

The Irish Catholic

SYNODAL FUTURE



Legalism will not allow the voice of laypeople to be heard Page 8

TOTAL FAITH



All-Ireland winners Tyrone thank fans for prayers Page 3

KATHERINE ZAPPONE



UN role should include focus on religious freedom Page 4

Thursday, September 16, 2021

€2.50 (Stg £2.20)

The-Irish-Catholic-Newspaper

@IrishCathNews

www.irishcatholic.com

Reject 'fashionable' urge to knock the Church, pleads former minister

Chai Brady

Former Justice Minister Charlie Flanagan has urged fellow politicians to resist the temptation to demonise the huge contribution of Catholic education simply because it has become fashionable to criticise the Church.

Mr Flanagan said that citizens owed priests and religious a huge debt of gratitude for their tireless commitment, especially when the State lacked the will to be more hands-on in education or other areas of society.

"Too often nowadays it's popular - or almost fashionable - to knock the Catholic Church, to dismiss the Catholic Church.

"Undoubtedly its [the Church's] role in the education in our country has been substantial and still remains significant," He said.

Mr Flanagan – a senior Fine Gael backbencher who is TD for Laois-Offaly – was speaking at the blessing of refurbished and extended buildings at his former school Knockbeg College. The ceremony was presided over by Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin Denis Nulty.

Pointing out that there is currently a debate about the future of education in Ireland, Bishop Nulty said "I welcome this debate.

» Continued on Page 2

'I'm glad you came...'



Pope Francis welcomes children during an audience at the Vatican at the weekend to raise awareness about unaccompanied refugee minors and children who have travelled to Europe. Photo: CNS.

MARY KENNY

The priest who ran to the burning twin towers PAGE 5



DAVID QUINN

John Paul II was right about 'war on terror' PAGE 13



NIAMH UÍ BHRIAIN

Bringing some balance to the story of repeal PAGE 7



LOURDES PILGRIMAGES 2021

Fully packaged group Pilgrimages to Lourdes

DIRECT FLIGHTS TO LOURDES - 4 STAR HOTELS

After the long wait join groups throughout October & visit Lourdes once again

3 Nights from € 549

4 Nights from € 629

7 Nights from € 789

CALL US ABOUT YOUR GROUP PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES IN 2022



MARIAN PILGRIMAGES GROUP PILGRIMAGE SPECIALISTS

WWW.MARIAN.IE

DUBLIN - (01) 878 8159

BELFAST - (028) 956 80005



Fully Licensed and Bonded by the Irish Commission for Aviation Regulation T0142



Inside this week

Kiley Britten

A decadent blackberry swirl cheesecake

Page 34



Dr Gaven Kerr

Love doesn't use others

Page 16



Jason Osborne

Blesseds abound in Poland

Page 26



Managing Editor: Michael Kelly, editor@irishcatholic.ie

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

Multimedia Journalists: Chai Brady, chai@irishcatholic.ie

Ruadhán Jones, ruadhan@irishcatholic.ie

Jason Osborne, jason@irishcatholic.ie

Newsroom: news@irishcatholic.ie 01 6874026

Books Editor: Peter Costello, books@irishcatholic.ie

Advertising: advertising@irishcatholic.ie 01 6874094

Accounts: accounts@irishcatholic.ie 01 6874020

Magnificat: magnificat@irishcatholic.ie

Shop: shop@irishcatholic.ie

Annual Subscription Rates: Ireland €165. Airmail €250. Six months €85.

ISSN 1393 - 6832 - Published by The Irish Catholic,

Unit 3b, Bracken Business Park, Bracken Road, Sandyford, Dublin 18, D18 K277.

Printed by Webprint, Cork.

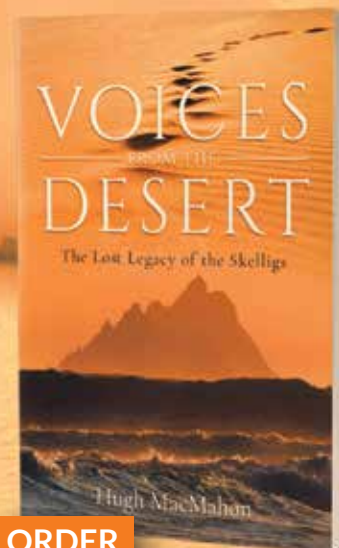
Place an Advert

Phone 01 687 4094 or advertising@irishcatholic.ie

columba BOOKS

VOICES FROM THE DESERT

The Lost Legacy of the Skelligs



Individuals looking for a fresh view of what it means to be a Christian, or to understand the Skelligs' legacy, will appreciate its authenticity, clarity and relevance.

PRICE:

€14.99 + €4.50P&P

ORDER TODAY

01 6874096 | www.columbabooks.com

Sport has the ability to show us at our best

Being born and raised in Tyrone, I can hardly be taken as an impartial commentator when it comes to Gaelic games. I was delighted to be in Croke Park on Sunday to see the senior footballers crowned All-Ireland champions. It's hard not to have sympathy for Mayo as their long wait for elusive All-Ireland success continues – but to the victors the spoils. It was Tyrone's day, and while everyone understood the agony Mayo fans were going through, we were caught up in our own ecstasy and sense of pride in what these young lads had achieved.

“To be invested in sports is to know both good days and bad days”

Gaelic games go right to the heart of who we

are as a people. It is bound up in the idea of the place where we come from. Every year during the championship, you will see flags of every county on display in far-flung places – a sure sign that a Kerryman lives in Tyrone or a Corkonian lives in Dublin.

Change

While Ireland continues to change, one thing remains constant: the importance of a sense of place. *Tir gra*, or love of place is an abiding Irish characteristic and the parish is central to that sense of belonging.

A priest I know spoke for all of us at the weekend when he described the GAA as the glue that holds our parishes

together. There is much more than sport involved here, GAA clubs were central during the pandemic ensuring that those who were self-isolating had everything that they needed. The clubs were able to deploy an army of volunteers to assist. And I know that in the part of the world where I come from, GAA clubs were instrumental in churches being able to re-open whether it was co-ordinating car parking or the strict limits on people allowed to attend Mass.

“Tir gra, or love of place is an abiding Irish characteristic and the parish is central to that sense of belonging”

To be successful in sport, is to embrace the deeply Christian idea of self-sacrifice that Jesus spoke about in the Gospel last weekend. Anyone who achieves a modicum of success in the sporting arena is someone who has given things up. Whether it is Saturday lie-ins, a good night out, time with family or holidays – people who are single-minded in their pursuit of success know about sacrificing. They also know – as Kipling observed – that success and failure are both imposters. Sport-

ing success is perfected in learning from setbacks, defeats and unrealised dreams.

“Gaelic games go right to the heart of who we are as a people”

The fans know this as well. To be invested in sports is to know both good days and bad days. I have sat at Gaelic grounds and seen grown men weep in both sadness and delight as they have followed the ups and downs of their teams.

Truth

Embracing the truth that nothing worth having in life is achieved without some degree of self-sacrifice is character-forming. Knowing too how to deal with success and failure serves us in every facet of our lives.

Whether it is Gaelic games, the Olympics or the Paralympics the noble ideals of sport, the perfection of the craft and the accompanying sporting sense of fair play is something to be proud of and shows our human nature at its best.

i To join Friends of The Irish Catholic and support Catholic journalism, please phone the office on 01 6874094 for more information or to make a contribution.



Editor's Comment Michael Kelly

From Croatia to Clare



Antun Pašalić is pictured with his family after being ordained a deacon last week in the Cathedral of Ss Peter and Paul in Ennis, Co. Clare. His parents, brothers and sisters joined the ceremony via webcam from Croatia. He was ordained by Bishop Fintan Monahan of Killaloe.

Reject 'fashionable' urge to knock the Church, pleads former minister

» Continued from Page 1

“The Church has over the years made an enormous contribution through its teachers – lay, religious and clerical to education in our country. Our diocesan schools have many examples of staff members who went way beyond the call of duty or indeed post of responsibility in their care of their students,” he said.

Taking this theme up, Mr Flanagan said that the contribution of priests and religious to education had been immeasurable over the years “particularly evident in the history of Knockbeg when the State intuitions lacked the will or the expertise, or both, to deliver an appropriate level of educa-

tion for the young people of our country.

“Looking back on the 230-year-old history of Knockbeg, we see it as one of the oldest secondary schools in the entire land and I want in particular, to acknowledge the role of the Catholic Church in the story of Knockbeg,” Mr Flanagan said.

Mr Flanagan, who is President of the Past Pupils' Union, added that the priests who served the college have been “responsible for great leadership in the delivery of top drawer education of thousands of young men in this region over a long period of time”.

As a diocesan college, Knockbeg is under the patronage of Bishop Nulty.

i See pages 18 and 19.

❖ Capuchin Day Care Centre ❖ 29 Bow Street, Dublin 7



Every day The Capuchin Day Care Centre provides 600 Meals for people who are homeless and each week 1000 Food Parcels for those on the poverty threshold.

Help Bro. Kevin continue providing this caring service.

Bro. Kevin or Therese 01 8720770
www.homeless.ie

Victorious Tyrone team thankful for prayers and support

Jason Osborne

Tyrone's All-Ireland victory over Mayo has been received in a spirit of humility, with Tyrone star Conor Meyler saying the team are "so grateful" for all of the prayers and support received from their county-men and women.

"As a team, we're so grateful and feel blessed with the huge support and prayers that we have received from so many people," Mr Meyler told *The Irish Catholic*.

"Winning the All-Ireland means everything to the team and we're delighted with the joy it has brought Tyrone people all over the world."

The prayers were obviously answered, Tyrone claiming their fourth ever All-Ireland, with Mr Meyler putting in a performance which has solidified pundits' suspicions that he must be in the running for Footballer of the Year.

"Tyrone people had huge faith in us, even when other people were doubting us," Mr Meyler said.

"The prayers of people – especially my granny – really helped us stay focused and get across the line."

Sheila Meyler, Conor's grandmother, told this paper that she "never left the rosary beads" out of her hand, crediting Our Lady's intercession with the Tyrone victory.

"When you hold on to your rosary beads Our Lady keeps holding on to your hand, and she had Conor's hand and every one of them today," Mrs Meyler said, continuing, "we've great faith, yes".

Mr Meyler paid tribute to the school community that fostered the team in Tyrone, with 10 of the champion players having gone through Catholic education to become teachers.

"The fact that there are so many teachers in the team and so many boys from St Mary's [St Mary's University College, Belfast] is a tribute to our great school communities that support us," Mr Meyler said.



Omagh clubman Conor Meyler is held high by Killyclogher's Tiernan McCann following Tyrone's victory in the All-Ireland senior championship final at Croke Park on Saturday. Photo: Ramsey Cardy

Continue to make a difference.

Inspired by the vision and passion of Sr. Stan, many people are choosing to leave a loving gift in their will to support people who are homeless to find safety and a place they can call home.

Please Support Focus Ireland in your Will



To join in Sr. Stan's vision please contact cian.dikker@focusireland.ie or phone 01 881 5962

FOCUS
Ireland

Church must follow UN declaration on human rights says Mary McAleese

Chai Brady

Former president of Ireland Mary McAleese has said that for synodality and the Church to work in the future, it must accept the UN's 'Universal Declaration of Human Rights'.

Mrs McAleese was speaking at the 'Root and Branch Synod' in Bristol on September 10, which was organised

by lay Catholics. Her keynote lecture was titled 'No synodality without freedom of speech: canon law must acknowledge the human rights of Church members'.

She said: "Synodality will only work, in fact the future Church will only work, if it is firmly set in a context where there is unequivocal acceptance that Church members

are entitled within the Church and all its laws and processes, including synods, to the inalienable human rights set out in 'The Universal Declaration of Human Rights' of 1948...the equality of men and women, and their intellectual rights to freedom of expression, speech, thought, opinion, belief, conscience and religion, including the right to change religion.

Church canon law currently imposes limits and restrictions on all those rights."

Mrs McAleese said that lay people have been consistently "frozen out and episcopal power even more strongly consolidated during the 20th and 21st centuries, the very centuries that have seen the emergence of a massified educated laity and which were supposed

to see a wide conciliar embrace of the lay charisms".

She said that the Church continues to teach that "that the magisterium has the unchallengeable right to restrict your rights and mine as Church members", despite the UN's declaration on human rights.

Regarding Baptism in this context, Mrs McAleese said: "It says it can legitimately do

so because of personal promises we made at Baptism which imposed on us compulsory life-long obligations of Church membership."

She added that "fictitious baptismal promises made by non-sentient babies... can no longer be relied on to justify depriving Church members of their inalienable human rights".

See page 8.

President Higgins to meet Pope for fourth time

Staff reporter

Pope Francis is to receive President Michael D. Higgins in private audience at the Vatican tomorrow (Friday).

As part of his visit to the Vatican, Mr Higgins will also meet with Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin.

A communique from Áras an Uachtaráin said that the president will discuss with Pope Francis issues such as

development, migration and climate change.

It noted that Mr Higgins has frequently referred to the Pope's interventions on these issues as "inspirational".

Speaking at a reception in the Irish Embassy to Italy on Tuesday evening, Mr Higgins said that he was impressed by the Pope's leadership on issues facing the global community.

It is the fourth meeting between the two men. President Higgins met the Argentine

Pontiff briefly following the papal inauguration in 2013. Mr Higgins was again received by Francis at the Vatican in 2017, while the president hosted the Pope at Áras an Uachtaráin during the World Meeting of Families in 2018.

Mr Higgins will be accompanied at the Vatican by his wife Sabina, and it is the couple's first overseas trip since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic.

UN special envoy role should include defence of religious expression - TD

Staff reporter

A UN role aimed at promoting freedom of expression given to former Minister for Children Katherine Zappone, which she stepped down from after public outcry, should encompass efforts to defend freedom of religion according to Charlie Flanagan TD.

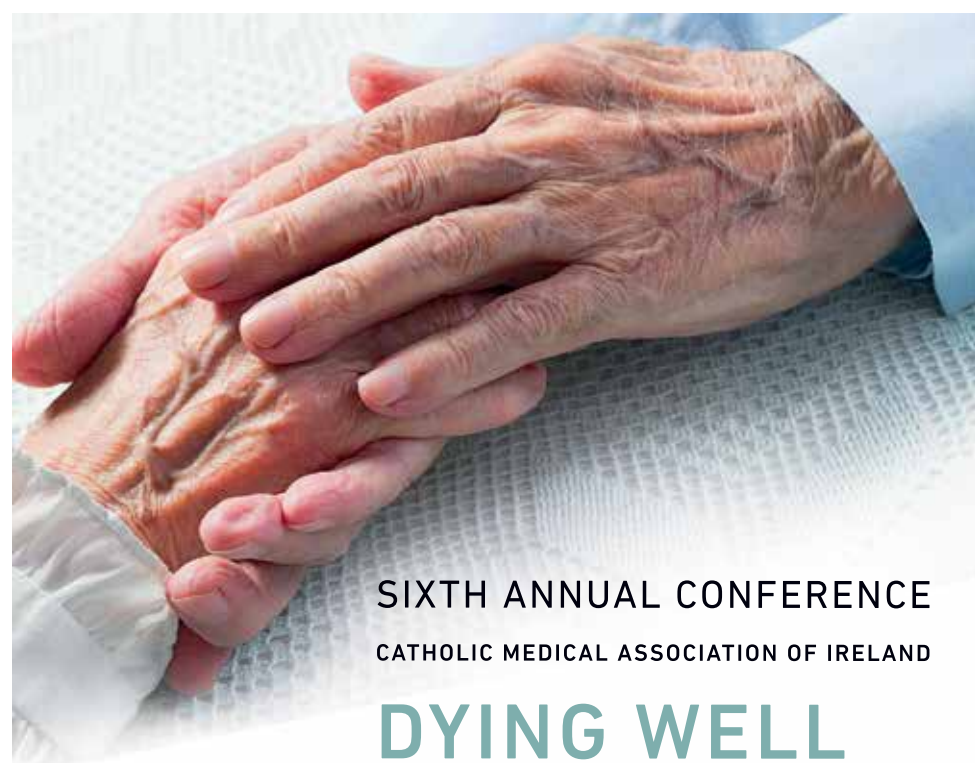
Speaking to *The Irish Catholic*, Mr Flanagan, who is a former Minister for Foreign Affairs and is currently chairman of the all-party foreign affairs committee, said Ireland "should be doing more work defending and maintaining freedom of religious expression".

Ms Zappone was offered the special envoy for the freedom of expression job by Minister for Foreign Affairs Simon Coveney, which has led to some accusations of cronyism. The role

was to have a particular focus on LGBTI issues.

On the matter of Katherine Zappone, Mr Flanagan said, "I firmly believe that that job specification will be retained in the department of foreign affairs and that they will now, after a period of reflection, maybe change the process, that they will proceed with an appointment.

"I think they should because I think there's need for it, particularly in the United Nations particularly having regard to Ireland's influence in the United Nations. The Irish people are proud of what we do in the United Nations with our peacekeepers on the one hand, our development aid on the other hand and now opportunities along the lines of assisting in the maintenance and defence of freedom of expression to include religious expression."



SIXTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
CATHOLIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND

DYING WELL

The Art of a Dignified Death

Speakers include Prof. Ilora, Baroness Finlay & Prof. David Albert Jones

SATURDAY 2 OCTOBER 2021
ONLINE | 09.45 - 16.00



An international travel writer, and adventurer has conquered 90 miles of St Patrick's Way on foot with her baby on her back.

Phoebe Smith - whose exploits include the Australian outback and the Arctic - completed her journey on St Patrick's Way from Armagh to Downpatrick over five days. She is pictured here with pilgrim guide Martina Purdy.

On social media, Ms Smith is known as #wanderwoman while her son 'Baby B' has the title of #wanderbaby'. Her books include *Wild Camping* and *Extreme Sleeps*.

Best-selling Bishop Spong dies

Bishop John Shelby Spong, a best-selling author and Episcopal bishop known for his liberal theology has died. He was 90.

He made headlines as the bishop of the Diocese of Newark, where he served for more than two decades when in 1989 he ordained the first openly gay minister.

He was part of a movement of writers who felt the Christian faith needed to adapt

to a changing world in order to have a viable future and who often rejected miracles or other spiritual parts of the Bible. While always calling himself a Christian, he also rejected doctrines like the virgin birth and the resurrection of Jesus.

He is survived by his wife Christine and three daughters.



For more information
& to register online :

icdln.ie

CME POINTS APPLIED

Do we accept democracy or not?

The point about the new Texas abortion law which few commentators seem to grasp is that Roe v. Wade divided America disastrously, and should never have formed a nationwide ruling on the subject of abortion.

“It was passed by the Texas state legislature, in both upper and lower houses, by a democratic vote, and with the support of the state’s governor”

Lord Sumption, veteran justice of the British supreme court, pointed that out in his book on law and politics, *Trials of the State*. “I question,” he wrote, “whether [abortion] can be treated as a fundamental right, displacing legislative or political intervention.”

Jonathan Sumption, who is not against regulating



Mary Kenny

abortion, nonetheless considers it erroneous that law should be made by judges: law, to be legitimate, should be made by elected legislators in a parliament. Roe v. Wade – enacted in 1973 – was seen as a law imposed, from on high, by lawyers: but law should be perceived as something democratically voted on by elected politicians.

Draconian

The Texas law has been widely condemned as draconian – no abortion may be carried out once a foetal heartbeat has been detected at around eight weeks – and Senator Michael McDowell even compared it to something the Taliban might produce. But this law was not forced through by men with AK47 rifles: it was passed by the Texas state legislature, in both upper and lower houses, by a democratic vote, and with the support of the state’s governor.

The question, to commentators, might be: do you

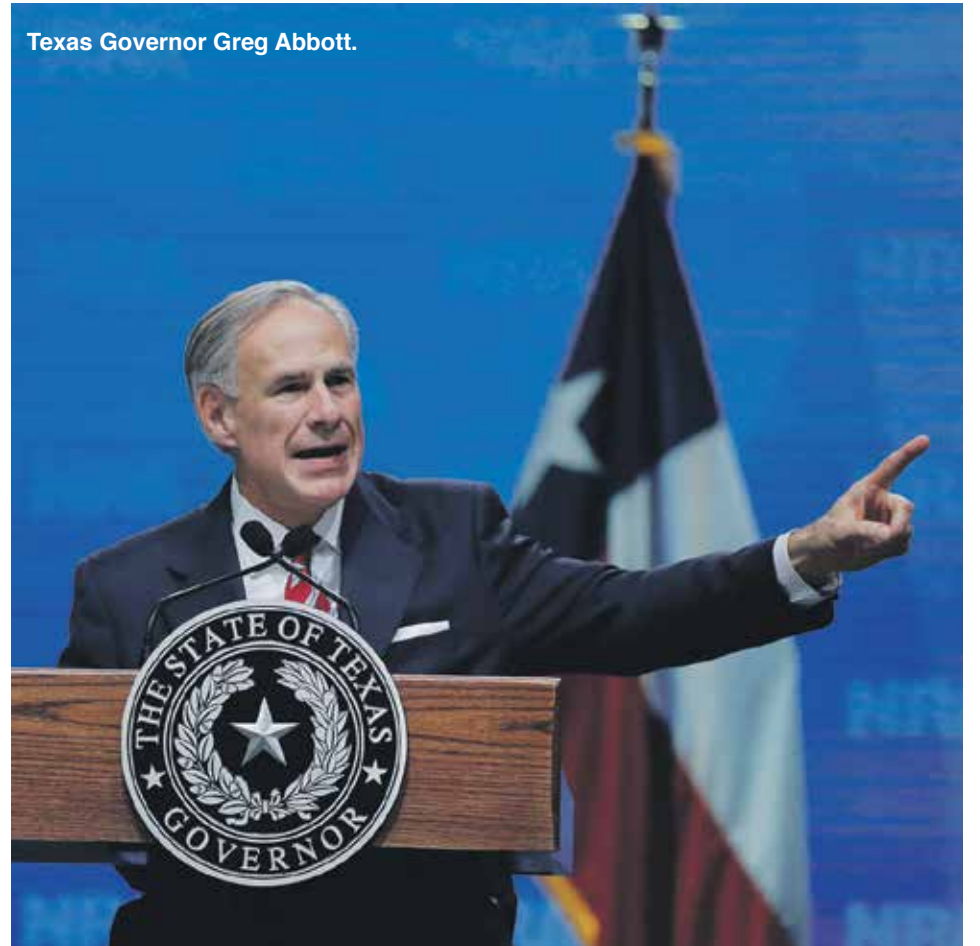
accept democracy or not?

Roe v. Wade has always remained controversial, and it has emerged that ‘Baby Roe’, the late Norma McCorvey, had a very troubled life. Her narrative was exploited when she should have been helped and supported on a personal and practical basis.

