

INSIDE



Parents are depriving kids of true hope

Page 3



Rally for Life to affirm 8th Amendment

Page 5



Teen Catholics must be rebels and saints

Page 5

Alive!

FREE

Catholic Monthly Newspaper

No. 234 June 2017

250,000 copies nationwide

www.alive.ie



Author Aurora Griffin: 'My dad told me from the time I was a child that a day would come when I had to choose between what I most wanted and Christ. One day I would be tested to see if I loved something else more than God.'

● See Page 7



Surprise at findings of Houses of Life project

● See Page 9



'Pro-choice' ideology is now a form of insanity

● See Page 4



End RTE's chokehold on public debate

Page 8

White: How can people have gall to malign these women?

VICTORIA WHITE is one of the very few media figures who have been willing to step out of line and condemn the unjust and cowardly vilification of religious sisters that has been taking place in and by the Irish media in recent weeks.

"It makes me sick to hear self-appointed Scribes and Pharisees rubbishing the life's work of hundreds of hard-working Irishwomen, without whom a large chapter of Irish women's history is unwritten," wrote White. "Our public health service is in large part their legacy."

It wasn't ideal that the Sisters of Charity should retain ownership of the new maternity hospital, she wrote in her *Irish Examiner* column.

"But then it wasn't ideal, either, that a few religious sisters should be the only ones willing to risk their necks enough to open hospitals in Dublin and Cork during the cholera epidemic of 1832.

"Or to work tirelessly among women convicts and their children in Parramatta, Australia. Or to open the first hospice for the dying in Harold's Cross, Dublin, one of the first such institutions in these islands."

She explained that the reason the Sisters of Charity own St Vincent's Hospital "is that they were prepared to do what few others bothered to do. They were frequently radical and frequently heroic."

And they still are, she said, despite "the vile ageist, sexist poison which has gushed" from various politicians, journalists, doctors and others.



National Maternity Hospital. INSET: Victoria White



Like Sr Loreto who "until recently fed thousands of addicted Aids sufferers daily at Dublin's Open Heart House", and Sr Ann who "helps the dying come to terms with death at Dublin's Blackrock Hospice."

And Sr Justina who is "fearlessly raising awareness of human trafficking in Nigeria and helping to rehabilitate traumatised survivors of this vile trade."

Cry

White said that writing newspaper articles did not often make her cry but writing this one did.

"How can people have the gall to malign these women," she wondered. "Particularly as those shouting loudest have often done nothing more in their lives for their fellow men and women than bring home a Trócaire box when they were in High Babies."

She also criticised "the lazy, ahistorical

narrative" about the sisters and the Magdalene laundries, in a petition she was invited to sign.

"Magdalene asylums both here and in Britain were grim, but the truth is they gave refuge to many defenceless women who would otherwise have lived still sadder lives of prostitution," she wrote.

"Society kicked these 'fallen' women out and closed the door. The nuns opened theirs. So they're to blame now, are they?"

When Mary Aikenhead, born in Cork in 1787, founded the Sisters of Charity she and her sisters set out, in her own words, "to give to the poor what the rich can buy with money". This was what made them radical.

On the other hand, "to hear the shrieks in support of the 'independence' of the National Maternity Hospital in recent weeks anyone would think it ran a woman-friendly service," wrote White.

She questioned the need for a private wing in the new hospital when public patients will have their own rooms. Is it "to maintain the private practice and staggering incomes of the obstetricians practising privately?"

She also wanted to know "how woman-centred, baby-centred maternity care will ever evolve in a system dominated by private obstetricians paid to control women."

Meantime, "there are hardly any nuns left, they're old and they wear funny clothes," she wrote. "We can hate them without hating ourselves. We can take their life's work from them without once uttering the words, 'Thank you'."

• **For David Quinn, an anti-life agenda lies behind attacks on nuns and Catholic Church. See page 3.**

Nazi sympathy in German army

MILITARY officials in Germany have been investigating some 275 soldiers who have shown signs of Nazi sympathies and extremism.

In a letter to Opposition politicians, the defence ministry voiced concern that many of the more serious cases had been dealt with too leniently by the army.

Those being investigated include members of the military who gave the Nazi salute and shouted "Heil Hitler", "Sieg Heil" and "Heil our Führer".

Another soldier attacked a group of asylum-seekers, having quizzed them as to whether they were Christian or Muslim.

A third posted a photo of Hitler on WhatsApp with the caption: "Missing since 1945: Adolf please report! Germany needs you!" He was fined €800 but allowed to remain in the military.

A soldier who gave a Hitler salute while serving in Latvia was also allowed to keep his job.

The letter also detailed the case of a soldier who posted a picture of a machine-gun on social media. The pic-

ture was captioned: "The fastest German asylum procedure, rejects up to 1,400 requests per minute."

Since there was no evidence that he had neglected his duty, charges against him did not proceed.

Of the cases under investigation, 47 are from 2015, 143 from 2016, and 53 in the first few months of this year.

Feminist argues for 'a right to choose' for fathers

HOW far should we take the "right to choose" ideology? A feminist in Australia has argued that men should not be held financially responsible for their children if they choose to opt out of being fathers.

She believed that if men were free to declare "no interest" in the baby early in a pregnancy it would likely encourage unmarrieds to be more careful about conception and would help women to be realistic about what they could expect when the baby was born.

Allowing men to "legally withdraw from becoming a parent," argued Catherine Deveny, "would also be less traumatic for children, and more empowering for women."

In Australia, the biological father of a child has legal rights but is also legally required to pay child support for his children.

Deveny gave the case of a couple who are fornicating and one or both has made it clear they don't want children, a point reinforced by their use of contraception. But the pill fails and she ends up pregnant.

"After the initial shock, she has decided she wants to keep the child. He, meanwhile, has no interest in becoming a father. Now what?"

If she has "a right to choose" should he also not have such a right? "I believe a woman should not be forced to become a mother any more than a man should be forced to become a father," said Deveny in a piece for *ABC News*.

'Opt out'

The father, she argued, should be able "to opt out of fatherhood early in a pregnancy via what is known as a financial abortion."

This would allow men to cut all financial and emotional ties with a child in the early stages of pregnancy.

"A woman who chooses to continue a pregnancy from which a man has opted out



would do so under no illusions, and be answerable to no one," wrote Deveny.

On the other hand, "if there was an opportunity for men to opt out — blame free — of fatherhood earlier, there may be fewer cases of men abandoning their children later in life."

This, she believed, would be less traumatic and disruptive for the child than if he abandons it (and its mother) after it is born.

It would also make clear that it was fatherhood, not a particular child, he was rejecting.

The idea of men being able to opt out of responsibility for their children was first put forward by sociology professor Frances Goldscheider in 1998, and rejected in a US court a decade later.

But it has been gaining the support of some men's groups. A spokesman for the National Centre for Men in the US commented: "Women now have control of their lives after an unplanned conception."

"But men are routinely forced to give up control, forced to be financially responsible for choices only women are permitted to make, forced to relinquish reproductive choice."

A campaign is now under way in Sweden to allow men to opt out of fatherhood up until the 18th week of pregnancy.



Karen Bennett

Miss Marple helped her win court case

A HAIRDRESSER in Essex, wrongly charged with not wearing a seatbelt when driving, fought her own case in court relying on skills she picked up from TV.

"The only experience of a court I've got is television programmes like Miss Marple," said Mrs. Bennett.

Cross-examining the police officer she asked her, "Could you tell me exactly where you were parked?"

"When she told me her position I knew 100% she couldn't have seen me properly," said Mrs. Bennett. "The magistrates said the evidence I prepared for court was exceptional and they cleared me."

She found the experience nerve-racking, but added: "It has empowered me and I have never felt stronger."

Lonely children seek counselling

AN EPIDEMIC of loneliness in families in Britain has led to thousands of children, three quarters of them girls and some as young as six, seeking counselling for isolation.

Childline said it conducted more than 4,000 counselling sessions with children last year, many of whom believed their parents and friends had little time for them.

Rebecca, 16, felt "empty" inside after being excluded by her friends, with no one to go out

with at weekends.

A boy, 12, said he felt "neglected" after his mother married. "She takes no notice of me," he said. "Sometimes I feel she would prefer it if I wasn't there, but she just tells me I'm being silly and jealous."

The latest figures show that homes with only one child now outnumber those with more children in the UK.

With so many broken homes, or both parents working or busy, or spending excessive amounts of

time on social media, children have no one to turn to or don't know who their real friends are.

"I worry, too, that the kitchen table has become obsolete," said Childline's Esther Rantzen. "Families are too busy to eat together, to talk about their days together, and share their worries."

She believed that parents were often too distracted by smart phones and work pressures to pick up on clues that their children were suffering.

Will your children face life with despair or hope?



THE OPEN DOOR

A talking donkey, sharing its views on science and politics, would cause great wonder wherever it went.

But why should a talking man or woman be any less astonishing? Is it because we are so familiar with talking human beings that we no longer realise how wondrous they are?

Indeed, our world is full of wonderful things, like running water, that no longer cause us astonishment. It seems our capacity for wonder is very limited.

Still, we might occasionally ask how all these wonderful things have come to be. Did they just spring into existence as atheist Stephen Hawking believes?

But that makes no rational sense. It's more a cowardly refusal to face the challenge of our existence.

Nothing around us is anywhere near as wonderful as a human being with our capacity to ask profound questions. Like: where do we come from, has life any meaning, and what happens at death?

Such questions are not just idle curiosity. Rather, they are the "engine" driving our whole life and, whether we realise it or not, how we answer them determines our life's direction.

Parents

Which takes us to parents. Generally they seek to do what's best for their family. But so often they betray their children, largely because they don't teach them how to face the big questions.

The parents' own lives may be so shallow, so empty, that they have never faced the questions themselves. So they can't help their children with them.

Or some hurt or injustice may have embittered them, and it's too big an obstacle for them to overcome. So they can't tackle the fundamental issues.



• Will I send my children into the future with a solid hope or with the depressing belief that life is pointless?

Yet for parents the key question is: Will I send my children into life and the future with a solidly based hope or with no ultimate hope? Will I tell them that, in the long run, life is doomed? The issue is: hope or despair, and where hope might be found.

These questions arose in a painful way for the great John Henry Newman. An Anglican vicar, after years of study he decided that he must become either a Catholic or an atheist.

"I came to the conclusion," he wrote, "that there was no middle ground, in true philosophy, between Atheism and Catholicity. A consistent mind,

under the circumstances in which it finds itself here below, *must* embrace either the one or the other."

This remained a life-long conviction. Years later he wrote: "I hold this still: I am a Catholic by virtue of my believing in a God."

Great joy

The issue, of course, is not just hope, it is also joy. "I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by all the people," Gabriel told the Bethlehem shepherds.

Without lasting joy, life ultimately has no purpose. This is the real source of emptiness

and hopelessness in many people's lives. Why would parents want to condemn their children to such a dreadful vision of life?

On the other hand, many young Catholics are coming to grasp this hope and joy, rooted in the Resurrection, and find their whole outlook on life transformed.

Life now has a purpose, it is a journey with a wonderful destination. And in God's word, the sacraments and commandments they have all the help they need to reach that destination where they will be happy forever.

This hope and joy, however, is not just for the next life. Even here and now it gives them courage and strength to carry on, especially in times of suffering.

They realise that even their pain has a place in God's loving design for their lives, it has meaning.

Rocket science

None of this is rocket science. People of ordinary intelligence can figure out these issues. They can know that shopping or a passion for sport is no answer to our deepest longings.

They can figure out that life either has a meaning or it has no meaning, that hope or despair are the only alternatives before us.

In parts of Canada, for example, young Catholics are discovering the beauty and joy of their faith and challenging their parents: "what was it you wanted that you were willing to give up the faith for it?"

They are astonished at their parents' foolishness. Indeed, it is through their children that many parents are returning to God, to the practice of the faith, often really discovering it for the first time.

It is a good question that these young people are asking: for what would we give up Jesus Christ our Saviour? For what would we give up true joy in this life and the hope of salvation, of eternal happiness?

Too many Catholics are silent, afraid or indifferent when their faith is questioned. But silence or cowardice are no longer tolerable.

Like the young Canadians, Catholics should be the ones vigorously challenging today's widespread despair. We should be on fire to share our hope and our joy.

Abortion is the real agenda behind attacks on Church

NUALA O'Loan has strongly criticised the Irish media for its hostile and distorted coverage of the Catholic Church and has called for "more accuracy and balance" in the way that journalists portray Catholicism.

"I have been appalled by recent coverage in relation to the Church," said Baroness O'Loan. "So much media comment is based on untruth or exaggeration."

She added that "much media reporting does not take into account so many factors which impact on the situations which are reported."

In Dublin Archbishop Diarmuid Martin has spoken of "justified resentment" among priests, religious and lay people at being "unfairly under attack" as they live out their faith and their ministry generously and with dedication.

David Quinn, in the *Irish*

Catholic, argued that "nuns in Ireland have been so stereotyped in Irish public debate that they have been reduced to the role of the villain in an old-fashioned Hammer horror movie."

On the issue of the national maternity hospital, he was particularly concerned about "a background assumption in this debate that needs to be strongly challenged", that "Catholic teaching is a danger to pregnant women's health."

But for him the real agenda in the onslaught against the Church is the Catholic refusal to condone the killing of unborn children.

"The big issue here is, of

course, abortion and whether a maternity hospital should be pro-life or pro-choice," he wrote.

"A pro-life hospital," he explained, "will look after both mother and baby, while a pro-choice hospital will end an unborn child's life if that is what the mother wants."

To a reasonable person then, he believed, it should be clear that "it is the pro-choice ethos, not the pro-life one which is the much greater threat to health and life. But why worry about this when we can caricature the nuns instead?"

SHRINES OF ITALY PILGRIMAGES 2017

BENEVENTO, SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO & NOLA
3 SEPTEMBER - 7 NIGHTS
 1 night Benevento - 4 nights San Giovanni - 2 nights Rome
€945pp

ASSISI & NOLA
16 SEPTEMBER - 5 NIGHTS
 2 nights Assisi - 3 nights Rome
€759pp

www.joewalshtravels.ie | info@joewalshtravels.ie | 01 241 0860 | T.0052 | T.A.0689

MEDJUGORJE PILGRIMAGE

MEDJUGORJE MINI-BREAK
8 SEPTEMBER - 4 NIGHTS
 Guesthouse accommodation
 Daily breakfast & evening meal
 Full religious programme
€589
 per inc.

