

The Irish Catholic

VIOLA DAVIS

Oscar winner thanks God for success Page 3



DIVINE MERCY

Thousands encouraged at faith event Pages 12 & 13



LENTEN CHALLENGE

7 positive habits to adopt this season Page 11



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Marie Collins quits child protection commission

Ongoing difficulties forced survivor's hand

Greg Daly

The sole Irish member of the Pope's child protection commission has stepped down, three years after joining the Vatican body.

DUBLINER Marie Collins, one of two abuse survivors who were founder members of the advisory body in March 2014, is understood to have informed the commission of her wish to resign some weeks ago. Pete Saunders, the London-based head of the UK's National Association for People Abused in Childhood, was suspended from the commission in February 2016.

"I have resigned from the commission," Mrs Collins told *The Irish Catholic*. "There is no animosity between myself and the commission. I still support the members and the work they're doing, and I also still believe the Pope is sincere in his attitude to stopping abuse."

"But," she added, "there are difficulties that I just couldn't continue to contend with, and I've

reached a point where I have to leave."

Mrs Collins, who has previously spoken of resistance within the Vatican to the commission's work, said, "It just reached a point where the difficulties being put in front of the commission were such that I personally as a survivor can't continue, but I do wish it well, and I do hope that in the end it will achieve what it set out to do, and that is change and safer environments for children and vulnerable adults."

Decision

Although agreeing with other commission members who have spoken in recent weeks about difficulties facing the commission owing to a lack of funding, Mrs Collins said this was not a significant factor in her decision. "There are other stumbling blocks that have been put in the way of the commission and it has been extremely stressful," she said.

» Continued on Page 2



Legging it for Lent

Ross Malone (7) and his little brother James (2) from Kildare, at the launch of Trócaire's 44th Lenten campaign at Maynooth College. Ireland's largest annual fundraising campaign is targeting humanitarian relief for up to one million people. See Page 6. Photo: Mark Stedman

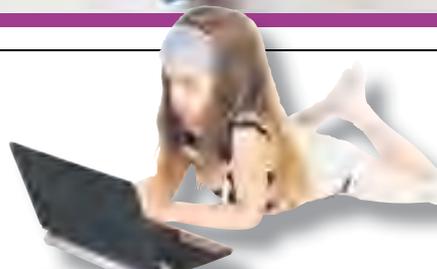
DAVID QUINN

Cardinal Connell swam against cultural tide PAGE 10



CYBERBULLYING

How we can protect our children online PAGES 23 & 25



MARY KENNY

Pope puts substance ahead of style PAGE 5



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Michael Kelly's Editor's Comment returns next week

Inside this week

Fr Ron Rolheiser

Of virtue and sin

Page 22



Film review

Authentic look at Traveller world

Page 27



Fr Martin Delaney

Behold the wood of the cross

Page 32



NI Catholic principals call for clarity on academic selection

Paul Keenan

The North's Catholic Principals' Association (CPA) has called for "clarity" from bishops on the issue of academic selection for grammar schools, after the announcement of a drive to formulate a single entrance exam to serve all schools by 2019.

The announcement by the Post-Primary Transfer Consortium (PPTC) of a link-up with the Association of Quality Education (AQE) in designing a single selection exam is entirely at odds with the stance taken by the Catholic bishops, who have previously stated their desire to move entirely away from academic selection.

The resulting confusion prompted the CPA to issue a statement this week calling

on both the bishops and Catholic trustees "to state publicly their position on the matter".

The CPA said it was also "a matter of urgency" to find out "on whose behalf the PPTC statement was issued and how it sits alongside the policy of the Northern bishops regarding ending selection".

Crucial

Speaking to *The Irish Catholic*, CPA chairman Tony Devlin said that as the PPTC currently oversees the entrance exams for 28 Catholic grammars, the need for clarity was crucial for his organisation.

"Are the PPTC speaking on behalf of those Catholic schools and their trustees?" Mr Devlin asked. He added: "If schools are wedded to selection, then so be it. But we need clarity."

Describing the development as "unhelpful and regressive as far as the CPA is concerned", Mr Devlin said "we support the bishops and the end of selection, which we view as detrimental to students". He revealed that the CPA will now put a request into writing to Archbishop Eamon Martin.

The PPTC announcement of its cooperative approach to selection with the AQE has come four months after the North's Education Minister Peter Weir of the Democratic Unionist Party - which favours academic selection - established an initiative to examine if agreement could be reached on creating a single entrance examination for Grammar schools.

Marie Collins quits commission

Continued from Page 1

Her announcement comes against a background of reports that Pope Francis has discreetly decided against laicising a handful of clerical abusers in favour of other sanctions where they would be kept out of ministry, something that Teresa Devlin, CEO of the Irish Church's safeguarding board, has said "can have significant benefits for the safety of children" if the perpetrator co-operates with his management plan.

Weak

While saying this development sends out the wrong signal, since "it makes the Pope look weak on abuse", Mrs Collins stressed this was wholly unrelated to her decision, and said keeping abusive priests within monitored Church structures was quite different from allowing offenders return to ministry.

Expressing concerns that Pope Francis may be badly advised by people appealing to his emphasis on mercy, she repeated her confidence in him, "From what I've seen, it doesn't appear that he has changed his mind on zero tolerance. I think he's still firm on that."

It is understood that Mrs Collins will continue to cooperate with the commission in an educational capacity.

Managing Editor: Michael Kelly, editor@irishcatholic.ie
Features Editor: Mags Gargan, mags@irishcatholic.ie
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
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Magnificat: Marian O'Meara, marian@irishcatholic.ie 01 6874028
Office Manager: Geraldine Kellett 01 687 4095
Managing Director: Garry O'Sullivan

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Srs Ruth Maria and Karen at the Servant Sisters of the Home of the Mother stall catching up with the news in *The Irish Catholic*. Photo: John McElroy

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Primate calls for retention of free movement post-Brexit

Greg Daly

Brexit must not affect freedom of movement on the island of Ireland, Archbishop Eamon Martin has said.

The Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All-Ireland expressed concerns about the threat Britain's vote to leave the European Union would pose to cross-border movement in Ireland, and said the country's bishops want guarantees that Brexit will not further divide the island.

"As one Church, we want to have assurances that the possibility to move between the North and the Republic will remain the same as today," he told the Italian newspaper *La Stampa*.

Appeal

The archbishop was interviewed against the backdrop of the Northern bishops' February 22 pre-election appeal to voters in which they called upon politicians to resist temptations to retreat into partisanship as political divisions are deepening and Northern Ireland's status in the EU is under negotiation.

Expressing concerns that voters might be discouraged from voting because of current political tensions, the bishops had sought to remind the politicians of their duty to

work for the common good in a responsible way, Dr Martin said, and had wanted "to warn politicians to be careful not to sacrifice the progress we have made over the past 20 years after the Good Friday Agreement".

Because the EU's "principles of peace, reconciliation and harmony have shaped Ireland's peace process", Dr Martin said "we are a bit nervous about the impact that the reconstruction of a border wall could have in a peace process that is not over yet".

Frictionless

Although British Prime Minister Theresa May has said that a post-Brexit border would be "frictionless" and "seamless", critics have said this would be incompatible with her government's wish to limit freedom of movement between the UK and EU.

Reiterating how a hard border would divide dioceses such as his own, 40% of which lies in the Republic, Dr Martin said the bishops are particularly troubled by how Brexit would be likely to affect communities in the border counties.

"We are genuinely concerned because we do not want what is known as a hard border; an actual border that would heavily impact border communities," he said.

Award winner Viola Davis thanks God for success



Viola Davis.

Paul Keenan

Actress Viola Davis shared the secret of her Oscar-winning success during her Academy Award acceptance speech this week: God.

Lauded for her Best Supporting Actress role in *Fences*, Davis sought to share her moment of glory with fellow Christian Denzel Washington, her co-star and *Fences* director, thanking him for "putting two entities in the driving seat: August [Wilson,

screenwriter] and God...they served you well".

Going further, the actress went on to offer thanks to God for her parents, stating "I'm so thankful that God chose you to bring me into this world".

Poverty

Far from gushing Oscar-night platitudes, Davis has previously been open about the Christian faith that has carried her through a life of abject poverty to acting success.

Of husband Julius Tennon, Davis has

revealed that she met him shortly after being encouraged to pray for a husband when she was "the loneliest woman in the world" as she worked to make it in Hollywood.

Since then, the actress' life has moved from success to success, with awards for roles in television's *How to get away with Murder* and the big-screen *The Help* and her own star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

"It's like my life flashing before my eyes and all I can say is God has blessed my life in abundance," she has said.

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Pressure mounts on RTÉ over 'haunted bread' insult

Paul Keenan

Pressure is mounting on RTÉ this week after it was revealed that over 2,000 complaint letters have been sent in response to the 'haunted bread' incident on *The Late Late Show*.

Fr Gerard Ahern of Abbey-leix, who has led the growing letter campaign to RTÉ since a guest on the flagship programme went unchallenged when describing the Eucharist as 'haunted bread', confirmed to *The Irish Catholic* that, having pursued the obligatory path of communicating his original complaint directly to RTÉ first, and being dissatisfied with the response, he has lodged his own formal complaint to the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland (BAI).

This adds to the complaint already lodged by Kerry-based Fr Kevin McNamara.

"I received a three-page reply from RTÉ," Fr Ahern said, "which tried to put the incident into the context of

entertainment. But this is about Ryan Turbidity failing in his duty to be balanced. Instead, he said the 'haunted bread' was a 'great expression'."

Reiterating his sense of insult, Fr Ahern went on: "We're not standing up enough for our faith now. I'm not going to sit back on this."

Provocative

RTÉ's letter, seen by *The Irish Catholic*, conveys the same defence as communicated earlier to Fr McNamara that "the phrase 'haunted bread' in relation to the doctrine of transubstantiation was certainly provocative... The phrase was a linguistic encapsulation of The Holy Ghost and Holy Communion to illustrate the speaker's and many of his generation's difficulty with the belief in transubstantiation."

It goes on to express "regret that you found aspects of the discussion offensive" but insists that "RTÉ does not believe that this broadcast

was in breach of... the BAI Code of Programme Standards".

Meanwhile, *The Irish Catholic* has learned that the complaint letter campaign to RTÉ is growing, with the parishes of Abbeyleix, Hack-

etstown and Naas sending at least 2,000 letters between them.

The RTÉ press office this week confirmed that the broadcaster to date "has received 1,352 formal complaints about that particu-

lar edition of *The Late Late Show*".

In response to an inquiry from this paper, the BAI confirmed that it "has registered five complaint referrals regarding the January 6 edition of *The Late Late Show*".



UPLIFTING CELEBRATION FOR DUNDRUM RESTORATION: Last Sunday a Eucharistic celebration took place to mark the restoration of Holy Cross Church, Dundrum in Dublin. The principal celebrant was Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, who also baptised two babies in the new baptismal font. Photo: John McElroy

Meath's first new monastery since the Reformation

Mags Gargan

The Bishop of Meath has signed a decree to establish what is believed to be the first new monastery in the diocese since the suppression of the monasteries by Henry VIII.

Bishop Michael Smith presided at the canonical establishment of the monastery at Silverstream Priory on Saturday, "erecting the Benedictine Monks of Perpetual Adoration of the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar as a monastic Institute of Consecrated Life of diocesan right in the Diocese of Meath".

Bishop Smith said he was

"delighted to recognise the unique presence of this new monastery in the Diocese of Meath. Through their prayer, study and hospitality, the monks are 'speaking to the heart' and their quiet witness is a reminder that the Lord continues to provide the Church with new gifts and grace."

Silverstream is home to a community of eight male religious who follow the Rule of St Benedict.

The community came from Tulsa, USA in 2012 and occupies the former residence of the Visitation Sisters in Stamullen, Co. Meath.

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What's your Lenten challenge?

"I'm giving up meat, cheese, eggs and butter for Lent. I really wanted to challenge myself this year and it is basically the historical way that people used to do it." — Eddie (42)

"I don't give up anything for Lent. Life is tough enough and I would end up not sticking to it anyway. Instead I try to be nicer to people." — Kathleen (62)

"I'm giving up wheat, dairy and sugar. To be honest it is more about health and well-being for me than about faith." — Mary (34)

"I'm giving up taking the bus to work and taking the lift. I'm going to walk instead. I'm also going to stop eating my lunch at my desk. For me it's an opportunity to try to improve my life." — Caroline (30)

"I usually do something every year for Lent. Maybe more out of habit than for religious reasons. I'm giving up TV this year and I'm going to try to read a book a week instead. It's a chance for a bit of self-improvement." — Donal (28)

"I'm going to try to do at least one form of exercise a day and to eat my five-a-day. I think Lent is more about getting healthy these days than about penance." — John (38)

"I'm giving up all social media. I've decided I will only use my phone for calls and texts, and I will switch it off at night. I just don't like how I find myself checking it constantly on the bus or in front of the TV. I need a break from it." — Jenny (25)

"I am not giving up anything for Lent. I think that is too old fashioned. Being a Christian today is about constantly looking at your life and excesses." — David (50)

Pope Francis puts marital substance ahead of style

In a season when there is much focus on weddings – spring brings us the ‘wedding fayres’ at which the Big Day is so lavishly marketed – it’s surely apt for Pope Francis to focus on marriage preparation, rather than the matrimonial procedure.

He recently told a group of priests that “good preparation” for marriage isn’t just limited to a few courses, but extends to the first years of marriage.

Couples should be helped to understand “the profound meaning of the step they are about to take” – and the support needs to continue.

His address was thoughtful, tolerant and inclusive of all relationships, and he used uplifting language urging priests to “bear witness to the beauty of marriage”. Where couples are living together rather than marrying it’s the Church’s role to listen, but also to lead young people towards the sacramental.

Preparation

All this needs to be said: marriage certainly needs ongoing support, and it often seems to need more preparation.

We are told that domestic violence and abuse is a major problem today, with women often having to seek ‘barring orders’ to exclude violent partners from the family home.

But preparation for marriage – sometimes it was called ‘courtship’ – was supposed to be a



Mary Kenny



time when you became acquainted with a potential spouse’s personality. If somebody was violent, unstable, or an alcoholic, it would emerge during that preparation.

I wonder if contemporary culture focuses too much

on the style and too little on the substance?

The ‘marriage fayres’ which highlight weddings are strong on the frocks, the flowers and the food, but have little to say about the most important ingredient of all: character.

Our addiction to technology

I know what I should give up for Lent: I recently learned how to respond to messages on Twitter, and now I’m checking my tweets on the hour every hour. It is a dreadful source of temptation, which appeals to some of my worst failings – arguing with people just for the sake of it, firing off quick tweets in instant, sometimes unwise, response instead of doing what I should do – wait, reflect, deliberate.

Until recently, I only tweeted occasionally, but these days I’ve become dangerously near to emulating President Trump with the instant tweet (and it’s given me an insight into his Twitter addiction too).

A new book by Adam Alter, *Irresistible – Why We Can’t Stop Checking, Scrolling, Clicking and Watching*, claims that our addiction to technology is growing at an alarming pace: people now say they “can’t live” without the gadgets that connect them to the internet, and real-life social skills are declining as we spend ever more time checking our electronic messages. Lenten self-denial in this department clearly beckons.

When the personal is political

There was a heated conversation on Marian Finucane’s political discussion programme last Sunday morning on RTÉ Radio 1 about how deplorable it was for newspapers to focus on the private lives of politicians.

Noel Whelan of *The Irish Times* waxed indignant that a picture of Leo Varadkar with his partner should have appeared in *The Irish Independent*. Mr Varadkar himself was present and didn’t seem to be too ruffled about the report, which was in no way scurrilous, incidentally.

I can’t see what is wrong with a politician’s partner being part of their profile. It is a normal aspect of everyday public life, and it is also something for the historical record. If or when Dr Varadkar comes to lead the Fine Gael party – he’d be an excellent candidate – the standard

reference book *Who’s Who* will list the facts of his life, and he will be asked to nominate the name of his life partner.

Indeed, the context of a politician’s life often makes them more interesting, and more human.

I’m fascinated by Michelle O’Neill’s story: how sensible of the Belfast Sinn Féin leader to have become a mother when she was still a teenager, and to raise her kids while she was in her 20s. Now she’s 40, they’re grown and flown and she can focus on her political career, while still in her prime.

One of feminism’s slogans was ‘the personal is political’ – life experience can be something a politician brings to the table, and their family life is part of that picture.

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Trócaire targets “unprecedented” humanitarian need

Mags Gargan

The current scale of humanitarian need is “unprecedented” warned Trócaire, as it launched Ireland’s largest annual fundraising campaign this week.

The bishops’ overseas aid agency is targeting humanitarian relief for up to one million people with its Lenten campaign, which will see schools, communities and parishes coming together over the next six weeks to pledge their support for the poorest people in the world.

“Hundreds of millions of people around the world have been lifted out of poverty by Irish people’s generosity over the last 44 years,” said Trócaire Executive Director, Éamonn Meehan, adding that the current scale of humanitar-

ian need in the world is “unprecedented”.

“The situation in South Sudan is dire and set to worsen significantly over the coming months. Over 4.5 million people do not have enough food to eat and there is no prospect of that improving until August at the earliest. Over one million children are at immediate risk of death unless they receive urgent food aid.”

The family pictured on this year’s Trócaire box is from a village in Honduras that faces regular flooding from storms and rising sea levels. Trócaire provides for safe evacuation while campaigning for access to safer homes.

i For more information about Trócaire’s Lenten campaign, visit trocaire.org/lent.

Parents’ campaign offers Roscrea possible lifeline

Paul Keenan

The closure of Cistercian College Roscrea has been stalled as a result of a passionate campaign by parents and past pupils.

Following the revelation that the Cistercian order was to close the boarding school due to financial pressures, a ‘Save CCR’ group has formed with the intention of sourcing funding for the school’s future.

Speaking to *The Irish Catholic*, campaign leader Ronnie

Culliton, a past pupil and parent to a current student, said the first gathering of Roscrea’s supporters in Birr, Co. Offaly last week had been “very enthusiastic”.

