Provo turned preacher: Shane O'Doherty's journey to God - Pages 14-15

The Irish Catholic



Real-life marriages are challenging Page 25

REACHING **Welcoming new Catholics to the Fait**

Thursday, April 27, 2017

€1.80 (Stg £1.50)

1 The-Irish-Catholic-Newspaper

@IrishCathNews

www.irishcatholic.ie

Abortion poll to overshadow Pope's visit

Fine Gael to push ahead on referendum

Michael Kelly

The visit of Pope Francis for the World Meeting of Families is set to be overshadowed by the Government's likely push for a referendum on abortion next year, senior Church sources have indicated to The Irish Catholic.

Social Protection Minister Leo Varadkar - the man tipped by many pundits to replace Enda Kenny as the next Taoiseach – said this week he expected a referendum on abortion to be held next year. Tánaiste Frances Fitzgerald also threw her weight behind a poll to diminish the right to life of the unborn in the constitution.

Senior Church sources have told this paper that the referendum moves will overshadow preparations for the World Meeting of Families which is due to be held in Dublin in August next year - an event at which Pope Francis has said he plans to attend.

However, the Vatican will now

keep the papal visit under review due to the push for a referendum. Senior officials at the Holy See would be reluctant to endorse a trip that could put Pope Francis in the awkward position of having to meet a Taoiseach who had just pushed for wider access to abor-

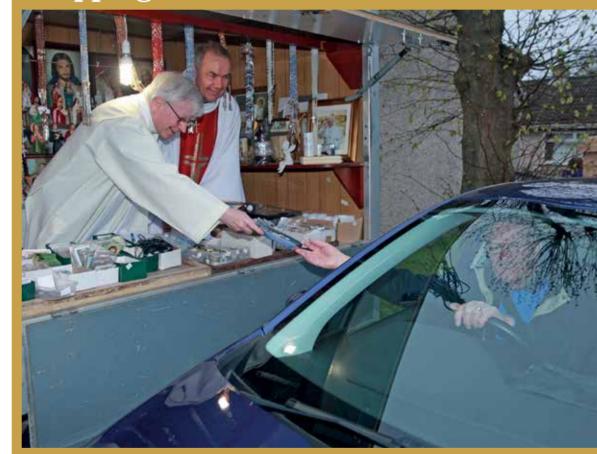
Papal visit

There would also be a concern that a papal visit could be overshadowed by political controversy around the contentious issue. At the weekend the Citizens' Assembly, the body established by Fine Gael to make proposals on abortion, endorsed a controversial plan that would see the abortion of unborn children permitted on request of the mother up to 12 weeks.

These proposals will now be discussed by an Oireachtas committee made up of members of the various

» Continued on Page 2

Shopping at 'drive-thru' mission stall



Fr Johnny Doherty CSsR hands a Mission Cross to Brian Fitzsimons at a drive-thru mission stall outside the Church of St Nicholas Ardglass where the Redemptorist Fathers from Clonard Monastery are conducting a mission in the parish of Dunsford and Ardglass until Sunday, April 30. Looking on is parish priest, Fr Gerry McCloskey. Photo: Bill Smyth

BREDA O'BRIEN

Respect for life is vanishing in Ireland



SACRAMENTS IN SCHOOL

Role of sacramental prep in classrooms



DAVID QUINN

Nasty nuns – a convenient caricature



SHRINES OF FRANCE 30 AUGUST | 7 NIGHTS



- Visting Lourdes, Ars, Paray-le-Monial, Nevers, Lisieux & Paris
- Visiting the Shrine of the Sacred Heart in Paray-le-Monial
- Full Religious Programme & led by Spiritual Director





Joe Walsh Tours www.joewalshtours.ie info@joewalshtours.ie f 201 241 0822

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

2 | Comment

The Irish Catholic, April 27, 2017

Inside this week

Mary Kenny

Nuns and their habits

Page 5



Citizens' Assembly

Advice from unrepresentative body

Page 10



John Allen

Tackling religious persecution

Page 19



Managing Editor: Michael Kelly, editor@irishcatholic.ie Features Editor: Mags Gargan, mags@irishcatholic.ie

Chief Reporter: Greg Daly, greg@irishcatholic.ie

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

Newsroom: news@irishcatholic.ie 01 6874029

Books Editor: Peter Costello, books@irishcatholic.ie

Layout: Declan Moroney

Advertising: advertising@irishcatholic.ie 01 6874094

Accounts: Elaine McNamee, elaine@irishcatholic.ie 01 6874020

Magnificat: magnificat@irishcatholic.ie 01 6874024

Shop: shop@irishcatholic.ie

Managing Director: Garry O'Sullivan

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

Place an Advert

Phone 01 687 4024 or advertising@irishcatholic.ie

The long shadow of a potential referendum

he Government has given strong indications that it will hold a referendum on abortion next year. Truth be told, we've known for some time that politicians are minded to hold a referendum that would threaten the right to life of unborn children currently enshrined in the Irish Constitution. There has been a campaign, lavishly funded from abroad by foreign billionaires such as George Soros, for some time to convince politicians that the time is right for abortion.

Elaborate ploy

The Citizens' Assembly – a very odd thing in a representative democracy where citizens elect their representatives to a parliament – was really just an elaborate ploy to give the Government plausible deniability around the issue of abortion. "We're only doing what the people want" will be the cry of politicians who support abortion as they march through the Dáil chamber to vote for a referendum to be held.

The poll – if it does indeed go ahead – will cast a shadow over the World Meeting of Families and the expected visit of Pope Francis.

Editor's Comment Michael Kelly

The Church will have a responsibility to mount a vigorous campaign against abortion – anything less would be an act of cowardice."

Senior figures have told this newspaper this week that the visit might even be in doubt. They are reluctant to see the Pontiff catapulted into a difficult situation where he may have to have tea and buns with a Taoiseach who has just moved Heaven and Earth to try to reduce the constitutional protection now enjoyed by the unborn.

Responsibility

The Church will have a responsibility to mount a vigorous campaign against abortion – anything less would be an act of cowardice. But, at the same time, the Church will be trying to call attention to the themes of the World Meeting of Families. Amidst the noise of any referendum campaign, it will be hard for the Church to keep focused on the event.

One bishop and his dog



Bishop Fintan Monahan of Killaloe with his dog Barra, pictured after the bishop completed the Connemara International Marathon on Sunday, raising over €600 for Trócaire.

Abortion poll to overshadow Pope's visit

» Continued from Page 1

Primate of All-Ireland Archbishop Eamon Martin has already said that in the event of a referendum to remove or diminish the right to life of the unborn guaranteed by the Eighth Amendment to the constitution, the Church here will mount a vigorous campaign to defend that right. He also said he expected that if Pope Francis does visit Ireland, he will use the occasion to highlight the Church's fundamental belief that abortion is wrong and that society has the responsibility to cherish both the mother and baby during pregnancy.



Joe Walsh Tours



Joe Walsh Tours www.joewalshtours.ie info@joewalshtours.ie

1 01 241 0860

1.0. 052 | T.A. 0689 | ATOL 5163

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

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

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



prolife

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





know
by writing
to:
Letters to the
Editor,
The Irish
Catholic,

The Irish
Catholic,
23 Merrion
Square,
Dublin 2,
or email:
letters@
irishcatholic.

News | 3 The Irish Catholic, April 27, 2017

Parish soup kitchen answers Pope's plea for homeless

Mags Gargan

A Belfast church is set to open a soup kitchen service for the city's homeless, in response to Pope Francis' call to reach out to those in need with concrete acts of mercy.

St Patrick's Church in Donegall Street hosted a Mass of Hope for Belfast's homeless community on Wednesday and will begin distributing food from the church's Door of Mercy next week.

The initiative came about through a conversation between Fr Dominic McGrattan CC, Chaplain to the Mater Hospital and community worker and nurse, Paul McCusker.

Acts of mercy

"Paul suggested that the parish host a Mass of Hope for the homeless and the charities who serve them," Fr McGrattan told The Irish Catholic. "We discussed whether there is something more we could do, and conscious that we hosted Door of Mercy for the diocese last year, we thought it appropriate to have a legacy, that the door should remain open with concrete acts of mercy.'

The parish has received pledges of support from community workers and volunteers who will distribute hot drinks and sandwiches from the Door of Mercy.

66 A lot of support has been pledged since the idea was first mooted and we would be hopeful we could offer a bigger level of service"

Tesco has also been in contact offering food as have a number of individual donors, and the Knights of St Columbanus have offered financial support for the project.

The soup kitchen service starts next week, provisionally for two evenings to "see how it goes and the level of interest". "A lot of support has been pledged since the idea was first mooted and we would be hopeful we could offer a bigger level of service," Fr McGrattan said.

St Patrick's, founded in 1815, is one of Belfast's oldest and most historic city-centre churches. It played host to an historic royal visit by the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall in 2015 and hosted the Door of Mercy for the Diocese of Down and Connor in 2016.



Grantchester

James Norton, star of TV's Grantchester, has criticised the trend of faith being portrayed negatively on television as "exorcisms and cults".

The actor, who plays crimebusting cleric Rev. Canon Sidney Chambers in the series which is about to begin its third run, said the "idea of faith isn't really explored any more on television; now the only real representations of it are either comic or sinister with exorcisms and weird culty things".

The 31-year-old said he was proud to play the role of the sleuthing vicar. "Sidney has a pure and simple faith. He doesn't make it funny or dark in any twisted way," he said.

"He's a hero and has a faith and there are lots of good people out there who are the same, so I'm proud to play him."

The Yorkshire-born actor, touted to be the next James Bond, was educated at a Catholic boarding school where he caught the acting bug after playing Joseph in a school nativity play. He studied theology at Cambridge before pursuing acting at

Small film parts in An Education, Rush and Belle followed before he found fame in TV dramas Happy

JOE WALSH TOURS PILGRIMAGES



FATIMA 100th Anniversary Pilgrimage

WEEKLY 7 NIGHTS

- Daily breakfast, lunch & dinner
- Fully **Escorted**

NATIONAL DOMINICAN Pilgrimage to Fatima

24 AUGUST 7 NIGHTS

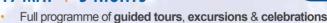
- Daily breakfast, lunch & dinner
- Fully **Escorted**

PILGRIMAGE TO MALTA

9 OCTOBER | 7 NIGHTS

- Half board accommodation in a 4 star resort
- Fully planned itinerary
- Follow the footsteps of St.Paul tour around the island

MEDJUGORJE



Guesthouse accommodation on half board basis

ALBA ADRIATICA & SAN GIOVANNI RO

22 MAY | 7 NIGHTS

- 3 nights' Alba Adriatica | 3 nights' San Giovanni Rotondo | 1 night Benevento
- Daily breakfast & evening meal

5 NIGHTS

- 3 nights' Rome | 2 nights' Assisi
- Half board in Assisi and B&B in Rome



E: info@joewalshtours.ie | www.joewalshtours.ie | 01 241 0800 | 143, Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2 | 🗗 Joe Walsh Tours Pilgrimages 💆 @JWTPilgrimages Bonded and licensed as a Tour Operator and Travel Agent by the Commission for Aviation Regulation in Ireland and the Civil Aviation Authority in the UK. T.O. 052 | T.A. 0689 | ATOL 5163 | ABTOT 5332 | E&OE

Warm reactions to Limerick's laity taking the lead

Greg Daly

Limerick's diocesan day of lay-led liturgies has been a big success, according to early reports.

The morning of Tuesday, April 25, saw lay-led liturgies of the word in every Limerick parish, while diocesan clergy were away on in-service formation.

"There were about 150 to 200 people in the cathedral," Noirín Lynch of the Diocesan Pastoral Centre told *The Irish Catholic*, saying that reactions had been "really positive".

"At the end of the service there was a spontaneous round of applause," she said, continuing, "Mostly people were saying that it was pleasant and made sense, and there was a real sense of being with the people who were leading it"

In a letter read out in Limerick churches last week. Bishop Brendan Leahy explained that the lay-led day's roots lay in last year's diocesan synod and in long-term plans to be ready for times when priests might not be available. He had "specifically asked", he said, that Communion not be part of the liturgies, in line with normal Church practice throughout the world, in an attempt at avoiding confusion, and to help remind people that the Church has many forms of public prayer.

"People regretted that priests weren't there and they couldn't receive Communion, which was a natural loneliness," said Ms Lynch, after discussions with parishioners from six parishes on Tuesday morning, "but there was real positivity about it."

Noting how some parishes had described the liturgies as "gorgeous" and "very prayerful", she said the parishioners who had been trained to lead the services "had put a lot of time and thought into it, so the liturgy was good, and the prayers of the faithful were not just generic prayers but were prepared from the Gospel so there was a sense of relevance and prayerfulness". Although attendance at the services was lower than would have been expected at daily Masses, Ms Lynch said this had been expected at this early stage. The liturgy leaders, who have already had three training days, as

reported by *The Irish Catholic* last month, will have a further training day in early May.

Evening Masses took place in St John's Cathedral, Newcastlewest, and Kilmallock, as well as in some religious-run churches.

Praise for Pope's decision to wear Lough Derg martyr stole

Staff Reporter

Irish priests have welcomed Pope Francis' decision to celebrate a Mass for modern martyrs while wearing the stole of a martyred former student of the Irish College in Rome.

"I think it's very significant," Fr Gerard Magee, chaplain at Queen's University Belfast, said of the Pope's decision to wear Fr Ragheed Ganni's stole at the Mass celebrated last weekend in Rome's Basilica of St Bartholomew.

The Iraqi Fr Ganni, who was murdered in

Mosul in 2007, lived in the Irish College between 1996 and 2003, and spent successive summers working at the Lough Derg pilgrimage centre.

"Obviously there's a sense of communion

with those who are persecuted for continuing to witness openly and courageously to their Faith," Fr Magee, who worked with Fr Ganni at Lough Derg said to *The Irish Catholic* about the Pope's decision, noting how "Ragheed had been very committed in his ministry [in Iraq], completely centred on the Catholic Christian community, and grouping that community around the Eucharist and the Catholic life in his country."

in his country."

Fr Dick Mohan, parish priest of Clones, Co. Monaghan, who was Prior at Lough Derg when Fr Ganni worked there, said Fr Ganni's commitment to people through the Eucharist was the reason he had been killed, adding, "I'm very happy to hear that Francis is aware of Ragheed, because many people think that he is without doubt a modern martyr, a saint."

Pedal Paddle Pilgrimage



Parish 'appalled' at bomb left at school

The local community is "appalled" that a bomb was left at the gates of Holy Cross Primary School in Belfast, the local priest has said.

Fr Eugene McCarthy CP, Rector of Holy Cross Parish in Ardoyne, told *The Irish* Catholic the incident "left a bad taste and a sense of distrust".

It is thought that the bomb was dumped at the gates of the school on Sunday after those transporting it on foot – believed to be members of the organisation known as the 'IRA' or 'New IRA' – suspected they were under surveillance. About 20 residents were evacuated from their homes and a number of controlled explosions were carried out.

"They are trying to drag us back to the dark old days," Fr McCarthy said. "The community is appalled. It was very reckless to leave it on a public footpath directly in front of a school. If the children had been around or even if there weren't, it was quite close to houses."



Sr Emmanuel Maillard from Medjugorje will visit Ireland to promote the messages of Our Lady of Medjugorje and the New Evangelisation, amongst other things. Come hear her speak at one of the following events.

EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10 AT 8PM
Holy Family Centre
Ball's Grove,Drogheda
Co. Louth

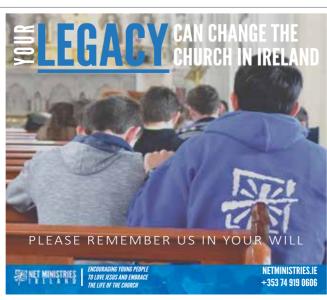
FRIDAY, MAY 12 AT 7PM
St Brigid's Church
Blanchardstown

THURSDAY, MAY 11 AT 7PM
St Mary's Parish Church
Killyclogher,Omagh
Co. Tyrone

Saturday, May 13 AT 3PM
St Patrick's Training
College
Drumcondra, Dublin

SATURDAY, MAY 13 AT 7.15PM

The Church of The Sacred Heart Yellow Walls Malahide,Dublin





Nuns and their habits

encountered a nun in a Dublin shopping mall last week - she identified me through a mutual acquaintance of schooldays. It took me a few minutes to clock that she was a religious sister, as she was dressed in civvies - indeed, very well-dressed in an attractive pink padded jacket, which is this season's stvle.

I realise that most nuns nowadays wear ordinary clothes, but still, I asked her - iust out of curiosity - why a nun shouldn't wear some symbol of her office.

Witness

"I don't want to be spat at on the street," she replied. Unable to resist a debating point, I asked: "But aren't Christians supposed to bear witness? Even at the cost of being despised?" After all, Christians in the Middle East are being killed for their

No, sister wasn't having any of it. "I bear witness to my faith by living it," she said. Anyway, she added, she was deeply affected



by Archbishop Diarmuid Martin's Good Friday address, when he said that the Catholic Church had been so harsh and judgemental towards single mothers, gay and lesbian people, and orphans.

More debating points. Was the Catholic Church any more harsh and judgemental than society at large? The British state imprisoned more than 50,000 men for homosexual acts, and the British scientist Alan Turing who broke the German 'Enigma' code - took his own life apparently because he could not live with the

By contrast, gay men like Oscar Wilde, Aubrey Beardsley and Roger Casement converted to Catholicism since it seemed more forgiving.

The conversation petered out, as a Dublin shopping mall is hardly a proper location to conduct a discourse which involves a complicated matrix of history. And if sister feels responsible for the way in which Irish nuns ran orphanages and laundries, and in many cases, failed to meet the Christian ideal or decent standards, then she is surely committing to her own sense of faith and values, which would include atonement. And it's not my

Uniform

But I went off to the shops pondering the question of 'bearing witness'. It's something that Evangelical Christians are keen on: you must stand up for your faith, be unafraid.

place to question that.

Uniforms, and dress codes, are also moot points. Would we have the same respect for the law if judges and advocates turned up to court in jeans and t-shirts?

Nevertheless, a religious sister is surely entitled to a bit of quiet and relaxation in her public life, and the habits nuns were obliged to wear in times gone by were uncomfortable and impractical. (Even if there's a certain nostalgia in popular entertainment - half the appeal of Call the Midwife is the nuns' habits.)

Sometimes people just have to do as they think



Another dissolution of the monasteries?

The respected economist and writer David McWilliams asked on a recent radio programme - why is it that nuns' estates grow rich? The context, obviously, was the controversy over the new National Maternity Hospital's link with St Vincent's and the Sisters of Charity.

One might say that Henry VIII asked a similar question. "Why are all these monasteries so rich?" The answer is surprisingly obvious. A community of celibate persons live together in an

austere fashion: all their labours go back into the community. They purchase nothing for themselves, have no heirs and thus the community benefits over generations from their collective endeavours. And, as they tend the sick and run schools, families sometimes endow them with gifts.

We know what Henry VIII did next. Many a belted earl of great estates owes his own wealth to Henry's dissolution of the monasteries.



Archbishop Eamon Martin D.D. Primate of all Ireland, Archbishop of Armagh Patron of the World Apostolate of Fatima, Ireland



Fr John Harris O.P. Doctor of Sacred Theology



Professor William A. Thomas Of the Pontifical Marian Academy, Director of the Pope Saint John Paul II Institute of Marian Studies, President of the Mariological Society of Ireland

International Fatima Conference

Fatima and the Triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge and the way that will lead you to God!

1917-2017 Celebrating The Jubilee Centenary

Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe, Galway

Friday 19th (6.45pm-9.45pm) and Saturday 20th May (8.45am-6.30pm)

Featuring EWTN Speakers:



Mr. Colin B. Donovan, STL Vice President for Theology, **EWTN Global Catholic**



Fr. Joseph M. Wolfe MFVA Franciscan Missionary of the Eternal Word - EWTN



Entrance €50 – Book Online or Pay on Registration. Registration opens in Shearwater Hotel Conference Centre on Friday (from 4pm)

and on Saturday (from 8am). To pre-register Online, go to www.fatimaJPII.org or Phone 091-846162 If you also require accommodation, this can be booked separately by calling the Shearwater Hotel on 090-9630400 (Special Rates for delegates)



Bishop John Kirby of the Clonfert Diocese will



Professor Father Ailbe O Reilly ORC. Professor of Theology, Newman College



Donal Anthony Foley, Marian author and Secretary of the World Apostolate of Fatima, England

With the Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady from Fatima, and the 1st Class Relics of Saint John Paul II.

