

Farley explains that we tend to develop these parasocial relationships with celebrities in particular because they embody all the things we have learnt to desire – fame, wealth, lifestyle, happiness, social position and so on. As children we were all regaled with fairytales and other

stories involving kings, queens, beautiful princesses, handsome princes, heroic adventurers, etc.

These images and the desires and ambitions they provoke stay with us always and are kept alive by massive media exposure to the royals, Hollywood stars, sporting heroes and so on. The unrelenting media concentration on celebrities creates a feedback loop – the media knows we are interested in celebrities so the media keeps covering celebrities, and we consequently are exposed more and more to these celebrities.

A pioneering paper on celebrity worship was published in the *British Journal of Psychiatry* in February 2002 by Lynn McCutcheon and others. The authors ranked celebrity fans into four categories. At the lowest end of the scale fans of celebrities simply and privately observe or read about



celebrities. People on the next level up make a social activity out of their celebrity watching, talking and sharing information with others about their interest. Most celebrity watchers don't go beyond this level.

However, a small number inhabit more serious territory, developing an obsession with the celebrity or believing they have a close personal relationship with them. And a rare but dangerous category exists where the celebrity worshipper indulges in extreme behaviour such as stalking.

**“When we look at the royals we behold people who are born into all of this”**

Certain traits may predispose people to develop higher levels of celebrity worship according to McCutcheon, such as anxiety, irresponsibility and difficulty in establishing close relationships and, to a lesser extent, loneliness and low intelligence. Gambling addicts also seem to be more prone than average to become celebrity worshippers.

It is not difficult to understand why people are so interested in the royals. Most of us find it difficult to achieve success, social position and wealth but when we look at the royals we behold people who are born into all of this. They seem to live the lives we were conditioned to long for when we listened to fairytales and other stories as children.

But, of course, we edit out all the difficulties that are associated with living the royal life – lack of privacy and living in a goldfish bowl, adherence to strict protocol, enslavement to

ritualised formality etc.

Let me return to the Centra magazine rack again to have a look at our local Irish celebrities. It seems to me that Rachel Allen is the most publicly exposed woman in Ireland. She is forever smiling at me from the magazines in Centra. Then she smiles at me from my daily and Sunday newspapers, and when I turn on the TV there she is smiling at me again as she painstakingly explains how to make an apple tart.

TV talk-show host Miriam O'Callaghan is another favourite of the magazines and of the newspapers. In recent times stories that Miriam intends to run for election to the office of President of Ireland, when Michael D. Higgins's term of office expires, featured so persistently in the media that Miriam had to publicly announce she will not be a candidate in any upcoming Presidential election. And of course the media keeps us fully up to date with Conor McGregor, publishing regular blow-by-blow accounts (pun intended) of all his comings and goings.

And finally psychologist Prof. Farley assures us that there is no harm in keeping an eye on the royals, if you feel so inclined, so long as you keep things in perspective.

**i** William Reville is an Emeritus Professor of Biochemistry at UCC.

# Our fascination with the Royal Family





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Members of 22q11 Ireland having fun at the zoo.

the reality of their circumstances.

"When you speak to them about this diagnosis in adulthood it's really difficult. Number one, because there's no support for them and number two, they feel like 'I've casted this onto my child and I didn't know about it,'" she says.

### Lack of support

Given the lack support for people suffering from this condition, Anne established the charity in 2007 with just three families, and very little information on the issue. There are now 150 families nationwide who are knowingly affected by it and thanks to Anne's work are much more clued in about their children's needs. Through the charity, parents are helping to educate doctors, dentists, consultants, nurses, therapists, teachers, social workers and a host of other professionals about 22q.

Anne explains that when she set up the group, she began to bring over 22q experts stressing that "much to her astonishment and everybody else's" they explained information that the families had not heard before. This included simple advice such that all diagnosed children should be given vitamin C and calcium checks every year.

For Anne, whose daughter was labelled mildly mentally retarded when she was six, this type of information allowed her to understand why her daughter never hit any of her developmental milestones and why she struggled in school. Before this time, she says that diagnoses were always "vague", and that the medical professionals in Ireland could not tell her what was ahead.

### It's such a relief to be able to sit down with families and parents and share information

Today, there is much more help available, and Irish academic institutes are also contributing to the cause. In University College Dublin (UCD) for example, psychosocial research is taking place to analyse how this condition affects family life, whereas in Trinity College, clinical research on schizophrenia and also

speech and language research is making headway.

Although the families benefit from this research alongside conferences and social media support, Anne believes that the most valuable resource they have is each other.

"[The family get-togethers] are probably the best thing ever, and better than any piece of research. You can read about something and you know about it on a level but unless you live with something you can't really know...every time I meet another mother, I meet myself and I don't have to explain my child to them and I don't get these weird looks and I don't get this blank expression", she says.

"It's such a relief to be able to sit down with families and parents and share information. We are a very valuable resource to each other."

Not only is vital advice shared, but children with the condition are able to interact and play with one another, which is a rare experience in normal social situations. Anne explains that it's very important sufferers meet and realise that there are other people like them. With difficulties initiating as well as maintaining friendships, this provides a wonderful source of hope and joy for those with the condition.

Among the many expectations that Anne has for the future of the charity, she hopes that integrated care will become a reality in Ireland.

"Really what we are working towards is integrated care. Up to very recently, you could see anything between 10-12 specialists when your child is young. They don't necessarily communicate with each other. Those specialists are looking at the symptoms; they're not looking at the child," Anne says.



She adds that the "classic trajectory" of children with 22q is "lots and lots" of appointments when they're young, including coping with behavioural and mental health issues. This can be difficult to address given that teachers don't know what it is, which is compounded by the fact that the Department of Education (DOE) don't recognise the condition officially. This lacuna in integrated care means that parents are generally responsible for coordinating medical appointments and therapies which can be "really, really difficult" to organise especially if you live outside of Dublin.

### Anne's vision for the future is that this clinic expands its footprint

One avenue, only in its genesis, which is tackling this issue, is a tiny clinic in Crumlin hospital which sees families for an afternoon every month. By having a clinical lead, it means that medical professionals are able to treat the child holistically, review their symptoms and decide where they need to go next. Anne's vision for the future is that this clinic expands its footprint and also provides more opportunities for transition from paediatric to adult care. Alongside this, her final hope is that 22q becomes as well-known as Down syndrome, and that the charity will be "trailblazers" in showing how to properly coordinate and care for these very "complex" chromosomal syndromes.

In the meantime, Anne says she will continue to try secure funding for more research as well as speak at schools and conferences about this unknown but very real condition.

"I have come to actually love speaking to students. I present now at several conferences, different types of conferences. I love taking part in the research. I love it all, I absolutely love it."

For more information about 22q11 Ireland and to donate, see: <https://www.22q11ireland.org/>

## Faith IN THE family

Bairbre Cahill



We are a week on from a decision that has changed Ireland forever.

I recognise the possibility that you may be saying, "please, no, we have had enough, let's talk about something else" and yet the reality is that the time for talking has only begun.

