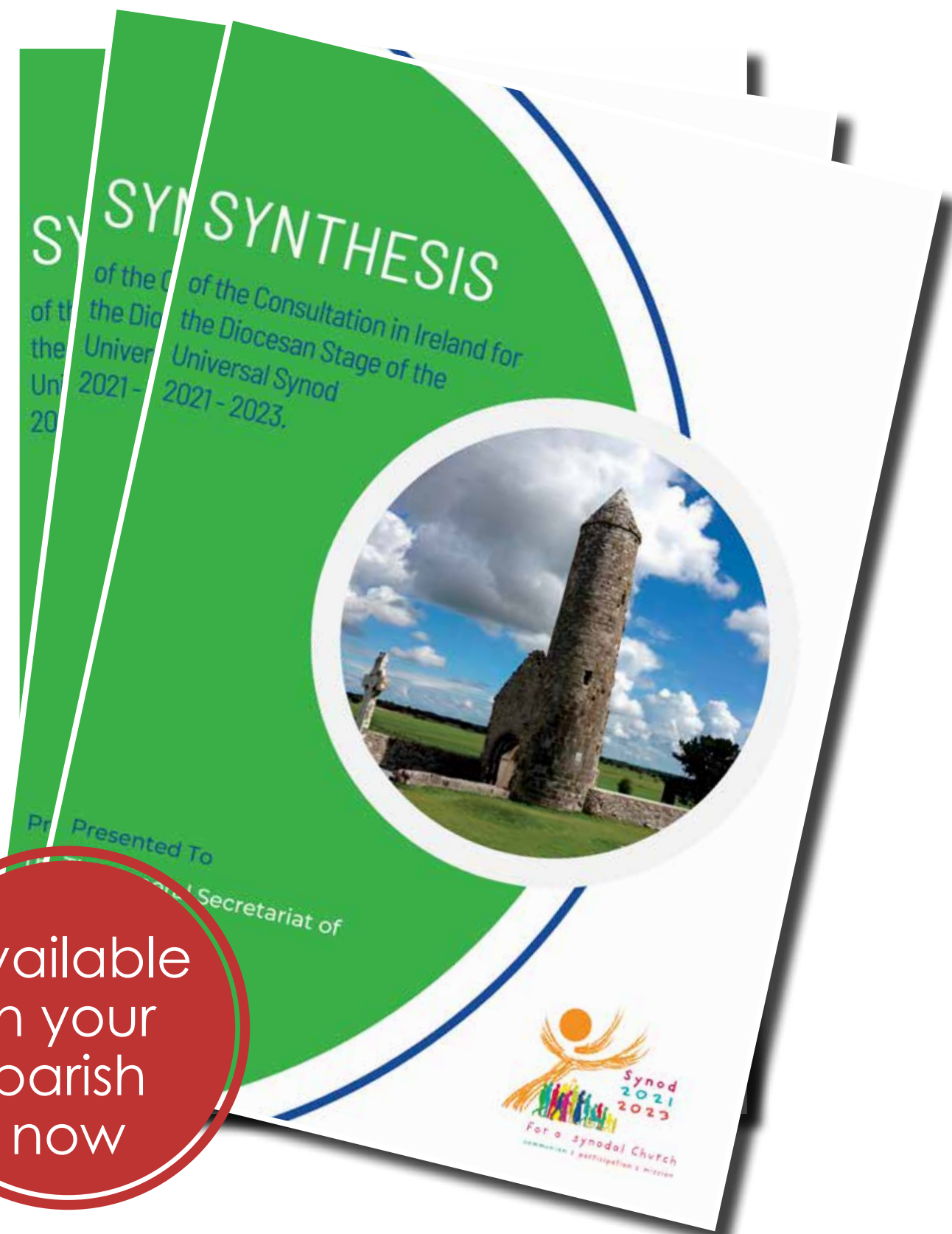




OSSORY TIMES

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Editorial

For some time now we have been speaking of the synodal journey that is our lived experience of church at this time. It is intended to be a continual pathway in which the voice of all members of our Church is heard. It is, then, a considerable undertaking. Over this past year much work has been undertaken locally, nationally, and internationally to welcome all to this conversation. Along the way there was, on occasion, fear but also great hope; doubt but also great confidence; fatigue but also great energy. The first fruits of this journey are now being shared, in these days we are delivering to all the parishes in Ossory the national synthesis of these conversations. It has been warmly welcomed as a very accurate account of the many conversations already undertaken. It is, however, not some final draft or some complete work. It is rather merely a snapshot of the now of ongoing synodal journey. Let us continue to walk together. Our cover to this edition of the *Ossory Times* might prompt you to also read this synthesis to see if your voice is represented and if not to ensure that it is in future gatherings... yours is our Church and as we have continually said - all of our voices make the parish.

