

# The Irish Catholic

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# TD warns over well-funded lobbies targeting pro-life law

## ‘Light touch’ regulation causes deep concern

Greg Daly

A culture of light touch regulation leaves vital issues like Ireland’s protection of the unborn at the mercy of well-funded lobby groups, a member of the Dáil’s committee on the Eighth Amendment has warned.

It comes as it was revealed that Amnesty International Ireland has pinpointed abortion as its top priority. New figures reveal that the organisation – headed by Colm O’Gorman – now spends more lobbying for abortion than on any other project.

Last November, the Standards in Public Office (SIPO) Commission allowed Amnesty to retain €137,000 it received from the US-based Open Societies Foundation to enable its abortion campaigning, despite directing the Abortion Rights Campaign to

return €23,000 it had received from the same source.

Under legislation, it is illegal for Irish-based organisations to accept foreign funding for political campaigns in Ireland.

Independent TD Mattie McGrath told *The Irish Catholic* it appears that SIPO is relying on groups to decide for themselves whether the rules apply to them or not.

“The entire third-party registration process appears to be deliberately opaque. This in turn creates room for wide and divergent interpretations of what constitutes compliance,” he said, adding that this “in itself demonstrates the need for root and branch reform of the process”.

“Failure to do so leaves the political process at the mercy of well-financed organisations who have the capacity to

» Continued on Page 2

## Having a ball with the archbishop



Archbishop Eamon Martin with some of those who took part in the Family of Sport Celebration – part of the World Meeting of Families celebrations – in Armagh parish. Photo: www.LiamMcArdle.com

RON ROLHEISER

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Just how helpful is mindfulness?

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LIAM COSGRAVE

A Taoiseach with integrity

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# Media boycotts are wrong, but so is the stifling culture of self-censorship

I'm not one for media boycotts. I think Newstalk's decision to ban journalists from *The Irish Times* from appearing on programmes is childish. But, I likewise think it petulant of people from *The Irish Times* like Fintan O'Toole and Una Mullally to declare that they were boycotting Newstalk over George Hook's now infamous comments that led to the broadcaster being demoted after the furore.

It strikes me as odd now to see O'Toole writing in his newspaper about how dangerous the Newstalk ban on *The Irish Times* is when he was the one to propose a boycott of another media outlet in the first place.

O'Toole is not alone. There has been much hand-wringing about Newstalk's decision to ban the newspaper. Labour leader Brendan Howlin has even written to the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland (BAI) to complain.

### Strict policy

But, all the hand-wringing ignores the fact that the mainstream media in Ireland (and elsewhere) often operate a very strict policy of self-censorship when it comes to what they decide to cover and what they choose to ignore.



## Editor's Comment Michael Kelly

The same is also true when it comes to guests that are invited to appear on particular programmes. When it comes to issues of religion on most current affairs programmes, for example, there is usually a tokenistic person who is not hostile towards the Catholic Church. The rest of the panel – sometimes egged-on by the presenter – are happy to wax lyrical about all of their issues with the Catholic Church.

### “When one criticises certain elements in the media one is often accused of shooting the messenger”

There is a stunning lack of diversity in the Irish media, and this is mainly because of the choices that are made by people at an editorial level. Certain voices are ignored, certain points of view go uncovered and certain stories go unreported because someone in

authority makes that decision.

Someone I know recently proposed to write for *The Irish Times* in defence of the rights of parents to send their children to faith-based schools. The swift reply they got was that the newspaper had already aired what was described as the “sectarian” issue on the point of view.

When one criticises certain elements in the media one is often accused of shooting the messenger, but what happens when the people supposed to be messengers are instead campaigners who write a narrative to suit their agenda? Or when journalists take it upon themselves to act as gatekeepers preventing certain views and opinions being heard?

So, yes, media boycotts are bad, but so also are the subtle and not-so-subtle stifling self-censorship that goes on all too often in the mainstream media.

## TD warns over well-funded lobbies

### » Continued from Page 1

manipulate continuing regulatory uncertainty to their advantage,” Mr McGrath said.

Under the Electoral Act 1997, a ‘third party’ is defined as someone who accepts for political purposes a donation exceeding €100 in value, with most donations from individuals – other than Irish citizens – who reside outside the island of Ireland being illegal. SIPO has said it believes the current provisions could hinder charities in the conduct of their ordinary affairs and doubts that this is the legislature's intention.

Mr O’Gorman claimed that Amnesty, which deregistered from SIPO in January 2016, does not generally consider itself to come under SIPO’s jurisdiction as human rights work does not constitute work for “political purposes”.

### Activities

“On the face of it appears that SIPO are essentially relying on a process whereby lobby groups/third parties can self-declare or self-designate their activities/purpose,” Mr McGrath said. “At best this is an example of ‘light touch’ ethical regulation; at worst it amounts

to sham accountability.”

Amnesty deregistered with SIPO in 2016, but over the following year spent €275,463 on abortion campaigning, €160,687 being assigned to its campaign for a “human rights compliant abortion law”, and €114,776 being spent on the ‘My Body, My Rights’ campaign, which calls for abortion in Ireland and such countries as Nepal, Burkina Faso, Morocco and Tunisia. These figures vastly eclipse the sums assigned to addressing torture, the death penalty, and prisoners of conscience.

Over the course of that year, the organisation registered approximately 20 instances when it lobbied members of the Oireachtas on the issue of abortion. In almost every case, these instances were classed as lobbying to change legislation or party policy on health issues, not as human rights lobbying.

“Both the lack of clarity and the systemic challenges in implementing the legislation governing third party registration continues to be a source of concern to me,” Mr McGrath told *The Irish Catholic*.

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# Mixed bag budget dismissed as missed opportunity

**Chai Brady**

Catholic charities have welcomed aspects of Budget 2018 but there were many “opportunities missed” with regard to housing and education in particular.

An increase of €5 to social welfare payments including the State pension, a Christmas bonus of 85%, a €20 increase for lone parents and the Jobseekers' Transitional Scheme were said to be good steps, but the “mixed bag” had many holes according to the Peter McVerry Trust.

Spokesperson Francis Doherty said that the increase in social housing targets was welcome, as an extra €500m will be provided to the direct building programme – this will see an additional 3,000 new build social houses by 2021 on top of what was already promised.

“There are gaps in the housing section of the budget around the issue of empty homes. The Peter McVerry Trust has been campaigning for a tax on properties that have been vacant for a year or more particularly in areas of demand so I think that's a missed opportunity from the Government,” he said.

## Recognition

The HAP scheme will be increased by €149m but the Government has been criticised for being “over-reliant” on it as a means for housing people, due to the major shortage of properties available to rent under the scheme.

“Part of the recognition from the Government is that much of what

they're promising on social housing won't actually take effect until 2019, or after. Next year they really are over-reliant on Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) as a means of housing people,” Mr Doherty said.

## Properties

Spokesperson for the Society of

St Vincent de Paul, Jim Walsh, reiterated the problem with relying on HAP. He said: “We know that there's about 90% of properties available for rent that are beyond the HAP limit, it's very welcome but it's not the key to solving the problem.”

He added that the charity felt there was not enough targeted

support for disadvantaged children attending school with regard to lunches, transport and books.

“We believe that there's an opportunity missed to break the cycle of disadvantage because those costs obviously disadvantage some families more than others,” he said.

## Charity welcomes overseas aid increase

An increase of €13m to Ireland's overseas Official Development Assistance (ODA) has been welcomed by Irish charities but plans need to be made to reach UN goals.

Catholic charity Trócaire, who help people in dire situations around the world, welcomed the announcement by the Finance Minister this week saying that it was a step towards reducing global poverty.

Executive Director Éamon Meehan said that Foreign Affairs Minister Simon Coveney highlighted the importance of having a clear roadmap towards contributing 0.7% of Ireland's modified Gross National Income (GNI) to ODA by 2025. He said “Ireland's future reputation and credibility as an international development actor hinges on meeting its 0.7% UN target”, which is in line with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

## Progress

“This Budget shows progress on meeting this objective. However, the Government must now publish a timetable to outline exactly how we are going to meet our international obligations by 2025,” Mr Meehan said.

Last year Trócaire reached 2.6 million people including Syrian refugees fleeing conflict and people in East Africa suffering from a drought that is affecting 25 million people.

“The announcement of an increase in ODA is timely as deepening inequality, climate change and global conflict are contributing to the unprecedented level of humanitarian needs across the globe.”

## No kiddin', you're very hungry!



Cousins Darragh and Aaron Noonan, Raheen, feed a goat at a Family Fun Day at Mary Immaculate to kick-off the World Meeting of Families programme. Bishop of Limerick Brendan Leahy stressed that WMOF2018 must be for families in all its forms and diversities. Photo: Keith Wiseman



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# Primate to outline education vision at major conference

Chai Brady

Ireland's most-senior Churchman is to address some of the major challenges facing Catholic schools in a major conference on education later this month.

Archbishop Eamon Martin will be the keynote speaker at the Dublin conference on October 26 on the theme 'Where not for faith-based education? Charting the future together'.

The conference will look at themes like the place of faith-based education in a pluralist society, as well as the challenges facing Catholic and other denominational schools.

Other speakers – who will look at issues faced by schools in both North and South – will include Baroness Nuala

O'Loan, Prof. Eamonn Conway from Mary Immaculate College, Limerick, David Quinn of The Iona Institute, Jonathan Tiernan from the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) and Patrick Treacy from Faith in Our Schools.

Among the topics being discussed will be the cultural and political challenges facing schools as well as the place of faith formation and sacramental preparation in schools.

## Generations

Speakers will explore the relationship between parishes, schools and families as well as the transmission of faith to future generations.

The conference will be held in Dublin's Gresham Hotel on Thursday October 26 from 9.30am. The confer-

ence fee – which includes lunch and refreshments – is €65, but readers of *The Irish Catholic* can avail of a special early bird offer of just €55 by calling 01.687.4024 (from NI 00.353.1.687.4024) or emailing [events@irishcatholic.ie](mailto:events@irishcatholic.ie) or register online at [www.irish-catholic.ie/shop](http://www.irish-catholic.ie/shop)



At a Family of Sport Celebration – part of the WMOF2018 celebrations in Armagh parish – in St Patrick's Cathedral were: Charlie Vernon, Armagh county footballer, Armagh Harps; Colette McSorley, Armagh county camogie player, Tullysaran Camogie; Gerard Houlihan, football All-Star, Pearse Óg; Fionnuala McKenna, Armagh Ladies Football, Armagh Harps and Paul McArdle, Chair Armagh GAA. Photo: [www.Liam McArdle.com](http://www.Liam McArdle.com)

## Sportspeople urged to stay close to Church

Staff reporter

Archbishop Eamon Martin has praised sporting organisations for their commitment to helping people find a sense of belonging.

At a Mass in St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh at the weekend to celebrate the contribution of sport, Archbishop Eamon said "just as a supportive sports family celebrates success and also picks you up when things have gone badly, the Church is also there for you in good

times and bad."

Addressing the sportsmen and women directly the Primate of All-Ireland said: "I encourage you to stay close to God in the family of the Church. You are always welcome in the family of God's Church.

### Gifts

The Church needs you, your gifts and your energy, your hopes and dreams for the future. I know how much commitment you bring to your

sports. Please do not forget your faith. Like your physical fitness, your spiritual wellbeing also needs effort, nourishment, time and commitment," the archbishop said.

Reflecting on his time as a school principal, Archbishop Eamon said during that time he noticed "that some of our finest sportsmen were also leaders and great examples to their fellow students, in terms of their character, their compassion, their faith and their dedication to studies".

## ‘Remember Luther’s original aim’

Greg Daly

Martin Luther's original intent had been to renew and reform the Church, not to divide it, according to Limerick's Bishop Brendan Leahy, calling for this to be remembered in today's ecumenical efforts.

Luther saw this as his

reformation as based on a return to the original form of Christianity in the sense of the Gospel manifested in the crucified Christ, Dr Leahy said, calling for this year's commemoration of the Reformation to be marked by the Churches looking to Christ crucified to discover "a style of dialogue that

accomplishes so much more than we can manage on our own".

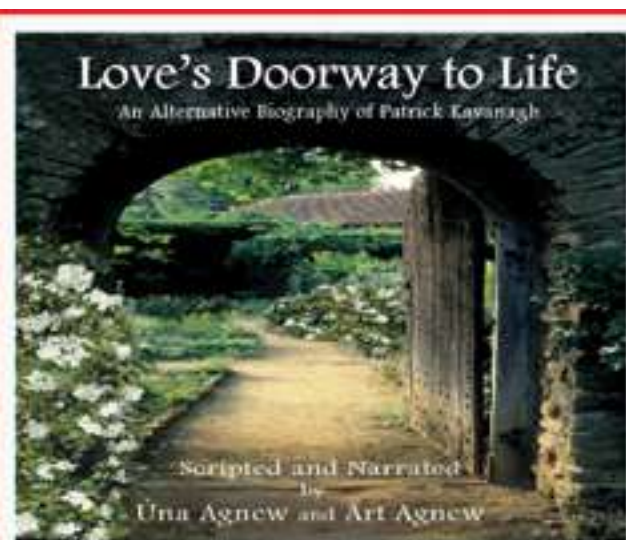
The bishop's comments came during a conference in Limerick's Mary Immaculate College to mark the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation.

### Disenchanted

Yale University's Prof. Carlos Eire, author of – most recently – *Reformations: The Early Modern World*, was keynote speaker at the conference, speaking on how Luther and his fellow Reformers 'disenchanted' the medieval world with their insistence that true

miracles had stopped with the last of the apostles, and that 'miracles' associated with Catholic saints were diabolical tricks.

Other speakers at the conference included Prof. Marian Lyons, Prof. of History at Maynooth University, who spoke on why the Reformation initially made progress in Ireland but failed to take root, and Dr Colmán Ó Clabaigh OSB, a monk of Glenstal Abbey, who spoke about Luther's own Augustinian order in medieval Ireland and the early Reformation.



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# How helpful is mindfulness?

Approached with moderation and admired with common sense, “mindfulness” seems a harmless enough practice. Deriving from Buddhist thinking, the modern application may help people to “improve their mind by focusing on a positive object”.

If you have to give a public speech, for example, and you worry you’ll have a panic attack, it can be useful just to focus on something positive and get on with the task.

And it seems that our Minister for Education, Richard Bruton, is such a fan of this ancient practice that he plans to introduce a large-scale programme of mindfulness for teachers. Some 900 schools are set to have their “emotional wellbeing” enhanced through mindfulness training. Disadvantaged schools, in particular, may thus reduce pupils’ anxiety, boost their resilience, and expand their coping skills, according to Mr Bruton.

Who would be against such a positive measure? Unfortunately, some studies



Mary Kenny

looking at the outcomes of mindfulness have found that in some cases it has no benefit at all. It can even make certain subjects worse.

One of the major studies carried out on mindfulness by researchers at George Mason University in Virginia found that, where the practice was applied to offenders in prison,

the impact was negative and even deleterious.

According to the research psychologists – who published their findings in the current *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin* – the practice of mindfulness led certain offenders to commit more crimes.

The prisoners in the Virginia

study were taught how to meditate, to focus on positive thoughts and to accept negative feelings. The psychologists said that the “non-judgemental” element led the 259 subjects tested “to avoid responsibility for their actions”, and even to justify their actions.

## Outcome

The negative outcome of mindfulness for prisoners might not apply to everyone. But shouldn’t such studies give the Minister some pause for thought? Or even pause for more research?

There is already research indicating that programmes setting out to boost low self-esteem do not always achieve their goal. Overpraising young people does not necessarily combat depression and anxiety. What boosts low self-esteem is a genuine sense of achievement, and that is linked with effort and hard work.

Mindfulness can surely encourage some individuals to be reflective, calm and focused. But is introducing it into the school schedule just another fad? Only asking.



Ivana Trump: the ‘real’ First Lady?

● The late Duke of Norfolk, Britain’s leading Catholic peer, used to crack old-fashioned jokes about the disadvantages of being a Muslim with four wives. “Four mothers-in-law!”

But multi-married modern men of non-Muslim persuasion may run into other disadvantages associated with several spouses: ex-wives clashing with current wives.

One of Donald Trump’s burdens is that the first Mrs Trump – the Czech-born Ivana – now seems to be claiming higher wifely status than the current, third Mrs Trump, the Slovenian Melania. “I’m the First Lady, okay!” says Ivana. No, says Melania, you’re just “attention-seeking”.

Pity the poor guy with battling wives, let alone mothers-in-law!

## Not so much to fear after all

● Oxford university students this past week banned the Christian Union from participating in a ‘freshers’ fair’ to welcome new undergraduates, fearing that a Christian stall would stir up “homophobia and neo-colonialism”.

They don’t seem to have noticed that the societies which deal most harshly with homosexuality are not necessarily marked by Christian traditions: in Saudi Arabia, flogging and even execution may be meted out for homosexual acts. African culture, too, can be extremely hostile to same-sex relationships, and homosexuals face ongoing discrimination in China.

Subsequently, the Oxford students’ union was prevailed upon to relent, in the name of freedom of expression. But it was, as Wellington supposedly said of the Battle of Waterloo, “a damn close-run thing...”



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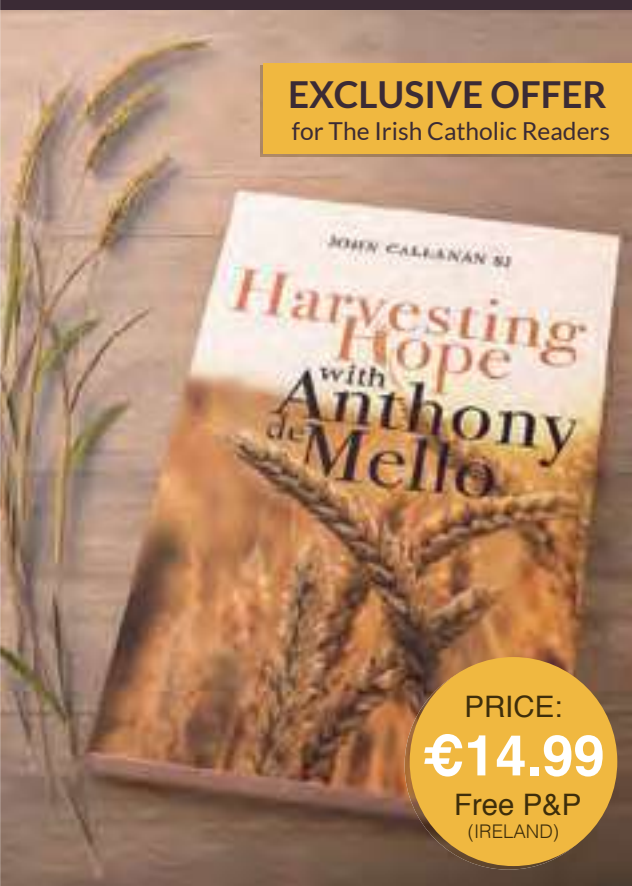
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# Teacher training needed to support refugee children

**Chai Brady**

Teachers need assistance in learning how to integrate refugee children who have experienced trauma into Irish schools, according to the Immigrant Council of Ireland (ICI).

