

The Irish Catholic

MICHAEL KELLY

Govt must listen to our demands to celebrate the Eucharist Page 2

LEAVING A LEGACY

15-page special on reaching out in your absence Pages 15-29

ACTING TODAY for a **BRIGHTER** tomorrow

MARTIN MANSERGH

Constitutional confrontation isn't the way forward Page 7



Thursday, November 5, 2020

€2.00 (Stg £1.70)

The-Irish-Catholic-Newspaper

@IrishCathNews

www.irishcatholic.com

Let your TDs know 'we need Mass' – Archbishop Martin

Chai Brady

The Church is stepping up the campaign to put pressure on the Government in the Republic to allow people to attend Mass in a safe and physically-distanced way.

Catholics in the North continue to be allowed to attend Mass and a delegation from the hierarchy met with Taoiseach Micheál Martin last week to put the case for relaxing the ban in the Republic.

Now, Primate of All-Ireland Archbishop Eamon Martin has urged Catholics to let members of the Oireachtas know that Mass can resume in a way that is safe and that vulnerable people can continue to join online.

Key messages

Writing exclusively in *The Irish Catholic* this week, Archbishop Eamon insists that "parishes have been keeping worshippers safe and promoting the key messages of public health.

"Since returning to Mass and the sacraments in late June, thanks to the efforts

of thousands of parish staff, volunteers and cleaners, and careful monitoring by teams on the ground, there has been no evidence that church gatherings in Ireland are contributing to the spread of Covid-19 infection," he says.

Outlining the proactive steps parishes have taken, Archbishop Eamon points out that "we have limited substantially the numbers attending Mass and taken responsible decisions to modify liturgical actions so that people can gather and participate safely.

"We have suspended the Sunday obligation and encouraged those who are sick or vulnerable not to put themselves at any risk by attending," he says.

"In making the case for public worship at all stages of lockdown we are not claiming special privilege over other places – like gyms, restaurants or sports. We are simply stating the fact that, for Christians, gathering to worship God is not an

» Continued on Page 2

Praying for the peace of Europe...



A man prays with rosary beads outside Notre Dame Basilica in Nice, France after three people were stabbed to death inside by an Islamist. Islamists also killed at least four people in an attack in Vienna, Austria on Monday (see page 12). Photo: CNS/Eric Gaillard

DAVID QUINN

It's time we found our voice on Mass gatherings PAGE 8



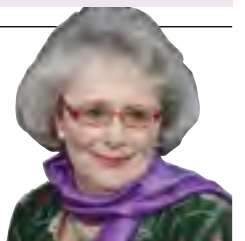
IT'S BED TIME!

How to prepare your garden for winter PAGES 31 & 33



MARY KENNY

Remembering lost loved ones in November PAGE 5



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

Widespread droughts and floods destroying crops and food supplies in world's most vulnerable countries.

CONCERN
worldwide

Covid-19 has further exacerbated an already dreadful situation.

SEE PAGE 25

Inside this week

Maria Byrne

Treasuring Confession as vital to peace

Page 32



Fr Martin Delaney

Precious moments at life's end

Page 40



Aubrey Malone

There are no restrictions on finding good movies

Page 35



Managing Editor: Michael Kelly, editor@irishcatholic.ie
Northern Correspondent: Martin O'Brien, martin@irishcatholic.ie
Multimedia Journalists: Chai Brady, chai@irishcatholic.ie
Ruadhán Jones, ruadhan@irishcatholic.ie
Jason Osborne, jason@irishcatholic.ie
Newsroom: news@irishcatholic.ie 01 6874026
Books Editor: Peter Costello, books@irishcatholic.ie
Advertising: advertising@irishcatholic.ie 01 6874094
Accounts: accounts@irishcatholic.ie 01 6874020
Magnificat: magnificat@irishcatholic.ie
Shop: shop@irishcatholic.ie
Managing Director: Garry O'Sullivan

Annual Subscription Rates: Ireland €145. Airmail €250. Six months – €75.
ISSN 1393 - 6832 - Published by The Irish Catholic,
Unit 3b, Bracken Business Park, Bracken Road, Sandyford,
Dublin 18, D18 K277.
Printed by Webprint, Cork.

Place an Advert
Phone 01 687 4094 or advertising@irishcatholic.ie



CONCERN
worldwide

BE PART OF A WORLD
WITHOUT HUNGER

Adukual* (18) and her seven-month-old baby, Elizabeth* live in South Sudan, a country torn by years of conflict. Like millions of others, every day they depend on Concern Worldwide to survive the devastating effects of war, poverty and hunger. Concern is able to help thanks to the support of people like you, who have left us a gift in their Will. Will you consider doing the same?

For more information, please request your free copy of Concern's legacy booklet. Contact Siobhan on 01 4178020, email siobhan.oconnor@concern.net or visit www.concern.net/bequest – finding out more does not, of course, oblige you to leave a gift.

Why not do it right now before you turn the page?

ENDING
EXTREME POVERTY
WHATEVER
IT TAKES

Follow The Irish Catholic on Twitter
IrishCathNews

Concern Worldwide, a company limited by guarantee, Registered Company Number: 39647, Registered Revenue Number: CHY 5745, Registered Charity Number: 20009090, Registered in Ireland, Registered address is 52-55 Lower Camden St, Dublin 2
*Names changed to protect identities.

Government must hear us demand the right to celebrate the Eucharist

The Second Vatican Council (1962-65) succinctly describes the Eucharist as “the source and summit of the Christian life”. It says that everything that we do as believers is bound up with the Eucharist and is oriented towards it. From the very beginning, the followers of Jesus gathered together on the Lord’s Day for the Eucharist.

Down through the centuries, countless numbers of Catholics have given their lives for the Eucharist. In the year 304, the Emperor Diocletian forbade Christians, on pain of death, from possessing the Scriptures, from gathering on Sundays to celebrate the Eucharist and from building places in which to hold their assemblies.

In Abitene, a small village in present-day Tunisia, 49 Christians were taken by surprise one Sunday while they were celebrating the Eucharist. They were arrested and taken to Carthage to be interrogated by the Proconsul Anulinus.

Joining together
Significant among other things is the answer a certain Emeritus gave to the Proconsul who asked him why they had disobeyed the emperor’s severe orders. He replied: “*Sine dominico non possumus*”: that is, we cannot live without joining together on Sunday to celebrate the Eucharist. We would lack the strength to face our daily problems and not to succumb. Catholics in the Republic are currently banned from attending Mass. The liturgy is available online in many parishes, but it’s a very poor



Editor’s Comment
Michael Kelly

substitute. Not everyone agrees with me, though. Even some priests have argued with me that virtual Masses are almost just as good as gathering together on Sunday for Mass. A priest on social media wrote over the weekend that he thought the ban on Mass is a good thing because we are too focused on the Mass.

“This pandemic has exposed that some people are more vulnerable and others more frightened about public worship”

I think we need to ask ourselves questions about the theological assumptions underpinning such a view. Christ gave us the sacraments for a reason. If we’re not at Mass, we’re missing out on what Christ personally invited us to.

For a Christian in the Protestant tradition where the sacraments instituted by Christ are not that important, Zoom or Facebook may be a good substitute. But Catholics – whether they realise it or not – need the sacraments. And don’t take my word for it, Christ left us himself in the Eucharist as real food.

It’s said – in good faith, no doubt – that being banned from going to Mass also helps us be in solidarity with those Catholics regularly denied the Mass in other parts of the world. But whether it is persecution or a lack of clergy that prevents Catholics in other parts of the world regularly attending Mass, we must recognise that their situation is sub-optimal and not something to strive for.

Dispensation
This pandemic has exposed that some people are more vulnerable and others more frightened about public worship. The dispensation from attending Mass must remain – but those who can gather in a safe way must be allowed to do so. I’ve heard some argue that we need a less sacramental Church or a Church less-centred on the Mass. People said the same 500 years ago and created their own following of Jesus. But, a Church not centred on the Mass is not the Catholic Church. *Sine dominico non possumus.*

1 To join Friends of The Irish Catholic and support Catholic journalism, please fill in the form on page 9. You can also phone 01 6874094 for more information or to make a contribution.

Lights of the world

The Redemptoristine nuns of the Monastery of St Alphonsus in Dublin spent All Hallows’ Eve praying for those who died of Covid-19, as well as the families of those who mourn their loss.

Covid-19 brings death into focus, says Bishop Farrell

● In a pastoral reflection on the topic of remembrance of the dead, Bishop Dermot Farrell acknowledged that Covid-19 has brought “a key horizon in human life” into focus with its threat of death. Bringing to attention the lives cut short, but also the efforts made by so many out of solidarity, the bishop of Ossory encouraged the Faithful to look to Christ, whose “suffering and death was not his last word”. “His resurrection and ours is the ultimate horizon on life. His wounds remain; the cross is not cast aside, it becomes the tree of life,” the bishop wrote.

Call for people to tell TDs ‘we need Mass’

» Continued on Page 2
optional extra – it is a profound expression of who we are as individual spiritual beings and as Church. “I encourage all Catholics to make contact with their TDs to remind them that being separated from the sacraments and from the reception of the Eucharist is a painful absence: spiritually, mentally, emotionally and physically. “In the midst of winter our country must search for light in the darkness, hope in despair, comfort in sorrow and bereavement. A return to public worship will not only be essential nourishment for Christians and people of all faiths; it will help contribute to the health and well-being of the country during this painful pandemic,” he writes. Meanwhile, thousands of people have signed an online petition calling on the Government to relax the ban. People wishing to add their voice can do so by going to www.change.org and searching for ‘Lift the ban on public worship in Ireland’.

1 See page 4.

Speculation grows as archbishop says he'll be gone by Christmas

Jason Osborne

Speculation is mounting that Bishop Dermot Farrell may soon be named to replace Diarmuid Martin as the Archbishop of Dublin.

Several priests in the Dublin Diocese who have spoken to *The Irish Catholic* this week said that they believed that Dr Farrell is the frontrunner but cautioned that the confidentiality of the process makes predictions notoriously difficult.

It comes as Archbishop Martin has confirmed that he expects he will be replaced before Christmas. However, it is understood that the installation ceremony of a new archbishop may not take place until the new year.

Approach

Dr Farrell – who turns 66 later this month – has been Bishop of Ossory since 2018 and is well-known for his hands-on approach.

A number of priests noted as significant that when the four archbishops met Taoiseach Micheál Martin last week to push for a relaxation on the ban on Catholics attending Mass, Bishop Farrell was also present.

A former president of May-

nooth, Dr Farrell has made a big contribution to the bishops' conference since his appointment in early 2018. He has also engaged in an extensive pastoral consultation process and restructured the diocese. He is also credited with bringing more unity to the priests of Ossory after



Bishop Dermot Farrell.

a turbulent period and disagreements over the cathedral.

At a national level, Bishop Farrell is chairman of the council for finance and general purposes of the bishops' conference and also president of Veritas. He is regarded as financially competent and has experi-

ence as a fundraiser from his time at Maynooth.

Meanwhile, Archbishop Martin told RTÉ Radio at the weekend that he had a preference for his successor but that his candidate did not want the role.

Priests who spoke to *The Irish Catholic* said they believed this to be Dr Martin's close friend the Rome-based Vatican bureaucrat Bishop Paul Tighe.

Peadar Tóibín calls for inquiry as homeless deaths see 'huge increase'

Ruadhán Jones

Aontù leader Peadar Tóibín has called for an "urgent inquiry" following a "huge increase" in homeless deaths this year.

50 homeless people have died this year, compared with 34 and 35 in the last two years according to figures from Dublin Region Homeless Executive (DRHE).

This is despite more than 1,500 people exiting homelessness this year.

Tragedy

Speaking to *The Irish Catholic*, TD Peadar Tóibín called on the Government to investigate the "spiralling" death rate.

"Each and every death is a heart-breaking tragedy, these are individuals who are the most exposed and the most vulnerable individuals in society," the Meath TD said.

"I have seen no general trend or reason for why there is a spike...I can only, only imagine that Covid is playing some role in this. Unfortunately, there has been no research by the Government into this case."

The DRHE's figures revealed that there were 10 deaths in July and eight in August. Mr Tóibín said the figures include "a larger number of younger people than you would expect".

"Now is the time for an immediate inquiry into why the death rate among homeless people is spiralling out of control as we face into a period of cold weather," Peadar Tóibín said.



Rosary invoked for help and intercession

Fr Malachy Conlon stands before a Rosary Relay display. The event took place last weekend from 6pm on Friday, October 30 to 6pm on Saturday, October 31 in Cooley Parish, Co. Louth. The rosary was prayed every half hour for 24 hours for protection against the coronavirus.

St Patrick's Missionary Society

Kiltegan, Co Wicklow, W91 Y022, Ireland. Tel: 059 6473600 Email: office@spms.ie WWW.SPMS.ORG



Fr Gabriel Dolan works in East Africa:

"Most seasoned missionaries had to learn on the hoof how to respond to famine, poverty, displacement, ethnic violence or even a cholera outbreak. Until recently almost all victims of these adversities sought refuge at churches where priests and sisters gave emergency relief and medical aid. There was nowhere else to turn to for a long time. Yet, every new calamity brings its own challenges as the COVID-19 pandemic has shown....Together we can protect children and change society and thankfully missionaries are still providing that succour and mercy wherever they find themselves."

P3 picture caption

In Mombasa, Kenya, over the past six months, Fr Gabriel Dolan built a school at Junda. He works with the *Haki Yetu* (Our Rights) team, community health volunteers, councillors and *Boda boda* (taxi) drivers to share the message of protecting each other during the Covid-19 pandemic.

If you would like to support the work of our missionaries:

- Order our Christmas Cards and Diary 2021 today! Contact us at 059 6473600 or visit www.spms.org
- Subscribe to our magazine *Africa, St Patrick's Missions*
- Join our Mission Circle Family
- Avail of our Occasion Card Selection



Visit www.spms.org

to find out more about our work and mission.

Follow us on Facebook.





Let your TDs know we need to get back to Mass

There has been no evidence that Church gatherings are contributing to the spread of Covid-19 infection, writes **Archbishop Eamon Martin**

It is only seldom, and on very important matters, that the four Catholic archbishops – of Armagh, Dublin, Tuam and Cashel & Emly – choose to seek a meeting with the Taoiseach. Given the strength of feeling over the blanket restriction, without meaningful consultation, on all public worship at level 3 of the Covid-19 'road-map', we felt it important to strongly express our views. We met the Taoiseach on Wednesday, October 28.

We assured the Taoiseach of our prayers for all those in leadership who must take difficult decisions while balancing many worthy, but competing demands.

We emphasised that parishes have been keeping worshippers safe and promoting the key messages of public health. The Church's approach has been in tune with our consistent ethic of life and with safeguarding the common good. We continue to act in solidarity with carers, nurses and other essential workers, many of whom are active members of our congregations.

Vulnerable

Given the uncertainty in the early days regarding the virus, we made sacrifices like everyone else. We took painful decisions to suspend public Mass during the spring lockdown. But since returning to Mass and the sacraments in late June, thanks to the efforts of thousands of parish staff, volunteers and cleaners, and careful monitoring by teams on the ground, there has been no evidence that church gatherings in Ireland are contributing to the spread of Covid-19 infection.



Socially distant: the Church has played its part.

Of course, we understand that things must be different during this dangerous pandemic. We have limited substantially the numbers attending Mass and taken responsible decisions to modify liturgical actions so that people can gather and participate safely.

We have suspended the Sunday obligation and encouraged those who are sick or vulnerable not to put themselves at any risk by attending.

In August – before any instruction from civil authorities – the Christian Church leaders on the island of Ireland united in asking congregations to wear face coverings inside all our churches. We did this to protect the most vulnerable, support health workers, and show practical love for neighbour.

Role

The Church has a vital role to play in sustaining hope during these difficult times. We have been encouraging our people to persevere and not

to lose heart. We know that faith and prayer can be a huge support in difficult times.

We consider the health of the human person as a whole – mind, body and spirit – always keeping an eye to the transcendent and recognising that our true home is with God in heaven.

“It is important that people are aware of the importance of mental and emotional well-being during the pandemic”

The Gospel is our 'road-map' and source of strength for getting through the pandemic – it encourages us to practise self-denial for the greater good; it challenges us to show compassion for the isolation and anxiety of others; it makes us thankful for the blessings of health facili-

ties, clean water, warmth and clothing, and prompts us to be generous towards those in the world who do not even have the basic necessities to withstand the spread of coronavirus.

It is important that people are aware of the importance of mental and emotional well-being during the pandemic. As people of faith, we must also nurture our spiritual health. Many people are praying more in recent months, and asking themselves important questions about the meaning of their lives, and examining their values.

The virus does not just threaten us physically, emotionally and mentally – it has the potential to shake us spiritually. But equally it can present to individuals, families, and parishes, an opportunity for conversion, spiritual reawakening and growth.

In making the case for public worship at all stages of lockdown we are not claiming special privilege over other places – like gyms, res-

taurants or sports.

We are simply stating the fact that, for Christians, gathering to worship God is not an optional extra – it is a profound expression of who we are as individual spiritual beings and as Church. The communal celebration of Mass and the sacraments is an essential source of nourishment and well-being which is not only positive for individuals, but is also healthy for community resilience and for social cohesion.

Community

Cardinal Robert Sarah expressed it powerfully when he wrote recently that we cannot live, we cannot be Christians without the Word of the Lord, without the banquet of the Eucharist, without the Christian community, without the house of the Lord, which is our home, without the Lord's Day.

The Taoiseach has spoken of his determination that Ireland will have a "meaningful Christmas". For Christians the true meaning of Christ-

mas is in the celebration of the Incarnation – the Word Made Flesh Who lived among us.

Christmas without public worship would be emptied of much of its meaning. No virtual gathering over webcam can replace the joy and consolation that comes when the Church – as a family of families – is able to physically meet to welcome Christ our Saviour.

“The Churches, sustained by public worship and following the example of Christ, have been continuing to play their part”

The pandemic has cruelly disrupted life during 2020. It has destroyed the dreams and livelihoods of many Irish families and has shown no mercy for the poor, the homeless, the elderly and the vulnerable.

The courage, compassion and generosity of Irish people during the pandemic – especially that of our health workers, carers, priests and others working in essential services – has been uplifting and inspiring.

The Churches, sustained by public worship and following the example of Christ, have been continuing to play their part in opening hearts and hands to respond in love to those in greatest need, at home and around the world.

I encourage all Catholics to make contact with their TDs to remind them that being separated from the sacraments and from the reception of the Eucharist is a painful absence – spiritually, mentally, emotionally and physically.

In the midst of winter our country must search for light in the darkness, hope in despair, comfort in sorrow and bereavement. A return to public worship will not only be essential nourishment for Christians and people of all faiths; it will help contribute to the health and well-being of the country during this painful pandemic.

“Given the uncertainty in the early days regarding the virus, we made sacrifices like everyone else. We took painful decisions to suspend public Mass during the spring lockdown”

Support Catholic journalism and access more of the content you value by joining

FRIENDS OF
The Irish Catholic

For as little as €10 a month, you can help strengthen the voice of faith in Ireland. Friends also receive exclusive access to our premium video series 'From the Editor's Desk', discounts on books and more.

JOIN TODAY
Phone
01 6874094

Respecting the memory of the dead in November

November is the month of the dead: traditionally in Ireland, the month of the Holy Souls. Elsewhere, all over Europe, ceremonies to mourn and remember the dead are held.

Each November, as an Irish person resident in England (though, when Covid regulations permit, regularly in Ireland) I am faced with the same dilemma: do I purchase and wear a poppy to commemorate the dead of the two world wars – and the many other wars?

The poppy has always been a contentious symbol in Ireland, because it is sponsored by the British Legion, and therefore, to some extent, is linked with what some would see as British militarism.

Clashes

Back in the day, there were bitter clashes over the wearing of the poppy. Constance Markievicz herself tore a poppy off the lapel of a World War I veteran. Then, when the old man said that he was wearing it for his son, who died at the Somme, she felt a desperate pang of remorse for her action. A poignant example, I think, of where the theory of political power meets the ordinary human story of loss.

In the North, the poppy has sometimes come to signify a tribal divide, as it were. Those who wore it were more likely to see themselves as sharing a British identity; those who declined it did not.

I suppose, sub-consciously, I still retain a certain tribal resistance to putting a poppy on my lapel. And there's something else, too: I have come to dislike what has come to be defined as 'virtue signalling'. This is the act of showing off – by speech or emblem – what a virtuous person you are.

