

The Irish Catholic

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The Irish Catholic Newspaper

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Calls for McAleese to admit error on John Paul II slur

Incoming Trinity Chancellor should 'check sources'

Michael Kelly

Former President Mary McAleese has been accused of misrepresenting Pope John Paul II by giving the mistaken impression that he was a misogynist who justified rape.

Speaking recently at Trinity College Dublin, the former President read from a section of a 1960 book by then Bishop Karol Wojtyla which appears to argue that sex is permissible even when a woman is unconscious. Mrs McAleese – the incoming TCD Chancellor – told the 200-strong crowd: "that is how we [women] are treated in the Church".

However, it has emerged that in the book that Mrs McAleese is referring to, *Love and Responsibility*, the future Pope actually quotes this reductionist vision of human sexuality only to critique it and condemn it rather than endorse it.

Dr Catherine Kavanagh, a philosopher at Mary Immaculate College in Limerick told *The Irish Catholic* this week

that it was "very disappointing to see a scholar of Prof. McAleese's calibre misrepresent the thought of the then Prof. Karol Wojtyla".

Dr Kavanagh pointed out that the Pope "described a purely biological fact of sexual intercourse, before going on to reject it completely as a paradigm of human sexuality".

"This is almost as though one were to accuse an historian of World War II of Nazi sympathies, because such a scholar begins with an account of the problems in post-World War I Germany that contributed to the rise of Nazism," Dr Kavanagh argued.

Context is all

Prominent Catholic and human rights activist Baroness Nuala O'Loan was also sharply critical of Prof McAleese's intervention. Baroness O'Loan told this newspaper that "we have a duty not to quote anybody out of context so as to give an interpretation which is not justified."

"St John Paul was not per-

fect but his whole life, and the way in which he interacted with people over the decades, shows that he was a deeply caring man," Baroness O'Loan said.

Independent Senator Rónán Mullen said that Mrs McAleese has an added responsibility given her position as a former president to "play a unifying role".

According to Senator Mullen, "some of her recent pronouncements on Church matters have shown bias. But this latest attack on the memory of Pope John Paul II presents a new problem: by completely reversing the context and meaning of the late Pope's words Mrs McAleese has contributed to an ugly distortion of public opinion."

"Her comments may have been the result of a mistake in her reading of the late Pope's work, in which case a published clarification should follow," according to Mr Mullen. However, he insisted that "if there is no acknowledgement of the error, then we're dealing

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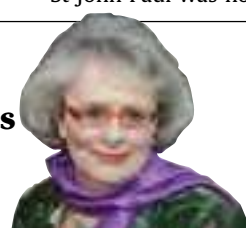
Life is beautiful



Wendy Grace and Ashley Bratcher, star of pro-life movie *Unplanned* attend the Pro Life Campaign's conference in the RDS in Dublin on Saturday.

MARY KENNY

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BRENDAN O'REGAN

Remembering the lost children of 'The Troubles' PAGE 35



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Catholic schooling teaches responsibility PAGE 8



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Catholics shouldn't buy one-sided versions of our history

Many tributes have been paid to the late Gay Byrne who died this week. He dominated much public debate in the second half of the last century and was a towering figure in broadcast journalism.

In some ways, his television and radio programmes were a mirror being held up to an Ireland where many people were itching to ditch conservative forces that had dominated the early years of the new southern State. Without doubt, the Catholic Church was seen by many as one such institution and Mr Byrne was often cheered by more liberal-minded commentators for taking on the might – perceived or otherwise – of the Catholic Church.

As Mary Kenny points out in this newspaper, the Church often gave Mr Byrne an open goal (see page 10).

Dominant

There's no question that the Church in Ireland of the 1950s and 1960s had become excessively dominant. This led the institution in some ways to become inward-looking (what Pope Francis might now describe as self-referential). It was a point taken up extensively by Archbishop of Dublin Diarmuid Martin this week when he was paying tribute to Mr Byrne.

The archbishop said that when the *Late Late Show* came on the scene, the Church in Ireland was "locked in a world of its own". He said the Church had become "out of touch".

There's undoubtedly truth in that. But as any historian of the time will tell you, the picture is more complex and competing realities often exist side-by-side.

The triumphalist Church of the 1950s that some commentators complain about was also the Church that produced heroic missionaries who brought compassion to the ends of the earth and comforted and empowered some of the most vulnerable people on the planet.

Pioneers

It was also the Church of pioneers like Frank Duff who cried 'stop' when he saw the petty snobbery that afflicted Irish society at large and went out of his way to help those who were in need. It was the Catholic Ireland of men like Fr Edward Flanagan who warned both Church and State of the dire consequences of institutionalising children.

It was the Church of an expanding social service all across the country that worked to alleviate the grinding poverty that was

part of every community in Ireland at a time when many politicians either didn't care if the State lacked the resources to help.

In convents, and Catholic schools and parochial houses in every parish in the country priests, religious and lay Catholics were the compassionate face of Christ to a people who knew hunger and thirst.

“We need to be able to face our past as a Church conscious that it is a story of both saints and sinners”

Of course, there was the other side too. The shameful and criminal story of abuse in the Church must never be forgotten and the devastation caused, as laid out in the various reports, will forever be part of our story as a Church.

But, the paradox of our Faith is that the Church is always Christ hung between two thieves. It is always a story of joy and hope, sorrow and despair at the same time. The history of

the Church is one of both glory and shame – often at the same time.

There's a danger in the Church that we have become so used to other people telling our story – an often one-sided story – that we tend to take on that often hackneyed version of history and parrot it as if it is a simple and agreed narrative.

We need to be able to face our past as a Church conscious that it is a story of both saints and sinners. If we cannot find that nuance and balance, we can certainly not expect a hostile media or culture to do so.

“I'll be moderating a panel discussion 'Good News: Media and Faith in a Secular Age' at the Notre Dame Newman Centre for Faith and Culture at University Church in Dublin on Thursday, November 14 at 7.30pm. It will include Anne Thompson from NBC News and Inés San Martín from Crux. It would be great to see you there. A reception will follow.”

Pope appoints two Irish monsignori

Pope Francis has appointed two senior priests of the Down and Connor Dioceses as Chaplains to His Holiness with the title monsignor. Francis has honoured

Msgr Patrick Delargy, Parish Priest of Ballymena and Vicar General, and Msgr Joseph Glover, Diocesan Curia.

Bishop Noel Treanor said: “My congratulations

go to Msgr Delargy and Msgr Glover on this joyful occasion and to the parish and diocesan offices in which they continue to serve”.

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Church leaders remember Gay Byrne as 'gifted, ground-breaking'

Staff reporter

Primate of All-Ireland Archbishop Eamon Martin has said that broadcaster Gay Byrne, who died on Monday, will be "remembered and quoted for generations".

Mr Byrne (85) had been suffering from cancer for three years. As news of his death broke, Archbishop Eamon took to Twitter to express sympathy to his fam-

ily. "May God rest his soul and may Kathleen and his family, friends and colleagues be comforted in their loss".

He said that Mr Byrne was "a gifted and ground breaking broadcaster" who "will be remembered and quoted for generations". Archbishop Eamon said that he "especially enjoyed *The Meaning of Life*" – the programme from RTÉ's religious department which interviewed prominent

people about their spirituality.

Meanwhile, Archbishop of Dublin Diarmuid Martin said he believed that Mr Byrne changed Ireland "by himself being an ordinary common man and identifying himself with the way people were thinking".

"You had this man who represented the common man, and the Church was in the boxes – it was locked up

in a little world of its own and it wasn't that it was unable to present its teaching, but it was unable to identify and for people to identify with it," he said on Newstalk's *Pat Kenny Show*.

Relevant

"Irish Catholicism had actually lost contact with the reality of Irish life, and that was something that was going on well before the *Late Late*

Show began in some ways.

"The Church very often tried to keep the old show on the road and the show was becoming less relevant and the road was changing," he said.

Archbishop Martin said that Mr Byrne was "a genuinely religious man" and recalled his friendship with enclosed nuns in Dublin "who had nothing to offer him other than their prayers".

Dublin event to look at challenge of faith in media

Staff reporter

The place of faith in the media in an age of 'fake news' and 'alternative facts' is to be the focus of an event at Dublin's University Church next week.

'Good News: media and Faith in a Secular Age' – which will be held on Thursday, November 14 – will include input from journalists Anne Thompson and Inés San Martín. It will be moderated by Managing Editor of *The Irish Catholic*, Michael Kelly.

Ms Thompson was named NBC News Chief Environmental Affairs correspondent in April 2007 and reports issues such as global warming and new technologies. Ms San Martín is the Rome Bureau Chief for Crux, a news outlet focused on the Catholic Church.

The event is due to get underway at 7.30pm and will be followed by a reception.

South Africa rugby captain led by Christ

Chai Brady

South Africa's rugby team captain, who led his team to victory over the weekend, is a man dedicated to Christ.

Siya Kolisi led the Springboks' in their historic win on Saturday, England 12-32 South Africa, giving the country their third World Cup victory and putting them on top of the World Rugby Men's Rankings.

Writing in *SportGoMag* in September of this year he said: "While struggling with a lot of things personally – temptations, sins and lifestyle choices – I realised I wasn't living according to what I was calling myself: a follower of Christ. I was getting by, but I hadn't decided to fully com-

mit myself to Jesus Christ and start living according to his way."

Mr Kolisi grew up in difficult circumstances in Zwile where he was raised by his grandmother because his parents were too young to look after him.

Growing up in poverty he started playing rugby when he was eight, describing it as something that "seemed to keep me away from a lot of the bad things going on around me".

Mentor

"Walking alongside a spiritual mentor, I've been able to discover the truth and saving power of Christ in a whole new way. This new life has given me a peace in my heart



South Africa's rugby captain Siya Kolisi lifts the Webb Ellis Cup after his side defeated England in the World Cup final.

I'd never experienced before.

"Now that I have given everything to God, nothing else affects me. I now live and play with the freedom of knowing his plan will always happen, and at the end of the day, that's all I care about!"

Baby loss network 'honoured' by bereaved parents award


An Irish support group has received a Butterfly Award for excelling in providing support to parents who experience tragic baby loss.

Vicky Wall of 'Every Life Counts' won the 'Thank You Award' for 2019, given in recognition of the support she provides to families when a baby is diagnosed with life-limiting conditions.

Ms Wall said she was honoured and thrilled to accept the award, and hoped it would help let parents know that support was available to them so they could have the gift of time when a baby's life is heart-breakingly short.

She said her own experience losing her baby daughter Liadán made her aware that experiencing a diagnosis of a life-limiting condition could be a "terrifying and lonely place" and that so much needed to change.

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'Welcome stranger' but ensure talks over Achill direct provision – prelate

Chai Brady

Christians are "morally obliged" to welcome the stranger, the Archbishop of Tuam has said as residents on Achill Island, Co. Mayo, protested a direct provision centre planned for the island.

Archbishop Michael Neary also said that he, nor the local Church, had been advised by any plans by the Department of Justice. Locals said they were not opposed to asylum seekers joining their community, but decried the lack of consultation from the department.

Achill people are "welcoming" and have "accepted people from communities from around the world", said the archbishop.

However, he said "it is important that effective advance planning be undertaken by the State including a full and transparent consultation with local people".

"Such preparations should go some way to allay fears and misunderstandings while, at

the same time, enabling this important human-centred initiative to work sustainably for the whole community."

Thirteen female asylum seekers were to be transferred to Achill Head Hotel for a maximum stay of three months, according to the Department of Justice.

In a statement they said: "However, an ongoing protest remains in place outside the hotel, so the department has regrettably decided that, at the moment, to ask the women to move there would not be in their best interests, as they may be vulnerable while awaiting decisions on their protection applications." They added they have since been in consultation with the community.

Hatred

Dr Neary said it was important that the situation, concerning vulnerable people, not be exploited by "those who trade in hatred and fear".

"Most Irish families know only too well that feeling of fear and trepidation that

accompanies emigration. Let our faith, and our own lived-experience, be a model of generosity to others," he said.

"As Christians we are morally obliged to welcome the stranger and, in the context of our improved circumstances, we have a responsibility to share with those who are less fortunate than ourselves. We should also be particularly alert to those who are experiencing serious upheaval and a crisis of hope in their lives."

Vigil

Achill residents issued a statement at the end of last week saying there was a lack of consultation from the department and the site was not suitable for the group of asylum seekers to be housed.

They added they would continue the vigil until they received "full and transparent communication" from the Government about their plans to provide proper amenities for the asylum seekers and to ensure their welfare on the island.

'Deeply moving' shrine blessing remembers Belfast victims



Photo: Gerd Curley

Chai Brady

Over 200 people attended the blessing of a new shrine commemorating the victims of two atrocities during the troubles in a Belfast parish in a "deeply moving" event.

Fr Patrick McCafferty PP of Corpus Christi Parish said the blessing of the shrine to St Teresa of Calcutta moved many people to tears.

The event took place on All Saints Day with Bishop Noel Treanor celebrating Mass. The relic was carried in procession to the shrine by David McCafferty Snr (90), father of David (15), who was one of the victims.

The new shrine in Corpus Christi

Church, as well as honouring the Saint of Calcutta who left a tremendous legacy of love and goodness in the parish from her two years living there (1971-1973), also serves as a memorial to the victims of the Ballymurphy and Springhill-Westrock massacres.

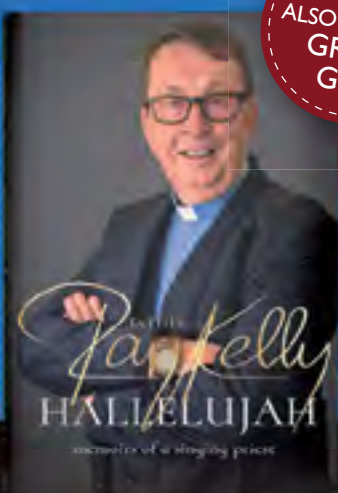
The shrine contains a central image of Mother Teresa and her relic and is flanked, on either side, by cameos of the two priests and fourteen parishioners slain in the two atrocities.

Also included, surmounting the shrine, is a depiction of the Apparition at Knock. Local artist Paul Morrison is behind the artwork.

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Primate pays tribute to retiring Cofl archbishop

Primate of All-Ireland Archbishop Eamon Martin has led tributes to his outgoing Church of Ireland counterpart Dr Richard Clarke.

Dr Clarke announced at the Armagh Diocesan Synod at the weekend that he would step down as Anglican Primate of All-Ireland in February.

Archbishop Clarke, aged 70, has served as a bishop in the Church of Ireland for 23 years, firstly as Bishop of Meath and Kildare from 1996 to 2012 and then as Archbishop of Armagh.

Reacting on Twitter, Archbishop Eamon wrote "my good friend and brother in Christ, Archbishop Richard Clarke has announced his intention to retire in a few months' time".

Archbishop Eamon said he would miss Dr Clarke's "friendship, support and cooperation" and wished him "the blessing of health and happiness for the future".

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The confused values of the offending teacher

Last week a 23-year-old female teacher from a Dublin school was jailed for having sexual relations with one of her male pupils, an offence which occurred on his 16th birthday. The teacher, who has not been named, pleaded that she thought 16 was the age of consent. It is, in the UK: but in Ireland, it's 17. You'd have thought that a teacher – someone in daily contact with adolescents – would be aware of that basic fact. Apparently, the 16-year-old lad developed acute anxiety and depression after the episode. The teacher had booked a hotel room, and plied the lad with a dinner *a deux* before sexual relations took place. She was given a custodial jail sentence, has been banned from teaching and will be listed on the sex offenders' register. Traditionally, the seduction of a young male by an older female has seldom been treated as seriously as seduction by an older male of a younger female (or same-sex seduction in either case). Partly, this was because



Mary Kenny



President Emmanuel Macron of France and his wife, Brigitte.

a girl was at risk of becoming pregnant, while a boy was not. Also, historically, young girls might lose their reputation after such an encounter, whereas young males might even boast of such encounters. But that is now seen as a 'double standard', and women who are convicted of sexual abuse must face the same

penalties as men. The #MeToo movement joins up with gender equality. And yet, while the teacher certainly did something morally and legally wrong, I also feel sorry for her. A jail sentence, the loss of her profession forever, and being permanently on the sex offenders' register is something that will follow her for the rest of her life. She is paying a heavy penalty for her offence: while this may be right, in justice, and a deterrent to others, it is still a lifelong sentence. The public may not know her name, but she will always be aware of the offence.

Culture

And we do live in a very sexualised culture. The very fact that the teacher thought it was somehow acceptable to have intercourse with an adolescent

the moment he passed the age of consent shows how casually the act is portrayed. Teachers are regarded as being in a special position of trust and authority, so any close relationship between student and teacher is always sensitive ground. And yet, consider the case of President Emmanuel Macron of France and his wife Brigitte. According to Sylvia Bommel's biography *Il Venait D'avoir Dix-sept Ans* (He had just turned 17), Emmanuel was 16 years of age when he first met Brigitte, who was 24 years older, married, with three children. The relationship was probably not, according to Ms Bommel, consummated at that stage, but there was a tender bond, which eventually led to them being lovers. The Irish teacher was described in court as 'naïve', and I think a naïve person could assume, from the messages everywhere relayed in the culture, that once the age of consent birthday was past, anything goes.

There's a time and place for applause

The outgoing speaker of the House of Commons, John Bercow, had quite a following in Ireland, with jokesters imitating his orotund "Order, order!" calls (and a successful appearance on the *Late Late Show* with Ryan Tubridy, where he duly performed his 'voices'). He was also a renowned anti-Brexiteer – he was seen driving a family car carrying the slogan 'B*****s to Brexit'. Now Mr Bercow has been followed by Sir Lindsay Hoyle [pictured], whose voice is more folksey Lancastrian than theatrically stentorian. Sir Lindsey has vowed to put a stop to the growing practice of applause in the chamber – it risks making parliament into a pantomime 'turn'. I wonder if the Hoyle principle could also be applied to practice in church? My late husband walked out of any church where the congregation started clapping. I don't object to it every now and again, for a special occasion, but it becomes distinctly show-biz with repetition.



GOOD NEWS: MEDIA & FAITH IN A SECULAR AGE

14 November 2019
7:30 pm
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Moderated by
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Proposals for NI abortion law dubbed as 'catastrophic'

Chai Brady

Proposals regarding the framework governing abortion, now under a six week consultation in Northern Ireland have been dubbed by pro-life groups as "catastrophic".

The current consultation will allow the public to share their views until December 16 regarding how the new laws should operate. Pro-life groups are encouraging people to make their voice heard and make a submission in order to influence final laws.

Under consideration is an abortion time limit of 22-24 weeks when a woman's physical or mental health is deemed at risk, which pro-life groups say will lead to "abortion on demand" during that period if it operates like abortion law in England and Wales.

Provision

Right to Life UK's Catherine Robinson said the proposals go far beyond what the Government was required to do by the Northern Ireland (Executive Formation and Exercise of Functions) Act 2019, voted on in Westminster.

"The proposals open up abortion provision to any healthcare professional, which could include pharmacists, nurses, midwives, healthcare assistants, art therapists and dieticians. It

also drops the requirement that two doctors sign off on an abortion," she says.

It is also proposed that Northern Ireland would mirror UK legislation regarding conscientious objection which does not include "any ancillary, administrative and managerial tasks that might be associated with that treatment".

Nature

Pro-life group Precious Life said that "this consultation will allow the people here to finally have a say on the legal framework being proposed".

"Despite the truly catastrophic nature of these guidelines, Precious Life welcome this platform, which will give the people of Northern Ireland an opportunity to express their views.

"Although this consultation sadly will not be able to stop this law, the consultation is still extremely important in shaping the regulatory framework which likely have an impact on the number of abortions taking place."

The full consultation document can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/a-new-legal-framework-for-abortion-services-in-northern-ireland>

Abortion provision in the North of Ireland is currently operating under guidelines given to medical professionals for an interim period until March 31.