“We had 350 people in attendance,” Mr Culliton explained, “and it was an entirely positive meeting. Parents are desperately keen to make this work.”

What that involves, he explained, is finding the source of a surety that means “the future of the college is assured”.

Acknowledging that this

could be a major challenge, Mr Culliton said that supporters “are now working to spread the word among past men”.

He added that parents remained entirely open to a changed model for Roscrea upon which any future funding might rest, but, a point he emphasised, “parents do not want to see a change to the Catholic ethos of the school”.

For his part, in a letter to parents responding to the “heartwarming expressions of support” for an alternative to closure, Roscrea’s Abbot

Richard Purcell wrote that “in recognition of this no further action will be taken until March 17, 2017 pending engagement with the group to be formed among parents and past pupils to explore possible viable proposals for the future of the college”.

And while not seeking to offer “any false hope”, Dom Richard added his commitment “to give full consideration” to such a proposal.

The Save CCR campaign now has a Facebook presence and an email for all contact at saveccr@outlook.com

Celebrating 50 years of learning



Papal nuncio, Archbishop Charles Brown (centre) flanked by students Kieran Murray and Caoimhe Nugent, along with local clergy, at a Mass to celebrate the 50th anniversary of St Ciaran’s College in Ballygawley, Co. Tyrone.

Ray D’Arcy tops list of complaints to RTÉ

An analysis of complaints lodged with the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland (BAI) for the last six years has revealed that broadcaster Ray D’Arcy has garnered more complaints than any other radio personality.

Released by *The Sunday Times*, the breakdown in figures for BAI complaints reveals that, in just three years with RTÉ Radio, D’Arcy was the subject of 38 complaints. Of these, 33 were connected to his afternoon radio show on RTÉ Radio 1. Since 2010 he has been the subject of 51 complaints.

D’Arcy has courted controversy on his radio programme for his often one-sided broadcasts on the abortion issue.

In December, the BAI issue a Warning Notice to RTÉ in respect of this after a third complaint to the watchdog specific to D’Arcy and abortion.

The BAI warned of sanctions against RTÉ if this was not remedied, and the broadcaster gave an undertaking to provide the BAI with a plan to avoid any re-occurrence of the concerns raised.




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Galway parish begins Lenten mission to get fit

Mags Gargan

A Co. Galway parish pastoral council is on a mission to improve parishioners' health this Lent with the launch of an 'Operation Transformation' style of fitness scheme.

Based on the health and fitness programme on RTÉ One, parishioners are being invited to follow the fitness regime of six leaders in Annaghdown parish taking part in 'Operation Continuation'.

Six local fitness instructors, a nutritionist and a pharmacist have all volunteered their time to support the project. "The three leaders met with the nutritionist on Monday to get diet plans for the week, we will have training on Fridays and Wednesdays in Corandulla hall, weigh-ins

with the pharmacist every Friday, and on Sunday mornings we will have a 5km walk alternating from Annaghdown or Corandulla each week," said Jenny Baranyai, who has organised the project.

"Everybody from the area can come to the classes. It is a community gathering and a social thing, so we want to get everybody out together," she told *The Irish Catholic*.

About 100 people from the parish attended an information evening for the programme and a Facebook page has been set up where people can follow the leader's journey. The project kicked off yesterday (March 1) and will run for six weeks, but organisers hope that the parish walks will become a permanent community event.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Our Lady of Fatima statue tours Ireland

A centennial pilgrim statue of Our Lady of Fatima is making a tour of Ireland during the month of March.

The statue of one of six commissioned by the Alliance of the Holy Family Int'l (AHFI) and the Human Life International - Austria, and blessed by Pope Francis for the 100th anniversary of Our Lady's appearance in Fatima and her messages to the world.

The tour will begin in St Malachy's Church in Armagh on March 3, where the statue will be welcomed by Archbishop Eamon Martin. It moves to Armagh Cathedral on March 4 for First Saturday devotions and then leaves for Letterkenny Cathedral.

Capuchins celebrate double anniversary

St Michan's Parish is celebrating 200 years of the church in Dublin's Halston Street and the 305th anniversary of the first Novena of Grace in honour of St Francis Xavier.

Believed to be the oldest parish in Dublin and run by the Capuchin Franciscans, the parish celebrates this year's Novena of Grace from March 4-12, on weekday evenings at 7.30pm, Saturdays at 6pm and Sundays at 12noon. Fr John Kelly will open the novena on Saturday, March 4.

School chaplains are key to protecting students' mental health

Greg Daly

School chaplaincy and pastoral support teams have a key role to play in protecting Irish adolescents' mental health, it has been claimed.

Speaking to *The Irish Catholic* ahead of the 2017 Self-Harm Awareness Conference, held in Dublin's Aviva Stadium yesterday (March 1) Capuchin Bro. Martin Bennett said the conference's focus was on adolescents.

"Mental health issues are hugely important in school settings," the Rochestown College chaplain and former Samaritans volunteer said, describing how suicides in Cork over recent years have affected schools in the city.

"There has been a big number of suicides over the last year," he said. "One school had two students in close succession take their own lives, and these things have ripple effects across the community."

A frequent speaker at schools' mental health awareness weeks, Bro. Martin explained how he is pioneering a programme at Rochestown called PATHS - Positive Approaches To Health and Study, aimed at helping students in "dealing with emotions, thinking processes, low mood, anxiety and stress".

"It's a huge thing for people experiencing low mood and anxiety to know when they need outside help", Bro. Martin said, adding that the course aims to give students coping skills to navigate adolescent lifestyles, including advice on social media involvement.

"It's about empowerment of young people," he said, explaining that while school emphasises on academic and sporting success obviously matter, "emotional, psychological and spiritual health are all important parts of who they are as human beings - spiritual health is hugely important as part of their whole mental health."

Different schools have different cultures and approaches to chaplaincy services, he said, but working together chaplains, career guidance counsellors, year heads, and others can spot early signs that students are facing difficulties.

Identifying problems are, however, only a first step, Mater Hospital Psychiatrist Prof. Patricia Casey told *The Irish Catholic*: "Prevention is obviously the best way forward, but mental health requires resources. It's not just about identifying need - it's how you respond to it."

Direct provision 'backlogs' not addressed

The introduction of a single procedure application for asylum seekers has failed to address the "outstanding backlogs" in the system according to the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS).

Eugene Quinn, National Director of JRS Ireland, said that while the introduction of

a new International Protection Procedure, which aims to streamline the asylum process and produce more speedy decisions, "is to be welcomed", it "may be some time" before the benefits in terms of reduced waiting times for decisions are experienced by asylum seekers on the ground.



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Struggling to lead in the face of a storm

He was criticised at times for being less than diplomatic," said Dublin's Archbishop Diarmuid Martin in his homily during the funeral Mass for his predecessor Cardinal Desmond Connell, "just as I am criticised for being over diplomatic."

It will have been an odd statement to those who recall the coverage of 2009's report into how abuse allegations were handled in the Archdiocese of Dublin between 1975 and 2004. If there is one thing people remember about Cardinal Connell's role in the Murphy Report, it's that it inextricably linked him with the concept of 'mental reservation'.

The report describes Marie Collins – one of the indisputable heroes of the abuse

Greg Daly considers some aspects of Cardinal Connell's handling of the abuse crisis



scandal through her courage and perseverance, even now – as having been angry with Church authorities having used mental reservation in dealing with her, and then relates how Cardinal Connell described the concept.

"Well, the general teaching about mental reservation is that you are not permitted to tell a lie," he began. "On the other hand, you may be put in a position where you have to answer, and there may be cir-

cumstances in which you can use an ambiguous expression realising that the person who you are talking to will accept an untrue version of whatever it may be – permitting that to happen, not willing that it happened, that would be lying.

"It really is a matter of trying to deal with extraordinarily difficult matters that may arise in social relations where people may ask questions that you simply cannot answer," he continued, "Everybody knows that this kind of thing is liable to happen. So, mental reservation is, in a sense, a way of answering without lying."

The report went on to describe two instances where Mrs Collins and her fellow survivor Andrew Madden believed mental reservation had been in play; it is not clear, however, whether the cases cited were instances of mental reservation, or simply of straightforward legalese, where the cardinal said things or the archdiocese made statements that were true but that didn't give the full truth.

Reservation

It would, of course, be ludicrous to describe this as good or admirable, but that is not the same as to say they were instances of mental reservation in a technical sense. It's striking, in this respect, that the commission does not record whether or not it asked Cardinal Connell whether he had engaged in mental reservation in his dealings with abuse survivors and gives him no opportunity of defending himself against this allegation.

"The exactness of his words did not gift him to deal with modern communications: mixed with the complexities of scrupulosity, he was not equipped for the world of soundbites, door-stepping, and media deadlines," observed Bishop Eamonn Walsh in the pro-cathedral at the reception of the cardinal's remains, continuing, "He preferred the pause button to the fast-forward. Being thrust from the world of academia into being the front person

for the largest diocese in the country had him stepping on the occasional landmine."

Obvious examples of such landmines abound, not least the crude description of President Mary McAleese taking communion in a Church of Ireland cathedral as a "sham" or his reference to the Church of Ireland's then Archbishop of Dublin as not being a theological "high flier", and of course in the context of the Murphy Report there was the extraordinary episode when, meeting Mrs Collins in December 1996, he told her that the Irish Church's guidelines for tackling abuse allegations were simply that – guidelines – and that they were neither canonically nor civilly binding. Absolutely true, of course, but not the full truth: he had, after all, committed to implementing the document, something he could and surely should have said.

“By 2002, it was clear that he had learned his lesson”

An awkward testimony to his scrupulosity hit the headlines in 2008, of course, when the retired archbishop had a well-publicised clash with his episcopal colleagues over the opening up of diocesan files containing statements received in confidence. In some respects, the cardinal's actions seem a dreadful error of judgement, but to him it must have seemed unavoidable given commitments and understandings when evidence was given.

In summing up in his homily his predecessor's handling of the abuse crisis in Dublin, Archbishop Martin paid due respect to both sides of the issue. Describing the cardinal as having become archbishop at a difficult time, he said, "Many comments in these days noted that he was slow to recognise the extent of the problem of child sexual abuse by priests," rightly continuing, "It is not enough to make that comment now from a distance.

"It must be said that he found himself surrounded by a culture and at times by advisors who were slow and perhaps even unwilling to recognise both the extent of the problem and the

The late Cardinal Desmond Connell.

enormous hurt that had been done to children, a hurt they still carry with them. That hurt has still to be fully recognised; that wound cannot be consigned to past history. For victims it still remains," he said.

On the other hand, he observed: "It is also true that it was Cardinal Connell who was the one who finally began to realise the extent of the abuse and the extent of the damage done to children and with difficulty began to drag out information which some were still reluctant to share.

"He must be remembered as the one who established the child protection service in this diocese, which was the beginning of a new culture which has now, thank God, been widely accepted and welcomed," he added, stressing that there can never be room for complacency on this issue.

Abuse crisis

That the late cardinal should have been slow to realise the scale and nature of the abuse crisis, and the sheer damage it did to individuals can even now seem surprising in light of how his sense of justice and indeed scrupulosity have been testified to by people who knew him over the years, not least through his decades in University College Dublin.

One UCD colleague, Prof. Fran O'Rourke, tells how on the Friday afternoon of an early 1980s June bank holiday weekend, the future archbishop – then a professor of philosophy – spotted a mistake in how a first year student's exam mark had been calculated.

"He was quite upset by this discovery, remarking that the error could have serious consequences for the student's future," observed Prof. O'Rourke, noting his col-

league's concern that similar errors might have been made with other students. "So while his colleagues enjoyed the extended weekend, a particularly sunny one, Prof. Connell went through all of the figures: 500 students, three papers, four questions; 6,000 marks which he checked," he said.

It may seem a small detail, but such details can be telling, making the archbishop's apparent slowness to appreciate the reality of the abuse crisis all the more startling. Part of the problem, surely, must have been that he was the product of a clericalised culture in which he automatically thought his brother priests essentially trustworthy. By a 2002 press conference it was clear that he had learned his lesson, saying of abusers, "they lie through their teeth. They are the most extraordinarily devious people."

In that same conference, he said he had "suffered greatly" through the crisis, which had, he said, "devastated [his] period of office", and that he had "gone through agonies" over it.

“One of the first in Rome to realise the reality of the crisis, the then Cardinal Ratzinger”

Among his troubles were – by the late 1990s – struggles with the Vatican to bring home the nature of the crisis. In the 1990s, it's now generally recognised, the Vatican's Congregation for Clergy was marked by a profoundly clericalist culture that made it almost blind to the seriousness of the abuse crisis. Indeed, just a couple of years after pleading with the Pope to dismiss serial abuser Tony Walsh from the clerical state, the then Archbishop Connell had at least one famous clash





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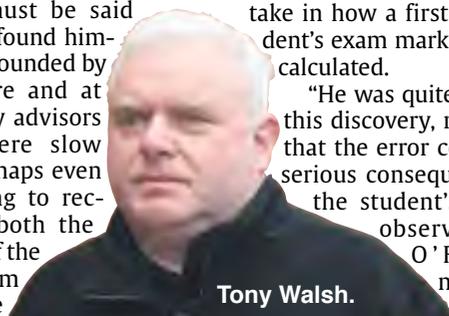
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Tony Walsh.



The funeral Mass in the Pro Cathedral in Dublin for Cardinal Desmond Connell, officiated by Archbishop Diarmaid Martin. Photo: John McElroy

with the head of the congregation in 1998: at a meeting in Rosses Point the normally reserved prelate banged his fist with fury on the table in an attempt to get Cardinal Darío Castrillón Hoyos to understand the realities of dealing with abusive clergy.

His efforts had little impact on the curial cardinal, however, who the following year told the Irish bishops,

in Rome on their *ad limina* visit, that they were called to be “fathers to [their] priests, not policemen”. That meeting reportedly ended in uproar.

Complaints

The newly-appointed Cardinal Connell was surely pleased, then, when in April 2001 St John Paul II ruled that henceforth all child sexual abuse cases were to

go through the then Cardinal Ratzinger’s Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF). Before this, the CDF only ever dealt with such issues insofar as they were sometimes connected with an abuse of the sacrament of Confession, and in practice it received very few complaints; Malta’s Archbishop Charles Scicluna told *The Tablet* in 2010 that between 1975 and

1983 the CDF received no abuse reports from anywhere in the world, and not one of the 86 cases considered in the three Irish reports into abuse allegations in Ferns, Dublin, and Cloyne was reported to Rome prior to 2003.

Even the case of the notorious Tony Walsh stayed off Roman desks until he appealed in 1993 against Dublin’s canonical decision

to laicise him, and when it went to Rome it went to the Roman Rota, not the CDF. The judicial body commuted the original sentence, directing that the then Fr Walsh should instead spend 10 years in a monastery, but Dr Connell challenged this, eventually pleading with the Pope via “a senior curial official” to have the abuser laicised, and in 1996, the then Cardinal Ratzinger issued a decree saying that the Pope had dismissed Walsh from the clerical state.

“The cardinal was not a man wholly lacking in sensitivity”

One of the first in Rome to realise the reality of the crisis, the then Cardinal Ratzinger would push for the CDF to be given the lead in tackling the issue, and under his leadership, whether as CDF chief or Pope, 848 priests were laicised and 2,572 otherwise sanctioned in the decade from 2004.

In hindsight, it is hardly surprising that Cardinal Connell was in 2005, it has been claimed, one of the loudest voices calling for Cardinal Ratzinger to succeed St John

Paul as Pope, maintaining that he was the only man among the gathered cardinals with all the qualities needed for the task ahead.

An astonishingly clear thinker, according to his onetime colleagues, Cardinal Connell was a shy, theoretical and formal man with a precise mind that was ill-equipped to deal with a society increasingly inclined to wear its heart on its sleeve, lacking as he was in a perception of words’ emotional impact.

Even as he encountered abuse survivors who had lost their faith, and came to understand the horrible destruction of self that abuse can perpetrate, he lacked the skills necessary to deal with those bearing the wounds inflicted by those commissioned to heal and serve as representatives of the Church.

That said, the cardinal was not a man wholly lacking in sensitivity by any means, or a man given to easy pat answers. Prof. O’Rourke notes how, when a colleague was in tears over the sudden death of a close friend, he asked whether the then Prof. Connell could make sense of it.

“I don’t have an answer,” he said, “except that Christ became one of us to share in the suffering of death.”

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Cardinal Connell swam against the cultural tide



We might fault Desmond Connell for his methods, but we cannot fault his sense of duty, writes **David Quinn**

Commentary on the death of Cardinal Desmond Connell has been dominated, understandably, by the abuse scandals that came to light during his time as Archbishop of Dublin. Who Des Connell was got lost in the commentary. In a way, he was reduced to a one-dimensional figure, defined only by his response to the scandals.

Fr Damian McNiece, who worked alongside him when Desmond Connell



Young girls chat with Cardinal Desmond Connell at the end of a Mass in preparation for World Youth Day in Cologne in 2005. Photo: John McElroy

was Archbishop of Dublin, remembers him fondly. In a personal reflection on the Dublin diocese's website

(www.dublindiocese.ie), he remembers his kindness, his humility and his sense of humour.

He describes him as a "Victorian gentleman", and I think that has it exactly right. Des Connell was born in 1926, the same year as my father, but he hearkened back to an even earlier era. I seem to remember that he liked the novels of Anthony Trollope, who wrote the *Barchester* and the *Palliser* novels in the 19th Century.

Desmond Connell loved history. It was his first love, not philosophy, the subject he taught at UCD. I also seem to recall being told by a contemporary of the cardinal that he wanted to study and teach history, but John Charles McQuaid told him to study and teach philosophy instead. He had incredibly deep knowledge of the French Revolution and its consequences.

In a way, Cardinal Connell suffered several dislocations. He was born out of time. I don't think he disliked teaching philosophy, but he would have preferred to teach history, and he was given a job – heading the biggest diocese in the country in the middle of a storm – to which he was ill suited. But every inch of the way he tried to do what he saw as his duty and to do God's will as far as he could discern it.