I also dislike the



Mary Kenny



compulsory element which arises in poppy wearing. I have been in BBC studios where the make-up girl automatically went to pin a poppy on my collar. It was an automatic policy, which I resisted.

“Isn't it mean-spirited not to support the poppy sellers?”

And yet, at this time of the year the poppy sellers are out in the streets and they are nice, kind people,

young and old, who feel a sincere desire to honour the dead and help young soldiers too, who may be suffering from the effects of serving in combat. Isn't it mean-spirited not to support them?

In the end, I compromise by putting a couple of quid in the collection box, and for the Sunday of remembrance only, pin the poppy on my coat as a sign of respect for the dead.

Whatever the politics of the matter, the dead deserve remembrance, respect and the prayers of November.

The West's awake for 'Sleepy Joe'!

- Nice to see that the prominence of Joe Biden [pictured] has given Ballina in Co. Mayo a higher profile – it's now globally recognised as Mr Biden's "ancestral home town". Ballina is a pleasing town, where the rushing Moy river forms a picturesque view against St Muredach's cathedral.

Westport, more conventionally pretty, has traditionally drawn more tourist attention, but Ballina has rightly seized its chance for celebrity. Even if Co. Louth has some claim, also, to the Biden heritage...

Do more than you think you can...

I was about five years old when a distant cousin of my mother's came to live in our house, as a paying guest. Onnie (Honoraria) Mulkerrin was a retired schoolteacher, a spinster and a patriotic Irishwoman who had been active in supporting the rebellion of 1916.

On her own initiative, Cousin Onnie undertook to teach me how to read. I was a restless, fidgety child, but patiently, over the summer, she conducted these reading lessons. After a short session, I'd be trying to escape, to climb trees or ride my bicycle. "A little more, Mary," Cousin Onnie would coax. "You can do more than you think you can."

For some reason, I vividly remember the moment I realised I could read the words on the page. They made sense!

A lifetime later, through the Internet's connections, I've been contacted by Cousin Onnie's great-nephew, Jim Hanley. He's a retired Catholic education teacher in Brisbane: he and his wife Pat have also been lay missionaries in Papua New Guinea, and he did a dissertation on Nano Nagle. Jim found some of Cousin Onnie's letters from our old Dublin home – people wrote a lot of letters back in the 1950s.

The past is always there, in the deposit of our lives. How rewarding it can be when a link with that past unexpectedly returns.

Cousin Onnie's words have stayed with me when I've found a task particularly challenging. "Come on, Mary – you can do more than you think you can."

A lesson in reading, and for life.

How would you like to be remembered?



Leave a priceless gift as part of your legacy

One small action now could change the future for a child like Nalukena from Western Province, Zambia.

By including Sightsavers in your will you can help our hero surgeons like Mr Ndalela (pictured above) treat and protect children like Nalukena from avoidable blindness in some of the poorest parts of the world.

Nalukena is now smiling as she received medication that will protect her from the painful eye condition trachoma for a year.

By leaving a gift in your will to Sightsavers, you can make sure a child is protected for a lifetime. You can leave behind a brighter future for a child like Nalukena today.

Last year, generous support from those who chose to leave a gift in their will to Sightsavers was enough to protect 8,695 communities from the pain of trachoma.

Please remember Sightsavers in your will

To discuss leaving a gift to Sightsavers please call Declan on 01 6637666 or email dwhite@sightsavers.ie or we would be happy to provide you with a copy of our free will guide below

www.sightsavers.ie/beremembered

Photo © J Mulikita /Sightsavers. Registered Charity Number CHY 15437



Sightsavers

Sightsavers Free guide to Leaving a Gift in your Will

A gift in your Will to Sightsavers can change lives. To request a copy of our free guide to leaving a gift in your Will to Sightsavers please complete your details below and return to Sightsavers.

☐ Yes, please send me Sightsavers guide to leaving a gift in my Will

Title _____ First name _____ Surname _____

Full Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Are you happy to receive updates and find out how you can help by email or telephone? If so, please fill in your details above. All requests will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Please detach this form and return it to Declan White, Sightsavers, Spencer House, Spencer Row, Dublin 1

‘State must match commitment schools have shown’, say Catholic patrons

Ruadhán Jones

A Catholic schools' representative body has welcomed the HSE's revamped test and trace system, saying earlier shortcomings were "not acceptable".

From Monday, November 2 on, a revamped Covid-19 testing and tracing system for schools will be led by public health officials and supplemented by department staff, the Minister for Education Norma Foley announced last week.

Speaking to *The Irish Catholic*, Seamus Mulconry of the Catholic Primary School Management Association (CPSMA) welcomed the new system.

"I'm delighted to see that the HSE is putting in those additional resources and I'm hopeful that that will lead to improvement in terms of school principals," he said.

"We are very fortunate regarding the quality or the calibre of people working in our schools. If we give them the support, they'll keep the schools open.

"But they have a right to expect that the state will match the level of professionalism and commitment that they have shown."

Critical

Mr Mulconry was critical of the earlier system collapse which he said left schools "hanging".

"We had situations where principals were made aware of a case by a parent, a school community knew there was a positive case and they were left hanging for up to five days – that's not acceptable,"

he said.

"When schools were back first, there was a service available which was reasonable. Not perfect but reasonable. But then we started to notice about ten days before the

contact system crashed that the service was degrading."

Mr Mulconry was confident schools would remain open until the Christmas break, but warned that the flu season will add extra pressure: "In

November/December, the weather will be getting worse – the normal cases of flu, which will be difficult to tell from Covid-19, will be getting greater, which will mean increased pressure," he said.

Department says celebrating public Mass is not penal offence

Chai Brady

Priests will not face fines or imprisonment if they celebrate public Mass under Covid-19 regulations the Department of Health has said, amid confusion over new rules. The department told *The Irish Catholic* the celebration of public Mass is not a penal offence, despite Regulation 8 of restrictions introduced to the Health Act 1947 on October 22 stating that organising all but certain events is a penal offence. Public Mass is not included in the list of 'relevant' events, with the department saying: "A relevant event does not include an event held for religious reasons."

Under the Government's five-level framework religious services are allowed to take place in levels 1 and 2 but should move online in levels 3, 4 and 5, with wed-

dings and funerals being exceptions –albeit with limited numbers.

A spokeswoman from the Department of Health stated: "Throughout the pandemic, the Government has sought to implement these measures on the basis of guidance as opposed to regulations and this remains the case under current measures. As such, holding a religious gathering is not a penal offence."

Regarding a priest's ministry, they are only permitted to travel to perform a service on-line, to minister to the sick, and conduct a funeral or wedding ceremony under Regulation 5 of the restrictions which outline what a "reasonable excuse" is for leaving a "place of residence".

This is described as a penal provision. The regulations could remain in place until December 1.



Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin, Denis Nulty, visited St Mary's Cemetery, Co. Carlow, to pray and record a video of the prayers for All Souls Day.

Organ donation charity to hold annual thanksgiving service

The Irish Kidney Association is encouraging people to watch their 35th Annual Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving for organ donors, which will be broadcast on RTÉ on Sunday, November 15 at 11am.

This will be the first time the inter-denominational service goes virtual, transitioning from a previously large in-church congregation of more

than 2000 to a broadcast production by Kairos Communications which will also feature on RTÉ One and RTÉ Radio One Extra (LW252). It can also be viewed on RTÉ Player www.rte.ie/player and the Irish Kidney Association's website www.ika.ie

The charity promises a poignant service for people of all beliefs with music.

ACN's week of witness to highlight 'rising anti-Catholic sentiment' in Ireland

Jason Osborne

Aid to the Church in Need's (ACN) Week of Witness goes ahead this year, but online rather than in person. Speaking to *The Irish Catholic*, National Director of ACN, Dr Michael Kinsella said: "The week of witness is a dedication of a week in the life of the Church that, as part of the liturgical calendar, we as a Church and as a praying and worshipping community can come together and acknowledge and commemorate the sacrifices that are being made by Christian martyrs in time, in history, and at this very present moment, across the world."

He highlighted the increasing struggle Catholics face in the western world, with Ireland exhibiting "a rising anti-Catholic sentiment within Ireland that is as bad now, in its own ways and as detrimental in its own ways, as existed during the Penal days".

This year's Week of Witness will begin with Red Wednesday's Liturgy of Witness opened by Archbishop Eamon Martin from St Patrick's Cathedral Armagh on November 25.

Purgatory: a therapy of divine love, not punishment

Purgatory is not specifically mentioned in the Bible but the doctrine of Purgatory is a beautiful development which holds in unity two ideas that might seem to be contradictory. The doctrine of God's holiness reminds us of God's unique otherness, glory and light, far beyond anything we might deserve. The other doctrine is of God's loving mercy. The all-holy God whom we could never deserve is also the God of mercy who gives us a process of purification, namely purgatory.

Many of us grew up with a *Catechism* which told us that Purgatory was a place or state of punishment where some souls suffer for a time before they go to heaven. The current *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, published in 1994, under the watchful eye of Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the future Pope Benedict XVI, paints a very different picture. "All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven" (*Catechism* 1030). The old

The Sunday Gospel

Fr Silvester O'Flynn OFM Cap.



Catechism spoke of punishment and suffering; the new *Catechism* speaks of assured salvation and a process of purification.

Purification

St John gives us this beautiful, uplifting insight into our future. "My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is. Surely everyone who entertains this hope must purify himself, must try to be as pure as Christ" (1 John 3:2-3).

So, what has to be purified? Any way of thinking or behaving contrary to love of God and love of other people. Hands up anybody who thinks that he/she is 100% perfect in charity.

Great spiritual directors down the ages have listed seven deadly

sins: pride (glorification of me), covetousness, lust, envy, anger, gluttony and sloth (laziness). These are roots of thought and behaviour that are contrary to the light of Christ. They are like cataracts, a sort of fog that gradually grows over the lens of the eye. Nowadays a cataract can be removed and replaced in a brief surgery.

A lady who had cataracts removed from both eyes told me: "I had forgotten what colour was like." A person who has allowed sinful behaviour to develop has lost the colourful memory of God's love and human dignity.

A gradual therapy

Sometimes an unexpected happening, a moment of grace, can be a sudden eye-opener resulting in a conversion of life. But this experience will need further development. Purgatory, meaning purification in God's merciful love, is a gradual process.

Step by step, as one is increasingly overwhelmed by the experience of God's love, the vestiges of selfishness, lust, anger, injustice, etc. are cleansed from one's vision. The journey to God is completed when the eyes of the

soul are completely cleansed.

A person is then like a mirror, returning a perfect reflection of God. As we have heard from St John: "We shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is."

Suffering

Is there suffering in purgatory? Yes, but not physical pain or burning in fire. Psychotherapy or physiotherapy cause a stab of pain when an injured part is touched, but this is a step towards healing. "The truth shall set you free." The therapy of God's love which we call Purgatory confronts one with the painful truth of how one falls short of perfection.

It is the pain you feel when you recognise how much you have hurt others, or when you have allowed selfishness govern your life, or when you realise how much God loves you and how poorly you have loved in return. That's the pain of love which is beautiful because it only comes in experiencing an overwhelming divine love.

Next question, are the souls in purgatory happy? Yes, intensely happy. As the *Catechism* says, they are assured of their salvation.

They are coming ever closer to the vision of God's glory. Not for one moment would they come back to this lesser level of life and love. Would the butterfly return to its former existence as a slimy grub?

We read from St Paul in today's Mass: "We want you to be quite certain about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him" (1 Thes. 4:13).

Prayer in union with the souls in Purgatory

O God, you are my God, for you I long; for you my soul is thirsting.

My body pines for you like a dry, weary land without water. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary to see your strength and your glory.

For your love is better than life, my lips will speak your praise. (Psalm 62)

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

Martin Mansergh

The View



Constitutional confrontation is the wrong road for nationalists to take

In 1838, the Under-Secretary at Dublin Castle Thomas Drummond delivered a magisterial rebuke to the landlords of the Tipperary Grand Jury agitating for greater security (including my great-great grandfather), by reminding them: "Property has its duties as well as its rights." Today, public discourse generally tends to highlight people's rights more than their responsibilities.

There is an Irish Council for Civil Liberties, but no Irish Council for Civic Obligations. Further priority also needs to be given to how people might safely observe their religious and family obligations.

In times of crisis, there is great need for government that is both responsive and responsible. *The Financial Times*, commenting on New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern's emphatic re-election, described the ideal exemplified by her leadership on Covid-19 as "charismatic competence".

The two immediate all-Ireland challenges, which are in danger of getting entangled with each other, are to reach safety on the far side of Covid-19 and Brexit, minimising lasting damage.

Provided difficulties are ironed out, Northern Ireland could have through the Protocol continued access to the Single Market and Customs Union, including EU trade deals, and be part of the single island economy in Ireland, while remaining integrated into the UK market. If, as expected, an EU-UK deal is struck, which avoids tariffs and quotas, the inconvenience of adjusting to new regulations, while new cross-channel routines are established, should be short-lived.

Shared island

The Irish Government is right to concentrate on building a shared island, which will be beneficial, regardless of any future constitutional development. It is not abandoning the hope of a united Ireland, but recognising realistically that it is not an immediate prospect. The Secretary of State will hardly exercise his discretion under the Good Friday Agreement to



approve a border poll, while Scotland is denied a second independence referendum.

A border poll is only mandatory, when there is a prospect that it will be passed. Estimated support for unity in Northern Ireland would need to be nearer 60% than 50%. Most evidence suggests that it would be less than 40% at present. If under the Protocol NI retains *de facto* EU membership, and channels exist that enable its interests to be taken account of in Brussels, then Brexit is unlikely to precipitate a change of attitudes to Irish unity.

Nationalists have little reason to celebrate Northern Ireland

In an interesting parallel, Gibraltar is looking for equivalent conditions to enable it to stay part of the Customs Union and join the Schengen area, without prejudice to opposing positions on sovereignty.

All the experience of the last century shows that purely nationalist opposition to partition, however marshalled, is unlikely to effect constitutional change. The situation could be altered by external events. One of these might be a positive vote for Scottish independence, to which, when it gets down to debate, the currency question, i.e. adoption or not of the euro, is likely to prove a formidable obstacle, as the NHS might be to Irish unity.

Everyone would be wise to keep down the

temperature on the centenary of Northern Ireland and partition. Johnsonian hyperbole about the Union post-1921 being the best political construct in the world clearly takes no account of Northern Ireland, or there would have been no 25-year conflict.

Nationalists have little reason to celebrate Northern Ireland, but total rejection is not going to advance a serious hearing for an alternative either. Since 1998, there is a commitment on all sides to try and make Northern Ireland work in the interim.

Participation

Regrettably, the proposed pre-1914 all-Ireland compromise of Home Rule within the Union was rejected by unionists and not just democratically. This had the consequence that, when the rest of Ireland voted for independence at the end of World War I, northern nationalists were excluded from participation, unless they moved south, while being treated by the unionist majority in Northern Ireland as unwelcome aliens.

Honouring the past, prompted by anniversaries and commemorations, can also be a healthy source of reflection. It is a drawback, if it ever leads us to forget that we mainly live in the present and for the future, and that many choices are no longer open.

When German unity came about unexpectedly in 1990, it posed major economic problems still not entirely overcome, but the will and the strength were

there to do it.

Apart from Mrs Thatcher's Britain, it had international goodwill and support. There was justified confidence that a united Germany would be an asset not a threat. Indeed, it has been the economic anchor of the EU.

It remains to be seen whether, if similar circumstances arose at short notice, Ireland would have the confidence to seize the opportunity and make speedy adaptations. Amazingly, most of it did 100 years ago, when, taking advantage of unique national and international conditions, it established a bridgehead to independence against a vastly superior force, albeit at some cost.

Progress unfortunately has to contend with atavistic attitudes. A Northern Ireland Minister's complaints about nationalists' alleged greater susceptibility to disease and republicans not being God-fearing people have a long pedigree. Across the world, domination of one national group by another is frequently reinforced by insulting generalisations with populist appeal.

Incompatibility

The Good Friday Agreement resolved the apparent incompatibility between the one- and two-nation theories, replacing rigidity with openness and fluidity. While in principle everyone born on the island is eligible

to be part of the Irish nation, no one in Northern Ireland is compelled to be Irish or British at a personal level.

They have the right under any constitutional dispensation to identify themselves and be accepted as Irish or British or both. As the late David Ervine of the loyalist PUP once said, his grandparents were Irish, he was British, but he did not know what his grandchildren would be.

The best way forward may be to continue working towards a situation where it makes less practical difference which of the two States in question Northern Ireland is part of, rather than to push the constitutional issue upfront, before it can be resolved.

'COMFORT ON THE JOURNEY' WEEKLY VIGILS

Join us online

Every Friday in November

Rosary 7pm | Mass 7.30pm | Holy Hour 8pm



The Vigils will be live-streamed at: www.knockshrine.ie

"The Our Father is one of the most precious gifts Jesus left to us"

— Pope Francis



Price:
€29.99
+€4.50 P&P

Bring the Our Father into your home this holiday season with this beautiful cross from the Holy Land, which also includes earth from Bethlehem at the foot. Also makes for a precious gift!

**LIMITED QUANTITIES AVAILABLE
ORDER YOURS TODAY**

Phone: 01 6874024

Visit: www.irishcatholic.com/shop

Alternatively, you can send a cheque to:

The Irish Catholic

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

The Irish Catholic

It's time to fight the ban on public worship



The authorities believe that Mass is less important than going to a gym or hairdresser and this has to be rejected, writes **David Quinn**

In Derry, you can still go to Mass if you want, but across the border in Letterkenny you cannot. How can this be? The answer is that the North's Executive and public health authorities have taken a very different attitude to public worship than their equivalents in the South.

In the North, they have judged that public worship is so important there must be a cast-iron public health reason to stop it altogether. They know one does not exist.

In the Republic, we stopped public worship again under level 3 restrictions, which are at the mid-point of the five possible levels of restriction. We were absolutely alone in Europe in doing this.

I attended one of the National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHE) press conferences at the end of September when a number of counties including Dublin had been pushed into level 3 and public worship stopped.

At this level, outdoor dining was still permitted, you could go a gym, a barber or a hairdresser, and go into any shop you liked. But you could not go to Mass.

No direct evidence

I asked Dr Ronan Glynn, the acting Chief Medical Officer why this was so. His answer was revealing. He said public worship is considered "less important" in the context of a pandemic. Less important, in other words, than going to a gym or hairdresser.

He could point to no direct evidence that it was risky to go to Mass.

Other European countries are now stopping public worship again in response



On-line Mass: but celebrating the Eucharist isn't an just internet experience in some European countries, unlike Ireland.

to Covid-19, among them England and France and Belgium. But unlike the Republic of Ireland, those three countries did not stop public worship in mid-level restrictions as we did. They have only done so again under their highest level of restrictions and because they believe Covid-19 is going out of control once more within their borders.

However, at the time of writing, a big majority of European countries are still permitting public worship, even as the infection rate among their populations climb.

In Italy, for example, you can still go to Mass. It is the same in Spain and Portugal, Austria and Germany, the Netherlands, plus all of the Scandinavian countries.

The situation is extremely fluid, and new and varied restrictions are being imposed all the time, but all, or almost all of Central and Eastern Europe seems to be allowing public worship to continue as well.

Obviously, all countries have imposed limits on the number who can attend public worship at any one time, and all require strong hygiene measures.

Right across Europe, these are and were being extremely well adhered to. There have only been isolated examples of infection outbreaks associated with public worship. The overwhelming majority of churches and other places of worship have been extremely safe and

deserve huge praise for their efforts.

Last week, the four archbishops met with Taoiseach, Micheál Martin, to discuss their concerns about the ban on public worship.

We don't know exactly what was discussed. For example, did they raise concerns that the law in Ireland could now result in the prosecution of any cleric who organises public worship, the first time such a law has existed since Penal Times?

“Unlike in the Republic, the Austrian authorities do not consider public worship to be ‘less important’. They think it is very important”

The Government denies this interpretation is correct, but the wording of the law suggests otherwise to some, including independent TD and lawyer, Michael McNamara.

Following the meeting, the four archbishops won no commitment from the Government that public worship would be permitted again under level 3, never mind the present level 5.

This holds out the prospect that when we come out of level 5 and go back down to level 3 or 4, we still will not be able to go to Mass, and it could be well

into next year before we can attend again.

