



'It is time to count on what unites us, rather than what divides us'

Sister Veronica, OLA missionary

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

24th October 2021



Fr Ron Rolheiser – Permission to be sad – Page 34

The Irish Catholic

MARY KENNY

A generational study on kindness

Page 5



MISSION OF MERCY

Struggling with those who struggle abroad Pages 16-17



BREDA O'BRIEN

We need to invite people back to Mass

Page 7



Thursday, October 21, 2021

€2.50 (Stg £2.20)

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'New Irish' will transform and renew Church here – missionaries

Chai Brady

Young Catholic immigrants coming from countries where there is more active lay participation in parishes have a vital role in shaping a renewed Church here, missionaries have said.

Sr Kathleen McGarvey of the Missionary Sisters of our Lady of Apostles told *The Irish Catholic* that she is confident that Catholics from abroad who are making their homes here will have a positive influence on their peers.

She predicted that they will help "transform" the Church in Ireland by helping young people who "have not had an opportunity to know God and to grow in faith", she said.

"For a lot of Irish young people, what will be their interaction with the Church? It will be from maybe a young Nigerian Catholic who has moved into their neighbourhood. They're playing football and see him making the sign of the cross and ask him why.

"Maybe they [also] have a positive story to tell about an Irish missionary they knew," Sr McGarvey said speaking ahead of this weekend's celebration of Mission Sunday in parishes across the country.

» Continued on Page 2

About a boy



Students from CBS Omagh act out 'The Great Mouse Plot' from the novel *Boy* by Roald Dahl, October 17.

Bishop to send report on 'hot button' issues to Rome

Staff Reporter

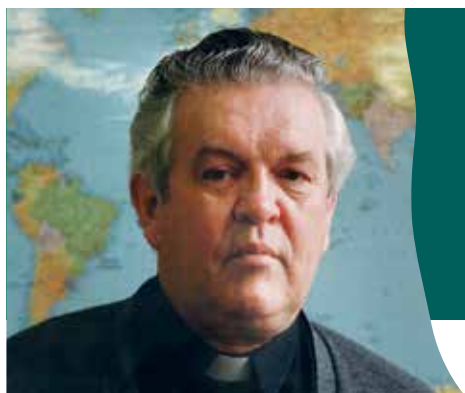
Bishop of Killala John Fleming will send a report to the Vatican outlining the views of Catholics in his diocese who want the Church to change on so-called "hot button" issues such as the ordination of women and the inclusion of gay people.

Dr Fleming (73) gave the commitment as part of a listening process across the 22 parishes in the diocese about what laypeople felt was pressing for the future of the Church.

The bishop confirmed to *The Irish Catholic* this week that the report was drafted and he would share it with the Irish bishops as part of the national synod process early next year and also with Pope Francis.

He said it was felt during the process that if controversial subjects were off the table laypeople would walk away from the process. As a result the bishop gave a commitment that the diocese would proceed on what it could at a local level. However, he vowed to bring the issue of making celibacy optional for priests, women's

» Continued on Page 4



Fr. Aengus Finucane: "a legacy of incredible humanitarian significance"

Looking at a rich and varied life lived in the service of others and of God.



AN IRISH CATHOLIC EXCLUSIVE

SEE PAGE 9

Inside this week

David Quinn

The motivations of David Amess's alleged killer

Page 10



Film

Current releases range from sublime to ridiculous

Page 35



Fr Vincent Sherlock

He sent me a package in the post Page 40



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.

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Faith is vital rather than an eccentric hobby

The shock was palpable as news spread on Friday afternoon that the British MP Sir David Amess had been killed. His murder – by a suspected Islamist – sent shockwaves through the political system in Britain. While every death in such circumstances is beyond awful, Sir David's murder seems to have struck a deeper chord quite precisely because he was universally recognised as a decent man of the people who had no interest in politics other than public service.

Sir David was a committed and convinced Catholic who wore his faith on his sleeve. His was a lively faith that translated into an unshakable passion for the rights of the most vulnerable, particularly the unborn.

That he would die in the most diabolical circumstances is hard to believe – confounded by the apparent blasphemy of his alleged killer reportedly claiming to act in the name of God. Some have even speculated as to whether Sir David might have been targeted particularly because of his strong Catholic faith – this has been the case in France, for example, where Islamists have directed their attacks against publicly Catholic figures including priests.

Whether Sir David was killed because of his faith – and therefore died a martyr – will be a judgement for the Church to make as the civil penal process takes its course.

Circumstances

One troubling aspect around the circumstances of Sir David's death is the fact that his local parish priest was denied access to the scene to dispense the Sacrament of the Sick, grant the Apostolic Pardon and administer the viaticum – the Eucharist given to a person near

'New Irish' will transform and renew Church here – missionaries

Continued from Page 1

She also warned that Irish Catholics cannot see importing priests from abroad as a panacea for the vocations crisis. "I don't think that would be the answer that the Lord is calling us to – it's not continued clericalism.

"We want a new Church, to be open to the Spirit, where we are sharing together not only clergy, religious, laity, but people of different cultures



Editor's Comment Michael Kelly



Police officers guard the site where Sir David Amess was stabbed while meeting constituents in Leigh-on-Sea. Photo: CNS.

death literally 'provision for the journey'.

A spokesman for the police said that officers had a responsibility to preserve what had become an active crime scene. One would have a certain sympathy for this diligence, but paramedics were permitted to enter the scene and a priest should have also been allowed.

There is now an astonishing ignorance of all things spiritual in modern life

In Ireland, where there remains more sensitivity around the sacraments, gardaí and the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) will routinely permit the entry of a priest – even if it is an active crime scene. There has never been, to my knowledge, a case in Ireland where a jury has been in doubt because a priest set foot on a crime scene. This is especially so in this case where there are multiple witnesses, the weapon has been recovered and the suspect in custody

has reportedly confessed to the crime.

I think that it would be wrong to see the attitude of the British police as somehow anti-religious or disrespectful to Catholics. I do not think that this was the intention at all. I think it more likely that we are dealing with the actions of overly-scrupulous officers at the scene who are ignorant of just what the sacraments mean to Catholics.

And I don't say 'mean' in the sense that they're a nice touch. We Catholics believe that Jesus instituted the sacraments because they are vital for us.

Ignorance

There is now an astonishing ignorance of all things spiritual in modern life – and this is not confined to Britain. In Ireland too religion is often misunderstood as little more than an eccentric hobby rather than an essential part of people's lives.

We have to take some share of the blame for this because of the enthusiasm with which many Catholics – undoubtedly well-motivated – embraced the

Government policy of banning public worship during the pandemic as if it meant little more than having a pint in the local pub on a Friday night.

We have moved swiftly from a culture where belief in God was axiomatic to one where it is simply one option among others. The consequence is that people, even many Catholics, think it no longer really matters whether one is nourished by the sacraments or not.

I think that it would be wrong to see the attitude of the British police as somehow anti-religious or disrespectful to Catholics

The denial of what would sadly turn out to be the last rites to Sir David was cruel – even if unintentionally – and should force a rethink in British policing policy. We would also do well to mind that this same culture does not creep in here.

One thing we can be clear about, we should have no concern about Sir David's eternal reward. Obviously God's mercy is infinitely greater and overcomes any arbitrary restriction.

Anima eius, et animae omnium defunctorum fidelium, per misericordiam Dei, requiescant in pace.

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"I think everywhere we go, in India, in Africa many Catholics but also many Muslims are proud to say that they have received an education which was founded by a religious congregation, and that it has really been part of who they are," Fr O'Sullivan said.

"If we talk about the Filipino community in Ireland today we know how active they are in the Church, and the Indian community, how active they are in our parishes and how

caring and how Christian they are in their service...I think not only religious, but there are many laypeople that are coming that live Christian lives and are transforming the new Ireland that we're living in today."

Fr O'Sullivan and Sr McGarvey were speaking at the rebranding of the Pope's official charity for overseas mission 'Missio Ireland', formerly known as World Missions Ireland, in Dublin on Monday.

See page 8.

State decimating fishing families, says Donegal priest

Ruadhán Jones

Fr John Joe Duffy warned that the Department of Marine has “stood over a legacy of decimating the fishing industry” and “hard-working fishing families”.

Speaking at the launch of the documentary *The Fisher's Voice*, Fr Duffy called the department “the anti-fishing department” due to its leg-

acy of decimating the fishing industry.

“But they’re not just decimating the industry, they’re decimating good, hard-working families, they are trying to decimate men going to sea,” Fr Duffy explained.

The Department for Marine is “not fit for purpose”, he declared, while adding that the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority – in charge of regulating the

fishing sector – is more like “the sea fisheries persecution authority”.

“It is persecuting Irish fishermen at the behest of senior officials who are in our department for far too long,” Fr Duffy said.

“There needs to be commitment from the Government to fishing communities and fishing families who have suffered loss, who have suffered hardship, and they

are certainly not criminals.

“They are decent, hard-working people supporting their families, keeping their children in local schools, supporting their communities.”

The Donegal priest, himself the son of a fisherman, said it “saddens me greatly that the Taoiseach Micheál Martin decided to sign a law criminalising fishermen.

“Fishermen are the only people in this country crimi-

nalised for... trying to make a living to support their families and local communities.”

Fr Duffy drew on his own experience living in Burtonport, Co. Donegal, which “died as a fishing port due to EU policy”, he said.

“It’s a warning to other ports that this trajectory we’re on is one where there has been lack of support from successive governments and particularly from the Depart-

ment of Marine to support fishing communities,” he stated.

Fr Duffy finished by “pleading” with the Government and the Taoiseach “to change their attitude and stand up for Irish fishing, which they have failed to do”.

He criticised the Brexit fallout which has left the Irish fishing industry an estimated €43 million out of pocket.

Vatican hosts Baptism of Conor McGregor's son



Jason Osborne

St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican was the site of Conor McGregor's newborn son, Rian's, Baptism last weekend.

The fighter's family were said to have arrived at the Vatican in minibuses, entering through a door that leads directly to the Choir Chapel, where baptisms can take place inside the Basilica.

It is often a lengthy process to secure a Baptism at the Vatican, requiring contact with one's local bishop, as well as the St Peter's Basilica administration.

Permission also needs to be gained from the parish priest of the home parish for the Baptism to take place outside their parish.

The family appeared to take time to admire the Basilica following the ceremony before departing.

However, Mr McGregor has been accused of punching a well-known Italian DJ in the face following the event.

It was reported that the police were called to St Regis hotel in Rome after the UFC star allegedly got into a fight with musician Francesco Facchinetti, who took to Instagram with his wife to show off his injuries.

Restrictions on religious worship lifted on Friday

Staff reporter

The Taoiseach Micheál Martin announced on Tuesday that all religious worship and weddings can proceed at full capacity from Friday, October 22.

However, mask wearing and other protective measures will remain in place.

This is the first time Mass

can be conducted at full capacity in the South since March 2020, while this has been the case since July 26 north of the border.

Announcing the changes in restrictions, Mr Martin said “we must double down collectively, as a society, in terms of protecting ourselves, in terms of how we behave in different contexts and different areas and

that will be challenging in some situations”.

The Taoiseach said that the measures announced Tuesday will stay in place until February, under a recommendation from NPHET.

Mr Martin said the key point NPHET is making is that the protective measures include masks, hygiene and social distancing, where appropriate.

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Bishops express both fear and optimism as synodal process begins

Brandon Scott

Ireland's Catholic leaders have urged for constructive collective discernment to be used across Ireland's dioceses as the Church in Ireland commences its two-year Synodal Pathway, which will eventually lead to a National Synodal Assembly in Ireland.

Speaking at the launch of a We Are Church online event on the National Synodal Assembly, Bishop Paul Dempsey described the process as "an apt time to reflect upon our experience of Church and face the many questions we are grappling with".

Expressing reservation, Bishop Dempsey said that he feared that the Synod process would be comparable with a "gathering in a hotel where we will gather for a week or two", which will eventually lead to participants getting "caught up in their own agendas rather than the bigger picture which is the mission given to us by Jesus Christ." Bishop Dempsey said he also hopes for a "genuine openness to the Spirit" and for "an opportunity for us to reflect in a prayerful way together on where the Lord is calling us".

Contemplating on the future of the Church, Bishop Dempsey asked,

"What is the Lord saying to the Church in Ireland today? The answer to this question calls for discernment."

The call for thorough discernment of the current Church and its mission was also advocated by Archbishop Dermot Farrell, who acknowledged the importance of Church-wide engagement from all of its members. "Discernment is needed to know how we can find creative ways to rebalance our internal dynamics as Church, to promote deeper communion, fuller participation, and a more fruitful mission," he said.

In a pastoral message which called for Church adherents from as

far as "Magherafelt in Co. Derry to Drogheda in Co. Louth" to fully and intuitively interact with the Synodal process, Archbishop Eamon Martin and Auxiliary Michael Router announced that the opportunity for lay people to assert their influence was at this present moment and emphasised that their words bore as much significance as ordained members of the Church as they are "witnesses to the gospel".

"The lay women and men of our diocese, have a vital role to play in this," they stated. "Sometimes the work of spreading the Gospel and building the Kingdom of God is left

to ordained priests and deacons, or to those who are consecrated as religious. You, however, have a special mission in witnessing to the Gospel. As baptised members of the Church, as disciples of Jesus, you are called to act in the midst of humanity to bring the Kingdom of God to life in every facet of society."

The synodal process, which began on Sunday, will initially be focused on aspects such as prayer, listening, consultation and discernment, with a view to accommodating a national synodal assembly for the Church across the island within the next five years.

Blessing the airwaves



Members of Ballaghaderreen Folk Group with Fr Paul Kivlehan, Adm. St Nathy's Cathedral at RTÉ for live broadcast of Sunday Mass.

Iona NI criticise 'diabolical' abortion safe-zone vote

Ruadhán Jones

Iona Institute NI have called the North's assembly's vote to ban pro-life work outside abortion clinics "diabolical". Two thirds of MLAs voted in favour of the 'Abortion Services (Safe Access Zones) Bill' tabled by Green Party leader Clare Bailey, including the SDLP and Sinn Féin representatives.

Areas

The bill would establish areas outside clinics that offer abortion services or family planning advice where activities that seek to influence or impede people attending would be criminalised.

Tracey Harkin of the Iona Institute NI called the move "diabolical", saying there's "no justification for it".

She added that while everyone condemns harassment, this bill is "trying to

prevent any sort of help or support or outreach."

Souls

"For those generous souls who show up outside abortion centres and offer vulnerable women advice and support, especially financial help and just friendship – we know that we're saving lives and that's just Christianity in action, it's love in action," Ms Harkin said.

"I think it's a sad reflection, we now have not one MLA from a nationalist or a republican perspective that actually had the courage to even debate this properly," she continued. "Now we're not even to be able to pray outside, or to hand out a leaflet for a woman to get help. It's diabolical."

No date has been set for the committee stage of the bill, the third in seven stages.

Archbishop offers forgiveness in last address to diocesan in-service

Chai Brady

Archbishop Michael Neary said he forgives those who have wronged him and offered thanks to those who helped him make difficult decisions, in his last address as archbishop to the Tuam diocesan in-service.

The prelate, who turned 75 in April and under Church rules was obliged to tender his resignation to Pope Francis, said he came into office at a challenging time in the history of the Church and the archdiocese.

Difficult decisions

"Some very difficult decisions had to be taken, and I want to thank those who helped me in reaching those decisions," he said, "I have been particularly blessed in those who worked with me."

He asked for "forgiveness from you if I have offended or hurt you in any way".

"I also forgive those who have done wrong to me. I never took that as personal, however. I know that there are some who find it very difficult to deal with those in positions of authority, and when I was on the receiving end of their frustrations and anger, I always regarded it as something associated with my office rather than anything personal. So, please be assured, as my time as archbishop draws to a close, that I harbour no ill-will towards anybody."

Clerical circles have identified the current Bishop of Elphin Kevin Doran as one of the likely successors along with Bishop Brendan Leahy of Limerick and Killaloe's Bishop Fintan Monahan.

Bishop to send report on 'hot button' issues to Rome

Continued from Page 1

ordination and the place of gay and lesbian Catholics in the Church to Pope Francis.

Bishop Fleming will also highlight these issues to his fellow members of the Irish hierarchy and to the Holy See via the Pope's ambassador in Dublin papal nuncio Archbishop Jude Thaddeus Okolo.

Dr Fleming said that for confidence in the process –

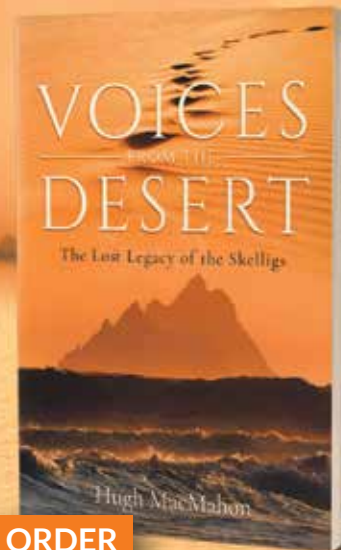
which included 300 laypeople from across Killala – to be maintained, people expressing a desire to change Church teaching must know that the Pope would be made aware of their concerns.

Pope Francis has consistently rejected the idea of women priests. However, he recently appointed another commission to look at the possibility of ordaining female deacons.

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A generational study on kindness

Are older people kinder and more considerate of others than the younger generations? Yes, they are, according to a global study carried out by the University of Birmingham – involving more than 46,000 people in 67 countries.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, older people were more likely to maintain social distancing for the benefit of others, and more considerate, generally, about the impact of their behaviour on others. Older people were more likely to act in a way that benefited others.

Older people were found to be more generous about giving to charity, although they're more inclined to favour charities in their home country, while younger people are more drawn to international charities.

Women are kinder, in general, than men, and those in modest circumstances are often kinder than those who are wealthy.

Examination of conscience: I am appalled,



Mary Kenny

sometimes, when I consider how self-centered I was as a young person and how thoughtlessly I sometimes treated others. (My friend June Levine described me as “a monster of egotism”!) But I also see that, to a certain extent, it's natural for younger people to be more selfish. They have to make their way in the world, to assert themselves and project self-confidence. A degree of ego is needed to weather the knocks of life and to develop robustness.

Kindness
Age teaches us kindness – because we've been through more experiences, difficulties and sorrows. At a certain age, we have “walked a mile in another's moccasins”. And the teaching of Christian virtue – “do unto others as you would have them do unto you” – may take some years to sink in, and to turn from

theory to practice. Call it a lifelong learning curve!

It's significant that women, and the less well-off, are found to be kindest: they've been closest to the grassroots of life's struggles and know what it's like to worry about the rent, the energy bills, the family's health.

‘Be kind’ is a popular mantra: but sometimes you have to go through some of life's rough patches to put it into practice.

● Dorothy Byrne, a Cambridge don and previously head of Channel 4 News, has embarked on a campaign to make young women more aware of their fertility. She believes that while sex education has bombarded young people with information on contraception, they may be less alert to the workings – and limits – of their fertility.

Indeed so. ‘Choice’ has imparted the idea that anyone can have a baby at any time, but nature doesn't operate like that. Ms Byrne's personal experience has been instructive – she just managed to have a child at 45, after a complex procedure of assisted conception.

Some commentators have responded with a ‘how dare she?’, but surely Dorothy Byrne has facts on her side: and support from other specialists, some of whom even want the contraceptive pill to come with a warning saying “don't leave it too late to try for a baby!”

Actually, British birth rates have fallen to their lowest point since 1938 – to barely 1.5 children per woman. Small families and no families is a Europe-wide trend, and it's piling up problems for the future.

Heaven's gain, Ireland's loss

Máire Mac an tSaoi, who has just died aged 99, was a formidable woman, a great Irish scholar and a fine poet. When I took my late husband to meet her, she told him a most beguiling story about Brian Boru and the Ireland of ancient kings.

Máire was the daughter of the politician Séan McEntee and his cultured wife Margaret (an expert in the novels of Balzac). Máire had three uncles priests on the maternal side; she was especially devoted to her uncle Fr Paddy Browne, who was with Séan MacDiarmada during his last night on earth, in 1916, and cherished that memory all

The late Máire Mac an tSaoi



his life. Máire told me that her priestly uncles were a greater presence in her young life than her father was – he was always so busy with politics.

She married the equally compelling intellectual Conor Cruise O'Brien, and Conor explained in his own mem-

oir that it was Máire's desire to be married in a Catholic church; he assented that his first marriage, which had been dissolved in a civil procedure, had not been a sacramental one.

They adopted two children, born in Africa, Patrick and Margaret, who brought them great happiness.

Máire's memoir *The Same Age as the State* is a revealing recollection of growing up in Ireland in the 1920s and 30s, and the stories and values that were part of that time. Older Irish people, she recalled, would endure afflictions and loss with great stoicism: their attitude was “welcome be the will of God”. *Ar dhéis Dé go raibh a hanam.*

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Modern Budgets neglect 'social capital', economist says

Jason Osborne

The recent Budget continues to neglect the needs of "people and families", prominent economist Professor Ray Kinsella has said.

"Social capital...these days is actually far more important than financial capital," Prof. Kinsella told *The Irish Catholic*, noting that Ireland has no "social-economic core" to the Budget.

Prof. Kinsella's comments come amid claims that the most recent Budget has made tax individualisation worse, which sees one-

income married couples paying more tax than two-income married couples once a certain amount is earned.

Irish Budget

Prof. Kinsella said that the Irish Budget has an "ad hoc" set of measures that may "glitter politically", but that they don't "really connect with how people live and engage with their families".

"A budget should be about the protection of the national wellbeing by a Government that is sovereign in terms of economic deci-

sions," Prof. Kinsella told this paper.

"A budget should be substantive, it should be about a democratic mandate to put things in place that are focused on the national welfare. We don't have that any longer."

Instead, the national Budget is decided "in Brussels, and it's decided in boardrooms", he said, continuing that it's largely a "PR opportunity" for the Government.

"That's not to say that the decisions announced in it don't have an influence at the margin. There are a lot of people living on the edge and therefore relatively small amounts mean a lot to them.

"But essentially, the budget today is decided out of the hands of the Oireachtas. The decisions are made elsewhere," Prof.

Kinsella said.

Examples of this include the decision to raise the corporation tax rate in Ireland, a decision, Prof. Kinsella said, that comes from America and the OECD.

Carbon tax

"Another example of that would be the carbon tax. A carbon tax will influence the cost of living of businesses, it will influence the cost of living of households. And again, decisions on the greening of Ireland are taken completely out of our hands.

"If you take those two examples, what they show is that what was unveiled on Budget day was really imposed on Ireland," Prof. Kinsella said.

Latest stats show increase in GPs providing abortion

Staff reporter

An inquiry to the HSE has revealed that there are currently 402 GPs contracted to provide abortion in the Republic, a rise on last year's figure.

A paper published by the National Women's Council earlier this year revealed that, as of April 2020, 373 GPs had signed contracts with the HSE to provide abortions, indicating a steady increase in the

number of GPs signed up to the scheme.

The Irish College of General Practitioners estimates that around 3,500 GPs are actively practicing in Ireland, according to *The Irish Times*.

Ten out of 19 maternity units continue to provide abortion across the country, the same figure as in early 2019.

This comes as the HSE confirm that late-term abortions are taking place in Ireland, which involves the dismem-

berment of an unborn baby up to six months into a pregnancy.

The practice was mentioned in a UCD study published earlier this year, which said that doctors were receiving training in performing Dilation and Evacuation (D&E) abortions.

The admission that these abortions are being performed came in response to a Parliamentary Question from Galway East TD Seán Cannery.

Church has responsibility to lead mature reflections on partition - Archbishop Martin

Ruadhán Jones

Archbishop Eamon Martin said in a podcast that the Church has a responsibility to lead mature reflections during the centenary of partition.

In a podcast organised by the church leaders' group, the archbishop of Armagh added that "there were some

people within my own community that criticised me" if he said anything about the year.

"I got a lot of emails and letters, saying we want nothing to do with the year, 2021 - 1921 for us is simply something we regret, we see it as a terrible moment of grief and separation," Archbishop Martin explained.

He said that while he "in

many ways shared those views", he also felt that "we have a responsibility to lead serious mature reflection on who we are".

"I had a responsibility to encourage members of my own flock to enter into this period of reflection, bringing with us all of our concerns and worries and regrets about the past," Dr Martin said.

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Answering a Maghera-felt need



Chair of Mid Ulster District Council Cllr Paul McLean officially opened the newly relocated Vincent's on King Street, Magherafelt, Co. Derry, along with Vincent's shop manager Alana Pitts, Peggy McLernon and Gerardine Kieft, members of Magherafelt St Vincent de Paul, and Martina O'Neill, a Vincent's volunteer, October 15.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Clergy offer tributes to late poet Brendan Kennelly

Archbishop Eamon Martin and Fr Eamonn Conway of Tuam Archdiocese reflected on the recent death of Kerry poet Brendan Kennelly in respective Twitter posts.