Scandals

He also found himself 'between the times' in that society's values had changed massively by the time he became Archbishop of Dublin in 1988 compared with when he was born and raised. The Church overall

finds itself in this position.

Aside from the scandals, Cardinal Connell found himself in deepest trouble when he challenged the very strong individualism of the present time.

For example, in 1999 he delivered a speech defending *Humanae Vitae*, the 1968 encyclical which reiterated, to enormous controversy, the Church's opposition to artificial birth control.

Most bishops won't go near this topic with a 10-foot barge pole and Cardinal Connell was nothing if not brave in addressing it. However, he made a hash of things because, along the way, he suggested that parents who plan their children may come in some way to regard them as products, not gifts, and so may love them less.

He also got into hot water when he said it was a 'sham' for President Mary McAleese to receive Communion in a Protestant Church, Christ Church Cathedral to be precise, back in 1997.

He was reminding people that the Catholic Church forbids intercommunion, that is, Catholics and Protestants receiving Communion together.

“Cardinal Connell was pushing back against individualism”

When he used the word 'sham', many people believed he was referring to Protestant Communion itself, but he wasn't. What he meant is that it was a 'sham' to pretend there was communion (as in unity) where none existed.

The Catholic Church believes receiving Communion together is a sign of unity already achieved. Protestants are more likely to regard shared Communion as a step along the road to unity. In my opinion, both positions are defensible.

These two controversies, while seemingly very different (one being about birth control and the other about intercommunion), actually had something in common, namely whether individual Catholics can decide the rules in these matters for themselves, or whether there are certain binding moral and communal obligations they must adhere to come what may.

What Cardinal Connell was doing was pushing back against the individualism which would leave it all up to the individual, as though the individual is the final arbiter. Cardinal Connell was saying that certain things are wrong in themselves, regardless of what the individual may think, and that Catholics should pay more attention to what their Church has to say about certain matters.

Harm

This very much had him swimming against the tide and it also has the Church swimming against the tide. We live in an extremely individualistic age. People hate being told what they can and can't do. They want to live by the rule, 'do as you like so long as you do no harm to others'. This is far less demanding than the commandment to treat others as you want to be treated.

There are many Catholics, including many clergy, who will say that the trouble Cardinal Connell attracted by his defence of certain teachings of the Church shows that sometimes discretion is the better part of valour. They will argue it is better to be silent about the teachings that are most counter-cultural and instead emphasise the teachings that go with the flow, the teachings about helping the poor, for instance.

To my mind, it is not either/or. We must do both. The Church must offer a counter-cultural witness as well. Cardinal Connell sometimes attracted even more trouble than was necessary because he could be very *maladroit* in his choice of words. He had a tin ear for these things.

However, while we might fault Desmond Connell for the way he went about defending certain Church teachings, we cannot fault his sense of duty in doing so. Nor should we forget that he was a great defender of the right to life when that wasn't popular either.

In the meantime, it has become even more unpopular, but this only reinforces the need to offer a strong counter-cultural witness when need be, and the need is strong today.

Swimming against the tide is hard, uncomfortable work, but if the tide carrying you in the wrong direction, nothing else will do.

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positive habits for Lent



Fr John McCarthy offers suggestions for practical things we can do this Lent

In a recent Sunday Gospel Jesus tells us: "You are the light of the world." The first reading from the prophet Isaiah in the Old Testament on that Sunday also tells us of seven ways in which we can be a light to others. There are seven practical things all of us can do – and these are the 'Seven Habits of Highly Effective Christians' – based on a book entitled *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*. We can attend to the habits one day per week – or one week for each of the weeks of Lent.

HABIT 1: 'Share your bread with the hungry'

This means that we should take a good hard look at our food budget and trim the possibility of waste and throwing out food on the one hand, and avoid overspending and gluttony on the other.

We should look at the cupboard and start at last to cook with what we have. We must look to our cramped freezers and start to defrost and eat the dinners we have stored over the past six months. We must spend only in order to use up what we have before the next major food buy.

Non-perishables and money saved can be given to the poor, but we should try to factor in the hungry in our budget all the time – give to a soup kitchen or food charity.

HABIT 2: 'Shelter the homeless poor'

The plight of homelessness is a blight in our society. Hardly a week goes by when we do not hear of another scandal involving unoccupied houses owned by the banks and at the same time the increase of rent prices and the abandonment of homes by people who have fallen on hard times. It is a scandal that there



A homeless man eats his meal at a soup kitchen. Photo: CNS

Isaiah 58:7-10

Thus says the Lord:

Share your bread with the hungry, and shelter the homeless poor, clothe the man you see to be naked and do not turn from your own kin. Then will your light shine like the dawn and your wound be quickly healed over. Your integrity will go before you and the glory of the Lord behind you. Cry, and the Lord will answer; call, and he will say, 'I am here.' If you do away with the yoke, the clenched fist, the wicked word, if you give your bread to the hungry, and relief to the oppressed, Your light will rise in the darkness, And your shadows become like noon.

are tens of thousands of unoccupied homes in our country while people die from exposure on our streets. And what have we done? Have we given to a homeless charity? Have we lobbied politicians and others who represent us? Politicians will only act and really show practical care when we do.

HABIT 3: 'Clothe the man you see to be naked'

Well, we go back now to our homes and our bulging wardrobes and closets. It's time to

get rid of half of our clothing and blankets, everything we haven't worn in the last two years, I suggest. Not to make way for more clothing to fill the gap, mind! We can't complain that 'we have nothing to wear' when there are others who can genuinely say it.

HABIT 4: 'Do not turn from your own kin'

We have heard the expression 'charity begins at home', and this is so true. Our charity is a pretence if we ignore the needs of our own family, such as a needy parent or grand-

parent, a brother or sister in financial difficulty, and so on.

Turning your back is a refusal to see them, literally. There are two directions of course – if we are the guilty party in a misunderstanding we should try to make an effort to seek forgiveness; on the other hand if they are guilty of wrongdoing we should at least keep the lines of communication open to them in the hope of reconciliation. In all instances, pray for them.

“The funny thing about light of course is that it must have a source – and that is Christ the light of the world”

HABIT 5: 'Do away with the yoke and give relief to the oppressed'

This means to forgive debts and to unburden people of what weighs them down – we can of course give material relief to bail people out of debt – and give to relief agencies caring for refugees for example, but I think also at a local level of what it means to bear one another's burdens. How many people 'out there' need to unburden themselves of pain of problems, of worry, anxiety, loneliness, depression? All they ask for is a listening ear and the time we can spare to sit down and really listen.

HABIT 6: 'Do away with the clenched fist'

This means extending our hand in friendship and also doing away with anger, hatred, resentment, and begin the process of healing. It means no more displays of temper and impatience or acting out of spitefulness or mean spiritedness. Unclenching our fists means letting go.

HABIT 7: 'Do away with the wicked word'

Of the thousands of words we utter each day (about, or

to, others) how many of them are kind and necessary or out of generous selfless concern for another person?

How many of them, by way of contrast, are gossipy, slanderous, malicious, back-biting or answering back? We all talk about others. It is unavoidable in itself.

But I suppose a good measure of what I say about others or the manner I say it is how comfortable I would be if they walked in on the conversation unexpectedly? The positive words I say can increase the light in me and others while negativity can diminish the light within.

The reading its entirety is published in a sidebar on this page. The good we do can make up now for the wounds we have caused by sin – by our neglect of God's precepts and our failure to be a light in the past.

Finally, the funny thing about light of course is that it must have a source – and that is Christ the light of the world, and also that light reflects, lights up, is diffused.

Light as a form of energy can neither be created nor destroyed but transformed into another form of energy so the light I radiate – received from Christ in prayer – can light up the darkness in others' lives – and they in turn can be a light to others.

So let your light shine this Lent!



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Thousands turn Conference 2017



Volunteers at the Pure in Heart stand at the RDS. Photos: John McElroy

Paul Keenan

Drawn by "like-minded people" and in "hope of an uplifting event", thousands of people packed the main hall at Dublin's RDS for the 26th Divine Mercy Conference last weekend.

According to organisers, despite pressure on Dublin accommodation from the Ireland v France Six Nations rugby clash at the nearby Aviva Stadium, the Divine Mercy recorded at least 3,000 people attending on the first day, and 2,000 on Sunday – with many more watching from afar on the event's live stream online.

Gathering to the theme 'Have Mercy of us and the whole world', visitors filled the available seating on both days to hear from inspirational speakers such as Robert Stackpole, Fr Bernard J. McGuckian SJ, Spiritual Director with the Pioneer Association of the Sacred Heart, Denise Kelly of the Pro Life Campaign and Frances Hogan of EWTN.

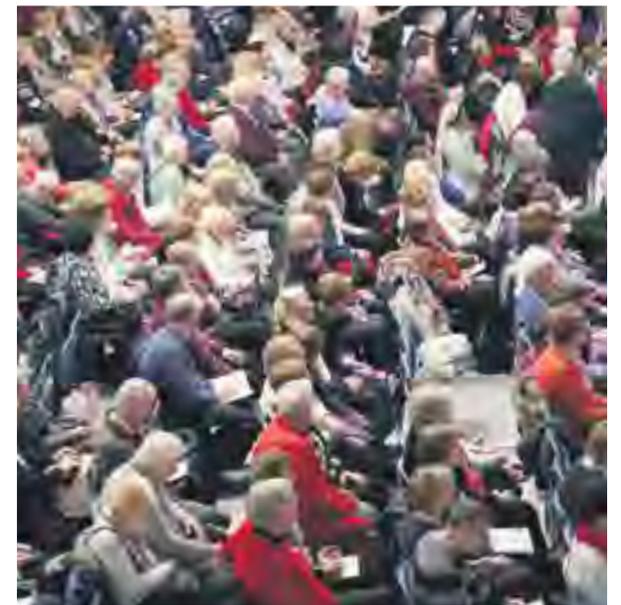
Event organiser and MC Don Devaney told *The Irish Catholic* that the feedback from visitors to date was that this had been "the most spiritual conference to date".

"We had hoped people would be encouraged and they were," Mr Devaney said, adding, "the call to be Apostles of Mercy was very well received."

Success

Asked to account for the continuing success of the conference, Mr Devaney said that lay in the gathering "giving support to people of faith, bringing them together to support each other".

When pushed to nominate a personal highlight of the event this year, he said the



Fr John Walsh OP, Bro. Alan Joseph Adamiop and Bro. Philip Mulryan at the Irish Dominicans stand.

Healing Service, conducted by Fr Eunan McDonnell SDB, the Divine Mercy's new spiritual director, had been "one of the most powerful in the 26 years" and had brought a flurry of positive responses from participants.

Mr Devaney also revealed

that a major international television network, Shalom TV, which reaches some 250 million people across Africa, the Middle East and the Philippines, filmed the conference and will screen it for its viewers this Divine Mercy Sunday, April 23.



Mary Murphy at the Marian Pilgrimages stand.



Liam Hayden, Lucy McDonald and Aidan Pidgeon at the Legion Of Mary stand.



Sr Mary Rose Gleeson before the Divine Mercy image.



Catching up with *The Irish Catholic*.



Kelly Murphy (Cork), David McLoone (Scotland) and Enya O'Callaghan (Donegal).

out for Divine Mercy



Volunteers at the Pro life Campaign stand at the Divine Mercy Conference.



Rosa As and Sr Crescentia.



Esther McCrystal, Therese McCrystal and Tammie Richardson at the Camp Veritas stand.

What they said...



"I'm here to receive the Holy Spirit, to show me the way. You can take a pill to take away the pain, but I want the power of God."
Kay [pictured right], Clondalkin, Dublin.



"We love to come every year for the speakers. It's food for the soul and it gives us hope. We collect stuff from the stalls for the whole year ahead."
Finola and Ann [pictured left], Raheny, Co. Dublin.

"I'll do both days, but I'm really here for Frances Hogan on Sunday. She's an inspirational speaker."
Marie, Co. Carlow.

"It's a mini-Medjugorje for me, a real injection of faith. I have a bag-load of reading now, it's great."
Mary-Jane, Co. Mayo.



"It's a path through Mary to Jesus. She is the mother of all creeds and all nations."
Nancy, Co. Limerick.

"This is the highlight of my year. The talks are always so good, so uplifting. I come both days every year."
Paddy, Cabra, Dublin.

"I love coming to the Divine Mercy because people are so good here. Nobody comes here to be negative."
Eimear, volunteer with Mary's Meals.



"The Divine Mercy is so beautiful and well attended. People are very willing to listen to the Pro Life Campaign message and to give time to something they really believe in."
Kate and Katie, volunteers with the Pro Life Campaign.

KNOCK
faith
RENEWAL EVENTS

Day Retreats 'Quiet Days for Busy People'

Saturday 11 March & 29 April.

Cost €30 incl. lunch

'Workshop for Choirs'

with the Irish Church Music Association

Thursday 9 March, 7.30pm.

Cost €10 per person

'Leading Prayer in Parish'

Workshops with Mary Connolly

Mondays 6 & 13 March, 8pm.

Cost €10 per person

Out&About

Growing the guiding movement



WEXFORD: Members of Irish Girl Guides in Ballygarrett who wore their Irish Girl Guides' uniforms to school as part of a campaign to help grow the guiding movement. Irish Girl Guides welcomes new members from age 5+ and volunteer leaders from age 18-80. To find out more, see www.irishgirlguides.ie or telephone 01-6683898.



WESTMEATH: Fr Tim Bartlett with Miriam and Jim O'Donnell, who are celebrating their golden wedding anniversary, at a celebration in Mullingar Cathedral to begin preparations for the World Meeting of Families in Dublin next year.



CLARE: The Killaloe Diocesan Liturgical Coordination Group at a recent meeting in Bunratty.

INSHORT

Newry couples celebrate with ACCORD

Bishop McAreavey and Canon Michael Hackett recently concelebrated a Mass of Commitment for Engaged Couples in the Cathedral of SS Patrick & Colman in Newry, which had a special significance for those preparing for marriage in the Diocese of Dromore.

Later, at a short reception held in the Newry Parish Centre, the couples had an opportunity to speak with Bishop McAreavey,

Canon Michael Hackett, spiritual director of ACCORD Newry, Fr Brian Fitzpatrick CC, Lurgan and the facilitators and counsellors of Newry ACCORD who organised the event.

Armagh celebrates St Patrick's Festival

Armagh town is preparing to celebrate this year's St Patrick's Festival with a number of events, starting this Friday (March 3–March 19) when all the churches and places of worship come together to symbolically celebrate our island's patron saint by ringing

their bells for a short time at 17:17 for the 17 days of the festival.

Cantabelles, a new vocal ensemble, will perform in St Patrick's RC Cathedral on Friday, March 10 at 8pm. Toni Watts, a professional manuscript illuminator, will give a demonstration in the cathedral on Saturday, March 11 from 3–6pm.

On March 16 a vigil will commence at the Church of Ireland Cathedral at 9pm where Archbishop Clarke will lead a prayer. Visitors will then be led by both archbishops in torchlight to the Catholic Cathedral where Archbishop Eamon Martin will conclude with

a prayer. A St Patrick's Tea Party will then take place in The Synod Hall, St Patrick's RC Cathedral on Friday, March 17 from 3–6pm. Free admission.

Ballinasloe conference on 'Fatima the centenary'

The entire message of Fatima will be presented by some world-leading experts at the Fatima Centenary Conference to be held at the Shearwater Hotel, Marina Point, in Ballinasloe this coming May 19–20.

Edited by Mags Gargan
mags@irishcatholic.ie



Events deadline is a week in advance of publication



DUBLIN: Youthful faces at the Camp Veritas stall at the RDS for the Divine Mercy Conference. Photo: William Smyth



DUBLIN: The Disciples of the Divine Master (PDDM), an international congregation based at White's Cross, Blackrock celebrated 25 years of presence, prayer and hospitality with a triduum of prayer in the Chapel of Adoration and concluded with a solemn Mass of Thanksgiving. Photo: Brian Redmond



MAYO: At the official handover of St Mary's Convent from the Daughters of Charity to Knock Shrine are: Denis Deery, Declan Heneghan, Sr Justine, Brian Crowley, Fr Richard Gibbons, George Finnegan, Sr Carmel and Stephen Burns.



DOWN: Attendees at a Mass of Commitment for Engaged Couples in the Cathedral of SS Patrick & Colman in Newry with Bishop John McAreavey, Canon Michael Hackett, Fr Brian Fitzpatrick CC, Lurgan, and ACCORD Newry facilitators Josie Conlon and Sean Rogers.

Fr Joseph M. Wolfe MFVA of EWTN will present and televise the conference and speakers include Colin B. Donovan, Vice President of Theology at EWTN; Dominicans Fr John Harris and Fr John Walsh; Msgr John Armitage, Rector of the Basilica of Our Lady of Walsingham; Prof. William A. Thomas of the Pontifical Marian Academy and Donal Anthony Foley.

Archbishop Eamon Martin of Armagh will celebrate the Mass of Our Lady of Fatima on Saturday, May 20, while the opening welcome will be

given by Bishop John Kirby of Clonfert diocese.

For more information and pre-registration see www.fatimaJPII.org

Large numbers attend faith mission

Large numbers of young people and not so young have been turning out to the Enfield/Rathmolyon Parish Faith Mission to hear well-known speakers give their views on what role Christian faith can play in their lives.

The mission, which is taking place in Rathmolyon Church, Co. Meath over four Monday until March 6, is aimed at enhancing faith understanding and community spirit within the parish.

A guest speaker addresses the congregation on each of the four nights, each talking on a specific aspect of Christian faith.

The mission concludes next Monday night (March 6) with a closing Mass celebrated by Bishop Michael Smith, who will talk on the role Faith plays in establishing a parish community

CAVAN

Mini Lenten Novena at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Kingscourt: Thursday, March 2, 7pm, Alice Taylor, Irish novelist; Friday, March 3, 7pm, Sr Enda McMullen, marking International Women's Day of Prayer; Saturday & Sunday, March 4 & 5, 6pm & 10.30pm, Bishop Willie Walsh, Emeritus Bishop of Killaloe.