This weekend we celebrate the Feast of Corpus Christi – the most holy Body and Blood of Christ. It is a time to reflect on the importance and meaning of the Eucharist in our lives.

It is also a time to reflect on our deepest identity as Christians and Catholics – that we are the body of Christ.

What does it mean to say that we are the body of Christ at a time when many are feeling bruised and battered by the events of recent months? Families and friends have stood on differing sides of the referendum debate. Many have felt shocked and isolated when they realised the voting intentions of people close to them. There is a lot of hurt and desolation.

We are faced with the reality that soon Ireland will become a place where a baby can be aborted for any reason at all up until 12 weeks in the womb. It will become clear in the coming months how available abortion will be even up to six months. A door has been opened which we cannot shut. Those who voted 'Yes' for reasons of 'compassion', 'choice' and 'personal autonomy' may find themselves overwhelmed with regret when the scale of abortion provision becomes apparent.

### Situation

So, what do we do? We could retreat, condemn what has happened and wait for the opportunity to say, 'I told you so'. Or we could engage even though at this moment that feels like the hardest thing. The reality is we cannot wash our hands of this situation. We need to continue to proclaim the gospel of life. When abortion is legalised, it becomes normalised. Within family life and within our wider communities we need to resist that process.

We need to recommit to raising a generation of young people who believe in the sanctity of life. To do that we

need to open up some fairly challenging conversations, about sex, relationships and responsibility. There is talk about introducing sex education programmes in schools which put a lot of emphasis on consent but are disconnected from the ethos of the schools. If that succeeds, then it becomes more important than ever that ethos and values are coming from the home.

### Consent

It is not enough to insist that young people understand the concept of consent, important though that is. As a mother and as a Catholic I want my own children to see sex as something wonderful and powerful within a committed, covenant relationship where a pregnancy is not seen as a crisis but as the expression of the love between two people.

We need to equip our young people with the resilience to withstand a culture that tells them sex is free and easy. We need them to take with



them out into the world a message that sexual pleasure comes with moral and social responsibility.

As families, faith communities and as society we need to make sure there are better options than abortion for women. As a family and as parishes we need to be open and welcoming so that women in difficulty can come and talk to us and receive support.

Are we prepared to commit resources so that our parishes and dioceses can provide pastoral care for women in crisis? Will we advocate for and support the development of perinatal hospice care to support families whose baby is diagnosed with a potentially life-limiting condition? It is not an option for us as Christians to announce, "well I voted no" and walk away. We need to be involved in creating better options for women.

We need to keep the lines of communication open. We need to proclaim the gospel of life.



## Personal Profile



## Colm Fitzpatrick speaks with Irish catechist Brendan O'Reilly

With an inspiring vocation spanning decades, making the Faith accessible to all is still on the agenda for one Irish man.

Now living in Co. Meath's Ashbourne, Brendan O'Reilly has had an illustrious career ranging from teaching, to catechetics and Irish translation. He originally began his career as a primary school teacher, and has since worked as a Dublin diocesan adviser, a co-ordinator of the well-known Alive-O primary school programme, and even initiated and oversaw the writing of the first ever *Irish Catechism* for adults.

His interest in religion began when he was very young, especially because he attended Mass with his family, and his father was in the parish choir.

"When I was growing up Brendan explains. Brendan in my life was very big, and whenever anybody asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up, I said I wanted to be the Pope. I was an altar boy and practiced my religion. I went to devotions and benedictions and sang in the choir and things like this. It was always very, very important to me,"

### Always drawn

He adds that although many people were forced to attend Mass "whether they wanted to go or not", he was always personally drawn to the Church especially the

# Translating the Faith of today



Brendan O'Reilly KC\*HS.

music and the art, which affected him "emotionally".

Now in his 70s, he says that throughout his life his Faith has grown and developed but notes that Faith has various manifestations.

"There's an intellectual approach to Faith – that's the amount of stuff you believe. Then there's a certain amount of Faith that I always say is connected to the heart and it is the way that you pray and take part in liturgy and so on. And then your Faith manifests itself in the way that you live, in what you actually do," he stresses.

The insights he has gained from studying for his Bachelors of Divinity and Masters in Catechetics, alongside praying every day and living out the Gospel has allowed his Faith to grow in various ways,

although he remains cognisant of humanness.

**“Despite the momentous work he has done...Brendan believes that there is still much more to be done”**

"Having said that I still have got the insight that various other people who have walked the Faith journey have had in their lives and that is that I'm still very conscious of my faults, my failings and my sins. That, I think, realisation of just how human and frail one is, and how we're in need of God's mercy and compassion all the time. That has grown with me over the years too."

One of the most enjoyable

ways Brendan lives out his Faith is through his involvement in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) which introduces prospective converts to aspects of Catholic beliefs and practices. He explains that although this is extra work for him, he couldn't turn away people who had a desire for God or to be Catholic, and that those searching for the divine are "beautiful".

"It's humbling work in ways that you get to know people on a very intimate and personal level and you will be amazed by just the beauty and the goodness and the desire and the hunger that are in some people for God," he says.

Complementing this evangelical work, Brendan is busy translating a primary religious education school programme called 'Grow in Love'

into Irish. This is a colourful and fun way for children and families to learn about Faith, both in school and at home.

His zeal for the national language came from his experience, in particular, with the Christian brothers, which meant that he was stationed in Irish speaking monasteries.

### Difficult

Although it can be difficult to translate from English to Irish, Brendan says because Irish was "widespread in the country from the time of St Patrick to the famine, the terminology used for various theological concepts was always there in Irish". This means there are a variety of religious phrases in Irish which differ from their English counterpart, such as 'Holy Thursday' which in Irish is 'Thursday of the Communion'.

"I do try my best to research and try to find out what the Irish language called these terms and so one of the pleasures I get out of translating the 'Grow in Love' programme into Irish is that little by little as I go along I'm learning these terms myself that were always there and I'm putting them into the Irish language programme in the hope that future generations will see that this is the proper term and it will come back into use," he explains.

At the moment, he enjoys waking up in the morning, knowing that he has a focus for the day in translating pages, which when complete gives him great happiness. But despite the momentous work he has done for the Faith in Ireland, Brendan believes there is still much more to be done.

"I suppose in general what I find particularly challenging, I would dearly love it if there was more enthusiasm in spreading the Gospel and if there was more practical effort and practical support given to any sort of endeavour that tries to preach the Gospel."

## Sweet Treats

Emma-Louise Murphy



## Bread that sounds good and tastes better!

Chocolate chip banana bread... it sounds as good as it tastes. This easy to bake loaf tin recipe is perfect for any occasion. Whip it together in no time and enjoy the chocolatey smells wafting through your kitchen. The light banana sponge combined with the sweetness of the dark chocolate is a delicious addition to any day. Top this loaf cake with vanilla ice cream for a summer dessert or just add some chopped bananas on top and call it breakfast!