“Some states would be liberal, others conservative: but that’s democracy”

I remember hearing a wise American historian, Gertrude Himmelfarb, saying that abortion law should “be returned to the states’ legislatures”. That is, let each US state vote on its own law, rather than having it decided by a panel of judges in Washington. Some states would be liberal, others conservative: but that’s democracy.

Texas Governor Greg Abbott.



● How fabulous to see that Miriam O’Callaghan, glamorous mother of eight, has now become a glamorous grandma, with the birth of her grandchild Éabha Anne. She’s “over the moon” about the baby, born to her daughter Alannah and husband Fiachra.

Congrats are due, surely, also to the grandfather, the broadcaster and sports writer Tom McGurk. As Tom is a patriotic Co Tyrone man, he’ll have had lots to celebrate recently!

Makings of a saint

There were many moving commemorations and tributes paid last week, on September 11, honouring the victims of the terrorist attacks on Manhattan’s Twin Towers 20 years ago.

Special heroism

Tim Stanley, British historian and journalist, speaking on the BBC chose to single out, for special heroism, Fr Mychal Judge, the Franciscan priest and chaplain to the New York Fire Department. Fr Mychal – whose parents were from Co. Leitrim, and christened

him Robert Emmet – immediately rushed to the North Tower to tend to the wounded and dying. He was fatally wounded himself, and is formally named ‘Victim 0001’ – the first victim.

His devoted firefighters brought his body to the nearby Catholic church, St Peter’s, and placed it before the altar.

Fr Mychal had tended to the homeless, the marginalised, people living with AIDS, and was himself a recovered alcoholic. A biographer has written that

Fr Mychal was homosexual by orientation, and felt the Church should be more accepting of gay people.

Chronicle

Tim Stanley, who has just written a book which will chronicle his own journey from youthful Marxism to Catholic convert (*Whatever Happened to Tradition*, published next month) considers Fr Mychal to be not just a hero, but a saint, having laid down his life for others, and inspired the brave firefighters in their courageous duty.

● Everyone seems to be swooning over Sally Rooney’s new novel *Beautiful World, Where Are You?*. But there’s one dissenting voice: Oxford Professor R.F. Foster, author of the definitive Yeats biography – and of the beguiling story of the Ryan family from Wexford and their 1916 generation, *Vivid Faces*.

Roy Foster finds the characters in Ms Rooney’s novel lacking in substance: he concludes that the 337 pages are “a hard slog” and the “irony...comes with a heavy hand”.

I’d suggest there’s a generation gap around Sally Rooney’s writing. She seems to reach out to younger people, and is even seen as representing the millennial Irish generation.

Older readers, I think, find it harder to identify with the world she depicts, or her characters. Some consider her sex scenes (which she says she nearly omitted, but was encouraged to retain by the publishers) too explicit.

More mature readers may prefer Bernard MacLaverty’s superb new collection *Blank Pages and Other Stories*: insightful and poignant stories touching on the senior years.

OUT NOW

The Book of St. Brigid

COLM KEANE & UNA O’HAGAN

NO.1 BESTSELLING AUTHORS

Abbess, monastery founder, bishop, feminist, miracle worker and farmer, the life and legacy of St. Brigid of Kildare are explored in this groundbreaking book.

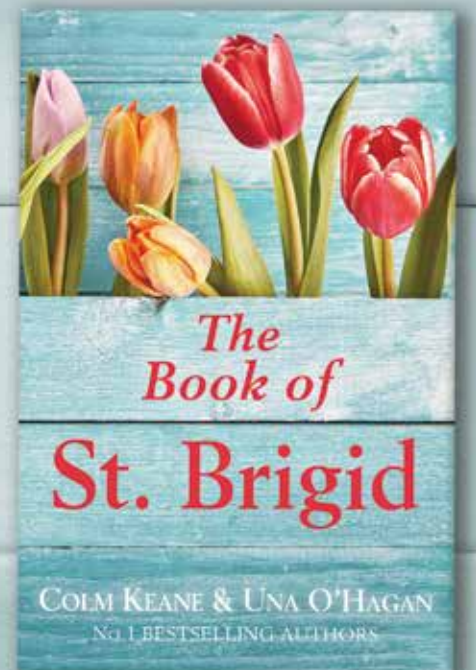
REVIEWS

‘A work of great scholarship, but which is simultaneously a page-turner...it’s a triumph.’

- Pat Kenny, Newstalk

‘Colm and Una are the only writers who can get me reading about the lives of the saints.’

- Brendan O’Connor, RTÉ Radio 1



IN ALL BOOKSHOPS NOW

Drug crime dire in Ireland's north-east, says Bishop Router

Jason Osborne

Drug-related crime and addiction is "as bad as he's seen it" since he started drug-related pastoral work in the mid-90s, Bishop Michael Router told this paper.

Bishop Router has been calling for greater focus in the funding and resourcing of family support networks amid growing drug-related crime and anti-social behaviour in the island's north-east.

Speaking to *The Irish Catholic* newspaper, the auxiliary bishop of Armagh said that the

"emerging" issue is drug-debt intimidation.

"It's where an addict runs up a hefty debt and then those who are the dealers are coming looking for payback and they're demanding huge money from the addicts and their families," Bishop Router said.

"We had a case there in Drogheda recently where a family's house was completely wrecked. Their plumbing fixtures and everything were pulled out of the wall, the family pet was beaten up, things like that.

"So the family had to get out of the house as quickly as possible. They were on the street for a while and then they had to go to a hotel

and pay for a bed and board themselves."

The problem is not just "an urban issue" according to Dr Router, who was told at a meeting of drug and alcohol addiction workers, HSE representatives, local politicians and police, of widespread drug-addiction effects being felt in the Cavan-Monaghan area.

"One rep said that in the past year, parts of four family farms were sold in order to pay off debts that were run up by a son or daughter who's an addict," Dr Router said.

"For a farmer to sell his land, the lifeblood, is a huge thing."

Bishop Router has been calling for an ur-

gent meeting with Minister for Public Health, Well Being and National Drugs Strategy, Frank Feighan, to receive "clarity about funding", so that the drug addiction support networks might continue their work.

"There's lots of talk about reports and about committees, but no funding. Nothing is actually trickling down to the people who are working on the ground," Bishop Router said.

"In last year's budget, there was €70,000 supposed to be given to each of the regions for the family support networks, and none of that money has emerged."

Full inclusion of women 'priority' in Cashel and Emly

Chai Brady

In a raft of future plans, the inclusion of women in leadership roles "as equal members of the Church" will be one of the key priorities for the Archdiocese of Cashel and Emly.

A four-year listening process aimed at moving towards a Church that will better serve the people and communities of the archdiocese was unwrapped on Sunday, with the launch of the diocesan pastoral plan, 'Seeds of Hope'.

One of the aims of the plan is: "The inclusion of women in leadership roles as equal members of the Church is a pri-

ority into the future. Women must be enabled to fulfil their role in developing the mission of the Church."

Archbishop Kieran O'Reilly said: "Like any organisation, whether it is business, sporting or community organisation, you cannot operate without a plan. The need for a plan is very important in this time of change in our world, change in our society, change in our Church, change in so many different ways.

"This plan is a pathway into the future that the Church together, laity and priests, will be on over the coming years. The launching of the Seeds of Hope pastoral plan coincides with

the beginning of the journey towards a national synod of the Church in Ireland. The archdiocese is now in an excellent position to participate fully in the synodal process."

The plan was led by the Diocesan Pastoral Council made up of lay women and men and clergy and engaged with each of the archdiocese's 46 parishes – 35 in Tipperary and 11 in Limerick.

There are five 'Seeds of Hope' according to the archdiocese: faith and spirituality, youth and family, community engagement, participation in liturgy and leadership and co-responsibility.

Trócaire calls on Government to increase aid budget

Brandon Scott

The Church in Ireland's development agency Trócaire has called on the Government to uphold Ireland's reputation as a leader in international development by increasing the amount committed in the forthcoming budget.

The charity made the call as a global report warned that 142 million people will face severe food shortages in 2021.

Trócaire is also urging the Gov-

ernment to outline a pathway to reach spending of 0.5% of GNI on overseas aid by 2025, and to ensure climate finance allocations will also increase in the lifetime of the Government.

CEO Caoimhe de Barra insisted that while "aid is only one part of any systemic response to break the cycle of global crises and address the underlying drivers of vulnerability" it is "a crucial tool in the fight against poverty and inequality".

Godhead here in hiding whom I do adore...



Pupils and teachers from Presentation Primary School, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary after making their First Holy Communion at the weekend in St Mary's Church, Irishtown. Photo: Danny Scully.

Niamh Uí Bhriain

The View



The real story behind the repeal of the Eighth Amendment

Next week, a compelling new documentary *Ireland's Fall: The Abortion Deception* will tell the inside story behind the repeal of the Eighth Amendment. That account will differ, of course, from the narrative that has been so widely spun by abortion campaigners and their media allies who would have you believe that Ireland's abortion law was overturned because of the plucky efforts of women striving against the might of the patriarchy.

Nothing could be further from the truth. The forces behind repeal had enjoyed the unwavering support of the establishment in Ireland for more than a decade before the vote in 2018. Using the playbook which had worked so well in other countries, they engaged in a long march through the institutions, including academia and RTÉ, to push for changes in the culture.

“The documentary opens with a question: ‘what influences a million people to pass sentence on the innocent?’”

Yet, as Tim Jackson's new film shows, even the backing of the media, the politically powerful, US billionaires, global NGOs, and more might not have led to abortion on demand. What was crucial to voter persuasion was the creation of false narratives, the role of media as campaigners, and interference of outside agencies - including the same tech giants who are, even now, still operating as the arbitrators of free speech.

The enormous funding to push for abortion which poured into Ireland from billionaires like Chuck Feeney and George Soros, and from US foundations, was also key to energising and sustaining abortion campaigns. A country which had amended its constitution to ensure preborn children were protected had become the focus of global forces.

Question

The documentary opens with a question: “what influences a million people to pass sentence on the innocent?”. It also finishes with a question: “who shall inherit the land, is

it those who welcome each child as a gift, or those who reject new life”. Between those two queries, Tim Jackson searches for answers, and takes an unflinching look at the factors which led to the constitutional right to life of the unborn being repealed.

Interview

Amongst the journalists, campaigners, commentators and observers interviewed (I am one of that number), he interviews Prof. Robert Epstein, who has become an authority on how powerful platforms like Google and Facebook can manipulate election results. What he shares with Mr Jackson regarding Facebook's ‘vote reminders’ should lead to hard questions and some disquieting conclusions regarding the democratic process and electoral interference in Ireland. In the aftermath of Donald Trump and Brexit, was Ireland a testing ground for powerful forces who wanted to ensure that social media could not be used by ordinary people to circumvent the establishment again?

There are insights too, into how the tragic death of Savita Halappanavar was manipulated, and how pro-life doctors and nurses were silenced by the same media who were insisting that the expert opinion of medical professionals must be heard.

Last month, RTÉ aired a very different documentary, named *The 8th*, which celebrated the legalisation of abortion. It cost the Irish taxpayer - through Screen Ireland - at least €150,000, though RTE won't say what additional fees from taxpayer funds they spent on getting the right to broadcast the propaganda piece. But it did reveal the dishonesty of abortion campaigners who were told to focus only on the ‘hard cases’ in the campaign, using issues like pregnancy after rape to sell a repeal message they knew would bring about abortion on demand.

The media, as the documentary notes, were the real campaigners for abortion. They framed the debate to focus the voter's emotions on personal stories and excluded the real issue at hand: whether it can ever be right to kill a child simply because they are voiceless, helpless and defenceless. In one contribution, barrister Maria Steen correctly



A new documentary aims to bring fresh light to the story of the 2018 abortion referendum. Photo: John McElroy.

observes that: “As RTÉ well knew, dead babies tell no tales.”

In Mr Jackson's gripping film, the triumphant gloating and cheering of abortion advocates at Dublin Castle is in stark contrast to the families and stalwart grassroots campaigners who fought to protect mothers and babies, and who saved hundreds of thousands of lives from being destroyed by abortion. For more than thirty years, the right to life was protected.

“The media, as the documentary notes, were the real campaigners for abortion”

Near the documentary's conclusion, historian Seosamh O'Ceallaigh reminds us of TS Eliot's *Little Gidding*: “the end of all our exploring, will be to arrive where we started, and know the place for the first time”. Mr Jackson wonders whether we can regain that compassion and sense of justice that once protected the most vulnerable. Only time will tell, but this important documentary lifts the lid on what really happened when Ireland fell.

i Ireland's Fall: The Abortion Deception will be launched online on Tuesday September 21, see TheLifelineInstitute.net for further details.

PRE ORDER TODAY

Where do you find peace in your daily life?



Price:
€19.99
+
€4.50 P&P

This is the question Sr Stan asked over 50 contributors during the 2020 lockdown. Personalities including TV presenter Miriam O'Callaghan, ex-rugby player Johnny Sexton, women's health advocate Vicky Phelan and even President Michael D Higgins have added something unique to ponder, making for a diverse and interesting read.

The last year has been a challenging time, but through the struggle many have found an opportunity for spiritual growth. Amid these contributions, one thing becomes clear - peace and tranquillity in daily life needs to be sustained, especially in times of crisis.

ESTIMATED TO SHIP MID OCTOBER

 columba BOOKS

 01 6874096 |  www.columbabooks.com

The Gospel not the law must reign supreme in the Church



Mary McAleese's remedy for greater lay involvement is undermined by the legalism with which she wants to save the synod process writes Prof. Massimo Faggioli

It is always wise to pay attention to the statements that former president Mary McAleese makes on the Catholic Church. They always reveal something on this moment in the life of our ecclesial communion. It was no exception in the opening keynote address, delivered on September 10 for the 'Root and Branch Synod' in Bristol - an independent gathering of Catholics meant to influence the 'synodal process' launched by Pope Francis for the entire Church between now and October 2023.

In the lecture, titled 'No synodality without freedom of speech: canon law must acknowledge the human rights of Church members', Dr McAleese makes some valid points, especially on the insufficiencies of the institutions that were designed for collegiality in the Church, but now are woefully inadequate. Institutions that were designed at the time of Vatican II (but not by the council) for episcopal collegiality (meaning, the Pope and the bishops only) are not easy fixer-uppers for ecclesial synodality (that is, involving

the whole People of God). Dr McAleese is right in sounding the alarm about the persistent reluctance of the hierarchy to comprehend and receive inputs from the laity about the need to reform Church structures. I had my fair share of frustration, as one of the consultants for *The Light from the Southern Cross*, a 200-page document on ecclesial governance submitted in 2020 to the Australian bishops and Australian religious - a report commissioned by the bishops and religious orders themselves.

There are also some points in Dr McAleese's address that simply do not stand the test of Catholic theology and tradition, like the one - brought up in this speech once again - on infant Baptism that according to Dr McAleese deprive children of rights: "fictitious baptismal promises made by non-sentient babies". I find it a strange way to assert the baptismal dignity as foundational to ecclesial synodality. There are also cheap shots against Vatican II, like the one on the declaration on religious freedom, *Dignitatis Humanae*. The ultra-traditionalists of the Society of St Pius X at least are more aware of how much and at what cost *Dignitatis Humanae* updated Catholic tradition. But these are not the major problem with Dr McAleese's take on synodality.

“Church canon law currently imposes limits and restrictions on all those rights”

What undermines the plausibility of her whole argument is the legalism with which she wants to save the synodal process from failure. She stated: "synodality will only work, in fact the future Church will only work, if it is firmly set in a context where there is unequivocal acceptance that Church members are entitled within the Church and all its laws and processes, including synods, to the inalienable human rights set out in 'The Universal Declaration of Human Rights' of 1948...the equality of men and



Former president Mary McAleese.

women, and their intellectual rights to freedom of expression, speech, thought, opinion, belief, conscience and religion, including the right to change religion. Church canon law currently imposes limits and restrictions on all those rights."

Why is this a problem? There are certainly issues with the way canon law understands rights compared to the secular law - even though not always in the way Dr McAleese sees that: for example, the concept of membership in the Code of Canon Law of 1983 is conceived in ways that more juridical (Roman law) than sacramental.

Paradoxically, the cure Dr McAleese is proposing would make the patient even sicker. The biggest problem in her proposal is the attempt to constitutionalise Catholicism. It's not the first time.

In the early post-Vatican II period, the papacy of Paul VI tried to draft and promulgate a constitution for the Catholic Church, the *Lex Ecclesiae Fundamentalis*. Facing strong opposition, in the early 1970s the project was withdrawn (important parts of that draft were resurrected in the Code of Canon Law of 1983, but that is another story). What was the opposition about? The opponents pointed out, I think correctly, that constitutionalisation would not just make the Church subject to the majorities in the lay and "episcopal parliamentarism" (to quote Dr McAleese) of the day and lock it in a political dynamic. It would also mean bringing

back a legalistic understanding of the Church and, most importantly, of Church membership. It would immobilise theology and pastoral praxis under the sovereignty of the law. Surely the Gospel should be sovereign?

Spiritual and liturgical

Now we are back to that debate on the *Lex Ecclesiae Fundamentalis*, in a different situation. Maybe it's because I live in the USA, but I think the Church is already too dominated by lawyers (canon lawyers and otherwise). A constitutionalisation of the Church would make clear that Catholicism is failing to grasp what is at stake, in this 21st Century, in the fight between the spiritual and liturgical on one side and what is legal because contractually enforceable on the other side.

A constitutionalisation of synodality aims to give Catholics new freedoms, but I think it will mean, in the long run, more subjugations. The question now is how to make Catholicism conducive to spiritual, theological, and cultural changes that help a development in favour of respect of human rights, without locking the Church - not just the synodal process - in the quagmire of defining these rights in an ecclesial community that is global. This kind of legalistic approach reveals a claim to universality understood in a monopolistic way, a false universalism hidden behind accusations

against an institutional Church - something that in this age of resentment will always find an enthusiastic and receptive audience.

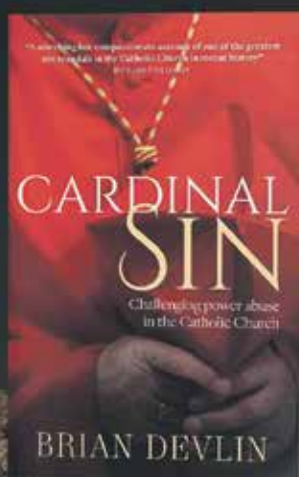
“It seems to me that the question is ultimately whether the foundation of the Church and of synodality is sacramental or juridical”

I strongly believe in the importance of the law in the life of the Church, especially today when the religious factor is a key element in building a more just society, respectful of the dignity of every woman and every man. I am certainly not in favour of a Church that allows itself to be identified with the rejection of the equality of men and women, with clericalism, etc. Especially in the US, we have seen what the alignment of some Catholic leaders with the proud ignorance and the anti-science movement, the rejection of democratic values, sexism and illiberalism is costing the Church.

It seems to me that the question is ultimately whether the foundation of the Church and of synodality is sacramental or juridical. Dr McAleese thinks it is more juridical. This would only serve the enemies of synodality and of this 'synodal process' which, she is right on this at least, needs a miracle to succeed.

Dr Massimo Faggioli is Professor of Historical Theology at Villanova University in Pennsylvania.

AVAILABLE FOR ORDER



"A searching but compassionate account of one of the greatest sex scandals in the Catholic Church in recent history"

— Richard Holloway

Price:
€14.99
FREE P&P

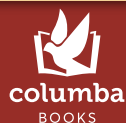
In this previously untold story, former priest Brian Devlin relates what it took to reveal the sexual hypocrisy of Cardinal Keith O'Brien. Making the effort to write not from a place of anger and hurt, he presents *Cardinal Sin* as an opportunity for the global Church to learn and change.

With far-reaching insights, the book offers genuine lessons to help avoid future horror stories involving Catholic leaders. The author asks the hard questions, analyses the harsh responses of the Catholic hierarchy and provides ways the Church can heal and regain the trust of its faithful.

ORDER TODAY

☎ 01 6874096 | 🌐 www.columbabooks.com

📍 Unit 3B, Block 3, Bracken Business Park, Bracken Road, Sandyford, D18 K277



Leave a priceless gift.

Please remember **GOAL**
in your will



GOAL

You do not need to re-write your will, you just need to include us in it. Doing so will help us respond to global health crises, continue to provide life saving support for families and communities struck down by disaster or conflict and to feed the hungry. Founded in 1977 GOAL continues to make the world a better place. You too can help change lives.

**Talk to someone
in confidence.**

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

Registered Charity No. 20010980; CHY 6271, Carnegie House, Library Road, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, Ireland

Neocatechumenal Way follow in the footsteps of St Declan



Staff reporter

More than 40 young people from the Neocatechumenal Way from the Diocese of Cork and Ross went on pilgrimage from Cork to Ardmore and then on to Mount Mellera to celebrate the opening of St Declan's Way.

Since 2013 hundreds of young people from the Neocatechumenal Way in Ireland have been following the lives and journeys of the Irish saints around the country and across Europe.

It started with St Colmcille in Garton, Co. Donegal, and young people travelled

to the island of Iona where Colmcille founded a monastic settlement.

In 2015 more than 200 young people travelled through France to Luxeuil to the first monastery founded by St Columbanus. After three days they set out for Bobbio to be present for the 1400th

anniversary of his death. Since then, the pilgrimages have followed the paths of St Patrick to Croagh Patrick and Lough Derg, and also St Ciaran to Clonmacnoise.

This year the group set out on Sunday from Cork to arrive in Ardmore for the celebration of the Liturgy

of the House at 10am. After, participants broke up into groups for about 90 minutes discussing different aspects of the last 18 months, what the future holds for them; fears, health and how the proclamation of the Gospel has helped them through these difficult times.

After lunch the pilgrims travelled to Mount Mellera stopping on the way and walking Knockmealdown Mountains reciting the Rosary. The day-long pilgrimage culminated with Mass celebrated by Bishop of Waterford and Lismore Phonsie Cullinan.



Teacher Sinead Vaughan, pictured with her pupils from St Brigid's after their First Holy Communion.



Sarah Ryan, principal with pupils from St Brigid's Primary School, Singland, pictured after First Holy Communion in St John's Cathedral, Limerick.



Jayden Slattery pictured with his parents, Lorraine and Jeffery, and his grandaunt, Anna Moore, after his First Holy Communion.

Pope Francis: Climate change ‘causing immense hardship for the most vulnerable among us’



Korean.net / Korean Culture and Information Service / CC BY-SA / www.creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0

Extreme weather causing widespread droughts and floods, destroying crops and food supplies in world's most vulnerable countries.