CLARE

Holy Rosary hour marking the centenary of the apparitions at Fatima at the square Ennis, first Saturday, March 4 from 2.30-3.30pm. All welcome. Talks for adult and youth during Lent every Sunday and Wednesday at 7.30pm at Ennis Parish Centre hall, starting on March 5 for seven weeks by Fr Ger Fitzgerald and lay people from the Neo-catechumenal Way.

CORK

Catholic Bible teaching with Br Johnson Sequeira on Tuesday, March 21 in Leahy's Farm from 6-9.30pm; Wednesday, March 22 Glounthaune Parish Hall, 10.30am-4pm; Friday, March 24 Leahy's Farm 10am-1pm; Saturday, March 25 Mitchelstown Parish Hall 10.30am-7pm; Sunday, March 26 Glounthaune 11am-9pm.

DUBLIN

The pilgrim statue of Our Lady at Fatima blessed by Pope Francis for the centenary year will visit Sacred Heart Church, Yellow Walls, Malahide on Wednesday, March 15 at 7.30pm.

'Monday at the Monastery' series of talks returns to the Presentation Brothers' house in Glashule, for four Mondays during Lent from 7.30-9pm: March 6, John McAreavey; March 13, George Hook; March 20, Maria Steen; March 27, Marianne Quinn. Booking is advisable by emailing events@Presentation-Brothers.org.

Ceiliúadh Naomh Pádraig: celebrate Saint Patrick in a bi-lingual gathering with ceol, dánta and stories. Dé hAoine 3ú Márta/Friday, March 3, 7.30pm, 13 Geraldine Street, (off Berkeley Road), Dublin 7. Organised by the Legion of Mary.

Divine Mercy Mass 7.30pm every Tuesday in St Saviour's Church, Dominick Street followed by holy hour. Also prayers of Divine Mercy every day at 2.30pm at the shrine with the relic of St Faustina.

Presentation Brothers are running their 10th Alpha series in Glashule on Tuesday evenings from 7.30pm for 10 weeks throughout February and March. For more information, email alpha@Presentation-Brothers.org

GALWAY

Our Lady's School of Evangelisation, Unbound Programme of Healing Prayers with Fr Benny McHale and John McCarthy from 8-10pm on March 6, 13, 20 and 27 at Abbey Hall, Newtownsmith. Contact 087-9980525.

KERRY

Series of Lenten talks organised by Kerry diocese starting Thursday, March 2 at 8pm with Martina Lehane Sheehan, Ardferret Retreat Centre and Tuesday, March 7 at 8pm, Pobalscoil Inbhear Scéine, Kenmare. Thursday, March 9 at 7.30pm with Gerry Hussey in St Mary's Parish Church, Dingle and Friday, March 10 at 7.30pm Fr Seamus O'Connell in the John Paul II Pastoral Centre, Killarney.

LIMERICK

Catholic Bible teaching with Br Johnson Sequeira (www.jcilm.info) from 7-10pm with Maranatha prayer group on Saturday, March 25 in Mitchelstown Parish Hall from 10.30am-7pm and Sunday, March 26 in Glounthaune from 11am-9pm. Further details from: Chris 085-2392207.

LOUTH

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

MAYO

The next Latin Mass in the Old Rite (Tridentine) will take place on Sunday, March 12, at 5.30pm in the Parish Church Knock. The April Mass takes place on Easter Sunday at 5.30pm.

MEATH

The four-week Mission in honour of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Enfield parish concludes in St Michael's Church, Rathmolyon with Mass at 8pm on Monday, March 6.

OFFALY

Catholic Bible teaching with Br Johnson Sequeira (www.jcilm.info), Church of the Assumption, Tullamore, on Saturday, March 18 from 10.30am-6pm and Sunday, March 19 from 2-6pm. Further details from: Chris 085-2392207.

WATERFORD

Monthly intercession for marriages and families in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament: Friday, March 10 from 6-7pm in the Edmund Rice Centre.

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.

Taizé prayer in Good Counsel Chapel, New Ross from 8.15-9pm every Friday during Lent commencing March 3 and concluding with 'Prayer around the Cross' on April 14.

WESTMEATH

To mark the centenary of the appearance of Our Lady at Fatima the church of Saint John the Baptist Whitehall, in the parish of Coole will host a programme of events on the six Fridays of Lent (except St Patrick's Day) at 8pm starting on Friday, March 3 with The Story of Fatima by Fr Donncha Ó hAodh, Opus Dei.



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LENTEN AND EASTER

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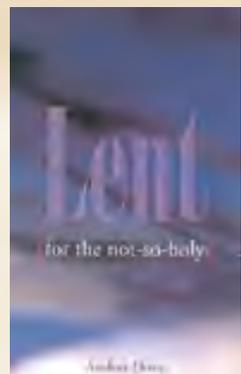
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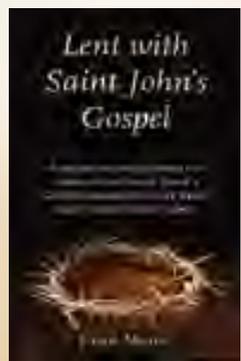
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The season of Lent is a pilgrimage with the promise of something glorious at the end. This book is an attempt to point the way for people who might not consider themselves "holy". It encourages them to discover their own insights and inspiration, as they face their struggles and doubts.

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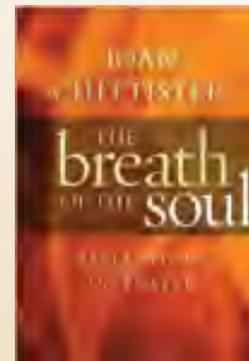
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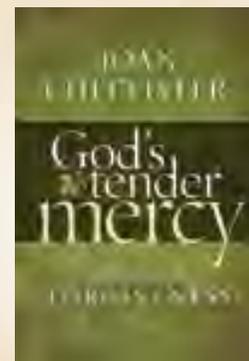
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PRAYER - by Joan Chittister

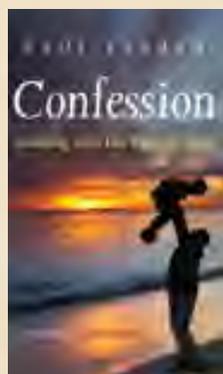
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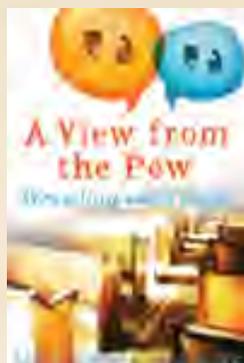
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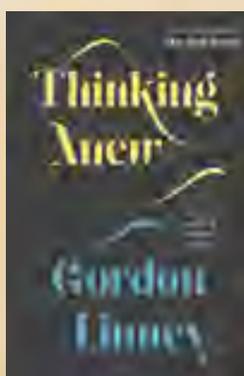
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World Report

IN BRIEF

US Muslims fundraise for vandalised Jewish cemetery

• The Muslim community in the United States has raised thousands of dollars towards repairing a Jewish cemetery subjected to a major attack by vandals.

The attack on Chesed Shel Emeth Cemetery in University City, Missouri, which saw the toppling of some 200 headstones, garnered widespread media coverage amid local shock at the incident. That coverage led in turn to a call for donations towards undoing the damage, a call which was met by Muslim groups in Missouri.

Within 24 hours of the attack, donations had topped \$55,000 (€52,000) and brought numerous statements of condemnation from Islamic leaders. "We want the Jewish community to know that the Muslim community stands with you in solidarity as anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and hate in general is on the rise in our nation," said Imam Djilali Kacem, leader of the Imam Council of Metropolitan St Louis.

Members of the Muslim community subsequently joined in the clean-up operation at Chesed Shel Emeth.

Colombia sends specialist unit to try to locate kidnapped nun

The Colombian government has sent an elite anti-kidnapping force to the African nation of Mali to assist in recovering Sister Gloria Cecilia Narváez Argoti, who was abducted from her community on February 7. The Guala Group of Colombia's National Police brings specialist skills

and technology to the hunt for the Mary Immaculate sister who is believed to be in the hands of Islamic militants who stormed the village of Karangasso in southern Mali. Police later detained two suspects in an ambulance stolen from the community during the raid.

Pro-government protestors storm Venezuelan churches

• Catholic churches in Venezuela have become the target for pro-government demonstrations following criticisms levelled against the disastrous administration of President Nicolas Maduro. As the nation continues to struggle against economic disaster, the Church has been a leading voice calling for reform and dialogue with opposition parties.

Since the beginning of February, parish churches have been stormed by protestors set on disrupting Masses with chants of "Satan in a cassock" and "Chavez lives" in reference to the father of Venezuela's socialist revolution, the late Hugo Chavez.

Among places of worship affected have been the main cathedral in Caracas, which was pelted with stones by demonstrators.

Pilgrims die as boat capsizes off Sri Lanka

Authorities in Sri Lanka have confirmed that 11 Catholics drowned when the overcrowded boat on which they were travelling on pilgrimage overturned on February 19. The tragedy occurred off the south-western coast as pilgrims made their way for the Day of Our Lady of Good Voyage, and annual event which sees

a waterborne procession attended by fishermen of the region.

Witnesses in other boats reported that the doomed vessel capsized as it attempted a turn. It was apparently carrying well in excess of a recommended 30 passengers. There were three children among the list of those who died in the accident.

Iraqi Christians build giant cross near Mosul

• Catholics in Iraq have erected a huge cross on a hill near the flashpoint city of Mosul to signal the return of Christians as so-called Islamic State (ISIS) is forced to retreat before massive military surge. Located on the outskirts of Telekuf-Tesqoppa, just 25km from Mosul, the great cross was blessed by the Chaldean Patriarch of Baghdad Louis Raphael I Sako to cries of "victory" following his celebration of Mass at the church of St George, the first Mass in two years at the church. At that Mass, Patriarch Sako insisted in his homily: "This is our land and this is our home."

Christians flee Sinai after two Coptic murders in Arish

Christians are fleeing the Sinai region of Egypt following the latest murders targeting the community, and just days after so-called Islamic State (ISIS) called for the slaughter of all Christians there.

According to reports from the region, following a February 19 video which appeared online to call on supporters of ISIS to target Christians in Sinai, a 65-year-old Christian, Saied Hakim, and his 45-year-old son were attacked in their home in Sinai's main city at Arish. While Saied was shot to death, his son was reportedly burned alive.

Two days later, and also in al Arish, gunmen stormed the home of Kamel Youssef, described as a plumber, and shot him dead in front of his family.

Now Christian families have begun to pack up and leave Sinai in the hope of finding security elsewhere in the country. According to the Associated Press, over last weekend alone, at least 75 families arrived in the city



Christians leaving Sinai.

of Ismailia on the Suez Canal in preparation for onward migration, possibly to Cairo or to the Christian stronghold of Alexandria.

Many of the migrants spoke of having received death threats to their mobile phones.

Development

The Christians of Sinai have endured a wave of murders since the start of 2017 – the

latest bringing to six the number of dead – but the ISIS video stands as a worrying new development for the community.

The Irish Catholic last week reported on the activities of Ansar Bayt al Maqdis (the Supporters of Jerusalem), a group which has been fighting the Egyptian authorities since 2011 and three years ago pledged its allegiance to the leader of ISIS, Abu Bakr al

Baghdadi.

While no group has claimed responsibility for last week's murders, security services believe the group is behind them and seeks to drive all Christians from Egypt.

Meanwhile, Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al Sisi has held an emergency meeting with his government and ordered all necessary steps to be taken to resettle displaced Christians.

Catholic parishes targeted in D.R. Congo clashes

Catholic parishes in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) have been attacked and looted in a serious escalation of violence in the country.

According to reports, militants in the central Kasai province, who have been fighting the military since August, have increased their attacks on civilian communities, bringing accusations of serious human rights abuses.

"Violence and unimaginable atrocities have been committed against peaceful citizens", Bishop Félicien Mwanama Galumbulula of Luiza said.

The bishop, who cut short a trip to Europe because of the violence, added that numerous parishes had been targeted by the fighters. "Some have been abandoned and others looted," he

said, reporting further that the priests of Ngwema and Mubanza "had to walk day and night to find refuge in another area."

DRC's leading prelate, meanwhile, has condemned attacks on a Catholic seminary and a parish in the country.

Sacking of seminary

Reacting to news of the sacking of the major seminary of Malole of Kananga, also situated in the central Kasai province, and a separate attack on a parish in the capital, Kinshasa, Cardinal Laurent Monsengwo stated that the attacks were acts deliberately staged to "destroy [the Church's] mission of peace and reconciliation".

"Along with all bishops, I denounce these acts of violence, which are likely

to plunge our country further into unspeakable chaos," he said.

The attack on the seminary has been blamed on militia members who ransacked the property and set fire to rooms.

In the capital, the vandalising of St Dominic's church by a dozen men prompted its priest, Fr Julien Wato, to report that tensions are increasing in Kinshasa and "in the street, it's not unusual to hear threats against the Church".

The uptick in violence in DRC comes in the wake of a fresh threat to presidential elections due for 2017, which has seen the government claim that staging the poll will prove too costly and should be postponed.

Holy Land experts to dig at 'Ark of the Covenant site'

Archaeologists in the Holy Land have announced plans to excavate a previously untouched site associated with the story of the Ark of the Covenant.

According to the *Times of Israel*, researchers have at last turned their attention to Kiryat Ye'arim, the location of a biblical town dating to the story of King David and mentioned numerous times in the Bible as a resting site for the Ark for 20 years before its removal to Jerusalem. The

site has never previously been the subject of an archaeological dig.

Far from entertaining hopes of a find as momentous as the Ark of the Covenant, experts preparing for the dig believe the linking of that artefact to the site promises the remains of an important temple there.

The dig team is expected to focus on the area around and under a 20th-Century hill-top monastery called Our Lady of the Ark of the Covenant,



Detail of Joshua passing the River Jordan with the Ark of the Covenant by Benjamin West, 1800.

which itself sits on top of earlier Byzantine ruins.

According to 1 Chronicles 13:6: "Then David and all Israel went up to Baalah, to Kiriath-jearim in Judah, to

bring up from there the ark of God which bears the name of Yahweh who is seated on the cherubs. At Abinadab's house, they placed the ark of God on a new cart..."



Edited by Paul Keenan
paul@irishcatholic.ie

Sister on the sideline

Longtime chaplain of the Loyola University Chicago men's basketball team and campus icon, Sr Jean Dolores Schmidt, 97, greets players after a game. Sr Jean is the newest member of the school's sports hall of fame. Photo: CNS



Catholic bishops in America speak out against exclusion, intolerance

Catholic bishops from the United States and Mexico have spoken forcefully against the climate of fear for migrants and others which has arisen in America since the inauguration of President Donald Trump.

In separate gatherings, prelates made statements to denounce "the exclusion and marginalisation" which threaten to divide families and punish the most vulnerable.

In a joint statement from the biannual meeting of the Tex-Mex Border Bishops – drawn from 20 dioceses flanking the US-Mexico border – the prelates urge a kind response to the reality of migration.

"We have seen the pain, the fear, and the anguish suffered by the persons who have come to us and

who have to live among us in the shadows of our society...We can sense the pain of the separation of families, loss of employment, persecutions, discrimination, expressions of racism, and unnecessary deportations that paralyse the development of persons in our societies and the development of our nations, leaving them empty and without hope.

Human dignity

"Regardless of one's migration condition, the intrinsic human dignity that every person possesses must be respected in the person of the migrant... It is essential that governments adopt policies that respect the basic human rights of undocumented migrants."

Meanwhile, at a major gathering in

California, Bishop Robert McElroy of San Diego urged delegates at the US Regional World Meeting of Popular Movements to "become disrupters" of any plans causing division within America.

"President Trump said he was the candidate of disruption," the bishop said. "Now we must all become disrupters."

"We must disrupt those who would seek to send troops into our communities to deport the undocumented, to destroy our families. We must disrupt those who portray refugees as enemies. We must disrupt those who train us to see Muslim men and women as a source of threat rather than children of God."

Ambassadors hear Russian Orthodox concerns

The condition of a Christian community in any given nation of the Middle East is "an indicator of security and stability" a leading Russian prelate has told ambassadors drawn from the Arab world.

In an address to a gathering of 11 diplomats in Moscow, Metropolitan Hilarion chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate's Department for External

Church Relations expressed his deep concern for the fate of Christian communities now struggling for survival in the face of Islamic militants.

"The great evil of extremism acting under religious slogans has raised its head," he said. "Terrorists exterminate Christianity by fire and

sword at the places where Christians have been living for nearly 2,000 years. I am convinced that the situation of a Christian community in this or that country of the Middle East is an indicator of security and stability."

The Metropolitan went on to decry two persistent "erroneous ideas" accompanying the current

strife in the Middle East.

"Regrettably, extremists often propagate the idea that Christians are a part of the sinful Western world, that they are accomplices of Islam's enemies," he said. "This idea is deeply erroneous if for no other reason than because Christians are the indigenous population of the Arab world."

Vatican roundup

Pope considering trip to famine-struck South Sudan

Pope Francis has revealed he is considering the possibility of an official trip to South Sudan.

Days after he made a plea for the international community to respond to "a severe food crisis, which has hit the Horn of Africa region [and] condemns to death by starvation millions of people, including many children", the Pontiff said that he would like to travel to the affected nation to bring more attention to the plight there.

It was during the Pope's February 26 visit to Rome's Anglican church that he made his wishes known during questions on the current situation on both the Catholic and Anglican Churches in Africa.

"My aides and I are studying the possibility of a trip to South Sudan," he said.

Referring to his meeting last October with Catholic, Episcopalian and Presbyterian bishops from South Sudan who travelled to Rome to appraise him of the ongoing suffering of the populace amid the nation's ongoing political conflict, Pope Francis added, "The situation is a bit ugly down there but we have to do it because the three of them [the bishops] together want peace and they are working together for peace".

Violence

Independent since 2011, South Sudan was plunged into violence when President Salva Kiir ousted his vice-president Riek Machar in 2013 amid suspicions of a plot to seize the presidency. Supporters of the pair have split along roughly tribal lines and have been in conflict since, with both sides accused of grave violations of human rights.