Archbishop Eamon Martin will be the main celebrant and homilist at noon Mass (on the 20th)

Sponsored by the World Apostolate of Fatima, (Ireland); Newman College Ireland; The Marian Institute (USA); The Saint Pope John Paul II Institute of Marian Studies (Fatima); The Pontifical Marian Academy (Vatican); The Mariological Society of Ireland; Drummond Hotel, Ballykelly, Derry; The Diocese of Clonfert.

Includes; Investiture with the Scapular, a Plenary Indulgence to Delegates, Consecration, Benediction, Holy Mass, Rosary.









6 | News The Irish Catholic, April 27, 2017

Prenups could invalidate farmers' marriages – warning

Greg Daly

A leading canon lawyer has warned that prenuptial agreements could invalidate marriages, as farmers have indicated their support for such agreements being introduced into Irish law.

Research from Macra na Feirme conducted at livestock marts over recent weeks has found that 72% of surveyed farmers believe prenuptial agreements should have a place in Irish law, with only 15% of those surveyed believing the agreements should not be legal.

Settlements

The finding follows several years in which farmers have expressed concerns about family farms being split up in divorce settlements.

Fr Paul Churchill, judicial vicar of the Dublin Regional Marriage Tribunal and President of the Canon Law Society of Great Britain and Ireland, has, however, cautioned that marriages cannot be made on conditional grounds.

"The problem with that is that the Church both east and west considers any conditions laid down pertaining to the future as having an invalidating effect on the consent for marriage," he told The Irish Catholic, continuing, "Marriage really should be unconditional."

Adding that he believes the subject is a controversial one among civil lawyers, he said that he had found that couples planning to marry tend not to want such agreements.

"From my experience of

talking to people, I think that many young people would actively be concerned if somebody was tagging some kind of condition on their consent to marriage," he said, observing that couples want to be able to say their marriage vows "on the basis of trust in the other person".

"The great problem of pre-marriage agreements is a building in the seed of distrust between the couples, and therefore undermining the very foundation under which many people go forward to marriage, which is

one of total trust in the person who is their soulmate and partner for life," he said.

The survey followed a Government decision last summer to set aside plans to place prenuptial agreements cerns

Of the over 1,000 respondents, 67% of those aged over 65 supported prenuptial agreements having a legal standing, as did 83% of farmers aged under 34.

LauraLynn

families hit

on a legal footing due to constitutional and other con-

> St Mary's, in Chapel Lane in the city centre, will undergo both external and internal restoration between May and August, but will be open as normal for the majority of that In a message to parishioners in the

Belfast's oldest church

closed for repairs The oldest Catholic church

in Belfast is to be closed for

three weeks in the summer for

renovation work in excess of

£300,000

weekly bulletin, the parish administrator, Fr James Boyle, wrote: "The external work will not cause any disruption to the daily operation of the church, however, the internal redecoration will result in the main Church being closed for a period which will not exceed three weeks."

Plan to make St Patrick's Day a UK holiday

St Patrick's Day should be a national holiday in the UK, the leader of the British Labour Party has said.

In a proposal ahead of the UK's general election on June 8, Jeremy Corbyn has proposed that the entire UK should have four new bank holidays, these being on the patron saints' days of the UK's four constituent parts.

This would mean that St Patrick's Day would join St David's Day (March 1), St George's Day (April 23) and St Andrew's Day (November 30), as UK-wide holidays intended to draw together England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

McGuinness praised in New York as man of peace

Martin McGuinness was "a man of history, a man of destiny, a man of peace". according to Msgr Robert Ritchie, who celebrated the late Deputy First Minister's month's mind Mass on Monday in St Patrick's Cathedral. New York.

Delivering a eulogy at the service, in which prayers were offered for the souls of the 1916 leaders and others, former Senator George Mitchell said Mr McGuinness's leadership had been a "major factor" in "the peace that endures today", and that through his life he had been "strengthened by his family and his Faith".



Living with terrorism threat is new reality - Paris chaplain

Mags Gargan

An Irish priest working in Paris has said that living under the threat of terrorist attacks has become the new reality for the people of France.

Fr Dwayne Gavin, chaplain to the Irish Community in Paris, told The Irish Catholic that there was a sense that the latest terrorist shooting was "inevitable" and "it's going to

Unfortunately this is the reality we live in Paris," he said. "It is a very different world. This is the new reality for all the people of Europe, but particularly in France.

Security checks are hard to accept but necessary, and there is a more noticeable presence of armed police and soldiers. It's part and parcel of daily life."

Fr Gavin said there is still tension in Paris but a sense

of solidarity. "The French are resilient and tend to get on with their lives. But there is an awareness that despite the normality there is a certain level of danger.'

Fair City.

A police officer was killed and two others wounded in a shooting on Paris' famed Champs Elysees last Thursday night. The gunman was killed after opening fire on police officers and the so-called Islamic State group has claimed responsibility.

Create miracles long after you are gone

Please consider leaving the gift of sight in your Will. Can you think of a better legacy than saving a child's sight?

Leave the world a brighter place

To find out more about leaving a legacy contact

01 663 7666

legacy@sightsavers.ie

Sightsavers

Derry bishops walk for reconciliation

The two Bishops of Derry are undertaking a 30-mile walk this week in honour of the city's patron, St Columba, and to promote reconciliation within their community.

Bishop Donal McKeown and Coff Bishop Ken Good begin their journey today at St Columba's birthplace at Gartan in Co. Donegal and their destination is St Augustine's Church in Derry, which is believed to be the site of a sixth century monastery founded by St Columba.

'We are eager to heighten the profile of faith traditions in our dioceses and hope our shared witness to the Gospel will encourage reconciliation in our community," a joint statement said.



Brother Richard Hendrick OFM

1. A Day Of Meditation and Reflection

Br Richard Hendrick OFM - €25 4CD

2. The Four Directions of Christian Contemplation

Br Richard Hendrick OFM

- €25 4CD

P&P 3 Euro each Buy both for 50 with p&p free

> Contact: Éist, Tel: 0872789390 / eist@eircom.net / www.eist.ie

CD's also available in Veritas outlets (special offer does not apply) P+P 2 euro on any size order to IRL Cheap rate for world wide postage

TT'S TIME TO RETURN YOUR TROCATRE BOX



Families struggling to survive famine, drought, hurricanes and constant flooding still need your help. But with your support, you can be the difference that matters. Please return your Trócaire Box today.

DONATE NOW

- **(3)** 1850 408 408
- Visit www.trocaire.org
- Return your box at your local parish

trōcaire

Charity Reg. No: 20009601

8 | Comment | The Irish Catholic, April 27, 2017



Respect for life is rapidly vanishing in Ireland

t has been a bad few weeks for those of us who value life from conception to natural death. First, there was a huge backlash against the National Maternity Hospital being situated in the grounds of St Vincent's Hospital.

The perceived problem was that there might be any Catholic influence whatsoever in the place, particularly when it came to abortion.

The level of vitriol against the Sisters of Charity was shocking. Most of it was based on the fact the Irish Sisters of Charity once ran Magdalene Laundries, and secondly, the allegation that they had not paid what they had promised in the Residential Redress Scheme.

While the suffering of innocent young women who were sent to Magdalen Laundries should never be forgotten, the public conveniently ignores the role that families and society in general played in maintaining a narrow and punitive approach to sexual morality.

Culpability

Not to mention the State's culpability, ably outlined in the submission, State involvement in the Magdalene Laundries. This submission was written by Dr James Smith of Boston College and Maeve O'Rourke. It was submitted on behalf of the Justice for Magdalenes group to the Inter-departmental Committee investigating State involvement with the Magdalene Laundries.

It describes how the State was involved in sending women and girls to the Magdalene Laundries and ensuring that they remained there – in most cases, without any statutory basis for doing so.

Yet the preferred option of the public is to continue to vilify the sisters who were involved, but to hand over the new National Maternity Hospital to the same State which failed the women of



Pro Life Campaign volunteers pictured outside the Citizens' Assembly on Saturday afternoon in Malahide, Co. Dublin. Photo: John McElroy

the Magdalene Laundries in multiple ways.

David McConnell, professor emeritus of genetics at Trinity College, made a statement on the Marian Finucane radio show about St Vincent's, which I found quite chilling.

The Assembly voted to allow abortion on every possible ground, and in case there might be any confusion, voted a final time to allow abortion for any reason whatsoever up to 12 weeks gestation"

He said that we have to look further down the road, perhaps in 10 years' time.

when there might a facility dedicated to abortion in the maternity hospital. How would the Sisters of Charity cope with that?

He was perhaps more prescient than he realised. The day before he mused aloud about abortion facilities, the Citizens' Assembly had voted not to repeal the Eighth Amendment, but instead to turn it into a positive provision, mandating the Government to legislate for abortion.

Unrepresentative

The afternoon after he spoke, the Assembly voted to allow abortion on every possible ground, and in case there might be any confusion, voted a final time to allow abortion for any reason whatsoever up to 12 weeks gestation, with a slightly smaller number voting for abortion for any reason up to 22 weeks.

A provision originally inserted into the

Constitution to protect both the life of the mother and the unborn baby will, if the Citizens' Assembly has its way, instead mandate the taking of unborn life for virtually any reason that you can imagine. Down Syndrome, spina bifida, cleft palate, economic reasons – all will be acceptable motives to end an innocent life.

It is so easy to manipulate public opinion these days"

There is no way that these radical proposals represent the will of the Irish people. Either the Citizens' Assembly was unrepresentative from the very beginning, or the balance of speakers and presenters was such that they were persuaded to take a radical stance on abortion provision.

Resolve

But we cannot rely on our elected representatives to protect unborn life, either, as the only political party that is pro-life, Renua, has no elected representatives.

I only attended the Citizens' Assembly on one occasion, when Maria Steen of the Iona Institute was speaking, and I was on a large panel with her in order to answer any questions that arose from the Assembly.

The pro-life representatives received most of the questions, the majority of which came from a pro-choice perspective. I had a feeling of foreboding, which has been amply confirmed by the Assembly's outcome.

The Irish people are not ready to legislate for abortion on demand. But for how long will that resolve

It is so easy to manipulate public opinion

these days. The Irish Sisters of Charity were vilified for not paying their share of the Residential Redress Scheme but the *Daily Mail* revealed that it had been paid in full. By foregoing legal fees that were due to them under the Residential Redress agreement, the sisters had more than repaid any outstanding monies.

People also conveniently forgot all the good the religious did, and do. There would not be any St Vincent's Hospital if the sisters had not worked for without salaries for generations.

But the sisters cannot in conscience provide land where abortions will be carried out. The clamour may have one good outcome – it may allow the sisters give courageous witness to the value of unborn life by withdrawing from the deal. That kind of courage is badly needed in an Ireland where respect for life is vanishing.

The Irish Catholic, April 27, 2017

Advertorial 9

PILGRIMAGE ~ FAITH RENEWAL ~ SPIRITUAL RETREATS ~ RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ~ CULTURE & HISTORY



The pilgrimage season at Knock Shrine gets underway this Sunday 30th April and is predicted to be another busy year as pilgrims, visiting tour groups and passersby will descend on the world-famous Shrine, which continues to attract over a million visitors each year.

Pilgrimage to Ireland's National Marian Shrine

Whether making a pilgrimage for spiritual reasons, as a challenge or to experience its unique culture and beauty, Knock Shrine is the perfect place to escape the demands of everyday life, immerse yourself in the peaceful surrounds and experience the tranquillity of this unique place.

Made famous by the Apparition of 1879, Knock could easily claim to have one of the most interesting histories of any place in Ireland. This rich and fascinating history and has been shaped by a number of remarkable people, not least of all the fifteen people that witnesses the Apparition on that dark, wet August evening. Early pilgrims coming to Knock came predominantly in search of healing - physical, spiritual and emotional, which was well documented by Archdeacon Cavanagh who was Parish Priest at the time



and kept a detailed 'Diary of Cures' from 1879-1880.

New York Pilgrimage

The highlight of this year's pilgrimage season will be the historic trip to New York for the reinterment of the remains of John Curry, one of the last surviving witnesses to the Apparition at Knock. The pilgrimage will depart on Monday 8th May from Ireland West Airport

What Pilgrims said...

"Sacred space"

I have visited Knock Shrine on several occassions. My most recent visit was January 2017. It is a perfect place to visit for some time out from the mad world around us. Peace and tranquillity prevails within the grounds. A perfect spot to meditate and pray. I found the time I spent in the Apparition church in the quite of the evening very special.

"An Experience of Calm & Peace, A Refreshing Escape From Today's World"

An entire day could easily be spent at this national shrine! The Basilica alone is beautiful beyond words... regardless of which side of the amazing altar you are on. The grounds are impeccable and display flowers with brilliant colour.

"Outstanding"

Totally amazing, beautiful and very peaceful it's surroundings where out off this world and feeling surrounding this Shrine was amazing.

"A place of peace and reconciliation"

I was born about 6 miles away and visited this July for a very beautiful ceremony of rededication of the Basilica - I felt very proud of the Basilica and Shrine grounds and facilities that have had recent renovations - it's all just great. It has one of the largest mosaics I've ever seen above the main entrance of the Basilica, which shows the apparition of the Blessed Mother with St. Joseph, St. John and the lamb, in August 1879. 15 witnesses saw the apparition and gave sworn testimonies to a commission of inquiry. That and the many miraculous cures there over the years gives Knock status as one of the world's leading pilgrimage places. You can't help but feel at peace there whatever your religion or beliefs.

with Aer Lingus private charter direct to JFK. Requiem Mass will be celebrated by Cardinal Dolan in Old St Patrick's Cathedral on May 13th.

This is a historic and symbolic pilgrimage as it will give recognition to John Curry while also being the first pil-grimage from Knock to the States. Knock Shrine has welcomed pilgrimages from the Archdiocese of New York in 2015, led by Cardinal Dolan and Boston last year which was led by Cardinal O'Malley. Those travelling on the pilgrimage will have the opportunity to be a part of a very memorable and special trip, including a Mass of thanks in St Patrick's New Cathedral the day after the Requiem Mass.

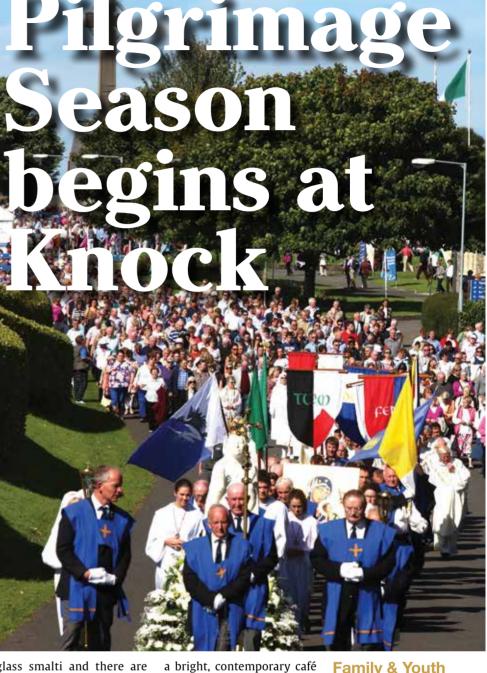
Faith Events

Pilgrims visiting the Shrine can take part in a number of ceremonies throughout the pilgrimage season, including Stations of the Cross, Anointing of the Sick and Exposition. Healing and Reconciliation are often an important part of the pilgrimage journey with many pilgrims taking the opportunity to attend confessions or guided prayer or simply take time to walk the beautiful meandering pathways around the Shrine grounds. The religious and spiritual Bookshop at Knock Shrine has a wide range of books for faith development as well as resources on a wide range of subjects for learning and deepening of faith. The bookshop is open daily and stocks the most upto-date titles on religious life. Orders can be placed online and shipped to anywhere in

Art & Culture

There are five chapels in the Shrine grounds, each with its own unique architectural style and special, peaceful atmosphere. The Basilica houses one of the most aweinspiring pieces of artwork, the magnificent 'Apparition Mosaic', which measures 14mx14m and is one of the largest single flat pieces of religious mosaic of its kind in Europe, if not the world.

The mosaic is made predominantly from Venetian



glass smalti and there are approximately 1.5 million individual pieces in the complete work. The Mosaic was made in Spillembergo, Italy and was hand crafted by skilled mosaic artisans. The beautiful Parish Church contains a number of stunning stained glass windows, including one situated above the main alter which was made by Harry Clarke studio's and depicts the 'Woman from Samaria at the Well'.

A visit to the award-winning Knock Museum is a must for anyone visiting the Shrine as it contextualises the history of Knock from a social, political and religious perspective. Visitors can also take time to browse through the testimonies of the fifteen official witnesses to the Apparition as well as the 'Diary of Cures' penned by Archdeacon Cavanagh. The Museum visit can be followed by some time-out at Café Le Chéile,

a bright, contemporary café overlooking the Basilica and beautiful Shrine gardens.

National Novena

In addition to the busy programme of ceremonies, there will be number of events including the 'Quiet Days for Busy People' day retreat on Saturday 29th April and 'Resting in the Arms of God' with Deirdre Ní Chinnéide, will take place on Saturday 6th May.

As many as 150,000 people descend on Knock Shrine over nine days from August 14th to 23rd for the National Novena to Our Lady of Knock. There are daily ceremonies and talks on various social and religious topics and beautiful candlelit processions each night, attended by thousands.

The theme for this year's Novena is 'Living Life to Full' and will include a number of guest speakers, daily workshops and plenty of opportunity for interaction and discussion.

Family & Youth Events

The 'HUB – Hear, Understand, Believe' is a summer programme for young people visiting Knock Shrine and includes daily programmes, a kids club, drop-in centre and summer camps. It is a bright, welcome and happy space for young people to spend time and facilitates parents who want to attend Mass or have time alone to pray. The HUB also run summer camps and volunteer programmes throughout the year.

Throughout the year, the Family Centre offers a great range of family-friendly events to enrich, assist and encourage families to live contentedly and well in a world that is always challenging and often difficult. The Family Focus Week takes place in July and includes a practical and varied programme of workshop and talk to support families.

Visitors with limited mobility can avail of the complimentary shuttle service which is operative everyday throughout the summer months. Those who are unable to come to Knock in person can watch the 12 noon and 3pm ceremonies live from the Basilica at www.knockshrine.ie/watch, place a petition or light a candle online for a loved one. Knock Shrine Friends association cards are also available online and can be sent anywhere in the world

Further information on Mass times, ceremonies and upcoming events as well as all of the other services at the Shrine can be found at www.knockshrine.ie

10 | Feature

Unrepresentative advice from an unrepresentative body

f there remained any plausible claim that Ireland's so-called 'Citizens' Assembly' is a genuinely representative body, rather than, as Senator Michael McDowell put it last year "a ridiculous sham ... convened on the basis of a polling company's random sample of persons", it was demolished last weekend when the tiny gathering reached its conclusions.

Grappling with the question of whether Ireland should allow abortion for any reason, 64% of the citizens who voted agreed, most of these believing there should be limitations only as to gestational age. In practical terms, then, almost two thirds of those assembled voted in favour of an abortion regime akin to that which applies – in effect,

if not in law – in Britain. The assembly voted this way despite opinion polls consistently indicating that the Irish at large do not want a British-style

€19.99

FREE P&P (Ireland)

Greg Daly considers the recommendations of Ireland's latest 'Citizens' Assembly'



abortion regime. Just two months ago, for instance, an Ipsos-MRBI poll for The Irish Times revealed that while a substantial majority of Irish voters have difficulties with Ireland's constitutional protections for the unborn, only 28% of voters believe abortion should be legal for any reason whatsoever.

Restraints

That same poll also found that just 28% of voters would like the regulation of abortion in Ireland to be the responsibility of the Oireachtas alone, without specific constitu-

PRE-ORDER NOW

MARK PATRICK HEDERMAN'S NEW BOOK

tional restraints: the assembly last weekend, however, saw 51 of its 92 members -55% of those gathered - voting to propose that Bunreacht na hÉireann be amended to give the Oireachtas such power.

The differences are staggering, and carry on down through specific proposals considered by the opinion poll and by the assembly, with perhaps the most striking difference relating to external factors that are thought to be

behind so many abortions. Ipsos-MRBI found, for example, that 50% of those



due to age or circumstances, with just 28% of people – that number again - believing this should be allowed.

When asked to consider a similar question, however should abortion be lawful for "socio-economic reasons" – a massive 72% of the citizens at the assembly agreed, with only 28% demurring.