Commenting on a British initiative which saw teachers in Northern Ireland sent to German schools in order to learn from their integration techniques Sr Stan, the founder of ICI, described it as a "positive development" that would be "extremely welcome in the Republic of Ireland".

"Children are extremely

resilient, but practical and emotional assistance like language classes, provision of books and other classroom materials plus improved understanding of their cultures is essential for those who have experienced the trauma of displacement and perilous journeys," Sr Stan said.

## Support

Three teachers who took part in a British Council international study trip learned how Berlin's education system supports refugee children through 'welcome classes'. They visited their Education Senate, rehabilitation centres, four schools and the German

Children and Youth Foundation.

Nigel Arnold, the principal of Glengormley Integrated PS which is an accredited international primary school, took part in the trip. He told *The Irish News*: "Out of 350 pupils, currently 56 speak English as an additional language and I'm always keen to learn new ways and methods for making new pupils welcome."

He added that the experience was "moving" and the German system has a more "joined-up" approach between education and other public services.

Sr Stan acknowledged the "extraordinary" work done by

teachers, but said "the nature and scale of what these young people have been through requires additional focus and resources to ensure schools have the time and space to provide adequate support to what is often an impoverished and highly vulnerable group of children".

## Efforts

She added that efforts to integrate children into schools would help families integrate into the wider community.

The Department of Education were contacted for comment but did not respond before print deadline.

## WMOF's ecumenical possibilities subject of Catholic-Anglican meeting

**Staff reporter**

The ecumenical potential of next year's World Meeting of Families (WMOF) was highlighted at a recent gathering of Catholic and Church of Ireland bishops, a Church spokesman has said.

The August 2018 meeting is widely expected to see Pope Francis visiting Ireland, both to take part in the major Church event, and to 'complete' St John Paul II's visit by visiting the North, something that sectarian violence and security concerns in 1979 had made impractical.

The bishops' meeting, which considered challenges faced by the Churches on both sides of the border, also considered such issues as education, the plight of refugees

and migrants, engagement with young people, and current social issues.

Thirteen bishops – seven Catholic and six Anglican – took part in the gathering, the sixth annual one to take part in light of the recommendation of the International Anglican / Roman Catholic Commission for Unity and Mission that bishops from both Churches should regularly meet to discuss common concerns.

"All the participants said the experience was very valuable as they shared insightful perspectives that engendered renewed commitment to promoting the Kingdom of God," the spokesman said, noting that the meeting had been marked by "positivity and candour", and that time was also taken at the meeting for shared prayer, reflection and informal encounter.

## Primate suggests three bridges across Church divides

Personal friendships, encounter with Christ in prayer and the Scriptures, and witness to wider society can all act as bridges towards Church unity, Archbishop Eamon Martin has said.

Maintaining that Ireland's "people of faith ... share the responsibility of leading the way in transforming relationships and in healing the legacy and pain of our troubled past", the archbishop told a congregation in Dublin's Christ Church Cathedral that these bridges could be used to help "reconcile the Reformation".

## Catholic runner wins Chicago Marathon after blessing

A devout Catholic runner blessed by the chaplain of the US House of Representatives before the Chicago Marathon went on to win the race.

Galen Rupp became the first American man to win the event since 2002 after Fr Patrick Conroy blessed him and his team member before the race.

Mr Rupp's coach, Alberto Salazar, told *Runner's World* that he knew Fr Patrick from Portland – where his club is based, and said the team get strength from their Catholic Faith.

Mr Salazar said about Fr Patrick: "He's been here with us... doing daily Mass for us. He went out and blessed them before the race, those are the things that fuel both of them."

Mr Rupp finished the marathon, which is over 40km long, in a time of 2:09:19. He thanked his wife who he said has "given up her life to support me and the kids", adding: "You put so much into this one race – to see them (his family) at the finish line, to see them happy, it means the world to me."



Galen Rupp crosses the line first in the Chicago Marathon.



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# Maria Steen

## The View



# Being pro-choice means you're okay with killing babies before they are born

**I**magine this scenario: two people are having a conversation. One says to the other: "I'm against racism personally, but I just think that it's a serious moral question and people should be given the choice to discriminate on grounds of race if they wish. After all, we can trust people."

Could anybody confronted by logic like this seriously believe that our speaker is not himself a racist or supportive of racial discrimination? Of course not. It is patently obvious and yet, just this sort of skewed logic is frequently employed by those who claim that they are at once pro-choice yet still pro-life.

Saying you are pro-choice is an attempt to sit on the fence about a very serious issue – I say an attempt, because in reality, as soon as you accept that some people

may exercise the "choice" to end the lives of others, you are no longer on the fence, but rather firmly in the camp that allows abortion.

Being pro-life and pro-choice are two positions that are mutually incompatible. Why? The answer is, because choice does not exist in a vacuum. Rather the question must always be: the choice to do what?

### Margins

In the law, in a free society, we are accorded very wide margins within which we

are allowed to make all sorts of choices about how we live our lives, how we express our preferences, how we organise our affairs, choose our friends, raise our families. This is a good thing.

However, there are always limits. Typically, those limits are drawn at the point where a choice I might like to make injures somebody else. I am not free to choose to assault another person because that is a choice that directly injures somebody else. If choice were the ultimate

objective or goal to be attained in society then perhaps I ought to be free to do that but no sensible person would ever accept that my right to choose outweighs another person's right not to be assaulted. In any democracy, freedom of choice must be balanced with justice.

It is important to understand that choice is actually highly valued in the teaching of the Catholic Church. If we go back to the very beginning of Genesis, what we find is that our Creator gave us the capacity to choose, or what we call free will. This is a central tenet of Catholic teaching.

God could have created us as mere automatons with no capacity to do anything other than obey him, but in His goodness, God gave us the capacity to make real moral decisions: the freedom to choose to do right or to do wrong. This should not be understood as excluding consequences, because there are always consequences to our choices for good or ill. So also it is with the civil law.

**“God could have created us as mere automatons with no capacity to do anything other than obey him”**

The law against violent assaults and murders does not make human beings incapable of committing violent assaults and murders; what it does say is that if and when such a choice is made, there are consequences. When we choose to exercise our freedom in a way that infringes on the freedom of somebody else, we can expect that the law of the land will forbid it under pain of punishment.

The central point about



abortion is that it involves an assault on another person: if there is no other person involved, if the child is just a clump of cells or tissue and not a human being, then the law truly has no place in forbidding it because that would be an infringement of the individual's right to make a choice that doesn't affect any other person.

However, abortion is an assault on another person, specifically the child in the womb. A choice exercised in favour of abortion is therefore one that is completely inconsistent with the freedom that another human being should enjoy not to be subjected to a violent and unprovoked assault.

If we go back to our example, our speaker who says that he wants people to be allowed to make choices in line with their racist views, can only mean that there is nothing wrong with racism, that it doesn't injure

anybody else.

It would be just as absurd to say "I'm opposed to killing but I think we should trust each other to make the decision whether or not we kill other people."

**“This should not be understood as excluding consequences... there are always consequences to our choices”**

Anyone who says this is really saying there is nothing wrong with indiscriminate killing and the law should not attempt to prevent it. In the same way, anyone who says they are pro-choice about abortion is really saying there is nothing wrong with killing babies before they are born.



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# Call for parishes and chaplaincies to help break chains of modern slavery

**Greg Daly**

Parishes and port chaplaincies can play a key role in tackling human rights abuses at sea, especially for those trapped in the “invisible chains” of human trafficking, Ferns's Bishop Denis Brennan has said.

“People imagine it happens somewhere else, but it happens here too,” Dr Brennan told *The Irish Catholic*, adding that given the scale of the problem in the UK, “we can't imagine we're isolated from this issue”.

The bishop's comments come after a week-long conference in Taiwan, where he and 250 bishops, chaplains and academics discussed human trafficking and other abuses under the theme ‘Caught in the net’.

## Safe harbours

Speaking at the beginning of the 24th World Congress of the Apostleship of the Sea, the bishop had described human trafficking as “modern slavery”, and said the Church can offer “safe harbours” for those who seek our care in ports around the world.

Port chaplains, he told *The Irish Catholic*, engage in

“silent unseen work, but work that is vital for the welfare of so many who transport to us so much, who supply us with food and goods and who have needs themselves, from a simple word of encouragement to a need to speak of difficulties, fears or abuses”.

Noting the extent of Irish engagement with the sea, whether through fishing or through trade, he said he was “looking to make sure we're not sleepwalking through something that's closer to home than we might think”.

Dr Brennan attended the conference as bishop promoter of the Apostleship of the Sea and as the Irish bishops' representative in the Santa Marta group, an alliance of police chiefs, bishops, and civic leaders who work to tackle the issue of human trafficking.

Praising the work of Rose Kearney, administrator of Dublin's Stella Maris centre, and her team, Dr Brennan added that Church support for victims of human trafficking or other abuses should not be limited to port chaplaincies.

“Parishes and caring communities are good places where people who do feel trapped or trafficked can pro-



Bishop Brennan shares a word with Rose Kearney of the Apostleship of the Sea in Dublin and Californian delegate Fr Phan.

vide a listening ear, and an opportunity or an opening to get out,” he said.

“It's proven very effective in England,” he added.

## Constitution may protect unborn even with ‘repeal’ – Noonan

**Staff reporter**

Unborn children may still be protected by the Constitution even if the Eighth Amendment is repealed, former Fine Gael leader and minister for finance Michael Noonan has said.

Speaking in a Fine Gael parliamentary meeting, Mr Noonan urged the Oireachtas Committee on the Eight Amendment to take legal advice on what the implications would be on the removal of article 40.3.3. of Bunreacht na hÉireann, which guarantees the equal right to life of a mother and her unborn child.

## Limit

He said that even without this, unborn children may still have an ‘inferred’ constitutional right to life, and that



Michael Noonan TD.

any proposed referendum wording might need to limit this right explicitly.

Mr Noonan was minister for justice when the Eighth Amendment was introduced –backed by almost 67% of voters – in 1983. The then Attorney General, Peter

Sutherland, had advised the Government that the amendment was unnecessary. In 1980 the Supreme Court case of *G v An Bord Uachtala* established that unborn children had a right to life.

## Judgments

More recent judgments, in light of the Children's Rights referendum, have compounded this. In 2014 the Court ruled that a mother's life support system could be switched off “in the best interests of the unborn child”, and in August 2016 the High Court's Mr Justice Richard Humphreys said the State must protect “all” children, including children “both before and after birth”, with unborn children having “significant” rights, “going well beyond the right to life alone”.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Remember those behind the missions – bishop

Missionaries at home should be thanked just as much as those who have worked abroad, the chair of the Bishops' Council for Missions has said.

Speaking at a Mass in Maynooth organised by World Missions Ireland, Archbishop Kieran O'Reilly SMA, a onetime missionary in Africa, gave thanks for all those who made overseas missions possible.

“There are many who have worked tirelessly at home in order that missionaries abroad can do their work,” he said, emphasising that “a lot of the work couldn't have been done without the efforts and support of the ordinary people of Ireland”.

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# Unearthing Cahal Daly's contribution to peace

It was a considerable coup for the organisers to secure as distinguished and high-powered a figure as the Vatican's foreign minister to deliver the Cardinal Cahal B. Daly Centenary Memorial lecture in Queen's University, Belfast at the weekend.

Archbishop Paul Gallagher, a Liverpoolian, Secretary for the Holy See's Relations with States, to give him his proper title, in a 45-minute lecture running to 6,000 words, did a good job in reminding his audience of the rare qualities that made Cahal Daly an ecclesiastical colossus and one of the most significant figures in Irish public life in the second half of the last century.

He succeeded in relating the truly prophetic character of Daly, by drawing on some of his profound statements that will always stand the test of time.

The Vatican foreign minister's lecture raised as many questions as it provided answers, writes **Martin O'Brien**



It went down well with the audience which included Cardinal Seán Brady and Archbishop Eamon Martin, Daly's two successors as archbishop of Armagh, Bishop Noel Treanor of Down and Connor and several prominent clergy from the Protestant community.

## Questions

But I wondered if I was the only one in the audience who thought that the lecture may have left more questions than answers not just for the

listeners but for, say, a future biographer of Cahal Daly, as I shall try to explain later.

In an address entitled 'Go the Extra Mile: Cahal B. Daly Reflections on the Practice of Dialogue', Archbishop Gallagher captured much of the wholeness of his subject's life and its legacy even if there was as striking an omission as any: reference to the cardinal's 2004 book *The Minding of Planet Earth* which prefigured Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si'* ('Praised Be You: On the Care of Our Common Home').

That said, no lecturer however eminent could do justice to the breadth and depth of Cardinal Daly's contribution as a philosopher, theologian, and moral leader over half a century in the time available.

Archbishop Gallagher is a very busy man on the international stage, holding one of the most important and politically-sensitive briefs in the Roman curia.

He wouldn't have the time to write a lecture such as this and the work would have been undertaken under his direction by a small team of officials in the Curia who relied particularly on two books by Daly, *Steps on My Pilgrim Journey* (1998) and *The Price of Peace* (1991).

Days before his address Archbishop Gallagher was in New York where he put aside diplomatic niceties to condemn Donald Trump for his inflammatory language towards North Korea. Without naming him he said: "The threat or use of military force have no place in countering proliferation, and the threat or use of nuclear weapons in countering nuclear proliferation are deplorable."

A few days later he was in the US State Department in Washington DC to meet Secretary of State Rex Tillerson to discuss Korea and very probably Trump's plan to abandon the Iran nuclear arms deal.

**“We were told that he was a man of dialogue and committed to ecumenism and that he made an important contribution to the peace process”**

This was Archbishop Gallagher's first ever visit to Belfast, but alas he did not speak to the media which is a pity because I can think of lots of questions that *The Irish Catholic* could have put to him, beginning perhaps with whether his meeting with Secretary Tillerson was before or after Tillerson reportedly called Trump "a moron", something the US Secretary of State has chosen not to publicly deny.

The audience, many of whom knew the late cardinal personally, and many more



The late Cardinal Cahal B. Daly.

like Secretary Gallagher himself who did not, was told that Cahal Daly was a distinguished theologian who had been an advisor at the Second Vatican Council, neither an "intransigent" nor a "progressive" who admired the patient consensus-seeking approach of Blessed Pope Paul VI.

We were told that he was a man of dialogue and committed to ecumenism and that he made an important contribution to the peace process.

All this may indeed be true although the cardinal's contribution to the peace process could have been fleshed out.

Did his fierce and consistent condemnation of IRA violence and his powerful and reasoned critique of it help bring peace? Or was it his compelling prescription of the requirements of a political settlement? Or his forensic examination of counter-productive security policies by the British government? Or these and other factors?

And how did Cahal Daly's powerful espousal of dialogue, cited strongly by Archbishop Gallagher, square with his refusal to meet Gerry Adams, even after he was elected Sinn Féin MP for West Belfast?

What did he make of the Fr Alec Reid inspired Hume-Adams dialogue that he knew

about and never publicly commented on?

Very appropriately, given Cahal Daly's enduring commitment to ecumenism, there was a lovely ecumenical touch when former Presbyterian Moderator, Dr John Dunlop, an old friend of Cahal's, and fellow-traveller in promoting deeper inter-Church relations was invited to reply to Archbishop Gallagher.

In thanking him for a stimulating talk Dr Dunlop enlivened the proceedings by joking that a political point was being made when he was offered a glass of orange juice during his speech.

Dr Dunlop paid a warm tribute to Daly remarking that the invitation to him to respond was "an indication of how things have changed on our inter-Church journey from the old days" which the late Irish-Rhodesian bishop Dr Donal Lamont, a native of Ballycastle, Co. Antrim, had once described as a state of "frozen misery".

## Interview

So, congratulations to Fr Eddie O'Donnell, the parish priest of St Brigid's, Belfast and private secretary to Cahal Daly in his eight years as Bishop of Down and Connor; and to Judge Gemma Loughran, the late cardinal's literary executrix,

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for having the idea to honour his memory in this way and organising such a successful event.

**“The peace process delivered on this but the political institutions of the Good Friday Agreement remain closed down”**

Fr O'Donnell, in a forthcoming interview for this newspaper, has told me that as far back as September 1, 1979 in London (a month before the arrival of the Pope in Ireland and five days after the assassination of Lord Mountbatten and the massacre at Warrenpoint) Dr Daly, still Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnois, gave a visionary address to the English Catholic Commission for International Justice and Peace entitled 'Northern Ireland: From Impasse to Initiative' in which he identified the requirements for a political settlement.

Daly said there had to be a total cessation of violence; new political institutions; security policies had to be subordinated to and at the service of clearly defined political aims and new political thinking.

The peace process delivered on this but the political institutions of the Good Friday Agreement remain closed down and the jury is out on whether Northern Ireland as a polity can ever be made to work.

### Deadlock

Secretary Gallagher's speech may have been enhanced and would have attracted greater media attention had he used the opportunity, as Vatican foreign minister, to address the current political deadlock at Stormont using the type of prophetic language Cahal Daly himself used on numerous occasions, not least in his New Year World Peace Day addresses – there was a particularly memorable one in 1978 when he warned about the dangers of a political vacuum.

As someone who had the privilege of meeting the late cardinal on many occasions, several times at length in private, and experiencing his great personal kindness, without being able to say I really knew him, (I am not sure many, if any, really did) it was a joy to be present to celebrate his memory just five days after what would have been his 100th birthday.