01 241 0816
 www.joewalshtravels.ie
 info@joewalshtravels.ie
 T.0052 | T.A.0689

MARIAN PILGRIMAGES FULLY ESCORTED PILGRIMAGES

All Included: Local Guide & Rep, Full Religious Programme, Insurance, Taxes, Tips

HOLY LAND

Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Galilee, Nazareth
8 nights - October 2nd, 8th, 9th & 16th 2017 - €1355pps
9 nights - November 20th 2017 - €1575pps

WE INCLUDE: Fully Escorted Packaged Pilgrimage - Spiritual Directors - Services of Marian Pilgrimages Rep. on the Ground - Local English Speaking Guides - Sea of Galilee Boat trip - Taxes, Tips & Insurance

MEDJUGORJE & ASSISI
13 July - 6 nights - €859
3 nights Medjugorje - 2 nights Assisi

WE INCLUDE: Fully Escorted Packaged Pilgrimage - Spiritual Director - all transfers - Services of Marian Pilgrimages team throughout - Taxes & Insurance

WWW.MARIAN.IE
(01) 878 8159 | (028) 95680005 | info@marian.ie
 19 Eden Quay, Dublin 1
 Fully licensed and bonded tour operator TO142 - ATOL 10206

'Pro-choice' ideology now a form of insanity

by Gerard Murphy

LAST month we saw how a group of people lost in a trackless desert with no directions to guide them to safety is a parable of modern society with its distorted understanding of freedom.

Not knowing where safety lies, the members of the group have complete freedom of choice – they are free to move in whatever direction they choose. And this is the ideal of freedom that modern society promotes.

But there are differences. The group knew it was lost, and sought to discover the way to safety and "salvation". It was constantly on the look out for any signs that it was on the right track.

The modern world, on the other hand, has abandoned all hope of happiness or salvation beyond the earthly. Nor does it want to be troubled by any offer of such happiness. It has decided in advance that all such offers must be a delusion.

With freedom now the supreme value anything that restricts "my choice" is seen as an imposition and is resented. We don't want signposts of any sort.

Tradition, the wisdom of past generations, is scoffed at; moral law is just a fiction and we refuse to even ask if our behaviour is good or evil; man-made laws must be kept to a minimum. Even among many "Catholics", Church teaching is rejected.

'Kill them off'

Most recently, human nature itself is seen as an unacceptable limit on freedom, and we are rapidly abandoning the idea that we are responsible for others, especially children, the sick and the elderly. It's easier to kill them off.

We still speak of "equality", of justice and of "human rights" but we know that ultimately these words carry no weight, are just weapons to be used for our own agenda, and can



be discarded if inconvenient to our desires.

This leads to a society where possessions and consumption are used to numb our desire for happiness, and an insane economic system is based on artificially stimulated "consumer demand".

At its most extreme, choice ideology holds that people are free to walk out of their marriages, to indulge in casual sex, to "marry" a person of the same sex, to mutilate their bodies

and think they have changed their sex.

This radically individualistic freedom holds that it is alright for a mother to betray her unborn child, especially if the child is not perfect, for a father to abandon all responsibility for his children.

As with the desert group, such freedom leads to immense problems, not least the breakdown of society and a huge increase in depression and various mental illnesses.

Rejection

But how did humanity ever come up with such an extraordinary, anti-human notion of freedom?

While it has been developing over several centuries, ultimately it is rooted in a rejection of truth and of God. Man has made himself supreme, has made himself his own god, and answers to no one but himself.

This ideology, by obliterating hope, distorting our minds and corrupting

our consciences, has hardened our hearts to the point where we can no longer even see how evil and destructive it is.

Yet Secularism is being vigorously promoted by the Irish politico-media establishment, our third level colleges, our legal system, a host of lobby groups, corporate giants, the EU and the UN.

Despite it being an irrational ideology, indeed a man-made religion, it stands because its supporters aggressively protect it from all scrutiny and challenge. No debate is allowed.

But why do so many otherwise intelligent people cling to it? They do so, it seems, because they have no authentic vision to put in its place.

And their cultural groupthink gives them a reassuring if insane sense of solidarity in their misery.

Surely our country can do better than this absurd, rapidly increasing return to barbarism.



Monthly Musings

By Maria Horan
Teacher and novelist

A moving Carmelite experience

It is hardly surprising that few people who have taken to criticising the Irish Catholic Church in recent years have little personal experience of the clergy or the nuns.

My husband was fortunate enough to grow up in the grounds of a Carmelite convent, as his father was the caretaker there and the family lived in a house on Carmelite land.

It was always fascinating for me to hear about the experiences of Patrick and his "twenty mothers", when as a small child, he helped with the chickens that they kept for eggs.

Or when he knocked on the convent door, to ask the then-novice, now Mother Superior, Sr Mary Noleen, if she was coming out to play.

It gave Patrick a truly unique childhood and an insight into the Order of Carmel.

When my mother-in-law, Margaret Horan, recently died, the Carmelites in Stillorgan were marvellous.

The nuns had a meeting and agreed to allow my mother-in-law to lie in repose in their chapel the evening before her funeral.

In over a hundred years, no lay woman had ever been permitted to do this before.



It meant that Margaret would be in the company of the Carmelites and they would pray for her continuously throughout her repose there.

Prayers

Prayers were recited at 3pm on Margaret's arrival at the convent, again at 6pm and we were privileged to be permitted to return for Compline (Night Prayer).

Indeed, the Carmelites brought the prayer forward to 7.45 instead of the normal 8pm, so that we lay people could join in.

This was a rare honour, and even concluded with a blessing on each of us from the Mother Superior, after all of her sisters had been initially blessed.

The opportunity to pray and experience the serenity in the Carmelite chapel

brought a great calm and healing to grieving friends and family present.

It was also wonderful to see an all-female community in such a personal setting which was truly a privilege.

The sisters radiated such love that it touched the most cynical amongst the visitors and it was refreshing to see

such positive energy that didn't feel the need to apologise or explain itself.

Doubting Thomases left with new vigour. All joined in the rosaries (some even producing sets of beads from the depths of their pockets) and in singing the beautiful hymns, made more poignant by the fact that it was Holy Week.

The prayer services for Margaret were clearly a renewal of faith and belief amongst a number of family and friends.

It was a truly wonderful experience and even the cynics amongst the visitors were deeply touched by the whole experience.

This was the hidden face of Carmel, behind whose doors the sisters do such positive and life-affirming work, unknown to most of the world.

'Call the Midwife' nuns forced to sell up



THE BBC TV series 'Call the Midwife' followed the lives of a group of midwives working in London's poverty-stricken East End during the 1950s.

The drama was based on the memoirs of Jennifer Worth who worked with the Community of St. John the Divine, a group of Anglican nuns, at their convent in the East End.

Reading Worth's memoir, with the same title as the TV series, gave a great insight into the Anglican nuns.

However, it was a terrible pity to see that the five nuns of St. John the Divine, who inspired the hit show, have had to sell up and leave their community home, because they could no longer afford to live there.

The Church of England didn't come to their rescue and the sisters have been living frugally on their pensions and some savings that they managed to accrue.

Considering the huge amount of money that the Anglican sisters helped to make for the BBC, it is puzzling that the Corporation didn't step in and help out.

Surely this would have been the Christian thing to do? The 'Beeb' claims to have no religious affiliations. But it is not averse to making huge amounts of cash with the help of a religious order!

Reformation damage to women

■ The female influence on the Catholic Church that comes from nuns' convents is not very well understood in Britain.

The UK's *Catholic Herald* recently

had an article discussing the missing role of women in society after the Protestant Reformation, and the great loss that resulted when women were forced by their families to leave their convents.

Anna Wurm from Strasbourg was one of the women to whom this happened, against her personal wishes. Her brother forced her to leave the convent as he had plans to marry her off, thus earning himself some

money.

Many women had little choice but to abandon their convent life, get married and abandon their prayers, studies and contemplation.

As the article pointed out, the Reformation may have caused women's religious roles to be set back centuries, through the combined loss of convent life, women saints and Mary as a devotional figure in her own right.

Rally for Life defends our 8th Amendment

ORGANISERS have announced that this year's Rally for Life, to be held in Dublin on 1st July, will have the theme, **Save the 8th Amendment**.

With politicians, the media and left-wing lobby groups ganging up to destroy legal support for unborn children's right to life, in the name of "choice", the theme highlights an essential element in creating a just and peaceful society.

"Let's show this government what a real Citizens' Assembly looks like," said the Life Institute's Niamh Uí Bhriain. "Bring friends and family along to make protecting, not ending, life the focus of public attention."

Uí Bhriain pointed out that the push to repeal the 8th, opening the way to the destruction of the lives of preborn babies, is being driven largely by the media and by groups massively funded by the government and from abroad.

"But the opinion polls already show that the Save the 8th campaign is having a real impact on public opinion and can succeed in protecting life," she said.

At a recent university debate in Cork, for example, students voted by more than 2 to 1 in favour of the 8th.

Encouraging everyone to join the Rally, Uí Bhriain said it was an opportunity "to let the country see that truth and the momentum are on the pro-life side."



Emmys for John Paul II film

A 90-MINUTE TV documentary showing the key role played by Pope John Paul II (pictured) in the fall of communism has won two Emmy Awards in the US.

Liberating a Continent: John Paul II and the Fall of Communism tells the remarkable story of how Eastern Europe regained its freedom without bloodshed.

"We are honoured to receive these awards and are grateful for the recognition it gives to this important film," said producer Carl Anderson.

"The film shows how, by calling forth the best in the human spirit, John Paul was the essential leader in making this happen, and in such a hopeful, inspiring way."

One award went to the producers for outstanding achievement for documentary programmes in the historical category. The second went to the director of photography, George Hosek.

Anderson, when he served in the Reagan White House, worked with St. John Paul II. He is now Supreme Knight of the Catholic organisation Knights of Columbus.

Communist control

The film, narrated by actor Jim Caviezel who played Jesus in Mel Gibson's *Passion of the Christ*, focuses on the the Pope's role in ending communist control of Central and Eastern Europe.

It highlights his spiritual



influence on Poland's Solidarity movement, which played a pivotal role leading up to the collapse of Communism beginning in 1989.

The documentary uses rare archival footage and interviews several heads of state. It also includes interviews with John Paul's biographer George Weigel; Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz, who served as the pope's long-time assistant; and Richard Allen, former national security adviser to Ronald Reagan.

The awards were made by the Chicago/Midwest Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences.

The documentary has been shown on public TV across the U.S. in partnership with WTTW Chicago.

Alive! needs your support



Alive! accepts CREDIT CARD Donations & Payments

Tel: 01-404 8187



Anonymous Donations

€250: An;
€100: CS;
€50: MPS; An; JS; JJS;
€45: An;
€25: MG; PD; Mick Cork;
MO'C; Deise; An;
€20: Thanks; KS; DS; Fran;
Lismore Reader; An;
€15: An;
€10: An; MC; TT; Lismore
Reader; Taiwo; Martha
Belfast; An, Frenchpark
€5: An;
STG: £50: CMcCrann; £30:
Co. Tyrone;

THANK YOU for your continued support.

I wish to support *Alive!*. Enclosed is my donation for

€1,000 ☐ €500 ☐ €250 ☐ €100 ☐

€50 ☐ €25 ☐ €15 ☐ other €

Name

Address

Tel:

Please send your donation to:

Alive!, St. Mary's Priory, Tallaght, Dublin 24

If 8,000 people contribute just €20 each we can continue for another year.

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WHO DONATED TO ALIVE! DURING MAY

Catholic teenagers called to rebel against the culture

SPEAKING to 9,000 teenage Catholics in Los Angeles, Bishop Robert Barron called on them not to settle for mediocrity, but to be true rebels and saints.

At a major faith event for the young people, he noted the joy of the occasion, with lots of upbeat music and games.

But then an immediate silence fell when Archbishop Gomez processed into the arena carrying the Blessed Sacrament for Benediction.

"You could hear a pin drop," he said. "There is something uniquely moving about seeing 9,000 energetic kids suddenly falling to their knees in silent adoration."

Bishop Barron is one of America's best known Catholic bloggers. On stage he asked the young audience to scream as loudly as they could, and likened the noise to 10 jet planes taking off at the same time.

He then told them: "I want you to remember that sound, because if we could harness that energy for the purposes of Christ, we could transform this entire city overnight."

He believed that 50 years after the Vatican Council most Catholics still don't get the idea that every single person is called to be holy.

That laypeople's vocation is to carry their faith into the marketplace, into schools, into office buildings, into the corridors of government,

into sports stadiums, and into the streets.

He wanted the young people "at least to start thinking about this great mission." He then shared three spiritual truths that he wanted them to make their own.

"First," he said, if you want to be happy, you have to play an emptying game rather than a filling game."

The secular culture tells them in a thousand ways that the key to happiness is filling up their lives with material goods, with money, sensual pleasure, power and fame.

'Infinite happiness'

This is the message of practically every movie and pop song. But finite goods will never satisfy the longing of your heart, he told the young, "because we have all been wired for God, for an infinite happiness."

On the other hand, the more relentlessly people seek finite goods, the less satisfying and more addictive they become.

"The game, instead, should be finding a way to make your life a gift," he explained. And the formula is straightforward.

"Since God alone fills up



Jose Sanchez del Rio

the emptiness of the heart, and since God is love, then only a life of radical love will actually fulfill us and make us happy."

His second piece of advice was: don't settle for spiritual mediocrity!

"Quite rightly," he said, "we strive for excellence in every arena of life: business, sports, medicine, the arts, etc."

"But somehow we think it's alright to ignore the spiritual life or, if we think of it at all, to give it a bare minimum of our time and attention."

"But the spiritual endeavour is infinitely more important than any worldly activities, for it has eternal implications."

Here the bishop recalled the impact Fr. Karol Wojtyla (Pope John Paul II) had on university students in Krakow.

While Poland's communist government was trying to stamp out the Catholic faith, he was calling his young charges to be saints.

"And when those kids came of age, they were the great Catholic business leaders, great Catholic writers, great Catholic scientists and politicians who spearheaded the revolution that eventually led to the breakdown of the Soviet Empire."