Responding to the famine declaration, the Catholic bishops of South Sudan issued a pastoral letter last weekend in which they urge an immediate end to the fighting and the scorched-earth policy that had contributed to it.

Vatican uses 'purchasing power' to assist the vulnerable

The Vatican has begun to buy produce from farmers in those zones of Italy badly hit by earthquakes in 2016 to feed the poor of Rome in a move aimed at benefiting both groups simultaneously.

According to a release from the Vatican, it was at Pope Francis' "express wish" that the head of the Vatican's various charities, Archbishop Konrad Krajewski, visited earthquake zones "to

purchase from small farmers, in great difficulty due to the earthquake, food typical of the affected areas" which was then "immediately distributed" in homeless shelters and soup kitchens across Rome.

The Vatican's own supermarket outlet has for some time now been stocking foodstuffs from farms in the zones hardest hit by quakes in August and October 2016.

Vatican and al Azhar renew relations with extremism seminar

The Vatican and al Azhar, the Cairo-based seat of learning for the Sunni Muslim world, have joined in examining practical ways of combating religious extremism.

For the first time since relations were strained in the wake of Pope Benedict XVI's Regensburg address, representatives from Rome joined with Islamic counterparts in Cairo for a special seminar on fundamentalist misinterpretations of religion for the purpose of terrorism.

Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, head of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, led the Vatican delegation.

During the session, held at al Azhar University between February 22 and 23, Cardinal Tauran urged religious leaders to have the courage to denounce violence committed in the name of religion.

Letters

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

Letter of the week

Married clergy – two sides to the argument

Dear Editor, Mary Kenny should be thanked for her musings on 'Fr D'Arcy's reflections on a parallel life' (IC 23/02/2017), which have injected some reality into what seems an interminable drone in favour of married priests.

Fr D'Arcy's comment that he would have been a far better priest had he married is, of course, balderdash, and Mrs Kenny is right to say so, even if she couches her dismissal more diplomatically, citing this year's cinematic hit *La La Land* to point out that imagined alternative lives are just that: imagined.

At the same time, it is hard to see Mrs Kenny's column doing much to slow the tide in favour of changing Church discipline in this area. At

times I wonder if those making such calls have read the Bible at all. Even if it might be that not all priests are called to be "eunuchs...for the sake of the kingdom of Heaven", St Paul's injunction at 2 Timothy 2:3-4 could hardly be clearer.

"Put up with your share of difficulties, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. In the army, no soldier gets himself mixed up in civilian life, because he must be at the disposal of the man who enlisted him," he writes, putting pen to papyrus in a world where the archetypal soldier was the Roman legionary, a man who was barred from marriage while on active service.

Considering the context in which St Paul wrote, it is difficult to see how

anybody can evade this when calling for priests to be allowed marry or for married men to be allowed become priests.

On the other hand, the Eastern Catholic Churches have long had married clergy, and ordinations of married Anglican clergy to the priesthood have risen dramatically since Pope Benedict's 2009 creation of the Ordinariates.

The Church, it seems, believes one can be called by God both to marriage and to the priesthood; can we really maintain a discipline that prevents people from accepting both of God's calls?

*Yours etc.,
Laurence Conway,
Waterford.*

Pastoral care of most importance to Medjugorje pilgrims

Dear Editor, As someone who has been a regular visitor to Medjugorje over many years, I was pleased to read your report of the appointment by the Vatican of the Pope's special envoy to that holy place in the person of Archbishop Henryk Hosier of Warsawa-Praga (IC 16/02/2017). This appointment is very important at this time in history of Medjugorje, as his function is to assist in the pastoral care presently being provided to pilgrims in that site and not comment in any way on the

alleged visions and reported messages.

As those of your readers who have visited the shrine will be aware, pastoral care of a very high standard is presently provided by the resident Franciscan Fathers and for the Vatican to lend their support to this work is significant. In a separate article on the same date I also read the comments of Donal Lowry as acting chairman of the Medjugorje Council of Ireland and I concur with his views.

For me it is important to

emphasise that the liturgical celebrations which take place in Medjugorje are centred on the two great gifts which Jesus Christ left to us in support of our heavenly journey viz the Sacrament of Confession and the Holy Eucharist. It is by the means of these gifts that we will attain salvation regardless of any other activity which allegedly takes place in Medjugorje. The authenticity or otherwise of visions and reported messages is for the Magisterium of the

Church to ultimately decide. What is important for the ordinary pilgrim is to be reconciled with God through Confession and be fed by the core sacraments of the Church and in particular the Holy Eucharist. I believe this to be the true strength of Medjugorje and it is one which will, hopefully, be greatly enhanced by the appointment of the Pope's special envoy.

*Yours etc.,
Paul Wallace,
Glasthule,
Co. Dublin.*

We need a debate in this society about happiness

Dear Editor, Fr Rolheiser, in his weekly column (IC 23/02/2017), seems unable to state what is blatantly obvious to the theme of his article.

He fails to make the connection to all that he suggests in the column by using the simple word, 'happiness'.

Unhappy people are the ones he is referring to when he makes comment about, *inter alia*, those who "need to stand out, be special, to sit above, to make a mark for ourselves".

Happy people are those who "join a circle of life, with those who believe that there is no need to stand out or be special, and those who believe that

other people's gifts are not a threat..."

To talk in terms of Jesus being "a loser" in the eyes of those who are basically unhappy is to miss the point of Christ's entire message. Jesus is happy and points us in the direction of happiness too.

As Fr Rolheiser suggests, our society encourages us to take the unhappy route to our achievements in life. Unhappy people are often held up as role models. Education is laden with unhappiness to the extent that many parents know that if their children want to achieve in life, they need to be taught how to be unhappy.

One reason why Fr Rolheiser fails to make this obvious point himself is because he sees faith in terms of being middleclass and writing for a middleclass audience. Either he can't see through the mist or doesn't want to offend others.

We need a debate in this society about happiness and how we relegate so many people to lives full of unhappiness in the midst of so many material gains.

*Yours etc.,
John O'Connell,
Derry.*

Could RTÉ give Catholics some affirming programmes?

Dear Editor, I found *The Late Late Show* on February 17 very negative and undermining towards the Church.

Firstly, Olivia O'Leary came on to discuss the week in politics, which had been dramatic and quite shocking. She quickly veered

to raking up the scandals in the Church. What had that to do with the events of the previous week?

Then Fr D'Arcy was moaning because priests may not marry. The presenter treated us to a clip from many years ago (of

the *Late Late*) showing an exchange between Fr D'Arcy and the late Cardinal Daly. Thankfully, Fr D'Arcy said he and the cardinal remained friends.

Could RTÉ not give us some programmes affirming Catholics? Maybe focussing

on the loving service the Church gives as exemplified by Bro. Kevin, Sr Stan, Fr Peter McVerry and also the many lay men and women volunteers?

*Yours etc.,
Carmel Ni Chuinn,
Blackrock, Co. Dublin.*

Much history behind Mexican wall

Dear Editor, Deacon James Rock's robust letter (IC 19/02/2017) in defence of President Trump's immigration initiatives is impressive indeed.

The strange case of the Mexican wall, however, is '*sui generis*' for historical reasons. The US under President James K. Polk (1845-49) invaded Mexico thus acquiring the lands of California, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada and Colorado. Texas had already been settled.

It just seems rather rich today to deny Mexican migrants reasonable access to some of their own former homelands lost via conquest in a conflict not of their choosing. War was made on Mexico for US 'manifest destiny'.

The American writer William Faulkner once observed: "The past is not dead. It is not even past."

*Your etc.,
Seán Bearnabhail,
Dublin 9.*

The more men scoff...

Dear Editor, So many of your readers were upset when the Blessed Eucharist was mocked on *The Late Late Show* that I write in the hope that they will find solace in this little known prayer of the great Blessed John Henry Newman: "O my Dear Saviour, You are in the sacrifice of the Mass, You are in the Tabernacle, verily and indeed in flesh and blood. And the world not only disbelieves but mocks at this gracious truth. O accept my homage, my praise, my adoration. The more men scoff, the more will I believe in you."

*Yours etc.,
Raymond Cullen,
Clones,
Co. Monaghan.*



"Today, 'evil' dropped five points, 'good' rose two points in our global survey of consumer sentiment."

Letters to the Editor

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

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

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

📷 Around the world



VATICAN: Students from St Anthony's High School on Long Island, New York, attend Pope Francis' general audience in St Peter's Square. Photos: CNS



SOUTH SUDAN: A health worker examines a four-year-old girl suffering from malnutrition in Dabul. Pope Francis appealed for humanitarian assistance to South Sudan, where famine threatens the lives of millions of people already suffering due to a three-year civil war.



CANADA: A woman who told police that she and her family were from Sudan is taken into custody by a Royal Canadian Mounted Police officer after arriving by taxi and walking across the US-Canada border into Quebec.



MEXICO: Judith Espinoza and her son Antonio Medina talk with Espinoza's mother, Maria Castro, through the border fence with the US.



UNITED STATES: Religious sisters hand beads to a man and child from the Krewe of Femme Fatale float during a parade in New Orleans. Twenty Sisters of the Holy Family boarded the float, the first time in Mardi Gras history that a women's religious congregation participated as a group on a Carnival float. Over their habits they wore a T-shirt honouring Mother Henriette Delille, who founded their congregation in 1842.



PHILIPPINES: A seminarian lights a candle in Manila. Seminarians, nuns, priests and peace advocates gathered to pray for victims of extrajudicial killings and to pray for the resumption of peace talks between government and rebels.

OF virtue AND sin



There's an axiom which says: Nothing feels better than virtue. There's a deep truth here, but it has an underside. When we do good things, we feel good about ourselves. Virtue is indeed its own reward, and that's good. However, feeling righteous can soon enough turn into feeling self-righteous. Nothing feels better than virtue; but self-righteousness feels pretty good too.

We see this famously expressed in Jesus' parable of the Pharisee and the publican. The Pharisee is practising virtue, his actions are exactly what they should be, but what this produces in him is not humility, nor a sense of his need for God and mercy, but self-righteousness and a critical judgment of others.

So too for all of us, we easily become the Pharisee: whenever we look at another person who's struggling and say, "there but for the grace of God go I", our seeming humble gratitude can indicate two very different things. It can be expressing a sincere thanks for having been undeservedly blessed or can just as easily be expressing a smug self-righteousness about our own sense of superiority.

Writers

Classical spiritual writers like St John of the Cross, when talking about the challenges we face as we walk the way of discipleship, speak about something they call the faults of those who are beyond



Fr Rolheiser

www.ronrolheiser.com

initial conversion. What they highlight is this: we are never free from struggle with sin.

As we mature, sin simply takes on ever more subtle modalities inside us. For example, before initial maturity, what we've classically called the seven deadly sins (pride, greed, envy, lust, anger, gluttony and sloth) express themselves in us in ways that are normally pretty crass and overt.

We see this in children, in adolescents and in the immature. For them, pride is plainly pride, jealousy is jealousy, selfishness is selfishness, lust is lust and anger is anger. There's nothing subtle or hidden here, the fault is out in the open.

But as we overcome these sins in their crasser forms they invariably take on more subtle forms in our lives. So that now, for instance, when we're humble, we become proud and self-righteous in our humility. Witness: nobody can be more smug and judgmental than a new convert or someone in first fervour.

“Does sin, more than virtue, make us aware of our need for God?”

But sin too has its complexities. Some of our naïve ideas about sin and humility also need to be critically examined. For example,

we sometimes nurse the romantic notion that sinners are humble, aware of their need for forgiveness and open to God. In fact, as a generalisation, this is true for the Gospels. As Jesus was preaching, it was the Pharisees that struggled more with his person and message, whereas the sinners, the tax-collectors and prostitutes, were more open to him. So this can pose a question: does sin, more than virtue, make us aware of our need for God?

Yes, when the sin is honest, humble, admitted and contrite or when our wrong actions are the result of being wounded, taken advantage of, or exploited. Not all sin is born morally equal: there's honest sin and dishonest sin.

As human beings, we're weak and lack the moral strength to always act according to what's best in us. Sometimes we just succumb to temptation, to weakness. Sin needs no explanation beyond this: We're human!

Sometimes too people are caught in sinful situations which are really not of their own making. They've been abused, made to live in sinful circumstances not of their own choosing, are victims of trafficking, are victims of unjust familial or social situations, or are too-deeply wounded to actualise their own moral faculties. In situations like this, wrong action is a question of survival not of free choice. As one woman described it to me: "I was simply a dog, biting in order not to be bitten."

In these cases, generally, beneath

an understandably hardened, calloused surface lies a still innocent heart that clearly knows its need for God's mercy. There's such a thing as honest sin.

But there's also sin that's not honest, that's rationalised, that's forever buffered by a pride that cannot admit its own sinfulness.

“When someone hates himself, that hatred will issue forth in a hatred of others”

The result then, most often, is a hardened, bitter, judgmental soul. When sin is rationalised, bitterness will invariably follow, accompanied by a hatred towards the kind of virtue from which it has fallen. When we rationalise, our moral DNA will not let itself be fooled. It reacts and punishes us by having us hate ourselves. And, when someone hates himself, that hatred will issue forth in a hatred of others and, more particularly, in a hatred of the exact virtue from which he has fallen.

For example, it's no accident that a lot of people having adulterous affairs have a particular cynicism towards chastity.

Finding ourselves as weak and sinful can soften our hearts, make us humble, and open us to receive God's mercy. It can also harden our souls and make us bitter and judgmental. Not every sinner prays like the publican.

Virtue makes us grateful. Sin makes us humble.

That's true. Sometimes.



Virtue makes us grateful, sin makes us humble.

Family & Lifestyle

The Irish Catholic, March 2, 2017

Youth Space
Supporting young people on their faith journey

Page 26



CYBERBULLYING

How to protect your kids



Cyberbullying has been described as the “child-protection issue of our time” and it can be very difficult for parents to walk the fine line between allowing their children access to the benefits of the internet while protecting them from the dangers.

In Ireland, half of all nine- to 16-year-olds have been found to use the internet on a daily basis, with this rising to three-quarters of all adolescents. We are seeing an increasing growth of cyberbullying in this country, with approximately one in four girls and one in six boys reporting that they have been targeted.

Last week the ISPCC told the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Children and Youth Affairs of the



Mags Gargan looks at simple recommendations for parents to keep children safer online

urgent need for a national cyber safety strategy for children, with CEO Grainia Long, saying their work “has convinced us that as a society we are failing to prepare children to identify risks online, to cope when harm takes place and to empower children and young people to stay safe online”.

The ISPCC’s director of services Caroline O’Sullivan shared the example of one case which involved a nine-year-old child

sending naked pictures of herself to the boys in her class. She explained that for this girl “that was what she thought would have been expected”.

Education

She also warned of how the hours spent online affected children’s social interaction, referring to the “constant barrage of what they should be doing” and questions posed by others,

such as “whether they are frigid, whether they are sluts”.

She said there was a huge need for education for both parents and children and cited another case where a parent only realised her child was being groomed online by a paedophile by spotting the signs in a computer’s usage history.

As terrifying as this all sounds to any parent, there is a lot that you can do to keep children safe online.

It is a matter of using your own common sense, educating yourself about the dangers and educating your children.

In the same way that they are at their children’s side when they learn to crawl, ride a bike and even drive a car, parents

have to teach kids how to use the internet safely.

The knowledge gap between parents and children can make it difficult to put ground rules in place, but it is vitally important to talk to kids about potential dangers and to create boundaries as you would in any other space.

There are several things you can implement straight away to ensure that your child can be safer online, and the ISPCC Childline and Vodafone Ireland Foundation have teamed up to create simple recommendations for parents. Some of these include:

• Installing parental controls and passwords on your home

» Continued on Page 25

Children's Corner

ERIN FOX



Tips for exploring the pleasure of reading

World Book Day is today, March 2, and you'll no doubt be celebrating your favourite books, authors and illustrators in school.

World Book Day is the biggest celebration of its kind, observed in 100 countries all around the world. Now it's in its 20th year and it seems more important than ever to celebrate reading, as smart devices become more and more popular, replacing books in many ways.

So, to mark World Book Day's 20th birthday, come up with a list of 20 books you're going to read, and 20 books you're going to recommend to 20 people. This can be anyone from a family member to a friend or neighbour.

It sound challenging but you can break it down by reading one book per week, or one per fortnight. When you've finished your list, add more books to it and keep reading.



Even psychologists have referral patterns. January and February are the months when I get more behaviour-related questions for children than any other time. Winter must be the explanation. Most of us find it hard going and we are not quite in sight of spring but the distraction of Christmas is well behind us.

Parents are frequently surprised that simple ideas are first proposed before you go at anything directly. I usually make recommendations that are based, firstly, on making sure you have quality time with your children. For example, ensure that there is 10-15 minutes of play on the younger child's terms or that you have a coffee or shop dates a few times in the week with the older child. I get a kick out of parents coming back a few weeks later with observations that simple things make a difference.

Overlooked

What is often overlooked when considering a behaviour that is a problem for a parent is how you manage yourself when trying to change something you do not like to see.

There is a tendency to locate problems in a child when in fact a behaviour we do not like may have a message the whole family needs to hear.

Except in extreme cases of danger or risk of harm, problem behaviour needs to be understood first before it is resolved. But even harmful behaviour also has to be understood because repeated behaviours never happen for no reason.

The 'bold' child is often just giving expression to what the 'good' child in the same house keeps under tight control.

Human beings prefer praise to criticism and nobody responds well to being put down. Is it more powerful to

Praise comes less easy than criticism

Parenting Matters

Dr Colm Humphries



complain that a room is half tidied or say a big 'well done' for making a start to sorting that room.

There is simply no doubt that if you have a habit of noticing what you like and commenting on it, you will end up seeing more of what you want to see. That is not easy to achieve because criticism comes easier to many of us than praise. You may need to take some time to notice how often you say thank you or comment on what you enjoy in the presence of your children. Do they see you greet people with warmth or thank a shop assistant?

“Getting it wrong allows your children to see you say sorry”

Those simple gestures create an opportunity for positive language that impacts us quite powerfully for the good.