Honouring Blessed Dominic Collins



Fr Pat Corkery CC recites the Rosary with parishioners to commemorate and honour Blessed Dominic Collins SJ, where he was murdered at North Gate, Youghal, Co. Cork.

Academic revolt caused UCD Newman U-turn says Irish mag

The UCD U-turn on sending a representative to St John Henry Newman's canonisation wasn't based on the Government's last minute decision to send someone, but to avoid an "insurrection" by past and present academics of the university according to an Irish magazine.

With the "more senior, elder academics mobilising, the scene was set for academic bloodshed" according to the article in the November 1 edition of *The Phoenix* magazine.

Ireland's largest university was left red-faced last month after they received huge amounts of criticism for deciding not to send an official representative to the

canonisation of their founder on October 13 in Rome.

They reneged on their initial decision after it was announced Minister of Education Joe McHugh would be attending as a State representative. The Government also dragged their feet on declaring a representative.

Decision

The Phoenix notes former UCD registrar Prof. John Kelly was one of the first eminent *alumnus* to criticise the decision, followed by former president Paddy Masterson – a St John Henry admirer.

They say it was NUI chancellor Maurice Manning who tackled current UCD president Andrew Deeks, saying

the boycott would please very few but anger a great many.

Mr Deeks "seized" the opportunity to follow the Government's U-turn as it was a better justification than admitting they folded to growing criticism, the magazine says, adding: "Deeks has been damaged by his initial decision and there is much muttering among the 'superior' UCD classicists about the 'Australian engineer'.

"This 'outsider's' appreciation of Irish history and culture, they charge, was shown up by his disregard for Cardinal (now St John Henry) Newman, who did, after all, found their college."

Oliver Plunkett seen as guide to honour modern martyrs

Staff reporter

To help mark this year's Week of Witness (25 November-December 1) in support of persecuted Christians around the world, Aid to the Church in Need (Ireland) has released a short film which follows how a commission from Archbishop Eamon Martin for a devotional statue to St Oliver Plunkett, that would also lead people to see the suffering and sacrifice of Christ in all who are persecuted for their faith, was fulfilled by the artist Dony McManus.

Commenting on the film, Michael Kinsella, ACN National Director said that the "short film is intended to introduce people to this magnificent statue. It all revolves around how between Archbishop Eamon and Dony something truly inspirational has been created. As Dony says in the film 'Christ was working through us, that is the only way I can explain it'. Obviously, the dedication of the statue to the martyrs of yesterday, today and tomorrow should give us all pause for thought. As Archbishop Eamon reminds us in the film 'Christian persecution is not something of the past, it's real, it's happening today'. I hope this film and this message will be widely shared."

i The film, which was produced by iCatholic, can be viewed at acnireland.org

Former President told to 'check facts'

» Continued from Page 1

with someone who it could be opined no longer wishes to distinguish between fact and fiction.

"Clearly the media must avoid colluding in the dissemination of 'fake news' from any source. Precisely because of the trust Mrs McAleese holds, if there is no clarification on this matter, then her comments can no longer be regarded as factual without further verification," he said.

Dr Kevin O'Higgins SJ, a theologian based in Dublin, said that Mrs McAleese was quoting where John Paul II was describing a pure biological fact but "in the very

next paragraph, he gives his own view, the Catholic view, the view of any sane person that sexual relations demand consent from both parties".

He said that Mrs McAleese had "completely distorted" what the Pope was saying. "What I would do if I was talking to her is I'd present her with the complete text and especially with the sequence. I'd ask Mrs McAleese 'why didn't you quote that as well, because clearly that is where he is presenting his view?'

"As a result of this, some people are now even alleging that the former Pope was justifying rape. This is certainly not the case," Dr O'Higgins

told *The Irish Catholic*.

Dr Kavanagh questioned how the misrepresentation could've occurred. "Whether Prof. McAleese simply has not read all of *Love and Responsibility*, or whether she drew that highly misleading quotation from another source, I do not know, but in any case, it is disappointing that she did not take the trouble to check her sources properly before presenting her paper".

Fr Vincent Twomey SVD, professor emeritus of moral theology at St Patrick's College, Maynooth said that "as a theologian, it is hard to take anyone who says things like this seriously".

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Maria Steen

The View



Learning the meaning of responsibility

How many angels can dance on the head of a pin? What (if you will pardon the pun) could be more pointless than debating a question like this? Why anyone could ever have wasted time in such an exercise is now – and for a long time has been – unfathomable to many.

When something is not understood, there is a strong temptation to get rid of it. GK Chesterton cautioned against this sort of thinking: if at first you don't understand something, better to go away and try before you scrap it. It is possible that someone before you – maybe even someone better informed or more intelligent – did see the point.

In an essay published in 1947, Dorothy Sayers, the



famous novelist, reminded us that – if a little hackneyed – the problem of angels and pins was a debating exercise,

intended to explore “the nature of angelic substance: were angels material, and if so, did they occupy space?”

Those who wish to learn Mrs Sayers' answer to the question may consult her essay, which is widely available online. The thrust of her argument, however, is that the medieval scheme of education had, by the time she was writing, achieved a very undeserved bad reputation.

Although the article did spark a renewed interest in certain quarters in what is often referred to as a ‘classical’ education, based on the medieval model, the reputation of this form of education has not improved much since, at least in society at large.

Prejudice

In Ireland this takes the form of a, frankly, baseless prejudice that a traditional Catholic education of bygone days was somehow anti-intellectual or discouraged pupils from thinking for themselves. The evidence is otherwise. Central to the idea of a classical education, on which traditional Catholic intellectual development and education was founded, was the idea of man as a rational creature.

This idea, which grounded the thinking of the great philosophers of antiquity, was confirmed and developed by Christianity: that man is endowed by God with natural reason and will be held accountable for his thoughts and actions, precisely because – unlike other animals – he has the capacity to reason, to judge, to choose between good and evil, beauty and that which is vile, truth and falsehood.

A classical Catholic education teaches pupils not only to think for themselves, but to be responsible for their own thoughts and deeds.

Throughout the pejoratively named ‘Dark Ages’, it was monastic Catholic communities that kept not just Faith alive, but learning and scholarship, intellectual development, and an appreciation – and development – of the arts and sciences.

In her essay, Mrs Sayers drew attention to the fact that, even in the post-war era, many very highly educated people appeared to be unable to think. That also is a state-of-affairs that

has not improved much in the intervening period.

How much more is it the case now than then, that attending university produces an “artificial prolongation of intellectual childhood and adolescence into the years of physical maturity”?

Or that “when the proportion of literacy throughout Western Europe is higher than it has ever been, people should have become susceptible to the influence of advertisement and mass-propaganda”?

Those who oppose a classical education, which promotes debate and rational thinking, are very likely to have some hidden motive for doing so, for as CS Lewis' *Screwtape* said: “By the very act of arguing, you awake the patient's reason; and once it is awake, who can foresee the result?”

Perhaps this explains the Irish establishment's reluctance to engage in or encourage honest public debate about any topic of importance.

Thinking and debate was central to the syllabus for education of the medieval student, which was divided into two parts: the *Trivium* (school-age education) and the *Quadrivium* (University education). The second consisted of ‘subjects’, while the first had three parts, namely grammar, dialectic and rhetoric, in that order.

As Mrs Sayers explained, these were not ‘subjects’ in the sense in which we understand the term today. Their purpose was to give the pupil the tools of learning; to teach each one how to learn, before asking them to learn or study any particular subject.

“Even in the post-war era, many very highly educated people appeared to be unable to think”

Each stage corresponds to the developmental stage of the child, from the memorisation stage, to the analytical and argumentative stage, to finally being able to express their own thoughts and analyses in a reasoned and eloquent manner, debate being central to this.

One person who has

been at the forefront of reviving classical education in more recent times is Laura Berquist, a major figure in the home-schooling movement, and she is coming to Dublin this weekend. Mrs Berquist is the founder of the Mother of Divine Grace school, a California-based independent distance education programme which helps parents implement a Catholic classical education at home, and now serves over 4,500 students.

“Those who oppose a classical education, which promotes debate and rational thinking, are very likely to have some hidden motive for doing so”

Her late husband, Marcus R. Berquist, was one of the founders of Thomas Aquinas College, California, founded in 1971 and offering a classical liberal arts education in the Catholic tradition.

Having home-schooled her own six children, Mrs Berquist subsequently was asked to prepare curriculum recommendations for other home-schooling families. This morphed into a very popular book, *Designing Your Own Classical Curriculum*. She is also editor of *The Harp and Laurel Wreath: Poetry and Dictation for the Classical Curriculum*. Both are published by Ignatius Press, and form the basis of the Mother of Divine Grace curriculum, the aim of which is to give children the education every educated person in Western Civilisation once received: a classical or liberal arts education.

A one-day conference this weekend will address both the aspirational and practical aspects of home-schooling with a classical curriculum.

i Laura Berquist will be speaking on Sunday, November 10 in the Creidim centre, Leopardstown, Dublin.

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FIGHTBACK CAMPAIGN



• Precious Life at Stormont on 21st October

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD
"plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."
Jer. 29:11

Dear IRISH CATHOLIC Reader,

This has to be the most difficult and most heartbreaking letter that I've ever had to write in my entire 23 years of pro-life campaigning. Knowing what I write is actually true, is like waking up from a nightmare - only to realise that the nightmare is not a nightmare - but is in fact a reality! You will ask how could this have happened and why - when Northern Ireland was winning the battle for the little ones and was the last beacon of hope for the whole of Europe...

MONDAY 21st OCTOBER 2019 will go down as one of the darkest and most tragic days in history, when the Westminster Parliament - in cooperation with pro-abortion politicians in Northern Ireland - forced on us the most extreme and radicalised abortion regime in all of Europe. **Literally overnight, Northern Ireland went from the safest place in Europe for unborn babies, to the MOST DANGEROUS PLACE in Europe for unborn babies!**

In July, pro-abortion MPs hijacked a fairly mundane Bill going through Westminster and they inserted an Amendment that would force abortion on Northern Ireland if our Assembly wasn't reconvened by 21st October. The *Northern Ireland (Executive Formation etc) Act 2019* with its cruel and diabolical abortion legislation was passed on 24th July.

Precious Life immediately launched the **"FIGHT-BACK CAMPAIGN"**. We knew our time was short. We had to mobilise the people of Northern Ireland to bombard their Assembly Members (MLAs) and demand their return to Stormont before the **21st October deadline**.

MIRACLES DO HAPPEN ! After 13 weeks of relentless campaigning, our prayers and action paid off. The miracle we prayed for happened, when on the deadline date - Monday 21st October - **the Northern Ireland Assembly sat for the first time in almost 3 years** after being recalled in a last-minute attempt to protect our unborn babies.

Assembly Members Paul Givan and Edwin Potts planned to introduce a new law called the **'Defence of the Unborn Child Act'** and get it passed that day.

But the *SDLP* Party leader Colum Eastwood refused to participate. Having spent only less than an hour in Stormont, **the SDLP walked out of the Assembly Chamber**.

Any attempt to pass the *'Defence of the Unborn Child Act'* was now impossible. **The first Stormont Session in almost 3 years - which could have stopped the unjust and undemocratic abortion legislation - was forced to come to an end.**

Westminster's abortion legalisation came into force that midnight. Our law that had protected our unborn babies for over a century was now gone. Any baby in the womb of his/her mother could now legally be killed in Northern Ireland, right up to the 7th month of pregnancy, and potentially beyond.

The *SDLP* had pulled the only "life-line" left to our unborn children. They walked away and abandoned them in their greatest hour of need. The *SDLP* should have fought 'tooth and nail' and stayed in the Chamber right up to the stroke of midnight to stop the Westminster law that would kill our future unborn babies. **But the SDLP didn't even try!**

It was pro-abortion MPs in Westminster who instigated this murderous legislation. **But it was the collusion and connivance of pro-abortion politicians in Northern Ireland that allowed it to come into force.** The *SDLP* share the blame with *Sinn Féin*, *Alliance Party*, *Green Party*, and *People Before Profit*, in forcing this most cruel and extreme abortion law onto Northern Ireland.

But no law and no government can take away our right to defend the unborn babies of Northern Ireland. No law or government can take away the factual reality that unborn babies are part of the human family. On 21st October 2019, unborn babies were little human beings who must be protected - **and today, unborn babies are STILL little human beings who must be protected.**

Precious Life fought the good fight, and we will continue to do so with even greater zeal and determination than before. This is our time and this is our battle. This imposition of abortion will be met with the most vehement opposition from Precious Life. I can assure you that the battle is not over, we will continue to fight this barbaric and inhumane law until we see it overturned.

As long as a single precious unborn baby's life is in danger, our work is not finished. **We will never stop in this battle to protect and save the least of God's little ones.**

Our **daily Prayer Vigils** continue outside the abortion centres. We will increase our campaigns to ensure women are given better crisis pregnancy support by enlarging our **Stanton Healthcare Project**.

Phase 2 of our **FIGHT-BACK CAMPAIGN** has already begun. We will launch **legal challenges** to this abortion law. Our **'Vote for Life' Campaign** will expose every politician who betrayed our unborn children. We will intensify our **Street Outreach Campaigns** to expose the horrific reality of abortion.

At this tragic time, I desperately need your urgent prayers and financial support to help me in the momentous tasks that lie ahead. If you're in a position to **make a donation**, can I ask you to **please fill in the coupon below** and return it to me today. Or you can also **make a donation online** at **www.PreciousLife.com/donate**. Together, let's continue **protecting tomorrow's children today**.

Thank you and God bless.

Yours in Life,

BERNADETTE SMYTH
Founder & Director

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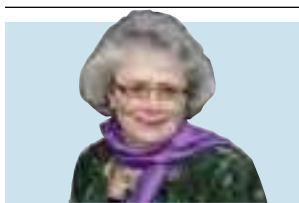
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Liberals celebrated Byrne because he challenged the supremacy of the Catholic Church: but bishops' misjudgements played into his hands, writes **Mary Kenny**

Everyone agrees that Gay Byrne was a broadcasting genius. He could draw any story out of anyone: knew instinctively how to handle it either sensitively, robustly or jokingly: and always had complete authority over the studio.

When she worked for him, the late June Levine compared him to a Christian Brother relentlessly tough on anyone falling short of expected standards, and there was an element of truth in this. He was, after all, a Synge Street boy.

In person, Gay was always cordial, and latterly, during

Gay retained the Catholicism his mother brought to him

his last illness, his kinder, mellower side became more evident. As a young man, there could be something of the smart-aleck in his demeanour (it applied to many of us!), but that had disappeared in maturity.

Gay 'modernised' Ireland is a national affirmation. He opened the airwaves to subjects that had never been discussed in the public square before, from child abuse to gay rights. He challenged a narrower Irish nationalism – his father had served in the British Army and Gay honoured the Irishmen who had fought in World War I, previously side-lined.

Misjudgements

Liberals celebrated Gay because he challenged the supremacy of the Catholic Church: although sometimes Catholic ecclesiastics themselves played into his hands with their misjudgements, as in the daft 'Bishop and the Nightie' episode (when the Bishop of Clonfert, Dr Thomas Ryan, objected

to a TV conversation involving a woman who gigglingly admitted she'd worn no nightwear on her honeymoon.)

But when Gay supported the late Bishop Eamon Casey in an interview with Annie Murphy, saying he hoped Eamon's son would be half the man his father was, he was denounced for his loyalty to a clerical friend. After Gay's death was announced, there were Twitter posts calling his behaviour towards Ms Murphy "disgraceful".

I can't concur that Gay 'modernised' Ireland wholesale: Ireland would have modernised anyway, with globalisation, the Internet, the rise of marketisation and the forces of secularisation everywhere. But he was an agency of opening up conversations, which often needed to be opened up. His sensitive radio coverage of the tragic Ann Lovett case in 1984 was an outstanding

example of that discourse. (Print journalists found it difficult to report, because the people of Granard did not want to speak about it.)

“He knew he was fortunate indeed to have such a superb wife, who cared for him so deeply”

I was, I suppose, a central figure when the *Late Late Show* clocked the significance of the Irish Women's Liberation Movement in 1970-71. It was Gay's principal – and very influential – researcher Pan Collins who drove forward this agenda. Pan was one tough woman (and a big critic of Catholicism) who saw the spice, controversial advantage in having a bunch of 'women's libbers' on the show.

Certainly, the result was sensational, and the *LLS* virtually launched that wave of Irish feminism. People still stop me in the

street saying “my father was appalled at your appearance on the *Late Late Show* in the 70s” – and, by contrast, “my father loved your appearance on the *Late Late Show*, especially when you were wearing a mini-skirt!” I also meet older women who make grateful comments about how the publicity emboldened them to become more confident and affirmative themselves.

Personally, I always retained feelings of ambivalence about the *LLS* experience. In the studio, you could see Gay was in assured command – “roll it, Colette!” But you also knew that you, the guest, were there for entertainment, prurience, revelation or titillation. It was a national platform – my late sister-in-law, Louise, remarked that she got fed up with priests starting a Sunday homily with “on the *Late Late Show* last night...”.

Yet I also felt a strong sense of ‘imposter syndrome’ after those *LLS* encounters. Is this the real me? I'd ask myself. Am I just a false person ‘putting on a show’?

A sense that I had cheapened something in my inner self always followed.

Later, in radio interviews with Gay, it was quite different – less a “show”, more a conversation – and there, again, I came to appreciate his broadcasting genius.

In his personal life, Gay retained the Catholicism which his mother – a daily Massgoer – brought to him. He lived a life of impeccable domestic virtue – indeed, for all that he became renowned for exposing questions relating to sexuality, he described himself as ‘a right little prig’. I once saw Edna O'Brien try to flirt with Gay after a *LLS* event, and he visibly recoiled.

He was a model husband to Kathleen – and he knew he was fortunate indeed to have such a superb wife, who cared for him so deeply, while still fulfilling her own gifts.

Gay adored the daughters they adopted. Although he probed many issues pertaining to family rights, I don't believe he ever really delved into that neglected aspect of adoption – the adoptive parents' side of this tug-of-love story.

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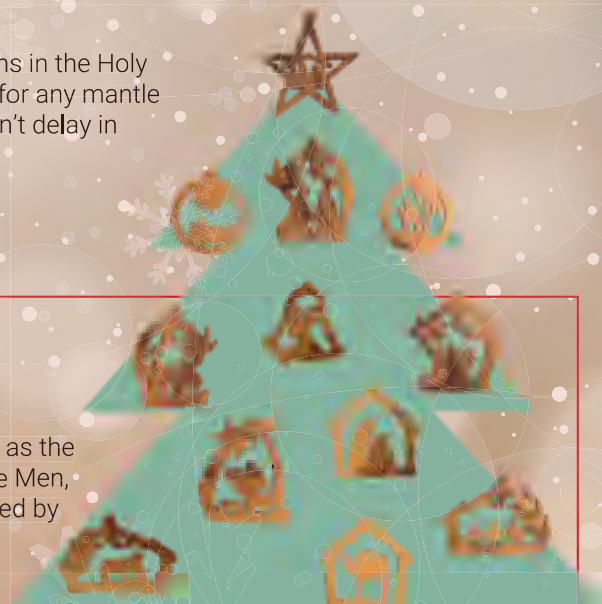
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A kind mentor and a masterly broadcaster



Gay Byrne was a wise, witty and mischievous broadcaster whom people trusted enough to welcome him into their homes, writes **Roger Childs**



As I write, a pall of genuine sadness hangs over RTÉ's Montrose campus, following the news of Gay Byrne's death. Twenty years after his supposed retirement, there are still so many people here who worked with him – on *The Gay Byrne Show* on Radio One, on his Lyric FM show, on *For One Night Only* or *Who Wants to be a Millionaire?* on TV and, of course, on *The Late Late Show*. The Guv'nor is gone.

The admiration which RTÉ colleagues, past and present, felt – no, *feel* – for Gay Byrne is palpable, but he was so much more than a consummate broadcaster. The talk is all about his kindness as a mentor; his laser-like instincts as a producer; his talent as a listener; and the unbelievable work ethic that enabled him to lead from the front for six decades in broadcasting.