"They weren't satisfied being lukewarm Catholics, and neither should you."

Finally, Bishop Barron urged the young people to be rebels. "Don't tell me that the rebels are singers and pop stars!," he said. "Obsessed with wealth, pleasure, fame, and power, they are absolutely mainstream, ordinary as dirt."

A real example of a rebel, however, was 14-year-old Jose Sanchez del Rio who was executed by the anti-Catholic Mexican government on 10 February 1928.

He was tortured, mocked, forced to march on lacerated feet, and shot on the edge of his own grave, but he never renounced his faith. Last October Jose was declared a saint.

"Stand with him and the great rebels in the company of Christ," the bishop told the teenagers.

You've got hope: share it around

As Catholics, we often feel judged by other people and perhaps a bit scared to share any knowledge of our faith with them.

It's easy to just freeze while passing a Catholic church on public transport when we know we should bless ourselves. However, we're missing a colossal opportunity here.

To "love your neighbour as yourself" is known worldwide as a moral principle of Christianity.

However, this principle has not remained within Christian teaching, but has spread internationally as the number one Golden Rule! This says something about Christianity today.

Mission

The Natural Law is written in the heart of each human being, so everyone is looking for God whether they know it or not. The fact that the world has accepted "love your neighbour as yourself" is a great example of this.

It is our mission, as Catholics, to help people come to know what's in their hearts and therefore come to know God.

So, when we dismiss the topic of faith in our friend group or when we stiffen to bless ourselves in public, what are we doing to help our friends and others around us?

In a way, we're actually holding them back from what they were created for. God gave us in particular

the blessing of Catholicism, and he chose us to share it with others!

Will we be the man in the gospel who uses his talents for good, to earn more for his master? Or will we be the man who buries his talent in the ground (see Matthew 25:14-30)?

This is a big, tough decision each one of us has to make each and every day.



How can we imitate the man who made good use of the talents given to him by his master? We can do it in many ways. We just have to take whatever gifts God has given us, starting with our faith, and do our best.

Even if we simply mention God in our conversations with friends, we begin to let others know that it's okay to talk about God, that it's okay to believe in him and what he does for us. That alone is a great accomplishment.

For some encouraging Bible quotes on this topic, check out: Romans 12:2 and 15:7; 2 Corinthians 12:10; Galatians 1:10; Ephesians 4:1-4; Timothy 4:12; Hebrews 10:23-25. God is my Father.

The YOUTH FORUM



With Hope Ascough

The Joy of Little Children

I love babies. Babies are just the best for so many reasons, including this one: our relationship with children beautifully reflects the relationship between us and our heavenly Father, God.

I have a little sister whose name is Joy (pictured below). She is adorable. She has big, blue eyes with long eyelashes, the most hysterical laugh you'll ever hear, gives big hugs (Teletubbies taught her well), and has a radiant, infectious smile.

Joy is our "rainbow baby". Our family lost three little babies through miscarriage, but once we thought we were certain our family wouldn't have another baby, God blessed us with Joy.

My brother recently made a music video to Ed Sheeran's song "Barcelona" in dedication to our mom and her lost babies. If you're interested, you can check it out by typing "Barcelona Azkoframes" into YouTube.

Since Joy came into my life, I have learnt many lessons from our relationship.

One day, I was sitting at the dining room table while Joy was playing underneath the table.

Becoming bored after 5 minutes (as babies do), she tried to stand up. Saving her from herself and the rock-hard table, I put my hand on her head and lightly pressed down to avoid her hitting her head.

She began to cry - she couldn't understand why I would prevent her from doing what she wanted.

This situation can be similar to our relationship with God. We are the children and God is the Father; He knows far more than we do, and everything he does is for our benefit, even though we sometimes do not realise it.

Sometimes we are so sure of what we want and maybe get angry at God when he doesn't let us have it but, like the situation with Joy, and as hard as it may be, just remember that the table we are trying to whack our head off is probably much harder.

We have to learn to trust God, and realise that he knows far better than we do. When it feels like he is holding us back, he is probably just saving us from ourselves and/or offering something better.



Summer is here so big festival looms

It's that time of year again - the blowout that is Youth 2000 Summer Festival is just around the corner!

Perhaps your summer plans have always been hectic and you've never been able to go, or maybe you live under a really nice rock and have never heard of it before.

Well, with another year comes another chance to attend Ireland's largest Catholic summer festival - come share the awesome, life-changing experience of Youth 2000. When? August 17th-20th 2017.

Now, what's this Youth 2000? Why is this teenager so excited about a Catholic retreat?

Youth 2000 is a Catholic organisation for people aged 16-35 years old. It holds many regional retreats during the year, but its biggest event is the Summer Festival in Roscrea, which attracts over 1,000 young people from all over Ireland.

There is an active schedule for the



extended weekend, which includes talks, Mass, adoration, workshops, and lots of time to just hang out with new friends singing, playing sports, eating, or whatever.

A great thing about this retreat is that it is not mandatory for you to attend every single religious service and/or talk.

Though it's highly suggested that you attend almost everything, you do so of your own free will. It's chill that way.

It's also a place where you can learn more about your faith and what it means to live it out in the world today, meet incredible new friends, and have some serious almighty craic.

Youth 2000 has a relaxed environment and a great sense of community - I'd be surprised if, at the end of the retreat, you weren't happy to call it home.

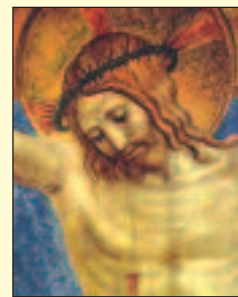
Youth2000 has had a huge impact on my character and the way I live each day. It has helped instil in me the passion to do something great with the gift of life and faith that I've been given, and to share that gift with others.

Essential details: held in Cistercian College, Roscrea, on August 17th-20th 2017. For more details visit Youth2000.ie. (Also, free buses from all over Ireland, so make sure you book a spot.)

See you there!

Friday is Special because Sunday is special

An invitation to Catholics to take up again the ancient custom of abstaining from meat each Friday in honour of Christ's passion and death.



Could you help promote this initiative in your parish?

Please contact Breda 01 4048187

LEAFLETS AVAILABLE

We're a Catholic family.

We don't eat meat on Fridays.

Shared expectations make for happiness

by Peter Perrem

Most of us enter marriage with high expectations: expectations of happiness, having our best friend to share our life with, having our own family. The list can be long indeed.

What we may not have done before we got married is write these expectations down or shared them with our spouse to be.

Many of us have had the experience of going out for a night together and discovering that our expectations did not match those of our spouse.

We end up disillusioned or fed up or arguing. "I thought we were going to the place we always go!" "I thought we were going to a funny film!" I hate this place! etc.

The same thing can happen on a holiday. On one occasion my wife, I and our children headed off to our holiday destination, Kilkee in Clare.

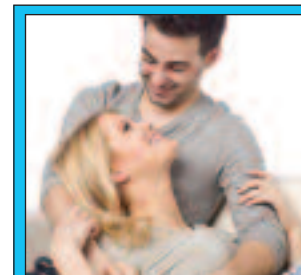
What soon emerged was that my idea of a holiday was taking day trips to nearby scenic spots whereas Fiona's idea was to lie out in the sun (if there was any) and do as little as possible.

It's never about who is right or wrong but it certainly created confusion and tension. Eventually after some arguments we compromised enough to keep us both reasonably happy.

Assumptions

I still cannot believe we did not discuss our different expectations beforehand. It all came down to assumptions too. That was a sobering lesson for us on how to mess up a holiday.

Translate that experience into deeper and more fundamental expectations about marriage and family life and it's easy to see how serious disillusionment and disappointment can set in.



MARRIAGE
MATTERS

But how can we avoid this, or can we? A good start to lessen the impact of seemingly irreconcilable expectations is to make time to check in with each other. Why not write them down and discuss them.

Past experiences, especially our childhood, shape our expectations as well as our hopes, for better or worse. Negative childhood experiences may lower our expectations and make us fearful.

Or a difficult childhood, for whatever reason, may make us too demanding.

What matters is to accept God's plan for our marriage, which is for a deep intimate communion. If both strive for that we can break free of unhelpful expectations and work as a team to build the best marriage we can.

We need to be careful that our expectations don't become an implicit demand that wants our spouse to meet our need for immediate happiness.

If we seek to know and respond to their needs always with the understanding that only God can ultimately meet our deepest need for being valued and loved we will avoid a lot of critical and demanding thinking and behaviour.

CS Lewis famously said; "Experience is a brutal teacher but you learn. My God, do you learn." This should give us hope.

Editor's Jottings

A closer look at stories in the round...



How much diversity will we tolerate?

LISTEN to RTE or to politicians and you soon realise that "diversity" has become one of the big buzz words of our time: it's one of "our values", and we are expected to welcome it.

But like so much secularist ideology, talk of diversity is a mixed bag of half-truths, self-deception and a futile effort to provide a moral argument for some campaign group's agenda.

Certainly our society can be enriched by diversity in dress, food, family customs, ethnic traditions and celebrations, and so on.

But our openness to diversity must also have severe limits. In other words, we pass judgment on customs and practices, we judge them harmless, good or evil.

Some immigrants, for example, may bring with them the charmingly diverse tradition of chopping off the hand of a thief, but we don't welcome this as an enrichment for our culture or law.

They may condemn our anti-chopping dismay as bigotry, phobia, or simply the yuk factor, and may appeal to that other great secularist catchphrase, tolerance.

So we end up with "our values" of diversity and tolerance being used to justify what we find abhorrent. If we object we're simply told to "get over it", to not be so judgmental.

No comeback

How can the secularist respond? He is rightly accused of being selective in his tolerance and diversity, of contradicting his own values. And he has no comeback.

No society pursuing unity, justice and peace can function for very long with this crazy way of thinking. Disintegration and even conflict must be the outcome. But what alternative have we?

For Catholics there is an objective right and wrong which we, as a society, can know by reason (=natural law) or by the Commandments. And there is the hope of eternal happiness for those who do what is good.

European thinkers, on the other hand, have spent nearly five centuries trying to build a morality without God. Their utter failure brought us to where we are in today's secularist society.

We need to overcome our prejudices and face the truth: from the point of view of reason there is no satisfactory alternative to Catholic teaching.



David Hume played a key role in shaping today's hopeless Secularism.

Question: for what would I give up Christ?

AURORA GRIFFIN is a graduate of Harvard University, so she knows first hand the opportunities and challenges that any young Catholic must face in college today.

"Harvard is a classic example of the secular university system that makes it so difficult for students to keep their faith on campus," she says.

But, she adds immediately, "it's not really that hard to stay Catholic, even at a secular university; that is, if you are committed to your faith going into college."

Aurora is the author of *How I Stayed Catholic at Harvard*.

Her book is not just about herself but is a guide for other Catholic students, with 40 tips on how to face the challenges in college.

She notes that being Catholic enabled her to make the most of her time at Harvard and did not prevent her from having a full "college experience".

"No one says it's easy or automatic, but intentionally cultivating my faith at a secular university informed the rest of my college experience in a beautiful way," she says.

Her first advice to any Catholic student who wants



Aurora Griffin

to keep his or her faith at a secular college is "go to Mass every Sunday. If you want to grow in your faith, go every day."

Advice

Thanks to her father's wise advice, however, Aurora was much better prepared for college than a lot of young Catholics. She explains:

"My dad told me from the time I was a child that a day would come when I had to choose between what I most wanted and Christ.

"Whether that was being popular, or getting a promotion, or whatever I really wanted, one day I would be tested to see if I loved something else more than God."

This test came in a completely unexpected way, during an interview for a presti-

gious scholarship to go to Oxford University. She says:

"For me, that day came when I was being interviewed for the Rhodes Scholarship, and the committee asked if I would support embryonic stem-cell research.

"I knew that if I said 'no', it would seem like I was a religious fanatic whose ideology hindered her from wanting to pursue legitimate avenues of scientific research.

"If I said 'yes', I'd be betraying my beliefs about the sanctity of human life from the moment of conception.

"I wish I could say it was easy, but it was a tough choice because I don't think I had ever wanted anything as badly as the Rhodes Scholarship.

"But I experienced a lot of conviction and grace in that moment and simply told the truth: that human life should be protected, from conception, even when it is inconvenient or profoundly difficult."

It was her love for Jesus, her decision to be "an intentional Catholic", that enabled her to speak the truth whatever the cost might be.

'Phoenix' favours old, rotten politics

WHEN UCD elected Katie Ascoug as president of the students' union for the coming academic year *Phoenix* magazine found it "incredible" that the students would elect "a conservative", "someone as steeped in moralist politics as Ascoug" (7/4/17).

The magazine's surprise at the students' decision and its disdainful reference to "moralist politics" may really just show how out of touch *Phoenix* is with Irish college life.

"Moralist politics" seems to mean a kind of politics where people base their political decisions on moral principles, on judgments about what is good or evil.

Shock

The idea of politicians working for the common good and refusing to do what they believe is evil may puzzle, even shock *Phoenix*, but it is not completely unknown in Ireland.

For example, several elected representatives of Fine Gael were expelled from the party not long ago because they refused to vote for evil, one of them even sacrificing her job and a promising career.

Indeed, there was some debate in Fine Gael a few weeks ago about lost moral compasses, with Enda Kenny desperately trying to find his, and others thinking it was lost too long ago and wasn't even worth looking for.

But what is the alternative to moralist politics? Politics that can be bought? That is principally driven by self-interest? That buckles



Former Justice Minister Alan Shatter claims Taoiseach Enda Kenny has lost his moral compass.

under pressure from the powerful? That takes its orders from Brussels?

Have we not got enough of this kind of rotten politics already? *Phoenix* got it so wrong. Moralist politics do not make Katie Ascoug a "conservative", they make her a revolutionary.

She offers a new way of doing politics, one based on integrity and justice, and it may have been because of this, rather than despite it, that she was elected.

It is, in fact, *Phoenix* and the rest of the stuck-in-concrete media that want to "conserve" today's irrational secularist ideology, that want to cling to the old, shabby, anti-humanist order.

EU dysfunction

■ French president Emmanuel Macron fully supports "the European idea and European policies". But with people so angry, he says, "the dysfunction of the EU is no longer sustainable."

Deep anger with EU dysfunction prevails across Europe, but not in Ireland. Very strange.