The Pope expressed concern over the increasing intensity and frequency of extreme weather phenomena and the desertification of the soil. With climate change related hunger and malnutrition increasing, Pope Francis warned, “We have caused a climate emergency that gravely threatens nature and life itself, including our own.”

The Pope made his comments as part of a written appeal for the ‘World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation’.

Worldwide, droughts and floods have more than doubled since the early 1990's with Africa particularly badly affected.

An increase in droughts – combined with ongoing conflict and unemployment – means dry spells have an increasingly destructive impact on people living in already vulnerable communities. Such as those in Niger, Western Africa where 80% of the population relies on agriculture for their livelihoods.

This year droughts and floods have already caused a 12% drop in cereal production in Niger compared with the already poor yields of 2018/19. 2.7 million people are now projected to be in severe acute food insecurity – urgently needing food if they are to survive.

“Listen to the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor, who suffer most because of the unbalanced ecology.”

– Pope Francis

Since 1968 Irish charity Concern Worldwide has worked around the world helping alleviate hunger caused by natural or man-made disasters. Over this period climate change has become one of the key drivers of hunger.

In 2019 alone, Concern helped 28.6m people in 24 of the world's poorest

countries – including Niger.

Concern doesn't just provide emergency food to those affected by hunger. The charity continues to work alongside communities so they are able to feed themselves long into the future.

People's lives are transformed when they are equipped and empowered to do it for themselves. This is how real progress is made.

One of Concern's most vital funding sources – on which it absolutely depends – is gifts in the Wills of its supporters. These gifts ensure Concern will always be there for people in need of a helping hand.

What Concern's help looks like

In Niger life is a *constant* struggle for survival. A struggle which becomes almost impossible during the annual ‘hunger gap’.

Causing untold suffering, the annual hunger gap is a desperate period. Food from the last harvest has run out and it will be months until more is available.

During this time, normal life grinds to a halt. Children leave education to help with agricultural chores at home. Adults travel anywhere they can to find work to earn even the smallest amount to support their families.

Every day becomes a terrifying battle to find food.

The hunger gap used to last 3 months, ending when the harvest was ready. But *climate change has made this terrible problem much worse*, with infrequent rainfall and rising temperatures drastically reducing crops.

As a result this torturous period now lasts 5 months from April to September, with people spending almost half their year struggling to stay alive.

And Covid-19 has further exacerbated an already dreadful situation. Restricted movement and border closures are impacting supplies to local markets, pushing prices up. Now even those who manage to work can't buy food because it's too expensive. Seeds for next season's crops are also being affected by these shortages. This means the pandemic's

deadly effects will be felt next year too.

Vulnerable families, who already have little to eat, are in grave danger.

But thanks to gifts in Wills, Concern is able to immediately support families in desperate need and equip them to support themselves long into the future.

For families affected by climate change in countries like Niger, one of the ways this is achieved is by providing communities with drought-resistant seeds, *proven* to yield more food ... the tools needed to farm their land ... and training to adopt climate-smart techniques. For example, crop rotation and composting to keep the soil in the best condition. And methods to capture and keep as much rain as possible.

Thanks to generous people leaving Concern a gift in their Wills, families can now grow their own food in their own vegetable gardens. The food they're growing now will feed them this year. **The knowledge and skills they gain will make sure they have enough food to eat every year from now on.**

Chawada Aboubacar is a mother of five. Thanks to her own hard work and support from Concern, she now has a thriving kitchen garden of her own. Her family own a small piece of land where they grow the grain, millet. When it runs out between harvests, it used to be a struggle to provide the food they needed to survive.

But Chawada now grows tomatoes, onions, cabbage and carrots in her kitchen garden. This garden will provide nutritious food for her family this year and for years to come. Keeping her children safe from hunger so they can thrive.

“We will start eating cabbage, carrot and lettuce in one month and then the onion in about six weeks. This garden helps me and my family. It makes me happy.”

– Chawada Aboubacar

Having enough food prevents life threatening malnutrition, meaning Chawada and her children have the opportunity to live long and happy lives. What's more, any surplus food from

the kitchen garden can be sold, giving the family money to buy other nutritious food and essential items.

Best of all, a regular, dependable source of food means Chawada's children don't have to work on the

Your gift ensures your legacy lives on, supporting Concern to help people like Chawada and her family long into the future.

Many who do leave a gift in their Will have been so affected by the suffering of



Photo: Apeastou Bagaya / Concern Worldwide

With Concern worker Mounkaila's help, Chawada can now grow food to help her family survive.

land and can go back to school. Getting the education essential for a brighter future for them.

By passing on the skills she has gained to her children, Chawada is ensuring they will be self-sufficient in the future; able to provide for both their own families and the wider community – helping to pull everyone out of poverty.

Be part of a world without hunger

“What would induce anyone ... only to be remembered for their inability to take action when it was so urgent and necessary to do so?”

– Pope Francis

As you've just seen, gifts in Wills transform lives both immediately and long into the future.

Won't you help Concern fight poverty and hunger – to end it in some of the world's poorest communities – by leaving a life changing gift in your Will?

To receive your free, no obligation booklet – in complete confidence – please contact Concern's Legacy Manager, Siobhán O'Connor. Call **01 417 8020**, email **siobhan.oconnor@concern.net**, or visit **www.concern.net/bequest**



CONCERN
worldwide

**ENDING EXTREME POVERTY
WHATEVER IT TAKES**

The Sunday Gospel

Fr Silvester O'Flynn OFM Cap.



Last Sunday we completed the first half of the ministry of Jesus and moved into the second stage. “Who do you say I am?” The first half of Mark is complete when Peter recognises him as the Christ, the Anointed One. Jesus is his personal name and Christ is his career name, just as jobs like baker, butcher or smith have become surnames. Now that he has been identified, the second stage of his ministry is about the way or the direction he is taking. He is on the way to Jerusalem where he will be rejected, put to death and rise from the dead. This will also be the way for any follower of Jesus. “If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me.”

“The Church has been in the forefront of service to people in need, setting up hospitals, schools, feeding the hungry, liberating captives or working for peace”

The journey has begun. In today's Gospel (Mark 9:30-37) they are still in Galilee and Jesus is giving less time to the large crowds so as to have more time with the apostles. He needs this time with them as they had not taken to heart the message of the cross and resurrection. So, he repeats it. “The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men; they will put him to death; and three days after he has been put to death he will rise again. But they did not understand what he said and they were afraid to ask him”

One can be sympathetic with their difficulty in coming to terms with the unpalatable prospect of the crucifixion. As TS Eliot put it, “Human kind cannot bear very much reality.”

We usually call it denial. How often do we meet with people who cannot see the writing on the wall about a health warning or some unpleasant fact? There are people in denial of the Covid 19 pandemic.

“One can be sympathetic with their difficulty in coming to terms with the unpalatable prospect of the crucifixion”



I have come to serve

Catholic Relief Service workers in Nepal. Service is central to the Gospel. Photo: CNS.

Christian greatness in humble service

Neither had the apostles taken to heart how the followers of Jesus would be called to follow the same direction by renouncing self-centered living and taking up the cross to follow him. Lagging a little behind him on the road, they were having their own discussion about which of them was the greatest. Jesus had to teach them that his idea of greatness was quite the opposite of worldly greatness. He had no ambition to acquire prosperity, power or prestige. He had set out his ideals in the Beatitudes which identify the blessed people as the poor in spirit, the powerless, people of peace and forgiveness, those who work for justice and those who suffer persecution because of their religion. Pope Francis refers to these Beatitudes as the identity card of a Christian. So, Jesus said to the apostles, “If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all”. Later on, he performed the work of a servant when he washed the feet of the disciples. He had come to serve, not to be served.

The helpless child

Jesus took a little child in his arms as he spoke to the disciples. Little children are virtually helpless and need constant care and help. This child in the arms of Jesus represents anybody who needs our help and service. “Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.” In other words, how we treat other people is in reality how we treat God.

A Church of service

By and large, ever since the time of the Acts of the Apostles down to our own time, the Church has been in the forefront of service to people in need, setting up hospitals, schools, feeding the hungry, liberating captives or working for peace. Whenever I am confronted by somebody who wants to see the end of the Catholic Church, I mention some of the charitable organisations serving people today: Vincent de Paul, Focus Ireland, Trócaire, Concern, Threshold, Mary's Meals, Peter McVerry Trust, Simon

Community ... the list is endless. These and many other agencies of serving have one thing in common: they were all founded by practising Catholics. Is this the Church you want to disappear? Who will replace this variety of Christian service? The vast majority of our charitable organisations were founded by people inspired by Christ's teaching and example. Pope Francis tells us, “True faith in the incarnate Son of God is inseparable from self-giving, from membership of the community, from service, from reconciliation with others. The Son of God, by becoming flesh, summoned us to the revolution of tenderness.”

The road to reforming

Of course, not everything in Church history has been exemplary. Jesus did warn us that the kingdom would have good crops and dangerous weeds, fish to be taken and fish to be thrown away. There have been many contradictions of the Beatitudes. Wars have been fought in the name of religion, bishops who have lived like princes, a

clericalism which exuded an atmosphere of superiority. Hopefully, the forthcoming synods will bring us back to the spirituality of the Beati-

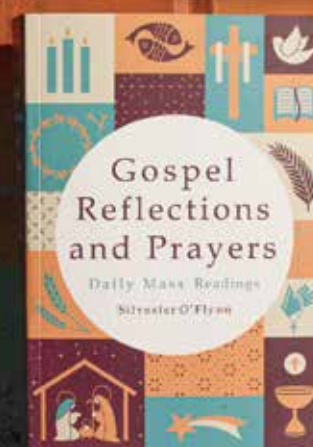
tudes, our identity card. A motto in Cursillo (meaning a walk with Christ) is “I am here to serve”.

Prayer of a Servant

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred let me sow your love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

More of Fr Silvester's Gospel Reflections

ARE AVAILABLE



ORDER
Gospel
Reflections
and Prayers
TODAY

€19.99
+€4.50 P&P

columba BOOKS

Phone 01 6874096 | Visit www.columbabooks.com

Pope John Paul II was right about the 'war on terror'



The world is a messy place and often the only realistic choices are between bad and even worse writes **David Quinn**

Everyone remembers where they were on September 11, 2001. I was still the editor of this newspaper and had gone into a pub for lunch with some other staff and on the television set behind the bar we watched in amazement as the historic events unfolded in New York.

George W. Bush had been sworn in as US president earlier that year. Following the 9/11 attacks he declared a 'war on terror' which has had fateful consequences to this day.

The justification was to ensure that nothing like this could ever happen again. The men behind the attacks, members of Al-Qaeda (which means 'the base') were self-declared Jihadists, that is, 'holy warriors', engaged in a 'holy war' to ultimately impose their version of Islam on the whole world.

“Most of the world supported the American efforts on this occasion and many countries provided troops in support”

More immediately, Osama Bin-Laden, Al-Qaeda's driving force, wanted American troops out of his native Saudi Arabia, the homeland of Mohammed, and of its two holiest sites, Mecca and Medina.

He also wanted to wipe out the state of Israel, but in addition, he wanted to give America a bloody nose for what he regarded as its continuing attacks on the Muslim world.

Al-Qaeda was operating out of Afghanistan which was then under the rule of the Taliban. It became the first target of the war on terror. The Taliban needed to be thrown out of power and Al-Qaeda evicted from Afghanistan and, if possible, destroyed.

Supported

Most of the world supported the American efforts on this occasion and many countries provided troops in support. By the end of 2001, the Taliban were gone and



New York firefighters and rescue workers on September 11, 2001 carrying Franciscan Fr Mychal Judge, a chaplain with the New York Fire Department, who died while giving last rites to a firefighter in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks that brought down the twin towers of the World Trade Centre. Photo: CNS.

Al-Qaeda, including Mr Bin-Laden, were on the run.

Then America turned its attention to Iraq, at the time ruled by the dictator Saddam Hussein who had butchered huge numbers of his own people, fought a long and very bloody war with Iran, had previously invaded Kuwait, and been kicked out in the first Gulf War, and was known to have had chemical weapons because he used them on rebels in his own country, and against the Iranians. He had pursued a nuclear weapons programme. This was a very dangerous man, and the Americans were set on toppling him.

Solidarity

But at this point, solidarity with America began to fracture. Much of the world thought invading Iraq was a step too far, and doubted Mr Hussein still had weapons of mass destruction which might fall into terrorist hands. They also feared that the invasion might do more harm than good.

Pope John Paul II opposed the invasion. He sent his emissary, Cardinal Pio Laghi, to see President Bush and deliver a letter from the Pope pleading against the invasion.

Cardinal Laghi warned the president that overthrowing Mr Hussein would lead to massive instability in Iraq. He predicted fighting between Shiites, Sunnis (the two main branches of Islam)

and Kurds (an Arabic people in the north of the country who seek independence).

All of this happened. But Mr Bush said the aim was to make Iraq a democratic country and an example to the rest of the Arab Middle East. He believed this would ultimately destroy the root causes of Islamic fundamentalism and roll back terrorism. This was a position I supported at the time.

“Pope John Paul II opposed the invasion. He sent his emissary, Cardinal Pio Laghi, to see President Bush”

But the Pope and Cardinal Laghi turned out to be correct. Iraq descended into chaos after the invasion. Iran allied with its fellow Shias inside the country, Sunnis rebelled and the Kurds made a bid for autonomy. ISIS, a breakaway from Al-Qaeda, captured whole swathes of the northern region of Iraq and waged a campaign of terror against all religious minorities, including Christians.

The project to build functioning, peaceful, democratic nation-states in both Afghanistan and Iraq failed miserably.

Among the successes was the near destruction of ISIS ('Islamic State') in both Iraq and Syria

and the depletion of Al-Qaeda, although both groups still exist, especially in parts of Africa.

There is, of course, no guarantee that Saddam Hussein would have carried on in power. He might have been overthrown like Muammar Gaddafi in Libya, or there might have been an attempt, as with Bashar al-Assad in Syria, the result being a long and bloody civil war that is still not fully resolved. Libya has also descended into anarchy.

Christians have had to flee Syria, just as they have had to flee Iraq. The world is a very messy place and often the only realistic choices are between bad and even worse, a dictator and chaos.

Drop

The war on terror has also shown that it is very hard to 'drop' a Western-style society on top of a country that is simply not prepared for it and is very different.

Western countries have a universalist outlook, meaning they think their values are universal and will eventually prevail everywhere. This is an inheritance from Christianity. But even if Western values do prevail, it will take centuries, just as it took Christianity centuries to really transform Europe, a task never fully accomplished. But the types of societies we now have in the West grew from Christian soil.

Aside from the fact that we tried to impose our democratic way of

life on Arab, Muslim countries, we overlooked that fact that these societies are often highly clan and tribe-based. Loyalty to clan and tribe is much stronger than to the nation-state or civil society. We take it for granted that we are no longer clan and tribe-based, but in fact it took a very long time for us to change this, and according to a number of leading scholars, the Catholic Church played a key role by discouraging and even forbidding cousin marriage. This undermined the clan system making it no longer our first loyalty.

“The project to build functioning, peaceful, democratic nation-states in both Afghanistan and Iraq failed miserably”

America had to respond to the 9/11 attacks. It had to do its best to ensure nothing like them happened again. So far, it has largely succeeded in that. But it overreached and has done more harm than good in many cases. The ultimate irony is that the Taliban are now back in power 20 years after their overthrow.

For America, this has been a long exercise in humility. More than the Twin Towers fall on that day in September. In the end, so did American hubris. But a humbled America might not make the world a better, safer place, not when we see increasingly aggressive, authoritarian powers like China on the rise. As I say, the world is a messy place and history is often 'one damned thing after another'.

“The ultimate irony is that the Taliban are now back in power 20 years after their overthrow”

Grant ensures Ireland's philosophical future is bright



St Patrick's College, Maynooth. Photo: Twitter.



Dr Philip Gonzales says the receipt of a prestigious grant will see St Patrick's College, Maynooth shape the future of Christian philosophy, writes Jason Osborne

Christianity identified the discipline of philosophy early on as a potential ally in its efforts to show the intelligibility of Christ's message to the world. Many of the Church Fathers were philosophically versed, and this contributed to the establishment of much of the theology and dogma that underpins the Church today.

The future of Christianity's relationship with philosophy is as bright as its past, however, with the faculty of philosophy at St Patrick's College, Maynooth having been selected to host one of the twelve grants offered by the 'Widening Horizons in Philosophical Theology' project, which is based at the University of St Andrews in Fife and funded by a £2 million

(€2.3 million) grant from the Templeton Religion Trust.

The project is spearheaded by the leading researchers and thinkers in the fields of philosophy and theology, and ultimately seeks to find out how better philosophy, especially in the continental tradition, can be put in service of theology and revelation.

Leading the Irish contribution to the project is St Patrick's College philosophy lecturer Dr Philip Gonzales, whose two-year project received a proportion of the £2 million grant.

Speaking to *The Irish Catholic* newspaper, Dr Gonzales explained why he believes the project is a valuable opportunity for not only the philosophy community in Ireland, but the Christian one, too.

Spotlight

"It draws an international spotlight on the research being done at the faculty of philosophy at St Patrick's College, Maynooth," Dr Gonzales says.

The international project "very much matches with the vision of Christian philosophy which we're trying to put forward here in Maynooth," he says, recalling a conference the college hosted earlier this year, and pointing to a major international conference they're hosting in April 2022, which will see Christian intellectuals such as former archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams and Eastern Orthodox philosopher and theologian David Bentley Hart descend on the campus.

"It's just a way of showing that exciting things are indeed happening at the faculty of philosophy in Maynooth, and that we're starting to get international, public recognition," Dr Gonzales says.

Dr Gonzales own contribution to the international effort is a two-year project titled *Analogical Metaphysics and Incarnate Mimetic Desire*.

"It's going to investigate spe-

cifically how Christianity sees and interprets being and human existence. Rooted in an understanding that our God is a God of love and peace, and that thus human life and existence is itself radical gift. This is another way of saying that the project presents a metaphysics of creation, understood as gift and love. We ourselves are gift, as is all of creation.

“The international project will draw heavily on the continental philosophical tradition, seeing in it many valuable contributions to Christian thought”

"From there it's going to explore in a more concrete, social, and practical way how this vision is incarnated in human desire and relationships in which we imitate the desire of others," Dr Gonzales says.

"So, in the end, it's going to call for a Christian philosophy of testimony that must perform and incarnate the metaphysical vision of being as gift. In doing, it demands Christians to ask themselves: 'Why are we Christians so often violent, why are we leading lives that do not match up with this vision?' It's basically saying that the task of Christians is to incarnate the truth of love and that love is the entrance into truth. It is a call for Christians to become models of desire, of love, peace and forgiveness."

The international project will draw heavily on the continental philosophical tradition, seeing in it many valuable contributions to Christian thought.

Asked why the emphasis was on this school of philosophical thought, Dr Gonzales said that it's because of "its dealing with fundamental questions that are very burning to human existence".

"In that sense, it's a way of making sure that our philosophy and our theology are also in dialogue with things that are going on, the questions that are being asked in the current culture."

Many accuse philosophy of being detached from practicality, and it's a criticism Dr Gonzales is keenly aware of. However, he believes the project and its intellectual pursuits have ramifications for the lives of the Faithful everywhere, as Christian theology and philosophy have developed the worldviews that most people take for granted all over the western world and beyond.

Christian Faith

He hopes that his contribution to the project is a "way of saying that the theoretical, dogmatic, and metaphysical understandings that underpin the Christian Faith, the Catholic Faith, are absolutely essential, nevertheless the way in which they're going to be 'proven,' so to speak, within the 21st Century is through seeing these truths incarnated and performed in human life.

"So that when you see a person desiring in a different manner than everybody else, you stop and you wonder why that person desires things that are so different from what everybody else desires. Is there something going on?"

"In many ways this is the way in which Christianity grew – it was a minority report where people

stopped and said 'see how they love one another'. It was just a few people in the backwaters of

Palestine telling this story, performing this story, and starting to live in a completely different and radical way from other people. In this the project's understanding of being and desire is deeply inspired by the Johannine writings," Dr Gonzales explains.



“In a world that's grown tired of Christianity, a fresh vision of the Christian life must be set forth, and it's just that that Dr Gonzales and the rest of the project's researchers are seeking to do.”

"So, I think in some ways we're almost back to the original state of Christianity, only now with one huge difference. That the world has radically rejected Christianity, rather than Christianity having just entered into the world. Christianity is tired and Christians must take responsibility for this failure and rejection of Christianity and must understand that in such a world as today's only love is credible, as von Balthasar knew."

In a world that's grown tired of Christianity, a fresh vision of the Christian life must be set forth, and it's just that that Dr Gonzales and the rest of the project's researchers are seeking to do.



SIXTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
CATHOLIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND

DYING WELL

The Art of a Dignified Death

Speakers include Prof. Ilora, Baroness Finlay
& Prof. David Albert Jones

SATURDAY 2 OCTOBER 2021
ONLINE | 09.45 - 16.00



CMA
Ireland

For more information
& to register online :

icdln.ie



We fail to love someone when we make them an instrument for our own good



The emotional side of love matters, but doesn't fully capture the reality involved, writes **Dr Gaven Kerr**

Love is a concept that is well known and familiar to a lot of us. It is present in nearly every movie script we come across, it is central to numerous great works of literature, and it is something present throughout human life. Given that love is such a prevalent reality for us, it bears thinking about in a philosophical fashion.

If you were to ask anyone, they would tend to give the typical examples of love: the feelings that one spouse has for another, the relationship of parent to child, the relationship of siblings, best friends etc. What seems to be common here is that love is characterised as a way of feeling towards another person. These feelings invariably involve some positive emotional regard; we at the very least like those that we love. Accordingly, in the classic presentations of love between spouses, parents and children, siblings we usually see them in an embrace, hand in hand, close to each other to signify the close emotional connection.

Emotional side

Whilst not desiring to ignore this aspect of love, the emotional side of love doesn't quite capture the reality involved. This is because there is the well-known phenomenon that individuals who are deeply in love with each other can have quite a complicated emotional relationship to each other. Let's consider what could be called the sibling paradox; it is well known that siblings love each other and would defend each other to the end, but, as any parent can attest, the inner dynamic of sibling relationships is such that they don't always have positive emotional regard for each other; siblings can

be quite positively antagonistic to each other.

Are we to say that we cease to love our loved ones when we are fighting with them? Of course not. But if that's true, love is not captured by positive emotional regard for the beloved, but fundamentally must involve something else which tends to lead to positive emotional regard.

“When we will the good for our beloved, we ourselves are happy to see our beloved happy”

The essential feature of love is that we recognise the beloved as a centre of value, a good that we will and desire for its own sake and not for our own purposes. We love someone when we see that the only relationship we can have to that individual is one of willing their good for themselves, and not for any benefit we can get out of it; parental love is an excellent example in this respect. We fail to love someone when we make them an instrument for our own good.

