

The Irish Catholic

FAMILY FUN DAY

Dublin parish reaches out to local families Pages 14-15



OIREACHTAS COMMITTEE

Contradictions in debates on life and death Page 10



GREEN BAY PILGRIMS

Knock welcomes third US diocesan pilgrimage Pages 12-13



Thursday, September 28, 2017

€1.80 (Stg £1.50)

The-Irish-Catholic-Newspaper

@IrishCathNews

www.irishcatholic.ie

TD's claim that priest wrote Constitution is 'madness'

Greg Daly

Leading legal and historical scholars of Bunreacht na hÉireann have rejected claims by an independent TD that the Irish Constitution was written by a priest.

Speaking in the Dáil, Dublin South-Central TD Joan Collins said: "The Constitution is not fit for purpose and needs replacement. It was written by a Catholic priest in the 1930s and reflects the ethos and values of a society dominated by the Catholic Church and conservative thinking of the time."

Deputy Collins later told *The Irish Catholic* that she was referring to Fr Edward Cahill SJ, who she believed was part of a three-man committee commissioned to draw up changes to Ireland's 1922 constitution.

Series

UCC constitutional law lecturer Dr Seán Ó Conaill, however, dismissed this as "Absolute nonsense," adding, "Dev would have consulted with a whole series of

religious orders and groups, and obviously the Catholic Church would have had more influence than others, given its position in Ireland at the time, but the Constitution was definitely not written by a Catholic priest.

"There's no basis whatsoever for that," he told *The Irish Catholic*, describing this notion as "madness".

Adding "For it to be considered some kind of purely Catholic dogmatic document is wrong," he contrasted it with the British and French constitutions, saying, "In terms of how institutions function, how rights function, it is absolutely in the liberal tradition".

Prof. Dermot Keogh, Professor Emeritus of History at UCC, explained that while Fr Cahill was someone from whom Eamon de Valera received submissions when Bunreacht na hÉireann was being drawn up, he was certainly not its author.

"The Irish Constitution was drafted by a very powerful group of senior civil servants

» Continued on Page 2

Taking next step in a nun's life



Adoration Sisters Sr Martina, previously a political correspondent at the BBC, and Sr Elaine, an ex-barrister, leaving St Peter's Cathedral in Belfast after making their first profession of vows. Photo: Ann McManus

BREDA O'BRIEN

Connecting Lourdes youth volunteers to faith PAGE 8



YOUTH SPACE

Irish schools building schools in Africa

PAGE 26



DAVID QUINN

Minister Bruton takes aim at RE once again

PAGE 9



SAN GIOVANNI & ASSISI | 9 OCTOBER | 7 NIGHTS

- Led by Spiritual Director, Fr Michael Harrison
- 1 night Benevento | Full board
- 3 nights San Giovanni | Full board
- 3 nights Assisi | Half board

VISITING:

- St. Pio's birthplace, Pietrelcina
- The Shrine of Michael the Archangel
- The Eucharistic Miracle of Lanciano
- St. Rita's Shrine in Cascia



€899 pps



Joe Walsh Tours
www.joewalshstours.ie
info@joewalshstours.ie
01 241 0822
T.O. 052 | T.A. 0689 | ATOL 5163

Inside this week

Sam Maguire

The man behind the All-Ireland cup

Page 29



Mary Kenny

When it comes to sport, leave politics at the gate

Page 5



Love Notes

Boyfriend is not ready to get married

Page 26



Managing Editor: Michael Kelly, editor@irishcatholic.ie

Features Editor: Mags Gargan, mags@irishcatholic.ie

Chief Reporter: Greg Daly, greg@irishcatholic.ie

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

Newsroom: news@irishcatholic.ie 01 6874029

Books Editor: Peter Costello, books@irishcatholic.ie

Layout: Declan Moroney

Advertising: advertising@irishcatholic.ie 01 6874094

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

Magnificat: magnificat@irishcatholic.ie 01 6874024

Shop: shop@irishcatholic.ie

Managing Director: Garry O'Sullivan

Annual Subscription Rates: Ireland €125. Airmail €145.

ISSN 1393 - 6832 - Published by The Irish Catholic,
23 Merrion Square, Dublin 2.

Printed by The Irish Times

Place an Advert

Phone 01 687 4024 or advertising@irishcatholic.ie

There's no such thing as a 'vocation' to the single life

I'm sometimes asked by dioceses and religious congregations for advice on vocations strategies. I don't have anything close to all the answers, but I'm happy to share my experiences of what I have seen work elsewhere in terms of fostering a culture of vocations and how one might go about communicating a life-encompassing commitment of service in the contemporary world.

Everyone – or almost everyone – agrees on the urgency of the need to promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Where differences arise is in how one should go about that. As the discussion unfolds, almost invariably, someone – usually a priest or religious – will raise a concern that a focus on priesthood and religious life might make married or single people feel left out.

Emotion

It's a genuinely-felt emotion and comes from a good place. But it also runs the risk of paralysing any authentic promotion of priesthood and religious life to young adults.

In the bid to be all-inclusive, one can tend to de-emphasise the specificity of priesthood and religious life in the work of the Church to such an extent that all is lost in the fog of vague platitudes about the fact that everyone has a vocation.

I've lost count of the number of well-meaning homilies I've heard on



Editor's Comment Michael Kelly

Vocations Sunday which extol the 'vocation' to the single life. This is a response to the fact that there are a large number of people who are single in our congregations.

But, here's the thing: there is no such thing as a vocation to the single life per se. One is either single and free to marry or one is not single and free to marry. It is a logical absurdity to say that one can be called to be what one is; nor is there a vocation to marriage – not, at least, in the sense of a supernatural vocation. Marriage is man's natural state. Some people are called to forego the natural state in view of the Gospel and the Kingdom. Others are not.

“Singleness is not, in the Church's long tradition, part of God's plan for people”

People who are single – and therefore uncommitted in any life-encompassing way – are single for a variety of reasons. Many I have met acutely feel pained at not being

married and yet don't discern a call to priesthood or religious life. Singleness is not, in the Church's long tradition, part of God's plan for people.

This is why it strikes me as very odd that people in the Church would encourage people to discern a vocation to the uncommitted lay single life in the same way that we might encourage young people to discern a vocation to priesthood or religious life or to be open to marriage?

The Church teaches that true human flourishing can only come about through dedicated, self-sacrificial love. As was stated in the Vatican II document *Gaudium et Spes* the human person “cannot fully find himself except through a sincere gift of himself”.

It makes no sense to guide anyone towards a life of deliberate non-commitment. The high number of people who are single is not, I suspect, indicative of a very healthy culture – that being said, uncommitted single people must never be regarded as anything less than full members of the Church.

Experts dismiss TD's claim as 'madness'

» **Continued from Page 1** which received submissions from many sources, including Fr John Charles McQuaid and Fr Edward Cahill and his Jesuit confreres. There were other letters and or submissions from other members of the clergy,” he said, adding that De Valera sought the opinions of the leaders of all Ireland's major Churches at the time, as

well as the then Chief Rabbi, Chaim Herzog.

Dr Laura Cahillane of the University of Limerick agreed that the Constitution was not written by a priest, although De Valera certainly sought the advice of Fr McQuaid – the future Archbishop of Dublin was a family friend.

“So McQuaid certainly had an influence (although not as

much as people previously believed) and there is no denying the Catholic influence on the Constitution – the principal drafter, John Hearne, was a devout Catholic and had even spent some years training as a priest and he shared many of De Valera's religious ideals,” she said, adding that De Valera resisted efforts to include a provision in the

Constitution recognising the Catholic Church as the one true Church.

While describing the Constitution as a product of its time, Dr Cahillane added that it “is also a fluid document and the courts are required to give an up-to-date reading of the Constitution, as far as possible, which prevents certain parts from becoming out of date”.

FATIMA 5 NIGHT PILGRIMAGES

ADDITIONAL
AVAILABILITY

- Additional availability announced for November
- Direct return flights from Dublin
- Hotel accommodation on full board basis
- Comprehensive Religious Programme
- Centenary Celebrations & Ceremonies

from
€599
per person



Joe Walsh Tours
www.joewalstours.ie
info@joewalstours.ie
01 241 0860
T.O. 052 | T.A. 0689 | ATOL 5163

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

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

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



prolife
campaign

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

What do you think?



Let us know by writing to:

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

'Watered-down Catholic education will attract no one'

Mags Gargan

The Archbishop of Dublin has warned against schools watering down Catholic education and called on the whole faith community to get involved in the debate on patronage, as it is "too important to be left to the polemicists and bureaucrats".

Celebrating Mass on Monday evening at the Church of Our Lady Seat of Wisdom at St Patrick's Campus DCU to mark the opening of the academic year, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin said the Catholic

community in Ireland needs "a new sense of identity" of the "why" of Catholic education, "forged through real public dialogue between the faith community, parents and school".

"Watered-down Catholic education will attract no one," he said.

The archbishop advised that Catholic schools must recognise the primary role of parents and enter into relationships with schools of other patronage, so that it is not a source of division.

"The future of Catholic education

is not just one about ownership but about the quality of the faith education that is provided," Dr Martin said.

Parents

Meanwhile, reacting to the announcement that state-run community national schools will no longer offer sacramental preparation, Patrick Treacy of Faith in Our Schools said the wishes of parents are being ignored.

"It is not up to elite bodies to determine what goes on in school,

it is up to parents and their wishes should be honoured," he told *The Irish Catholic*.

"You have to give parents the freedom to have their children educated in their faith, if that is what they want, and you have to allow parents to meet their responsibility as they see it to educate their children to believe in a faith."

There are currently 12 community national schools run by the Education and Training Boards Ireland (ETBI) catering for 4,000 children.

RTÉ doc to highlight work of chaplains

Staff Reporter

An uplifting observational series starting on RTÉ this week will highlight the essential guidance, support and inspiration provided by chaplains.

The Ministry of Hope series follows three Irish chaplains over a whole year, as they reach out to people at their moments of greatest vulnerability, to counsel and care for them.

Margaret Sleator was one of the first ever lay chaplains in Dublin's Mater Misericordiae University Hospital when she started 13 years ago. Catherine Black is the new chaplain in Shelton Abbey Open Prison in Arklow, Co. Wicklow. And Philip McKinley is the Church of Ireland member of a new multi-denominational chaplaincy team serving 17,000 students from all over the world at Dublin City University.

Miracle

In the first episode, Margaret Sleator supports Seán O'Keeffe whose wife, Margaret, is critically ill in the Mater hospital. With their son, Jack, Sean is praying for a miracle, but the chaplain must also prepare them for the worst.

In DCU, Philip McKinley helps first year students like 19-year-old Aisha Siwar settle into university life at the start of term.

Meanwhile, in Shelton Abbey Open Prison, Catherine Black counsels 33-year-old David whose release date is approaching fast, knowing that the outside world can be just as challenging as prison itself.

Ministry of Hope airs tonight (Thursday, September 28) on RTÉ One at 10.15pm.

Armagh to celebrate 'Family of Sport'

As part of the preparations for the World Meeting of Families next year, Armagh parish is planning a special celebration in St Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday, October 8 at 5.30pm. All who belong to sporting clubs and organisations are invited to come along in a sports top or in their club colours and join in an evening of colour and celebration. Cathedral Administrator, Fr Peter McAnenly is pictured (second right) with parishioners in their club colours.



AUTUMN PILGRIMAGES

MEDJUGORJE

€ from
€589
pps

AUTUMN | 4-7 NIGHTS

- 4 October | 4 nights **mini-break**
- 4, 11 & 20 October | 7 nights
- 27 October | 7 nights **mid-term**
- Accommodation close to **St. James's Church**

BENEVENTO & SAN GIOVANNI

€
€649
pps

7 OCTOBER | 4 NIGHTS

- **Mini-break**
- Direct, return flights with **Aer Lingus**
- 1 night Benevento | Half board
- 3 nights San Giovanni | Full board
- **Fully escorted pilgrimage**

Joe Walsh Tours



Joe Walsh Tours
www.joewalshstours.ie
info@joewalshstours.ie
f t 01 241 0860

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

Pope has admitted abusive priests were moved about, says Collins

Greg Daly

The most striking thing about Pope Francis' meeting with the Vatican's child protection commission last week was that he admitted that priests accused of abuse were moved about by their bishops, child protection campaigner and former commission member Marie Collins has said.

At one point in his first ever meeting with the entire Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, the Pope acknowledged how moving priests accused of abuse from parish to parish had contributed to the abuse

crisis.

"Perhaps the old practice of moving people around, not confronting the problem, lulled consciences to sleep," he said, adding, "when the consciousness arrives late, the means to solve the problem arrive late." It was, he said, a reality that the Church had been late to face.

"This is the first time I've heard of a bishop – never mind a Pope – admitting that priests were moved around," Mrs Collins told *The Irish Catholic*, adding that from his context she believed it was clear that the Pontiff meant that priests were moved about

in response to allegations.

She also praised the candid nature of the Pope's speech, noting especially how he had admitted that early in his pontificate he had opted to keep a priest out of ministry rather than laicise him, despite the recommendations of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. The priest subsequently abused again, and the Pontiff told the commission that until then he had not fully understood the reality of what he was dealing with.

"I learned from this," he said, adding, "I learned that [paedophilia] is an ugly sickness ... we have to get it in

our heads that this is a sickness."

"He admitted he was wrong," Mrs Collins said, before adding that his admission that priests were moved about was an even more important statement.

Commenting on the Pope's commitment to tackling abuse in general, Mrs Collins said that accountability was still needed. There was no evidence that anything had been done, she said, to implement Pope Francis' June 2016 declaration 'Like a Loving Mother', which set up guidelines for tackling bishops who are negligent in the handling of abuse allegations.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Irish Catholic conference postponed

Due to an unforeseen scheduling conflict, *The Irish Catholic* conference due to be held this coming Saturday (September 30) has been postponed. It is hoped to shortly reconfirm the conference for February 10, 2018. We apologise for any disappointment or inconvenience caused by circumstances beyond our control.

Priest heckled over anti-drugs sermon

A Dublin priest was jeered at by mourners when he gave a passionate sermon against crime and drugs during the funeral of a gangland murder victim.

Speaking at the funeral of Darragh Nugent – gunned down as part of a west Dublin feud – at the Church of Immaculate Heart of Mary in Rowlagh, Fr David Halpin said the murdered man had made "bad, bad decisions" that contributed to his death.

"We are here because one person thought that they were so important that another person's life could simply be extinguished. There are more who share in the responsibility," he said.

As he spoke, a number of mourners shouted "stop" and four people walked out.

Irish lessons for American shrine

Staff Reporter

The US's official Marian apparition shrine can learn from Knock, the bishop responsible for the National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help has said.

Green Bay's Bishop David Ricken, who visited the Mayo shrine this week as part of a diocesan pilgrimage to Ireland, told *The Irish Catholic* that the shrine at Champion, Wisconsin is several decades behind Knock in terms of repute and organisational infrastructure.

"Even though our apparition happened in 1859, as far as organisation and being a well-oiled machine we're a way behind, but that's okay; we can learn a lot from them," he said, explaining that he

hoped to speak to organisers at Knock, "just to make sure we have the right structure and that we're doing things properly to help the Blessed Mother reach out to many people".

Walt Fountain, who chairs the US shrine's Board of Trustees and who visited Knock this summer, said responses to the shrines have been strikingly similar, but that Champion's reputation had – until it was formally authenticated in 2010 – grown very slowly.

"We have plans to grow the infrastructure, to be able to support about five times as many pilgrims as we get now," he told *The Irish Catholic*.

See Pages 12-13.



Cloyne ordains six permanent deacons

Permanent deacons who were ordained by Bishop William Crean at St Colman's Cathedral, Cobh at the weekend: Brian Williams, Damien McCabe, Edward Mulhare, John Nestor, Garrett Cody and Peter Gurbal. Also included is Fr William Bermingham, Diocesan Director for the Permanent Diaconate. Photo: Denis Hyland

Limerick diocese is set to host family fun day

Mags Gargan

Limerick diocese is launching preparations for the World Meeting of Families next year with a special 'Family Fun Day' in Mary Immaculate College.

Everyone in the diocese is invited to the free event on October 8 so "that there is a real experience of the whole diocesan family coming together for a joyful

moment".

From 1pm to about 3.30pm there will be marching bands, water zorbs, archery and obstacle courses, climbing walls, a mobile farm for younger children, food stalls and musical acts every hour as well as quiet prayer spaces and continuous Eucharistic Adoration in the college chapel. Limerick youth service is organising activities and volunteers

will be offering face painting. The day will end with a festive family Mass at 4pm on the steps of the Tara building in Mary I.

Organisers are hoping that "every parish, group, department and organisation will be well represented on the day" and are encouraging parishes to carpool "so that as many people as possible can be there".

crosscare Support Services for the Catholic Archdiocese of Dublin



Crosscare has been working on behalf of the Catholic Community to help those most in need for over 75 years. Your support has helped us to provide emergency food, accommodation, counselling and community services.

Please help us continue this essential work by donating what you can.

Call us on (01) 8360011
Email: info@crosscare.ie

(Credit & Debit Cards facility available)

CHY6262

YOUR LEGACY CAN CHANGE THE CHURCH IN IRELAND

PLEASE REMEMBER US IN YOUR WILL

NET MINISTRIES IRELAND ENCOURAGING YOUNG PEOPLE TO LOVE JESUS AND EMBRACE THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

NETMINISTRIES.IE +353 74 919 0606

The Tara Shop in Lourdes would be pleased to welcome you

TARA SHOP

When it comes to sport, politics should be left at the gate

Should sport be politicised? It's surely a pity when it is. The spat between President Trump and the American National Football League probably has some merit on both sides: the footballers, mostly young black men, are entitled to demonstrate their antipathy towards the President's alleged race attitudes, by kneeling on one knee, rather than standing in respect, for the national anthem.

Gesture
It's a dramatic gesture, particularly since these athletes are impressive young guys at the height of their physical powers. But Donald Trump, impetuous and sometimes ill-judged though he can be, is also entitled to ask players to show respect for the national anthem, which should be about uniting a nation, not dividing it. This is not about race, he says. Similarly, the GAA Dublin Ladies players who have



Mary Kenny

unfurled flags to show their support for repealing the Eighth Amendment are entitled to their opinions. But by waving a banner for abortion choice on a sporting field, they are dividing, not uniting the nation. There will surely be other GAA players

– we know there are – who feel they should defend respect for human life. A former rugby player from Co. Tyrone, a Presbyterian who has a great *grá* for Ireland as a whole (and has just joyfully acquired his Irish passport)

remarked to me that that rugby had done more to keep North-South relations cordial – during his years of growing up, during the Troubles – than any politician. It was the fact that it brought people together for the game and the shared green jersey – leaving their politics at the gate – which, for him, made it so glorious. Pass on the message!

It's hard to shake off a rumour

In every profile of the writer Edna O'Brien [pictured] it is mentioned that a priest in Co. Clare burned one of her early novels. No evidence has ever been produced to support this claim. On November 23, 2015, Fr Tom Stack wrote to the *Irish Times* to point out that exhaustive research to verify the incident had never yielded any factual evidence. Edna O'Brien herself told me that a priest defended her when local women were being hostile (she also mentions this in her memoir, *Country Girl*).

But still, this canard about the book-burning cleric will go on being repeated. Eimear McBride, the novelist, is the latest to do so, both in the *New Statesman* and the *Irish Times* – she, too, has recently been corrected by a correspondent, Michael Dwyer of Maynooth, last weekend. But once legends are established, they go on being reiterated, however often they are corrected, and I would bet any amount of money that Edna's obituary – may it be long delayed – will restate this particular fiction.



If it ain't broke...

With Ireland facing possibly eight referenda over the next two years, perhaps Uachtarán Michael D. Higgins [pictured] might indeed spare voters the trouble of going to the polls to re-elect him for a second term. Michael D (and especially Sabina, who is a lovely person) has done a fine job. "If it ain't broke, don't fix it," is a sensible maxim. If he's doing the job well, let him continue doing it. The usefulness of a monarchy is that the incumbent is there for life, and the electorate doesn't have to scratch its head every seven (or five) years wondering who to anoint as its ceremonial head of state: continuity prevails. President Macron has described his office as "a republican monarchy". Admittedly, the French President is both political and ceremonial, but he makes a point: if you elect a ceremonial President and just keep him there, maybe you get the best of both systems – monarchy and republic.