Children also experience more confidence in their parents when there is warmth in interactions that they come to rely on as normal. It doesn't matter much if, on occasion, you get it wrong.

In fact the great thing about getting it wrong is that it allows your children to see you say sorry and repair what was lacking. Small acts

of forgiveness teach valuable life lessons. Adults will always need to say sorry for getting things wrong and if we do not learn that or see it modelled in childhood, it is a tall order to learn it later on.

Research

So much research and literature in psychology affirms the power of positive and warm interactions for ensuring security in attachment. If doing any of this is a challenge for you, seek advice and get some support to help you change that. Don't leave it to chance.

Some think that positive parenting backfires because there is no experience of strictness.

Correction without warmth feels like punishment. Consequences for misbehaviour should help and not hinder a child's development.

An advantage to warmth and positive interaction is that it creates a norm that is nurturing. It deepens bonds of trust. Vitality, because you cannot be perfect, a norm of warmth is the default reference that allows your child to accept that sometimes you get it wrong and it is not a disaster.

A norm of warmth also allows your child to more easily accept when you say 'no' to something. Learning

to accept 'no' is essential for development. Children need to learn that growing up so that they can cope with the knock backs that are part of adult life. Parents who do not teach their child how to accept 'no' should think about how to do this.

“Discomfort that is not a bad news story is good for children to experience”

It can be practised easily. Children do not need to have all their choices and preferences met. Sometimes you get stew for dinner when you want chicken nuggets.

Sometimes you go to a café for a snack rather than your favourite diner because it's your sister's turn to make a choice. Discomfort that is not a bad news story is good for children to experience and helps train for disappointment that is easily endured.

Take a moment now to ask yourself what works best with your children. Notice your tone of voice.

What do you achieve by shouting or quiet calm and how different is it when you are naturally warm. You may need some help with this so don't be afraid to ask your partner or friend.

We can learn a lot about what works by taking time to notice what we respond to and how.

i Dr Colm Humphries is a clinical psychologist based at Philemon in Maynooth, Co. Kildare.



For every book you read, write a review of the story in a book journal. Take a plain notebook and decorate it with drawings of your favourite characters from your favourite books. In the top corner of each page, write one of your favourite quotes with the character's name underneath it.

Perhaps reading is one of your favourite pastimes. If so then you will have fun keeping a book journal and trying to cram as many reviews into it as you can. And if you're not too keen on reading, and find your attention diverting away from a story then write down why in your book journal. By doing this you'll find what kind of stories you do like and that will lead you to the books that will keep you fully engrossed.

Maybe you prefer watching films to reading, but one of the best things about reading is that the experience is so much more personal than watching a film. In films, the characters are brought to life for you by the actors, the costume designers etc. But when reading, it's just you and the author; their words and your imagination bringing the characters to life.

And if you're wondering why you should read so much now, it's because you will have less time to when you're older. So make the most of World Book Day and use it as an occasion to kick-start your pledge to read more books.

» Continued from Page 23



broadband and on all devices that your children have access to. Your service and device providers will be able to advise you on how to do this. However, no one approach is entirely fail-safe. Do remember that your child will have access to the online world through wi-fi in friends' houses and in the community. They need to know that if they come to you when concerned online that you will listen to and support them rather than immediately imposing a discipline.

☛ Agreeing a set of household rules for internet usage including when and for how long your child can be online, keeping personal information private – in particular the simple message what goes online stays online! Children and young people need to be aware that each interaction online is building their digital footprint which records all of their online activity.

☛ Prevent 24 hour online access: It is important that your child gets enough sleep. One way of ensuring that your child is not woken up through the night getting notifications etc. is to remove all devices from bedrooms.

☛ Browser history: If you are genuinely concerned about what your child is doing online, a quick check of your family devices' browser history will give you a comprehensive list of the sites your child has been visiting. Googling your child's name will also give an indication of what social media platforms they are active on.

Tech savvy

Parents do not have to be completely tech savvy to educate themselves on the various platforms their children are using to communicate online. Snapchat, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter are among the most popular, but by doing a simple Google search on 'social media platforms being used by children' you can find the latest platforms.

This, combined with open and honest discussion with your children, will go a long way to keeping you educated on their online activities.

In order to combat cyberbullying, parents should make sure your child

understands that the same rules that apply 'in real life' also apply online, and if they see anything to report it – both to parents/teachers and to the site administrators.

If your child is more knowledgeable about the online world than you, ask them to show you how it works. This in turn builds a relationship. Visiting the sites your child is using and taking time to sit with your child to go through all the apps and online services they use together and asking why they like each individual one, will open up the communication channels as well as ensuring you are fully aware of what your child does online and familiarise yourself with how they work.

It is a good idea to turn on safety features before giving a child a device for the first time.

Additionally, check the age ratings of the social media or online gaming platforms they are using to ascertain whether they are suitable for your child. The PEGI rating is a useful one to go by <http://www.pegi.info/ie/>

There are safety features installed on all devices and it is a good idea to turn on these before giving a child a device for the first time.

You can also adjust the safety settings on your internet browser, to

ensure your children are not coming across inappropriate or dangerous content. There is a huge amount of monitoring software available to aid with this, as well as browsers specifically for children.

By registering on the 'how to be' (H2B) safety centre website, you will be able to get access to videos, prompt cards and other resources and practical advice on how to report, block and configure your settings across the most popular apps and games – www.h2bsafetycentre.ie

Potential benefits

From education and schoolwork to entertainment and socialising with friends, children's use of the internet presents great potential benefits. However, access should be age-appropriate and like every aspect of parenting, the recommendations show us that keeping your children safe online will require lots of your time to manage.

It is important that parents embrace this, and explore the internet alongside their children. Not only will parents educate themselves this way, but they will encourage their children to explore the internet safely and to its full potential.

☛ For the full set of recommendations see: <http://www.vodafone.ie/foundation/how-we-support/bestrong>

Warnings signs of cyberbullying

☛ **Becoming withdrawn or moody, and refusing to talk about what they do online**

☛ Spending more time online, or refusing to go online at all

☛ **Cutting ties with friends, and showing a reluctance to go to school or extracurricular activities**

☛ Being exhausted – if your child has access to their device at night this could be a reason

If you feel that your child is at risk online, you need to have that conversation with them. Assure your child that you will not get angry or overreact, and that you are just looking out for their safety. You should also report any suspicious or potentially abusive activity to the relevant authority, whether it's the site administrator, your child's school, or the police.

Faith — IN THE — family



Bairbre Cahill

“There goes another one!” We were practising ballads for the GAA Scór competition and we needed help to add harmonies and generally lift the quality of what we had learned from straightforward ballads to something a little special.

Brighdín has the most amazing musical ability. All it took was for us to begin singing the song and she would spot possible harmonies. “Yes, there’s another one!” she would say and I found myself looking up almost expecting to see the harmony fluttering past my nose!

I would love to be that musical, but I’m simply not. I can just about hold on to a harmony if I’m taught it but I certainly can’t discover one for myself. So I found myself sitting there on Sunday night saying “I wish I was like you Brighdín”. In fairness Brighdín was quick to point out that while



she can play music and pluck harmonies out of the air she can’t bake to save herself, unlike Katrina who is in the ballad group and rattles out the best scones and mars bar squares you could ever taste.

The reality is that we are each called to be the most real version of ourselves”

We can all spend time wishing we were like someone else and it is good to be inspired by others, but ultimately we need to be comfortable in our own skin. As parents we have to be careful not to put pressure on our children with comments such as, ‘Why can’t you be more like your cousin/friend/sibling’. The reality is that we are each called to be the most real, vibrant and authentic version of ourselves rather than a pale imitation of someone else. It takes time to figure out who we are and for many of us it is within our family that we are encouraged and supported on that journey of discovery.

For us as Christians the fact that we believe each person is created in the image and likeness of God is the

starting point. It is the strongest foundation upon which to build healthy self-esteem and deep respect for others. To know that we are loved by God – not just in a theoretical or abstract way but deeply, powerfully and personally – enables us to believe in ourselves.

Love

Children glimpse that love and come to trust in it through the experience of love in their families. We know the damage that can be done when children do not experience that deep, nurturing love within their families. No family gets everything right and so inevitably there will be wrongs done, hurt inflicted, healing needed, forgiveness asked and given. But even this strengthens our sense of self. We know from

experience that we are not perfect but learn that our worth goes deeper than our brokenness and we are still loved.

Catholic schools build upon the same perspective. Each and every student is a child

of God. Education is not simply about equipping students for the work force but about helping each child to flourish and become truly themselves, spiritually, psychologically, academically, creatively and in relationship with those around them.

Our youngest daughter has just submitted her CAO application for university. The three girls have gone in quite different directions in terms of what they want to do, but I see each of them tapping into a deep sense of their own gifts and vision. That is still a work in progress with the son! While Méabh has great clarity about where she wants to go, many in her year do not.

Our education system seems to be narrow in its presumption that academic success means going on to university. League tables add to the pressure on schools. But maybe what suits one doesn’t suit another.

Perhaps the world of work, apprenticeships or time out before making a decision about university makes more sense?

Are we forcing our children into a pre-made mould or empowering them to discover their own gifts and identity?

As for the Scór ballads, here’s hoping we hold on to those harmonies!



Michelle Manley describes the work of Dublin's new Youth Evangelisation Team

The Archdiocese of Dublin has established a new Youth Evangelisation Team, tasked with faith outreach to teenagers and young adults.

The central hub for this exciting new venture is right in the heart of Dublin in St Paul's Church at Arran Quay (Smithfield). It is coordinated by the Diocesan Office of Evangelisation and Ecumenism and run by Siobhán Tighe and myself.

Among the many young adult initiatives we have introduced so far includes The Encounter Dublin City, Life to the Full (John 10:10) Book Club, Ewe Thina: We Walk God's Way, and Awake My Soul Retreats.

The Encounter Dublin City, is a monthly event, held on a Friday night at St Paul's. It includes reflective, meditative prayer, live acoustic, contemporary Christian music and a guest speaker who shares their own personal faith story. It is followed by a social get together in the kitchen area with pizza and refreshments. On average we have 80 young adults attend each event.

There is a great buzz at Encounter, people from all sorts of faith backgrounds coming together.

There is a weekly book club, called Life to the Full (John 10:10). This takes place every Thursday evening at St Paul's (7-8:30pm). Here we start off with some reflective prayer and then discuss life, faith, purpose and how to live

life to the full. We read a chosen spiritual book over a few weeks and come to reflect and discuss our thoughts. We have a steady group of young adults who attend, with newcomers welcome each week. The book club is a great opportunity for people to delve deeper into their faith, while being supported by a community of peers.

Chance to get fit

Ewe Thina: We Walk God's Way is a monthly reflective hike around the Dublin area to give young adults a chance to get fit, embrace God in nature and build true friendships. Awake My Soul Retreats take place over a weekend each month and are facilitated by different animators. They offer some time out to reflect, pray and grow in faith.

Some of the teen events include FaithFest, John Paul II Awards and Teen Hope. Faithfest is an event for teenagers all around the Dublin diocese. It was an idea that was developed by a number of parish pastoral workers. We are now part of that team.

The aim of Faithfest is to build a sense of community for teens, explore faith and develop a relationship with God. Elements of Faithfest include - music, prayer, creative workshops and hangout time.

The Faithfest team has run nine Faithfest events in the Holy Cross Diocesan Centre in which approximately 100 teenagers from around the diocese attended. Siobhán and I have also helped parishes to create their own local

Faithfest, such as Lucan and Bray, and have assisted at the Faithfest @ Tallaght.

“Young people may find support and encouragement as they journey in their faith”

A Faithfest Retreat is planned for June 23-25, in Ovoca Manor, Avoca, Co. Wicklow, which is open to any young person who has been to a Faithfest event.

Teen Hope is our faith outreach to teenagers. It provides continued support and opportunities for teenagers to encounter and to get to know God in Jesus Christ - whom they may draw their strength, healing and hope from.

Its aim is to help the young person discover their true value and worth, as a child of God in their whole selves: spirit, heart, mind and body. Inspired by the Jeremiah 29:11 scripture verse: "I know the plans I have in mind for you - it is the Lord who speaks - plans for peace, not disaster, reserving a future of hope for you."

Some of the programmes include guided hikes, meditation, movie and pizza nights, youth encounter (music and prayer service) and local fundraising initiatives.

We are currently piloting this initiative in a group of parishes and are at the stage of training local leaders to implement the initiative with their local teens. There is fantastic feedback and up take on this initiative to date.

Through these teen and young adult initiatives, young people may come to know God and find support and encouragement as they journey in their faith.

Our next Encounter is Friday, March 24 at 8pm at St Paul's Church, Arran Quay. www.facebook.com/theencounterdublincity

Our next Faithfest is March 10 you can download parental consent forms and more details <https://www.facebook.com/faithfest4teens/> or email us.

Contact info: st.pauls@dublindiocese.ie or michelle.manley@dublindiocese.ie or Siobhan.tighe@dublindiocese.ie
Links: Hike: www.facebook.com/wewalkgodsway Young Adult Retreat: www.facebook.com/awakemysoulretreats Book Club: www.facebook.com/lifetothefullbookclub JPPI Awards www.facebook.com/popejpiiawardsdublin



Sweet Treats

Erin Fox



Bake a Swedish-inspired cardamom cake!

Pancake Tuesday may be over but it always reminds me of delicious spiced Semlor buns from Sweden. Instead of pancakes, in Sweden they have light cardamom buns filled with almond paste or marzipan, and fresh cream.

I'd never tasted anything as sweet as semlor buns and although I've yet to try the recipe, I've come up with a cake inspired by semlor flavours. And because they're not the traditional semlor buns, you don't need to wait until next Pancake Tuesday to make them!

I've used just the right amount of cardamom but if you're not keen on the flavour, you can use 10 pods instead of 15.

Cardamom and coffee bond brilliantly together so make sure you've got a pot on standby to wash down the buns when they're ready to eat! You could even crush a few cardamom pods into filtered coffee to bring out the flavours.

For the sponges

- 200g unsalted butter softened;
- 200g golden caster sugar;
- 200g self-raising flour;

- 15 green cardamom pods;
- 4 medium eggs lightly beaten.

Filling

- 200g marzipan;
- 250ml single cream;
- 2 tbsp icing sugar sifted.

Line two 12-hole cupcake pans with paper cases.

Split open the cardamom pods and crush the seeds to a fine powder with a pestle and mortar. Sieve with the flour into a bowl.

Beat the butter and sugar for five minutes until pale and fluffy.

Fold and divide

Add two tablespoons of the flour and cardamom mix to the butter and sugar along with a little egg and beat. Gradually add the remaining eggs, a little bit each time, beating well after each addition.

Finally, gently fold in the remaining flour and

divide the mixture into the cupcake pans, filling each case two thirds full.

Bake in the oven for 20 minutes until pale and golden on top. Remove from the oven and allow to cool on a wire rack for 10 minutes before removing the cakes from the pan.

Beat the cream until stiff peaks form and then fold in the icing sugar.

Trim the tops off the cupcakes, and cut each top in half.

Roll the marzipan out onto the work surface dusted with icing sugar. Cut out circles of the marzipan and leave to one side. Place the marzipan discs onto the trimmed cupcakes and then fill a piping bag fixed with a nozzle with the cream and icing sugar.

Pipe the cream onto the marzipan discs and then place the tops of the cupcakes on top of the cream like butterfly wings.



TVRadio

Brendan O'Regan



Animated conversations and loaded terms

Has **Political Correctness Gone Mad?** - a documentary with a name to draw in the curious, on Channel 4 last Thursday night.

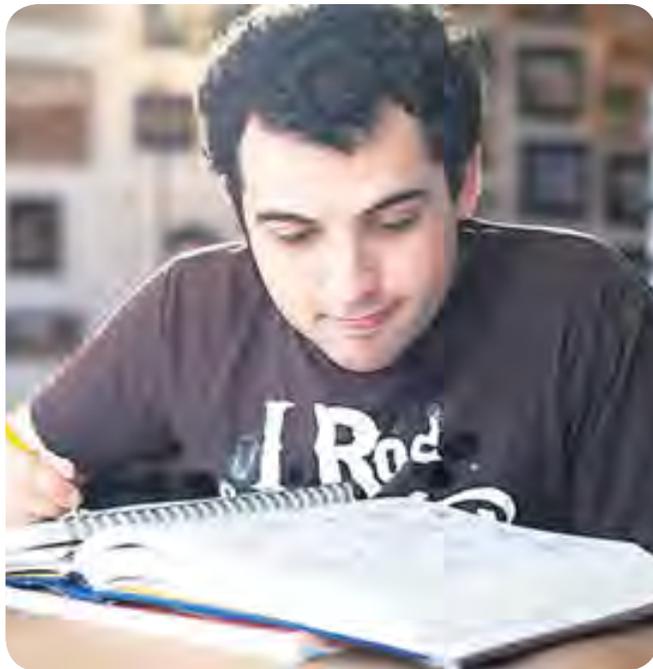
It was billed as an authored programme, an opinion piece, by Trevor Phillips, and despite advance warnings about bad language and racist terms, it was actually a reflective and relatively moderate programme. I have to say I'm against political correctness when it's taken to extremes, but opposing it should not be an excuse for bad manners and gratuitous offence giving.

Phillips had been pro-remain in the Brexit referendum and was also anti-Trump/pro-Clinton, but "fell out of love" with his 'tribe' over how they weren't learning lessons from their defeats but were trying to censor those with opposing views - trying to 'protect diversity by stifling debate'.

He thought the liberal establishment needed to look in the mirror and see why they got it so wrong.

He wasn't happy with 'non-extremists' being silenced, and "perfectly legitimate points of view" being ruled out of order (though that does beg the question about how it's decided what's legitimate).

One man said he tried not to cause offence but was reprimanded for a term he didn't even know was offensive (apparently the 'nitty gritty'



Owen Suskind features in *Life Animated* (BBC4)

has something to do with slave ships). Another contributor, a young man, felt that if you expressed 'old-fashioned views' (!) about marriage (i.e. that it was between a man and a woman), you'd get "buckets of slime".