On this account, we can explain the positive emotions that result from love whilst at the same time accounting for the negative emotions that we may at times have towards

our beloved. When we will the good for our beloved, we ourselves are happy to see our beloved happy. In a reciprocal relationship whereby we will each other's good, both lovers are made happy and the positive emotional regard follows. However, even when lovers are happy with each other, they can do things to annoy each other. This does not entail that they no longer will each other's good; rather it means that certain actions, attitudes, statements etc affect their emotional regard for each other. This is familiar amongst spouses, siblings, and friends – they love each other, but can often fight over issues without undermining their love for each other.

Negative emotions

Accordingly, we can have negative emotions in relation to our beloved without undermining at all the love we have for them.

Given all of this, we ought not to confuse acting out of love for someone with acting on the basis of some positive emotional regard. For instance, we may feel sorry for someone, empathise with them, and seek to alleviate their distress. However, such alleviation may not be for their good, yet because of our emotional involvement we continue to act. Consider a parent who refuses to punish a child out of the very strong emotions he or she has for the child. Assuming that

the punishment is just, it would not be for the good of the child not to undergo punishment and in turn learn an important lesson about moral responsibility.

“We must be sure that we are acting for the good of our beloved, and not just being swayed by our emotions”

Undermining or refusing to punish a child because of emotional involvement would fail to instil an important lesson in the child without which he or she cannot grow to a mature adult. And such would not be acting for their own good. Acting on the basis of emotion is not the same as acting with love, and so when we seek to act out of love, we must be sure that we are acting for the good of our beloved, and not just being swayed by our emotions.

Dr Gaven Kerr is a lecturer in philosophy at St Patrick's College, Maynooth. This article is part of a new regular column where philosophers from Maynooth Drs Gaven Kerr and Philip Gonzales offer accessible introductory thoughts on perennial themes in the history of philosophy and the Catholic tradition.

Joy as First Communion goes ahead in Doon, Co. Limerick



Doon CBS students who received their First Holy Communion on September 4 in St Patrick's Parish Church. Back Row (l-r): Cathal Morrissey, Jack Butler, Evan Fahey and Seán O'Dwyer-Murphy. Front Row (l-r): Lee McSweeney, Ryan Stapleton, Harry Butt and Dovydas Puidokas.



Jack Butler with his parents Barry and Michelle and sisters, Abbie, Sofie and Lucy.



Ryan Stapleton with members of his family.



Cathal Morrissey with members of his family.



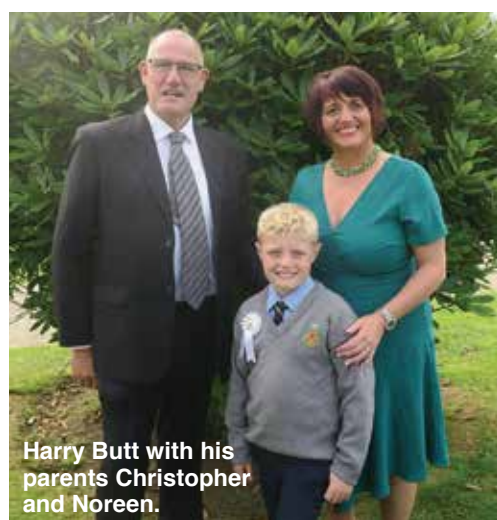
Lee McSweeney with his parents, Seán and Elizabeth.



Evan Fahey with his sister Maya and parents Anthony and Trish.



Dovydas Puidokas with members of his family.



Harry Butt with his parents Christopher and Noreen.



Seán O'Dwyer-Murphy with members of his family.

‘Mammoth’ construction works equip



Bishop Denis Nulty addresses the crowd.



A crowd of teachers, parents, clergy and more attend the official opening ceremony of refurbishment and building works in Knockbeg College in Carlow on Friday.



Two pupils join Charlie Flanagan TD, who is a former pupil of Knockbeg College, to unveil the plaque marking the restoration and building works.

Chai Brady

It is important to have a “clear vision for diocesan schools”, according to Bishop Denis Nulty of the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin, who praised St Mary’s Knockbeg College, Co. Carlow for being “equipped for the next century”.

Knockbeg College marked a milestone with an official opening ceremony for their multi-million-euro extension and restoration works on Friday, September 10. The college was blessed by the bishop and opened by Charlie Flanagan TD of Laois Offaly, who is the President of the Past Pupils’ Union of the school.

“The mammoth extension project which is being opened and blessed today equips Knockbeg for the next century...” Bishop Nulty said.

He added that there “is a wide-ranging debate concerning education in Ireland today. I welcome this debate” during his address.

“The Church has over the years made an enormous contribution through its teachers – lay, religious and clerical to education in our country. Our diocesan schools have many examples of staff members who went way beyond the call of duty or indeed post of responsibility in their care of their students.”

He continued saying “it’s important for us to have a clear vision for diocesan schools. Each of our 38 diocesan schools must be helped to articulate the elements of that shared vision.

“Diocesan schools operate under the trusteeship of the local bishop. In the new reality, with more pressure to have a cohesive voice of this small but unique sector within the education landscape, it is critical that our voice is articulated and heard within the newly formed APTCS (Association of Patrons and Trustees of Catholic Schools). Each school brings a unique charm of its own and each school shares the very same mandate – helping its

students to grow and develop in an environment which takes its values from the Gospel.”

The new extension, covering the entire old farmyard area includes a fully equipped gym and sports hall, two special needs units, a sensory garden, a canteen to seat 216 students, and a music room.

A new three storey block at the back of the school provides eight classrooms, science and art rooms, a multimedia room and a design and communication graphics room. All the old buildings have been renovated and the dormitories turned into classrooms, science labs, a library and study hall. The college chapel was fully refurbished and the conservation architect has insured that the original Knockbeg House was restored.

The current principal of Knockbeg College, Michael Carew, is the third lay principal. The two before him were past pupils John Curtis and Cyril Hughes.

Knockbeg College originally began as Carlow Lay College in

the building now known as Carlow College.

The College was founded by Bishop Keffe in 1782, built during the following years, but did not take in its first students until October 1, 1793. It had been decided to take in clerical students as well as lay students.

By around 1840 the Lay College had become the first Catholic institution in Ireland to provide university level education, and by arrangement with London University to give degrees.

In 1847 Knockbeg House was bought from the Caruthers family to provide for 8–12-year-old boarders in the Lay College. As numbers grew, a big extension was added in 1880 and in 1892 the entire Lay College, students and staff, was moved to Knockbeg.

Formerly a boarding school, Knockbeg College began taking day pupils in 1985, until boarding finished in 2011.



Bishop Nulty is given a gift from Patricia Bowe, Chairperson of the Parents’ Council, on behalf of Knockbeg College.



Bishop Denis Nulty of the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin makes the blessings at the ceremony.

Knockbeg College for next century



Jim Fitzharris, Tom McDonald, Fr John Dunphy, Msgr Brendan Byrne and Joe Farrell.



Fifth year students in Knockbeg College.



Mary Fitzpatrick, Patricia Bowe and Michelle Ellis who are on the parents' council.



Laois-Offaly TD Charlie Flanagan, who is the President of the Past Pupils' Union of Knockbeg College, speaks during the event.



Former teacher John Behan and current teacher in Knockbeg College Colin Maxwell.



Fiona Lennon, Lillian Fogarty and Niamh Broderick.



Sr Kathleen Kennedy and Aoibhinn Foley.



Soprano Donna Roche performs at Knockbeg College during the opening.



Fr Joe O'Neill, art teacher Anmarie Dawson Hogan, Fr Thomas O'Byrne, administrator of Carlow Cathedral and the president of Carlow College Fr Conn Ó Maoldhomnaigh.

'Glorious' celebration kicks off Season of Creation in Down and Connor

Chai Brady

The Diocese of Down and Connor enjoyed "glorious" music and a "jubilant atmosphere" at an event marking the beginning of the Season of Creation in Belfast.

The liturgy for the beginning of the Season of Creation in the diocese took place in St Peter's Cathedral on Wednesday, September 1.

Paula McKeown of Living Church in the diocese told *The Irish Catholic* that parishes are actively engaging with the Season of Creation which Pope Francis established.

"The diocese established a new *Laudato Si'* working group and a key priority was to make sure that the Season of Creation was marked across the diocese and we were delighted to do this with an event in St Peter's Cathedral," Ms McKeown said.

"There was a great online following and it has encouraged parishes to take up their own initiatives such as a beach clean in Newcastle, Co. Down and the parish of Ardkeen is going to have a bulb planting day and transform their grounds for the spring on September 18."

Ms McKeown added that all of the plants used to decorate the cathedral for the event are being replanted in the *Laudato Si'* garden in the parish of Ballymena.

"It was an evening of glorious music and Fr Eugene and Fr Martin O'Hagan led the cathedral in 'How Great Thou Art' and there was a real jubilant atmosphere," she said.

"During Covid a lot of us turned to nature as a space of comfort and solace and we

also became acutely aware of our interconnectedness globally and the fact that we actually have a Christian duty to care for the Earth that God has given us so there was a real need for this event to happen so that we all understand our role in stewardship of the Earth."

The Season of Creation is marked from September 1 to October 4 (Feast of St Francis of Assisi) and celebrates the joy of creation as well as encouraging awareness-raising initiatives to protect the natural environment.

The theme for the Season of Creation 2021 is 'Restoring Our Common Home'. During this season people are asked to join together to celebrate and protect creation through prayer, reflection and action. The global Christian family is called to awaken to the need to heal their relationship with creation and with each other and to encourage parish communities to do the same.

Catholics have been urged to sign the Healthy Planet Healthy People' petition (<http://www.thecatholicpetition.org/>) as a key action for this year's Season of Creation. The petition has been endorsed by the Vatican Dicastery for Integral Human Development in the hope that millions of Catholics will raise their voices in the public sphere in the run up to UN conferences on climate change including the COP15 which will focus on biodiversity and is due to take place in China in mid-October and COP24 on climate change which is due to take place in Glasgow from October 31 to November 12.



Annie and Conor McCarthy taking part in the liturgy.



Anne Marie Walsh opens the Season of Creation for the Diocese of Down and Connor.



Fr Tim Bartlett and Msgr Delargy.



Fr Timothy Bartlett speaking to the congregation.



James McConnell, Sionán Mullan, Fr Eugene O'Hagan and Fr Martin O'Hagan, the musicians for the evening.



Louise McQuillan and her daughter Anna take part in the Season of Creation liturgy.



Msgr Patrick Delargy leading the Litany of Repentance.



St Peter's Cathedral.



Paula McKeown and Fr Martin Graham preparing to welcome people to St Peter's Cathedral for the opening of the Season of Creation.



Sionán Mullan singing 'The Deer's Cry'.



The newly formed Laudato Si working group in the Diocese of Down and Connor.

Out&About

Ring in the school year at Queen's



ANTRIM: The Catholic Chaplaincy at Queen's University Belfast hosted this year's opening of school year Mass with students and staff from Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock. Pictured are students along with Principal Ms McLoughlin and chaplain Sr Marie. Representing QUB chaplaincy are Fr Dominic McGrattan and Shannon Campbell.



CARLOW: Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin Denis Nulty joined members of the Brigidine Congregation from the northern hemisphere gathering in Tullow as they prepare for their rescheduled chapter in Sydney, Australia next year. The sisters have been involved in education in Ireland since 1807.



IN SHORT

Synods must be a way of life – Bishop Leahy

Bishop of Limerick Brendan Leahy has welcomed the Vatican's publication of the guiding documents leading to the 'Synod on Synodality' in Rome in 2023.

"I share the goal of the listening process as laid out in the preparatory document which 'is not to produce documents, but to plant dreams, prophecies, and hopes,'" he said in a statement.

"Synod is not just about meetings; it is a way of life, a way of living out our identity as members of the People of God," the bishop said.

160th anniversary of Bon Secours Sisters marked

Archbishop of Dublin Dermot Farrell has warned that Ireland's aging population is going to present huge needs for care in the future, particularly of poorer people.

Speaking as he celebrated Mass to mark both the 160th anniversary of the arrival of Bon Secours Sisters in Ireland and the 70th anniversary of the founding of Dublin's Bon Secours Hospital, Dr Farrell paid tribute to the witness of the sisters.

Speaking about the country to which the first sisters arrived he recalled how "with Ireland still suffering the effects of

the 'Great Famine' and centuries of intermittent warfare for religious and political freedom, Dublin was an over-crowded and very poor city.

"Sisters of Bon Secours were the first to stay in the homes, caring for the sick and dying for as long as required," he said.

Given all the changes that have taken place since their first arrival in Ireland in 1861, the sisters have not deviated from the charism of their foundress. From the beginning, the congregation of Bon Secours has been dedicated to the service of the sick, the poor and the needy.

"Has everything been perfect in that ministry?" he aside, continuing: "It would be naïve to think it had been. Such naivety

would be but another actualisation of [Dietrich] Bonhoeffer's 'cheap grace' as the illusion of 'cheap grace' was also to be found in 'the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, Baptism without Church discipline. Communion without Confession,'" the archbishop said quoting the German theologian.

On the future he warned that "the slope of the aging population, along which Ireland, is sliding, presents major challenges.

Perhaps never before has there been such a need to care for the aging poor, as would Jesus Christ himself, and serve them with love and respect until death," he said.

Edited by Ruadhán Jones
Ruadhan@irishcatholic.ie



Events deadline is a week in advance of publication



LOUTH: Pictured after his recent ordination in St Joseph's Redemptorist Church in Dundalk, Co. Lough is Fr Ryan Holovasky CSsR. He is pictured with the ordaining prelate Archbishop of Armagh Eamon Martin.



MAYO: Bishop of Achonry Paul Dempsey with Fr Joe Gavigan following his recent induction as parish priest of Kilmovee.



ANTRIM: Students from year eight in Edmund Rice College participate in the young enterprise scheme.



DOWN: The student leadership team for 2021-22 at St Louis Grammar School in Killeel: Head Boy Seán Kelly, Head Girl Aoife McGrath, Deputy Head Boys Aidan Quinn and Mark McVeigh and Deputy Head Girls Orla Quinn and Lucy Sloan.

GALWAY: The feastday of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, September 7, was a joyous day for the Irish Franciscans as on the eve of the feastday the order welcomed two new postulants Ken and Michael in the Franciscan Abbey in Galway.



LAOIS: Parishioners in Graiguecullen Killeslin parish recently celebrated the birthday of parish priest Fr John Dunphy with a special cake made by Chloe O'Sullivan.



Events

● In the current Covid-19 crisis, it is clear that most (and perhaps all) Church events, other than some Masses, are suspended. Consequently, we are withholding the popular Events Listing column until normal activities can resume in our parishes. However, please do email us if you know of any parish event planned and we will publish details.

World Report

IN BRIEF

UK bishops criticise upcoming arms fair

● A major arms fair in London has drawn fire from Catholic bishops and justice and peace groups who say the trade in weaponry fuels conflict around the world.

In a joint statement, they criticized the DSEI arms fair, which will bring together more than 1,600 companies that develop, manufacture and sell a vast range of weaponry.

They said such events, which will run at London's Docklands September 14-17, were part of a trade that Pope Francis had claimed was "drenched in blood. We recognise the right of every country to defend itself against attack, but we must never ignore, or allow ourselves to become complicit in, the destruction of human life and violations of human dignity made possible by the sale of weaponry," said the September 7 joint statement.

Priest shot dead in Haiti

● Father André Sylvestre, 70, was shot to death in Cap-Haitien September 6, outside a bank where he had just completed a transaction.

The priest was attacked by several persons on motorcycles and, according to the *Haiti Standard*, the attackers did not take the money he was carrying.

Fr Sylvestre was taken to hospital, but soon thereafter died of his injuries.

The priest was serving at Notre Dame de La Mercie parish.

Haiti has seen a surge of violence in recent years, and the number of kidnappings for ransom has increased in that time.

A criminal gang calling itself "400 Mazow" kidnapped 10 Catholics, including priests and nuns, on April 11. The kidnap victims were all eventually released weeks later after the Catholic Church openly criticised the government's "inaction," and called for all Catholic schools and institutions – except hospitals and clinics – to close in protest.

Six nuns from the same convent die in less than a week

● Six nuns from the convent of the Franciscan Sisters of the Holy Family of Mary congregation in Curitiba, Brazil, died in less than a week, five of them from Covid-19.

Other nuns at the convent also came down with the illness and some were admitted to the

intensive care unit (ICU). Sister Madalena Ryndack of the Curitiba convent said that "with the prayers of many friends" the situation is gradually "returning to normal."

The Archdiocese of Curitiba published the death notices of the nuns.

Cardinal says Pope Francis' visit changed Iraq

● An Iraqi cardinal said that Pope Francis' historic visit to Iraq in March had a profound impact on the country.

Delivering his testimony at the 52nd International Eucharistic Congress in Budapest, Hungary, on September 7, Cardinal Louis Raphaël Sako explained that the Pope's trip had changed the atmosphere in the Middle Eastern country.

"The Pope touched the hearts of all Iraqis by his messages, especially

Muslims. And now, something has changed in the streets, in the Mass, the population," he commented.

"Christians are proud of that and now they are very appreciated also."

Cardinal Sako was speaking on the third day of the International Eucharistic Congress, which opened on September 5 with a 1,000-strong choir and a Mass featuring First Communions.

Biden administration sues Texas over pro-life law

The Biden administration September 9 sued Texas over its new law prohibiting most abortions after the detection of a foetal heartbeat.

In a complaint filed in a federal district court in West Texas, the Justice Department said the state acted "in open defiance of the Constitution" in restricting "most pre-viability abortions."

"The Act is clearly unconstitutional under longstanding Supreme Court precedent," Attorney General Merrick Garland stated.

"The United States has the authority and responsibility to ensure that no state can deprive individuals of their constitutional rights through a legislative scheme specifically designed to prevent the vindication of those rights."

The complaint, reported by Bloomberg News, seeks a permanent injunction on state officials and "private parties who would bring suit under the law, from implementing or enforcing" the law.

The Texas Heartbeat Act, S.B. 8, requires doctors to check for a foetal heartbeat before performing an abortion. If a heartbeat is detected – which can be as early as six weeks into pregnancy – the law prohibits abortions except in medical emergencies.

However, the law is enforced through private civil lawsuits and not by the state.

Abortion providers chal-



Pro-life demonstrators argue with supporters of legal abortion outside of the US Supreme Court in Washington in this 2020 photo. Photo CNS.

lenged the law in court, but the Supreme Court on September 1 denied their petition to block the law from going into effect.

In response, President Joe Biden called the law "an unprecedented assault on a woman's constitutional rights," and promised a "whole-of-government" effort to maintain abortion in Texas.

He directed federal agencies, including the Justice Department, to review what actions could be taken "to ensure that women in Texas have access to safe and legal abortions as protected by *Roe*."

Under the Texas law, plaintiffs may not sue women for illegal abortions. They may

sue those who perform illegal abortions, and anyone who "knowingly" aids and abets an illegal abortion.

However, the law forbids those who impregnate women who then have abortions from bringing lawsuits in those cases.

Successful lawsuits can net at least \$10,000 in damages under the law, plus court costs and attorney fees.

Instead of enforcing the law, the state of Texas "has deputised ordinary citizens to serve as bounty hunters," the Justice Department officials alleged in their complaint.

"It takes little imagination to discern Texas's goal—to make it

too risky for an abortion clinic to operate in the State," the lawsuit argued. "Thus far, the law has had its desired effect. To date, abortion providers have ceased providing services prohibited by S.B. 8, leaving women in Texas unacceptably and unconstitutionally deprived of abortion services."

In advance of the lawsuit on Thursday, one pro-life leader called it "anti-democracy."

Pro-life leaders pointed out that the state legislature recently increased public benefits for low-income mothers, expanding Medicaid coverage for new mothers and funding the Alternatives to Abortion programme.

New bishop consecrated under terms of Vatican-China deal

A new bishop of Wuhan, China, was ordained September 8 under the terms of the Vatican-China agreement, a Vatican spokesman has confirmed.

Bishop Francis Cui Qingqi, 57, is the sixth bishop to be consecrated in China since the Holy See signed a provisional agreement with the Chinese government in September 2018.

According to Vatican spokesman Matteo Bruni, Pope Francis appointed Bishop Cui as the bishop of the Diocese of Hankou/Wuhan on June 23 and his episcopal ordination took place September 8 in Wuhan, the city where the first

Covid-19 cases were reported.

The newly ordained bishop is a Franciscan who is said to be close to the Chinese government.

The Wuhan diocese has been without a bishop for the past 14 years, with Fr Cui filling the void in an unofficial leadership position since 2012.

After studying in Beijing, Fr Cui was appointed by provincial authorities of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) to head a five-member "management committee" to oversee the Wuhan diocese nine years ago, according to a 2012 report in the Italian newspaper *La Stampa*.

Fr Cui was appointed deputy secretary of the state-sanctioned bishops' conference in 2016 and became the president of the Catholic Patriotic Association of Hubei in January 2018.

He was born in Shanxi province in 1964, 15 years after the Chinese Communist Revolution, and was ordained a priest in 1991 at the age of 27.

In October 2020, the Vatican and China renewed their provisional agreement on the appointment of bishops for another two years. The terms of the agreement have not been made public.

Bishops' commission laments EU religious freedom envoy vacancy

A Catholic bishops' commission said that it is a "pity" that the "key position" of EU religious freedom envoy is now vacant.

The Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Union (COMECE) congratulated the outgoing

envoy Christos Stylianides September 8 on his next role as head of Greece's new climate crisis ministry.

But the commission expressed regret that the post of special envoy for the promotion of freedom of religion or belief outside

the EU now lay vacant "after much effort to find a suitable candidate."

"We urge the EU Commission to swiftly appoint a new one with reinforced mandate/resources," COMECE wrote on its Twitter account.

The special envoy role

was created in 2016 to protect freedom of religion or belief worldwide on behalf of the EU.

Mr Stylianides, a Cypriot politician, was appointed to the role in May, ending a two-year vacancy.



Edited by Jason Osborne
jason@irishcatholic.ie



Candlelit worship in Cuba



Masked worshippers light candles at the church of Cuba's patroness - Our Lady of Charity - in Havana September 8, amid concerns about the spread of the coronavirus. Photo: CNS.

Belarus Church denounces anti-Catholic cartoon depicting priests as Nazis

The bishops' conference of Belarus accused state media of stoking anti-Catholic feeling, after an official newspaper equated priests with Nazis in a front-page cartoon.

"This publication inflicts moral damage on Christians of all denominations - it deliberately, maliciously distorts the truth," the conference said September 7.

"A caricature in which the cross turns into a swastika and (a) swastika is depicted in place of a cross not only insults priests, but above all desecrates the cross of Christ."