Contrast the outcome of this meeting with a similar one in Austria, where infection levels are currently higher than here. The Austrian government has introduced new restrictions, but is determined to be proportionate in its response. Therefore, it has not stopped public worship again as it did during the first lockdown in the spring.

The Austrian Minister for Culture and Religious Communities met with religious leaders last week ahead of the imposition of new restrictions and they agreed that from now on worshippers would have to remain at least 1.5 metres apart.

Challenging time

After the meeting, the Austrian minister in question, Susanne Raab, said: "It is important that joint practice of religion in the form of public Church services will continue to be possible, because they give the believers a lot of support in this challenging time. The Churches and religious communities are doing everything to prevent the coronavirus from spreading further and are therefore taking further measures."

As we can see, unlike in the Republic, the Austrian authorities do not consider public worship to be "less important". They think it is very important.

Meanwhile, in countries like England and France where public worship has stopped again, bishops are fighting back hard.

In England, Cardinal Vincent Nichols and Archbishop of Liverpool Malcolm McMahon issued a statement demanding the government publish evidence explaining how public worship has contributed to the spread of the virus.

The Bishop of Toulon in France, Dominique Rey, said freedom of worship was "non-negotiable".

The Republicans, France's main opposition party and partner of Fine Gael in the European Parliament, also called for public worship to be allowed to continue.

In Ireland, by contrast, religion is now regarded with either hostility or indifference by almost all of our political establishment. It is "less important", as Dr Ronan Glynn put it.

We must follow the example of Churches elsewhere and fight back.

“In Italy, for example, you can still go to Mass. It is the same in Spain and Portugal, Austria and Germany, the Netherlands, plus all of the Scandinavian countries”

FRIENDS OF The Irish Catholic



I am convinced that The Irish Catholic newspaper offers spiritual sustenance and thoughtful news, opinion and commentary on the current issues that affect all of us. Many of you have been kind enough to share with us what you see as the vital role of the newspaper in your own Faith development; in enriching your spiritual life. Could you help to ensure that more people have this resource to help build up their Faith by contributing to support our Catholic journalism?"

Baroness Nuala O'Loan

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

From the Editor's Desk

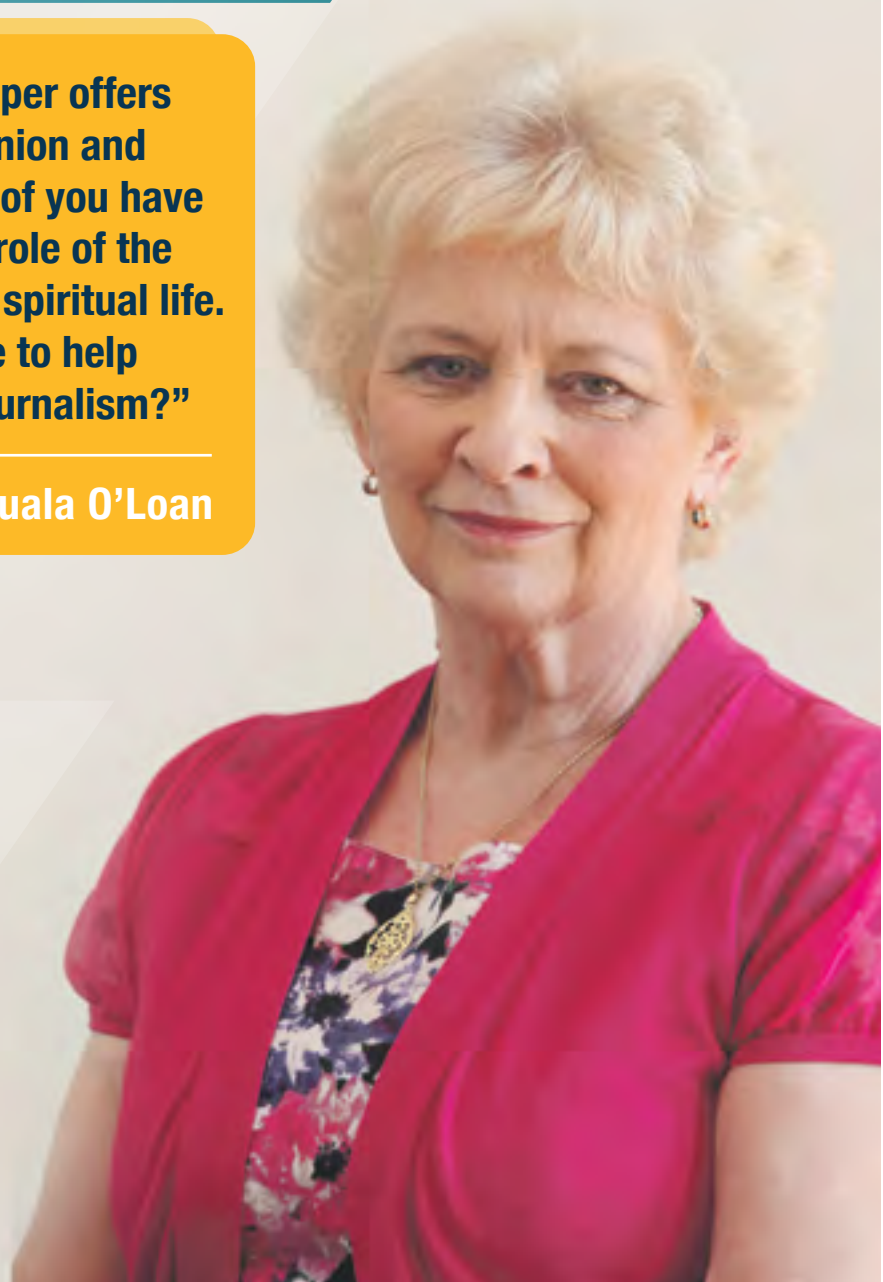
our premium video series which sees Michael Kelly in conversation with distinguished guests.

25% off in books

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

Monthly e-Newsletter

with featured highlights and special features.



CONTACT ☎ 01 6874094 ✉ info@irishcatholic.ie

Or send us the order form below

☐ MONTHLY CONTRIBUTION AMOUNT - ☐ €10 ☐ €20 ☐ €30 ☐ €_____

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

METHOD OF PAYMENT

☐ PAY BY CREDIT CARD: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Laser

Card No: _____

Exp date: ____ / ____ CVV No: _____

MY DETAILS

Name _____

Address _____ City _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

POST IT TO :

THE IRISH CATHOLIC

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

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



Out&About

No disguising children's generosity



GALWAY: Michéal Cregg, one of the organisers of the Greater Ballinasloe Syrian Refugee Appeal, accepting Scoil an Chroí Naofa's donation from senior infant pupils dressed for Hallowe'en.



DONEGAL: Bishop Alan McGuckian stands alongside Marie McGill to present a booklet with suggestions for prayer in the home during the month of November.



DERRY: Bishop Donal McKeown, Fr Paul Farren and Thérèse Ferry are pictured with new booklets for the preparation of children receiving the sacraments of First Confession, First Communion and Confirmation.

IN SHORT

Fleet of bicycles help fight spread of Covid-19 in Sierra Leone

Concern Worldwide has provided more than 100 bicycles to traditional healers and influential women in Sierra Leone, with whom the Irish humanitarian organisation works, in an effort to reach more communities with information on how to stay safe from coronavirus.

As such, bicycles are playing an important role in spreading Covid-19 prevention information in the west African country.

"Traditional healers and influential women in Sierra Leone are often the first point of contact when someone becomes ill in a rural area, as access to medical and healthcare professionals is limited and they are well respected within their

communities," Andrew Tholley, project manager with Concern explained.

"Prior to receiving the bikes they would have had to walk to villages, sometimes covering distances of 20 km on foot or paying for a motorcycle taxi from their own pocket," he added.

Electric Aid, the ESB and EirGrid staff social justice and development fund, funded the bike project.

Commenting on the impact the bicycle initiative has had, Mr Tholley said, "after two months we did a follow up to ask how the bicycles have helped and it's quite amazing, some of them say that before they used to visit three villages a month, now they can visit six to seven".

Concern has worked with traditional healers and influential women, all of whom are volunteers, for the last three years to prevent and treat Malaria – one of the leading causes of illness and death in Sierra

Leone. They've also provided ante and postnatal advice to women and children, referring serious cases to public health centres and hospitals.

With the emergence of Covid-19, awareness campaigns around the virus were incorporated into the messaging shared with their communities and villages in the Tonkolili District of Sierra Leone.

Some cultures in Sierra Leone consider it taboo for women to ride bikes and the Concern team expected a reluctance from the influential women to get involved. However, when the group were surveyed most of the female participants were eager to take part.

Sixty per cent of the recipients of bicycles were women. Adama T. Barrie, one of the influential women who received a bike, said it has enabled her to visit more villages and has made it easier to attract an audience when she does: "As a woman riding a bicycle, it's

strange in our communities, it helps me get people's attention and listen to me."

Over half of the 200 traditional healers and influential women were provided with mountain and hybrid bikes, tools, and training on how to safely ride and care for their bikes by The Village Bicycle Project, which has provided bicycles to children to improve their access to education.

Karim Kamara, the country manager of The Village Bicycle Project, says: "In Sierra Leone owning a bike is akin to owning a car, people aren't even earning a dollar a day and bikes are expensive. Owning a bike is a symbol of respect, this programme has helped many lives."

Mr Tholley says the long term aim behind the bikes is to ensure the Malaria and Covid-19 awareness project is sustainable. When it ends, he hopes that the traditional healers and influential women will be encouraged to continue serve their communities.

Edited by Jason Osborne
jason@irishcatholic.ie

Events deadline is a week in
advance of publication



WEXFORD: Pupils from Scoil Naomh Abbáin, Adamstown on the day of their First Communion ceremony on September 26, pictured with Fr Robert Nolan and their teacher Ciara Walsh.



◀ **LIBERIA:** The Irish Embassy in Monrovia, Liberia, welcomed Sr Ann Kelly of the Missionary Sisters of the Holy Rosary to their embassy. She is pictured here alongside Second Secretary Rachel Fitzpatrick and Head of Development Kate O'Donnell.

▼ **DUBLIN:** The organising Committee stand alongside the statue donated by the Sisters of Mercy Beaumont Convent, which was blessed by Fr Ivan Tonge of Ringsend as part of the new shrine of Our Lady on Bremen Road.



LAOIS: Thomas and Marie O'Dwyer celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage amid Covid-19 restrictions at Ballinakill Church.



SLIGO: Elijah McGloughlin who was baptised in St Brigid's Church, Corhownagh, Ballisodare, is pictured with his father Eoin, mother Morgan and sister Olivia.



Events

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



World Report

IN BRIEF

Black Nazarene procession in Philippines cancelled over coronavirus

● Due to the coronavirus pandemic, civil and ecclesial authorities in the Philippines have agreed to cancel the Black Nazarene celebration in 2021, which gathers millions of churchgoers in Manila each January.

Known as the *traslacion*, the 19-hour procession through the streets of Manila takes place each year on January 9. Millions of pilgrims take part in the seven-kilometer procession.

The statue of the Black Nazarene is a kneeling Christ cloaked in a maroon robe and crowned with thorns. The life-sized statue bears a cross.

It was brought to the Philippines by Augustinian missionary priests in 1606. The statue is believed to have acquired its black colour after being partially burnt when the ship carrying it caught fire on a voyage from Mexico.

Pope Francis' general audience again moves behind closed doors

● After nine weeks of public general audiences, Pope Francis' weekly gathering will again take place behind closed doors, the Vatican said October 29.

The decision to move back to a livestream-only format was made after at least one person in attendance at the Pope's October 21 audience was discovered to have been positive for Covid-19, according to the Vatican.

Starting Wednesday, November 4, Francis will give his general audience catechesis and greetings via live video from his study in the Apostolic Palace, "in order to avoid any future health risks for participants".

From September 2, members of the public were permitted again to attend his weekly audience at the Vatican, after a more than six-month break, but this has come to an end.

Controversy continues over Scotland's hate crime bill

● Amid a contentious debate in Scotland over a proposed hate crime law, which the Catholic bishops of the country oppose, a cabinet minister this week suggested that the law could apply to speech uttered within a private dwelling if the speaker intends to stir up hatred.

During an October 27 hearing, a Scottish parliament member questioned Justice Secretary Humza Yousaf about whether the bill might include a defence for speech uttered in the privacy of one's home, a so-called "dwelling defence".

"My concern with the dwelling defence...as a parliament, [and] even as a society, are we comfortable with giving a defence in law to somebody whose behaviour is threatening or abusive – as an example, that is intentionally stirring up hatred against Muslims – are we saying that that is justified because it is in the home?" Mr Yousaf replied.

Paris' Sacré-Cœur Basilica to be classified as a protected historic monument

● Sacré-Cœur Basilica in Paris [pictured] is expected to be classified as a protected historic monument by France's Minister of Culture.

The Catholic basilica, which is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, is one of the most visited sites in Paris, and since August 1, 1885, has been home to perpetual Eucharistic adoration.

"The Sacré-Cœur is one of the symbols of Paris," Laurent Roturier, the director of France's cultural affairs office, said. "It has been the most-visited building in Paris since Notre-Dame has been in repair."

"But even more astonishing is that it is not protected as a historic monument. This is a sign of the slow recognition of 19th-century architecture," he added.



French police make six arrests over Nice terror attack

French police have arrested six men in their investigation into last Thursday's attack on the Basilica of Notre-Dame de l'Assomption in Nice.

Among those in police custody is a 29-year-old Tunisian man believed to have accompanied the alleged attacker, Brahim Issaoui, from Tunisia to the Italian island of Lampedusa on September 20, *Agence France-Presse* reported on November 2.

The 29-year-old was arrested in Grasse, southern France, on October 31 and taken in for questioning, as were two other men, aged 25 and 63, living at the same address. One man has since been released, while the others remain in police custody, according to *AFP*.

The attacker stabbed three people to death inside the Nice basilica on October 29. The victims were Simone Barreto Silva, a 44-year-old mother of three; Nadine Devillers, 60; and Vincent Loques, the church's 55-year-old sacristan and a father of two.

French police shot and arrested the perpetrator, who was identified as the 21-year-old Brahim Aouissou, based on an Italian Red Cross document he was carrying. He had an additional two knives and a Quran in his backpack.

The police investigation indicates that the young Tunisian man had arrived in Nice



A nun prays in front of a makeshift memorial outside Notre Dame Basilica in Nice, France on October 30 after three people were killed there the previous day. Photo: CNS

on the night of October 27 on a train from Rome, according to *The Guardian*. His family in Tunisia later confirmed to journalists that Issaoui is the correct spelling of their last name.

Assailant

The police also arrested a 47-year-old man on the day of the attack who was reportedly suspected of being in contact with the assailant. On October 31, two men aged 33 and 35 were also taken in for questioning, however police did not provide any further details.

French president Emmanuel Macron visited Nice immediately following the attack.

He told journalists: "I want to say here first and foremost the support of the whole nation for Catholics, from France and elsewhere. After the assassination of Fr Hamel in August 2016, it is once again the Catholics who are attacked in our country."

Mr Macron called Pope Francis on October 30, saying that he wanted to tell the Pope of France's solidarity with Catholics and thank the Pope for his support at a

difficult moment for France, according to *Aleteia*. The French president also reiterated an invitation to Pope Francis to visit France.

Cardinal Robert Sarah, prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship, responded to the news of the attack on the basilica, writing on Twitter: "Islamism is a monstrous fanaticism which must be fought with force and determination...unfortunately, we Africans know this too well. The barbarians are always the enemies of peace. The West, today France, must understand this."

Amid protests, Polish president backs abortion for fatal foetal abnormalities

Facing protests across the country after a court ruling prohibiting abortion for foetal abnormalities, the Polish president said Friday he would propose a bill permitting abortion in cases of fatal foetal abnormality.

Andrzej Duda said October 30 he would introduce a bill to allow abortion "when prenatal tests or other medical indications show a high probability that the child will be stillborn or have an incurable disease or defect that will lead to the death of the child inevitably and directly, regardless of the

therapeutic measures used", *Reuters* reported.

Protests across Poland began after the constitutional court ruled on October 22 that a law permitting abortion for foetal abnormalities was unconstitutional. The Polish constitution says that the state "shall ensure the legal protection of the life of every human being".

Mr Duda initially welcomed the court ruling, telling the Warsaw daily *Dziennik Gazeta Prawna* on October 23 "that abortion for so-called eugenic

reasons should not be allowed in Poland. I believed and believe that every child has a right to life."

The *AP* reported that Duda had told RMF FM that abortion should be prohibited for non-fatal foetal conditions such as Down syndrome, but permitted for fatal abnormalities: "it cannot be that the law requires this kind of heroism from a woman."

He said: "I believe that there should be a regulation which, in case of lethal defects, will unequivocally guarantee the rights on the side of the woman."

Pakistani court orders 'recovery' of teenage girl

A Pakistani court has ordered the immediate recovery of a teenage Catholic girl who was abducted, forcibly converted to Islam and married to a 44-year-old Muslim man in the southern city of Karachi in a case which has shocked and angered the country's belea-

guered religious minorities.

Sindh High Court on November 2 also ordered that the 13-year-old child bride be produced before it on November 5 and moved to a government-run shelter home.

The judge also directed police to determine Arzoo

Raja's age, legality of her marriage status and investigate claims that she had converted to Islam according to her free own will.

The development comes following days of nationwide protests by the Christian community.

Arzoo's parents say that she was kidnapped on October 13 while playing outside her home.

Days later, the family were told by police that Arzoo had converted to Islam after marrying her abductor.



Edited by Jason Osborne
jason@irishcatholic.ie

A private prayer



Pope Francis prays at the tomb of Pope John Paul I in the crypt of St Peter's Basilica at the Vatican on All Souls' Day. Photo: CNS

England and Wales bishops' conference petition government to justify public worship shutdown

In a statement released last weekend, the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales asked the government to produce evidence necessitating a suspension of public worship, as is required by the latest Covid-19 guidance.

It was signed by both the President of the bishop's conference, Cardinal Vincent Nichols, and the Vice-President, Archbishop Malcolm McMahon OP. They said: "It is thus a source of deep anguish now that the Government is requiring, once again, the cessation of public communal worship."

"Whilst we understand the many difficult decisions facing the Government, we have not yet seen any evidence whatsoever that would make the banning of communal worship, with all its human costs, a productive

part of combatting the virus. We ask the Government to produce this evidence that justifies the cessation of acts of public worship."

Arguing for the necessity of worship on a number of bases, the statement read: "Faith communities have played a vital role in sustaining personal, spiritual and mental health and encouraging vital charitable activities, which support hundreds of thousands of people in all sections of the community, especially the most vulnerable."

"That critical service towards the common good of all is created and sustained by communal worship and prayer. Part of this selfless giving has been a strong ethic of responsibility in the way in which we have reopened our

churches so that essential worship has been enabled."

The statement highlighted the "great deal" that has been done to prepare churches for public worship in "supervised and disciplined ways".

Action

Ending the statement with a call to action, the bishops asked the Faithful to communicate their questions and concerns to their elected representatives, saying "questions can be raised with our elected Members of Parliament regarding the cessation of public common worship."

"They are in a position to require the Government to publish the data that drives the decision to cease public worship under these restrictions."

Despite concerns, New Zealand voters back assisted suicide

A strong majority of New Zealand voters approved the legalisation of assisted suicide and euthanasia for the terminally ill on October 30. Foes of legalisation said many voters appeared confused about the measure's far-reaching effects and warned that the move will have consequences for the vulnerable.

The nationwide referendum passed with support

from 65% of voters on Friday. It allows terminally ill persons who are believed to have six months or fewer to live to be euthanised or to take a lethal dose of prescribed drugs themselves, on the condition that two doctors agree the person is well-informed.

Patients are eligible if they show significant, ongoing decline in physical ability and experience "unbearable suf-

fering that cannot be eased". The law will take effect on November 6, 2021.

Opponent

Legalisation opponent Euthanasia-Free NZ said some 80% of adult New Zealanders appeared to misunderstand the referendum. Only 20% knew the act would not make it legal to turn off life support machines. Such a practice is

not illegal under current law.

"It seems that most New Zealanders voted for an end-of-life choice that is in fact already legal," Renée Joubert, executive officer of Euthanasia-Free NZ, said on October 30.

Opponents of the act included the New Zealand Medical Association, Hospice New Zealand, Palliative Care Nurses and Palliative Medicine Doctors.