## Over 200 participants win Pope John Paul II awards

### Chai Brady

In the last two weeks, 220 young people from two Irish dioceses collected the Pope John Paul II Award (JPPI) for work in their parish and community.

The Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Jude Thaddeus Okolo, assisted Bishop Alphonsus Cullinan in awarding 133 students from schools across the diocese of Waterford and Lismore.

Archbishop Okolo thanked the people of Clonmel and the diocese for their kind invitation and warm welcome, adding he was “delighted” to represent the Holy Father at the event.

The schools awarded included Ardscoil na Mara in Tramore, Coláiste Dún Iascaigh in Cahir, Scoil Mhuire in Carrick-on-Suir, Blackwater School in Lismore and Cappoquin parishes, as well as the High School, Loreto and Presentation secondary schools in Clonmel.

The diocesan coordinator for the award, Fr Michael Toomey, said he was literally “astounded” at the enthusiasm and commitment the students put in, saying: “The feedback from the students has been so open and honest that it makes very good reading for priests, parish councils and schools in how to get their enthusiasm and energy back into the Church. This award helps everyone to do that”

It is the 10th anniversary of the JPPI awards in Ireland, and a delegation from the diocese will travel

to Rome at the end of this month for an audience with the Holy Father, as well as a Mass on RTÉ in December.

The diocese of Kilmore last week celebrated 87 young people between the ages of 16-18 being awarded the JPPI award in Cavan, which was attended by Bishop Leo O'Reilly.

The number of participants has doubled in recent years. They were from numerous schools and 10 parishes across the diocese this year.



JPPI winners from Baillieborough school



Papal cross recipients and Knights of Columbanus at the JPPI awards from Kilmore diocese.



The Papal Nuncio poses with recipients of the JPPI award from the Waterford and Lismore diocese.

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# A faith that was no burden

Integrity was the cornerstone of Liam Cosgrave's life, writes Msgr John Wilson

Liam Cosgrave's wife Vera died on September 16, 2016 and was buried from this Church. Now just over one year later we gather once more this time for Liam's funeral and for his last journey to and from this Church where he worshipped throughout his life.

Liam telephoned me when Vera died and made clear that there were to be no "speeches or nonsense" at the Requiem Mass. I will follow that instruction today for Liam's Requiem.

The scripture readings you

have heard were chosen by Liam's family. They are well chosen.

The First reading from the Book of Wisdom is an assurance that the virtuous woman or man need have no fear of death because those who are faithful in life will live with God in love.

The second reading from the First Letter of St John assures us that as children of God after our death we will see God as he really is and that we shall be like him. Death is the means of purification for intimacy with God.

The Gospel tells us: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. There are many rooms in my Father's house." For each and every one of us from the moment of our conception God has prepared a place for us in Heaven. If that place remains empty after my death, it is because I have rejected God not because God has rejected me.

Pope Francis emphasises the mercy of God. In fact he says "the name of God is mercy". The forgiveness of God is always on offer no matter how far we may stray

from the right path.

In the Preface of this Requiem Mass you will hear the phrase "Lord for your faithful people, life is changed not ended".

All of this Liam Cosgrave understood well. He was a man of solid and practical faith. He was not in any sense pious or ostentatious but lived his faith to the best of his ability and it sustained him throughout his long life.

## Memory

I have known Liam Cosgrave since about 1965. We became friends through hunting. I am afraid that we did not catch any "mongrel foxes"! Liam attended my ordination in 1979 and ever practical he gave me a gift of a combined chalice and paten suitable for small group Masses in a house or classroom. I am using this chalice today in memory of Liam. This chalice has been much used in classroom and house Masses but until today it has never been used in a church.

Liam Cosgrave was a devout and committed Catholic like his father before him.



The remains of the late Liam Cosgrave are taken from the Church of the Annunciation after his Funeral Mass.

He carried it easily and for him it was never a burden. It was simply part of who he was. He had many close friends who were members of other Christian denominations and he was a true ecumenist long before that word was in regular use. He respected the faith and belief of others or indeed their non-belief.

Liam was elected to Dáil Éireann at the young age of 23 and throughout his life dedicated himself to the Common Good. One might disagree with his views or his approach on particular issues, but I think there are few if any who would question his integrity, his dedication or his vocation in giving a devoted service to his country. He was a patriot in the best sense of that word and a true democrat.

Liam had a great devotion to Rome and loved the city. At the age of 14 in 1934 along with his father and mother he had an audience with Pope Pius XI. He visited Rome many times throughout his life.

In fact he read the lesson in St Peter's Square at the Mass for the canonisation of St Oliver Plunkett in 1975 celebrated by Pope Paul VI.

## Irish College

In 1956 on a visit to Rome – when Liam was Minister for External Affairs as it was then called – he spoke on Vatican Radio and he used the Latin phrase which is inscribed on a wall inside the main door of the Irish College in Rome "Ut Christiani Ita et Romani Sitis" which he gave in translation as "as you are Christian so be you likewise Roman". This, Liam said, is an injunction from St Patrick!

I was living in Rome in 1985 when Liam and his late wife Vera and Mary came out on a visit. We had a very pleasant few days together. It was Easter time. Liam decided

to attend the Easter Vigil ceremony in St Peter's Basilica but wanted to participate as an ordinary member of the faithful. However he was spotted by an official of the Secretariat of State of the Holy See who insisted on leading them to a more appropriate place in the basilica. (I think the official concerned was either Cardinal Casaroli or Archbishop Re) This is just one small example of the humility of Liam Cosgrave which so many have commented on in recent days, on how this humility influenced his whole life.

**“Most reasonable people would agree that integrity was the cornerstone of Liam's political life”**

Humility is of course a Christian virtue. It is not about being reticent or self effacing but rather in recognising that whatever gifts and talents we have are not of our own creation but were given us by God.

Archbishop Connell published a Pastoral Letter in 1992 entitled "Christian integrity: does it matter"? I know that this pastoral struck a chord with Liam Cosgrave. I quote just a couple of sentences:

"In a democracy the freedom of politicians in the making of decisions is limited by the perception of what the people are willing to accept. Politicians are sometimes criticised for failing to tackle our problems when the fault may lie more in our unwillingness to support them if they devise policies that call for sacrifice from us. Those who have influence in forming public opinion and not least Church leaders have responsibilities here.

"The welfare of our soci-

ety is very much in the hands of politicians, the task to which they dedicate their lives is one of the noblest but it imposes on them special moral responsibility.

"Politicians, as persons of integrity, must be able to deal with the demands of their supporters in ways that do not offend against justice. We forfeit our right to complain about lack of integrity in politicians if that integrity is lacking first of all in ourselves. Those who hold public office are entrusted with part of the public good, integrity is essential to the fulfilment of that trust."

I think most reasonable people would agree that integrity was the cornerstone of Liam's political life and private life and so approaching the judgement of God that all of us will face he should have no fear or anxiety.

The great mystic St John of the Cross wrote "in the evening of our lives we will be judged on how we have loved". Liam Cosgrave loved his family, his country and his faith. We can be sure that the Lord will greet him with the words "well done good and faithful servant, inherit the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world".

May Liam Cosgrave quickly rejoin his late wife Vera and father and mother and receive from the Lord the reward he will so richly deserve for his exemplary life of service to his Faith to his family and to this state.

Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace.

**1** Homily prepared for the funeral Mass for Liam Cosgrave in Rathfarnham's Church of the Annunciation on October 7, 2017.

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## Today's Fine Gael would have no place for its 1970s Taoiseach, writes David Quinn

**L**iam Cosgrave is the first Taoiseach I can remember. My father, a newspaper man like his father before him and his son now, was thrilled. My father was Fine Gael through and through and Cosgrave's was the first Fine Gael-led Government in years. He had a right to be thrilled.

I can't say I remember a whole lot about the period. I can remember the oil crisis and the petrol shortage. I can remember some of the IRA and Loyalist atrocities. I remember the Fianna Fáil landslide of 1977 which brought a shuddering halt to the Cosgrave Government.

In truth, it was a fairly luckless Government. How was it to anticipate the Arab-Israeli war of October 1973 which resulted in Arab countries increasing the price of oil fourfold plunging the world into recession? Nothing but hard decisions awaited the Cosgrave Government after that, hard and unpopular decisions. On top of that it had to deal with the Troubles and the threat the IRA posed to the institutions of the State.

### “What would have happened to Liam Cosgrave if he had still been a Fine Gael TD in 2013?”

I also remember *Hall's Pictorial Weekly* and laughing at the figures of 'Ritchie Ruin' and the 'Minister for Hardship'. My father always maintained Hall's Pictorial Weekly was much harder on Fine Gael Governments than on Fianna Fáil ones.

I remember Cosgrave himself as a fairly dour, colourless figure. I only saw him in action once, at a book launch a few years ago when he showed a very droll sense of humour. People who knew him have spoken about this in the days following

# Liam Cosgrave was a noble product of a much-reviled time



Former Taoisigh Liam Cosgrave (left) and Enda Kenny.

his death, and also of his personal kindness.

One thing I do not remember from the time is him voting against his own government on the matter of a contraceptive bill that would have allowed married couples to buy contraceptives. I've read and heard plenty about it since, though. The funny thing is, in the obituaries there was little criticism of that action. Instead it was taken as a sign that he was a man of principle and integrity, and also a man of his time.

### Important issue

On that occasion, Liam Cosgrave voted with his conscience. He allowed a free vote on the matter and he availed of it. Contrast this with what another Fine Gael leader, Enda Kenny, did in 2013 when he forbade a free vote on a much more important issue, namely abortion. He imposed the party whip and expelled those who voted against the abortion Bill of that year, which permitted abortion where a woman was deemed to be suicidal.

As a result, Lucinda Creighton, Terence Flanagan, the late Peter Mathews, Billy Timmins, Fidelma Healy Eames and Paul Bradford were expelled from the parliamentary party and their political careers ruined.

What would have happened to Liam Cosgrave if he had still been a Fine Gael TD in 2013? Without a shadow of a doubt he would have voted against that Bill, and the same party that was eulogising him last week would have cast him

out without mercy as it did to the six parliamentary members who voted with the consciences four years ago.

This is a measure of how much Fine Gael has changed since the days of Liam Cosgrave. It is not merely that it is a vastly more liberal, secular party, one that has completely abandoned its Christian Democratic roots, it is that it has become an intolerantly liberal party, with less space for real debate than the party of 1973. Fortunately, it is to allow a free vote next year when the wording for the upcoming abortion referendum comes before the Oireachtas.

Liam Cosgrave may have seemed fairly dour and colourless to the general public, but he also seemed solid and honest, a man of his word. He would hardly have known what 'spin' was and would have been oblivious to matters of image. The 'selfie'-obsessed modern politician would have been completely alien to him. He must have been privately appalled in his later years by all those Fine Gael politicians who have changed their 'convictions' on issue after issue after being put under a bit of pressure by journalists.

These are politicians without a core. What you see isn't what you get, and what you see today could be different again tomorrow. They are shape-changers, not leaders, not men and women of conviction. We saw what Fine Gael did to those with real convictions in 2013.

Liam Cosgrave died

trying to find its feet in the world, and that Ireland was overwhelmingly Catholic. As we have been reminded over the last week, Liam Cosgrave had a deep Catholic faith. It was this deep Catholic faith that led him to vote against that contraceptive bill.

**“They were fine people who ‘stood-at-post’ and who knew the meaning of duty”**

We have been taught to revile the Ireland that produced Liam Cosgrave. We are constantly reminded of its dark chapters as though those chapters – the Magdalene laundries, the mother and baby homes and so on – are all that is to be said about it.

But if Liam Cosgrave was also a product of that Ireland, is that period to be defined solely by its dark chapters? If Liam Cosgrave was a man of

integrity, of principle, a man of his word who wouldn't know what spin was, doesn't that say something about that Ireland as well?

And what about your own parents or grandparents? They were also products of that deeply reviled Ireland. Were they all hard, unforgiving and judgemental people? Some of them may have been, but my parents were not, and the grandparents I knew were not either. They were sometimes 'old-fashioned' in their attitudes, but they were fine people who 'stood-at-post' and who knew the meaning of duty, of service, of commitment, of responsibility.

These things describe Liam Cosgrave as well. He had strong Catholic convictions and he did not go with the tide but stood by what he believed. He reflects well on the society that formed him.

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- Sunday Times columnist, Brenda Power.

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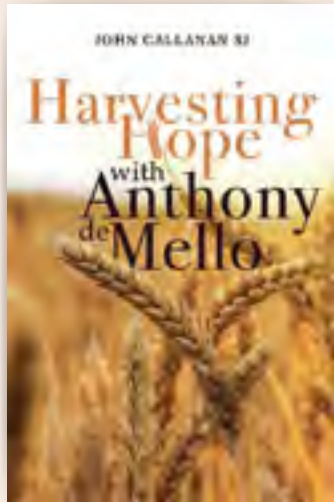
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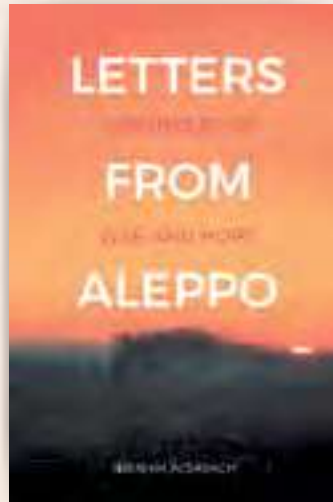
## NEW RELEASES



### Harvesting Hope with Anthony John Callanan

Do you wish prayer would flow like a river without any need for forced thought? Using Anthony de Mello as his spiritual starting point, this book looks at the areas of hope and fear which come into our lives from the stresses and strains of every day life to find a new liveliness in your prayer.

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### Letters from Aleppo Fr Ibrahim Alsabagh

Day by day, the tremendous and almost unreal story of Father Ibrahim, a Franciscan friar and parish priest in Aleppo, Syria's second largest city, devastated by the war.

Father Ibrahim chose not to leave its people, even if he had the chance to do so. This is his story.

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### Martin Luther Fintan Lyons

500 years ago, Luther launched a document among his academic peers. These Ninety Five Theses begun a movement which changed a world in which it was virtually impossible not to believe in God to a world full of questions about the meaning of life and where to find certainty.

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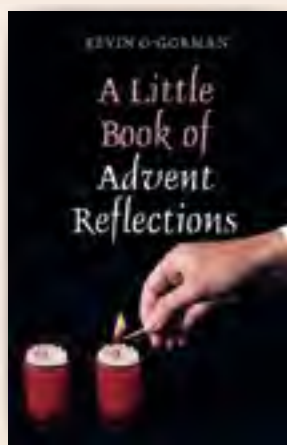
## ADVENT BOOKS



### Services of Reconciliation Nuala Gannon

Services of Reconciliation contains a collection of services of reconciliation suitable for groups of various sizes. Each service is an invitation to a gradual process of awareness of daily failures, challenges and ultimately an acceptance of God's gratuitous love. The services are based on the appropriate scripture texts, and guides those seeking forgiveness to be drawn more deeply into the heart of God, who is love.

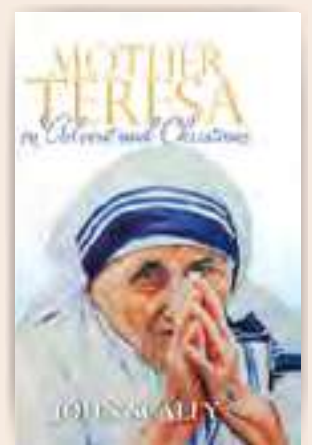
€9.99



### Little Book of Advent Reflections Kevin O'Gorman

A little book with beautiful, short reflections for each day of Advent, the period of four Sundays and weeks before Christmas. The author, Fr Kevin O'Gorman is a priest of the Society of African Missions (SMA) with twenty years of experience in theological education in seminaries and colleges in South Africa and Ireland.

€3.99



### Mother Teresa on Advent John S.

This book features reflections by Mother Teresa for the First, Second, Third, and Fourth Sundays of Advent. Amid the challenges of the world, Mother Teresa's heart that beats with love, a touch of heaven, a touch of earth, a touch of God.

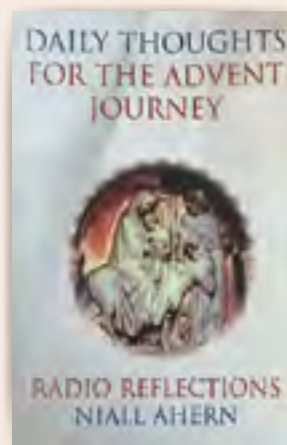
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### Praying in Advent Donal Neary

Praying in Advent offers thoughts and prayers for a short daily prayer-time during Advent, and is perfect for the busy person who wants to start his day with a reflection from the gospel. Each page suggests a possible action for the day, encouraging that our prayers turn into good actions.

€4.99



### Daily Thoughts for the Advent Journey Niall Ahern

Popular Sligo radio contributor, Fr Niall Ahern presents a set of reflections which he has broadcast on local radio for the season of Advent. Treating the season as a time of journeying, there is a short prayerful reflection for every day of Advent, including Sundays.

€5.99



### Celebrating the Season of Advent Ed. Elt.

This is a book for the Season of Advent, a time of preparation, a time of reflection, a time of hope. It offers a series of reflections for each day of the week, a look at the season, a look at the season, a look at the season.

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# THIS SELECTION OF BOOKS



## Native Irish Dogs

When it comes to dogs, Ireland boasts a broad and diverse range of breeds which origins are uniquely Irish. From the iconic Irish Wolfhound to the lesser-known Glen of Imaal Terrier, the native dogs of Ireland are ancient breeds with diverse histories and mythologies.

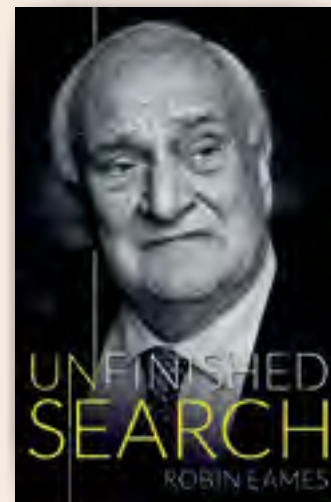
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## Surprised by Fire Martina Lehan Sheehan

The author's vibrant creativity and inspiring wisdom will work wonders on all of our flattering and wayward hearts, telling us that we are no longer victims and giving us glimpses of the enchanted place we one day hope to inhabit.