While not an admirer as far as I could tell, Phillips reckoned that Nigel Farage of UKIP had read the times accurately, and Farage himself decried people with "decent Christian views" getting abuse.

When it came to sensitivities around Islam, Phillips thought that authorities weren't so much concerned about protecting Muslims from offence, but were sym-

bolically demonstrating how they were "hip to diversity", looking good in the eyes of the "right-on brigade", in other words 'virtue signalling'.

Raising concerns

The issue of political correctness also surfaced on that night's **Prime Time** (RTÉ One) when the topic was transgenderism in children. It was uneasy viewing, and I wondered what we were being softened up for now. It was driven as usual by personal stories, genuine and affecting, but presenter Richard Downes did ask some challenging questions and there

was a diversity of views, with some commentators strongly questioning the notion of gender reassignment therapy in young people.

One of those raising concerns was Bob Withers, a psychoanalyst from Bath, who thought that political correctness was stifling criticism of such therapies, while psychiatrist and author Theodore Dalrymple found that doctors were afraid to disagree with medical orthodoxy.

Downes noted that activists dismiss the concerns, but also acknowledged reservations about 'unhappy children immersed in the echo chamber of internet affirmation'. Some new (to me) information that Downes presented was the higher-than-average level of autism in affected children.

More centrally focussed on autism, one of the best programmes of the week was the Storyville documentary **Life Animated** (BBC 4 Monday night of last week). It told

the fascinating story of autistic young man Owen Suskind.

His parents described how he had changed at age 3 - had become withdrawn and stopped speaking. They described it as him disappearing or being kidnapped.

The heartbreak was palpable but the breakthrough a few years later was amazing - Owen became to communicate again through lines and scenes from his favourite Disney-animated movies.

The show was a masterful blend of interviews, home movies, scenes from the Disney films, new original animation, and fly on the wall filming as we followed Owen to independent living in his new assisted living accommodation.

It was an absorbing tale of family love, communication, empathy and artistic endeavour. There was even a touching romance, though the awkward sexual advice from Owen's older brother didn't seem helpful.



RTÉ's Richard Downes.

Robust discussion

Finally, from the same night, it's worth looking back on **Clare Byrne Live** (RTÉ One) for a robust discussion on the so-called 'Baptism bar' in Catholic schools.

On the panel Maria Steen of the Iona Institute, rightly took issue with that loaded term, while actress Norma Sheahan told of how she opted for baptising her child just to have the piece of paper

PICK OF THE WEEK

AIFREANN AN DOMHNAIGH
RTÉ RnaG, Sunday,
March 5, 11am
Broadcast from Ranna Feirste in northwest Donegal.

JOY OF MUSIC
EWTN Monday (night),
March 6, 4am
Diane Bish and guest, Joy Brown Wiener, perform at St Mary's Pro Cathedral in Dublin, Ireland.

PETER McVERRY:
A VIEW FROM THE BASEMENT
RTÉ One Wednesday,
March 8, 11.20pm
Repeat showing of documentary about Fr. Peter McVerry's 40-year campaign against addiction and homelessness.

in case she needed it for school. In the end, it turned out she didn't.

The item was too short and became rather fractious. I'd say those conflicted or confused remained so, while those with strong opinions found articulate support for them.

boregan@hotmail.com



Aubrey Malone

Film

Traveller world evoked with forensic authenticity

Trespass Against Us (15A)

Substitute cars for horses and this is a cowboy movie. There's the same tribal loyalty, the same love of the outsider, the same revulsion towards authority. The heroes and villains of the wild west become the cops and robbers of regional Britain.

We could also see it as the travellers' answer to *The Godfather*. If this is the case, Colby Cutler (Brendan Gleeson) is Don Corleone, a vaguely threatening figure whose surface bonhomie conceals a latent threat the film fails to exploit.

This is one of its few disappointments. In the main it's a

thoroughly accurate depiction of a nomadic set of people who live in (and for) the moment. Such a culture is profoundly unsuited to its time, the laidback airs of its denizens almost appearing primitive on occasion. This is in stark contrast to the settled community the travellers only tenuously attempt to inhabit.

If it is indeed a cowboy film in disguise, Michael Fassbender - Colby's son, Chad - is the Jesse James of the piece, an apparently uncatchable ne'er-do-well who eludes the police with near-contemptible ease as he engages in one crime after another in his area. He reserves his gentle side for his wife and children. Colby's disdain for any-



Michael Fassbender and Brendan Gleeson in a scene from *Trespass Against Us*.

thing purporting to religion or education is more fierce than that of Fassbender, who seems content to let conservative society do its thing as long as it doesn't impinge on his free-spirited ways, or

those of his family. Lyndsey Marshal is brilliant as his wife as is Georgie Scott as his son.

It's Fassbender's film really. He steals most of the scenes he appears in just as surely as he plunders the local stately

homes in a series of daring raids. Both he and Gleeson capture the Gloucestershire dialect to perfection.

The 15 cert is due to the film's chirpy sense of irreverence and its preponderance of four-lettered words but these are necessary to reflect the society it depicts.

Tension

An air of tension underlies many of the scenes. Adam Smith, directing, leads one to believe a cataclysmic climax is on the cards but the film ends with a whimper.

This isn't necessarily a fault but when something looks to be headed towards a fireball finish and then that fireball doesn't arrive, one is entitled

to feel shortchanged. We wait 90 minutes for a confrontation between father and son but Gleeson's part just fizzles out in the end.

Like most gunfighters in westerns, Chad eventually runs out of road. The way he takes his punishment is as charismatic as everything else about him.

At its best, *Trespass Against Us* approximates to the quality of a documentary. Locked somewhere between Thomas Hardy and John B. Keane, it's an ode to individualism that makes us take Chad's side unequivocally in its dying moments as he submits resignedly to his fate - and intimates a more stable future for his son.

Very good
★★★★

BookReviews

Peter Costello



Recent books in brief

Why Not? How to Bring the Liturgy About

by Turlough Baxter
(Veritas, €8.99)

This little book consists of thoughts on the liturgy that originally appeared in *Intercom*, the pastoral and liturgical resource magazine, over the last dozen years or so. Though aimed by Turlough Baxter at his fellow clergy, it will be read with by many lay people as well. Inspired by the General Instruction on the Roman Liturgy, they are intended to help bring about the goals of that document. He calls this 'Incarnation Liturgy', that is a way of making principles come alive in a relevant way in the parish context.

The liturgy is not mere ritualism, but an expression of communal faith, a way of entering into a two thousand year old tradition. He arranges his observations by the parts of the Eucharistic celebration. And they are presented as thoughts, reflections, and suggestions. They are intended to stir the celebrant and the worshiper to a deeper appreciation. Observation on many Sundays suggests that such a little book, easy to approach, will be of importance to many, for some people in a congregation seem to be present, but not attending. They will learn much from Fr Baxter.

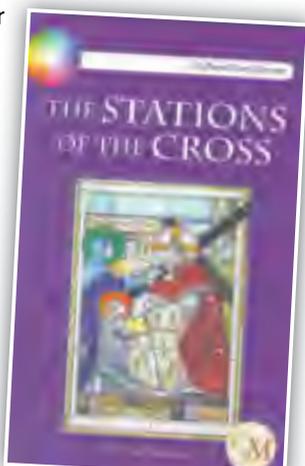


The Stations of the Cross

by Vincent Sherlock (Messenger Publications, €3.99)

St Ignatius recommended that anyone starting out on meditation should *viendo el lugar* – seeing the place. In his little companion Fr Sherlock imagines that one's guide is the women taken in adultery, an actual witness to the ministry of Jesus, whose own confusions, doubts and failings to fully understand reflect those of Christians down the centuries.

We follow her through all 14 stations until the body is laid in the tomb. On that scene she reflects in the light of her own experience: "I'm glad we met. I'm glad I was there, when they crucified my Lord. God know, he knows, I owed much. Of course, had it not been for my 'sin', chances are I'd not have come to know him as well as I did." The echo here of a famous negro spiritual suggests that her simple faith may not be so simple, but is deeper than one might imagine, and more complicated.



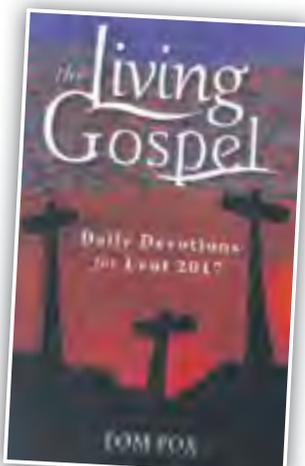
The Living Gospel: Daily Devotions for Lent 2017

by Tim Fox
(Ave Maria Press/Alban Books, €2.99)

Lent began yesterday, and this little book by popular Catholic columnist, blogger and podcaster, Deacon Tim Fox, aims to provide a set of devotions suitable for every day of Lent, the Triduum and Easter Sunday.

It is not a stand-alone book though, but requires that the user open and read the Gospels along the way. Under some six heading he provides not only a prayer and a reading, but also a reflection, and suggests an action too.

For a morning devotion for even the busiest person this is an ideal little book. Written and presented with simplicity, it contains few allusions to American life, but can be heartily recommended, allowing those who run to also pray.



Felix M. Larkin

There are many connections between Ireland and Tasmania, and not only because of the latter's status as a penal colony in the first half of the 19th Century.

These connections are reflected in a beautiful stained glass window in St Mary's Catholic Cathedral in Hobart.

Erected in 1995, the window is dedicated to "women whose saintly and heroic lives brought grace and life to God's people".

Included in the window are three Irishwomen: Nano Nagle (1718-1784), founder of the Presentation Sisters; Catherine McAuley (1778-1841), founder of the Sisters of Mercy; and Mary Aikenhead (1787-1858), founder of the Religious Sisters of Charity. All three of these orders of nuns have had a presence in the history of Tasmania.

Excommunicated

Only one of the women in the window was Australian. St Mary MacKillop (1842-1909) is the sole Australian-born saint to date. Canonised in 2010 (15 years after the window was made), she was the founder of the Josephite Sisters and has the distinction of having been excommunicated in 1871 for insubordination to the bishop in Adelaide where she was based. An episcopal commission later exonerated her, and the excommunication was lifted.

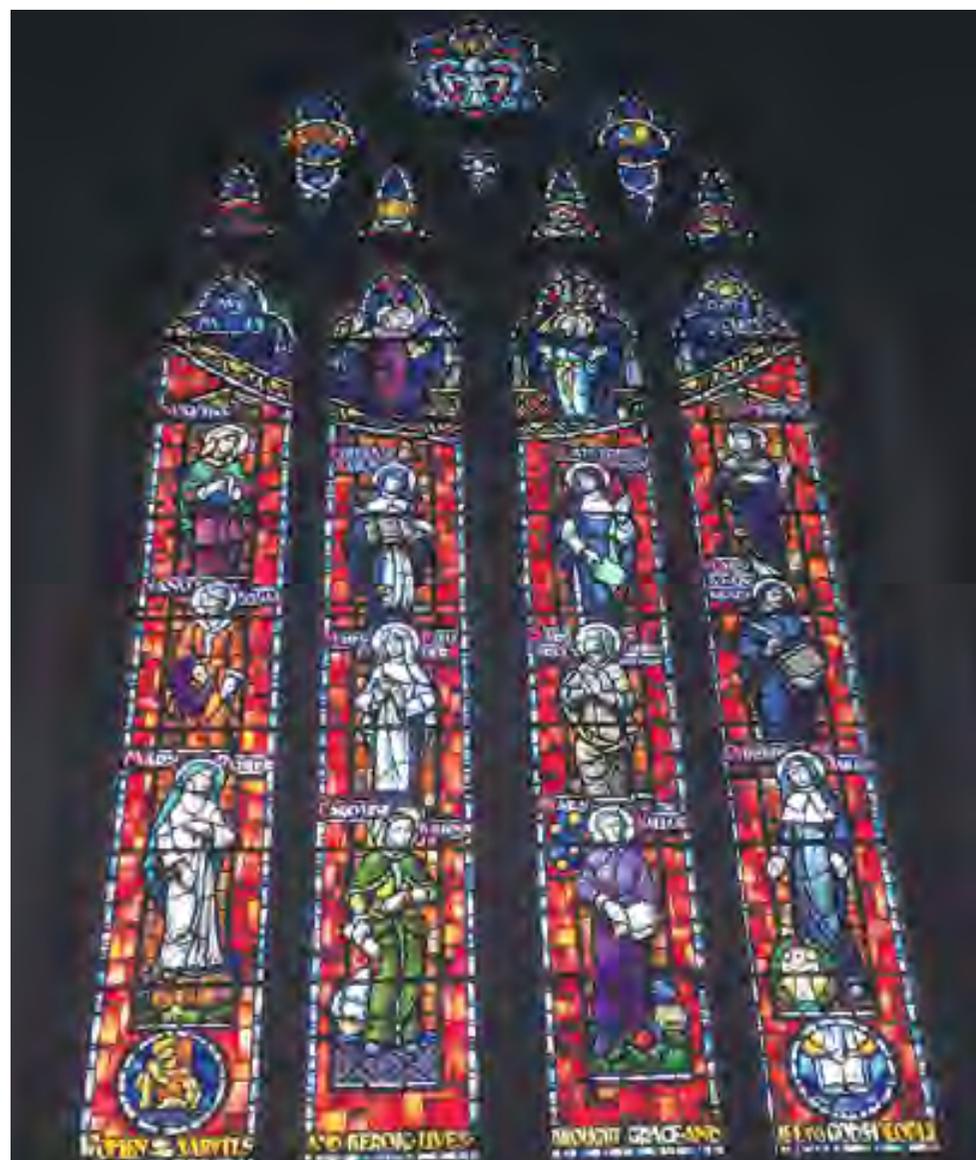
Two other founders of religious orders of nuns are celebrated in the window – one French, the other English. St Mary Euphrasia Pelletier (1796-1868) founded the Sisters of the Good Shepherd and Mary Potter (1847-1913) was the founder of the Little Company of Mary.

Pole position

Two Doctors of the Church, St Catherine of Siena (1347-1380) and St Teresa of Ávila (1515-1582), also feature in the window – as does St Monica, the mother of St Augustine of Hippo.

In pole position on the window, at the top left-hand corner, is Martha – the sister of Mary and Lazarus. She is shown holding a bunch of keys, symbolising her domesticity. She is the mistress of the household. A feminist interpretation of this iconography, however, sets her up as the female counterpart of St Peter, keys being associated with him also. Both are thus seen as progenitors of the Christian church.

The saintly women's window in St Mary's Cathedral, Hobart



From the top, left to right: Martha, St Teresa of Ávila, St Catherine of Siena, St Monica, Nano Nagle, St Mary Euphrasia Pelletier, St Margaret Clitherow, Mary Aikenhead, Mary Potter, Caroline Chisholm, Mary MacKillop and Catherine McAuley.

This feminist reading is given added weight here by the fact that Martha is the first of 12 subjects depicted in the window, paralleling the 12 apostles.

Martha and Monica are two of four women honoured in the window who were not members of religious orders. The other two are St Margaret Clitherow (1556-1586) and Caroline Chisholm (1808-1877). Clitherow was an English Reformation martyr, sometimes known as the 'Pearl of York'.

She suffered a most gruesome execution by being crushed to death. Her crime was that of harbouring priests, and she was pregnant with her fourth child at the time of her execution.

Mrs Chisholm, another

Englishwoman, lived in Australia for many years and is remembered for her selfless support of female immigrants to Australia who, often penniless on arrival, were in danger of falling into a life of crime and prostitution. Her work with Irish female emigrants is noted in the exhibition 'Cobb, the Queenstown story' at the Cobb Heritage Centre in Co. Cork.

“Martha is the first of 12 subjects depicted”

Caroline Chisholm would eventually have a family connection with Ireland. Her daughter and namesake married Edmund Dwyer Gray, owner of Dublin's *Freeman's*

Journal newspaper and an Irish nationalist MP at Westminster.

Their son, also Edmund Dwyer Gray, went to Australia after his family lost control of the *Freeman* in the early 1890s. He settled in Tasmania and was a prominent journalist and politician there. He was premier of Tasmania for a short time in 1939, and died in Hobart in 1945.

The exterior of Hobart cathedral contains further evidence of Ireland's connections with Tasmania.

Over the main entrance to the cathedral is a tablet commemorating Daniel Murphy, the second bishop and the first archbishop of Hobart. He was a native of Co. Cork and had been educated in Maynooth.

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.

Winnie and George in later life.



Their love bridged the North's divides

Winnie & George: An Unlikely Union
by Allison Murphy
(Mercier Press, €16.99)

J. Anthony Gaughan

This is the story of two almost forgotten figures from the troubled Twenties in Northern Ireland.

Winifred ('Winnie') Carney was born in Bangor, Co Down, on December 4, 1887. Following her education in a Christian Brothers school in Belfast she graduated from a Commercial College. James Connolly established the Irish Textile Workers' Union for women workers in the Belfast linen mills in 1811.

This functioned as the women's section of the Irish Transport & General Workers Union and Connolly appointed Winnie its secretary in 1912. Winnie joined Fianna Éireann in 1911, the Irish Citizen Army in 1913 and co-founded Cumann na mBan in 1914. During the 1913 lock-out she was active in fund-raising and relief efforts for the Dublin workers.

Revolutionary aims

By the beginning of 1916 she seems to have become Connolly's personal assistant and in full agreement with his revolutionary aims.

On April 14, he summoned her to Dublin to assist in the final preparations for the Easter Rising and for the next week she typed dispatches and mobilisation orders in Liberty Hall. Throughout Easter week

she was in the General Post Office at Connolly's side typing his dispatches to the insurgent groups around the city. As a member of Cumann na mBan she was also attending to his wounds and those of the other members of the garrison. She was in the small group who were the last to abandon the blazing GPO.

After the surrender she was interned. On her release, she returned to her home in Belfast where she stood unsuccessfully for Sinn Féin in the Victoria Division in the 1918 general election.