A revealing tweet from RTE news boss

LAST November RTE appointed Jon Williams (pictured below), an Englishman, to one of the highest and most important positions in the station, Managing Director of News & Current Affairs.

Williams has a key role in deciding how the RTE news factory selects the news it reports, how stories are framed, what receives RTE support or disapproval, how standards of truth and fairness are upheld.

So he needs to be a man in whom the public can have confidence - confidence in his professional judgment and in his capacity not to let his personal views distort RTE news output or current affairs decisions.

But a recent tweet from Williams was anything but reassuring in this regard.

He tweeted: "Race to replace Enda Kenny a coronation. With Leo Varadkar as gay Taoiseach symbolizes Ireland's transformation."

Political reaction to this comment focused on the news director's seeming support for Varadkar and interference in the political process.

But the reference to "gay taoiseach" and "Ireland's transformation" strongly suggests that Williams is a promoter of Secularism, the state's unofficial religion of despair. That, however, was ignored by politicians and the media.

Had he been supporting the 8th Amendment it would have been a very different story.

In choosing Williams, RTE bosses chose a man who shares the station's anti-Christian groupthink. This was hardly accidental.

But it means that Christians, and Catholics in particular, have even less reason to have any confidence in RTE.



End RTE's chokehold on public debate

■ The media, especially RTE, are greatly curbing freedom of speech and public debate in Ireland. They, to a large extent, decide what issues will or will not be debated, and how any discussion is framed.

Because of the stifling groupthink that prevails in the media a number of crucial issues receive little or no attention.

The TV licence fee is one of the least important of these, but it serves to illustrate how RTE can suppress public debate.

Economist **Colm McCarthy** (*Sun Independent* 26/3) makes the point that the licence fee "is an annual tax" that "makes as much economic sense as a tax on washing machines or cookers."

Ian O'Doherty (*Ir Independent* 28/3) points out that "we live in a country

Media Watch

where you can go to jail if you refuse to subsidise the State broadcaster."

He suggested making RTE a subscription service where people pay for what they view.

"Like everything else in 2017," he wrote, "if you can't make money, you cease to exist. Let RTE survive by ads and/or subscription fees." And if it can't, "that's showbiz".

But RTE rigorously excludes any debate about the licence fee, and the even more absurd idea of the State being responsible for our entertainment.

Far more serious than the

TV tax is Ireland's response to Brexit. This is the biggest political, economic and social issue to have happened to Ireland in decades.

Irexit?

Everybody, north and south, will be profoundly affected by the UK exit.

But the politicians have joined together to exclude any real debate about how we should respond and, specifically, whether or not Ireland too should leave the EU.

Incredibly the media, and especially RTE, has collaborated with this clampdown on debate.

Professor **Ray Kinsella** points out that "with a few notable exceptions, there has been little substantive debate on the options available to Ireland" (*Ir Independent*, 30/3).

He himself believes that the the case for an Irish exit, in parallel to the UK, is com-



elling.

"It is in our best interest to engage in a managed exit from a Europe to whom we paid our dues, and one which impelled us to assume a burden of European bank debt that remains iniquitous," he said.

Anthony Coughlan, in an outline paper on the various aspects of the issue, from fisheries to the border, also believes that Ireland should exit.

Since Ireland is now a net contributor to the EU, any

future monies we receive from Brussels (CAP, cohesion funds, Erasmus and research grants) "will be Irish taxpayers' money recycled through Brussels," he said.

Surely this is an issue that should be decided by the Irish people, yet RTE persists in stifling real debate on it.

State religion

A third area closed to debate is the present situation of Secularism as the de facto State religion.

Gradually, over recent decades, all Irish governments have made Secularist principles the basis for their policies, with no public discussion of what they were up to.

Following the fashion of secularist democracies, they excluded God, ignored natural law and promoted individualism rather than community and the common good.

In doing so they replaced moral principles with pragmatism, arrogated to themselves supreme authority and destroyed any basis for unity in society. As a result, our society is rapidly disintegrating.

At the same time everything from education to tax policies, from submission to Brussels to conditions attached to development aid, is shaped by this religious ideology.

This agenda has been ably abetted by the media, and RTE in particular. At the same time they have obstructed any challenge to this irrational power-grab, refusing to allow any debate about what has been happening.

Meanwhile journalists and presenters think it is cutting edge to constantly attack the Catholic Church while they witlessly ignore the real source of religious authority in the State today.

Other topics that deserve public debate include the destructive impact of family breakdown on children, and the funding of leftwing groups by the government or the likes of multi-billionaire George Soros, to push an evil agenda.

Why are these topics not debated on the national airwaves? Because they do not suit the RTE agenda and because media groupthink blinds journalists to the issues involved.

SIPO has big questions to answer

■ Recent events at the so-called Abortion Rights Campaign (ARC) and at Glen, the gay demands group, give a glimpse of the immense funding available from the government and billionaires, to promote the secularist agenda.

According to **Eilish O'Regan** (*Irish Independent*) Chuck Feeney's Atlantic Philanthropies, in the past few years alone, gave a total of €3.75 million to Glen.

As if that were not enough, Glen also received a staggering €500,000 from the HSE between 2011 and 2015, plus €40,000 from the Department of Education to push its agenda on bully-

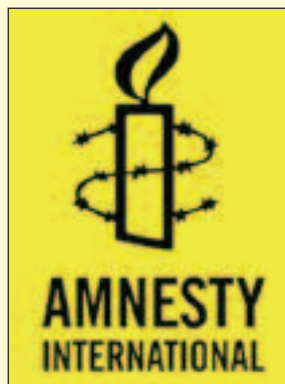
ing.

It was due to receive a further €200,000 from the HSE in March, but that has been withheld until the Charities Regulator investigates the outfit's use of funds.

Despite the State's shortage of money for essential services, it seems that Ministers have no problem shelling out huge grants to groups like Glen and the Women's Council, pushing a leftwing agenda.

Another multi-billionaire out to dismantle Ireland's pro-marriage and pro-life laws is George Soros.

The *Irish Catholic* recently revealed that ARC, the abortion lobby group, was



forced by the Standards in Public Office Commission (SIPO) to return a \$25,000 grant to Soros and his OSF foundation.

However, "coverage of this story in the Irish media

was relatively low key," said *Phoenix* magazine.

The Irish Times, for example "relegated it to a couple of paragraphs that failed to even mention that SIPO had threatened to report ARC to the Gardaí if the lolly was not returned to OSF."

This was just another example of how its pro-abortion agenda radically shapes how the *Irish Times* reports, or distorts, the news.

Phoenix recalled that an OSF "strategy document", leaked last year, "included the Soros foundation's plan to provide grants" to Amnesty International (€137,000) and the IFPA

(€132,000).

They, with ARC, were to "work collectively on a campaign to repeal Ireland's constitutional amendment" upholding the rights of both mother and her baby.

Soros identified both Amnesty and IFPA as part of his campaign to change the Constitution, yet neither, said *Phoenix*, has "fallen foul of SIPO". The watchdog "accepted assurances that the funds have not been used in a manner that breaches the Electoral Act."

Did SIPO carry out a proper investigation of Amnesty and the IFPA? It has big questions to answer.

FILM Review

A Monster Calls

Universal Pictures • Directed by J.A. Bayona

For millennia we have told magical, mystical, enchanting and frightening stories. They are told for entertainment and for enlightenment. Stories help us to make sense of our dreams and our nightmares.

Conor O'Malley (Lewis MacGregor) is young and introverted. Bullied at school, he has few friends if any, and his father has moved to America. He faces the prospect of living with his strict, domineering grandmother (Sigourney Weaver).

None of these problems are foremost in his mind though. Conor's mum, Lizzie (Felicity Jones) is ill. She has received many treatments but nothing is working.

Understandably Conor has been having recurring nightmares, indicating the fears and sadness that he does not wish to face. But he cannot hide for much longer.

Stories

One night he is visited by a huge monster, formed from an ancient yew tree behind his house. The monster is loud and violent but also intelligent and concerned about this angry boy.

It informs Conor that it will share with him three stories, after which Conor must tell him a fourth story. These stories are like fairy tales about witches, apothecaries and princes.

They make no sense to Conor though, and

just serve to frustrate him. His school life worsens as does his relationship with his grandmother. Even a visit from his father only serves to reinforce just how ill his mother is.

As she deteriorates, the youngster's rage increases. All the while the monster continues to visit, pressuring the boy to share his own story which Conor knows all too well means confronting that most recurring of nightmares.

This is a desperately sad film and anyone who has experienced a loved one's illness will find it even more so. It treats the complex feelings of young people with a profound sensitivity and insight.



It is a beautiful and magical film about how we lie to ourselves for comfort and how we must face what we fear in order to find the truth.

COMMENT

St. Mary's Priory, Tallaght, Dublin 24.
Tel: 01-4048187 Fax: 01-4596784 E-mail: alivepaper@gmail.com

Where we begin

I am the Lord your God, you shall not have strange gods before me.

There are two parts to the first Commandment: we are called to recognise that there is one God and, secondly, that we ought to worship him.

By reason alone, though with great difficulty, humanity can come to know the existence of a creator God and that we totally depend on him.

Indeed, recognising God's existence is the greatest, most ennobling human achievement. Various cultures, over millennia, have struggled with the truth of God, some coming closer to it than others.

Our rational knowledge of God, however, and its implications for life, is still extremely limited. It is transformed by the revelation of Jesus Christ, handed on to us in the Christian faith and opening the way to salvation.

Sacrificial worship of God is not called the first Commandment simply because it comes top of the list. Rather, it is the foundation for all the other Commandments and for a just society shaped by them.

In other words, it is in worshipping the true God that we achieve our true dignity, we find sure hope and joy, and we lay the foundation for a Christian civilisation.

The Christian community, rooted in Christ's death and resurrection, and drawing on the teaching of its ancient prophets, Greek wisdom and Roman law, built Western civilisation.

Flawed

This civilisation was always a flawed achievement, often seriously flawed, due to human limitations, sin and obduracy. Of its nature it was always "a work in progress".

But if we neglected or rejected the worship of God, then obedience to the other Commandments would be greatly weakened and would seem increasingly pointless.

We see this, the loss of faith and a return to barbarism, happening at an increasing pace in our own country.

A corrupt political system and a media spewing out despair are destroying respect for truth and justice, for marriage and family. Now they seek to legalise the killing of society's most vulnerable members, unborn children.

Were we to approve of abortion, just what evil would we not tolerate or be willing to commit, what love would we not pervert?

Barbarism always attacks the weakest. It was Christianity that taught us to care for the weak, the poor, the sick, the elderly. To preserve this we need to honour once again the first Commandment.

Alive!

Christopher West

World renowned speaker and author on St John Paul II's Theology of the Body

**In Ireland 5-14 July
Speaking in Waterford,
Carlow, Drogheda
& Dublin**



Details from Pure in Heart office:
ask@pureinheartireland.com.

Tel. 01-6629543

A revolutionary vision for love, sexuality and relationships.

Surprise at findings of Jewish history project

A NEW YORK based institute researching Jewish history has said it was surprised by the results of "a modest project" it set out on two years ago.

The Raoul Wallenberg Foundation wanted to track down what it called "Houses of Life", places where Jews were sheltered during World War 2, and mark them with memorial plaques.

It found more than 500 of these houses in Italy, France, Hungary, Belgium and Poland.

But "to our surprise, we learnt that the overwhelming majority of Houses of Life were institutions related to the Catholic Church," wrote Eduardo Eurnekian, chairman of the foundation.

They included "convents, monasteries, boarding schools, hospitals, etc." In Rome alone an estimated 4,500 people found refuge in Catholic institutions.



In Warsaw, All Saints Church sheltered Jews even though the penalty for Poles rescuing Jews was the death camp or, more likely, instant execution.

"The news about the Houses of Life is only surprising because the truth about the Church and the Jewish people in World War 2 has been suppressed," wrote Fr Leo Chamberlain, in the *Catholic Herald*.

He noted that Pope Pius XII (pictured above) himself had sheltered Jews both in the Vatican and at the papal summer residence, Castel Gandolfo.

As early as 1940 Albert Einstein, who had escaped Nazi Germany, stated:

"Only the Church stood squarely across the path of Hitler's campaign for sup-

pressing the truth... I am forced thus to confess that what I once despised I now praise unreservedly."

After the war, Israel's first president, Chaim Weizmann and the chief rabbi of Israel, Isaac Herzog, thanked Pope Pius for all he had done for the Jews.

Rome's chief rabbi, Israel Zolli, was so impressed by all the Pope and the Church did to protect the Jews that he became a Catholic and took the Holy Father's Christian name, Eugenio, in tribute to him.

And when Pius died in 1958, Golda Meir, then Israeli foreign minister, wrote: "We mourn a great servant of peace."

'Silence'

But in 1963 a play by the German writer, Rolf Hochhuth, blamed Pope Pius for the Holocaust and criticised what Hochhuth called his "silence".

Others, including various dissident Catholics eager to harm the Church, repeated and spread the false claim. And it was taken up by a number of Jewish groups.

Only in 1998 did it emerge that the project to destroy the Pope's reputation had begun in Soviet Russia, and that Hochhuth had been fed false information by the communists.

But the black legend continues. When Pope Francis visited Auschwitz last year, for example, the BBC reporter claimed that the Pope's silent prayer was in reparation for the silence of the Catholic Church. Lord Alton of Liverpool immediately protested, and last December his complaint was upheld. Fraser Steel, head of the BBC's editorial complaints unit, admitted their error.

The BBC report, he said, "did not give due weight to public statements by successive popes or the efforts made on the instructions of Pius XII to rescue Jews from Nazi persecution."

He added that the BBC "perpetuated a view which is at odds with the balance of evidence."

Historians such as Rychlak, Gilbert and Rabbi David Dalin have studied a number of books critical of Pius and shown how they contain misquotation, misrepresentation and even malice.

"The media have found little

space for these corrections," said Fr Chamberlain. "So the lie remains the received story. But the example of the BBC suggests that this may be changing."

The latest findings of the Wallenberg Foundation are seen as yet another blow to the calumny against Pope Pius and a further step in restoring his good name.