"MY GRAND-UNCLE LEFT A GIFT IN HIS WILL THAT IS HELPING FARMING COMMUNITIES IN ETHIOPIA TO GROW POTATOES"

If you would like to know more about leaving a legacy gift to Trócaire please contact us on 00353 1 629 3333 or visit trocaire.org/legacy

Trócaire Head Office, Maynooth, Co. Kildare, Ireland
Irish Charity No. CHY 5883

Trócaire
Working for a just world.

Packie Lee left a gift in his Will to Trócaire. His grandniece Carrie travelled to Ethiopia to see the impact of his gift.

Lourdes pilgrims to shun Ryanair after cancellation

Chai Brady

An official of the Oblates Youth Service said they would be "cautious" booking with Ryanair again after their 79 strong group was stranded for hours in a French airport coming home from Lourdes.

Over the weekend, after the Lourdes volunteers had been assisting the elderly and the sick for a week, the group's flight scheduled at 3.15pm on Saturday was cancelled.

Suzanne Phelan of the Oblates Youth Service (OYS) said they had been wary after hearing the company was cancelling thousands of flights.

"Once we heard about all the cancellations we were concerned that we would be left in this position. And then we were," she said, "you may book with Ryanair to save

money, but if they can simply abandon you in an airport...It's a pretty arbitrary thing that you can suddenly turn around to a group of 80 people and say well, 'see you, there's no plane'."

They were told by airport officials that the next flight they could get as a group would be October 14/15, after they were told their flight was cancelled at about 4.10pm.

The group "bombarded" Ryanair's Twitter, Instagram and Facebook to draw awareness to their plight, and said they tried to organise buses to other airports as well as food for the group after the airport's café closed.

Accommodation

After about 9pm it is believed the volunteers received an email informing them hotel accommodation and a flight

the following morning at 9.45am was organised, however some of the pilgrims only arrived back to their hotel after 1am due to a lack of transport.

Apart from the flight calamity, Ms Phelan said: "It was a brilliant pilgrimage. The Oblate pilgrimage is always really well organised but this year was exceptional."

For almost half the group it was their first time going to Lourdes with the OYS, many of them are Leaving Cert students.

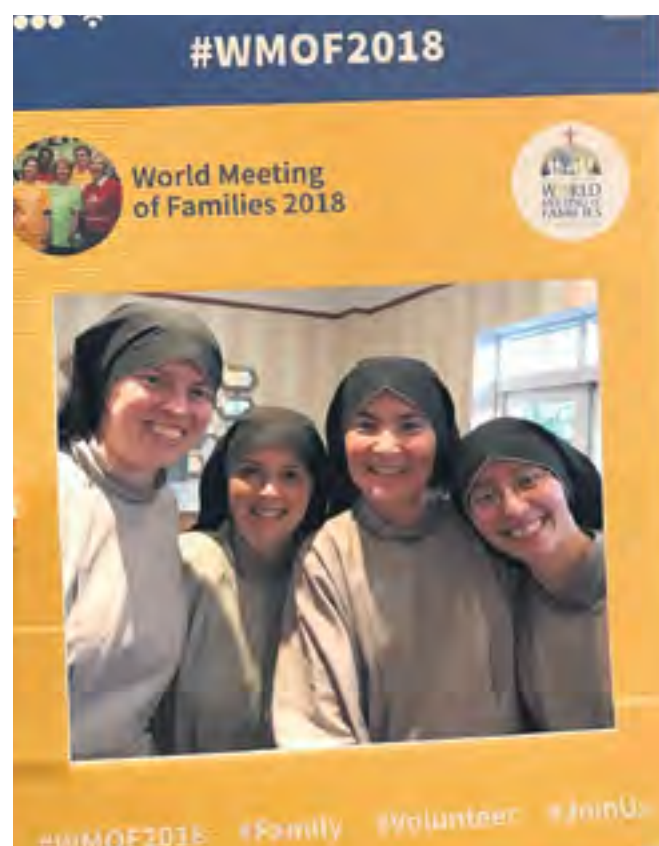
Ryanair issued a statement which read: "This group were not 'abandoned'".

"This flight from Biarritz to Dublin (September 23) was regrettably cancelled after the inbound aircraft was unable to land at Biarritz Airport due to the closure of the runway."

Customers were provided with refreshment vouchers

and overnight hotel accommodation and boarded a replacement flight the following morning. Ryanair

sincerely apologised to all customers affected by this cancellation, which was entirely beyond our control."



Sr Kelly Francis, Sr Maria Grace, Sr Veronica and Sr Philomena at the Meath diocesan assembly in Trim, attended by over 350 representatives on Monday, where Martin Kennedy outlined plans in the diocese ahead of the World Meeting of Families in Dublin in August 2018.

Nationalist flags at funeral 'desperate attention-seeking'

A statement about the draping of an INLA-linked flag over a coffin at a Co. Derry funeral was intended purely to attract attention, an SDLP MLA has said, describing the episode as "disgusting".

Irish Republican Socialist Party (IRSP) member David Ward's funeral in Dungiven saw his coffin draped with the Irish flag and the INLA-linked 'starry plough', despite both being forbidden at Church funerals in the North. Both flags were covered by a white pall.

In a statement the IRSP said: "Never again will the Irish Republican Socialist

Movement be told what to do by a corrupt Catholic institution responsible for so much suffering on this Island."

Describing the statement as "disgusting", John Dalling told *The Irish Catholic* he found it "grossly unfair to local clergy who are valued for their devotion to the Catholic Church and its followers".

Adding that there was an obvious contradiction between the criticism of the Church and determination to celebrate a Church funeral, he said: "They're desperately trying to attract attention - that's all they're doing."

New prior for Lough Derg

The renowned pilgrimage shrine of Lough Derg in Co. Donegal is to have a new Prior, following the announcement of the Clogher Diocesan Changes by the Diocesan Administrator, Msgr Joseph McGuinness.

Fr Laurence (La) Flynn, the present parish priest of Ballybay (Tullycorbet), Co. Monaghan, is to take over the role on October 1. He will also be the administrator of the Parish of Pettigo. Fr Flynn will succeed Fr Owen J. McEaney, who has held both roles since 2013 and who has been appointed Parish Priest of Ballybay (Tullycorbet) in place of Fr Flynn. Fr McEaney previously served in Ballybay during the 1980s following his ordination.

Pro-choice children's minister 'extraordinary' and 'ridiculous'

Greg Daly

It is "ridiculous" for the State's Minister for Children to be in favour of permitting the abortion of unborn children, according to the member of the Audit Committee of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs who resigned last week.

Speaking to *The Irish Catholic*, former Deloitte Ireland chairman John Pittcock said when Minister Katherine Zappone was appointed, he "had a vague feeling that she was probably generally not in favour of protecting life, but I didn't really know very much about it - I don't follow it that closely".

Coverage

It was only coverage of the minister's speech at the Kennedy Summer School in New Ross, however, that brought home to him how committed Ms Zappone is to removing Ireland's constitutional protections for the unborn.

"It seemed to me an extraordinary thing to have a minister who's responsible for children with that situation," he said, adding, "I looked closer and decided it was ridiculous."

Mr Pittcock said he felt the contradictory nature of Ms Zappone's position was untenable, given how the Constitution protects unborn children and the Minister for Children is called to protect children in general.

"I can't reconcile it," he said. "I just think it's very bad for children, very bad for mothers, very bad for Ireland, so I just thought I didn't want to be involved, and resigned."

Bishop criticises Direct Provision as unsatisfactory

The Direct Provision service for asylum seekers is "very unsatisfactory" and the system needs to be more respectful according to the Bishop of Clonfert.

Bishop John Kirby, of the Bishops' Council for Emigrants, spoke at a Mass in London celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Irish Chaplaincy Service in England, set up as Irish priests travelled to England to give pastoral care to Irish people who migrated.

He said: "Pope Francis, himself the son of Italian migrants to Argentina, has a great concern for suffering migrant people."

"If we take the Gospel seriously, the care of migrants has to place high on all our plans." He also highlighted Ireland's history of emigration.

RTÉ's Joe Duffy to launch priest's controversial book

Book Launch on Wednesday October 11th at 7:30PM at St Matthew's Parish Centre, Ballyfermot.

The Irish Church is in its death throes

Is the next stop the Intensive Care Unit or the City Morgue?

PRICE:

€12.99

FREE P&P (IRELAND)

WHY THE IRISH CHURCH DESERVES TO DIE
Joe McDonald

Why the Irish Church Deserves to Die not only attempts to face the harsh reality that the Irish Church is dying, but it goes even further than that. By suggesting that its death is likely, it indeed argues, at least in part, that the Irish Church actually deserves to die. It explores how the Irish Church has failed Jesus, has failed the Gospel. It is argued in these pages that whilst reform and renewal are possible, they are by no means a foregone conclusion. The author is not convinced that the Irish Church as we know it has much time left. The reality of where we are is faced, of how we got here is examined, and the truth of why we still find ourselves lingering between intensive care and morgue is discussed.

TO ORDER:

☎ 01 687 4096 ✉ sales@columba.ie 🌐 www.columba.ie



columba press

**Thursday 26th
October, 2017**

**THE GRESHAM HOTEL,
DUBLIN 1**

**9.30 ADMISSION &
REGISTRATION**

The Irish Catholic National education conference

WHERE NOW FOR FAITH-BASED EDUCATION?

CHARTING THE FUTURE TOGETHER

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Archbishop Eamon Martin

SPEAKERS

Baroness Nuala O'Loan

Prof Eamonn Conway

Niall McVeigh

David Quinn

And more

€55 Special
early-bird
offer*
INCLUDING LUNCH

* if registered before October 9

Regular conference fee: €65
including lunch and refreshments

Book now to secure your place  01 6874024 |  events@irishcatholic.ie |  www.irishcatholic.ie/shop

Breda O'Brien

The View



Challenge of building Faith in Lourdes' young volunteers

Four years ago, I was asked to accompany a group of sixth-year girls to Lourdes as part of the Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage.

A whole world unfolded for me, and every year since, I have discovered different aspects.

This year, there were 130 sixth-year volunteers, known as blueshirts, including two new schools – Coláiste Chill Mhantáin and Maryfield College.

There are also 300 volunteers, known as

whiteshirts, mostly college students and young adults, who not only volunteer but pay their own fares.

Two of my former students, for example, worked in catering, which involved among other things making hundreds of sandwiches every day.

There are also 650 adult volunteers, who do everything from staffing an information office, to working on wards or the refectory, to doing the laundry.

Then there are those

who work nearly all year round to make the entire pilgrimage happen.

Over 190 pilgrims in need of most care stayed this year in the Accueil de Notre Dame, a kind of hybrid between a hospital and a hotel. The medical staff there are all volunteers too, some 45 nurses and eight doctors. However, many of the other 700 or so pilgrims who come and stay in hotels need support as well.

The Crosscare volunteers, known as the redshirts, care for these pilgrims, wheeling wheelchairs through the busy streets to get pilgrims to the many religious ceremonies. For the first time this year, blueshirts also helped with this task.

I did not expect to have to call on a redshirt, Michael, to come and collect one of my blueshirt students in a wheelchair from our hotel after she injured her foot, but he did so with the kind of calm kindness that you come to expect. (One of the downsides of Lourdes is that you smile at total strangers for days after you come home, expecting a smile in return.)

“Human beings are human beings, and some people are snappy and officious whether they are at home or in Lourdes”

He took her to the Accueil where the medical staff could not have been more kind. An x-ray was needed, which led to discovering another hidden aspect of service.

I asked anxiously where the local Lourdes hospital was located and another volunteer called Katie offered to drive us. She told me that she was often there twice a day, transporting patients who, for example, need to attend for dialysis or other medical facilities unavailable in the Accueil.

Katie spends her time driving while in Lourdes, not just to the hospital and



Dublin pilgrim David Morgan with volunteers Dearbhla Bolger and Geoff Sheehan on this year's Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. Photo: John McElroy

pharmacy, but collecting and delivering supplies from wholesalers and the hotels who kindly store some of the perishable goods.

A whiteshirt called Ed also accompanied us to act as translator, and was a calm and benign presence throughout.

Lourdes is not Paradise, of course. Human beings are human beings, and some people are snappy and officious whether they are at home or in Lourdes.

It is hard not to wonder about the future of the pilgrimage, though. Many of the selfless younger volunteers have no particular faith commitment and it is notable that some of them do not participate in the religious ceremonies.

This is despite having an excellent chaplaincy team with regular input to encourage them to participate as a pilgrim, not just as a helper.

These young people are exposed far more than their peers are to the Church at

its best, with magnificent liturgies, beautiful music and non-stop service of the vulnerable. Yet somehow, they still do not engage with the full challenge, stopping short at service.

Their peers at home have no such advantages and are barraged with negative imagery of the Church. Lourdes must seem as alien as the moon to them.

So it is hard to see the same numbers wanting to travel as pilgrims in 20 or 30 years' time.

“These young people are exposed far more than their peers are to the Church at its best”

And yet, Lourdes taps into something really profound. The combination of service and camaraderie draws hundreds of young Dubliners in the kind of numbers parishes can only dream of. It should be easier

to transmit the Faith here than anywhere else, so why do obstacles remain?

It is something that all dioceses will have to take seriously and research. Passing on the Faith is a primary task and yet it does not fully happen even in Lourdes.

It does 'take' with some of the young volunteers, so to put it more positively, perhaps some time should be given to investigating why. Perhaps that knowledge could be used to help others.

I suspect it is a complex mix of personal readiness, family influence or perhaps the influence of other significant adults and peers.

The volunteers are wonderful young people. It would be truly amazing if more of them could return from Lourdes suffused with the knowledge that they are not just helpers, but are themselves infinitely loved by God and challenged to follow him in solidarity with others.

Love's Doorway to Life
An Alternative Biography of Patrick Kavanagh

Scripted and Narrated by
Una Agnew and Art Agnew

CD LAUNCH

**Patrick Kavanagh
Weekend & Poetry Award**

**Inniskeen, Co. Monaghan
September 29th at 9pm**

www.patrickkavanaghcountry.com

Tel: 00353 (0) 42 937 8560

Email: infoatpkc@eircom.net

**This excellent 3 CD set is also available directly from Eist Audio
at 087 2789 390, eist@eircom.net or www.eist.ie**



Minister Bruton takes aim at RE once again

Support for removing sacraments from schools is part of a pattern, writes **David Quinn**

Has Education Minister, Richard Bruton, yet said something that is friendly and supportive of the role and place of faith schools in Irish society? Much of the time Minister Bruton sounds like a spokesman for Equate, the pressure group that campaigns against the rights of faith schools in the name of 'equality'.

Minister Bruton gives a very strong impression that, at bottom, he takes a dim view of the role of faith-specific education in our schools. Aside from the fact that he does not publicly voice support for such schools (or if he does, it is so muted as to be effectively silence), he is sponsoring a law that will undermine the right of Catholic schools to admit Catholic children first in the event of over-enrolment, while maintaining the right of Protestant and other minority-faith schools to do so.

Now he has said he supports a move by the dozen state-run primary schools in Ireland to bring a halt to preparation for First Holy Communion and Confirmation during school hours.

These schools come under a body called the Education and Training Boards (ETB). Minister Bruton was speaking at an ETB conference last week and he said that while he had not been formally notified of the move, he welcomed it.

Successor

The ETBI is the successor organisation of the VEC (Vocational Education Committee). There have been VEC secondary schools for years but not VEC primary schools. The first VEC (now ETB) primary schools in the country were opened in 2008. The ETB is a state body meaning these schools are also the first primary schools



Archbishop Diarmuid Martin visiting Our Lady of the Wayside National School in Dublin.
Photo: Clodagh Kilcoyne

in the country to be state-run.

As this sector is going to expand over time, the question of how religion will be taught in them is a very important issue.

At first there was an agreement that children would be taught in their own specific faiths during school hours. For the most part, children would be taught a common religion subject using a text book called *Goodness Me, Goodness You*, but at other times the children would separate and receive instruction in their own faiths. This would include sacramental preparation.

“The various media liked to speak only to parents who objected to this system”

But from the outset some parents, allied with some journalists, and presumably some members of the ETB itself, did not like this arrangement and have sought to undermine it. It has been presented as 'divisive' and a form of 'segregation', a loaded term if ever there was one conjuring up as it does images of the Deep South during the days of enforced racial segregation, or Apartheid South Africa for that matter.

Using a word like 'segregation' means we lose sight completely of the voluntary nature of how RE was being taught in the ETBs. It was up to parents to decide whether or not they

wanted their children to receive instruction specific to their own faith, and that is how it should be. Parents are the primary educators of their children, a right that is recognised by our Constitution.

System

The various media liked to speak only to parents who objected to this system. They did not speak to parents who are perfectly happy with it. This skewed presentation of the issue has amounted to fake news.

Ending sacramental preparation in state schools during school time seems to be a precursor to doing away with separate religious instruction entirely during the school day, which means that these schools will no longer support parents who want their children to receive faith-specific lessons during school time. Those parents will have to make arrangements of their own.

These parents will take note that state-based primary schools are unsupportive towards them. It means that given a choice between a state-run and a Church-run primary school they will be more likely, not less, to choose the Church-run school over the state-run one.

This will have an ironic effect, because the aim of these state-run schools is obviously to promote communal cohesion. They want to see all children educated in the same kind of one-size-fits-all school system, one that minimises parental choice in the name of 'equality'. However, the upshot could be that many

parents resist sending their children to them because they will not like the way they teach religion.

This appears to be the reasoning behind a

suggestion in 2008 by the National Union of Teachers (NUT) in Britain that state-run schools should consider allowing faith-specific lessons during school time if need be.

“It would be far better if the ETBs took a more sympathetic approach to religious parents”

The NUT (no friend of faith-schools in general, let it be noted), was concerned that not having faith-specific RE during school time might drive religious parents out of the state system and into the faith system.

This would disproportionately mean Hindu and Muslim parents withdrawing their children from state schools since Hindus and Muslims tend to

be more religious than the native British population which is now very secular. But these minorities are precisely the ones that need integrating and therefore are precisely the ones whose children should be going to state-run schools. So the thinking goes anyway.

Therefore, the decision by the ETBs, with the backing of the Education Minister, could turn out to be very short-sighted. If state-schools appear to be suspicious of religion and insist that faith-specific RE take place only outside school hours, then religious parents will be less likely, not more likely to send their children to those schools.

It would be far better if the ETBs took a more sympathetic approach to religious parents and listened rather less to parents, journalists and other parties who are antagonistic towards faith-based religious education.

The Iona Institute stands up for your values

Please support our work with a donation today

What they say about us

"I see David Quinn and Breda O'Brien [of The Iona Institute] as a fundamental part of our democracy"
- Author, Colm Toibin.

"I don't agree with them [David Quinn and Breda O'Brien], but I admire their guts"
- Sunday Times columnist, Brenda Power.

"My Blood was boiling watching David Quinn"
- Ray D'Arcy



MARIA STEEN
Iona Institute

DAVID QUINN
Director, Iona Institute

The Iona Institute promotes the place of religion and traditional marriage in Ireland.

You can help the valuable work of The Iona Institute by sending a cheque or postal order in pounds or euro to:
THE IONA INSTITUTE, 23 Merrion Square, Dublin 2, Ireland.

EXCLUSIVE OFFER
for The Irish Catholic Readers

500 YEARS AGO THE REFORMATION SHOOK THE WORLD.

This autumn relive the
movement with
Martin Luther.



PRICE:

€14.99

Free P&P
(IRELAND)

In 1517, the priest and professor Martin Luther published Ninety Five Theses, a source of merciless criticism of the Church, which led to a divided Europe and subsequent religious wars. *Martin Luther, His Challenge Then and Now* is a study of the phenomenon of Luther, and his effects on Church and society. The author comes to realize that issues that existed in the 16th century are endemic to Christianity in every century. The book analyses Luther's challenge to the church and the world of his time and then asks the same questions of today.