Polls such as the Ipsos-MRBI one use large sample sizes and are conducted in line with established statistical principles; they can, as a general rule, be trusted to give a pretty decent snapshot of the national mood within a reasonably narrow margin of error. The notion that 64% of people might now want abortion to be allowed for any reason whatsoever, or that 72% might say that abortions should be legal on grounds of difficult financial circumstances is risible.

Opinion

It is, in short, profoundly difficult to believe that the assembly's radically different conclusions are in any way reflective of popular opinion on abortion.

The question then becomes whether the Citizens' Assembly has ever been anything other than a glorified quango, whether stark differences between its attitudes and those of the nation at large are mere coincidence, or whether the assembly's findings reflect the views of a cadre of citizens that has been uniquely well-educated on the issues.

The latter possibility, at any rate, seems implausible. As Breda O'Brien observes elsewhere in this paper, on the one occasion when pro-life groups addressed

assembly has long had a prochoice bias unrelated to the arguments brought before it.

In itself, this might not be surprising, given how Irish voters have been smothered with pro-choice propaganda in recent years, as pointed to by the Pro Life Campaign's March 2015 claim that over just one fortnight the previous December Irish newspapers ran 33 articles pushing for abortion to be facilitated in Ireland and only one arguing for a pro-life position.

Indeed, one might legitimately wonder whether our democratic processes have been vitiated by the unbalanced and often inaccurate media coverage that has been the norm on this issue in recent years.

Even so, however, the extreme pro-choice dynamic in the assembly invites questions, and not for the first time, about whether the assembly was ever truly representative in any meaningful sense.

The next challenge is to figure out how - or whether - effect should be given to the deliberations of the assembly. A formal report from the assembly will be sent to the Oireachtas in June, to be considered by a committee which will then submit its own recommendations to the Oireach-

If it advises that a referendum should take place, it will of course be for the Oireachtas to agree on a wording, presumably with a view to asking the people if they want and trust Ireland's politicians to make changes along the lines recommended by the assembly.

Leaving aside the fundamental problem with legislating to allow human lives

be ended, especially given how the High Court's Mr Justice Richard Humphreys recognised last August that, under Ireland's constitution, the rights of unborn children go beyond the right to life, an obvious danger here is that elected representatives might treat the assembly's recommendations as directive.

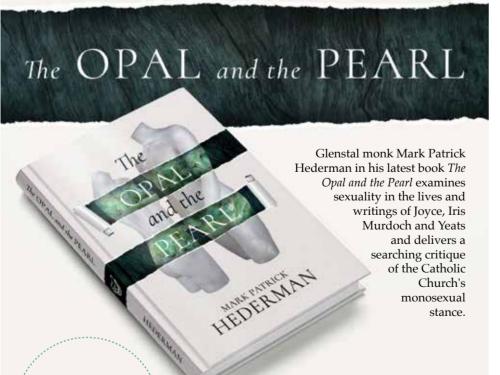
This would entail abdicating their duty to act in accord with their own judgment in favour of embracing what Senator McDowell has called "an exercise in political cowardice"

Accountable

There have been, of course, no shortage of warnings that this might happen. In December 2015, for instance, former Taoiseach John Bruton warned that extra-constitutional assemblies would not be grounds for putting aside those proper parliamentary procedures that enable decisions to be considered in a structured and systematic way by elected representatives who "unlike citizens chosen at random, are accountable and are accountable in a very meaningful way through the process of having to be re-elected".

One thinks too of the observations of Sinn Féin's Peadar Tóibín this February, when he told this newspaper, "It has always been my view that Fine Gael created the Citizens' Assembly in order to outsource the decision on whether or not to hold a referendum on abortion.'

It will be for the Oireachtas to show whether or not such predictions were justified.



columba press | To order call 01 687 4096 or email sales@columba.ie

HARD BACK - LIMITED COPIES

AVAILABLE AFTER EASTER

The Irish Catholic, April 27, 2017

Nasty nuns – a lethally convenient caricature

The debate over Ireland's new maternity hospital is really about abortion, writes **David Quinn**

uns in Ireland have been so stereotyped in Irish public debate that they have been reduced to the role of the villain in an old-fashioned Hammer horror movie.

The archetype of this villainous nun is the character played by Geraldine McEwan in *The Magdalene Sisters*, which Irish TV channels love to air. As played by McEwan the head nun, Sr Bridget, is full of vicious intent.

In one scene we see her shaving the head of one of the girls with sadistic relish and then she beats two girls on the back of the legs with a cane until welts appear. (By the way, the official report into the Magdalene laundries conducted by Martin McAleese spoke to 100 former inmates of these institutions. They experienced mental cruelty but none reported experiencing or witnessing anyone being beaten or having their heads shaved).

Independence

In any event, 'Sr Bridget' is now the image of nuns many people have fixed in their heads when they think of nuns at all. It is no longer the nuns of *The Sound of Music*, much less real-life nuns like Mother Teresa, or Sr Consilio here in Ireland who has spent her life caring for addicts, or all the other nuns helping to care for countless number of people across the country.

When news emerged (or rather re-emerged) that the new National Maternity Hospital (NMH) is to be built on a site on the southside of Dublin owned by the St Vincent's Healthcare Trust and is to be owned by that Trust, all hell broke loose because the Sisters of Charity own the Trust.

The Trust has a 14-person board and two elderly Sisters sit on it. The new maternity hospital will replace the current one on Holles Street which is no longer considered fit for purpose. After tortuous negotiations between Holles Street and the Trust, it was agreed that the new maternity hospital would have full



The current national maternity hospital, on Dublin's Holles Street, which is no longer considered fit for purpose.

independence although the Trust, and therefore the Sisters, will own it.

This deal was first announced last November to no fuss but last week it somehow found its way back into the papers and all the attention fastened on to the fact that the Sisters of Charity would own the new hospital even though they would have no say over it.

Aside from the specific deal that has been causing all the controversy, there is a background assumption in this debate that needs to be strongly challenged"

There were two concerns. The first is that a religious order would own a maternity hospital in this day and age. The second is the fear that, reassurances aside, the nuns would still have some influence over it and this would be bad for women.

The way something Bishop Kevin Doran said was reported fed the second fear. He told *The Sunday Times*: "A healthcare organisation bearing the name Catholic, while offering care to all who need it, has a special respon-

sibility...to Catholic teachings about the value of human life and the dignity and the ultimate destiny of the human person."

He said that if a Catholic hospital receives public funds, that responsibility does not change.

All of this is true but of course the new maternity hospital will not be run according to a Catholic ethos, and won't be a Catholic hospital. Bishop Doran knows this and was simply telling *The Sunday Times* what a Catholic hospital is required to do.

However, the Sisters of Charity should be concerned that if Ireland's abortion law is liberalised within the next few years, then it is extremely likely that abortions will routinely take place in Irish maternity hospitals including in the new one.

Whether or not they have any say over the new hospital (they won't), how acceptable is that abortions may take place on land owned by a Catholic religious order? It shouldn't be acceptable at all.

This would seem to mean that the Sisters of Charity should either require the St Vincent's Healthcare Trust to withdraw from that deal (the Trust seems to be investigating that possibility), or else they should sell the required amount of land to the proposed new maternity hospital if they can.

Quite aside from the spe-

cific deal that has been causing all the controversy, there is a background assumption in this debate that needs to be strongly challenged and it is this: Catholic teaching is a danger to pregnant women's health.

The assumption is that a woman in a Catholic maternity hospital will be more poorly looked after than a woman in a hospital governed by a more 'objective' ethos.

Anecdotal

A recent report called 'Healthcare Denied', from the American Council of Civil Liberties, which is strongly pro-choice, purported to show that Catholic hospitals are a danger to pregnant women. It produced some anecdotal evidence (including a misreading of the Savita Halappanavar case), but notably it had no hard data to show that health out-

comes for expectant mothers who attend Catholic hospitals are worse than for pregnant women who attend other kinds of hospitals.

The big issue here is, of course, abortion and whether a maternity hospital should be pro-life or pro-choice.

A pro-life hospital will end a pregnancy when it is necessary to save the life of the mother, but it will not terminate a pregnancy for any other reason. Pro-choice maternity hospitals routinely perform abortions.

In other words, a pro-life hospital will look after both mother and baby, while a pro-choice hospital will end an unborn child's life if that is what the mother wants.

It should be clear from this that it is the pro-choice ethos not the pro-life one which is the much greater threat to health and life. But why worry about this when we can caricature the nuns instead?



religion and traditional marriage in Ireland.

You can help the valuable work of The Iona Institute by

sending a cheque or postal order in pounds or euro to:

THE IONA INSTITUTE, 23 Merrion Square, Dublin 2, Ireland.

12 | Feature The Irish Catholic, January 26, 2017

Reimagining sacramental preparation

he role of religion and the time allocated to it in the primary school curriculum continues to be a point of controversy in many quarters. At the Government level, the Minister, Mr Richard Bruton, continues the approach of his predecessors in attempting to curtail the influence of religion on the primary school system. He wants less time devoted to religious instruction and more of that limited time to be given to world religions and inter-faith dialogue.

Religious education

One of the issues coming under strain is whether preparation for Communion and Confirmation should take place in class. The McAuley Conference, now in its tenth year, will explore the issue of

You can support the work of

(SPA) in a number of ways:

Seminarian sponsorship

Regular donations

through lack of money.

Mass stipends

Leaving a gift in your Will

the Society of St Peter Apostle

Should we take the sacraments out of the schools? asks **Eugene Duffy**

sacramental preparation of

primary school children later

this month. The conference is

being held on May 12 and 13,

at Mary Immaculate College

in Limerick.

tion many teachers no longer practise their faith and feel compromised in having to offer faith formation when they don't believe what they are teaching. Preparing children for the sacraments sim-

Many teachers no longer practise their faith and faith formation when they don't believe what they

Many parents whose as to how to cope.

At this time of year, as most schools are preparing for the celebration of First Communion and Confirmation, there is often extensive commentary on the fact that First Communion and Confirmation are merely occasions for fashion parades and lavish social celebrations. Children compare how much money they have collected on the day. Amidst all of this the significance of the sacraments

Despite these problems, there is still a significant number of parents who want to have their children educated in their Faith and to be adequately prepared to receive the sacraments. Many of them feel inadequate to the task themselves and are very happy to have the school do this on their behalf. Similarly, the parish sees the school as its agent in preparing the children for the sacraments.

Pupils from St Anne's Primary School at a Mass to celebrate Catholic Schools Week 2017

However, amidst all of these competing agendas it is unreasonable to expect that the schools will continue to be able to provide the level of formation that is required. Therefore, more responsibility will continue to devolve on to parents and local faith communities in preparing children to receive the sacraments in a meaningful way.

McAuley Conference

It is in the context of all these challenges that the McAuley Conference will explore the issue of preparing children for the sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation. The main focus will be on how best to coordinate the responsibilities of families, schools and parishes in the task. Examples of current best practice in Ireland, by both Catholic and Church of Ireland communities, as well as from other countries will be presented for discussion.

A panel of national and international experts in the area of sacramental preparation will speak to these issues over the days of the conference. Among the speakers to address the conference will be: Stijn van den Bossche, who is national director of catechesis for the Flemishspeaking dioceses of the Belgian Bishops' conference; Clare Watkins, currently teaching theology at Roehampton University; Maeve Mahon, who is a co-author of the 'Do This in Memory' programme; Kate Liffey, Irish National director for Catechetics and Co-ordinator of the National Faith Development team; Padraic Brennan, who has previously written on the RCIA; Marie Griffin and Clare Maloney, both of whom have been involved with sacramental programmes in the Community National Schools; Elaine Murray, who is a Church of Ireland rector and actively involved in sacramental preparation in her Church; Brendan O'Keefe, who is a social geographer and Eugene Duffy, who is a theologian, both teaching at Mary Immaculate College, Limerick.

The conference will be of particular interest to parents, teachers, parish clergy, pastoral workers and members of diocesan and parish liturgy

*For further information on the event, please contact Ms Deirdre Franklin at Deirdre.franklin@mic.ul.ie or telephone 061 204507. Or visit the conference website: http://www.mic.ul.ie/mcauleyconference Early booking is advised.





feel compromised in having to offer are teaching."

children are to receive the sacraments are themselves non-practising, often nonbelieving. This puts a burden on both teachers and the parish, because they want to show sensitivity to the children who want to be part of what their friends are celebrating. They feel compromised and are often at a loss



can be completely lost.

YES, I want to help the Society of St Peter Apostle I enclose € Address WORLD MISSIONS 64 Lower Rathmines Road, Dublin 6, Ireland.

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

Your support for SPA makes a huge difference. In many mission

organisation in the Church which guarantees a place for all who

are accepted for formation in mission dioceses. This is a unique

role the Pope has given to SPA. Through SPA you can continue

who has a religious vocation to serve the Church is turned away

to share the gift of faith with others and ensure that no one

dioceses there are increasing numbers of students for the

poor, they must undertake their training with very basic

facilities and scarce resources. SPA is the only funding

priesthood and religious life. Because their communities are

Charity No.

13 July - 6 nights €859pps Spiritual Director: Fr. Richard Delahur MARIAN PILGRIMAGES 878 8159 - (028) 9568 0005 WWW.MARIAN.IE

GROUP PILGRIMAGE TO

MEDJUGORJE & ASSISI

Convent of San Damiano in Assisi and

the Holy House of Nazareth in Loreto

Including visits to the Basilica of St.

Francis, Basilica of St. Clare and

Feature | 13 The Irish Catholic, January 26, 2017

The process of admitting new Catholics to the Church is centred on forming disciples writes **Brendan** O'Reilly

nfant baptism in the Church has been practised since apostolic times and prior to 1972 if an adult sought baptism the ritual used was the Rite of Infant Baptism. Such adult baptisms were often celebrated privately, with no parish involvement and the adult to be baptised did not answer for their own faith commitment - the Godparents answered on their behalf. This changed with the publication of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) ritual in 1972 and with its adoption by the Irish Episcopal Conference in 1986. The Irish Catholic Catechism for Adults defines the RCIA as "the process designed to prepare adults for entrance into the Catholic Church by the reception of the Sacraments of Initiation" – baptism, confirmation and eucharist.

Journey

The RCIA is not a course in Catholicism, rather it is a process or journey, sponsored and accompanied by a community of faith, leading to initiation into that community of faith - identified as the parish. The RCIA concerns itself with the formation of disciples rather than with the imparting of information. This process or journey is marked by four stages (periods of time) and three steps (liturgical rites). The journey involves catechesis, prayer, reflection on the Word of God. attendance at parish liturgical celebrations and practical participation in the life of the local faith community. The journey begins as soon as the adult, or child of catechetical age, expresses an interest and ideally finishes with the celebration of initiation at the Easter Vigil. The journey takes as long as it takes and should be person-centred rather than calendar-centred.

The various numbered paragraphs in the rite explain and indicate the four stages and the three steps of the process/journey.

The first stage is that of

Welcoming new members to our faith community



Inquiry or Precatechumenate. This first inquiry stage is the period of time when the first preaching of the Gospel is

- The second stage is that of the catechumenate. This second stage is the period of time which involves thorough instruction and formation.
- The third stage is the period of purification and enlightenment. Ideally, this stage takes place during Lent and is designed as a period of intense spiritual preparation.
- The fourth and final stage is called 'mystagogy' – a Greek word which means 'interpretation of mystery'

This final period "is a time for deepening the Christian experience, for spiritual growth, and for entering more fully into the life and unity of the community" (RCIA 7.4).

The three steps or liturgical rites are interspersed throughout the four stages and are:

- The Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens.
- The Rite of Election and
- The celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation.

My practical experience of the RCIA is based on involvement with the rite in the parish of Ashbourne-Donaghmore, in east Meath. The parish has been involved with the RCIA every year since 2010 and over that period of time 21 people have been initiated into the Church. For this we praise and thank God. "Neither the planter nor the waterer matters: only God, who makes things grow"

Over the past number of years various adults, and children of catechetical age, have expressed an interest in joining the Church. Our parish RCIA manual describes the participants as follows:

There are three main types of participants (called Catechumens or Candidates) in the RCIA programme: those

who are unbaptised, or who know very little about Christianity; those who were formed in other Christian denominations, but who are interested in joining the Catholic Church; and Adult Catholics who never completed their reception of the Sacraments of Initiation (Confirmation and/or Eucharist).

Participants

In our experience, the Spirit of God provides participants for participation in the RCIA in a number of ways: individuals approach a priest or other member of the parish, house visitation by a priest or member of the Legion of Mary stirs an interest, previous participants in the process evangelise others, older children express an interest in completing their initiation etc.

During the RCIA journey participants have an opportunity to experience the parish ministries."

After the initial approach is made and some paperwork is completed the inquirer is requested to attend Sunday Eucharist, A parishioner may be assigned to accompany the inquirer to Mass on Sunday and the parish hospitality team are made aware of their presence, welcome them to the Eucharistic gathering and to refreshments after Mass. At a suitable time the parish RCIA team engages with the new inquirer/s and the pro-cess/journey described above begins.

The parish is involved at all stages in the process: the celebration of the various rites being flagged in the parish bulletin/on the parish website; the celebrations themselves taking place at different Masses in the parish; parishioners invited to sponsor those seeking initiation; prayer cards with the names of the inquirers distributed to the congregation; inclusion of the inquirers in the Prayers of the Faithful and at other prayer initiatives in the parish etc. Our parish is very

fortunate in that in excess of 400 parishioners are involved in various parish ministries and during the RCIA journey participants have an opportunity to experience some of these ministries. This is done so that new members of the Christian community will come to know the parish as a believing, celebrating, active and ministering community. After their initiation and as part of their period of mystagogy new members are encouraged to be involved in one or more of the parish ministries. In the past, new members have joined the parish music ministry, the family Mass group, the altar-floral society, the Church collectors etc. In this way these new members experience parish, not mainly as a structure, a geographical area or a building but as a community of the faithful in Christ.

Share the Good News, the National Directory for Catechesis in Ireland, reminds us that "the Church exists in order to evangelise; that is, to proclaim in words and action the Gospel, the Good News revealed to us in Jesus Christ, through the grace of the Holy Spirit, that we are loved by God for all eternity. Everything else, for the Christian, rests on this" (25). The task of evangelisation is not just addressed to the small percentage of the community who are ordained priests but to the entire community of the faithful. In embracing this task as a parish, we have discovered that if you ask, people will volunteer; if you search, you will find other parishes and agencies that will help you and if you knock on Heaven's door you will find it already open. And remember festina lente (hasten slowly) and is i ndiaidh a chéile a thógtar na caisleáin (castles are built one stone at a time).

*Brendan O'Reilly is a catechetical specialist.



14 | Feature | The Irish Catholic, April 27, 2017

Provo paramilitary turned



Casey Schmauder meets former IRA bomber Shane O'Doherty who turned to God while in prison

itting down to a pot of tea and a blueberry muffin, Shane O'Doherty says, "I work at a shelter just around the corner, so this is where I come prior to starting my 12-hour night shift."

Shane has moved through numerous jobs over the years. He worked in an IT department in Sweden before returning to Ireland and talking to a vocations director about religious life as a late vocation.

Shane hoped to drive a four-by-four in the winter in Medjugorje, delivering food to those who couldn't access it through an American company. The vocations director said no. Instead, Shane was to help the homeless in Dublin for a year for free.

The director placed him with Crosscare, the social support agency of the Archdiocese of Dublin. He did a year of nights for free, "proving his manliness" after working in condemned buildings with desperate conditions, and then he entered the seminary for two years.

He later returned to Crosscare and worked as their IT guy – he had donated computers in his first year there for their numerous services such as food banks and services for youth and Travellers. Finally, he switched from IT guy back to nights with the homeless in Crosscare, this time on staff.

Perhaps the reason he got drawn back to spending his nights with the men and women in Crosscare is because many of his young homeless clientele have been imprisoned, and Shane himself once served 14 years.

"For heaven's sake, I spent 14 years in prison for the IRA, so a lot of our clientele



Shane O'Doherty in 1972.

are young lads who are fresh out of prison and they are homeless and they assume all the staff are these hoitytoity, well-educated people with glasses and nice clothes. They wouldn't realise they were people like me," Shane says. "It meant that I could handle these guys, these kids, and talk to them, make them laugh. They see staff as very authoritarian, like prison screws, but you quickly try and mould them out of that view. We're here to help you. We're here to help you change vour life."

When Shane was just 15, he formally joined the IRA, and became a prolific bomber in the early 1970s. He carried out bombing campaigns in Derry and on the border, but his most infamous campaign was in London where he carried out a letter bombing campaign, sending bombs through the mail to prominent figures in Britain, even sending a bomb in a hollowed-out Bible to Bishop Richard Tickle, Catholic chaplain to the British armed forces.