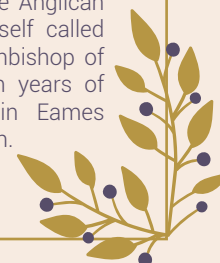
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## Unfinished Search Robin Eames

Drawing on a lifetime of service in the Anglican Ministry, during which he found himself called upon to experience leadership as Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All-Ireland in years of community conflict in Ireland, Robin Eames reflects on the meaning of reconciliation.

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- \_\_\_ - Native Irish Dogs - €16.99
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- \_\_\_ - Services of Reconciliation - €9.99
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# Out&About

## Parish celebrates 60th anniversary



**FERMANAGH:** Fr Frank McManus PP, administrator Msgr Joseph McGuinness, Fr Joe McVeigh and altar servers celebrate the 60th anniversary of St Joseph's Church in Ederney. Photo: Gerry Gallagher



**CARLOW:** Joe Matthews received a Benemerenti medal from Bishop Denis Nulty for his outstanding service to Carlow Cathedral Parish. Mr Matthews has served for 55 years as a volunteer in the parish. Photo: Alicja Pomorska



**WEXFORD:** Sister Rosella, Fr James Cullen and Mrs Cassie Hayes are pictured at the annual gathering of lay Eucharistic Adorers.



**LOUTH:** Fr Seamus Houlihan PP celebrates Pioneer Spirituality Day with Pioneers in the Holy Family Church, Ballsgrove, Drogheda. The day consisted of prayer, talks, exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and concluded with Mass.



**CLARE:** Parishioners with Bishop Fintan Monahan at the liturgical launch of the World Meeting of Families in Ennis Cathedral.





Asha was  
counting on  
a miracle



**“I will be treated  
and then I’ll be  
well”**

Asha Mussa Abubakar,  
aged six



## Now she can shine

**Asha couldn’t wait for her miracle sight-saving surgery to happen, and when it did, her whole life changed**

Imagine looking at the world through a constant cloudy haze. You can’t focus on the things and people around you, or walk without fear of falling and hurting yourself. That’s how life was for Asha. Born with cataracts in both eyes, she was almost completely blind by the age of six.

### Difficult start

Like thousands of families in developing countries, paying for cataract treatment was way beyond the means of Asha’s parents. With other children to care for, they struggled to provide for her. After living with her grandmother in Mozambique, Asha finally ended up with family friends in Zanzibar. Even then she was bullied by other children and told she couldn’t go to school.

Rejected and lonely, Asha hid her face behind her hands because she was embarrassed at her cloudy eyes. But thanks to Sightsavers supporters like you, her miracle finally happened.

When Asha was told she could have a cataract operation she was overjoyed. This was her chance to see again, make friends, study and lead a full life. She couldn’t wait!

On the day of her operation, Asha arrived bright and early at Mnazi Mmoja Hospital. She was one of eight children scheduled for surgery that day with paediatric ophthalmologist, Dr Paul Nyaluke, and waited calmly for her turn. When the nurse administered eye drops, some of the other children grumbled or cried, but Asha accepted them with a smile, knowing she was one step closer to seeing again.

The operation went well, and the following day Asha’s bandages were removed. Her eyes were still sore and swollen, but Asha’s vision was already clearer. A few days later she was fully recovered and home again, giggling and playing with the other children. Her miracle had happened.

### New beginning

With her vision restored, Asha’s confidence has grown and she’s made lots of new friends. In fact, you’d hardly recognise her. Once so shy and withdrawn, she’s now a bundle of energy, and loves playing football, skipping and singing around her village. As for the future, Asha is eagerly learning the alphabet and can’t wait to start school.

**It can take just 45 minutes to  
restore a child’s sight, and  
transform their lives forever.  
Your gift can give more  
children like Asha the miracle  
they’re waiting for.**







# Making miracles happen in Zanzibar

**It's 9pm, and he's been operating all day, but Dr Paul Nyaluke is beaming – and rightly proud of what you're helping him achieve**

Dr Nyaluke has been an ophthalmologist for nine years, and became a paediatric surgeon three years ago. Sadly, he's a rarity.

There are no paediatric ophthalmologists in Zanzibar and an extreme shortage of other eye care professionals, leaving large rural areas without any help at all. Dr Nyaluke and his team come over from Tanzania every three months, giving people a desperately needed lifeline.

Walking through Mnazi Mmoja Hospital, you need to tread carefully. Hundreds of people are sitting in the corridors, waiting patiently to be seen. In this four-day visit alone, 200 children have been screened and Dr Nyaluke has performed 40 child cataract operations. It hasn't been easy. The hospital needs urgent maintenance and the surgical team have had to

share a theatre and ward with the Ear, Nose and Throat department. But Dr Nyaluke is determined to continue, giving as many children as possible a brand new start in life.

He explains why:

“Life is hard enough for people who can see, and for someone who is blind it's even tougher. If we save the sight of a child today they can gain an education and go on to live full and productive lives, eventually supporting their own families.”

**Dr Paul Nyaluke and his team work around the clock to screen and treat as many children as they can. Their care and dedication is inspiring. Thanks to you support, they're working miracles, and with a gift today they can do even more.**

**“We see the amazing impact of your donations every day. I urge you to go on supporting Sightsavers, so we can give more children the chance to live full, productive lives”**

**Dr Paul Nyaluke**







# They're counting on us, and we're counting on you

The story of Asha really sums up what a life changing miracle it is when a child has their sight restored – not just for them, but for their families too.

We plan to deliver one million sight-saving operations by the end of 2017 and thanks to the incredible generosity of Sightsavers' supporters 811,845 people have received their miracle, transforming their lives forever.

But, at this crucial point in our Million Miracles appeal, thousands more are still waiting. We can't let them down, and we're really counting on your help.

We are so close now. Please help us in the final push to fund one million sight-saving operations, by giving a gift today.

**Thank you.**



**Yes, I would like to give the miracle of sight today!**

**Your gift of €36 can cover the cost of a life-changing cataract operation.**



**Please donate today**  
**Call (01) 6637666**  
or visit [www.sightsavers.ie](http://www.sightsavers.ie)





**Edited by Chai Brady**  
chai@irishcatholic.ie

Events deadline is a week in advance of publication



**CLARE:** Participants and organisers at Killaloe's Diocesan Youth Faith Fest.



► **KERRY:** Bishop Ray Browne (left) presented Mary Lou O'Sullivan, from Reelanagane in Glenbiegh, with the Benemerenti Medal for her long and exceptional service to the Church and the community. Fr Kieran O'Sullivan PP is also pictured.  
► **SIERRA LEONE:** Sr Teresa McKeon SJC receives an award from President Ernest Bai Koroma in Freetown for her dedication to education and empowerment of women.



**CAVAN:** Worshippers in the Diocese of Kilmore celebrate the countdown to the 2018 World Meeting of Families at an event in the Cathedral of Ss Patrick & Felim. All 34 parishes in Kilmore were invited to send representatives to the ceremony. Photo: Adrian Donohoe.

## IN SHORT

### Sierra Leone Sister receives national award for mission

An Irish missionary has been awarded for her dedication to the education and development of women in Sierra Leone.

The President of Sierra Leone presented Sr Teresa McKeon with the award of 'Officer of the Order of Rokel' at a ceremony in Freetown.

Sr Teresa has ministered in Sierra Leone since 1954 serving as a school principal and provincial leader, she also conducted

development work with rural women in Dambala. The congregation fled in 1994 when civil war broke out, and she moved into Guinea where she helped refugees fleeing from Sierra Leone's conflict. She returned in 2001 to help refugees returning to the country in Lumpa.

She continued her development work with women through education the following year in the Kono region. Sr Teresa is of the St Joseph of Cluny congregation, and is from Streamstown in Westmeath. She was "surprised" to receive the award "for just doing the

work I was destined to do in God's plan for me," she said: "I humbly accept it not for myself but on behalf of all the Cluny Sisters who have ministered in Sierra Leone, and our families and supporters who have made possible our efforts to help and to empower our beloved people in this beautiful country."

### Meeting to create better life for the blind

'Having our voices heard to influence better lives' is the theme for an upcoming meeting being organised by

the National Council for the Blind of Ireland (NCBI).

The meeting is being held to engage with people affected by sight loss in a bid to organise a National Advocacy Network.

The establishment of a national network is seen as a necessary step to press for positive change in the lives of people who are blind or vision impaired according to the NCBI.

It will take place in Wynn's Hotel, Dublin on October 14 from 12-3pm.

Places can be booked by contacting campaigns@ncbi.ie

## ARMAGH

Triduum of Prayer in St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh from October 11-13 marking the centenary year of apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima. Mass will be celebrated in the Cathedral at 10am and 7.30pm. Archbishop Eamon Martin will close the Triduum on Friday.

## CLARE

Matt Talbot Novena will take place in St Senan's Church, Kilrush on Mondays and Ss John & Paul Church, Shannon on Tuesdays at 7.30pm for the months of October and November.

## CORK

A pro-life Mass is held on the last Friday of every month at the Poor Clares monastery, College Road, at 7.30pm.

A catechesis to more fully know God's personal care for each of us, will be given each Sunday and Wednesday night during October at 8pm, in the Sacred Heart Parish Centre Western Road, Farranree Church Family Centre, and St Mark's Centre, Ballincollig.

## DERRY

Dungiven Parish: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Mon-Fri, 8am-noon and 3-9pm.

## DUBLIN

Six parishes will mark significant wedding anniversaries on Sunday, October 15 as part of the preparation for the WMOF2018. Those married in 1947, 1957, 1967, 1977, 1987 and 1992 are invited to attend, including widows/widowers. Mass will take place in St Gabriel's Church, Dollymount at 10.30 a.m. Tel. 01-8333602 / 087 2325705 or email: info@stgabrielssparish.ie

Holy hour in St John the Baptist Church, Clontarf Rd on Sunday, October 15 from 7.30-8.30pm led by Fr Martin Hogan.

Divine Mercy Devotions in the Church of Three Patrons, Rathgar every First Friday at 7pm. Mass, Benediction, chapellet & blessing with relic of St Faustina. Confessions available.

The Dublin 15 Faith and Justice Group welcomes new members and currently meet on the first Friday of the month in Harts-town Church. Contact Fr Joe 087 6632944.

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

Ceol agus Caint: Music and Musings, Friday October 6, at 7.30pm, 13 Geraldine Street, (off Berkeley Road). Refreshments. Organised by the Legion of Mary.

The Miscarriage Association of Ireland's Annual Service of Remembrance to honour all babies who sadly died before, during or after birth will take place on Sunday November 12 at 3pm in St Theresa's Church, Donore Ave, South Circular Road, Dublin 8. Refreshments after the service.

Events in Rathmines Church include Scripture Talks on Thursday October 12 at 7.30pm with Fr Martin Hogan, Lectio Divina on Thursday October 19 at 7.30pm with Bishop Brendan Comiskey and Scripture Talks on Wednesday October 25 and Wednesday November 1 at 7.30pm with Sean Goan.

The Associates Network will hold

their Annual Network Day in Clonliffe College on Saturday October 14. Before Mass Sr Consilio Fitzgerald, who established the Cuan Mhuire drug rehabilitation centre in Athy, will speak. Tea and coffee provided, but bring own packed lunch.

## FERMANAGH

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

## GALWAY

A 'Life in the Spirit' seminar begins October 11 in the Abbey Hall, Newtownsmith at 8pm, and continues for the following seven Wednesday nights. Details at: ofsgalway.com

Candlelight rosary processions will take place at Galway Cathedral at 8pm on Sunday October 15, 22 and 29. It will feature live music.

## KERRY

'Reach out and spread the Joy' event on Thursday October 19 in The Rose Hotel, Tralee, at 8pm. Archbishop Kieran O'Reilly will speak on his experiences as a missionary in Africa and at home. Hosted by the Diocese of Kerry in celebration of World Mission Day.

## LIMERICK

The Limerick Charismatic Renewal Conference of prayer, song, reflection and healing takes place in the Radisson Blu Hotel & Spa, October 14-15, starting daily at 2pm. Speakers include Fr Brendan Walsh SCA and Dymphna Sheehan. Contact Sr Mary Bridget 061 454511 or Brian 086 3001027.

## LOUTH

St Gerard's Solemn Novena – St Joseph's Redemptorist Church, Dundalk October 8-16. Weekdays: 7am, 9.30, 11.30, 1.10pm, 2.30, 4.30, 6, 7.30, 9, 10.30. Sunday: 7am, 8, 9.30, 11, 12.30pm, 4.30, 6, 7.30, 9.00pm. Confessions Available Every Day except Sundays.

## MEATH

A 'Life in the Spirit' series of seminars continues on Thursday October 19 at 7.45pm in the Parish Centre, Trim. All welcome.

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

## ROSCOMMON

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at St Croan's Church, Ballymoe, every Monday 10-11am and Thursday 8-10pm. Also at St Bride's Church, Ballintubber, every Wednesday 7.30-8.30pm.

## WICKLOW

St Patrick's Prayer Meeting on Thursday evenings at 8pm in the De La Salle Pastoral Centre, Wicklow. Come for prayer, scripture, music and a cuppa.

On October 13, the Centenary of the Miracle of the Sun at Fatima, ceremonies including first class relics of Ss Francisco and Jacinta will be held in Roundwood Church, beginning at 12noon with a Holy Hour and finishing at around 4.30pm following Mass.

Holy Rosary for priests, Aras Lorcain, every Friday at 7.45pm.



# World Report

## IN BRIEF

### Bishops deny acting against Philippines' government

● Catholic bishops in the Philippines say they are not acting to undermine the administration of President Rodrigo Duterte by offering sanctuary to several policemen allegedly linked to drug-related killings.

Fr Jerome Secillano, executive secretary of the bishops' conference, said the church leaders should not be perceived as plotting against anyone. "The Church is not one to take steps to destabilise the institution (government) or to undermine the president," said the priest.

He said some law enforcers sought the help and protection of the Church to reveal what they know about drug-related killings. Close to 12,000 suspected drug users and dealers, mostly from urban poor communities, have been killed since the middle of 2012 following Duterte's declaration of an intensified war against narcotics.

### St Nicholas' bones discovered claim archaeologists

Turkish archaeologists claim to have found the bones of St Nicholas underneath a Church at his birthplace in southern Turkey according to the Associated Press.

St Nicholas, whose generosity is believed to have inspired the traditional model of Santa Claus, was born and served as a bishop of what is now the Turkish Mediterranean town of Demre, near Antalya, in the 4th century. He was buried in the area formerly known as Myra, but his bones were believed to have been stolen and taken to the southern Italian town of Bari.



You can support the work of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith (POF) in a number of ways:

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**Leaving a gift in your Will**  
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POF is responsible for building much needed infrastructure in predominantly remote areas. Through POF, your support transforms lives and creates a hub from which the Young Church can flourish and grow, spreading the Good News of the Gospel. Priests in mission dioceses with a large number of outstations in remote rural areas cannot pay regular visits to the scattered communities of the faithful. They rely on the support of catechists and lay pastoral leaders, who travel long distances to lead prayer and minister the Sacraments. Funding received through POF enables the training of more catechists and pastoral leaders who are essential to the growth of the Church overseas.

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## Legionaries of Christ pledge renewal after fresh sex scandal

It has been discovered that the head of the Legionaries of Christ's Rome seminary fathered two children in yet another scandal for the order.

In a statement, they announced that Fr Oscar Turrior, who was the rector of the Pontifical International, would leave the priesthood. It included a letter from the priest who asked "forgiveness for the scandal...forgiveness for my bad example and the negative witness I have given".

Turrior (49), from Spain, told the Legionaries in March that he had a daughter. He was subsequently ordered not to practice his ministry publicly, and a new rector was appointed. Last week he further admitted to having a son with the same woman several years earlier.

He did not tell the truth about his secret "out of weakness and shame" he said in his letter, adding that he had not used any of the seminary's money but instead relied on donations from friends.

Turrior was a passionate footballer and was invited to



Pope Francis greets Legionaries of Christ seminarians during his general audience in St Peter's Square at the Vatican in 2014.

compete in the Clericus Cup, a football tournament between Rome's seminarian colleges.

The seminary, College Maria Mater Ecclesiae, has over 100 seminarians from countries all over the world.

He said he had "lost his grounding" and fell in love with a woman during the period of turmoil that hit the order when revelations about its founder, Rev. Marcial Maciel Degollado, came to light between 2006 and 2014.

Maciel founded the order in Mexico in 1941, and was discovered to have molested young children, some as young as 12, after a Vatican

investigation. At the time the order was run like a cult according to former members, and it was forbidden to question the founder's motives.

Pope Benedict ordered Macial to retire to a life of prayer and penitence.

### Accusation

The Vatican initially dismissed the accusations against Macial of sexual abuse. However it was eventually uncovered that not only were the accusation true, but he was also a drug user who had fathered several children with at least two women

whom he sent money and visited regularly.

More recently in 2013 an American member of the order, Thomas Williams – a professor of moral theology at the Legion's university in Rome – announced he was leaving the priesthood as he had fathered a child.

The Vatican appointed a commissioner to run the order and phase in a new leadership, rejecting suggestions from critics that it be suppressed. New constitutions for the order were approved in 2014 but the Vatican still has a special representative in its leadership.

The order said in their statement: "We are deeply saddened that the recent history of our congregation has quenched the fervour of some of our members. We are firmly committed to accompanying our brothers in moments of difficulty. Likewise, we reiterate our commitment to the path of renewal that we continue to follow led by the Church."

## Tens of thousands of Polish Catholics answer call to pray on state's border

Polish Catholics from hundreds of parishes joined a rosary prayer along the border of the country to pray for Poland and the world.

The event, called 'Rosary to the Borders' was held on the feast day of Our Lady of the Rosary on October 7, and almost 320 Churches along the border were identified as gathering places for the event, which was organised by lay-people.

Polish bishops asked all Catholics to join the event, even if they were unable to travel to the border.