Accompanied with the concluding lines from Mr Kennelly's poem, 'Begin', Arch-

bishop Eamon Martin offered his own condolences as he posted, "God rest his soul".

Fr Eamonn Conway expressed his own admiration for Mr Kennelly's work by including another of his poems, 'A Giving', alongside his own personal trib-

ute. "Eternal rest, Brendan Kennelly. You helped generations know the true nature of God. What more needs to be said? For which we give thanks in your own words", he stated.

Breda O'Brien

The View



We need to invite people back to Mass

In recent times, three friends have all told me about people they know who have not been back to Mass in church. They continue to watch online. My friends were both surprised and worried because the people they mentioned were regular Massgoers before the pandemic.

Nor had any of the people health concerns that would make them more cautious and all are fully vaccinated. It is unwise to base anything on such a small sample but it did make me wonder how prevalent this is.

We are creatures of habit and sadly, it is quite easy to displace a habit with another, easier one.

Do the people who have not yet returned, despite the safety of churches, not miss receiving the Lord in the Eucharist? I found this to be a terrible privation and even though I did not break regulations myself, on one level I understood why some people went to so-called lockdown Masses, which were held in defiance of public health guidelines.

It may be time to launch a 'come back to Mass' campaign. Before we do anything, though, it is a useful exercise to ask ourselves exactly what we are inviting people to return to?

“Not only do we need each other but we need to challenge each other”

The obvious and best answer is to receive the Lord under the appearance of bread and wine. Nonetheless, returning to Mass is about more than an individualised encounter with the Lord.

We are made for community. John Donne's *No Man is an Island* resonates with us for a reason. It was written when Donne was ill in 1693 and eventually published as Meditation 17 in *Devotions Upon Emergent Occasions, and Several steps in my Sicknes*. Donne begins the meditation by saying that “the Church is Catholic, universal, so are all her

“Before we do anything, though, it is a useful exercise to ask ourselves exactly what we are inviting people to return to?”



Parishioners attend Mass in St Patrick's Church in Wicklow town. Photo: Susanna Braswell.

actions; all that she does belongs to all. When she baptises a child, that action concerns me; for that child is thereby connected to that body which is my head too, and ingrafted into that body whereof I am a member. And when she buries a man, that action concerns me: all mankind is of one author, and is one volume”.

In other words, we are deeply entwined with each other as members of the body of Christ. We have been asked to ‘Do this in memory of me’. When we are able to attend Mass, but do not do so, we diminish the community.

We need each other. The solidarity of seeing others coming to worship helps and encourages us all.

Challenge

Not only do we need each other but we need to challenge each other. The Catholic Church in Ireland has been battling privatised religion long before the Second Vatican Council but the battle has intensified since people now ‘shop around’ for spirituality.

Irish people, unlike Americans, do not change from one Christian denomination to another very often. Instead, they go looking in other places, in what is called disparagingly and often inac-

curately New Age spirituality, or popularised forms of Buddhism.

While sometimes people are looking for a comfort blanket rather than a challenge, there can also be a lack of vision in our Catholic parishes that forces people into looking elsewhere.

“We are deeply entwined with each other as members of the body of Christ”

The Catholic Church is supposed to offer people a vision of life lived to the full. Not an easy life, not a sheltered life, but a life worth living because the grace of God permeates it.

There are practical things that we can do to ask people to return to church. We could enlist volunteers, including young people, to do a leaflet drop, with a simple, short message like “Come back to Mass. We miss you.”

November is the month of the dead so leaflets and social media could be employed to advertise a series of services for those who lost loved ones for any reason during the past 18 months, particularly when restrictions were most severe. They could be organised along the lines of station

Masses, and in the city, for estates or a number of streets.

Advent is another opportunity to invite people. US parishes ran a successful campaign some years ago along the lines of ‘Come home for Christmas’.

Ideas

There are lots of good ideas but they will all ultimately fail unless there is a community to which to invite people. In some parishes, stewarding has led to people being greeted and welcomed each week. It would be a shame to see that wither away.

Some parishes are resuming regular tea and coffee after Mass. All of these small things build community.

“It may be time to launch a ‘come back to Mass’ campaign”

Ultimately, however, we want both practical initiatives and a vision of a life worth living together.

Our lives are meant to be lived for each other and for those most in need. Without that vision being translated into action, we will not have credible communities to which to invite people to return.

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Murdered Sir David Amess 'involved in pro-life causes of all kinds'

Chai Brady

The Catholic MP Sir David Amess who was murdered last week has been remembered as a "dedicated, warm" man who was involved in pro-life causes of all kinds.

Sr David (69) was stabbed to death by a suspected terrorist in a church in Southend West in Essex, England, during a constituency surgery.

Member of the House of Lords, Baroness Nuala O'Loan, described Sir David as a

"superb MP who worked tirelessly for his constituents and was involved for decades in pro-life causes of all kinds from the protection of life to the abuses of human rights in Iran".

"His murder came as a dreadful shock," Baroness O'Loan said, "Political representatives should be able to go about their business safely – he was just doing his normal constituency surgery, helping the people for whom he cared so much."

She added: "Warm, heartfelt tributes were paid to him by members of all political par-

ties and others in the House of Lords, then we walked across to St Margaret's Church in the grounds of Westminster Abbey for a very poignant and very beautiful service in which we remembered his great contribution to public life. He is remembered as wonderful, dedicated, warm, funny but above all perhaps as a very good man. He will be terribly missed."

Sir David was a Conservative MP since 1983 and was a practicing Catholic who was married with four daughters and a son. He was stabbed multiple times in his constitu-

ency during a regular Friday meeting at Bel-fairs Methodist Church in Leigh-on-Sea.

Fr Jeff Woolnough, a priest who rushed to the church after hearing of the attack, tried to administer Last Rites to Sir David but was stopped from entering the crime scene by police. He prayed on the street outside the police cordon.

The terrorist suspect, a 25-year-old who is believed to have links with Islamist extremism, was being held under the Terrorism Act when this paper went to print. The police were not looking for anyone else.

Dialogue with Muslims seen as aid to Christians

Staff reporter

A religious sister who has worked in Muslim-Christian dialogue in Nigeria has said that inter-religious dialogue is vital in defeating those who want to use religious differences in a divisive way.

Terrorist attack

Sr Kathleen McGarvey OLA was responding to a question about a recent terrorist attack in Norway

and the murder of Catholic MP Sir David Amess in Britain where both suspects reportedly claimed to be motivated by Islam.

Reflecting the fact that Ireland is increasingly religiously pluralist, Sr McGarvey told *The Irish Catholic* that "dialogue must always be encouraged. We are living together as human beings, and when we have a different religious and cultural identity it shapes our lives...It enriches us as a society and

as a people," she said.

Underlining the importance of working together, she said that in her experience in Nigeria, inter-religious dialogue can also help Catholics grow their own faith. "We can work together as people of faith and strengthen each other."

Own faith

"It's necessary not only for peace, but for a greater understanding of our own faith.

"It's basically about

being together and living together and praying together to make the world a better place," she said.

Sr Kathleen, a missionary sister of Our Lady of the Apostles, formed the Women's Interfaith Council in 2010 in one of the most volatile states in Nigeria, Kaduna.

The WIC has brought over 11,500 Christian and Muslim women together with a vision of a society where both faiths can live in peace.



The Irish Catholic

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Musician and frequent worshipper Paddy Moloney (83) remembered

Brandon Scott

The founder of The Chieftains and pioneering traditional musician, Paddy Moloney (83), was described as a person who had a profound devotion to St Kevin's Church and someone who "loved to come to worship frequently with recently deceased parish priest Fr Oliver Crotty," by Fr Eamonn Crossan, speaking during Mr Maloney's Requiem Mass.

Reflecting on the musician's remarkable career, which included opening for St Pope John Paul II during his historic

Papal visit in 1979, Fr Crossan recalled the inveterate talents of a prodigious young boy from Donnycarney. "[He] was able to listen, he was able to hear the sound of music even as a young boy - it was ringing in his ears as he began to learn the plastic whistle".

The son of a clerksman in Donnycarney Church and an alumnus of Scoil Mhuire Marino, Mr Maloney's unremitting love for the whistle has been highly publicised throughout his career and it was a love that blossomed with the assistance of a Christian Brother in Scoil Mhuire, Br

McCaffrey.

Speaking in interviews before his death, Mr Maloney recalled how important music was in Br McCaffrey's classes. "I loved the hour of music every day in school. The tonic sol-fa was the scales system I used, same as the Chinese. I'd often get up and conduct the school band and because I knew the tonic sol-fa Brother McCaffrey would always have me up demonstrating on the days the school inspector came in. I think it's because he didn't know how to do it himself!" he said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Religious orders, NI executive to discuss abuse redress

Negotiations between the North's executive and religious orders and charities will get under way regarding their contributions to a redress scheme for survivors of abuse.

A former civil servant has been appointed to facilitate negotiations, after the North's first minister and deputy first minister met representatives of Barnardo's, the De La Salle Order, Sisters of Nazareth, Sisters of St Louis, the Good Shepherd Sisters, and the Irish Church Missions last week.

Paul Sweeney, an ex-permanent secretary of the departments of education and culture, arts and leisure, will lead discussions over how much the institutions will contribute to the scheme and specialist support services for victims.

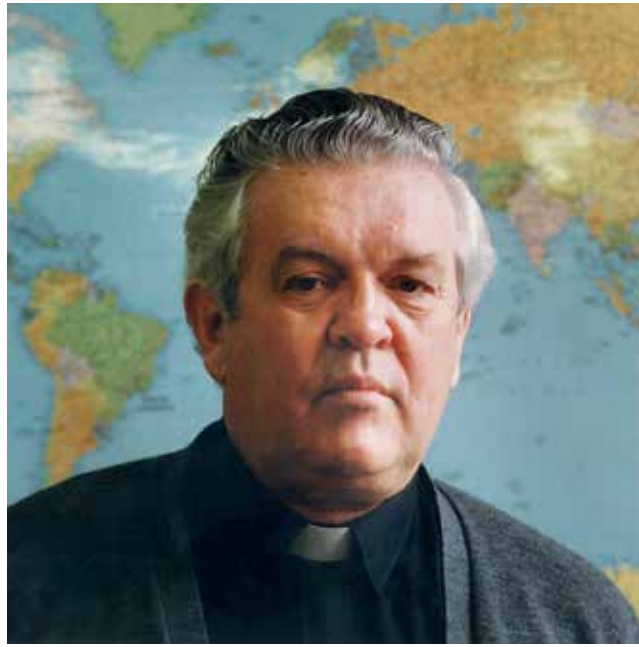
Life Institute hits back at TD's 'misleading' claim

The Life Institute have called on Social Democrat TD Holly Cairns to debate the rise of Ireland's abortion rate, after her "farcical attempt to shut down debate".

Ms Cairns and other pro-choice advocates called on the Minister for Health to outlaw "misleading" pro-life billboards which reveal how many abortions took place in Ireland in the last two years.

"The only thing misleading about this farcical attempt to shut down debate is the ridiculous but revealing claim made by Ms Cairns," said Niamh Uí Bhriain of the Life Institute. "We will debate Holly Cairns anytime and in any place regarding the message of this billboard."

“A legacy of *incredible* humanitarian significance”



Fr. Aengus Finucane.

Fr. Finucane's legacy

Fr. Finucane is the cornerstone behind much of what Concern has become today. It was he who expanded its aid work into 11 countries and dramatically increased its fundraising.

Tom Arnold - Concern's CEO from 2001 to 2013 - says: *“There can be few Irish people of his generation, or of any other generation, who have contributed as much to improving the lives of so much of humanity.”*

“He inspired a whole generation of Concern overseas volunteers.”

Fr. Finucane continues to inspire as his legacy still influences Concern 12 years after his death.

“Do as much as you can, as well as you can, for as many as you can, for as long as you can.”
– Fr. Aengus Finucane

In 2020 Concern worked in 23 countries, responding to 78 different emergencies, helping 36.9 million of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people.

Concern's vision, mission and work continues to strive to end extreme poverty, whatever it takes. The charity believes that no-one should live in fear of not having enough food.

The devastation of climate change

Today one of the primary causes of acute food insecurity are weather extremes.

Climate change is increasing hunger levels and pushing even more people to the brink of famine. With multiple famines predicted, there are currently 41 million people teetering on the edge of starvation.

Extreme weather caused by climate change is having a devastating effect on the most vulnerable people in the world's poorest countries.

And these calamitous weather conditions are now more frequent and varied. No sooner has one disaster struck than another arrives. People don't have enough food for months, sometimes years on end.

In Malawi droughts, floods and strong weather patterns are a regular occurrence – placing huge stress

on land and crop production resulting in food shortages and hunger.

These weather extremes affect an already vulnerable population where 80% source their livelihoods from the land, 71% live below the poverty line and an estimated 20% are living in extreme poverty.

People like Yona Lambiki and his family.

Yona, a farmer, lives in Nkhambaza village with his wife and five children. He was always able to support his family with the crops and food he grew providing them with a healthy balanced diet. Any excess was sold, with some of the money used to pay for his children's schooling. But two years ago everything changed ...



Crops destroyed by Cyclone Idai.

In March 2019 Cyclone Idai caused devastating floods and loss of life in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. The floods completely destroyed crops just weeks away from harvest – food people were relying on for survival.

Although his house wasn't affected, like thousands of others, the crops Yona was about to harvest were completely washed away. There was nothing for his family to eat, let alone any to sell.

Help for now and the future

But thanks to Concern's generous donors and Yona's hard work he is now able to look after his family again.

Yona immediately received a vital cash transfer from Concern. With this he bought food and other basic necessities his family needed to be safe and free from hunger.

Yona received seeds including maize, tomatoes, beans, three bundles of sweet potato vines and other vegetables to grow so he could, once again, support his family. He also received, fertilizer and a hoe to help him grow his crops. As well as five goats for milk and manure.



Photo: Jason Kennedy / Concern Worldwide.

“I would really love to meet everyone that is behind this support so I could thank them in person.” – Yona Lambiki

Like other families in his community, Yona planted the seeds he received in his home garden. What they harvest is used to feed their families, any excess is sold to improve their livelihoods.

But Concern do far more than simply give communities plants, seeds and tools. They provide training in Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) to ensure long term, inter-generational support.

providing support for years – possibly decades – to come.

On speaking about the people who support Concern and make our work possible, he said, *“I'm so very happy with the support I have received from Concern. My life and family's life is healthy and can afford everything we could not afford before. I'm so happy and thankful to Concern”.*

Will Fr. Finucane inspire you too?

There's a way you, just like Fr. Finucane, can leave the world a better place. And help improve the lives of families like Yona's both now and for future generations.

How? By leaving Concern a gift in your Will.

When you leave a gift, your legacy lives on - helping for years to come.

“I know that this is a very personal decision. But I assure you, gifts in Wills have had a phenomenal impact in reducing extreme poverty, hunger and suffering around the world. Today, as the catastrophic combination of conflict, climate change and COVID-19 have plunged so many people into the grip of crisis, your gift will help us to be there in their time of need.”

– Dominic MacSorley, CEO, Concern Worldwide

Gifts in Wills are a vital source of funding for Concern.

Your legacy will help families like Yona's reverse the many struggles caused by Climate Change ...

... will provide the tools and knowledge they need to not just survive but help themselves – a gift from you they can pass down for generations.

To find out more about how a legacy gives a safe, secure future, please request your complimentary copy of 'A World Without Hunger' – Concern's legacy booklet.

You'll learn of others who desperately needed help, and how legacies from people just like you have done so much.

There are also answers to common questions people ask about leaving a gift in their Will. And explains how to get started.

Requesting your free booklet does not oblige you to do anything else.

The Irish Catholic looks at a rich and varied life lived in the service of others and of God.

Fr. Finucane was ordained as a Holy Ghost Priest in 1958. In his first assignment in Uli, Nigeria, Fr. Finucane found himself involved in the bitter civil war between Nigeria and Biafra.

Following Biafra's attempt to secede, this widespread conflict had displaced millions. What's more, there was a blockade of food, medicine and basic necessities by the Nigerian authorities.

At the height of the crisis in the summer of 1968, it was estimated 6,000 children died every week.

An Irish effort

In response to the Biafrans' terrible plight, Concern Worldwide – originally called Africa Concern – was founded and began raising awareness and funds to help those suffering.

On 6th September 1968, the 600 tonne, Columille set sail for Sao Tome – a Portuguese island close to West Africa. The cost of chartering the ship and its vital cargo of powdered food and medicines was all paid for with donations from the people of Ireland.

To circumvent the blockade, the supplies were then flown from Sao Tome to Biafra overnight. The following day in Uli, Fr. Finucane was among the Holy Ghost priests who would help distribute the life saving supplies.

With his commitment and

that of the Irish public and priests, this operation grew into one flight a day for 11 months.

Fr. Finucane was deeply committed to helping the poorest of the poor. So after leaving Biafra, in 1972 he became Concern's Field Director in Bangladesh after its war of independence from Pakistan – the war had left millions in desperate need of food.

The period after Fr. Finucane's time in Bangladesh was particularly testing. In Thailand's Kampuchea refugee camps he saw the desperation of Cambodians who had fled the Khmer Rouge's genocide.

And in Uganda the horror of HIV in Kampala, where even in the best hospitals one third of the children born were HIV positive.

Fr. Finucane worked tirelessly to alleviate suffering, and recognised his responsibility to help the poor and underprivileged.

Concern appointed Fr. Finucane as its Chief Executive in 1981.

During his 16 years as the head of the charity he was 'on the ground' during many of the world's worst disasters. These included the 1983-1985 famine in Ethiopia and the Rwandan genocide in 1994.

Relinquishing his post in 1997, Fr. Finucane became Honorary President of Concern Worldwide US. He held this post until his death on 6th October 2009.

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 write to 52-55 Lower Camden Street, Dublin 2



We need to discuss the motivations of David Amess's alleged killer



The threat posed by radical Islam is often brushed away, writes **David Quinn**

Conservative politician, David Amess, who was stabbed to death last week in what appears to have been a terrorist attack, was one of the most prominent Catholic MPs in the House of Commons where he served for 38 years. He died aged 69.

He was staunchly pro-life and pro-family, sometimes voting against his party's official policy in favour of his conscience and his deeply grounded Catholic faith.

Following his murder, politicians of all political persuasions rushed to pay tribute, and not in the usual, pro-forma way. The tributes were heartfelt. He was a very popular, warm individual who always had a kind word to say to everyone and liked to help new MPs find their feet, whether they were in his own party or opposing parties.

“David Amess also championed unusual causes, such as fighting endometriosis, a condition that can cause infertility in women”

David Amess helped to arrange the visit of Pope Benedict to Britain in 2010 and a reciprocal visit by British Government officials to the Vatican soon after.

Commenting on this, Cardinal Vincent Nichols said: “He was instrumental in the historic visit of Pope Benedict to Parliament in 2010 and in the return visit by HMG representatives to Rome in the following year.

“He fostered this mutually respectful relationship through meetings with Cardinal Parolin, the Pope's Secretary of State, and with other Catholic leaders.”

David Amess also championed unusual causes, such as fighting endometriosis, a condition that can cause infertility in women.

He was an excellent servant of his constituents.

He never served in Government



MP David Amess, furthest left, poses for a picture with a group that includes Mother Teresa in London's Westminster Parliament in this 1988 photo. Photo: CNS

but was one of those politicians who showed how effective you can be from the backbenches if you put your mind to it. The House of Commons was lucky to have him. Indeed, here in Ireland, we could do with a few more politicians in his mould, because, with only a handful of exceptions, they are sorely lacking at present.

When David Amess was killed, the initial reaction was to blame social media and the general coarsening of public debate.

Certainly, social media can be intensely polarising. The people with the biggest followings on the various platforms are often at the extreme ends of their political or religious spectrums.

They offer extremist interpretations of current events and denounce rather than argue.

Victim

On Twitter, we see frequent mob attacks on whoever is today's chosen victim. Four years ago, pro-life advocate, Katie Ascough, was driven from her position as head of the students' union at UCD following the most vitriolic, often expletive laden and personalised attacks which her

university did nothing to discourage.

In that kind of atmosphere of unbridled hate, we can't be surprised if things sometimes slip over into violence, although fortunately it did not in Katie's case.

On the other hand, at the University of Suffolk, lecturer Kathleen Stock, a feminist who is critical of aspects of transgender ideology (for instance, allowing men who declare as women to be sent to women's prisons), has been told by police not to come to her university campus because they can't guarantee her safety from pro-trans militants.

David Amess is, in fact, the second MP to be murdered in recent times. Just before the Brexit vote in 2016, Labour MP, Jo Cox, was killed. Her killer supported Brexit and had links to far-right groups.

There has been a notable difference in the way in which the killing of Jo Cox and the killing of David Amess has been covered, however.

In 2016, there was far less discussion about the polarising effects of social media and far more about the threat to society posed by the far-right and how it can radicalise isolated, alienated individuals.

In the case of David Amess, there

has been far less discussion about the motivations of his alleged killer, Ami Habir Ami.

Ami was known to the authorities as someone drawn to Islamist extremism. Friends claim he was radicalised by watching the videos of the notorious Islamist preacher, Anjem Choudary, who supports terrorist organisations like Islamic State.

Only days before the killing of David Amess, Espen Andersen Brathen, a Dane who had converted to Islam, attacked and killed five people with a bow and arrow in the Norwegian town of Kongsberg.

But again, there was little discussion afterwards about the dangers of radical Islam.

Public debates

This sets up an imbalance in public debates. On the one hand, the danger to society posed by the far-right is well publicised, but the threat posed by radical Islam is often brushed away. When a killer is Islamist, his identity is often mentioned several paragraphs into a report as a matter of only passing importance.

Why the difference in treatment? Part of it is understandable. Care

must be taken not to demonise all Muslims because of the relatively few extremists in their midst. Without the proper sensitivity in discussing the issue, society can become further polarised.

On the other hand, little care was taken when Jo Cox was killed to ensure that the 17 million Britons who voted in favour of leaving the EU were not tarred with the extremist brush.

So, there is also clear political bias in how these things are covered.

“This is the only real way we minimise the risks of similar attacks happening again in the future”

David Amess was targeted by a man suspected of radical Islamist loyalties. There is a suggestion he may even have been targeted because of his devout Catholic faith.

When extremists strike in this murderous way at the heart of society, we must be prepared to discuss openly, honestly and with due caution, the motivations of the killer, and not hide it away because of certain ideological biases. This is the only real way we minimise the risks of similar attacks happening again in the future.

“On the other hand, little care was taken when Jo Cox was killed to ensure that the 17 million Britons who voted in favour of leaving the EU were not tarred with the extremist brush”

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Out&About

Always teach the youth



DUBLIN: Archbishop of Dublin Dermot Farrell is pictured with graduates of the Foundational Leadership Programme for young adults in Halston Street Parish, October 10.



CARLOW: Killeshin NS's first class head out and about on a nature trail, making the most of the dry weather, October 13.



LIMERICK: Dylan Withero is pictured with his parents and sister after his Confirmation in the Church of the Holy Rosary, Ennis Road, October 9. Pictured are (from left) Alannah Withero, Victoria Withero, Dylan Withero, Fr Des Mc Auliffe, who administered the Sacrament, and John Withero.

IN SHORT

Heed cry of the poor to solve climate crisis – Archbishop Farrell

There will be no solution to the climate crisis if we don't heed "the cry of the poor", Archbishop Dermot Farrell said as he launched his pastoral letter October 12.

He warned that "our future – and the future of the planet – depends on our facing up to our responsibility" for "our sisters and brothers whom the West has left behind".

The "cry of the earth and the cry of the poor go hand in hand", the archbishop of Dublin said.

Dr Farrell said his letter, *The Cry of the*

Earth – The Cry of the Poor, "seeks to allow people's faith to nourish and support them in turning towards a more sustainable style of life".

"Turning towards another way of living merits being called a conversion, as real conversion involves not only a change of practice, but a change of heart, a transformation from within.

"For Pope Francis, the destruction of our common home is something very serious, not only because God entrusted the world to human beings, but also because human life is itself a gift that must be protected from human and ecological degradation."

Quoting from the Pope's encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, Archbishop Farrell stated that "any

attempt to reverse the damage to our planet demands a profound change in 'lifestyles, models of production and consumption, and the established structures of power that today govern societies'".

Lila Rose to attend PLC's national conference

The Pro-Life Campaign has announced that Lila Rose, founder of Live Action, will be the special guest speaker at their National Conference, October 30.