I protested the whole 10 years to get back to Northern Ireland, so the effect was I spent a lot of time in solitary"

Shane's bombs never killed anyone, but numerous people were seriously injured.

In 1976, during an IRA ceasefire which he had voted for, the 21-year-old Shane was convicted on 31 counts of attempted murder, and sentenced to 30 life sentences. Imprisoned in England,

he protested fiercely to be returned to Northern Ireland, spending over a year naked in solitary, refusing to wear the English prison uniform.

"I protested the whole 10 years to get back to Northern Ireland, so the effect was I spent a lot of time in solitary, five or six years in solitary, and in many ways, it enabled me to grow, change, see myself as I truly was," he says.

In prison, Shane encountered a Jesuit priest who was known to hate the Irish, and especially IRA men. A young lad and ex-bomber, Shane was quick to start a fight with him

"I had a row with him one day in the cell, and I said, where's the proof your God exists?" says Shane. "And he shoved it back at me, he said, why in the four Gospels of course! And I said **** that, I want to read these four Gospels, so I demanded a copy of the four Gospels and that evening the guards brought in a book to my solitary cell, and it was a Bible."

Gospels

Shane recalls turning through the Bible one page at a time, looking for the Gospels, not realising they were toward the back of the book. Catholics in the North didn't read the Bible, he jokes.

"After finding them, I read them in one evening, and that quick, short, deep, intense reading of the four Gospels in one night blew me away, and I thought that Jesus Christ was a very fascinating character," Shane says. "So I thought, wow, if He was really who He said He was, the Son of God, why did He not use violence in support of His cause? And here we are,

we're not innocent, and we are using violence in support of our non-divine cause."

Following that, Shane felt profoundly drawn to the character of Christ, yet he couldn't imagine that this figure who had walked the Earth 2,000 years ago could still be alive. That was until Shane was introduced to the figure of Padre Pio.

"About two weeks later, my bishop, Edward Daly, sent me a book on Padre Pio which had an added attraction because it was written by a former Second World War soldier, a war hero, so it was a very masculine look at things, a soldier, a tough guy, who was converted by Padre Pio," Shane says. "I was blown away. So the moment I read this book, I was convinced that Jesus Christ was still alive, and I'm still convinced to this day."

From then on, Shane fervently sought God in prison, despite prison guards and fellow prisoners who believed

he was faking or crazy or a leading IRA figure trying to get out early, and was regularly visited by preachers, cardinals, and the late Bishop Edward Daly.

He wrote to the Northern press condemning the armed struggle, calling for an end to the war, and officially resigning from the IRA, the likes of which had never been done.

Shane befriended such famous victims of miscarriages of justice as the Birmingham Six and the Guildford Four, helping connect them with a prominent lawyer and giving them hope that despite serving years for a crime not committed, they could still receive justice.

When he was finally returned to Northern Ireland, Shane rejected plans to place him in the prison's IRA wing, instead asking the prison governor to place him in the sex offender wing rather than having to rejoin a group he'd resigned from.

In describing this radical

change of behaviour, Shane explains that he goes at everything wholeheartedly.

"The problem I've had is, I don't do something by halves. If I was gonna fight in the IRA, I was gonna fight in the IRA. If I was gonna bomb the enemy, I was gonna bomb the enemy. So when I came back to my faith, I thought, damn, do a proper job. Come right back to your faith," Shane says. "So I fought a campaign to write to my victims – you weren't allowed to write to victims in those times. I had to fight a campaign for a year for the right to write to my victims and say sorry.'

Nearly half of his victims responded to his letters with gratitude, he says.

Masculine faith

Now decades out of prison, Shane continues to pursue his faith alongside his Scottish wife, and is particularly interested in musing about how men can pursue a 'masculine' faith. His 1993 memoir



The Irish Catholic, April 27, 2017

pious parishioner



The Volunteer: A Former IRA Man's True Story and a subsequent play about Kevin Barry both sought to understand faith for masculine men.

"There's very little out there that bad boys can turn to: prisoners, ex-prisoners, gang members," Shane says. "I recorded a meditation called *Is There Mercy For Sinners*, and it's just a hard-hitting meditation, and I followed that one up with *A Guide To Repentance*.

So for young lads or men who wouldn't go near a priest, they can read my original *The Volunteer* and they can find something. It's not for everybody, but there's a niche market of bad boys who can turn to the kind of stuff I write."

Given his past, Shane faces mixed reactions when it comes to him and his faith in God. He encounters religious people who trust that he is forgiven and no longer needs to seek out repentance for his crimes were committed long ago and for which he has already repented sincerely, but also those who find it disgraceful to see Shane in places of worship, feeling his sins are too great to overcome.

Priesthood

After speaking with a vocations director for a year, volunteering for a year at Crosscare to show his readiness to move forward to priesthood, and two years in the seminary during which he passed all of his examinations, Shane was brusquely asked to stop pursuing the priesthood. He considers this action to be ignorant of Church teaching that repentance is for the forgiveness of sins.

Shane feels himself looking for a middle ground. He knows that his sins can be forgiven. At the same time, though, he doesn't feel that he can accept that he is forgiven and be done with it.

"I agree that I am forgiven, and I agree that grand sinners are forgiven, but you still feel a duty to lead people out of sin," Shane says. "Young people might've looked at my career and thought, oh my God, he's a hero, I want to follow him.

"So I do a lot of talks for young people. I've spoken in nearly every city in Spain because my book was published in Spanish, and I get around 1,500 local college students at each talk."

Shane talks to them about his realisation that, in participating in armed conflict to solve a problem, he and the paramilitaries only created more problems and more injustices to be remedied.

injustices to be remedied.

He writes at night when the homeless shelter is quiet, though it often isn't. Drug addicts and alcohol-addicted homeless often consume more at night to get through until the morning, and Shane has to struggle with people engaging in self-harm, suicide attempts, and overdoses on a near nightly basis.

Yet, on those rare nights of solitude, Shane sits down in

front of the computer, having chosen to start a book trilogy called Stories of a Soul, where he shares short stories of faith from a pilgrimage to Medjugorje, from prison, and from his time in seminary.

His Small Tales of Medjugorje is quick and simple, but he uses the book to try and encourage those who feel they don't know how to move forward in their faith, especially adult males.

"That little book is saying, here's what a current Catholic man is doing in order to hold his faith, and there's not much out there like that," Shane says. "As the Church is crumbling around us, seminaries, bishops falling out amongst themselves, there's not much for people to go forward in their faith. So I thought, I'll knock out this little book for encouragement.

"There's just so much happening in the Church, people are worn out."

Shane knows that people in his home town, the peo-



Shane O'Doherty, when interviewed for RTE in 2016.

ple he fought beside, will be rolling their eyes when they see a book about Shane going all the way to Medjugorje, because, Shane says, there's a large number of people who practice an "intellectual faith" that "doesn't travel anywhere." Shane himself has been told that Padre Pio, a major player in his conversion, isn't important. Yet he refuses to let himself and others be turned away from the piety that led them to convert and want to serve Christ in the first place.

You get cleansed...you move on through taking responsibility. Repenting is good, we do it every day"

"I'm putting my name to a book about Medjugorje because I'm a Catholic man who practices and carries out the faith every night for 12 hours, but where do I feed from?

"I can't feed from this intellectual dead zone. I have to feed from where all the other people in Ireland feed from," he says. "The sacraments, pilgrimages, the saints, Mother Mary: that's where the streams of grace are coming from. They're not coming from the dwindling, dead seminary."

Shane credits Medjugorje, where a major theme is prayer from the heart, with teaching him to pray truly from the heart to forgive religious leaders, like the one who expelled him from seminary, even though he disagrees

with them.

In the future, Shane will release a *Guide to Armeo Struggle* that in fact won't be a guide at all but a condemnation of the hypocrisy o armed struggle. He speaks ou against older men exploiting young men to do violence ir gangs or paramilitary organizations, pointing out that he joined the IRA at just 15, and blindly followed orders without checking the facts.

Bomb

In the case of the bishop who received a bomb from Shane in a hollowed-out Bible Shane had read that Dr Tickle praised British troops for the murders of Catholics they'c committed on Bloody Sunday

Having been shot at or Bloody Sunday, Shane reac this article as if the bishop had praised troops for trying to kill him

However, it would turn ou that the bishop never gave accolades to the troops. For tunately for Shane, the bomb the bishop received never went off.

And yet, though he was quite young, certainly young to be armed with guns and bombs, Shane recognises his need to continuously repent He cites the age of reason as being around nine or ten, and believes people older that that need to stop blaming "their mother, their father and society" for their sins.

"You get cleansed...you move on through taking responsibility. Repenting is good, we do it every day,' he says, continuing, "It's not something you do once. would say I'm on a trajectory of repentance for the rest of my life."

16 | Events | The Irish Catholic, April 27, 2017

Out&About

Way of the Cross up Cooley Mountain



LOUTH: Members of Cooley Parish carry a cross, which has been signed by members of the community, up the local mountain on Good Friday.



KERRY: Members of the folk group at the Franciscan Friary in Killarney who celebrate their 30th anniversary on May 14. Photo: Valerie O'Sullivan



Living Youth (Down & Connor Youth Commission) and participants of the GIFT programme in Holy Family Parish in Belfast, who organised the Stations of the Cross for the Easter

ANTRIM: Members of

INSHORT |

Cooley Parish Lenten cross initiative

Cooley Parish in Co. Louth held a successful Lenten initiative where the Parish Pastoral Council visited all the homes of the community with sections of a wooden cross. Everyone was asked, "whether you are a regular participant in the life of the parish, an occasional participant or have drifted away from all contact with the parish" to make a mark on the pieces of wood.

On Good Friday the four pieces of wood were brought together to form a cross and the cross was carried by parishioners up the local mountain and placed there.

Organisers said "every effort was made to be as inclusive as possible of people of every faith and of no faith at all".

Focolare prepare for World Meeting of Families

As the Catholic Church in Ireland prepares for the World Meeting of Families next year in Dublin, the Focolare movement is hosting a day-meeting dedicated to the theme of the family.

The main programme includes keynote speakers Fr Tim Bartlett, Secretary General of the World Meeting of Families 2018 and Dr Lorna Gold from Trócaire.

The meeting will be held on Saturday, April 29 in the Aula Maxima, South Campus in Maynooth University from 10.30-4pm, with Mass at 4pm. Admission is €10 for individuals and €20 for families. Contact focolareireland.event@gmail.com or

045-840410 or 01-4922709.

Killarney Friary Folk Group celebrates three decades

11.30am Mass at the Franciscan Friary in Killarney, Co. Kerry has been home to their folk group for the last 30 years. Many people have come and gone over that time and indeed some faces have been there from the yeary beginning

very beginning.
Over the weekend of May 13-14 many former and current members will gather together at the Franciscan Friary, Killarney, to mark this milestone with a private Mass on Saturday evening and the full contingent of 50 singers and musicians will perform at 11.30am Mass on Sunday morning. A celebratory lunch is planned for

Sunday afternoon.

"It's a unique group that has, we hope enhanced the 11.30am Mass at the friary for 30 years," said Elaine Burke who has been in the group from the very beginning. "We've all made life-long friends through the group as well and we have always been fully supported and encouraged by all the friars that have gone through the Killarney Friary over that time."

Another original member, and a well known Killarney performer, Derek O Leary said over the last few months "as we've been busy organising the reunion, we have been reflecting on members past and present and the time that has passed. We think we have sang at about 1,400 Masses over that time, which is hard to believe."

Events | 17 The Irish Catholic, April 27, 2017

Edited by Mags Gargan



FATIMA: Ennis parishioners with Bishop Fintan Monahan and Fr Brendan Quinlivan who were among 98 pilgrims from around the Diocese of Killaloe who went on a pilgrimage to Fatima organised by Fr Tom Ryan and Mary Freeman.

KILLALOE



WEST-**MEATH:**

Organising committee members of the 21st Pioneer National Ball: John Oxley, Rose Carey, Sadie Cafferkey, Peter Mc-Crum and Sabrina Dempsey at St Mary's Church, Athlone ready for the parade to the hotel.



WESTMEATH: The children in Presentation Senior School, Mullingar raised €640 on the final weeks of school before the Easter holidays and they donated the proceeds to Trócaire, pictured with teacher Jacinta Sullivan, principal Declan Fry and Fr Paul Crosbie.



ANTRIM: Conor McCarthy from Living Youth (Down & Connor Youth Commission) visiting Pope John Paul II Award participants in St Dominic's Grammar School Belfast



KERRY: Members of the St John the Baptist Liturgy Drama Group who did a dramatic presentation of the Good Friday Gospel scripted by Msgr Pat Ahern in their Parish Church in Tralee. Almost 40 parishioners of all ages, from under 8 to over 80, were involved and the performance was enhanced by up to 30 members of the Parish Choir under the direction of Mike O'Shea.

CLAIRE

Annual Mass and anointing for people with disabilities and chronic illnesses in Ennis Cathedral on Wednesday, May 3 at 2pm with Bishop Fintan Monahan as chief celebrant.

Blessing of expectant parents in Ennis Cathedral on May 4

Fatima 1917-2017: Holy Rosary hour marking the centenary of the apparitions at Fatima. Rosary at the Square, Ennis. First Saturday, May 6 at 2.30pm.

CORK

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.

DUBLIN

Frank Duff as I knew him: Bhí aithne agamsa ar Frank Duff. Bi-lingual talk by Enda Dunleavy (Legion of Mary) on Friday, May 5 at 7.30pm in 13 Geraldine Street, (off Berkeley Road), D7. Refreshments.

Muslims - Do we know them? a talk by Jonathan Kearney, lecturer in Jewish Studies and Islamic Studies in DCU on Thursday, April 27 at 7.15pm in St Mary's, Haddington Road, Dublin 4.

On the 100th anniversary of the apparitions at Fatima 1917-2017, Our Lady Help of Christians, Navan Road, D7 invite all to The Call to Fatima Presentation on Monday, May 15 at 7.30pm.

The Encounter Dublin City: Join other young adults (20s & 30s) for a night of live acoustic music, reflective prayer in adoration, with guest speaker & performer Kate Curran on Friday, April 28 at 8pm in St Paul's Church, Arran Quay (Smithfield) st.pauls@dublindiocese.ie

Dublin diocese is arranging a facilitated listening process for young people (16-30yrs) to the questions the Pope has put forward, in three locations around the diocese starting Thursday, April 27 at 7pm in St Paul's Church, Arran Quay (Smithfield). st.pauls@ dublindiocese.ie

Life to the Full (Jn 10:10) Book Club for young adults (20's & 30's) each week to meditate, share and discuss a chosen spiritual book over a few weeks every Thursday, 7pm-8:30pm, St Paul's Church Arran Quay (Smithfield). michelle manley@dublindiocese.ie

Want to get fit? Embrace God in nature and build true friendships? Join other young adults (20's & 30's) for reflective hikes around Dublin area. Monthly event. Contact: siobhan. tighe@dublindiocese.ie

FERMANAGH

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

Events deadline is a week in

advance of publication

Divine Mercy Devotions every Monday night in St Nailes Church, Kinawley beginning with Mass at 7pm, Divine Mercy holy hour 7.30-8.30pm, followed by blessing with first class relic of St Faustina.

GALWAY

The Poor Clares in Galway are hosting a Cloister Day on Saturday, May 6 from 10-5pm to help young women between the ages of 21-40 to find out more about the Poor Clare way of life with a view to vocation discernment. To book a place contact: poorclaresgalwayvocations@gmail.com

May Masses and Devotions in Our Lady of Clonfert Church, in Clonfert from May 1-31 each evening at 8pm except Sundays. Further information from 090-9675113 or stbrenseyrecourt@eircom.net

KILDARE

Carbury Parish - Adoration in the Church of the Holy Trinity, Derrinturn takes place each Monday from 10.30am until 12 midnight. Adoration for priestly vocations takes place every Thursday at 8.45pm. www.CarburyParish.ie

LEITRIM

Padre Pio Healing Mass in St Patrick's Church, Ballinamore on Thursday, May 25 at 7pm. Celebrant: Bro. Sean Kelly OFM Cap. from Kilkenny and native of Ballinamore. Blessings will take place after Mass with the relics of Saint Pio.

LOUTH

A Holy Hour with music and reflections to be held in St Mary's Church James Street, Drogheda on Wednesday, May 10 at 8pm.

TYRONE

Life in the Spirit Seminars in St Mary's Church, Killyclogher continues on Thursday, May 4 at 7.30pm with Fr Tom McDonald.

WATERFORD

New Beginnings in Faith: A series of talks given by members of the Neo Catechumenal Way each Sunday and Wednesday at 7.30pm in St Paul's Parish Centre, Waterford.

WICKLOW

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

St Patrick's Prayer Meeting on Tuesday evenings at 8pm in the Scout Hall, South Quay, Wicklow.

18 | Foreign news | The Irish Catholic, April 27, 2017





Edited by Greg Daly greg@irishcatholic.ie

IIN BRIEF

Chicago bishop praises Governor's veto promise

Chicago's Cardinal Blase Cupich has praised his state governor for his "principled stand" in promising to veto a bill allowing taxpayer money to pay for elective abortions for Medicaid recipients and state employees.

"Abortion is a controversial issue in this country, but using public money to provide abortions should not be," the cardinal said, continuing, "The federal government prohibits the practice, and polls show a substantial

Calling on Illinois government officials to focus on the most difficult challenges facing the state, the cardinal said it was essential to unite in crafting a budget to serve all the state's citizens. Illinois has been without a budget for about 22 months.

segment of the American public reject it."

Although Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner does not hold to a pro-life position in general, Illinois Citizens for Life praised him for his promise, arguing that if the bill, H.B. 40, became law, there would be an increase of 12,000 abortions in the state each year.

Bishop allowed return to missionary life

 An Italian bishop has been allowed retire early in order to return to missionary work.

In a letter to the people of his diocese, Melfi-Rapolla-Venosa's Bishop Gianfranco Todisco, 71, said he was ordained to the priesthood as an Ardorini Missionary, and that he had asked Pope Francis in early November if he could return to missionary work, with the Pope granting his request a few weeks later.

As a missionary, he had served in Canada from 1979 to 1989 and in the Diocese of Garzon, Colombia, from 1989 to 1997. Appointed bishop in 2002, he has since regularly visited Italian missionaries overseas. He told the people of his diocese that while he returned to his duties recharged by these visits, "within me there was an increasing unrest to return to the missions, even as a simple priest".

Italy-Ethiopia aid corridor opens

A joint operational mission of Caritas Italiana and Sant'Egidio Community has started in Ethiopia to open the first humanitarian aid corridor from Africa in accordance with a protocol signed in Rome this January.

The agreement, promoted by the Italian bishops' conference – which operates through Caritas Italiana and the Migrantes Foundation – and the Community of Sant'Egidio, provides for the transfer from Ethiopian camps of 500 Eritrean, Somali and South Sudanese refugees over the next two years.

The mission will start with a full reconnaissance in camps on the border with Eritrea, facilitated by the NGO Gandhi Charity, and UN agencies, have offered their full cooperation.

Hirut Zemene, Ethiopia's foreign minister, noted the generosity of this humanitarian operation for the most vulnerable of refugees, and thanked Italy for its commitment towards migrants in this fraught time

Cardinal Berhaneyesus Souraphiel, Metropolitan Archbishop of Addis Ababa and President of the Episcopal Conference of Ethiopia and Eritrea, also expressed his gratitude.

Call to close Australian camp

 Australia's Government should end forced deportations and relocate asylum seekers and refugees from the Manus Island detention centre, in the wake of soldiers from Papua New Guinea shooting into the centre, the St Vincent de Paul Society has said.

"Both the conditions on Manus Island and the threat of deportation to persecution and harm is placing lives at risk and adding to the fear and suffering of asylum seekers and refugees," the SVP's national policy advisor, Corinne Dobson, said, adding that a "flawed refugee determination process" had left many people without valid assessments of their refugee claims.

She said the only safe and responsible thing to do was to close the centre and resettle those in it in Australia.

Unite society by caring for the most fragile, French bishops urge

Just days after the far-right French presidential candidate Marine le Pen said the Church "interferes in everything except what it should really be concerned with", France's bishops have issued reflections on the presidential election.

The bishops' reflections were published within hours of the announcement that Emmanuel Macron, founder of the centre-left En Marche! Movement and Mrs Le Pen, until Monday leader of the National Front, won the elections first round. The two will face off on May 7.

Continuing the practice they followed throughout the campaign, the bishops refrained from naming their favoured candidate, instead providing Catholics with "elements for discernment".