TO ORDER PHONE
016874096

OR EMAIL
SALES@COLUMBA.IE

OR SHOP ONLINE
WWW.COLUMBA.IE



columba press



Why are principles sufficient to ban medicinal cannabis, but insufficient to justify a prohibition on ending human life in the womb, asks **David Mullins**

Charles Dickens famously opened his novel *A Tale of Two Cities* with the immortal line: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness."

Anyone who was paying close attention to recent proceedings in Leinster House would have observed similarly stark contrasts.

On Wednesday, the Chair of the Citizens Assembly, Justice Mary Laffoy, appeared before the Oireachtas Joint Committee on the Eighth Amendment of the Constitution.

There she robustly defended the "legitimacy" of the assembly recommendations; a phrase she would repeat several times during the course of her presentation.

Justice Laffoy premised her defence of this legitimacy not on any kind of ethical evaluation, but rather on the claim that since a sound and rigorous methodology had been employed with respect to the presentation of information, the recommendations thereby acquired a certain kind of immutable authority.

Overhaul

The majority of the committee members who questioned Justice Laffoy made it clear that they agreed substantially with the recommendations of the assembly, and that a radical legislative and constitutional overhaul of Ireland's 'restrictive' prohibition on abortion was urgently required.

The argument was put, without much interrogation of what this would mean in practice, that accessing terminations of pregnancy without restriction as to

Glaring contradictions as Oireachtas debates life and death



reason is simply an extension of the legitimate 'medical care' that women are entitled too. Anything else is a failure of 'compassion'.

Let us contrast this with the work of the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Health. On the same day as Justice Laffoy's Oireachtas appearance, the health committee's report Scrutiny of the Cannabis for Medicinal Use Regulation Bill 2016 was posted for public review on the Oireachtas website.

The committee had rejected the Bill on several perfectly reasonable grounds. Its fundamental concern was that the Bill, by seeking to remove cannabis from the Misuse of Drugs Act 1977, could have "major unintended policy consequences". What is striking here is that this language is almost identical to that used by those of us who argue against repealing the existing constitutional protections for human life.

“Legislation will expand to accommodate an ever-increasing list of ‘exceptions’”

The 'intended policy' may be to 'limit' access to abortion, but the experience of every jurisdiction where abortion provision is widespread reveals another story. This is, that once the principle is conceded that innocent human life can be targeted, then it becomes inevitable that legislation will expand to accommodate an ever-increasing list of 'exceptions'. This happens because the principled basis for denying such exceptions has been removed. To see this we need only observe the distance that has already been travelled between the 2013 Protection of Life Act and the radical nature of the assembly's recommendations.

We have moved very

quickly from supposedly legislating for the 'X' Case to abortion without restriction irrespective of the unborn child's gestational age or health status.

Interesting

What is also interesting is that the Committee on Health linked its concerns around unintended policy consequences to its fear that introducing medicinal cannabis would eventually lead to the decriminalising of the drug in non-medicinal circumstances. One need only reflect on the push for access to abortion on 'socioeconomic' grounds to see the parallel here. What may initially start off as 'medical' need rapidly transforms into 'social' need.

The experience of how the theoretically narrow provisions of the 1967 UK Abortion Act have been implemented in practice bears this out.

The Committee on Health also rejected the Cannabis Bill on the grounds that "potential benefits had to be balanced against risks".

This seems to be a consideration that will play little if any part in the Committee on the Eighth Amendment's deliberations even though the risks are several orders of magnitude greater, that is, the imminent, assured and intentional ending of human life.

There, the overriding thrust of the argument for expanding abortion 'rights' will be based on a narrow conception of personal autonomy that at best simply displaces the lethal risk to the unborn child.

Finally, the Committee on Health rejected the cannabis bill as it "would create legislative contradictions between the Bill and existing Acts".

The inescapable fact is however that by introducing abortion on the basis of the assembly recommendations, we too will be creating

irreconcilable contradictions. We will have legislation and policies with grand sounding titles like 'Children First'. We will still make much of our attachment to the principle of the Proclamation to "cherish all the children of the nation equally". But, the facts will say otherwise. We will instead have chosen to establish a parallel but superior principle that permits the targeting of innocent unborn children through all nine months of pregnancy and further, to have such actions protected as a right.

Commenting on the decision of the Health Committee, one of its members, the passionately pro-choice Fine Gael TD for Dublin Bay South, Kate O'Connell, said: "When we authorise medicines we need to make sure they are of a high quality, are safe and are effective – and that their effects are measurable and quantifiable."

She added: "Cannabis has many psychoactive effects which are potentially harmful... Our primary role as legislators is to safeguard the public. I believe today's report does just that."

“When we authorise medicines we need to make sure they are of a high quality”

Is it not absolutely incredible that even the 'potential' for cannabis to cause harm was enough for Deputy O'Connell to vote the way she did; yet when it comes to the quantifiable harm caused by abortion, such caution appears to evaporate?

At the most fundamental level, we must ask ourselves this question: why are the principles adopted by the Health Committee deemed reasonable and sufficient to justify a ban on the use of medicinal cannabis, but insufficient to justify a prohibition on ending human life in the womb?

It is doubtful that a clear answer can be provided to this question given that so much of the campaign to repeal is based on little more than the assertion of adult wishes and not any evidenced based argument *per se*.

David Mullins is a Bioethics commentator who did his postgraduate work on Catholic bioethics at the Pontifical University, St Patrick's College, Maynooth.



Dubbed the 'refugee church', **Chai Brady** talks to the Georgian Orthodox community

A former refugee on the precipice of suicide was saved by her Church and friends after escaping war and a direct provision centre.

Natalia Tsadzikidze, from Clondalkin in Dublin, escaped Georgia in Eastern Europe during a time of political tension and violence in the country. She is now a naturalised Irish citizen.

Mrs Tsadzikidze felt like Robinson Crusoe when she arrived on an island so vastly different from her homeland, and she faced many challenges.

"I hadn't any English, and everything was so different, in lifestyle, in weather and everything. It was really hard to cope with the change. The Church saved me, my mind, and my life as well," said Mrs Tsadzikidze.

Natalie is a member of the Georgian Orthodox Church in Ireland, which is a refugee Church in two senses: they have moved their place of worship numerous times; and many of the congregation were once refugees.

The amount of Christian Orthodox in Ireland has increased by almost 40% from the 2011 census to the 2016 census. Their numbers have grown to over 62,000, making it the fastest growing religion in Ireland.

Asylum seeker

Mrs Tsadzikidze left Georgia and received refugee status in 2004, however she was an asylum seeker in Ireland for one year and four months, and for three months she was in direct provision. Asylum seekers stay in direct provision while they wait for their application for refugee status to be processed. They can be deported if they don't fit the criteria needed to be defined as a refugee.

Some asylum seekers wait for many years for their applications to be processed, during which time they are not allowed to work.

Former refugee and choir singer saved by Church

"If I stayed in this direct provision house, I don't know, maybe I would have finished it by suicide. If you are a normal person your mind works, your health allows you to work, but you are not allowed to do anything. They are keeping you, like an animal in a zoo," Mrs Tsadzikidze told *The Irish Catholic*.

"If you're in jail it's because of something, but you haven't done anything." She said it was one of the hardest times in her life.

War broke out in Georgia in 2008 while she was waiting for her family to come to Ireland under the family reunification process. She was told it would take 18 months, but it took four years. "I hadn't slept for four or five days and nights until the war stopped," she said; luckily the war lasted just under two weeks.

She sings in her church choir, and says "it is a miracle for me" as it has helped her deal with difficult times in her life.

“Church property was confiscated and many priests were persecuted”

Mrs Tsadzikidze grew up when Georgia was part of the Soviet Union, which was established by the communist Bolsheviks and existed from 1922-1991. Religion was severely discouraged under the communist regime, although never officially outlawed, the goal was to create an atheist society.

Church property was confiscated and many priests were persecuted at the beginning of the Bolshevik rule.

"Lots of people growing up, they don't believe in God, they weren't baptised, because their parents were communists. After the Soviet

Union collapsed lots of people, even old ones, started to get baptised and they went to Church and had Church weddings as well," she said.

However she said her mother was devout, describing her as a "real Christian" who always fasted during holy days.

When Mrs Tsadzikidze was younger she didn't have a church or parish, but now there are hundreds of Georgian Orthodox churches in Georgia.

"Now Ireland is becoming like Georgia before. Here people aren't attending the Churches, especially young people – if their parents are taking them that's it," she said.

“The decoration of a Christian Orthodox church is also hugely important, as are the icons”

Mrs Tsadzikidze's family and children now live in Ireland, and were swiftly reunified after the 2008 war in Georgia.

The Georgian Orthodox priest in Ireland is Fr David Lonergan, who is also a special needs organiser at the National Council for Special Education.

He was originally ordained to the Antiochian Church, and soon after became a chaplain for the Georgian Orthodox community in Dublin.

"Our greatest problem has been the lack of a church in which to worship on a full time basis," said Fr Lonergan.

The community moved numerous times, and first worshipped in a Dominican Church on the Navan road, but as it was just a four-year agreement they had to move. A Carmelite church in

Donnybrook was a "blessing" for the community but the Carmelites had to sell their monastery and church, making the Georgian Orthodox churchless once again.

"I am usually good at sorting such problems but despite my very best efforts I could not find a church

Natalia Tsadzikidze tells her story of becoming a naturalised Irish citizen after coming to Ireland as a refugee. The Georgian Orthodox Church helped her through dark times.

that was available, and one Sunday, in desperation, after the consecration I placed my head in my hands and asked the Lord from the very depths of my soul to help the community as I had failed," said Fr Lonergan.

The next day he called the Inchicore VEC to see if he could rent classrooms for the

Georgian Orthodox children, and through talking to the principal it came out that the community had no place to pray, and the principle offered them Goldenbridge convent church – which the school used for drama during the week.

It serves well as a temporary place to meet and pray, but they can't celebrate the majority of feasts throughout the year without their own church. The decoration of a Christian Orthodox church is also hugely important, as are the icons, but this can't be done in their current place of worship.

The Archbishop of Dublin, Diarmuid Martin, received them with "great kindness" according to the priest.

As the parishioners are mainly refugees finances are minimal, and at times Fr Lonergan puts his own money in to the pay the bills.

"The Georgian parish of St Maximus the confessor are the salt of the earth, marvelous people who have had a hard journey through life and still retain their faith and their sense of community," he added.

● In the next part of the series we meet the Antiochian Orthodox.



Homelessness doesn't care how young you are

The average age of homeless people is now 31. Homelessness with young people is at crisis point in Ireland right now.

Please send your donation now so tonight brings shelter and new hope to a young homeless person.

Call **01 4537111** now.

ie.depaulcharity.org/donate



Charities Regulatory Authority No. 20048938

**Help stop young lives being thrown away by homelessness.
— GIVE A NEW START TONIGHT —**



Bishop David Ricken, on pilgrimage in Ireland, is responsible for the only Marian apparition shrine in the US, writes **Greg Daly**

This week sees the third diocesan pilgrimage to Knock led by an American bishop in as many years, but if Wisconsin's Diocese of Green Bay is less familiar to Irish Catholics than Cardinal Timothy Dolan's New York or Cardinal Sean O'Malley's Boston, it's hardly one without a spiritual kinship to Ireland's national shrine.

The National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help, the United States' only recognised Marian apparition site, lies in the small rural community of Champion, just 25km from the city of Green Bay.

If the shrine is largely unknown here, this is perhaps unsurprising; as Bishop David Ricken says, it's largely unknown even in the US, although devotion to the site has spread rapidly in recent years.

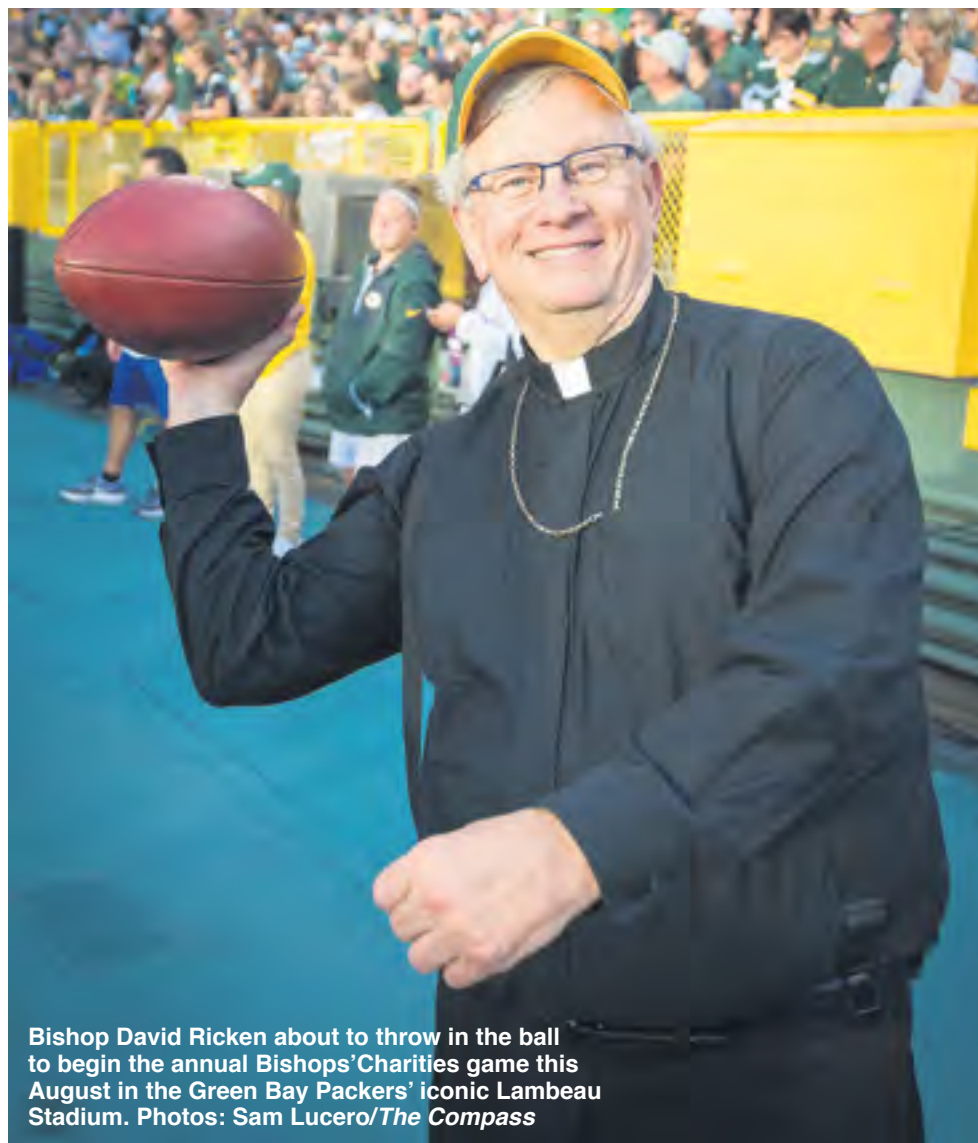
In October 1859, 20 years before the Knock apparition, a young Belgian immigrant called Adele Brise reported having encountered a woman clothed in white with a yellow sash around her waist, standing between a hemlock tree and a maple tree. The woman, she said, was surrounded by a bright light and crowned with stars. Terrified, she prayed until the vision disappeared.

Advice

On her way to Mass with her sister and another woman the following Sunday she – unlike her companions – saw the same woman. She saw her again when returning, and, following her parish priest's advice, asked "In the Name of God, who are you and what do you wish of me?"

"I am the Queen of Heaven, who prays for the conversion of sinners, and I wish you to do the same," replied the woman, directing Adele to "gather the children in this wild country and teach them what they should know for salvation".

From *Green Bay* to *Emerald Isle*



Bishop David Ricken about to throw in the ball to begin the annual Bishops' Charities game this August in the Green Bay Packers' iconic Lambeau Stadium. Photos: Sam Lucero/The Compass

Then just 28, Adele devoted the rest of her life – she died in 1896 – to teaching the children of the area, at first travelling from house to house and then building a school and forming a community of sisters at the site of the apparitions.

"When I first came here in 2008, my predecessor Bishop Zubik, who was moved to Pittsburgh, had already opened an investigation of the shrine, and he left a memorandum for me saying that he believed this really needed to be investigated," Bishop Ricken says. "The reason he said that was the same reason I found, that as we talked to people at the shrine, mostly people who worked and volunteered there, but also people in the neighbourhood, they all believed that it happened – there was no doubt in anybody's mind."

Describing the shrine's peaceful atmosphere as "really heavenly", Dr Ricken says it has had a constant his-

tory of miracles and answered prayers, noting also the local tradition of couples who would become formally engaged to each other in front of the shrine's statue of Mary.

“Their belief in the shrine certainly was manifested by their actions toward it”

"I heard all these stories, and I thought my goodness, this is really unusual, and there was so much unanimity by the neighbours and everybody in the area that I thought this does need to be investigated," he says, adding that it was only then he discovered that the initial process of investigation and approval is a carefully regulated diocesan affair rather than a centralised Vatican process.

During the process the diocese regularly kept the Con-

gregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in Rome informed, with the CDF thanking and encouraging them along the way.

Asked why this only happened under him, rather than his predecessors – he is Green Bay's 12th bishop – he says this formal process didn't exist until the late 1970s. "But I would say this too," he adds, "every bishop of the Diocese of Green Bay came to the shrine for their main Mass on the feast of the Assumption, August 15, nearly every year since it began, so their respect for the shrine – their belief in the shrine – certainly was manifested by their actions toward it."

* * * * *

One of the process' three external experts took a 'devil's advocate' position in the investigation – Dr Ricken notes that this is "always good to have" – with the others independently answering his concerns, one stating: "Bishop, I've reviewed many

of these types of situations. Many of them are fraudulent – this one is not."

A curious feature about such apparitions as those at Knock and Champion is that they involve ordinary people – the kind of people Pope Francis refers to as "the holy, faithful people of God". Asked why he thinks Mary appears to simple people, rather than more sophisticated sorts like, for example, academics or bishops, Dr Ricken is thoughtful.

"I think the reason Our Blessed Mother chooses people like that is because they have less filters to go through," he says. "Most of us have been educated to have all kinds of filters of exclusion when we think something's a little crazy, or we have so much education that we're always filtering everything through our educated eyes."

Simpler people might see things more clearly, he suspects. "With a poor person or a child or a person who is uneducated – maybe they don't have all those filters. They see something, they assess it, they ask for advice, and they believe it, and then they do whatever the messenger has asked them to do: those are the common elements. I don't think there's all the screening or filtering that most of us do who have all kinds of baggage."

"Usually they're simple people – not dumb people – simple people who are open and docile to the Blessed Mother, to the Holy Spirit, and when they ask them to do something, they do it. I think that's kind of what happens," he says.

Adele Brise certainly fits this model, he notes, describing how she had made a promise to enter religious life in Belgium but was urged by her parish priest to join her parents in their new country, where they would need her help.

"She did that out of obedience to Church authority. She came here with them, and she still felt this disappointment that she hadn't followed through on her commitment, so then the Blessed Mother came to her," he says, adding, "She became a Third Order Franciscan and led a community, so she fulfilled her promise beautifully."

The bishop's formal

Bishop David Ricken with a young parishioner in his diocese.



approval of the shrine, announced on December 8, 2010, was followed by the US bishops' designation of the shrine as a national shrine on August 15, 2016. "That was not so much about the apparition itself," he clarifies, "but if it were a problem the bishops would not have given it approval as a national shrine."

"Even though the bishops' conference does not run it – that's up to the local diocese to run it and be totally responsible for it – it has their approval as a worthy place to visit."

National resource

Knock's rector, Fr Richard Gibbons, sometimes speaks of Knock as a 'national resource' for the Irish Church, and Dr Ricken thinks this could be a useful model for Champion: "I love that idea, and I think because of the fact that it's the only approved apparition in the United States we may be able to position it that way."