What underpinned all of that was Gay's talent for human relations: a natural curiosity, which, combined with his personal warmth and generosity, convinced people, on and off air, that he was someone they could trust.

He was. Viewers and listeners trusted him enough to welcome him into their homes, kitchens and cars – a wise, witty and mischievous uncle, simultaneously entertaining and challenging them and, in the process, nudging the nation forward, without ever losing the run of himself.

First meeting

My own first meeting with Gay Byrne wasn't exactly auspicious. I had approached him through a third party about the possibility of presenting a series I was cooking up for RTÉ television, *The Meaning of Life*. Who better to bring

a mainstream audience to religious conversation than Ireland's most famous entertainer? I received a summons to lunch at his favourite Chinese restaurant, Furama, in Donnybrook, and it was clear from the word go that it was I who was being auditioned, not the other way round.

"It will never work," he told me bluntly. "Sounds like radio on the telly: two people in a room talking about God. I can't imagine anything worse." But there was a twinkle as he spoke. He was interested.

One of his main concerns about this approach from the new, English blow-in Head of RTÉ Religious Programmes was that I might be asking him to be religious, publicly. I wasn't. (Heaven forbid!) And that was the right answer. Gay knew all too well that he wouldn't have lasted so long in broadcasting, if he had nailed his own colours to the mast, politically, religiously or in any other dimension.

“Thank you, Gay. You've set my mind a-whirring...”

As soon as you do so, you raise the hackles of anyone listening – or indeed, any contributor – who disagrees with your point of view. You also give them your permission to pigeon-hole you, which is broadcasting death.

No, the referee wears black. Not that that stops people wondering. If I had a euro for everyone who suggested to me that “someone should interview Gay about the meaning of life”, I would be very wealthy. But he'd never have agreed to that.

Already, I'm reading, online, comments about Gay being a master of broad-

casting. That's true. But it's important to analyse how that mastery worked. In our 13 series, 78 programmes and two books of *The Meaning of Life*, I noticed that Gay was unfailingly meticulous in his preparation. He would read, watch and listen to everything our team put in front of him, but what he most wanted was a coherent series of draft questions – a daisy chain which anticipated the sort of answer each question might elicit, in order that he could seamlessly progress to the next question, without appearing intrusive or random.

Gay would then spend up to a day committing these questions to memory, in order that he could do the unthinkable during the interview itself: put his cards and notes down and listen, think and respond, instinctively, to what his guest had to say.

It's surprising what a rarity that is. One or two of our A-list guests referred to the effect as “sorcery” or “voodoo”, when they found themselves unexpectedly digging deeper than expected and revealing more than they had anticipated about their beliefs, values or the experiences that shaped them.

Not that they ever seemed to resent the intrusion. Quite the opposite: they seemed genuinely grateful. “Thank you, Gay. You've set my mind a-whirring,” said Brenda Fricker, at the end of an interview, where she had spoken about her previously secret experiences of depression and sexual assault. We're back again to that idea of trust: people confided in Gay, because they trusted him. But he earned that trust.

Several people have already asked me, “what was he really like?” as if the

mask slipped whenever the red recording light went out. It didn't, because it wasn't a mask. Again, you don't last very long in broadcasting, if you're phoney. People – whether on air, behind the scenes or watching and listening at home – can sniff out inauthenticity a mile away.

What I can tell you about the ‘real’ Gay Byrne was that he was remarkably generous and thoughtful. Far into his illness, he and Kathleen (“the present Mrs Byrne”) regularly hosted parties, lunches and dinners, bringing together friends from the different areas of their lives with ne'er a thought about return invitations.

Professionally, he was surprisingly self-critical, his antennae always twitching for any sense of disapproval at the end of a show and his lungs steadfastly refusing to inhale the plaudits that came his way after a ratings hit. Onwards had to be upwards.

He accepted his three-year illness with a quiet dignity and patience, quickly deflecting pity and regularly reminding visitors – and himself – what an uninterrupted run of good health he had enjoyed before he discovered, as so many others had before him, the deadly enemy within.

“The admiration which RTÉ colleagues, past and present, felt – no, feel – for Gay Byrne is palpable”


A showman to his fingertips, he didn't like people to see him looking fragile, but he never cursed his luck.

He was endlessly effusive about the kindness and support he received from his beloved Kathleen, from his daughters, Suzy and Crona, and from their husbands, Ronan and Philip, as well as the many friends who did their best to prop and cheer him up. I hope he realised how widely and deeply he was loved.

Finally, just supposing, as he used to demand of his guests, that it's all true, and Gay Byrne finds himself now at the Pearly Gates. What will he say to God? My guess is he'll say surprisingly little: just enough, as usual, to elicit the answers we all want to hear...and then, he'll listen.

Now, that's an interview I'd like to hear.

✉ Roger Childs is Commissioning Editor, RTÉ Religious Content.



FAITH RENEWAL EVENTS

Autumn – Winter 2019

One-day retreats and workshops focusing on prayer, reflection, deepening of faith and spiritual rejuvenation.

Tasters in Theology with Reverend Dr Eugene Duffy
Tues. 12 November
'How are decisions reached in the Church? Pope Francis, the Amazon and Synodality'
Time: 8pm – 9.30pm
Venue: Knock House Hotel
Fee: €10

This evening will focus on how the Church reaches important decisions.

A Day for People in Parish Ministry with Steven Warner
Sat. 16th November
Time: 11.00am – 3.00pm
Venue: Blessed Sacrament Chapel
Fee: Free

This event, facilitated by Steven Warner (Associate Director of Notre Dame Newman Centre for Faith and Reason), will cater for all those who are involved in ministry within their own parishes – Choirs, Ministers of the Word, Ministers of the Eucharist, Youth Ministry, Sacristans and Altar groups.

People, Place and The Knock Apparition – History Seminar
with Prof. Gearóid Ó Tuathaigh, Dr. Nollaig Ó Muraíle and Tom Neary
Saturday, 30 November
Time: 10am–10.30 Coffee/Registration
10.30am – 1pm Seminar
1pm - 2.15pm Lunch
Venue: Knock House Hotel
2.15pm – 3.30pm Viewing and discussion of model at Museum
Fee: €10 or €30 (including lunch)

Using the recently installed 'Knock miniature village model' as the focal point, the seminar will explore all aspects of life in Ireland at the time of the Apparition in 1879.

To book a place at any of these events
T: (094) 93 75355
E: faithrenewal@kncokshrine.ie

Out&About

Kerry parish celebrates 150 wonderful years



KERRY: The choir of St John's Church, Tralee, with director Michael O'Shea pictured before Mass celebrating the 150th anniversary of the building of St John's Church. Photo: John Cleary



KERRY: Sixty people gather in St John's Parish Centre, Tralee, for an evening celebrating their mission at the invitation of Bishop Ray Browne. Many attendees had worked with NGOs as development workers, with Viatores Christi, Trocaire, Concern, Goal or with the VMs, but the group was mainly made up of religious, sisters and priests who had gone as missionaries to serve in different parts of the world. Photo includes Assumpta O'Shea, Margaret Slattery and Marta Eyre.



CARLOW: Bishop Denis Nulty joins in for the celebrations in Hacketstown for retiring parish priests Fr Jim McCormack.



OFFALY: Pioneers, both young and old, take part in the Meath Diocese Afternoon of Prayer and Reflection held in Kilcormac.



LIMERICK: The Children's Grief Centre and the Redemptorist Christmas Hamper Appeal launch fund-raising venture 'Abseiling with Angela'. The event takes place in Thomond Park on November 16. (l-r): Philip Mortell (Childers Grief Centre), Sr Therese Barry (Childers Grief Centre), Angela O'Mahony (Collins Steeplejack), Josephine Murray (Volunteering to Abseil), Fr Seamus Enright (Redemptorist Christmas Hamper Appeal). Photo: True Media

Edited by Colm Fitzpatrick
colm@irishcatholic.ie



Events deadline is a week in advance of publication



CORK: Thirty-five people, including friars, sisters and young adults, hike part of St Finbarr's Pilgrim Way after beginning the day with Mass at St Mary's, Pope's Quay.



CORK: Bishop Fintan Gavin unveils a plaque to mark the 150th anniversary of the building of Canovee Church, in Kilmurphy Parish in the Diocese of Cork and Ross. Also included are Fr Tim O'Sullivan former PP, Fr Richard Wall, a native, of the parish, Canon Bernard Donovan PP, and Fr Seán O'Sullivan former Curate in the parish. Photo: Peter Scanlan Photography

IN SHORT

Kildare priest launches science and faith website

A Kildare priest has launched a new website to help those dealing with bereavement by exploring the link between the sacred and the scientific.

The online resource conceived by Fr Seán Hyland of Portarlinton in Laois will be linked to his book *Whisperings of My Soul*. It tells the story of his grief after losing his wife and children, and the journey towards entering seminary and dedicating his life to God as a priest.

Fr Seán hopes the site will inspire others suffering from the pain of loss and also open up a discussion about how God relates the empirical world around us.

"I read a lot of science and philosophy books after the children died. I wanted to know where my children were and

I decided I would figure out how the world worked even if it involved wading through quantum physics books," Fr Seán said.

"At the time, everything around me felt like chaos. It was so random. Our babies were here one minute and gone the next. 'Is that it?' I asked: 'How can that be it?' The more I read, the more I discovered that there is irrefutable scientific evidence for the handprints of intelligent design behind the origins of the universe.

"Then I thought surely someone so smart and all-powerful would have left a book of instructions about how he wants this world to operate and why. For me, the only book that even comes close to this is the Bible."

After having engaged with young people across Ireland in an academic context, Fr Seán found that their books made no connection between the developments in science and their

religious implications.

"We need to provide young people with the irrefutable evidence for intelligent design in the universe. I want to show them that it's a very small step from intelligent design to a divine creator and that's how the idea of the website came about. I hope it will be a catalyst for starting a conversation with these young people and creating influencers and thought leaders who will spread the word to their peers," Fr Seán said.

A recent poll by Yakult UK reveals that a 89% of young people aged 18-29 feel their lives are meaningless and without purpose.

"I can see a yearning among young people here to find something more. But all these urban myths about science proving there's no God, get in the way of them exploring their spirituality."

See whisperingsofmysoul.com

ARMAGH

St Patrick's Cathedral Pastoral Area are hosting a day of Prayer and Reflection in the lovely surroundings of The Servite Priory, Benburb on Saturday, November 16, beginning at 10am. Contact Armagh Parish Office for more information.

FERMANAGH

A Mass to St Peregrine for all the sick is prayed each Tuesday evening in St Patrick's Church, Derrygonnelly, at 7.30pm: www.churchservices.tv/derrygonnelly. There is also a St Peregrine Novena Mass in Holy Cross Church, Lisnaskea on Tuesday nights at 7pm. www.churchservices.tv/lisnaskea

CLARE

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

CORK

The Hail Holy Queen Conference takes place in the Firgrove Hotel, Mitchelstown on Saturday, November 23, at 9.30am. Featuring: Bishop Phonsie Cullinan, James Mahon, Fr Colm Mannion OP, Fr Marius O'Reilly, Kathy Sinnott, Méabh Carlin. Confessions and Mass will take place.

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

DERRY

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

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

DUBLIN

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

GALWAY

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

KERRY

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

KILDARE

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

KILKENNY

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

LIMERICK

Eucharistic Adoration takes place each Friday in Raheen church following 10am Mass until

10pm, Crecora on Thursdays, following morning Mass until 12pm and from 6-10pm, and in Mungret Church on Wednesdays, from 10-12pm.

LOUTH

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

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

Holy Hour with music and reflections to be held in St Mary's Church, James Street, Drogheda, on Wednesday, November 13 at 8pm.

MAYO

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

A Day for People in Parish Ministry with Steven Warner takes place at Knock Shrine on Saturday, November 16, from 11am-3pm. Workshops for those involved in ministry in their parish – Choirs, Ministers of the Word, Ministers of the Eucharist, Youth Ministry, Sacristans & Altar Groups. For bookings, email faithrenewal@knockshrine.ie or call 094 93 75 355.

MEATH

Enfield Prayer Group meets every Monday evening at 7.30pm in the parish centre.

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

OFFALY

Clonmacnois prayer vigil in Cluain Chiarain prayer centre on Friday, November 15. Mass at 9pm. Adoration and prayers follow until 2.10am. Enquiries Dave: 085-7746763.

ROSCOMMON

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

WATERFORD

A day of praise and healing celebrating the Feast of Christ the King, Sunday, November 24 in the Woodlands Hotel, from 10am-6pm. Guest Eddie Stones. Mass celebrated by Bishop Alphonsus Cullinan. Led by Word of God Outreach group - contact Tom 087 2701311

WEXFORD

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

WICKLOW

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

St Patrick's Prayer Group, Wicklow town, meet on Thursdays at 7.30pm in the De La Salle Pastoral Care Centre.

Exploring Kanye West's new-found faith in Christ



For good or bad, what celebrities say and do matters, writes **David Quinn**

It's entirely possible you're never heard of him, or are only vaguely aware of him but rest assured that Kanye West is a massive star. He is an American rapper, singer and song-writer. This year alone, he is on target to make something like \$150 million. On Twitter, Mr West (42) has 27 million followers, which is about half the number of a truly gargantuan figure like Donald Trump.

Mr West's fame has only grown since marrying 'reality' TV star, Kim Kardashian. They are both so big, the term 'power couple' doesn't really do them justice.

Anyway, what might be of interest to readers of *The Irish Catholic* is that Mr West has just released a new album called 'Jesus is King', and it is about his new-found Christian faith.

This is a big deal because of West's huge fame in his native America. When he speaks, millions of people pay attention. They will at least register the fact that he is talking a lot about Jesus.

Cynics

The cynics are already out in force attacking him. They believe his new-found faith is a coy marketing tactic. But if it is, it's a risky one. Celebrities in the US often talk about their faith, sometimes in very saccharine ways. So Kanye West taking about his devotion to Jesus is not so unusual. A singer will get away with that.

But last year, Mr West backed Donald Trump and has previously worn a 'MAGA' hat ('MAGA' standing



Kanye West with his wife, Kim Kardashian.

for Trump's campaign slogan 'Make America Great Again').

That was risky, because black Americans like Mr West almost never vote Republican and Mr Trump is obviously a hugely divisive figure.

“Now that I'm in service to Christ, my job is to spread the Gospel”

What's also risky is that Mr West, in taking about his brand of Christianity, has taken to criticising abortion. Previous singers might have thanked God when picking up a music award, but they didn't attack abortion.

They played the rules of the game. Another mega-star, Beyonce, has often referred to her faith in Jesus, but she allies that to a certain type of feminism, not pro-life talk. (Although Beyonce has so far resisted pressure to campaign in

favour of abortion.)

Mr West, on the other hand, has attacked liberals for giving his fellow African-Americans 'Plan B' (a 'morning-after' pill) and abortion. In some African-American communities, there are more abortions than births.

This got the attention of the world's biggest abortion provider, Planned Parenthood, which attacked his remarks.

In a radio interview, he was asked if he feared his controversial remarks might end his career. Mr West dismissed the idea. He then turned on the proponents of "cancel culture" (meaning those who want to drive anyone they dislike out of public life) and said these same people are also "telling you that you can't have a right to say who you will vote for" and "will be soon to take Jesus out of school" to "remove Jesus, period, from America, which is the Bible Belt".

“The cynics are already out in force attacking him. They believe his new-found faith is a coy marketing tactic. But if it is, it's a risky one. Celebrities in the US often talk about their faith, sometimes in very saccharine ways”

Mr West has also spoken about the importance of the family and how important it is to be married. That's an important message in his community where it is often the norm for children to grow up without a father.

“For good or bad, what he says and does matters, like it matters what other mega-stars say and do”

He has discussed his past addiction to pornography and other aspects of his life that were seriously at odds with his Christian faith.

He says he is reformed: "Now that I'm in service to Christ, my job is to spread the Gospel, to let people know what Jesus has done for me," Mr West explained. "I've spread a lot of things. There was a time I was letting you know what high

fashion had done for me, I was letting you know what the Hennessey had done for me, but now I'm letting you know what Jesus has done for me, and in that I'm no longer a slave, I'm a son now, a son of God. I'm free."

What should we make of all this? Should we take it seriously?

The first thing is to be said is that it is significant because Mr West is such a huge cultural figure in America. For good or bad, what he says and does matters, like it matters what other mega-stars say and do.

When other celebrities make political statements, they are far more likely to be in favour of abortion than against it, for example, and they bring public opinion with them. So it is good to have a big name going the other way.

Theology

An article in the Catholic magazine *America* has taken him to task, however, over his political remarks, and the type of Christianity he is espousing, namely a sort of "prosperity theology" that links faith in God to personal success.

Mr West attributes his huge success and growing personal fortune to his belief in God. What does that say to

Christians who are failures in worldly terms? Is Mr West a better Christian, more 'godly' because he is so rich? That is obviously the antithesis of true Christianity.

But maybe we have to apply to Mr West what Pope Francis has to say about 'accompaniment', that is, walking alongside someone patiently as they grow in Christian faith without condemning them for not being where they should ideally be.

If Mr West is sincere about his Christian faith, then it will develop over time. It will lead him away from prosperity theology and it will lead him away from a 'bling', appearance-based lifestyle.

As time goes on, maybe he will begin to teach his fans that surface appearances don't matter so much, and worldly success is not the real measure of overall success.

And maybe he will accompany his wife on the same path.

For now, we just have to wait and see and be thankful for now that he seems to have a Christian faith of some sort and is not spouting of the usual PC 'gospel' almost every other celebrity adheres to.

HOW YOUR LEGACY CAN CHANGE THEIR FUTURE



The Irish Catholic
November Legacy Edition, 2019



An end to Trachoma blindness is in sight

Chai Brady speaks to Sightsavers about the devastating diseases and blindness they combat

Easily treated diseases that are now quickly tackled in the Western world with readily available medicines are still a scourge in developing countries, with blindness being one of the “devastating” outcomes.

Charlie Lamson, CEO of Sightsavers, told *The Irish Catholic* that it wasn't so long ago that countries like Ireland were struggling with diseases, such as Trachoma, easily treatable at its early stage with antibiotics.

Returning from Senegal recently, Mr Lamson saw first-hand the effects of Trachoma, and how the “horrific” disease develops. Working in over 30 countries the charity assist communities, governments and train local staff who will stay in the country helping those in need.

“The way we work is a collaborative approach, the country office works with local partners and then works with the ministry of health, so a lot of what we're doing is based on working directly with the countries,” Mr Lamson says.

“We're not just flying in, doing all this great stuff, and then flying out again. It's very much about working with government ministries to create genuine change in the way that they approach the challenges they have.”

Eye examinations

In 2018 the charity carried out more than 16 million eye examinations across the countries in which they work, and distributed more than 113 million treatments to prevent and treat debilitating diseases.

Sightsavers first programmes began in the 1950s, starting in Kenya, Uganda, Ghana, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Nigeria, with several other African countries following in the next two decades.

In the 1960s and 70s this was expanded into Asia with their first projects in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. The charity also continued to extend their work across Africa. More recently, their work in Yemen began in 2018.

Their work in Sri Lanka came to an end in 2016, which was the first



Seven year old Aminata was born blind, as were her parents and three of her siblings. Before Sightsavers helped her to attend her inclusive school in Senegal, she spent her days sitting at home while her parents went out begging to support their family. She was too young to help out with family chores or to go out by herself. Now, her day has structure and purpose.

Photo: © Peter Nicholls/Sightsavers

time the charity finished working in a country as they were satisfied that they eye care services they set up would continue without them.

Mentioning Francis Ford Coppola's film, *The Godfather Part II*, when fictional character Vito Corleone's eyes are checked for Trachoma before he enters New York from Sicily, Mr Lamson says this is an example of how the Western world was once challenged with the disease.