Vatican roundup

Pope Francis authorises decrees concerning nine causes for sainthood

● Pope Francis has authorised the promulgation of several decrees regarding nine people who are on the path toward canonisation. The news came following a meeting between the Pope and Cardinal-elect Marcello Semeraro, Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

The Pope recognised three miracles, including the miracle attributed to the intercession of Blessed Giustino Maria Russolillo, Priest and Founder of the Society of Divine Vocations and the Congregation of the Sisters of Divine Vocations, and the miracle attributed to the intercession of the Venerable Servant of God Maria Lorenza Requesens in Longo, Foundress of the Hospital of the Incurables in Naples and the Capuchin Nuns.

He also recognised the miracle, attributed to the intercession of the Venerable Servant of God Elżbieta Czacka, Foundress of the Congregation of the Franciscan Sisters Handmaids of the Cross. She was born on October 22, 1876, in Bila Tserkva (Ukraine) and died in Laski (Poland) on May 15, 1961.

The decrees also recognised the martyrdom of four Servants of God: Léonard Melki, Thomas Saleh, Luigi Lenzi and Isabel Cristina Mard Campos.

Finally, Pope Francis approved decrees related to the heroic virtues of two Servants of God: Roberto Giovanni and Maria Teresa of the Heart of Jesus.

New Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem receives pallium

● Shortly before his General Audience in the Vatican's Paul VI Hall, Pope Francis bestowed the *pallium* on His Beatitude Pierbattista Pizzaballa, the new Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem.

A note from the Holy See Press Office said the short, simple and highly symbolic ceremony took place in the Santa Marta Chapel in the Vatican.

According to Canon Law, within three months from the reception of episcopal consecration or if he has already been consecrated,

from the canonical provision, a metropolitan is obliged to request the *pallium* from the Roman Pontiff either personally or through a proxy. It represents the power which the metropolitan has by law in his province, in communion with the Roman Church.

Pallium is the Latin word for mantle or cloak. It is a woollen band that is bestowed by the Pope upon the shoulders of Metropolitans or Primate as a testimony of their communion with the Bishop of Rome.

Pope Francis prays for victims of Cameroon school shooting

● Pope Francis, during the October 28 General Audience, expressed sorrow over the tragic murders of at least six students by unidentified gunmen in Kumba, southwest Cameroon, over the weekend.

"I share in the suffering of the families of the young students barbarically killed last Saturday in Kumba, in Cameroon," the Pope said. "I feel great bewilderment at such a cruel and senseless act, which tore the young innocents from life while they were attending lessons at school."

"May God enlighten hearts, so that similar gestures may never be repeated again," Pope Francis added.

Turning his thoughts towards the long-running socio-political conflict in Cameroon, the Pope prayed that "the tormented regions of the north-west and south-west of the country may finally find peace."

"I hope that the weapons will be silenced and that the safety of all and the right of every young person to education and the future can be guaranteed," he said.

The Pope also expressed his nearness to the families, the city of Kumba and the whole of Cameroon, invoking upon them "the comfort that only God can give."

Corruption in the Church must be stamped out continually, Pope says



Pope Francis is pictured in a file photo meeting with the College of Cardinals in the Vatican's Clementine Hall.

Junno Arocho Esteves

Corruption is an “ancient evil” that continues to plague the Catholic Church in different ways, Pope Francis said.

In an interview with the Italian news agency *Adnkronos*, published October 30, the Pope discussed his thoughts on several issues, including the nature of corruption given recent allegations of financial malfeasance involving the Vatican.

Despite past and present efforts to root it out, the Pope said, “unfortunately, corruption is a cyclical story that repeats itself” until “someone comes along to clean and tidy up”.

“We agree on what things need to be done. Benedict is a good man; he is holiness incarnate”

“But then it starts again, waiting for someone else to come along to put an end to this degradation,” he said. Money, as the early fathers of the church and St Francis called it, is “the devil’s dung”.

In the interview, which was conducted October 27, the Pope

said that while “the Church is and remains strong, the issue of corruption is a profound problem.”

St Ambrose’s assertion

Citing St Ambrose’s assertion that “the Church has always been a ‘casta meretrix’ (‘chaste prostitute’),” the Pope said that although the vast majority of people in the Church follow “the right path,” it is “undeniable that personalities of various types and depth, clerics and many fake lay friends of the church, have helped to squander the resources and property, not of the Vatican but of the Faithful.”

“I am struck by the Gospel reading when the Lord asks us to choose: either follow God or follow money,” the Pope said. “Jesus said that it is not possible to go after both”.

Pope Francis said when he met with retired Pope Benedict XVI shortly after succeeding him, the retired Pope “gave me a big box” and said, “Everything is in here; there are the documents with the most difficult situations. I have come this far, I have intervened in this situation, I have removed these people and now, it’s your turn.”

Asked about his current relationship with the 93-year-old Pope Benedict, Pope Francis said he regards him as both “a father and a brother,” which is why he signs letters to him with the words, “Filially and fraternally yours.”

“I am struck by the Gospel reading when the Lord asks us to choose: either follow God or follow money”

“I often visit him up there” at the Mater Ecclesiae monastery, the Pope said. “And if I see him a little less recently it is only because I do not want to tire him. The relationship is good, very good. We agree on what things need to be done. Benedict is a good man; he is holiness incarnate.”

“Obviously, he said, there have been examples of mischief and of betrayal, which hurt those who believe in the Church”

Pope Francis also said that contrary to reports of an alleged rift between him and his predecessor, “there are no problems between us”.

Asked if he feels alone, especially with many reports highlighting opposition to his teaching, he replied: “I have thought about it, and I have come

to the conclusion that there are two levels of loneliness. One can say I feel alone because those who should collaborate do not collaborate, because those who should get their hands dirty for others do not, because they do not follow my line or things like that. And this is a loneliness that one might call ‘functional.’”

Substantial

Then, he continued, “there is a ‘substantial’ loneliness, which I do not feel because I have found so many people who take risks for me, who put their lives on the line, who fight with conviction because they know that we are right and that the path taken, even with a thousand obstacles and natural resistance, is the right one.”

Obviously, he said, there have been examples of mischief and of betrayal, which hurt those who believe in the Church.

While it is uncertain whether his efforts to weed out corruption and lead the Church will bear fruit, Pope Francis said that he knows he must do it and that “I have been called to do it.”

In the end, “the Lord will say whether I have done well or whether I have done wrong,” he said. “Sincerely, I am not very optimistic, but I trust in God and in people faithful to God.” Recalling his exile to Cordoba, Argentina, in the early 1990s, the Pope said that in the library, he “came across six or seven volumes on the history of the Popes, and even among my very ancient predecessors, I found some examples that were not exactly edifying.”

While criticism against him and his papacy can hurt, especially when “said in bad faith and with malice,” Pope Francis said it is also constructive because “criticism leads me to examine myself, to make an examination of conscience, to ask myself if I was mistaken, where and why I was mistaken; if I did right, if I did wrong, if I could do better.”

“It’s true that even if I have to find inspiration in criticism to do better, I certainly can’t let myself get carried away by everything that they write about the Pope that is not very positive,” he said.

A hand holding a crystal ball against a sunset background. The crystal ball reflects the bright sun and the landscape below. The background shows a sunset over a valley with hills and a body of water.

ACTING TODAY

for a **BRIGHTER**
tomorrow

————— The Irish Catholic —————
2020 LEGACY SUPPLEMENT

Protecting the vulnerable at home and abroad

A mother feeds a baby in South Sudan with the support of Goal.



Chai Brady hears from charities working to help people through homelessness, poverty, violence and the Covid-19 pandemic

Irish charities are facing many difficulties trying to overcome the unique challenges wrought by the current pandemic, but many have devised creative solutions to continue helping those most in need both at home and overseas.

A large part of many Irish charities' income comes in the form of legacy donations, in which people leave a gift to one or several named charities in their will. This has helped them continue their good works and endure despite Covid-19's devastating effects.

With Ireland in the midst of level 5 restrictions, Focus Ireland are still delivering services for the homeless and those badly impacted by the pandemic. It's undeniable

that everyone has faced challenges due to the steps taken by Government in order to reduce the spread of the virus but people struggling with homelessness or who are in precarious housing situations have had unique obstacles and tribulations with a huge increase in calls for Focus Ireland's help.

Focus Ireland

Amy Carr, the Director of Fund-raising and Marketing at Focus Ireland, tells *The Irish Catholic* that throughout the pandemic they've kept their frontline services open in line with restrictions and have welcomed the Government's further moratorium on evictions.

"I think the safety of our customers – we call them customers and Sr Stan called them customers, because it gives them more rights and entitlements – was really paramount and from the very, very beginning making sure that our customers were really at the front and centre of everything that we did was really important," she says.

"It's very hard for people who are living in emergency accommodation or hotels or congregate settings to do that kind of social distancing, to stay safe, to stay in their own homes, especially when they don't have one. We've put a lot of focus initially in making sure that we were engaging with our customers in a very Covid friendly way.

“Ms Carr says that there's a lot of people worried about what next year will bring, whether Ireland is heading into recession and whether people will be able to get back to work”



Six-month-old triplets Nyachua, Nyajuak and Nyakime in Gambella refugee camp in Ethiopia were suffering from severe malnutrition before Goal's intervention.

"We kept all our frontline essential services open taking into consideration the restrictions, I suppose Covid-19 is difficult on everybody but for people who are homeless they're particularly vulnerable. There are more challenges around that."

Rental protections

While the initial Government rental protections, including the ban on eviction notices and rent increases, ended on August 1, Focus Ireland welcomed this being reintroduced at the beginning of level 5 for six weeks, up until January 10.

Ms Carr explained: "We can actually keep people in their homes and so they can stay safe during Covid-19. We were able to move a lot of families out of homelessness into accommodation that would have been holiday lets previously short-term lettings."

Some of these holiday lets would have been Airbnb accommodations, with the charity negotiating longer term lets for vulnerable tenants which have allowed them to move a lot of families out of homelessness. However, there are concerns that this could change once the worst of the pandemic has passed.

"We as an organisation would be very focused on those gains that we've made during Covid-19 as we come out to make sure that we don't get a second wave of homelessness... that those people who would have been homed during Covid-19 don't end up going back into homelessness," Ms Carr says.

"That would be something our advocacy team would be very keen on pressing with the Government, and they have been talking to the minister about the concerns and that we don't lose some of the gains that we've made."

The charity does a lot of work assisting people who are already homeless but there is also a lot of work done in terms of prevention, with the charity noting "a huge increased demand" on their advice and information phone lines – up to 160% according to Ms Carr.

She says there are many calls coming in from "people who had



Sr Stan pictured with Focus Ireland service users Scott Buckley and Catherine Keenan at the virtual launch of the charity's 2019 Annual Report. Photo Sasko Lazarov Photocallireland

either been laid off and a lot of people concerned about not being able to pay their rent and what would that mean”.

“So a lot of people who probably never even considered themselves at risk of homelessness suddenly were in completely uncharted water – lots of uncertainty – and really worried about how they were going to pay their rents and keep their accommodation secure.

“Our team has worked really hard around that time to make sure everybody knew their rights and entitlements and about the moratorium on eviction, what that meant, really I suppose we would always encourage our tenants to have open conversation with landlords whoever they may be and to keep the dialogue open.”

Annual Report

According to the charity's 2019 Annual Report, they helped a record number of 1,790 households to avoid homelessness or leave homelessness last year. This figure includes 1,150 households which Focus Ireland helped support out of homelessness and 640 households where the charity's interventions avoided them becoming homeless in the first place. Of the 1,150 households supported out of homelessness, 810 were families with children, a 62% increase compared with over 500 the previous year.

Ms Carr says that there's a lot of people worried about what next year will bring, whether Ireland is heading into recession and whether people will be able to get back to work.

“People are worried about how they're going to survive Covid-19 and what that means in terms of the safety and security of their home,” Ms Carr says.

“One of the things that we always say: Focus Ireland isn't just for people who are homeless, although obviously that's a big part of the work that we do, but if people feel worried or concerned, maybe they've missed a bill payment, they should call us and call us as early as possible because the sooner we can help people the better I suppose the

outcomes generally are, we're able to really support them to make sure that they don't become homeless, that they don't worry, because it causes a lot of stress for families, for parents as well as everything else that they're doing.”

When the virus first hit Ireland, the charity realised they were going to have to cancel a lot of their physical events, which meant much of their fundraising over the year would be direly compromised.

“The challenges facing Ireland's vulnerable people are monumental and almost all-consuming, which can pull attention away from what is happening abroad in countries”

However, due to early decisions, for example, they moved one of their biggest campaigns which is their biggest source of revenue, Shine a Light, online. Despite the decrease in physical events and activities, the support for the events the charities can do has been “absolutely incredible” Ms Carr says.

“I never cease to be amazed by how generous people are especially at times where they're probably facing uncertainty and people worrying about work and jobs, but people give what they can,” she says.

“We've had our best ever Shine a Light night, which was brilliant and we did everything online and we connected people through technology so I think we've looked at how we can still fundraise and we've tried to be as creative as possible about it. Last year we raised €1.15 million through Shine a Light night and I think we're up to about €1.75 million today.”

The challenges facing Ireland's vulnerable people are monumental and almost all-consuming, which can pull attention away from what is happening abroad in countries that have nowhere near the ability of Ireland to cope with the upheaval caused by the pandemic.

Goal

Goal are at the forefront of the crisis in 13 countries and have faced a “particular challenge” in navigating and pre-empting the fallout of lockdowns, quarantines and other restrictions while continuing to provide assistance.

Courtenay Pollard, Trust and Foundations Manager at Goal, tells *The Irish Catholic* that, as with all international crisis, the most vulnerable are “bearing the worst ravages of it”.

She says: “First, in circumstances where the most sophisticated and well-funded health systems in the world have been overwhelmed, imagine the impact on countries with suboptimal or even non-existent healthcare provision.

“In some of our countries of operation, people are simply dying in their homes without engaging their health system whatsoever. Another major challenge is the fact that the fight against Covid-19 is resulting in the relegation of other humanitarian priorities. Chief amongst these is global hunger, with the UN World Food Programme recently predicating that as many as 138 million people worldwide are facing desperate food shortages as their livelihoods evaporate, particularly around sub-Saharan Africa.”

To date, in the countries Goal operate, they have reached over 17 million people with Covid-19 related messaging and supports.

Covid-19 is another crisis for the developing world and with other serious situations still ongoing, Ms Pollard says there is a danger that other everyday struggles are being overshadowed as well as worsened by the virus.

“In addition to the very serious food security crisis underway in much of the developing world,

there are a myriad of persistent development problems currently being overlooked,” she says.

“One such problem, and still of direct relevance to the pandemic, is the lack of provision for potable water and sanitation (WASH) in many of the communities we serve. Whether it be in the gut-wrenching Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camp settings in Syria or Ethiopia, or in climate-change affected communities elsewhere, ensuring sufficient and safe access to running water is critical for any Covid-19 prevention hygiene regime, and obviously much more so for daily living.”

“To date, in the countries Goal operate, they have reached over 17 million people with Covid-19 related messaging and supports”

Goal has made ‘WASH’ programming a major priority in all their programme countries. “In all, it is not an exaggeration to say that the pandemic has regressed years of hard-fought gains in the adequate and sustainable provision of food and water, and the livelihoods underpinning them. These most basic provisions are increasingly beyond the reach of many millions throughout the world and worsening as a result of the pandemic,” Ms Pollard adds.

The charity's distributions of emergency aid and food needed to change to allow for social distancing. Against the backdrop of Covid-19, much of their work focused on adapting the delivery of aid to vulnerable communities so as to minimise the risk of transmission of the virus.

Community-led support

For that reason, Goal has transitioned to more community-led support. Ms Pollard says that, for example, in relation to their malnutrition programming, they offer socially distanced training to mothers in order for them to be able to assess their baby's needs and whether their child needs acute emergency care.

This allows for minimal physical interaction with Goal staff, until such a time as their baby requires critical care. It serves to empower mothers and caregivers to be able to screen their own children giving them knowledge and tools like MUAC (mid-upper arm circumference measure) tapes.

Another example would be Zimbabwe, they have adapted the way they work by delivering awareness messaging about Covid-19 to over 6 million people and are providing safe water, sanitation and hygienic services to communities.

Both charities told this paper that legacy donations have been a key part of their ability to continue their work. Ms Carr says that some 10% of the donations they receive are from legacy donations, and that they've had a “very generous year” with the donations helping them “be there for as many people as possible”.

“I think it gives people who are making the legacy that kind of peace of mind, a feeling that their support continues to help us after they've gone and I think it gives people that confidence that their intentions carry on after as well,” she explains.

“Most of our donations that come in through legacy, what people want to do is make sure that they help as many people as possible and they trust us to do that. Most of the legacies that we get ask that we put it where it's needed the most and that's really helpful because that can change over time as well.”

This was particularly important, she notes, as the homelessness crisis worsened since she started in the charity and its response had to change and adapt to the situation, which to this date is still devastating vulnerable people.

For Goal, Ms Pollard says legacy donations are a “hugely valued source of funding” which allows the charity to respond more rapidly and more efficiently than would otherwise be possible in particular in the context of emergencies.

“Some donations we receive have caveats as to where the money is to be spent and how, and while this income is significant, the donations that Goal receives from thoughtful legacy gifts allow us to spend the money where we see the most immediate and critical need,” she explains.

“It literally changes lives forever; a legacy to Goal continues to make a profound difference for generations to come”

“For example, in 2019 Goal was one of the very first responders to the devastation unleashed by Cyclone Idai in southern Africa, tending to affected communities within 24 hours of the storm abating. Furthermore, having the freedom to apply this funding in less prescribed, less rigid circumstances, has also been invaluable in enabling Goal to be more adaptable and innovative in our programme responses, it allows us to help even more people. For over 40 years Goal has been working as agile first responders.”

She added that in leaving a gift to Goal, “you will help some of the most vulnerable communities to respond and recover from crisis, breakdown the barriers to their wellbeing, develop resilience and gain control over their own lives and livelihoods. It literally changes lives forever; a legacy to Goal continues to make a profound difference for generations to come”.

Irish charities have faced major challenges since the pandemic, which has added to already terrible crises at home and abroad, but it seems despite initial dilemmas they have circumvented barriers and continue to deliver life-changing and life-saving aid to those who need it most.

Leave a priceless gift.

Please remember GOAL in your will



You do not need to re-write your will, you just need to include us in it. Doing so will help us respond to global health crises, continue to provide life saving support for families and communities struck down by disaster or conflict and to feed the hungry. Founded in 1977 GOAL continues to make the world a better place. You too can help change lives.

**Talk to someone
in confidence.**

**Contact Courtenay on
01 2809779 or via email
at cpollard@goal.ie**

Supporting the bereaved during a Christmas like no other

We are all preparing for a Christmas like no other, but for those amongst us who are grieving it will be a very difficult time this year.

The traditional ways we mark our grief are forever changed and we still can't come together to show our support for the bereaved like we once did. This means many continue to grieve in isolation.

At Irish Hospice Foundation, we understand the importance of care in grief and that's why we launched Ireland's first ever national Bereavement Support Line in June, to make sure no-one faces bereavement without the care and support they need, especially in these incredibly difficult times.

“The traditional ways we mark our grief are forever changed and we still can't come together to show our support for the bereaved like we once did. This means many continue to grieve in isolation.”

Hundreds of people struggling with grief have called; a husband whose wife sadly died and is now facing life as a single father with three

young children, a daughter who was separated by COVID-19 from her elderly mother as she drew her final breath in hospital and a wife grieving the sudden death of her husband of 30 years.