"We've gone from 10,000 pilgrims a year in 2010 to now 130-150,000 – we're projecting 150,000 pilgrims this year. That's nothing compared to Knock, but it's very rapid growth at about 20% per year and I recognise we're going to have to do a lot to expand just to be able to welcome the pilgrims and provide Mass and confessions for them, which we're keeping up with now but just barely," he says.

Although he thinks the shrine staff may have to expand beyond the three priests who currently work there, he is not sure what this might entail: "I don't like to get ahead of the Blessed Mother; this is her place, and I'm trying to discern."

With Mary's blessing, he continues, the shrine is drawing pilgrims without a sophisticated attempt



Bishop David Ricken blessing agricultural equipment.

to market it: "I think what Fr Richard is doing presumes a lot of good organisational background in Knock, and we just don't have that. We don't have the superstructure and the substructure enough to do it. So, we're just letting her lead the way and I'm just trying to follow."

Following Our Lady's lead – and the example of Adele Brise – has been key to Green Bay's New Evangelisation initiative 'Disciples on the Way', Dr Ricken adds, describing Mary as "the greatest evangeliser of all time", and musing on the uniqueness of Our Lady of Good Help.

"I was the only American ordained by John Paul, so I feel very close to him"

"Adele Brise, who was the visionary, was a young adult – I'm emphasising that these days as well because we're really trying to reach that audience – immigrant from Belgium," he says, who "was kind of lost" before Mary gave her her mission.

"She said go out to the children in this wild country, teach them to make the Sign of the Cross, catechise them, and prepare them for the sacraments. That couldn't be more right on to the needs of today," he says.

"She'd go 40 miles at a time before she'd go home, on foot, going from home to home to exchange her work for the permission of the parents to catechise their children. And the parents, if they were listening too, were learning and converting too, because they'd been away from the Church."

The lesson's a timely one: "The pedagogy is right – it's perfect for our day because we really need to touch the families as we're working with the children. There's just so many things that are right about it, and I think that's why it's catching on."

The New Evangelisation – the Church's mission to its established territories – could hardly be closer to Dr Ricken's heart, ordained as he was by St John Paul on the Feast of the Epiphany in 2000. "I was one of 12 ordained to be sent out to the world – I was the only American ordained by John Paul, so I feel very close to him and I also feel a special mandate to advance the New Evangelisation. That's how he explained it: we were advancing into a new century, a new millennium, and we were being ordained to advance the new evangelisation wherever we were sent."

Originally from Dodge City, Kansas, and having been a priest of Pueblo, Colorado, Dr Ricken was ordained to head the diocese of Cheyenne, Wyoming, a diocese over three times the size of Ireland and – with just 10% of the population being Catholic – mission territory by any definition. "I would put about 40-50,000 miles (64-80,000km) a year on my car going from village to village and parish to parish, trying to be really missionary in that place," he says, adding "I loved it".

While there, he says, he helped set up a Carmelite monastery – now known both for getting "all kinds of vocations" and for producing 'Mystic Monk' coffee – and a Catholic college.

The roots of Wyoming Catholic College lay in his recognition that young adults in the diocese weren't

connecting with the Church; a one-week seminar set out to expose young adults to Church tradition and the role of Church in culture, which led to a call for a Catholic college.

Although encouraged by this response, Dr Ricken feared the diocese lacked the financial and human resources to realise this call, but shortly agreed to set up an exploratory committee.

"We started it, and then one thing was blessed after another and another and another," he says, relating how the Knights of Columbus raised \$250,000 (€210,000) for the college while another donor gave 650 acres for a horse programme there – Wyoming being classic 'Western' country even now.

"Most of the pilgrims have some connection to a relative, or some connection to Ireland"

"I wrote a prayer called the Wyoming Prayer – you can look at it online – all about not doing more than God wanted or less than God wanted, not doing it sooner than God wanted or later than God wanted it," he says. "That was a prayer that was given to me when I was agonising about how to pay the bills, and sure enough, the more I let go the better it went."

Green Bay, he says, is a much more Catholic area, with just over a third of the population being Catholic, though Mass attendance on Sundays is only about 28% of those, he says, "so we really have to work hard and that's what we're striving to do".

Curiously enough, the diocese's New Evangelisation efforts are headed by a Carlow woman, Julianne Stanz – originally Donlon – who helped the bishop plan the diocese's packed pilgrimage. Along with Knock the group is visiting spots as varied as Monasterboice, Downpatrick, Croagh Patrick, Galway, and Killarney.

"We have over 80 people

coming," the bishop says, highlighting how popular this pilgrimage is. "Normally the pilgrimages are about 48 to 50, so this is something that people really want to do and I would imagine that most of them have some connection to a relative, or some connection to Ireland."

Speaking for himself, "I look to St Patrick as a real hero bishop who became one of the first missionaries to Ireland, and governed it so

well, really pushing the life of the Church and of Christ forward", adding that he'll definitely be praying for his guidance in Green Bay.

Julianne was MC at all four plenary sessions of this summer's Convocation of Catholic Leaders in Orlando, Florida, an event which signalled the US Church's attempt to shift into a missionary key.

"It's a whole new paradigm: we haven't approached Faith in this way before, as

Pope Francis is pushing us to missionary discipleship," says Dr Ricken of the event that saw thousands of people representing 157 dioceses. "But Paul VI's *Evangelii Nuntiandi* was tremendous and set the stage for this; John Paul referred to this again and again, and called this the 'New Evangelisation' especially for cultures that were losing the Faith; Benedict gave us a beautiful theology of the New Evangelisation and especially encounter – Benedict talked about encounter a lot, both with Christ and with others; and now Pope Francis is using those themes and showing us how to live the New Evangelisation."

Praising the passion and commitment of the young people at Convocation, Dr Ricken says, "We need especially young people who are so conversant with social media, and we need to let them know what it is they're being called by the Gospel and the Church to do and then to intersect with their generation. They can do that far better than I can or my generation."

WE'RE HERE TO STAY!

SUBSCRIBE NOW



01-6767491 / 01-7758524 / 01-7758522

Merrion Road parish delighted



A young girl having her face painted at the Family Fun Day last Sunday in the grounds of Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, Merrion Road, Dublin. Photos: John McElroy



Members of the Merrion Youth Group Joaquin Escobar, Leanne D'silva, Margaret Escobar and John Dizon taking part in the Family Fun Day.



Monika and Szymon Szylo with their children Karolina Michelle, Agatha and Timothy.



Elena, Anna and Fiona enjoying the Family Fun Day.

Chai Brady

An annual Family Fun Day is "gaining momentum" as the fourth instalment was a roaring success for families from Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish.

Young parishioners, from the church on Merrion Road

in Dublin, had many exciting activities to choose from including a bouncy castle, face-painting and games.

"The weather was just brilliant, we were blessed, it was a fantastic day," said parish priest Fr Fergus O'Connor.

"It's just amazing how

much kids love bouncy castles. And of course the parents are delighted when the kids are happy."

With over 150 people attending Fr O'Connor said the Family Fun Day "has been gaining momentum".

"It's part of our reach-out for families with young

SUPPORT CANCER WEEK

Engage fully with the process of life taking time for journalling, reflecting, praying, listening and find yourself surprised by the often amazingly timely glints and glimmers of a guiding, and sustaining light, along the way.

Royalties from this book are shared between KERRY CANCER BUS and IRISH CANCER SOCIETY

PRICE: €14.99
FREE P&P (IRELAND)

ANNE ALCOCK

CANCER A CIRCLE OF SEASONS

A way to journal and pray through life's challenges

What do you do when life hits you a sucker punch, such as a cancer diagnosis? Do you talk? Do you journal? Do you pray? When I was diagnosed with breast cancer, I did all of those things. This book was my way of helping anyone to reflect creatively about their life-experiences.

TO ORDER PHONE 01 687 4096
OR EMAILSALES@COLUMBA.IE



columba press

at the success of its family day



Members of the Indian Community taking part in the Family Fun Day.

children, and especially now with the World Meeting of Families, it's very much in line with that." Children and parents of all ages got

involved, with a "potluck" system being the newest addition this year which saw people bringing a range of food to be shared.

Fr O'Connor said they received sponsorship from local businesses, which helped them hold the event. "In the course of the lead

up year for the World Meeting of Families we hope to have some events here, using the resources provided by the WMOF organisation."



Kasia and Robert Bak with their children Malwina and Laura.

Right: Parish Priest of Our Lady Queen of Peace Fr Fergus O'Connor with the Hickey family Mark, Karen, Penelope, Eamon and Blaise.



Alicia Martin with her children Violette, Gianna, Eva and Schuyler.



Marta Ghidoli, Anna Ghidoli and Agata Difazio.



Aishling Sullivan with her children Lochlann, Christopher, Anthony and Nicholas.



Brother and sister Alex and Rebekah Barber.



Maura O'Riordan, Ena Rymarz and Liz Godfrey taking part in the Family Fun Day.



Ethna McDermott, Martina O'Sullivan, Pat Hanratty and Ita Gannon.

MQI

Merchants Quay Ireland
Homeless & Drug Services

We are now recruiting PROJECT WORKERS

to join the MQI Night Café Team to provide a range of holistic services to homeless people and those dealing with addiction.

The salary scale for this position is €28,500 - €35,940 DOE. There is also an additional €1,000 night premium per annum. The working hours are 39 hours per week, Monday to Sunday four nights on and four nights off. This is a waking shift.

For a more detailed description of the role and to download an application form please visit

www.mqi.ie/get-involved/working-us

If you or anyone you know is interested in applying for this role please send an update copy of your CV and completed application form to recruitment@mqi.ie before 5pm on the 6th of October, 2017, indicating the role and location you wish to apply for in the subject line.

Alternatively, you can post your CV and Application Form to **The Human Resources Department, Merchants Court, 24 Merchants Quay, Dublin 8** before the closing date.

Merchants Quay Ireland is an equal opportunities employer

Out&About

Papal Nuncio attends memorial Mass honouring devout Catholic



◀ **LOUTH:** The Papal Nuncio takes part in a memorial Mass for Mrs Celine Oliemma Bridget Orji. Pictured are Dr Chizoba Orji (daughter-in-law), Adaora Chidume (daughter), Papal Nuncio Archbishop Jude Thaddeus Okolo, Dr Azubike Orji (son). With her grandchildren, altar servers, Ella Chidume, Jane-Frances Chidume, Kasy Chidume, Chudi Chidume, Ada Orji, Kene Orji & Toby Orji. Photo: Joe Akude

▼ **CLARE:** Crusheen Pastoral Council with Imeal Bóirne cluster coordinator Fr Damien Nolan, front centre and Bishop Fintan Monahan.



▲ **DUBLIN:** Fr Alex Conlon is congratulated by Paul Linnane and Michael Hanly, chairpersons of the Ballybrack-Killiney and Loughlinstown pastoral councils, as he celebrates nine years of service to the parishes. About 250 parishioners and guests attended his thanksgiving Mass.

◀ **OFFALY:** Bishop Denis Nulty at the Trócaire stand at the Ploughing Championships.



PORTUGAL Pilgrims from St Nicholas Parish in Limerick walking the Portuguese route of the Camino.

Edited by Chai Brady
chai@irishcatholic.ie



Events deadline is a week in advance of publication



▲ **CORK:** Donegal native Sr Kathleen McGarvey OLA (middle row, fifth from left) and Sr Juliana Fayad OLA (middle row, fourth from left) from Lebanon recently celebrated their silver jubilees marking 25 years of missionary service. Joined by family, friends and SMA provincial leaders. They are based at Ardfoyle Convent in Cork.

◀ **OFFALY:** Presentation School Killina Choir prepare for the Ploughing Championship's opening ceremony.



FRANCE: Parishioners from St Mary's, Clonmel on their pilgrimage to Lourdes.

IN SHORT

Papal Nuncio attends memorial Mass in Drogheda

The new Papal Nuncio, Jude Thaddeus Okolo, attended the memorial Mass of a devout Nigerian women in Drogheda, Louth. Fr Louis Illah of St Mary's parish in Navan officiated the Mass of Mrs Celine Olienna Bridget Orji. It was attended by members of St Peter's Church and the Nigerian community.

Mrs Orji was very active in several Catholic organisations throughout her life. She became a nurse after getting top grades at school, and graduated University College Hospital Ibadan School of Nursing in 1965 with two certificates: State Registered Nurse and Nigerian Registered Nurse. She continued in her education receiving further qualifications in midwifery, and a BSc (Hons) and MSc degree.

She served 32 years as a nurse in two Nigerian hospitals, and worked alongside her husband the late Prof. Ben Orji. Mrs Orji retired as Chief

Nursing Officer in 2005, and passed away last month aged 72. Her daughter, Adaora Chidume, works in Lourdes Hospital Drogheda.

Choir members sought for Jerusalem's 70th

Catholic choir members are being asked to sing in Jerusalem for Israel's 70th anniversary in a celebration on May 14, 2018, the day Israel was declared a state. The 100-piece choir will sing Irish composer Cormac O'Duffy's oratorio 'Hear! O Israel' at the Mount Scopus Amphitheatre overlooking the Judean desert.

Mr O'Duffy has dreamt of the concert for many years, and in order to recognise the patrimony between Christians and Jews he is consulting with partners in Jerusalem to have a special memorial stone unveiled, encribed: "I am Joseph, your brother" on the day. Contact: Journeys Unlimited - A Group IST Company, 545 Eighth Avenue, Room 720, New York, NY 10018. Tel: 1-800-486-8359 Fax: 1-212-

594-7073 or <http://www.journeys-unlimited.com/index.aspx>

Matt Talbot Novena for people suffering from addiction

For 25 years worshippers in Shannon and Kilrush have attended the Matt Talbot Novena to pray for those who are suffering or have been affected by addiction.

Matt Talbot grew up in poverty as his father was an alcoholic. He also began drinking heavily until he was 28, leaving his life in ruins. After taking the pledge he stopped drinking, God became a real person in his life, and for the next 40 years he attended Mass daily, and is an example of triumph over adversity.

The novena begins October 2 in St Senan's Church Kilrush and October 3 in SS John and Paul Church, Shannon, and will continue each Monday and Tuesday for the duration of October (Accept October 24, switched to 25) and November.

NATIONAL

Powerful Catholic Bible study and healing through scripture with world renowned Johnson Sequa at various locations nationwide including Knock, Dublin, Cork, Waterford, Kilkenny, Monaghan, Offaly, Tipperary, Wicklow, between September 26-October 10. Contact: Chris 085-2392207 or Eileen 087-2454697.

CAVAN

The fourth annual novena to Mary, Untier of Knots, takes place on September 25 to October 3 in the Cathedral of Ss Patrick & Felim. Mass each evening at 7.30pm, except October 1, when there will be Novena Devotions at 7.30pm. The theme is 'We are Family', in preparation for WMOF.

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.

DUBLIN

International Mass on Sunday October 1 at 6pm. (Folk Mass) in Rathmines. Bring a small flag, wear your national costume.

Scripture study on Thursday October 5 and October 12 with Fr Martin Hogan, and with Sean Goan on Wednesday October 25 and November 1, all at 7.30pm, in Rathmines Church.

Solemn Novena in Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Ballyfermot from Friday, September 22-30 with a variety of speakers at each novena Mass at 7pm every evening. Theme: 'The Church is a family of families'.

Divine Mercy Devotions in the Church of Three Patrons, Rathgar every First Friday at 7pm. Mass, Benediction, chaplet & 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 Hartstown Church. For information 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.

Life to the Full Book Club for young adults (20's & 30's) to reflect and discuss a chosen spiritual book over a few weeks. Every Thursday from 7-8.30pm in St Paul's Church Arran Quay (Smithfield). Email: michelle.manley@dublindiocese

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.

FERMANAGH

Mass to St Peregrine for all

the sick every Wednesday evening in St Patrick's Church, Derrygonnelly at 7.30pm.

GALWAY

Call to Fatima an award winning film produced by Thomas McCormack will be shown in Abbey Church on Francis St, Friday October 6 at 7.30pm. There will also be blessing of the relics of St Francis and St Jacinta.

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.

KERRY

Cookery demonstration with Mark Doe called 'Being Creative with Leftovers' in Our Lady and St Brendan's Pastoral Centre, Tralee, September 28 at 8pm.

LIMERICK

Family Fun Day on October 8, from 1-5pm (Festival Mass at 4pm) in Mary I to launch Limerick diocese preparations for World Meeting of Families. Music, games, food and fun for all the family. See FB Limerick WMOF2018 or email wmo2018@ldo.ie for more info.

LOUTH

The Legion of Mary are hosting a Patrician Meeting on the subject of 'The Mass' on Wednesday October 4 at 7.30pm in the Convent of Mercy, Ardee. Refreshments will be served.

A Holy Hour with music and reflections to be held in St Mary's Church James Street, Drogheda on Wednesday October 11 at 8:00 pm.

A Mass to celebrate the feast day of St Francis of Assisi on October 4 at 7.30pm. Organised by the SFO, it will take place in the Augustinian Church, Shop Street, Drogheda.

MEATH

Trim Prayer Group meeting every Thursday evening, 8-9pm, in Trim Parish Centre.

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

OFFALY

Clonmacnois Prayer Vigil in Cluain Chiarain Prayer Centre every third Friday. Mass at 9pm. Adoration and Prayers follow until 2.10am. Enquiries: Dave 085-7746763.

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.

Feast of St Thérèse of Lisieux Sunday October 1, celebrate with the Carmelite Sisters in Delgany at a 9.30am Mass at the monastery and a blessing of roses. Refreshments afterwards.

World Report

IN BRIEF

Church charities help after Mexico earthquake

● In the aftermath of two earthquakes in the span of two weeks in Mexico, Church-based relief agencies have been on the ground providing food, shelter and repairs.

The magnitude 7.1 quake hit near Mexico City last week and killed more than 230 people and injured more than 2,000 in the crumbling wreckage. The earthquake follows the magnitude 8.1 earthquake on September 7 which occurred off the coast of south-eastern Mexico that killed at least 90 people and destroyed thousands of homes.

Malteser International, a relief organisation sponsored by the Order of Malta has sent a team of volunteers to Mexico City to provide rescue and first-aid help.

South Sudan war has robbed childhoods

War in South Sudan has robbed young people of their childhood and given them challenges unknown to their peers in most other countries, said the head of the Sudan Catholic Bishops' Conference.

"My heart breaks at the thought that your childhoods are being taken away from you daily, but I know that you have not lost your vision or your hope for a better future," Bishop Edward Hiiaboro Kussala of Tombura-Yambio, South Sudan, said in a statement to mark International Day for Peace.

The bishops' conference includes all dioceses in Sudan and South Sudan. The war has killed thousands, displaced nearly 1 million people, ignited a man-made famine and destroyed the country's economy.



WORLD MISSIONS IRELAND
SPIRITUAL & PRACTICAL SUPPORT WORLDWIDE



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

- Prayer**
- Leaving a gift in your Will**
- Regular donations**
- Mass stipends**

©Missio

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.

☐ **YES, I want to help the Propagation of the Faith**
I enclose €

Name

Email

Address

Fr Maurice Hogan SSC
National Director WMI
64 Lower Rathmines Road, Dublin 6, Ireland.
Web www.wmi.ie | Tel +353 1 4972035

WORLD MISSIONS IRELAND

Charity No.
CHY2318.

SSPX role in heresy accusations shows the nature of anti-Francis opposition

The inclusion of the leader of a breakaway group among the signatories of a letter accusing Pope Francis of "promoting heretical interpretations" of *Amores Laetitia*, his exhortation on marriage and the family, has been described as "a tactical error" by a prominent papal biographer.

Billed as the first 'filial correction' of a Pope since 1333, and originally submitted to Pope Francis on August 11, the published 25-page letter is signed by 62 academics and clerics, the highest profile of whom is Bishop Bernard Fellay of the Priestly Fraternity of Saint Pius X (SSPX).