“All of the support that's provided to older people through a wealthy society, a modern economy, if you were to remove all of that and then find yourself in a very poor economy without any of

those structures in place – it's very devastating.”

Trachoma is the world's leading infectious cause of blindness, and is part of a group of conditions known as neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). Much like conjunctivitis it starts as a bacterial infection, but if it is not treated it can become unbearable.

Eyelashes inward

Over time it causes scarring to the eyelid that pulls the eyelashes inward, so with every blink they scrape against the eye. This advanced form is called trichiasis and is so intensely painful that people afflicted resort to pulling

out their eyelashes due to the agony of blinking.

The disease thrives where there are water shortages, poor sanitation and infestations of flies. It's caused by repeated infection with bacteria known as chlamydia trachomatis, and it spreads through contact with infected flies and via hands, clothes or bedding that have been in contact with an infected person.

Mr Lamson says they are working on a campaign called ‘The End is in Sight’, which endeavours to eliminate the disease by 2025. Currently there are still 44 countries that count the disease as a public health problem.

“We train ophthalmologists, ophthalmic surgeons, ophthalmic nurses, we're working with ministries of health around things like budgeting and long term planning, all of these,” he says.

The result of this will be a trained medical professional from the country who will stay there and continue to work with people. In addition to training, they provide expertise and medical equipment, with Mr Lamson saying the model is based on true sustainable development.

Trachoma is not the only disease the charity is combatting. River blindness is a parasitic infection spread by flies near fast flowing rivers and can cause severe irritation, itching and even blindness if the infection is not treated.

“We train ophthalmologists, ophthalmic surgeons, ophthalmic nurses, we're working with ministries of health around things like budgeting and long term planning, all of these”

so it was devastating, to see the pictures and hear her talk about it," he says.

"River blindness is interesting because it can take years for it to manifest before it then starts to manifest in the eye and cause vision loss."

When someone is bitten by the flies, larvae invade the body and develop into worms that can live for 15 years. Female worms produce thousands of microscopic larvae each day known as 'microfilariae' which spread through the body and can be passed on to others. When the microfilariae die, they cause a reaction leading to immense irritation, inflammation and itching. If the larvae travel to the eyes, it can cause irreversible sight loss.

As well as pain, blindness and the associated stigma, river blindness forces people to move away from fertile river valleys where the disease is prevalent. As a result, they can struggle to find suitable areas to farm or grow crops, pushing families and communities into poverty.

However, treatment is relatively cheap, with Mr Lamson saying €50 can protect 1,000 people from river blindness. The medication comes in the form of tablets and a simple method used to gauge the height of a person informs what dose someone should be given.

“Almost all of us...are going to be disabled, and the majority are going to face that disability when we get to that age in our lives, when we’re older”

The instrument is called a dose pole, which is tall and colourful, with each colour having dots representing how many tablets should be given depending on a person's height.

For example if a person is 172cm, the dose pole would be placed beside them and would show they need three tablets. Due to some community members being wary of the medicines, Mr Lamson explains, having community directed distributors (CDDs) is a huge benefit.

People from within the community are each given a dose pole, which is easy to use regardless of literacy levels, and they can be trained and subsequently trusted to treat other members of the community properly.

The added benefit is the distributors are nominated by their local community and are therefore ideally placed to deliver the medication as they understand the community's dynamics and customs, enabling Sightsavers to deliver aid to those who need help the most and ensure that people in the most poor or remote areas are treated.

* * * * *

One of the most "vital" parts of the charity's ability to continue with these, and other life-changing



initiatives is through their legacy donations.

"Legacy donations are critical, it's a huge part of our work. Oftentimes a legacy gift...we can use in the areas that we need it most, which is really important," says Mr Lamson.

"It's such a personal form of support for us. We recently have a number of legacy gifts come through and we've ended up getting some absolutely incredible letters from the family who are talking about the person who had passed away and how this was important for them, in that they had wanted to do something and they had chosen us because they had known something about us. Or they'd been giving to us for years as a regular donor, and they'd receive our correspondence.

"A lot of what we're trying to do is tell people about what it is that we're doing. What's wonderful to me is that a lot of people feel moved by that enough and trusting enough of the work that we're doing."

Disparity

Reflecting on the disparity of opportunity and affluence between the Western world and developing countries such as the ones the charity works with in West Africa, Mr Lamson says since he started with Sightsavers two years ago it really struck him how eye glasses in Senegal are not common – the percentage of people who have them is extremely low and in rural communities it's almost zero.

"I do a fair number of presentations and things like that, and if I'm sitting with an audience, and I were to ask everyone to take off their glasses, half the audience wouldn't be able to see the presentation," he said.

"You think about the impact of eye glasses, how we take them so much for granted, and if you were suddenly to say none of us could have eye glasses the impact on

“As well as pain, blindness and the associated stigma, river blindness forces people to move away from fertile river valleys where the disease is prevalent. As a result, they can struggle to find suitable areas to farm or grow crops, pushing families and communities into poverty”

our lives at a personal level, on the community where we live, on the whole functioning of our society. If you were to remove the capacity of people who need eye glasses to get through the day – that's a big one."

"Almost all of us at some point in our lives are going to be disabled, and the majority are going to face that disability when we get to that age in our lives, when we're older."

Education

Sightsavers also do large amounts of work to promote inclusive

societies for the disabled, whether in education, employment, healthcare or politics.

In Senegal the charity's inclusive education pilot project was launched in three schools in Dakar in 2014. Part of this was to work with the General Directorate of Social Action to provide scholarships to blind students, they also give financial assistance to parents, translate textbooks to braille, adapt school facilities, certify children as visually impaired and provide eye care through the Senegal eye care programme, including low vision aids, braille and referrals for treatment such as cataract surgery, to name a few.

"If you're talking about an underdeveloped economy like Senegal, where you have 54% illiteracy and then you throw on top of that those who are disabled, or have a vision impairment then you really are at the end of the line there, so we're trying to work with those guys," Mr Lamson added.

While Sightsavers work in a variety of countries across the world, at times some communities and societies are in greater need of immediate action to mitigate harm. Legacy donations, Mr Lamson explains, help the charity to pour resources and initiate positive change quickly; protecting eyes against blindness and disease and combatting exclusion because of disability.



Charlie Lamson, CEO Sightsavers Ireland.



Mr Lamson says: "We're not working directly with river blindness in Senegal, although we do see it for example in Ghana. One of my colleagues was down there and has unbelievable stories.

"You see a whole village... river blindness can affect up to 70% of a community when it really takes hold, and 40 years ago that would be the case. She visited a community in Ghana and was interviewing seniors within the community. She interviewed about five or six people, all of them were blind as a result of river blindness."

The community his colleague visited had to abandon their former village to move further away from the river, due to the prevalence of river blindness.

"The community was dying, the young people all moving away, you were left with a lot of visually impaired seniors in the community



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FOCUS
Ireland



By Sharon Cahir
CAHIR AND CO Solicitors, Co Clare

Homemade wills – a recipe for disaster?

In Lady Windemere's Fan, Oscar Wilde had Lord Darlington quip that a cynic was 'a man who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing.' As with so much of what Wilde wrote or said, it's more than just a nice turn of phrase – it hits at the heart of the problems of society in general but, in this instance, I see it at the core of procrastination in making a will or choosing what is perceived as the cheap option of homemade wills.

A High Court decision in 2011 in the UK, highlighted the dangers of making a will at on your own without any legal advice. The parties in the case made simple mistakes very common in many homemade wills.

In considering the will, Mr Justice Gilligan highlighted the crucial role of legal advice:

"The [author] has unfortunately provided an illustration of exactly how a person should not make a will. While there can be little doubt that [he] was a man of considerable learning, the fact that he did not benefit from legal advice or assistance is evident from the will he drew up. Not only was it deficient in terms of the lack of certainty as to his intention but moreover he unwittingly made the classic error of having two of the intended beneficiaries act as witnesses to his signature, thereby depriving both as a matter of law from benefiting under the terms of the will."

There are a number of common pitfalls in homemade wills which can either lead to the will being overturned or made void. The catastrophe arising with this is, when your will is made void you are deemed to have died without a will and your estate will not pass per your wishes but under the rules of Intestacy. Under the rules of Intestacy, the Law decides who gets your assets.

Small mistakes significantly increase the chances of the will having to go before the court to be proved. An application to the High Court Case is necessary to prove a will that is unclear in its intent.

It can be perceived as being cheaper or indeed free to create your own will and avoid using a professional, but a simple mistake can mean paying a much higher price. The higher price is often not the financial cost but the acrimony, suspicion and family disharmony that

can arise. Who are the beneficiaries? What did you mean by the sentence? Did you give a gift contingent on an event happening that may never happen?

Making a will follows a very specific set of rules and if the rules are not followed correctly, and to the letter of the law, the document you create (intended by you to be a will) can be easily overturned and deemed invalid. Your appointed executors will fight in the court to uphold your will and have your wishes fulfilled but the Judge will be bound by the law and the meticulous detail the rules dictate.

Statistics indicate that poorly drafted or ineffective homemade wills are to blame for a prolonged probate ordeal and administration of estates for over 38,000 families a year. The Citizens Information Office set a clear Guideline as follows;

The requirements of a valid will:

- You must be over 18 (if you are or have been married you can be under 18).
- You must be of sound mind.
- You must sign or mark the will or acknowledge the signature or mark in the presence of two witnesses.
- Your two witnesses must sign the will in your presence.
- Your two witnesses cannot be people who will gain from your will and they must be present with you at the same time for their attestation to be valid. The witnesses' spouses/civil partners also cannot gain from your will.
- Your witnesses must see you sign the will but they do not have to see what is written in it.
- The signature or mark must be at the end of the will.
- The will must be in writing.

Each of these points seems simple but know this – small mistakes in any of these areas make for an easy application to overturn a will. The most common mistake is getting a person you wish to give a gift to after your death to witness your signature. This invalidates your will after your death.

So, don't put the cost of

making a will above the value you can derive from having a sounding board and expertise. Your estate plan is unique to you and your assets, it's not a one size fits all. Consider your family and their needs especially if you have children or adult dependents and do not leave your affairs to chance or costly court cases.

“The most common mistake is getting a person you wish to give a gift to after your death to witness your signature. This invalidates your will after your death.”

As well as a will, we should also plan for our future care regardless of illness, age or stage of life. Thinking about the future can be difficult especially when that involves decisions about our end of life. But thinking and communicating our wishes is important and can have long term benefits for us, our families and friends.

People at every age and every stage of life should talk through options for care and preferences for end of life, before the need is urgent or before it becomes too difficult/tiring to communicate. You can do this by using the Irish Hospice Foundation's Think Ahead form. Think Ahead is a guide to help you think, discuss and record your

preferences of all aspects of your end-of-life care. By using Think Ahead, your wishes will be clear to you, those caring for you and those who manage your care.

Think Ahead also contains an Advance Healthcare Directive (AHD), a voluntarily written document that sets out what you would not like to happen in relation to certain medical treatments. An AHD is legally binding (if printed and signed and witnessed). It is a good idea to discuss AHD with a medical professional or a member of your healthcare team. An AHD provides direction to healthcare professionals to care for you under your specified wishes should you lose capacity.



For more information:
www.thinkahead.ie



The Gift Of A Lifetime

Dying is one of the few certainties in life but that doesn't mean we can't be there for others.

When you write a will, you can look after your family and loved ones even after you're gone. And if you also include The Irish Hospice Foundation, you can reach out to another family you've never met too.

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To find out how you can make a lasting difference:

Contact Anna Sadlier at 01 679 3188 or anna.sadlier@hospicefoundation.ie
www.hospicefoundation.ie

Reflect, remember and celebrate the lives of those we miss from the Trócaire family

During November's Month of the Holy Souls, the Irish Catholic Church's overseas development agency will host a very special Remembrance Mass.

Trócaire's Remembrance Mass started in 2015 and quickly became one of its most special annual events.

It is the perfect opportunity to take time to remember those we have loved who were part of the Trócaire family. These include supporters, staff, family members and friends here in Ireland and people from the communities we work with overseas.

These are the people who made it possible for Trócaire to improve the lives of 2.9 million people last year in some of the poorest countries in the world.

Set in the beautiful surroundings of St Patrick's College, Maynooth you are invited to reflect, remember and celebrate the lives of those you loved and miss dearly.

Trócaire would like to pay a special tribute to Sally O'Neill, who tragically lost her life following a road accident in Guatemala in April. Sally worked for Trócaire for 37 years prior to her retirement in 2015. She was a friend, mentor and inspiration to so many. The contribution Sally made to Trócaire and to the lives of so many people around the world is incalculable.

During the mass, we will invite the light of Christ, through the intercession of St. Oscar Romero, and the lit candles around our altar, to warm our hearts and to brighten the darkness of our loss. The book of remembrance is placed on the altar. Families and friends can add the names of their loved ones, and know that they will be remembered every year.

After the Mass there's a chance to chat and share memories over a cup of tea.

This year's remembrance mass will be held on Thursday 7th November, at 7pm in St Joseph's Oratory, St Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co Kildare.

We invite you to join us with Celebrant, Rev. Prof. Michael Mullaney, President, St. Patrick's College, Maynooth.

RSVP Grace Kelly by email to grace.kelly@trocaire.org or phone 01 629 3333

If you cannot join us for mass, please join us in prayer with our Communion Reflection:

"Evening Prayer"

by St John Henry Newman

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or weep, or wait this night give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ. Give rest to the weary, soothe the suffering, and comfort the afflicted, for your Name's sake.

O Lord, support us all the day long, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work done. Then in your mercy grant us a safe lodging, a holy rest, and peace at last

Amen



Sally O'Neill

Your Legacy Impact:

Often gifts in Wills fund long term projects, but sometimes it's about responding to emergencies and saving lives.

War and political instability have been the major drivers behind Trócaire's recent humanitarian programmes. The impact of climate change is both a cause and a compounding factor in many conflicts. It leads to increased pressure on land and water, causing families to flee their homes.

Trócaire's largest humanitarian programmes have been in regions where conflict and displacement have been normalised, such as the Middle East, South Sudan and Myanmar.

In the next year, Trócaire will increase its focus on 'safe returns', which seeks to ensure that no one is forced to return to a place which is dangerous or where their basic needs will not be met.

Pope Francis stated emphatically, in his encyclical *Laudate Si*: "Today we cannot be satisfied with simply being aware of the problems faced by many of our brothers and sisters". We have to act in response to their cries.

Money goes much further in the developing world, so any gift in a Will, even small amounts can make a big difference.

"The Trócaire Remembrance Mass is a very special personal event for me. In what is often a very busy time of the year, it gives me the space to slow down and take the time to remember my loved ones that have died."

– Susan

"For the past three years I have attended the Trócaire Remembrance Mass. My beloved mother was a staunch supporter of Trócaire. It's a very emotional and moving ceremony filled with beautiful words and music" – Gráinne

"It was a really special mass. The music made for a very beautiful evening." – Colm

ST. ROMERO REMEMBRANCE MASS

Revenue Number CHY 5883

Thursday 7th November 2019

trócaire



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 01 629 3333, or email grace.kelly@trocaire.org

Charity Regulatory Authority No. 20009601; Revenue Number CHY 5883



Leaving a gift in your Will to Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services can help us provide care for this generation and the next.

Our specialist palliative care teams working from our hospices of Harold's Cross and Blackrock, 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, big or small, please contact us in complete confidence, and with no obligation.

Thank you.

Jackie Slattery
**Senior Manager, Partnerships
& Philanthropy**

Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services,
Harold's Cross & Blackrock

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

Find us on  Visit: Olh.ie/legacy



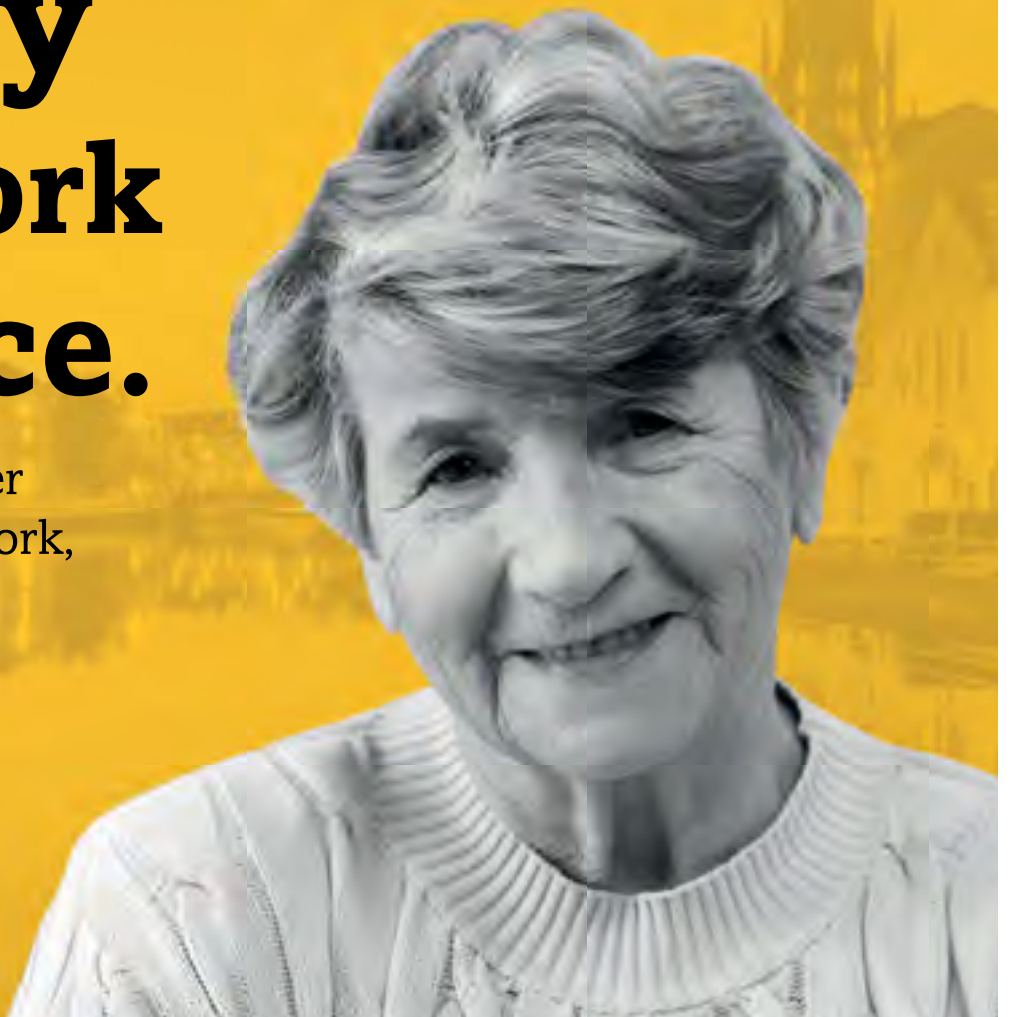
Our
Lady's
**Hospice
& Care
Services**

Respite
Rehabilitation
Reassurance
**Harold's Cross
& Blackrock**

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

Pope Francis: 'What am I leaving behind? What did I do?'



Photo: Jeffrey Bruno / Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 2.0 Generic license.

Pope stresses importance of reflecting on your 'final farewell'

Everyone would do well to reflect on their "final farewell" from earthly life said Pope Francis during a morning Mass at the Domus Sanctae Marthae.

"It will do us good," he added. "What am I leaving behind? What did I do?"

"What did I do?"

Pope Francis isn't talking about your career, or even your family. He's asking you to contemplate the difference you've made.

One way to ensure you're always doing some good is to support charities.

"How marvellous it would be if, at the end of the day, each of us could say: today I have performed an act of charity towards others!"
– Pope Francis

And it's clear many people do already generously give to causes close to their hearts. The Irish Catholic's own research shows 97% of readers regularly donate to charity.

However, with so many different charities, each performing so much good work, choosing one to support is certainly not an easy decision to make.