Once more this edition of the *Ossory Times* opens for us the life of faith here in Ossory. These pages, and their variety, demonstrate clearly this synodal church. Our activities are as varied as are the members of our Church. In these pages we document the wonderful celebrations that marked 150 years at St Joseph's Church in Ballyfoyle; we note the extremely positive findings of the independent review of safeguarding practices in Ossory; we mark the formal transition from Deanery Structures to Pastoral Areas; we note, with sadness, the death of Bishop Emeritus of Ossory Séamus Freeman and Fr John Delaney; we mark the imminent arrival of the recalls of Blessed Carlo Acutis to Castlecomer Community School; we reflect on the ability to study theology in Carlow College and so much more...

Thankfully the pandemic seems to have moved to a more endemic phase and with that transition we have returned to larger celebrations of faith together. We welcome, then, this ability to return to 'normal' liturgy to the simple gestures and actions we have missed in these recent years. Sadly our parishes still welcome, and home, people fleeing from violence in Ukraine and our prayers continue to focus on the unrest in many parts of the world. But that is life today and it is good that our prayer is shaped by the world in which we live - this is real prayer; this is a proper life of faith.

I am delighted then to welcome you to the latest edition of the *Ossory Times*. As always I hope you enjoy this publication. Comments, suggestions and contributions are most welcome for future editions. Articles or advertisements for upcoming events or of recent events, can be sent to:

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Homily of Bishop Denis Nulty, Apostolic Administrator of Ossory

Requiem Mass of Bishop Séamus Freeman

St Mary's Cathedral, 26th August 2022



John's text which Msgr. Kieron read for us offers a post resurrection encounter, where the triple denial of Peter is perhaps being put to the test. They had just eaten a breakfast cooked by Jesus and Peter is soon to realise there is no such thing as a free breakfast! I am always intrigued by the question Jesus first puts to Peter, "do you love me more than these?" Was it a competition? It wasn't. Was it looking for brownie points? It wasn't. Was it some sort of short listing interview strategy? It wasn't. Commentaries suggest it is artfully phrased, but also note that Peter proves himself very much up to the test. In each response he becomes more determined in his resolve.

Then we move into a dialogue that speaks of feeding lambs and sheep. I love the

phrase "Tend my sheep", meaning to look after, to care for, to protect. It's the task of the shepherd, it's the job of the Bishop, it's the role of the Rector General. And it's not easy, it brings challenges when hard calls have to be made, and the burdens of office come to bear on the shoulders of the one ordained to lead, to look after and to protect. Perhaps our Psalm best encapsulates that complete response to this call: "I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart". The priests and people of Ossory always remained close to the heart of Séamus.

Séamus was ordained Bishop here in St Mary's Cathedral on the first Sunday of Advent in 2007. On that day the homilist was Msgr Liam Bergin. Liam spoke eloquently then of the bell, the book and

the star. The bell linked to the one given by St Patrick to St Kieran inviting him to build a monastery on the spot where the bell should first sound. And so Seir Kieran was born. The book referred to the Book of the Gospels associated with St Canice in Aghaboe. The star was associated with the call of St Vincent Pallotti inviting every Christian to become that comet, that star, which heralds the presence of Christ in our world.

All three were to be represented in Séamus's episcopal coat of arms. Today, for us, the bell will toll one final time to mark the moment as Séamus is laid to rest alongside his predecessors Larry Forristal, Peter Birch and Patrick Collier and close to the resting place of former Nuncio, Archbishop Thomas White. It's the same toll, it's the same bell we are all familiar with in burying our loved ones.

The book of the Apocalypse speaks of those whose "good deeds go with them". A word used by several in recent days has been the word 'gentle'. Séamus was a gentle man, he was a kind man. Humility was in many respects his middle name. He didn't yearn for the limelight. He was unassuming. His style at times understated. Seamus made time for everyone. Someone remarked to me outside the Cathedral the other evening as we waited for his remains to arrive that Séamus was the best and most empathetic listener he had ever encountered. He was as contented walking the meadows at home in Coolagh as he was processing up the aisles of Cathedrals in Rome.

I know how much the simple gestures Séamus made in people's lives meant so much to them. For the priests it was empowering them to run their own parishes and address him by his first name. For his nephews and nieces it was the postcards from missionary destinations, the presents and the chocolates. For acquaintances it was his little notes of appreciation and thanks. For confirmandi, and there are thirty young people here today

representing the Catholic secondary schools of Kilkenny, all of them confirmed by Bishop Freeman, for each, a one to one engagement with the Bishop just before or after the anointing with Chrism. For religious it was his frequent visits and honouring their special celebrations. For family and close friends it was his quick wit and sense of humour.