Their statement, which was signed by Msgr Olivier Ribadeau Dumas, the general secretary of the French bishops' conference and the bishops' spokesman, said society must rely on "the search for common good" and "efficient solidarities".



French presidential candidate Emmanuel Macron.

Calling for migrants to be welcomed and for European peoples to hold fast to the European project, the bishops warned against the risk of giving in to fatalism and not fighting for the future.

"The state must integrate solidarity in ... society and concretely apply its preoccupation for the poor, the elderly, the disabled, the unemployed. To neglect the most fragile is to divide society", it said, emphasising the need to manage the tension between a "no-control liberalism" and the preservation of "social protection mechanisms".

The first round of voting, which took place on Saturday,

April 23, saw Mr Macron getting 24% of the vote, while Mrs Le Pen took 21%. Defeated candidates François Fillon, Jean-Luc Mélenchon, and Benoît Hamon got 20%, 19% and 6% of the vote respectively. Following the vote, Mr Hamon, of the long-established and traditionally influential Socialist Party, called on French voters to support Mr Macron against Mrs Le Pen, saying "There is a clear distinction to be made between a political adversary and an enemy of the Republic."

Mrs Le Pen's campaign has entailed promises to restrict immigration and clamp down on migrants, as well as to ban conspicuous religious symbols in public places and to try to renegotiate France's membership in the European Union.

Ahead of last weekend's vote she criticised the French bishops for giving political advice. "I don't get involved with what the Pope should say to his followers," she said, continuing, "I don't think religions should tell the French people how to vote."

Persecution of Christians inspired by Devil - Pope

The Devil is behind the hatred driving the persecution of Christians around the world, Pope Francis has said.

Speaking at prayer service in Rome's Basilica of St Bartholomew, which has been dedicated to the New Martyrs since 2000, the Pope reflected on the Gospel in which Jesus said, "If the world hates you, remember that it hated me before you".

The Pontiff said, "Because we were saved by Jesus, and the prince of the world doesn't want this, he hates us and provokes the persecution," observing that martyrdom "is a grace from God, not courage".

The Pope's comments followed testimonies from three people closely linked to Christianity's recent victims of persecution: Roselyne Hamel, sister of Fr Jacques Hamel, the 85-year-old French priest who was murdered last year while he was saying Mass; Francisco Hernandez, who spoke about William Quijano, a 21-year old who was killed in El Salvador in 2009, for trying to keep young people out of gangs; and Karl Schneider, son of Paul Schneider, the first Protestant minister to be martyred by the Nazis.

Ahead of the ceremony, the Vatican's representative to the United Nations

Archbishop Bernardito Auza called on the UN Security Council to "intensify efforts to spare [religious and ethnic minorities] from the genocidal scourge of violent terrorist groups and other non-state actors".

Describing the Palm Sunday terrorist bombings in Egypt as "abominable attacks" that went against "the very foundation of human dignity and right", he said the upcoming papal visit would be used to "stress once again that there is no greater antidote to violence and hatred than dialogue and encounter".

Fatima Visionaries among 35 new saints

Two of the three young shepherd children who in 1917 saw the apparitions of Our Lady in Fatima will be canonised when Pope Francis visits the Portuguese town on May 13, the Pope has said.

During an ordinary public consistory in the Vatican, the Pontiff announced the canonisation of a total of 35 people, most of whom were Brazilian priests and lay people killed by Dutch soldiers in 1645 when they refused to convert to Calvinism during the Dutch

colonisation of north eastern Brazil.

Also numbered among the new saints are three young Mexican boys who had been educated by Franciscan missionaries and were murdered for their refusal to follow the local indigenous religion, a Spanish priest who founded an institute for abandoned children and an 18th-Century Neapolitan Capuchin friar who defended the rights of the poor of his day.

The best known saints on the list are, however.

Francisco and Jacinta Marto (pictured), who died the year following the Fatima visions in the flu epidemic that ravaged Europe in 1918. Aged just 9 and 11 at the time, they were beatified by St John Paul in 2000.

The case for the beatification of the third visionary, Lucia Santos, who became a nun and lived to be 98, concluded its first phase in Portugal earlier this year and is under consideration at the Vatican's Congregation for the Causes of Saints.



The Irish Catholic, April 27, 2017 International analysis 19

Letter from Rome



John Allen Jr.

hat there's a rising tide of anti-Christian persecution around the world in the early 21st Century is an empirical fact. Christians are hardly the only ones facing threats, of course, but because of their numbers and the zones of their greatest growth, numerically they tend to be more exposed to risk than virtually any other minority group.

In January, Open Doors
International, a nondenominational advocacy group
on behalf of persecuted Christians,
released its annual 'World Watch
List'. Once again, it found that over
200 million Christians face high,
very high, or extreme persecution.

The question isn't whether anti-Christian persecution is real, but what to do about it, and on that score well-intentioned people can and do disagree.

One instinct, widely shared among the activist community, is to go on the offensive – to insist on sanctions for offender countries, to denounce the architects of persecution, to support robust military and security crackdowns on terrorist groups and militants that target Christians, and to demand that when the source of the persecution is religious, leaders of that faith step up.

In the face of the appalling suffering Christians experience in many parts of the world, those seem utterly reasonable requests."

To take a concrete for-instance, many activists would like to see the United States and other Western nations impose sanctions on nations such as China and India that have a dubious record on religious freedom generally, and their Christian minorities in particular.

Activists also typically insist that both Western governments and Western religious leaders should be tougher with Muslim leaders, insisting that they speak out in defence of Christians, especially in the Middle East, and do far more to promote a climate of tolerance – rejecting school textbooks that foster anti-Christian prejudice, for instance, eliminating blasphemy laws, and exercising tighter vigilance over the kind of rhetoric used in mosques and madrasahs.

In the face of the appalling suffering Christians experience



Pope Francis stands next to England's Cardinal Vincent Nichols of Westminster and Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, president of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, along with four British imams who visited the Vatican earlier this month. Photo: CNS

in many parts of the world, often exacerbated by indifference or outright connivance on the part of both government and spiritual leaders, those seem utterly reasonable requests.

Others, however, are equally concerned about religious freedom and the welfare of Christians, but prefer the carrot over the stick.

Dialogue

The right answer to confrontation, as they see it, isn't more confrontation but rather dialogue. The trick is to reach out to responsible parties, building relationships and working to remove the misconceptions and biases that often drive persecution. Angry rhetoric and punitive

Angry rhetoric and punitive measures, they fear, risk making things worse, whereas the only long-term exit strategy is friendship. Once that's accomplished, they feel, 'demands' for Christian rights will seem more like natural gestures among friends.

All of which brings us to Pope Francis, who's very much in the carrot camp when it comes to fighting anti-Christian persecution.

Certainly no one can accuse the Pontiff of a lack of concern, as Christian suffering has become a staple of his rhetoric. Last December on the feast of St Stephen, Christianity's original martyr, Francis' language was characteristically dramatic.

"Even today the Church, to render witness to the light and the truth, is beset in various places by hard persecutions, up to the supreme test of martyrdom," Francis said. "How many of our brothers and sisters in the Faith suffer abuses and violence, and are hated because of Jesus!

"I'll tell you something," the Pope said. "The number of martyrs today is greater than in the early centuries. When we read the history of the early centuries, here in Rome, we read about so much cruelty to Christians. It's happening today too, in even greater numbers."

On Saturday, Pope Francis was at the Church of St Bartholomew on Rome's Tiber Island to visit its memorial to contemporary Christian martyrs, in another effort to ensure their legacy and sacrifice is not forgotten.

Yet Francis is typically nonconfrontational in his approach to the issue – preferring when it comes to Islam, for instance, to praise it as a "religion of peace" and to deny that there is such a thing as "Islamic terrorism", rather than railing at the failures of Muslim leaders to keep Christians safe.

That discretion often drives some people, including some victims of anti-Christian oppression, to distraction. I vividly recall sitting with a group of Catholic bishops from the Middle East last August, shortly after Francis had delivered the "religion of peace" sound-bite on the papal plane coming back from World Youth Day in Poland, and asking for their assessment.

Most of what I heard, to be frank, can't be reproduced here, but let's just say it wasn't terribly favourable. However, Catholicism is not an either/or tradition, but both/and. In that light, it's possible to see the contrast between hawks and doves on anti-Christian persecution not as contradictory, but rather complementary.

Building bridges

In a sense, one could argue that Pope Francis is providing 'cover' for activists and other Christian leaders to push back as loudly and aggressively as they want, because no one could style it as some sort of militant Christian crusade as long as he's in charge. Francis makes clear that the desire of the Church isn't conquest but relationship – in his now-familiar terms, building bridges rather

than walls.

No doubt, that will be the spirit of his trip next weekend to Egypt, the highlight of which will be an address at a conference on peace at Al-Azhar, the most important centre of learning in the Sunni Muslim world, in the company of both Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople and Pope Tawadros II, leader of Egypt's Coptic Orthodox church.

Equally no doubt, the climate of conviviality we're likely to see in Cairo will irritate some, who'd like to see Francis use that platform to call out the Islamic clerical establishment in Egypt for not doing more to combat anti-Christian prejudice.

Another way of looking at it, however, is that everyone else is freer to push back because Francis is so busy reaching out.

In any event, it doesn't seem Francis is likely to change course, so those invested in the cause of defending suffering Christians have a choice to make – either embrace the Pontiff's bridge-building campaign, or spend a significant chunk of time being frustrated by it. It's hard not to think the former is the more constructive choice.

John Allen Jr. is editor of Cruxnow.com

20 | Opinion | The Irish Catholic, April 27, 2017



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

Letter of the week

Protestants are leading evangelisation in Ireland

Dear Editor, In recent weeks The Irish Catholic has featured fascinating interviews with the American apologist-philosopher Dr William Lane Craig (IC 30/03/2017) and with Jonny Somerville (IC 13/04/2017), the key figure behind an ambitious new series of films intended for youth evangelisation.

As I understand it, Dr Craig visited several Irish cities while he was here, speaking and debating before capacity crowds wherever he went, with the Oxford-based apologist-mathematician Prof. John Lennox doing something similar a week or two later, both men making powerful cases for the reasonableness of Christian faith

Both the speaking tour and the NUA video series were organised by

evangelical Protestants.

All this is laudable and encouraging, of course, but reading your articles about these projects left me uneasy: why is Ireland, in which even now four out of five people identify as Catholic dependent on evangelical Protestants to tour the country's universities arguing for the truth of Christianity or to make series of films helping young people grapple with the hard questions of Faith?

Since the papacy of St John Paul II, the Church has been calling us to a 'new evangelisation' – a re-evangelisation of the old Christian heartlands that have been falling away from the Faith for one reason or another.

Ireland's census figures, which show Catholic numbers in freefall

among the younger half of the population, show how desperately needed such a re-evangelisation is. This seems especially clear given how our figures, like statistics from Britain, show that when Catholics fall away from the Faith they do not turn to a more 'liberal' or 'progressive' version of Christianity, but abandon Christianity altogether.

If Christianity is to survive in our land, we need to engage with the reasons why our young people are walking away. It's admirable to see evangelical Protestants facing this reality head on. We should do the same.

Yours etc., **Peter O'Reilly,** Lucan, Co. Dublin.

Sisters should withdraw gift of land

Dear Editor, Here's a suggestion in relation to the National Maternity Hospital due to be sited on the St Vincent's campus in south Dublin: the Religious Sisters of Charity could simply withdraw their generous offer to gift the land to the State.

That way, the State could seek a new site, build the new hospital wherever they like and grant ownership to whomever they like - thus avoiding further controversy.

Yours etc., **Liam Collins,** Crumlin, Dublin 12.

It's time for Mary to make a comeback

Dear Editor, We will soon be entering the month of May - a beautiful month dedicated to Our Lady, God's mother. It seems that May no longer holds the resonance it once did.

The ubiquitous 'May altars' are no more, nor do I any longer see 'May devotions' advertised. It's a pity. Without doubt, some of the pious traditions surrounding Our Lady are from another era, and best left in the past. But, Catholics would benefit from an authentic theology and spirituality around Mary that would emphasise her role in Salvation history. A spirituality that would underline the vital importance of the 'yes' of that young woman to God's design to send a Saviour "born of a woman".

Recent years have seen a tendency to downplay the role of Mary, seeing her as a meek secondary figure. But who cannot fail to marvel at the Mary of the Scriptures who refused to flinch when, to save the young couple's blushes at Cana, boldly said to Jesus: "they have no wine". Before turning to the servants with the beautiful prayerful "do whatever he tells you". It's time for Mary to make a comeback!

Yours etc., **Martin Kenny,** Blackrock, Co. Dublin.



Comparisons to 'Brit-bashing' unhelpful

Dear Editor, David Quinn's article 'Church-bashing is the new Brit-bashing' (IC 20/04/2017) made for interesting reading, and made some very valid points about what can at times seem an obsessive anti-clericalism in Irish life.

However, I would question his comparisons with Theresa May's lip service to Christian values and to Britain's supposed willingness to embrace a warts-and-version of its history – one that acknowledges dark chapters in Britain's history but nonetheless retains a "sense of proportion about itself" and cherishes its "proud moments".

Those familiar with British history who have lived in Britain tend to be struck, above all, by a staggering cluelessness – even a wilful blindness – to the dark chapters of British history.

Derry's Bloody Sunday is at best seen as a oneoff mistake, rather than something that was of a pattern with British military practice in the North in the early 1970s, for instance, and even those who know about Dublin's Bloody Sunday tend to be ignorant of such things as the North King Street Massacre and the Burning of Cork.

It's rare to meet British people who are both proud of their country's past and aware of such things as Britain's destabilisation of India before it formally embedded it into its empire, the extent to which famines in Ireland and India were due to economic structures needed to sustain the industrial revolution, the cynicism of the Boer Wars, the Opium Wars, the gulags of 1950s Kenya, etc. Even supposed 'proud

simple: slavery was ended, as much as anything, because doing so would hurt the French, while Britain never really stood 'alone' against Hitler, accompanied as it was by its Empire.

moments' aren't quite so

Church-bashing is tiresome and often unjustified, but we need better arguments against it than comparisons with a neighbour that continues to hold on to unjustified patriotic fictions.

> Yours etc., **Gabriel Kelly,** Drogheda, Co. Louth.

Contraception denies the sacramentality of the human body

Dear Editor, I enjoy reading Mary Kenny's articles but I couldn't disagree with her more on her recent one where she expresses her wish that the Church lifts its ban on artificial contraception (IC 20/04/2017). The crucial question is "What is the human body for and how is it sacramental?" That is to say, "For Christians, how do the activities of the body, especially in the marital act, reflect and manifest God's life-giving creativity, love and tenderness?" To stunt the marital act with artificial contraception is to deny all of the "signs of God's goodness" inherent in the act.

One of the greatest spiritual ills of our time (within Christianity!) is neo-Gnosticism, a failure to see that the living out of our faith is a bodily as well as spiritual journey and that these two dimensions of our existence are intertwined.

Regrettably, even within the Church, the faithful (following the secular world) are treating their bodies like machines that need to be serviced - as if our bodily behaviours have no effect on our soul. The use of contraception and the consumption of pornography are examples of this. The Incarnation of Christ and his Gospel teach us that, through Baptism, our bodies become the dwelling places of the Holy Spirit: we meet Christ both in the flesh and in the spirit.

The Church has a duty to teach the faithful about what is ungodly....and 'ban' them (even though that is hardly a suitable word here).

We have a long way to go in the Church to recover the sacramentality of the human body....but in this is our salvation. Jesus rose from the dead and we believe in the Resurrection of the Body.

Yours etc., **Fr Eamon Roche,** Midleton, Co. Cork.

'The nuns' will not be running the hospital

Dear Editor, I am so fed up with all the

nonsense and hysteria over the new National Maternity Hospital. The Sisters of Charity have kindly offered to give the State extremely valuable land in Dublin 4 in order to build the new hospital. The response in the public square, especially in social media, has been pure rage at the idea of 'nuns' being 'gifted' a hospital. The new hospital will be completely independent of the Sisters of Charity, so 'the nuns' will not be running the hospital. It will be owned by the St Vincent's Healthcare Group and only two sisters sit on the board. The claims that the land should be seized to pay the sisters' outstanding €3m voluntary contribution to the redress board, is nonsensical, and frankly illegal! As Kieran Mulvey, who acted as a mediator for the hospital deal, has said, this is a separate clinical need for the women of

untarnished.
As for Dr Peter Boylan claiming the nuns should be asked if they will allow gender reassignment operations, who exactly will be looking for that procedure in a maternity hospital, the pregnant mother or the newborn baby?

Ireland, which should be allowed to go ahead

Yours etc., **Philomena O'Brien,** Drumcondra, Dublin 3.

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

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.

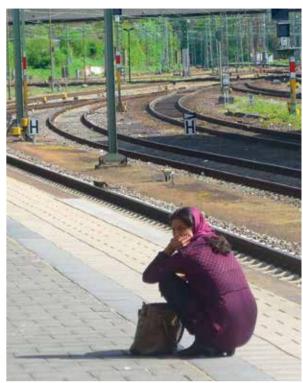
merits of letters. We do not

The week in pictures | 21

ound the world



VATICAN: Musicians from Bavaria play traditional instruments as Pope Francis leads his general audience in St. Peter's Square.



GERMANY: A Muslim refugee woman waits for a train in Heidelberg. Amid rising social unrest and an influx of Mideast migrants, German authorities, including Church officials, are facing criticisms from people who believe their concerns are being ignored. (Photos CNS)



USA: Joining the 'Caravan Against Fear' travelling to border towns from California to Texas, Petra Ramirez of Fresno, California, waits for her ride to leave after taking part in a rally next to the US-Mexico border fence in San Ysidro, California.



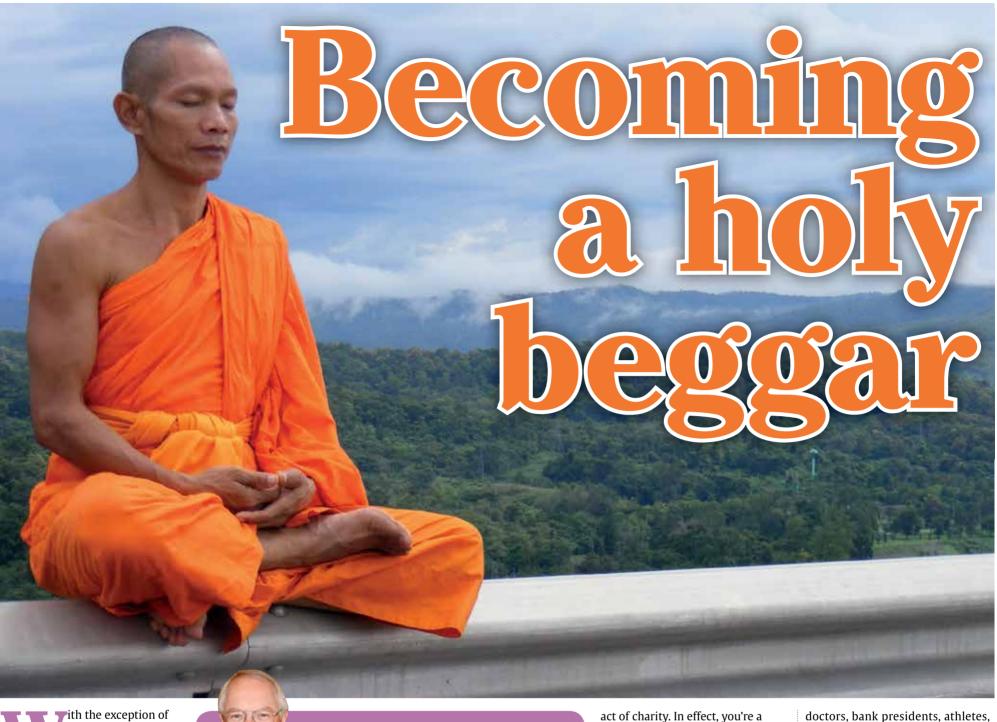
USA: Jessica Tilson, descendant of several slave family lines, including that of Isaac Hawkins, the first enslaved person listed in documents showing how Jesuit priests had sold people into slavery in 1838, speaks at the dedication ceremony of the Isaac Hawkins and Anne Marie Becraft halls at Washington DC's Georgetown University.



CONGO: Peacekeepers drive past burning tyres as they patrol protests against President Joseph Kabila in Kinshasa.



22 | Spirituality | The Irish Catholic, April 27, 2017



scripture and a few Christian mystics, Christian spirituality, up to now, has been weak in presenting us with a vision for our retirement years. It's not a mystery as to why. Until recently, the majority of people died shortly after retirement and so there was no need for a highly-developed spirituality of generativity after our active years.