"Poverty in the world is a scandal. In a world where there is so much wealth, so many resources to feed everyone, it is unfathomable that there are so many hungry children, that there are so many children without an education, so many poor persons." – Pope Francis.

One charity fighting poverty is Ireland's own Concern Worldwide. In fact they state their mission is to: End extreme poverty – whatever it takes.

Concern was founded in 1968 by John and Kay O'Loughlin-Kennedy – in response to the famine in the breakaway province of Biafra in Nigeria.

On Friday 6th September 1968 the MV Columcille set sail from Dublin to Sao Tome – a Portuguese island off the coast of Nigeria.

The 600 tonne ship was full of vital supplies of powdered food, medicines and other life saving items for the people suffering the horrific famine in Biafra. This single shipment was only the start of an aid mission which became 1 flight every day over the next 11 months.

Since then Concern has helped transform lives in 48 of the world's poorest countries, including:

- Rwanda, 1994: Concern was one of the first Irish charities to respond to the Rwandan Genocide.
- Haiti, 2010: Within 1 year of the earthquake, Concern had helped over 1,000,000

people in the country.

- Syria, 2013 – present: Concern's emergency programmes meet the urgent needs of the newly displaced and help those with longer term needs.
- Nepal, 2015: After the severe earthquake, Concern provided non food items, kits and material for make-shift accommodation, repaired 14,500 homes and helped almost 80,000 people.

As you can see, no matter what the crisis Concern always helps those in the most desperate need no matter how hard they are to reach.

In 2018 alone they responded to 66 different emergencies. And helped an incredible 24.2 million people around the world.

"What am I leaving behind?"

When Pope Francis asked this at the Domus Sanctae Marthae Mass, many may have been wondering about the impact their own lives will have. Perhaps you are too.

One thing you can leave behind is a life changing gift to your preferred charity in your Will. This ensures your legacy lives on, while supporting the charity you care for and helping save lives long into the future.

Just as Fiona from Co. Louth has for Concern. Here she explains why: "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."

If you join Fiona and leave a gift to Concern, your legacy can help end hunger, for good. And will help people like Nala*.

Nala lived with her mother and two brothers in a camp for displaced people in Mogadishu, Somalia. Her mother was pregnant with Nala when she and her sons fled their village which was attacked. Even in the safety of the camp, Nala's mother struggled to find food for herself and her children. So Nala never gained weight properly.

At nine months old she was barely bigger than a newborn. Fortunately this was when the family came to a Concern supported nutrition centre.

Nala was diagnosed with severe acute malnutrition and fading fast. She was immediately given therapeutic

food sachets.

As you can see after a few months of receiving help, Nala was thriving.



Nine month old Nala* pictured here in a Concern supported health centre in Mogadishu, Somalia. Nala is extremely malnourished, lethargic to the point she can't open her eyes and has a temperature.



Nala* a few months later after receiving therapeutic food sachets.

"Charity is at the heart of the Church, it is the reason for its action, the soul of its mission."
– Pope Francis

Leave Concern a gift in your Will and you won't just be giving food to those who desperately need it ...

... your gift could also give people the seeds, tools and skills to grow their own, healthy crops.

Just as our supporters did for Elisabeth. She lives with her husband and their six children in central Burundi.

Elisabeth used to struggle to provide just one meal a day for the family. And could rarely afford the fresh vegetables essential for her children's healthy development.

Concern gave her the tools, training, seeds and



Elisabeth's 12-year-old son, Egide, helping at his family's kitchen garden

compost she needed to cultivate her own home garden.

Now she prepares well balanced meals of sweet potatoes, beans, rice, maize, cassava, tomatoes and aubergines.

It's people like you leaving Concern a gift in their Will which has helped save Nala, Elisabeth and their families.

To discover about how a gift in your Will can help end hunger:

- ✓ When natural disaster strikes
- ✓ When conflict threatens lives
- ✓ When poverty prevents progress

... please request your complimentary copy of 'A World Without Hunger' – Concern's legacy booklet.

Inside you'll discover how others who were desperately in need have been helped

by gifts left in the Wills of people just like you.

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. Naturally, requesting your free booklet does not oblige you to support Concern in any way or do anything else.

"I am proud to know that even when I am gone, by including Concern in my Will, my support will continue to help save lives."
– Colm O'Byrne, Co. Galway.

* Name changed for security reasons.

To get your free, no obligation copy, please contact Concern's Legacy Manager, Siobhán O'Connor. Just call her on **01 417 8020** or send an email to **siobhan.oconnor@concern.net** or write to 52-55 Lower Camden Street, Dublin 2

A gift in your Will really can help end hunger, for good.



How your memorial gift can help save babies & mothers for many years to come

Dear Fellow Pro-Life Catholic,

My name is David Manly and I'm writing to you on behalf of Family & Life, one of Ireland's oldest and largest pro-life organisation.

Many pro-life Catholics (my wife and I included) have added Family & Life to their wills. Here are just a few of the ways Family & Life will put your memorial gift to work for mothers and babies...

- We provide essential aid to crisis pregnancy centres in Ireland and abroad... we work to defeat and reverse legislation that threatens unborn babies... our community forums and public education meetings are held regularly in all 32 counties...
- Family & Life organises and trains college students, making sure the pro-life movement always has the very best leadership possible... we educate voters, telling them where candidates stand on pro-life issues... we aid Catholics in Iraq who are still

recovering from persecution... plus so much more that defends life and family

As I mentioned, my wife and I have included Family & Life in our wills. It's a very comforting feeling, knowing that our memorial gift will help save babies and mothers for a long time to come. It's a feeling that I know you'll come to quickly share. So my hope and prayer is that you'll consider including Family & Life in your will, too.

May our Lord continue to bless you, your family and your intentions,

With sincere thanks for your consideration,

David Manly,
For Family & Life

PS If you'd like to discuss including the baby-saving work of Family & Life in your will, my phone number is 01-8552790. Or you can freepost the Memorial Reply below and I'll send you more information. (Also, our solicitor provides free will service.) There is no obligation!

MEMORIAL REPLY:

To help save babies & mothers for many years to come!
FROM:

Dear David,

☐ Please send me more information on adding Family & Life's baby-saving work to my will. I understand there is absolutely no obligation!

Family & Life

26 Mountjoy Square, Dublin 1
Ph: 01 8552790 | email: fandl@iol.ie
www.familyandlife.org



Afri

ACTION FROM IRELAND

Afri was founded in 1975 by Salesian missionary, Fr. Sean McFerran, who had worked in Africa and India for the previous 40 years.

When he was appointed to come back to Ireland to work, he became aware of the relative wealth in Ireland (even at that time) compared to the poverty of the people among whom he had worked in Africa and especially in India. So, together with a group of friends he founded Afri – to respond to poverty and hunger in a world of plenty.

Afri continues to do this work to this day – albeit in a somewhat different way. As well as supporting two communities in Kenya – one near Nakuru and one on the border between Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia, we also set out to tackle the causes of poverty and hunger – especially climate change and war.

We do this through education, awareness-raising and action for change. For example, the world spends more than \$1700 billion on war and weapons, each year. This figure is so big it is almost incomprehensible. So, some years ago, in our 'Just a Second'

campaign, we raised the equivalent of what is spent on war and weapons every second (approximately €47,000) and used it to fund anti poverty projects in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Ireland. We have now devised a 'Just a Second' educational campaign in which we work on such themes with students in Secondary schools and Third Level Institutes.

We also deal with issues such as climate change, the forced migration of people and hunger – not just highlighting the causes but also proposing solutions.

Afri has organised the annual Famine Walk in Doolough in County Mayo for more than three decades, whereby we link our own history with that of people suffering oppression and injustice today; we also organise Féile Bríde in collaboration with the Brigidine sisters in Kildare, each year, as well as a range of other educational and awareness-raising activities.

Afri receives some funding from Irish Aid, Trócaire and Concern as well as a number of religious communities. But we depend on the public to enable us to continue to carry out the very important work we've been doing for nearly half a century.

A memorial erected by Afri to remember those who died in the Doolough valley in 1849, all who died during An Gorta Mór and those who continue to die of hunger today. Afri's annual Doolough Famine Walk is on the third Saturday in May, each year and has taken place for more than three decades.

www.afri.ie

Address: 8, Cabra Road, Dublin 9

Email: joe@afri.ie

Facebook: www.facebook.com/afriireland

Twitter: @afripeace



How would you like to be remembered?

Leave a lasting legacy with Sightsavers

One small action now, could change
people's lives forever

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Sightsavers

Your for dogs can live forever!

Find out how
You can make a
lasting difference
to abandoned and
neglected dogs
who need you.



Everyday at Dogs Trust we're truly inspired by the support of dog lovers. And if, like us, you believe every dog deserves the right to a happy and healthy life – now and into the future – then you will be interested to know that a gift in your Will can help make that a reality.

Making your Will is a very personal thing and naturally you will want to take care of your loved ones first.

But maybe once you have looked after the people who matter to you most, you might consider leaving a gift to Dogs Trust? The gifts we receive vary in size from a few hundred euro to much bigger gifts depending on the persons wishes and circumstances.

Whatever gift you feel is appropriate, we are extremely grateful for every person who is able to remember the dogs here at Dogs Trust in their Will. Even 1% of what's left after you take care of your loved ones can make a real difference.

Your amazing generosity will mean your love of dogs will live on forever.

You can be there at every step of a dogs journey to recovery, giving these dogs the much needed love and care they deserve with owners who will love and care for them.

If you would like to have a confidential no obligation chat about leaving a gift in your Will please get in touch with our **Fundraising Manager, Gillian McDermott on 01 879 1832.**

Alternatively you will you can email us at legacyinfo@dogstrust.ie to receive an information pack or visit our website www.dogstrust.ie.



**Thank you for believing that every dog
should live a happy and healthy life.**

www.dogstrust.ie

Dogs Trust CLG
Ashbourne Road, Finglas,
Dublin, D11 K003

Telephone: 01 879 1000
Lo-Call: 1890 252 928
Email: enquiries@dogstrust.ie

A dog is for life, not just for Christmas®
Registered Charity Number 20057978

*"Someone is sitting in the shade today because
someone planted a tree a long time ago."*

- W. Buffet



**Imagine a future without
heart disease and stroke...**

Leave a gift in your will to Croí and make a long-lasting impact on those affected by heart disease and stroke.

Your legacy gift to Croí will save lives.

Please contact Christine to learn more:

Email: Christine@croi.ie

Tel: 091-544062



Croí, The West of Ireland Cardiac and Stroke Foundation
Charity number: CHY 7500 | Croí House, Moyola Lane, Newcastle, Galway, H91 FF68

“Clasping my hands, she looked into my eyes and thanked me, my parents and GOAL”

Retired Teacher Tiernan Dolan recounts his meeting with a woman whose life was transformed thanks to his family's kindness and parent's gift in their will.

Eveline and Dermot Dolan from Longford left a legacy to GOAL which changed the lives of a whole community in Masaka, Uganda.

Here their son Tiernan tells how their gift made dreams a reality as families were built new homes, ones with a clean-water supply, toilet, kitchen, and fuel saving stove.

“I had the incredible privilege of visiting Uganda and meeting the families who were re-homed thanks to the aid agency GOAL. First-hand I saw the immediate and positive impact it had.

To say that this GOAL housing project made a difference is an understatement. The new houses provided shelter, hope, health and a radically better future; it transformed lives.

The original houses I saw couldn't be called houses. They were huts or shacks made of sticks, mud and roofed with grass. The mud floors were home to jiggers and fleas. The grass roofs

leaked. The mud in the walls would wash clean away even in light rain. Some shelters only lasted a few months before collapsing.

The countryside in Uganda is hilly and beautiful, the sun shone bright and warm but when you've no house it's difficult to appreciate the finer things in life. I met with a 70-year-old Grandmother who was caring for her 5 grandchildren; her own daughter had tragically died. Her life had been turned around by her new home. Her eyes literally lit up when she talked about having a dry house, a clean floor and a healthy future for her grandchildren.

When speaking to other families who too had new homes, they became instantly animated when talking about the difference the house made, waving their arms and smiling massive happy smiles when trying to describe how thrilled they now were!

Another gentleman I met, together with his wife and

seven children existed in what can only be described as a tent made of grass and sticks at the side of steep hill. Nothing different from what you would have seen thousands of years ago! Now looking up the hill at his new brick house with its tin roof, he squints shading his eyes from the strong midday sun, “it's just like moving from hell to heaven” he said “this place was like a grave”. It's impossible to disagree but equally impossible to comprehend how anyone could have survived a wet night in his old flimsy grass hut.

One meeting that really stands out is when I met with a woman who was sat outside her house with a plaque bearing the names of my late parents Dermot and Eveline Dolan. They would have been so proud of this energetic woman who never gave up hope but was so close on a few occasions. Clasping my hands, she looked into my eyes and thanked me, my



LEFT: Dermot and Eveline Dolan, who by leaving a gift to GOAL in their will changed the lives of a whole community in Masaka, Uganda.



RIGHT: Grandmother of 5 holding dear a photo of Dermot and Eveline Dolan, so grateful for her new home built by GOAL thanks to their generosity.

parents and GOAL: “In our last home, we used to go to sleep not knowing whether the house would still be there when we woke. The roof was made of grass and it leaked badly in the rain. We had no toilet and every time we needed water we had to walk 2km to the nearest pond.

In contrast, she now has a secure brick house, a latrine and a rainwater collection system. In gratitude I was presented with some ground nuts, a bunch of bananas, four eggs and two avocados.

As I left her house, I felt

happy and humbled all at the same time.”

Leave a gift

GOAL's work continues to transform thousands of lives and with that thousands of good news stories like these can be recounted.

For over 40 years GOAL has been working as agile first responders, to protect some of the world's most vulnerable people in some of the worst humanitarian crises.

That work would not have been possible without the generosity of people like

Tiernan, his family and his parents' gift in their will. The kindness that our Donors show during their lifetimes and the profound generosity in their wills, after they have looked after their own loved ones is truly life changing for vulnerable people around the world.

In leaving a gift to GOAL, you too will help some of the most vulnerable communities to respond and recover from crisis, develop resilience and gain control over their own lives and future.

To speak to someone about leaving a gift in your will please contact Courtenay in confidence on 01 2809779, or email cpollard@goal.ie

Leave a priceless gift.

Please remember GOAL in your will

GOAL

You do not need to re-write your will, you just need to include us in it. Doing so will help us to feed the hungry, strengthen the weak and provide safety for those struck by conflict or natural disaster. Founded in 1977 GOAL continues to make the world a better place. You too can give the gift of hope.

Talk to someone in confidence.

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



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

Holy Family's house in Loreto gains new spotlight



Elise Harris

For hundreds of years, the Shrine of the Holy House of Loreto has been among the most popular destinations for Marian devotees in Italy. With a jubilee just weeks away, and a new status on the Church's liturgical calendar, the shrine's importance seems destined to continue to grow.

According to Diletta D'Agostini, a journalist who works in communications for the shrine, because of the historic relics Loreto holds, it "preserves and safeguards" the walls of what's believed to be the house in which the Virgin Mary grew up.

Located roughly 153 miles northeast of Rome, Loreto is home to what's believed to be the house in which the Virgin Mary was born, where she was visited by the Archangel Gabriel, where she subsequently conceived Jesus through the Holy Spirit, and where the Holy Family later lived.

Tradition holds that the Holy House of Loreto, made of three stone walls, was carried by angels from Nazareth to Loreto on the night of December 9-10 in 1294, making a three-year stop in Croatia along the way.

Guardians of the shrine say the stones of the house were taken from the Holy Land and shipped to Italy by a member of the prominent local Angeli family. That family name in Italian means 'angels', leading many to believe that this is where the popular belief that the house was carried to Italy by angels has its roots.

Conferences

The shrine routinely holds events for young people, families and the sick. It also runs a hotel for pilgrims and tourists, and it has a conference centre for large meetings and retreats.

Loreto also holds special significance for the Bishop of Rome. In October 1962, St John XXIII became the first Pope to leave Rome since pontiffs had declared themselves "Prisoners of the Vatican" after the loss of the papal states in 1870 during the unification of Italy.

During his trip to Loreto, John XXIII asked the Madonna to intercede on behalf of the Second Vatican Council just before it opened. St John Paul II then visited the shrine five times and Benedict XVI twice.

Francis himself visited Loreto in March. During the trip, he



Pope Francis prays before a statue of Our Lady of Loreto at the Sanctuary of the Holy House on the feast of the Annunciation in Loreto, Italy.

announced his decision to grant the Shrine of the Holy House an extraordinary jubilee in honour of the centenary of the proclamation of Our Lady of Loreto as the patroness of aviation and air travel.

Announced March 25, the jubilee will begin on December 8, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, and it will conclude in 2020 on the December 10 feast of Our Lady of Loreto.

The Vatican's Secretary of State, Italian Cardinal Pietro Parolin, will inaugurate the jubilee by opening the Holy Door at the Loreto shrine. According to tradition, any pilgrim who passes through the door will be able to obtain a plenary indulgence, which means the remission of punishment due to sin.

Francis further upped Loreto's profile on October 31 when he issued a decree adding the December 10 feast of Our Lady of Loreto to all calendars and liturgical books for the celebration of the

Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours, the Church's official daily prayer.

In the decree, dated on the October 7 feast of Our Lady of the Rosary and published by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, it was said that putting the Loreto feast day on the Catholic Church's universal calendar "will help all people, especially families, youth and religious to imitate the virtues of the perfect disciple of the Gospel, the Virgin Mother, who, in conceiving the head of the Church also accepted us as her own".

Visitors

Welcoming thousands of visitors a year, the Loreto shrine is the most important Marian pilgrimage destination in Italy, and over the course of the jubilee it will likely see a significant uptick in the number of visitors who come to pray and venerate the Mother of God.

In an interview with Vatican

News, Archbishop Fabio Dal Cin, the papal delegate to the shrine, said the jubilee was a "great opportunity to strengthen the bonds of devotion to the Mother of Heaven".

Playing on the fact that Our Lady of Loreto is the patroness of aviation and aviators, Archbishop Dal Cin insisted that "we are called to fly high" in pursuit of God. "We are called to holiness, to the fullness of life and happiness that is the holiness offered by the Lord."

On November 1, which marks the Catholic feast of All Saints Day, a special Mass formally announcing the jubilee was celebrated at the Loreto shrine by Fr Krzysztof Józef Nykiel, regent of the Apostolic Penitentiary.

In his homily, Fr Nykiel stressed the importance of pursuing holiness in daily life, insisting that the Virgin Mary is a key companion in this process.

Calling the Loreto shrine a "privileged place of contemplating the incarnation of the Son of God", as it marks the place where Mary proclaimed her fiat to God and became the mother of his son, Fr Nykiel noted that the Church "has always venerated Mary as the full model of the holiness of God".

As a mother, Mary, and Our Lady of Loreto in particular, "will always accompany our path as children,

lift us (from) our fatigues, bless our proposals, alleviate our suffering and amplify our Faith".

"Let us allow ourselves to be led by Mary during our pilgrimage as children, placing ourselves in the hands of the most tender of mothers," he said, adding that "God himself, in this difficult time we are living, always comes to us in his time through the maternal love of Mary, who shows us the path to salvation and holiness".

Celebration

At the close of Mass, Archbishop Dal Cin read aloud the formal bull establishing the jubilee and voiced thanks to Pope Francis for granting the Loreto shrine the year of celebration.

As the jubilee approaches, "we want to welcome the metaphor of Christian life: we are all called to fly high, to joy, to true happiness, to holiness. We need to fly high to see ourselves, reality, the created world and our own lives in the right way," he said.

"Let us prepare for this historic event with prayer, welcoming with generous availability the abundance of grace" that will be bestowed during the jubilee celebrations, he said.

Elise Harris is Senior Correspondent of Cruxnow.com

“God himself, in this difficult time we are living, always comes to us in his time through the maternal love of Mary, who shows us the path to salvation and holiness”



World Report

IN BRIEF

Judge blocks US bill banning majority of abortions

● A federal judge has blocked an Alabama law banning most abortions, which passed in May, from going into effect on the planned date of November 15. The 'Human Life Protection Act', which Alabama Governor Kay Ivey signed into law on May 14, would have made attempting or performing an abortion a felony offence for medical professionals.