“She was subjected to considerable harassment by the Royal Ulster Constabulary”

She was secretary of the Irish Republican Prisoners Dependents Fund (1920–22). Opposed to the Anglo Irish Treaty, she sheltered Anti-Treatyites, including Countess Markievicz and Austin Stack, during the Civil War. She opposed the partition of the country and as a well-known supporter of Sinn Féin, was subjected to considerable harassment by the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

Winnie resumed her involvement in Labour Party and Trade Union activities in the greater Belfast area. This led to her becoming acquainted with George McBride. A Protestant from the Shankill Road, he joined the Protestant and Unionist Young Citizen Volunteers in his teens.

As they became older he and his comrades became members of the Ulster Volunteer Force, which was established to oppose Home Rule. At the urging of Lord Kitchener, the UVF morphed into the 36th Ulster Division. George was one of the few members of the Division who survived the battles of the Somme, Messines, Ypres and St Quentin. His active service in France continued until he was taken prisoner by the Germans towards the end of 1918. On being demobbed after the war he resumed his apprenticeship at the engineering firm of Mackie's.

Winnie married George in September 1928. Their marriage ended when Winnie died on November 21, 1943. The marriage had faced formidable challenges. In a city rife with sectarian tension Winnie was a Catholic, George a Protestant, she was a republican, he was a unionist and she was significantly older than George. The sub-narrative indicating how they ensured that their 'mixed marriage' was both a success and happy is edifying.

This book could be improved with better editing. The long quotations from James Connolly's writings should be abridged. The place for the numerous police reports on Winnie's detention and questioning and her attempts to retrieve her property from the RUC is among the appendices.

Despite these deficiencies, this is a worthy publication not least because it ensures that Winnie Carney's contribution to the struggle for independence is appropriately acknowledged.



The World of Books

By the books editor

Seeking the soul of Judaism amid a treasury of folklore

Do Christians, and especially Catholic Christians, really understand and appreciate the true nature of Judaism today? I ask this question, which has some importance to the world today, because I have been looking into a book I casually acquired but which has turned out to be quite fascinating.

It is called *A Treasury of Jewish Folklore* (New York: Crown Publishers, 1948), edited with an introduction by Nathan Ausubel. It is a volume in a series from which I already owned the one on Irish folklore, compiled by no less a person than the poet and mythographer Padraic Colum. But this other book turned out to be very different from the Irish one, revealing indeed a quite different mental world to our own, now quite lost, folk outlook.

A Treasury of Jewish Folklore is a compilation of 750 stories and legends taken from the 2,000-year-old wisdom and traditions of the Jewish people, after the Diaspora. The book contains, as well, the words and music to 75 songs. It revealed a world, largely urban it has to be admitted, whereas Colum's Irish one was totally rural – our folklorists believing, it seems, that people who lived in cities and spoke no Irish had no folklore at all.

So Ausubel's approach to what he selected was very different to Colum's, perhaps more revealing of a people's true spirit. "Folklore is a true and unguarded portrait," Ausubel claims, "for where art may be selective, may conceal, may gloss over defects and even prettify, folk art is always revealing, always truthful in the sense that it is spontaneous expression."

“They contain something unendingly gentle and movingly great, like the rosy morning star in a quiet morning”

Though Christians are familiar with the Torah and the Prophets, they are quite unfamiliar with the Talmud and the Midrash, sacred writings developed since the Diaspora. Of these later Rabbinic writings, Tolstoy remarked in the 1880s: "They contain something unendingly gentle and movingly great, like the rosy morning star in a quiet morning. The most precious quality in them is their agitation over the eternal mysteries of the human soul."

For the Jewish people religion, life and learning formed a seamless

web, from which was derived an outlook that was driven not by the fantastic as is so often the case with the Celt, but by hard one wisdom of people living in a close community, one surrounded by people who often rejected them. The Celt reveals in a glorious past, where as the Jew looks to the future, to 'next year in Jerusalem', as is prayed at Pesack.



Adolf Behrman, 'Talmud readers'.

Ausubel remarks in his introduction that: "Jews have received their tempering from an unflinching realism learned for a high fee in the school of life; they have always felt the need of fortifying their spirits with the armour of laughter against the barbs of the world."

This book provides for the gentle reader an insight into the context from which sprang the writings not just the philosophers of the Jewish enlightenment in the early modern period, which was stultified to a great extent by the rise of Jewish Nationalism, but also the world of Scholem Asch, Isaac Bashevis Singer, and even Franz Kafka. Modern Jewish wisdom is a product of European experience, for better or worse.

Incomplete

Christians tend to think that Judaism is something incomplete. This is not the Jewish view; Jews see the promises of God as something still in the process of being unfolded and fulfilled.

Given the Christian idea that real Judaism ended with the Old Testament, it is understandable that they have not fully realised that Judaism today is the outcome of a two thousand years of history; it is as different from the days of David and Solomon and the prophets, as the Churches today are different from the simplicity of Jesus.

Just as Christian theology has changed and deepened the insights into revelation over two thousand years, so too Judaism has changed and matured.

The Orthodox Jews of modern Israel, whom many Christians see as the reality of Judaism, owe little to the Middle East in which Israel is set; in dress, custom, and belief they hark back to an 18th-Century Europe. In this they reject the developments of their own most sensitive teachers and leaders over the centuries. But then the same can be said of Catholics.

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HEALING SERVICE

OUR LADY'S School of Evangelisation, Unbound Program of Healing Prayers

with Fr Benny McHale and John McCarthy on March 6, 13, 20 and 27. Venue Abbey Hall, Newtownsmith, Galway, 8 to 10 pm. Tel. 087 998 0525.

UPCOMING EVENT

MIR MINISTRIES presents Return visit of Maria Vadia, Sat 11th March and Sun 12th March Rochestown Park Hotel, Cork. Starts 10am on both days. Rosary, Praise and Worship, Talks, Holy Mass and Healing service on both days. Details: 087 240 5568.

SEEKING ACCOMMODATION

PROFESSIONAL, Catholic lady (Senior HSE) seeks granny flat in Dublin area as soon as possible. Phone Catherine at 087 416 9415.

PILGRIMAGE

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

WALSINGHAM: ENGLAND'S National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. 21-25 April (4 nights). All-in cost €450. Day-Trip included. Pilgrims make their own travel arrangements on designated Ryanair Flights. Private Coach from airport. Accommodation in pilgrim hostel. Tel 086 8554665 / 01 2808072, Email mgolden30@gmail.com

LEGACY
Help evangelize Ireland by remembering The Irish Catholic in your will.
For more information contact us on: 01-687-4020

The Miracle Prayer

Dear Heart of Jesus,
In the past I have asked for many favours.

This time I ask for a special one. (mention here)

Take it, dear Heart of Jesus, and place it within your own broken

Heart where your Father sees it.

Then, in his merciful eyes, it will become your favour, not mine. Amen.

Say this prayer for three days.

B.O.S.

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

ST. ANTHONY'S BREAD	B.A.C.5	€150.00
CAPUCHIN DAY CENTRE	B.A.C.5	€100.00
JOAN FIELAND	C.C.	€200.00
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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

Prayer to Protect Ireland from the Scourge of Abortion

Lord Jesus, you are the Divine Physician, and the source of all life and health.

Guide our Politicians at this critical time. Give them the humility to know that they are servants, not masters.

Give them the wisdom to realise that every life has equal value. Give them the strength to resist the idea that some lives can be sacrificed to save others, or that killing the unborn is part of health care.

Please give your people the courage to speak up and to hold public officials accountable for their actions.

In the Most Holy Name of Jesus, and through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, save Ireland from the sin and crime of abortion. (say three times)

Amen

Remembering
MEMORIAM CARDS
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT CARDS & NOTELETS
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The Irish Catholic

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Leisure time



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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.

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Ring Emma Murphy at 01-5240965 to be included on the guest list for the March 9th tour.



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

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

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Tel: 021 - 4543988
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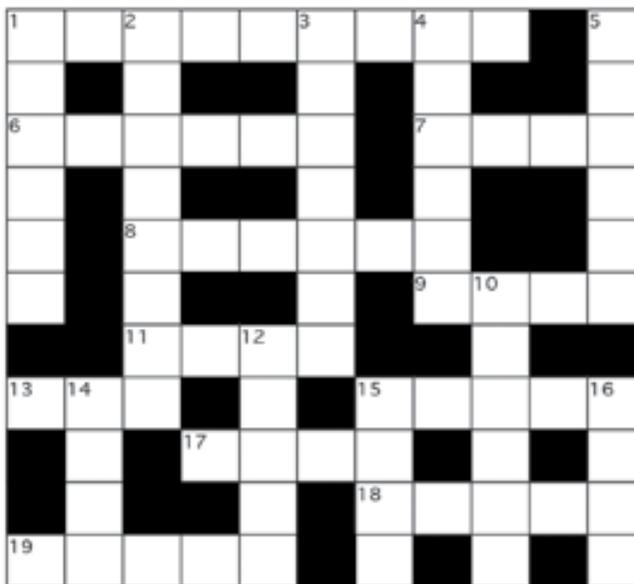
Please remember this work when making your will

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



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

Crossword Junior Gordius 171



- ACROSS**
- 1 A dog bred for racing (9)
 - 6 You might keep a small photo in this piece of jewellery (6)
 - 7 Manufacture (4)
 - 8 Fall (6)
 - 9 Sounded a bell (4)
 - 11 Close to (4)
 - 13 Large piece of wood for the fire (3)
 - 15 Travel by bike (5)
 - 17 Couch (4)
 - 18 These animals live in a group called a pride (5)
 - 19 Started (5)
- DOWN**
- 1 A huge grouping of stars, such as the Milky Way (6)
 - 2 Thrilling (8)
 - 3 The tenth month of the year (7)
 - 4 One, two or three, maybe (6)
 - 5 Noticing with the eyes (6)
 - 10 It helps stop a boat from drifting (6)
 - 12 The nut of an oak tree (5)
 - 14 Just a single time (4)
 - 15 Young cow (4)
 - 16 Not difficult (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

GORDIUS No.287

Across – 1 A la carte 3 Resourceful 8 Church wedding 9 Entrance 10 Verge 11 Equal 13 Wince 15 La Scala 20 Habit 21 Notch 23 Weave 24 Wanderer 25 Sphere 26 Odds and ends 27 Aid

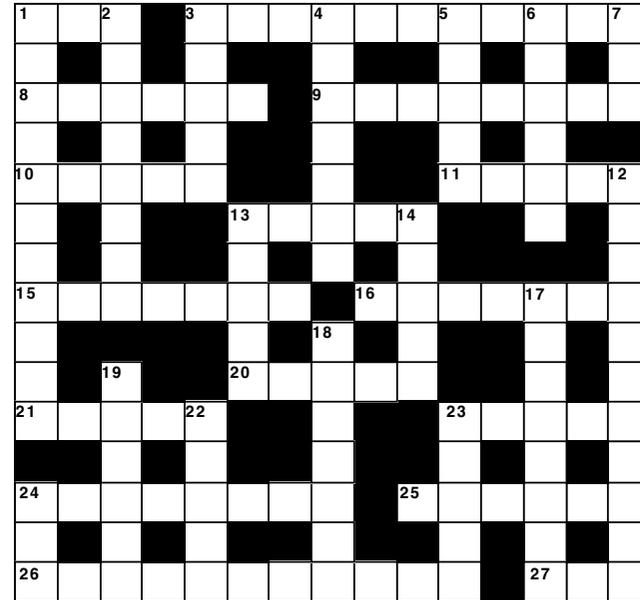
Down – 1 Arch-villain 2 Aquarius 3 Ruche 4 Opening 6 Fungus 7 Lye 12 Long weekend 13 Welsh 14 Event 17 In camera 18 Obverse 19 Atoned 22 Hyena 23 Wipes 24 Who

CHILDREN'S No.170

Across – 1 Quidditch 6 Ladder 7 Run 8 Roof 9 Coaches 10 Seven 12 Scary 14 Ape 15 Compass 16 Eel

Down – 1 Quarrels 2 Igloos 3 Dodo 4 Trespassers 5 Paints 7 Rehearse 9 Canada 11 Echo 13 Yell

Crossword Gordius 288



- ACROSS**
- 1, 15a, 20a & 25a Make the necessary preliminary arrangements to involve the entirety of your waterfowl in a quarrel? (3,3,4,5,2,1,3)
 - 3 Unsociable, having been poorly strengthened by heat? (3-8)
 - 8 Foreign, in an alluring way (6)
 - 9 Fitted out, provided with necessary gear (8)
 - 10 Backbone (5)
 - 11 Get me a Disney dwarf here in France (5)
 - 13 Members of a gaggle (5)
 - 15 See 1 across
 - 16 Fortress (in a certain dialect) (7)
 - 20 See 1 across
 - 21 The trunk of the body (5)
 - 23 Swimming stroke done on one's hands and knees? (5)
 - 24 'Theatre Land' in New York (8)
 - 25 See 1 across
 - 26 Appalling (11)
 - 27 See 12 down
- DOWN**
- 1 Theatrical makeup to add colour to the musical about Rydell High? (11)
 - 2 Relating to equatorial regions (8)
 - 3 Salt water (5)
 - 4 & 23d Ace hazelnuts can come from this middle-eastern waterway (3,4,5)
 - 5 Shape that can break sunlight into its constituent colours (5)
 - 6 Turbulent part of a river's course (6)
 - 7 Performed (3)
 - 12 & 27a Physical injury traditionally associated with boxers and rugby forwards (11,3)
 - 13 Fruit hollowed out to make containers (5)
 - 14 Gives out, radiates (5)
 - 17 Beg to differ (8)
 - 18 The late, coy kind of religious attendant (7)
 - 19 Note, chessmen can be the making of streams (6)
 - 22 More ancient (5)
 - 23 See 4 down
 - 24 Cot or divan, for example (3)

Sudoku Corner 171

Easy

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

Hard

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

Last week's Easy 170

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

Last week's Hard 170

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



Fr Martin Delaney

Notebook

Behold the wood of the cross

A JESUIT FRIEND shared with me his experience of ministering in a detention centre in Malta some years ago. My friend had gone into the prison on Good Friday to commemorate the passion of Jesus. He had made a wooden cross for the service and when it came to the veneration he described an extraordinary experience.

The prisoners came up in line but quite spontaneously when they reached the cross they began to write on the bare wood. They wrote something of their own story and their own cross. They were uniting their own suffering with that of Jesus.

A cross is not just a piece of wood; it is everything that makes life difficult. Jesus carried the crosses of his life without complaint, as a poor person and as an itinerant prophet. In the calm and courageous way, he put up with the threats of the Pharisees and the lack of understanding of his own disciples. In the way that he carried all the burdens of his life but, in particular, the way in which he carried this awful, final burden, he transforms the cross from a symbol of condemnation into one of liberation.

There are burdens that we all carry, some are very obvious and others we take great care to

Marked by a cross



*Marked by a cross,
Cherished and forgiven
We are travelling HOME*

*Called to be holy,
Called to be happy
We are travelling HOME*

*Across deserts,
Over mountains
We are travelling HOME*

*God in our hearts,
God in our lives
We are travelling HOME*

hide. There are the burdens of illness, pain and disability, of old age, dependence, and caring for someone who no longer knows who we are. There are the burdens of constant fear, of bereavement, of loneliness, isolation and of mental illness. The invitation of

Jesus on the cross is to hand over these burdens to him.

Proposal

I wondered how we might incorporate this idea in our parish as we prepared for Lent and Easter a few years ago. After some

Paddy appeared before St Peter at the pearly gates. "Have you ever done anything of particular merit?" St Peter asked.

"Well, I can think of one thing," Paddy offered. "Once, on a trip to Dublin, I came upon a gang of fellas, who were threatening a young woman. I told them to leave her alone, but they wouldn't listen. So,

I approached the largest and most heavily tattooed fella and smacked him in his face, ripped out his nose ring and threw it on the ground. I then yelled, 'Now, back off, or I'll kick the living daylights out of all of you!'"

St Peter was impressed. He leafed through the great book he held. "When did this happen?" "Just a few minutes ago..."

thought and reflection, a proposal emerged. The plan was to have the cross visit every home in the parish during the five weeks of Lent.

A local carpenter created a cross in five pieces all which slotted into each other. The five beams represented the five wounds of Christ. On the first Sunday of Lent the beams were presented at Mass to five 'Cross Bearers' who would guide the cross around the parish. The cross bearers were to begin the journey but each family or household was encouraged to pass on the beam to their neighbour.

Part of the message which accompanied each beam read as follows: "What is the cross that you bear today? As you reflect individually or together on that which represents the cross for you I invite you if you wish to write a word, a phrase, an event, a name on the wood."

I have no way of knowing how exactly people experienced this rather unusual Lenten Journey but the level of engagement was quite extraordinary. During Holy Week the journey concluded and the five beams made their way back to the church in preparation for Good Friday. I was so moved to read and

reflect on the many crosses which were being carried by the families in our parish. Some of these stories I recognised but most were personal, intimate cries from the heart known only to the writer.

Veneration

During the Good Friday Liturgy when it came to the Veneration of the Cross, five parishioners who all had lost loved ones in the previous few months carried the beams up the church and assembled them into one cross for veneration.

As the choir chanted "behold, behold, the wood of the cross", the people approached to kiss the bear wood now covered with burdens and stories of our community. Jesus' story and our story. His cross and our cross were united in a way I had not experienced before.



HELPING THE POOREST OF INDIAN FAMILIES TO BE SELF-SUFFICIENT

You can enable some of the poorest families in India to earn a little money by helping the Little Way Association to buy them milk-producing cattle. Missionary priests and sisters write to us about how such animals can yield an income for low-caste, so-called Tribal people. These people are shunned by Indian society, and are invariably illiterate and on the verge of destitution. The plight of widows can be particularly dire. For them, a cow or buffalo will yield milk that they can consume and sell, making money for food.



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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

Will you help a poor tribal family to be self-sufficient?

Fr Jacob Pingula of St Therese's Tribal Mission Project, Narasapuram, writes: "These people are the poorest of the poor, living hand to mouth. This project would help them be uplifted from their marginalised lives, and would enable them to have at least a minimum meal in a day."

Your contributions will be gratefully received and conveyed **without deduction** to Catholic priests and religious working in India, for them to help buy the animals for the families.

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