In a statement, the PLC said Ms Rose will tell "how she grappled with her own insecurities and feelings of inadequacy before turning Live Action, the group she founded, into

one of the largest and most successful pro-life groups in the world.

"To date, Live Action has generated over 1.3 billion views for its online videos across multiple platforms, reaching mostly young people with the pro-life message."

Other guests from home and abroad will also contribute to the conference and discuss pro-life initiatives "that are starting to produce results and inspire hope for a pro-life future".

For more information, visit PLC's social media pages for updates on other guest speakers who will be attending the conference.

You can register for the conference at <https://prolifecampaign.ie/conf2021/>

Edited by Ruadhán Jones
Ruadhan@irishcatholic.ie



Events deadline is a week in advance of publication



DUBLIN: Members of the Catholic Guides of Ireland help launch the Period Education Period Poverty (PEPP) Programme, October 11. Photo: Jonny Pardoe.



DUBLIN: Pictured is a first class relic of St Philomena in the Capuchin Friary Church, Church Street, where on the first Wednesday of every month at 8pm, a devotion to St Philomena takes place, including a blessing with the relic.



KILDARE: Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin Denis Nulty meets Teresa Martin and Anna Kelly, recent recipients of Benemerenti Medals, in Monasterevin October 12.



DOWN: St Vincent de Paul members Patricia McKeown, PJ McClean and Tom Mulholland are pictured with awards from Newry, Mourne and Down District Council in recognition of their response to the Covid-19 pandemic.



DUBLIN: Sr Helen and the Redemptoristine nuns in Dublin celebrate her first profession with a specially commissioned cake, October 9.



DUBLIN: Sr Helen is pictured with two crew members of Sancta Familia TV, who recorded her first profession, October 9.

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.



The Jesus Prayer

The Sunday Gospel

Fr Silvester O'Flynn OFM Cap.



whom he could not see. Christian prayer develops an alertness, a constant loving attention to the unseen presence of the Lord Jesus.

Great teachers of the spiritual life testify to the value of the Jesus Prayer in helping a person to advance from prayer as a series of isolated exercises to prayer as a constant state of loving attentiveness to the risen Lord Jesus within us.

Miracle

"The Jesus Prayer aims at bringing us to stand in God's presence with no other thought but the miracle of our standing there and God with us, because in the use of the Jesus Prayer there is nothing and no one except God and us" (Archbishop Anthony Bloom).

Bartimaeus was blind but he prayed, he persevered and he saw. And in that new light he cast off the cloak of the old way and walked the road of life in union with Jesus Christ.

PS: If the law about blasphemy had been taken seriously, half the country would be in jail for the blasphemous use of the sacred name of Jesus!

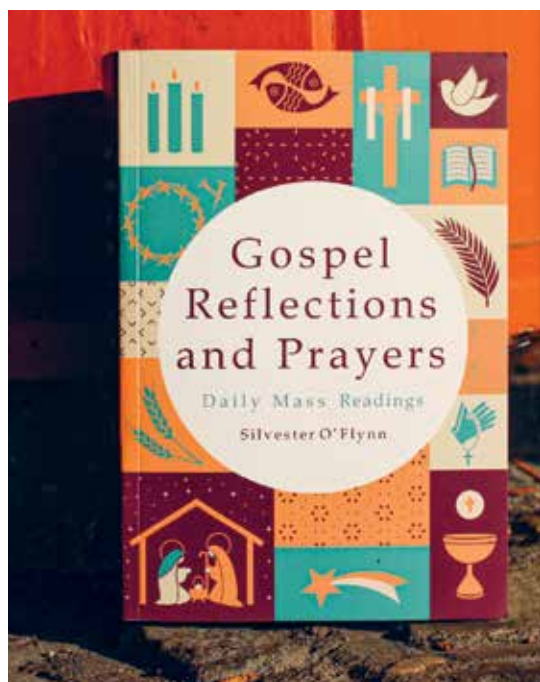
The prayer of the blind man, Bartimaeus, is a model of prayer. It is full of reverence, simplicity, trust and perseverance. It is the basis of what is known as the Jesus Prayer. This has always been popular in the Orthodox tradition but forgotten in the West until recent times. The prayer of Bartimaeus is firstly an act of faith in Jesus and then a plea for mercy. The usual formula is "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me." Some people prefer to shorten the prayer...perhaps, "Jesus, mercy"... "Jesus Lord"... "Jesus Saviour"...or "Jesus Friend".

Begin by repeating the words with your lips. Gradually move from your lips to the rhythm of your breathing. This is not a mechanical,

meaningless incantation as if it were a magical formula. The prayer is not so much about the words as about the person of the risen Lord Jesus Christ.

“The Jesus Prayer aims at bringing us to stand in God’s presence with no other thought but the miracle of our standing there and God”

Nor is the repetition like the hypnotic trance of a transcendental meditation mantra which induces a mental emptiness. Blind Bartimaeus prayed to Jesus



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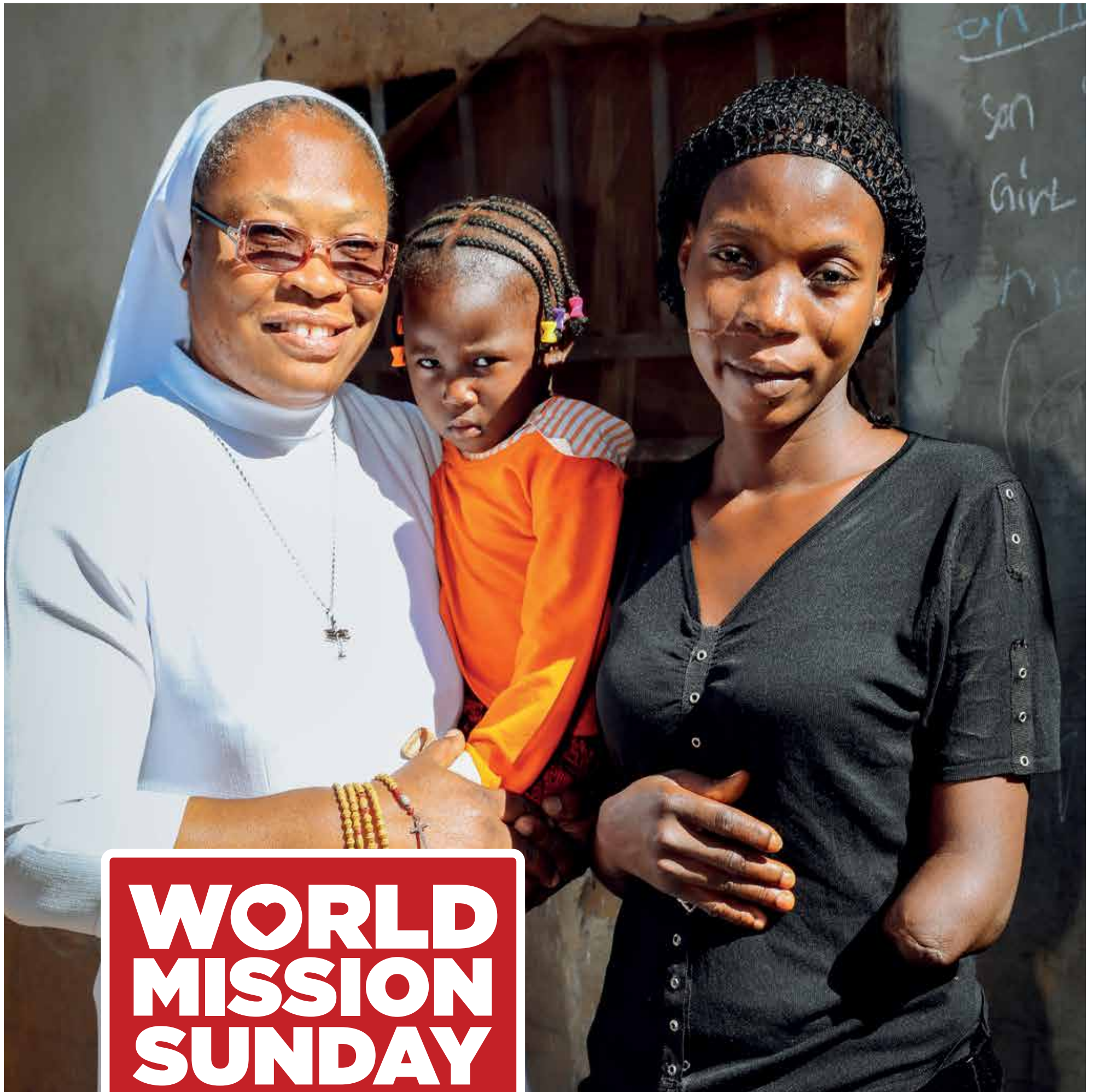
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A woman prays with a rosary at the Marian shrine in Knock on October 10. Photo: CNS/Cillian Kelly

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*We Cannot Remain Silent – 'we cannot
but speak about what we have seen and heard' Acts 4:20*



**WORLD
MISSION
SUNDAY**

**24th October
2021**

The Irish Catholic  **MISSIO**
IRELAND

Struggling with those who struggle



Irish missionaries continue to live their lives alongside some of the world's most vulnerable people, writes **Chai Brady**

Martyred, attacked, robbed, expelled by dictatorships and oppressive regimes, facing down drug gangs, militias, extremists and more while spreading the Gospel, the tales of missionaries never fail to astound and inspire.

What it means to be a missionary has changed significantly over time. The whole Church is called to spread the Gospel even when it is unpopular or daunting to do so – just like so many Irish men and women have done down the ages and continue to do across the globe.

“The emphasis now is on the whole Church becoming missionary, the missionary discipleship of all Christians, as Pope Francis puts it”

Nowadays missionaries can't simply be understood as an Irish or western priest or religious bringing the Good News to far-flung lands. The face of mission continues to adapt. It is a versatile, living thing in the modern world continuing to draw on the renewed vision of the Second Vatican Council. Most of the Faithful are aware of this changed reality, but what shape is it taking today?

Fr Des McGillicuddy MHM (72), who has been doing mission work for 46 years, tells *The Irish Catholic* that when he started out, a missionary was seen as a separate vocation reserved to a few individuals.

“The emphasis now is on the whole Church becoming missionary, the missionary discipleship of all Christians, as Pope Francis puts it,” the Mill Hill Missionary says, “That includes the local Churches in Africa, Asia and Latin America, they are no longer the objects of mission, they are agents of mission.

“In fact the primary missionary impulse is coming from these continents now and no longer from the Church in the west or the north, which was the case when I started out so I think that's a big change.

“I think also the content of mission has broadened, whereas it was primarily a concern to establish churches, schools, hospitals and inviting people to enter the churches, become Catholics, to pray and to worship, now the emphasis is more on building communities where members' faith is nourished by reflecting on the Gospels and the Bible to the point that they begin to feel an urge to seek a more fulfilling life for themselves and those around them. I think it's broader, more outward looking.”

It was a sense of adventure that first brought Fr McGillicuddy to mission work, with the outward apostolic approach of the Mill Hill Missionaries – “action rather than contemplation, going out into the unknown” – being particularly attractive.

Originally from Rathcoole in Co. Dublin, he joined the congregation in 1968 and was ordained in 1975 and immediately went to Chile where he stayed for eight years before being expelled by the military dictatorship.

Spies

“It was basic community work and development but it was in the midst of the military dictatorship of [General Augusto] Pinochet, he was world-renowned. So it was difficult to do many of the basic things that one would associate with doing Church work because of the repressive atmosphere,” Fr McGillicuddy explains.

“We were constantly being watched, we had spies in the community itself. People were very hard hit economically so we had what we called a common pot and people came to get shared food, and we got some food from Caritas as well – and that kept the people going. Eventually I was expelled from the country in March 1983.” Two other priests were also expelled alongside him.

“By 1983, there were movements towards liberation and getting rid of the repressive regime and our area was identified as one of the areas,” he recalls, “we would have been seen as at least-sympathising with the rebellion so to speak... the Church was generally being repressed.”

After further education in Germany, then taking charge of pastoral formation in St Joseph's College in London he returned to Ireland to work on justice, peace and development which involved efforts such as lobbying for food security in developing countries.

“Our missionaries experienced the effects of that – so we tried to do our bit from Europe, see what we could do to ameliorate the situation, and other things like fair trade and the 'Africa Europe Faith and Justice Network' which continues to this day,” Fr McGillicuddy said.



Fr Des McGillicuddy MHM pictured with a family in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

He then returned to Latin America and was based in Brazil from 2003-2015 in Rio de Janeiro. When he arrived, the country was still struggling with the after-effects of the military dictatorship from 1964-1985. It was a different world from Chile, following the restoration of democracy the government in Brazil was attempting to improve the lives of the poor.

“The problem was that there were adolescents armed and drugged, so it was a bit scary”

Ecclesiastically it was also a different world. “It's a very big Church, very dynamic and so we had the whole process of working with basic Christian communities. Bible reflection was also much stronger in Brazil,” he recalls and was relieved to be in an environment where there was less repression. Still, he adds “Never a dull moment!”

Although the Christian community was vibrant, there was also a lot of pressing social issues. “I lived in an area in the latter years especially where there was a constant war between the militia and the drug gangs. The militia were made up of serving and retired police and firemen – they just changed their uniforms at night and went out killing drug gangs,” Fr

McGillicuddy says.

It was a turbulent time. “Their motive wasn't pure, it wasn't to free the area of drug gangs – it was to get control of the area and charge protection money from small businesses and shops in the area.

“So there was a constant war for control of the patch between the militia and the drug gangs. Knowing me to be the priest I was safe but then there were a lot of stray bullets as well. You had to be careful,” he recalls.

Reflecting on one Good Friday in particular in which parishioners did the Stations of the Cross surrounded by gunmen, he remembers: “The people were very brave. We said ‘we always do it and we're going to continue to do it’, but the people with the guns respected us, and we got through so there were certainly eery moments and difficult moments”.

His upbringing in Dublin could not have prepared him for the complexity of daily life in his new home. “The problem was that there were adolescents armed and drugged, so it was a bit scary but the people were very brave too – they came out for the liturgies, the Bible reflections whatever even in the evenings and at night.

“I would encourage them to stay at home but they said ‘no, we're going to meet’. Thank God nobody ever got killed by a stray bullet or anything. But, people were very determined to stand up to them as well.”

Radiate joy

The central plank of mission is that it is a life lived alongside people.

For Sr Renee Duignan MMM it is about friendship and it “nourishes my spirit to experience the

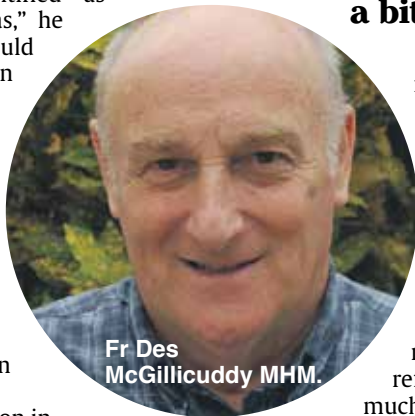
depth of faith among those around me who radiate joy in spite of the many struggles that is their daily reality”. Hers is an experience of gaining as much from the people that she serves as she brought to them.

“Pope John XXIII spoke at that time of the great needs of the Church in Latin America which also influenced my decision to enter the Medical Missionaries of Mary in Boston in 1964”

Hailing from Co. Leitrim, Sr Duignan – a Medical Missionary of Mary – was already exhibiting some of the traits of a missionary from a young age when she left home aged 18 to go to New York – a huge change from the rural setting of Kiltubrid.

After working in a bank for three years, she decided to join the MMM after feeling a “restlessness” which she describes as the beginning of a call to something different.

“A deep awareness of all I had received in my own life motivated me to respond to God's call to share with those most in need,” she says, “I was deeply impressed with Martin Luther King Jr. whom I had listened to at a rally in New York City. Pope John XXIII spoke at that time of the great needs of the Church in Latin America which also influenced my decision to enter the Medical Missionaries of Mary in Boston in 1964.”



Fr Des McGillicuddy MHM.



Sr Renee Duignan
MMM is pictured in
Honduras with Jensy
and Alexander.

She returned to Ireland to continue her formation doing nursing and midwifery. Her first assignment was in Malawi in south-eastern Africa, where she ministered for ten years.

Repression was again to the fore. "We lived in a dictatorship which was particularly difficult for the local people. My first assignment was to Nkhata Bay to a health clinic, a maternity unit and dispensary with no doctor. It was challenging and many times we had to use all our skills and pray our way through some of the cases."

Hospitality

"I later worked in our hospital in Mzuzu together with a great community of MMM, the local people and many volunteers from different countries. It was a rich experience of hospitality, especially being with and learning from the Malawian people," Sr Duignan said.

Subsequently she was elected to the congregation's leadership team, serving in that role for 12 years. It brought her in contact with sisters at home and abroad, "seeing first hand our healing charism unfolding in different countries and cultures despite wars and difficult situations".

But that restless missionary spirit was always there. Sr Duignan spent six months learning Spanish in Mexico before going to Marcala, Honduras in 1998 in response to the devastation caused by Hurricane Mitch. She worked with the indigenous Lenca people who live in the mountainous area of the region for five years, mostly in health education and learning to make natural medicines with the them at their request.

In 2004, the congregation founded a second community in

Choloma in the north of Honduras – where most of the people are migrants who came to find work in the factories – this is where she remains.

Sr Duignan said: "We are living in one of the most violent areas of the world. Many people are living in extreme poverty with poor infrastructure, lacking employment and caught up in the drug scene and organised crime.

“We do have to highlight that there are Irish people still on mission overseas doing very difficult work, very dangerous work”

"Many young people are losing their lives in the process," she says.

It's a dim picture, but the sisters remain a constant presence. "The breakdown in family life is a contributing factor to so much domestic violence. We constructed a centre for integrated healthcare, 'Casa Visitation' and from this centre our priority is health and human rights education, as well as some curative and complimentary therapies," Sr Duignan explains to *The Irish Catholic*.

Three years ago, a plan was put in place in which the Medical Mis-

sionaries of Mary would withdraw from Honduras and hand over the work to the diocese, but then Covid-19 happened and Sr Duignan says "many things have changed due to the pandemic".

"Last year was extremely difficult with many infections and deaths and in November 2020. The two hurricanes, Iota and Eta in quick succession caused much devastation. The caravans of people continue to leave on a hazardous journey hoping for a better life in the USA, many do arrive and many are also deported."

Sr Duignan says that as she readies to leave Honduras in mid-December after 23 years of a "wonderful adventure", she gives "thanks to God, to my MMM

sisters, our staff, our benefactors, church groups, those we have served and many companions along the way who have accompanied me on this journey. These people I have been privileged to serve have touched my heart with their life stories, every day I learned something new which taught me humility, to keep a balance, have a sense of humour and above all trust in God".

Dangerous work

While they naturally shun the limelight, the stories of missionaries such as Fr McGillicuddy and Sr Duignan make Irish people "very proud" of that tradition according to Julieann Moran of Missio



Julieann Moran of
Missio Ireland.

“We are living in one of the most violent areas of the world. Many people are living in extreme poverty with poor infrastructure, lacking employment and caught up in the drug scene and organised crime”

Ireland.

"We do have to highlight that there are Irish people still on mission overseas doing very difficult work, very dangerous work," she says.

Missio Ireland is the Irish branch of the Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS), the Pope's official charity for overseas mission which has been coordinating and collecting funds for different mission diocese and parishes around the world for decades. Previously known as World Missions Ireland, it had the official rebranding launch on Monday.

Explaining the reason for the change, Ms Moran says: "We are part of a much larger global network of charities. We're actually in 120 countries around the world and a lot of them have changed their name to 'Missio' and for us to honour that union with the other charities and the collaboration between all of the offices we decided to harness the energy of the Missio family".

Gearing up for World Missions Sunday this weekend, Ms Moran says the charity have produced a video which involves 20 international offices, 50 missionaries in 50 different countries speaking about 25 languages which will be shown before the Mass broadcast on RTÉ.

Ms Moran is involved mainly in the evangelisation and education component of the agency, with the Children's Day of Mission Prayer - which took place on Friday, October 8 - being an important aspect of Mission Month. It aims to encourage young people to pray for children around the world, particularly in developing countries.

“Pope Francis consistently speaks about the fact that missionary outreach needs to be the model of all of the Church's activity”

The resources provided were being used "up and down the length and breadth of the country", Ms Moran says. It includes an activity calendar for each day of October for children to take part in an act of kindness for children who are struggling in challenging parts of the planet.

Speaking of the changing idea of mission, Ms Moran says: "I think in Ireland we have such a long-standing tradition of Irish people going on mission. The face of mission has changed, and maybe that message isn't as loud as it could be - that today we have African missionaries on mission in Europe, America or Asia, and we have Asian missionaries on mission in

Africa or Europe or America.

"That sense that this is something that nearly only Irish people did, that's changed. I think there was a time in Ireland that everybody was related to a nun or a priest or a lay missionary that was out on mission somewhere," she says.

"Pope Francis consistently speaks about the fact that missionary outreach needs to be the model of all of the Church's activity. I think that we need to join the dots a little bit and make that connection - that mission at home and mission overseas is all still part of the one same mission.

"There are separate components to how we are in ministry or on mission depending on whether we're here at home in a parish or school in Ireland, or whether we're overseas working with another community. It is still the one mission given to us by God," she says.

Generosity

Covid-19 has taken a toll on many parishes worldwide which led to Pope Francis announcing an emergency fund in April 2020. Ms Moran says: "we were really surprised in one way and delighted with the generosity here in Ireland because we were in full lockdown at that time and Irish Catholics still managed to help us raise more than €1.1 million on Mission Sunday, and nearly a quarter of a million towards the Holy Father's Covid-19 emergency fund, it was extraordinary".

The fund supported more than 250 projects in 41 different countries.

Next year, it will have been 400 years since the founding of the Congregation for the Evangelisation of Peoples and 200 years since the establishment of the Propagation of the Faith. Missio Ireland has big plans to be part of those celebrations which will also see the centenary of the Society for St Peter the Apostle, which fundraises for the training of clergy and religious in mission countries.

A central part of the universal celebration will be the beatification of the founder of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith Pauline Jaricot, who will be declared blessed in May.

With much to celebrate, Ms Moran adds that the true heroes are the missionaries who continue to spread the Gospel message. "We can't let their experiences and their stories die with them when they have departed.

"We need to do a body of work as a country, even just for social or historical reasons, to collect up their stories because the contribution they have made globally, it's just extraordinary," she says.

Capuchin Overseas Missions

SOUTH AFRICAN MISSION

**Brother Sean Cahill
OFM Cap**

Three Irish Capuchins arrived in Cape Town in October 1929 at the invitation of Bishop Bernard O'Riley. They began their pastoral work on the so-called 'Çape Flats', a vast area of sand and bush stretching out from Table Mountain and home to mostly very poor people. The three missionaries were later joined by more of their Irish confreres. They extended their pastoral presence to ten vibrant parish communities in what later became the Archdiocese of Cape Town.

In February 1974 the Capuchins began accepting local vocations. About this time the Capuchins moved into the KwaZuluNatal Province. In 1997 the Vice-Province took over two parishes in Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth) and in 2000 opened a retreat/spirituality centre in Pretoria. In 2010 the Vice-Province was entrusted with a large pastoral area known as Siyabuswa in the northern Limpopo Province. Our presence was further extended to two parishes near the city of Durban in 2016.

We cannot speak about South Africa without mentioning the long years of Apartheid endured by the black majority. The 1950's saw the start of the implementation of the apartheid policy. Segregation became the law and created great problems for the Church. The friars together with the people experienced the pain of those dark years. As Franciscans we believed that our presence could, in some little way at least, bring about the reconciliation and peace most people prayed for. April 1994 saw the sun rising over the 'New South Africa' with its first fully democratic elections.

The covid-19 pandemic, with its first lockdown beginning March 2020, has only compounded the many other political, economic and social challenges facing South Africa today.

We Capuchins follow the rule of St Francis and live in fraternity with our brothers. Today our Vice-Province is comprised of South African, Indian, Tanzanian and Irish friars: a multi-cultural community in a country of many diverse cultures.



Celebrating 90 years in South Africa with the Archbishop of Cape Town, his grace, Stephen Brislin (centre right) and Auxiliary Bishop of Cape Town, Sylvester David (centre left).

On a personal note, the past 48 years living as a Capuchin Franciscan in South Africa have been years of great joy and happiness. No one, of course, is exempt from the crosses and challenges of life. But through them all the promise God made in the prophet Nehemiah (8: 10), the "joy of the Lord is your strength" has been fulfilled.

CAPUCHIN MISSION TO ZAMBIA - BEGINNINGS



Foundations for Church at Chavuma Mission.