The Polish Catholic Bishops' Conference website stated after the event: "Millions of people took part in the Holy Mass. This exceeded the boldest expectations of the organisers. People gathered in prayer together not only at the borders of Poland, but also in town squares, at village borders, in churches and chapels, in hospitals, at the airports and in many other places."

### Significance

The event was given special

significance for Polish Catholics as it is the 100th anniversary of the apparitions at Fatima, the 300th anniversary of the coronation of the image of Our Lady of Czestochowa, and the 140th anniversary of apparitions in Gietrzwald.

There has been criticism that the event is endorsing anti-Islam sentiment in the country, but bishops have described it as a purely religious event.

## 50 witnesses to be called for Pell court case



Cardinal George Pell.

Accused of historic sexual abuse Cardinal George Pell will face a four week committal hearing next year, and up to 50 witnesses are expected to be called upon.

Cardinal Pell (76) is the most senior Catholic Church official to face such charges, and is currently on leave from his position as the Vatican's Prefect of the Secretariat for the Economy.

In legal discussion, according to *The Age* newspaper, the cardinal's high-profile defence barrister Robert Richter, QC, said the prosecution

case comprised "an awful lot of witnesses", and said the amount of evidence was "voluminous".

Magistrate Belinda Wallington gave the defence team permission to cross-examine most witnesses but ruled out five.

"We are dealing with historical events and memories are not static," she said.

"I tend to think it's appropriate for witnesses' memories to be explored."

Cardinal Pell will be pleading not guilty to all charges.





Edited by Chai Brady  
chai@irishcatholic.ie



People wave Spanish flags during a demonstration organised by the Catalan Civil Society in Barcelona. Photo: CNS

## Crosses, churches, and statue of Mary destroyed in church attacks

Catholic leaders in Mali warned that parishes face increasing assaults by Islamic militants despite attempts to enforce a peace deal in the North African country.

"Our churches and chapels are now being targeted by extremists, who've told Christians not to gather to pray," said Msgr Edmond Dembele, Secretary General of the Malian bishops' conference.

Tensions were running high in September and early October in Mali's central Mopti region after several Catholic churches were ransacked and torched, forcing parishioners to flee.

Msgr Dembele said it was unclear which groups were involved and what their motives were.

"We have no security programme of

our own and we rely on the authorities to provide protection and find solutions," Msgr Dembele said.

"On previous occasions, the government has deployed military units in our parishes. But this still hasn't been done against these new attacks."

The attacks occurred as the Malian government is attempting to implement a 2015 peace deal with rebel fighters.

The peace deal with the government of President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, rebel fighters are to be integrated into the national army.

However, attacks by Touareg separatists and Islamist insurgents have continued, delaying the return of displaced Malians from neighbouring

Niger, Mauritania and Burkina Faso. Human rights groups have reported summary executions and the destruction of schools and forced recruitment of child soldiers.

Msgr Dembele said armed men had smashed their way into a church at Dohara, 500 miles north of the capital Bamako late in September, throwing out crosses, altar furnishings and a statue of Mary, which they burned outside. Assailants also drove Catholics out of a church at Bodwal, warning they would be killed if "seen praying in the church," he said.

Local parishioners were currently "very afraid but not panicking," the priest said, as they "urgently awaited" help from government and UN forces seeking to restore order.

## To exist China's Church must work with Government

China is a communist nation therefore the Catholic Church must be realistic and seek a stance of mutual tolerance with the government, said a former teacher at Rome's Pontifical Gregorian University.

"I'm an optimist, above all because I believe in God. God is the Lord of human history. Whatever way human

history proceeds, it never becomes unconnected from the salvific plan of God," said Jesuit Father Joseph Shih (90), who returned to Shanghai 10 years ago after teaching at the Catholic university for over three decades.

### Interview

In an interview published in *La Civiltà Cattolica*, Fr Shih

pleaded with outsiders to stop describing Catholicism in China as consisting of two Churches, one that accepts government control and the other that doesn't and so exists clandestinely.

"Catholics who live in China are aware of these definitions, but they know how to distinguish between the religious politics of the government and their

own Faith," he said. "For them, in China there is only one Church: the one, holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church."

"The Chinese government is communist. This is something that won't change for a long time," he said, adding that to exist the Church in China must have some kind of relationship with the government.

## Vatican roundup

### European Union dialogue to promote peace

Hundreds of Church and EU political representatives will meet in the Vatican to discuss challenges facing the EU.

Organised by the Holy See and COMECE – the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the EU – '(Re) thinking Europe' will take place between October 27-29 and will mark the 60th anniversary of the beginning of the EU.

The dialogue will have workshops and debates in order to facilitate open discussion between stakeholders of different geographic, cultural, religious and linguistic backgrounds. The participants will be called to look for new ways to involve all actors in society in their respective religious or political responsibilities.

### Participants

Pope Francis will address the participants on Saturday October 28 in order to reiterate his engagement to a common reflection on the future of the EU and recall the commitment of the Church to the peace project.

In a press release Comece said: "After two deadly world conflicts, Europe has the responsibility to understand its role towards the world and its own citizens, finding a way to actively involve men and women of our time. The purpose of (Re)thinking Europe is to support this process of self-conscience."

### ● PRISON THREATS DON'T STOP BIBLE

**READING:** The importance of the Bible in the life of Christians can be seen in the number of faithful around the world who risk prison and persecution just to possess and read the Bible, Pope Francis said.

"Many of our brothers and sisters are in prison on account of the word, and many more have shed their blood as a testimony to their faith in Jesus Christ," Pope Francis said during a meeting with members of the Church relations committee of the United Bible Societies.

Addressing members of the group, which translates, prints and distributes Bibles around the world, Pope Francis said that just as "we devote time to those we love," Christians must devote time to reading the word of God, "who desires to talk to us and offer us words of life eternal".

"It is vital that the Church today go out to proclaim the Gospel to all, in all places, on all occasions, without delay, reluctance or fear," the Pope said. "We do so in obedience to the Lord's missionary mandate, certain of his presence among us until the end of the world."

### Ignoring difference between the sexes is wrong

While societies must find a way to overcome the subjugation of women, pretending there are no differences between men and women or even using technology to change a person's sex is not the answer, Pope Francis said.

Using science "to radically eliminate any difference between the sexes, and, as a result, the covenant between man and woman, is not right," the Pope said, opening the Pontifical Academy for Life's general assembly.

"The biological and psychological manipulation of sexual difference, which biomedical technology now presents as a simple matter of personal choice – which it is not – risks eliminating the source of energy that nourishes the covenant between man and woman and makes it creative and fruitful," the Pope said.

### Reflections

Pope Francis offered several reflections for the academy's consideration of humanity's relationship with technology, particularly in a culture he described as egocentric and "obsessively centred on the sovereignty of man – as a species and as individuals – in relation to all of reality."

"This approach is not harmless: It forms a person who is always looking at himself in the mirror, who can't look others, or the world, in the eye," the Pope said.



# 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

### 'Repeal the Eighth' becoming a thoughtless slogan

**Dear Editor,** I was shocked to read in Mary Kenny's article (IC 28/09/2017) that the GAA Dublin Ladies players unfurled flags to show their support for repealing the Eighth Amendment. Needless to say, this was not reported in the national press. At this stage it seems that 'repeal the Eighth' is simply a slogan with most people unaware of the consequences

of repealing this amendment.

No one objects to factual and balanced debate but this is becoming more and more unlikely, with so many permitted to shout out the slogan but with no opportunity to oppose it. It is so sad to see so many taken in by this tactic and not being allowed to hear the many arguments for retaining the protection for unborn babies in

our Constitution, nor to be informed of the very many lives saved because of the Eighth. We must continue to make every effort to speak up for the vulnerable baby in the womb and promote respect for all life, no matter how limited or short.

*Yours etc.,  
Mary Stewart,  
Donegal Town.*

## Impressed by size of undertaking by WMOF

**Dear Editor,** The hosting of the World Meeting of Families in Ireland next August is a huge task, but I did not realise how huge until the vanguard of the project arrived at a public meeting in Meath and unveiled some of the plans. That meeting, plus Petra Conroy's excellent article in the family section of *The Irish Catholic* (IC 28/09/17), has opened my eyes to what will be a glori-

ous, joyful event.

The week-long programme is clearly not something that will 'just happen' and it is to their credit that the staff and volunteers of WMOF 2018 are already 'on the ball' and pushing out the joyful news of the meeting all around Ireland.

The only anomaly as I see it is the failure of the Vatican to confirm that

Pope Francis will attend the event, combining it with a long-overdue visit to Ireland. It's not exactly a secret that Popes tend to attend world meetings, so why the reluctance of the Vatican to make and reveal a decision?

It seems, despite the assurance recently by Cardinal Kevin Farrell about the Pope's likely attendance, that the Third Secret of Fatima was not so well

guarded.

Nonetheless, let us pray for those who are empowering WMOF 2018, may all their wonderful plans and initiatives get the fair wind they deserve – with, surely, Francis in attendance to appreciate the enormous volume of work that is going into the event.

*Yours etc.,  
Declan Rankin,  
Donnycarney, Dublin 9.*

## A memory of Liam Cosgrove RIP

**Dear Editor,** Stationed in Manor Kilbride, Co. Wicklow in 1962 - 1967 I received a sick-call one day: one of the riders in a hunting party had collapsed with a heart attack. I drove to the location and administered the Last Rites. The man died shortly afterwards. While awaiting the ambulance, I suggested to the group that we might say the Rosary for the poor man and his bereaved family. Liam Cosgrove immediately took out his rosary beads from his hunting jacket and joined in the Rosary.

*Yours etc.,  
Fr Con McGillicuddy,  
Raheny,  
Dublin 5.*



## Vocation is God's call to life with a purpose

**Dear Editor,** I'm writing to say that I disagree with your article about vocation to the single life (IC 28/09/2017). A vocation is God's call to live a life with a purpose and this is something all Christians share. The vocation to the single life is not a life without commitment. It is a commitment to the radical living of the Gospel where we are at.

It's finding God's purpose for our life and living it with all our heart. Contrary to what you said in your article, acknowledging this often

overlooked vocation does not take away in any form from the vocation to religious life, the priesthood or marriage. It complements them and also recognises the value of the contribution of single people to society. I am single and wish to remain so.

As a secular Franciscan I have a deep sense of God's purpose for my life and feel my vocation, my purpose in life is as valid as any other in the Church.

*Yours etc.,  
John Bennett OFS,  
Finglas, Dublin 11.*

## How can abortion be free, safe and legal?

**Dear Editor,** One of the slogans promoted at the recent pro-abortion march was that it should be free, safe and legal. The problem is that each of the slogans' elements needs complicated definition.

Why should abortion be free, for example when payment is required for all manner of contraceptive devices? If the medical condition of the mother requires that a surgical procedure be carried out, how is the condition defined?

What is the basis for the safety aspect? How is safety to be defined for the son or daughter in the womb? How is the State to ensure safety

in the mental difficulty faced by the father and/or mother, especially if alternative views are held by each?

What is meant by "legal" if no protection is given to the medics who have an objection on religious, ethical, philosophical practical, or timing grounds to the chosen procedure?

And on a different point, who makes the choice, the mother, the father or the child/foetus in the womb? What if the choices differ?

*Your etc.,  
Gerald Murphy,  
Rathfarnham, Dublin 16.*

## Inclusive language misunderstands meaning of noun 'Man'

**Dear Editor,** In recent times, many of us have listened as speakers have stumbled over the use of gender specific words, especially the term man when it arises in the Church situation. This difficulty began after Vatican II with the promotion of the use of inclusive language. Apparently there was little thought given as to how biblical concepts could be corrupted on foot of redirection of language.

Now with the advent of this political correctness and the onset of individualism, the term man has come to be understood as a singular noun 'man' and is usually separately ascribed as uniquely referring to the individual male person. However, in times past, the term 'man' was the accepted expression that included all of humanity as aptly encompassing all the body of the people in the world; 'Man' as a collective proper noun.

The thinking arises from the biblical understanding in which "God created Man, male and female he created them"; he created Man as people in communion, a communion of people. Clearly, the concept of individualism contradicts this thinking, but people are interactively in the service of one another, a communion of people created in the image and likeness of God, who is himself a communion of persons, the Blessed Trinity.

In correcting this misunderstanding, any biblical reference to 'Man' as the people of God should always show that this term is denoted by a proper collective noun, best spelled using a capital letter first; 'Man' as distinct from the individual male, man.

*Yours etc.,  
Seamus Quinlivan,  
Cloughjordan,  
Co. Tipperary.*

## A vocation requires a public commitment

**Dear Editor,** I read your editorial with interest in *The Irish Catholic* of September 28. I agree with what you say. There is a tendency to talk up the 'vocation' of single life at the expense of the priesthood or religious life.

I think the job of the Church in this area should be to promote the priesthood for what it is, a higher and supernatural calling. Marriage also has its place as a vocation in the Church, however I do think that an emphasis on the importance and value of the priesthood should be promoted over an attitude that 'all vocations are equal'. Vocation in the Church's understanding requires a public commitment and an undertaking from an individual to enter into a life of self-sacrifice and self-gift, whether that is in marriage or spiritual fatherhood.

*Yours etc.,  
Adam Conroy,  
Newbridge,  
Co. Kildare.*

## 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



**SPAIN:** Union supporters in Barcelona protest the government after Spanish police used force to stop a referendum for independence being held in Catalan. Photos: CNS



**USA:** People gather at a makeshift memorial for victims of a mass shooting that killed at least 59 people and wounded 500 others along the Las Vegas Strip.



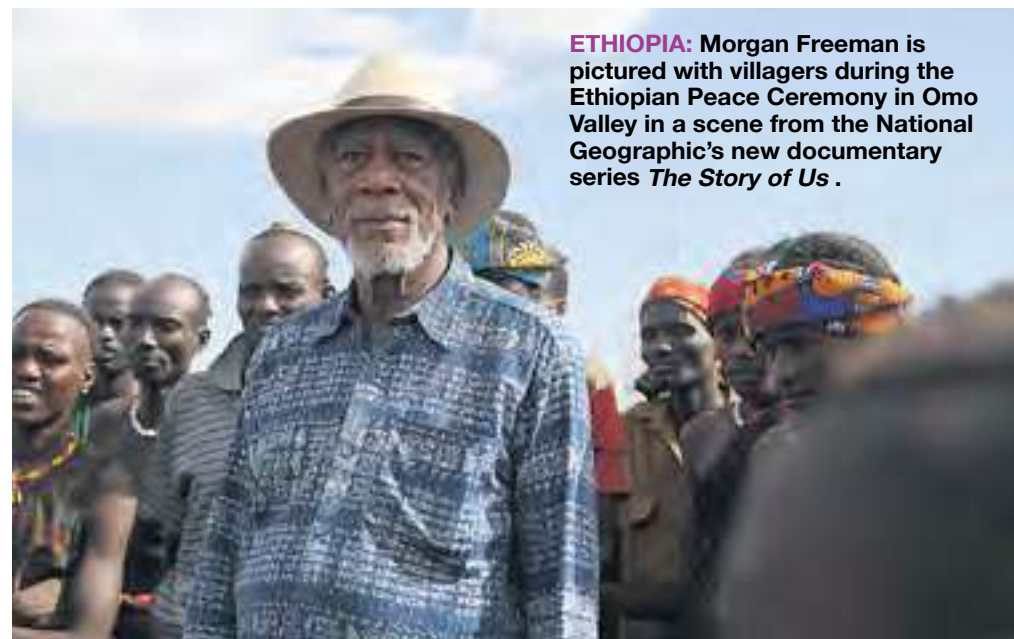
**VATICAN:** Pope Francis addresses the general assembly of the Pontifical Academy for Life.



**BANGLADESH:** A girl holds an umbrella as Rohingya refugees arrive for prayer at a mosque near Cox's Bazar.



**BRAZIL:** The Mundurucu tribe protests in Itaituba as a new report from the Church-link Indigenous Missionary Council criticised the administration of Brazilian President Michel Temer for proposing to appropriate the ancestral lands of indigenous people.



**ETHIOPIA:** Morgan Freeman is pictured with villagers during the Ethiopian Peace Ceremony in Omo Valley in a scene from the National Geographic's new documentary series *The Story of Us*.



# LANGUAGE AS OPENING OR CLOSING OUR MINDS



**Fr Rolheiser**

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

**T**hirty years ago, the American Educator, Allan Bloom, wrote a book entitled *The Closing of the American Mind*. This was his thesis: in our secularised world today our language is becoming ever-more empirical, one-dimensional and devoid of depth and this is closing our minds by stripping us of the deeper meanings inside our own experience. For Bloom, how we name an experience determines to a large extent its meaning.

Twenty years earlier, in a rather provocative essay, *The Triumph of the Therapeutic*, Philip Rieff had already suggested something similar. For Rieff, we live our lives under a certain “symbolic hedge”, namely, a language and set of symbols within which we interpret our experience. And that hedge can be high or low and consequently so too will be the meaning we derive from any experience.

## Symptoms

Experience can be rich or shallow, depending on the language by which we interpret it.

Take this example: a man has a backache and sees his doctor. The doctor tells him that he's suffering from arthritis. This brings the man some initial calm. But he isn't satisfied and sees a psychologist. The psychologist tells him that his

symptoms are not just physical but that he is also suffering from mid-life crisis. This names his pain at a deeper level and affords him a richer understanding of what he is undergoing. But he's still dissatisfied and sees a spiritual director. The spiritual director, while not denying him arthritis and mid-life crisis, tells him that he should understand this pain as his Gethsemane, as his cross to carry.

Notice all three diagnoses speak of the same pain but that each places that pain under a different symbolic hedge.

**“We see the language of soul, among other places, in some of our great myths and fairy tales, many of them centuries old”**

Language speaks at different levels and only a certain language speaks at the level of the soul. Recently we have been helped to understand this through the work of Carl Jung and a number of his disciples, notably James Hillman and Thomas Moore, who have helped us to understand more explicitly the language of the soul



Carl Jung.

and how that language uncovers deep archetypes within us.

We see the language of soul, among other places, in some of our great myths and fairy tales, many of them centuries old. Their seeming simplicity can fool you. They may be simple, but they're not simplistic.