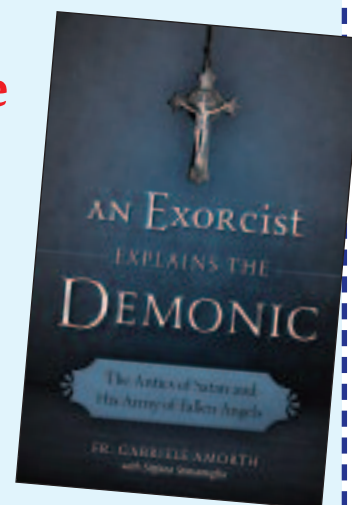
FANTASTIC BOOK OFFER FROM FAMILY & LIFE!

An Exorcist explains the Demonic

By Fr. Gabriele Amorth

• In this, his last book, Fr Gabriele Amorth, the renowned Roman exorcist, gives a powerful, eye-opening account of the deadly antics of Satan and his fallen angels, and prescribes spiritual remedies for each.

• Explaining Catholic doctrine on the fallen angels, Fr. Amorth answers many questions, including: How does the Devil appear and what does he look like? What happens during an exorcism? What should you do when a family is being attacked by a demon?



Please send me the book. I enclose €15 (includes P&P)
Please print your details in BLOCK CAPITALS

Name:.....

Address:.....

.....

.....

Phone:.....

Mobile:.....

Email:.....

I prefer to charge my debit/credit card:
☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Card Number:.....

Expiry Date:.....CVC Code:.....

Signature:.....

We accept Visa/Master/ Laser card orders by phone, email or through our website.

Or send payment to:
Family & Life, Freepost, 26 Mountjoy Square,
Dublin 1. Tel: 01 8552790; Email: fandl@iol.ie
www.familyandlife.org

SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO

4 AUGUST | 3 NIGHTS

Bank Holiday weekend

Direct flights with Aer Lingus

Full board

€589

www.jewishholidays.ie | info@jewishholidays.ie | 01 241 0860 | T.052 | T.A.0689

SCRAPS

by Tom English

COLUMN



How have the 'errors of Russia' spread?

IN JULY 1917 the blessed Mother warned Fatima visionary Lucia, and the entire world that "Russia will spread her errors throughout the world, causing wars and persecutions of the Church. The good will be martyred, the Holy Father will have much to suffer and various nations will be annihilated."

Just one month after the final apparition at Fatima, in November 1917, the Communists violently seized power in Russia. They then launched a massive persecution of the Church in their zeal to wipe out belief in God and the practice of religion in the Soviet Union and later in Eastern Europe and China.

Was this the beginning of the 'errors' of Russia? American author W. Cleon Skousen wrote a book called *The Naked Communist*. In it he gives a concise account of how Communism came into being through the philosophy of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels and how their influence ultimately led to the death of millions of people throughout the world. Skousen, who died in 2006, was a former FBI agent during the Cold War so it's fair to say he knew how Communism 'thinks'.

He relates the story of how Marx and Engels were strongly influenced by another German philosopher Ludwig Feuerbach who stated that: "The turning point of history will be the moment man becomes aware that the only God of man is man himself." This, in essence, was the Communist rallying call - the rejection of God by man.

Skousen adds: "It is clearly evident from numerous Communist writings that what they fear in religion is not that it makes religious people passive to the dominant class but that it prevents them from becoming passive to Communist discipline. Deep spiritual convictions stand like a wall of resistance to challenge the teachings and practices of Communism."

Offshoot

Today, it can be said that Secularism is an offshoot of Communism in that it too wants to push God out of the public square, not through violence but in a bloodless coup in all areas of our lives. Some politicians and media personnel (and many of the passive public) bemoan the 'fact' that Catholicism still has a hold on Irish life but that is just a lie. The only 'religion' to have a hold on Irish society now is Secularism.

Its advocates preach a dictatorship of moral relativism. Their mantra is the word 'choice' which can mean a man has the choice to walk out on his wife and family or a woman has the choice to end the life of her unborn child.

According to Geoffrey Strickland, who is the Rome Office Director for Priests: "History attests to the fact that Russia spread her errors throughout the world... through the single greatest error of our time: abortion."

"Russia was the first country ever to legalise abortion up to birth without restriction and also developed and promulgated technology to this end. Russia and areas formerly controlled by the Soviet Union have the highest abortion rate in the world. Further, those countries sharing in the political and ideological legacy of Russia at that time such as China, Cuba and others continue to carry on this violent imperative."

According to WHO, every year in the world there are an estimated 40-50 million abortions. This corresponds to approximately 125,000 abortions per day!

So perhaps not a bloodless coup after all.

Those of us who still have deep convictions about our Catholic faith have to stand like a 'wall of resistance' today against the teachings and practices of Secularism. And the Rosary and the Eucharist are our building blocks.

Most vulnerable

SENATOR James Reilly was widely reported in the national media addressing the issue of children with autism where he wished to tackle the 'inconsistencies both in the services and in the approach to diagnosis and treatment required'. A noble undertaking indeed.

He went on to say that 'the measure of any society is how it treats its most vulnerable'. This is true. But perhaps the senator would like to clarify that the 'most vulnerable' includes unborn children as well.

scrapscolumn@gmail.com

Persecution of Christians in India is growing

THE persecution of Christians in India is rapidly increasing and has shot the country up to the 15th position on a list of nations where the practice of the Christian faith is opposed.

Four years ago the country, which is 80% Hindu and just over 2% Christian, was in the 34th position.

Open Doors UK & Ireland, which compiles the *World Watch List*, estimated that one Christian church was burnt down or a cleric beaten on average 10 times a week in India in the year to 31 October 2016. This was three times the level of violence of the previous year.

The escalation of attacks on the Christian minority, affecting millions of people, was usually led by Hindu nationalists acting with little fear of action from the authorities.

Lisa Pearce of Open Doors told the *Guardian* that the rise in anti-Christian violence across the region was "driven by extreme religious nationalism."

This "is often tacitly condoned, and sometimes actively encouraged, by local and national governments," she said.

She explained that religious nationalists attempt to forcibly convert people to Hinduism, often turning to violence when discrimination and non-violent oppression do not succeed in imposing their religious



beliefs on the minority.

"These Christians are often from the lower castes, such as the Dalits in India who face huge socioeconomic problems," she said. "They are an easy target for extreme nationalists."

In other parts of the globe according to

Open Doors, extremists were increasingly attacking homes, churches and villages in their efforts to eradicate Christians from a particular area.

In Nigeria, Syria and Iraq, for example, homes had been ransacked, churches destroyed and village water sources poisoned to make the return of Christians all but impossible.

In Aleppo in Syria, according to Open Doors, the Christian population has fallen from 400,000 before the civil war to fewer than 60,000 today.

The watchdog has compiled its annual *World Watch List* for the past 25 years. In that time North Korea topped the table 16 times, Saudi Arabia 7 times and Somalia twice.

Two-way traffic made streets safer

■ US researchers have found that converting streets to two-way traffic may greatly reduce the number of accidents on them.

The study analysed two one-way streets in Louisville, Kentucky, that had been converted to two-way.

Over a three-year period the number of collisions dropped by a third on one street and by 60% on the other, despite more cars using them.

"Instinctively you might think that a

one-way street should be safer because traffic is going in the same direction," said a motoring expert.

"However, that can tempt drivers to go faster while pedestrians may be less likely to stop and look properly before they step out."

The researchers also claimed that crime was reduced and property values rose in the area because of the better living environment.

WHAT

GOD MEANS TO ME!

I am the third eldest of six children, having two brothers and three sisters. I grew up as the daughter of a US Air Force Lieutenant Colonel (now retired), so my family has moved around quite a bit.

They are currently living in Virginia, while I am in Ireland working as a nanny and a tutor.

I graduated with my high school diploma in 2016 from Mother of Divine Grace School, and will attend Thomas Aquinas College in Santa Paula, CA, this coming fall.

I am an amateur musician and artist, and suffice it to say that I have a great love of learning!

The most important thing about me, however, is that I am a Catholic. This I owe to my parents, for being my first examples of Christ-like love.

Because of our homeschooling lifestyle I was greatly and easily influenced by them, and that made all the difference. That said, our home had not always been so faith-filled.

My parents were both fallen away Catholics, and had only just returned to the faith when I was born. Their story is for another time, but after hearing it for myself I understand that they were exactly the parents I needed.

God entrusted my soul, and those of each of my siblings, to these two wonderfully imperfect beings for the very purpose of getting us all to Heaven.

My parents' wisdom, knowledge, faith, and even their mistakes, were the exact foundation I needed to begin developing my relationship with God.

Despite growing up very well educated in my faith, my relationship with God was impersonal. I knew of him, I knew of his Church and her teachings, and I knew he loved me.

But the extent of that love, which moved him to will me into existence and sacrifice his only Son for me, well, it was a truth that had not yet moved my heart. I did not doubt God, but I kept

my distance from him.

I thought that if I learned as much as I possibly could about God, then the love he has for me, and I for him, would follow.

While I still believe this to be true, that you cannot truly love what you do not know, there is a point where your head will inevitably fall short. True love is a choice and a sacrifice.

When it comes to loving God, you have to be willing to surrender yourself completely to him and his Divine Will. Unfortunately, it took me a while to understand this.

The greatest obstacle to surrendering myself to my Lord was, not surprisingly, myself. For too long, my idea of holiness consisted of this incredible yet unachievable standard that I was never, ever going to meet.

I have often tried to pinpoint the exact moment in my life when the grace of God truly reached my heart, and I keep going back to the experience I had when I visited Thomas Aquinas College for the first time in 2015.

I was attending the Great Books Summer Program hosted there every year, and from the moment I stepped foot on that campus, without even thinking much about it, I felt the presence of God.

My eyes fell in love with what they saw, yes, I cannot deny that; but my soul

fell in love with what it felt.

As I strive to keep my Catholic faith as the most important aspect of my life, failing more often at that endeavour than I'd like to admit, I long for those few moments when I feel truly united, mind, body, and soul, to God.

At Thomas Aquinas College, for the first time in my life, I felt that unity. It was the metaphysical light bulb turning on in my head: all I want to do is love him.

The thing is, if we are to truly love another soul, we must love them for their own sake. Regardless of whatever good it does us, every act of love must intrinsically be for the good of the other person.

This entails selflessness. And at the moment that love is no longer selfless, it is likewise no longer true.

Love is certainly something to be both given and received, but it ceases to be love at all when you only give so that you may receive.

Love asks for nothing in return, for it needs nothing. That is why, I think, true love, the purest universal notion, is rather a paradox: it is the idea that a soul could sacrifice everything, and yet want for nothing.

All this time I had been "loving" God for my sake, not his. No, he doesn't need my love: he desires it, and that is enough.

Without doubt my relationship with God is a work in progress. While I am here on earth it will never be perfect, but I know I must strive for that perfection anyway.



It will not be easy, but doing what was easy never made a saint out of anyone; and we are all called to be saints!

Sarah Francis,
aged 18.

THE THINGS THEY SAY...

● Open debate

After the Brexit vote last June, BBC director general Lord Hall went round the London dinner circuit wailing that BBC balance had "lost us the election". It had given too much credibility to 'Leave'.

I disagree. The BBC may have "lost" the election, but it was not during the campaign – rather through its years of brazen pro-EU bias.

The campaign was ironically its finest hour. Amid a deluge of lies from both sides, the corporation kept a clear head. Nothing and no one was left unchallenged.

With voters untrammelled by party loyalty, there was a truly open national debate.

— Simon Jenkins, *The Guardian*

● Selective history

In Ireland, public discussion about our Catholic past is now controlled by media and public figures who are largely hostile to that past and extremely selective in how they present it...

The demonization of Ireland's recent Catholic past is aimed more and more explicitly at changing the present.

A TD thus asserted on RTE radio that the Tuam controversy was a "game-changer" and that response to it would be of great assistance to those seeking to repeal the 8th Amendment, which protects the unborn.

— Tim O'Sullivan, *Position Papers*.

● More or less EU?

In Ireland we see the future direction of Europe as something that others will decide for us. Silence for us is not an option. We have to get down and dirty into this debate...

We have to accept that there are huge policy choices facing the EU post-Brexit. We can no longer hide under the skirts of the UK and sit back as passive observers while others set the agenda.

The fundamental question is whether we need more or less Europe.

— Brian Hayes MEP



'A quarter of primary schools have no male teachers at all.'

● EU fantasy

The whole idea of an ever-closer Europe has gone, it's buried. Calls for full political union are a dangerous romantic fantasy.

The fastest way to dismantle the EU is to continue talking about a step-by-step move towards some sort of superstate.

— Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte

● Masculinity

UK statistics show only 26,208 men working as primary school teachers, compared to 185,023 women. A quarter of primary schools have no male teachers at all...

To our shame, we have

allowed male Scout leaders, teachers and any men working with children to become nudge-nudge, wink-wink figures of suspicion and ridicule.

Part of the blame must reside with the toxic, feminist, politically-driven whispering campaign that "all men are potential rapists". Modern masculinity has been put in the dock, and there it appears to remain.

— Martin Daubney, *The Telegraph*

● Families and faith

You can't pass on the faith if you don't have it. Parents will be more important in the life, the faith life of their children than they have been in the past, because in the past the culture supported that faith life.

The schools basically supported that faith life.

Christian communities were strong. People would go to church and that supported that faith life.

It's the family that will be the primary tool that God will use to evangelise, beginning with their children.

But then families associating together in smaller groups, support groups of one another will be very important in the future as well.

— Charles Chaput, *Archbishop of Philadelphia*

● Kenny's agenda

Church-bashing is the new Brit-bashing. The hard left never stop.

I'm not sure I can think of a single time during his six years as Taoiseach when Enda Kenny had a good word to say about the Catholic Church or Ireland's Christian heritage.

So, why the continuous

negativity about the Church? Why are we presented only with its misdeeds while the good it has done over the long centuries is kept hidden from view?

Because that makes it all the easier to whip up public support for removing all significant public traces of it from national law and life.

This is being done in the small things (Good Friday drinking laws) and the much bigger things (our pro-life law).

If the public can be made to think that Catholic Ireland was a terrible place, and nothing else, then we will be all the more determined to replace Catholicism and Christianity with 'secular modernity'.

This Government is certainly determined to do that.

— David Quinn, *The Irish Catholic*

Getting to know Anthony of Padua

St Anthony of Padua was not from Padua and was not called Anthony. This very popular saint was born at Lisbon in Portugal into a wealthy family. He was baptised 'Ferdinand'.