The statement said the

image had "deeply offended" Catholic religious feelings and incited public hostility toward the Church just before Belarus' September 17 National Unity Day.

The statement was published in reaction to the cartoon in *Minskaya Pravda*, a daily belonging to the Belarusian capital's regional government. It depicted four priests before a mock icon of Catholic clergy martyred at Rosica in 1943.

The cartoon showed a priest wearing a swastika in place of a pectoral cross, with Belarus' banned red-white

national flag under his arm, singing the anthem *Magutny Bozha* (O God Almighty), which was denounced in a July 3 speech by President Alexander Lukashenko shortly before a police raid on Minsk's Catholic cathedral.

The cartoon small print said *Magutny Bozha* was a "hymn for collaborators," adding that Catholic authorities had ignored warnings to stop allowing it in churches.

In a September 7 social media post, the bishops' spokesman, Father Yuri Sanko, accused *Minskaya Pravda's* editors of "spitting

in the face of several million Catholics" by publishing the cartoon, adding that he and other priests would continue "praying for enemies of the Church."

The same day, Auxiliary Bishop Yuri Kasabutski of Minsk-Mohilev said on social media: "Such articles do not promote peace and harmony in our country. Forgive them, Lord, for they know not what they do!"

Meanwhile, the ecumenical Christian Vision organisation said the image clearly defamed the Church and urged the Vatican to respond.

Spanish Church urges end to 'morbid story' over resigned bishop

The president of the Spanish bishops' conference has appealed for a former Catalan bishop to have his privacy respected, following media reports he moved in with an erotic fiction writer two weeks after resigning his see.

"I share the pain of his family and the Church of Solsona, which has been touched by this, along with the rest of Catalonia and its bishops, who've walked with him for so many years," Cardinal Juan José Omella told a Madrid news

conference September 9.

"But it also hurts me that people have turned this into such a morbid, crushing story. When someone leaves his ministry for his own reasons, you have to respect his privacy. We are all sinners needing forgiveness, and we should also value those who stay faithful."

The cardinal commented on media reports that Bishop Xavier Novell Gomà was now cohabiting with Silvia Caballol Clemente, a divorced mother of two, fol-

lowing Pope Francis' acceptance of his resignation August 23.

Cardinal Omella said he had been "surprised like everyone else" by the 52-year-old's sudden departure and had offered him personal help, but added that details of the "uneasy case" were still not known.

Meanwhile, the bishop appointed to administer the Solsona Diocese also urged Catholics to respect Novell's "personal reasons" for leaving.

Pope: You can't be missionaries if you stop adoring the Lord

● Addressing Claretians, who are in Rome for their General Chapter, Pope Francis noted that the theme of their meeting - "Rooted and Bold" - "presupposes a life of prayer and contemplation that allows you to contemplate the mirror, which is Christ, so that you yourselves may become mirrors for others".

"You are missionaries", said the Pope, "and if you want your mission to be truly fruitful, you cannot separate it from contemplation and from a life of intimacy with the Lord". He added, "If you want to be witnesses, you can't cease being adorers".

He explained that their mission must be one of closeness, and that simply observing from afar out of curiosity is not enough. "Following the example of Father Claret, you cannot be mere spectators of reality. Participate in it", said the Pope. In that way, he adds, the Claretians will be able to "transform the realities of sin" that they encounter along the way.

Legionary bishop named president of Vatican Governorate

● Pope Francis September 8 named the 76-year-old Bishop Fernando Vérez Alzaga as president of the Governorate of Vatican City State. Bishop Vérez, a member of the Legionaries of Christ, succeeds the 78-year-old Cardinal Giuseppe Bertello as head of government of Vatican City and president of the Pontifical Commission for Vatican City State, a legislative body.

The Holy See press office said on September 8 that Bishop Vérez would take up his new role October 1, the day of Cardinal Bertello's 79th birthday, and that the Pope had conferred on him the personal title of archbishop.

Bishop Vérez was born in Salamanca, Spain,

in 1945. He made his perpetual profession with the Legionaries of Christ in 1965 and was ordained a priest in 1969. He studied philosophy and theology at Rome's Pontifical Gregorian University and obtained a diploma from the School of Archives at the Vatican's Secret Archives.

He began working for the Vatican in 1972, at the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life. In October 2020, the Pope selected Bishop Vérez as a member of the Vatican's Commission for Confidential Matters. The commission is led by Cardinal Kevin Farrell, a former Legionary of Christ who is prefect of the Dicastery for the Laity, Family, and Life.

Vatican sends 15,000 ice creams to Rome prisoners

● Pope Francis sent 15,000 ice creams to prisoners in Rome as the Eternal City sweltered in the summer heat, the Vatican announced.

The gelati were taken to the Regina Coeli and Rebibbia prisons by the papal almoner Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, the Office of Papal Charities said in a September 7 press release.

The Vatican department that performs charitable acts on behalf of the Pope said that in the summer months it sought to make "small evangelical gestures to help and give hope to thousands of people in Rome's prisons."

The office explained that it focused on undertaking corporal works of mercy during the summer, when canteens and charities in Rome are forced to limit their activities. "Therefore, as every year, small groups of homeless people, or those housed in dormitories, were taken to the sea or lake, near Castel Gandolfo, for an afternoon of relaxation and dinner in a pizzeria," it noted.

The department added that it had also overseen the supply of medicines and medical equipment to developing countries.

Letter from Poland



Jason Osborne

Sunday saw the beatification of two blessed with very different, but equally holy, missions in the Church in Poland.

Cardinal Marcello Semeraro, Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, declared the 'Iron primate', Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński and Mother Elżbieta Róża Czacka blessed at Mass and a service September 12, at the Temple of Divine Providence in Warsaw, attended by a large host of the country's hierarchy and politicians.

“This Polish Pope... would not be on Peter's chair were it not for your faith which did not retreat before prison and suffering”

Cardinal Wyszyński's name may ring a bell for some of our readers, being a close associate of St Pope John Paul II's. Their work, both in their homeland and abroad, is widely credited with the weakening and eventual collapse of communism, and Cardinal Wyszyński was certainly not left unmarked by this struggle, spending a period of three years in prison and house arrest in the 1950s.

Material of legend

Bl. Wyszyński's resistance to and struggle against both national socialism and communism would be the material of legend, were it not within living memory, and many tributes were paid to his legacy in the build-up to the beatification.

Speaking ahead of the beatification, primate emeritus of Poland, Archbishop Henryk Muszyński told of the role Bl. Wyszyński played in his own vocation, and how his example of the Christian life lived amid difficulty and persecution was a source of inspiration to his fellow seminarians.

“Already in the seminary – and these were the times of the golden age of Stalinism – we had a double point of reference: the martyrs of World War II and the priest Primate Wyszyński. It was the time of his imprisonment, we looked at him with admiration, but on the other hand, we were aware that what was happening was largely due to him,” Archbishop Muszyński said, continuing, “his uncompromising attitude, devotion to God and the Church, was something that not

Blesseds abound in Church in Poland



Members of the clergy pray during the beatification ceremony of Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński and Mother Elżbieta Róża Czacka in the Church of Divine Providence in Warsaw. Photo: CNS.

“This is the holiest appeal of fighting Warsaw to us and the entire world. An appeal and a testament: You will love”

only influenced our imaginations, but was very important for our priestly formation and for our spiritual attitude”.

Cardinal Semeraro echoed the place Bl. Wyszyński occupied in the Polish imagination in his homily during the beatification Mass, recalling “an exceptional and prophetic event” that took place during the Warsaw Uprising of 1944.

“Blessed Stefan picked up from the ground a piece of a partially burnt sheet of paper that had flown there from the burning capital, wrapped in fire; on it, he read these words: ‘You will love’,” Cardinal Semeraro said, continuing “Wyszyński, deeply moved by them, took the piece of paper to the chapel, showed it to the sisters, and said: ‘This is the holiest appeal of fighting Warsaw to us and the entire world. An appeal and a testament: You will love.’”

“He lived his ministry as pastor and bishop in response to this appeal and testament, first in Lublin and then in Gniezno and Warsaw, as

he faced the problems that his Nation had to endure in the years following World War II.”

In a letter to his compatriots a few days after his election to the See of Peter, St John Paul II wrote of Bl. Wyszyński, “This Polish Pope... would not be on Peter's chair were it not for your faith which did not retreat before prison and suffering. Were it not for your heroic hope, your unlimited trust in the Mother of the Church!”

Weekend's blessed

Providence should have it that the first of the weekend's blessed met the second in the Polish village of Laski in 1926. Then a young priest, Bl. Wyszyński was “edified by the faith and perseverance of this woman who, moved by God's love, was completely devoted to God and her neighbour,” Cardinal Semeraro said of Mother Czacka.

“Struck by blindness at the age of twenty-two, she decided to devote her life to serving the blind,

who at that time could not count on help or the opportunity to get an education in the Polish territories,” Cardinal Semeraro said.

“With this aim, she founded the Society for the Care of the Blind and the Congregation of the Franciscan Sisters Servants of the Cross. She opened schools and organised workshops, adapted the Braille alphabet to the Polish language, and developed spelling abbreviations.

“Through her extraordinary diligence and commitment, Blessed Elżbieta Róża shows us that there are no obstacles for those who want to love God and love as he does.”

“Sr Elżbieta, who as a young girl lost her sight, devoted her whole life to assisting the blind”

Their meeting in 1926 led to “precious cooperation”, the blessed engaging in the “frank sharing of intentions and plans”.

On May 19, 1961, Cardinal Wyszyński remarkably presided over Mother Czacka's funeral, saying of her in his homily that she “was a person who constantly stood before the face of her Good

Lord; a person who knew that God is Love, above all – love! A person who steadfastly drew from the fathomless source of God's love! That is why she was able to share and nourish so many people around her with love”.

The beatification ceremony took place at the same time as the closing Mass of the International Eucharistic Congress in Budapest, Hungary, which was celebrated by Pope Francis.

Ceremony

In his Angelus address after the Mass, Pope Francis drew attention to the ceremony in Warsaw, saying, “Today in Warsaw, not far from here, two individuals who bore witness to the Gospel are being beatified: Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński and Elżbieta Czacka, foundress of the Franciscan Sisters Servants of the Cross.

“Both were familiar with the Cross first-hand. Cardinal Wyszyński, the Primate of Poland, who was arrested and imprisoned, was always a courageous pastor according to the heart of Christ and a herald of freedom and human dignity.”

“Sr Elżbieta, who as a young girl lost her sight, devoted her whole life to assisting the blind. May the example of these new blessed encourage us to transform darkness into light with the power of love.”

From Flanders to Sicily, contradictions abound on Europe's religious scene



John L. Allen Jr

Having spent most of my adult life and career living in western Europe and covering Catholicism, I've developed three broad observations about the cultural landscape here vis-à-vis the Church.

- First, the Church is undergoing a long-term transition from a culture-shaping majority to an optional subculture, sometimes in harmony with the broader majority and sometimes at odds with it.

- Second, the Church sometimes doesn't help itself by doing pointless and irritating things that feed negative stereotypes of the majority.

- Third, despite all that, the Faith still has an ineradicable hold on a surprising swath of the population.

Developments in just the last few days illustrate each of those points.

Let's begin in Flanders, meaning the northern Dutch-speaking part of Belgium, where traditionally the state has been the owner of Church buildings and the surrounding real estate. There's a total of 1,768 Church properties owned by the state, and over the last few decades 181 of them, which were no longer in regular use as places of worship, have been converted for civic uses such as libraries, youth centres, concert halls and so on.

Churches

Many more of those churches could be converted into other uses, with only 700 considered off limits because they're still needed for liturgical and pastoral purposes. Mayors in Flanders apparently have complained that the process of approving those structures for conversion takes too long and is too restricted in scope, and in the meantime the cities have to pay for upkeep and maintenance.

Now the Flemish government, over the objections of the local Catholic Church, has approved a new plan which permits conversion for commercial use, so that these former churches could become supermarkets, or night clubs, or office buildings, or whatever else the local market demands.

Bishop Johan Bonny of Antwerp, who made waves during the Synods on the Family for his progressive stances on homosexuality and divorce, issued a sharp protest of the move, which broke with previous government commitments to work out such matters in dialogue with the church.

"What Jews judge as unacceptable for a synagogue, Muslims for a mosque and Masons for a lodge, Christians also can't tolerate for a Church," Bishop Bonny said, won-



Members of the Carabinieri are pictured outside St Peter's in this 2019 photo. A member of the Carabinieri was recently involved in an altercation in a church in Sicily. Photo: CNS.

dering aloud where it all will end.

"What about an animal refuge, or a clothing store, or a theatre, or, why not, a bordello?" Bishop Bonny mused. There's no particular indication, however, that Flemish authorities were especially moved by the protest.

(I can't resist noting the irony that this obvious diss to religion is being delivered in a country whose name, for Americans, summons images of Ned Flanders from the Simpsons, whose unwavering religious faith is the stuff of popular legend.)

“In other disciplines, Mr Corlazzoli reports, if teachers are required to take continuing education courses, the cost is covered by the state”

Next, under the heading of “stupid stuff the Church does that makes things worse,” comes another story this week out of Italy concerning religion teachers in public schools.

Under the Italian system, public school students from ages 6 to 18 receive mandatory instruction in religion each week. Most attend courses in Catholicism, though non-Catholics can elect to receive instruction in the history of religions or philosophy instead. The teachers who cover Catholicism are paid by the state, but they're required to have the approval of the local bishop.

This week the newspaper *Il Fatto Quotidiano*, in a piece by Alex Corlazzoli, revealed that some Italian dioceses for years have been charging those religion teachers “administrative fees” of around €100 allegedly to cover the costs of organising annual professional development courses. Those courses are mandatory to maintain the certificate saying the teacher is approved by the bishop, so the teachers basically don't have any choice.

Pocket change

That may seem like pocket change, but it's worth pointing out that the average teacher salary in Italy is below €25,000, which means that every little bit matters.

In other disciplines, Mr Corlazzoli reports, if teachers are required to take continuing education courses, the cost is covered by the state. He also adds that among religion teachers in Palermo in Sicily, the fee is informally referred to as *il pizzo*, which is a local euphemism for protection money paid to the mafia to be left alone.

“Isn't it odd that the Church insists the state must pay the salaries of religion teachers, and then demands that the teachers themselves pay for their development?” Mr Corlazzoli asks.

It's a fair question, and the story feeds impressions of a Church interested mostly in money – precisely the sort of thing that makes non-religious cultural majorities less inclined to be friendly.

Despite all that, another story out of Italy this past week illustrates Catholicism's continuing hold on the popular imagination, this time in just

about the worst possible way.

In Acireale in Sicily, the vice-commander of the local unit of the *carabinieri*, Italy's military police who play a wide role in routine policing here, was shot and seriously injured during an altercation at the Church of Santa Maria degli Ammalati during a First Communion Mass for a group of children from the parish.

“Reports say the injuries aren't life-threatening, but there's a risk of paralysis for Sebastiano Giovanni Grasso, whose cervical vertebrae were damaged”

According to reports, the dispute broke out between an ex-husband and ex-wife. Seating had been determined by lots, leaving the ex-husband and his new companion toward the front of the Church with the ex-wife and her family members in the back.

The ex-wife objected, leading to a verbal row that flowed outside the Church and became physical. The *carabinieri* commander, on hand for his own son's First Communion, intervened to try to calm things down, at which point the 70-year-old grandfather of the boy at the centre of the dispute says he perceived a threat to the child and produced a pistol. In the ensuing struggle the gun went off and the commander was struck.

Reports say the injuries aren't life-threatening, but there's a risk of paralysis for Sebastiano Giovanni

Grasso, whose cervical vertebrae were damaged. The grandfather is currently facing charges for attempted murder and illegal possession of a weapon.

Of course, the dispute that led to the shooting had nothing to do with Church. In theory it could have broken out at a restaurant, or a supermarket, or pretty much anywhere. Yet obviously there was something about a milestone moment such as a First Communion that elicited a particular passion from the participants in this tragical situation, even though many of them, according to the pastor, aren't actually regular Mass-goers and may not even be believers.

Secularised societies

Sociologist Grace Davie has noted that even within the world's most thoroughly secularised societies, the embers of religious faith continue to burn and often need only a spark to burst into flame anew. Among other things, she cites the 1994 sinking of the Estonia ferry in Sweden in which almost 900 people died, one of the greatest maritime disasters of the 20th century. In response, secular Swedes by the thousands flocked to their churches and fell to their knees.

In its own awful way, the story out of Sicily makes the same point: No matter what people may think nor how they live, in certain crucial moments they still value what the Church offers, sometimes with a destructive passion.

That may not quite betoken a return to Christendom, but it's not nothing either.

i John L. Allen Jr is Editor of *CruzNow.com*

Letters

Letter of the week

Pat Hume's death concludes era of successful SDLP

Dear Editor, This is a sad time for older supporters of the SDLP with the passing of Pat Hume, just over a year after the death of her husband and Nobel Laureate John.

That more or less concludes the era of the more successful SDLP with John's votes continually maintaining a healthy lead over Sinn Féin in the North. Much was at stake then – in the period between 1969 and 2005 – and there is less at stake since that time.

Voting these days seems to be about raising the flag, a lie nailed by John, but never pushed as hard by the party these days. Necessity doesn't require it.

John Hume's SDLP stood tall with Christ in many ways and relied on a savvy electorate who had read the Gospels and listened to what God was saying.

I cannot say that about Sinn Féin and it is sad that the Catholic Church,

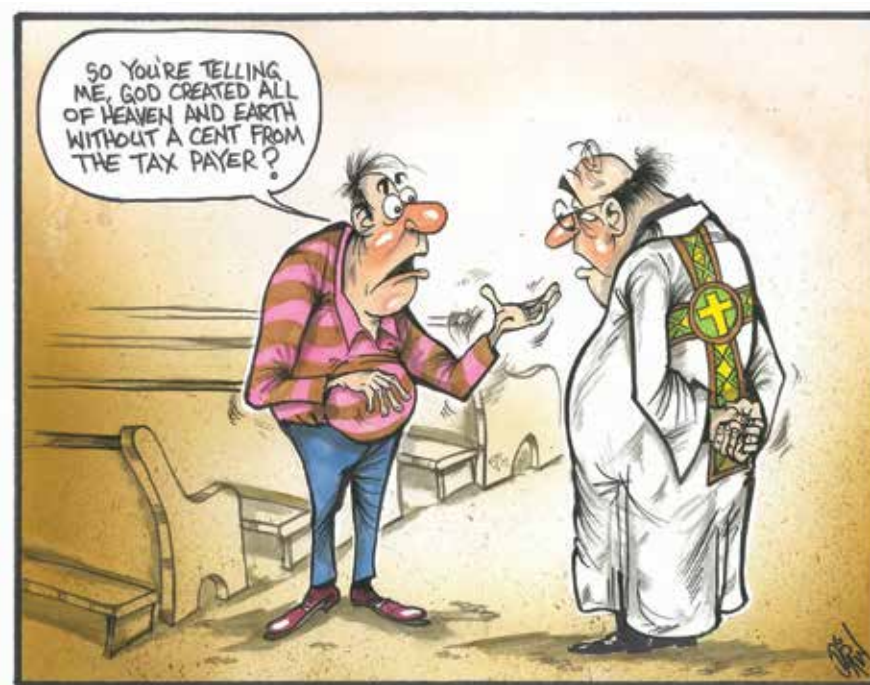
going through a not unrelated difficult period, didn't hound Sinn Féin about it in any meaningful way. I'm sure there is a story there to be told, and the Church has more difficult times ahead.

But John and Pat Hume will hopefully find eternal peace, a just reward for their perseverance at a time when their opponents shamed this country.

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

More exorcists are needed in Ireland

Dear Editor, The interview with exorcist Msgr Stephen Rossetti published in a recent edition of the paper [IC 02/09/2021] was striking and worrying. Msgr Rossetti has basically warned that as Christianity continues to decline people are more at risk from demonic forces, as the Faith is your first defence. This is something that many clergy in Ireland never really address. The forces of evil, which work against Christ and do everything in their power to alienate people from his Church, are very real but seem to be something many priests and bishops never speak about for fear of embarrassment. My argument would be, although they may receive ridicule, this is too important an issue to be left by the wayside. Msgr Rossetti says that more and more people are coming to him who have got mixed up in occult practices – opening up



doors to serious evil – do we know how many people in Ireland are practicing withcraft, using ouija boards, engaging in reiki and more? More exorcists and priests trained in deliverance ministry

are needed right now and in the years to come.

*Yours etc.,
Sean Flynn
Portlaoise, Co. Laois*

More should be expected from sex education

Dear Editor, In your paper [IC 02/09/2020], both David Quinn and Helen Vysotska advance the idea that more should be expected from "sex education" than consent.

But they do not follow this up to its logical conclusion.

Sexual activity does indeed require much more

than an agreement to a pleasant activity between two persons. It involves a third party, whose consent is not, and cannot be sought.

Sexual activity has its purpose in the creation, and the imposition, of life on a third party.

In return then, this cre-

ates a reciprocal obligation on both adults (male and female) to support, as far as is possible and necessary, the third party that they have brought into being.

It is something of a hypocrisy, then, that the Government should be promoting the idea that sexual activity is a relatively

harmless one, subject only to "consent" (whatever that may mean, but excluding that of the third party). At the same time, they are willing to fund the destruction of the living results of this same activity.

*Yours etc.,
Donal O'Driscoll
Blackrock, Co Dublin.*

*Yours etc.,
Fr John McCallion
Clonoe, Co. Tyrone*

The first school is the school of prayer

Dear Editor, Mr Stephen Kelly who took me to task in your Letters pages [IC 26/08/2021] might be surprised to learn that I partially agree with him. A return to the ancient Roman Rite alone will not stop the decline in the Church. However, he misread my letter if he thinks I said that it would. Mr Kelly says what we need is more education. I might point out that before the Second Vatican Council only 30% of Irish people went beyond primary education, it's over three times that number today, in mostly Catholic schools. Now, since education is not the enemy of faith, we can only conclude it's the quality of the religious

education, not the quantity that's the problem.

The decline in belief and Mass attendance is actually traced to the late 1980s and early 1990s (European Values Study) and not the 1970s as Mr Kelly believes. This might suggest a connection between the new (Vatican II) religious education programs introduced in the 1970s and the decline. They failed to pass on something.

Mr Kelly's belief that we had a 'largely uneducated clergy' would come as a surprise to the priests and bishops who spent six or more years studying in Maynooth, Clonliffe or the many religious houses in Ireland. As for the

mention of the uneducated laity 'chewing toffee', this is somewhat patronising to the generations of Irish Catholics who suffered severe hardship to hear Mass on hillsides and barns and eventually built fine churches with many a widow's mite. They did actual building from ashes with a love of the ancient Mass and their priests who suffered with them. To suggest that only "well educated" (whatever that means) can rebuild is to ignore history and to ignore that the first school is the school of prayer.