Bereavement Support Line

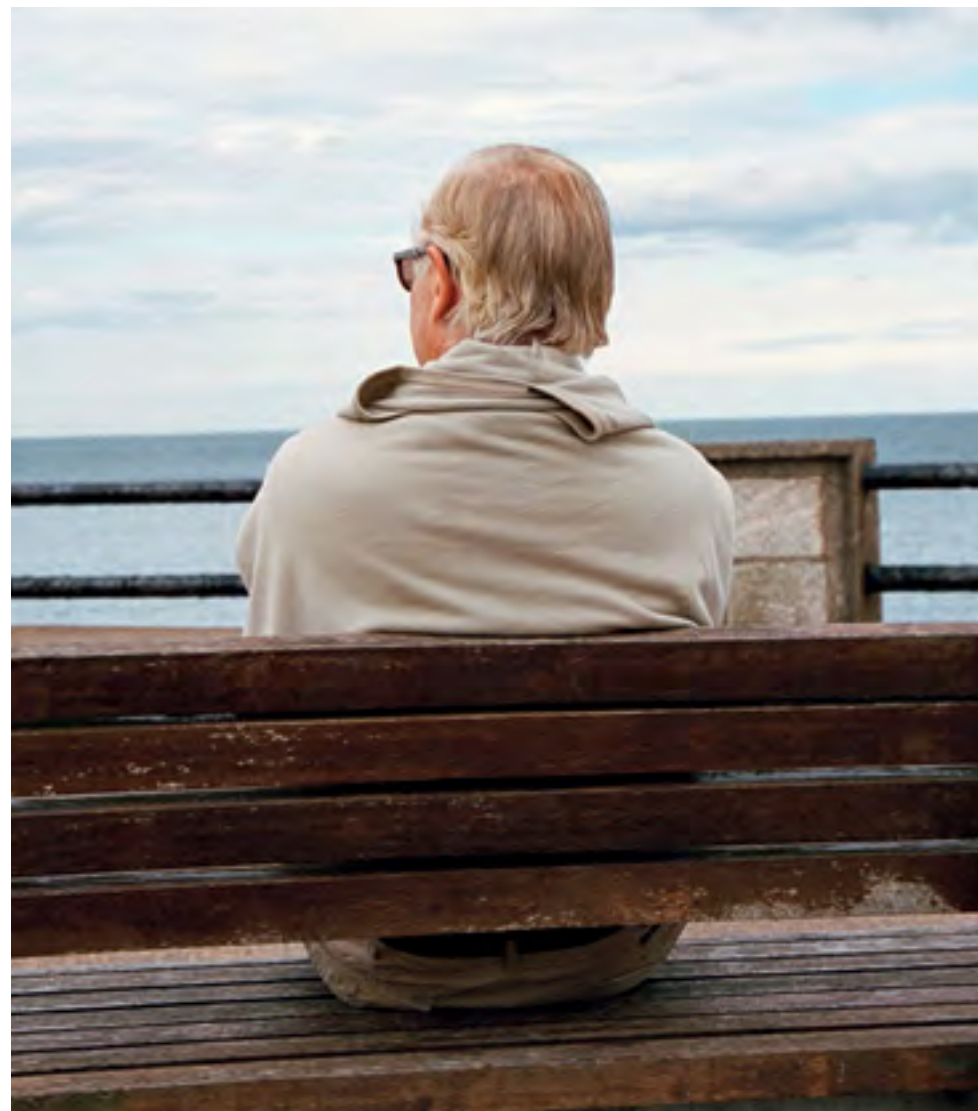
The Bereavement Support Line is for any adult who is bereaved. It may be a recent death; COVID-19 related or a different cause of death. A previous loss from some time ago may feel more difficult now or you may be supporting someone in your life who is grieving.

It is a freephone service 1800 80 70 77. Available Monday-Friday, 10am-1pm.

We will be a nation united in grief this Christmas. We will remember all those who have died and at Irish Hospice Foundation we will continue to support those grieving. If you would like to help someone in their grief please donate to our Never Forgotten Christmas Appeal. www.neverforgotten.ie Here you can make a crucial donation towards our work while remembering your loved one. You can also leave a message or share a memory which we will hand write in our book of remembrance.



For more information on our Bereavement Support Line in partnership with the HSE, visit hospicefoundation.ie



The Gift Of A Lifetime

Be there for others after you're gone.

When you write a will, you can look after your family and loved ones. If you include Irish Hospice Foundation, you can reach out to families in a crucial time of need.

A gift in your will is a meaningful way to help us ensure no-one faces death and bereavement without the care and support they need.

Email clare.martin@hospicefoundation.ie or call 01 679 3188



www.hospicefoundation.ie

A year like no other, but a tradition of remembering that continues

November's Month of the Holy Souls is a time to remember and pray for those no longer with us. It is always a deeply important time of year, but especially this year when so many people, both in Ireland and around the world, have fallen victim to the dreadful Covid-19 virus.

Somalia: Habiba Mohamed, one of Trócaire's health workers in Somalia, checking temperatures outside Trócaire's health clinic in a bid to stop the spread of Covid-19.

Each November, Trócaire holds a special Remembrance Mass. It started in 2015 and quickly became one of the Catholic charity's most special annual events. The mass was the perfect opportunity to remember supporters and friends who were part of the Trócaire family.

Usually, this mass would take place in the beautiful surroundings of St. Patrick's College, Maynooth. This year, like so much else in our lives, the mass must take on a different format. It will be held on 11th November at St. Eunan's Cathedral, Letterkenny, Co Donegal, at 10am. Although we cannot invite our supporters to attend in person, it is important that our traditions continue, even if they do not look the same as before.

Trócaire will always keep its promise to remember and honour deceased supporters and their loved ones. It is only because of these supporters that Trócaire can continue to help millions of the world's poorest people each year.

This year has been a very challenging one for everybody. For Trócaire, it has meant helping to stop the spread of the Covid-19 virus in 17 countries, in addition to maintaining the ongoing life-changing work of the organisation.

A ray of hope

A ray of hope amid the darkness of these times has come in the form of people's solidarity and support for Trócaire's work.

"Our supporters have been incredible this year," says Trócaire's Caoimhe de Barra. "If this crisis has highlighted one thing it is how interconnected our world and our lives are. People who give to Trócaire believe in offering a helping hand to people in far



South Sudan: Yaka Lucia with her baby Rosa in Palabek Refugee camp in Uganda. Yaka is a refugee who fled from South Sudan's civil war. Trócaire supports people in the camp. Photo: Sarah Fretwell

away parts of the world, and that has been so evident this year as people contribute to our life-saving work to stop the spread of this awful virus."

Trócaire's work over recent months has brought hand-washing facilities, medical care and vital public health messages to people in countries from Honduras to Sierra Leone to Myanmar. It has kept people safe from the virus by teaching them how to protect themselves. When people have fallen ill, Trócaire has been able to provide vital goods such as food and water to people in self-isolation.

Covid-19 crisis

This work will continue in the weeks and months ahead. Gifts we have received through the Wills of kind people here in Ireland will help the world's poorest people who are facing into months of hunger because of an inability to earn money during the Covid-19 crisis.

Hunger

"Covid has impacted the number of people facing hunger in various ways," explains Caoimhe. "People have lost their jobs and do not have access to any social welfare safety net. There has been a huge drop in remittances - money sent to family members from overseas. Schools are closed or only partially open in many countries. This means that school feeding programmes - the only source of nutritious meals for many children - are not available. Local markets were closed for a prolonged period of time meaning farmers could not sell their goods and, therefore, could not earn money. Border closures have led to a shortage of key materials including seeds. The price of these materials has increased as a result."

The number of people in the world facing hunger has doubled due to Covid-

19 and other crises like conflict and climate change. The World Food Programme has estimated that 270 million people are 'marching toward the brink of starvation'. This is double the amount who faced hunger this time last year. WFP Executive Director David Beasley said that 'a wave of hunger and famine still threatens to sweep across the globe. Quite frankly, 2021 will be a make-or-break year.'

In Zimbabwe, for example, 56 of the country's 60 districts are now facing crisis levels of hunger. There are 4.3 million people in Zimbabwe facing hunger. The communities Trócaire works with are the poor and marginalised. The agency works with rural farmers, who feed their families off little more than one acre of land. To make ends meet beyond what they can eat and sell from the land most people have part-time jobs, working as labourers or in mines. One

“The people we are working with were already facing so many challenges before Covid. People were already living in extreme poverty and struggling to put food on the table, but this latest crisis has made an already desperate situation much worse.”

of Trócaire's local partners in Matobo district, Masakhaneni, does incredible work in the south and they are rolling out Covid-19 information to far-flung communities with Trócaire support.

At present, the countries where Trócaire works have recorded nearly one million positive cases of Covid-19. While case numbers and fatality rates have been lower in Africa than elsewhere in the world, testing and reporting capacities are a lot less. The long term impacts will be felt more in poorer countries due to worsening poverty and hunger.

Trócaire's Christmas gifts range also reflects the fight against the virus. Included in the range this year is the 'gift of soap' which will provide enough soap for six months to a family in South Sudan to help keep them safe and healthy; the 'gift of water' which will allow people to wash their hands to reduce the spread of the virus; and the 'gift of a quarantine care kit' which will provide vital supplies for sixteen days for a family forced to isolate.

"The people we are working with were already facing so many challenges before Covid," says Caoimhe. "People were

already living in extreme poverty and struggling to put food on the table, but this latest crisis has made an already desperate situation much worse.

"When I look at the situation facing people in countries such as South Sudan and Somalia, I am just so thankful that Trócaire has such an incredible group of supporters back in Ireland. Time and time again, people are willing to be generous to support people who they will never meet. It is an incredible act of generosity, and one that is at the core of our Catholic mission.

Legacy

"Reading Pope Francis's latest encyclical, Fratelli Tutti, I was struck by the powerful leadership role the Catholic Church is playing around the world in these times when people are looking for hope. The Pope's message of solidarity and looking after our brothers and sisters has never been more relevant."

As Trócaire prepares to remember this November, the legacy of countless lives changed for the better in the developing world is a powerful legacy to our loved ones who are no longer with us.

It's been said that if your name is held in the hearts of others, you will never truly die.

When you set aside a gift of any size in your Will to Trócaire, your good and generous name will never die.

Every year after your passing, we'll honour your name in gratitude and love at a special Remembrance Mass where all faiths are welcome.

We'll keep your name safe and warm in our Books of Remembrance, too, where all the people who've loved you can come to see it.

Simple bequests of any size by Will are some of the greatest,

most everlasting gifts of all made by caring people just like you across Ireland.

So whether you ultimately include Trócaire in your final legacy – *or another worthy cause* – we have a free and easy planner you can bring to your solicitor to get started. We're happy to post it to you, discreetly, and with our heartfelt thanks for your consideration and for being a faithful Irish Catholic reader.

For the relief your legacy will bring to people living in fear from poverty, injustice,

indifference, and exploitation worldwide, we believe that even though you pass on, your good name should never die.

Request your free and confidential legacy planner from Trócaire today. Then bring the planner to your family solicitor for an open and honest conversation.

We'll remember your name.

Trócaire

To request your free legacy planner now, including bequest wording and a simple 4-step worksheet you can share privately with your solicitor, ring Grace Kelly on 01 5053 221, or email grace.kelly@trocaire.org

Charity Regulatory Authority No. 20204842; Revenue Number CHY 22508; Company Number 661147





NCBI
Working for People
with Sight Loss

'I never thought I had a lot to give... but realise I do now through leaving a gift in my will to NCBI.' -
Legacy Donor

Let your legacy be part
of the vision...

Please contact: 01-870 7033 | www.ncbi.ie | roisin.walsh@ncbi.ie

Your kindness can live on for someone living with sight loss.

Your will is your chance to leave a lasting gift to others. When you make your will, please think about making a donation to NCBI, the National Council for the Blind of Ireland. Your generosity and kindness will never be forgotten by those who are blind or visually impaired. Your gift of any size will make a difference by enabling us to deliver life changing, rehabilitative support services to the over 55,000 people living with sight loss in Ireland.

We believe that while you may be gone, your generous good deed is your legacy.

"I had to give up work when I was diagnosed with Glaucoma but doing my long cane training liberated me giving me back my independence; it's become my best friend."

Deirdre Deverell

We can offer you free and easy advice on how to make a will.
We're always on hand to answer any questions.

Leaving a Legacy – Remembering the Hospice in your will.

Our specialist palliative care teams working from our hospices in Harold's Cross, Blackrock and Wicklow, and increasingly within people's own homes, bring comfort, professional support and quality of life to thousands of patients and their families every year.

As a charitable organisation we are determined to be there for as many people as possible to bring peace of mind, comfort, reassurance and dignity to all making the most of their final years. With your support we hope to be able to do so for many years to come.

To find out more about Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services or to discuss the simple steps involved in leaving a gift of any size, please contact us in complete confidence, and with no obligation.

Thank you.



Jackie Slattery
Legacy Manager

Tel: (01) 491 1072 Email: jslattery@olh.ie

Find us on [f](#) [in](#) [t](#) [v](#) Visit: Olh.ie/legacy

CHY 1144 RCN 20001827



FOCUS Ireland

When Ireland opens up, we must not let homelessness be a part of our new normal

We can all take home for granted a lot of the time. But deep down we all know what it means. Our home is the foundation stone of our personal and family life. It's where we belong and feel safe.



Sr. Stanislaus Kennedy
(Founder & Life President
of Focus Ireland)

Sadly, not everyone has this security. The harsh reality is that an average of three families lost their home every day last year. I can remember back in 1987, which was the International Year of Homelessness, predicting that within six or seven years, we would end long-term homelessness. It could have happened, except that governments reneged on commitments to provide houses. And so the numbers of people experiencing homelessness grew and grew, up until now. It is way beyond crisis. I did not think that things could still get worse, but they did. It is truly awful that we are now seeing more babies being born into homelessness. One young mother told me how she was homeless when her baby boy was born. The woman, Louise, explained: 'I had just found out I was pregnant when our landlord told us he was selling the house we were renting. Our world fell apart. We were desperate – searching day and night for somewhere new to stay.' I am glad to say we were able to help Louise and her family, as we at least got them into proper emer-

gency accommodation. They were still homeless for a while but we worked with them and they now have a home. While Louise's story had a happy ending, no family should ever have to go through the trauma of losing their home and being homeless.

“It is way beyond crisis. I did not think that things could still get worse, but they did. It is truly awful that we are now seeing more babies being born into homelessness.”

Families and individuals lose their homes as they can't afford to pay the rent or the house is sold or repossessed. They have been called 'The New Homeless'. That is the people who become homeless

for purely economic reasons. I believe that, as a country, we have a duty to look after all our citizens, especially those who are most vulnerable. We must cherish all our children equally and ensure that no child suffers from being homeless. Focus Ireland works hard to do this, and we continue to develop realistic policy solutions to help end homelessness. We also work through over 80 front-line services in Dublin and across the country so we are there when people need us the most. This amazing work is done in partnership with the State, as well as through kind support from our generous donors. All of us at Focus Ireland firmly believe that homelessness can be ended. We know what is working and what isn't. And we also have a very clear vision of what needs to be done by the government and all parties concerned in order to ease and then end this crisis.

Planning ahead

As I write this we are still dealing with the Covid-19 public health emergency and Focus Ireland is working more closely than ever with the State and partner organisations to protect people who are homeless. Welcome steps, such as the temporary ban on evictions and the rent freeze, had a big impact in cutting the numbers becoming homeless. We have helped to move record numbers of families and individuals out of home-

“Margaret would have been thrilled to know she can give hope to people to get their own home. It's terrific what's happening with legacies, to think that you can help others you've never met - I think that's marvellous.”

lessness in this period. This work must continue. When Ireland opens up, we must not let homelessness be a part of our new normal. We need to move on from short-term measures and hubs to providing more social and affordable rental housing. We need to start planning ahead, planning to protect future generations, to ensure no child is born into homelessness.

Granted, the recent budget commitment of €500,000,000 for social housing from our government is a step in the right direction. Problems still persist however; a recent policy change in 2019 means people experiencing homelessness are no longer a priority to access social housing. With local authority housing

lists at an all time high, there is no guarantee that this funding will be used to house people experiencing homelessness. Therefore, Focus Ireland must remain true to our mission of providing homes for people to exit homelessness for good.

How you can help

People always ask me how they can help. Firstly, speak to your local representatives. Ask them how they are working towards ending the homelessness crisis and how will they provide homes for nearly 3,000 children. Secondly, you can donate to Focus Ireland now by calling 1850 204 205 or online at focusireland.ie. Another way that we can plan for the future is through

legacy planning. By leaving a gift in your Will, you are giving someone the greatest gift – hope. Legacy giving allows us to have a planned income stream, helping our team to make changes before issues arise, and ensure every customer we assist receives the best possible help, with kindness, dignity and independence. Ann Comiskey, recently lost her friend Margaret who was a supporter of Focus Ireland, and chose to leave us a life-changing gift in her Will, “Margaret would have been thrilled to know she can give hope to people to get their own home. It's terrific what's happening with legacies, to think that you can help others you've never met - I think that's marvellous.”

Please contact Eve (eve.kerton@focusireland.ie or 01 881 5917) for more information on how you can include Focus Ireland in your Will, learn about the impact your gift can make and help us to end homelessness in Ireland.



**Special
Olympics**
Ireland

Let your legacy last a lifetime
with Special Olympics Ireland.

Special Olympics Ireland helps nearly 8,000 people with an intellectual disability to take part in a sport they love.

We rely on generous supporters to deliver our sport and health programme, leaving a legacy gift in your will is a wonderful way to ensure your generosity lives on.

Ask your solicitor about leaving a legacy today
or contact Karen on 01 891 2005 or legacy@specialolympics.ie

Thank you

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



Photo: Apsatou Bagaya / Concern Worldwide

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

– Pope Francis

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

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

countries – including Niger.

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

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

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

What Concern's help looks like

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

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

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

Every day becomes a terrifying battle to find food.

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

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

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

deadly effects will be felt next year too.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

– Chawada Aboubacar

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

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

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

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

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



Photo: Apsatou Bagaya / Concern Worldwide

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

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

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

Be part of a world without hunger

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

– Pope Francis

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



CONCERN
worldwide

**ENDING EXTREME POVERTY
WHATEVER IT TAKES**

Overseas missionaries are in urgent crisis

In many poorer parishes in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, it is missionaries who are on the front line.

These women and men already do so much. Walking hand-in-hand with marginalised communities, long before and long after any emergency. COVID-19 is adding even more challenges for missionaries, many of whom are in war-torn and remote communities where political conflicts, violent protests, extreme poverty, malnutrition and diseases are rife.

Right now, they desperately need your help.

World Missions Ireland is Pope Francis' official charity for overseas missionaries and mission. With your help, they are committed to supporting missionaries in their challenges, struggles and hardships.

Please, if you are in a position to help, do so now.

To make a donation visit **www.wmi.ie/mission** or call Fiona on **01 497 2035**. Thank you so much.



ICNov20

my legacy

Will you remember us?

My Legacy is a group of 70 Irish charities asking you to consider a leaving a legacy gift in your Will.

Deciding to make or amend your Will is a very personal journey to protect and provide for your loved ones.

Deciding to also leave a legacy gift in your Will to a cause that means something personal to you is a gesture of faith for the future.

A future that will be brighter and more hopeful for someone who may need your help in the years to come.

We invite you to visit us at **www.mylegacy.ie** to find out more.



Supporting future generations with an ultimate gift



Having a conversation about a person's will can be challenging and highly emotive but according to an expert group it doesn't have to be that way, especially because of the complex risks associated with not making a will.

My Legacy, founded in 2006, is a group representing 70 national and local charities throughout Ireland with the mission of highlighting and normalising making legacy donations to charities in a will.

Speaking to *The Irish Catholic*, Chairperson of My Legacy Aoife Garvey [pictured right] says Ireland has lower rates than other similar countries of people leaving legacy gifts to charities – and even making wills at all.

She says: "What we could see was that people do leave gifts to charities in their will and it can be quite popular in other countries that aren't very different to Ireland, Australia, Canada, the UK being our closest neighbour.

"It's kind of more of an accepted way of supporting charity but it just wasn't as commonly known here in Ireland. Those countries have very similar behaviours, societal norms and even their support for charities can be quite similar. My Legacy came together to raise awareness of this way of giving, knowing the great impact that legacy gifts could have on the future work of charities."

Chai Brady speaks to My Legacy about the importance of making a will and the difference it can make



However, the making of wills has increased during Covid-19, she says, as more people are reflecting on their final wishes, the future of their family and loved ones. "The rates are increasing thankfully, but it's something I think is human nature – we put it off.

We don't think about it or we don't think we need one for example and that everything will just go to our partner or next of kin so we don't think about doing it," Ms Garvey says.

Vulnerability

There are a number of reasons the rate has increased recently, Ms Garvey says, and "there has been fatalities due to Covid and of course people who have health issues or are over a certain age have been

identified as vulnerable during the pandemic and that's going to make people think about it".

“People tend to make their will around big life milestones, such as buying a new home...”

"Lockdown has also given people time, some people are stuck inside now with their families and everybody is under the one roof for a longer time and they're starting to think about the longer-term checklist items that they don't get to, or they keep putting off, suddenly there's a little bit more time to do that. They're also maybe living with their adult children and starting to think about these things and then turning and having those conversations with their loved ones."