**Brother Noel Brennan
OFM Cap**

In his message for Mission Sunday 2021, Pope Francis says this is an opportunity to "recall with gratitude all those men and women who by their testimony of life help us to renew our baptismal commitment to be generous and joyful apostles of the Gospel. Let us remember especially all those who resolutely set out, leaving home and family behind, to bring the Gospel to all those places and people athirst for its saving message."

This year, 2021, is a special one for the Capuchins of the Irish Province. It marks the 90th anniversary of the arrival in Livingstone, Zambia (formerly Northern Rhodesia) of the first group of friars who "left home and family behind

to bring the gospel" to the western part of Zambia.

They established their residence in the town of Livingstone and their area of work was one and a half times the size of Ireland. In 1950 Timothy Phelim O'Shea was appointed bishop of the Diocese of Livingstone.

From that core group in 1931 to the present day, a total of one hundred friars of the Irish province heard the call to mission and gave of their time and energy in the work of building the Church. Many ended their days and were buried in Zambia, from the young Gerard Joyce (from Urlingford, Co. Kilkenny) who died in 1944 at the age of 38, to the more senior in age, Donatus McNamara (from Glin, Co. Limerick), who died in July this year at the age of 90. The latter spent the last ten years of his life in the

vital ministry of religious formation, at the Capuchin Novitiate on the outskirts of the capital, Lusaka.

In November this year the Capuchin friars of Zambia will hold their 3-yearly Chapter in Lusaka. They will give thanks for the blessings of the past ninety years. They will elect a new leadership team and plan together for their life and ministries in the years to come. As many as forty finally professed Zambian friars will be in attendance, an indication of the growth that has taken place in the Capuchin Order in Zambia. On Mission Sunday our prayer should be that the Zambian Church, in its turn, will hear the call "to bring the Gospel to all those places and people athirst for its saving message" (Pope Francis).

FRIARS OF SOUTH KOREA

**Brother Pat Keller
OFM Cap**

The Church in Korea was founded by lay people. In 1783 a young Korean scholar, Yi Seung-hun, spent a couple of months in Beijing as a member of a diplomatic mission to the Chinese Imperial Court. During his stay he met Jesuit missionaries and obtained catechisms and devotional books from them. He smuggled the texts into Korea and began to study them with a trusted group of fellow scholars. The following year he managed to get to Beijing again. He received baptism taking the name Peter and on his return to Seoul he baptized his study group members. The Church began to grow. Eventually they were discovered by the civil authorities and were branded as dangerous subversives. An attempt was made to exterminate them but the blood of martyrs became the seed of Christians. Over the next 90 years the Catholic faithful endured wave after wave of persecution. It is estimated that over ten thousand lay men and women were martyred.

In July 1986 four Irish Capuchins arrived in Seoul. The local Church was bask-



Korean friars celebrating the feast of St Francis, October 4th.

ing in the afterglow of the canonizations of the Korean martyrs. The seminaries were full, there were thousands of people preparing for baptism. We were warmly greeted by Cardinal Kim who confessed a soft spot for the Capuchins from his days as a poor clerical student in Germany in the mid 50's. The local friars had insisted that he take lunch with them every day.

Thirty-five years have elapsed. Some 40% of the 20 to 35 age group are electing not to marry or have children. They want to spend their hard-earned salaries on themselves. Korea has the lowest birth-rate in the world. Covid 19 has devastated small businesses and the tourist industry.

Church life has been severely curtailed for almost two years. When restrictions were eased a little in early summer it was remarkable that many of the daily Mass attendees did not turn up. If things ever get back to normal it will be interesting to see how much has changed. Over the past five years vocation numbers have plummeted. Currently there are 20 Capuchins in Korea. Our main ministry is Sacramental Confession service but that has fallen victim to social distancing regulations. Some friars volunteer with Church and Local Government social services. We continue to be optimistic and to proclaim the Word of God through our daily contacts with the people.

A Life of Mission is a Life of Love

“Mission is never the fruit of a perfectly planned program or a well-organized manual. Mission is always the fruit of a life which knows what it is to be found and healed, encountered and forgiven. Mission is born of a constant experience of God’s merciful anointing.” ~ Pope Francis

Michelle Robertson

Publishing a book at age 90!

Sr Eithne McDevitt is an unassuming woman, with a pin sharp attention to detail and a warm and welcoming countenance. I first had the privilege of meeting her in 2018 when I began working for the Sisters of Our Lady of Apostles and, spending some time with her one afternoon as I was getting to know my way around, I was both humbled and fascinated by her rich recollections of missionary life. I am delighted that she has put those layered and wonderfully textured experiences to paper to share with the world.

The Uncharted Road was published a few months ago and spans nine decades. It is as much a history of mission as a memoir of Eithne’s life.

It tells the story of a young woman born in Limerick in 1931, in a world that was very different to the one we inhabit today, and setting sail from Cork to the African continent in 1956 at the age of 25. The Ireland she left behind and the Africa she emerged herself in were very different places some seventy odd years ago.

Writing of her journey, she paints a picture of excitement and hope:

“And so on 19 September, Catherine O’Farrell and I boarded the Inishfallen and sailed down the Lee on our way to mission in Nigeria. At that time, the boats for England and probably other places, left from the city and passed down the River Lee below Ardfoyle. Habitually, when Sisters were travelling and the boat sounded the three hoots that signalled its departure, those in Ardfoyle hurried to the upstairs windows and waved sheets and towels to say a last goodbye. There were fewer trees then and no bushy ones along the glen wall, so the river was clearly visible. In our particular case the novices were permitted to line the lower wall of the glen which was even nearer the river.”



Sr Eithne McDevitt sharing a laugh at her Diamond Jubilee celebration.



Sr Eithne McDevitt

Sr Eithne is a gifted storyteller, both in the written word and the spoken. Her students over the years recount her teaching style as “immersive” and this is one of the many gifts she brought to mission.

“I don’t know what all the fuss is about,” she said when I meet with her on Zoom to talk about her book. “Why would anyone want to read it,” she continued, insisting with a smile that she only wrote an account of her life for the OLA archives. She was later persuaded by OLA Provincial Leader, Kathleen McGarvey, to turn it into a book, however she remains sceptical that anybody would want to read it.

“Sr Eithne is a gifted storyteller, both in the written word and the spoken”

Talking about the process of writing, she said that she really enjoyed the experience as it opened up a space that enabled her to relive the different events and many encounters of her life. She confessed that she found the writing of her story to be therapeutic. “Of course there are many omissions,” she said, laughing softly. I assured her that that is to be expected when one tries to encapsulate ninety years into 106 pages!

Eithne shared that there were many lessons to be learned, and indeed she is still learning. The writing of her story made her acutely aware of her failures and omissions. She explained further, saying that while she had very strong relationships with members of the laity over the years, in retrospect, she would have liked to involve them more in her work.

She shared that one of her biggest regrets was that she had not gained fluency in

any of the languages, but conceded that she did what she could at the time.

“When I entered into religious life, I learned to appreciate the fact that the mission that I had expected would have to be lived in religious life. That it wasn’t the centre, it wasn’t the real cause of my entering. I thought it was of course,” she said with a chuckle, “I learned that it was for Christ, and that my mission would follow from that.”

God’s story is one of love

Our stories are inextricably linked to mission, for which we are all called. Whether that calling is to enter into Religious life or live our mission as lay people. We weave God’s story with our own and the result is transformational. This layering and weaving of God’s story with our own life stories changes who we are and how we live or lives.

Mission is not about imposing upon, but rather living within our principles, and leading with the example of our own lives. It is telling God’s story, which in essence is love, through our actions and interactions with all living creatures, and also with the earth. *The overflowing of God’s love, through us, is mission.*

If we allow God’s story, God’s love, to shape us, we cannot help but be missionary. The embodied love of God will naturally spill forth, forever changing how we love, how we serve and how we show up in the world.

Mission is a profound journey. It is both simple, in that the requirement is simple obedience to God’s call, and complex, in that it can involve either great adventure into an unknown world, or remaining exactly where we are in the mundanity of the reality we inhabit. What is certain is that answering the call will inevitably and irrevocably change us, from the inside.

In closing Sr Eithne shared the following words for young people, “Young people today are so different. They have different values and a different culture altogether from what we had. I would certainly encourage them to answer if they felt that God was really calling them. They would find great fulfilment and happiness in answering the call.”

“I thank God for the gift of life, for the little good I may have done by His grace, and I leave my many failures to His mercy.” ~ Eithne McDevitt OLA

If you would like a copy of Sr Eithne McDevitt’s book, please contact communications@olaireland.ie

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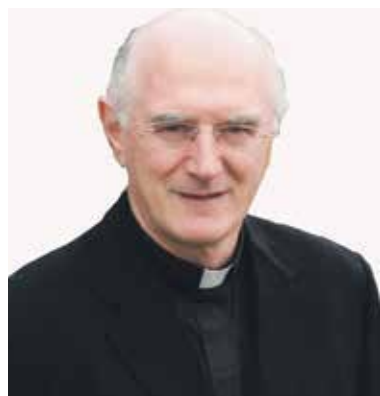
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Archbishop Dermot Farrell
Archbishop of Dublin



In another age, 'mission' was understood as going abroad to countries where the Church was not yet strong, or to places where people suffered from poverty and conflict. Others saw mission as a task, a job entrusted to some but not to themselves. While mission always had outreach to the other at its core, both personally and communally, the Holy Spirit has led the Church to appreciate and make present other vital dimensions to the life of faith. Every baptised person is called to remember: 'I am a mission, always; you are a mission, always; every baptised man and woman is a mission.' These words of Pope Francis are challenging but true. He sums them up as an urgent need to call forth missionary disciples ready to evangelise the world and to enter dialogue with contemporary culture.

“Every baptised person is called to remember: ‘I am a mission, always’”

Mission is at the heart of the Christian life, and the Church from the outset is indelibly marked for mission. Jesus' final words to his disciples were 'Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations (Matt 28:19).' The role of the Holy Spirit in this commissioning is very significant (see Jn 14:16-17; 16:7 and 20:22). Earlier this year, Pope Francis reminded the Pontifical Mission Societies that mission 'is the work of the Holy Spirit and not the consequence of our ideas and projects.' The Spirit poured out by the risen Jesus empowers and directs the outward mission and all its journeys, but there is also an inner journey to the heart, which every believer makes. In *The Go-Between God*, the late Bishop John V. Taylor said, 'to engage in the mission of God, therefore, is to live the life of prayer; prayer without ceasing, as St Paul puts it, that is to say, sustaining a life that is focussed on God. This is indeed to engage in the mission of the Holy Spirit by being rather than doing. To realise that the heart of mission is communion with God in the midst of the world's life will save us from the demented activism of these days.'

Solidarity

The focus on mission during the month of October and on World Mission Sunday reminds us of our



Rahila and her daughter Peace

We cannot remain silent

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responsibility to witness the life of Christ, with its good news and its hope, to the peoples of the world. Witness, as effective proclamation of the Gospel can only be '*verbis et exemplo* and entails the building up of the entire ecclesial community in fraternal unity and missionary discipleship (Pope Francis, 24th May 2021).'

“In solidarity we must have concern for the younger, poorer churches until they are able to be self-sufficient”

For ourselves, we cannot have encountered Jesus and remain concerned only with our own issues. In

solidarity we must have concern for the younger, poorer churches until they are able to be self-sufficient. As Pope Benedict XVI underlined, 'in no way can the Church restrict her pastoral work to the "ordinary maintenance" of those who already know the Gospel of Christ. Missionary outreach is a clear sign of the maturity of an ecclesial community (*Verbum Domini*, 95).'

There are profound reasons for this. Addressing the Amazon Synod Pope Francis said, 'the Church is always on the move, always going out and never withdrawn into itself. Jesus did not come to bring a gentle evening breeze, but to light a fire on the earth.'

Gratitude

World Mission Sunday presents us with an opportunity to express our gratitude for the contribution we, as Irish people, have made to the mission of the Church to spread the

Gospel of Christ in different parts of the globe. We remember and give thanks for the courage, the enthusiasm, and the generosity of so many people who have given their lives to the spread of the Gospel. They help bring the message of Christ to the peoples of the world.

As Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelisation of Peoples, Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle shared that in Africa alone, with a population of 1.3 billion people across 54 countries, 'more than 74,000 religious sisters and over 46,000 priests are operating 7,274 hospitals and clinics, staffing 2,346 homes for the elderly and vulnerable and educating over 19 million children in 45,088 primary schools.' In many rural areas they are the only providers of healthcare and education.

Although 19.4% of Africans are Catholic, the Church reaches out to all people in need across the

continent, not just Church members. Likewise in Asia, a continent with a population of 4.6 billion people, of whom 3.3% are Catholic, the Church provides healthcare, charity assistance, and education to people of all faiths and none.

“Other words for love are compassion, concern and solidarity which are all hallmarks of the Christian life”

The Scriptures introduce us to the heart of God, that 'God is love' (Jn 1:4-8). Other words for love are compassion, concern, and solidarity, which are hallmarks of the Christian life. I hope World Mission Sunday will deepen our understanding of what it means to be called as missionary disciples today.

On behalf on myself, Missio Ireland and the thousands of missionaries serving across the world, thank you for supporting World Mission Sunday in whatever way you can.

“The Church is always on the move, always going out and never withdrawn into itself. Jesus did not come to bring a gentle evening breeze, but to light a fire on the earth”

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

October 2021

A day to remember all those who left Irish shores to bring the Good News of God's love to people in faraway lands



Sister Kathleen McGarvey
OLA Provincial

World Mission Sunday is a day for Catholics worldwide to recommit themselves to the universal mission of the Church through prayer and sacrifice.

In his message for World Mission Sunday, Pope Francis invites us to recall with gratitude all those men and women who by their testimony of life help us to renew our baptismal commitment, to be generous and joyful apostles of the Gospel.

For us in Ireland, this is a day to remember all those who left Irish shores to bring the Good News of God's love to people in faraway lands. Many of these died young. There are few Irish families who do, or did not have a missionary priest, religious or lay person among their members.

These missionaries knew that no matter what the sacrifice involved, they could not but speak of the great love of God which they themselves had seen and heard. They gave their lives to proclaim through word and

action the Good News of God's reign of peace, justice, and right relations to peoples everywhere. Irish missionaries abroad are fewer in number nowadays, but this work continues, and it is helped through the prayer and support of each one of us.

The World Mission Sunday collection takes place in every Catholic Church throughout the world, and is sent to the Pope's Universal Solidarity Fund. This fund supports missionary activity in over 1,100 dioceses, mostly in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Many of which are places ravaged by poverty, conflict, and insecurity. The fund builds schools, hospitals, churches; trains seminarians, religious, and catechists and supports programmes for the spiritual and physical wellbeing of men,

women, and children in diverse situations of need, serving people of all faiths and none.

This World Mission Sunday we are encouraged to deepen our personal encounter with the Lord who calls and loves us, and to reflect on our own personal contribution to sharing the Good News. We are invited to remember the needs of the universal Church in our prayer, to pray for missionaries and an increase in missionary vocations, and to reach out with greater love, generosity, and courage to those on the peripheries of our family, our church, our society, and our world today.

May the compassionate love of God touch our hearts and make us all true missionary disciples. Thank you for your prayers and generosity.



What is the World Mission Sunday Appeal?

World Mission Sunday is the Holy Father's annual appeal so that the work of overseas mission can continue. It is a moment of universal solidarity when each member of the Church family, regardless of location or background, can do their part in supporting and celebrating the impact of overseas missionaries.

It is more than an appeal for financial help. Missionaries also need spiritual support. Being on mission can be incredibly isolating, intimidating and at times dangerous. On World Mission Sunday, missionaries can take great strength in knowing that the faithful of the world are keeping them in their thoughts and prayers.

Why is it important?

All offerings and donations made for World Mission Sunday become part of the Holy Father's Universal

Solidarity Fund. The Fund is essential, not only for missionaries, but for the future of the Church.

It supports missionary activities in over 1,100 mission dioceses, mostly across Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Often these dioceses are found in remote areas devastated by war and natural disasters, or where suppressed communities are just opening up to the life-saving message of Jesus Christ. As dioceses grow, so do their needs. World Mission Sunday helps missionaries share the tools and skills these communities need to develop and thrive.

What does it support?

The spiritual and financial support shown on World Mission Sunday plays an enormous part in giving missionaries courage, so that they can keep loving, serving, and sharing God's peace with others.

Missionaries like Sister Veronica Onyeansi, a Missionary Sister

of Our Lady of Apostles (OLA), and people like Rahila Goodwin, both of who are the faces of the World Mission Sunday appeal.

After a horrific attack on her village, Rahila was left with physical and emotional injuries that will last a lifetime. She sought help from Sister Veronica who is involved with the 'Mothers for Peace' initiative in Kaduna, Nigeria. 'Mothers for Peace' provides practical and psychological support for victims of inter-religious conflict.

Rahila is just one of endless others who are suffering because of religious intolerance. Thankfully, missionaries like Sister Veronica mean they have somewhere to turn.

Where do World Mission Sunday Mass collections happen?

Many are surprised to learn that World Mission Sunday collections take place in every parish where

the Church is present. This includes Ireland and across Europe, but also in poorer parishes in the developing world. This is why it is such a special celebration – it allows every member of the Church family, regardless of location or background, play their part in supporting each other.

Who organises World Mission Sunday?

Missio Ireland coordinates and organises World Mission Sunday. As the Irish branch of The Pontifical Mission Societies, it is the Holy Father's official charity for overseas mission. Missio Ireland is part of a global network, serving the Church in over 120 countries.

Through the kindness and generosity of the Irish faithful, it strives to help the Church share the joy of the Gospel, through the actions of missionaries in some of the most remote corners of the world.

When is World Mission Sunday?

World Mission Sunday always falls on the second last Sunday in October, meaning this year it will be celebrated over the weekend of Sunday 24th.

Its theme 'We Cannot Remain Silent – We cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard (Acts 4:20)' is twofold. It is a message of hope – Jesus Christ is risen and we cannot keep his love, compassion and mercy to ourselves. It also challenges us to stand up and speak on behalf of those whose voices are too small to be heard. We all have the potential to be champions for those who are weaker. For victims like Rahila, we cannot remain silent.

How can you help?

World Mission Sunday is more than an appeal for financial support. If you are not in a position

to give financially, you can still help by keeping missionaries in your thoughts and prayers and by remembering, 'I am mission; always.'

To donate go to www.missio.ie or call 01 497 2035. To help further, Missio Ireland has provided parishes across Ireland with World Mission Sunday envelopes. These envelopes can be returned directly to your parish.



Please support overseas missionaries serving around the world today

Phone Fiona:
01 497 2035

Visit: www.missio.ie

MISSIO
IRELAND

Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Beatification of Blessed Edmund Ignatius Rice



marked with the unveiling of a statue of Edmund Rice within the grounds of the Presentation Brothers' Formation House in Glasthule, Dublin. The blessing ceremony was attended by the local Christian Brothers and the Parishioners of St. Joseph's Parish, Glasthule.

On 6th October 2021, the Congregations of the Presentation Brothers and the Christian Brothers along with the Presentation Family and the Edmund Rice Network celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the Beatification of Blessed Edmund Ignatius Rice. The occasion was

“Inspired by the spirit of Edmund so alive today,
We as Brothers, friends and colleagues
Dedicate ourselves to work together in our continuing mission
To tell the story of Edmund, to share his vision
And to nurture the response in those who are moved by his example.”



Friends of the Brothers at Br Simon's Renewal of Vows.



Statue of Blessed Edmund Rice, Glasthule, Dublin.



Presentation Brothers and Christian Brothers, with Fr O'Sullivan.



Presentation Brothers Profess First Vows in Ghana.



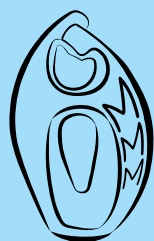
Four Presentation Brothers Postulants begin their formation.



Parishioners of the St Joseph's Parish Glasthule.

If you are interested in having a chat or in finding out more about Religious Life and the Presentation Brothers, you are very welcome to contact: Br. Barry Noel, Vocation Director for the Presentation Brothers:
(+353)087 7519794 | barrynoel@presentationbrothers.org

MEDICAL MISSIONARIES of MARY



MMM

Rooted and Founded in Love

Responding to the Signs of the Times

The Medical Missionaries of Mary are an international congregation of women religious. We serve in 12 countries around the world.

Sisters come from 19 countries and are trained in a variety of health-related professions. We go to peoples of different cultures where human needs are greatest. Our special concern is the care of mother and child and the fostering of family life.

“The pandemic has shown us that we cannot live without one another. [MMMs are committed to] the future of our common home and our common project”
(Pope Francis).

“And he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal”
(Lk 9:2).

MMM Associates are men and women who feel called to embrace the charism and mission of the Medical Missionaries of Mary. They continue their own lifestyles and work and some participate more directly in our ministries. There are more than 140 Associates in 15 countries.



Checking temperatures at a clinic in Nigeria



MMMs who completed a BSc in nursing (Hons) from University College Cork in 2021

To find out more about the work of the Medical Missionaries of Mary come visit us at:

www.mmmworldwide.org



Health workers raise awareness about trafficking in Tanzania.



An MMM supports young people affected by COVID-19 in Brazil.

“Being the Heart of God, in the heart of the Brazilian Amazon”



Luis Carlos Araujo Moraes MSC, a member of the Brazilian Province of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart shares his experience as a missionary working in the Amazon region

The Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (MSC) in Brazil work in parishes on the outskirts of large cities. They attend to the human needs of people, especially the poorest, giving rise to the most diverse humanitarian services: Schools; health care for the poorest; care for abandoned children and adolescents, care for people with chemical dependency; psychological care, solidarity service for the hungry, support for institutions that work with homeless people, etc. All these activities are carried out in partnership with lay people and professionals from the most diverse areas.

In 1998, moved by the desire to be the presence of the human Heart of God, the MSC took on a challenging mission in the northern State of Amazonas, in the heart of the Brazilian Amazon Forest. The Brazilian Amazon Region is almost another



Luis Carlos visiting a community.

country, with its own characteristics. This demands from the missionaries a deep process of enculturation, of detachment, respect and acceptance of the various indigenous ethnic groups and their languages, as well as their local culture.

We work in the city of São Gabriel da Cachoeira within the Diocese of São Gabriel da Cachoeira, in the State of Amazonas which has a population of 91,148,000, of which 89.3% are Catholic. In this city, nine out of ten inhabitants are indigenous, it being the municipality with the highest predominance of indigenous people in Brazil. Throughout the diocese, there are more than 20 indigenous ethnic groups, with their own languages and cultures. In addition to the Portuguese language, there are 4 official indigenous languages: Tukano, Baniwa, Nhegatu and Yanomami. Evangelizing, respecting all this cultural and linguistic diversity is a great challenge!

Another major challenge is the geographical distances between com-

munities. To reach these communities the only means of transport are small boats which means these visits take place less frequently than desired. We make four visits a year. These communities are no longer completely isolated from urban life. However, many indigenous people speak the languages of their ethnic groups as well as Portuguese.

Challenge

Cultural shock is also a challenge: how to keep the original cultures, with their traditions, customs, and values, in the face of the Western culture, experienced in cities? The tendency is to lose one's own identity, in order to be able to insert oneself into the global culture. It is worth mentioning that the original process of evangelization of indigenous people, prohibited the experience of local culture with their customs. Today, the Church seeks to rescue, the culture of indigenous people, which has been practically destroyed by herself.

And finally, there is a lack of vocations and missionaries willing to come to work in this region of Brazil. There are few native priests. Most priests in the diocese come from other regions of Brazil and here they remain only for a period.

After more than 6 months on this mission **my eyes have seen**, on the one hand, the abundance of the wonders of God, present in the indescribable beauty of forests and rivers, as well as the different indigenous ethnic groups. On the other hand, I have seen sad smiles which hid deep sufferings. I have seen misery and abandonment of the elderly. I have seen and continue to see men and women lying on the corners, as a result of the high rate of alcoholism, which is destroying families and causing domestic violence, especially against women and the elderly.

“I dream of an Amazon that fights for the rights of the poorest, of the native peoples, of the latter, so that their voice may be heard and that their dignity may be promoted”

I've heard the laments of the people, who forced to leave their homes are thrown into an urban life style, out of their native environment, their mother tongues, and are now living in a city system that exploits them and leaves them with no possibility of developing, because it treats them as “easy prey”, for greedy investments, especially the sale of alcoholic beverages. I also heard reports of violence and sexual exploitation of women, especially adolescents.

Faced with all this, I feel sadness, impotence and indignation, to see how the colonial and consumerist mentality from the outside, marginalizes and enslaves those who had lived in harmony with nature. On the other hand, I continue to feel the joy, of being able to come into con-

tact with the beauty and richness of ethnic groups, with their various languages, their cultures, their food customs and their simple and detached way of living; I feel compassion and mercy and a strong appeal to personal conversion.