To offer one example, the story of Cinderella: the first thing to notice in this story is that the name, Cinderella, is not a real name

but a composite of two words: Cinder, meaning ashes; and Puella, meaning the eternal girl. This is not a simple fairy tale about a lonely, beaten-down young girl. It's a myth that highlights a deep structure within the human soul, namely, that before our souls are ready to wear the glass slipper, be the belle of the ball, to marry the prince and to live happily ever after we must first spend some necessary time sitting in the ashes, suffering humiliation, and being purified by a time in the dust.

**“We can be suffering from arthritis, or we can be sweating blood in the garden of Gethsemane”**

Notice how this story speaks in its own way of our spirituality of 'Lent', a season of penance, wherein we mark ourselves with ashes in order to enter a desert of our own making.

Cinderella is a story that shines a tiny light into the depth of our souls. Many of our famous myths do that, though nothing shines a light into the soul as deeply as does scripture, the Bible. Its language and symbols name our experience in a way that both honors the soul and helps us plumb the genuine depth inside our experiences.

For example: we can be confused, or we can be inside the belly of the whale. We can be helpless before an addiction, or

we can be possessed by a demon. We can vacillate in our prayer lives between fervor and dark nights, or we can vacillate between being with Jesus 'in Galilee' or with him in 'Jerusalem'. We can be paralysed as we stand before a globalisation that's overwhelming, or we can be standing with Jesus on the borders of Samaria in a first conversation with a Syro-Phoenician woman. We can be struggling with fidelity and with keeping our commitments in relationships, or we can be standing with Joshua before God, receiving instructions to kill off the Canaanites if we are to sustain ourselves in the Promised Land. We can be suffering from arthritis, or we can be sweating blood in the garden of Gethsemane.

## Difference

The language we use to understand an experience make a huge, huge difference in what that experience means to us. In *The Closing of the American Mind*, Allan Bloom uses a rather earthy, but highly illustrative, example to explain this.

He quotes Plato who tells us that during their breaks his students sit around and tell wonderful stories about the meaning of their immortal longings. My students, Bloom laments, sit around during their breaks and tell stories about being horny.

We are losing the language of the soul and we are poorer for it.



# Family & Lifestyle

The Irish Catholic, October 12, 2017

Youth Space

Exploring  
our faith  
together

Page 30



## Let's get Ireland walking!



**W**alking is the easiest way to get active and healthy, both physically and mentally. Most health professionals prefer walking over running as it is a low-impact exercise that goes easy on your heart and joints. It's inexpensive and can be done anywhere, at any age or fitness level, alone or in a group, and you can set the pace and length of walk to suit yourself. Walking can also be a gateway physical activity that can lead on to participation in other sports including hillwalking. All you need to do is make time for a walk in your daily life.

To reap the health benefits you should aim to walk for at least 20-30 minutes each day. Even



**Recreational walking is the ideal way to kickstart a healthy lifestyle, writes Mags Gargan**

with something as enjoyable and easy as walking, it can be hard to stick with a regular exercise regime when life gets busy.

If it is a struggle to find the time to go for walks you could incorporate more walking into your daily routine, for example collect the children from school on foot instead of in the car, walk to the shops if you are only doing a quick shop, or get off your bus a stop earlier to walk home.

Walking is currently the most popular form of physical activity in Ireland. The 2015 Irish Sports Monitor, which surveyed over 8,500 respondents, found that 64.8% took part in recreational walking, nearly five times as many participants as personal exercise, which was the most popular sporting activity.

On average, walkers take 4.5 walks per week. Regardless of the frequency of walks, the average

walking duration is 45 minutes with 80% of walks lasting for at least 30 minutes.

The National Physical Activity guidelines recommend 150 minutes per week of moderate or vigorous physical activity i.e. five 30-minute sessions. However, any amount of physical activity can provide benefits. Recreational walking is the ideal activity for participants new to physical activity or those who are already active but may not be meeting the guidelines.

### **Socially active**

Findings from The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA) demonstrated that those aged 50 years and older who walk for the recommended 150

minutes per week had better wellbeing and were more socially active.

Like all new activities, the key to getting the most from walking is to make it a habit. Once you've been walking confidently for a while, extend your walks – in length and challenge – so you keep up the benefits. Get friends and family to join you to make it more enjoyable and to encourage you to keep going. You could find a walking group near you to get help and support on how you can turn a first-step to fitness into a sporting activity.

"The health benefits of walking, both physical and mental, cannot be underestimated," according to

» **Continued on Page 29**



## Family News

### AND EVENTS

#### Get into the Halloween spirit at the pumpkin patch

Kennedy's Pumpkin Patch is offering something for all the family this Halloween, whether it's the spooky tunnel, hay maze, face-painting, storytelling, pumpkin picking or simply relaxing in the autumn sunshine with a homemade non-alcoholic apple cider.

Kennedy's Pumpkin Patch started life in 2010 as the brain-child of sister's Angela McGinty and Josephine James. Located in east Meath, between the villages of Julianstown and Duleek,

50 pumpkins were grown in that first year and today they grow 100 times as many.

For the 2017 season the pumpkin patch will be open over two weekends – October 21-22 and again for the full bank holiday weekend (October 28, 29 & 30). Tickets are on sale now. See [www.kennedypumpkinpatch.com](http://www.kennedypumpkinpatch.com)

#### NO PHONE SURVIVAL CHALLENGE:

At 12 noon on October 24 school students all across Ireland will be challenged to switch off their mobile phones for a full 24 hours to raise vital funds for essential Enable Ireland disability services in their local community. No phones, no social media, no posting, no texts, no tags and no snaps for a day. To register to take part in the No Phone Survival Challenge, email [nophone@enableireland.ie](mailto:nophone@enableireland.ie) or call 01 885 7152.

#### SVP launches twin campaign for charity shops

Pop duo Jedward have launched the St Vincent de Paul's national shops campaign 'Donate with Style, Volunteer with Passion', which has the twin aims of attracting more donations and recruiting more volunteers to the charity's 220 shops.

Vincent's shops are hugely important to the SVP, not only providing goods at affordable prices, they also provide an income source for the society, which is directed back into the community.

"We urgently need clean saleable clothes that can be distributed throughout our network of shops, men and women's clothing, winter wear and large sizes are particularly welcome," said

Dermot McGilloway, SVP National Retail Development Manager.

"We also need clean bed linen, curtains, shoes, bric-a-brac, pictures, antiques, collectables and small household items. Some shops can also accommodate furniture."

Volunteers are also needed for shops and sorting centres across Ireland.

To find your nearest SVP shop see [www.svp.ie/shops](http://www.svp.ie/shops) or call 01-8386990, or email [retailvolunteer@svp.ie](mailto:retailvolunteer@svp.ie)

# Good manners are becoming a lost art



**M**y eldest son was unimpressed when, as a small boy, I insisted that he gave up his seat on the bus. He argued strongly about how unfair it was that children were viewed as second class citizens and how adults should be well able to stand on their strong legs.

Safety wasn't such a priority then and standing in the central aisle of a bus was commonplace. It was also a time when it was almost automatic that a child would offer a seat to a woman or an elderly person, more a matter of expectation than choice.

In school, children stood up when a visitor walked in and were well tutored in how to behave in every situation. Since I was a child, times have changed and some of the formal approach to manners is a thing of the past. However, I think there is still a place for the little social pleasantries that make life easier for those around us and that oil the wheels of social interaction.

**“Every family has its own unique way of communicating but there should be a common thread of love”**

St Francis de Sales is known as the saint of courtesy and the gentle word. The kindly Bishop of Geneva was a man who practised great delicacy and tact in his dealings with others. Known for his friendliness and cheerful outlook, St Francis made a point of never ignoring those who others viewed as ill-tempered or boring. He chatted and acted

#### A parent's perspective



**Maria Byrne**

graciously towards everyone, understanding that good manners and civility go hand-in-hand with being Christian and practising the virtue of charity.

His quiet and gentlemanly way seems far removed from our present time with its emphasis on being 'loud and proud' and the centre of attention. I think parents can contribute to this by focusing too much on building self-esteem and confidence and playing down qualities like humility and a sense of service. In school and at play, bigger and better seems to be what we're aiming for and the child who is self-assured and extraverted is often held up as the ideal.

The quiet, shy child's kind-hearted and amicable might not stand out in the crowd but they possess what C.S. Lewis called "the poetry of conduct" which always aims to put others at their ease.

#### Lively household

I grew up in a pretty lively household where you soon learnt that, if you wanted to get a word in edgeways, you'd have to hone your debating skills and talk louder.

Every family has its own unique way of communicating but, whatever your family style, there should be a common thread of love and support

for each family member. The same applies in our schools, colleges and workplaces. There's a lot of talk in recent times about political correctness and how the constant habit of taking offence is stymieing conversations and changing customs and traditions.

I'm worried about the other extreme where rudeness, vulgarity and nastiness have become the order of the day particularly on social media. Parents, who are normally very concerned about their children learning some basic good manners, have to address these new trends and offer some guidelines.

**“Cruel jibes and name calling online are not reflecting our faith and beliefs”**

I always tell my children never to say anything on the internet that you wouldn't want to be on the record for the foreseeable future. Something that sounds smart or funny when you're 14 or 15 years old may not look quite as good in the eyes of a prospective employer.

As Christians who are trying to live according to the golden rule of 'treat others as you'd like to be treated yourself' cruel jibes and name calling online are not reflecting our faith and beliefs. Mother Teresa of Calcutta is quoted as saying: "Let no one come to you without leaving better and happier".

This is the key aim when striving to be well mannered. It's not really that important if you mix up your fish knife with your steak knife or if you put

your elbows on the table, but true charity demands that we do care about people's feelings.

I remember my mother telling me all about an aunt of mine who went to what was termed 'a finishing school' in Switzerland. I thought it seemed very old fashioned and stuffy, but I'm now seeing some of the positive aspects. In these days of focusing on empowering children and self-development, why are good manners still so important?

Possessing good social graces automatically helps to create a more pleasant atmosphere around you. In a world that often seems unconcerned with the spiritual, our children will have little hope of evangelising if their manner is brusque and aggressive.

St Francis de Sales knew that, in the words of the Disney song "A spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down".

A person with a pleasing manner is attractive and creates a good impression. They're viewed as more approachable and trustworthy and make friends more easily. One sympathetic and genuine conversation with a companion who listens to what we say is worth a hundred diatribes.

A compassionate child who is learning to consider the needs of others is well on the way to becoming the sort of adult who, like Jesus in the Gospel, stops to talk to the stranger and the confused. The little seeds sown in showing mutual love and respect may be the first steps on a journey of conversion that would never happen in a hostile or uncaring environment.



» Continued from Page 27



An Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar and Minister for Health, Simon Harris with members of Sport Ireland at the launch of Get Ireland Walking's Strategy and Action Plan 2017-2020.

John Treacy, CEO of Sport Ireland. He was speaking at the launch of the first Strategy and Action Plan for Get Ireland Walking (GIW). This initiative, established in 2013, aims to encourage widespread participation in walking, promote the benefits of walking, and unify the efforts of all organisations and agencies interested in promoting walking for recreation, transport and health.

We can expect to see a new focus on walking nationwide with the implementation of Get Ireland Walking's Strategy and Action Plan 2017-2021, which was developed in consultation with government agencies, sporting bodies, charities, not for profit organisations and other stakeholders. The actions within the document are arranged into thematic areas that reflect action areas of Ireland's National Physical Activity Plan and include: Public Awareness, Education and Communication; Children and Young People; Health; Environment; Communities; Research, Monitoring and Evaluation; Partnerships. These themes complement each other to provide a multifaceted approach to increasing recreational walking in Ireland.

Speaking at the launch of the plan, An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar said creating a healthier Ireland is a priority for his Government. "With these new investments we can help more people, more families and more communities to look after their own health and wellbeing. We are supporting three core areas of physical activity, preventing obesity, and creating a tobacco-free society. By working with schools, communities and state bodies, we are joining the dots to ensure that the benefits of Healthy Ireland are felt at local level," he said.

## There is a list of walking groups available on the GIW website"

Minister for Health, Simon Harris TD said GIW's Strategy and Action Plan offers a clear vision in promoting walking across Ireland. "In addition to this the 41 actions within the plan also reflect areas of Ireland's National Physical Activity Plan. Together Get Ireland Walking and its partner organisations will

## Did you know?

- Walking – at any pace – is beneficial. When you start to walk, pick a speed you can manage, but make sure your heartbeat is slightly raised, you're breathing a little faster and you feel a bit warmer.
- For maximum health benefits, adults need to be moderately active for at least 30 minutes a day, five days a week.
- Children and young people need to be moderately or vigorously active for at least 60 minutes a day – every day.
- When you walk at a moderate pace, you will cover 1km in around 12 or 13 minutes. Walking at a brisk pace, you'll do 1km in just 10 minutes.

work to empower communities and individuals to lead a healthier lifestyle. This form of inter-organisation partnership is vital for success and we look forward to working with our partners in the future," he said.

## Ability

GIW promotes recreational walking to all members of society regardless of age, location or ability. Since it was established it has expanded the number and scope of the programmes offered, with a particular emphasis on disadvantaged communities and low active groups.

This is consistent with one of Sport Ireland's key objectives of providing sporting and physical activity opportunities to people of all ages and backgrounds in Ireland. It links with Healthy Ireland's goal to reduce health inequalities and Mountaineering Ireland's values relating to recreation and wellbeing.



There is a list of walking groups available on the GIW website, [www.getirelandwalking.ie/findgroup/](http://www.getirelandwalking.ie/findgroup/) as well as lots of tips and advice on how to start walking regularly. GIW has a 21-day challenge, which if completed should make walking a lifestyle habit. The idea is to build up to walking at least 30 minutes a day, while keeping a record of your progress. By tracking how long or how far you walked, you'll see proof of your improvements, which is a

great motivation to keep going. To request a printed copy of the 21 Day Walking Challenge email [info@getwalkingireland.ie](mailto:info@getwalkingireland.ie)

## Reflective clothing or a high visibility vest is a good idea on the dark winter mornings and evenings"

When getting started on your new walking routine, make sure you have a comfortable pair of shoes or runners and wear layers of light, breathable clothing that you can take off as you get warmer. Obviously in cold weather you will need extra layers, such as a hat, scarf and gloves. Reflective clothing or a high visibility vest is a good idea on the dark winter mornings and evenings. It's a good idea to carry a mobile phone, to track your progress, take photographs and in case you run into any difficulty. A bottle of water to take sips from is also good, and maybe a small backpack to carry bulky items.

Doing a short warm-up at the start will limber up your body before a walk and a quick cool-down at the end is also a good option.

It can be fun to find new walking routes where you discover places you never knew existed. There are a number of websites which list walking trails such as the Irish Heart Foundation's Sli na Slainte routes on [www.irishheart.ie](http://www.irishheart.ie).

There are family and buggy-friendly routes on [www.irishtrails.ie](http://www.irishtrails.ie) and forest walks are listed on [www.coillteoutdoors.ie](http://www.coillteoutdoors.ie)

Now you're ready, so let's get walking!

# Dad's Diary

Rory Fitzgerald



Autumn brings a kind of pleasant melancholy. The warmth of summer recedes and the cold nights draw in. The trees, so recently full, lush and green, are now shedding crisp brown leaves for the children to wade through on their way to school, searching for conkers. Bright berries appear in the hedges and scatterings of mushrooms rise amongst the fallen apples.

There is great beauty amongst all the decay. The fruits and nuts now abundant represent nature's efforts to produce new life. The trees are exhausted after putting their all into this vital task. It's not unlike what parents of small children do: giving over all their energy, day and night, to nurture their offspring.

We hope that our season of decay is far enough off. Yet every time I call home, it seems there is sad news of some neighbour or relative who has passed away. What do they leave behind? Their bank balance or their property is worth nothing to them now.

## Parents' kindness gives children the best start in life"

The only earthly legacy of meaning is their families. Those of us in midlife now are just a few short decades away from that unsettling age when our contemporaries begin to encounter old age, illness and death. Where do we go when we die? The Christian answer is that this depends, fundamentally, on our kindness – as does the happiness and welfare of those we leave behind.

Giving and receiving kindness is what gives us true happiness while we live. Parents' kindness gives children the best start in

life, creating adults who are secure and happy even in our unstable world.

Even in the autumn of our lives, as we approach death, a life of kindness behind us gives hope of the ultimate spring.

It is an urgent task then, this business of being kind. But it's not easy. The most saintly parent, stressed and sleep-deprived enough, will lose patience with an obstreperous toddler.

## Challenges

There is no shortage of people in the world who will wrong us, and tempt us to respond with anger and vengeance. Yet these same challenges we face as adults are first encountered in



microcosm by our children, when a playmate snatches away their favourite toy, or when they are bullied by a bigger child. We teach them to share, and to forgive, and to be kind, even as we remain forever in need of those lessons ourselves.

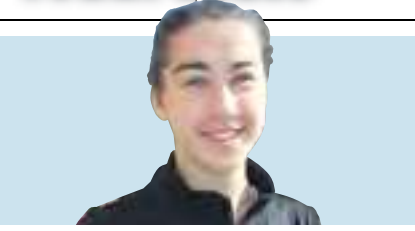
Yet our children are often the teachers, and we the pupils. We melt when we see them run to the aid of a smaller child, or share their last piece of chocolate, or pray for a sick relative.

We learn from children's gifts for living in the moment, for seeing the magic in a robin's flight, and for sitting and staring contemplatively at the fire.

In this, they remind us that the fuel we need for this task of kindness is spiritual. We replenish it by giving our minds the balm of silence, of prayer, of grace and by dwelling a while each day in the deep quiet that surrounds us always – if only we stop a moment to listen for it.



## Youth Space



### Niamh Brady reports on Kilmore's first Diocesan Youth Day

I am currently participating in the John Paul II Awards. These awards recognise young people's commitment to faith and community. I was told about the Kilmore Diocesan Youth Day and was encouraged to attend. My sister Caoimhe, who is a first year in my school Loreto College Cavan, also attended with me. I was a bit sceptical about the day, but decided to go as it would gain me some hours towards my John Paul II Award. The day itself couldn't have been any more different to what I was expecting. I thought it would be long, boring and just praying for the afternoon. How wrong I was...

On September 30 over 70 young people from all over the Diocese of Kilmore congregated in the pastoral centre in Cavan to celebrate the first annual diocesan youth day. As we gathered in the pastoral centre we came to celebrate the same faith, and to join in friendships from all around the diocese.