His parents wanted him to be a great nobleman but Ferdinand decided he wanted to be a priest. He packed a lot into his 36 years.

Having received an excellent education from the Augustinian friars he joined their order.

When he was twenty-five, his life took a dramatic turn. He heard how some Franciscans - St. Berard and his companions had been martyred by the Moors in Morocco for their faith in Jesus.

From then on, Ferdinand felt a strong desire to die for Christ and he joined the Franciscans. This order was very new, St. Francis himself was still alive.

Ferdinand was given the name 'Anthony'. He headed off to preach to the Moors, the Muslims in north Africa, but soon became so sick that he had to return to Italy.

The other Franciscan friars had no idea how brilliant and talented Anthony was or how much education he had received. He never spoke about himself.

So his superiors assigned him to a quiet friary in Italy.

Handing On The Faith

Aoife Hogan



• From a sermon by St. Anthony: Actions speak louder than words; let your words teach and your actions speak.

There he washed pots and pans without complaint.

One day, at a large gathering of priests, when the speaker failed to arrive, Anthony was forced to preach. His sermon left all present greatly impressed.

Miracles

From then until he died nine years later, Anthony preached all over Italy and France. People even closed their shops to go to hear him. He died at Arcella, near Padua,

Italy, 13 June 1231.

After his death, people prayed to him for physical as well as spiritual needs and many miracles took place through his intercession. He also got a reputation for finding lost items.

As we celebrate his feast on 13 June, we pray for the many families whose children have disappeared without trace or contact. It is the greatest loss of all.

There are many lost aspects of our own lives: The love lost through indifference and cynicism; ideals we have squandered; generous enthusiasm lost through mediocrity;

The gift of faith lost because we rely solely on ourselves: time lost due to festering resentments that ruin family relationships.

Perhaps we are not aware of our own loss yet. Thus we all need the amazing grace of God's love. "I once was lost, but now am found."

St. Anthony is often shown holding the baby Jesus or a Bible. He understood Sacred Scripture so well that Pope Pius XII proclaimed him 'the Evangelical Doctor'.



JUST FOR PRIESTS

We need the Ten Commandments

For the past fifty years or more the Ten Commandments have been greatly neglected in Catholic preaching and religious education. And this has been a disaster for both the Church and society.

As time goes on we are seeing more and more just how big a disaster it has been, in so many different ways.

Of course people always disobeyed the Commandments, but at least they knew they were doing wrong. So there was some possibility of calling them back to goodness, to God and to repentance.

What is different today is that, to a large extent, they no longer know what is good or evil, what is in keeping with God's loving plan for our salvation and what is opposed to it.

As a result it is more difficult to call sinners, even those guilty of serious sin, to repentance. They simply cannot understand the notion or need for repentance.

The Commandments, of course, are not the primary thing in Catholic morality - it is love, freedom for excellence and Christian virtues that hold that place.

Nevertheless, the Commandments are immensely



important, and not just for how we live as individuals. They are, above all, about how we live as a community. Their primary purpose is to protect and build up the community.

We can see this easily enough with the Commandments like, "You shall not kill", "You shall not commit adultery", "You shall not steal".

Reason alone

Reason alone tells us that a society that disregards these moral principles, that permits the destruction of innocent life, that undermines marriage and the family, that condones theft and dishonesty, is destroying its own foundations.

Neglect of the Commandments, then, has played a major part in opening the way for modern individualism and its disregard for the common good of the community.

How did we ever fall for the silly pop song philosophy that "all you need is love"?

How did Catholic theology ever think that we could "focus always on the positive", that we could ignore original sin, not to talk of our own multitude of personal sins?

And yet the Church did fall for this destructive nonsense, not by speaking too much about God's love but by neglecting to preach about the Commandments.

When, for example, did you last preach about or listen to a Sunday sermon on the 10th Commandment, "You shall not covet your neighbour's goods"?

With the whole economic system based on the promotion of avarice and greed, would it not be important to alert the faithful to the subtle and not so subtle temptations here?

Nor is it enough to speak about the sacredness of human life. We need also to speak about the moral evil of killing, be it murder, abortion, euthanasia, the death penalty, or an economic system that results in the starvation of whole populations. Jesus did not just proclaim the nearness of the Kingdom. He also called on the people of his time to repent. That continues to be a key part of the Church's mission.

It is who we are

If we were asked what the Church is we might say that it is the People of God united under our bishops and in union with the Pope.

Or we might say that it is the community of people who follow Jesus, inspired by the hope of sharing in his resurrection.

Again, if we were asked what the Blessed Eucharist is we might say it is the body and blood of Christ under the appearances of bread and wine.

Or we might say that it is the Catholic act of worship which nourishes us with the word of God and feeds us with the bread of life.

And all these statements, and many others like them, would be correct. But a closer look shows that we have defined the Church with little reference to the Eucharist and we have defined the Eucharist with little reference to the Church.

Missing

What is missing here is the close link between the Eucharist and the Church. But that is not a good way of putting it either, because it continues to treat the Eucharist and the Church as if they were two different things.

This is due, in large part, to our decades-long loss of the notion of sacrifice, to our failure to grasp the central role of sacrifice in understanding

KNOW YOUR FAITH

what it is to be a Christian.

But when we begin to focus once again on the central place of Christ's sacrifice in the Catholic faith we realise that Eucharist and Church are two sides of the one coin - two different ways of looking at the one reality.

From this point of view, the Eucharist is the celebration of Christ's sacrifice which builds up the Church which participates in the sacrifice by eating the sacrificial victim, the body of Christ.

And the Church is the community which is created by and built up by its participation in Christ's sacrifice, made present in the celebration of the Eucharist.

Here the definition of the Church includes at its very heart the Eucharist. And the definition of the Eucharist includes at its very heart the Church. We cannot define one without the other, so closely do they belong together.

Much more needs to be said about this, but already we can see the central and absolutely essential place of the Sacrifice of the Mass for Catholics.

It is not just a religious practice or a communal act of worship, it is who we are.

Citizens' Assembly exposed

Following the final weekend of the Citizens' Assembly the people of Ireland are now in a very different landscape politically.

The results of the final ballot, while radically anti-life and "pro-choice", were no surprise to those who had followed the process closely.

Nonetheless, it is worth recalling a few of the salient features of the Assembly which has failed us as a people so spectacularly.

To begin with, the idea that 99 members of the public could be considered a fair sample was flawed. Every competent opinion pollster knows that the minimum size for a poll to be taken seriously is 1,000 people.

So, with a figure that was one-tenth of that sample - and less on the final, voting weekend, as several members did not attend - it becomes clear that there was nothing representative about this process at all.

As the weeks wore on, more and more cracks appeared. At the very first session, one member resigned when it was revealed that he was involved in campaigning for repeal of the 8th Amendment online.

Despite the claim by organisers that the members of the Assembly would be comprehensively educated on the entire subject as never before, this simply did not happen, nor was it even possible.

Presenters invited to address the members had, at most, just 20 minutes to discuss their specialist subject. You realise how short that was when you think about what they were being asked to do.

The Assembly members were chosen specifically because they were not experts - they had no real knowledge of the subject.

So they were expected to grasp the



SPEAKER'S CORNER

By Cora Sherlock

many very complex issues surrounding the 8th Amendment in just a few minutes. Think about the issues to be considered in just one area alone, that of babies with life-limiting conditions.

Time-frame

Getting to grips with the legal, medical, psychological and ethical aspects just wasn't possible in that time-frame, but the process continued regardless.

That an extra weekend was added in response to deep concerns highlighted by the Pro Life Campaign showed just how flawed the whole process was.

But it would have taken several months to ensure that the members were adequately advised so that they could cast a vote.

As it was, things were further distorted by the fact that various so-called "impartial experts" weren't impartial at all.

There should have been a public outcry when a member of the British Pregnancy Advisory Service was invited to give a presentation. Who made this decision?



The organisation is the UK's largest abortion provider and aborts babies until shortly before birth.

In no way could it be considered "impartial", yet there it was, providing information to the members.

It even influenced the time limits that those who drafted the ballot paper ultimately chose - a fact that only emerged at the 11th hour.

In keeping with the rest of the process, the voting was chaotic. For example, new information was provided, too late to be properly digested but still in time to be added to a ballot paper with an ever-growing list of questions.

That ballot paper produced the extreme results that few politicians expected, or wanted to see.

Since the vote we've seen even those who want the 8th repealed push for a scaling back from what the members voted for.

The polls have shown that, despite massive propaganda, the public doesn't want wide-ranging abortion.

But the experience of the Assembly reveals clearly what happens when you open the door to legalised destruction of unborn babies - you eventually get abortion on request, up to the time of birth.

We saw how quickly the Assembly process was pushed forward, how much the members were "managed", how carefully the charade was orchestrated.

Now is the time for pro-life people to act. There is no time to lose. Every person needs to think about what he or she can do to ensure that the 8th Amendment remains in the Constitution.

Further information from info@prolifecampaign.ie.

• Cora Sherlock is deputy chairperson of the Pro Life Campaign.

Monthly Meditation

Japan's martyrs

The crosses were set in place. Fr. Pasio and Fr. Rodriguez took turns encouraging the victims. Their steadfast behaviour was wonderful to see.

Brother Martin gave thanks for God's goodness by singing psalms. Again and again he repeated: "Into your hands, Lord, I entrust my life."

Our brother, Paul Miki, saw himself standing in the noblest pulpit he had ever filled. To his "congregation" he began by proclaiming himself Japanese and a Jesuit. He was dying for the Gospel he preached.

He gave thanks to God for this wonderful blessing and he ended his "sermon" with these words: "As I come to this supreme moment of my life, I am sure none of you would suppose I want to deceive you."

"And so I tell you plainly: there is no way to be saved except the Christian way. My religion teaches me to pardon my enemies and all who have offended me. I do gladly pardon the Emperor and all who have sought my death. I beg them to seek baptism and be Christians themselves."

He looked at his comrades and began to encourage them in their final struggle. Joy glowed in all their faces...

The four executioners unsheathed their spears. At this dreadful sight, all the Christians cried out, "Jesus, Mary!" And the storm of anguished weeping then rose to batter the very skies.

The executioners killed them one by one. One thrust of the spear, then a second blow. It was over in a very short time.

— Martyrdom of St. Paul Miki, by an eye witness

Jonah foreshadows Jesus



Fr Joseph Briody

The Prophets, Part 30, Jonah

Jonah means 'dove' in Hebrew. Like an alarmed dove, Jonah flees from the Lord's presence. The turtle dove was also a substitute for sacrificing a lamb in atonement for sin (Leviticus 12:8).

The poor could offer two turtle doves as Mary and Joseph did when presenting Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2:24).

Jonah's life is offered in sacrifice for others. He offers to be thrown into the sea to save those in the ship from the storm ("take me and throw me into the sea" Jon 1:12).

"Taking" is a sacrificial word, like "bind me" for sacrifice. God tells Abraham "Take your son, your only son..." This "taking" or "binding" means "offering completely."

The same sacrificial sense is found with Jesus: "It is better that one man

die for the people" (Jn 11:50). When Jonah is thrown overboard the sailors' fear of death turns to fear of the Lord in a good sense (1:16).

This is a conversion. Fear of the Lord is reliance on the Lord. Both Nineveh and the sailors turn to the Lord.

Parallels

Jonah chapter 2 is a psalm from the belly of the whale, the pit of death, "the depths of Sheol". Since Jonah prays from the whale's belly we know that his death is not intended to be personal oblivion.

From death or Sheol no one can actually pray. Peter Burrows says "in death no one remembers you; no one sings your praises in Sheol" (Ps 6:5).



There are many parallels between Jonah and Jesus apart from their "three days" of burial. During the storm at sea both are lying down in the boat, asleep!

Both, in different ways, calm the sea - Jesus as Lord of creation and Jonah by offering himself as a sacrifice.

In his self-offering and in his prayer from the belly of the big fish, Jonah acts like the High Priest. Little wonder that Jesus, the great High Priest who sacrificed himself for the salvation of many, identified himself with Jonah.

We criticise Jonah for pettiness or resentment. He did not want the Ninevites to be saved. But, to his credit, most of Jonah chapter 2 is made up of quotations from the psalms he knew by heart.

He had appropriated much of the Word of God. The Lord would use him to deliver his word of salvation for all, along with a vivid prophecy of the death and resurrection of the Saviour.

The story of the great fish providing Jonah's miraculous deliverance by God shows that God is in control of his creation, over land and sea, over chaos, over life and death.az



Celebrating the Wonder of Marriage

'Weak link' has more power in cohabitation

You need to know someone well before you marry him or her, and the best way to do that is by living together. That still seems like a reasonable argument, and is widely used to justify cohabitation.

But the research on couples who lived together before marriage is in, lots of it. And the news is not good. Indeed, it is quite grim.

Again and again, in different parts of the globe, the findings have shown that couples who cohabited before they married are significantly more likely to end up with a broken marriage. Recognising this is one thing, but researchers still cannot agree on why couples who cohabit beforehand are more likely to separate after marriage. Many theories have been advanced to explain why these marriages fail.

Now a new American study by Scott M. Stanley et al, reported in the *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, may throw further light on the issue.

Less committed

The researchers studied the romantic relationships of 315 cohabiting couples and found that in one third of cases one person was less committed than the other to the relationship.

Men were twice as likely as women to be the less committed "partner", what the researchers called "the weak link". Before looking at the effects of this, let us look at how big an issue it may be here.

The 2011 census found that 143,000 families in Ireland were made up of cohabiting couples. On the figures above, about 48,000 of these have unbalanced levels of commitment, with men "the weak link" in 32,000 cases.

Now in any relationship power rests with the weak link, with the person who is least committed. With least to lose, he or she is least constrained or restricted in both attitude and behaviour.

The more committed person has more to lose, has to be more careful how he or she behaves and more tolerant of the other person's misbehaviour.

But this kind of anxious com-



• Forming an unbalanced pattern in a relationship.

promise, most likely by the woman, often leads to a relationship going far beyond its sell-by date, and may even end in marriage.

The US study also found that both strong and weak links in unbalanced cohabiting situations reported more conflict and more aggression in their relationships.

This was hardly surprising, given that it is high levels of commitment which usually keep conflict and aggression in check.