Synod

After the Synod of the Amazon Pope Francis wrote:

“I dream of an Amazon that fights for the rights of the poorest, of the native peoples, of the latter, so that their voice may be heard and that their dignity may be promoted. I dream of an Amazon that preserves the cultural richness that characterizes it and in which human beauty shines so differently. I dream of an Amazon that zealously safeguards the seductive natural beauty that adorns it, the overflowing life that fills its rivers and forests. I dream of Christian communities capable of devoting themselves and incarnating themselves in the Amazon, to the point that they give the Church new faces with Amazonian traits” (Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation – Dear Amazonia, n. 7).

You may ask yourselves: What do the MSC accomplish in this Amazon mission? We do our best to “Be the presence of God” who loved humankind with a human heart. Whenever we can do nothing to change the reality, let us be present!

May the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart be the presence of tenderness, compassion, and meekness of the Heart of God for the Amazonian people!

“Beloved be everywhere the Sacred Heart of Jesus, forever!”

Luis Carlos Araujo Moraes, MSC.
São Gabriel da Cachoeira,
Amazonas, Brazil.
August 19th, 2021.



Luis Carlos preparing to go up river.

The durability of the Irish missionary model



Misean Cara's CEO tells Ruadhán Jones about the unique role missionaries play in the developing world

In Ireland, people outside the Church sometimes think that it's a spent force. However, you don't have to look too far to see this isn't the case. The model of service and charity offered by the Irish missionaries is one that John Moffett, CEO of Misean Cara, believes is still "unique and special", giving "personal witness" to their Faith and their dedication.

Misean Cara, which means 'friends of missions', is a faith-based organisation that supports 88 Irish missionary organisations, channeling funds from the Government's Irish Aid programme and private donors to missionaries in more than 50 countries worldwide.

“There's also the element of the personal witness, to be there and live with people in a way that is adapting to the culture and society they operate in”

“We have a way of encapsulating the way we see missionaries carrying out development work in a way that's unique and special,” Mr Moffett begins. “There's a number of points or elements to that. One is that our members, the missionaries from Ireland, will stay long-term in the countries where they operate. They really get to know the people and the community they're working with.”

Another great strength of missionary organisations is that “they're able to mobilise resources due to their ability to cross boundaries”, he continues. “After moving from Ireland, to spend their entire life and career in maybe somewhere in Africa, say Zambia or Malawi, they're able to work collectively with their congregations back in Ireland and across other parts of the globe, to bring the best experience and the best resources available to help develop the schools they're working with. That's really important to them.”

“There's also the element of the personal witness, to be there and live with people in a way that is adapting to the culture and society they operate



Sr Rosemary Oduol (centre) of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters for Africa with a group of children in the diocese of Wau, South Sudan.

in. They show their Faith and demonstrate their experience through living with the communities and the people they're working with on a day-to-day basis.”

All of this helps Irish missionaries to “build trust, to build community, to build respect”, Mr Moffett asserts. Highlighting one of the major challenges developing nations are facing after the pandemic – restoring disrupted education – he says that “it's important that they have that respect built within communities”.

Conversations

Because of this, they are “able to encourage parents to be able to send their children [to school], being able to have those conversations, difficult conversations particularly around encouraging parents to send girl children to school, especially if money is tight in the family or the family just don't see the value of sending girls to school”.

The Covid-19 pandemic continues to hang like a black cloud over the missionaries and their communities, as vaccination rates are much slower in the developing world, Mr Moffett says.

“I think our missionaries have pretty much just been continuing to plug away while Covid is ongoing,” Mr Moffett points out. “They've remained in the countries where they're working, they've continued to provide services or adapt their projects as well as possible.”

As the pandemic slowly winds down, the missionaries' focus can return to other areas in need of development. One of these, which Misean Cara's members are working actively on, is youth employment. With a rapidly increasing youth population in the developing world, the need to find them jobs is constantly increasing.

“Many of our members are actively working with young people,” Mr Moffett explains. “Especially in Africa we have a rapidly growing youth popula-

tion, which are suffering from the dual challenges of not having sufficient skills and training to find jobs. And then on the second hand, there's been a severe lack of employment opportunities available for them.

“We have members who are working to address both of those challenges, both by providing training skills for young people to enable them to access and find a decent job that will pay a living wage. And then working outside the training colleges to find them opportunities to apprentice and get that first rung in the ladder of professional development to get a job basically, to get started.

“An example of the work carried out by a Misean Cara member is work done by the Franciscan Missionary Sisters for Africa in South Sudan”

“It's really important to be able to do that, there is a unique role for our missionaries again because of this missionary approach to development that they enshrine in their work, to navigate those pathways from training through to employment and help young people to find their way into decent jobs.”

An example of the work carried out by a Misean Cara member is work done by the Franciscan Missionary Sisters for Africa in South Sudan. Sr Rosemary Oduol, a member of the FMSA's leadership team in Dublin, assists the congregation's missionary development officers and tells me about the projects funded by Misean Cara that they manage.

“Each country's needs are more or less the same, but they have their unique aspects,” Sr Rosemary begins. “South Sudan has been through a lot of war for a long time, and then also



Sr Rosemary FMSA (centre left) in South Sudan with a team from a hospital in the region.

Covid came. People are not settled, they have been displaced so many times, the girl child is always the most disadvantaged.

“But the boy-child also, they always went to the war as early as 13 or even younger. Again, they need a lot of education support, plus rehabilitating. Because, having gone through prolonged periods of war and conflict is a very traumatising experience, both for the boy-child and the girl-child.”

Education

In supporting education, Sr Rosemary stresses, it's not just about buildings and student numbers – “education is key to everything”.

“If we want to even begin to influence some change within the society, education is very, very important,” she continues. “When we talk of supporting education it's really sensitising the community to embrace education, to allow their children to go to school, dialoguing with the community to allow girls go to school.”

“You have to consider the situation, the worldview of the people you are dealing with. With the displacement and the conflicts and now Covid, it's very easy for any commu-

nity to think, life is short. To make use of it is to marry your daughter out immediately she's 13, 14, 15. You'll get some cows, which are paid for bride-price, and life continues.

“You work with the lawmakers, the chiefs, both traditional leaders and the government leaderships”

“To persuade and even to prove to the parents, you need to give girls a better future through education, is a very taxing reality. It involves a lot of strategies, you work with the girl, you do the counselling, you convince them – again you work with the parents, you convince them. You work with the lawmakers, the chiefs, both traditional leaders and the government leaderships.”

“In all these things, you are going against the current, trying to sell an idea that is not fully understood. That would be the work of our sisters in South Sudan and the mission we are supporting then,” Sr Rosemary finishes.



Irish Missionaries: Bearing Witness, Speaking Out and Transforming Lives.



Since 2004, Misean Cara has supported the work of Irish Missionaries around the world.



DAUGHTERS of CHARITY
IRISH PROVINCE

OVERSEAS MISSIONARY ACTIVITY



Who we are

The Daughters of Charity is an international Community founded by St. Vincent de Paul and St. Louise de Marillac in 1633 in Paris, France. Currently there are nearly 13,000 Sisters living and working in over 90 countries throughout the world.

In the spirit of their founders, the Sisters strive to make a difference to the lives of people who are poor, disadvantaged or discriminated against.

In partnership with others, they promote the human dignity, equality and acceptance of each person, respecting the richness and diversity of peoples' lives.



"It is because of your love, your love alone, that the poor will forgive you for the bread you give them"

St. Vincent de Paul

Where we are

The Daughters of Charity work in 21 African countries, 5 of which the Irish Province support, however this support can be extended to other regions during time of severe need such as natural disaster or tragedy. Irish sisters have worked in Nigeria and Ethiopia since the early 1960s. Now the Nigerian Province has branched out to Ghana and Burkina Faso, spreading the approach of the Daughters of Charity to these countries. The Daughters of Charity have been working in Kenya since 2002 and continue to develop projects for the poor and people living on the margins of society.



What we do

• Health Services

Primary health care; HIV/AIDS testing, treatment and counselling; DREAM (Drug Resource Enhancement Against AIDS and Malnutrition) a programme primarily for pregnant women to ensure their babies are born free from HIV; hospice care; leprosy and TB programmes.

• Nutrition Programmes

Provision of safe water and fresh milk for malnourished children.

• Education

Schools for disadvantaged children and for children with physical/intellectual disabilities; nurseries and preschools in rural areas.

• Empowerment Programmes

Training and education to enable people to become self-sufficient by developing kitchen gardens and learning sowing skills.

• Social Services

Caring for the homeless, street children, mentally ill and destitute people. Working with people suffering from substance abuse; welfare and empowerment of prisoners.

What you can do

• Volunteering

We offer short and long term overseas placements.

• Prayer

Everyone can pray, young and old, rich and poor, no matter where you live.

• Donations

You can make a general or a specific donation at www.daughtersofcharity.ie

We guarantee that every cent of your donation will go directly to those in need.

• Fundraising

By asking your friends and work colleagues to become involved in organising a small event such as a coffee morning, cake sale or even taking part in a marathon or sponsored run. We also welcome schools and organisations to adopt one of our projects.

• Legacies

Remembering our projects in your will.

To donate or place a standing order please use bank details below:

Daughters of Charity Province of Ireland Mission Development Account:

Bank of Ireland, Main Street, Blackrock, Co. Dublin.

Account Number: 47514842 Sort Code: 90 10 28

IBAN: IE38 BOFI 9010 2847 5148 42 BIC: BOFIE2D

Registered Charity No: CHY7137

For further information please contact:

Sr. Geraldine Henry, Mission Development Co-ordinator

Address: Daughters of Charity, St Catherine's Provincial House, Dunardagh, Temple Hill, Blackrock, Co Dublin.

Telephone: 00 353 1 288 2896 or 00 353 87 265 7614

Email: missiondevelopment@daughtersofcharity.ie

Website: www.daughtersofcharity.ie

Dream, service and fidelity with Mill Hill Missionaries



Fr Philip O'Halloran mhm

In 1984 when I was accepted as a Temporary member of the Mill Hill Missionaries, I was also accepted to follow a pastoral work programme and appointed to a parish run by one of our Dutch born missionaries in Kenya. I had begun my studies for the priesthood in 1980 with Mill Hill and while we had weekly pastoral work placements when in formation, this Pastoral placement was fulltime for two years which would involve language learning and then joining in the parish activities whatever they would be. So, in September 1984 I went to Nangina Parish and some of my classmates went to other parishes in Kenya.

Chapels

The Parish had about 60 "Chapels" which could be a chapel building, or a couple of big trees where there was shade from the sun or a classroom. There was an active Parish priest and an elderly semi-retired priest. But we had catechists. Our lead Catechist headed up a team of part-time men and women catechists, who prepared those for baptism, first communion and confirmation. These men and women also led prayer services in their Chapels as the priests could only reach two or three Chapels each Sunday. Some went as a chapel group to where mass was in the sub-parish and sang and danced their way: one chapel would be responsible to lead the singing and liturgy. Being human, a light competitive spirit was there, so it ensured there was very lively liturgies. So many people were involved in making the church a very lively and supportive place. Coming from Ireland it was an eyeopener! My class-mates who went to other parishes in Kenya had similar experiences of the vibrancy and life, some parishes not as well organised but full of enthusiasm and life.

Any doubts I may have had on becoming a missionary disappeared due to this two years' experience and I found great fulfilment and fully alive with the placement and way of life. I did struggle in 1986 when I had to bring closure to the placement and was not so keen to return to London to continue studies.

While we are known as the Mill Hill Missionaries our official title is Saint Joseph's Society for the Foreign Missions. When Pope Francis announced the Year of Saint Joseph in December 2020 it was quite a surprise. In one of his messages during

the Year of Saint Joseph, Pope Francis proposed that Saint Joseph has three key words for each one of us in living out our baptismal calling: "Dream, Service and Fidelity."

We all have dreams for fulfilment in life and dream of them. When I look at our own Mill Hill Missionaries, I see these three key words in action. Our founder Fr. (later Cardinal) Herbert Vaughan had his dream to lead people into faith. He called men to give themselves in loving service for others as missionaries spreading the Gospel overseas. For over 155 years our Mill Hill men and women have persevered in quietly serving God and his plans in fidelity to this call in imitating the example of St. Joseph.

Today this call is being responded to by the newer generations from Africa and Asia where the first European missionaries preached and baptised. The sons of those evangelised are among the 119 ordained young Mill Hill Missionaries, working outside of their own countries in young churches that we support through our fundraising today. We are happy to see the influence of St. Joseph the patron of our Society at work in their service.

Young Churches

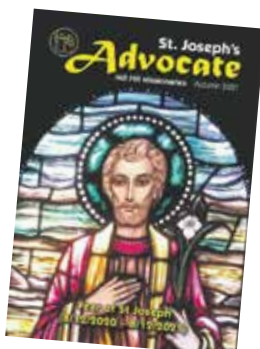
Our call today as Mill Hill Missionaries in Ireland is to promote and support the young Churches by encouraging people to respond by subscribing to our mission magazine St. Joseph's Advocate, which has been in circulation in Ireland for 87 years. This mission magazine in its own way has been highlighting the biblical theme: "We cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard" as it presents stories of present-day acts of our missionaries living their loving service as followers of Jesus in different parts of the world. While some of our Irish Mill Hill mem-

bers succumbed to the ravages of the pandemic, we saw our younger African and Asian Mill Hill members reach out to their parishioners with compassion, care and support in whatever way they can as they also experienced local 'lockdowns'. Together with them we continue the dream of our Founder, and in the words of Pope Francis our missionaries are "messengers and agents of compassion". World Mission Day is when we acknowledge that the Church through its lay people, catechists, sisters, brothers and priests are still proclaiming a mission of hope. We thank God for the generosity of those who support our work.

About us...

The Mill Hill Missionaries or St. Joseph's Missionary Society have been committed to Missionary work for the last 155 years. The then 34-year-old Fr. Herbert Vaughan began his house for the foreign missions with one student at Holcombe House, Mill Hill, London, in 1866. His simple aim for the missionaries was what we call primary evangelisation. While this remains the focus of the Society, other activities today include interfaith dialogue, urban apostolate, building and working with grassroots communities, Justice and Peace, reconciliation, mission animation and formation. Members live out their charism "to love and to serve" within the diverse environments where they are serving. Today members are serving in Brazil, USA, Cameroon, Congo, Kenya, Uganda, South Sudan, South Africa, India, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines, New Zealand, Cambodia, Ireland, Britain, Netherlands, Austria and Italy.

For more information: www.millhillmissionaries.co.uk



Providing healthcare for women and children - and men - in Sindh.



Cambodia - Bishop Enrique, SJ, with our young Mill Hill Missionaries.



Staying Safe - in Cameroon



'Mission is not a thing of the past' - Mill Hill students, Philippines

For those who would like to keep in touch and support our missionary work, and receive the three issues of our magazine "St. Joseph's Advocate" plus an annual calendar, contact: St. Joseph's Advocate, Mill Hill Missionaries, 50 Orwell Park, Rathgar, Dublin D06 C535.

Columban missionary inspired by Desert Fathers

Fr Hugh MacMahon SSC has travelled the world for his missionary work, including assignments in China and Korea. However, it was a location here in Ireland that inspired his recent book, *Voices from the Desert*. During a visit to the Skellig Islands, he pondered why individuals would choose such an isolated and difficult life.

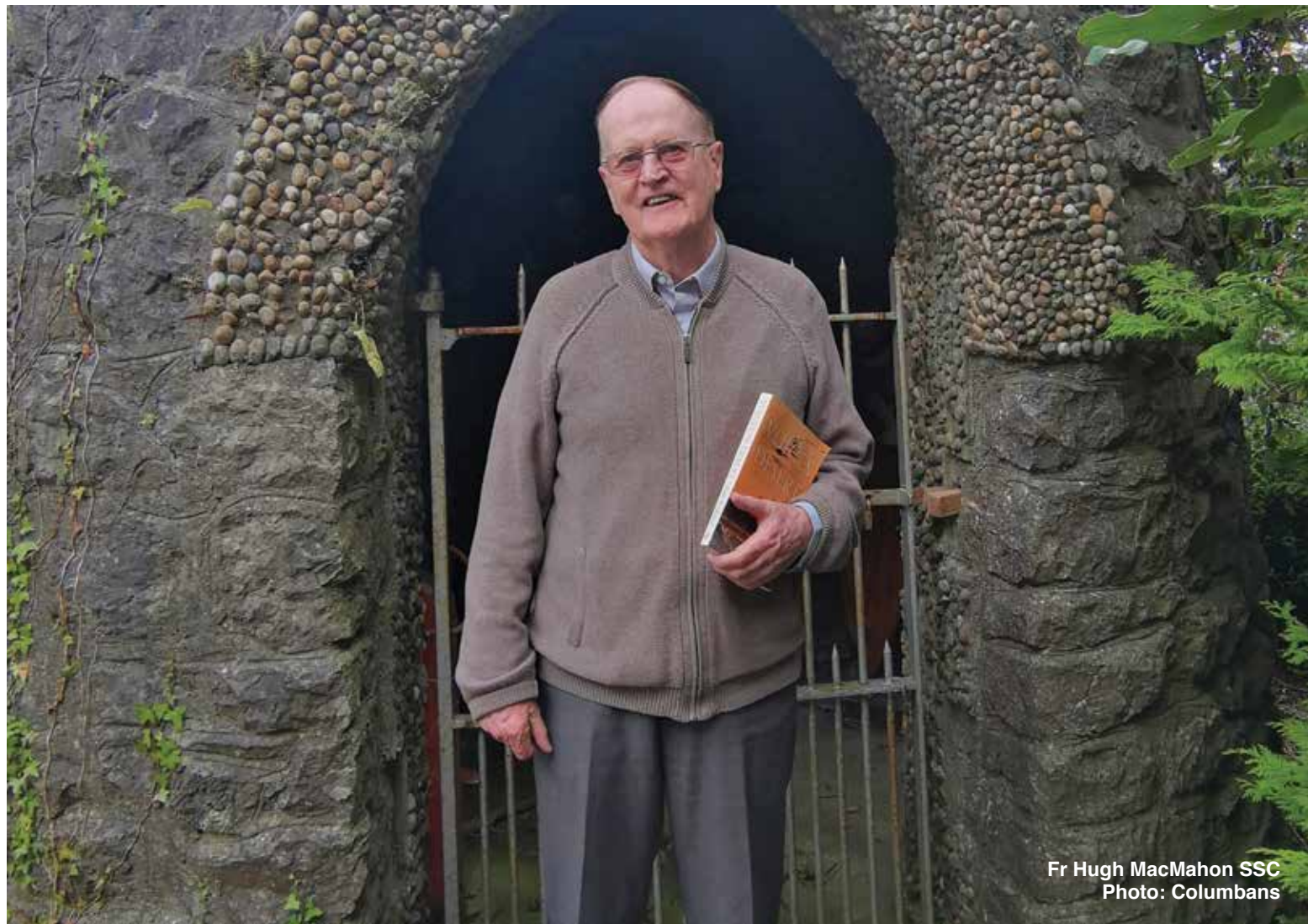
His answer came in the writings of John Cassian and his companion Germanus who visited the Egyptian Desert Fathers in 384AD. What the monks had to say about Christianity and their spiritual practices is as relevant now as it was back then. From the interviews there is an opportunity "to understand what Christian life was like before it became cluttered by later theologising and devotions," according to Fr Hugh.

Pattern

These hermits set the pattern for what was to be a distinctively Irish Church. Perhaps their uncomplicated vision of what it means to be a Christian was closer to the original spirit of the gospels and has something to tell us today?

As Fr Hugh says, "This question had implications not only for my own idea of what it means to be a Christian but as a missionary trying to present the basic Christian message to people encountering it for the first time."

The book features a condensed version of each of the twenty four interviews, alongside an introduction, a commentary on each chapter and a conclusion. It's a project that anyone looking for a fresh view of what it means to be a Christian will appreciate.



Fr Hugh MacMahon SSC
Photo: Columbans

EXCLUSIVE EXCERPT *Voices from the Desert*

Our next discussions were with Theonas. While he was young his parents persuaded Theonas to marry because they were concerned about his moral welfare. After five years of wedded life and becoming a wealthy man, Theonas approached Abba John who had been put in charge of administering alms.

Abba John took the opportunity to repay his devotion with spiritual guidance. Those who kept the law faithfully believed their harvest would be abundantly blessed and they themselves rewarded a hundredfold in this world. Yet, not even those who keep the law faithfully were promised perfection.

When Theonas heard the words of Abba John he was filled with an uncontrollable desire for the perfection of the gospel. He felt he had not only failed to attain the perfection it implied but had scarcely fulfilled the commands of the law. He returned home and related all this to his wife. He suggested they should serve God in sanctity and chastity while they were still young, as no one knows how long they have left to live.

His wife objected. She was still young and needed the support of a husband. If she was deserted by him and fell into sin, it would be his fault. He replied that it was not right to cut oneself off from something good when it became known, and it was more dangerous to disregard goodness when discovered than to fail to love it before it was discovered.

Even then his wife would not accept his wishes so, leaving all his earthly goods behind, he departed for a monastery where he soon became noted for his sanctity and humility. When Abba John, and after him the holy Elias, died Theonas was entrusted with the management of almsgiving.

Many holy men have praised Theonas and we wanted to hear more from him. He came to visit our cell during Eastertide and we first asked him about aspects of the festival that puzzled us. Why is it that during the fifty days before Pentecost no one would bend the knee in prayer or venture to fast until the ninth hour? That custom had not been observed in the monasteries in Syria.

Theonas: It is good to accept the authority of the Fathers when we cannot understand the reasons for a custom. But, since you want to know, I will try to explain.

What is the time for fasting? Is fasting good, like justice, prudence and temperance, which cannot be anything but good? Or is it something that is useful but can be omitted? If we say that fasting is good in itself, then partaking of food would be bad and wrong. But the authority of Holy Scripture does not allow us to say that. So fasting is an indifferent act. It brings justification when observed, but does not bring condemnation when not observed, unless it was commanded.

Fasting is not a goal in itself, it is a means to a goal and should not be sought for its own sake alone. We can fast to improve our patience and love but we do not practise our patience and love so that we can fast. There are times set for practising it and it has its rules and conditions.

Germanus: Why then do we relax the rigour of our abstinence for the fifty days before Pentecost, whereas Christ remained with his disciples for only forty days after his resurrection?

Theonas: Jesus ascended into heaven after forty days and the disciples waited another ten days for the Holy Spirit to descend on Pentecost. So the total is fifty days. This is the tradition handed down to us, and during the fifty days we do not bend our knees in prayer because bending the knee is a sign of penitence and mourning. We also observe those days as solemnities and do not fast out of reverence for the Lord's resurrection.

Germanus: The apostle promises freedom from care not only to monks but to all Christians. So how is it that the domination of sin holds vigorous sway over all baptised?

Theonas: To understand the domination of sin and how to drive it out, let us take some examples. The law encourages people to seek the bonds of marriage. On the other hand, grace invites us to the purity of perpetual chastity. The law says, offer up your tithes and first fruits and share with others. The gospel says, 'if you will be perfect, go and sell all that you have and give to the poor' (Matthew 19:21). The law says, an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. The gospel tells us to forgive our enemies and turn the other cheek when struck.

The height of evangelical perfection raises such virtue above every law and recognises that we are subject only to the grace of the Saviour by whose aid we can attain that most exalted condition.

Therefore, the freedom granted to followers of Christ does not remove the obligations of the old law nor the requirements of evangelical perfection. It is the aim of him, who by the grace of adoption accepts all those whom he has received, not to destroy but to build up, not to abolish but to fulfil, the Mosaic commands.

Germanus: We are grateful for your detailed description of the role and need for fasting. But how is it that often after a strict fast we awake in the morning feeling no improvement, rather to have sinned again? We can feel so disappointed that we have little energy for prayer.

Theonas: I recognise the sincerity of your question and your desire to reach perfection, not just in outward appearance, but also in purity of heart. Such matters should be discussed quietly and with a mind entirely free from all bustling thoughts. Therefore, let us

take up this topic again tomorrow.

Theonas's story leads to an enduring question: Is the celibate life in a monastery superior to that of sincere Christians living out their faith in a family and society?