Dr Fellay was excommunicated when he was illicitly ordained in 1988, and although Pope Benedict XVI lifted the excommunication in 2009, as recently as this May the Vatican stated that the SSPX would not be in full communion with the Church until it met a series of conditions.

"It's understandable why



Bishop Bernard Fellay.

the signatories invited Fellay to sign, given that none of the world's 5,000 sitting bishops in communion with Rome wanted to," Dr Austen Ivereigh told *The Irish Catholic*. "But it was a tactical error. It proved what any observers of the names knew: this is a fringe group of traditionalists hostile to the whole path of

the Church since Vatican II. The fulminations in the document against modernism and Lutheranism demonstrate the worldview."

Loathing

Dr Ivereigh described the authors of the document as "a heterogenous alliance of disparate folk united only by

their loathing of Pope Francis", who were "criticising not just magisterial teaching, but one that is fruit of the largest and deepest process of ecclesial discernment by the college of bishops since Vatican II".

Owing to the letter's length and denseness, detailed responses to it have not so far been forthcoming from commentators, with attention so far focusing on the signatories.

These include Latin Mass Society chairman Dr Joseph Shaw and Fr John Hunwicke of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham, both of whom were – with 16 other signatories – among the 45 authors of a letter to the cardinals of the Church last summer, urging them to ask the Pope to repudiate the errors they alleged were in *Amores Laetitia*.

"The technique deployed is to accuse Francis of heretical views and demand that he condemn them, and when he doesn't, to use this as proof of heresy," said Dr Ivereigh, continuing, "Torquemada would have been proud."

Buddhists in Bangladesh express solidarity with Rohingya

The Buddhist community in Bangladesh has announced it will downsize an upcoming religious feast to express solidarity with Rohingya Muslim refugees.

Hundreds of thousands of Rohingya have fled ethnic violence in majority-Buddhist Myanmar during recent weeks.

There are fears that, as in the past, the small Buddhist population of majority-Muslim Bangladesh could be subjected to revenge attacks over the persecution of Muslim Rohingya by Myanmar Buddhists.

The United Forum of Buddhists

in Bangladesh said that Probarana Purnima, the second largest annual Buddhist feast, would be conducted on a smaller scale than usual in order to save money to help Rohingya refugees.

Ashoke Barua, the group's chief coordinator, said the move is also aimed at highlighting atrocities against Rohingyas in Myanmar.

Ceremony

Barua said the festival this year, which falls on October 5, would curtail a popular ceremony in which Buddhists send into the sky colourful paper lanterns as a symbol of enlightenment.

He noted that Buddhists in Bangladesh have sent a "memorandum" to the Myanmar government calling for the protection of Rohingya in Rakhine State.

"No sane Buddhist can support what is being done to Rohingya in Myanmar," Barua said.

"Lord Buddha preached peace and humanity, but what they are doing is completely the opposite."

Probarana Purnima marks the end of a three-month long seclusion of monks inside their monasteries for self-edification and atonement.

Pope decries intolerance of refugees



A banner hung outside a public building in Spain.

Pope Francis has urged churches in Europe to step up efforts to combat intolerance, discrimination and xenophobia against migrants and refugees.

The Pope's words came in a meeting with national migration directors under the auspices of the Council of European Bishops Conferences (CCEE). He said he was saddened to see that Catholic communities in Europe were defensive

and unwelcoming towards migrants, justifying their attitudes on grounds of conserving their cultural and religious identity.

Pope Francis said we must recognise and understand this sense of unease, in light of the economic crisis which has left deep wounds in society. Furthermore governments and communities have been ill-prepared to cope with large influxes of migrants,

highlighting the limits of the European unification process.

But from an ecclesiological perspective, the Pope said, the arrival of so many Christian brothers and sisters offers the Church in Europe an opportunity to become ever more "Catholic". He noted how many migrants and refugees have already enriched parishes in their host countries.



Edited by Chai Brady
chai@irishcatholic.ie

Kenyan flames of fury



Riot police run in front of a burning barricade during protests in Nairobi. Protesters and police in Kenya have clashed after the leader of the government opposition claimed he was cheated of victory by a hacking attack that he said manipulated the results in the country's presidential election. At least three people have been killed. Photo: CNS

Voters must show restraint in second Kenya election – cardinal

A Kenyan cardinal has called on politicians to restrain their supporters in the lead up to Kenya's second election after the previous vote tally was annulled.

Cardinal John Njue, the current Archbishop of Nairobi, called for dialogue instead of violence.

As tensions grow between the current Jubilee government and its main opposition the National Super Alliance (NASA), Cardinal Njue urged the politicians to engage in talks and restrain their supporters ahead of the vote.

The cardinal reminded politicians of the deadly violence that ensued in 2008 when protesters rejected the election results and thousands of people were

killed, and hundreds of thousands were displaced. He said that hard line stances would further divide the country.

It's believed current President, Uhuru Kenyatta, will file a judicial review of the Supreme Court decision, and will request to have the ballot boxes re-opened and the votes recounted instead of holding another election.

The Vice-Chairman of the Jubilee Party told the *Sunday Standard* that the government are "completely ready for a fresh election".

He added, however, that "we would like the will of the people as expressed in the August 8 election to be validated and there will be no need for a repeat election."

Mr Kenyatta accepted the ruling of

the courts despite calling it a "judicial coup" against the government, opposition leader Raila Odinga replied saying: "The court overturned the coup engineered by the commission that gave Mr Kenyatta a fake win in the presidential race".

"President Kenyatta must respect the Supreme Court and should hence desist from telling them how they should discharge their mandate."

After the failure of the August 8 elections new voting is set to take place on October 26. Catholic bishops in Kenya continually called for peace after violent post-election protests this year killed up to 24 people and injured hundreds according to human rights groups.

New Chinese religious laws criticised by Catholics

Church officials fear that newly revised religious affairs regulations released by the Chinese government, supposedly aimed at protecting national security, will be used to further suppress religious activities.

Earlier in September, Premier Li Keqiang announced that a state council order on the new

regulations would take effect on February 1.

Anthony Lam, executive secretary of the Holy Spirit Study Centre in Hong Kong said that the new provisions showed authorities had not listened to opinions expressed by religious communities during public consultations.

Total religious control was the goal, he said, whereas a

2005 version had been more balanced and moderate.

The changes reflected differing governing styles of former president Hu Jintao and current President Xi Jinping, he added.

Mr Lam said there were tighter restrictions in the revised regulations on "unauthorised religious" venues. He questioned whether a home display

about Zen meditation exercises could, for example, be deemed illegal.

He stressed that both open and underground communities of the Catholic Church in China would be affected. The regulations include chapters on general provisions as well as religious groups, venues, personnel, property and legal responsibilities.

Vatican roundup

Holy See signs and ratifies anti-nuclear weapon treaty

The Holy See has ratified and signed the new UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

The high-level Vatican diplomat who signed the treaty told a UN conference that the Catholic Church supports efforts "to move progressively toward a world free of nuclear weapons".

Archbishop Paul Gallagher, Vatican foreign minister, signed the treaty. More than 40 other countries signed it as well, and it will come into force 90 days after at least 50 countries both sign and ratify it.

Archbishop Gallagher addressed the 10th Conference on Facilitating Entry into Force of Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, a treaty the Vatican adhered to in 1996.

He said the Vatican believes that "a nuclear test ban, nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament are closely linked and must be achieved as quickly as possible under effective international control".

But delays in getting eight more countries to ratify the treaty mean that it still has not entered into force. "Two decades without the treaty's entry into force have been two decades lost in our common goal of a world without nuclear weapons," Archbishop Gallagher said.

No pardon for child abusers

Pope Francis has endorsed an approach of "zero tolerance" toward all members of the Church guilty of sexually abusing minors or vulnerable adults.

Having listened to abuse survivors and having made what he described as a mistake in approving a more lenient set of sanctions against an Italian priest abuser, the Pope said he has decided whoever has been proven guilty of abuse has no right to an appeal.

"Why? Simply because the person who does this (sexually abuses minors) is sick. It is a sickness," he told his advisory

commission on child protection, the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors.

The Pope said he wanted to speak more informally to the members, who include lay and religious experts in the fields of psychology, sociology, theology and law in relation to abuse and protection.

The Catholic Church has been "late" in facing and, therefore, properly addressing the sin of sexual abuse by its members, the Pope said, and the commission has had to "swim against the tide" because of a lack of awareness.

Political corruption allows Mafia to flourish

When politics becomes all about partisan interests and secret deals, it leaves behind its true vocation and becomes susceptible to the same influences of corruption that allow the Mafia to flourish, Pope Francis said.

Authentic politics is "an eminent form of charity", which strives to ensure a future of peace and full dignity for every person, whereas "a deviated politics" no longer listens to the conscience, but "confuses truth with lies and profits from the role of public responsibility it has been given", the Pope said. Meeting with members of Italy's anti-Mafia parliamentary commission, Pope Francis praised Italian laws that seek to involve the government and citizens, religious communities and volunteer associations in the fight against organised crime.

In particular he cited the wisdom of provisions whereby some of the convicted Mafia members' property, confiscated by the government, is turned over to non-profit groups to provide training and jobs to students and the unemployed.

Corruption, poverty and social injustice are the "fertile fields" upon which organised crime grows and thrives, he 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

Catholic politicians fear their faith will kill their credibility

Dear Editor, I take a different view to that of your editorial of last week ('To articulate Church teaching, one must know why the Church teaches what it does' IC 21/09/2017). We are all very familiar with Catholics explaining why they oppose modern morality and making it very clear that it is because they have examined their own consciences, analysed all the issues and rationalised their opinion

in practical secular terms. They tend to take the view that any mention of their faith will kill their credibility and their argument.

Mr Rees-Moog, who can debate with the best (and worst) took a refreshingly different approach. He simply stated his faith in and obedience to Jesus Christ and his Church. The result was extremely effective. The hosts [of the ITV

interview] were completely taken aback as they had never heard that argument before and were totally unprepared for it. He also showed the world what a real Catholic sounds like. And the world reacted. Mr Rees Mogg is a rare hero and has done his Lord and His Church a great service.

*Yours etc.,
Sean Grace,
Malahide, Co. Dublin.*

Grateful for letters supporting Fatima prayer

Dear Editor, Assuredly it is most pleasing to Our Lady of Fatima to see *The Irish Catholic* receiving so many letters in support of the decade prayer she gave to the Little Shepherds after the vision of hell: "O my Jesus, forgive us, save us from the fire of hell. Lead all souls to Heaven, especially those who are most in need" - a most efficacious prayer for the conversion of sinners and the salvation of souls, similar to the Lord's own Prayer: "... Lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil". It forms part of the Message of Fatima that recent Popes affirm to be more relevant today than one hundred years ago, far from being "banished forever" as Fr Joe McVeigh has written.

Further, as regards "offending" God, the word was spoken by the Angel in his second Apparition to the Little Shepherds: "Make of everything you can a sacrifice, and offer it to God as an act of reparation for the sins by which He is

offended, and in supplication for the conversion of sinners. You will thus draw peace upon your country. I am its Guardian Angel".

And Lucia gave us the final words spoken by Our Lady: "Do not offend Our Lord and God anymore, because He is already so much offended", adding "How loving a complaint, how tender a request. Who will grant me to make it echo through the whole world, so that all the children of our Mother in Heaven may hear

the sound of her voice!"

In the Lord's own Prayer we say: "Our Father...forgive us our trespasses (our offenses) as we forgive those who trespass against us (offend us)".

Surely, Fr Joe's suggestion to refrain from using the word, "offending" God, is not a divine inspiration!

*Yours etc.,
Sr Mary Diane OP,
Dominican Nuns of
Perpetual Rosary,
Wexford.*

An information request to readers

Dear Editor, A study group would be most grateful if you let me ask readers, who may be able to do so, to help us to get copies of the 1951 Karl Stein autobiography *The Pillar of Fire*. They could phone or text me at 0879292754.

*Yours etc.,
Joe Foyle,
Ranelagh,
Dublin 6.*



Research on alienation

Dear Editor, I am an Irish postgraduate student with a background in digital humanities.

As a young person in Ireland I am deeply aware of the increasingly liberal slant both of Irish media and culture, and the degree to which contemporary culture is increasingly at odds with the values, lifestyle and sincerely held beliefs of a great many Irish citizens.

As such I am undertaking a visual media project which seeks to document the

opinions and experiences of those who feel increasingly alienated or even attacked as a result of beliefs now deemed 'unsuitable', 'incorrect' or even 'old-fashioned'.

To take part in this project or to seek further information, I ask your readers to please feel free to contact me at incongruentproject@gmail.com. Thank you.

*Yours etc.,
Rachel Gough,
Blarney,
Cork.*

Political correctness at Mass is unnecessary

Dear Editor, With reference to the letter from Bríd Ní Rinn "Where have all the Catholic men gone?" (IC 07/09/2017) and Kieron Wood's response (IC 14/09/2017) it seems to this reader that both Ms Ní Rinn and Mr Wood make valid points.

Regarding Mr Wood's reference to certain priests' use of the expression "sisters and brothers" (which I've heard being used at Mass sometimes)

instead of "brothers and sisters", it strikes me that the former (which, of course, isn't any more 'inclusive' than the latter) - while, no doubt, well-meant - smacks of contrived and unnecessary political correctness (though whether or not it's liturgically incorrect I'm not qualified to say).

*Yours etc.,
Hugh Gibney,
Athboy, Co. Meath.*

HPV infection not just from sexual activity

Dear Editor, In his letter in *The Irish Catholic* (21/09/2017) John Kennedy writes "I presume that if young teenage girls refrained from sexual activity then they would not contract the virus".

With greatest respect, may I suggest that this assumption is not well-based.

First of all, a girl could abstain from sexual activity before marriage, but acquire the infection from her husband after marriage; vaccination would protect her.

Secondly some people can pick up HPV infection and suffer from cervical cancer without ever engaging in sexual activity (and HPV can lead to other types of cancer in both women and men). Evidence is accumulating that this virus is more robust outside the body than was previously realised and viable HPV has been recovered from surfaces following disinfection. It is of course difficult to prove, but exposure to shared non-disinfected surfaces in gyms, poorly disinfected medical instruments and toilet seats have been suggested as possible sources of non-sexual HPV infection. Rare cases of mother to baby transmissions have also been suggested.

HPV vaccination would protect against these sources of infection as well.

It is therefore impossible to attribute the cause of any individual case of cervical cancer to sexual activity. It is really important that as many as possible are vaccinated to reduce the incidence of the virus in the population.

Not vaccinating will not impact either way on sexual behaviour of young adults; but vaccination is likely to give girls (and ideally boys as well) protection from HPV irrespective of whether it comes via sexual activity or other routes.

*Yours etc.,
Martin Clynes,
Emeritus Professor of Biotechnology,
Dublin City University.*

Criticism of our liberal society is not allowed

Dear Editor, I was glad to read Fr Andrew McMahon's article re the George Hook controversy, "Hook has been put on trial for questioning the maxims of a permissive society" (IC 21/09/2017).

So many journalists rushed in to criticise and stoked the debate to try and get George fired. Anyone who actually listened to the show could understand his argument. He was not being misogynist or attempting to blame the rape victim. He was making a very valid and sensible point that we must all take responsibility for our own safety.

Our individualistic and rights-driven culture tells young people they have the right to do whatever they want. It is perfectly acceptable to get so drunk or high on drugs that you cannot make sensible decisions or even walk or talk coherently. Every week young people out partying, both male and female, are putting their lives in danger because of their behaviour. They are lucky if they get home safely without incident.

This is not a healthy way to socialise, but criticism of our liberal, modern society is not allowed, as we can see from the George Hook controversy.

*Yours etc.,
Bernie Buckley,
Douglas, Cork.*

Letters to the Editor

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

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

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

Around the world

VATICAN: Pope Francis sits for a photo during an audience with Trappists.



USA: Young people listen as Bishop Edward Braxton of Belleville, Illinois, addresses students, faculty and social workers during a 'teach-in' on fighting racism at the Catholic University of America in Washington. Photos: CNS



BANGLADESH: A woman reacts as Rohingya refugees wait to receive aid at a camp in Cox's Bazar.



USA: Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes, distributes Communion during the beatification Mass for Fr Stanley Rother at Oklahoma City's Cox Convention Centre.



ROME: Pope Francis greets a patient as he visits the Santa Lucia Foundation rehabilitation centre.



PUERTO RICO: A destroyed car is seen after Hurricane Maria hit San Juan.

A prayer for stillness

Be still and know that I am God. Scripture assures us that if we are still we will come to know God, but arriving at stillness is easier said than done. As Blaise Pascal once stated: "All the miseries of the human person come from the fact that no one can sit still for one hour."

Achieving stillness seems beyond us and this leaves us with a certain dilemma, we need stillness to find God, but we need God's help to find stillness. With this in mind, I offer a prayer for stillness.

God of stillness and of quiet...

- Still the restlessness of my youth: still that hunger that would have me be everywhere, that hunger to be connected to everyone, that wants to see and taste all that is, that robs me of peace on a Friday night. Quiet those grandiose dreams that want me to stand out, to be special. Give me the grace to live more contentedly inside my own skin.

- Still the fever I inhale from all the energy that surrounds me, that makes my life feel small. Let me know that my own life is enough, that I need not make an assertion of myself, even as the whole world beckons this of me from a million electronic screens. Give me the grace to sit at peace inside my own life.



Fr Rolheiser

www.ronrolheiser.com



Blaise Pascal.

- Still my sexuality, order my promiscuous desires, my lusts, my polymorphous aching, my relentless need for more intimacy. Quiet and order my earthly desires without taking them away. Give me the grace to see others without a selfish sexual colour.
- Still my anxiety, my heartaches,

my worries, and stop me from always being outside the present moment. Let each day's worries be sufficient unto themselves. Give me the grace to know that you have pronounced my name in love, that my name written in Heaven, that I am free to live without anxiety.

- Still my unrelenting need to be busy all the time, to occupy myself, to be always planning for tomorrow, to fill every minute with some activity, to seek distraction rather than quiet. Give me the grace to sit in a quiet that lets me savour a sunset and actually taste the water I'm drinking.

“Still in me all that’s wounded, unresolved, bitter, and unforgiving. Give the quiet that comes from forgiveness”

- Still the disappointment that comes with age. Soothe the unacknowledged anger I feel from not achieving much of what I've wanted in life, the failure that I feel in the face of all that I've left untried and unfinished. Still

in me the bitterness that comes from failure. Save me from the jealousy that comes unbidden as I begrudgingly accept the limits of my life. Give me the grace to accept what circumstance and failure have dealt me.

- Still in me the fear of my own shadow, the fear I feel in the face of the powerful, dark forces that unconsciously threaten me. Give me the courage to face my darkness as well as my luminosity. Give me the grace to not be fearful before my own complexity.

- Still in me the congenital fear that I'm unloved, that I'm unlovable, that love has to be earned, that I need to be more worthy.

Silence in me the nagging suspicion that I'm forever missing out, that I'm odd, an outsider, that things are unfair, and that I'm not being respected and recognised for who I am. Give me the grace to know that I'm a beloved child of a God whose love need not be earned.

- Still in me my false fear of you, my propensity for a misguided piety, my need to treat you like a distant and feared dignitary rather than as a warm friend. Give me the grace to relate to you in a robust way, as a trusted friend with whom I can jest, wrestle, and relate to in humour and intimacy.

- Still my unforgiving thoughts, the grudges I nurse from my past,

from the betrayals I've suffered, from the negativity and abuses I've been subject to. Quiet in me the guilt I carry from my own betrayals. Still in me all that's wounded, unresolved, bitter and unforgiving. Give the quiet that comes from forgiveness.

- Still in me my doubts, my anxieties about your existence, about your concern, and about your fidelity. Calm inside me the compulsion to leave a mark, to plant a tree, to have a child, to write a book, to create some form of immortality for myself. Give me the grace to trust, even in darkness and doubt, that you will give me immortality.