### Ingredients

- 260g plain flour;
- 1.5 teaspoons baking powder;
- 1.5 teaspoons baking soda;
- Four ripe bananas;
- Two tablespoons milk;
- Two or three teaspoons of cinnamon, depending on preference;
- 140g butter;
- 200g caster sugar;
- Two medium eggs;
- 200g good quality dark chocolate;
- One teaspoon brown sugar;
- One teaspoon of vanilla extract.

### Method

Preheat your oven to 180° fan / 200° / gas mark 7. Grease and line two loaf tins.

In a clean, dry bowl, sieve together your flour, baking powder and baking soda. Add a pinch of salt and mix to combine. Set this aside. In another bowl, mash your four ripe bananas, using a wooden spoon, add the milk and vanilla extract, mixing through to create a liquid batter.

To this, you can add your cinnamon. Although, if you don't like the taste of cinnamon, you can leave this out entirely. To a third bowl, add your softened butter and sugar. Beat together with a hand mixer until light and fluffy. Add your eggs, one at a time, mixing well between each.



Pour the banana mixture into this butter mixture. Using a large wooden spoon, mix to thoroughly combine. Continue to stir this as you add in the flour little by little. This will form a cake batter that is easy to pour. Chop your dark chocolate into pieces. You can judge the size of these yourself. Lightly roll the chocolate pieces in a small amount of flour before folding through the batter. The flour will help prevent the chocolate chunks from sinking during baking.

Distribute the batter equally between both loaf tins. Sprinkle some brown sugar on top of your batter for a crunchy crust. Place in your oven for around 40-45 minutes, or until you can stick a skewer through the middle and it comes out clean.

Once your banana bread is done baking, take the cakes out of the tins and leave on a wire tray to cool. Or, dig in straight away while the chocolate is still lovely and melted.



# TVRadio

Brendan O'Regan



## Emotion replacing morality on the flat screen

Some of you will be glad I'm not going to spend a full column on the referendum but I have to say I write this part with a heavy heart, a sense of bereavement at having lost something special, a sense of dread for the little lives that will be lost under our shiny new abortion laws. They will never be seen in the media, will never see the light of day. Their "hard cases" will be invisible, airbrushed out of our consciences and consciousness.

The media played a leading role in the destruction of the right to life. The Eighth Amendment, which arguably saved the lives of thousands of children, was given nothing but bad press for years.

The reality of what abortion involves barely saw the light of day, abuses in the abortion industry were ignored as investigative journalists headed for cover. With one or two notable exceptions media presenters gave a hard time to those supporting a 'No' vote, while those campaigning for repeal were given soft interviews, with an odd sop to impartiality.

So many times we heard the line "would you force a young rape victim to carry the 'rapist's baby' to term?" but never "would you force death on an innocent baby?". Both questions needed to be asked but only one was.

Watching the **Nine News**



Cora Sherlock appeared on TV3's *The Sunday Show*.

(RTÉ1) last Saturday night was painful and embarrassing, as emotional young women in particular crassly celebrated a decision that will lead to the deaths of children. It felt like dancing on graves.

### Reaction

At one stage there was a reference to the reaction of "those on the 'No' side" and it cut to a brief comment from Archbishop Diarmuid Martin – even after the 'victory' RTÉ seemed to feel the need to reinforce the narrative that opposition to repeal was primarily a Catholic thing.

One of the more reflective and nuanced post-referendum discussions was on **The Sunday Show** (TV3) last weekend. Sarah McInerney chatted to Cora Sherlock, still flying the pro-life flag as best she could, Mary O'Rourke, former TD, who had voted 'No' for the unborn baby but could appreciate lots of the repeal points, and journalist Sarah Carey, a 'Yes' voter who could understand lots of the 'No' points.

By Monday morning the indecent haste to push on for abortion legislation as quickly as possible was the latest pro-

choice narrative. (This was the 36th Amendment and they haven't even enacted the Seventh yet!) This point was promoted heavily on last Monday's **Morning Ireland** (RTÉ Radio 1). Even as Aisling Kenny reported from a temporary Savita memorial, she kept asking those present about pressing forward with the legislation.

Later the **Today With Seán O'Rourke** programme featured Bishop Kevin Doran, long-time front line defender of the rights of the unborn. In answer to a question, he suggested Catholics who voted 'Yes' knowing and intending abortion to be the outcome, should consider going to Confession. A Catholic bishop promoting Catholic teaching and encouraging reconciliation sent texters and tweeters



Seán O'Rourke (RTÉ).

### PICK OF THE WEEK

#### THE BIG QUESTIONS

**BBC1, Sunday, June 3, 10am**

Nicky Campbell presents topical debate on religious and ethical issues, live from Brunel University, London.

#### MASS

**RTÉ1, Sunday, June 3, 11am**

Mass for Corpus Christi, from the ruins of Killone Abbey in Co. Clare. Special prayers for exam students.

#### THE LYRIC FEATURE

**RTÉ Lyric FM, Sunday, June 3, 6pm**

The greatest unknown music of all: Bach's Church Cantatas, with Tim Thurston.

into outrage mode.

John Murray of DCU said the Church should ignore the idea of "what's useful to them" and forget about popularity. John Downing of the *Irish Independent*, a 'Yes' voter, lambasted the extremes of secular intolerance ("free speech for people who agree with me").

### Crime

To move on – "we believe those children have a right to live, they've committed no crime" – this was from a missionary priest in Biafra during the mid-60s, when civil war in this breakaway area of Nigeria caused a devastating famine. **Biafra – Mísean Dearthadta** (TG4, Wednesday of last week) told the story of how the Irish missionaries already in the area turned their attentions both to feeding the starving people with the help of generous contri-

butions from home, and to tackling the political obstacles to ending the war.

In face of great danger they smuggled in food at night and also journalists to reveal the atrocity to the world. For the first time we got to see starving children on screen, and in those days this suffering prompted a generous response and made political waves – they challenged UK complicity in the war atrocities of the Nigerian government and were even accused of prolonging the war.

The heroism of nuns and priests was exemplary, as they cheerfully cast aside cares for their own safety in order to serve their people. Mísean Dearthadta – forgotten indeed.

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Aubrey Malone

# Film

## Ode to rejuvenation in the Scottish Highlands

### Edie (12A)

"Too late for chips?" the 83-year-old Edie (Sheila Hancock) asks her cook in a fast food restaurant. "Never too late for you, Edie," he replies in what becomes a lightbulb moment for her.

This is a sweet little film about a self-professed 'geriatric' trying to roll back the years. It's "never too late" for anyone who doesn't want to go gently into the good night. "I shall wear purple," as the poem says. So the woman who was on the verge of signing herself into a nursing home, who's spent the last 30 years nursing a husband who never allowed her to be the 'wild child' she once was,



Sheila Hancock stars in *Edie*.

Very good  
★★★★

decides to pursue a lifelong dream of climbing a mountain in Inverness.

I'm normally leery of these 'I can do it!' films featuring feisty people of a certain age.

All too often they wear their feelgood-ness on their sleeve. This does too for a while. In the early scenes the message is too telegraphed. It becomes more nuanced when

Edie starts to develop a relationship with Jonny (Kevin Guthrie), a kindly soul who runs the camping shop where she gets her equipment.