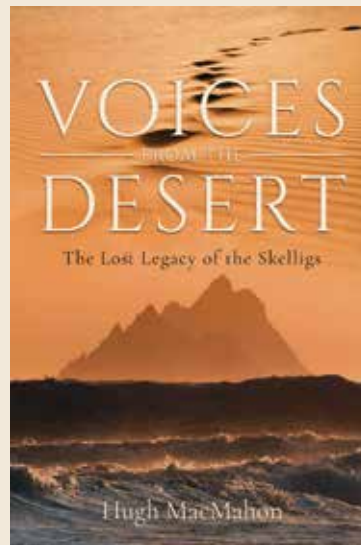
Cassian takes great care to clarify that he is not endorsing Theonas's decision to leave his wife and become a monk. It was still a very sensitive issue in the Church. Origen argued that in marriage the mutual love of the spouses is more important than the desire of one for a chastity that would conflict with the good of the other.

Cassian begs the reader, 'First of all to find me blameless, whether you are pleased or dismayed at this account of Theonas's choice, then you can praise or blame him as you wish.' Yet he continues to explore the idea that in some way a monastic life is of greater value than family bonds and social commitment.

Theonas assures us that the greatness of perfection belongs to all, regardless of age, sex or occupation. All Christians are urged to climb the heights of virtue. The paths followed may be different, but all are united in a common desire to live continuously in the presence of God, both in this world and the next.

Germanus's final question is a reminder that the demands and activities of the body are as real and complex as those of the soul seeking fulfilment. Accommodating both challenges all Christians, both celibate and married.

i *Voices from the Desert* by Fr Hugh MacMahon is available from Columba Books at **01 6874096** and **www.columbabooks.com**. €14.99 + FREE P&P.



Where there is no mission, there is no Church!



Tim Cullinane SMA

Mission is at the heart of the Church. "The Church exists by mission, just as a fire exists by burning. Where there is no mission there is no Church." (Eric Brunner). Throughout history, God chose certain people for a specific missionary project. Such a person was Melchior de Marion Brésillac who founded the Society of African Missions (SMA) in 1856. He aimed to bring the Good News to those parts of Africa where the Church was not yet established.

SMA missionaries have made a big difference to the African people. I worked in Jos, Northern Nigeria. Jos was once a centre of tin mining with many foreign miners. The SMA came to Jos at much the same time as the miners. But there is a big difference between what the miners left behind and what the missionaries left, and are still leaving behind. With the development of plastic, the bottom fell out of the tin market. The miners left rusted relics of their equipment, huge mounds of clay,

the result of open cast mining and a pock marked landscape filled with water for part of the year, a breeding ground for mosquitoes, malaria, and other diseases.

What the SMA and other missionaries have left behind is still flourishing and quite different. You can see the effects of the liberating message of Jesus Christ: thriving Christian communities with their own Nigerian bishops, priests and sisters. There are churches and schools, adult education centres, hospitals and clinics, a Major Seminary with over 200 African students preparing for priesthood.

Prayers

This work would not be possible without the help of the Irish people, who support us by their prayers and financial help. *Every catholic is called by baptism to be a missionary.* Having a missionary heart is the real test of genuine faith. Saint Pope John Paul II said, "A person who has experienced the joy of encountering Christ cannot keep it to himself, he must share it." Let me give you an example. I was working in Jos Major Seminary, with about 180 students prepar-

ing for the diocesan priesthood, supported by a German Catholic organization called, 'Missio,' based in Aachen. On one occasion when sending their grant to the seminary, the Director, to encourage us to use the money wisely, gave us an example of one of the people who supported them. She was a 73 years old German lady, widowed twice. She had a small pension insufficient to provide for her needs. She got extra money from cleaning, washing and ironing for other people and even went by bicycle to get work in neighbouring villages. Once a year she came with her contribution for the missions to the

Missio headquarters in Aachen, spending the night in the railway station, foregoing the luxury and cost of staying in a hotel. She radiated joy and happiness and made light of her contribution to the missions passing it off by saying, "I am quite sure God will know how to compensate me."

Many Irish people are like her, continuing to make the work of the SMA and other missionary organizations possible. God will know how to compensate them too.

In recent years there has been a new and exciting development in the



SMA Founder - Melchior de Marion Brésillac



Frs Barthélémy Numatchi, Marcel Gbedegbe, and Nestor Pala – three of the seventeen SMA priests Ordained in 2021.

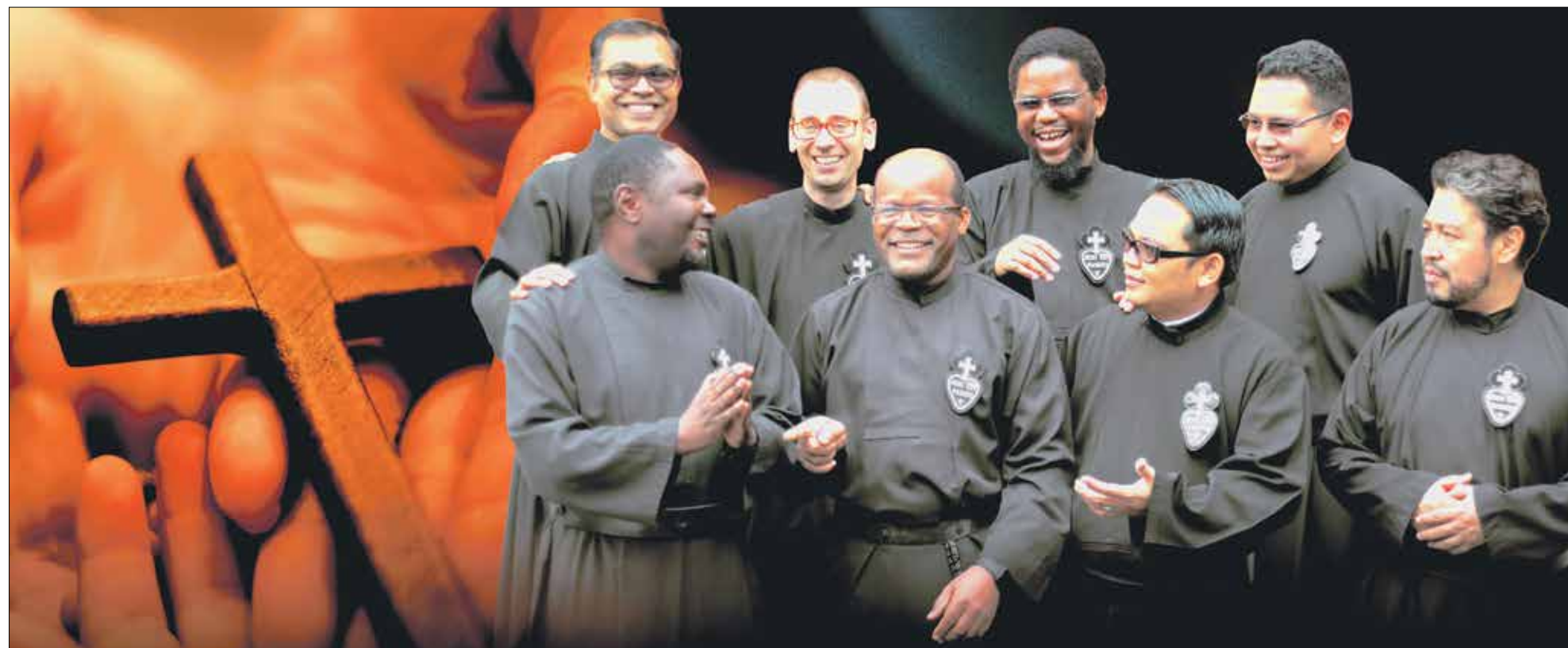
SMA: the admission of African and Asian candidates into the SMA, with over 370 priests now ordained and 250 students preparing for priesthood. Some of these SMAs are working in Ireland, enriching the Church here and in turn being enriched by a faith that goes back nearly two thousand years.

In Ireland, with declining vocations and church attendance, this might seem to be a bad time for mission but not so from God's point of view. "Proclaim the



Frs Tim Cullinane and Fr Christopher Emokhare who comes from Edo State Nigeria and who now works here in Ireland.

gospel, in season and out of season" (2 Timothy 4:2) or as another translation puts it "welcome or unwelcome."



"Saint Paul of the Cross gathered companions to live together and to proclaim the Gospel of Christ to all". (Constitutions, 1)



Passionists – Ireland and Scotland



passionists.ie



World Report

IN BRIEF

US archbishop: Covid vaccines morally permissible, but troops may conscientiously object

● The archbishop of the US military archdiocese believes that vaccine should not be mandatorily imposed on service members.

Archbishop Broglio, of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, underlined in a statement 'Coronavirus Vaccines and the Sanctity of Conscience', that "no one should be forced to receive a Covid vaccine if it would violate the sanctity of his or her conscience".

Despite Archbishop Broglio's endorsement of personal discretion on the matter, the Pentagon announced that all service members would have to be vaccinated against Covid in August as its formal vaccine policy.

Catholic sites suffered more than 100 acts of vandalism since May 2020

● The US bishops' conference last Thursday highlighted the rise in vandalism of churches

Referencing the sudden spike in acts of Church vandalism in a joint-statement, Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York and Archbishop Paul Coakley of Oklahoma City warned that, "These

incidents of vandalism have ranged from the tragic to the obscene, from the transparent to the inexplicable. There remains much we do not know about this phenomenon, but at a minimum, they underscore that our society is in sore need of God's grace."

Kids join Rosary initiative inspired by St Padre Pio

● Children in South Sudan Myanmar (Burma), and Lebanon have joined a worldwide initiative to get one million kids to pray the rosary this year on October 18.

'One million children praying the Rosary' is a prayer campaign by the Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) held annually on the feast of St Luke.

This year, the organisation has provided meditations on the mysteries of the Rosary for children in 24 languages, along with printable colouring pages and a prayer to St Joseph.

More than 100,000 children from 44 countries, including the US, Spain, Kenya, India, Colombia, and the Philippines, have already registered to take part in the Rosary campaign, according to an online map published by the pontifical charity.

US Politician's reception by Pope not endorsement, archbishop says

● US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's recent meeting with Pope Francis does not reflect a papal endorsement of her views on abortion, the archbishop of San Francisco said in a television interview on October 13.

Although the Vatican did not reveal what the Pope and Ms Pelosi discussed, Ms Pelosi said in a statement after the meeting that she thanked the Pope for his "immense moral clarity" in addressing the issue of climate change.

Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone took issue with the assumption that the Vatican is indirectly validating her anti-Catholic ideals. "Popes meet with everyone. They meet with world leaders, no matter who they are, even if there are these problematic things in their background or in their policies. They meet with everyone. I don't think Pope Francis could be clearer in his condemnation of abortion," he said.

Prominent Anglican bishop received into Catholic Church

A prominent Anglican bishop, once touted as a potential future Archbishop of Canterbury, has entered into full communion with the Catholic Church. The Rt Rev Michael Nazir-Ali, the former bishop of Rochester, England, has joined the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham.

Early reports indicate that Nazir-Ali could be ordained as a Catholic priest as early as the end of October within the ordinariate, a body created by Benedict XVI in 2011 for groups of former Anglicans wishing to maintain elements of their patrimony.

The ordinariate has already disclosed that Nazir-Ali was received into full communion by the group's Ordinary, Msgr Keith Newton, on September 29, the Feast of St Michael and All Angels.

"With the permission of the Holy See, he will be ordained to the Catholic priesthood for the ordinariate in due course," it said.

Explaining his decision, Nazir-Ali said: "I believe that the Anglican desire to adhere to apostolic, patristic and conciliar teaching can now best be maintained in the ordinariate.

"Provisions there to safeguard legitimate Anglican patrimony are very encouraging and, I believe, that such patrimony in its liturgy, approaches to biblical study, pastoral commitment to



Former Anglican Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali has been received into the Catholic Faith and will be ordained a priest in late October. Photo/ CNS

the community, methods of moral theology, and much else besides has a great deal to offer the wider Church."

Contribution

"I am looking forward to receiving from the riches of other parts of the Church, while perhaps making a modest contribution to the maintenance and enhancement of Anglican patrimony within the wider fellowship."

The news comes a month after another Church of England bishop announced that he too was crossing the Tiber. The Rt Rev Jonathan Goodall, the Anglican bishop of Ebbsfleet, announced that he had

taken the decision "after a long period of prayer".

Nazir-Ali was born in Karachi, Pakistan, in 1949, and attended Catholic schools. He has both a Christian and Muslim family background and holds British and Pakistani citizenship.

He was ordained as an Anglican clergyman in 1976, working in Karachi and Lahore. He became provost of Lahore's Anglican cathedral and was consecrated as the first bishop of Raiwind in West Punjab.

He later joined the staff of the Archbishop of Canterbury, helping to plan the 1988 Lambeth Conference, a gathering

of bishops from across the Anglican Communion.

In 1994, he was appointed as the Anglican bishop of Rochester, covering the areas of Medway, north and west Kent, and the London Boroughs of Bromley and Bexley.

Married with two children, he served as a member of the House of Lords, Britain's upper house of Parliament, from 1999.

He took part in the second phase of Anglican and Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC-II) and was a member of the International Anglican-Roman Catholic Commission on Unity and Mission (IARCCUM).

Spanish bishop who resigned from office to attempt marriage

Bishop Xavier Novell Gomà, who resigned as Bishop of Solsona in August, has applied for a civil marriage license with his partner, who is herself a divorcee.

However, various reports have revealed that there is no record that Bishop Novell, 52, has been dismissed from the clerical state, or has even requested such an action to take place.

Those who are in holy orders invalidly attempt marriage, as do those bound by the bond of a prior marriage. A cleric who attempts marriage can be sanctioned, even by dismissal from the clerical state.

According to a document released by Spanish media, Bishop Novell made the request with the Civil Registry of Suria in Spain's Barcelona Province October 7.

Bishop Novell resigned August 23 citing "strictly personal reasons". The diocese announced that the decision was made freely and in accord with a canon which asks that a bishop "who has become less able to fulfill his office because of ill health or some other grave cause ... present his resignation from office".

Various media broke the news September 5 that Bishop Novell moved to

Manresa to live with Silvia Caballol, 38, a psychologist and author of erotic novels with satanic undercurrents, some of them limited to those 18 or older.

The apostolic administrator of Solsona, Bishop Romà Casanova i Casanova of Vic, wrote in September that a bishop's relationship with his diocese is "much more than the cold reality of a captain who makes things go as best as possible", adding that "the Lord never abandons his people. To come out of this we have to live out the communion that leads us to fraternity and trusting prayer."

France's Catholic bishops to uphold confessional seal

The spokeswoman for France's bishops' conference clarified last Wednesday that the country's Catholic leaders do not intend to contravene the Church's teaching on the sacrosanct nature of the confessional seal.

The clarification comes after Bishop Moulins-Beaufort, the bishops' confer-

ence president, was invited to a meeting with France's interior minister Gérald Darmanin to discuss the possibility of the confessional seal holding precedence over the law in the aftermath of an independent study which found that over 200,000 children were victims of sexual abuse by

clergy in the French Catholic Church since 1950.

After the meeting on October 12, media reports alleged that the archbishop had conceded that priests should inform police of admissions of abuse made by penitents during Confession; a statement that provoked backlash from some Catholics.

However, Solène Tadié in the National Catholic Register dispelled these rumours in a public address, "one cannot change the canon law for France as it is international. A priest who today would violate the secrecy of Confession would be excommunicated."



Edited by Brandon Scott
news@irishcatholic.ie

Fire from above



A California fire engine company near Goleta, California provides protection for a ranch structure from the Alisal Fire off Highway 10. Photo: CNS.

Abducted Nigerian seminarians released

The three seminarians who were abducted from their seminary in Nigeria's Kaduna state have been released, the chancellor of the local Church confirmed.

"Barely 48 hours after their kidnap, our beloved brothers were released by their abductors," Fr Emmanuel Okolo, chancellor of the Diocese of Kafanchan, said in an October 13 statement.

Fr Okolo conveyed his appreciation to "all those that have offered prayers and entreaties for the quick release of our Seminarians and others who are still in the dens of their kidnappers."

Christ the King Major Seminary in Fayit, Fadama Kagoma,

about 10 miles southwest of Kafanchan, was attacked by bandits around 7.30 pm on October 11.

The three seminarians who were abducted from the seminary chapel belong to the Apostles of Divine Charity and the Little Sons of the Eucharist, and are all in their fourth year of theology.

Christ the King Seminary houses more than 130 seminarians.

Six seminarians were injured in the attack. They were taken with some formators to a hospital in Kafanchan by "a dispatch of soldiers of the Operation Safe Haven."

The injured were treated and discharged after being con-

firmed to be stable".

Fr Emmanuel Faweh Kazah, rector of the St Albert Institute and a professor at the seminary, told Aid to the Church International October 14, "We were beaten but we won't stay down. We won't allow ourselves to be cowed by threats emanating from men and women of the underworld. We will courageously carry the torch of the Gospel to the ends of the earth notwithstanding the barrage of attacks on the Christian Faith!"

Kidnappings of Christians in Nigeria have intensified in recent years, a situation that has provoked Church leaders to express serious reser-

vation about the security of their members and urge the government to prioritise the security of its citizens.

A priest of the Kafanchan diocese was kidnapped last month. Fr Benson Bulus Luka was abducted from his residence September 13, and released after little more than 24 hours.

Fulani herders, most of whom are Muslim, have had sustained conflict with largely Christian farmers over limited natural resources in Kaduna and other states in recent years, and the radical Islamist group Boko Haram continues to jeopardise safety in Nigeria's north.

Number of new Catholic seminarians in Poland falls by nearly 20% year on year

Nearly 20% fewer candidates for the Catholic priesthood have enrolled in Poland's seminaries this year, when compared to 2020.

Fr Piotr Kot, chairman of the Conference of Rectors of Major Seminaries, revealed that 356 seminarians began their studies in 2021.

Last year, he said, there were 441 candidates, meaning that "the number is lower by approximately 20%".

He explained that of the 356 candidates, 242 were training for the diocesan

priesthood and 114 for religious orders.

There were 47 fewer seminarians in diocesan seminaries and 38 fewer candidates for religious orders compared with the previous year, he said.

The Polish Catholic weekly *Gosc Niedzielny* noted that priestly vocations had declined continuously in Poland in recent years.

In 2012, it said, 828 candidates enrolled in the first year of seminary. There were 498 in 2019 and 441 in 2020.

Fr Kot said that it was difficult to dis-

tinguish all of the factors behind the fall in priestly vocations with any complete certainty.

He said that while God continued to call people, young people had difficulty responding. "Sometimes they judge themselves unworthy or incapable of such a life," he said. "Behind this may be difficult stories in the past: lack of appropriate role models in the family home, early addictions, personality problems, and identity disorders."



Pope to meet 500 poor from across Europe in Assisi

● Pope Francis will visit Assisi, Italy on November 12, where he will spend time with a group of 500 poor people from across Europe, the Vatican announced Friday.

The encounter will take place as part of the Catholic Church's celebration of the 5th annual World Day of the Poor, which falls this year on Sunday, November 14.

According to the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelisation, which is organising the meeting, Pope Francis will make a private visit to the Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli in Assisi, the birthplace of St Francis.

The Pope will then meet a group of 500 poor people, praying with them and listening to their experiences.

The theme of this year's World Day of the Poor is "The poor you will always have with you," the words of Jesus recorded in Mark 14:7 after a woman anointed him with precious ointment.

Pope Francis ordains Msgr Guido Marini a bishop in St Peter's Basilica

● On Sunday, Pope Francis consecrated two new bishops for the Catholic Church in St Peter's Basilica: Bishop Guido Marini of Tortona, Italy, and Bishop Andrés Gabriel Ferrada Moreira, secretary of the Congregation for the Clergy.

During the Mass, Pope Francis reminded the bishops-elect to always be close to God, their brother bishops, priests, and the People of God. "The first task of the bishop is to pray," he said, "and not like a parrot, to pray with the heart, to pray."

"Do not make excuses about not having time to

pray," he added. "Remove the other things, because praying is the bishop's first duty."

Bishop Guido Marini, 56, was the Vatican's head master of ceremonies for papal liturgies for 14 years. On August 29, Pope Francis named him to lead the Diocese of Tortona, which is in northern Italy in proximity to Marini's hometown of Genoa.

Bishop Andrés Gabriel Ferrada, 52, is from Chile's capital city, Santiago. He was named the titular archbishop of Tiburnia in honor of his new position as secretary of the Vatican's Congregation for the Clergy.

To seek status over service is spiritual illness – Pope warns

● In his message before the Angelus prayer October 17, Pope Francis said there is a worldly mentality entices even Catholics "to experience everything, including relationships, in order to feed our ambition, to climb the ladder to success, to reach important positions."

"The quest for personal prestige can become a spiritual malady, masquerading even behind good intentions: for example, when behind the good we do and preach, we actually seek ourselves alone and our own affirmation," he said from a window overlooking St Peter's Square.

This is also something that occurs in the Catholic Church, he said: "How many times, we Christians – who should be servants – try to climb up, to get ahead."

Pope Francis spoke about the longing for recognition during a reflection on the day's Gospel reading from St Mark, in which two disciples, James and John, ask Jesus if they can one day sit at his right and left in glory and explained that it is through our Christian Baptism that we are immersed in Jesus and receive the grace that directs us to follow Christ in service to others.

Letters

Letter of the week

Pity the poor women of Afghanistan...

Dear Editor, thank you for your considered and may I say temperate response to the cringy attention-seeking comparison by Fr Roy Donovan of the Church to the Taliban (*The Irish Catholic*, October 14, 2021). In Jason Osborne's article, Fr Donovan is at least clear in admitting that he used the extreme language precisely in order to grab attention. It's sad, really – but a pattern that has emerged from some clerics who, it appears to me at least, will do anything to get a little bit of attention in the media.

It is grossly offensive to compare the exclusion of women from the ministerial priesthood to the savagery that the Taliban is currently visiting upon the hard-pressed people of Afghanistan. However sincere an Irishwoman may feel about not being allowed to preside at the Eucharist, I for one find it very hard to believe that her experience is the same as those poor women who are now in hiding in Kandahar because the Taliban has forbidden them to go to their jobs as teachers. Perhaps I am out of touch, but I

fail to see that an Irishwoman not being allowed to deliver the homily at Mass is in anyway comparable to the desperate mothers in Afghanistan who are risking everything to get their daughters out of Afghanistan to save them from the fate of being sex slaves for the Taliban fighters.

Perhaps Fr Donovan might reflect on the reality of the horrible parts of the world he so glibly speaks about.

*Yours etc.,
Charles Kelly
Crumlin, Dublin 12*

On guardian angels

Dear Editor, "Do we have guardian angels?" asks your columnist Fr Ronald Rolheiser OMI (*The Irish Catholic*, October 7, 2021). Fr Rolheiser writes that he does not know. According to him, "Scripture scholars don't give us a definite answer but rather suggest that the question can be answered either way".

St Matthew, an apostle who walked with the Lord, wrote in his Gospel, "See that you do not despise one of these little ones; for I tell you that in heaven their angels always behold the face of my Father, who is in heaven".

Surely, it is clear that the "angels of these little ones" are in fact their guardian angels by another name?

*Yours etc.,
Daithi O'Muirneachain,
Dublin 9.*



Safe, legal...now local

Dear Editor, the latest twist in the juggernaut that is the culture of death will surely be the push to force even more doctors to participate in the grubby business of what Pope Francis has referred to as "hiring the hitman".

During the 2018 abortion referendum, we were assured by Leo Varadkar that abortion if legalised would be safe, legal and rare. I see from the recent pro-abortion rally outside the Dáil that the word 'rare'

has been dropped (more than 13,000 in two years can hardly be described as rare, I suppose) in place of 'local'.

Clearly the next phase is to try to force the many local doctors who have refused to become involved to act against their consciences. Will we have any politicians who will stand up for them? I won't hold my breath.

*Yours etc.,
John Byrne,
Navan, Co. Meath*

The mission goes on

Dear Editor, thank you to Chai Brady for his wonderful feature on the ongoing work of Irish religious abroad – particularly the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (*The Irish Catholic*, October 14, 2021). One of the things I look forward to most in *The Irish Catholic* is reading about the work of missionaries that continued unabated. To be sure, there are not as many as there were in the past and they are getting older but we should be rightly proud of the work they continue to do

tirelessly to bring the Good News of Jesus wherever they are.

To look at the secular media, one would imagine that the amazing Irish missionary movement is a thing from a bygone era – something to be looked back on with a mixture of pity and nostalgia.

But, no – the work goes on and I thank you for keeping it before our eyes.

*Yours etc.,
David Farrell,
Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford*

Last one out, turn out the lights

Dear Editor, I've had mixed feelings about the proposed national synod of the Church in Ireland that the hierarchy has proposed. That being said, I cheerfully set my misgivings aside when I heard the excellent points made in *The Irish Catholic* by people like Bishop Paul Dempsey and Bishop Fintan Gavin about the need to recalibrate the Church and ensure that the voices of everyone can be heard.