“Calm inside me the compulsion to leave a mark, to plant a tree, to have a child, to write a book”

- Still my heart so that I may know that you are God, that I may know that you create and sustain my every breath, that you breathe the whole universe into existence every second, that everyone, myself no less than everyone else, is your beloved, that you want our lives to flourish, that you desire our happiness, that nothing falls outside your love and care, and that everything and everybody is safe in your gentle, caring hands, in this world and the next.



Facebook and facing death



It was six days before her death. We didn't know it would only be six days, but we knew that Sarah would not grace us with her presence for much longer. And yet the temptation is to describe the occasion as rather lovely and certainly fun. She had offered us each a glass of Prosecco, and had a small one on a warm summer's day. But the real setting was this combination of Irish openness in speaking about death and an English love of black humour.

She is talking about what will happen to her corpse: "No reason why you can't put me in the dining room. I'll be very quiet. I'll be good...he's going to put me in a pair of pink silk pyjamas. I have never worn a pair of pink silk



For many people nearing the end of their lives, social media is an essential source of strength, writes Daniel Miller

pyjamas in my entire life. Not too worried what shade it is."

Listening now to those two hours of recorded conversation, the dominant sound is of constant banter and laughter, Sarah reporting the look on the face of that girl at the funeral parlour when she realised that the funeral Sarah was organising was for herself. Black humour gets us through life – and death.

Terminal care is almost

entirely in one's own home; people tend to come to the hospice only for brief periods to control pain, or regain some energy or take up various kinds of outpatient and activity sessions, such as counselling.

So, unless this is literally the deathbed scene, it is actually a time when you probably don't want to see anyone at all. But when Sarah last went in, she had nine visitors on the first

day. Fortunately, after that her ever-loving and highly sensitive husband put a stop to it. She had made a rather crucial mistake. She had posted on Facebook that she was going into the hospice so everyone immediately knew and this had caused the crush.

Facebook

In every other respect, Facebook was a gift, a gift to Sarah and from Sarah, but then giving is what Sarah is all about. She was diagnosed with cancer 10 months previously, and this was confirmed as terminal four months before we met.

It's clear in retrospect that much of her time has been spent trying to think of ways that this terminal prognosis could be

turned into something of value to others. But she would never in a million years have predicted that the means to achieve this would be Facebook. In fact, up to that moment she had never been on Facebook.

It was the perspicacity of her son who had set up a Facebook account on the day of her diagnosis.

Quite quickly, she sensed how this new relationship with people outside could transform her relationship to what was happening to her inside. Facebook would be her extended voice teaching the world about something that they needed to hear and were reluctant to confront, which

» Continued on Page 25

Family News

AND EVENTS

#Walk4Families 2017

On October 8 families across Ireland will be donning stripes to take part in The Ronald McDonald House Charity's annual #Walk4Families event.

The aim of the fundraising walk is to build a new 53-bedroom house in order to keep more families close to their child when they are seriously ill or undergoing medical treatment at Our Lady's Children's Hospital in Crumlin. Since it opened in 2004 it has provided in excess of 2,700 families from all over Ireland with accommodation, care and support.

The 2017 walks take place on October 8 in Ballincollig, Cork at 2pm, Galway Bay at 12pm, Ballina, Co. Mayo at 3pm, Sligo at 11am and Piercetown, Wexford at 11am.

See <http://rmhc.ie/event/walk4families/>

RECYCLING FOR 20 YEARS: It has been 20 years since Repak was established to change the way Ireland processed its rubbish.

It was founded in 1997 in accordance with EU legislation to ensure that certain businesses responsible for the packaging they placed on the Irish market, were obligated to part fund the recycling and recovery of this packaging.

Now 20 years later Ireland is one of the leading recycling countries in the EU for packaging recycling and we have reduced our landfill sites from 154 to just four.

Over €400 million has been contributed by Repak members to support recycling in Ireland and we've reached a

91% rate of recovery and recycling of all waste packaging. As a nation, we have recycled 8 billion plastic bottles, 7 billion glass bottles, 6 billion cans and 4 million tonnes of cardboard and paper.

Over the next two years, Repak will install 100 new bottle banks around the country to ensure that we stay on track for the EU's targets.

Beat the Street game hits Irish cities

An innovative physical activity initiative that encourages whole communities to get moving by transforming towns and cities into a giant game is taking place in Dublin, Waterford and Limerick.

Beat the Street, which runs until November 1, sees schools, businesses, families and charities competing to see who can walk, run or cycle the furthest. Dozens of beeping and flashing sensors called Beat Boxes have been placed on lampposts in each area which can be tapped with free Beat the Street cards which can be collected at local libraries or leisure centres. Players can set up a team or join one of the many playing in each area and start earning points and prizes.

The aim of the initiative is to encourage people to explore and discover something new about their local area.

To find out more visit www.beatthestreet.me/Waterford, www.beatthestreet.me/limerick or www.beatthestreet.me/Dublin



The word is beginning to spread in the town lands and parishes around the country: the World Meeting of Families (WMOF2018) is coming to Ireland next year, and there are high hopes that Pope Francis is coming too.

Naturally, news of a possible visit from the Holy Father captures a lot of interest: Will he really come? How long will he stay? Where will he visit when he gets here? But the message from Rome is that Pope Francis wants us to look not so much at the visit but at the reason for it. If he comes, it is for the World Meeting of Families, it is to celebrate, support and give encouragement to family and marriage.

In the year running up to August 2018, Pope Francis has given Ireland a particular responsibility: the task of "translating in a special way the teaching of *Amoris Laetitia*", his document on marriage and family, so that families will "have a way of deepening their reflection and their sharing of the content".

In response, the team at WMOF2018 is busy preparing 'Amoris: Let's Talk Family! Let's Be Family', a whole suite of resources from parish programmes to dynamic animations and concrete activities.

Resources

These resources aim to encourage reflection on the vision of marriage and the family so beautifully presented in *Amoris Laetitia*, and then to inspire families, parishes and organisations to look for new forms of "missionary creativity" so that we can present "the reasons and motivations for choosing marriage and the family" with more energy and joy, but also with humility and mercy.

The Joy of Love Parish Programme is already being offered across Ireland. Under the guidance of Martin Kennedy, a

Parishes to host conversations around family



World Meeting of Families Petra Conroy

member of the pastoral team at WMOF2018, dioceses and parishes have been preparing to host a six-part parish based conversation which will guide people through key messages from Pope Francis' document.

The team at WMOF18 is offering resources for use around the world"

In many parishes, this invitation to conversation around family will begin in the spring, after parish communities have engaged with some of the practical initiatives that accompany *The Joy of Love* parish programme. This menu of activities ties in with key seasons, celebrations and sacraments throughout the year and aims to communicate messages from *The Joy of Love* in a way that families of all sorts can connect with – from a Blessing of Homes at Easter to St Valentine's Day Gift Tokens with a difference.

'Amoris: Let's Talk Family Let's Be Family' isn't just for Irish families and parishes: this is a WORLD meeting, and the team at WMOF18 is offering resources for use around the world, working in

partnership with iCatholic, Kairos Communications and Ministry. One of the most exciting of these is the *Amoris* Animations Series. Each two-minute animation presents a key theme from *Amoris* in a creative, enjoyable but also thought-provoking way: 'How families can change the world for the better', 'The challenges faced by families living in a digital age' and 'What do we REALLY mean by love and mercy?'. The animations will be available in several languages and my guess is that they will be one of the big hits of World Meeting 2018 and will be watched far and wide for many years.

Another exciting online resource already in the works is a box set of six television programmes being shot at the WMOF2018 studio set, as well as on location in Ireland and around the world. For those of us who may never make it through a papal exhortation, the programmes will use the shared stories of real families to walk us through the main messages of *Amoris Laetitia*.

Starting with the idea that, in spite of the messy reality of life, family is a place where we can first experience love, we'll follow a path through the series that helps us understand what

the Gospel of the Family really means for families struggling along day by day.

We'll be challenged to take a long hard look at what love in marriage means after the rose petals have faded, and to ask if we're ready to step out of our comfort zones and, as a family of families, to walk with each other in joy, in pain, in brokenness, in love, with renewed energy.

There'll be a strong focus on concrete suggestions, from family prayer, to good communication skills, to support for couples preparing for and in the early years of marriage. Families supporting families will also be a strong theme throughout. Our website amoris.ie will include suggestions on how to use the animations and television series in various settings.

Another exciting online resource already in the works is a box set of six TV programmes"

We can't talk about family without looking to youth. Part of our WMOF2018 are special resources for children and young people, including resources for schools, a huge focus on family during Catholic Schools Week 2018, animations just for children and studio programmes for and by young people.

Our hope is that all of these tools will help people really look again at family and marriage as a gift of love to the world and will inspire us to better support each other in concretely living this love long after World Meeting of Families has moved on to its next venue.

You can find the resources on www.amoris.ie as each set comes online in the months ahead.

Petra Conroy is part of the pastoral team of WMOF2018.

» Continued from Page 23

was the experience of cancer and dying. Sarah was as aware as anyone about the need for this, having spent more than 30 years as a nurse and having witnessed the ignorance, misconceptions and denials. So Facebook would give her a final purpose, a means to turn all this negativity into something positive.

Despite their protestations to the contrary, it often tends to be older women who take as ducks to Facebook's water. This is social media, and in most families it's the women who do the business when it comes to keeping the conversations going, the business of simply being social. It's one of the comments the family often made about Sarah, well before Facebook.

Glue

She was the glue, the chain, the one who kept the extended and extensive family linked, beyond the weddings and the wakes. She knew what had happened to whom and she told the others; not gossip, just the kind of sharing that makes family something more present and real.

When trouble had come to one part of the family, she had been the person who had helped those children get through their parent's divorce. So a new technology that could bring with it a network of people and enable them to feel closer just fell straight into her lap.

The story is there, scrolling through her Facebook account. It starts with a gradual build-up of people, though there were newcomers joining right up to her death. Lots of positive messages respond to the postings about her scans and chemotherapy:

"Sarah, what a joy to see your beautiful smile. All the Ryans on this side of the pond are holding every positive thought for you and sending them with wings of love."

"She went for the bald look. It wasn't that this appealed to her in any way, she just felt wigs were still worse"

There was plenty of hope in that initial period. On the one hand, Facebook became an effective way to keep people appraised without having to tell them individually. Being a nurse, Sarah had no qualms about including the details.

But this is constantly interlaced with humour: "Tried on wigs at Selfridges post scan today, I looked a right Herbert – think I'll go bald in next three weeks with as much dignity as I can muster; depends on the shape of my head." Sarah was as good as her word; she went for the bald look. It wasn't that this appealed to her in any way, she just felt wigs were still worse.

But, while the words help, they cannot heal, and the news gets worse until:

"I have been discharged by the surgeons and referred to the oncologists for palliative chemo, but have already decided to refuse. I want to claim my body back now and go with it. Sorry since the 9th Jan, my surgery, if I have acted out, but I



am still in shock and hugely upset with the inoperable result. It's a shock. If you were in my boots, how would you feel? Anyhow looking for a hotspot in Europe to go and relax and enjoy what's left. xxx"

Even with this, one of the worst communications anyone could receive, there is always the sense that the pill must be sugared with humour in order to be swallowed. "Had holy communion but unfortunately my mobile phone went off with some rock song."

What you experience on Facebook is her honesty about the steps and stages that have to be accepted, dragging you to a place you haven't the slightest desire to reach but which keeps getting closer.

The appeal of Facebook lies in her insistence that dying is something to be open about. For her, the crucial point is that most people don't have to confront these things and, without comparative experience, they are even more scared and anxious. She is sure there is a benefit to sharing her death and also her acceptance. Facebook gives her that presence, makes her gradual demise visible and so also meaningful.

Posts

Reading her posts and the responses, it becomes clear why for Sarah Facebook was nothing trivial, but as with the hospice itself, she felt that the period of her dying had enabled her to discover new things



that were both profound and good. She tells us, "For me, what I write on Facebook comes from my inner thoughts, more like reading a book. Created in my head, it's my feelings and thoughts at their purest. I may not have something to say every day . . . It's through Facebook that a lot of these people have rolled back into our lives. It's incredible."

"Sarah's clear desire is to use Facebook to make more of life while she still can"

What Sarah and her husband realised is that over the years they had developed many good close friendships. But there had been a natural attrition as people moved or kids grew up. But in many cases the closeness remained, and some of those who were most effective in using Facebook to give support and show how much they cared were people they hadn't actually been much in touch with recently.

So instead of friendship representing the transience of their current network, it was like all the best people from all those different pasts coming together to remind them of the whole 54 years that were now coming to an end but which had been so full, not least of people and love.

Sarah is very much aligned with the ethos of the hospice itself that dying is a stage of living. But is it going to be a stage that shrinks people down till they fade from sight? Or a final chance to expand oneself and the world? In precise accord with the hospice director, Sarah's clear desire is to use Facebook to make more of life while she still can. It forms one part of her general attitude to this acknowledgement of dying itself as something which, like any stage of life, can either be lived to the fullest or wasted.

1 Daniel Miller is Professor of Anthropology at University College London. This extract is from his new book *The Comfort of People*, published by Polity Books (£15.99/€18.72), which examines the social worlds of people suffering from terminal or long-term illness. www.politybooks.com

Dad's Diary

Rory Fitzgerald



Our seven-year-old has been busy writing computer programmes. He has become fascinated with a piece of software that enables kids to control a digital cat with simple instructions, such as: walk five steps; say "meow"; turn 90 degrees, and so on. It's good to see him understand so naturally the basic logic that underpins the electronic devices that are an ever-greater part of all our lives.

Children these days are digital natives: they take for granted technologies that only existed in science fiction when I was a boy, like video calls or the ability to speak to a computer. It's wonderful when we control computers. The dangers arise when they begin to control us. The negative effects that too much exposure technology can have on children are already well known: addiction, lack of exercise, poor motor skills, increased anxiety, less ability to socialise, increased risk of obesity and disturbed sleep.

To avoid such consequences, we've always strictly limited screen time for the children. We've even implemented a technology ban for us adults between 6-9pm, because it's far too easy these days for parents to be distracted by that work email or an amusing post on Facebook, to the detriment of family time.

Discernment

Real discernment – and discipline – is required for families to be able to embrace all the life-enhancing aspects of technology, and maintain the space children need for silence, reading, imaginative play, playing music, cooking, making things with their hands, and for immersion in nature.

For now, our kids seem as fascinated with the tomatoes we've just grown, as with the latest game on their iPads. They are as happy sitting in their treehouse gazing at the clouds go by, as they are when watching a cartoon. It seems we've found a good balance, but this was achieved by limiting screen time to under an hour a day, with none before bedtime.

Worryingly, the average

amount of screen time for children in the UK aged 5-16 is 6.5 hours. No wonder kids nowadays are far more prone to obesity and unhappiness than they were in the past.

Part of the reason for such extraordinary use of screens is that a culture has developed where children are confined to houses, small gardens and apartments. If kids were allowed roam free around their neighbourhoods as was normal in the past, things might be very different.

"We use technology to help mimic nature, to the benefit of the kids' sleep"

Technology could soon help kids rediscover such freedoms. Smart watches with GPS exist with which parents can track kids, and alert you if they leave a safe area. Parents can even eavesdrop via these watches, to make sure they're safe from bullies, or predatory adults.

These watches also have a simple button that kids can press that puts parents in direct voice contact. Hopefully, such devices will give parents greater confidence to leave children roam. As traffic becomes more automated, and collision avoidance systems become standard, that risk should also reduce.

We use technology to help mimic nature, to the benefit of the kids' sleep. When I was a kid, I was suddenly awoken by the violent clanging of an alarm clock each day. Our kids have smart bulbs in lamps in their rooms that brighten very gradually, mimicking a natural sunrise and giving them a gentler start to the day. Such bulbs can be set to grow dim and shift to the red end of the light spectrum each evening, mimicking sunset. This sends natural signals to our brains that it's time to go to sleep.

Any of mankind's tools can be used for good or ill, be they hammers, knives or the stuff of the digital revolution. It is for us to use them wisely.



Youth Space Schools building schools



Ruth Moriarty and Sinéad Keeley describe visiting school projects in African villages

Although we didn't travel to Africa until fifth year, our journey with the Schools and Health Foundation (SHF) began when we were much younger. We saw older girls come back from Africa who had helped to build schools in Sierra Leone.

Inspired by the change we could make, we worked hard through Transition Year to be chosen to travel to Malawi and Cameroon respectively. Being a part of SHF means that all the hard work and effort put into raising money goes directly to the projects it funds - SHF is run by volunteers and there is no 'middle man', meaning that every euro raised in a collection, table quiz or mini marathon makes a direct difference to so many lives in the poorest parts of the world.

This integrity is what sets SHF apart and why it so appealing to us as students and volunteers.

Poverty

In both Malawi and Cameroon, we saw first-hand the impact of poverty. We saw a toddler who had burnt her bare feet in a fire and was given no painkillers to ease her pain, because the hospital didn't have any to give her. We saw overcrowded and underfunded psychiatric hospitals with young teenagers in wards amongst adults. We saw a young child who was



Students from Scoil Mhuire Cork visiting a school in Sierra Leone.

near death because of renal failure because the hospital couldn't put her on dialysis. Most of all, we saw that without schools and a means of education, the children of these villages could not grow up and make a better life for themselves.

Despite the huge difference we had made in Koano and Chinambo, there are countless other villages across Malawi, Sierra Leone, Cameroon and Liberia which need schools and hospitals for their people too. Schools and Health Foundation are working tirelessly towards their goal of building schools for villages

in these countries, to change hundred of children's - and their children's - lives forever. We are appealing to you to get involved. Any contribution helps, be that in money or fundraising events.

With more support in Ireland, SHF will be able to reach more people in several African countries and make a real difference. Working with SHF means being part of a community and helping others in a fun and rewarding way. It is truly life changing.

❶ Ruth Moriarty and Sinéad Keeley are students in Scoil Mhuire Cork.



Ruth's story...

"In 2015, I travelled to Malawi with three of my classmates. We had fundraised to build an after-school shelter for the children of the rural village Chinambo in Mzuzu.

"Although, we all felt a little nervous on our way there, this trepidation soon dissipated as we visited different places and met new people. We were greeted with song and dance everywhere we went and before long we were dancing and singing with the locals. I soon realised that the people of Malawi had as much to give to us and we had to give to them.

"Their carefree attitude despite their circumstance and their sense of community was something that I think everyone could learn something from, and I certainly did. Going to Malawi was an extremely eye-opening and rewarding experience.

"The children we met were bright, enthusiastic and unforgettable. It was truly amazing to see how our work here in Ireland would contribute to their education and lives.

"It is an indescribable feeling to think that each day in that rural village, those children with whom we laughed and danced are attending the after-school shelter where they are given food and a safe place to do their homework and to play."

Sinead's story...

"In 2016, we built a primary school in the village of Koano, Cameroon, high up in the hills in the west of the country, and I was lucky enough to be in the group who went to the opening of the school.

"The children sang and danced for us, we were given handmade Cameroonian dresses and the chief of the village even performed a traditional gun firing ceremony! In Batibo, we met a girl called Mata who had had an epileptic seizure and fallen into an open fire. I was shocked by the contrast of our lives - she seemed worlds apart from us even though she was only months older.

"Hearing her story made me see all the privilege we have and all the change we can make.

"We gave each student in the school a package with a copybook, stationery and times tables. Their excitement and joy were so clear and the difference every hour spent collecting had made was clear. All our hard work, from organising school sleepovers to swimming on Christmas Day had paid off.

"I will never forget the afternoon we spent at the opening of the school and I can safely say that my trip to Cameroon was one of the most formative experiences of my time in secondary school and of my life so far."

My boyfriend says he is not ready to get married

Q: My boyfriend and I have been going out for five years. We are both in our early 30s. I want to get married but he says he is not ready. How do I encourage him to take the next step, without giving him an ultimatum?

A: Perhaps I would give a different answer if you were 10 years younger and dating for a shorter amount of time. But, at this stage in your lives you know yourself and what you want in a relationship better. There should be no need for encouragement or ultimatums, simply communication and a decision on what is the next step.