*Yours etc.
Liam Foley
Kilcornan, Co. Limerick*

facebook community

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

I miss those who used to join us for Mass, and we need to invite them back

Hopefully they will. There is still a certain amount of fear out there, especially among the elderly. – **Mary Duggan Murphy**

Thank God for traditional Masses which have seen a great increase in numbers as the priests there went out of their way to care for the flock. Wonderful to see so many new faces rediscovering tradition. – **Deirdre Nic Eanruig**

As soon as this awful thing passes people will be back. I expect they're still a little bit nervous a while. Don't give up hope just yet. God is good. – **Eadaoin Goggin Delaney**

Our primary defence against demons is deteriorating

Totally agree. There isn't enough teaching about these demonic forces. I have only discovered recently how dangerous all this is and come to realise that reading the Bible and meditating on the scriptures along with prayer is the only way to become aware of the battle that is going on in the world against God's word. I hope more people will discover what is really important, it is not what is going on in this material world but in the spiritual world is where the truth is. – **Hugh Mc Brearty**

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

The fact is we are at war with the real enemy

Dear editor, Chai Brady's excellent interview with Msgr Rossetti [IC 02/09/2021] is a clarion call to reality to whom the real enemy is and will always be. The fact is that we are at war and until we reengage with this truth then things will continue to spiral downwards. While the late 'celeb' couple who have popularised paranormal investigation, Lorraine and Ed Warren, have caused a certain amount of scepticism, they did in the following quotation offer a subsequent summation of the state of play regarding these realities: "Diabolical forces are formidable and are eternal and do exist. The fairy tale is true: the Devil exists; God exists and for us as a people our very destiny hinges upon which we elect to follow..."

Military instruction's fundamental premise is: Know your enemy! Until this reality is embraced and a lesser elevation of 'green issues' to a quasi eighth sacrament is adopted then things will become more profoundly bleak. It's eternal life, not the environment that is more important; Mr. Brady's article has offered a useful reference point to re-focus our attention.

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

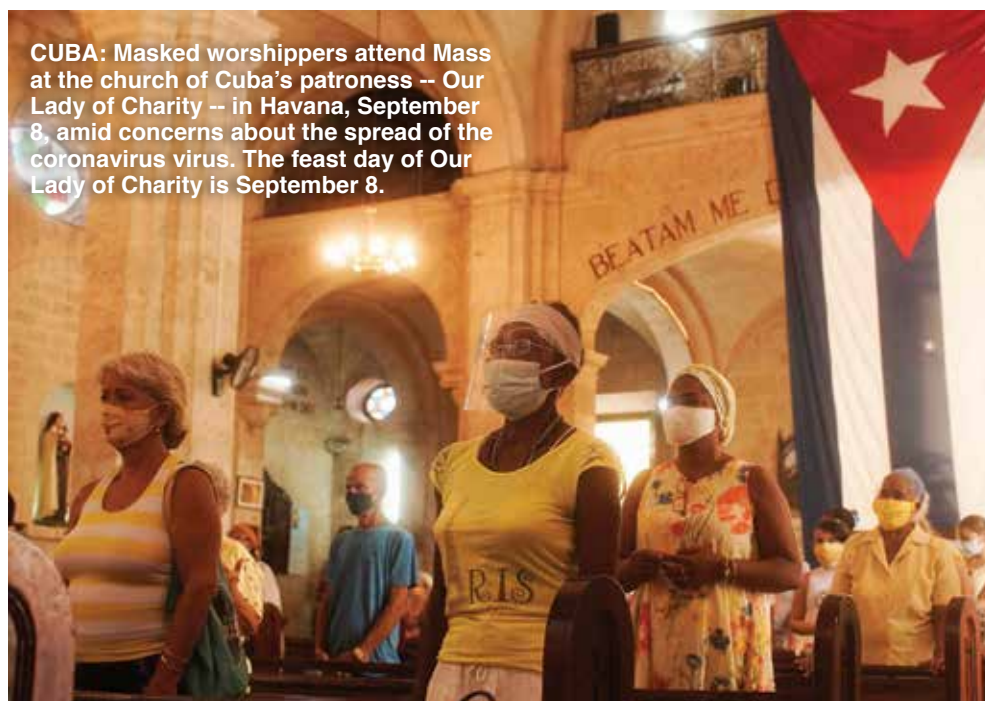
merits of letters. We do not publish pseudonyms or other formulae to conceal the writer's identity, such as "name and address with editor". We do not print letters addressed to someone else, open letters, or verse. Letters to the Editor should only be sent to *The Irish Catholic*, and not other publications.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

📷 Around the world



▲ **VATICAN:** Pope Francis greets children during an audience with activists raising awareness about unaccompanied refugee minors and children from the Diocese of Rome, September 10. The activists were making a 5,000-mile pilgrimage from Syria with a giant puppet in the lead. Photos: CNS.

◀ **USA:** Marian Brennan sits at headstone of her nephew LCPL Julian T Brennan in Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia, September 11, the 20th anniversary of the September 11 attacks.



CUBA: Masked worshippers attend Mass at the church of Cuba's patroness -- Our Lady of Charity -- in Havana, September 8, amid concerns about the spread of the coronavirus virus. The feast day of Our Lady of Charity is September 8.



MEXICO: A landslide and a damaged car are seen in the aftermath of an earthquake in Acapulco, September 8.



GERMANY: Afghan refugees are processed at Ramstein Air Base, September 8.



AUSTRALIA: Father Harold Camonias stands with sheep waiting to be shorn on a sheep station in the southern town of Bruce. Father Harold ministers to remote and isolated communities in the vast Diocese of Port Pirie.



A person in New York City stands in the rain with a red rose at the 9/11 Memorial, ahead of the 20th anniversary of the September 11 attacks in Manhattan. Photo: CNS

Catharsis doesn't bring about closure

Twenty years ago this week, struggling to digest the events of September 11th, I wrote this column. Two decades later, my reaction is the same. Here's the column.

Iris Murdoch once said that the whole world can change in 15 seconds. She was talking about falling-in-love. Hatred can do the same thing: On September 11 (2001), the world changed. Two huge passenger planes, hijacked by terrorists, crashed into and collapsed the twin-towers of the World Trade Centre in New York, killing thousands of people, as television cameras recorded the event live, showing horrific, graphic scenes over and over again. Shortly afterwards, a third hijacked plane slammed into the Pentagon, even as a fourth crashed in an open field. Inside of what is supposed to be the most secure place on earth, thousands of innocent people were killed within the space of an hour.

“How deserted she sits, the city once thronged with people! Once the greatest of nations, she is now like a widow”

Stunned, muted, we nonetheless tried to speak to the situation. Many of the voices we heard were hard, angry, calling for retaliation



Fr Rolheiser

www.ronrolheiser.com

and vengeance. Most voices though were gentle, looking only for a safe, intimate place to cry, for someone to hang onto. One Internet media site simply had a blank screen, a silent gesture that spoke eloquently. What, after all, can be said?

The opening lines from the Book of Lamentations offer this haunting description: How deserted she sits, the city once thronged with people! Once the greatest of nations, she is now like a widow.

Advice

Later on, this same book tells us that there are times when all you can do is to put your face to the dust and wait. Rainer Marie Rilke would agree. Here's his advice for times like these:

O you lovers that are so gentle,

“These terrorist acts with their utter disregard for life, offer a very clear picture of the world these people would create were they ever given scope and license to do so”

step occasionally into the breath of the sufferers not meant for you... Do not be afraid to suffer, give the heaviness back to the weight of the earth; mountains are heavy, seas are heavy.

The earth knows our pain. Sometimes silence is best.

Yet a few things need to be said even in the raw immediacy of this thing. What?

First, that each life lost was unique, sacred, precious, irreplaceable. None of these persons had ever died before and none of them should have his or her name lost in the anonymity of dying with so many others. Their lives and deaths must be honoured individually. This is true too for the suffering of their families and loved ones.

Second, clear voices must call us, especially our governments,

towards restraint. Many see this as an attack on civilisation itself. They are right. Accordingly, our task is to respond in a civilised way, holding fast always to our belief that violence is wrong, whether it be theirs or ours. The air we breathe out is the air we eventually inhale. Violence begets violence. Terrorism will not be stopped by bitter vengeance. Catharsis doesn't bring about closure. We shouldn't be naive about that. Nor, indeed, should we be naïve in reverse. These terrorist acts with their utter disregard for life, offer a very clear picture of the world these people would create were they ever given scope and license to do so. They must be stopped and brought to justice. They pose a threat to the world; but in bringing them to justice we must never stoop to their means and, like them, be driven by a hatred that blinds one to justice and the sacredness of life.

“We can only continue to live, and to live in joy and peace, by placing our faith in something beyond ourselves”

No emergency ever allows one to bracket the fundamentals of charity and respect for life. Indeed, horrific tragedies of this sort, call us to just the opposite, namely,

to fiercely re-root ourselves in all that is good and Godly – to drive with more courtesy, to take more time for what is important, and to tell those close to us that we love them. Yes, too, it calls us to seek justice and it asks for real courage and self-sacrifice in that quest. We are no longer in ordinary time.

Most of all, this calls us to prayer. What we learned again on September 11 (2001) is that, all on our own, we are neither invulnerable nor immortal. We can only continue to live, and to live in joy and peace, by placing our faith in something beyond ourselves. We can never guarantee our own safety and future. We need to acknowledge that in prayer – on our knees, in our churches, to our loved ones, to God, and to everyone whose sincerity makes him or her a brother or sister inside the family of humanity.

Resilient people

Moreover, we are called to hope. We are a resilient people, with faith in the resurrection. Everything that is crucified eventually rises. There is always a morning after. The sun never fails to rise. We need to live our lives in the face of that, even in times of great tragedy.

I end with Rilke's words: Even those trees you planted as children became too heavy long ago – you couldn't carry them now. But you can carry the winds...and the open spaces.

Family & Lifestyle

The Irish Catholic, September 16, 2021

Personal Profile

Gospel people
at the United
Nations

Page 34



Astronomy for amateurs

Always having had a fascination with space and all things celestial, I've been strangely looking forward to the encroaching darkness of autumn and winter this year, and the possibilities it presents for seeing some of what the skies have to offer.

We're currently journeying through the Season of Creation, which encourages us to not only care for and respect our immediate environment, but to appreciate and wonder at the vast variety of God's works. Staring up at the silent immensity of the heavens above our heads is certainly a spiritual experience with the potential to give you a renewed understanding of God's infinitude and yet his delicate care for us.

With this in mind, it's worth considering taking advantage of Ireland's excellent dark sky



Ireland has some of the best dark sky reserves around and the longer nights beckon us out to appreciate them, writes Jason Osborne

reserves as the daylight hours shorten. Astronomy, as with most things, can be as simple or complicated as you like, but here we'll look at some of the simpler things you can do to ensure you see the "work of his hands" in all their glory.

Darkest skies

Ireland boasts some ideal places to bask in the glow of the night sky. Mayo Dark Sky Park received a Gold Tier standard of International Dark Sky Park in 2016, acknowledging it as one of the

best places in the world to view the sky at night. Situated on the rugged west coast, vast grassland and wilderness with designated areas for astronomers results in a guaranteed experience of wonders, if only you get the weather for it. The second of Ireland's certified International Dark Sky Association (IDA) sites is the Kerry International Dark Sky Reserve, featuring 700 square kilometres of near-perfectly dark skies.

While not certified, there are a number of other places around the country which offer good viewing

experiences, if you're inclined to leave the heavier population centres behind. Among these are:

- The Wicklow Mountains National Park
- Sheep's Head Way in Co. Cork
- The Antrim coast (Designated 'Milky Way Class' by the Dark Sky Discovery Partnership, which means that the galaxy is visible on clear nights to the naked eye)
- The Aran Islands

These are but a few of Ireland's dark sky gems, with more to be found if you care to pursue the hobby further. However, once there, what to do?

Beginner's astronomy

There's much pleasure to be taken in simply beholding a vast, starry expanse stretching out before you, but that enjoyment can be deepened by learning about what you're looking at and where

exactly to look to spot the stand-out features.

It doesn't necessarily take thousands of euros worth of equipment or years of skill to get started with stargazing or amateur astronomy, your eyes, binoculars and a smartphone app being plenty to give you a sense of where to look, what to look for and means with which to see it.

In order to get started, here are a few tips to keep in mind.

Pick your location carefully

Location is everything when it comes to stargazing, with the darkest skies offering stunning and memorable views to the naked eye. Despite this, some kind of view should be achievable from most places. Even living in Dublin,

» Continued on Page 33

Family News



AND EVENTS

AMATEUR ARCHAEOLOGIST UNEARTH'S PRE-VIKING TREASURE IN DENMARK

An amateur archaeologist has found 22 gold objects with sixth century symbols that could yield new details about pre-Viking peoples in Denmark, the museum that will house the treasure has said.

Some of the objects have runic motifs and inscriptions which may refer to the rulers of the time, but also recall Norse mythology, Mads Ravn, director of research at the Vejle museums in western Denmark, told AFP.

"It is the symbols on the items that makes them unique, more than the quantity found," according to Dr Ravn, who said the treasure weighed about one kilogram.

One piece even refers to the Roman emperor Constantine from the early 4th century, said Dr Ravn.

According to initial examinations, the treasure could have been buried as an offering to the gods at a chaotic time when the climate in northern Europe dramatically turned colder after a volcanic eruption in Iceland in 536 sent ash clouds into the sky.

SPANISH WOMAN SWITCHED AT BIRTH SUES HEALTH DEPARTMENT

A 19-year old Spanish woman who was swapped at birth with another baby born hours earlier is suing the regional health department for more than €3 million, her lawyer has told a local TV station.

The health department in the northern region of La Rioja said in a statement that an internal investigation found an undetermined "one-off human error" was to blame and added it would respect any judicial proceedings.

"We are not aware of any other cases," it said, adding that current systems in place would prevent any similar mix-up from happening again.

The woman, who wishes to remain anonymous, was born in 2002 in the San Millan de Logrono hospital in La Rioja some five hours after another baby girl.

"In the case of my client, she was born later but was given to the mother who gave birth to the first child," Jose Saez Morga, the lawyer, told the TVR television network.

"This is negligence so gross that it speaks for itself."

ANIMALS 'SHAPE-SHIFTING' AS CLIMATE WARMS: STUDY

Some animals are "shape-shifting" and have developed bigger tails, beaks and ears to regulate their body temperatures as the planet warms, according to a new study.

From Australian parrots to European rabbits, researchers found evidence that a host of warm-blooded animals have evolved bigger body parts, which could allow them to lose body heat more effectively.

Climate change is heaping "a whole lot of pressure" on animals, said Sara Ryding of Deakin University in Australia, who led the study, in a press release.

The Australian parrot, for example, had shown an average 4-10% increase in the size of its bill since 1871 and the authors said this positively correlated with the summer temperature each year.

Be still and aware of God's presence



Thinking hinders the coming into awareness of the unconscious, including our awareness that the spirit of God dwells in us. It is through contemplative prayer that we are able to experience, albeit to a very different degree, the kind of experience Jesus had in prayer with his father.

Christian dogma and doctrine, important as they are, must take second place to personal spiritual experience; they must be interpreted through the lens of personal contemplative experience, as well as the lens of scripture and tradition. Jesus experienced God as Abba and the great gift of contemplative prayer is that we – when we cease thinking about anything, including God, at the time of contemplative prayer – is that God somehow communicates the mystery of his presence in the silence. In contemplative prayer we apprehend the possibility of a deep communion with God that passes all understanding, including our understanding.

Christ did not have to earn the love of his Father – neither do we. It may be difficult to appreciate this truth especially if, as we grew up, we sensed that we did indeed have to earn the love of our biological father and mother. But once we have experienced the deep love of another human being at any stage of our lives, we will find that our heart has been cultivated by that love and we can begin to apprehend the truth that we are, and always have been, loved by God simply for being ourselves.

I see eternal life as sharing fully in Christ's consciousness of God. I have always resisted the doctrine of salvation, when understood as the saving of the soul from sin and its consequences. Christianity has traditionally placed the concept of original sin at the centre of

Mindful living

Dr Noel
Keating



its theology and considers that Jesus' death on the cross was the once-for-all sacrifice that atoned for the sin of humanity. I prefer the Franciscan approach, as articulated by Richard Rohr, which places original blessing at the heart of the Christian Gospel message. That message is a call to at-one-ment, not atonement.

“This is the beginning of a right relationship with God and allows for the development and deepening of that relationship from our side”

Jesus always prayed as if God was present with him and to him. St Teresa of Avila warned us that the great danger in prayer was praying as if God was absent. The gift of meditation is that it awakens in us a very keen sense of being always in God's presence. This is the beginning of a right relationship with God and allows for the development and deepening of that relationship from our side. St Paul often speaks about developing a deep knowledge of God. He writes in Ephesians 3:14-19: "For this reason I kneel before the Father,

from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."

Jesus prayed that we would experience that deep sense of being in God, being united with God when he asked that "that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you" [John 17:21]. In other words, that we would experience the fullness of Christ's consciousness, that we would discover within us the mind of Christ, the kingdom of God that resides within us and in



which we already reside, even if we don't realise it.

This is central to our spiritual journey and contemplative prayer; the practice of meditation, has the capacity to awaken us to this dimension of consciousness. The Christian churches today need to embrace contemplative prayer at every

level. They need to promote the practice from the home to the parish, the diocese, and across all structures of the Church.

Although I speak of personal spiritual experience because I want each person to experience it for themselves, it is ultimately the same experience that I am pointing towards – where ultimately our consciousness becomes Christ's consciousness. That is the goal of our spiritual journey, of our life's journey. By referring to his Father as Abba, which was in Jesus' time a deeply intimate and loving way of referring to one's father, Jesus revolutionised our understanding of God as Love; to God as a loving father who is closer to us than we are to ourselves.

When we sit in the stillness and silence of meditation, our intention is to open ourselves to this loving presence; to leave ourselves open to a graced encounter with him who dwells in our hearts; to an unselfconscious yet deeply intimate encounter with him who is always present to us, even when we are not present to ourselves; unconscious communion with him in whom we live and move and have our being.

📌 After 40 years in the education sector Noel Keating was awarded a PhD for his research into the child's experience of meditation and its spiritual fruits. Noel now leads, in a voluntary capacity, a project which offers free in-service to primary schools who may wish to consider introducing meditation as a whole-school practice. Noel is author of *Meditation with Children: A Resource for Teachers and Parents*.

» Continued from Page 31



when I managed to get outside the immediate glare of the streetlights to stand in a green or our darkened back garden, stars, satellites and full-moons could be appreciated well.

“It measures from Class 1, which are the darkest skies available on Earth, to Class 9, which would be inner city skies”

However, as mentioned, the remoter the space, the better a chance you'll have of seeing the sky clearly and what it contains. An upstairs window, balcony, back garden or local park are likely to be the best options for city-dwellers, while those living in the countryside will have an easier time of it away from the light pollution of the cities and towns.

Wherever you decide to set yourself up, look up the location's 'Bortle class'. Named after its creator, John Bortle, the Bortle Scale is a measure of a sky's darkness. It measures from Class 1, which are the darkest skies available on Earth, to Class 9, which would be inner city skies.

Clearoutside.com allows you to google your location's Bortle class, which will help you to figure out what kind of objects you should be able to spot.

Figure out orientation

Learn where north, south, east and west are from your chosen vantage point. The sun rises in the east and sets in the west, which is one of the best ways to figure it out using your eyes alone.

Just like the sun, the planets rise in the east and set in the west, the

Moon doing the same, although its position will shift north or south depending on where you live and the time of year.

There are also shortcuts that help estimate positions in the night sky. Sky positions are usually measured in degrees, with 0 degrees being the horizon and 90 degrees being directly overhead. The width of your outstretched fist held at arm's length usually covers about 10 degrees of sky, meaning that if Mars is reported to be 20 degrees from the Moon, you'll know that means two outstretched fists.

Learning the stars and constellations for your patch of sky is useful, too, since the position of less-fixed objects like planets, satellites and other objects will often be described in relation to these. Planets are very interesting, and great trivia, to be able to point out to children and whoever else you may be with, and they're not that hard to learn to identify. They're brighter than most stars, even in major cities.

Equipment

It's usually thought that you need a telescope to be able to perceive things clearly, but this isn't so. These days, the most useful piece of equipment is, funnily enough, a good app, which can tell you what is visible from your location on a given



night and where to look. There are plenty to choose from, the best being updated regularly by their developers. Websites like timeanddate.com and stellarium-web.org are useful in this regard.

Binoculars are another useful acquisition for those interested in perusing the night sky, mainly because they can really enhance the experience while being cheap and readily available. Through binoculars, the Moon's craters, Jupiter's moons and Mars' red glow can be seen. Dim and distant Neptune and Uranus can also be seen at a push, which is great as these usually aren't visible to the naked eye.

“In keeping with the Season of Creation, the night sky and the visible splendour of the universe are there to be enjoyed”

A telescope however, will open up new horizons for you, enabling you to see features like Jupiter's stripes and Saturn's rings. Beginners should start with small, entry level telescopes, which are usually easy to transport and use. After some use, you should be in a better position to research and buy more sophisticated equipment, if you feel like so doing.

In keeping with the Season of Creation, the night sky and the visible splendour of the universe are there to be enjoyed. It's what I plan on doing with some of the upcoming autumn and winter nights!

Faith — IN THE — family



Gerard Gallagher

One of the daily rituals and traditions we have as a family is saying grace before meals when we gather at the table. This has continued over the years from when my children were young. It took place regardless of who was at the table, friends, grandparents, visitors and now girlfriends! There is a sense of amusement when someone joins us for food for the first time and the words of grace begin. Forks have been dropped and apologies offered. It's all done politely.

Being able to pray at the kitchen table can be as normal as the conversation that takes place. Sometimes we have complicated and confused people by setting the bar for prayer too high. Prayer needs to be accessible and normal for people.

Reminding young couples with children that it is necessary for them to pass on faith in the home is not good enough. Our parishes can play a part here, helping the wider and often disconnected parishioners that they can also live faith at home. Parish pastoral councils (PPCs) can take some of the lead here. Imagine if our PPCs could discuss how they can assist the young families in the parish by reaching out and showing them ideas to encourage faith at home.

Our families need to be able to normalise the praying at home, so that special rites of passage reconnect with faith and meaning. Imagine if parishes and parishioners could encourage family friendly ways to pray at home.

No matter where people are on their spiritual journey, families can take the lead in nurturing faith in the home. Begin with the basics. The sign of the cross. I am very conscious now that this action has lost meaning for many. We can invite people to either use or get a holy water font and begin again the

tradition of inviting people to bless themselves as they leave the house. It was once a regular feature in many homes. I know of many parishes that still offer small bottles of holy water for parishioners.