It's clear that the approach of the so-

called Association of Catholic Priests (ACP) is to go full nuclear ahead of the synod given the deeply offensive language about the Taliban (*The Irish Catholic*, October 14 2021).

My prediction? We'll spend the next five years fighting about things we'll never agree on delaying the real work of bringing Christ to people and at the end of the five-year process? We'll have a drab recommendation about setting up a pastoral

council in each parish. Meanwhile, further ground will have been lost and the few that remain can rearrange the deckchairs a little before turning out the lights.

Oh well, while the light goes out in the land of saints and scholars the Faith thrives elsewhere.

*Yours etc.,
John Doherty,
Belfast, Co. Antrim*

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

ACP's comparison of Church to Taliban 'stomach churning'

I stand with Nuala O'Loan and all the women of Afghanistan who fear for their lives. – **Paula McKeown**

I am not surprised by this as it comes from the ACP. Comparing the Church in Ireland or in any other place in the world to the Taliban is completely wrong and indicates little knowledge of the Taliban or the Church. – **Tony Fullerton**

Not acceptable at all! Please do not include such views in synodal programme. – **Deirdre Quinn**

A disturbing question about the remains of babies

As so often in the past Irish society refuses to confront the hard questions, preferring the 'gallus story' to the 'dirty deed'. – **Charles Glenn**

The baby does indeed have a right to a dignified and full funeral, either in a church or elsewhere – whatever the parents choose. – **Finola Cunnane**

Irish synod should not 'water down' teaching to cater to elite classes

Exactly. You can change all the church teachings you want but will it bring people back to the Church? It didn't for a lot of Protestant denominations and they continue to lose people also. – **Daragh Harmon**

The essence of the problem is that many people today are comfortable living, and indeed dying, without God in their lives. I have yet to see or hear anything proposed that addresses that central question. – **Charles Glenn**

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

God can still surprise us

Dear Editor, what a joy to hear Pope Francis proclaim at the opening of the synod that all Catholics must be open to be surprised by the Holy Spirit in where he will lead the Church. As we embark on this exciting synodal journey, there is a real danger that we will retreat into our corners and our pre-defined positions. Conservatives will insist that liberalism is the problem, and only conservatism can save the Church. On the other hand, liberals will blame conservatives for strangling the Church and insist that only a radical shift away from the Catholic tradition will save the Church.

Might I suggest that we leave the saving of the Church to Jesus? At the same time, we should remember the teaching of the Second Vatican Council that the Church does not exist for its own sake, but for the sake of bringing the Gospel to men and women all over the planet. If that is our focus, and we remain open to being surprised by Jesus then we can be assured that the Church is in good hands.

*Yours etc.,
Mary Fitzpatrick,
Sligo Town*

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.

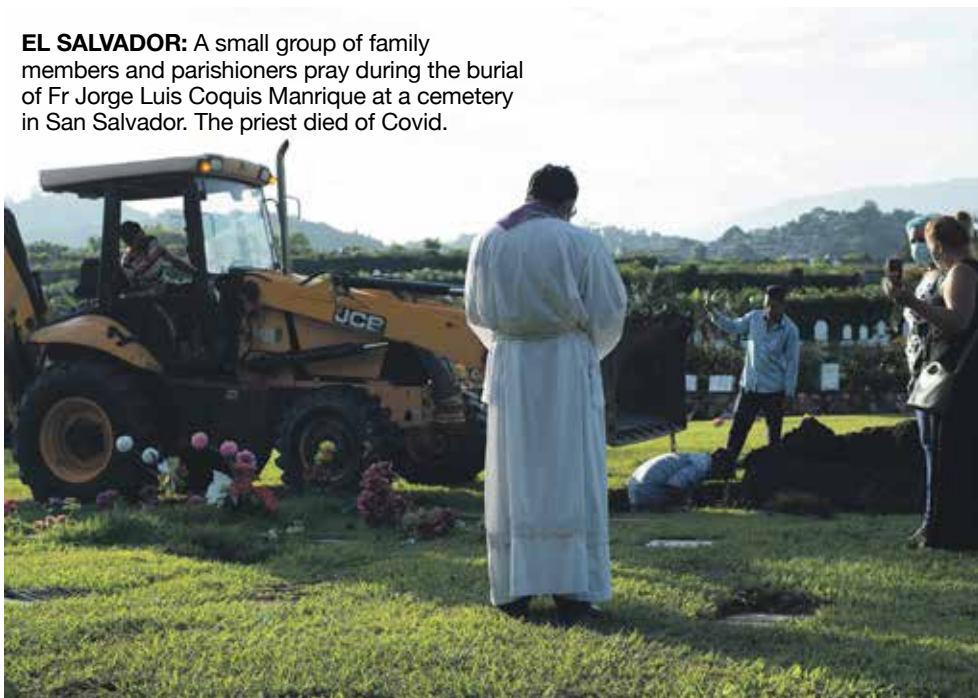
📷 Around the world



▲ **BRAZIL:** A plastic bottle lies on the dried-up ground of the Jaguari dam, which is part of the Cantareira reservoir system, during a severe drought near São Paulo. Photos: CNS.

◀ **FRANCE:** A crucifix is seen as people pray during a Mass at the cathedral in Nice, October 10.

EL SALVADOR: A small group of family members and parishioners pray during the burial of Fr Jorge Luis Coquis Manrique at a cemetery in San Salvador. The priest died of Covid.



MEXICO: People walk toward the US at the Paso del Norte International Border bridge in Ciudad Juarez, October 13.



USA: People at the Renasant Convention Center in Memphis, Tennessee pray during the diocesan eucharistic congress.



VATICAN: Bishops Guido Marini, the former papal master of ceremonies, and Andrés Gabriel Ferrada Moreira, the secretary of the Congregation for Clergy, lie in front of the altar during their episcopal ordination led by Pope Francis in St Peter's Basilica, October 17.



Permission to be sad

Let the preacher say, you have permission to be sad!

In a book, *When the Bartender Dims the Lights*, Ron Evans writes: "There's a line I came upon in the musings of a preacher: On a Sunday morning many of the people sitting before you are the walking wounded, and you need to give them permission to be sad. In a world obsessed with happiness, where being great is all that matters, let the preacher say, you have permission to be sad. And in a world where old age becomes the golden years, where every problem can be fixed and every ailment cured, let the preacher say, you have permission to be sad. In a world preoccupied with prolonging life, where death is a forbidden word, let the preacher say, you have permission to die. And let the preacher say, you have permission to live in memories of a lonesome kind."

James Hillman states that sometimes what happens in a suicide is that the soul is so frustrated and wounded that it kills the body"

Today neither our culture nor our churches give us sufficient permission to be sad. Occasionally, yes, when a loved one dies or some particular tragedy befalls us, we are allowed to be sad, to be down, tearful, not upbeat. But there are so many other occasions and circum-



Fr Rolheiser

www.ronrolheiser.com

stances in our lives where our souls are legitimately sad, and our culture, churches, and egos do not give us the permission we need to feel what we are in fact experiencing – sadness. When that is the case, and it often is, we can either deny how we feel and go through the motions of being upbeat, or we can give way to our sadness, but only at the price of feeling there is something wrong with us, that we should not be feeling this way. Both are bad.

Sadness

Sadness is an unavoidable part of life and not, in itself, a negative thing. In sadness, there is a cry to which we are often deaf. In sadness, our soul gets its chance to speak and its voice is telling us that a certain frustration, loss, death, inadequacy, moral failure, or particular circumstance or season of our lives is real, bitter, and unalterable. Acceptance is our only choice and sadness is its price. When that voice is not

listened to, our health and sanity feel a strain.

For example, in a particularly challenging (raw) book, *Suicide and the Soul*, the late James Hillman states that sometimes what happens in a suicide is that the soul is so frustrated and wounded that it kills the body. For reasons too complex and many to know, that soul could not make itself heard and was never given permission to feel what it was in fact experiencing. At an extreme, this can kill the body.

"We can give way to our sadness, but only at the price of feeling there is something wrong with us, that we should not be feeling this way"

We see this in a less-extreme (though also deadly) way in the phenomenon of anorexia among

young women. There is an irresistible pressure from the culture (often coupled with actual bullying on social media) to have a perfect body. Unfortunately nature doesn't issue many of those. Thus, these young women need permission to accept the limitations of their own bodies and to be okay with the sadness that comes with that. Unfortunately this isn't happening, at least not nearly enough, and so instead of accepting the sadness of not having the body they want, these young women are forced (no matter the cost) to try to measure up. We see its sad effects.

Dream

Psychotherapists, who do dream work with clients, tell us that when we have bad dreams, the reason is often that our soul is angry with us. Since it cannot make itself heard during the day, it makes itself heard at night when we are helpless to drown it out.

There are many legitimate reasons for being sad. Some of us are born with 'old souls', poets, over-sensitive to the pathos in life. Some of us suffer from bad physical health, others from fragile mental health. Some of us have never been sufficiently loved and honoured for who we are; others have

had our hearts broken by infidelity and betrayal. Some of us have had our lives irrevocably ripped apart by abuse, rape, and violence; others are simply hopeless, frustrated romantics with perpetually crushed dreams, agonising in nostalgia. Moreover, all of us will have our own share of losing loved ones, of breakdowns of all sorts, and bad seasons that test the heart. There are a myriad of legitimate reasons to be sad.

"Psychotherapists, who do dream work with clients, tell us that when we have bad dreams, the reason is often that our soul is angry with us"

This needs to be honoured in our Eucharists and in other Church gatherings. Church is not just a place for upbeat celebration. It is also supposed to be a safe place where we can break down. Liturgy too must give us permission to be sad.

D.H. Lawrence once famously wrote:

"The feeling I don't have, I don't have.

The feelings I don't have, I won't say I have.

The feeling you say you have, you don't have.

The feelings you would like us both to have, we neither of us have."

We need to be true to our souls by being true to its feelings.

"Today neither our culture nor our churches give us sufficient permission to be sad"



TV Radio

Brendan O'Regan



Tributes flow for murdered MP David Amess

Up to last Friday lunchtime I had never heard of Sir David Amess MP, and having heard all the wonderful tributes that followed his tragic death I wish I had.

Shortly after lunch, news of the stabbing started trickling through on Twitter. I was listening to **Sheelagh Fogarty** (LBC) where it was the main topic of conversation, and then a correspondent broke the news that he had died. The shock was palpable in the studio. Fogarty interviewed her LBC colleague Iain Dale who was due to meet him that night to address a group in his constituency. He could barely contain his emotion. All through the day friends, colleagues and constituents had nothing but praise for him.

Tribute

On **The Last Word** (Today FM), another LBC broadcaster Nick Ferrari paid fulsome tribute and struggled to find the right superlative. On **Times Radio Drive** Sir Keir Starmer, Labour Party leader, described how Sir David was informed by his Christian faith and "a profound sense of duty". Another contributor referred to him as "a great encourager". Ian Duncan Smith, a fellow Conservative and former party leader said he wasn't a career politician, had no ambition to be a minister, but found it enough to be an effective constituency MP. Words like 'kindness',



Councillor Helen Boyd speaks during a prayer vigil for murdered British lawmaker David Amess at St Peter's Catholic Church in Leigh-on-Sea, UK, October 15. Photo: CNS.

'service' and 'vocation' kept cropping up. On **Drivetime** (RTE Radio 1) Kevin Maguire of the *Daily Mirror* added in some detail I didn't hear elsewhere – that he was a "social conservative" who was opposed to abortion and same sex marriage. A few subsequent tributes mentioned his support for the pro-life cause and there was much reporting of his animal welfare work.

Later, on **Andrew Pierce** (LBC), the host described it as a "hideous irony" that a devoted Catholic Christian was murdered in a church. He spoke of how his guest, former MP Anne Widdecombe, was "deeply distressed" at the news. She told of how she had discussions with him before she became a Catho-

lic. We were reminded that he had described the abuse politicians get on social media as "truly appalling". The distress and division caused by social and indeed mainstream media came under scrutiny and no doubt will inform ongoing discussions on the political climate.

On Sunday's **Times Radio Breakfast** Luke Jones interviewed Cardinal Vincent Nichols, who described the murder in church as a "tragic poignancy". He said Sir David was a Catholic "in the best sense of the word" who set the "noble example" of getting on well with people who disagreed with him. Similarly there were gracious words of praise from someone whose politics were very different from

his, the Labour Party's Lisa Nandy, on **The Andrew Marr Show** (BBC One, Sunday).

Antidote

Shortly after that there was a welcome antidote to all the harsh divisiveness of public debate. A new series, **Scotland's Sacred Islands with Ben Fogle** (BBC One), was a beautifully filmed and relaxing exploration of religious faith and life on the Outer Hebrides, and in this first episode focusing on the southern islands we learned that Catholicism had stayed strong even after the Reformation. One resident described the islands as being "steeped in faith", where faith and work were "indivisible". Of course Irish missionaries had been

PICK OF THE WEEK

MASS

RTE One Sunday October 24, 11am

Mass for World Mission Sunday with members of Mísean Cara, AMRI and Missio Ireland. Musical director, Cora Coffey from In Caelo Choir, Newbridge; celebrant, Spiritan Missionary Fr Brendan Carr.

MOTHER CABRINI

EWTN Sunday October 24, 9pm

An EWTN original movie on the life of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini, who founded the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and established missions around the world.

GROWING UP POOR: BRITAIN'S HIDDEN HOMELESS KIDS

Channel 4 Monday October 25, 8pm

Reporting on the long-term implications of lockdown on young children, especially for the 1.5 million people living in England in overcrowded and unsuitable housing.

instrumental in this from the beginning and the first island Fogle visited, Barra, was named after St Finbarr. One contributor referred to the place as "Barradise".

I was struck by the statues of Our Lady dotted around the islands – very often of the Madonna with child. One such, Our Lady of the Sea, looked out on spectacular views. Another strikingly tall statue was placed close to a rather out-of-place missile tracking station – truly a blot on the landscape – which Fogle saw as the islanders showing who's boss, and it wasn't the Ministry of Defence! The next island, Mingulay, was uninhabited but he saw the natural beauty as "staggering" (captured marvellously by the aerial

photography) with cliffs "like a huge cavernous cathedral". "This is my church...my place of worship", he said.

Later he said he was "not particularly religious", but was "profoundly moved" by the place. While he was awed by the spirituality of the place and the people, he was deeply respectful of religion and conveyed a strong sense of the religious communities on the islands whose genuineness came across strongly.

Reflecting on one's special places and where one is at home he concluded it was "where you feel spiritually at home".

📧 boregan@hotmail.com,
@boreganmedia



Film

Aubrey Malone



Current releases range from sublime to ridiculous

Tom Sullivan's evocative Irish language drama *Arracht* (12A) – the literal translation of the word is 'monster' – like Lance Daly's *Black '47* of a few years ago, has English subtitles. They may throw some people but it's primarily a visual experience so they don't over-intrude.

Set in 1845 on the eve of the Famine, it tells the story of a Connemara fisherman, Colmán Sharkey (Dónall O Healai) and his wife Maggie (Elaine O'Dwyer) and their struggles against The Great Hunger.

It starts with them taking a British soldier, Patsy (Dara Devaney), into their house at the urging of a priest, Fr Joachim (Paraic Breathnach). They plead with their landlord (Michael McElhatton) to 'freeze' the rent when the

blight strikes but he refuses. An abandoned orphan, Kitty (Saise Ni Chuinn) now enters their lives, causing the film to move into a different key.

Sixties

For many people Mary Quant was as synonymous with the sixties in London as Julie Christie and the Fab Four. In the biopic *Quant* (12A), people like Kate Moss, Vivienne Westwood and others testify to her iconic status as a fashion designer.

In *True Calling* (PG) a British government minister (David Smith) who used to be a singer in a Christian rock band travels to the town where he grew up to visit his childhood sweetheart. It's a complicated film with a fuzzy



A scene from Tom Sullivan's *Arracht*.

attitude to issues like climate change and global warming.

Ron's Gone Wrong (PG) is an animated film about a socially awkward character called Barney and his digitally

connected device, Ron. When Ron malfunctions, their friendship is tested to the limits.

Boss Baby 2: Family Business (G) is another animated feature, a sequel to a 2017

film about a seven-year-old boy who was threatened by his infant brother who acted – and dressed – like Richard Branson. They combined forces in that film to save Puppy plc. Four years later a new Boss Baby is creating different kinds of problems.

Rock

Rock enthusiasts will enjoy *Tom Petty: Somewhere You Feel Free* (12A) a documentary about the background to the making of Petty's 1994 album *Wildflowers*. His daughter Adria discovered the footage that became the film's embryology after the singer's untimely death in 2017.

Dear Evan Hansen (12A) is a more unusual musical. It concerns a high school stu-

dent with an anxiety disorder. He struggles with his problem after the suicide of a classmate for which he blames himself.

For those of you with more esoteric tastes, *Dune* (12A) is a science fiction story about a young man who travels to a dangerous planet to protect his family against malevolent forces.

On the IFI Player you can see *Blarney*, a whimsical Jimmy O'Dea film. He plays a character having trouble with a Garda (Noel Purcell) along the border. *Breaking Out* (12A), finally, is a film about the Cork-born singer-songwriter Fergus O'Farrell who developed muscular dystrophy at a young age but still kept singing. His is a story of a truly indomitable spirit.

BookReviews

Peter Costello



Looking back with love on one Irish woman's life

In My Mind's Eye: Walking Among Ghosts by Brigid Kavanagh; stories and poems compiled and edited by Sean and Declan Kavanagh (€12.00) available online at www.buythebook.ie, or by contacting pettitmaggie955@gmail.com

Sean Ryan

This 300-plus-page book is an anthology of, and a tribute to, the writing of 95-year-old Brigid Kavanagh, who puts to good use her keen observations of life in Strokestown, where she was born and raised; in London, where she served as a nurse during the Second World War, and in Dublin, where she raised her family.

She also makes many interesting comments, including the following: "Society is in general critical about the 1950s, but I am more pro- than con-, as I lived through that period in Dublin."

I gave a silent cheer when I read that. As someone who grew up in Dublin at that time, I have nothing but happy memories, and note that many of the critics are products of the 1960s, 1970s or even later, most of them anxious to paint the 1950s as a regressive, priest-ridden era. Brigid's essay, 'Dublin in the 1950s', is a must-read for the critics' re-education.

Brigid also introduces us to the significance of Rathcroghan in the parish of Tulsk, where she was born. Apparently this hill is one of the most famous archaeological sites in Ireland, rivalling Tara for its royal associations, in this case to Queen Maeve.

Essay

'Living Through the Economic War' is another essay of a forgotten time – in the 1930s – when the Brexit of its day threatened the Irish economy. It lasted six years – from 1932 to 1938 – and it was a war we had to fight without any help



Brigid Kavanagh in the ruins of a family home

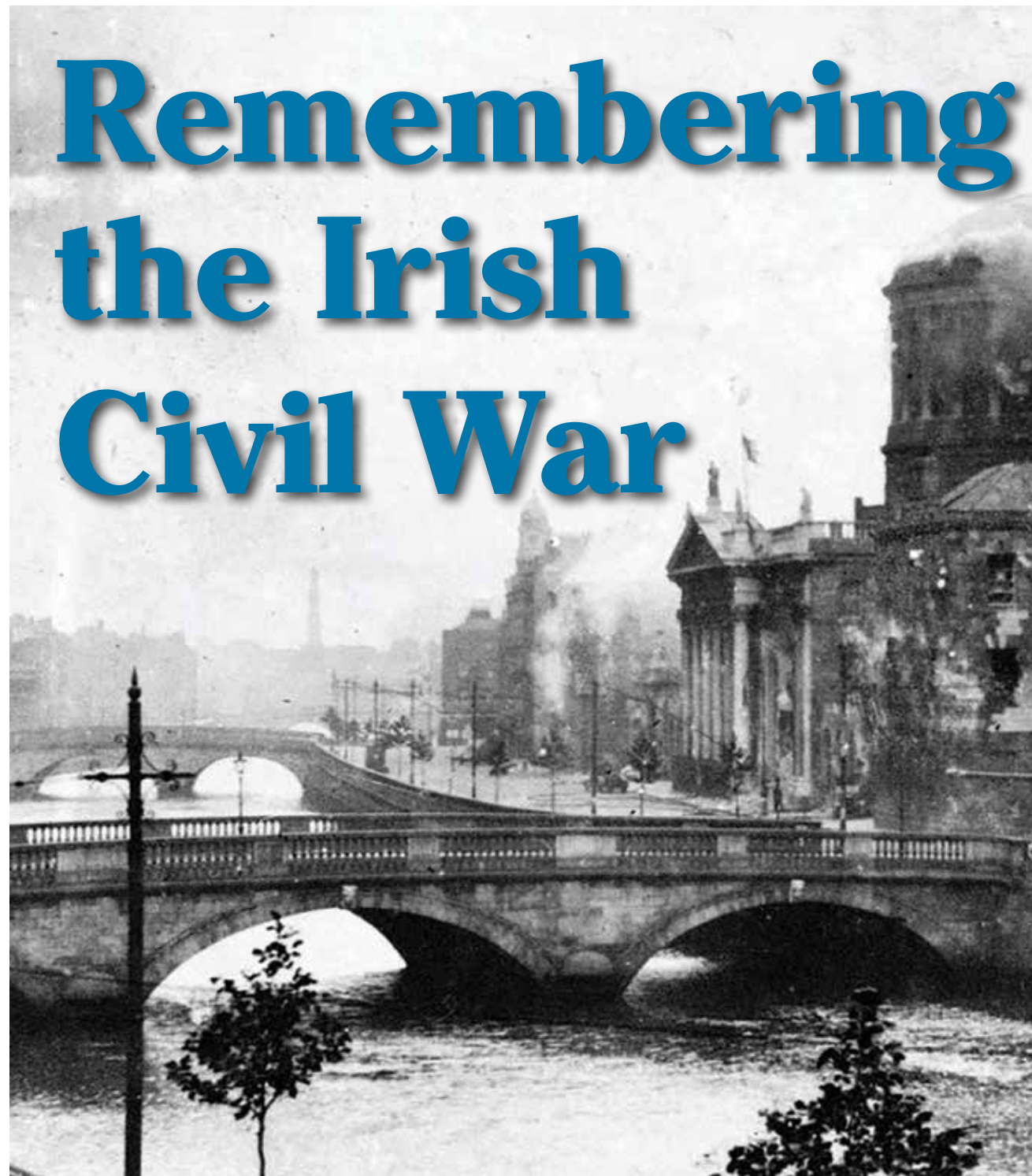
from the EU. The 'war' was settled when Britain accepted £10m instead of the £104m they originally demanded. I doubt that the EU will do better in the Brexit protocol row.

Religion features strongly in these pages, with tales of the 'House Station', when Mass was celebrated in the various homes in each townland; 'Pilgrimage', when staying in Cahore she made the traditional Wexford pilgrimage to Our Lady's Island on August 15; and 'The Liturgical Festival', which records a memorable occasion in the summer of 1940 when massed choirs gathered from the Diocese of Elphin in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Sligo, to promote Gregorian music in the church liturgies.

"Sr Mary Anselm (young, petite, pale-complexioned) of the Sisters of Mercy, Strokestown, taught us the plainchant," she writes. "The task, which seemed to us at first insurmountable, became possible through her enthusiasm and dedication. The Credo was in the most inspiring language of all, *Credo in Unum Deum* – the Latin version so musical compared with mundane English."

Finally, I found her essay 'My husband is a saint', especially touching. Written in 1978, while her husband was still alive, it featured in the Evening Press, using her initials, BK, as her byline. "I'm married to a saint!" she wrote. "Yes indeed. Ahoy there all you men-hating 'women's libbers', would you believe that there are actually good, even saintly husbands in existence? Do I hear any cynics – male or female – remark that only a she-devil can create a saintly mate? Not so. From our first meeting I recognised what a true gentleman Michael was and nothing that has happened since has altered my opinion."

That essay was her very first to be published, when she was 52, but this late-comer to writing has left a very readable legacy in this very entertaining and informative book.



Between two Hells: the Irish Civil War

by Diarmaid Ferriter (Profile Books, €20/€24.69)

Felix M. Larkin

How does a nation mark the centenary of a civil war? This is a problem which we in Ireland have to confront in 2022. Prof. Diarmaid Ferriter's advice in this book is that we "need to factor in restraint" and seek to "understand and contextualise" the positions of the warring parties and "humanise their dilemmas and the deadly consequences of their decisions". That is the spirit in which his book is written.

The book is in two parts. The first is a comprehensive review of the existing literature on the Irish Civil War, with the addition of

material gleaned from the pension files in the Irish Military Archives. The second part draws on these files to examine the miserable, poverty-stricken later fate of many of those who fought in the Civil War and their dependents, and it also discusses the lingering influence of the Civil War divisions on Irish politics in the decades afterwards.