What are our retirement years meant for, spiritually? What's our vocation then? What might generativity mean for us, after our work's been done?

Henri Nouwen, one of the first contemporary writers to take up this question, makes this suggestion: There comes a time in our lives when the question is no longer: What can I still do to make a contribution? Rather the question becomes: How can I live now so that my aging and dying will be my final great gift to my family, my community, my Church, and my country?

Hinduism

How do I stop writing my resume in order to begin writing my eulogy? Happily, spiritual writers today are beginning to develop a spirituality around these questions and, in doing that, I believe, we can be helped

by some rich insights within Hindu spirituality.

In Hinduism, life is understood to have five natural stages: First, you are a Child. As a Child, you are initiated into life, you learn to speak, you learn how to interact with others, and are given time for play.

The second stage is that of being a Student. In Hinduism, you're a Student until you get married, begin a family and establish a career. As a Student, your primary focus is to enjoy your youth and to prepare for life.

As a Householder, your task is family, business and involvement with civic and religious affairs"

Then you become a Householder. This, the third stage of life, begins with marriage and ends when your last child is grown-up, your mortgage is paid, and you retire from your job. As a Householder, your task is family, business and

involvement with civic and religious affairs. These are your duty years.

www.ronrolheiser.com

FrRolheiser

The fourth stage is that of being a Forest-Dweller. This period should begin when you are free enough from family and business duties to do some deeper reflection. Forest-Dwelling is meant to be an extended period wherein you withdraw, partially or fully, from active life to study and meditate your religion and your future. Very practically, this might mean that you go back to school, perhaps study theology and spirituality, do some extensive retreats, engage in a meditative practice, and take some spiritual direction from a guide.

Wisdom

Finally, once Forest-Dwelling has given you a vision, you return to the world as a Sannyasin, as a holy beggar, as someone who owns nothing except faith and wisdom. As a Sannyasin, you sit somewhere in public as a beggar, as someone with no significance, property, attachments, or importance. You're available to others for a smile, a chat, an exchange of faith, or some

act of charity. In effect, you're a street-person, but with a difference. You're not a street-person because you do not have other options (a comfortable retirement, a golf course, a cottage in the country), but rather because you have already made a success of your life. You've already been generative. You've already given what you have to give and you're now looking to be generative in a new way, namely, to live in such a way that these last years of your life will give a different kind of gift to your loved ones, namely, a gift that will touch their lives in a way that in effect forces them to think about God and life more deeply.

Imagine the witness of someone becoming a voluntary beggar because he or she has been a success in life"

A Sannyasin gives incarnational flesh to the words of Job: "Naked I came from my mother's womb and naked I return." We come into this world possessionless and possessionless we leave it. A holy beggar incarnates that truth.

Witness

Imagine what a witness it could be if very successful people,

journalists, teachers, business people, tradespeople, farmers and happily married persons who had raised children successfully, people who have all kinds of comfortable options in life, would be sitting, as holy beggars, in coffee shops, in fast-food outlets, in malls, on street corners and in sporting arenas. Nobody could feel superior to them or treat them with pity, as we do with the street people who sit there now. Imagine the witness of someone becoming a voluntary beggar because he or she has been a success in life. What a witness and vocation that would be!

Idealised

But this concept, being a holy beggar, is obviously an idealised image that each of us needs to think through in terms of what that might mean for us concretely.

In the early centuries of
Christianity, spirituality saw
martyrdom as the final expression
of Christian life, the ideal way to
cap off a faith-filled life. Justin,
Polycarp, Cyprian and countless
others 'retired' into martyrdom.
Later, Christians used to retire into
monasteries and convents.

But martyrdom and monasteries are also, at a certain place, idealised images. What, concretely, might we retire into?

Family& Lifestyle The Irish Catholic, April 27, 2017

Personal Profile

Breaking the barriers of sight loss

Page 26





or many of us, getting enough sleep can be a luxury or, perhaps like me, you're a parent of a young child and a full eight hours sleep is a distant memory, or there iust doesn't seem to be enough hours in the day. For many sleep is a precious part of our day that we never have enough of. Sleep plays a crucial role in our energy levels and health, yet it can often come low down on our list of priorities. We need to make sure we are getting quality sleep when we can, that we can fall asleep quickly and stay asleep and, if we manage to find time, grab a nap when we need to. The quality of sleep is just as important as the quantity, and if you are sleep-deprived trying



Sleep is a precious part of our day that we never have enough of, writes **Wendy Grace**

to catch up is very important. The amount of sleep you need depends on your age, a two year old needs around 12 hours a night whilst adults need 7-9 hours.

If you find it hard to fall asleep, or indeed to stay asleep, you are not alone, with some polls indicating that up to 45% of people have an issue with poor sleep. If restless nights are the norm for you, the first thing to

do is start observing your sleep patterns, taking a note of how much sleep you are getting each night and how you feel the next day. Then think about the factors that contribute to your sleep or lack of it. Are you watching TV just before going to bed, checking your work emails or your phone? What things can you change?

When it's coming up to bed time start to minimise light and

sound. Darker rooms encourage your brain to release melatonin, which can have a calming effect. Bright lights, on the other hand, trick your brain into thinking it is still daytime. This includes the light from your television, computer or mobile phone. Using any of these before bedtime will make it harder for you to fall asleep. In fact, you should avoid watching TV or using any electronic devices in your bed all together no matter what time of the day it is. Your brain needs to associate your bed with sleep. Also the blue light that these devices give off stops the production of that valuable melatonin which helps you to feel sleepy.

During the day, it is important to get as much natural light as possible. Perhaps you can have your morning coffee outside, get off the bus a stop early or go for a walk at lunch time. Try to let as much natural light as possible into your home or workspace.

We will spend around a third of our lives sleeping. So the place you sleep is important. Invest in a good comfortable mattress. Make sure your bedroom is at a comfortable temperature and that it is a place which you associate with rest not work.

Routine

Routine is something we

» Continued on Page 25

24 | Family&Lifestyle | The Irish Catholic, April 27, 2017

Children's Corner ERIN FOX May is the month

May is the month of Our Lady

he Easter holidays have only just finished and already we can look forward to another long weekend. This bank holiday weekend, you'll be getting ready to celebrate the month of Our Lady.

Every year, on the first of May, people around Ireland gather blossoms and other May flowers to place at the altar of Our Lady.

Perhaps you and your family make a little shrine of your own that you adorn with flowers every May. In most homes, it's traditional to place fresh flowers at the feet of a portrait or small statue of Mary.

Try something different this year, with this miniature archway for your own personal grotto.

For the May grotto you will need: floral wire, secateurs and spring flowers.



Ask an adult to cut the floral wire with the secateurs for you as it can be tough to handle. Cut four pieces of floral wire, each piece measuring 30cm. Take two pieces and twist them together before bending into an arch. Repeat with the remaining two pieces. You will now have two frames for the archway. Stick the frames into a pot of soil so you can complete making the archway.

Next cut some more floral wire to bond the archway together. Wrap little pieces of the wire between each frame. Start from one end and work all the way around until you are

Statue

Next, place some moss or some baby tears onto the archway, then weave the flowers into it, and place your statue, or a small photo of Mary inside. Replace the flowers whenever they die with new ones. You can also use fake flowers if you prefer.

When May has ended, keep the archway to reuse next year. Throughout the rest of the year, there are plenty of other occasions you can use the archway as a base for. At Halloween, you can decorate it with some Chinese lanterns. At Christmas, use holly, ivy, or mistletoe. You can place the Nativity characters underneath it at Christmas. For Valentine's Day next year, adorn it with hearts. And for Easter, use tiny eggs and chicks.

Wrap tiny fairy lights around it if you wish, to light it up at night time.

This mini archway also makes a great cake topper. So if you have a birthday in May, you can use the same one or make another one to decorate your cake.



s a psychologist, I encourage all parents to be mindful of their health to prevent stress and burnout. Although being a new parent is a wonderful experience for many, it can leave some parents vulnerable to exhaustion and feeling overwhelmed. However, finding time to take care of yourself is crucial to preventing parental burnout as well as maintaining inner emotional balance and harmony among the family unit. It is essential to hold in mind that you are important and that if you don't take care of vourself, then it will be hard to take care of your loved ones.

Warning signs

You may be experiencing stress and burnout if you are feeling:

- Restless
- Frustrated
- On-going irritability
- Withdrawal or emotional detachment from your partner or children
- Fast breathing
- Ongoing fatigue
- Lack of enjoyment

Here are some tips to prevent parental exhaustion:

1. Protected self-care time

Set time aside for your needs. Make time for yourself whether it is going for a short walk, having a bath, visiting a friend or having your own space, even if it just for a few minutes a day. Ensure to protect this time and make it a priority.

2. Regular exercise

The benefits of exercise are important for both physical and mental health. Exercise releases

Parenting Matters

Dr Louise Jane Clarke

good hormones and prevents depression.

3. Communication

Do not be afraid to ask for help. Reach out to friends and family for support. Communicating your feelings shows great strength and in return you get the support and connection that is vital to prevent burnout and increase wellbeing.

4. Avoid comparisons

If you want to be happy, stop comparing yourself. Theodore Roosevelt once said "comparison is the thief of joy". It is very hard to compare ourselves to others as everyone is different and it only adds to pressure, stress, feelings of inadequacy and most importantly takes away the great work that you do as a parent.

5. Do what works for you

No one is perfect. If you notice you are putting added pressure on yourself to be the 'perfect parent' try to let this go. Do what works for you and try not engage in worry about what others think.

6. Breath

Connect with your breath as a way of regulating emotions and connecting to the present moment. The breath provides a place of calm, clarity and focus which in turn helps us to respond effectively to stress as opposed to reacting to stressful situations.

7. Find nourishment

Make a list of what is nourishing for you and commit to building on it. Hold in mind food, exercise, relaxation etc. Areas of depletion can often be working when the children go to bed, going to bed late, mindless internet use in your spare time and isolation. These areas of depletion all contribute to stress and an active mind. Take steps to letting go of what is not healthy for you and build on areas of nourishment.

Parenting can be isolating therefore make time to see your friends"

8. Be kind to yourself

Be compassionate towards yourself. Rather than criticise yourself, show compassion and recognise that you are fallible. Too much criticism can often lead to low-self esteem, irritability and eventually burnout. What would you say to a friend if they were feeling the same? More than likely you would be compassionate and realistic. Apply this same advice to yourself.

9. Be mindful

Mindfulness contributes to a sense of inner peace, well being,

stability and calm. Establishing a daily mindfulness practice is key to self-care and parenthood as it allows us to be present, awake, aware and connected to ourselves and our loved ones. Mindfulness resources can be widely accessed online, through books or by attending an eight-week group for mindful parenting or mindfulness for stress reduction.

10. Nights out

Time out for connection with others is important. Parenting can be isolating therefore make time to see your friends. It is also important to look after your relationship and have 'date nights'. This will help increase communication, teamwork and most importantly keep the spark in the relationship! Arrange a babysitter and stay present when you are away from your children and connecting with friends. This will contribute towards healthy relationships as well as reducing stress and burnout.

Dr Louise Jane Clarke is a Registered Psychologist, Consultant and Chartered Psychologist based at The Consulting Clinic, (www. theconsultingclinic.ie). This article is from www. first1000days.ie a site by Danone Early Life Nutrition, the leading infant nutrition company in Ireland, which offers tips on nutrition throughout pregnancy, during babies first year of life, when breastfeeding and on toddler nutrition.

The Irish Catholic, April 27, 2017 Family&Lifestyle 25

» Continued from Page 23



probably associate with children, but adults need one too: when you have a bedtime routine it helps to prepare your body and brain for rest. Figure out what helps you to wind down, it could be enjoying a hot shower or a cup of camomile tea or listening to relaxing music. How you handle day-to-day stress will play a significant part in your ability to fall asleep. Of course stress is inevitable, but it's when that stress turns to anxiety you need to address it. If you are struggling to manage stress or anxiety it is important to seek professional help, either with one-to-one counselling or you might benefit from participating in the life skills programme run by **AWARE**

Meditative prayer before bedtime can really help you switch off and relax. Perhaps you can set up a prayer space, dim the lights, play some instrumental music and take even 10 minutes to sit quietly in prayer reflecting on your day.

People who exercise regularly sleep better and have more energy during the day. Regular exercise will help you fall asleep and also will increase the amount of time you spend in restorative deep sleep. The more vigorously you exercise during the day the better you will sleep, but even light exercise like a short walk will help. However, make sure not to do moderate to hard workouts close to bed time. If you're starting exercise, remember it will take time before you experience the full sleep inducing effects so pick habits that you can stick to.

Think about what you eat and drink. Avoid heavy meals, especially rich or spicy ones, too close to bed time. Going to bed with indigestion or heartburn certainly won't aid a restful sleep. It might be tempting to gulp down another cup of coffee to give you what you need to make it through the day, but overdoing caffeine can mask your need for sleep and prevent you from getting to sleep when you lie down

Remember tea also contains caffeine (around half the amount of a

cup of coffee) as do other infdusions and fizzy drinks, so cut caffeine out after 3pm.

Technology can also assist with lots of apps claiming they can help you sleep better"

If you have young children, when your little one is taking a 30-minute nap, you might feel you won't fall asleep and you busy yourself with chores in the house. Take this time to rest, lie down and relax in your bed or on the couch, stay off your phone and switch off the television, this, in itself, can be very restorative. I know this advice is easier said than done, but just remember if you burn out from lack of rest you won't be much good to your children.

Apps

Technology can also assist with lots of apps claiming they can help you sleep better:

- Sleepio uses scientific techniques with years of research behind it, analysing your lifestyle, mind and your timetable to help you to sleep better.
- Sleep Genius aims to help you train yourself to fall asleep. The creators originally were helping astronauts to fall asleep in space and are experts in neuroscience, sleep and music.
- Pzizz is designed to help you fight insomnia and take power naps during the day. The app generates new sounds each time you use it, so your mind can't get used to the same overplayed sounds.

You may have heard of white noise being used to help calm crying infants, you might even have an app that plays a hairdryer sound on your phone.

But for an adult's perfect sleep inducing lullaby there is pink noise (more low-frequency than white noise). A recent study, published in the journal *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience*, observed adults who were made listen to pink noise as they slept. The next day they reported feeling more rested than

Apparently, listening to this type of pink noise can increase "slow wave activity" helping you sleep better and increase your memory retention. The good news is you can get hours of pink noise for free on YouTube.

There are some habits that are important to break. Pressing the snooze button on your alarm clock a few times in the morning kicks off a new sleep cycle, which you won't be able to finish, leaving you feeling less rested.

Something we certainly don't get enough of in Ireland is sun! One of the best things you can do to get more sleep is get more sunlight"

If you're a smoker and need another reason to kick the habit, similar to caffeine, remember nicotine is a stimulant. Therefore, if you smoke you are four times more likely to report poor sleep compared to non-smokers. Smoking also changes your internal body clock, and it is estimated that every cigarette smoked leads to a loss of 1.2 minutes sleep each night.

Something we certainly don't get enough of in Ireland is sun! One of the best things you can do to get more sleep is get more sunlight, exposure to natural light, especially first thing in the morning, helps to wake you up and makes you more sleepy at night.

So getting fit, healthy and relaxing more - if that isn't enough of an incentive in order to sleep better, it might help to know that according to a new UK study of 30,000 people across four years, getting better sleep can be as beneficial as winning €230,000 in the lottery!

Faith JIN THE family

Bairbre Cahill



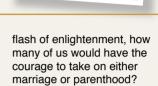
We all have those days when we struggle to like the people we love. Whether they are being particularly annoying or we are just in a particularly stroppy mood who knows, but all families, all relationships, have those days. What concerns me is the idea that this can become the norm, that almost without realising it, a relationship can fall into the habit of niggling negativity which destroys love.

Marriage can be hard work. Family life is challenging. What we start out expecting and the reality we find ourselves living can be different – sometimes more wonderful, sometimes more painful.

Almost without realising it, a relationship can fall into the habit of niggling negativity which destroys love"

For some reason I find myself going back to the story of the two on the road to Emmaus which is our Gospel for this Sunday. I am struck by the fact that their eyes are "cast down". They cannot see much more than the road beneath their feet. They are overwhelmed with a sense of what might have been. Their expectations have become a burden. I can imagine them saying "It wasn't meant to be like this. This is not what we signed up for.'

Do we ever know what we have signed up for? Can you honestly say that you understood the wonder and the challenges of being a parent before you actually became one? I certainly didn't. If we could be given that understanding in a blinding



I find myself thinking too of so many people who insist that it is vital to live together before marriage. The logic is, "You need to really know the person you are marrying and you can't do that unless you live together." But all this gives you is a glimpse, a snapshot in time. It doesn't tell you how you will be together as you become parents, as new opportunities and choices open up, as you meet the challenges of life.

Like the two on the road to Emmaus we can often find ourselves walking with our eyes cast down, seeing the road but not much else. We can be burdened with the expectations we have created – expectations about where we and how we live, about



finances, about our success and that of our children. That's what strikes me about this Gospel story. When Jesus walks beside them he helps them to lift their eyes from the road, to see the reality that surrounds them. He helps them to explore their expectations and their experience. They take time out from the journey so that they can sit and talk and break bread together. In this moment realisation breaks through, they recognise him. Shedding the restrictions of their own expectations lets them embrace the reality of their experience in the here and now.

Whatever the pressures and crowded timetables of family life we need to take time out. Rather like Cleopas and his companion we need to lift up our eyes, see what is around us. Conversation, laughter, companionship and sharing food - this is what we need. They are simple pleasures but they can put us back in touch with what matters most in life - the love between us. Friendship is the foundation of marriage. Investing time and energy in our relationship is vital. Love needs to be nurtured.

Breaking the barriers of sight loss



Mags Gargan talks to the CEO of a charity supporting the visually impaired

t is hugely brave to walk out the front door with very little sight and take on the world with effectively just a cane," says Chris White, CEO of the National Council for the Blind (NCBI), of the charity's service

Supporting, training and building up the confidence of people with various levels of sight loss so that they can live

a full and independent life is the main focus of the work of NCBI. "We are not in any way curing or claiming to cure people with sight loss, but we are supporting them to live as independently as possible with the sight loss condition they have. So that could be with counselling, with training, with mobility support, with a whole range of things," Chris says.

"We do traditional things like getting the right light bulbs in their houses so they are properly lit, so they can make most use of the light which is available to them and for their eyesight. Training them how to use public transport and use of long and short canes, and confidence building about moving around, which is the biggest challenge I think.'

Everyday tasks

Sweet

Treats

Erin Fox

The aim is to help them use that vision to read, use technology, get around independently or to



One of NCBI's outlets and, inset above, Chris White, the organisation's CEO.

manage with the everyday tasks we all take for granted, like cooking and shopping

"The biggest game changer is the huge advances in technology which have enabled people with sight loss to not hide away but come out and engage in work and society, and be much more active participants,' Chris savs.

Thanks to embedded software in computers and smart phones, such as ZoomText which increases screen size and Siri which reads out text messages and emails, people with sight loss are able to use technology with proficiency.

"We have 10 IT trainers based all around the country who support and train people and make them aware of what is available, because this is not an extra or more expensive, it is actually embedded in the technology," Chris says.

"What that means is that from a work or education perspective anybody with sight loss using a screen or computer is just as able as a sighted person to engage with technology and use the advantages of the internet and the digital society we live in now.'

Chris is originally from London, but with parents from Dublin and childhood summers spent here, he considers himself 'London Irish'. "I did a masters in Queens, Belfast in Irish politics and I have been living in Ireland full time since 1999," he

We are around for a long time and we have a huge impact"

Chris has a strong background in the not-for-profit and charitable sector, with previous roles as CEO of the Sue Ryder Foundation and as Head of Development at the Irish Council for Social Housing.

He says he joined NCBI because he is "always looking to make the biggest impact with the biggest organisation". "NCBI is a charity with a huge reach and impact across the country. It is well respected and it has the potential

to do so much more."

There are 52,000 people with impaired vision in Ireland. NCBI works with about 10,000 people a year, 2,000 of whom are children in

We rely

heavily on

our chain of

charity shops"

Founded in 1931, the charity has been around for a long time and would be familiar to most people, especially through their 91 charity shops nationwide, and yet their work goes almost unnoticed.

Chris, who has been CEO of the NCBI group since 2014, admits that the charity has let its profile in the public eye wane, but with reduced Government funding, increased competition between charities for donations and bad publicity for the whole sector in recent years, it is time to stand up and be heard.