The first question you have to ask yourself is, why do you want to get married? Is it because you are together for five years and you think it is just the logical next step? Or, is it because you are ready to lay your life down for this man?

The next question is, will your boyfriend ever be

ready? What sort of a future does he see? Can you afford to waste time when you might have different expectations for marriage and family? Certainly you have been together for enough time, but what have your intentions been during that time?

The danger, after this amount of time together, is that your relationship is likely getting as intertwined as that of a married couple, holidays together, seeing each other every day and you are probably closer to one another than anyone else.

One of the problems with long term dating is you are becoming like a married couple, without actually being married. So what is he afraid of?

It is time to sit down and have an open and honest conversation about what you both want, what is holding him back and if you can't do that after five years together...Well that might just be

your answer The important thing here is to open the lines of communication and share what both of you are thinking and feeling.

Don't be tempted to turn this sharing into a badgering or pressuring argument, you need to get to the root of the problem before you decide what's next.

Intention

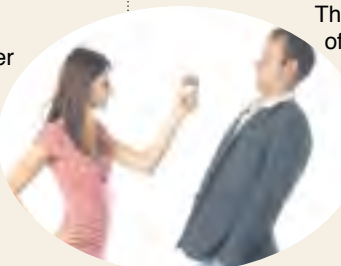
The key here is to talk and find out what is he not ready for? Given you have been dating for a significant amount of time, does he not have a plan? Is he dating you with the intention of marriage or just leading you on? Someone who says they are not ready to settle down at this age and stage I suspect either may never be ready or simply isn't with the right person.

You might need to reassess if you really want the same things, marriage is daunting, it's scary to say yes to be forever with someone, but the reality is with the right someone it's still a huge step, but an exciting adventure you leap into together.



Love Notes

Wendy Grace



TVRadio

Brendan O'Regan



Little gems and well-kept secrets revealed

In some circles, especially among young people, the contribution of the Catholic Church to science and the arts is a well-kept secret.

Fr Andrew Pinsent of the Ian Ramsay Centre for Science and Religion, and Fr Marcus Holden from the Shrine of St Augustine in Ramsgate have done more than most to remedy this (e.g. through their talks and the booklet *Lumen: The Catholic Gift to Civilisation*) so it was good to see them on the series **Catholic Enlightenment** (EWTN) last Saturday.

In this episode, they were discussing the Church's influence on everything from the development of alphabets, through Church and secular music, to the promotion of forgiveness.

It was too much content for a 30-minute show, and while there was much of interest I'd love to have seen more depth on the topics – the stuff of future programmes perhaps? More attention to visuals and music would have helped too as it was largely talking heads.

As it promotes the Word, it's no wonder the Church was influential in the early development of English literature, linked here to the bringing of the scriptures to England by the early monks. The broad sweep of the discussion ranged from Chaucer to Tolkien, and of course Shakespeare



A scene from Netflix series *Anne with an E*.

figured large – the Bard was shaped by the Catholic world and his imaginative vision was Catholic. In terms of contribution to music the discussion varied from the ever popular Gregorian Chant to complex choral works of Mozart and Beethoven. Tribute was paid to how Protestantism brought congregational singing to “great beauty”.

The Church's contribution to the promotion of forgiveness was highlighted. It was suggested that

we underestimate the transformative power of the Lord's Prayer, with its strong forgiveness motif. The Church's need for forgiveness wasn't ignored, with Fr Holden pointing out that wrongs done in the name of the Church had ‘a disproportionately bad effect’.

Another well-kept secret, this time on Netflix, and also featuring enthusiasm for the Lord's Prayer is the drama **Anne With an E**, a modern take on the children's classic *Anne of Green Gables*. I finally

got to finish the series and it's a real treat to watch, featuring a lively young orphan girl who brightens up the lives of an aging brother and sister on a farm in Prince Edward Island off Nova Scotia.

It's a warm, optimistic show, confident in human dignity and decency, all heart but with no little pain as well.

Amybeth McNulty is outstanding in the title role – the girl who has seen tough times and many disappointments, but still maintains an optimistic and imaginative outlook. She has an impressive sense of wonder and when introduced to prayer, especially the Our Father, she takes to it with enthusiasm.

The show is positive to religious faith though there are elements that were hardly in the original novel – for example a hint, with approval, of a long term same-sex relationship involving two elderly ladies, one of whom

becomes a role model for Anne, and some fairly frank sexual talk among Anne and her friends. In a way it's a timely programme for adults, challenging them to reflect on how they treat children.

Hunger strike

Still on the treatment of children, **Moncrieff** (Newstalk, Tuesday of last week) featured an interview with Donegal politician Tim Jackson, in the news for a hunger strike outside Dáil Éireann to persuade the members of the Oireachtas Committee on the Eighth Amendment to view an abortion video. One would have thought they would do that anyway, but it's amazing how little people know or find out what an abortion actually is, even when discussing or voting on it.

Hunger strikes are a questionable strategy from a pro-life point of view but Jackson gave an excellent interview – moderate, articulate and clear headed. Moncrieff asked him some hard questions, even suggesting this was a stunt, but Jackson remained calm throughout.

I have no problem with the hard questions, but would just love, in fairness, to have some similarly robust questioning of pro-choice guests. Unfortunately it's more like cheerleading when they're on.

Text response was mostly



Fr Andrew Pinsent.

PICK OF THE WEEK

CONVERSATIONS THE WORLD OVER
EWTN, Tuesday, October 3, 5.30pm

Raymond Arroyo's conversation with scholar Clare Asquith, on hidden codes and beliefs in Shakespeare.

UNREPORTED WORLD: IRELAND'S BIG DECISION
Channel 4, Friday, October 6, 7.30pm
Meeting women and families on both sides of Ireland's current abortion debate.

THE LEAP OF FAITH
RTÉ Radio 1, Friday, October 6, 10.02pm
New season of the topical religious affairs show, with Michael Comyn.

negative (30-3), but Moncrieff said this was the way they came in. Many defied logic – it's a woman-only issue (duh ... fathers?), if you don't agree with abortion don't have one (tell that to the baby), a man shouldn't be having such a say in relation to a woman's body (what about the baby's body?). Essential listening!

1 boregan@hotmail.com



Aubrey Malone

Film

Bland lead the bland in marital rom-com

Home Again (12A)

Reese Witherspoon could probably have phoned in her performance in this romantic comedy about a woman with two precocious daughters trying to make a new start in life as an interior decorator as she approaches the big four-oh.

It won't tax your brain unduly but if you like Witherspoon, who tends to Hoover up the kind of roles Julia Roberts and Meg Ryan used to have handed to them almost by rote, it will while away 90 minutes for you without too much metal fatigue.

She plays Alice Finney, a woman recently divorced



Reese Witherspoon and Alexander Pico star in *Home Again*.

from her rock promoter husband Austen (Michael Sheen). Austen was married to his job rather than to Alice so she's better off without him.

She moves from New York back to the home in which she grew up in L.A. On a night out to celebrate (mourn?) her

40th birthday she meets three novice film-makers who've just been evicted from their living quarters. Under the influence of a tad too much alcohol she invites them back with her and ends up becoming romantically involved with one of them, Harry

(Alexander Pico).

When her movie siren mother (Candice Bergen) suggests they stay in her guest house – this is a well-heeled family, you'll have deduced by now – the stage is set for some screwball scenarios.

Crestfallen

Just when you're thinking it should have been called *Three Men and a Babe*, Austen turns up looking crestfallen and begging Alice to take him back. He's a pain in the neck so this seems unlikely, even if Harry looks young enough to be her son. (He's 13 years her junior.)

Hallie Meyers-Shyer directs. She's the daughter of Nancy (*Something's Got*

to Give) Meyers and Charles (*Baby Boom*) Shyer. With that kind of pedigree, what else was she going to do with her life? It's laced with film references. Alice's dead father was also a director. You can see where Hallie got her inspiration – if that's the word.

It plays out like the left luggage of a hundred similar films you've already seen, some of them produced by Hallie's illustrious parents. Notwithstanding the nepotism, with Witherspoon at the helm it manages to maintain a modicum of watchability. She does a neat line in ditziness combined with determination. “A fawn crossed with a Buick” as Jack Nicholson once said of Jessica

Lange.

Because we're talking single mothers and May-September romances, the film makes some noises about ageism and sexism in between the user-friendly new age family set-ups. These come at you in such a tame manner you hardly notice. As Kenneth Tynan might say, the film shakes its anger at us like a tiny fist.

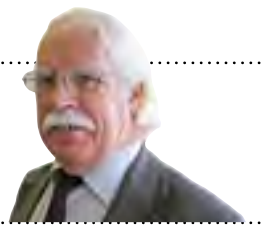
It's a glossy confection that reminds you of a beautiful box of chocolates – without the chocolates. Bergen playing a faded movie queen sounds very much like type-casting but she does it with the elegance we've come to expect from her. Was Meryl Streep not free that week?

Fair

★★★

BookReviews

Peter Costello



Mourning the road not taken

Crimes of the Father
by Thomas Keneally
(Sceptre Books, £19.99)

Pauric Travers

Almost 50 years ago, schoolteacher and aspiring writer Thomas Keneally won his second Miles Franklin award for *Three Cheers for the Paraclete*, a novel set in the Irish-Australian Catholic community which explores the conflict between faith, obedience, freedom and authority.

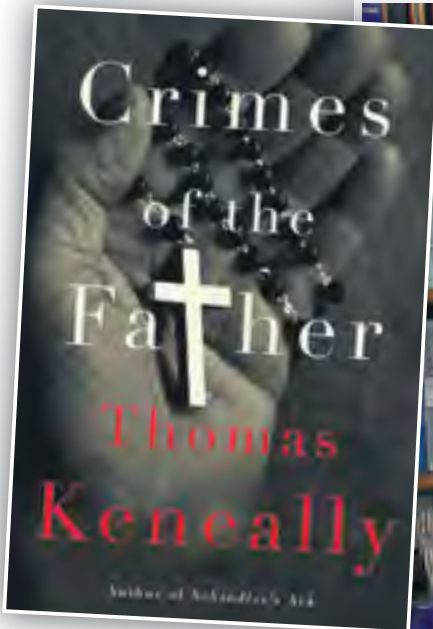
Half a century and more than 30 books later, Keneally has returned to that setting and those themes in *Crimes of the Father*, but in a context which could hardly be more different.

In the meantime, Keneally has established himself as a master story teller *par excellence* and the Catholic Church in Australia, as elsewhere, has been convulsed by scandal. The damage wreaked by sexual abuse on victims and clergy alike and on the standing of the Church is the focus of Keneally's compelling new work.

Whereas the tone of *Paraclete* was light and humorous, that of *Crimes of the Father* is understandably dark.

Background

The historical background of this story will be broadly familiar to Irish readers and the immediate context will resonate even more so. In an author's note, Keneally declares forthrightly: "I suppose you could call me a child of the Church. It defined me and gave my young life any



higher meaning it possessed."

The Church in which Keneally grew up was distinctly Irish, its mould having been set in the 19th Century by All Hallows and Maynooth and the influx of Irish religious orders who established and ran parishes, schools and hospitals.

“He gets caught up in a series of abuse cases involving an eminent cleric”

While this began to change in the post war period with the influx of Catholics from other European countries, Irish Catholics remained a distinct group, socially, culturally, and even politically.

Keneally has earned a reputation for giving voice to the under-dog – *Schindler's*



Thomas Keneally pictured at home.

Ark and *The Chant of Jimmy Blacksmith* spring to mind.

But the under-dogs that he chooses to give voice to are sometimes unexpected – as in *Confederates*, an American civil war novel from a southern perspective and *Gossip from the Forest* which presented an account of the armistice negotiations at Compiègne in November 1918 from a liberal German viewpoint.

Similarly *Crimes of the Father* gives voice to the struggles of the 'good priest'. The trauma of the victims of clerical sex abuse is powerfully evoked but the main protagonist is the decent if flawed Fr Frank Docherty.

After years ministering in Canada, Fr Docherty returns

to the Sydney archdiocese from which he had been exiled years before for his liberal views to speak at a conference on paedophilia. During the visit, he hopes to spend time with his elderly mother and smooth the way for a permanent return home.

Instead he gets caught up in a series of abuse cases involving an eminent cleric who is the brother of a close friend.

If Docherty pursues the truth as conscience and justice demand, the consequences may be devastating for many, including himself.

The novel is set in the 1990s at a critical juncture in the Church's response to clerical abuse, not in the 1970s when the horrific events which are

described took place.

“Crimes of the Father mourns the lives destroyed and the roads not taken”

In an article on child abuse in the *New Yorker* around this time, Keneally, cited a priest friend who predicted that, if the Church failed to address the matter forthrightly, the civil authorities would be forced to do so with disastrous consequences for the Church and for all priests who would bear the opprobrium.

This is Fr Frank's message to the Archdiocese of Sydney. *Crimes of the Father* mourns the lives destroyed

and the roads not taken. It also tries to exorcise some demons.

Docherty is a fictional character, but he owes something to priest friends of Keneally whom he admired, including one exiled in similar circumstances.

The novel owes something, too, to Keneally's own journey from seminarian to 'delicatessen Catholic', a 'cultural Catholic' who, despite having rejected the institutional Church, retains a belief in the authenticity of Catholic spirituality.

i Pauric Travers, first lay President of St Patrick's College, is an historian with a special interest in Australia.

Another way of architecture: lessons lost on Ireland

Czech Architectural Cubism
by Zdeněk Lukeš and Ester Havlová
(Jaroslav Fregner Gallery, Prague, €10.00; on sale at IAA)

Peter Costello

The Irish Architectural Archive is currently running an exhibition, "Czech Architectural Cubism", which should not be missed by anyone interested about how architecture, including indeed church architecture, might have developed in Ireland in the 1920s.

Czechs had a fresh vision of how things might be built in one of the new nations created in the aftermath of the Great War, a little country seeking to create or regain its own unique Czech identity

after long Austrian and German domination, a quest symbolised by the Czech language; a country which was again to suffer in the following decades from German invasion, and post-war Russian domination. Now under very different circumstances, the country's artists and scholars are re-exploring what was done, and what might have been done.

A great variety of buildings are included in the exhibition, but it is most interesting to see the private houses as well as the co-operative flats for workers.

There are some images of religious building: the Bethlehem Chapel in Prague, the church of the Czechoslovak Evangelical Protestant church in Pečky



Interior of the church of the Czechoslovak Evangelical Protestant community in Pečky.

[pictured], and the synagogue in Milevsako.

In these one can see a new country trying to echo the past in radically new solutions inspired, as the title of the show suggests, by the international Cubist movement in art. It manages to be both traditional, innovative, and humane all at the same time.

“One can see a new country trying to echo the past in radically new solutions”

It is all very different from the tired Edwardian and ineffective art deco of Irish architecture in the period, or the Miesian brutalism

and its echoes that we have to live with these days. But also, this is not quite what one expected Kafka's country to look like!

A catalogue is available but its images cannot compete with those in the show, whose larger size reveals details lost to the eye on the printed page of the remarkably sensitive photographs of Ester Havlová. The text (translated from the Czech) is by the distinguished architect Zdeněk Lukeš, an artist of the post WWII generation.

i The exhibition 'Czech Architectural Cubism' runs until 14th October 2017 (from Tuesday to Friday 10.00 am–5.00 pm) in the Irish Architectural Archive, 45 Merrion Square, Dublin 2.

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 Sam Maguire Cup captured for the third time in a row by Dublin.



Sam Maguire: The Man and The Cup
by Kieran Connolly
(Mercier Press, €12.99)

J. Anthony Gaughan

As last week's dramatic victory by Dublin over Mayo showed, the Sam Maguire Cup is much better known than the man after whom it was named and honours.

This opportune account of Sam Maguire and noteworthy occasions and persons associated with the cup will be of the great interest to GAA enthusiasts across the country as it tells the story of the name behind the cup.

Sam Maguire was born in Dunmanway, Co Cork, on March 1, 1877. He was educated locally. Like others from West Cork, including Michael Collins, he secured an appointment in the British postal service, working in the central sorting office in London.

Active member

Although, as a Protestant, he had little acquaintance with Gaelic games in his youth, in London he joined the GAA and was an active member both as an administrator and a player.

He featured in the London teams which contested the Away All-Ireland Football Finals of 1900, 1901, 1902 and 1903, which were played in 1902, 1903, 1904 and 1905 respectively.

Soon after arriving in London Maguire became a member of the IRB and swore Michael Collins into the organisation in 1909.

The man behind the name on the cup

During World War I the membership of the IRB in England was estimated to have been about 2,000 and Maguire was regarded as one of its leading members.

During the War of Independence he was in charge of IRA intelligence in London. He was also Collins' principal contact in London for purchasing arms and smuggling them into Ireland. With others he planned and prepared a number of high-profile assassinations in London, but these for various reasons had to be abandoned.

“He was dismissed from his post in the civil-service in 1926”

Yet it seems he was the link by which Collins' directive that Field Marshal Sir Henry Wilson, then the military adviser to the Northern Ireland government, be assassinated was delivered – an act of war delayed until six months after the Treaty was signed.

Yet influenced by Collins, Maguire supported the Anglo-Irish Treaty. He returned to Ireland in 1923 and secured employment in the Irish Free State's department of posts and telegraphs. Remaining close to his old comrades in the IRA, he

conspired with a number of them when they initiated a mutiny in the Irish Free State army.



Following the suppression of the mutiny, those responsible for army intelligence claimed that during the mutiny he had urged the assassination of members of the cabinet and senior officers in the army.

He was dismissed from his post in the civil service in 1926 and, despite subsequent appeals that he be reinstated, he remained unemployed. He returned to Dunmanway destitute and after ailing for some time he died of tuberculosis on February 6, 1927.

Maguire's former com-

rades were determined that his sterling contribution to the struggle for independence should not be forgotten. They donated the Sam Maguire Perpetual Memorial Cup to the GAA to be awarded to the winners of the All-Ireland football final, to replace the previous cup which had been lost.

The trophy, based on the design of the Ardagh chalice, was first presented in 1928 to the captain of the Kildare team. It was replaced by a replica in 1988 and is now on display in the GAA museum in Croke Park.

In a chapter, headed 'Significant Moments in the History of the All-Ireland Finals', the author provides a wealth of traditional lore, some well-known, some not so well-known. The concluding chapter has statistical information on every aspect of the All-Ireland Football Championship.

This includes a list of the five Kerry footballers who had the privilege of lifting the Sam Maguire Cup high above their heads on no less than eight occasions. Here also is the 'Team of the Century' and the 'Team of the Millennium' and a listing of the 'Players of the Year'. Regular readers as well as sports followers and football pundits will find this book to be a fascinating read.

The World of Books

By the books editor

The moral value of the amateur scientist

There is a peculiar interest in the second-hand, or rather 'pre-loved' books, which one picks up in one's daily round. Recently I bought in one of the few surviving junk shops in Dublin a grubby little volume entitled *Half-Hours with the Microscope*, dated 1905, that had on the fly leaf the name of its owner: Patrick J Kelly, "Doreen", Ashfield Road, Ranelagh. The handwriting suggests a young man rather than a schoolboy, and the subject an earnest self-improving young man at that.

I wondered who he was, but the census records (alas) cast no light on his identity. However, far more interesting was the author, Edwin Lankester MD [pictured]. He was one of the great men of Victorian public health.

The copy young Kelly owned was no first edition. The book had in fact been first issued back in 1857, and had been regularly reprinted since then, only going out of print in 1918. It was just one of a vast number of similar books by very reputable scientists aimed at a wide readership in the heyday of natural history as an amateur pursuit, about which Lynn Barber wrote such an excellent book.

Lankester also wrote *Good Food, What It Is, and How to Get It* (1867), which was not a manual for over-fed foodies, but a pamphlet intended to warn Mid-Victorian households against the crimes committed by the food suppliers of the day through bad meat, infected or watered milk, and adulterated flour.

Of course, food pollution has not gone away you know; it's just changed its name and nature. No longer is it a matter of arsenic, sand and vitriol, but the equally poisonous sugar, salt and tartrazine. Indeed, in some ways Victorian food may have been a healthier option than today's ready-made meals.