“Proportionately, the Civil War was bloodier than the War of Independence”

Neither side is favoured in this analysis. While acknowledging that public opinion was generally pro-Treaty (if only because of a desire for peace), the book accepts at face value

the good faith of those on both sides of the conflict. It also reveals how personal relationships forged as comrades in arms during the Easter Rising and the War of Independence often triumphed over Civil War divisions, despite bitter rhetoric in the political arena.

Remarkable

Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of the post-Civil War years is that the defeated side was able to win a general election and form a government within ten years of the cessation of the conflict, with the acquiescence of their opponents.

By his constitutional manoeuvres in government from 1932 onwards, Éamon de Valera showed that those who favoured the Treaty had been right in asserting that it provided "the freedom to

achieve freedom".

Today, with Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael working together in relative harmony in a coalition government, we can reasonably claim that the Civil War split in Irish politics is now a thing of the past. Prof. Ferriter sees Alan Dukes' so-called 'Tallaght Strategy' in 1987 – pledging Fine Gael support for the incoming Fianna Fáil government when "the government is moving in the right direction" – as "the beginning of the end of Civil War politics".

One point that Prof. Ferriter emphasises in his book – and it is an argument likely to loom large when we mark the centenary of the Civil War next year – is that, though "the rhetoric it generated was grandiose", the Irish Civil War was actually a "small-scale" affair. He calculates the death

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.



Dark and lawless days in Ireland: the Four Courts on fire at the end of the Civil War siege

toll at about 1,400, as compared to 36,000 deaths in the Finnish Civil War in January to May 1918.

“We can reasonably claim that the Civil War split in Irish politics is now a thing of the past”

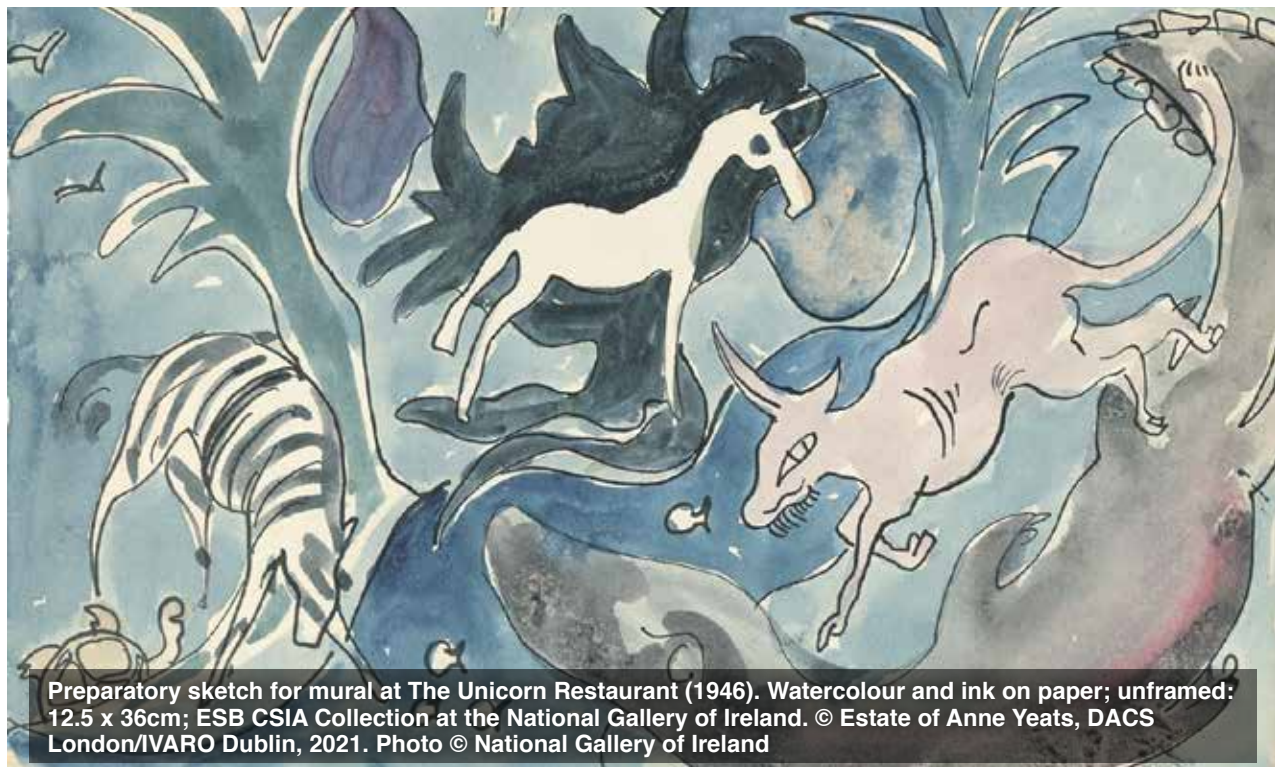
We should not, however, be too self-congratulatory about this. Proportionately, the Civil War was bloodier than the War of Independence. The recently-published *The Dead of the Irish Revolution* records 2,346 fatalities in the War of Independence, but the Civil War was of much shorter duration (June 1922 to April 1923). Moreover, there were appalling atrocities commit-

ted by both sides – and indeed even many supporters of the Treaty had reservations about the extra-judicial executions which sullied their constitutional credentials.

Final chapter

In the final chapter of the book, Prof. Ferriter quotes the young eco-politician, Saoirse McHugh, as saying “I don’t care who did what during the Civil War”. Most of us today would share that view, I think – but can we preserve such indifference during the period of the centenary, or will the memory of it revive old tensions which really have no place in modern Ireland? Only by trying to understand the events of the Civil War can we hope to avoid renewed recrimination, and this book makes a valuable contribution to that.

The charming fantasies of Anne Yeats



Preparatory sketch for mural at The Unicorn Restaurant (1946). Watercolour and ink on paper; unframed: 12.5 x 36cm; ESB CSIA Collection at the National Gallery of Ireland. © Estate of Anne Yeats, DACS London/IVARO Dublin, 2021. Photo © National Gallery of Ireland

Anne Yeats: The Everyday Fantastic

National Gallery of Ireland; Exhibition runs until 9 October 2022, Room 11
Admission free (book a free general admission ticket in advance)

Anne Yeats was the niece of Jack Butler Yeats, and those who have seen the tremendous show of his painting in the NGI should be sure not to miss this show devoted to her smaller but charming talents as a painter and designer. The children of great men

often are disadvantaged by living in the shadow of a great man or woman. The children of the poets Yeats seem to have come well out of such a lottery. Michael Yeats, like his father, was a member of the senate, on the nomination of Fianna Fáil.

Design scheme

Her image for the design scheme of the Unicorn Restaurant in Merrion Row, which opened originally as an excellent venue run by refugee Austrians in wartime Dublin which was frequented by

the advanced bohemian spirits of the day. This is a charming and playful image rather than an overpowering one in the way of the imaginations of her uncle and father.

Anne Yeats was the chief designer for the Abbey Theatre and founding member of Graphic Studio, and did a great deal of commercial design work. Her work is fluent and colourful and never lacking in charm. Her archive is now in the NGI and the selection of pieces on show makes a neat contrast to the work of her uncle elsewhere in the gallery.

A satirical tale of the future for higher learning

St Chinian University Comes of Age,

by Paddy Masterson
(Pegasus Press/Elliot Mackenzie Publishers, £10.99)

J. Anthony Gaughan

Patrick Masterson served as president of University College Dublin from 1986 to 1993 and was president of the European University Institute in Florence from 1994 to 2002.

His novels are the fruit of his first-hand and practical experience of how insignificant, first-world issues can cause uproar and convulse the tranquillity of a university. He pokes fun at the eccentricities and idiocies of academic life but always with a light touch.

In this, his second novel, Patrick Masterson continues his saga on St Chinians. This is a liberal arts university in the Languedoc Region of Southern France, former Heimat of the notorious Albigensians.

The university has evolved along with society. Many members of the professions, realising that they are likely to enjoy independent and active lives into their eighties, are taking early retirement. As a result they are opting to pursue new careers or to return to academic life as part-time students.

Keen to increase his student numbers and the economic benefits that would entail, the wily president of St Chinians, Guy Boulanger, exploits the situation. He and his colleagues conduct a most successful campaign to promote St Chinians as the ideal university for those of the troisième âge intending to return to academic life.

Within a decade the student body of St Chinians is transformed. It eventually consists of 8,000 mature, part-time students and 4,000 typical young undergraduates.

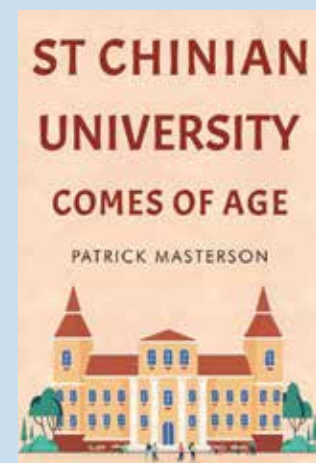
Programmes

St Chinians offers programmes in four different academic schools. The most popular is the School of Viticulture and Agriculture. It caters specifically for the wishes of local vignerons to have their sons and daughters educated for careers in agriculture and wine production.

The School of Arts, Media and Communication provides the traditional liberal arts subjects. Thirdly, there is the School of Economics, Business Studies and Tourism which concentrates on promoting local tourism. Finally, there is the School of Social and Political Sciences, where ideological and personal animosities flourish.

The young, full-time students are registered in a particular school to pursue a predetermined degree programme. By contrast the mature students enjoy the freedom to indulge as they wish their intellectual curiosity and their flights of fancy. A remarkable number of them have fixations on the most exotic subjects and insist that the college authorities provide courses to pander to their tastes.

Initially members of the disparate groups respect each other. However, this changes as the mature students exercise an increasing influence in the various student clubs and societies and across the university at large.



And the mature students nurse a grievance, namely that their vote in elections is valued at only a half that of the undergraduates. Tensions reach a head when it comes time to elect a new president of the student union.

The standard-bearer for the mature students is Lottie Beausang. She is described as having spent her life working in a company’s advertising department where her natural talent was soon recognised but never fully acknowledged.

Her opponent is Yves Leroy, the handsome captain of the university’s successful senior rugby team. Staff and students alike support their chosen candidate, each with ulterior motives of their own. In the event Lottie wins the election by a slender margin. At the count there is the customary, controversial intervention when there is an unsuccessful claim that the whole operation is invalid, owing to the method in which the count had been conducted.

His past students and former colleagues and many others besides will immensely enjoy his delightful romp in the groves of academe. And beneath all the fun he presents a vision of the university of the future.

Classifieds

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

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.



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

FOCUS
Ireland

Remembering
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
CARDS & NOTELETS
BOOKMARKS**

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someone who shares your faith?
Finding...
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Then call Heavenly Partners on 01 568 6568
www.heavenlypartners.ie

SERVICES

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

HEAVEN'S MESSAGE

BISHOP JUAN GUEVARRA, Nicaragua approved the divine revelations to Luz de Maria at www.revelacionesmarianas.com/english.htm. An important message given on 4th and 12th October 2021.

ALFIE LAMBE MASS

HOLY MASS FOR THE BEATIFICATION of the Servant of God, Alfie Lambe, Legion of Mary Envoy to South America, will be celebrated in the Church of the Three Patrons, Rathgar, Dublin, on Sunday, 31st, October 2021 at 12.15 p.m. The Celebrant and Homilist will be Very Reverend Paul Taylor, P.P. Rathgar. A cup of tea will follow. Bus 14, 15, 15A, 15B and 65 [18 and 83 6 minutes walk from Rathmines] Arranged by Annunciata Curia, Dublin for the Concilium, Legion of Mary.



Please remember GOAL in your Will

42 years on we continue to deliver lifesaving support to the most vulnerable people in our world. Leaving a gift in your Will is priceless.

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

Registered Charity No. 20010980; CHY 6271

PART-TIME CHAPLAIN REQUIRED

(FULL YEAR CONTRACT) 11 HOURS PER WEEK FOR OUR LADY'S SCHOOL IN TERENCE



If interested please sent letter of application and curriculum vitae together with referees (name, role & contact no)

And copies of certificate, diplomas, degrees to principal@olschool.ie



By choosing to leave a gift in your will to Missio Ireland, you are choosing to share God's love with those who need it most.

To learn more about the Holy Father's official charity for overseas mission, call Fiona on 01 497 2035 or visit www.missio.ie



The Irish Catholic PREPAID CLASSIFIED AD COUPON

STATE UNDER WHICH HEADING YOUR AD IS TO APPEAR:

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

No. of insertions: _____ weeks

Miracle Prayer €40

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

1					
2					
3					€24.60
4					
5					
6					€29.52
7					€34.44

Name and contact detail form **MUST** be filled out

Name

Address

Landline Mobile

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

My Visa/Mastercard/Lasercard number is:

Expiry Date: Signature

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

Phone: 01 687 4094

Please pray for the beatification of

Little Nellie of Holy God

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

– Pope St Pius X, June 4, 1912

We will pass on the flame of faith.

For over 130 years, *The Irish Catholic* has been a voice of hope and inspiration for Catholics in Ireland. Help us pass on the flame of faith by remembering us in your Will.

Phone 01 6874028 info@irishcatholic.ie

Classifieds: 01 687 4094

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

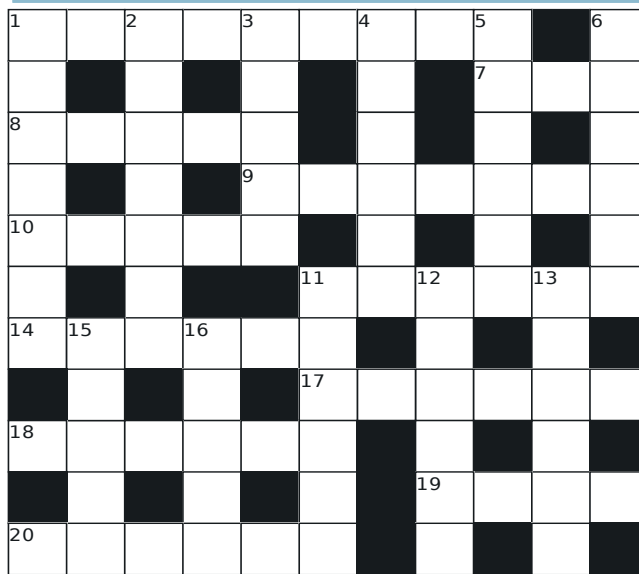
Trócaire

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 405



Across

- 1 The Irish _____ is the world's largest breed of dog (9)
- 7 Slippery fish that looks a bit like a snake (3)
- 8 Picked (5)
- 9 Cards and _____ come in the post (7)
- 10 Goes in front (5)
- 11 Author (6)
- 14 Walk like a duck (6)
- 17 Painter, or sculptor perhaps (6)
- 18 A horse's fastest movement (6)
- 19 The world's longest river (4)
- 20 Spring, summer, autumn

or winter (6)

Down

- 1 Bray and Arklow are in this county (7)
- 2 Big cat with 'spots' (7)
- 3 The backs of the feet (5)
- 4 Donegal and Antrim are in this province (6)
- 5 The Sahara is one (6)
- 6 Nearer (6)
- 11 A rifle or spear, perhaps (6)
- 12 Mean to do something (6)
- 13 Without difficulty (6)
- 15 Not asleep (5)
- 16 Baby-like toys (5)

SOLUTIONS, OCTOBER 14

GORDIUS NO. 529

Across – 1 Him 3 Bombardment 8 Line-up 9 Regicide 10 Dutch 11 Their 13 Beast 15 Curtail 16 Garbage 20 Flare 21 Purim 23 Saudi Arabia 24 Fabulous 25 Redden 26 Wear and tear 27 Ill

Down – 1 Holiday camp 2 Minotaur 3 Brush 4 Burglar 5 Drift 6 Exited 7 The 12 Recessional 13 Brief 14 Tease 17 Agnus Dei 18 Babysat 22 Malta 23 Swear 24 Few

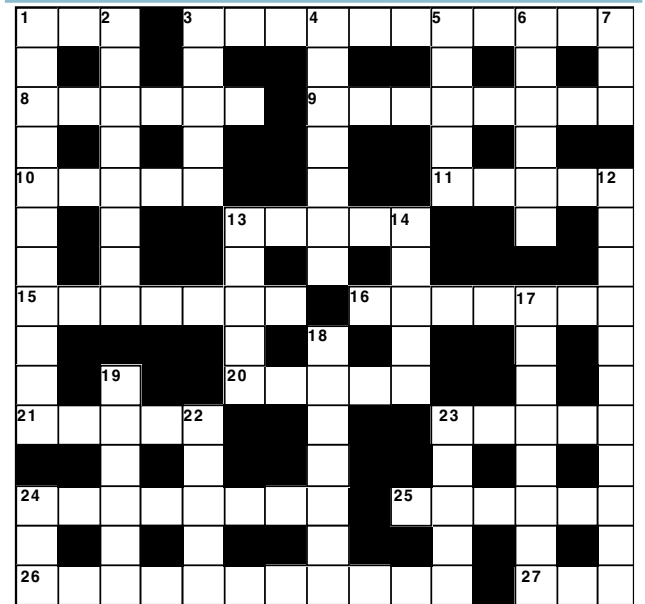
CHILDREN'S No. 404

Across – 1 Wild animals 6 Round 8 Raining 9 Shoe 11 Twenty 14 Soft 16 Arctic 17 Sports 18 Eyelid 19 Adults

Down – 1 Warm 2 Louth 3 Andrew 4 Indian 5 Single 7 Tiny 9 Stopped 10 Otter 12 Erases 13 Ticket 15 Visit

Crossword

Gordius 530



Across

- 1 Place a wager (3)
- 3 Entertainment (3,3,5)
- 8 Catholic diocese approximating to Sligo (6)
- 9 Sacrificial offering made of a boot nail (8)
- 10 Waste pipe (5)
- 11 Relating to the sun (5)
- 13 Card game involving the taking of tricks (5)
- 15 An order to appear before a court (7)
- 16 Opt to continue no longer (4,3)
- 20 Word of greeting (5)
- 21 North African country, capital Tripoli (5)
- 23 One who ensures we keep the peace (5)
- 24 It's not the amateur who discovered what's deep! (8)
- 25 African country law I am changing (6)
- 26 Ping-pong (5,6)
- 27 Metal mined in stannaries (3)

Down

- 1 Exclamation of surprise (5,2,4)
- 2 Parasite affecting a warm poet (8)
- 3 Member of a mendicant order (5)
- 4 Loss of the ability to smell, in Samoa perhaps (7)
- 5 Caprine animals (5)
- 6 Principally (6)
- 7 Male offspring (3)
- 12 One who believes Haile Selassie was the Messiah (11)
- 13 Winding apparatus (5)
- 14 The trunk of the body (5)
- 17 Cloudy (8)
- 18 Pantomime hero who found a magic lamp (7)
- 19 Take in moisture (6)
- 22 Idolise an oread thus (5)
- 23 A tumbler or schooner, perhaps (5)
- 24 Placed (3)

Sudoku Corner

405

Easy

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

Hard

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

Last week's Easy 404

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

Last week's Hard 404

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

Notebook

Fr Vincent Sherlock



He sent me a package in the post...

I HAVE NEVER MET HIM, nor have I ever spoken with him. I have read his words and been aware of his presence in my life for more than a year. Occasionally he sends emails and they are a joy to read. Filled with reflection and acknowledgement, he reminds me that the words we speak can travel far and reach places we never visit and find a place in people's hearts.

Contact was established through a small camera, mounted just under the gallery in Kilmovee Parish Church. Though the church was emptied of its congregation, the lens brought something of what was happening there to people of and from the parish. It was a means to an end with an eye towards the end of pandemic, lockdown, social distancing, sickness and most importantly of all, the increasing death toll caused by Covid-19. It was a blessing at a time when we were devoid of much evidence of blessing and a voice when voices were isolated, uncertain and muffled behind masks.

He happened on a Sunday Mass, most likely not live because he lives in the United States and our times were not in sync. Somehow, he made a connection and, for more than a year, joined our parish for Sunday Mass and quite often daily Mass and



night prayer. He told me how much all this meant to him and seemed at home in our virtual parish, that was and is rooted in the reality of life in a country parish in County Mayo in the diocese of Achonry. I was glad to know he was there.

Journey

His emails picked up on some points that I had made, spoke of his own life and journey and left no doubt around how much faith matters to him and the difference it makes in his day to day living of life. They also reminded me of the need to try to connect with people, even when to the naked eye,

there were no people present. When parishioners returned, when sound was again heard in our church, it was so welcome, and his emails reflected that too. He spoke of how wonderful it was to see the people of this par-

ish he had joined through cyberspace. He felt he knew them and continued to feel at home among them. As it should be.

Sligo

I moved parish in August and now live in Tubbercurry and Cloonacool parish in my native County Sligo. Towards the end of August, I received the package I mentioned. Nothing fancy or elaborate, a prayer candle with a prayer for peace attached. I recognised the sender's name. It was my email friend and included a few lines wishing me well. I was happy to receive it and grateful for his continued support and kindness. I put the candle on the table, put a match to its wick and allowed it bring light and peace to the room.

A few days later I received an email. He told me that he had sent me a small package and had tracked

it as far as Dublin but beyond that he did not know if it had arrived. He hoped he had the right address. I replied telling him that it had arrived and that I was grateful. I should, of course, have replied sooner but maybe there's a lesson in that!

I hope there is because I shared that story with three First Holy Communion groups and their families. It strikes me that the man could track the package but he could not track the gratitude or the difference his gift made. For the First Holy Communion children, Jesus could track the journey to that point where they say "Amen" but how can we reassure him of our gratitude? Only by saying thanks and letting it be known that the gift received matters deeply.

Is there an unacknowledged gift in your life? Is there a word of thanks due to someone? The delivery can be tracked but the response... well, that is down to us. Maybe it is the 'Amen' to Eucharist at weekly Mass.

A consoling line

A parishioner in the new parish called in recently. The parish had been without a resident priest for twenty months and he came to welcome me. What he said next shocked and pleased me. He told me that he had driven by the house, looked in and noticed my car and that it took him back to his childhood when he passed the church one day with his father who looked in and said "I like to see the priest's car at the house. I feel safer knowing that he's there." I never really thought of it like that before but I was happy to hear him saying it.



Little Way Sisters providing refugees with food, medicines and accommodation, and bringing them the love, care and compassion of Christ.



THE LITTLE WAY MISSIONARY SISTERS OF ST THERESE URGENTLY NEED OUR HELP

The Little Way Missionary Sisters of St Therese live and work in small communities that have been established in remote mountainous areas of Myanmar (Burma), where Jesus and His Gospel are unknown, as well as in the towns and more populated areas. The Sisters have opened their convent doors to large numbers of refugees providing them with food, medicines and a place to stay. They are caring for the sick and attending to their needs. They ask for our help and for our prayers.



"I would travel to every land to preach Thy name, O my Beloved, and raise on heathen soil the glorious standard of Thy Cross."
- St Therese

It was St Therese's vocation to be "love in the heart of the Church, and to assist priests, missionaries and the entire Church", and this has been the continuing inspiration of The Little Way Association. Ever since the death of St Therese on 30 September 1897, countless priests and missionaries have given witness to the extraordinary way in which she has helped them. Let us pray today for the fulfilment of her desire that the Gospel message would be spread throughout the world.

MISSIONARIES NEED YOUR MASS OFFERINGS

In these fraught times, missionary priests rely more than ever on stipends for their daily subsistence and for helping the poorest of their communities.

Your November Masses for the Holy Souls

Remember the Holy Souls in November. The Little Way Association will be pleased to send your Mass intentions to missionaries.

A minimum stipend of €5 is recommended for each Mass.

Our benefactors will be glad to know that a Mass is offered each day for their intentions.

Can you spare a donation for the Sisters?

Your gift which will be forwarded without deduction will enable the Sisters to continue to serve the refugees, the poorest of the poor, the sick and the uneducated and will provide a presence where the love of God and neighbour can be recognised. Archbishop Mang Thang assures all benefactors of a daily share in his prayers and asks for our prayers for the Church in Myanmar.

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:

- €..... LITTLE WAY SISTERS OF ST THERESE
- €..... WELLS AND WATER
- €..... HUNGRY, SICK, DEPRIVED & REFUGEES
- €..... MASS OFFERINGS
(Please state no. of Masses _____)
- €..... LITTLE WAY ADMIN EXPENSES

To donate online go to www.littlewayassociation.com

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

Please tick if you would like an acknowledgement

Name (Rev. Mr. Mrs. Miss)

(Block letters please)

Address