'We are one of those background charities," Chris says. "We are around for a long time and we have a huge impact and reach so many people, and we are keen to remind people what a great job we do and we can't do it without their

NCBI has 260 paid staff and 900 volunteers in the whole organisation. It costs about €10.5million a year to run and gets €6.6 million from the State, so 38% of its funding is self-generated.

'We are trying to be quite innovative," Chris says. "NCBI is 86 years old so we've been around a long time and enjoyed huge support from all parts of Ireland, geographically and demographically, but fundraising is becoming increasing competitive, because the State has reduced its funding to all charities.

"We rely heavily on our chain of charity shops which are in almost every county. This year they will generate the guts of €6m, of which the profit is about €1.5m after rents, salaries, rates and so on. The rest of the funds is generated through events.

Signature event

"Our signature event was launched last year, which is 'Dine in the Dark' where we encouraged about 100 restaurants to have an event where all the diners eat blindfolded and experience what it is to have sight loss and do something as simple

Chris says that while many people don't trust charities since the scandals in recent years, NCBI have "an unblemished governance". 'We have a great board that rotates on a regular basis. We are signed up to and exceed all of the codes of practise.

'We are very committed and can stand over the strength of our governance. The thing is charities share the same brand and we have seen a 40% fall in donations as a consequence of what has happened in the CRC, Console and Rehab. All of which had nothing to do with us.

'You can see the results of our work every day in every community. People who are service users of NCBI are hugely passionate about us and they really value the service that we provide," he says.

1 For more information see www.

The majority of people NCBI work with have some remaining vision.

Rhubarb is a many splendored thing

hubarb bonds with so many flavours, like rhubarb and custard tart and hard-boiled sweets, or rhubarb and ginger iam. But it's also fantastic on its own, without interference from other flavours.

Rhubarb jelly

- 2 lbs rhubarb washed and trimmed
- Juice 2 large oranges and 2 large lemons (or three small to medium lemons)
- 6 tbsp caster sugar
- 4 tsp powdered gelatin

Squeeze the juice from the oranges and lemons, and pour the juice into a heavy-based pan. Chop the rhubarb up and place it in the pan with the sugar and juice. Give everything a good stir so the rhubarb is coated in the sugar and juices

Place the lid over the pan and gently stew the rhubarb over a medium heat, stirring every so often, until it has broken down. This should take about 20 minutes or less.

Remove from the heat and leave aside to cool

for 10 minutes.

Place a sieve, lined with a muslin cloth, over a deep bowl. Pour the stewed rhubarb into the sieve and strain the juice into a bowl. Discard the rhubarb when you're finished.

You should have 500ml of rhubarb syrup. If there's any left over, dilute it with sparkling water to sip on while you

Dissolve the powdered gelatin in 4 tablespoons of boiling water. Pour this into the pan of warm rhubarb syrup and whisk well to combine everything.

carry on with the recipe.

Pour the jelly mixture into a jelly mould or in a wide shallow bowl.

When it's cooled completely, transfer to the fridge and leave to set

Spoon the jelly into tall dessert glasses or martini glasses with some fresh fruit, and some ice

You can also pour the jelly into separate glasses before you leave it to set in the fridge. It will be ready much quicker too.

Other suggestions

 Before you turn your rhubarb syrup into jelly, use it for other recipes. You can keep the syrup in the fridge for up to a week and drink it as a cordial.

- Drizzle the syrup over a summer sponge cake filled with fresh cream and
- Make rhubarb ripple ice cream by drizzling the syrup over some scoops of vanilla ice cream
- Transform a classic Eton mess dessert, by mixing some of the syrup into the berries, cream,
- If you're making cream finger doughnuts, trickle some of the syrup over the cream filling instead



Reviews | 27 The Irish Catholic, April 27, 2017

TVRadio

..... Brendan O'Regan

Another week of controversies and hot topics

controversies on hot social and political top-

News and current affairs programmes dealt extensively with the controversy about the relocation of the National Maternity Hospital (NMH) to a site at St Vincent's. Inherent in most debates was the unchallenged assumption that there was a clash between best medical practice and Catholic ethos. I didn't hear much challenging of the assumption that a secular ethos would serve patients better.

On Morning Ireland (RTÉ Radio 1) last Thursday Dr Peter Boylan, former master at the NMH, criticised the deal made with the Sisters of Charity. He couldn't resist an unpleasant dig at the Catholic Church - "with all its bad history in relation to women's health care". He wanted it clear that abortions (to the extent that they were legal in the future) would be done in this new hospital.

Later, on **Today with Sean** O'Rourke, (RTÉ Radio 1) the current Master Dr Rhona O'Mahony was scathing of Boylan's intervention, and was insistent that under the agreed arrangements there wouldn't be a Catholic ethos in the new hospital. In fact she said the hospital would provide any procedures that were legal in the State sounds reasonable until you



Kay Connolly, Chief Operating Officer of St Vincent's University Hospital with Minister for Health, Simon Harris TD and Dr Rhona Mahony, Master, National Maternity Hospital.

bring to mind states where some activities now universally acknowledged to be immoral were actually legal.

On Friday morning on Today with Sean O'Rourke Breda O'Brien was one of those reviewing the week. I wonder if she ever gets tired of defending what might broadly be called 'the Church' when controversial issues hit the headlines, especially when those who might be the official spokespersons often remain silent. On the same show Junior Minister John Halligan was in land-grabbing mode in relation to the religious orders – "I would take all their land off them". I half expected him to start singing 'I'm Henry the 8th I am'.

On Friday's **Drive Time** I got a brief glimmer of hope, when presenter Mary Wilson said that the St Vincent's Healthcare Group had broken their silence, but then we were told it was only a statement, though a hard hitting one that threw a curve ball into the mix. They got in a dig at Minister Harris, pointing out that originally both he and An Taoiseach Enda Kenny had publicly welcomed the deal between the hospitals and now they were so concerned with 'misinformation' and the Minister's latest words on the matter that they were reviewing the whole deal.

Of course there are important issues at stake here, but considering the consistently high standards set by St Vincent's and its excellent reputation, it seems to me that there's more than a bit of opportunistic Church bashing going on here, especially with all this talk of religious 'interference'.

On another front, a shadow was cast over last weekend by the final deliberations of the Citizens' Assembly, when this unelected group decided to recommend taking away the most basic of human rights from the most vulnerable of human beings. How unrepresentative they were was



Dr Peter Boylan

shown yet again by how their recommendations were much more liberal and wide ranging than the views of the public as shown in opinion polls, and even those are exaggerated, what with loaded questions and years of media imbalance.

On last Sunday's This Week programme (ŘTÉ Radio 1), Government Chief Whip Regina Doherty spoke about the Government indicating what legislation would be brought in if the people decided to remove the Eighth Amendment – but of course what legislation we'd start with would soon be eroded and liberalised as pro-abortion groups piled on the pressure on politicians who are hyper sensitive to such pres-

Mattie McGrath TD wasn't having any of it. On last Monday's Morning Ireland (RTÉ Radio 1) he said he was prolife in all situations, criticised the way the Citizens' Assembly was constituted and the way its outcome was a foregone conclusion. Last Monday's 'It Says in the Papers' slot on that same programme started with a quote from journalist Alison O'Connor, who suggested it would be 'tragic' if the work of the Assembly wasn't respected. I'd suggest it'll be far more tragic (i.e. leading to many unnecessary deaths) if the suggested changes are car-

PICK OF THE WEEK

The Big Big Movie: Up RTE One, Saturday, April 29, 5:20pm

(2009) Marvellous animated feature, with moving opening sequence on the joys and sorrows of marriage.

My country, my faith: Ireland EWTN, Saturday, April 29, 10.30pm

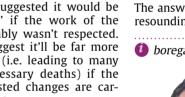
Fr Owen Gorman welcomes Fr John Harris, James Mahon and Maura Garrihy, as they discuss how young people of Ireland are reawakening to the ancient faith of their forefathers.

The Leap of Faith RTE Radio 1, Friday, May 5, 10.02pm

Topical religious and ethical matters with Michael Comyn.

On **The Pat Kenny Show** (Newstalk) last Monday morning the host started by asking "does anyone have to act on their findings?" The answer, I hope, will be a resounding NO.

boregan@hotmail.com





Aubrey Malone

Diesel burns diesel in high octane carnage

Fast and Furious 8 (12A)

The two most popular types of books on the market these days, I'm told, are cook books and diet books. I'm thinking of writing one called *Cook It* But Don't Eat It. That should corner both markets.

Our society is beset with contradictions. Every night on TV - justifiably - we see advertisements put out by the Road Safety Authority showing graphic images of drivers being involved in the most horrific crashes. And then we have films like this which glorify speed and its gory aftermath.

The series has already cost over €470 million on special effects. That's not to even consider the other expenses involved. You don't have to be a rocket scientist to deduce that the films are making well and above that amount at the box office - up to €3.75 billion by some reports.

We get the films we deserve just like we get the politicians we deserve. Audiences have an insatiable appetite for watching people die in fireballs on motorways. Many people confess to slowing their cars down when they pass a crash site. I've done it myself. It's a kind of voyeuristic trait, a semi-masochistic



Charlize Theron and Vin Diesel in Fast and Furious 8.

curiosity. It's this unsavoury characteristic that's exploited by the Fast and Furious series.

Paul Walker, who starred in the first five of them, was killed in (what else?) a car crash in 2013. He was driving at 151 kph at the time.

Even this perverse irony didn't stop the series. Here's Number eight.

Once again Vin Diesel is at the helm. This is a man who's become famous for speaking like Lee Marvin. In a pre-credit sequence he drives a jalopy of a

car with a souped-up engine at breakneck speed through crowded streets. As I watched the madness unfold, all I could think of was Zsa Zsa Gabor's "Macho does not prove mucho". Afterwards he meets

Charlize Theron, the 'bad' girl of the piece. (We know she's bad because she wears dreadlocks and speaks slowly). She's kidnapped Vin's girlfriend and the son he never knew he had. If he doesn't do the nasty things she demands, the two of them are going to 'get it'.

Watch Charlize pulverising the streets of New York by remote control. Watch her chuckling "Ouch!" as cars plummet out of

skyscrapers and explode into one another. Watch her trying to 'nuke' her enemies in the ice of the Arctic.

This is a 'family' film, which means Jason Statham puts ear plugs around a baby's head while he's killing people. Such consideration.

Scott Eastwood also stars as a bit of an idiot. (Dad that's Clint - wouldn't like that). Helen Mirren does a 'blink and you miss her' cameo as a cockney mum.

What are actresses of the calibre of Mirren and Theron doing in rubbish like this? The makers think they can go on with the franchise untill the cows come home.

With Fast and Furious 8, for me, the cows came home. 28 | Reviews The Irish Catholic, April 27, 2017



BookReviews Peter Costello

THOUT



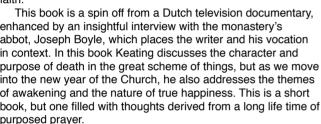
Recent books in brief

World Without End by Thomas Keating OCSO and Joseph Boyle, with Lucette Verbovén (Bloomsbury, £10.99)

The author, a Trappist monk of the community at St Benedict's Monastery in Snowmass. Colorado, is already well known as a spiritual writer.

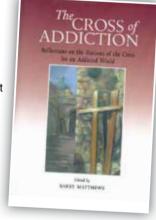
His earlier books, Open Mind, Open Heart and The Mystery of Christ are familiar to

He is the prime mover of the Centering Prayer Movement, and has tried in all his books to encourage a contemplative



The Cross of Addiction: Reflections on the Stations of the Cross for an Addicted World edited by Barry Matthews (Veritas, €7.99)

Though the Stations of the Cross are central to devotions at Easter, they are present in our churches all the year round for reflection on the Via Dolorosa. In this booklet Barry Matthews had collected commentaries on each stage from both well known figures and from those whose lives have been burned by their own addiction or that of



The contributors come from several Christian traditions and their offerings are brief and very much to the point.

In addition there is a list of some seven nationwide organisations which will aid those afflicted by addiction in any way with practical and spiritual support. Aside from pastoral care, the theme of understanding suffering, which affects us all, expressed in an accessible way, give this book a special value.

The text and illustrations will help readers to realise that suffering has other dimensions than the pain they feel on a daily basis. This is exactly the kind of little manual that many in distress will benefit from.

The Lamb Will Conquer: Reflections on the Knock **Apparition**

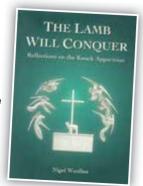
by Nigel Woollen (Veritas €9.99)

The author, London-born Nigel Woollen, is now the curate at Knock Shrine. He had been ordained at the Shrine of St John Vianney and has clearly always been concerned with the associations of such shrines as that at Knock.

This book is a mediation on the symbolism of the images which made up the apparition: The Virgin,

St Joseph and St John, now reflected in a set of sculptures on the wall of the church. Though coldly received by the hierarchy of that day, the events at Knock in 1879 have since the 1930s come to have a deep significance for many.

Pilgrims to the shrine will be richly informed about the symbolism of the images, especially the true meaning of the Lamb of God, which are of interest, quite aside from their connections with Knock.



Pearse's almost forgotten sisters

Revolutionaries: The story of Margaret & Mary Brigid Pearse by Teresa & Mary Louise O'Donnell (Merrion Press,€14.99)

J. Anthony Gaughan

his is an excellent account of the sisters of Patrick and Willie Pearse. Since the Pearse sisters died some of the politically motivated commentary on them ranged from the overtly negative to the gratuitously offensive. This book is to be warmly welcomed if only to balance such unfair criticism.

Margaret was born on August 4, 1878, Mary Brigid on September 29, 1888. Both attended the Holy Faith Convent School at Glasnevin, though, owing to ill-health, much of Mary Brigid's education was at home.

Margaret was close to her brother Patrick and shared his interest in education. In 1905

she accompanied him to Belgium where they visited over a score of public and private schools to observe the bi-lingual teaching.

Patrick had already been impressed by the theories of childcentred education, espoused by Pestalozzi and his student, Froebel. He and Margaret, whose visits were supported by the Belgium Ministry of Instruction, were insistent on visiting the École Froebel, an Antwerp infant school.

Key figure

Inspired Margaret founded an infant school in the family home. A year later,

in 1908, Patrick opened St Enda's College, a bi-lingual, lay Catholic school for boys, at Cullenswood House, later relocated to the Hermitage in Rathfarnham.

From the outset all the members of the Pearse family assisted in running St Enda's. Apart from Patrick, Margaret was the key figure in ensuring its success, conducting a preparatory school, teaching French and religion, and act-



Following execution of the leaders, including **Patrick** and Willie, **Margaret** and her mother continued to support the insurgents and gloried in their sacrifice"

William and Padraig Pearse. Photo: The Pearse Museum

SISTERS OF THE

REVOLUTIONARIES Teresa and Mary Louise Q'Donnell

> ing as matron and keeping in touch with the boys over the

> Patrick joined the Irish Volunteers and was sworn into the IRB in 1913; and when he returned from a lecture tour of the US in 1914, was wholly committed to militant nation-

Margaret and her mother, who was also very much involved in running St Enda's, were fully aware of Patrick's involvement in political activism and the increased military activity in the school.

She was elected TD for Fianna Fáil in Co. Dublin in 1933; later she was appointed a senator"

They were privy to the preparations for the Easter Rising. Following the execution of the leaders, including Patrick and Willie, Margaret and her mother continued to support the insurgents and gloried in their sacrifice.

The response of Mary Brigid to the Rising was entirely different to that of her sister and mother.

She was somewhat erratic, lived apart from her family and went into the GPO and attempted to persuade her brothers to return home.

She set out on a literary career, publishing a novel in 1917. In the next 20 years she contributed short stories, plays, children's stories and articles to various journals and magazines. Her book The Home-Life of Pádraig Pearse (1934) exacerbated already strained relations between the sisters as they squabbled over the royalties arising from

An accomplished musician, she offered lessons in violin, cello and mandolin in her home.

She also arranged a number of Irish airs for voice and piano.

Mother

The mother of the Pearses died on April 22, 1932. Mary Brigid died on November 13, 1934.

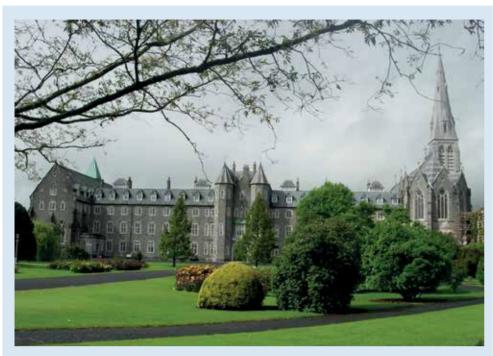
Thereafter Margaret became the public face of the Pearse family legacy. She was elected TD for Fianna Fáil in Co. Dublin in 1933; later she was appointed a senator and remained one until her death on November 7 1968.

Remaining in the public eye as she attended ceremonies in honour of her broth-

She welcomed the Republic of Ireland Bill in 1948, tirelessly promoted the Irish language and was a central figure in the Easter Rising celebrations in 1966.

The Irish Catholic, April 27, 2017

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.



Maigh Nuad agus Teanga ár Sinsir

An Ghaeilge i Maigh Nuad

le Seán Ó hÉanacháin (Cló Iar-Chonnachta, €12)

Antoin Delap

s saothar an-chuimsíoch i seo múnlaithe ar thráchtas dochtúireachta a rinne an túdar. Clúdaítear corradh le dhá chéad bhliain de stair an choláiste inti.

Tá'n túdar le moladh go mór as doimhneas agus iomláineacht a chuid taighde agus ach go háirithe as an riar mhaith structúrtha atá ar an leabhar.

Tá grinn-ainilís anmhaith déanta sa leabhar ar an mhéid atá bainte amach ag Coláiste Oiliúna Sagart í Maigh Nuad ar mhaithe le cuir chun cinn na gaeilge sa tréimhse ábharach pléitear i súile údair comhaimsireacha teipeanna an choláiste ar bhealaigh áirithe agus a laghad a baineadh amach.

Ar an gcaoi sin is saothar maith léirmheastóireachta í seo seachas íobairt de fhéin-bholscaireacht i leith an choláiste.

Tá cuid mhaith den saothar dírithe ar beathaisnéisí. Tá cuid dena beathaisnéisí seo an-chuimsitheach; mar shampla an sliocht ar an Chairdinéal Ó Fiaich agus ceann nó dhó eile i bhfad ró-thearc faraoir mar shampla gan ach 8 líne tugthar Seán Mac Éil – iar Árd Easpag Thuama agus duine de mhór-phearsain na naoi hAoise déag.

Tá cíoradh an-mhaith síos tríd an leabhar ar na hirisí agus leabhair a d'fhoilsigh Maigh Nuad thar na blianta; mar shampla *Irishleabhar Mhaigh Nuad, An Sagairt,* agus *Léachtaí Cholm Cille.* Chomh maith le sin tugtar cuntas an-mhaith ar an ghaol a bhí idir Maigh Nuad agus na Coláistí Gaeilge fud fad na hEorpa a shíolraigh agus a bhláthaigh le linn am na bPéin Dlíthe in Éirinn.

Tá plé an-maith déanta sa leabhar ar thionchar na beirte sna beathfháisneíse orthu"

Nuair a dhéantar ainilís ar stadas na Gaeilge i Maigh Nuad is iad An tAthair Eoghan Ó Gramhna (duine de bhunaítheoirí Conradh na Gaeilge in 1893) agus an tAthair Micheál Ó hIcí (a briseadh as a phost mar Ollamh le Gaeilge i Maigh Nuad sa bhliain 1909) na hainmneacha is mó a ritheann leat.

Tá plé an-maith déanta sa leabhar ar thionchar na beirte sna beathfháisneíse orthu.

Tagraítear don Athar Ó Gramhna mar "Ceannródaí". Tá scagadh ionraice ann ar phearsanacht uí Icí agus ar na toscaí ab chionnsiocair lena bhriseadh óna Ollúntacht.

Nuair a bhí an túdar ina mhac léinn i Maigh Nuad bhí sé go mór faoi scáth a Ollamh le Gaeilge an Monsignor Pádraig Ó Fiannachta a bhásaigh le deireanas. Ní hionadh mar sin go gcuirtear caipidil iomlán ar leataobh ar shaol agus ar shaothar Phádraig Uí Fhiannachta. Cuireann a bhfuil sé chaipidil sin go mór le tairbhe an leabhair.

Is leabhar í seo a bheidh an-spéisiúl de dhuine ar bith a chaith seal i mbun staidéar i Maigh Nuad agus neart eolas agus taifid fhísicúil inti.