* * * * *

Ms Garvey says that people tend to make their will around big life milestones, whether that's buying a new home, having a child or getting

married as well as when someone is older. Some people may also update their will if they've made one previously – perhaps after a grandchild is born.

"Life cycles seem like a more obvious place to have the will discussion, on a more emotional side as well maybe it's about actually saying what you would like to happen when you pass, whether that's funeral arrangements, or what you would like to happen to a home and that might be a more gentle way of at least discussing with your family what your wishes are," she says.

When asked if there's a standard amount people generally give to charity in their will Ms Garvey says it differs greatly. Some charities have been raising awareness longer than others which leads to more people supporting them through legacy donations.

"It does really vary and there are some organisations, I think particularly around health where you might have used the service, or a family friend or family member have availed of the service, that people just feel it's logical then to remember them. You see it even as part of death notices," she says.

“There's also a misconception that a legacy has to be a really large amount...”

"There's also a misconception that it has to be a really large amount, sometimes when we hear these stories in the news it's

because a million euro has been left to a charity but more often a gift to a charity could be in the hundreds or thousands, a small gift, it doesn't have to be large and something that only wealthy people can do, it's quite the opposite."

It can be difficult for younger charities in particular to raise awareness of the importance of legacy donations as it's not something they have communicated with supporters and they may not immediately come to mind when someone writes their will.

Ms Garvey says: "For charities it's also a newer area of focus even though it's a way of giving that's been around for a very long time.

"We also support charities, so if they're getting calls about this, we also help them have those conversations and give them the right information.

“The negative aspects of not making a will are that there is a ‘lack of clarity’ on what happens after a person dies”

"The really gorgeous thing about legacies, it's really special, is you don't have to leave a gift to just one charity, you can leave a gift to multiple charities and I think the average is about three charities mentioned in a will so you could decide to leave a gift to a local charity, an overseas charity and a health charity that you really admire so it's something charities can raise awareness for and you don't have to choose just one charity to support."

The negative aspects of not making a will are that there is a "lack of clarity" on what happens after a person dies, Ms Garvey explains and there are assumptions made that may actually lead to complications.

"You're making assumptions that the money will 'obviously go here or my house will default to this person' and that might not always be clear and may not be the way it pans out," she says.

Regarding legacy donations to charity, Ms Garvey says: "You can really reflect on the things that you liked supporting or services you may have availed of over your life and leave them that one final really incredible gift."

"There's TV ads about this in other countries. If you see an ad about this on TV you might turn to your family member and say 'we really need to write our will' or 'we really need make that change'. The more charities saying this the more likely the Irish public will notice it and take that action.

"Ultimately then the more people who are aware of this are interested, go to a solicitor, make their will, mention a charity, in the long term more charities will get that support through legacy giving and the more work they can do and can continue to do long into the future."

It's my way of leaving Cork a better place.

Helping people who are homeless after
I've passed on... that's my legacy to Cork,
the city I love.

*Join me by leaving a gift to
Cork Simon in your Will.*



For more information please call Leona on 021 4929 418 or email Leona@corksmon.ie


I hope that,
one day,
my grandchildren
will ask

**“What WAS
cancer?”**

You can help make cancer a thing of
the past by leaving a gift to the Irish
Cancer Society in your Will.

To get a free legacy booklet with more information,
call **1850 60 60 60** email amcdarby@irishcancer.ie
or visit www.cancer.ie/legacy





“You can make a lasting difference for the health of our future generations by leaving a gift in your will to the Mater Foundation.”

Structure, ritual and habit as anchoring love, prayer and service



Fr Rolheiser



In his book *The Second Mountain*, David Brooks suggests that a key to sustaining fidelity in any vocation is to build a structure of behavior for those moments when love falters. He's right.

Anybody who has made a commitment to be faithful for the long haul inside a marriage, a friendship, a faith community or a vocation to serve others, will need more than initial enthusiasm, barefooted sincerity, affective energy and good resolutions to sustain himself or herself on that road.

It's one thing to have a honeymoon with someone; it's another to be in a marriage over many years. It's one thing to be an enthusiastic neophyte on a spiritual journey; it's another thing to remain faithful inside that journey for 70 or 80 years. And it's one thing to go out for a season and serve meals to the homeless; it's something else to be Dorothy Day [pictured].



Enthusiasm

So the question is: how do we sustain our initial enthusiasm, sincerity, affective energy, and good resolutions through the boredom, heartbreak, misunderstanding, tiredness and temptations all of us will undergo in our lives, whether that be in our marriage, our vocation, our church life, our prayer life or our service to others?

That question was put to me recently, speaking to a group of young seminarians, I shared that I had just celebrated 48 years of ministry. The seminarians peppered me with questions: what's the secret? How do you get through the rough times? How do you sustain good intention, good will, and good energy year after year? How do you sustain your prayer life over 40 or 50 years?

I answered with an insight from Dietrich Bonhoeffer who, whenever he officiated at a wedding, would tell the couple: "Today you

are very much in love and think your love will sustain your marriage. It can't. But your marriage can sustain your love." I advised the seminarians in the same way: don't trust your present enthusiasm and good energy to sustain your priesthood; let your priesthood sustain your

enthusiasm and energy. What's at stake here?

"Rituals give you structure and healthy routines, and they are needed because in the priesthood as in every other vocation, there are times of fervor when feelings are enough to sustain you"

A genuine commitment in faith, love or service becomes a ritual container, an ark, like Noah's, that existentially locks you in. And the fact that you're locked in is exactly what makes the commitment work. You enter naively, believing that your good feelings and affective energies will sustain you. They won't. Inevitably they will be worn down by time, familiarity, boredom, misunderstanding, tiredness, wound and new obsessions that

emotionally tempt you elsewhere.

So how can you sustain yourself in a commitment through periods of dryness? David Brooks' answer is a good one - by building a structure of behavior for exactly those moments.

How do you do that? Through routine, ritual and habit. Anchor your person and your commitment in ritual habits that steady and hold you beyond your feelings on any given day. Set rituals for yourself, certain ritual behaviors, which you will do regularly no matter how you feel.

For me, as a priest, some of these are pre-set. As a priest, you are to daily pray the Office of the Church as a prayer for the world, no matter how you feel. You are to celebrate the Eucharist for others regularly, irrespective of whether or not this is personally meaningful to you on any given day. You are to do some private prayer daily, particularly when you don't feel like it.

The list goes on. These rituals give you structure and healthy routines, and they are needed because in the priesthood as in every other vocation, there are times of fervor when feelings are enough to sustain you; however there are also desert times, bitter times, angry times, times when love falters. It's then that a structure of behavior can steady and sustain you.

The same holds true for marriage. Couples have to build a structure of behavior for those

times when love falters. To name one such ritual: a wife and husband need to have some ritual expression of affection when they wish each other a good day as they part each morning, no matter their emotions and feelings on a given day.

That ritual is a container, an ark, which locks them in and holds them together until a better season and better feelings return. Ritual can sustain love when it falters.

In understanding this, we need beware of 'Job's friends', that is, beware of the various books and gurus on spirituality, prayer and marriage that give you the impression there's something wrong with you if your enthusiasm and emotional affectivity are not the glue that daily sustains you in your commitment.

"Enthusiasm and good feelings are wonderful, but they can't sustain you through a marathon"

Simply put, these are books written by spiritual novices and marriage manuals written by someone confusing a honeymoon for a marriage.

Enthusiasm and good feelings are wonderful, but they can't sustain you through a marathon. For a marathon you need to have long-practiced strategies to carry you through the long tiring miles in the middle and at the end.

Support Catholic journalism and access more of the content you value by joining

FRIENDS OF
The Irish Catholic

For as little as €10 a month, you can help strengthen the voice of faith in Ireland. Friends also receive exclusive access to our premium video series 'From the Editor's Desk', discounts on books and more.

JOIN TODAY
Phone
01 6874094

Family & Lifestyle

The Irish Catholic, November 5, 2020

Personal Profile
Discerning the
culture's needs in both
vocations and media
Page 34



Putting the garden to bed

Do you have a gardening calendar? It's a useful item and can be purchased, home-made or simply looked up online. Anyway, if you were to consult your calendar, you will most likely be getting little hints that the growing season is winding down and our thoughts can turn to putting our gardens to bed.

Of course, there are still things to be done – despite the date, we've hardly had the first frost yet and there may still be just enough time to plant some bulbs for spring! But the evenings have drawn in and the weather is getting wetter and colder, conditions unsuitable for growth. Whether you have culti-



**Autumn is passing and
it's time to bed the
garden down for winter,
writes Ruadhán Jones**

vated a vegetable patch, a flower bed or well-mown lawn, here are a few tips for preparing your garden for its hibernation.

A neat lawn

As the weather turns, it will become harder to mow the lawn. The last cuts will most likely

be made in late October, early November and the lawnmower can be safely stowed away – after a good clean of course!

But there is still work to be done. The extra rain and cool conditions can still facilitate the growth of moss. As it won't affect the rest of the garden's growth,

now is a good time to scarify your lawn, which will promote drainage and let in light and air by removing excess, dead grass and moss.

Scarifying is a simple process requiring few tools, but it can be time consuming. Using a wire-tooth, springbok rake – a wide, springy rake which removes the detritus more quickly than a standard one – you go over the garden, raking up piles of grass and moss which can be thrown straight into the compost. If you want to save on time and energy, you could also purchase a mechanical scarifier, which looks much like a small lawnmower.

The second useful process to go through, especially if your

garden is a little boggy, is to aerate your lawn using a garden fork or an aerator. While scarifying should take place at least once a year, aeration is typically necessary only if you are having issues with drainage through soil being too compact.

Aeration involves perforating the ground with small holes to allow air, water and nutrients to penetrate the grass roots. This helps the roots grow deeply and produce a stronger, more vigorous lawn. It's best to do this in early to mid-Autumn, while there is still a little growth but the ground is softer.

» Continued on Page 33

Family News

AND EVENTS

COVID ANTIBODIES 'FALL RAPIDLY AFTER INFECTION'

Levels of protective antibodies in people wane "quite rapidly" after coronavirus infection, say researchers. Antibodies are a key part of our immune defences and stop the virus from getting inside the body's cells. The Imperial College London team found the number of people testing positive for antibodies has fallen by 26% between June and September, according to a report on the BBC. They say immunity appears to be fading and there is a risk of catching the virus multiple times. More than 350,000 people in England have taken an antibody test as part of the REACT-2 study so far. In the first round of testing, at the end of June and the beginning of July, about 60 in 1,000 people had detectable antibodies. But in the latest set of tests, in September, only 44 per 1,000 people were positive. It suggests the number of people with antibodies fell by more than a quarter between summer and autumn.

PUBERTY CAN REPAIR THE BRAIN'S STRESS RESPONSES AFTER HARDSHIP EARLY IN LIFE

Research suggests that impaired stress responses can return to normal during puberty, raising the possibility that imbalances created by early trauma can be erased. Adversity wreaks havoc, and from there, "you have a system that responds differently," *Sciencenews* learned from Megan Gunnar, a developmental psychobiologist at the University of Minnesota who has spent two decades studying the impact of early-life adversity in adopted children. Early trauma can impair the bodies stress regulation system, potentially setting kids on a path toward behaviour struggles along with increased risk for depression, diabetes and a host of other health problems. But the findings of Ms Gunnar's studies, published in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, suggest that the body can recalibrate its response to stressors during puberty. The research is prompting a new view of puberty as an opportunity — a chance for people who had a shaky start to reset their physiological responses to stress.

SUBSTANCE MISUSE MOST COMMON BETWEEN 26-39 IN NI

New statistics from the Department of Health show that men and people aged between 26-39 were most likely to have problems with substance misuse. A new report released 29 October, 'Statistics from the Northern Ireland Substance Misuse Database: 2019/20 (Experimental Statistics)' summarises information on people presenting to services with a drug problem and/or alcohol misuse. The report shows that the most common age group for clients presenting to treatment was 26-39 years for drug misuse only (39.7%), and for drug & alcohol misuse (44.3%); however clients accessing services for misuse of alcohol only tended to be in older age-groups with 71.5% being 40 years and over. The majority of clients were male, with only around a fifth of clients presenting to treatment for either drugs only, or for drugs & alcohol, being female. However, for those clients presenting to treatment for problem alcohol use only, two-fifths were female (41.9%).

TREASURING CONFESSION AS VITAL TO PEACE



One of my favourite hymns is 'Where Your Treasure Is', with its lines based on the words of St Luke's Gospel "For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be". When everything else is stripped away and we're forced to re-examine our priorities, what is most important to us? For Catholics, one treasure we should value highly is the sacrament of penance where we can obtain forgiveness for sins and be reconciled with God and the Church. A "24 hours for the Lord" initiative was launched by Pope Francis in 2014 with a major focus on the mercy of God and the value of Confession. It involved churches all over the world having Eucharistic Adoration for 24 hours and, during that period, having priests continually available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Many of the great saints spoke glowingly about this great sacrament. St John Bosco, the brilliant priest, writer and educator, said: "Do you want to become saints? Here is the secret: Confession is the lock; confidence in your confessor is the key. This is how you open heaven's gates."

St Pope John Paul II called Confession "an act of honesty and courage—an act of entrusting ourselves, beyond sin, to the mercy of a loving and forgiving God". St Alphonsus Liguori, the patron saint of confessors and founder of the Redemptorists, repeatedly called on Catholics to seek God's mercy and forgiveness in Confession. His authentic love and charity for others led him to seek out the struggling and lost sheep, kindly and tirelessly leading them to Jesus.

St Alphonsus knew the great task priests had before them in accompanying those under their care on their path of



A parent's perspective Maria Byrne

conversion. His way wasn't one of harshness or accusation but of understanding, support and encouragement. He embraced his role as a spiritual father to his flock and expected similar high standards from other priests saying that if all preachers and confessors did their duties as they should, the whole world would be holy. Like a teacher, manager or leader who is on top of his game, this great saint expected the same of other priests, such as his passion for those who were depending on him. He had strong words for priests who were lukewarm in their devotion to their office, who didn't study to constantly improve themselves and who didn't live their ministry to the very best of their abilities. At present, while still in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic and moving in and out of various lockdowns, we're seeing, more than ever, how we need strong, ardent, brave pastors. I was very moved by the words spoken at the recent funeral of Fr Seamus Collins OP of the Newbridge, Co. Kildare community of Dominicans. Even though he was 87 when he died, he had guided his people until the very end. He didn't believe that lockdown and closure were the best pastoral responses of the Church to the pandemic. In fact he expressed the view that it was the younger priests that needed to be looked after more, that his life was almost over and that he should be the one to go out to bury the dead and to visit the hospitals.

"Well done, good and faithful servant" comes to mind.

Confessors

Watching the documentary 'The Confessors' recently on RTÉ 1 brought me back to some years ago when my late father had strong words to say about Confession boxes in a little



church in Connemara being used to store various tools and cleaning equipment. The same story was being painted in a somewhat humorous light in the RTÉ programme while some priests spoke sadly about decreasing numbers seeking the sacrament of forgiveness. I was reading an excellent article by Thomas Joseph White OP – The Primacy of the Spiritual and the Obligations of the Church: On the Suspension of Public Worship. He discusses, with amazing clarity, how the Church is uniquely responsible for the spiritual good of the

human community and "the importance of the life of grace and charity as the highest good of the soul". While taking all prudent public health precautions, it's during this pandemic that all of us, and especially the sick and suffering, need greater spiritual strength. The sacraments, Fr White explains, are our essential means of salvation and sanctification that the Church can and must provide if she is to properly respond to our needs as human persons bearing in mind our supernatural destiny. I'd encourage priests to renew their sense of hope and courage, to reignite their passion for the sacraments and to clear out those Confession boxes and restore them to their rightful usage. We have a golden opportunity now to speak about the beauty of Confession, how God is a loving father not waiting with a stick, but an embrace. Some creativity in using social distancing, perspex screens and outdoor locations, definite times for Confession, not just "on request" which the majority won't avail of due to shyness, embarrassment or the lack of privacy. Who wants to feel like they're a bother to the priest, especially a child or teenager? A few small changes can make it happen. Frequent Confession makes us realise that we are indeed human, we are capable of doing wrong but love and forgiveness of our sins brings us the joy, strength and grace to go on. It's not an optional extra but vital to our peace, our strength and our quest to grow in holiness following in the footsteps of Christ himself.

» Continued from Page 31



Harvesting and storing vegetables

Some vegetable crops can be left in the ground over the winter, like kale, brussels sprouts, broccoli and a number of others – best to check online or consult a gardening manual. If you are ‘overwintering’ – leaving the crops in the ground – be sure to cut away any yellowing or dead leaves. These can encourage disease if left lying around and cutting them away also increases airflow around the stems.

“Most root vegetables are best stored in a box of moist sand to prevent them losing moisture”

But many crops will need to be harvested, especially root crops like potatoes and carrots. Carrots can survive in raised beds, but I would still advise picking them as they are susceptible to root fly, also known as cabbage or carrot fly.

Harvesting them is the easy bit – storing them so that they retain their moisture is more difficult. Most root vegetables are best stored in a box of moist sand to prevent them losing moisture. Place a layer of dampened sand in a box before putting in the vegetables and then cover them over with another. This process can be repeated depending on the depth of the box.

You should store the following vegetables in this way: beetroot, carrot, celeriac, parsnips, swede and turnip. Place the box in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight, such as a cellar, garage or garden shed.

Winter growth

If you are still very keen to be out in the garden, then there are some planting activities that can be undertaken in the heart of autumn. In fact, some bulbs need to be planted in

autumn – garlic is a perfect example of just such a vegetable.

Garlic seed bulbs need a period of cold below 10°C for at least six weeks for the individual clove to form a bulb. They should be planted between October and early April, with Autumn garlic generally producing a bigger and better crop.

When preparing a patch to plant them, make sure it's in the sunniest part of the garden as the bulbs need sunlight to thrive. If you have a wet site with heavy clay soil grow your garlic in raised beds to keep them from getting waterlogged.

To plant the garlic, break up the bulbs into individual and be careful not to damage or bruise them. Place the cloves in the soil 3–4 cm below the surface with the pointy end facing up. Spacing should be 25cm between rows and 20–25cm between plants.

Garlic is also perfect for gardeners with little space on a patio or a balcony. You can grow it in a pot of at least 20cm in diameter and depth to allow for good root growth. You can use a good multipurpose compost mixed with an organic fertilizer which is high in potash.

Plant a tree

If you want a project which is more time consuming and labour intensive, but season appropriate, you could try planting a tree. However, this is not a project that should be undertaken too lightly. Consideration should be given to the size of your

garden; the proximity of the tree to your house; and the proximity to power lines and telephone wires.

If you would prefer not to put in all that planning, you could go for a small but picturesque tree, such as a the ever-popular cherry blossom. Famous for its delicate, bright pink blossom, this tree grows to a maximum height of 10 metres and a maximum spread of five.

Before digging, you will still need to consider where your underground utilities are – aside from that, just pick a place where it will get plenty of light. Dig a hole 60cm in diameter and 30cm deep. Add a layer of organic soil and compact it well to avoid settling.

“Given that this is Ireland we’re planting in, it is advisable to stake the tree for support if it’s in an exposed area”

Remove the tree from its container and cut away or straighten any roots that stick out from the soil. Make sure that the tree itself, once placed in the hole, is upright and straight. Fill the hole gently and firmly, packing soil around the base of the root ball to stabilize it and eliminate air pockets. Further reduce air pockets by watering periodically while backfilling.

Given that this is Ireland we're planting in, it is advisable to stake the tree for support if it's in an exposed area. This involves planting a stake into the ground alongside the tree and attaching the two together using a tree-tie.

While activity in the garden is winding down, it hasn't fully come to a close. While we still have the light, and given that we're not going anywhere, it's good to make the most of our chances to keep active outdoors.



Dad's Diary

Rory Fitzgerald



Many who live alone are finding things difficult during the lockdown. Yet I often envy them their hours of contemplative serenity and uninterrupted sleep. For there are also challenges involved in sharing your home, as I do, with four kids, two cats, a wife, a mother-in-law and a giant dog.

You can therefore imagine my delight when I recently woke up in the middle of the night with a coughing fit. By the morning, the cough had got much worse. This was certainly a new and continuous cough, I was pleased to note. We follow the coronavirus guidance assiduously in our house. Self-isolation would surely be required, I smugly concluded.