Jonny is short of cash. He offers to put Edie through her paces for a fee before the big climb. Then they start to bond and you think: it's going to be one of those schmaltzy films where Edie wills her money to the cash-strapped Good Samaritan to help him on his way.

### Nursing homes

Director Simon Hunter doesn't handcuff himself with timeworn clichés like this. The only fault of the film is the manner in which Edie appears so sprightly early on.

It makes you wonder why she ever went within 100 miles of a nursing home.

In the later scenes she shows her infirmities more. She's also confronted with that other enemy of the elderly – ageism – in some of Jonny's friends. We now realise this is no *Driving Miss Daisy* style fairytale where you might expect to see Maggie Smith or Julie Walters disposing of their zimmer frames to cavort around pubs to the sound of rock music.

No, it's a gritty exploration of the problems of those who try something youthful only to realise they're probably not able for it anymore.

"Climb every mountain!" exhorted Julie Andrews'

Mother Superior in *The Sound of Music* when she played a postulant in that film. Edie climbs just one but her conquest of it is cathartic. It's her 'Neil Armstrong' moment. A small step for a woman, a giant leap for elderly people.

Her indomitable spirit is well captured by Hancock – John Thaw's widow – a "cranky old cow" who replaces this with her tender side.

She develops a childlike sense of wonder as her irascibility disappears under Jonny's good graces. This is a 3D woman trying to make up for three decades of unfulfilment with her dream climb. There's a lesson there for all of us.



# BookReviews

Peter Costello



## Images and insights: the people and landscape of Achill

**Achill: The Island**  
poems by John F. Deane,  
paintings by John Behan  
(Currach Press, €19.99  
/£14.99)

Peter Costello

John F. Deane is that rarity, a modern Irish poet deeply inspired in his poetry by what he calls in his introduction “the wonders of the Christian faith”.

He himself was born on Achill Island in 1943, and his childhood was imbued by the lives of the people, the nature of the land, and those changing moods of the ocean that affects every aspect of the place, where the atmosphere alters not from season to season, so much as moment to moment.

### Culture

In this book, Deane joins with artist John Behan, of much the same age, the renowned sculptor and painter. Behan himself once said: “My art is related to ancient culture

as well as to modern technique. I feel that every artist, be they poet or writer or sculptor or painter, must have roots, roots that will tap into the ground.”

The same could certainly be said by the poet.

### Loneliness

There is in both the poems and the paintings a great sense of loneliness, of the isolated individual, a widely travelled mariner sitting by the harbour, a figure in a dark hat and long coat, walking along an empty beach – an image that brings to mind not the poet but the recollection of the “spoilt priests” of old.

But there is in the artists an achievement of another kind of priesthood that relates this human frailty to the immensities of the cosmos, and the intimate love of God.

But these are matched in a change of mood with Deane's poems, which explore not only the difficult things of life, but the aspirations of the

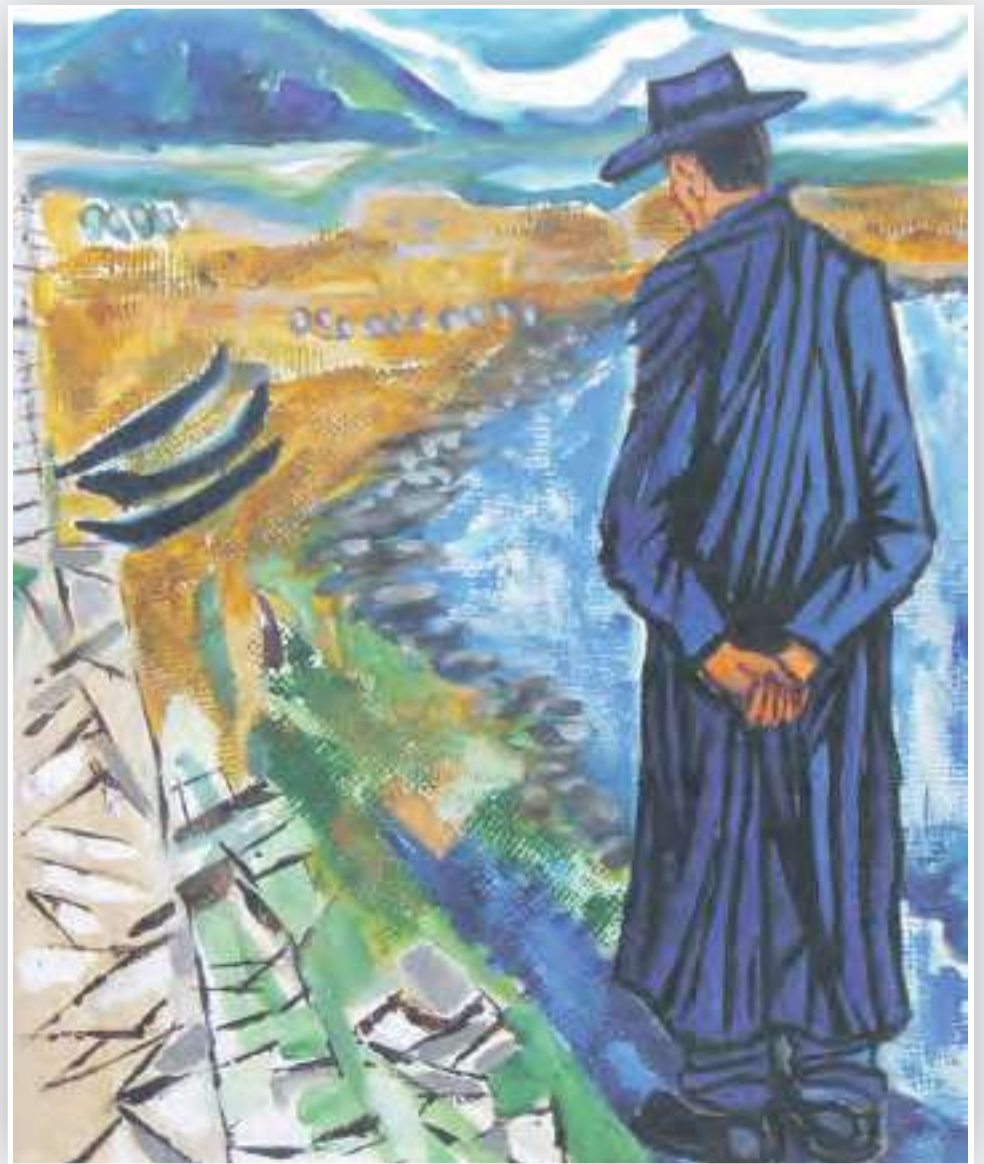
heart and soul as he feels and perceives them.

This brilliant book, in all meanings of that word, will hopefully introduce one of Ireland's important poets to a wider audience.

About the island and its beauty he writes:

I stand  
awed again that this could be  
the still  
point of all creation, the  
fruits  
of a crazy generosity, yet  
how we amble through it  
as if it were our portion, and  
our endeavour.