Triumph

But Edwin Lancaster's greatest triumph was his role in finally exposing the real cause of cholera. That disease was not only endemic in England, it had caused great fatalities in Ireland in the 1830s and 1840s, indeed most of the deaths in the Great Hunger may have been due, not to starvation, but to cholera.

Lankester was the son (according to his son) of "poor but clever parents". He struggled to qualify as a doctor and surgeon, finally taking an MD in Europe. He specialised in microscopic investigations, especially of disease germs.

There was a severe outbreak of cholera in 1849 in London, which was investigated by a committee of inquiry, with no clear result. But another outbreak in Soho in 1854 was traced to a public water pump in Broad Street that had been infected by sewage overflows. Lankester headed an inquiry into this, hearing evidence from John Snow and John Sutherland, the medical men who had closely investigated it.

The committee concluded that the outbreak was due entirely to infected water, as Snow claimed. Though most people did not believe this, Snow had the right answer.

The pump was closed after Lankester's committee reported. But was not until 1888 that Chief Medical Officer of Health at last acknowledged that Dr Snow's work on how cholera spread was one of the most significant medical discoveries of the 19th Century.

Struggle

We are all aware that the struggle to ensure a clean and uninfected supply of water still goes on in Ireland, many people still not seeing that they are not charged for the supply of the water they use, but to cleanse it after they have polluted it in all manner of ways before flushing it away.

For Lankester, the microscope was not just a means of investigating death, it was a way into the deepest secrets of life itself. Yet Victorian reformers, whether driven by science or by faith (as many were), struggled with the prejudices of the public and the indifference of the authorities. It takes a lot to change people's minds and move governments to action.

But by equipping young people with real knowledge through such little books as *Half-hours with the Microscope* great changes were eventually brought about.

The studious Patrick Kelly of Ashfield Road was the heir to a great tradition of science in the true service of the community. One hopes he thrived in his later life.

Classifieds

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



LITTLE FLOWER PENNY DINNERS

The Guild of the Little Flower has been providing meals to the homeless and elderly for over 100 years.

Please help us continue and donate what you can.

Credit and Debit Cards now also accepted.

Guild of the Little Flower, 11 Meath St, D8
Phone 01 4536621 or 01 4546795
E-mail: srbridg@littleflower.ie

Reg. Charity
No. 6179

CATHOLIC TV AND RADIO

AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT IRELAND

EWTN TV and Radio available on free to air satellite.
Shalom World TV and many more Catholic radio stations available through the internet.
Available in your home, hotel, or nursing home.

Contact Eamon O'Sullivan at 086 2548017



Please remember

THE IRISH HOSPICE FOUNDATION

when making your Will so that everyone, everywhere will have access to hospice care one day.

Tel: 01 679 3188
E-mail: info@hospicefoundation.ie
www.hospicefoundation.ie



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

Contact our Fundraising Department in strictest confidence
Tel. 01 8815 900
Email: info@focusireland.ie
www.focusireland.ie

FOCUS

Ireland



Northside 01 6991450
Southside 01 9081333
Mobile 087 1698944
085 1561457

Kildare 045 254201
Meath 046017266
Mobile 087 1698944

LEADING THE WAY IN ROOFING

At Roofix Roofing and Guttering, we provide quality roofing services and chimney repairs in Ireland.
Free estimates for all areas covered.

www.roofixroofingandguttering.com

GROUP PILGRIMAGE TO SAN GIOVANNI & MATERDOMINI

ST. PHILOMENA, ST. PIO & ST. GERARD MAJELLA PILGRIMAGE

27 October - 1 November - €775pps
5 night full pilgrimage package
For more details contact Owen Rice
042 - 937 2455

MARIAN PILGRIMAGES

878 8159 - (028) 9568 0005 WWW.MARIAN.IE



Classified ads

SERVICES

ALL UNWANTED home waste removed. Cookers, fridges, beds, suites, wardrobes, carpets etc. Removed and disposed of in a proper manner. No job too small or big. Contact Tommy, 087 6406015.

I AM WRITING a book, and I am looking for stories relating to God. Stories about when you asked God for some form of help or guidance, and got it. Whatever the situation, personal life, family life, your work or business related ect. reply to anthonyjennings@eircom.net

CATHOLIC RADIO

RADIO MARIA IRELAND is an Irish-run Catholic Talk-Radio Station. Available to download FREE by App "RADIO MARIA WORLD FAMILY" on mobile devices, FREE streaming on www.radiomaria.ie by clicking "LISTEN LIVE" or can be listened to on the phone via a live radio feed by calling +353 (0) 1 437 3277. Facebook Page: "Radio Maria - Ireland".

CATHOLIC CONNECTIONS

PROFESSIONAL, tall 50 year old lady in Co Limerick, would like to meet a tall, intelligent gentleman aged 50-58 with a view to friendship, eventual relationship. Please send response with accompanying photo to Box #5042.

Remembering

MEMORIAM CARDS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

CARDS & NOTELETS

BOOKMARKS

Samples / Information

KENNEDY PRINTERS

BANTRY, CO. CORK, IRELAND
Tel. 027 50102
www.kennedyprinters.ie
email: info@kennedyprinters.ie

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.

McG

BÓTHAR

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

Please pray for the beatification of

Little Nellie of Holy God

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

— Pope St Pius X, June 4, 1912

NOTICE THIS?

GET YOUR MESSAGE OUT TO 90,000 READERS!

[TheIrishCatholic](http://TheIrishCatholic.com)



Follow the Irish Catholic on Facebook
The-Irish-Catholic-Newspaper

The Irish Catholic

PREPAID CLASSIFIED AD COUPON

Please print your advertisement in the coupon, placing ONE word in each space. Below, please print your name and address. Do you require a Box Number? YES ☐ NO ☐ (Please tick ✓) Box Number €6 extra.

1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					

Name and contact detail form MUST be filled out

Name

Address

Landline Mobile

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

STATE UNDER WHICH HEADING YOUR AD IS TO APPEAR:

Minimum charge of €24.60 (inc. VAT) for 5 lines (25 words). Extra lines €4.92 each.

No. of insertions: _____ weeks
Miracle Prayer €40

€24.60
€29.52
€34.44

I enclose Cheque/PO: €.....I wish to pay by Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Laser ☐

My Visa/Mastercard/Lasercard number is:

.....

Expiry Date:Signature

Phone: 01 687 4094



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

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

to find out more visit www.mqi.ie

Ring Emma Murphy at 01-5240965 to be included on the guest list for the October 12th tour.



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

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

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

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

01-8552790

Family & Life

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

Will the MSC Missions

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

Please remember them in your Will

Contact:
Mission Support Centre, Western Road, Cork.
Tel: 021 - 4543988
www.msccireland.com

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

Please remember this work when making your will

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

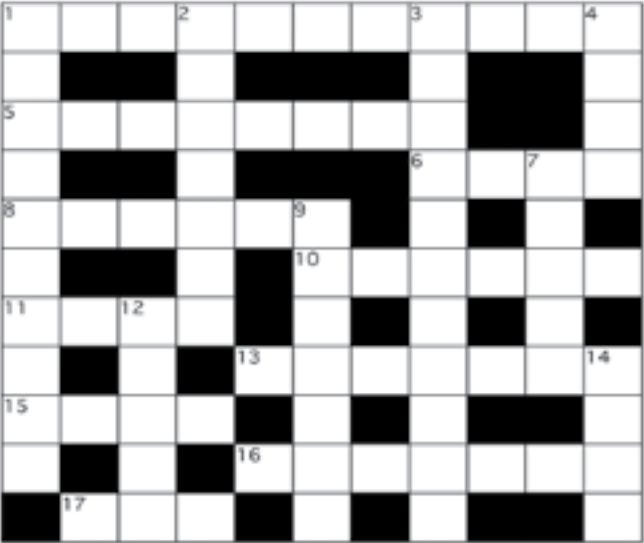


01-629 3333
info@trocaire.ie
www.trocaire.org

Leisure time

Crossword Junior

Gordius 201



- ACROSS**

1 A young butterfly or moth (11)

5 Competition to see who can leap the greatest distance (4,4)

6 You might say this if you make a small mistake (4)

8 Unjust (6)

10 The capital city of Greece (6)

11 Harsh, cutting liquid (4)

13 Made it different (7)

15 These birds hunt at night (4)

16 "It's started raining, I wish I'd _____ an umbrella!" (7)

17 When he grows up, he becomes a man (3)
- DOWN**

1 Machine to help you with your sums (10)

2 Birmingham and Leeds are in this country (7)

3 An athlete might run this after winning an important race (3,2,6)

4 Torn clothing (4)

7 There are one hundred of them in a pound (5)

9 Slices of bacon (7)

12 House made of snow and ice (5)

14 The twenty-third of June, for example (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

GORDIUS No.317

Across – 1 Carbon copy 6 Mass 10 Polio 11 Order form 12 Scarves 15 Erase 17 Kiln 18 Watt 19 Cubic centimetre 21 Bellboy 23 Hydra 24 Back 25 Deaf 26 Nomad 28 Tel Aviv 33 Raspberry 34 Bench 35 Dido

Down – 1 Cope 2 Relocated 3 Odour 4 Clone 5 Pads 7 Aroma 8 Simnel cake 9 Urgency 13 Vice 14 Ski lift 16 Two hundred 20 Brazil nut 21 Bad debt 22 Oval 27 Mused 29 Egypt 30 Album 31 Free 32 Ghee

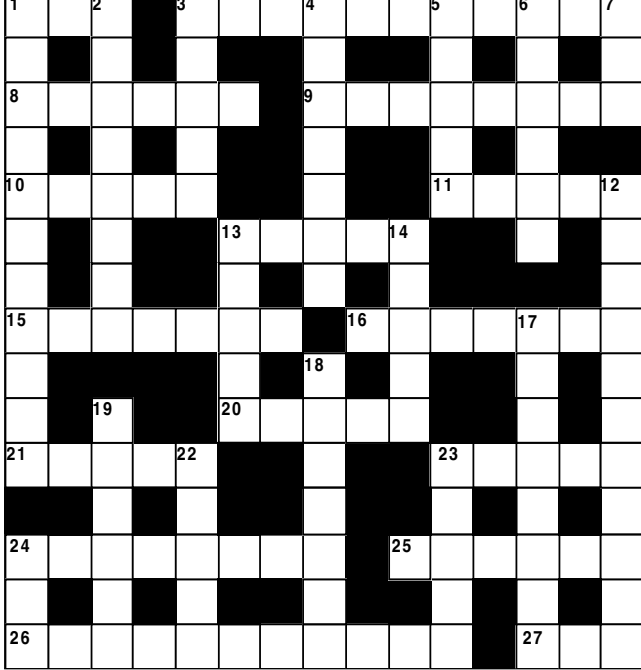
CHILDREN'S No.200

Across – 1 Motorboat 5 North 7 Vixen 8 Thermometer 11 Quarrels 14 Swing 15 Hotel 16 Stirred 17 End

Down – 1 Minutes 2 Target 3 Alice 4 Miner 6 Hamburger 9 Marched 10 Theatre 12 Salad 13 Mini 14 SOS

Crossword

Gordius 318



- ACROSS**

1 Bundle of notes, material, etc (3)

3 Musical instrument somewhat like a piano (11)

8 Ms Paige has an eel I liberated (6)

9 A sorry piece of fast food, but a good investment! (4,4)

10 An alternative fact about, for example, a Belgian city (5)

11 Uniform jacket (5)

13 The mission is to have some communicate stolen (5)

15 Yap for what one's boss owes one (4,3)

16 & 6d Dexterity, as practised by conjurors and comen (7,2,4)

20 Tale (5)

21 & 26a The Cities of the Plain can change Armagh donors' mood! (5,3,8)

23 Make broader (5)

24 & 17d A film classification of PG (8,8)

25 Bough (6)

26 See 21 across
- DOWN**

27 Recede, like part of 4 down (3)

1 Refuse what these contain! (7-4)

2 Dice bait differently for one who may need to inject insulin (8)

3 Joint on which a door moves (5)

4 Small, rounded stones (7)

5 Many departed (split) (5)

6 See 16 across

7 A quick swim (3)

12 Being obsessed with Moby Dick, he might break a china bat, Pa (7,4)

13 Wharves (5)

14 The goggle-box, in short (5)

17 See 24 across

18 Shoemaker (7)

19 One loved to fuss over a communist (6)

22 Fruit that makes a bloke depart (5)

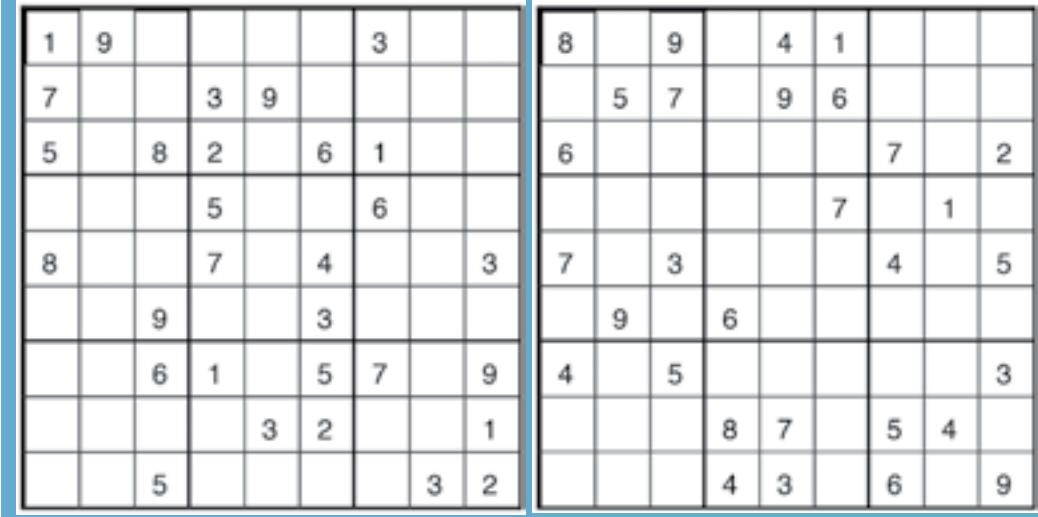
23 Value (5)

24 Vegetable found in a pod (3)

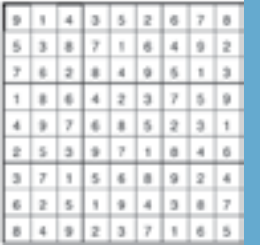
Sudoku Corner

201

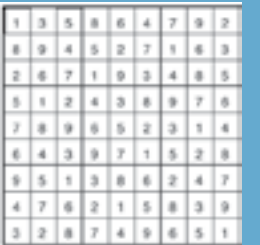
Easy Hard



Last week's Easy 200



Last week's Hard 200





Fr Vincent Sherlock

Notebook

A stroll along Grafton Street...

I'D NOT LIKE TO BE in Dublin these days and especially not after the full time whistle blew on the 'Third Sunday of September', dealing yet another blow to Mayo's dream of glory – a dream that, I'm convinced, will come true.

Though a regular enough visitor, I'd not claim to know Dublin. A few years ago, I found myself there on a sunny summer's day and I had a few hours to kill so I parked the car. A quick text to a friend led to a short but welcome lunch. After that I wandered around for a while with absolutely no 'agenda'! I spent an hour or more on Grafton Street and bought nothing – well, an ice cream – so I helped the economy in a very small way. I was reminded of Nanci Griffith's song 'On Grafton Street' and imagined her, as a visitor to Dublin, searching for, and finding, some space on what is a very crowded street.

Nanci speaks of "buskers" in her song and there certainly was a fair share of them on show that day, as there is every day I'm sure. There was so much talent on an open street. There was a very lively group called KeyWest – absolutely excellent. Around another corner there was a woman sitting on a



window sill and a man on the footpath. One had a fiddle and the other a guitar and they were playing *The Foggy Dew* – pure

class. I think I was the only one standing there and they played as if they were playing to a sell out concert in the 3Arena. What is it that allows people get lost in a tune? Whatever it is, long may it remain. Along the street there was a variety of musicians and musical styles. Little groups stood a while and listened to each, respecting the talent offered and maybe throwing an odd coin into a waiting guitar case.

Pavement

A little further on I saw a dog lying on the pavement, looking at a tennis ball. The dog, the towel he lay upon, the ball were all made out of sand. Somehow rushing feet left all untouched. Respect for an art form – proper order too!

I think the "act" that most

caught my eye, never said a word. It was a sculpture in stone, of sorts, featuring five people, three standing and two sitting. One held a guitar. It was the hottest day of the year and the sculpture stood calm. I stood and watched.

An Australian woman said to me: "Do you want to see what happens when you put in a coin?" She rushed forward, leaving her group of fellow visitors, to put a coin in the bucket. I said: "No, you've done that already, I'll do it"; so I put in a coin and the sculpture bowed in appreciation.

I have to say I enjoyed the time spent that day. I went to the Carmelite Church too and was amazed to see so many people there, in the middle of a sunny day, just sitting quietly and praying before the Blessed Sacrament. I thought of the 'sculpture' down the street and felt certain that Jesus too would acknowledge the recognition and bow, even a little, to those approaching him in prayer. I thought of the dog, towel and tennis ball made of sand and remembered Jesus bending down on another street one day, and writing in the sand – the dust.

It's good sometimes to notice what's happening 'on the street'.

I ENJOYED THAT: That's a line Ryan Tubridy likes to use! Often when one of his musical guests performs, the camera returns to Ryan who taps a pen or a piece of paper on the desk, looks across the studio to the performer(s) says "thanks" and adds, "I enjoyed that". It's such a believable and natural reaction to something that has left us feeling contented or moved. Quite often, it's linked with music or a song. You can see why. Recently I spoke with two groups of Transition Year Students in one of our secondary schools. As I walked with the TY Co-Ordinator to meet them I felt a bit overwhelmed by the constant stream of young students along a very packed and busy corridor. I was brought into one of the classrooms and the throng on the corridor had been whittled down to a group of TY Students. I looked at them and they at me. I found my voice, noticed their kindness and the time flew. "I enjoyed that"!



FROM THE BACK SEAT: They were coming home from Mass. "That was so boring," said the husband. "I know", replied the wife and continued; "The choir was so off tune, it was horrendous." "What was the priest on about? I don't believe I caught a word of it. He was all over the shop." "I'm frozen," she said "that church is like an ice box". "You'd think they'd do something with the place," he was on a roll "and, as for the readers, my God, not a clue". "So boring," they said together.

Then a head popped up in the back seat, and their young son leaned towards the front of the car, caught the ears of the analysts in the front seat and said: "I don't know, I thought it wasn't a bad show for 20c!"



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.

EVERY EURO YOU SEND WILL BE VERY GRATEFULLY RECEIVED AND SENT WITHOUT DEDUCTION.



LITTLE WAY THERESIAN HOUSES AT OUR LADY'S SHRINES

Would you like to spend a few days in private prayer at one of Our Lady's shrines?

The Little Way Theresian Centres at Fatima, Walsingham and Knock can offer accommodation for individuals and small groups. For bookings and enquiries please contact:

FATIMA

Tel: (00 353) 87 645 0046

WALSINGHAM

Tel: (0044) 1328 820 222

KNOCK

Tel: 094 93 88 406

"The Marian shrines are like the Mother's home, places for rest and refreshment on the long road which leads to Christ." – Pope John Paul II

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

THE LITTLE WAY ASSOCIATION
Sacred Heart House, 119 Cedars Rd, Clapham Common, London SW4 0PR
(Registered Charity No. 235703) Tel 0044 20 76 22 0466
www.littlewayassociation.com

I enclose €..... to be allocated to:
€..... **WELFARE OF CHILDREN**
€..... **SOUTH ASIA FLOODING**
€..... **AFRICAN FAMINE**
€..... **LITTLE WAY ADMIN EXPENSES**

☐ Please tick if you would like an acknowledgement

Name (Rev. Mr. Mrs. Miss)

(Block letters please)

Address

To donate online go to
tinyurl.com/lwadonations

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