Despite the judge's ruling, an Alabama lawmaker who helped sponsor the legislation is welcoming the legal challenge, in the hopes that the Supreme Court will ultimately review the law.

"Today's ruling is both expected and welcomed. Our law was designed to overturn Roe v. Wade at the Supreme Court level, and today's ruling is merely the first of many steps on that legal journey," said Republican Terri Collins.

Priest released two days after kidnapping

● The vice-rector of a seminary in Nigeria was kidnapped and released two days later, the latest in the ongoing violence against priests that has led Enugu State authorities to ramp up security efforts. Fr Arinze Madu, the vice-rector for the Queen of Apostles Seminary, was taken by unknown gunmen while exiting the seminary at around 6pm last week.

"We are really grateful to God, he is out of the abductor's net and is back in one piece," the Director of Communications of Nigeria's Enugu diocese, Fr Benjamin Achi told ACI Africa.

"As a matter of fact, everybody was apprehensive when Fr Madu was abducted given our recent experiences," Fr Achi said, referencing a recent wave of violence and abductions targeting priests in the west African country.

Jesuit expert on Church teaching dies age 97

● Jesuit Fr Francis Sullivan, one of the leading theological experts on questions of Church teaching authority, died on October 23. He was 97 and was the oldest member of the Jesuits' Northeast province.

His funeral Mass was celebrated in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit at the Campion Centre last week, followed by interment in Campion Center Cemetery.

For much of his professional life, Fr Sullivan was professor of dogmatic theology, and later dean of theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome.

He was at the Gregorian for nearly 40 years. Later he taught theology at Jesuit-run Boston College from 1992 to 2009, when he retired at age 87.

He took up residence at the Campion Centre.

Enemies made in God's image, Pope reminds military chaplains

● Military chaplains are called to educate the consciences of members of the armed forces so that even in war, the opposing side is not viewed merely as "an enemy to be destroyed", Pope Francis has said.

Meeting with participants of a course on international humanitarian law for military chaplains, the Pope said the intrinsic dignity of those on the opposing side of a conflict, who are "created by God in his image", too often is forgotten.

But "respect for the dignity and physical integrity of the human person, in fact, cannot depend upon the actions they have done, but it is a moral duty to which every person and every authority is called", he said

Pope to meet with Japan's 'triple disaster' victims

● Pope Francis' three-day visit to Japan in November will include a meeting with people affected by the country's "triple disaster", when a major earthquake and subsequent tsunami on March 11, 2011, triggered a meltdown at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.

An estimated 19,000 people died and 150,000 were displaced by the tsunami, which was triggered by a magnitude-9 earthquake. In the wake of the nuclear disaster that followed, the worst since Chernobyl in 1986, another approximately 150,000 people were displaced in mandatory evacuations. Many of these people have not returned home.

Thieves on the run after French cathedral 'sacrilegious robbery'

A cathedral in south-western France was robbed of chalices and other religious items after a gang rammed open the door of the church early Monday morning.

At approximately 2am, a car outfitted with a battering ram was driven into the door of Cathedral Sainte-Marie d'Oloron, breaking it open. The cathedral is in the French town of Oloron-Sainte-Marie, about 30 miles from the Spanish border and located along the Camino de Santiago, a traditional pilgrimage route to the tomb of St James.

The thieves made their way to the chapel where many sacred and liturgical items were stored. The thieves proceeded to saw down the iron bars that were protecting the cathedral's chalices, ciboriums and other objects used in the Mass.

Bishop Marc Aillet of Bayonne and Oloron said the crime was a "sacrilegious robbery since they are objects of worship, some of which are still used today in certain great circumstances".

In addition to the religious items, a centuries-old nativity scene and vestments were also taken. It appears as though the thieves had made



Cathedral Sainte-Marie d'Oloron.

a prior visit to the cathedral and were well-prepared for the crime.

Local residents were awakened by the crash and raised the alarm, but the police were unable to apprehend any of the culprits or recover any of the stolen items. The witnesses said there were three thieves, who escaped in another vehicle.

There was no description of the intruders provided to media, and there has not been any public speculation as for a motive.

The cathedral was built

in the 12th Century, and was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1998. According to the BBC, Monday's robbery marks the first time the cathedral has been attacked in its history.

Emotional value

Herve Lucbereilh, the mayor of Oloron, said in a video statement that the theft was damaging to the town, and that the items taken carried significant emotional and cultural value to residents as well.

The objects taken "are

part of the imagination of the Oloronese, of their history, of their roots", said Lucbereilh. "It's as if a part of their heart had been torn out."

The attack on the cathedral in Oloron is the latest in a wave of church attacks and robberies in France. In 2018, there were 129 thefts and 877 incidents of vandalism at Catholic sites in France, a number that was quadruple that of 2008.

For the first three months of 2019, there were a reported 228 "violent anti-Christian acts" in the country.

Lebanese prelates express new hope after PM resignation

Lebanon's Maronite bishops, commending the unity of the Lebanese people amid a peaceful mass uprising demanding a new government, called for a "constructive spirit" following the resignation of the country's prime minister.

"The Lord is leading the ship of the homeland and we hope that this step will be the beginning of the solution," Cardinal Bechara Rai, Maronite patriarch, said in response to the resignation

of Saad Hariri.

The resignation on October 29 came on the 13th day of massive countrywide protests that found demonstrators celebrating by filling streets and public squares and waving Lebanese flags.

The protests found Christians, Muslims and Druze rising up against a deteriorating economic situation and corruption in the government.

Cardinal Rai convened a meeting of the Maronite bishops on October 30 at the

patriarchate north of Beirut in which they expressed their "sincere tribute" to the people "who are protesting from all sects and regions of Lebanon, coupled with the support of their valid demands".

Statement

The bishops, in a statement, said they hope that all Lebanese will receive the resignation "in a constructive spirit". They called on political officials "to rally around"

Lebanese President Michel Aoun "who is entrusted with the constitution, to speed up the taking of the necessary constitutional measures to protect Lebanon, in response to the aspirations of all Lebanese".

The prelates called on the Lebanese "to be wise, so that their sit-ins do not paralyse life in the country", urging the people to stay clear of "provocation and all signs of conflict and violence".

Franciscan teacher named UN Person of the Year

A Franciscan brother who teaches mathematics and physics in rural Kenya has been named Person of the Year by the United Nations in Kenya.

Bro. Peter Mokaya Tabichi, who teaches at Keriko Secondary School near Nakuru, was recognised for his work in promoting education for all young people.

He received the award during United Nations Day celebrations in Nairobi last

month.

During the UN recognition, Bro. Tabichi said that about six million girls of school age around the world – the majority of them in Africa – do not have the opportunity to attend classes.

"At the same time, 72 million children are in danger of missing education in Africa due to war, floods and other challenges," he told the UN gathering.

"Today people continue to struggle

even more than what I went through. The role of education should be to unlock the best in people and giving them the ability and skills to be able to relate and connect with others in the society," he said.

The award was the second honour for Bro. Tabichi this year. In March, he received the Global Teacher of the Year Award from the London-based Varkey Foundation.



Edited by Colm Fitzpatrick
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In the shadow of the Cross



A woman holds a wooden cross as bishops concelebrate in El Paso, Texas, on the US-Mexico border with the three border dioceses of El Paso, Las Cruces and Ciudad Juarez. Photo: CNS

Philippine Church prays for earthquake victims, appeals for aid

Catholic bishops have appealed for prayers and aid for earthquake victims after two strong earthquakes hit the Philippines last month, causing some deaths and damage.

"Please, again, let us show our spirit of charity and solidarity," Archbishop Romulo Valles of Davao, who is president of the Catholic bishops' conference of the Philippines, said.

An earthquake struck the large southern island of Mindanao about 25 miles southwest of the regional capital of Davao City, a city of about 1.6 million people. The US Geological Survey said the quake was about 6.5 in magnitude.

At least five people were killed, including a village elder in Batasan, a seven-year-old crushed by falling debris, and two adults buried in a landslide, it has been reported.

Hundreds more were injured. More than 12,700 people from nearly 60 villages had fled to evacuation centres after an earthquake the previous Tuesday.

Injuries

That earthquake measured 6.6 in magnitude and was centred in Tulunan, Cotabato province about 60 miles southwest of Davao. At least two people were killed and hundreds were injured.

The quake destroyed schools, homes and other buildings on Mindanao. In Mindanao's Cotabato province, some parishes in the Diocese of Kidapawan reported damage, particularly the parishes of Makilala and Magpet. The diocese has established an emergency rapid response team and has launched relief efforts for those affected.

Bishop Jose Colin Bagaforo of Kidapawan said that residents ran out of their homes and were afraid to return for fear of aftershocks. He reported an "up and down and sideways" motion in the structures. Laminated tents and mats are needed for those sleeping outside of evacuation centres. Other needed supplies are water or water containers, mosquito nets, food packets and blankets. Medical needs include medicine for hypertension and coughs as well as anti-tetanus shots.

Archbishop Valles called for prayers, "especially for people grieving for loved ones who lost their lives in these recent earthquakes".

"Let us pray for the eternal repose of those who died. And let us pray that we continue to be caring and watchful for the safety of everyone," he said.

'I wouldn't do it,' says cardinal on Biden communion refusal

Cardinal Timothy Dolan of the Archdiocese of New York has responded to questions about the denial of Holy Communion to former Vice President Joe Biden in October.

In an interview with *Fox News*, Cardinal Dolan said that he thought the incident was a good teaching moment about the Eucharist and the seriousness of denying Church teaching, but that he

would not himself deny anyone reception of the Eucharist.

"So whether that prudential judgment was wise, I don't want to judge him either," Cardinal Dolan said of Fr Robert Morey, who denied Communion to Biden. "I wouldn't do it."

"Sometimes a public figure will come and talk to me about it. And I would advise

them, and I think that priest [Fr Morey] had a good point, you are publicly at odds with an issue of substance, critical substance, we're talking about life and death and the Church," Cardinal Dolan said.

Receiving the Eucharist "implies that you're in union with all the Church believes and stands for. If you know you're not, well, integrity would say, 'uh oh, I better not

approach holy Communion.' That's always preferable than to make a split-second decision and denying somebody", he added.

Fr Morey denied Eucharistic communion to 2020 Democratic presidential hopeful Joe Biden at Mass at St Anthony's Catholic Church in Florence, South Carolina, because of the politician's public support of abortion.

Vatican roundup

God's love for us is not 'abstract', but concrete – Pope

● Jesus' love for each person is a concrete love, a love that is addressed to each person "with their first and last name", Pope Francis has said.

Celebrating Mass on October 31 in the chapel of the Domus Sanctae Marthae where he lives, Pope Francis focused on the day's first reading from St Paul's Letter to the Romans and particularly on St Paul's conviction that nothing can "separate us from the love of Christ". God sent Jesus into the world "to save us" and "he did so with love", the Pope said.

"He gave his life for me. There is no greater love than to give your life for another person. Think about a mother – a mother's love, for example – who gives her life for her child, accompanying him or her through life in difficult moments." In the same way, the Pope said, "Jesus' love is near to us, and is not an abstract love". St Paul understood and experienced God's love as tender, the Pope added.

Jesus "loves even the worst sinners with this tenderness", the Pope said, encouraging people to think more about the Jesus who cries.

Feast of Our Lady of Loreto added to liturgical calendars

● Pope Francis has approved adding the December 10 feast of Our Lady of Loreto to all calendars and liturgical books for the celebration of the Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours.

Putting the celebration of the feast day on the universal calendar "will help all people, especially families, youth and religious to imitate the virtues of the perfect disciple of the Gospel, the Virgin Mother, who, in conceiving the head of the Church also accepted us as her own", the decree said. The decree was published last week by the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments.

According to tradition, the Holy House of Loreto



was carried by angels from Nazareth to the Italian hillside town of Loreto the night of December 9-10 in 1294 after making a three-year stop in Croatia.

Tradition holds that the small house, made of three stone walls, is the place where Mary was born, where she was visited by an angel and conceived Jesus through the Holy Spirit, and where the Holy Family later lived.

Vatican official 'firmly' rejects accusations of money tampering

● Nearly a month after private documents about a property deal involving the Vatican leaked to the press, a Vatican official has rejected accusations that he "played and tampered with the money of the poor".

In an interview with the Italian news agency ANSA last week, Italian Cardinal Giovanni Angelo Becciu, prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes, said the Peter's Pence collection "is not only for the Pope's charity but also for the sustenance of his pastoral ministry".

Accusing him of misusing the fund for investments instead of direct aid to the poor are "muddy accusations that I firmly and disdainfully reject. I have a clear conscience and I know that I have always acted in the interest of the Holy See and never in my personal interest. Those who know me closely can attest to that", Cardinal Becciu said.

According to its website, donations to Peter's Pence – a collection taken on or near June 29 every year in dioceses around the world – are used to "sustain the work of evangelisation and, at the same time, to help the poor in whatever way is possible".

Letters

Letter of the week

Women should take back control

Dear Editor, I note that Mary Kenny (17/10/19) states that, as she mentioned previously, she believes the Vatican should revisit *Humanae Vitae* as “we know so much more about fertility control now than in 1968”.

May I revisit this issue too and point out that previous to its publication and afterwards the Vatican had encouraged and promoted research into fertility and Na Pro and other natural methods are now available and are proving every bit as effective in controlling fertility as artificial contraception methods. It's hardly necessary to add that, as Na

Pro is a natural method of control, it does not involve the pills and potions which, like all medication, involve side effects, which receive little publicity in the media. This is hardly surprising considering the clout of the pharmaceutical industry. I wonder if natural family planning is the greatest secret of all today!

Regarding Ms Kenny's reference to the question, if contraception was made more available, would this result in a reduction in abortions?

Really no research is needed here as the evidence is there, as she quotes, to demonstrate that more use of

contraceptives always results in more abortions due to the failure rate. She mentioned the Netherlands having a low abortion rate but it should be pointed out that increased numbers of D&C's carried out there are not included as abortions.

It is time for women to take back control of their fertility and to avoid the very serious harm contraceptive can and do cause.

Perhaps Ms. Kenny would lead the campaign for this to happen.

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

Yoga and meditation can work hand-in-hand

Dear Editor, I refer to the article, 'Addressing Life's Anxieties through Christianity, not Yoga' by David Quinn (IC 27/10/19). In my experience yoga exercises and a quiet still type of meditation often go together.

The meditation repeatedly focuses on the breath, as in mindfulness, emanating from Buddhism, or on the sound of a sacred word as in Hinduism, to aid the closing down of mental

activity. Psychologically, it has been found that deliberately simplifying discursive activity opens up the sub-conscious. While yoga exercises can relax and open up the body, still meditations, as described, can open up the sub-conscious. And, as a friend of mine said, 'If you open yourself up you never know what might get in!'

The entry of evil spirits, in the context of movement

away from Christianity, seems to be the primary area of concern for Bishop Cullinan.

In keeping with the checks and balances of Christianity, St Teresa of Avila taught that Christians should not take it upon themselves to engage in ways that close down mental activity in prayer. She questions: "How is a person forgetful of self if he is so careful not to stir or even to

allow his intellect or desires to be stirred to a longing for the greater glory of God" (*Interior Castle, Mansion 4:3*).

I have found 'mindful' prayer and meditation, where the mind and heart focus on the humanity of Jesus Christ, our Savior, his life and words, to be relaxing.

*Yours etc.,
Eileen Gaughan,
Strandhill, Sligo.*

The 'pill' has done women no favours

Dear Editor, Just a comment on a recent column by Mary Kenny wrote (17/10/19). I would agree with her that everyone should revisit and read *Humanae Vitae* and see that St Paul VI was correct in what he wrote and foresaw what would happen in a contraceptive culture.

The contraceptive pill has done women no favours, the jury is in that there is a link between the pill and breast cancer. The pill is making women objects of pleasure instead of allowing them to be as God intended 'life-giving'. I've been a user of the Billings Method of Natural Family Planning and I teach it now.

I would invite women, students to revisit it, you'll be surprised at the natural wonder and beauty of the woman's body and her fertility.

*Yours etc.,
Teresa Deegan,
Finglas, Dublin 11.*



Institute should have been offered a church

Dear Editor, As a regular visitor to Co. Down I am pleased that the Institute of Christ the King has been allowed to open a church in Belfast but why oh why were they required to go into debt in order to buy a building from the Presbyterian Church?

Here in England the Institute have been given older Churches on the Mersey and in Preston and given them new life with active

involved congregations. That surely is what should have been done in Down and Connor. There is no shortage of closed or underused Catholic churches in Belfast and it is disgraceful that the Institute were not offered one.

*Yours etc.,
Neil Addison,
Crosby,
Liverpool.*

Bishop right to tackle some 'sacred cows'

Dear Editor, I would like to commend Bishop Cullinan of Waterford and Lismore for his willingness to speak up and tackle some sacred cows of modern Ireland.

His fearlessness in challenging the group-think that has taken hold in Ireland is sorely lacking in both our Church and political leadership.

Such voices offer refreshing change to the cosy

consensus in Ireland, where we have subscribed to the values of a secular culture.

With mental health issues and addiction on the rise among young people one might question whether this retraction from our Catholic faith has served us well?

*Yours etc.,
James Coleman,
Whitechurch,
Co. Cork.*

facebook community

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

Addressing life's anxieties through Christianity, not yoga

Bishop Phonsie is right. Teaching religion in our Catholic schools should just be that. Practicing anything else is a contradiction to Catholic teaching. If a parent doesn't want their child to have instruction in the Catholic Faith, school teachers provide other educational activities during religion class. – **Brendan Gallagher**

If only Irish bishops would copy their English and Welsh bishop colleagues and publish the regular diocesan inspection reports on each of their schools we would as parents be reassured about the depth of religious commitment of these our Catholic schools. – **Alan Whelan**

God bless this bishop for sticking with the truth and looking out for the spiritual wellbeing of his people. – **Colm Mistéil**

Thank God there are still bishops with common sense. – **Brendan Kennedy**

A balance between the yoga, mindfulness and Christianity? – **Noel Watson**

USA report: major drop in Christian affiliation over last decade

Seems we're always focused on the negatives. I remember how since I was a small child in the 1970's the talk has been of declining numbers. Maybe we should be grateful for whom we have and let our gratitude be a beacon to others. – **David Lohan**

This is what happens when the Gospel is messed with or watered down. – **Marc Aupiais**

As an Irish Catholic living in America, I can explain that the main reason that congregations have declined is because of the hijacking of the Church by rich right wing Catholics demanding Fox News and ignoring the Good News. Many churches in November get swamped with leaflets telling Catholics to vote for Republicans. – **Conor Donnelly**

State placing restrictions on religious overseas to come to Ireland

This is a approach that needs to be strongly resisted. Thanks for giving it much needed publicity. – **Maria Byrne**

If that is true that priests and religious are not that welcome, that is very sad. – **Margaret Rascoe**

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

Letters to the Editor

All letters should include the writer's full name, postal address and telephone numbers (day and evening). Letter writers may receive a subsequent telephone call from *The Irish Catholic* as part of our authentication process which does not amount to a commitment to publish.

We regret that we cannot give prior notice of a letter's publication date, acknowledge unpublished letters or discuss the

merits of letters. We do not publish pseudonyms or other formulae to conceal the writer's identity, such as "name and address with editor". We do not print letters addressed to someone else, open letters, or verse. Letters to the Editor should only be sent to *The Irish Catholic*, and not other publications. Letters should not exceed 300 words and may be shortened for space requirements.

Around the world



▲ **KENYA:** A young girl is vaccinated for HPV in Kisii. Some parents remain hesitant about having their teenage daughters participate in the government-sponsored vaccination programme against cervical cancer. Photos: CNS
 ▼ **MEXICO:** A woman dressed as 'Catrina' takes part in a parade ahead of Day of the Dead in Monterrey. Day of the Dead is a Mexican custom traditionally observed on November 1 and 2 to remember family and friends who have died.