#### Workshops

A total of 12 parishes were represented on the day. Young people from as far away as Kilmainhamwood (a parish in Co. Meath) to Kinlough (a parish in Co. Sligo) attended. A Redemptorist team from Esker in Galway were invited to partake in the day with us.

The day consisted of a variety of workshops including crafts,

meditation, videos about love and acceptance, a workshop with the band I Am Worship and ending with a most enjoyable pizza party.

First of all we were split into groups according to the various ages. My sister was in a different group to me. I think that was a good idea because Transition Year students are much more mature than first years.

**“We also had great fun practicing the various songs for Mass later in the day”**

I really enjoyed working with the clay and reminiscing about my childhood, this led us to meditation and a reflection on our journey of faith. The band I Am Worship travelled from Derry to be with us. The group consisted of three girls and one boy. They were amazing and talked about how we can express our faith through music.

I am not a great singer myself, but that did not matter at all. The group was so enthusiastic, and

full of energy and fun that it was infectious.

We also had great fun practicing the various songs for Mass later in the day. Everyone was clapping and getting into a joyous mood. It showed me that you can sing in a group without being a great singer. All my friends said that they would go to Mass every weekend if we got to listen to a band like them.

The youth day concluded with the celebration of Mass in the Cathedral of St Patrick and St Felim. Around seven o'clock all the young people walked in a procession from the pastoral centre to the cathedral. I got to leave 15 minutes before the main group with five of my friends as we were all serving or reading at Mass.

#### Privileged

It was a lovely crisp autumnal evening and we laughed all the way into town. I felt very privileged to be serving such a big occasion and my younger sister was reading. It's always a big deal to serve a Mass said by the bishop.

The front of the cathedral had

seats reserved for all the young people who attended the youth day. Four students brought a big banner to the altar and secured it to the railings to make the congregation aware of what was going on.

**“The youth day celebrations gave young people a chance to grow together in their faith”**

Mass started with a procession of all the young people along with many priests from the diocese, servers and readers. Bishop Leo O'Reilly was the main celebrant. We felt blessed to have the bishop present as he loves young people and usually has great stories to tell us. He is always interested to hear what we are up to.

Fr Patrick Cahill, co-founder of the Holy Family Mission in Waterford, addressed the packed cathedral and had the congregation intrigued with his homily. He spoke in a very intriguing way. He told a story

about an apple and a stone.

The stone was painted green and looked just like an apple. He went down to the front seats and asked a number of young people did he have one or two apples in his hand. Some said two, others said one. In actual fact he had one apple and one stone.

The painted stone was designed to trick you into thinking it was an apple. It showed us how passive our faith can be. The beautiful music was provided once again by I Am Worship, who really enriched the Mass liturgy.

The youth day celebrations gave young people a chance to grow together in their faith, sharing their hopes, prayers and aspirations in the company of others who are there to offer encouragement, strength and support. I had an amazing day and I would encourage young people to attend next year.

**i** Niamh Brady is a Transition Year student in Loreto College Cavan.

# Exploring our faith together



Bishop Leo O'Reilly with participants at Kilmore's first Diocesan Youth Day. Photo: Lorraine Teevan



## Green Fingers

Paul Gargan

## The secret to a successful compost heap

**“M**y whole life has been waiting for an epiphany, a manifestation of God's presence, an experience that lets you see your place in the big picture. And that is what I had when I had my first compost heap.” Bette Midler (actress and environmental activist)

The easiest way to improve any garden is to have a compost heap or bin. Your soil is constantly being depleted by the elements and by what it gives to the plants. It must be replenished over the year. What you give to your soil, it gives back to you.

A mulch of homemade garden compost provides food for plants slowly over time, which is the best way. It promotes biological activity in the soil that keeps it healthy and vibrant for plants. It contains billions of beneficial micro-organisms that act as a microbial workforce in your soil. It improves soil structure, reduces erosion and nutrient leaching. It makes

heavy soil workable.

All this you get for free, from kitchen and garden waste people throw in their bins.

Anything that once lived can live again by being turned into compost. The only thing that restricts what you can put into your compost is the size of your heap or bin.

#### Waste

An average or small garden won't produce enough waste to have a big compost heap/bin; therefore it won't produce enough heat inside it to break down weeds with the seeds on, roots of perennial weeds or large woody prunings.

Other than that any kitchen or garden waste will compost, given time.

The secret is not to put too much of the same



thing in at the same time. Mix it up. If it is dry, wet it but do not have it sodden. Have your heap/bin in direct contact with the soil, this enables the stripped tiger worms to find their way in and digest the contents fast once it is partly decomposed.

Have a container beside your kitchen sink to collect food waste. This can be any food, peelings or scraps. If some of your food came in a box, frozen food for example, rip this into pieces and mix with the leftovers. To keep your ingredients balanced, mix dry with wet.

Paper and cardboard can be torn up and mixed with lawn clippings. You can even add in the contents of your vacuum cleaner.

If you have a pet rabbit or hamster, even a pet bird, you can add the contents of their cage when you clean it.

There is nothing to it. All you do is keep adding to the compost, mix it up, and keep it warm and moist. Small insects and micro-organisms will do the rest. Then in 6-9 months you will have the best addition your garden will ever have.



# TVRadio

Brendan O'Regan



## BBC's satirical offering W1A is just A1

**H**umour is a very subjective thing, and with something I think is funny, others may remain untickled.

That being said I find **W1A** (BBC 2, Friday nights) hilarious. But then it is a send up of the media so I'm in my zone and with my tribe.

The target of the satire is political correctness, hipster culture and self-absorption in the media, especially in the BBC. Hugh Bonneville plays Ian Fletcher, the BBC's Head of Values, and is one of the more grounded characters (relatively!). Sarah Paris is rigidly po-faced as Anna, the new 'Head of Better'. Last week she explained her role thus: "This is about establishing what we do most of best and finding fewer ways of doing more of it less."

In their efforts to promote diversity and inclusiveness, and cost cutting at the same time, they find themselves in several awkward situations. In a recent episode they put a cross dresser onto the *Match of the Day* panel, but this character was useless as a commentator and they had to move him/her on without causing offence. A sports quiz didn't appeal and they ended up pawning him/her off on *Top Gear*.

The staff meetings are cringe inducing – in last week's episode one of the suggestions for slimming



Ian Fletcher (Hugh Bonneville) and Siobhan Sharpe (Jessica Hynes) in the new series of W1A. Photo: BBC

down operations was to move flagship current affairs show *Panorama* to Twitter!

Some of the language is crude, but most of that comes from one character, grouchy Neil Reid (David Westhead), Head of News and Current Affairs, who seems to be the only one to see through all the rubbish. In last week's episode he got exasperated with the new live subtitling software, which produced gems like this: "President Trump promises a big day on Notional Security saying he will build a well along the border with Max Sicko."

Throughout, the deliciously ironic narration by David Tennant enhances the comic effect no end.

### Media issues

More serious media issues were highlighted on **Unreported World – Ireland's Big Decision** on Channel 4 last Friday. It was flagged as the documentary team hearing from both sides in Ireland's upcoming abortion-related referendum. I wasn't hopeful, and when we were told at the start that presenter Shaunagh Connaire was pro-choice my spirits flagged.

What followed was most disappointing – pro-lifers were portrayed as coming almost exclusively from a religious perspective, sometimes showing graphic pictures of aborted babies. One pro-lifer didn't help by saying he was on the street to "torture" abortion supporters. Really?

On the pro-choice side there were also some strident campaigners, but also two women who had babies with life-limiting conditions, and though in the end their babies had died naturally they were for repeal of the Eighth Amendment that protects these babies.

We got the nine-year-old daughter of one of the women interviewed outlining the reasons for repeal, and a midwife from the Rotunda Hospital arguing along the same lines, but no medical people from

the pro-life side.

Like pretty much all programmes on abortion we didn't hear much about what abortion actually is, but the truth did slip through from a doctor. "Angry" and "sad" about women being "forced" abroad, she described how a woman, having gone to a clinic in the UK, gets "an injection to stop her baby's heart". Predictably, through the rest of the programme, it was all 'foetus' talk.

A young girl from Youth Defence was impressive, and one young couple did briefly get a chance to make a case on how the Eighth Amendment is protective of babies with disabilities, but apart from this the programme was so lopsided it's a wonder it didn't just fall over.

Meanwhile on the drama front, RTE 1's thriller **Acceptable Risk** is thankfully free of the usual 'adult content', and is passable entertainment, but the script is a bit stiff and the acting lacklustre in spots.

After last Sunday's episode I'm getting increasingly irritated by the main character – actress Elaine Cassidy deserves better.

**Liar** (UTV Mondays, TV3, Thursdays) is more adult and edgy, though relatively restrained in presentation. Ioan Gruffudd plays a charming doctor accused of rape, with Joanne Froggatt all nervy as his alleged victim. It's very tense, disturbing and intriguing



Elaine Cassidy stars in RTE's *Acceptable Risk*.

### PICK OF THE WEEK

**DIGITAL CATHOLICS**  
EWTN, Monday, October 16, 9pm

Sr Helena Burns encourages Catholics to engage with media in a responsible manner guided by Church teaching.

**ABORTION ON TRIAL**  
BBC 2, Monday, October 16, 9pm

50 years after the UK Abortion Act, Anne Robinson brings together a group of people with conflicting views.

**LUCY WORSLEY: ELIZABETH I'S BATTLE FOR GOD'S MUSIC**  
BBC 4, Tuesday, October 17, 9pm

Conflict over religious music occasioned by the Reformation.

ing as we wonder who is telling the truth, but by last week's episode we were in no doubt.

The show acknowledged the assistance of various rape crisis agencies, so was there ever really any doubt about the guilty party?

[boregan@hotmail.com](mailto:boregan@hotmail.com)



Aubrey Malone

# Film

## Irish-American with a flair for innovation

### The Quiet Architect (PG)

I don't tend to get very worked up about buildings. I've always seen them as things you go into when you want to get in out of the rain. This fascinating documentary from Mark Noonan made me re-think that.

Kevin Roche is Irish but he's spent most of his life 'stateside'. He designed over 300 buildings. He's also won the coveted Pritzker Prize – architecture's Pulitzer.

His first job was building a piggery. It set the tone for an eclectic future.

Kevin never cared about fame, about being a 'starchi-



Kevin Roche with a Ford model.

architect'. He came back to Ireland during the boom to design Dublin's Convention Centre. After a few hiccups it opened in 2010. This was never my favourite building, I have to say. I think it looks like two blocks squeezing out an orb.

But I love most of his other work.

Kevin was always ahead of the curve. He pioneered the idea of bringing nature into vast urban complexes. He once put a garden on top of a building. As Art Garfun-

kel might say: "So long, Frank Lloyd Wright."

The problem with some architects, he thinks, is that they forget the buildings they're designing are actually going to have people in them. Whenever Kevin gets a commission he puts them first. Where did they hang their hats? What door did they come in?

### Stylish

He once put a spiral staircase in a living-room. He thought it would look stylish. The owner of the building wasn't impressed. He said, "How would you get a coffin down that?" Kevin agreed it was a good point. How many architects think about fune-

als when they're drawing up their plans?

When he was designing a female restroom another time – that's American for toilet – a woman said to him: "Where do I leave my purse?" (I have to admit that consideration would have escaped me too).

Kevin listens to his customers. That's why he's been so sought after all his life. "I don't think of him as a builder of monuments," a colleague says in the film, "I think of him as a problem solver."

He enjoys challenges. His buildings are like his babies. They come in all shapes and sizes. His mind is always working overtime. He built a synagogue once that had six sides on it. This was to des-

ignate the Holocaust. "It was a simple idea," he says, "but I thought it was appropriate. Six million Jews perished."

To a man like this, life outside work is almost a side issue.

The woman who eventually became his wife had to work hard to get him to bring her on their first date. She also, according to Kevin, decided when they should be married. (She disputes this.)

One hopes Kevin will continue designing beautiful buildings for a long time to come. He hates the idea of retiring but at 95 he realises he has to slow down a bit.

He's just done that. He's taking Saturdays off.

Very good  
★★★★



# BookReviews

Peter Costello



## A spiritual voice for our lives and times

**Love, Henri: Letters on the Spiritual Life**

by Henri J. M. Nouwen,  
edited by Gabrielle  
Earnshaw, foreword by  
Brené Browne  
(Hodder &  
Stoughton, £10.99)

Anthony Redmond

**F**or Henri Nouwen was one of the most prolific and important spiritual writers of the 20th Century. Since his unexpected death in 1996 his fame and influence as a spiritual writer and guide seem to have grown.

This superb collection of previously unpublished letters stretches from the earliest years of Henri's career through to his last ten years at L'Arche Daybreak.

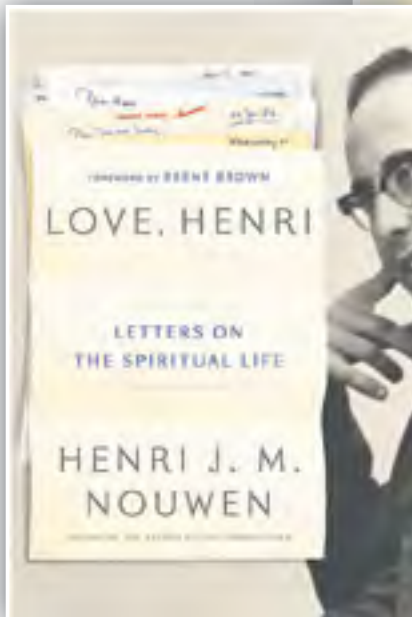
He writes letters replying to people who wrote to him about loneliness, grief, the breakup of a relationship, the loss of a child, ageing and numerous other subjects.

He writes with deep compassion and empathy. It is clear from his letters and, indeed, from his life that he was a man who really craved affection and genuine friendship.

He comes across as a vulnerable, sensitive, insecure person in many ways and sincere, loyal friendship meant the world to him. He was always very devoted and loyal to his friends.

### Intimate exchange

The preface to the book by Gabrielle Earnshaw tells that: "Although the letters began as an intimate exchange between two people, their



power today speaks to Henri's belief that what is most personal – our brokenness, our insecurities, our jagged edges – is most universal.

**“He is truly a man whose heart is so open and so vulnerable, so receptive and so giving”**

For Henri, letter writing was an integral part of friendship. In 1996, just months before his death, he recorded in his journal: "This afternoon I wrote many postcards. While writing I experienced a deep love for all the friends I was writing to. My heart was full of gratitude and affection, and I wish I could embrace each of my friends and let



Henri Nouwen (left) with Jean Vanier in 1987.

them know how much they mean to me and how much I miss them."

### Authenticity

His close friend, Sue Mosteller CSJ, observed: "He is truly a man whose heart is so open and so vulnerable, so receptive and so giving that our own little hearts feel solidarity and safety when he speaks to us and calls us to grow in like manner. It is the authenticity of his own heart which we recognise, identify with and hope to imitate."

Again in the preface we

learn: "He also struggled with intimacy and conflicting feelings about his sexuality. The vocation of celibate priest exacted a heavy price. His desire for a 'unique friendship' conflicted with his vow to give his heart only to Jesus. He never publically acknowledged his homosexuality, deciding that coming out in public would eclipse his larger mission of connecting people with God. Nor did he leave the Church, as many of his generation of Catholic clergy did."

Towards the end of his life,

Nouwen himself wrote: "My sexuality will remain a great source of suffering to me until I die. I don't think there is any 'solution'. The pain is truly 'mine' and I have to own it. Any 'relational solution' will be a disaster. I feel deeply called by God to live my vows well even when it means a lot of pain. But I trust that pain will be fruitful."

### Collection

This wonderful collection of letters tells us so much about Henri Nouwen and his interest in and concern for people.

He had the rare gift of being able to say so much in a few carefully chosen words that came from his heart.

In his eulogy at Henri's funeral Jean Vanier told the assembly: "Sometimes I sensed in Henri the wounded heart of Christ. For God is not a secure God up there telling everybody what to do, but a God in anguish, yearning for love; a God who is not understood, a God on whom people have put labels. Our God is a lover, a wounded lover, yearning to be loved, yearning to announce love."

## Ireland and Saint Pio of Pietrelcina

**Padre Pio: Irish Encounters with the Saint**

by Colm Keane  
(Capel Island Press,  
€14.99)

Author Colm Keane will be familiar to many from his earlier books exploring aspects of life, death, and spirituality. They have proved to be both very popular and, in the eyes of some, controversial. In his new book he explores the life and acts of a modern saint.

The Sanctuary of Saint Pio of Pietrelcina in San Giovanni Rotondo has long been a place of pilgrimage for thousands of Irish pilgrims. This book is based on interviews with some of them, who recount their own experiences of the saint and what he was like. These encounters, ranging from Paschal Robinson down to the last years of the saint's life, provide a very personal glimpses of Padre Pio as he was familiarly known in his

lifetime.

The story is told chronologically in three long chapters dealing with the early years, the middle years, and the later years. But all of these periods he was, as his devotees know, surrounded by controversy. Initially the Church authorities were critical; but with the papacy of Pius XII he received more encouragement.

This book is intended to be a popular account of the man and the mystical

phenomena that surrounded him, not only his stigmata, but other claims made for him, such as the gift of bilocation. Undoubtedly this will be read with passionate interest by many.

### Esteem

The canonisation of Padre Pio is an indication that the Church regards him as a figure worthy of the highest mark of esteem that it can bestow. But this is also a book to be read with care, as

claims about such a figure as St Pio can come to distort the reality of the man and his spirituality. Not all the claims of his admirers stand on the same ground.

It may well be that St Pio's skills as a confessor are more important than that penumbra of mystical phenomena; it is that pastoral side of his life, leading others into a better sense of their own spirituality, that will be of permanent interest. **P.C.**





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



The UCC academics who created the Atlas: (left to right) Donal Ó Drisceoil, John Crowley, John Borgonovo and Mike Murphy.

## Two cheers for the *Atlas of the Irish Revolution*

**Atlas of the Irish Revolution** edited by John Crowley, Donal Ó Drisceoil, and Mike Murphy, with associate editor John Borgonovo (Cork University Press, €59.00)

**Felix M. Larkin**

The many plaudits this volume has received since its publication in mid-September are well justified. It is an epic production, running to almost 1,000 pages and weighing in at five kilos. Even Atlas himself would have difficulty holding it in his hands in order to read it.