Covid-19 has left a legacy of some people praying online. Wouldn't it be a great legacy if it also meant that we can find alternative ways to encourage faith lived in the home? While many viewed the sanctuary's online across the island, this was done from the sanctuaries of their home. Eucharistic tables were joined with kitchen tables. Let us not lose sight of this connection. To be people nourished spiritually at our parish altar tables is as important to be nourished from our kitchen tables. Let us keep this connection and find new ways support this.

In the Archdiocese of Dublin, we are preparing monthly resources and faith suggestions that can take place on your kitchen table. We all can inspire families and parishes to repurpose the kitchen table to nurture faith at home. There is no one excluded from the kitchen table. Each month we will offer ways that families can pray at home. Parishes can also take the lead here too. Some parishes have created prayer spaces with a kitchen table to model and show how easy it can be to pray at home.

As we begin to welcome back people to our churches in greater numbers, let us not lose sight of the many who are not present. We can use simple ideas such as a sign or the cross or a grace before meals to create patterns and ways people can pray easily at home. To paraphrase T.S. Eliot we must 'begin again.' Start with the basics. In the name of the Father.

Gerard Gallagher is a Pastoral Coordinator in the Archdiocese of Dublin.



Gospel people at the United Nations

Personal Profile



Jason Osborne

Sister Jean Quinn DW is surely doing for others as Christ did for us, her life's work being that of uplifting people from homelessness, focusing on the spiritual as much as the material.

Speaking to *The Irish Catholic*, Sr Jean says that she comes from as deeply Catholic a background as they come: western Ireland in the 1950's.

Catholic

"I'm a Catholic sister, a religious sister. I was born in 1949, so I suppose in that environment and where I came from in Sligo, the Church was very important and the like with people.

"As I look back now, I had my Golden Jubilee last year, one of the things that

may have stood out for me was ritual. It was that kind of ritual, and the sense of community. The different things we did, we did as a community, and sometimes it was around Church-stuff, but other times, not so – I was in the Legion of Mary too, and that was a place of community, meeting the boys and girls, and making connections and that sort of thing," she says.

The Legion celebrating its centenary this year, it and its founder's work with the poor was surely to be carried on by Sr Jean, as she recognised early on that there were people who "lived on the edges", an experience which was so unlike hers", she says.

Her mother working closely with disadvantaged families in their area, and Sr Jean encouraged to do the same at a young age by both her

Sr Jean Quinn DW



mother and the Legion, she saw just how "marginalised" the human experience can be.

"That made me realise about how people really live on the edge of a society. I saw this last year when I went to the Philippines, how people live on the edge of cities and how they live. We can all pass each other and not recognise that," she says.

As a youth, she was "set on recognising the difference in how I lived – and I'm not saying we lived in any kind of high society – but noticing the difference."

She joined the Daughters of Wisdom congregation, studying nursing, theology and philosophy, too – all of which would lead her to where she finds herself today. She was just "following Wisdom", as Sr Jean puts it, referring to one of God's Old Testament titles, from which her

congregation takes its name.

She recalls studying in Milltown Park in Dublin, and "I came out to the gate one day, seeing people homeless. I mean, I'd never seen anything like it. And then somebody said, 'Do you want to come and visit?' That really started me back to our founders in 1703. That's what they did."

This solidified Sr Jean's movement in the direction of homeless work, and she went on to work with FOCUS Ireland for 15 years before taking a sabbatical. It was around then that she was approached by religious in Ireland who encouraged her to devote herself more fully to the homeless.

"Before I left, religious were coming to me and said, 'Would you do something about homelessness? You have the gift'.

"I was working on the ground, but they asked me to set up a place.

But then I started thinking about it and dreaming about it, and thinking, 'That's something I'd like to do, but how would you do it?' But if you believe in something, everything just seemed to be handed to me," she says.

Sr Jean founded Sophia Housing in 1997, the organisation coming up to its 25th anniversary next year.

Describing herself as a "dreamer", Sr Jean says her vision is not just homes, but support too. Sophia's approach is "person-centred" and focuses on catering to the person on both a material and personal level – particularly children.

“The work I’m doing is political, but it has that spiritual background – it can’t have one without the other”

"I do believe we break the cycle with children... I've come to see that we can't deal with the parents without working with the children," she says.

It's exactly this holistic approach that Sr Jean advocates for now at the UN, in her capacity as the Executive Director of UNANIMA, which is an international NGO advocating on behalf of women and children, migrants, refugees, the homeless, the displaced and the environment at a UN level. The work has so far been a great success, according to Sr Jean.

"For the first time in 2020, we got the first resolution in the history of the UN on homelessness. We're on a second one now, a more extensive one...we're working with a number of member states, particularly African member states to get one to the General Assembly, and it's looking very positive, which means that the UN then have to be committed to speaking about homelessness yearly after that, and governments have to give an account of how they've progressed it."

The pandemic has certainly resulted in a "new poor" around the world, Sr Jean says, her fear being

that the world will forget about those who were already "living on the edge" in homelessness before it, particularly families.

As such, she's working hard to bring the "lived experience of homelessness" before the UN – a new experience for the organisation.

"I've done that at the UN. I've brought a couple of people even from Ireland, Australia, the Fiji islands to speak for themselves at the UN, and it's quite powerful. At one last year, I was asked to moderate people who had lived experience (of homelessness) and it was the most powerful experience," she says.

"I was saying to the people at the UN, 'These are the experienced, the professionals, if you will'."

Sr Jean remains acutely aware of the necessity of the spiritual behind all of the politics, attending a prayer meeting with some UN colleagues and ensuring that the focus always remains on those experiencing homelessness – the "grassroots", as she terms it.

It's this focus that makes the representation of religious groups at the UN so indispensable, she believes.

Grassroots

"We're Gospel people at the UN. We go to the grassroots people around the world – the former secretary general of the UN, Ban-Ki Moon, told member states before he left to ignore the religious at your peril," she says.

"The work I'm doing is political, but it has that spiritual background – it can't have one without the other. I think it's Pope Francis who said it, that both are needed. We can't just sit back and do nothing.

"I feel I have more energy now than I ever did before," she laughs, seeing in that a sign that God may be on their side.

Sweet Treats

Kiley Britten



A decadent blackberry swirl cheesecake

September is here, and for me that can only mean one thing – blackberry season has begun! They are excellent in anything from a brandy to a crumble, and here I suggest another way to use the humble berry. If you are feeling up to the challenge, source the blackberries from hedges or bushes (off busy roads for less pollution), then just gently rinse the berries in a bowl of cold water. This decadent cheesecake is best served chilled, and despite your eyes persuading, should be served in small slices; you can always go back for more!

Yield: 8 servings | Time: 2 hours

Ingredients

- 175g plain digestives, crushed
- 900g cream cheese, room temperature

- 245g sugar
- 1tsp vanilla extract
- 4 eggs
- 400g blackberries
- 1tsp sugar



Instructions

- 1- Preheat oven to 160°C/ Gas 3. Grease a 20cm/8in springform tin and place on a large sheet of foil. Press foil up the sides of the tin, making sure the foil goes more than halfway up.
- 2- Press biscuits on bottom and up side of prepared tin. Get a roasting tray the tin fits into and place tin inside.
- 3- Puree blackberries with 1tsp sugar and strain if you don't want seeds in the cake.
- 4- Beat cream cheese until smooth. Add sugar and vanilla, beating until everything is

incorporated. Beat in eggs one at a time.

5- Pour two thirds of the cheesecake batter into the tin, then all of the puree, and finish with remaining batter. Or, pour all the batter into the tin and the puree on top, if you want the marbling to show on the top instead of inside the cake.

6- To get a marbled effect use a straw or skewer and, without touching the crumb base, insert it into the tin straight up and draw a squiggle- a cursive 'm' shape but repeated and without re-starting. Turn the tin ¼ turn to the right, and repeat the squiggle to create a marbled cross hatch effect. Fill the roasting tray the tin is sitting in with water, filling until water goes halfway up the tin.

7- Bake until there is almost no jiggling in the cake and the edges have turned golden brown, about 1½ hours. Check once or twice to see how it is getting on, and top up water if needed.

8- Cool in the tin before running a knife around the edge to loosen. Serve after chilling for a few hours.

TVRadio

Brendan O'Regan



Are the hundreds of thousands who voted against repeal to be represented?

I don't like the phrase "whatever you're comfortable with". Yes, it may be someone trying to make you feel relaxed, but at other times it can be the setting of a low bar, as if the aim of life is to be 'comfortable'. Many of the people we admire went way outside their comfort zones to be of service, from human rights activists to the martyrs.

Contribution

Ben Conroy, in his thoughtful contribution on **Mornings With Donal** (Spirit Radio, Friday) wasn't a fan of the comfort route, and made an interesting distinction between the aims and the interests of Christianity. An interests-based approach sought to make things easy for Christians, and he imagined a country where Christians were tolerated but not taken very seriously, a country where Christians were not persecuted, but where rank injustices prevailed. On the other hand, there was the 'aims' approach where Christians did the right thing, did the work of the Gospel even if it did get them into difficulties.

In education, Christians could be too focused on claiming rights to educate our children rather than promoting the broader value of Christian education, with its positive approach to developing the whole person. In the workplace being vocal about your Christianity might only



Jane Seymour pictured as the lead character Dr Michaela 'Mike' Quinn in the series *Dr Quinn, Medicine Woman*.

rarely see you losing a job, at most it might make things inconvenient, but you could make it easier for the next person. In politics, if people were in defensive rather than pro-active mode they often sought a strong political leader who would defend them (no names were mentioned, he didn't play his Trump card).

Meanwhile, on that political landscape there have been curious goings on, thrashed out day after day in the media. The Katherine Zappone controversy rumbled on, with Fianna Fáil spokespersons uneasily defending their Fine Gael partners in Government. There's even the surreal phenomenon of FF TDs

threatened with sanction if they don't vote confidence in a FG minister. An internal report suggested that FF's identity wasn't clear enough, and that pro-life TDs were turning young voters off. So, are they going to discover a distinctive identity just by falling in line with the policies of all other main parties? Have they noticed how well pro-life TDs have done in elections, or how poorly prominent repealers have done? Do they realise how many of their supporters are pro-life? And yet they pursue in vain the voters who think themselves liberal- progressive. I know what would make FF really distinctive.

Rumblings

On **Drivetime** (RTÉ Radio One, Thursday) the FF conundrum was teased out in a report by Paul Cunningham from the party's think-in in Co. Cavan, where he found 'rumblings'. Mary Butler TD didn't accept that the pro-life stance of some TDs damaged the party in the most recent election. The hundreds of thousands who voted against repeal of the Eighth Amendment had to be represented. She said she was, and still is, a pro-life TD. In Willie O'Dea's diagnosis FF had stayed too long in the 'confidence and supply' arrangement whereby they supported the previous FG Government. Lisa Chambers TD thought that

PICK OF THE WEEK

KEYS TO MY LIFE

RTÉ One Saturday September 18, 1.40pm

Brendan Courtney meets Fr Brian D'Arcy and coaxes memories from him as they travel back to Co. Fermanagh to where he grew up.

NIGHT OF THE PROPHET

EWTN Sunday Sept 19, 9pm

Through the eyes of a Roman journalist, a dramatisation of Padre Pio, who is unveiled as a man of purity and Christian charity.

THE MEANING OF LIFE

RTÉ One Sunday September 19, 10.35pm

Journalist and television presenter Eamonn Holmes returns to St Malachy's College Belfast, to explore his working-class Catholic roots with Joe Duffy.

approach was best for the country, whatever about the party. She reminded us that she was "firmly on the yes side" on repeal, and thought that while the picture of the 'vote no TDs was a problem for party support at the time, it wasn't now. There had also been a picture of pro-repeal FF TDs, but in a curious turn of phrase she said it didn't get as much attention because perhaps it wasn't as 'salacious'!

New Season

Finally, **The Meaning of Life** (RTÉ One, Sunday) returned for a new season with Joe Duffy interviewing personable actress Jane Seymour, star of *Dr Quinn, Medicine Woman*. She believed in a 'higher power', in God, in her own 'very unique way'. She

had a near-death experience, with the white light, out-of-body experience and a sense of 'amazing peace' but while she believed in the spirit or soul, as something distinct from the body, she wasn't so sure about the afterlife. She was strong on the importance of love and forgiveness and didn't like to see religious doctrines been weaponised for hate. If it came to it she'd ask God at the end of life to 'please stop people killing one another in your name', and if deemed worthy for the afterlife she'd say she wouldn't let God down.

I look forward to the rest of this season's guests.

📧 boregan@hotmail.com,
@boreganmedia

Music

Finally...things are starting to look up

Well, as Ira Gershwin, brother of George, said, "Things are looking up", to which I will add "Praise, the Lord" as the National Concert Hall welcomes back its audiences.

Commemorating its 40th anniversary, the NCH, which opened as the country's principal concert venue on September 9, 1981 (I was there), presented a less demanding, but none the less celebratory, programme last week that involved the Irish Chamber Orchestra, directed by leader Diane Daly, its offshoot Libra Ensemble and pianist Finghin Collins.

Back in 1981 the inaugural concert, with the RTÉ Symphony Orchestra, was devoted to Seóirse Bodley's specially-commissioned *Ceol*, to a text



Einav Yarden will be among those performing at the 2021 New Ross Piano Festival

by Brendan Kennelly, and Beethoven's *Choral* symphony under the baton of Colman Pearce, the orchestra's principal conductor.

The soloists were Violet Twomey (soprano), Bernadette Greevy (alto), Louis Browne (tenor), William Young (bass) and Andreas O Gallchoir (narrator). The large choir was an amalgamation of forces from RTÉ, Our Lady's Choral Society and the boys of St Patrick's Cathedral.

In last Thursday's ruby jubilee concert, string orchestral works by Schumann, Tchaikovsky and Grieg had the musicians playing from memory and gracefully gliding around the platform in interweaving twists and turns.

Before the main work - Mozart's Piano Concerto in A K 414 - the redoubtable Finghin Collins presented

music by Chopin and Deirdre Gribben executed with committed aplomb. Ms Gribben's mostly vibrant *Anfa Virga* dates from 2015 when, as part of its Ros Tapestry project, the New Ross Piano Festival commissioned it.

The Mozart found the soloist heroic yet playful, sturdy yet elegant. The ICO/Libra combination was both classically poised and steadily buoyant and the performance gelled nicely together.

Mentioning New Ross reminds me that the 2021 piano festival runs from next Thursday September 23 to Sunday 26. Celebrating its 15th anniversary, the festival comes under the artistic directorship of the ubiquitous Finghin Collins.

Performances centre on the acoustically excellent St Mary's Church of Ireland.

Mr Collins' artistic line-up includes French pianist and honorary Irishman Philippe Cassard who was the winner of the first Dublin International Piano Competition in 1988. His insightful performances on his many return visits have continuously endeared him to Irish audiences.

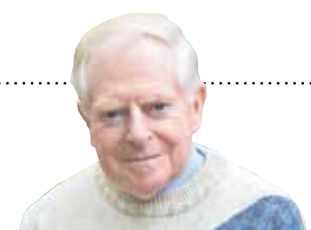
Other pianists joining Mr Cassard will be Moscow-born Katya Apekisheva, Britain's Charles Owen, French/Swiss Cédric Pescia, Swiss national Christian Chamorel, Israeli Einav Yarden and young Dundalk-born Irish/Chinese Tiffany Qiu.

The opening day - Thursday 23 - is devoted to jazz through the Jim Doherty Trio at noon and the renowned British artist Jason Rebello in the evening.

French music has a fair representation through Chausson, Debussy, Fauré, Milhaud, Poulenc and Saint-Saëns. There is also an interesting world première with English composer Sally Beamish's *Sonnets* for three players - Apekisheva, Owen and Collins - on two pianos on Friday 24.

Other ensemble pieces include piano quartets by Chausson and Mozart and the romantic sweep of Tchaikovsky's Piano Trio. The festival will end in spectacular fashion on Sunday afternoon September 26 with Liszt's phenomenal arrangement for two pianos of Beethoven's *Choral* Symphony. No doubt Cassard and Pescia will take this daringly difficult version, dating from 1851, in their respective strides.

Pat O'Kelly

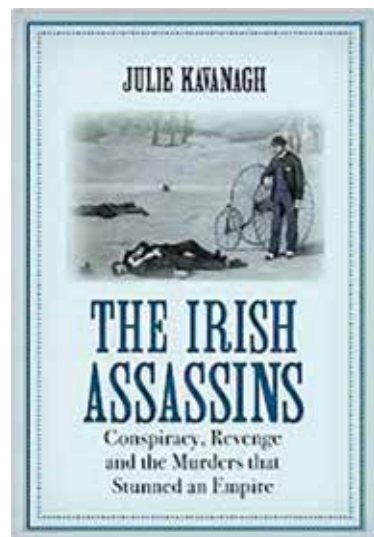


BookReviews

Peter Costello



The Phoenix Park Murders recalled



The Irish Assassins: Conspiracy, Revenge and the Murders that Stunned an Empire

Julie Kavanagh
(Grove Press, £18.99)

The Queen v. Patrick O'Donnell: The Man who Shot the Informer James Carey

Seán Ó Cuirreáin
(Four Courts Press, €17.95)

Felix M. Larkin

When Lord Frederick Cavendish was killed by the Invincibles in the Phoenix Park in May 1882, nothing like it had happened in British political life since Spencer Percival was shot dead in the lobby of the House of Commons in 1812. Mr Percival is the only British prime minister to have been assassinated, and his killing was the result of a personal grievance. In contrast, Mr Cavendish's assassination was politically motivated.

The Irish National Invincibles was an extremist Fenian society – a tiny splinter group of the Irish Republican Brotherhood, which may also have had links with the Land League through the league's treasurer, Patrick Egan.

Mr Cavendish had just arrived in Dublin as the newly-appointed Chief Secretary for Ireland. Having met with officials in Dublin Castle immediately after his arrival, he decided to walk to the chief secretary's lodge in the Phoenix Park, now the residence of the American ambassador. As he was walking along Chesterfield Avenue, a cab pulled up behind him and the under-secretary, Thomas Burke – the most senior Irish civil servant – got out and joined him. They walked amiably onwards, but were then set upon by the Invincibles just opposite the viceregal lodge and both were killed.

Victim

Mr Burke, not Mr Cavendish, was the Invincibles' intended victim. On May 5, the day before the murders, they had waited for Mr Burke in the Phoenix Park, but missed him. They returned the following day to carry out their grim task. Unfortunately for Mr Cavendish, he happened to be in

Mr Burke's company and died simply because he was in the wrong place at the wrong time. It is unlikely that the Invincibles even knew who the man was who was with Mr Burke. They killed him because he tried to defend his colleague.

The killings were particularly gruesome: the assassins used long surgical knives. This ghoulish aspect appealed to the popular press, which was then coming to the fore.

There was outrage amongst the British public. The horror engendered in the political elite in Britain was shared by Charles Stewart Parnell and the other Irish leaders who recognised that it would do incalculable damage to their cause at a time when the prime minister, W.E. Gladstone, and the Liberal government were embarking on a policy of conciliation – symbolised by the so-called 'Kilmainham Treaty' negotiated between Mr Gladstone and Mr Parnell. Mr Cavendish was a protégé of Mr Gladstone's – in fact, his nephew by marriage – and known to be in favour of conciliation.

Noteworthy

It is noteworthy that the perpetrators of the crime have never been admitted to the pantheon of Irish nationalist heroes. They continue, however, to attract much interest, as these two new books demonstrate. The first, by Julie Kavanagh, a former London editor of *Vanity Fair* and *The New Yorker*, is written in the lively journalistic style one associates with these journals, but it is thoroughly researched and unlikely to be bettered as an account of the incident, its antecedents and its aftermath.

The second, by Seán Ó Cuirreáin, the former Coimisinéir Teanga, focuses on Patrick O'Donnell who shot James Carey on a boat to South Africa. Mr Carey was a leader of the Invincibles who turned informer in order to save himself. His testimony sent five of the assassins to their death. He was being relocated to South Africa for his own safety when Mr O'Donnell, travelling on the same ship, discovered who he was.

Mr O'Donnell too was hanged, having been found guilty in a London court of killing Mr Carey. His guilt was not in doubt, but the conduct of his trial was unsatisfactory – as both Ms Kavanagh and Mr Ó Cuirreáin argue. He was hailed in some quarters as a hero for having dispatched Mr Carey, a figure universally reviled for having informed on the foot soldiers he had led on that fateful day in the Phoenix Park. A memorial to Mr O'Donnell was erected in Glasnevin Cemetery in 1887.

There has been a campaign in recent years to 'rehabilitate' the Invincibles – even to exhume the bodies of the five who were executed from Kilmainham Jail and give them honourable reburial – but these books remind us that theirs was a heinous crime which was extremely damaging to Irish nationalist interests at a critical time.

Bright images of faith and art: Ireland's glorious heritage of stained glass

Gazetteer of Irish Stained Glass, Revised New Edition
by Nicola Gordon Bowe, David Caron and others
(Irish Academic Press, €35.00/£29.99)

Patrick Claffey

It is 30 years since the original publication of this handsome work, the definitive guide to Irish stained glass from 1900 to the present day. The revision, the work of several hands, is to be welcomed as it provides a comprehensive guide to an art form which, apart from Harry Clarke perhaps, is often overlooked in an increasingly secular Ireland.

It was, however, the main occupation of several of our finest artists, notably perhaps Mr Clarke (1889-1931), Evie Hone (1894-1955), Mainie Jellett, (1897-1944) Wilhelmina Geddes (1887-1955) and Michael Healy (1873-1941) but also a significant number of lesser-known figures brought to us in this scholarly volume with its outstanding illustrations.

“David Caron provides a very scholarly and comprehensive ‘Overview of Irish Stained, mid-Twentieth Century to the Present Day’, covering the entire island”

While much Irish stained glass was created for religious purpose, it also featured widely in public buildings the most celebrated being Harry Clarke's Geneva Window, created for the League of Nations building in that city. It was rejected in Ireland both by the government and the press at the time. Described by Mr Clarke's friend and patron, Thomas Bodkin, as “the loveliest thing ever made by an Irishman”, it was eventually purchased by the American collector Mitchell Wolfson, and is now to be found at the Wolfsonian Institute in Miami Beach, Florida.

The book has an excellent introduction by Nicola Gordon Bowe, placing early Irish stained glass in a wider context and leading to the ‘inaugural tea party’ of An Túr Gloine (The Tower of Glass) at 24 Upper Pembroke Street, Dublin in 1903, a key moment in the development of the medium in Ire-

land. David Caron provides a very scholarly and comprehensive ‘Overview of Irish Stained, mid-Twentieth Century to the Present Day’, covering the entire island.