IRAQ: A demonstrator affected by tear gas is carried during an anti-government protest in Baghdad. In the wake of deadly protests in Iraq, Pope Francis called on the people and their leaders to take the path of dialogue to find answers to their nation's problems.



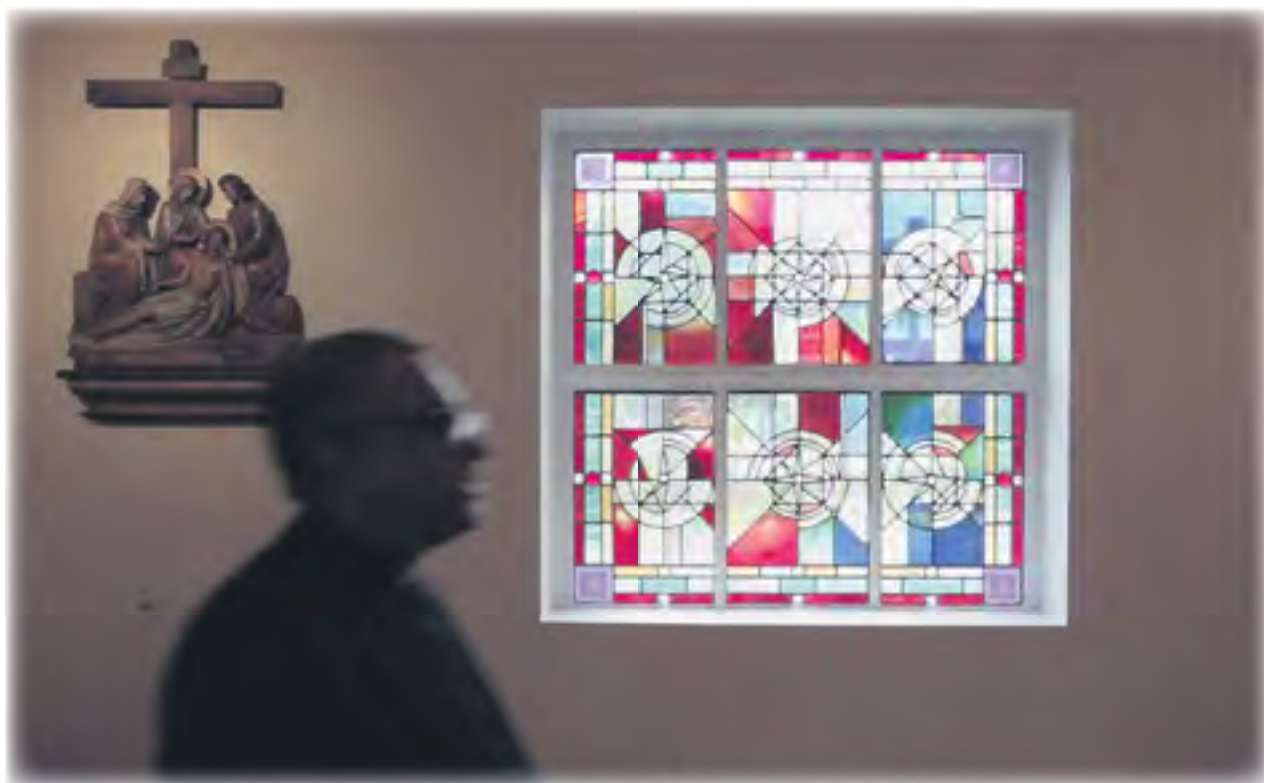
HONG KONG: A riot police officer fires a tear gas canister toward anti-government demonstrators in Hong Kong. As protests pitting pro-government groups against pro-democracy protesters continue, a bishop urged Catholics to pray for the realisation that all are humans and not "cockroaches or dogs".



USA: A fire-fighter douses water on a house after it was burned by the wind-driven Getty Fire outside Los Angeles. By October 29, the fire had burned more than 600 acres and was 5% contained, according to the Los Angeles Fire Department.



VATICAN: Pope Francis greets a young girl during his general audience in St Peter's Square.



Faith and dying

We tend to nurse a certain naïveté about what faith means in the face of death. The common notion among us as Christians is that if someone has a genuine faith she should be able to face death without fear or doubt.

The implication then of course is that having fear and doubt when one is dying is an indication of a weak faith. While it's true that many people with a strong faith do face death calmly and without fear, that's not always the case, nor necessarily the norm.

We can begin with Jesus. Surely he had real faith and yet, in the moments just before his death, he called out in both fear and doubt. His cry of anguish: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?", came from a genuine anguish that was not, as we sometimes piously postulate, uttered for divine effect, not really meant, but something for us to hear.

Moments before he died, Jesus suffered real fear and real doubt. Where was his faith? Well, that depends upon how we understand faith and the specific modality it can take on in our dying.

Response

In her famous study of the stages of dying, Elizabeth Kubler-Ross suggests there are five stages we undergo in the dying process: denial, anger, bargaining, depression, acceptance.

Our first response to receiving a terminal diagnosis is denial – 'this is not happening!' Then when we have to accept



Fr Rolheiser

www.ronrolheiser.com

that it is happening our reaction is anger – 'why me!' Eventually anger gives way to bargaining – 'how much time can I still draw out of this?' This is followed by depression and finally, when nothing serves us any longer, there's acceptance – 'I'm going to die'. This is all very true.

But in a deeply insightful book, *The Grace in Dying*, Kathleen Dowling Singh, basing her insights upon the experience of sitting at the bedside of many dying people, suggests there are additional stages: doubt, resignation and ecstasy. Those stages help shed light on how Jesus faced his death.

The night before he died, in Gethsemane, Jesus accepted his death, clearly. But that acceptance was not yet full resignation. That only took place the next day on the cross in a final surrender when, as the Gospels put it, he bowed his head and gave over his spirit.

And, just before that, he experienced an awful fear that what he had always believed in and taught about God was perhaps not so. Maybe the heavens were empty and maybe what we

deem as God's promises amount only to wishful thinking.

But, as we know, he didn't give into that doubt, but rather, inside of its darkness, gave himself over in trust. Jesus died in Faith – though not in what we often naively believe Faith to be. To die in Faith does not always mean that we die calmly, without fear and doubt.

Disciples

For instance, the renowned biblical scholar, Raymond E. Brown, commenting on the fear of death inside the community of the beloved disciple, writes: "The finality of death and the uncertainties it creates causes trembling among those who have spent their lives professing Christ. Indeed, among the small community of Johannine disciples, it was not unusual for people to confess that doubts had come into their minds as they encountered death."

"The Lazarus story is placed at the end of Jesus' public ministry in John to teach us that when confronted with the visible reality of the grave, all need

to hear and embrace the bold message that Jesus proclaimed: 'I am the life.'

"For John, no matter how often we renew our Faith, there is the supreme testing by death. Whether the death of a loved one or one's own death, it is the moment when one realises that it all depends on God. During our lives we have been able to shield ourselves from having to face this in a raw way. Confronted by death, mortality, all defenses fall away."

Peace

Sometimes people with a deep Faith face death in calm and peace. But sometimes they don't and the fear and doubt that threatens them then is not necessarily a sign of a weak or faltering faith. It can be the opposite, as we see in Jesus.

Inside a person of Faith, fear and doubt in the face of death is what the mystics call 'the dark night of the spirit', and this is what's going on inside that experience: the raw fear and doubt we are experiencing at that time make it impossible for us to mistake our own selves and our own life-force for God.

When we have to accept to die in trust inside of what seems like absolute negation and can only cry out in anguish to an apparent emptiness then it is no longer possible to confuse God with our own feelings and ego. In that, we experience the ultimate purification of soul.

We can have a deep Faith and still find ourselves with doubt and fear in the face of death. Just look at Jesus.

QUESTIONS of faith

Each week Colm Fitzpatrick looks at interesting and sometimes controversial questions people have about Catholicism...



Does the Church support polygamy?

The practice of marrying multiple spouses – also known as polygamy – is a hot topic at the moment. Not completely dissimilar to an open relationship where a couple agrees to having sexual relations with other people, polygamy takes this a step further and enshrines the relationship in marriage. There are three types of polygamy:

- Polygyny is when a man has multiple wives.
- Polyandry is when a woman has multiple husbands.
- Group marriage consists of a mixture of spouses from both sexes.

While western culture has become acclimatised to monogamous relationships, there is a growing movement calling for the acceptance of relationships with more than one partner. Catholics would balk at the idea, but some supporters of polygamy can point to the Bible to justify their actions. Throughout the Old Testament, key figures had multiple wives like Jacob or Solomon. If they can have more than one partner, why shouldn't people today also be afforded this?

Practice

It's true that the Bible does permit polygamy as evident in Genesis 16:1-4 where Abram's wife Sarai advises him to conceive with her maidservant Hagar.

While the practice was authorised during this particular point in history, most scholars hold that it was not the ideal, as reaffirmed by Jesus in the New Testament who condemned it.

"He who created them from the beginning made them male and female and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and his mother and will stick to his wife, and the two will be one flesh.'" (Mt 19:4-5)

During the period

between the Old and New Testament, there is evidence that polygamy was denounced and that Jewish sects refrained from the practice.

Critical

Given that the New Testament is critical of polygamy, why was it even permitted in the first place? Are there any similar teachings which follow this pattern? The obvious one is the Bible's attitude towards divorce. While it was allowed prior to Jesus' coming, he teaches that the practice was not originally intended by God.

“Throughout the Old Testament, key figures had multiple wives like Jacob or Solomon”

"Jesus replied, 'Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning'" (Mt 19:8).

It seems that Mosaic Law made particular concessions to satiate the weaknesses of human nature. By gradually revealing God's true intent of marriage, the Jewish people could slowly adjust to this vision. This means that God never approved of polygamy, but did allow it in a specific context for a specific people.

If we scan the New Testament, there are numerous references outlining the need for a monogamous marriage.

"Let each man have his own wife and each woman have her own husband." (1 Corinthians 7:2)

So while it's true that polygamy is found in the Bible, it doesn't mean that the book or the Church supports it.

Got a question or comment?
Email colm@irishcatholic.ie

TVRadio

Brendan O'Regan



Joe's tale of reclamation, not recrimination

Some TV programmes are nasty, some are forgettable fluff, some are enjoyable entertainment and some are hugely important.

I'd put **Children of the Troubles** (RTÉ1, Monday) in that latter category. Presented by Joe Duffy, assisted by journalist Freya Clements, it outlined the stories of the children who died as a result of 'the Troubles'. It was the saddest programme I've seen in a long time, one that can teach empathy and even save lives in the future.

We learned that of the 186 children (under 16s) who died violently, 18 were killed in their own homes, 106 died in Belfast, 17 in Derry and 13 died outside the North (including in the Republic – in Mullaghmore and the Dublin and Monaghan bombings). Several unborn children died too when their mothers were killed, and significantly they too were listed and remembered.

The interviews with surviving relatives were quite affecting – the emotions were still raw and the sadness still deep. Family members spoke of "perished potential", of "real lives cut short", of "a human space that's no longer occupied". The small details were particularly touching – the teeth marks on a toy belonging to a baby killed while in a pram, the pictures of the bereaved hanging



Joe Duffy presented *Children of the Troubles* (RTÉ1).

prominently in the survivors' houses, the young teen killed in the Omagh bombing who was in town to open his first bank account.

Not recrimination

Joe Duffy described the project (there's a book also) as "an act of reclamation, recognition and remembrance but not of recrimination". Like his work on the children who died in 1916, this is a fine contribution to Irish history, and with the peace process rather shaky in the North, it's a timely reminder that we surely don't want to risk going back to those dark days.

I was also very moved lis-

tening to **Today With Seán O'Rourke** (RTE Radio 1) on Tuesday of last week when we heard from Christine Ryan, mother of Michael who died in a plane crash in Ethiopia. His remains had finally been identified and she was in Frankfurt waiting to accompany the remains home to Ireland for burial. It was a desperately sad story but she handled it with dignity and determination, obviously proud of Michael who was involved in humanitarian work with the UN.

Not unrelated, the tragedy of the 39 migrants who were found dead in a container in Essex rumbled on last week as

the investigations proceeded apace.

I was struck by the Vietnamese Catholic priests who figured so large in the coverage on **Sky News**. One priest in London and his church were acting as a support to the Vietnamese community, while a priest back in Vietnam gave some context as to why these young people were seeking a better life abroad. The stories of worried and bereaved parents back home were heart-breaking, and it was uncomfortable that so much about this human trafficking seemed to lead back to Ireland.

I was also uncomfortable with President Trump's gloating over the death of ISIS leader Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi. On **The Pat Kenny Show** (Newstalk) on Tuesday we heard of a tweet from Trump back when Obama announced the death of Osama Bin Laden



Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi.

PICK OF THE WEEK

CATHOLIC LIVES

EWTN, Sunday, November 10, 7am, also Wednesday, 5.30pm, Thursdays (night) 12.30am

David Kerr discusses faith and moral issues in modern Ireland with renowned Irish journalist and social commentator John Waters.

NEW! UNPLANNED – THE 40 DAYS FOR LIFE STORY
EWTN, Sunday, November 10, 2.30pm, also Monday 10pm

A documentary on the real-life pivotal figures depicted in the film *Unplanned*, who played a key role in the conversion of former Planned Parenthood employee Abby Johnston.

UNREPORTED WORLD: SCHOOLS UNDER SIEGE
Channel 4, Friday, November 15, 7.30pm

Meeting pupils, parents and teachers trying to survive at a primary school caught in a turf war in Cape Town, between lawless, drug-dealing gangs.

in a similar operation. At the time, Trump had criticised Obama for taking credit and said it was all down to the military.

Of course this terrorist leader deserved to be brought to justice and official statements said that the aim was to capture or kill. However, gloating is never the right option when a human being dies, and as for that corny stuff about the military dog ...so cringe worthy!

Finally, there was a striking story on **Sunday Worship** (RTÉ1) last weekend. It was a Mass to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the new Church in St Joseph's Church Urlaur, Co. Mayo. Fr Vincent Sherlock deftly linked the story of Zaccheus with that

of "a descendant of Zaccheus' people", Nathaniel Goldstein of the *New York Times*, who helped fundraise for the new church in 1969 at the behest of enclosed Dominican Sister Mary (Margaret Cafferkey), a native of the area who had emigrated 50 years earlier.

Goldstein had attended the opening in '69, saying the world would be a better place with more places of worship. Fr Sherlock urged people to "come down" like Zaccheus, to respect, reverence and attend their own community places of workshop.

What an uplifting story.

✉ boregan@hotmail.com,
boreganmedia

Music

Pat O'Kelly



National Symphony Orchestra steady as the ground moves

There are plans afoot to move the National Symphony Orchestra away from RTÉ and bring it under the aegis of the National Concert Hall. While the proposed transfer may be causing anxieties to the musicians involved, these concerns are certainly not affecting the standard of their playing. With the 2019/20 season in full swing, the concerts I have attended have been particularly satisfying.

The series has seen Spaniard Jaime Martín on the podium for the first time as principal conductor. He chose a single work for his debut – Mahler's sprawling *3rd Symphony*. The NSO, joined by mezzo Jennifer Johnston, RTÉ's Cór na nÓg and the ladies of its Philhar-



Jaime Martín.

monic Choir, rose to the occasion superbly under Maestro Martín's controlled direction.

Intriguingly, the conductor placed the cellos and double

basses stage right, between the first violins and violas, and had the second violins repositioned to where the cellos usually sit. The change gave a more coherent balance to the intricacies of Mahler's string writing. It will be interesting to see if Señor Martín continues this arrangement.

If I consider the long opening movement brash and banal with its military marches and fanfares, it is not without inherent delicacy and refinement. Later Jennifer Johnston revealed the serenity lying in Mahler's setting of the 'Midnight Song' from Nietzsche's *Also sprach Zarathustra*.

The penultimate movement also had an element of angelic purity where the com-

poser's inspiration came from the folk poems and music of the anthology *Des Knaben Wunderhorn* (Youths' Magic Horn). Here and elsewhere there was marvellous expression in the NSO's performance.

The season so far had two concerts under chief guest conductor Nathalie Stutzmann. The first included Richard Strauss' tone poem *Also sprach Zarathustra*, which, like Mahler, has its origins in Nietzsche. The score was used in Stanley Kubrick's 1968 classic 2001 – a *Space Odyssey*. Again like Mahler, the music may be a little uncouth at times but is not without compensatory beauty. In a beguiling account of Beethoven's *4th Piano Concerto*, Madame

Stutzmann's soloist was Moscow-born Boris Giltburg.

Her soloist the following week was 18-year old Stockholm-born violinist Daniel Lozakovich. His spellbinding account of Bruch's *G minor Concerto* transported the audience into another world by the sheer beauty of his tone and positively musical phrasing.

Among other international visitors came conductors Leonard Slatkin, John Wilson and Eugene Tzigane. Slatkin had with him Chinese pianist Xiayin Wang for Barber's *Concerto* of 1962. Finding the lyrical sensitivity in the central Canzone, Ms Wang's outer movements bristled with panache.

Russian-born Alena Baeva

joined John Wilson for Schumann's rarely heard, and rather dull, *Violin Concerto*. "In order to safeguard Schumann's reputation", both Frau Schumann and Brahms decided to suppress the piece. Despite Ms Baeva's committed dedication, I felt they had the right idea. Wilson's uplifting interpretation of Dvorák's *8th Symphony* was much more to my liking.

The only work in Eugene Tzigane's concert was Mahler *9th Symphony*. Again, it found the NSO in excellent form in music ranging from the idyllic to the tempestuous. The concluding adagio had the strings hauntingly elegiac as it wafted into the silent beyond.



BookReviews

Peter Costello



The people's priest, bar none

It Has to be Said
by Brian D'Arcy
(Sliabh Bán Productions,
€24.00/£22.00)

Peter Costello

Next month, Fr Brian D'Arcy will celebrate a half century in the priesthood. This book is a second tranche of his life story, at the beginning of which he thanks his Passionist brethren for all their understanding since he entered their order in 1962, understanding and sympathy from others being things he could not always count on in the course of that long career.

He was seen as a 'Fr Trendy', often said with affectionate malice in the usual Dublin way by some, though with genuine dislike by others. Yet was it not better to 'be on trend' as we say now, than be what some would have called a 'Monsignor Stuck-in-the-mud'.

Everyone in Ireland is familiar with the changes in life and attitude over the course of that half century. But Fr Brian, largely thanks to his weekly column in the colourful *Sunday World*, over some 43 years managed to reach parts of the nation other priests would not go near. As with the gospel model of the Lord himself, his words of truth mixed with those the public saw as scoundrels and sinners.

Need

His column answered a need among people that the Church didn't even know existed, let alone could assuage.

Perhaps, like priests in the pre-Gregorian church, Brian D'Arcy lived closer to the people than was later allowed – in a sense that distance



between pastor and people has widened as the active clergy have become fewer. Perhaps his delight in football and pop music helped out with all that.

This is a very honest book, as was to be expected from a man who speaks as he sees.

It contains some deeply affecting chapters about the incidents of clerical sexual abuse as a boy and a student that damaged his life. But these are an essential part of the story he has to tell.

Aside from those episodes his account of his treatment, perhaps another form of abuse, by the Congregation of the Faith will leave most of his readers quite dismayed.

He makes a distinction between the priests and the clergy – the clergy being those ambitious professionals anxious to rise. He records that when he was a clerical student the class was told that President Kennedy had been assassinated, the professor's reaction was: "Oh really. Now

let's go back to discussing why Good Friday actually fell on Holy Thursday..." The class continued as if nothing had happened.

Now he realises that their training was uninfluenced by the real world. Indeed though they were being trained as social leaders they were forbidden to read newspapers.

"In many respects that's what's happening in our Church today. Rome comes up with an array of wonderful answers to questions no one is asking. We can still live in an ecclesiastical world as if it is the only world. President Kennedy is dead. Oh, really?"