With moving poems, and dark unforgettable images, this is a book for all those who love the western landscapes that have inspired eateries, generations of writers and painters (the names of Paul Henry, Heinrich Böll, and Graham Greene are often mentioned, though others, such as Darrell Figgis also come to mind).



‘Figure on Dooagh Beach’ (acrylic on canvas) by John Behan.

## Living life by the light of the great mystics

**Mystics: the beauty of prayer**  
by Craig Larkin SM  
(Columba Press, €12.99)

Peter Costello

This book was originally published two years ago in New Zealand under the title *Inner Music: Living a Life in God*. The title of the splendid new Irish edition gives a better idea perhaps of what the book contains – short essays on the wider Christian mystical tradition.

The book is concerned with more than their developed sense of prayer, but also with their insights as a whole, as a way of indeed “living a life in God”.

**“It is more like The Golden Treasury, so to speak, than The Oxford Book of Verse”**

The book is, in effect, an anthology of short but integral extracts from some twenty mystics concluded by a personal reflection by Craig Larkin himself.

The range of mystics is wide, from Augustine of Hippo and Origen to Caryl Houselander. They are arranged thematically



Craig Larkin.



Diadochus of Photike, and other Orthodox writers.

Women are well represented, but some earlier reviewers thought that there should have been mystics from Oceania, Africa and Asia, as indeed the useful map of the locations associated with the chosen mystics certainly indicates a Eurocentric view.

### Wider dimensions

One suspects that Craig Larkin, based as he was in the more civilised part of “down under”, was aware of the need for another

anthology to do proper justice to such people, representative of the wider dimensions of the true Church.

But to have included these would have unbalanced the selection, as largely new to the reader they would have required different treatment. As it is this is an excellent selection.

But names are not everything, nor is “light” always to be found. How striking are the words of the anonymous medieval monk who composed ‘The Cloud of Unknowing’ (often paired with Walter Hilton’s ‘Ladder of Perfection’).

**“The illustrations are very special. This is richly illustrated with photos of the stained glass windows in St Mary of the Angels, Wellington, New Zealand”**

In the third chapter he writes on the desert that is often faced by those early efforts at prayer. “This is what you are to do: lift your heart up to the Lord, and a gentle stirring of love desiring him for his own sake and not for his gifts. Diligently

persevere until you feel joy in this.

“For in the beginning it is usual to feel nothing but a kind of darkness about your mind, or as it were a cloud of unknowing. You will seem to know nothing and to feel nothing except a naked intent towards God in the depths of your being. Try as you might, this darkness and this cloud will remain between you and your God. But learn to be at home in this darkness.”

“For if, in this life, you hope to feel and see God as he is in himself, it must be within this darkness and this cloud.”

But the other mystics here have struggled with that darkness and achieved glimpses of great things. And it's those great things that Craig Larkin wants people to know about and experience.

The illustrations are very special. This is richly illustrated with photos of the stained glass windows in St Mary of the Angels, Wellington, New Zealand – a homely touch from the church where Craig Larkin was ordained a priest, it is a very personal touch which in a way brings alive the dedicated life of Larkin himself.

A lovely book which many will learn from and come to treasure.



Readers should note that *The Irish Catholic* circulates throughout the island of Ireland and the book prices listed are the retail price recommended by the Irish or British publishers, in either euros or sterling, as a general indication of what purchasers may expect to pay.

**The Rivers of Dublin, new revised edition** by Clair L. Sweeney, revised by Gerard O'Connell & Michael Curtis (Dublin City Council / Irish Academic Press, €24.99)

**Peter Costello**

There is a lovely saying, by an unidentified street poet, that has long echoed in my mind, as a description of the modern city: "The fields lie dreaming underneath."

No matter how life changes and the street are built over, no matters how people and buildings change over time, it is impossible to escape "the lay of the land". Man can change many things in nature (or so they think), but not the ultimate shape of creation.

Clair Sweeney was an engineer working for the old Dublin Corporation, the "Corpo" of childhood memory. His book *The Rivers of Dublin* was first published back in 1991, originally in a larger format which gave full room to the maps.

This quickly went out of print so valuable was it to anyone interested in the foundations of Dublin. I have to confess that I came to the conclusion that it was not reprinted as the authorities did not want people to be too easily made aware of the potential for flooding these rivers presented.

This was an unworthy thought. Here is a revised and enlarged edition which presents the material and the maps in smaller but

## The hidden torrents of Dublin



much handier format. It will I think be a revelation to most Dubliners.

There is hardly a place in Dublin that has not got some "secret river" nearby. Past my house there flows the now covered over (converted is the engineers' name) course of the Swan River, which flows down from Rothmans, through the Swan centre, into the Dodder, passing under Swan Place, directly opposite my house.

### Neighbourhood

Yet hardly anyone in the neighbourhood, even those whose modern houses it flows under, suspect the river's presence. One manifestation of it is that every winter the water rises up out the shore at the start of Morehampton Road, on occasion flooding down into some nearby basements.

I loved the original edition, and am delighted to have at hand for future reference this new edition. In some places these rivers flow freely as does the Dodder and Tolka,

but it is never clear quite what is now hidden underground.

In other places these rivers and stream provided drinking water, places to wash clothes, and the sites of small scale (and sometimes not so small scale) industries, in the form of workshops and mills – the early industrialisation of the city.

Because it flows round Dublin Castle and was the mooring place of ships into the middle ages most people are (I think) aware of the Poddle. But as the city has spread out from the medieval Hiberno-Norse core, acres and acres of once rural farming and grazing has been paved over. Of course the result has been floods, as at Drumcondra, which provide a warning that we cannot just do what we want with the land. Nature (or creation if you like) will assert itself.

We seem to have tamed the wild rivers, quelled the petulant streams, but in reality they shape our lives in many ways still. The answer to floods in Dublin, Cork, Athlone and elsewhere, is to have a care what we do (and that means you and dear reader). No amount of anti-flood walls will protect us and allow us to live where we simply should not be living.

## The meaning of the Mass...for children

**Why We Go to Mass, a comicbook** by Fr. Pat Seaver & Hugh McMahon (€5.99 postage included; for copies contact Paul Flynn at Kyle House, Henry St, Limerick, tel: 061-313377)

**Peter Costello**

Having to sit on so many Sundays to sit beside families with their small children, even some of communion age, are running around the aisles, inattentive and uninterested in the service they are attending, this is a book many will have longed for.

Once upon a time small children were never taken to Mass – they had not reached the age of reason after all. They stayed at home with Granny or an elder sister. But when the extended family seems to have vanished, along with a series of Sunday morning masses, things are different.

There is nothing comic about the mass. Fr Seaver should perhaps have not used the Americanism "comic book" for his little pamphlet- the correct

European term is "graphic book" might have been better. But he has written a book many parents will want to have. In the simplest but clearest terms he can manage he explains to a young readership what the mass and the Eucharist are about.

Observation suggests that some may have been schooled in the right movement and actions, such as going up to receive, but their minds are not engaged with the Mass as a kind of feast, a source of nourishment. Their parents hush them, but are so intent on their own devotions that they neglect their children. Whether this is a sort of mild "child abuse" is something to think about.