Before breakfast, a test was arranged. I drove to the strange sort of field hospital which has been erected on a local GAA pitch. There, I endured the unpleasant business of having a pointy stick inserted so far up my nose that it prodded my brain. Yet all this was a small price to pay for the profound joy of coming home to settle down under the duvet knowing that nobody could disturb me all day.

Since my room was now a sanctuary, I sadly could not prepare meals or drinks for myself. I had to therefore text my wife and kids for room service. As I reclined in tranquillity watching my first movie, I first texted for a bottle of sparkling water, which was delivered to the door by a suitably deferential mask-wearing kid. Then I ordered a cappuccino, which was also expertly prepared. After a time, I grew weary of movies and so I had room service send up the Sunday papers. That evening, dinner was superb: a delicious marinated steak, with vegetables and gravy. I also ordered seconds, which arrived promptly. Dessert was a little underwhelming, frankly, but the hot chocolate and homemade cookies delivered for supper were sublime.

Being responsibly self-isolated meant that I unfortunately could not help with children's bedtimes. Nor could I be awoken in the middle of the night when the toddler wet the bed. I therefore slept – uninterrupted – for an astonishing eight hours solid. The next morning was a Monday. The kids were delighted, because while I was awaiting a test

result they could not go to school. I was also delighted, since this meant my waiting staff would be on hand to cater to my every whim.

I therefore ordered a delicious bowl of porridge delivered, along with coffee and juice. I also had some



fresh pillow cases delivered. I drank my coffee while calmly surveying the woods outside, as each gust sent a scattering of leaves to the ground. The autumn gale thinned the trees, making the scudding sky ever more visible.

My son had taken in baskets of wood from the shed, and the range had been lit. The subtle scent of woodsmoke reached my bedroom, and our old house felt warm to its bones. This time of year is perfect for contemplation, and always takes me back to a reverie of my childhood.

This scene of deep comfort was rudely shattered by a ping from my phone. I glanced to see the words 'HSE COVID'. For a moment, I was suddenly nervous. What if I did have Covid? After all, I had a temperature and a cough. I was prepared for the worst, while knowing in my rational mind that my mild illness mostly likely had another cause.

The text informed me that “no Covid” had been detected. It was a relief, and yet also a great pity, since it meant that my splendid isolation would have to end – in a while. That would mean no more room service, broken sleep and a return to the pleasantly chaotic normality of sharing a home with nine other busy creatures.

Discerning the culture's needs in both vocations and media

Personal Profile



Jason Osborne

Fr Maurice Colgan reflects God's light into the world through his vocation as a Dominican, and through his work with the *Alive!* newspaper, although, as is so often the way, he didn't see his life's path taking this shape.

"I had no serious inclination towards the priesthood so my future as I saw it, or maybe as God saw it, was you know, the practice of the Faith was going, was there. There was a relationship with the Lord," he tells *The Irish Catholic*.

"There was a continuation of my youth into my 20s, and I thought the way things were going was towards 'normality'. You know – marriage, children, etc. And then, at 28 years of age, the Lord decided to call me to religious life, particularly."

“Fr Colgan felt the spiritual pull towards the Dominicans in his youth, despite his preoccupation with another order; namely, the Capuchins”

Where did this religious seed come from? It's a question Fr Colgan ponders to this day, but he thinks the Catholic culture of Ireland's past may have had a hand in it.

"I'm 48 years of age, so to put it to that context, when I was growing up – so I suppose I'd start off by saying that when I was growing up in the 70s/80s, the majority of people, overwhelming majority of people, were going to Mass, and that includes young people. So friends of mine and

acquaintances all in the area, at least, would have been going to Mass, you know? I'd be finding it hard to think of an exception to that," he recalls.

Asked whether there was a danger people took the Faith for granted in those days because of its widespread cultural acceptance, he affirmed that he himself and others encountered God deeply in their faith lives.

"Looking at people who I grew up with and their Faith practice today, like there's definitely people that I grew up with who are still practicing, you know? Still attending Mass on a Sunday which would suggest that there was a depth back then that just wasn't cultural."

He continues, "So I'd say that you'd definitely have to include the culture as an influence in the sense of something that you just did. So there definitely was that part of an habitual practice but you'd have to argue as well there was enough

support there and enough invitation to various different prayer meetings and retreats that were aiding one's deepening of their relationship with the Lord."

The issue of rote Faith-engagement versus a real encounter with God is of particular interest to Fr Colgan, as the Dominicans currently try to understand what it is of their order that speaks to people of God, as is evidenced by the continuing interest expressed in their community by young men of Ireland.

"I think the Lord has a plan for the Dominican order in Ireland. I think that's evident and clear because, you know, men are being called to the Dominican way of life. Obviously, there's things in place within Dominican life that people are attracted to – the communal life and the prayer life, absolutely, and of course the focus on study.

"But in saying all that, there's, talking to the men who have come in over the last 20 years, a lot of

them are coming in from various different backgrounds and you know, there's no reason why, or rather there is a reason, but the Augustinians, the Franciscans, the Capuchins, etc, all offer something very unique in their own charisms and own ways, so the Holy Spirit is obviously moving men towards the Dominicans for a very particular purpose and that's something around our charism of preaching, you know?"

Fr Colgan felt the spiritual pull towards the Dominicans in his youth, despite his preoccupation with another order; namely, the Capuchins.

"I felt a greater attraction towards the work of the Capuchins and at the time, that was my job. My job was, my bread and butter at the time, was working with people in addiction. So I was working in something that would be very much – would coalesce, would fit, very easily with the Capuchin way

of life, which would be an outreach to those who are in vulnerable situations, you know? But the Lord knows, there was no bargaining. The Dominicans was the way the Lord wanted," he laughs.

Fr Colgan found a home not only with the Dominicans, but with the *Alive!* newspaper too. However, the same issues greet him there as they do on a vocations front – how best to appeal a country that's changed so much over the course of his lifetime.

“We’re trying to extend an invitation to, or at least encouragement, to re-engage with the Faith, you know?”

"I suppose with *Alive!*, the way it was set up, there's a certain freedom to it in the sense because it's not a paid paper, it doesn't have a price tag on it, people aren't asked to pay for it, there's a freedom in that and it's a way of, like *The Irish Catholic* – it's an alternative voice in Ireland today, which is quite a dramatic statement at one level when you think of, you know, for a Catholic paper to be an "alternative voice" nowadays, when you think about it, what an about-turn it's been, but that's really it.

"It's trying to speak into the new culture which exists today and how in particular, I suppose the *Alive!*'s objective really, is to try and speak to people that might, maybe, be struggling with the Faith or might be baptised and away from the Faith. One of our demographics that we're trying to speak into is that – people that are struggling with the Faith or have moved away from the Faith. We're trying to extend an invitation to, or at least encouragement, to re-engage with the Faith, you know?"

Despite the shifting cultural landscape, Fr Colgan's work continues to reflect the unchanging Dominican motto, whether on a vocations or media front: *Laudare, benedicere, praedicare* (To praise, to bless, and to preach).



Children's Corner

Chai Brady

Toothpicks, pepper and soap make strange companions

Scientific experiments are an excellent way to learn about the world around you and also allow you to create, imagine, and explore. Although in films scientists are often wearing long white lab coats and are usually surrounded with test-tubes of bubbling liquids, you don't actually need any of these things to do your own scientific experiment. In fact, all you need are some things you can find around your kitchen!

The pepper and soap experiment is quite famous and helps you understand how soap affects the surface of water. It's great fun and is an experiment that you'll want to keep repeating.

To do it, fill a bowl with about 2.5cm of water and then sprinkle pepper evenly across the surface. The pepper flakes should float, not sink, upon the surface of the water. After this, squeeze a tiny bubble of dish soap onto a clean counter.

Then comes the fun part. Get a toothpick and touch it to the bubble of dish soap. You only need a tiny amount of soap.

Now poke the soapy toothpick into the water, right in the centre of the bowl. What happens

next is very strange and unexpected as all of the pepper flakes should dart to the sides of the pan, and some of the flakes will fall to the bottom of the pan.

But how does this interesting experiment work? First of all, pepper is not attracted to water and can't dissolve in it. The pepper also stays afloat on top of the water because the water molecules stick together and this gives the top of the water surface tension. And because the pepper flakes are so light, the surface tension keeps them floating on top.

This explains why the pepper stays afloat, but why does it shoot to the sides when soap touches the water? Soap is able to break down the surface tension of the water, and so as the soap moves into the water the surface tension changes.

But the water molecules still want to keep the surface tension going, so they pull back away from the soap, and take the pepper along with them.

It's pretty incredible how all of these substances react with one another, and as you grow in your scientific knowledge you'll learn about more complex interactions. For example, if olive oil and water are mixed together and left for a period of time they will eventually separate on their own!

When you feel confident in doing the pepper and soap experiment, you can bet your friends that you can separate pepper from water in only a second.

When they say they don't believe you, just dip the soapy toothpick in the water and watch them be amazed.



TVRadio

Brendan O'Regan



When being unique is not so appreciated

The controversy over restrictions on religious services gained extra traction last week with an online petition, Bishops meeting Government and Christian pastors calling for change. It was a pity this didn't happen at level 3 – it mightn't have been an open door, but there would have been more hope.

On **Lunchtime Live** (Newstalk, Wednesday), presenter Andrea Gilligan explored the matter in a very open and cheerful way. She spoke to Fr Chris O'Donnell who had a very reflective and moderate approach. He was conscious of the comfort, nourishment and sense of belonging people got in church, and stressed that churches had created very safe spaces.

He spoke of how downhearted parishioners were at the last Mass before level 3 restrictions kicked in, but realised that we had to be willing to make sacrifices in a pandemic.

While regretting the limited numbers at funerals, he had adopted the technology for online Masses but felt nothing trumped being able to gather as a community. Gilligan suggested that the gathering was what the public health authorities were trying to discourage.

All callers were bothered by not being able to go to Mass – one woman sorely



Andrea Gilligan presents *Lunchtime Live* on Newstalk.

missed being able to receive the Eucharist, and found churches very strict and safe when Mass had been taking place.

Protection

Later that day on **The Hard Shoulder** (Newstalk), Maria Steen made a cogent case for easing restrictions. Considering the constitutional protection, she said, you'd need serious evidence that the religious services were a threat and she wasn't seeing that evidence. A lawyer herself she saw the new laws as criminalising some religious activities, e.g. a priest leaving home to say a Mass that wasn't just online. She hoped this was unintentional and

stand-in presenter Mark Cagney didn't believe the Government would do such a thing.

I'm not sure how wise it was for her to ask Cagney if he was religious, but he deflected that one. However, he didn't seem to get the centrality of communal worship and became quite animated about it: "Our relationship with our God is something that we can conduct on our own, we don't actually have to go someplace to do it and we don't need the ritual." Things were getting prickly at this stage, but thankfully it ended on a conciliatory note, with Cagney saying he understood how important it was to raise the issue and wishing Steen well with her efforts.

On **Today With Claire Byrne** (RTÉ Radio 1, Thursday), stand-in presenter Phillip Boucher Hayes interviewed Anthony Staines, Professor of Health Systems in the School of Nursing, DCU and John Ahern, spokesperson for Irish Churches Together Group, prompted by that representation to Government from 70 Christian pastors.

Professor Staines said he would "love to be able to go to Mass on Sundays", but thought the risks were too high. He did appreciate Ahern's concerns and agreed with him that it shouldn't be an either/or between mental and physical health. Ahern had the "height of respect" for the Government's efforts to combat Covid-19, but he could see unintended consequences in terms of isolation and the hope and community needed.

He quoted the Bible verse "man does not live by bread alone", whereupon Boucher Hayes countered with "when two or three are gathered together in my name", asking, rather disingenuously I thought: "Is Jesus not saying you don't need a church?"

Interview

That same day, the **News at One** (RTÉ Radio 1) featured an interview on the issue with Archbishop Eamon Martin. He said coming together to worship, pray and support each other was "fundamental to

PICK OF THE WEEK

SILENCE

BBC Two, Saturday, November 7, 11.20pm
(2016) Andrew Garfield, Adam Driver, Liam Neeson. Martin Scorsese's film about missionaries in Japan in the 17th Century. Disturbing, challenging and violent. Ambiguous towards religious faith.

SUNDAY

BBC Radio 4, Sunday, November 8, 7.10am
William Crawley takes a look at the ethical and religious issues of the week.

VATICANO

EWTN, Sunday, November 8, 8.30 pm; also Tuesday, November 10, 2.30 pm

Presenting the latest news from the Vatican, highlighting the Rome Film Festival and the Renaissance of Baroque.



Bryan Dobson (RTÉ).

what we are as a Christian community". As part of a delegation from the Catholic bishops he had met with An Taoiseach Micheál Martin. He felt they had got a respectful hearing and hoped their concerns would be brought to the Cabinet.

He couldn't understand

the imposition of blanket restrictions at level 3 without "any meaningful consultation" with religious leaders.

By contrast an ongoing engagement with the civil authorities had happened in the North. Presenter Bryan Dobson wasn't sure but he thought services could go ahead in the North, and that the Republic was one of the only, if not the only, country in the EU where religious services were "restricted and banned" in this way.

I think more needs to be made of our questionable 'uniqueness' in this respect, and of the constitutional protection for religious freedom.

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

Film

Aubrey Malone



There are fewer restrictions than ever on viewing movies



Elle Fanning stars in *The Roads Not Taken*.

Anyone interested in seeing good films has to think outside the box – no pun intended – in a wish to avoid the dross that's often inflicted on us on the terrestrial TV channels.

Thanks to Netflix, live streaming and other digital platforms I've been mentioning recently there are thankfully more choices available to us than usual, even (especially?) in these unprecedented times.

Hope Gap is a moving drama about a young man (Josh O'Connor) trying to come to terms with the fact that his father (Bill Nighy) is leaving his mother (Annette Bening) after 29 years of marriage. The news is imparted to him on a visit by them to him. Bening struggles to find a new way of living outside the three-decade marital cocoon.

The Broken Hearts Gallery

is about a twentysomething art gallery assistant who keeps mementos of all her broken relationships, thereby setting up a movement for other incurable romantics like herself.

The Roads Not Taken has an equally interesting concept at its core: the number of 'what ifs' in our lives if we took different paths to the ones we did. Javier Bardem floats through different scenarios with his daughter Molly (Elle Fanning) in this strange tale.

Streaming on Premier Access is *Mulan*, an action drama produced by Walt Disney Pictures. It features a Chinese maiden who disguises herself as a male warrior in order to save her father. Disney+ has *Phineas and Ferb*, an animated film with two stepbrothers, Phineas Flynn and Ferb Fletcher, their sister Candace and

their pet platypus.

If you have Netflix you can watch *I'm Thinking of Ending Things*, a disquieting film centering on a young woman trapped at the farm of her boyfriend's parents. It's based on Iain Reid's controversial novel of the same name and is directed by Academy Award winner Charlie Kaufman, who gave us the equally cryptic *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*.

Unforgettable

Also on Netflix is *Rising Phoenix*, a documentary about the Paralympic Games, and *Rached*, a series based on the notorious Nurse Rached from Milos Forman's unforgettable *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. Louise Fletcher won an Oscar for playing the role after most of Hollywood's A-listers turned it down.

Les Misérables isn't to be confused with the famous Victor Hugo novel of the same name. It's set in present-day Paris and deals with police brutality and racism. It was inspired by the 2005 riots in that city.

Along similar lines is *La Haine*, Mathieu Kassovitz' powerful drama about a day in the lives of three young men in the French suburbs 24 hours after a violent riot.

It was made in 1995 and is being re-released to commemorate its 25th anniversary.

Wolfwalkers is an animated adventure film. A young girl comes to Ireland with the intention of wiping out the last wolf pack; she changes her mind after befriending a wild girl who introduces her to the species of the title. Strange but beguiling.

BookReviews

Peter Costello



The real wonder of the human body

Fearfully & Wonderfully: The Marvel of Bearing God's Image by Dr Paul Brand & Philip Yancey (Hodder Books, £9.99; Kindle edition, £9.99)

Peter Costello

These days, with the daily news dominated by medical fears of all kinds and our inability to cope, many people all too conscious of the frailties of the human body and the effects that illness has on the mind and spirit.

Wellness, mindfulness, these seem to many to be a distant illusion, mirages of an age of plenty. Here is an answer of a kind to such current fears that takes a more positive view of creation.

This book unites under one cover two previously published books (now edited together in combination) from these two best-selling writers. Yancey is a journalist who has sold some 16 million copies. By contrast Dr Brand is renowned for his work with patients affected by leprosy, now more often called Hansen's disease.

Affliction

This condition was once a world-wide affliction; but is now coming under control and is fully curable. It is highly infectious and spreads much as Covid-19 does.

The case of leprosy is an instance that even the most fearful disease can be curable following scientific advice and personal care.

But these two books, however, are not about our frailties, but rather the magnificent nature and workings of the human body – indeed the extraordinary nature of all life as a whole.

The theme is that the various parts of the body are working together through the brain and through the subconscious nature of life. There is 'one body, many parts'. The body is the model of how all things should work together for the good of all.

But the authors write not only as experts but also as Christians.

Exploration

In these pages they also explore the nature of the Body of Christ in relation to the wonders of the physical actuality. It is the human nature which Christ took upon himself (they argue) that modern science reveals, but which needs to be understood too as a way to exploring also the unifying nature of mystical body of Christ.

The book is written in a plain informative style, but gives expression to a Christian vision of man's nature and spirit which many will find an enthralling but also a reassuring read.

To cheer yourself up about just how wonderful things working well together can be, buy and read this book.



The making of a US president: JFK before the White House years

JFK: Volume 1: 1917-1956 by Frederik Logevall (Viking, £16.99)

Felix M. Larkin

John Fitzgerald Kennedy's reputation has held up remarkably well in the 60 years since he was elected president of the United States. In the polls that US historians periodically carry out to rank their presidents, his place has settled just inside the top ten – for example, No.8 in the authoritative C-SPAN Presidential Historians Survey in 2017. He was a president of consequence.

There are, however, only a few really good books – disinterested studies – among the many that have been written about him and his administration. The best to date are Robert Dallek's biography, *John F. Kennedy: an unfinished life, 1917-1963*, published in 2003, and Richard Reeves's *President Kennedy: profile of power*, published 10 years earlier. This study by Frederik Logevall, a Harvard University professor, joins that elite company.

It is volume one of what will be a two-volume biography, and it takes the story of Kennedy's life up to his failed attempt to secure the vice-presidential nomination of the Democratic Party in 1956. The Democratic candidate for president that year was Adlai Stevenson, and he was trounced by Eisenhower.

Foundation

Kennedy was lucky not to be associated with that disaster, but his performance at the Democratic National Convention in 1956 was widely admired and it laid the foundation for his successful bid for the presidency in 1960.

Much of the volume is con-



Joseph P. Kennedy (centre), then US Ambassador to Britain, is pictured in this early image on board a ship with his sons Joseph P. Kennedy Jr (left) and John F. Kennedy.

cerned with Kennedy's family background and with his relationship with parents and siblings. The three Kennedys who are now remembered – and celebrated – are John and his younger brothers, Robert and Edward. However, the trio that dominate this volume are John – always 'Jack' within his family circle – and the two Joseph P. Kennedys, his father and elder brother.

“Joseph Snr then transferred these ambitions onto his eldest son, Joseph Jr, who Logevall portrays as a clone of his father”

Joseph senior was US Ambassador in London from 1938 and 1940, and was openly supportive of Neville Chamberlain's policy of appeasement – and, after the

outbreak of war in 1939, strongly opposed US involvement in the war. He found himself on the wrong side of history, and so his personal political ambitions were frustrated.

He then transferred these ambitions onto his eldest son, Joseph junior, who Logevall portrays as a clone of his father – sharing his father's discredited opinions, but also not hiding his admiration for aspects of the fascist regimes in Germany and Spain. He lacked John's charm and speculative intellect.

He served as an aviator in the US navy during the Second World War, and was killed on what was a near-suicidal mission in 1944. The huge bomb that his plane was carrying exploded prematurely.

By then, he had been eclipsed by John – two years younger, but a successful author who had published his first book, *Why England Slept*, in 1940 and a war hero as a result of his service as a

decorated navy commander in the South Pacific. The story of John's gallantry after the boat that he captained, PT 109, was sunk by a Japanese destroyer in August 1943 was very widely reported.