With 2,500 entries, the gazetteer lists the works county by county, while providing short biographical notes on the major artists. Several of the works, in churches of all the major denominations, are sometimes in quite far-flung places.

Delighted

I was delighted to find what I now know to be a Richard King (1907-1974) on Inis Meáin, eight Harry Clarks in St Mary's Ballinrobe, a similar number in the old convent in Dingle, another Richard King in Cong, a Wilhelmina Geddes in Currane near Achill, and a Patrick Pye, among several others, in St Mary's in Westport.

“The revision, the work of several hands, is to be welcomed as it provides a comprehensive guide to an art form which, apart from Harry Clarke perhaps, is often overlooked in an increasingly secular Ireland”



A.E. Child's *St Cecilia* (1904), in Haddintgon Road, Dublin. Photo: P. Claffey.

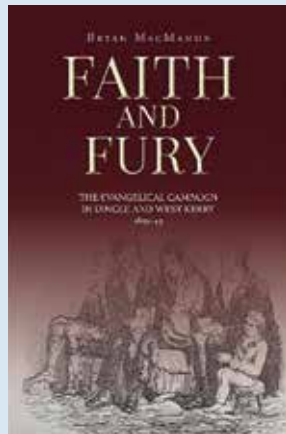
I have a particular favourite in the Harry Clarke window over the main altar at Tullycross, Co. Galway, *St Bernard*, and *St Barbara with Christ Revealing the Sacred Heart* (1927), donated to the parish by Oliver St John Gogarty, who then owned Renvyle House.

Dublin is, of course, very well represented with work by the earlier 20th century school but, also, by post-conciliar works created following the Second Vatican Council (1962-65).

It would be interesting to know more about Sheila Corcoran and her remarkable and strikingly modern 1964 *Stations of the Cross* at Dublin Airport. The work was controversial, judged unsuitable and removed from the airport on the instructions of Archbishop McQuaid in 1965. Happily, it was later restored and is one of the outstanding features of that small church.

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.

A house divided: when 'The Kingdom' was riven by religious conflict



Faith and Fury: The Evangelical Campaign in Dingle and West Kerry 1825-45
by Bryan MacMahon
(Wordwell, €20.00/£18.99)

J. Anthony Gaughan

In these ecumenical times it is difficult to make sense of the distrust and hostility which existed between Catholics and Protestants in west Kerry between 1825 and 1845. Locally these years became known as the period of the second reformation and the counter-reformation. The second reformation was driven by zealous evangelical ministers. They were generously funded by donors at home and abroad and had the enthusiastic support of the civil authorities. Rev. Charles Gayer (1804-48) and Rev. Thomas Moriarty were the two leading figures of that Protestant mission in west Kerry.

The word 'Protestant' is used advisedly here: for these evangelicals were

often a source of embarrassment to rural rectors of the Church of Ireland, who were often opposed to their divisive tactics in a poor society. Many evangelicals were driven by an urge to save deluded Catholics from perdition on the imminent day of doom.

A Somerset man, Rev. Gayer came to Dingle in 1833 as private chaplain to Lord Ventry, the most influential landlord in the area. He immediately set about bringing "the light of true belief to the benighted people of west Kerry".

Success

He and his colleagues had significant success in their Protestant mission. The number of Protestants in west Kerry in the 1820's was tiny; in 1830 it was as low as 30. But, by 1835 it had risen to 70 and by the early 1840s more than 250 converts had been added to the Protestant community. Apart from lecturing and preaching during his time in west Kerry, Rev. Gayer supervised the building of churches, schools, parsonages and he provided a row of houses and work for the new converts.

Rev. Moriarty, born in Dingle in 1813, converted to Protestantism in 1831. Subsequently he attended Trinity College, Dublin and was ordained a minister in 1838. He spent 24 years as a minister in Dingle. Apart from their involvement in the second reformation in west Kerry, Revs. Gayer and Moriarty, as well Kerry dioc-

esan de-frocked priest, Denis Leyne Brasbie, frequently featured as guest-speakers on a vile anti-Catholic campaign which was being conducted across England at that same time.

The remarkable increase in the number of converts to the Protestant faith in West Kerry, however, was not entirely due to the evangelical ministers. The seeds for this development were sown earlier by the Irish Society for Promoting the Education of the Native Irish through the Medium of their Own Language. The Irish society had opened schools in the area at which those attending were taught to read the Bible in Irish. Many of those attending those schools were later to become committed members of the established Church.

Preacher

Rev. Moriarty was fluent in Irish; he was also an effective preacher and public speaker. When he returned to take up his appointment in Dingle, and with increasing numbers from their flock converting to the Protestant faith, the local priests became alarmed. They denounced the new converts from the pulpit. The families of the converts were boycotted and the converts were verbally abused in the public arena.

The abuse the priests and ministers hurled at each other in their respective chapels and churches eventually reached a crescendo. These clashes surfaced in the local press. In partisan

fashion the conservative/unionist *Kerry Evening Post* took the Protestant side, while the nationalist *Tralee Mercury* and *Kerry Examiner* supported the Catholic clergy. Inflammatory editorials, articles and letters stoked passions on both sides.

Rev. Gayer won a libel case against Patrick Robert O'Loughlin Byrnes, editor of the *Kerry Examiner*, in 1845. However, it was a pyrrhic victory. Mr Byrnes received a prison sentence and this evoked widespread sympathy. It prompted the establishment of an influential committee in Dublin "to promote Catholicism in west Kerry". They raised funds and sent personnel and resources to successfully counter the Protestant mission.

Before concluding, Bryan MacMahon is at pains to point out that Frs Michael Divine and John O'Sullivan, the Dingle priests who were involved in the scandalous events during the second reformation, were exemplary in their dedication to their respective flocks, particularly the poor, sick and the dying. Fr Divine died in 1849 as a result of contracting cholera, while attending the dying. Fr John O'Sullivan was revered for his service to his parishioners in Kenmare during the awful years of the Great Famine.

Mindful of the adage that those who are ignorant of history are wont to repeat the errors of the past it is my hope that this excellent study will have the widest possible readership.



Beatrice Elvery and Catherine O'Brien, *The Baptism of Christ* (1910) in Haddington Road Dublin. Photo: P. Claffey.

Also of interest is Patrick Muldowney's 2000-2001 works for the millennium for the Church of St John Vianney in Artane, and Richard King's magnificent window *The Fish (Christ)*, 1969-70 in the chapel of Nazareth House, Dublin.

“It is 30 years since the original publication of this handsome work”

Many readers will of course, immediately seek out their own parish church and perhaps have some quibbles; in my case, St Mary's, Haddington Road. Here the gazetteer mentions three works: A.E. Child's *St Cecilia* (1904), *The Baptism of Christ* (1910) and William Earley's rose window, which is dated c. early 1940s.

Two questions arise here: the Baptism has been attributed to Catherine O'Brien (1881-1963) in this edition, while in the previous edition it was said to be the work of Beatrice Elvery (1883-1970): the reason for this radical change is not explained.

Attribution

The short publication *St Mary and its Environs* (Spencer, Doran & Doran 1989) accepts the Elvery attribution, stating

that it was done in collaboration with 'Kitty O'Brien', both being closely associated with An Túr Gloine.

More significant is the omission of the magnificent *Christo Regi in Honorem* in the east transept, to the left of the altar, also the work of William Earley and dated to the 1940s.

The rose window has also been dated by the authors to the 1940s, while it seems it was painted by Mr Earley in the 1920s. It seems probable that finance held up the installation and both works were completed at about the same time. The *Christo Regi* window is sometimes mistaken for a less 'sparkling' Harry Clarke.

In my view, it is probably the finest window in the church and this omission should be rectified in any later edition.

Other parishes will inevitably have other minor quibbles and questions - which is the way scholarship grows. This is a most welcome publication which will give much pleasure to a varied reading public, and encourage visitors to look at our churches with a new vision.

1 Fr Patrick Claffey SVD lectures in world religions and theology at the Loyola Institute at Trinity College, Dublin.



Window by Richard King (1907-1974) on Inis Meáin, Galway

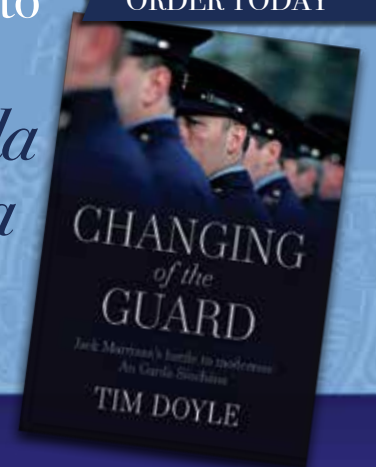


St Bernard, and St Barbara with Christ Revealing the Sacred Heart (1927), by Harry Clarke, Tullycross, Co. Galway (Photo P. Claffey)

The Battle to
Modernise
An Garda Síochána

ORDER TODAY

Price:
€19.99
+€4.50 P&P



Changing of the Guard tells the story of Jack Marrinan as a transformational figure in the force at a time of great social and economic change. Nearly all of the advantages that gardaí enjoy today in their service are built on the foundations he established.

To Order Phone 01 6874096 or
Visit www.currachbooks.com

CURRACH BOOKS

Leisure time

Operation Smile

Charity Regulatory Authority No. 20054588 Revenue Number: CHY 15661

By remembering Operation Smile in your Will, you are leaving the gift of a lasting smile for a child born with a cleft condition.

Operation Smile envisions a future where health and dignity are championed through safe surgery. Get in touch with Kristen Bell, Legacy & Fundraising Manager, on

01 667 6659 or kristen@operationsmile.ie or visit operationsmile.ie/LastingSmile

The Gift Of A Lifetime

Be there for others after you're gone.

A gift in your will to Irish Hospice Foundation is a meaningful way to help ensure no-one faces death or bereavement without the care and support they need.

Email Clare Martin at clare.martin@hospicefoundation.ie or call 01 679 3188



www.hospicefoundation.ie



Your heart for the homeless

Merchants Quay Ireland reaches out with kindness to people living on our streets, sleeping in doorways, suffering and alone.

Your legacy, of any amount, can enfold the most vulnerable and lonely in wrap-around supports. You may wish to keep the details confidential. But we want to give you this little wooden keepsake, made by a client, for you.

This is your heart for the homeless and those on the road to recovery.

To receive your little wooden heart and information on remembering

Merchants Quay Ireland in your will, ring Emma Murphy, Legacies Manager at 01-524 0965 or email emma.murphy@mqi.ie

Will the MSC Missions

Missionaries of the Sacred Heart bring hope to the poorest people living in over 48 countries worldwide.

Please help us with a gift in your Will

Contact:

MSC Missions Office, PO Box 23 Western Road, Cork. Tel: 021-4545704 Email: info@mscmissions.ie

www.mscmissions.ie

When you remember Trócaire in your Will, you bring hope to people living in the world's poorest places

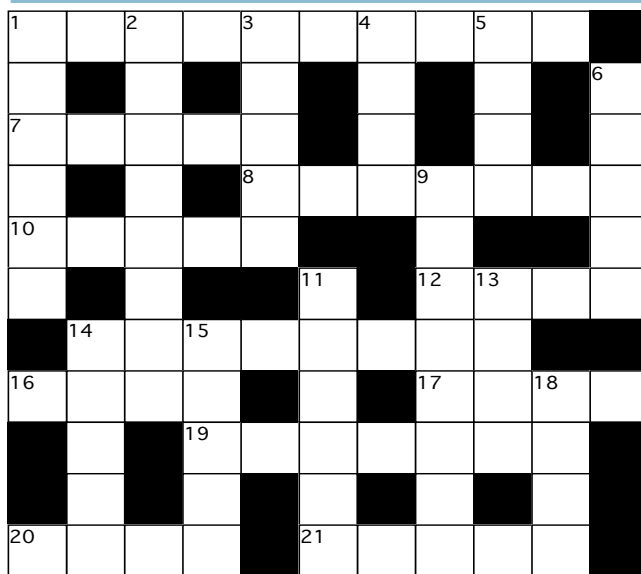
Trócaire

It's easy to get started, and we'll help you every step of the way. Call **Grace Kelly** on 01 629 3333, email grace.kelly@trocaire.org or write to me at Trócaire, Maynooth, Co Kildare.

One day, parents and their children will tell the story of how your legacy of love changed their lives. Thank you for considering a gift to Trócaire in your Will.

Crossword Junior

Gordius 400



Across

- 1 Marks you leave when you walk in sand (10)
- 7 A spy is sometimes called a secret _____ (5)
- 8 Light them on your cake when it's your birthday (7)
- 10 Grab hold of what has been thrown to you (5)
- 12 What you call yourself (4)
- 14 All the bones of the body (8)
- 16 It's usually the last word of a prayer (4)
- 17 Pace (4)
- 19 Sickness (7)
- 20 The top part of your body (4)
- 21 Does one's job (5)

Down

- 1 Paris and Lourdes are in this country (6)
- 2 Pass out another car (8)
- 3 You play a game of football or hurling on this (5)
- 4 Use it to get creases out of clothes (4)
- 5 A dog wags it when he's happy (4)
- 6 The bride walks up this part of the church (5)
- 9 Tyrannosaurus Rex, for example (8)
- 11 When you play on this, one person goes up while the other goes down (6)
- 13 Insects that live in colonies (4)
- 14 It rises from a fire (5)
- 15 Finished (5)
- 18 These fish look a bit like snakes (4)

SOLUTIONS, SEPTEMBER 09

GORDIUS NO. 524

Across - 1 Suggestion 6 Stud 10 Dalai Lama 11 The zeal of the convert 12 Impedes 15 Agree 17 Ewer 18 Rang 19 Maple 21 Proudly 23 Sarah 24 Torc 25 Oban 26 White whale 28 Scarred 33 Tradition 35 Heed

Down - 1 Sods 2 Gold miner 3 Elite 4 Title 5 Obey 7 Tiler 8 Difference 9 Red Army 13 Door 14 Sequins 16 Wristwatch 20 Promenade 21 Phoenix 27 Image 29 Cynic 30 Rowan 31 Wish 32 Feat

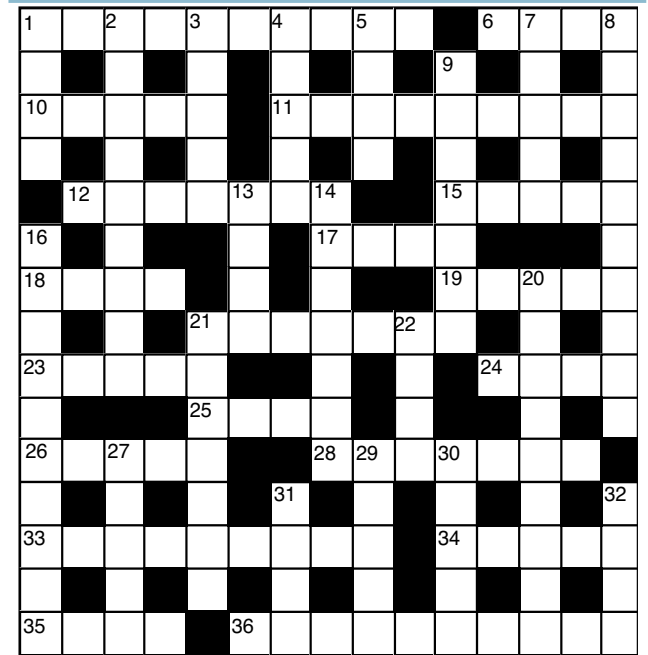
CHILDREN'S No. 399

Across - 1 Causeway 6 Euro 7 Nought 8 Alice 9 UFO 10 Piano 13 Plain 15 Grow 17 Fast 18 Chip 19 Knee 20 Returned

Down - 1 Candle 2 Unusual 3 Ethiopia 4 Yelling 5 Cover 11 Insult 12 Orphan 13 Paint 14 After 16 Wiped

Crossword

Gordius 525



Across

- 1 Wall hangings (10)
- 6 Group of three (4)
- 10 & 19a A man's tiara can become the flagship of Christopher Columbus (5,5)
- 11 Useful in many ways (9)
- 12 Saturday and Sunday (7)
- 15 Pick-me-up (5)
- 17 & 27d Alternative name for the Jamaican tangelo (4,5)
- 18 River that flows through Bath and Bristol (4)
- 19 See 10 across
- 21 The sacrament of confession (7)
- 23 Discourage (5)
- 24 Air pollution associated with some cities (4)
- 25 Vile kind of wickedness (4)
- 26 Coffee shops, diners (5)
- 28 What makes such tasty pastries is clear (7)
- 33 Looter (9)
- 34 Large cattle farm (5)
- 35 Son of Adam found among those things (4)

36 One may have rowed aloft in the liquid Noah sailed in (10)

Down

- 1 Elephant's tooth (4)
- 2 Whitsun (9)
- 3 A small bite to eat (5)
- 4 Bird with black plumage (5)
- 5 Trans-national currency (4)
- 7 Period of rule (5)
- 8 Seek too much money for a product or service (10)
- 9 A hobby from Father's era (7)
- 13 This river flows through Hamburg (4)
- 14 Long-lasting or hard-wearing (7)
- 16 Paintings of rural panoramas (10)
- 20 Dutch old master, creator of 'Night Watch', etc (9)
- 21 Chair a meeting (7)
- 22 A hundred lubricate the spring (4)
- 27 See 17 across
- 29 Knickknack (5)
- 30 It's fired from a bow (5)
- 31 In such an exam, the answers are not written (4)
- 32 The 'Believe' singer - Guevara, right? (4)

Sudoku Corner

400

Easy

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

Hard

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

Last week's Easy 399

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

Last week's Hard 399

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



Mark Pattison

Notebook

9/11 anniversary renews call of sainthood for Franciscan priest

THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY remembrances of the 9/11 terror attacks in the United States is renewing a canonisation push for the first identified casualty: Franciscan Fr Mychal Judge.

Fr Judge, a New York Fire Department chaplain, was at the World Trade Centre site praying with and ministering to attack victims when debris falling from the ruins of the twin towers struck and killed him.

Even then, some Catholics were saying Fr Judge should be considered for canonisation.

Twenty years later, there has been only a bit of movement toward advancing the priest's sainthood cause.

Representative

A representative of the Vatican Congregation for Saints' Causes said Fr Judge would be a good fit for sainthood as an 'offerer' - based on Pope Francis' 2017 motu proprio, *The Offerer of Life* - as "someone who offers his life for others," according to Francis DeBernardo, executive director of New Ways Ministry, an unofficial Catholic group that advocates for LGBT Catholics.

Mr DeBernardo said the group collected interviews with people



Fr Mychal Judge OFM

who knew Fr Judge, who died at age 68 after 40 years as a priest.

But sainthood is a lengthy and time-consuming process. And costly. The Archdiocese of New York, where Fr Judge lived and ministered, has not sponsored his cause.

Franciscan Fr Kevin Mullen, the current provincial of the Franciscans, said in an email: "We are very proud of our brother's legacy and we have shared his story with many people. We leave it to our brothers in the genera-

tions to come to inquire about sainthood."

Fr Judge's own provincial, Franciscan Fr John Felice, told *The New York Times* in 2002 - when calls for Fr Judge's canonisation had already begun - that such a status would define the priest too narrowly and would even be an injustice to him.

Admirable

"A lot of what Mychal was about was admirable. I'm just a little leery of putting it into a context

Not widely known as gay

● Is this because Fr Judge was gay - a fact not widely known until after he perished? "I have no idea. I have no idea," Francis DeBernardo replied. Don't look for New Ways Ministry to sponsor Fr Judge's cause, "and not for any canonical reasons," Mr DeBernardo said. "You need a whole organisational infrastructure. It's not something that a group like ours could take on as a side project." Another worry is whether the passage of time will wither support for a sainthood cause. "That's going to be the challenge," said Mr DeBernardo, who has written a biography of the priest that awaits publication. "That was the challenge in

2017, to be able to get first-hand accounts of him." He added: "From researching the book, it was very hot on people who were still alive," and that number inevitably shrinks. "[Father] Judge was 68 [when he died]. His classmates, if they're alive, would be 88." Mr DeBernardo said New Ways will issue a blog post to drum up support for Fr Judge's sainthood cause and see who responds. Beyond his chaplaincy to the Big Apple's firefighters, Fr Judge was also active in Alcoholics Anonymous and did AIDS counselling during his priestly ministry. "I'm going to try to find other possibilities of groups that could really do the sponsoring," he said.

that shoves a person away from our human experience, and makes them less effective as models for everyday living," he said.

"It's better to keep the real Mychal alive and well in your brain. I think he has a lot more to say than a Mychal with a halo over his head," Fr Felice added.



The Pope with a Lebanese flag at his 4 August audience, at which he appealed for the people of Lebanon.

The Little Way Association MILLIONS STARVING IN MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA

Your help is urgently needed

Economic and social problems are afflicting Ethiopia, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Yemen. Political problems have been exacerbated by covid, such that many are poverty-stricken. In his audience of 4 August, the Pope said: "Today I would also appeal to the international community to offer Lebanon concrete assistance, not only with words but with concrete actions in undertaking a journey of resurrection." More than 80% of Syria's population live in poverty. Four fifths of Yemeni people need humanitarian aid. Cardinal Bechara Rai of Lebanon says his country is host to two million refugees in addition to the four million population. Brother Hailegabriel Meleku, OFM Cap, writes: "The Capuchin brothers and students of Kobbo mission, Ethiopia, evacuated the mission to save their lives. Many people are displaced, some killed. There is no telephone line, no water, no electricity, no transport in the town. There is a shortage of food and everything. The war is causing many bad consequences in the country. Kindly keep our mission in your prayers."



"Jesus wills that we give alms to Him as to one poor and needy. He puts Himself as it were at our mercy; He will take nothing but what we give Him from our heart, and the very least trifle is precious in His sight." ~ St Therese

**HAITI
EARTHQUAKE
EMERGENCY
APPEAL**

Thousands of injured and homeless people urgently need help

Your donation, large or small, to The Little Way Association's appeal for the earthquake victims in Haiti will be sent direct, without deduction, to provide emergency kits, food, shelter, water, sanitation and medical supplies for the thousands of injured and homeless people.

THE NEEDS NOW ARE IMMENSE.

Please be as generous as you can and remember the suffering people of Haiti in your prayers.

Please will you help?

The Little Way Association is in touch with the hierarchy and missionaries in these afflicted countries. Every penny or cent of your donation will go WITHOUT DEDUCTION to the church working to help the destitute in this region. Please send whatever you can today.

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:

- €..... **STARVING IN MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA**
- €..... **HAITI EARTHQUAKE APPEAL**
- €..... **MASS OFFERINGS**
(Please state no. of Masses _____)
- €..... **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
www.littlewayassociation.com

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