Fr Seaver wrote an earlier book with a similar intent but found it was just too academic. This book is a further effort to reach out to what seems to be a neglected cohort of Catholics, the Catholics of the future. What surprises one is that the Catholic

publishers that exist have not taken up his idea. Maybe with a bit of promotion now they will, and so reach even more families.



## WebWatch

# Deep thoughts from abroad on validity of votes

After criticising Damian Thompson's execrable [spectator.co.uk](http://spectator.co.uk) podcast about the referendum in a recent Web Watch, it seems only fair to point to a far better [spectator.co.uk](http://spectator.co.uk) piece on the referendum this week.

'What really happened in Ireland's abortion referendum', a 'Coffee House' column by Wicklow-born but London-based Melanie McDonagh is marked, as perhaps inevitable nowadays, by a near omniscient sense of hindsight, but it makes important points, not least about lazy comparisons between the Brexit referendum and our abortion referendum.

Pointing out that Britain's debate saw mainstream newspapers and periodicals taking meaningfully different stances, and that there were major and recognisable political figures on both sides of the debate, McDonagh notes that things were very different in Ireland.

**“Never... has such a mighty wedge followed such a thin end”**

"There is no equivalent in the small, self-regarding world of Irish journalism, of this magazine, or indeed the *Daily Mail* or the *Guardian*. To get some idea of the wildly skewed nature of the referendum, imagine the Brexit campaign without Boris Johnson, Michael Gove, Gisela Stuart and the *Mail*, *Telegraph* and *Spectator*. That's how fair and representative it was," she writes.

She turns then to the 'Yes' side's focus on the hard cases and its mendacious manipulation of the tragic case of Savita Halappanavar, and the as yet uncertain issue of abortifacient pills.

"Never, in short, has such a mighty wedge followed



Melanie McDonagh.

such a very thin end," she writes.

Perhaps most remarkably, in the wake of our second 'Home to Vote' charade, she recalls an investigation conducted by NewsTalk's Odran Flynn in January 2016.

"As for the size of the majority, there is no doubt it was hefty, but there remain genuine concerns about the validity of some votes, notably young people registered at home and at university voting twice, plus some of the Home To Vote contingent who shouldn't have been voting at all," she writes. "An investigation by the NewsTalk radio station in 2016 suggested that there may be 488,000 unaccountable voters on the register. The appetite for investigating this potential abuse? Zero."

I had entirely forgotten this story, but one advantage of the internet is that it's not hard to unearth the kind of story we should have in our minds when considering how a country's political culture can be shifted. Stories about how there could be almost half a million people improperly registered to vote can easily be read at [newstalk.com](http://newstalk.com), and if we turn to [irishtimes.com](http://irishtimes.com) we see pretty quickly that while the Department of the Environment pooh-poohed this notion, it doesn't seem to have done anything to investigate it.

McDonagh's piece is, as noted, far from flawless, but it at least shows the merit

of knowing the territory and the facts on the ground. Over at [downtonlongenecker.com](http://downtonlongenecker.com), on the other hand,

Catholics could and surely will waste their time reading the Pennsylvania-born one-time Protestant's thoughts on 'Ireland and the end of cultural Catholicism'.

There's a banal truth in his opening observation that "Ireland's Catholic faith has eroded, and the once great and powerful Irish Church has become a husk of what it once was", but it's with the next sentence that his observations get problematic.

"I am no expert on Ireland, Irish history or the Irish Church, but I expect the malaise has the same roots at the decline of the institutional church not only in the other European countries, but also in the decline of cultural Catholicism in the United States," he says, before going on and eventually deploying this clunker:

"As long as the Irish had a strong national identity—especially as opposed to the hated English—they banded together and they clung to their Catholicism as part of that distinctive identity. Once they joined the European Union and the English turned out to be much more friendly their strong Irish identity got watered down and their Catholicism with it."

Nope. Whatever else has hollowed out our Church, this isn't it.



# Classifieds

The deadline for advertising in the classifieds is 10.30am, the Friday before publication. Contact the Classified Team on 01 687 4094 or email [advertising@irishcatholic.ie](mailto:advertising@irishcatholic.ie)



**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](http://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@littliflower.ie](mailto:srbrigid@littliflower.ie)

## St Therese Pilgrimages

Celebrate the Feast of St Faustina by staying at **Divine Mercy Shrine, Krakow** from 4<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> Oct 2018

Price **£499/€559**

Contact Danny 02890245547  
[Daniel.morgan5@btconnect.com](mailto:Daniel.morgan5@btconnect.com)

ALL PROCEEDS TO CHARITY

## 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.

**Threshold**  
Solving housing problems, preventing homelessness

Call: 01 635 3607  
Email: [Cora@threshold.ie](mailto:Cora@threshold.ie)  
Visit: [www.threshold.ie](http://www.threshold.ie)



## URGENT REQUEST: HOUSING NEEDED

**Do you have a property that could help house Merchants Quay Ireland's homeless clients in recovery?**

**Henry and the Housing Crisis:**

"Come January I'll have to find somewhere to live, so I asked MQI please could I have some more time here over Christmas. And you know what it's like for all the homeless people out there – it's a huge struggle. To anyone who needs help, it's the first place I mention. I'll never forget Merchants Quay."

— Henry, MQI aftercare client

If you have a property to rent or donate, that could help house Merchants Quay clients ready to make a fresh start, we'll provide the support and expertise.

Donated properties in need of refurbishment are welcome.

For more on how you can work with MQI and rent or donate your property, contact Emma at 01 524 0965 or [Emma.Murphy@mqi.ie](mailto:Emma.Murphy@mqi.ie)

# GOAL

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](mailto:cpollard@goal.ie) or drop me a note at Carnegie House, Library Road, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin

### 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.

**ACTIVE**, pleasant man (car owner) will care part time daily for elderly man. Please phone 086 359 2327.

### EVENT

**A DAY OF PRAYER** for families at Rackett Hall Hotel, Roscrea, Co Tipperary. Date: Saturday June 9 2018; Time 9.30am - 5pm. Rosaries, Confession, Holy Mass, Adoration, Guest Speakers, Healing Ministry. For more info, please call 061 380382.

### SUMMER HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

**GALWAY** – large, bright, modern, spacious house in small quiet estate. Located 5 minutes' drive from Salthill/Galway. Great access point for the Wild Atlantic Way. Two large TVs, UPC and Wifi. Bed linen, pillow, duvet and towels provided. Perfect for your Galway getaway. Flexible on dates and price. Phone now to avoid disappointment, 087 6737978.

### WEDDING SINGER

**TENOR (LYRICAL VOICE)** available to sing at church wedding. Lovely songs and hymns. Please phone Michael 086 359 2327.