Desperate attempt

Logevall depicts Joseph junior as resentful of his more successful brother, and speculates that volunteering for his final mission may have been a desperate attempt to regain the upper hand over him.

His body was never found, probably obliterated when his plane exploded. He is commemorated on the Walls of the Missing in the US war cemetery at Madingley, near Cambridge.

Logevall demonstrates that John had begun to think about entering politics even before his brother's demise, but this would almost certainly have been blocked by his father's ambitions for his eldest son and namesake.



A wet fair day in Blessington, 1940.

Images of the lost

Wandering Wicklow with Father Browne edited by Robert O'Byrne (Messenger Publications, €19.95/£18.95)

The latest volume in the series of books drawn from the files of one of Ireland's greatest photographers under the auspices of the Irish Jesuits is one of the best, for several reasons. It

has a limited subject, finely produced.

It was been edited with a scholarly and historical intent by Robert O'Byrne, an influencer in the Irish arts' world.

Fine images

But more: to the images of the early part of the last century Paula T. Nolan has

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 Kennedys on holiday on Cape Cod in 1953.

With that obstacle tragically removed, John embraced with gusto the political career that brought him to the White House in January 1961 – elected to the House of Representatives in 1946 and to the US Senate in 1952.

Unlike his elder brother, he emerged out of the shadow of his father – and, though always dependent upon his father's largesse to fund his political campaigns, he was his own man in the policies that he espoused.

As early as his first political campaign in 1946, he had – in Logevall's words – “fashioned, through his writing and his speechmaking, a political philos-

“John fashioned, through his writing and his speechmaking, a political philosophy that transcended the narrow, selfish vision of his father and elder brother...”

ophy that transcended the narrow, selfish vision of his father and elder brother, in the form of a pluralist, liberal internationalism – idealistic yet infused with pragmatic realism – that would in time resonate with a broad cross section of Americans”. Sadly, many Americans today respond to the beat of a different drum.

This volume is a compelling account of the making of a president, to echo the title of Theodore H. White's Pulitzer Prize-winning study of the 1960 presidential election that made John Fitzgerald Kennedy the 35th president of the US.

words of Wicklow

added her own fine colour images to show the present day aspect of a selected number of places.

One is struck by that of a family out walking in winter in 1929, all wrapped-up well, with a colour picture in the same place on a similar family in modern clothes in the same place, past and present very neatly

compared and contrasted. From the hard-worked mountain fields to the easy life of Shelton Abbey in Lord Wicklow's day, the whole of Wicklow is here.

The book is full of images that please and amuse the eye, but also with some warm and very human images of real people a century ago, such as the

woman chemist in full charge of her own pharmacy, and rightly proud of it.

Another in particular of an old fisherman sitting on boat, talking very earnestly with a small boy, doubtless about the wonders that those who do business on the great water see.

Other wonders fill these pages. **P.C.**

The World of Books

By the books editor

Wolves in the wild.



The wolves know the high road back

Just over a week ago, to men driving along a mountain road around Saint-Martin-Vésubie (see the *Nice-Matin* newspaper's website for its report of October 24, 2020), were astonished to encounter a pack of wolves straddling the road ahead.

These it seems were not truly ‘wild wolves’. They had escaped; it seems from during the recent devastating floods in the Department of Alpes-Maritimes from Park Alpha, a wild life sanctuary a little to the north of the village, a popular visitor option in summer.

As is the way these days, they videoed the animals, some five large healthy fine-coated beasts are visible in the three-minute video. Quite indifferent to the approaching car, acting as if they were indeed the ‘lords of all they surveyed’.

The park they had escaped from is in a small valley with a lake fed by streams from the hills around. After the floods it is temporally closed.

This valley lies on the edge of the border with Italy, a high valley ringed with mountains. About an hour-and-a-half drive from Antibes, Nice, Menton and Monaco, this is a real wilderness compared with Côte d’Azur. Just the sort of place needed to ‘rewild’ the indigenous fauna of France. The village has some 1300 inhabitants. The wolves are in the upper valley, which is actually fenced off from the farms below. It has viewing places from which to observe the wolves at large, as well as a tame collection of birds of prey.

The two men in that car were surprised, and perhaps fearful. The European imagination from the Urals to the Pyrenees is haunted by fears real and subconscious of wolves. We were all reared on *Little Red Riding Hood* (or in the case of the two men, *Le Petit Chaperon Rouge*), even though here in Ireland the last wolves were killed off towards the end of the 18th Century, the last one allegedly in 1798 (that year of disaster in other ways). But these last creatures were killed, not down in Kerry, or Connemara, or in the mountains of Donegal. They were in the Carlow region!

Rewilding Ireland

There is talk now, however, of rewilding Ireland with wolves, not in Carlow – that would be going a little too far perhaps, but in Donegal – which is quite far enough from

many people. I am one of those who thinks otherwise, ever since I read a book that greatly influenced my imagination and my later thinking about ecological matters. This was *Never Cry Wolf* (1968) by the Canadian author Farley McGill Mowat.

I had already another of his books, *The People of the Deer* (1952) about the decline and near annihilations of the caribou hunting Inuit – this was long before the creation of Nunavut, the semi-autonomous region for the first people on the edge of the Arctic circle.

Mowat, when in his 20s, was dispatched on a government mission to study the wolf problem. He quickly found there was no wolf problem, though there was certainly a human problem.

“The brief version is that he discovered that what city folk believed about wolves was almost entirely wrong”

The book Mowat wrote about his experiences with the wolf pack he studied should be read by every one for what it reveals about the nature of animals left alone, and the nature of human beings who cannot leave anything wild and uncontrolled alone.

The brief version is that he discovered that what city folk believed about wolves was almost entirely wrong. They were not the savage man-attacking creatures that legend and folklore had painted them; far from it.

He wrote a beautiful and humane book many years after about his experiences that has never been out of print since. Indeed the books of Farley Mowat (who died in

2014) were all written with a warmth and love for creation which oddly disturbs many scientists – the sort of people who misunderstand the nature of science in some ways.

His books have been translated into 53 languages and have sold 17 million copies. In its way, *Never Cry Wolf* is one of the most influential books of modern times. It emphasised lessons we have since had underlined by Conrad Lorenz, Niko Tinbergen, George Schaller, Jane Goodall, Dianne Fossey...despite Mowat's critics, opinion is going his – and the wolves' – way.



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

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

To join in Sr. Stan's vision please contact eve.kerton@focusireland.ie or phone 1850 204 205



FOCUS
Ireland



Please remember GOAL in your Will

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

Contact Courtenay on 01 2809779 or via email at cpollard@goal.ie

Registered Charity No. 20010980; CHY 6271

The Gift Of A Lifetime
Be there for others after you're gone.

A gift in your will to Irish Hospice Foundation is a meaningful way to help ensure no-one faces death or bereavement without the care and support they need.

Email Clare Martin at clare.martin@hospicefoundation.ie or call 01 679 3188


www.hospicefoundation.ie

Remembering
MEMORIAM CARDS
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
CARDS & NOTELETS
BOOKMARKS

Samples / Information
KENNEDY PRINTERS
BANTRY, CO. CORK, IRELAND
Tel. 027 50102
www.kennedyprinters.ie
email: info@kennedyprinters.ie

BÓTHAR

PLEASE REMEMBER BÓTHAR IN YOUR WILL.

€1,800 will allow us to give an Irish, in-calf, dairy heifer to a struggling family in Rwanda, completely transforming their lives. Your gift will live on for generations. Phone the office on 061 414142 or info@bothar.ie

NOTICE THIS?

Get your message out to 90,000 readers every week!

The Irish Catholic

By remembering World Missions Ireland in your Will you are leaving a gift of hope for all God's children

World Missions Ireland is the Church's official charity for overseas mission
Please help your Church to survive & flourish

To learn how, call Eimear on 01 497 2035 or email eimear@wmi.ie



Classified ads

SERVICES

ALL UNWANTED home waste removed. Cookers, fridges, beds, suites, wardrobes, carpets etc. Removed and disposed of in a proper manner. No job too small or big. Contact Tommy, 087 6406015.

CATHOLIC CONNECTIONS

FINDING IT AWKWARD being a Catholic on your own when everyone else is partnered up? You too can find someone special and 'Heavenly Partners' can help you find them. Call us today on: 01 568 6558.



Follow The Irish Catholic on Twitter

IrishCathNews

The Irish Catholic

PREPAID CLASSIFIED AD COUPON

Please print your advertisement in the coupon, placing ONE word in each space. Below, please print your name and address. Do you require a Box Number? YES ☐ NO ☐ (Please tick ✓) Box Number €6 extra.

1					€24.60
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					€29.52
7					€34.44

Name and contact detail form **MUST** be filled out

Name

Address

.....

Landline Mobile

The Irish Catholic, Unit 3b, Bracken Business Park, Bracken Road, Sandyford, Dublin 18, D18 K277.

STATE UNDER WHICH HEADING YOUR AD IS TO APPEAR:

Minimum charge of €24.60 (inc. VAT) for 5 lines (25 words). Extra lines €4.92 each.

I enclose Cheque/PO: €.....I wish to pay by Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Laser ☐

My Visa/Mastercard/Lasercard number is:

.....

Expiry Date:Signature

Phone: 01 687 4094

No. of insertions: _____ weeks

Miracle Prayer €40

Leisure time

Crossword Junior

Gordius 357



Across

- 1 You read from these when studying (11)
- 6 William Tell shot it from his son's head (5)
- 8 Many times (5)
- 9 Flamingos are this colour (4)
- 11 There is a TV show called American ____ (4)
- 12 Chilly (4)
- 14 Living (5)
- 16 Pet which purrs (3)
- 19 Tummy (7)
- 20 Chamber (4)
- 21 Sounds (6)
- 22 Making bread or cakes (6)

Down

- 1 Huge sports ground, like

Croke Park or Thomond Park (7)

- 2 The short name of a big animal that likes to wallow in mud (5)
- 3 You roast meat in this (4)
- 4 People work here, a place with desks, phones, etc (6)
- 5 Stay on your knees (5)
- 7 Flower, or a shade of purple (5)
- 10 Making something with needles and wool (8)
- 13 The wife of a duke (7)
- 15 There is a city in the USA called ____ Vegas (3)
- 17 Not true (5)
- 18 Do a job (4)
- 20 A bone in your side (3)

SOLUTIONS, OCTOBER 29

GORDIUS NO. 479

Across – 1 Gig 3 Black knight 8 All out 9 Overture 10 Tibet
11 Apple strudel 13 Flood 15 Bulldog 16 Kumbaya 20 Outre
21 Young 23 Yucca 24 Mudguard 25 Napoli 26 Meaningless
27 Eon

Down – 1 Glastonbury 2 Golf ball 3 Blunt 4 Crouton 5 Norma
6 Grumpy 7 Tee 12 Embarkation 13 Frodo 14 Drupe 17 Anecdote
19 Tundra 22 Gaudi 23 Yeats 24 Mum

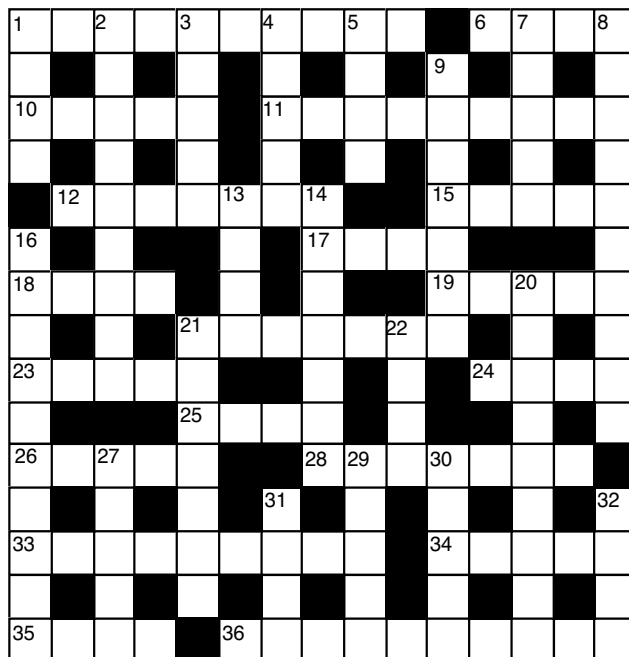
CHILDREN'S No. 356

Across – 1 Contrary 7 Sauce 8 Tourist 9 Yells 12 Eggs 14 Net
15 August 16 Away 18 Bob 19 Agree 20 Sweden 21 Dish

Down – 1 Captain 2 Nature table 3 Racing 4 Rusty 5 Weeds
6 Pull 10 Engaged 11 Listens 13 Say 17 Ache 18 Bus

Crossword

Gordius 480



Across

- 1 & 6 Wiry toys assume otherwise - in those is how God works! (10,4)
- 10 Jonah's abode makes one blubber a lot! (5)
- 11 Inflammation of the stomach (9)
- 12 Stir things up with a soldier in front of a London gallery (7)
- 15 Stanza (5)
- 17 In France, did they store wine here in the stone age? (4)
- 18 Old stringed instrument (4)
- 19 From which earrings hang (5)
- 21 Relaxes in one of the French breezes (7)
- 23 Just a bit of a fight (5)
- 24 African country, capital Bamako (4)
- 25 Farm building (4)
- 26 Hepatic organ (5)
- 28 A broken meal tin may cause illness (7)
- 33 & 9d Swift tales relating how varlets lug silver around (9,7)
- 34 Denims (5)
- 35 A side of meat (4)
- 36 However, such drastic action by the payroll section may make

workers hot-tempered! (4,6)

Down

- 1 Many admit the grass was cut (4)
- 2 Butchery by a cardinal, to the sound of merriment (9)
- 3 Vote into office (5)
- 4 Bar of precious metal (5)
- 5 & 30d Upset a juror, Sam, where some stars may be seen (4,5)
- 7 Daisy tears around (5)
- 8 Is that other similar vessel called 'Sorority'? (10)
- 9 See 33 across
- 13 In the main, Idi was a Ugandan dictator (4)
- 14 Chained up an Australian creature (7)
- 16 Torch (10)
- 20 Undergarment in the tide? What an inspirational idea! (9)
- 21 Scold someone for arranging an arid pub (7)
- 22 Many a slippery fish is to be found in a Munster river (4)
- 27 Europe's largest river (5)
- 29 Publish, bring forth (5)
- 30 See 5 down
- 31 You might rave about designer Ms Wang (4)
- 32 Arthur, 1975 Wimbledon champion after whom a US tennis stadium is named (4)



Your heart for the homeless



Merchants Quay Ireland reaches out with kindness to people living on our streets, sleeping in doorways, suffering and alone.

Your legacy, of any amount, can enfold the most vulnerable and lonely in wrap-around supports. You may wish to keep the details confidential. But we want to give you this little wooden keepsake, made by a client, for you.

This is your heart for the homeless and those on the road to recovery.

To receive your little wooden heart and information on remembering

Merchants Quay Ireland in your will, ring Emma Murphy, Legacies Manager at 01-524 0965 or email emma.murphy@mqi.ie

Please pray for the beatification of

Little Nellie of Holy God

"May God enrich with every blessing all those who recommend frequent Communion to little boys and girls proposing Nellie as their model"

– Pope St Pius X, June 4, 1912

Will the MSC Missions

Missionaries of the Sacred Heart bring hope to the poorest people living in over 48 countries worldwide.

Please help us with a gift in your Will

Contact:

MSC Missions Office, PO Box 23 Western Road, Cork.
Tel: 021-4545704 Email: info@mscmisions.ie

www.mscmissions.ie

When you remember Trócaire in your Will, you bring hope to people living in the world's poorest places

Trócaire

It's easy to get started, and we'll help you every step of the way. Call Grace Kelly on 01 629 3333, email grace.kelly@trocaire.org or write to me at Trócaire, Maynooth, Co Kildare.

One day, parents and their children will tell the story of how your legacy of love changed their lives. Thank you for considering a gift to Trócaire in your Will.

Classifieds: 01 687 4094

Sudoku Corner

357

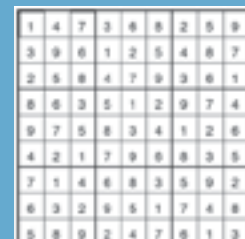
Easy



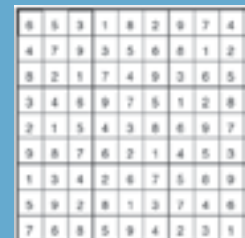
Hard



Last week's Easy 356



Last week's Hard 356



Some precious moments to remember at life's end

MY MOTHER DIED seven years ago last week. I'm not sure if it is some kind of seven-year-itch combined with the effects of Covid isolation, but I have been reflecting a lot recently on the time of my mother's illness and death. I have good and bad memories of that time.

Firstly, there is my somewhat unresolved anger about aspects of her hospital care. In the weeks my mother was in the hospital we encountered a lot of wonderful staff members who despite working under huge pressure, were very kind and caring to both my mother and our family. There were, however, exceptions and sadly those are some of the memories that remain.

Precious

When someone close to you is dying I learned that you become very conscious of the language that is used by nurses and doctors as they speak to you. Perhaps we become over-sensitive to every word and phrase spoken, but when you are losing the one who gave you the gift of life, the person most committed to you in your life, then yes, every word spoken about them is precious.



My mother went on a morphine pump and we had been led to believe she might last only a few days. After some weeks a nurse said to me: "Your mother is on a small dose of morphine, not really enough to push her over the top."

Another day, the same nurse said to me: "Your mother is dying, just not as quickly as we thought she would."

The insensitive language was not just confined to the hospital staff. In those final weeks Mam was moved from a multi-bed ward to a private room. A priest, visiting the hospital, said to me: "I see your Mam is gone to the departure lounge!"

After my mother's death, I made a solemn promise to myself that, in future, I would be extra careful in the language I used with sick people and their families.

Siblings

Those final weeks of my mother's life did provide opportunities to create some very precious good memories. In a sense, for me and my siblings, the world came to a halt when Mam was in hospital. Events and appointments which previously had seemed so important were dropped or postponed so that we could be there by her bedside.

We not only spent time with our mother but we also spent time with each other in a way we had not done since we were children.

There were stories and a lot of laughter during those weeks. Then there were the precious moments spent on our own with Mam.

My mother had never been an affectionate woman in a physical sense. One day while sitting with her she asked me to rub her foot

Nobody knows but Mother

How many cares does a mother's heart know?
Nobody knows but Mother.
How many joys from her mother love flow?
Nobody knows but Mother.
How many prayers for each little white bed?
How many tears for her babes has she shed?
How many kisses for each curly head?
Nobody knows but Mother.

– Mary Morrison

which was painful. Despite being a little awkward at first, I remember being so grateful to be able to do something for her which brought her comfort. There was also an intimacy about that simple gesture which I had not experienced before.

My mother was a woman of great Faith and she was a daily Massgoer most of her life. Like many Irish homes, the Rosary was said every night and when my mother was leading it we got all the trimmings. During those last weeks of Mam's life I couldn't help but feel somehow, that Faith

had deserted her or at least it did not seem to be helping her on her final journey in the way I hoped it would.

Mam did not want to die and I think she was frightened of dying. One evening towards the end when there was nobody with her except her six children, I suggested that we revive an old family tradition of praying the Rosary together. She shocked me when she said: "I'd prefer to have a drink."

We all laughed, but I knew she was resisting any suggestion that her journey might be coming to an end.

The journey did end a few days later and in this November time I think of my mother and father and all of our parents and loved ones who gave us so much and who have now gone ahead of us to the Father's House.



YOUR GIFT COULD SAVE A CHILD'S LIFE



Orphans suffering from malnutrition

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

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

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



"Do not fear. If you are faithful in pleasing Jesus in little things, He will be obliged to help you in the greater things."
– St Therese

YOUR NOVEMBER MASS IN THE MISSIONS FOR THE HOLY SOULS

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

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

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

HELP FEED THE HUNGRY

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

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

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

I enclose €..... to be allocated to:

☐ **HUNGRY, DEPRIVED CHILDREN**

☐ **FOOD AND MEDICINES FOR THE NEEDY**

☐ **MASS OFFERINGS**
(Please state number)

☐ **LITTLE WAY ADMIN EXPENSES**

Donations for the Missions are sent without deduction for any expenses.

If you wish to give by credit or debit card please log onto www.littlewayassociation.com and click on 'donate'.

Name (Rev. Mr. Mrs. Miss)..... (Block letters please)

Address

IC/11/05