The other and more general use of the word 'atlas' is to refer to a book of maps, and what this volume aims to do is to map the Irish revolution of 1912-23 in words and images. It comprises over 150 concise chapters, written by over 100 contributors – on subjects ranging from the 19th Century antecedents of the revolution to the contemporary public and cultural memory of it.

The chapters are supplemented by 364 original maps and over 700 other images. There is a cornucopia of information here, and this volume will accordingly be a valuable source book for the period in question for many years to come.

Its greatest virtue is its focus on the local. Tip O'Neill, the legendary Irish-American Speaker of the US House of Representatives, famously said that "all politics is local". Likewise, the Irish revolution was largely an amalgam of local efforts – not always coordinated, or directed, from Dublin.

### Perspectives

As befits a volume edited by scholars based at University College Cork, this volume never loses sight of that. Its strongest section is titled 'War of Independence: regional perspectives' – with two chapters

on Munster, one each on Leinster, Connacht and Ulster, further chapters on five individual counties, separate pieces on Dublin, Cork and Belfast, and an overview by David Fitzpatrick (whose study of County Clare in the period of the Irish revolution, published in 1977, was the model for so many other local studies).

Very occasionally, however, the local overwhelms the main story – as in the chapter by Ian Kenneally on newspapers in the War of Independence. Over one-third of this chapter is devoted to a case study of two contrasting Westmeath newspapers, the *Westmeath Independent* (based in Athlone) and the *Westmeath Examiner* (based in Mullingar).

### Space

As a result, there is insufficient space for full consideration of the main national newspapers of the day – *Irish Times*, *Irish Independent*, *Freeman's Journal* and *Cork Examiner*. The *Irish Times* is not even mentioned in the chapter – though the travails of *Irish Times* journalists John Healy and the younger R.M. Smyllie, as recounted by Mark O'Brien in his history of the newspaper published in 2008, would merit attention here. The threat to Healy's life during the Civil War is, quite appropriately, noted in a later chapter.

For a work of reference such as this volume purports to be, the footnotes attaching to many of the chapters are perfunctory. This is a significant shortcoming: there are less than 22 pages of footnotes in total, just 2¼% of the volume's pages. Footnotes are the indispensable apparatus of scholarship – their purpose being to cite source material, indicate relevant research by others and suggest further reading.

An omission within this reviewer's purview relates to a Shemus cartoon reproduced in Donal Ó Drisceoil's chapter on republican intimidation and what he calls "sledgehammer censorship" of newspapers for their support of the 1921 Treaty. Readers should have been told in a footnote that the original drawings of this and some 250 other Shemus cartoons are held in the National Library of Ireland and that the standard work on the cartoons is my *Terror and Discord: the Shemus Cartoons in the Freeman's Journal, 1920-1924*, published in 2009.

### Balance

Another shortcoming of the Atlas is a certain lack of balance. The editorial line is largely uncritical of the Irish revolution and of the physical force tradition of Irish nationalism. Seminal articles by F.X. Martin and Francis Shaw – dubbed elsewhere by Pádraig Ó Snodaigh as the "two godfathers of revisionism" – are, for instance, marginalised in this volume.

Even Patrick Maume's chapter on constitutional nationalism emphasises that Parnell, Redmond and the Irish Parliamentary Party were happy to honour the physical force tradition as well as the constitutional one. True, but Maume may underestimate the extent to which this appropriation by Home Rulers of a tradition antipathetical to their values was simply an attempt to obviate the danger of being outflanked by more extreme nationalists.

The *Atlas*, therefore, leaves one with the feeling that all sides of the story may not have been told.

So, a qualified welcome for it: two cheers, not three. It is not the last word on the Irish revolution, but perhaps it comes close to being the second last.

## The World of Books

By the books editor

## What are modern publishers actually for?

Si Newhouse died the other day, and as the American millionaire owner of some high-profile titles such as *Vanity Fair* and the *New Yorker*, he was something of a celebrity, a celebrity however with a dubious reputation. The name of André Schiffrin [pictured] may not be so familiar to many, but the New York firm which he ran for many years, Pantheon Books, was one of the most distinguished of its day. That is until it was taken over by Si Newhouse in one of the conglomerate building exercises that delight the executives, but in publishing at least, often cause dismay to the authors who get caught up in them.



The owners often act as if the authors were some sort of bond-slaves. Perhaps some are, but most aren't: they can simply walk away. That is what happened at Pantheon. One of those who walked was a young cartoonist, promoted by Schiffrin, named Matt Groening, the creator of *The Simpsons*, an idea that developed into a high earning franchise that Si Newhouse was angry to have lost.

Si Newhouse's new overall manager of his firms, a banker named Alberto Vitale, said Pantheon were losing too much money, about \$3 million dollars a year – equivalent to the advance that Si Newhouse gave Nancy Regan for her memoirs, the sort of short term rubbish conglomerates delight in.

Schiffrin, on the other hand, had published *Dr Zhivago* and *The Tin Drum*, landmarks of literature, which remain in print, and make money for their publishers in a way that Mrs Regan's now unread book never could.

### Copyright

Long term, backlist publishing after all was the model of a firm like Macmillan in London, who published so many fine writers. For decades through the life of his copyright they reissued the books of Thomas Hardy, making more money over the 50 years involved than the celebrity books which sell for a few months and are often remaindered or pulped can do.

Good books make money, over time, whereas rubbish doesn't. In the end quality prevails. But it needs time. The accountants who direct the great publishing conglomerates these

days want their investment in a year or two.

One example of the new marketing notions is 'World Book Day'. In the individual countries free books are offered, but to get them readers (often children) have to register.

Their details are then used, of course, for promotional

activities, and not only of books. They become part of those sinister data banks we have no control over in which all kinds of details of our lives are, largely unknown to us, accumulated and sold on. If the authors are bond-slaves already, their readers

in turn will be enslaved to the needs of commerce.

'World Book Day' heavily promotes books by media celebrities. For 2018 these include Julian Clary, Nadiya Hussain, Clare Balding and Tom Fletcher, short term authors if ever there were.

Moreover, our Department of Education has agreed with the British agency running the 'World Book Day' to import and distribute in bulk the materials free to schools here.

But then this is modern publishing. It is not about culture, or merely promoting reading; it is about turning everything we do into a revenue stream for someone somewhere, to our disadvantage.

### Developments

André Schiffrin describes and denounces these developments in his books *The Business of Books: How International Conglomerates Took Over Publishing and Changed the Way We Read* (Verso, \$19.95), and *Words and Money* (Verso, \$23.95).

The co-operative publishing model proposed for the future by André Schiffrin, and attempted in the company he later founded, The New Press, is one that appeals to many writers. For the truth is that the most important and valuable books are not those which are 'best-sellers', but those which make themselves felt in the mind and imagination over time. Celebrity books rarely do this.

Strangely enough it is very much the way a great many Catholic publishers, and publishers with special philosophical or political interests, conduct themselves.

Perhaps far from being a last wave of the past, Catholic publishers and their kin may be the advance guard of a new future. Who knows? Certainly not the publishers.



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### 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.

G.C.

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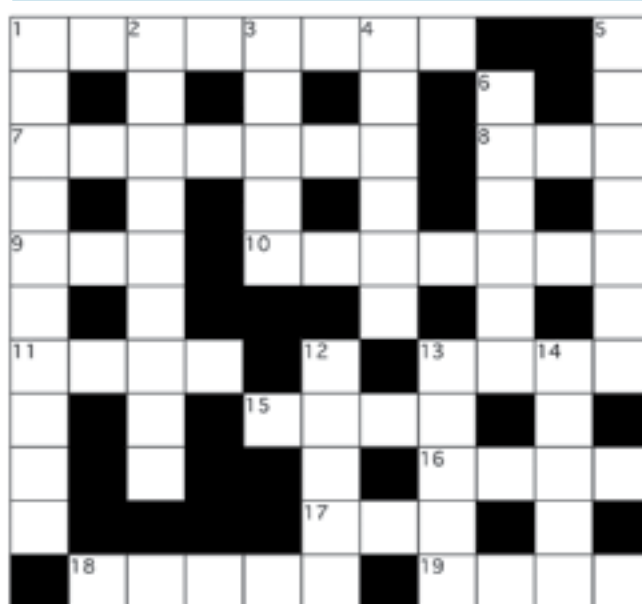
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## Crossword Junior

Gordius 203



### ACROSS

- 1 The sound a mobile phone makes when a call is coming in (4,4)  
7 You may wear it to school (7)  
8 You may write with this (3)  
9 Homer Simpson says this when he makes a mistake (3)  
10 Different, because it is better than ordinary (7)  
11 A wellington, perhaps (4)  
13 Hens lay them (4)  
15 Tumbled (4)  
16 The wolf huffed and puffed and \_\_\_\_ the house down (4)  
17 This sign of the Zodiac is sometimes called the Lion

(3)

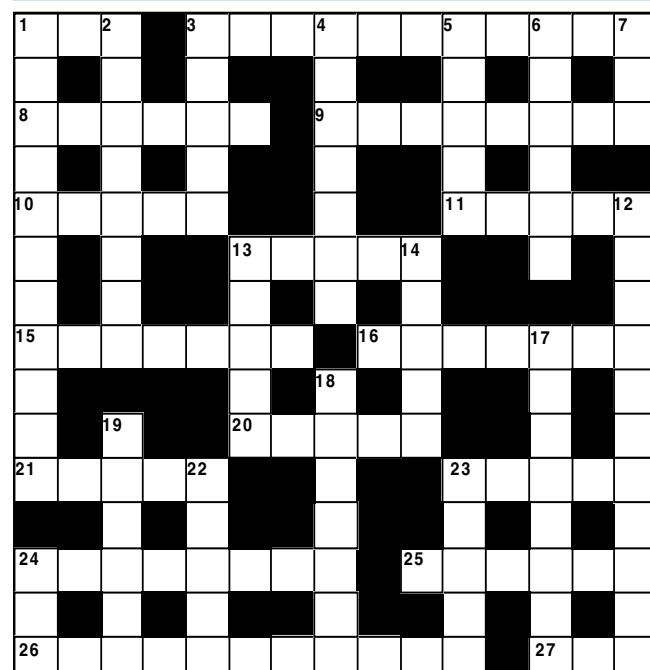
- 18 Short word for bicycles (5)  
19 Seven days (4)

### DOWN

- 1 This piece of road is the shape of a circle (10)  
2 Someone who lives near you (9)  
3 Hammers, saws or spanners, maybe (5)  
4 One, two or three, maybe (6)  
5 Light them on your cake when it's your birthday (7)  
6 This season lasts from February to April (6)  
12 You ring them (5)  
13 Joint in the arm (5)  
14 A group of these birds is called a gaggle (5)

## Crossword

Gordius 320



### ACROSS

- 1 Append (3)  
3 Apparently, it looked down on all other dinosaurs! (11)  
8 Bunny (6)  
9 Deduced that it might make the fen drier (8)  
10 Having been given the bird, he made a contribution of one-tenth (5)  
11 Melody (5)  
13 Weasel (5)  
15 Peanut I exchanged for a flower (7)  
16 Eight-sided figure (7)  
20 Gustav, English composer of 'The Planets' suite (5)  
21 Make a statement at the southern summit (5)  
23 Banquet (5)  
24 Refuse an offer to swivel feathers (4,4)  
25 System of star-signs (6)  
26 One doing church administration may shirk parcel distribution (6,5)  
27 Amphibian (3)

### DOWN

- 1 A mountain gap with a view is what things may have come to! (1,6,4)  
2 One making his first pubic appearance (8)  
3 The deadly sin of a Lions' group? (5)  
4 & 19d No frog terrier can dispel such tyranny (5,2,6)  
5 Alongside a vessel at sea (5)  
6 Bird with a speckled breast (6)  
7 Cover the centre of a slide (3)  
12 Join one, and sever an American state (11)  
13 Metalworker (5)  
14 Unspoken, but understood (5)  
17 Might this ingredient upset a gentile? (7)  
18 Ann fell awkwardly when making this material (7)  
19 See 4 down  
22 Great credit earned for part of one's sudoku dossier (5)  
23 Dress made of strong stone (5)  
24 Put up with a sheepish type (3)

## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

### GORDIUS No.319

**Across** – 1 Big 3 Street lamps 8 Trojan 9 Cosseted 10 Ideal 11 Rants 13 Pleat 15 Sky dive 16 Cassock 20 Trick 21 Taint 23 Trump 24 Hysteria 25 Arnica 26 Whooper swan 27 Due

**Down** – 1 Bathing suit 2 Geometry 3 Snail 4 Excited 5 Laser 6 Matins 7 Sad 12 Shakespeare 13 Pivot 14 Thank 17 Occupied 18 Big Ears 19 Fiasco 22 Tie up 23 Turin 24 How

### CHILDREN'S No.202

**Across** – 1 Explosion 6 Thirteen 7 Spy 9 Return 11 Easier 13 Narrow 15 Summer 19 Glad 20 Large 21 Stay

**Down** – 1 Entering 2 Painter 3 Otter 4 Idea 5 Play 8 Piece 10 News 12 Sum 14 Roads 16 Ugly 17 Mare 18 Reel 19 Gun

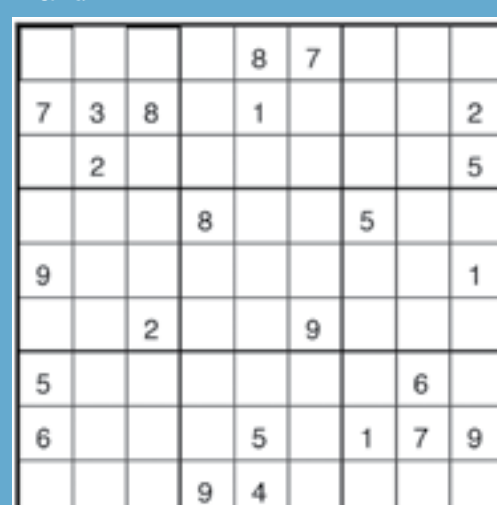
## Sudoku Corner

203

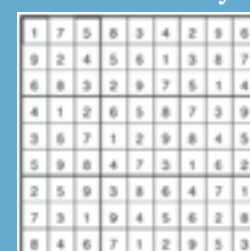
### Easy



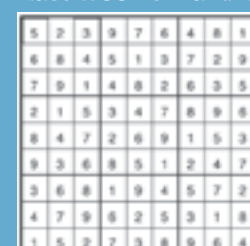
### Hard



### Last week's Easy 202



### Last week's Hard 202



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# Notebook

Fr Martin Delaney



## A letter to a departing friend



poems which you read at your mother's funeral is 'Begin' by Brendan Kennelly. I think that poem has been a guiding star in your life...

"Though we live in a world that dreams of ending, that always seems about to give in, something that will not acknowledge conclusion insists that we forever begin."

Using your natural gift for communication, you reskilled and reinvented yourself into a highly successful broadcaster and producer of memorable and inspirational programmes. In the last few years you have devoted so much of your time and talent to building up your flagship Sunday programme on Premier Christian Radio. Your listenership or should I say your 'congregation' has grown to the hundreds of thousands.

In recent weeks, as news of your illness has become known, a flood of letters has poured in from your 'fans', 'listeners', 'parishioners' whose lives you have touched and inspired. To paraphrase a line from a famous eulogy; you have needed no ecclesiastical title to continue to generate your particular brand of magic! The ministry may be

different but the example of your life continues to attract the people of God.

Gerry, my heart breaks at the thought of what lies ahead for you, for your family and for all of us whose lives you have enriched. But amidst the tears and the heartbreak I give thanks to God for the blessing of your life. I thank God for your ability to embrace the possibility of new beginnings. I thank God for your ability to accept the beauty of who are. I thank God for your partner Kei and the love which has dared to speak its name, a love which has transformed both of your lives.

Gerry, when you were saying goodbye to your work colleagues in Southwark Council last December you quoted a beautiful short poem entitled 'Late Fragment'

"And did you get what you wanted from this life, even so? I did.

And what did you want? To call myself beloved, to feel myself beloved on the earth."

In the confusion and losses of these days, I pray that you may continue to feel yourself beloved.  
- Martin

### Do not ask me to remember

Do not ask me to remember, Don't try to make me understand, Let me rest and know you're with me, Kiss my cheek and hold my hand. I'm confused beyond your concept, I am sad and sick and lost. All I know is that I need you To be with me at all cost. Do not lose your patience with me, Do not scold or curse or cry. I can't help the way I'm acting, Can't be different though I try. Just remember that I need you, That the best of me is gone, Please don't fail to stand beside me, Love me 'til my life is done.

- Owen Darnell



and blessed both of our lives. Gerry, you turned out to be a wonderful dynamic priest. That challenging line from the Ordination Rite - "May the example of your life attract the People of God" - was definitely fulfilled in your ministry. You, your family and friends and so many others were devastated when that ministry had to come to an end almost 20 years ago.

### Faith

You owned your mistakes and you took responsibility adopting the maxim "the truth will set me free". With your unwavering faith in the God who loves unconditionally and with the extraordinary support and solidarity of your family and friends, you slowly emerged from that 'dark night of the soul' out into light of a bright new day. One of your favourite

## PLEASE HELP NEEDY ORPHANS IN INDIA



The Salesians in Tamil Nadu, India, have asked The Little Way Association for help with a project to benefit children orphaned because of HIV/AIDS. Fr Antony Joseph SDB, provincial, writes that many of the children are child-labourers, have become socially stigmatised, and are at risk from the drug culture. He says: "These children often lack hope for the future and have low self-esteem." He wants the children to be able to "live peacefully, and receive education, care and guidance for their future employment."

The scheme involves running an orphanage for 60 street-children at Namakkal and providing support for a further 100 children living nearby with grandparents or foster-families. All the children (aged 10 to 18 and not themselves HIV/AIDS sufferers) will receive healthcare and education. Those at home will receive visits from counsellors, while those in the orphanage will need to be fed and clothed.

Please help give these children and teenagers practical help and hope for the future. Donations to our children fund will support the Salesians' work in Namakkal, and similar projects.

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