I remember well September 2013, it was the month after my own ordination in Carlow. Séamus suffered a slight stroke on his return journey from a visit to Knock. For Séamus that stroke was the beginning of an illness that would see him eventually prematurely retire as Bishop of Ossory in 2016. I am very conscious that the last few years of Bishop Séamus's life has been challenging as sickness took a greater hold on him. While his body kept going until last Saturday afternoon, much of who he was, had ebbed away bit by bit in the cruel illness that dementia is. While his capacity to remember was challenged, he was not forgotten and remained fondly remembered by many and that must have been so reassuring for him to the very end.

Memory is so important. And the greatest of all memorials is the celebration of the Eucharist, the Mass as we offer the memory of those we love in life but lose to death into the greatest of all living memorials. We may forget who we are, but we can be confident God never forgets any one of us.

For Bishop Séamus, today is a coming home, to the Cathedral and its environs that he loved and began the restoration project that continues. To a Diocese where he always encouraged collaboration of priests and lay faithful, very much echoing the current synodal journey. And to a resting place where he will be forever remembered by those who pass this way. May his gentle soul rest in peace. Amen.



Reflection given by Fr Derry Murphy, SAC.

Night Prayer

St Mary's Cathedral, Kilkenny, Thursday 25th August 2022.

Good evening brothers and sisters. We gather for Night Prayer, for Compline, at the end of a day of prayer and vigil for our confrere and friend Bishop Seamus Freeman, SAC.

The liturgy of Night Prayer itself guides us for reflection: the opening hymn, led by Fr Eamonn Monson, is "Day is done", our day of prayer and thanksgiving is done, our prayer and thanksgiving for Seamus's day of life and of loving service is done. The hymn is also an invitation to a life of trust and confidence in God's abiding and continuously active presence with us, every day.

Psalm 15 is a prayer with the title "The Lord is my inheritance"; a very beautiful prayer and each line and verse is significant; I invite you now to cast your eye over the text again, and then choose a line or a verse that resonated with you and make it your prayer; the following lines resonated with me "You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence"; we trust that God who showed Seamus the path of life is now sharing the fullness of joy in His presence with him.

The reading is from the First Letter of St John, chapter 3; John wrote this letter towards the end of his life and central to it is his conviction on the "great love the Father has lavished on us", the verb 'to lavish' conveys the generous and bountiful nature of God's love for us. John acknowledges that the details of what eternal life is have not been given to us, however, there is one certainty "when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is". This is our faith and our hope. We know that while the human remains of Bishop Seamus are here before us, he is no longer here, that which made Seamus Freeman unique is not here, his soul, his spirit, the essence of

his person, is in the presence of God and is seeing Him as He is.

At the end of the reading St John notes that those "who have this hope purify themselves, just as he is pure" and this is the nature of life, that we are gradually purified and so can share God's presence with the Lord Jesus Christ. Seamus Freeman was 'purified' in the cruel illness with the progressive loss of faculties over these past years ... we trust God and we trust that it was part of his life journey of faith.

We Pallottines of the Society of the Catholic Apostolate and the Union of Catholic Apostolate bid farewell to our confrere. The motto of our Pallottine Family chosen by our Founder, St Vincent Pallotti, is "Caritas Christi urget nos", translated as the "Love of Christ urges us on", there is a stress on the 'urges us on', on love that impels us, and this was true in the Pallottine life of Seamus Freeman. There was an inner drive, a force within, leading him on. When I think of what his gift was, I believe it was his intuition of and insight into the spiritual life of St Vincent Pallotti and of his spiritual gift, or charism, to be offered in service of the Church. Seamus, in full cooperation and collaboration with his SAC confreres, with the Pallottine Sisters of all the Congregations, the members of the Communities and the lay members of the UAC, worked for a distillation and clarification of our Pallottine life in the Church, with the Church and for the Church.

There is a phrase from St Vincent Pallotti, which Seamus lived, it is "Avanti, sempre avanti", translated as 'forward, always forwards'; St Vincent urged his followers to this in writing on the spiritual and apostolic life and wrote that we were to



be "always moving forward and growing more and more in holiness", and Seamus strove to follow this while taking care in building on the past and for the future.

Last night our confrere Fr Donal McCarthy spoke of Bishop Seamus's personal kindness and thoughtfulness, Fr Eamonn and I were talking of his life today and I think that mention must be made of and put on record two initiatives that were very significant. In Rome in the 1970's there were many migrant workers and in particular from the Philippines and Sri Lanka, and at the Church of San Silvestro in Capite in Rome, he initiated the Link Community for them in 1976. It was a response to a need at that time in Rome, to provide a spiritual centre of faith and support for them, and now, 46 years later, it continues to be a vibrant Community.