“He had among his readers a congregation as large as a diocese, but few if any bishops have the same contact with their people as he does with his”

Brian D'Arcy is a lively writer, and he also shares the things he has enjoyed and that made his life what it was. But there were clergy who did understand him – like a parish priest in his native Fermanagh, who would not have him on the altar. Fr Brian would never say Mass, he roared, in "my church".

This book is a great read. Brian D'Arcy's skill as a writer carries it forward, with easy transitions from the serious to



Fr Brian D'Arcy finds solace in a moment of private prayer.

the amusing and entertaining.

He is now conscious of the passing years, but this he says is a book that had to be written. He was accused of giving scandal by those who thought the Church had to be protected even to the extent of condoning what Pope Francis

later frankly called "crimes".

He had among his readers a congregation as large as a diocese, but few if any bishops have the same contact with their people as he does with his.

Anyone seeking to understand what had happened

over the half century of his priesthood should read this book. He raises all the issues which need to be faced, and which are all too easily avoided.

But then what Brian D'Arcy has to say had to be said. It also has to be heard.

Scenes from vanished Irelands

View Ireland: Collecting Photography
Curated by Anne Hodge, Curator of Prints and Drawings; and Sarah McAuliffe, Curatorial Fellow, NGI
Hugh Lane Room, NGI, Merrion Square West, Dublin 2, runs to 2 February 2020

Peter Costello

The first image that meets the eye of the visitor to this select show of Irish photographs is one of Evelyn Hofer's remarkable images from *Dublin: a Portrait* (1967) in which her most evocative images were well matched by a fine text by V. S. Pritchett – to my mind one of the finest photo books ever produced on Dublin.

The National Gallery has only just started to collect photographs, and this new departure

is to be warmly welcomed. In a small case some early samples of different kinds of photo images are displayed.

But then the show leaps to the 1950s.

“What is here will be for many people an eye-opening, mind-altering experience”

This means that more than a century of photo images are passed over: but time and careful curating will solve that. When one thinks that after the 1880s when Kodaks were introduced, millions of images have been made in Ireland, one realises the task.

Though one looks in vain for Cartier-Bresson and Lee Miller (they are on the agenda

for future shows), this is a very varied selection of master photographers. It focuses, however, on the now vanished Dublin of the two post-war decades, a city of ruins, demolition, old faces and small children, the working men and girls having emigrated, very much a country for old people (contrary to what Yeats claimed). I was delighted though to see those remarkable local pictures by Dennis Dinneen of Macroom were found a place.

One photographer, Leipzig-born Lutz Dille, comments on his images: "I prefer to photograph on the street. That's where I think people are most themselves, where they are at their most honest."

This idea pervades many of the other images too, but it is often a bleak honesty.

The show does not neglect that diaspora: we have 'Francis Bacon' by Bill Brandt, a haunting image made on the bleak height of Primrose Hill in north London, and a moving image of an Irish dance hall in New York, that might be in Offaly.

“I prefer to photograph on the street. That's where I think people are most themselves”

Space precludes a roll call of the artists in the show, but what is here will be for many people an eye-opening, mind-altering experience, a brief taste of what will clearly become a remarkable addition to the national collections.



Masterson's Lane (Children and Washing), 1952-1953, by Nevill Johnson (1911-1999), NGI 2019.19. Photo: © RTE Archives

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.

Ireland's Eye.



A socially revealing Victorian murder

The Kirwan Murder Case, 1852: a glimpse of the Irish Protestant middle class in the mid-nineteenth century

By Suzanne Leeson
(Maynooth Studies in Local History/Four Courts Press, Dublin, €9.95)

Ian d'Alton

The Maynooth Studies in Local History is a prodigious series of scholarly works (this is number 141) focusing on the local as illuminating wider themes.

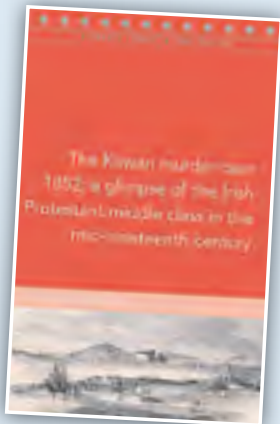
It is a respected source, not least because of the rigorous academic standards applied to its contributors – a feature often lacking in local histories. Not here.

This short book is excellently-written, sharply-observed and wide-ranging, a rattling example of good 'narrative' history.

It's a murder-mystery but, as the author points out, it is not the study's purpose 'to finally reveal the truth...' but rather to see it as a window into the middle-class mores and moral viewpoints of post-Famine Protestant Dublin – a city in which Protestants accounted for 30% of the population, and a significant majority of its professional and business classes.

Analysis

Its analysis covers such as the place of religion in Ireland, the nature of transportation, the consciousness by government of public opinion, the role of women – and the salaciousness of society.



Sandymount, the relationship had lasted 12 years, and there were no less than seven children.

The case thus threw up a tangled web of marriage, mistress and religion. Sarah was encouraged by Kirwan to exercise her Catholicism; but it seems that Kenny converted to Anglicanism during her relationship with him, causing a rift with her siblings.

“He was sentenced to death, but the sentence was commuted to transportation for life”

The question of who converted to what, and when, was discussed at length, and confusingly, in the newspapers – it wasn't even clear that Kirwan had perhaps been a 'cradle Catholic'.

Leeson ably shows how Protestantism, proselytism and anti-popery was a central issue in mid-19th Century Ireland, colouring judgements, reputational and even legal – the religious composition of the jury that tried him was endlessly pored over.

In the words of the *Dublin Evening Mail* the case itself, had become “an ecclesiastical quarrel”. Or maybe, to be more accurate, a proxy for the embedded sectarian undertow that swirled around Irish society in this period.

William Kirwan, a Protestant, was an artist and medical illustrator, living in Upper Merrion Street. He owned houses in the city and some land in Longford.

He earned substantial sums as a medical draughtsman, and had social as well as professional connections with the city's medical elite, then substantially Protestant.

Kirwan was married to a Catholic woman, Sarah Crowe; and in 1852 he was convicted of her murder on Ireland's Eye island, largely on circumstantial and rather dodgy medical evidence. He was sentenced to death, but the sentence was commuted to transportation for life. He spent 27 years in Bermuda, unsuccessfully petitioning for release (Isaac Butt was his lawyer) until, in 1879, he finally returned to Ireland.

The case attracted national and international attention, not least because it was revealed that Kirwan had an 'alternative family' with one Theresa Kenny – he had set her up in salubrious

Mainly About Books

By the books editor

The secret words from Oxyrhynchus

In the winter of 1897 two English explorers found in the municipal rubbish heaps of an ancient city called Oxyrhynchus (120 miles south of Cairo) a fragment of a papyrus, dating from the 2nd or 3rd Century. The text written on it was one hitherto unknown.

The single leaf contained parts of seven short sentences of Christ. Each began “Jesus says...” These were to be added to, and became known as “the Secret Sayings of Jesus”.

The fifth saying (or *logion*) ran: “Wherever there are two, they are not without God; wherever there is one alone, I say I am with him. Raise the stone, and there you will find me; cleave the wood, and there I am.”

The explorers were Oxford academics, Bernard P. Grenfell and his friend Arthur S. Hunt. This expedition in 1896-1897 was their second for the Egyptian Exploration Society. Oxyrhynchus, then deserted, at one time had housed 10,000 monks and 12,000 nuns. Such a place, the two scholars thought, might well conceal ancient Christian manuscripts. And so it turned out.

At first they were unsuccessful, but then they change to the rubbish heaps, 70 feet high, which laced across the ruins. Their attack on the heaps began on January 11, 1897. A few days later Hunt, in sorting through what had been found, came upon a fragment with the word *karpheos*, ‘mote’, on it. This recalled to him the famous passages in Mathew and Luke.

Further sorting revealed seven sayings on a single leaf, each one beginning “Jesus saith”. Three were identical with New Testament passages, one was unreadable, and the last three were entirely unknown – including the logia quoted above.

Debates

These passages, copied about 200 AD, moved back the Christian record then known by about a century and a half. At one stroke the 300 years separating Christ's career on earth from a surviving account was cut in half.

The quick publication of these finds by Grenfell and Hunt opened debates which continue. Later finds, such as those in the caves of the Dead Sea, would further change perspectives on early Christianity.

As can be imagined, an article in a popular American monthly by Grenfell, ‘The Oldest Record of Christ's Life’,

caused great excitement. What the early Christians believed became, and remains, a complicated issue.

For their first publication the pair selected 158 texts in fairly good condition. But they had brought back some 1,200 documents. These filled 25 packing cases, weighing two tons. The publication of the fragments is still not complete today.

This famous classic find has been suddenly spotlighted by a strange affair involving an American Museum of the Bible, sponsored by a millionaire store owner and an Oxford academic of American origin who was dismissed from his post as general editor of the Oxyrhynchus papyri this summer.

“Further sorting revealed seven sayings on a single leaf, each one beginning ‘Jesus saith’”

The museum announced that some early New Testament fragments were to be returned to Oxford University and the Egyptian Exploration Society. The role of the academic, Dirk Obbink, is under investigation.

These matters have yet to come to court, as they undoubtedly will. But at the heart of the matter is the overwhelming desire of the American Evangelical movement to obtain ‘proof the Bible is true’, in a very literal sense.

To do this they are prepared to come to terms with shadowy figures who deal with stolen, or illegally traded materials, and when these are not available, to forge them.

This has been going on for centuries.

Arthur Hunt himself wrote in 1926 an observation that is pertinent: “Might it be more satisfactory, perhaps in the long run more economical, to go to the source and to dig papyri up for one's self instead of buying them at second or third hand and thereby encouraging illicit traffic.”

What he said at the end of his career is true today. Believers in the truth of the Bible cannot act like pirates. If they wish to help establish the truth they must do it through legal channels, and through accredited institutions, not through dubious underhand dealings, which sometimes also involve corrupt officials as well as criminal networks in Israel and Egypt.

God's truth deserves nothing less, many might think.



Grenfell and Hunt at work.

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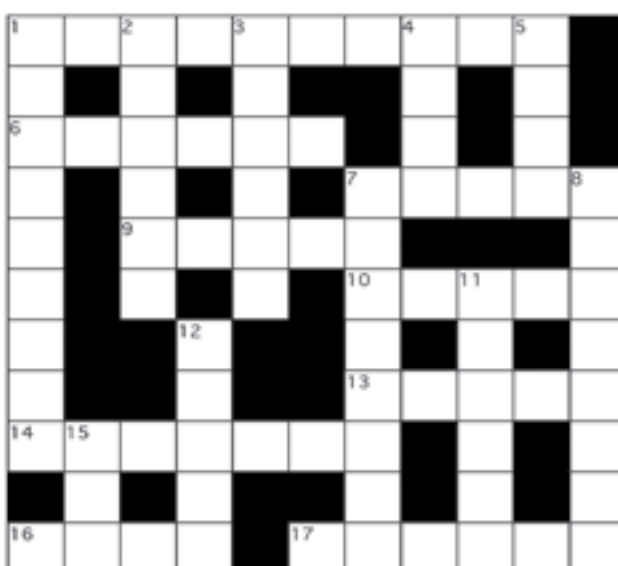
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Leisure time

Crossword Junior

Gordius 307



ACROSS

- 1 People eating Chinese food often use these instead of a knife and fork (10)
 6 You hope to win a prize in this (6)
 7 Get onto your feet (5)
 9 Not dear (5)
 10 Bird with a red breast (5)
 13 People breathe and smell through these (5)
 14 Politeness and attention we should show to other people (7)
 16 Mix black and white to get this colour (4)
 17 This huge hole might have been made by a crashing meteorite (6)

DOWN

- 1 This person works with wood (9)
 2 People work here, a place with desks, phones, etc (6)
 3 You get this medal for finishing second (6)
 4 "Put on your _____, it's cold outside!" (4)
 5 Twirl (4)
 7 He or she runs in the fastest races (8)
 8 Tyrannosaurus Rex, for example (8)
 11 You might put things in this at the supermarket (6)
 12 Glad (5)
 15 You listen with this (3)

SOLUTIONS, OCTOBER 31

GORDIUS No. 427

Across – 1 Tab 3 God bless you 8 Sacred 9 Increase 10 Meets
 11 Palma 13 Toast 15 Certain 16 Dolores 20 Swill 21 Steam
 23 Yokel 24 Lemonade 25 Bushed 26 Wine-tasting 27 Way

Down – 1 Test matches 2 Bachelor 3 Guess 4 Brigham Young
 5 Strap 6 Yearly 7 Use 12 All Souls' Day 13 Toils 14 Troll
 17 Rickshaw 18 Filbert 19 Sermon 22 Manet 24 Low

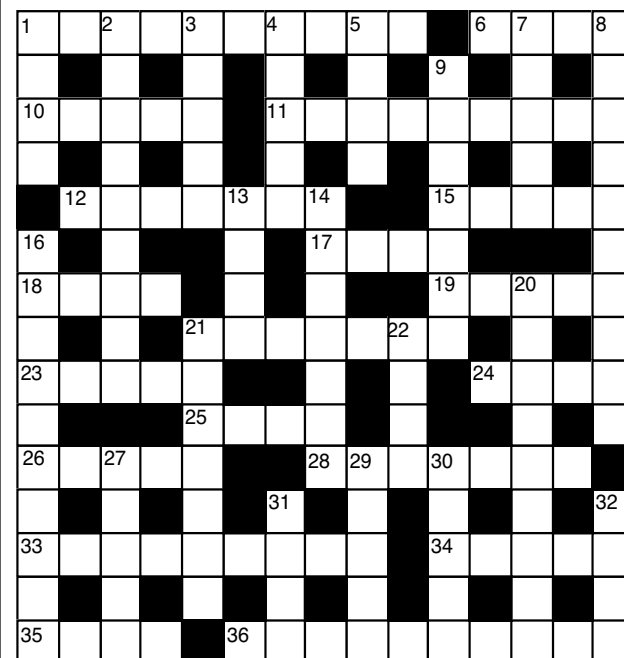
CHILDREN'S No. 306

Across – 1 California 6 Oars 7 Kitten 9 Dresses 13 Under
 14 Strong 15 Apron 16 Soldier 17 Isle 18 Feather

Down – 1 Cloud 2 Largest 3 Oak 4 Note 5 Amen 8 Astonish
 10 Sugar 11 Address 12 Printer 14 Stone

Crossword

Gordius 428



ACROSS

- 1 Being so heavenly, they might make Lars change (10)
 6 Pain (4)
 10 Left at sea to ring an Iberian city (5)
 11 Do felons surf on this during a lawless period? (5,4)
 12 Ballroom dance (7)
 15 Group of eight (5)
 17 He will shortly identify an infernal location (4)
 18 Ceremonial procedure (4)
 19 Is VAT collected differently from this point of view? (5)
 21 Unfavourable commercial poetry (7)
 23 Female fox (5)
 24 Little Abraham, the novice, had no grandparents (4)
 25 Fever (4)
 26 Blacksmiths are always banging on about it! (5)
 28 The shoulder blade (7)
 33 This describes someone who has died without making a will (9)
 34 Girl's name written inside the siren engine (5)
 35 Certain (4)
 36 Baptism? Then round to the Californian capital! (10)

DOWN

- 1 European mountain range (4)
 2 Use a motor? Good French levy, then - good for the environment, anyway (6,3)
 3 Up in the air (5)
 4 Type of lizard (5)
 5 Den takes the novice to Melody (4)
 7 Map, graph (5)
 8 At the end of the day, the valley tune has been arranged (10)
 9 Turn (7)
 13 Highway (4)
 14 Burglars or shoplifters, perhaps (7)
 16 Base river I divert to create priestly prayer books (10)
 20 Unstable kind of officer (9)
 21 Examine scientifically (7)
 22 Couch (4)
 27 One who elects to redistribute the trove (5)
 29 It's plain that the vehicle contains the French (5)
 30 Should Ma rip out a Trojan king? (5)
 31 The All Blacks 'greeting' to an opposing team (4)
 32 Pose like this for Latin American money (4)

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Sudoku Corner

307

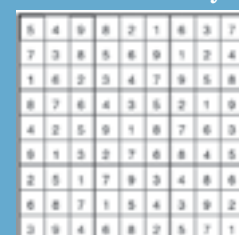
Easy



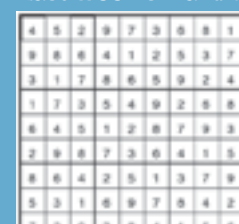
Hard



Last week's Easy 306



Last week's Hard 306



Notebook

Fr Bernard Healy



When a city bleeds for its innocent victims of war

THE APPROACH OF November in Rome is usually marked by additional bus services to the city's cemeteries. Although religious practice rates in Rome are probably no more encouraging than in Ireland, the custom of the cemetery visit during November is still strong.

The community of the Pontifical Irish College prays for past staff, students and friends of the College buried in its vault at the Campo Verano cemetery [pictured right] every November. In addition to the College vault there are a number of other graves and tombs that I visit each year. One of them is the Jesuit tomb where a number of my former professors have been laid to rest. A friend once observed that reading the names on the grave niches was like wandering through a library with all these theologians stacked on top of each other like so many piles of books.

Control

The cemetery itself has an interesting history. Traditionally Roman burials happened in the vaults of the many city churches. However, between 1808 and 1814, Rome fell under the control of Napoleon Bonaparte as French



armies overran the Papal States. One of the reforms the French insisted upon was the construction of a monumental cemetery outside the city walls. The policy was partially aimed at public health and partly about secularising the process of burial.

Notwithstanding this,

when Rome returned to Papal government, the cemetery was retained and it was eventually consecrated in 1835, with both the Papal and the Italian governments expanding and developing it over the coming decades.

As with everything in Rome, there is a connection to the distant

● A grave I always visit in the Campo Verano is that of an Irishman, Bartholomew 'Bartle' Teeling, who died in Rome in 1921 as a 'Papal Chamberlain', an honour given to him by the Pope for his service to the Church in various capacities. Born in Kells in 1848, he was amongst those Irishmen who fought for the Pope prior to the Fall of Rome in 1870 when the last remains of the Papal States were captured by the troops of the Italian King Victor Emmanuel II. Even though the Church may have benefited from the Popes losing their temporal power, next year's 150th anniversary of this event would be a good time to remember those Catholics from Ireland who did their bit on the battlefield in defence of the Pope and his interests.

● One of the first phrases I learned in Italian almost 20 years ago was "*in bocca al lupo!*" It's how you wish someone good luck before an exam and means "in the mouth of the wolf!" The traditional response, "*crepi!*", "May the wolf die!" explains the meaning of the phrase.

The idea is of a dangerous situation like a hunter confronting the jaws of a ravenous wolf, and we hope the wolf dies. However, Italian friends tell me that it's now fashionable to reply "*viva il lupo!*", "Long live the wolf!". It's no longer acceptable to wish the death of a wolf.

Whilst it's good that we have a greater ecological sensibility, I can't help but think the Italian language is losing out. Just as the language of scripture is full of military images so as to remind us that the Christian life is a genuine spiritual battle, the older version of the phrase does better justice to the challenges life throws at us and our desire to overcome them.

past. The cemetery is located next to the ancient Basilica of St Laurence-outside-the-Walls, with its catacombs dating to the early Christian era. Both the Basilica and the Verano cemetery were damaged in July 1943 during the first significant allied bombing of the city. That bombing was aimed at nearby railway lines, but led to thousands of civilian casualties.

Consolation

Ignoring the usual protocol for leaving the Vatican, the normally remote Pope Pius XII rushed to the area afterwards to personally console the people and distribute alms.

The Roman people did not miss the fact that the Pope was closer to

them than Mussolini or the Italian King.

The Pope discovered that his own family's grave was destroyed in the bombing too. When he returned to the Vatican, his housekeeper observed that he had bloodied his white cassock. "That's not my blood," he replied, "that is the blood of Rome."



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