## The Irish Catholic

Every week the generosity of our readers is reflected by the number of donations we receive for various charities and organisations. Payments sent to *The Irish Catholic* are forwarded to the nominated charities every month. We do not charge for this service

M.F.	Sick & Indigent Roomkeepers	€75.00
M.F.	Sacred Heart Burse	€75.00
M.F.	St Joseph Young Priest	€ 75.00
M.F.	Merchant Quay	€75.00
M.F.	Capuchin Day Centre	€75.00
M.F.	Focus Ireland	€75.00
M.F.	Peter McVerry Trust	€75.00
M.F.	Womans AID	€75.00
M.F.	Alone	€75.00
M.F.	Aid to church in need	€75.00
M.F.	Teresa Penny Meals	€ 80.00

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](mailto:info@hospicefoundation.ie)  
[www.hospicefoundation.ie](http://www.hospicefoundation.ie)

 The Irish Hospice Foundation

## Celebrate the WMOF and the Pope's visit with Us in a colourful way.

Bunting packages  
**300m - €235** (+2 flags 3ftx5ft)  
INCLUDING VAT AND DELIVERY  
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Windmill Distributors

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### LEGACY

Help evangelize Ireland by remembering The Irish Catholic in your will.

Since 1880 we have been Ireland's leading Catholic weekly. Your help will grow subscriptions to schools and poor parishes.

For more information contact us on 01-687-4020

## BÓTHAR

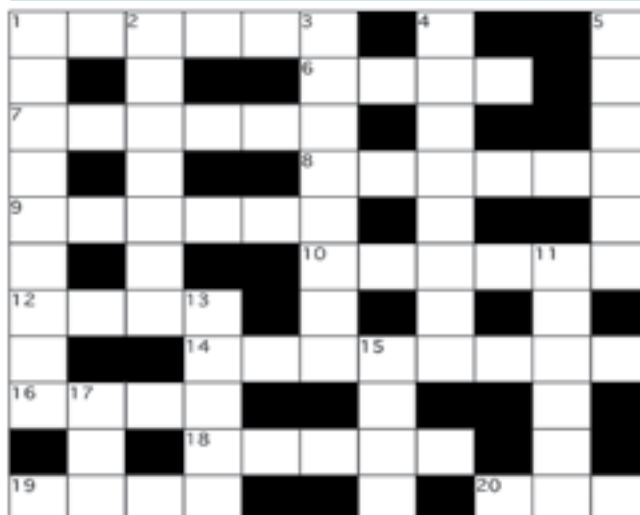
**PLEASE REMEMBER BÓTHAR IN YOUR WILL.** €1,800 will allow us to give an Irish, in-calf, dairy heifer to a struggling family in Rwanda, completely transforming their lives. Your gift will live on for generations. Phone the office on 061 414142 or [info@bothar.ie](mailto:info@bothar.ie)



# Leisure time

## Crossword Junior

Gordius 234



### ACROSS

- 1 Shakespeare wrote 'Romeo and \_\_\_\_\_' (6)  
 6 A step on a ladder (4)  
 7 Black and white bird which steals shiny objects (6)  
 8 Driveway with trees along it (6)  
 9 These big seafish hunt other fish (6)  
 10 This word is part of the name of many soccer clubs (6)  
 12 Above (4)  
 14 What Americans call a lift (8)  
 16 Pigeon (4)  
 18 Use it for control when walking the dog (5)  
 19 Put your feet in these to travel over snow or water

(4)

- 20 Ask this question when you want to know the reason (3)

### DOWN

- 1 Secret agent 007 (5,4)  
 2 Suitcases (7)  
 3 Money and jewels that have been buried or hidden away (8)  
 4 Actress Ms Jolie's first name (8)  
 5 "I used a needle and \_\_\_\_\_ to sew it" (6)  
 11 As much as is needed (6)  
 13 Wind fishing lines on these (4)  
 15 You put flowers in this (4)  
 17 Tree which gives us acorns (3)

## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

### GORDIUS No.352

**Across** – 1 Sob 3 Black Beauty 8 Azalea 9 Ryder Cup 10 Inset  
 11 Doric 13 Pious 15 Feather 16 Heavens above 21 Axiom  
 23 Among 24 Sycamore 25 Diwali 26 Tied cottage 27 Owe

**Down** – 1 Spanish flea 2 Brassica 3 Bleat 4 Cartoon 5 Emend  
 6 Ulcers 7 Yap 12 Closing time 13 Pieta 14 Swede  
 17 Eldorado 18 No sweat 19 Circle 22 Mimic 23 Alive 24 Sot

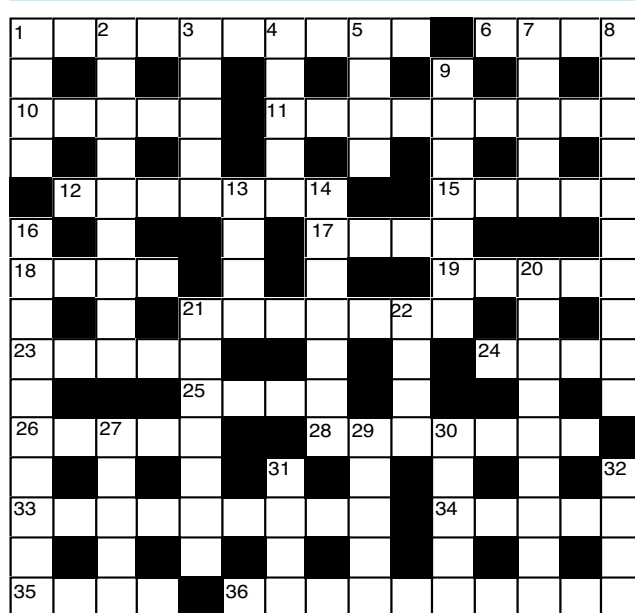
### CHILDREN'S No.233

**Across** – 1 Ordinary 6 Fairy tale 7 Coin 8 Avoids 9 Rest  
 12 Ass 14 Heels 16 Adam 17 Bounty 18 Adult

**Down** – 1 Officer 2 Daisies 3 Art gallery 4 Yellow 5 Glasses  
 10 Elbow 11 Think 13 Snail 15 Sand

## Crossword

Gordius 353



### ACROSS

- 1 It's fun to play with conflict at the lair - against poachers, of course (4,6)  
 6 A mass of floating ice (4)  
 10 This city is Cornwall's administrative centre (5)  
 11 A snakelike fish has gone off in the creel (6,3)  
 12 Try some nougat (tempting) (7)  
 15 Herb has identified a couple of pronouns (5)  
 17 & 26a Spanish tennis player (4,5)  
 18 Every teacher's heart (4)  
 19 & 32d How can a wasp incur conflicts between Rome and Carthage? (5,4)  
 21 Spancel a hovel to the French (7)  
 23 Perspiration (5)  
 24 Bridge players may use this bidding system (4)  
 25 Informal data? Well, partly informal! (4)  
 26 See 17 across  
 28 Prayers change new paint on your car (7)  
 33 Sleepy state populated by yes-men? (4,2,3)  
 34 & 27d Operatic diva (5,5)  
 35 What the Chinese spend to take a feline out of Yucatan (4)  
 36 'The Scrumpy Times',

perhaps? (5,5)