Another point: couples need to realise that "commitment unbalance" is far more likely to happen in a cohabiting relationship than in a marriage, and most likely to the advantage of the man.

Life-long

In marriage both the bride and groom publicly make the same life-long commitment, and expect to keep it. Indeed, promise-keeping as a form of justice requires them to keep it.

They may fail in their relationship, but at least they start out on the same page, as equally committed members of the new union.

In cohabitation, on the other hand, the couple are far less likely to begin with this level of loyalty. They want to "give it a go and see how it works out". They "slide rather than decide" about their future together.

With uncertainty about the future there is uncertainty about how much personal involvement to put into the relationship.

And as the stats show, the man's level of involvement is far more likely to be weaker than that of the woman.

As time goes on, the relationship takes on a definite pattern, with the strong link, usually the woman, at a disadvantage and yet afraid to challenge this power imbalance.

If the couple go ahead and marry with this pattern of relationship already well-established, they may find afterwards that they cannot adapt to a new pattern based on their new equality in marriage.

This will result in unexpected conflict and may eventually lead to disillusion and disappointment with marriage, and finally separation.

On this reading, cohabitation does not help a couple to get to know each other better.

It actually obstructs this, blinds them to each other's faults and to serious problems with their relationship, setting them up to fail in their marriage.

That sex is designed by God to express the love between a husband and wife is not just Catholic teaching. More and more it is becoming clear that chastity is the best path to lasting happiness, even in this life.

Our Marriage in a Minute!

1. Love at first sight?

Mairéad: Almost, first day, when I saw how quickly he could climb a tree.

Regulo: Not as quick as that. It was some days after coming down from the tree.

2. Favourite memory of our wedding?

Mairéad: Speaking to my mother on the phone from Colombia and finally convincing her that we were getting married in the Catholic Church and not a treehouse in the jungle.

Regulo: The moment when Mairéad's brother gave her to me in the aisle.

3. Best holiday ever?

Mairéad: Camino de Santiago, where I met Regulo, a giant step on the path to our reversion to the faith. Where true love abides, language barriers disappear.

Regulo: Weekend away with Mairéad in Co. Meath, her 50th birthday gift from friends, good food, praying with St Patrick on Slane Hill, joining in Mass and prayers at Silverstream Priory.

Also Mary's Way Camping, spiritual sustenance for the family, keeps us going for the whole year.

4. Who makes the breakfast?

Both or either, depending on the day. Regulo likes to breakfast on his own. It's his most peaceful part of the day, apart from Adoration.

5. Who takes out the bins?

Regulo, mostly. Mairéad mostly forgets.

6. Song of songs?

We don't share a favourite song. Regulo loves his traditional Colombian Vallanato and knows to pass Mairéad a packet of tissues when Panis Angelicus or Schubert's Ave Maria are sung by the choir at Mass.

7. Saints on speed dial? (favourite saints)

St Ignatius of Antioch for outstanding



Mairéad and Regulo Bernal

courage in the face of persecution. St Teresa of Avila for her wonderful sense of humour in face of temptation. Curé d'Ars, St Martin de Porres, St Paul, St Peter, St Philomena, too many to mention.

8. Your greatest joint achievement?

Parenting our three beautiful children who bring the light of Christ into our lives and fill our home with joy and laughter, while providing a free translation service to their parents.

9. Best advice on marriage?

The husband makes all the important decisions, and the wife tells the husband what's important. We got this advice from Fray Nelson, a Dominican priest from Colombia. It really works.

A woman's shoulders aren't built to carry the burdens. That's the man's job. The woman has a deep sense of the needs of the family and nags (= relates) this to the husband. He, as head of the family, makes the final decision.

10. After 7 years, what makes your marriage worthwhile?

The chalice of Divine Love that we jointly received through the Sacrament of Matrimony and the knowledge that it can be topped up on request from the source of all love when it spills out on the rocky road of life.

Getting to know each other more each day and watching the children growing in love of Jesus and Mary.

Happy wife, happy life...

Eight years into marriage Harry and Kate Benson had grown apart and stood on the brink of divorce.

In a letter to Harry, Kate ended by saying: "What I really want is a friend. Will I ever get it, who knows. WHO CARES."

Still together 20 years later, the couple have written a book: *What Mums Want and Dads Need to Know*. For their book they asked 291 mothers what they wanted in marriage.

Coming out at the top of the list was "a friend", somebody who was interested in her and the children, and was kind. Bottom of the list was sexy, strong, adventurous. Even a provider was low down.

"If we men can get into our heads that our first task is to love mum, to notice her, to have her in the forefront of our thoughts, our marriage will be terrific," said Harry. "Happy wife, happy life."

But is that not putting an unfair

burden on men? Doesn't it take two to tango?

"Not at all," says Harry. "It's a tiny shift in thinking that recognises human nature. When a woman becomes child-oriented, dad needs to become mum-oriented. Somebody needs to take responsibility for the relationship."

This is not about who does what role in marriage. It is about creating a happy family.

●ACCOMMODATION

ALGARVE, Albufeira, Portugal. Luxury 1 or 2 bed apartments for rent. Sky TV, shared pool, long/short term. Special winter rates. Tel: 087 2371716.

KERRY (20 mins drive Killarney). 3 bed traditional Irish cottage, completely refurbished, plus well kept gardens in very scenic area. Ideal house for retired couple. For sale or to let longterm. Tel: Seán 087 2371716.

LUXURY 2 bed bungalow for holiday lets, short or long stays, all mod cons, suitable for wheelchairs, in beautiful surroundings at Knock, Mayo, 087 6406588.

APARTMENT to rent in Medjugorje 3-bedroom. Lift access. All mod cons. 5 mins from church. Tel: 086 1055388.

MEDJUGORJE Large 1 bedroom apartment to let, short or long term. Fully furnished, air condition, all mod-cons. Top floor overlooks Pompadour and Krizevac. 2 mins from church. €150 per week all-in. Please phone 01 8300662.

MEDJUGORJE. One and two bed apts to rent. 5 mins to church. Lifts. Air con and balcony. Tel: 068 32788, 087 1496338.

MEDJUGORJE to rent, beautiful spacious apartment. Can sleep 4 persons. Tel: 0044 7522706446.

ONE bedroom apartment for sale, Knock, Co. Mayo. Tel: 087 2895985.

TO let, Fatima apart. Near shrine. Tel: 089 9503440.

HOUSE to rent for summer months between Glenties and Dungloe. Near beach, all mod cons. Tel: 074 9738007.

FOR sale or rent, quiet, idyllic 3 bedroom detached cottage on 1.1 acre with stable, shed and gravel yard. Near Mountrath, Co. Laois. Tel: 089 2406602 or 087 2351294.

●MISCELLANEOUS

ALOE vera. Forever living products. Distributor: Phil Colgan 01-6281436; 086 2437653.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Breda 01-404 8187

Classifieds: €1 per word; Box No. €3.00 extra



If you enjoy reading
Alive!

... please help us to promote it.

Could you distribute 50, 100 or more copies door-to-door once a month?

We DO need your help.

Please contact
Breda (01) 4048187

ARE you in your 40s or 50s? Dublin 40Somethings invites you to join us. Founded in 2000, by Fr. Hugh Hanley SCJ, we organise spiritual and social events with a Catholic ethos for those in and around Dublin. Contact us on dublin40somethings@gmail.com or 087 760 8268 for more info.

STATUE of St. Therese of Lisieux wanted. Tel: 087 9630193.

ADOPTERS needed. Kind adopters still needed for some kittens and adult cats. May be delivered to new homes. Thanks to all previous inquirers. Please ring Ann on 086 2127853 anytime.

WORK from home business opportunity. Wanted motivated people interested in sports, nutrition and skin care. Part time/ full time. Phone Anita 087 0624108 after 4pm or email ark@flp.com.

ADOPTION & foster tracing. Do you want to trace your birth mother or father? Family tree tracing. Help is only a phone call away. Tel: 086 0634056. 24hrs. 7 days.

●NOVENAS

DEAR Sacred Heart of Jesus I ask you this very special favour (mention it). Take it, dear Heart of Jesus, and place it in your broken Heart where your Father can see it. Then in his merciful eyes, it will become your favour, not mine. Amen. Say this prayer for 3 days, promise publication and favour will be granted. MS, MW.

SACRED Heart novena answered. Praise and thanks to Our Lord Jesus Christ. AL.

●PERSONAL

LADY 60s, wltm a sincere, honest, good humoured gent, for friendship and outings. Box 201.

TYRONE single female, early 60s, likes walking, visiting Knock, wltm single/widowed male for companionship/friendship. Box 202.

MAYO lady 60s, wltm sincere, genuine, generous male for friendship. Loves dancing and the outdoors. NDSO. Box 203.

MALE 60s, med ht, build, retired, ND, light smoker, enjoys reading, walking, music, films, wltm female Dublin or East for relationship. Text or phone 086 8462276.

MUNSTER professional single lady, 60, attractive, sincere, good company, likes music, concerts, theatre, travel. Seeks like minded genuine widower or single gent for friendship or relationship. Box 204.

●PILGRIMAGES

PILGRIMAGE to San Giovanni, Loreto and the Adriatic Coast. September 15-22. Daytime flight from Dublin. All dinners and some lunches included. Full itinerary. €995, all inclusive. Tel: Mary 087 1247669.

PILGRIMAGE to Fatima, Lisbon and the Estoril Coast. Aug 2-9. Daytime flights ex-Dublin with Aer Lingus. €895. All inclusive. Tel: 057 9355050, mornings only. www.culturalconnections.eu TA 0776.

PILGRIMAGE to Rome and Assisi, 11-16 Aug. Staying at the Irish College in air-conditioned rooms. Comprehensive visits to all the holy places of Rome. Audience with Pope Francis. Daytime flights with Aer Lingus. All coaching, tours, taxes, baggage fees included, €850. For details Tel: 057 9355050, mornings only.

LOUGH Derg 3-day pilgrimage, 2017. St. Oliver Plunkett Pilgrimage dates direct from Dublin are: 2-4 June; 30 June to 2 July; 11-13 August. Cost €100. Students and pensioners €90. Tel: 086 3853027 for information or 01 4941171 after 6 pm. All are welcome.

DIVINE Mercy pilgrimage, Krakow 2017, 4-11 July from £599/€700; 19-26 Sept, from £599/€700. Medjugorje, 23-30

Claim tax on your donation

Alive! is a registered charity.

● If you are an individual donor (PAYE or Self-Assessed) and your total donation to Alive! was €250 or more in 2016 we can reclaim your tax.

Please ask us for a form or Tel 01-4048187 for more info.

● If you are a company and your donation to Alive! was €250 or more in 2016 you can claim tax relief on your donation.

Pontifical Mission Societies

Your gift will help mission churches train their own sisters, brothers and priests. 35,000 religious students helped last year.

€50 will keep a student for one month.

€250 will buy a religious student's books.

€1,000 helps four sisters complete their training.

€2,500 educates a student priest to ordination.

Please donate what you can and pray for missionaries

Fr. Maurice Hogan SSC; National Director WMI, 64 Lower Rathmines Road, Dublin 6. Ireland. www.wmi.ie Tel: (01) 4972035

May, from £479/€540. Contact Danny 028 90245547.

MEDJUGORJE departures, 7 nights, on 14 June and 6 Sept. Contact Phyllis Mulligan 042 9336705/087 2028492.

LOURDES. 4-10 Aug, (6 nights) ex Cork airport. Sp. Dir. Fr. Bernard Hughes. Group leader Mrs Breda Fleming (Innismannan, Cork). Contact Premier Travel, Cork Tel: 021 4277700 or Breda Fleming 085 8118089.

MEDJUGORJE. Departing Shannon 6 Sept. Contact John O'Brien 086 8586304.

MEDJUGORJE. 4-13 Oct, 9 nights, Sp. Dir. Fr. Philip Curran, €599pps. Tel: Pat & Phil 087 2238911.

DIVINE Mercy Pilgrimage Krakow, 19th-26th Sept 2017 from £599/€700; 3rd-7th Dec 2017 from £389/€449. **IN THE** Footsteps of St Paul, Malta, 6th-13th Nov 2017 from £599/€700. Contact Danny 028 90245547.

MEDJUGORJE, 20-27 Sept ex-Dublin, £579. Staying opposite church. Sp. director, Fr. Brian McKevitt. Tel: Brenda Smyth 028 (Roi 048) 90833730.

CHRISTMAS pilgrimage to Holyland 2017 for 8 nights. Ex Dublin. Taking in Bethlehem, Jerusalem (Mount of Olives, Garden of Gethsemane, Last Supper Room and Calvary), Mount Tabor, Cana, Nazareth,

Remember Your Loved One with a Special Keepsake

- Memorial Cards
- Bookmarks
- Acknowledgement Cards
- Key Rings
- Wallet Cards

memorialcardsireland.ie

Call 053-92 35295 for a catalogue info@crprint.ie

●USEFUL SERVICES

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

CHRISTIES Fruit & Veg, 7 Wellington Cottages, Templeogue. Location off Wellington Lane. Longtime established fruit & veg shop. All produce loose as the customer wants. 8 varieties of apples, 4 varieties of potatoes. Large stocks of fruit & veg all round. Very competitive prices.

REFACE your kitchen. We change kitchen cabinet doors, and worktops. Free estimates. Tel: 01 8624647.

OLD photos, torn, cracked, stained, etc. Repaired and enlarged as new. B/W or colour. Tel: 01 6265243, 087 2915672.

TYPEWRITERS repairs, sales, ribbons, most makes, Tel: 01 8309333.

TONY Kavanagh. Oil boiler servicing, maintenance & breakdowns. Dublin. Tel: 086 2645828.

ECCLESIASTICAL art, church statue restorations nationwide. Contact Dr Nicholas von Kerckhoff, Tel. 087 2203898 www.atelier-nicholas.com

PAINTER & Decorator, fully qualified tradesman, free quotations. Dunlaoghaire & Dublin areas. Tel: Paul Jenkinson 087 9013446.

GREENTEAM. Office tel: 01 5311022. Overgrown gardens, trees felled & pruned, shrubs uprooted & replanted elsewhere. Fencing & old sheds removed, new sheds supplied & erected. Hedges trimmed, gutters cleaned & sealed. Turfing & garage house clearance. 30% off. Fully insured. Registered business. Free quote. Tel: Dave.