Is leabhar í atá tur go maith in áiteanna agus barraíocht mion-bheatháisneísí inti.

Tá'n leabhar maisithe le clúdach ghleoite i bhfoirm an saothar péintéireachta 'Alive in Hope' ó bhailiúchan ealaíona Maigh Nuad. Mar sin féin is trua go mór nach bhfuil réimse grianghrafeanna i gcroí-lár an leabhair.

Ba dheas leis dá mbeadh gluais innéacs ar deireadh an leabhar cé go bhfuil foinsí tagartha an-mhaith curtha ar fáil sa leabhar.

Ach níl sa mhéid sin ach mion-lochtanna. Tá'n leabhar le moladh go hárd agus ar luach an-réasúnta de €12 is fiú go mór é a chur le bailiúchan gach scoláíre gaeilge.

The World of Books

By the books editor

The strange heights of book collecting

n Easter Monday, I went with a friend to the regular monthly book fair in Dublin. This caters for many kinds of readers and collectors.

Most of the books on offer are at very reasonable prices. Nothing here that would sell for more than a couple hundred euros — high enough, I suppose, for some purses.

Ordinary readers, most of whom keep very few of the books they buy over the years, must be mystified by the activities in the rarefied world of book collectors, such as those to be seen and chatted to at this event.

But there are even more rarefied levels of book collectors, a sort of bibliographical Everest where oxygen may be in short supply and is certainly not always reaching their brains.

My attention was caught the other day by a colour advertisement prominently printed in a literary magazine. It illustrated a selection of rare books on offer at an upcoming auction, with their guiding prices.

One of the books was a James Joyce title: Haveth Childers Everywhere, a pamphlet extract from Work in Progress (as Finnegans Wake was known before 1939). This was estimated at £3,000-4,000. Such a price is well beyond that of those who enjoy reading Joyce.

Here we have left the realm of the arts, and entered the kingdom of commerce and of investment portfolios. The elevated price may help us to understand where some library budgets go these days.

Cheapest book

But consider the other items which are on offer. The cheapest book illustrated was a first issue of Anthony Burgess' A Clockwork Orange (1962), for £1,000–1500, a singular linguistic feat in its own way. A very different literary work, Scott Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby, was not just a first edition, but a "first state dust-jacket". (Which reminds me that I saw in one Dublin dealer's window a while ago, a Scott Fitzgerald book with a "madeup" photocopied jacket. It was the British edition wrapped around an American printing. When I asked about this, to me slightly deceptive offer, I was told it was for "information" only.)

There was also a book by the great Stanley Morison and Kenneth Day, *The Typographical Book 1450-1935*, for £6,000-8,000 – this was not so much for the work of the brilliant type designer (a copy can be bought on Amazon for £35) so much as

for the high-art binding in which had been recased by the late Elizabeth Greenhill.

The final titles were what once would have been called children's books. One was *The Hunting of the Snark*, by someone called here Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, otherwise Lewis Carroll; which was guiding at £7,000–9000. Another was J. K. Rowling's *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, a first printing of the first edition in 1997, at £6,000–8,000. But the final title – and here some readers make need to catch their breath – was a first issue of the first edition in 1901 of *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* [pictured]. Miss Potter's undoubted masterpiece was £15,000–20,000.



Now all of these titles can, I suppose, be seen as landmarks in the course of Western culture. All are, in their very different ways, admirable and significant works, though I would not care to rank them further (as is done on those rather silly programmes on TV listing, say, *Our Favourite 100 TV ads of All Time* – 'all time' here being dated from about 1964, anything before that belongs to an era 'almost forgotten' – a favourite phrase these days with some journalists for everything from the names of Alexander's generals to the Korean War – a world of misty prehistory, rather than history.

Commercial value

The prices have little to do with literary value, but are posited on rarity, the commercial value of which is, of course, always to be exploited.

This same drive we see all the time, where families, generally grandchildren sell off the papers, paintings, or whatever of their famous relative for as much as they can, rather than present them to the nation or a national institution. Nothing quite beats the greed of posterity.

The only real value that granddad has to some families, or the nation, or indeed to civilisation, is cash at auction, with of course a levy or commission fee to the auctioneers or go-between, which can amount to 40% of the hammer price.

A daily dose of faith for harassed mothers

The Catholic Mom's Prayer Companion. A Book of Daily Devotion edited by Lisa Hendey and Sarah A. Reinhard (Ave Maria Press, \$16.95; available online)

There cannot be these days a more harassed set of people than the Catholic mothers of the world. This book is as the title suggests, of North American origin. That said many will find this an excellent book as a sort of daily breviary.

It provides a piece for every day of the year: a scriptural quotation, a reflection on this by various writers, finished off by a thought to ponder during the day. The prayers are of the short, simplest, most moving kind: such as Make me a saint Lord.

One person at a time; or Lord, help us to keep our eyes on you and leave the doing to you as we wait for a glorious surprise ending.

In all it is a warm, human and spiritual little book.

30 | Classifieds The Irish Catholic, April 27, 2017

Classifieds

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

Friends of St. Therese Pilgrimages

Divine Mercy Pilgrimage to Krakow 2017

4th - 11th July from £599 / €700 19th -26th Sept from £599 /€700

Medjugorie

23rd-30th May from £479 / €540

Contact Danny 90245547 / 07514908666

ALL PROFITS TO 3RD WORLD

Please make a little room in your will for people who are homeless

Contact our Fundraising Department in strictest confidence

Tel. 01 8815 900 Email. info@focusireland.ie www.focusireland.ie



THE IRISH HOSPICE FOUNDATION

when making your Will so that everyone,

everywhere will have access to hospice care one day.

LITTLE FLOWER PENNY DINNERS

The Guild of the Little Flower has been

providing meals to the homeless and

elderly for over 100 years. Please help us continue and

donate what you can.

Credit and Debit Cards now also accepted.

Guild of the Little Flower, 11 Meath St. D8

Phone 01 4536621 or 01 4546795 E-mail: srbrigid@littleflower.ie

E-mail: info@hospicefoundation.ie www.hospicefoundation.ie



12TH JUNE - 10 NIGHTS - EX DUBLIN LED BY FR. JOHN NEWMAN

6TH OCTOBER - 8 NIGHTS - EX DUBLIN NATIONAL FRANCISCAN PILGRIMAGE

9TH OCTOBER - 9 NIGHTS - EX CORK LED BY FR. BERTIE O' MAHONY

FULLY ESCORTED PILGRIMAGES



2 Grand Parade. Daunt's Square, Cork Tel. 021-4277700 | Email:premier@premiertravel.ie

Holy Land Pilgrimages 2017



BOOKING NOW!

Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Cana, Sea of Galilee, Dead Sea 9 days from €1,495 including taxes Departures April, May, Sep & Oct Includes full programme, Spiritual Director, Guide, entrances.

MAP travel (01) 8783111 www.maptravel.ie

Brand new Introductions and RING NOW! Matchmaking service designed for you to (091)-734001 meet your perfect partner for friendship (089)-7044801

Please pray for the beatification of

Little Nellie of Holy God

"May God enrich with every blessing all those who recommend frequent Communion to little boys and girls proposing Nellie as their model"

- Pope St Pius X, June 4, 1912

Classified ads

PILGRIMAGE

MEDJUGORJE PILGRIM-AGE for anniversary, 21-28 June 2017. Contact Tony Gray 01 837 0510.

PILGRIMAGES Fr Benny McHale will lead an 11 day pilgrimage (his 34th) to the Holy Land from June 26 - July 6 and a number of places have become available Details from 0879491489 or 0872387336

SERVICES

ALL UNWANTED home waste removed. Cookers, fridges,

The Irish Catholic, 23 Merrion Square North, Dublin 2.

beds, suites, wardrobes, carpets etc. Removed and disposed of in a proper manner. No job too small or big. Contact Tommy, 087 6406015.

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODA-

TION Galway, June to August. Saturday to Saturday rental. Well-maintained, bright house. All mod cons, cable television, wi-fi, central heating, bed linen and duvets. 5 minute drive to Galway City and Salthill and prom. From 700 p/w. Phone 085 1965405 after 6pm.

GROUP PILGRIMAGES

Lourdes, Garabandal & Camino de Santiago Daparting Cork 2 - 12 October 2017 - €1195pps **Spiritual Director: Fr Pat McCarthy**

Holy Land - Follow in the footsteps of Jesus 21 - 30 October 2018 - €1550pps Spiritual Director: Fr David Collins OFM

Contact Richard: 087 941 5303



BÓTHAR

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

LEGACY

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

Ireland's leading Catholic weekly. Your help will grow subscriptions to schools and poor parishes.

For more information contact us on 01-687-4020

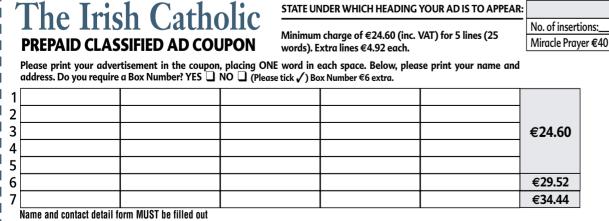
Remembering **MEMORIAM CARDS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** CARDS & NOTELETS **BOOKMARKS**

Samples | Information KENNEDY PRINTERS BANTRY, CO. CORK, IRELAND

Tel. 027 50102 www.kennedyprinters.ie email: info@kennedyprinters.ie

This could be your ad, prices start at €25 **GET YOUR MESSAGE OUT TO 90,000 READERS!**

The Irish Catholic



.......I wish to pay by Visa 🔲 Mastercard 🔲 Laser 🔲 My Visa/Mastercard/Lasercard number is:

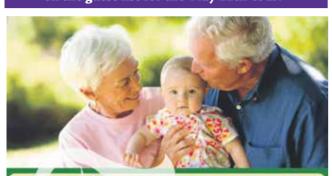
Phone: 01 687 4024

Gordius 296

Imagine just for today you are homeless. Hungry. You have no money and no phone.

Join us for Tea and a private Tour of our homeless centre. See confidentially how Merchants Quay Ireland uses donations and legacies to bring relief and hope. All welcome. to find out more visit www.mai.ie

Ring Emma Murphy at 01-5240965 to be included on the guest list for the May 11th tour.



Giving Family & Life a gift in your Will is a hugely inspirational, lasting, and dignified way to leave a loving mark on countless lives.

A gift in your Will ensures that the most effective pro-life / pro-family organisations will continue working for the kind of society we all desire.

Remember, everything we do to save babies and strengthen the family relies on you and our other generous friends

For further advice or to avail of our Solicitor's free Wills service, please contact us today on

01-8552790

Family Life

Ph:01 8552790 | email: fandl@iol.ie www.familyandlife.org

Will the MSC Missions

Missionaries of the Sacred Heart work in poor parishes in Africa, Russia and Venezuela

Please remember them in your Will

Mission Support Centre, Western Road, Cork. Tel: 021 - 4543988

www.mscireland.com

Trócaire is working for a just world and an end to poverty.

Please remember this work when making your will

If you would like further information please contact Trocaire, Maynooth, Co. Kildare



01-629 3333 info@trocaire.ie www.trocaire.org

Leisure time

Crossword Junior Gordius 179

Across

9 Parlour (7-4)

- 1 In cartoons, this bird always wears a sailor suit (6.4)
- 7 Large bird of prey (5) 8 January or May, perhaps (5)
- 11 What you have when you take ten from one hundred
- 14 These birds hunt at night
- 15 You wear it on your head
- 16 Jogging or sprinting (7) 17 A joint halfway up the leg

Down

- 1 Putting on your clothes (8)
- 2 The time of darkness (5) 3 Falsehood, fib (3)
- 4 Cause harm to (6)
- 5 The Grand
- huge gorge in the USA (6) 6 Plant which stands for
- 10 Go here to see a play on stage (7)
- 12 Not old (5)

Ireland (8)

- 13 Not fancy (5)
- 15 Farmyard bird (3)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

GORDIUS No.295

Across - 1 Child's play 6 Abba 10 All my worldly goods 11 Fingertip save 12 Goddess 15 Maker 17 Kite 18 Alms 19 Tibet 21 Credits 23 Conga 24 Fido 25 Lilo 26 Legal 33 Brown rice 34 Koala 35 East 36 Maisonette

Down - 1 Coat 2 Isle of Man 3 Dryad 4 Puffs 5 Aunt 7 Batik 8 Apparition 9 Helmets 13 Emir 14 Skid Row 16 Calculable 20 Brilliant 21 Calling 22 Tear 29 Ovens 30 Liken 31 Liza

CHILDREN'S No.178

Across - 1 Peacock 6 Igloo 7 Races 9 Keeps 10 Useless 11 Mean 13 Ivy 14 Pine 15 Army 16 Avoid 17 Fire 18 Oars 19 Try

Down - 1 Porcupine 2 Archery 3 Kicks 4 Fleece 5 Cousin 8 Sleepover 11 Meadow 12 Admire 16 Art

ACROSS

26

33

35

1 Might the Lace Pact be something you can agree with? (10)

Crossword

- 6 Expectorate (4)
- 10 Whimsically humorous (5)
- 11 Gee, a cloud moved around the Ten Commandments! (9)
- 12 Hide her tale thus (7)
- 15 Kayak (5)
- 17 German river (4)
- 18 & 19 Chop the red banana to make this Indian food (4,5)
- 21 Etna or Krakatoa, for example (7)
- 23 This might make everyone love a Scottish town (5)
- 24 Chaps take a turn when they see this in a restaurant! (4)
- 25 One with no grandparents took the accountant in (4)
- 26 The words of a song (5) 28 Empty that glass, there's
- alcohol aloft! (5,2) 33 & 5d How fortunate it is,
- for starters (9,4) 34 Navigate, give directions
- 35 Looked at some Cockney
- editors (4) 36 Help (10)
- DOWN

1 Prolific killer developing

- from HIV (1.1.1.1.)
- 2 Narrow escape but not from phoning longdistance? (5,4)
- 3 Aviator (5)
- 4 Confuse (5)
- 5 See 33 across
- 7 Victorian architect who turned up with mother's ruin (5)
- 8 Search under tomes for something fantastic (10)
- 9 Harmless inactive medicine
- 13 Embrace with love. Victor! 14 Take that back, Cinders!
- (7)16 Final libel action proving
- the Pope to be this (10) 20 The carrying out of a
- legally-sanctioned killing 21 Preparation used in
- inoculation (7) 22 Seaweed in Japan, found
- in some of the minor islands (4)
- 27 Scoundrel (5)
- 29 Prepare potato thus to dispel riots (5)
- 30 The time of darkness (5) 31 Lower limbs (4)
- 32 Mr Postlethwaite took a tame creature east (4)

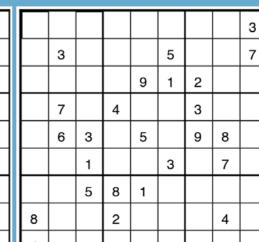
Sudoku Corner

Easy

6

Hard

2



Last week's Easy 178

Last week's Hard 178 3 7 5 2 6 4 8 1 9

4 8 6 9 1 3 7 2 5 2 1 9 5 8 7 3 6 4 6 2 8 7 4 1 9 5 3 7 4 1 3 9 5 6 8 2 9 5 3 8 2 6 4 7 1 8 6 4 1 5 9 2 3 7

4 9 6 2 1 8 4 6 1 4 2 8 3 9 5

7 2 9 1 8 4 5

> 2 5

32 | Comment The Irish Catholic, April 27, 2017

Notebook

Martin Delaney



iar Gospel of Doubting Thomas. I'm always intrigued that the Gospel goes out of its way to refer to Thomas as "called the twin". Nowhere to my knowledge do we ever hear who Thomas' other twin is. I wonder if that might be deliberate because it allows for a more profound interpretation that we are all potentially Thomas' twin! In Ireland it is difficult not to be tempted by doubts about our Faith and our Church when almost exclusively, any public mention of faith or church is negative or cvnical.

In the weeks leading up to Easter I participated in two very different celebrations which challenged powerfully any temptations I might have to be Thomas' twin Firstly I concelebrated at a celebration to mark the 40th anniversary of The School of The Holy Spirit in Kilkenny. In 1977 Peter Birch, then Bishop of Ossory, set up The School of The Holy Spirit to cater for children with specific special needs. The school began in one room and had three children and one teacher. Forty years later the school now has 80 pupils in a new state of the art building on a site



provided by the diocese and under the patronage of the local bishop. Many of the Children who have come through the doors of the school over the last 40 years have lived with emotional disturbance

and behavioural difficulties and more recently autistic spectrum disorder. There is a danger in our society that children with such life challenges can become defined simply by the narrow confines

A DILEMMA! The parish priest woke up Sunday morning and, realising it was a beautiful and sunny spring day, decided he just had to play golf. So.... he told the curate that he was feeling sick and convinced him to say Mass for him that day. The parish priest headed out of town to a golf course about 40 miles away. This way he knew he wouldn't accidentally meet anyone he knew from his parish.

Setting up on the first tee, he was alone. At about this time, St Peter leaned over to the Lord while looking down from Heaven and exclaimed, "You're not going to let him get away with this, are you?" The Lord sighed, and said, "No, I guess not." Just then he hit the ball and it shot straight towards the pin, dropping just short of it, rolled up and fell into the hole. It was a 435-yard hole in one! St Peter was astonished. He looked at the Lord and asked, "Why did you let him do that?" The Lord smiled and replied, "Who's he going to tell?"

School of The Holy Spirit challenges that perception in so many powerful ways every day. All of this happens in the context of a Catholic Christian ethos. Reaching out to the most vulnerable within our society in an inclusive and compassionate way is what the Church should do best and it does. Doubt no longer but believe! A few days after the school anniversary I participated in a memorable celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the parish of Birr in Co. Offaly. The parish holds these celebrations before Christmas and Easter. It was a Monday night and the church in Birr was packed to the rafters, at least 600 people. The music was great as was the presiding and the preaching. There was such a sense of celebration of God's love and mercy and compassion. The congregation was a mixture of age groups and they had all freely come to participate. They came because they knew that this was the place they would experience a welcome, they would meet their God and their neighbours and together they could celebrate their identity as followers and disciples of the Easter Jesus. Doubt no longer but believe!

From An Ode to Life

What happened to death? How terribly gone it is! All the world is filled with Life today

For someone stepped on death And Resurrection happened! Someone stepped on death

And Life

leaped out

leaped up

leaped in.

A friend named Life walked in! Macrina Wiederkehr



HELP TRAIN A YOUNG MAN FOR THE MISSIONARY PRIESTHOOD

Crossed POs and cheques should be sent and made payable to:

THE LITTLE WAY ASSOCIATION

Sacred Heart House, 119 Cedars Rd, Clapham Common, London SW4 0PR (Registered Charity No. 235703) Tel 0044 20 76 22 0466

www.littlewayassociation.com

€	TRAINING FOR THE PRIESTHOOD
€	NEEDS OF MISSIONARIES
€	HOLY MASSES (Please state number)
€	LITTLE WAY ADMIN EXPENSES
	Discontist if a second difference of the second discount

enclose €..... to be allocated to:

Name (Rev. Mr. Mrs. Miss)

To donate online go to tinyurl.com/lwadonations

DONATIONS FOR THE MISSIONS ARE SENT WITHOUT **DEDUCTION FOR ANY EXPENSES**

☐ Please tick if you would like an acknowledgement

(Block letters please)

YOUR EASTERTIDE GIFT TO OUR RISEN SAVIOUR

Each year THE LITTLE WAY ASSOCIATION receives numerous requests from Religious Orders in mission lands for help to train their seminarians.

It costs approximately €66 a month (€800 a year) to feed, clothe and educate a student for the priesthood

The great majority of young men who come forward to offer their lives to God, and His people, come from poor families. Their parents do not have the means to support them financially. The cost of educating and maintaining seminarians is often a heavy burden on the Religious Orders. It costs approximately €66 a month (€800 a year) to feed, clothe and educate a student for the priesthood. We appeal wholeheartedly, this Eastertide/Pentecost, to all readers to help train and support a candidate for the priesthood.

Any donation you can send will be most gratefully received, and will be sent without deduction, to help to train a young man for the priesthood.



LITTLE WAY **HOUSE IN FATIMA AVAILABLE FOR GROUPS**

Would you like to take a group to Fatima for the Centenary celebrations? Casa Little Way is available for parish or group bookings.

The house is about 20 minutes' walk from the Shrine and can accommodate up to 22 pilgrims in shared rooms.

You would need to book your own flights but transport can be arranged between Lisbon airport and Fatima for groups.

Ph: 00 44 207 622 0466