### DOWN

- 1 The attendance at a match (4)  
 2 One may teach sumo differently - right under your nose, perhaps (9)  
 3 Entire (5)  
 4 Revise, in short, about headgear (5)  
 5 Ages which put your nose out of joint (4)  
 7 Foe (5)  
 8 Aureate part of the leg once adored by the Israelites (6,4)  
 9 Bureaucracy featuring in a communist cassette (3,4)  
 13 Fly-by-night type with a consuming interest in one's wardrobe! (4)  
 14 Farm vehicle (7)  
 16 Poll yearns to be seen in an individual way (10)  
 20 Fruit that allows nine cater for change (9)  
 21 Famous British cheese (7)  
 22 A failure to break even (4)  
 27 See 34 across  
 29 Mr Izzard, perhaps, makes the editor perish (5)  
 30 Descriptive of a toaster that works only when Father is awake? (3-2)  
 31 Against, not pro- (4)  
 32 See 19 across

**MQI**  
 Merchants Quay Ireland

**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](http://www.mqi.ie)

Ring Emma Murphy at 01-5240965 to be included on the guest list for the June 14th 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: [fand@iol.ie](mailto:fand@iol.ie)  
 26 Mountjoy Square, Dublin 1  
[www.familyandlife.org](http://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.mscomissions.ie](http://www.mscomissions.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

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 Working for a just world

01-629 3333  
[info@trocaire.ie](mailto:info@trocaire.ie)  
[www.trocaire.org](http://www.trocaire.org)

## Sudoku Corner

234

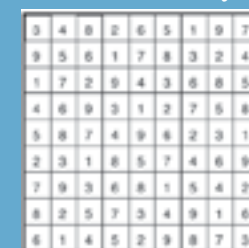
### Easy



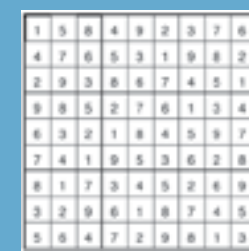
### Hard



### Last week's Easy 233



### Last week's Hard 233





# Believers must dry their tears and burn bright

**I'VE BEEN DREADING** the writing of this column for weeks, and hoping beyond hope that I would be able to write on the basis of a different result.

For those convinced that unborn humans deserve legal safeguarding, a group which includes people of all religions and none, the result is a catastrophe, and the scale of the defeat was entirely unexpected.

But, for Catholics, the result is about more than just abortion. Many people, on both sides, experienced last Saturday as a decisive and public rejection of Christianity in Ireland. It is agonising for believers in Christ to witness the public thrashing of what the hold to be good, true, and beautiful. Many of my friends have experienced these days as a time of great darkness, and have found themselves reduced to tears again and again.

**Old alliance**

In 'post-Catholic' Ireland an old alliance between Faith and culture seems to be falling apart, and this is immensely disorienting and distressing for those who have been happy and at peace within the context of this alliance.



The situation reminds me of that faced by St Augustine towards the end of his life, when the invasions of the Goths were destroying the Roman Empire. This was experienced as a huge crisis by Christians, who had been convinced that the alliance

between Rome and Christianity would endure until the end of time. What to do now, when the gates of a Christian society had given way, and trusted institutions were collapsing?

**Response**

In response to these questions, Augustine wrote the great 'City of God', a long reflection on history, providence, and the proper focus of Christians. Regimes come and go, he said, some more just than others, but none of them truly trustworthy. Our true allegiance is to a higher ruler, and our true home – the heart of God himself – will outlast the crumbling of the Roman forum (and, we might add, of Leinster House).

So, Augustine argued, it is right

to lament what is passing, but Christians have an urgent task that endures: constant conversion, the work of becoming saints.

This doesn't mean retreating from the world, or giving up our responsibility to be active in society and politics. Far from it. It simply means taking the long view, and taking the time – in prayer and self-examination – to make sure that our compasses are fixed to true North, so that we can live and love with purpose. It is when our eyes are fixed on Christ that we will be most useful and effective in society.

We have all heard the proverb, 'It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness'. Night may be falling in Ireland, but the darkness will not win out if believers are ready to dry their tears and burn bright.

**ONE OF THE DEFINING FEATURES** of the referendum campaign was the extraordinary dedication of pro-life activists and campaigners, many of whom were new to political action.

One of these heroic campaigners pointed out to me that great friendships were formed during this time of adversity, and that the campaign led many people to progress greatly in virtue, especially in the virtue of courage. This activity was backed up by a great outpouring of prayer.

Some might be discouraged by the result, and think that all this work and prayer was wasted, but this is far from the case. Thousands of Irish people have become more heroic and more prayerful, and this cannot fail to bear fruit. If you are one of these people, why not gather with these new friends, to see what good you can do now?

Pro-life campaigns still need your work and support to help change laws, and we can and should also turn our new-found energy to relieving poverty, supporting families in crisis, caring for the disabled, reaching out to recent immigrants, visiting the elderly.

Champions of the culture of life have been born in this campaign, and our work is just beginning.



## SISTERS IN TANZANIA URGENTLY NEED HELP TO SINK A BOREHOLE



Please can you help the Misericordia Sisters turn three and a half acres of arid land into a fruit and vegetable farm? Sister Fabiola, working with very deprived children in Dodoma, Tanzania, urgently needs funds to sink a borehole. The children desperately need fresh fruit and vegetables but the Sisters cannot afford the high prices charged in the city. If they had an adequate water supply she and her Sisters can do the rest. They could grow what they need to feed the children, and the surplus fruit and vegetables would feed the poor and needy in the surrounding villages.

**Can you spare a donation for the Sisters?**

The Sisters are pleading for the sum of €8,290. If you can spare a donation, please send it to The Little Way Association and we will transfer it to the Sisters without deduction. A borehole is crucial to ensure clean safe water for the school children, Sisters and the villagers.

*If we receive more than the Sisters need on this occasion, we will use it to help other similar water projects.*

**EVERY EURO YOU SEND WILL BE VERY GRATEFULLY RECEIVED AND FORWARDED WITHOUT DEDUCTION.**

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

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

I enclose €..... to be allocated to:

€..... **BOREHOLE TO PROVIDE CLEAN SAFE WATER**

€..... **NEEDS OF MISSIONARIES**

€..... **MASS OFFERINGS**  
(Please state number \_\_\_\_\_)

€..... **LITTLE WAY ADMIN EXPENSES**

☐ Please tick if you would like an acknowledgement

Name (Rev. Mr. Mrs. Miss) (Block letters please)

Address

To donate online go to [tinyurl.com/lwadonations](http://tinyurl.com/lwadonations)

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

IC/05/31



### LITTLE WAY KNOCK

Pilgrims and visitors are welcome at The Little Way Theresian Centre in Knock which offers homely B&B accommodation.

Tel: 094 9388406

Email: [littlewaycentreknock@gmail.com](mailto:littlewaycentreknock@gmail.com)

### MISSIONARIES NEED YOUR MASS OFFERINGS

Your Mass offerings help to provide the missionary priest's maintenance and assist him to extend the Kingdom of God upon earth.

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

### HOLY MASS FOR YOUR INTENTIONS

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