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

13 - 21 September (9 days)

€1,549.00 per person

sharing - 4 star H/B

Fully escorted pilgrimage

accompanied by Spiritual

Leader

Jerusalem - Bethlehem -

Mount Tabor - Cana, Sea of

Galilee and much more!

Detailed itinerary on

www.maptravel.ie

or call 01-8783111

ADVANCING YEARS

IMPORTANT LEGAL INFORMATION

Worried about mental illness, especially with advancing years, or about the prospect of a stroke, Alzheimer or dementia? Have you concerns for Mum and Dad? This worries us all, especially if there is a family history of mental health issues.

Alzheimer can make simple tasks like paying bills or withdrawing money from the bank impossible. Signing up to the "Fair Deal Scheme" can also be beyond your reach, requiring the expensive procedure of being made a ward of Court. Yet there is a solution!

You can, **before** a difficult condition begins, appoint loved ones or friends to look after you and your business. Later you are not left abandoned and those appointed by you can take over the managing of your affairs. They can also, if necessary, sign you up for the "Fair Deal Scheme", ensuring you obtain best medical care. This, in clumsy legal language, is known as "appointing an Enduring Power of Attorney".

The end result, however, will benefit you. We can explain it all in detail if you arrange to come in and see us. If unable, we can visit you at home. Do not put this off, appoint your loved ones or friends to look after you.



John Glynn & Co Solicitors
Law Chambers, The Villages Square,
Tallaght, Dublin 24
Tel: (01) 4515099 • www.solicitor.net

ACRA

Body for residents' associations serving home and community

- See our O3 transport plan
- New proposals for L-drivers
- New website: www.acratu.com

Tom Newton 086-3127364
circletransport@gmail.com



KIDS' CORNER



Dia dhaoibh, a Pháistí,

Our Lady, the eleven apostles (who was missing?) and some followers of Jesus were hiding in Jerusalem. And they were terrified because the people who killed Jesus might be looking for them too.

Jesus had ascended to heaven, but they were to stay in Jerusalem instead of going back home to Galilee. Every time they heard a knock on the door they jumped with fright.

They just didn't know what to expect. Then came Sunday morning. Already Sunday was a special day for them, the day Jesus rose from the dead.

Suddenly a powerful wind shook the whole house. They noticed that their hair wasn't tossed by it. But a big change happened to themselves.

They were no longer afraid. In fact, they were on fire to get out into the streets to tell everyone that Jesus had risen from the dead, he was alive again.

That was what the Holy Spirit did to them. And he can change us too, make us very brave as his followers, if we welcome him at Pentecost.

Slán go fóill,

Aisling

Corpus Christi Sudoku

This month we have the Feast of Corpus Christi, the Body of Christ. The letters of each word, CORPUS and CHRIST should be on every line across and down and in each box.

	S		C	U	
O					
	P	R			
			U	R	
					C
	R	O		P	

	R		S		
C					R
	S				
				H	
H					T
	I		R		

170 COLOURING PICTURE - WIN €10



THE PRODIGAL SON

Name.....

Address.....

Age.....

Last Month's Colouring Picture Winner was:

Tom McCusker,
Clonfert, Maynooth, Co. Dublin.
Age 6.

May X-word Winner:

Oliver Broderick,
Montserrat House, Ashe
Street, Youghal, Co. Cork

Solution to May Crossword:

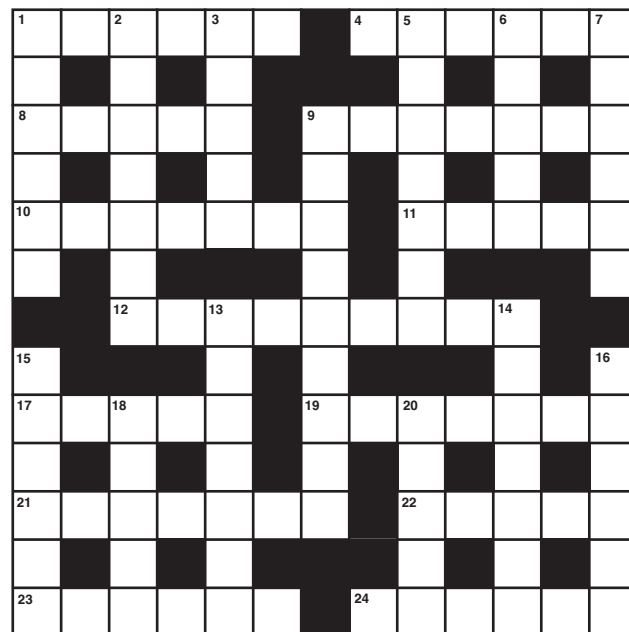
Across: 1. Toupee 4. Pole 8. Shears 9. Badger 11. Alligator 14. Roman 15. Shame 16. Satisfied 21. Export 22. Peddle 23. Brew 24. Teller.

Down: 2. Omega 3. Peril 4. Plant 5. Lager 6. Espy 7. Ermine 10. Against 12. Llama 13. Ochre 14. Rhodes 16. Super 17. Throw 18. Ideal 19. Dodge 20. Open.

Prize Crossword...No.213

€25

Cryptic Clues: €25 for the first correct entry out of the bag. Entries before **14th June**. One entry per family. Winner and answers next month.



ACROSS

1. Make safe after haphazard rescue (6)
4. Stale finish to insult (6)
8. Move quickly returning from deep south (5)
9. Second letter found in shed is rubbish (7)
10. Upset son lands in the moon after stormy wind! (7)
11. Change later perhaps (5)
12. Causing rebellion is disgusting! (9)
17. Meat jelly as small picture shows (5)
19. Nude man is somehow dull! (7)
21. Redesign plan too for company of soldiers (7)
22. Attempted to be subjected to trial (5)
23. Hate the German exam (6)
24. Meets, then returns from east, showing respect and admiration (6)

DOWN

1. Type of seed found on the Street? (6)
2. Housemaid appears after a shower? (7)
3. Cowboy show seen in Toro De Orio (5)
5. Can this farrier make a sporty car? (7)
6. Former part of play is precise (5)
7. Doctor has had year of being lifeless (6)
9. Man, the French man, is the chivalrous kind! (9)
13. Mr. Mature's winners! (7)
14. Tearing down rock... (7)
15. ...which is scraped and spread around (6)
16. Rarely are models upset! (6)
18. Make a pigtail from it, pal (5)
20. Observes musical pieces (5)

Name.....

Address.....

Telephone.....

Solution to Alive!, St Mary's Priory, Tallaght, Dublin 24.

Lives of the Saints

Dorothy Day

● Part 7: Jailed

World War I was coming to an end, but there was internal unrest in America as well. Women were fighting for the right to vote.

When the suffragettes protested and picketed the White House and other government institutions they were locked up. Their treatment in prison then became an issue. They demanded to be treated like political prisoners, not as criminals.

Dorothy's radical friends in New York decided to go to Washington

to support the imprisoned women – that they be allowed wear their own clothes, not be assigned to workhouse duties and be allowed to have books.

Dorothy joined their peaceful protest. The experience, and its aftermath, marked her for life.

The first shock came with the hostile reception the group of 35 women picketing the White House received from bystanders. There was jeering and shouting and stone-throwing.

Then came rough-handling by the police and arrests. They were

pushed into police trucks and hauled off to jail. A summary trial followed and all received jail sentences ranging from 15 days to three months.

Dorothy was sentenced to one month. The *New York Times* described their peaceful protest as a "riot".

Prison conditions were harsh and became harsher when the women went on hunger-strike. This tactic meant that they would not be sent to the prison workhouse – but for Dorothy that added to the pain.

Work would have taken her mind off her hunger. Sitting in a cramped cell all day and all night made the hunger worse. She was miserable. She later described the experience:

"Those first six days of inactivity were as six thousand years. To lie

there through the long day, to feel the nausea and emptiness of hunger, the dazedness at the beginning and the feverish mental activity that came after." The experience, the realisation of how mankind's ham-fisted efforts at administering justice produced even more injustice, tore at her soul.

'Desolation'

"I lost all consciousness of any cause. I had no sense of being a radical, making protest against a government, carrying on a non-violent revolution. I could only feel darkness and desolation all around me."

She reflected on her own experiences but also on the fate and lives of the convicted men and women, young and old, who were condemned to live for years in

places like this.

She became convinced of the ugliness, the futility of life, "so that I could not weep but only lie there in blank misery."

Then something stirred in her soul. "I began asking for a Bible the second day I was imprisoned, and by the fourth day it was brought to me. I read it with the sense of coming back to something of my childhood that I had lost.

"My heart swelled with joy and thankfulness for the psalms. The man who sang these songs knew sorrow and expected joy."

She realised that "if we had faith in what we were doing, making our protest against brutality and injustice, then we were indeed casting our seeds, and there was promise of the harvest to come."



US students rediscovering how to date

A MOVEMENT encouraging young people to "rediscover the fun and virtue of dating" is spreading to a growing number of colleges in the US.

The campaign, #BringDatingBack, promotes dating as an alternative both to 'hooking up' (sexual intimacy without commitment) and 'hanging out' (emotional intimacy without commitment).

The movement burst on the college scene two years ago for St Valentine's Day, with thousands of bright red posters appearing on campuses giving students tips on "How to Ask Someone Out" and "How to Treat your Date Right".

The posters have messages like: "Don't text. Ask questions. Pay a genuine compliment. Don't expect to spend the night."

Another advises: "Remember to laugh, but not too loudly. Keep expectations realistic. It's just a date, have fun. Remember, it's ok to seem interested."

Brainchild

The campaign is the brainchild of Love & Fidelity Network (LFN), a nonprofit organisation founded in 2007 and now headed by newlywed Caitlin La Ruffa, 27, herself a Princeton graduate.

"Lately students have been telling us that they and their peers are eager to date but it has become so uncommon on campus that no one knows how," said La Ruffa.

She added: "There are viable and fun romantic alternatives to the world of hook-ups."

LFN points out that the virtue of dating is that it does not entail a deep commitment.

Rather, "it recognises that the early stages of a relationship are about getting to know someone, in order to decide whether to make a

commitment to them in marriage."

Bethany Crippen, director of the campaign, believed that its light and jocular tone is a hit with students.

She was critical of the hook-up culture, because it means that women are "more likely to feel disrespected by their sexual partners, to experience depression and anxiety, to contract STIs, to suffer sexual assault, the list goes on and on".

Dating is a far superior preparation for marriage because it avoids these dangers, she says. "It gives you the chance to look at someone of the strange, confusing, mysterious, opposite sex and say, 'I'd really like to know you. Tell me about yourself'."

Reed Frey of Pittsburg University believed that students allow themselves to feel trapped into the hook-up culture.

"If someone is bold enough to be an alternative voice," he said, "people appreciate that. There's a duty for people who know what's true, not to sit by silently."

Love & Fidelity Network's website explains that its mission is "to equip college students with the resources, support, and arguments they need to uphold the institution of marriage, the special role of the family and sexual integrity, within their university communities."



Caitlin La Ruffa

Young ones knew the answer

Dear Nettles,

Down here we were all waiting anxiously to hear what he had to say. For weeks his name had been spreading everywhere, and the crowds were growing, drawn mainly by the healings he worked.

Now he was sitting on the side of a mountain, about to give his first big talk. This was the moment we would discover what he was really about.

"What is the one thing that every single person wants?" he began. And a bunch of teenage girls screamed back, "Happiness".

And that became the focus of his whole talk, what was later called the Sermon on the Mount. In fact, happiness became the big theme of his whole mission.

Some of the dark guys down here picked up on that immediately. "He's not just interested in Jews, or his own followers" they growled, "he wants to reach every man, woman and child on the planet."

"What is happiness?" he asked the crowd. Many there had never thought about that before, and were at a loss. But not the teenage girls. "Getting everything you want," they screamed.

"That's pretty good," he laughed. "Yes, it has to do with

Dumbag writes...

Letters from a Master to a Trainee Tempter

desire. When people get what they want they are happy, at least until a new desire comes along. Then they're off on a new quest for happiness."

"Sure that's what life is all about," said an old guy near the front. "It's about fulfilling one desire after another, if possible. And then we die."

"And perfect happiness?" said Jesus. "Out of the question," said the old guy. "An illusion. It would mean the complete fulfilment of absolutely every desire, and nothing could do that. Besides, even if we got all our desires, death would still wipe us out. We're not made for real happiness."

Not done yet

It didn't look good, but Jesus was not done yet. "What would it take to make you perfectly happy?" he asked the crowd.

"Nothing that money could buy would do it, nor anything material," said a mother with a baby in her arms. "Nor power, nor fame, nor anything like that."

"It would have to cancel death," said somebody. But another replied: "That would only give us desire after desire, everlasting frustration and unending misery."

"Nobody knows what would make us perfectly happy," said a third. "That's why so many people end up a mess, in broken homes, spaced out on drugs, with sex diseases, blindly ambitious, obsessed with sport, and what have you."

By now many in the crowd were beginning to reflect, "If happiness is so important, how come I have never really thought about it before?"

But Jesus kept coming back to the question: "With all your desires, what would it take to make you perfectly happy?"

A politician did say, "my desires are so great that only something infinite would satisfy them." But nobody paid much attention to him because they thought he was just out to impress.

It was a relief to see them so utterly confused about something so fundamental. Down here we realised that Jesus could talk about happiness till he ran out of breath, but few would ever see what he was getting at.

Yours happily,

Dumbag

SAVE THE 8TH FOR 1.7.17 DUBLIN RALLY FOR LIFE

#rallyforlife

BE THERE!

The Rally for LIFE needs YOU to help make it the best ever - to save the 8th!

A referendum on abortion will take place in the next 12 months. That makes YOUR attendance at the 'Save the 8th' Rally for Life in Dublin on Saturday, July 1st, absolutely critical.

Preborn children and their mothers are relying on us to protect them from the abortion industry - and stand up for their fundamental right to life.

Celebrate Life and be a voice for the voiceless on July 1st.

Be part of it! Save the Date for July 1st!

Locally organised buses are travelling to the Rally from all over the country, get in touch with us today to book your seat!

www.rallyforlife.net

Facebook: @Allirelandrallyforlife

ph: +353 1 8730465 (ROI) / ++44 28 9027 8484 (NI)

Save The Date! 2pm, Saturday, July 1st, Parnell Square, Dublin City Centre