The second initiative was in Thurles while he was there in the early 1980's, the Guardian Angels Pre-School for children with different abilities was functioning in one of our old buildings, and he is credited with the decision to build a new facility for the Pre-School in our grounds and which functioned there for many years.

Perhaps a final instance of personal kindness; I met a woman today who was a young girl in the 1980's and was an avid collector of

stamps, Seamus became aware of this and would collect exotic stamps from all over the world during his travels and would keep them for this young girl.

Ar dheis De go raibh a Anam dilis.

NIGHT PRAYER
at
ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, KILKENNY
Thursday, 25th August 2022
led by
Fr Derry Murphy SAC
SÉAMUS FREEMAN SAC
1944 - 2022



Bishop of Ossory
2007 - 2016



Homily of Bishop Denis Nulty, Apostolic Administrator of Ossory

Ballyfoyle 150th Anniversary

St Joseph's Church, 11th September 2022

BEGINNINGS are very important, and in reality we only recognise them as a beginning long after something was begun. Great athletes look back at their early days in sport and see the groundwork that slowly laid their eventual skill; history judges some point in the past as the origin of a movement or the creation of a nation.

I wonder what the hopes of the people of Ballyfoyle were as they stood on the site of St Joseph's Church in 1861, when work began. What were they intending to build? A simple, yet beautiful, monument to God; a place for them to gather in prayer; a location in which significant sacraments would be celebrated; or the heart of the faith community in this place. We look back and can clearly see what a wonderful beginning, for this beautiful church, that day was.

St Joseph's Church is, as Fr Larry recognises, a key focal point for the community of this parish. Its standing here 150 years later is a testimony to the care, attention, love and faithful respect that generations of Ballyfoyle people have lavished upon it.

In your marking this anniversary you, in your turn, are contributing to its presence in your midst. What stories these walls

could tell - the heartache of funerals; the deep love of marriage; the relief of a good confession; prayers for those who were sick, the sustenance of Eucharist; the joy of a First Holy Communion; the pride of Confirmations; the limitless potential of baptisms. These stories are your stories, and today you again honour them.

I can only imagine all those who contributed to today's celebrations. Fr Larry speaks fondly of the many people that gave so much: those in the pastoral group; choirs and musicians; those who guided and planned the liturgy; those who worked on its history so that its story could be told; and the many more who did all that was necessary to ensure this celebration is as beautiful as I know it to be. I thank, then, most sincerely all these people, and you Fr Larry, for your immense and continued dedication to this beautiful home of faith.

Your energy for this project speaks volumes to your honouring the generations before who have gifted us so much. May the Good Lord reward you all for your kindness, your commitment, your energy for this important work, your great sense of community and your deep faith.



A welcome from Fr Larry Wallace P.P.

The people of Ballyfoyle and indeed all in the parish of Muckalee are blessed to celebrate the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the Consecration of St Joseph's Church, Ballyfoyle.

On this Sunday 11th September 2022 we thank Bishop Denis Nulty, Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Ossory for making the time to come to Ballyfoyle and be the Chief Celebrant at our Mass of Thanksgiving.

This Commemorative Booklet is a lovely record of the history and faith journey of this community over many generations.

St Joseph's Church, like every local Church, provides a focal point for the community, a gathering place, a place of belonging, in the parish. It witnesses to the strength, resilience and commitment of a people who have shared life's journey through happy times and difficult times since its foundation in 1872.

It also witnesses to the faith of a people who through local skill and hard work

took on the task of building a place of worship, celebrating the key family events of christenings, marriages, funerals, as well as the weekly Mass and other Sacraments. It is the place where they find God's love, mercy, consolation and comforting.

We are blessed to have excellent source material for this Booklet provided in 'The History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Ossory', published in 1905 by Canon William Carrigan, a native of Ballyfoyle from the townland of Ruthstown.

Thanks to Michael Brennan, with his immense knowledge and interest in local history, for bringing together the various aspects of the life and times of Ballyfoyle from the dim distant past to the present. Thanks also to Gerry O'Neill, former Principal of Muckalee National School for his work in editing and preparing for the printing.

As with every community venture many unnamed people are involved who in the background give support and practical help. We thank them. Thanks also to the Local Pastoral Group, those involved in the liturgy, the musicians and choir and



the wide array of individuals who have combined to mark this special occasion.

Facing the future, Pope Francis recommends that we build a 'Synodal Church' – that we walk together on the faith journey. With the Lord's help may we continue with the inspiration of the past to face the future in faith, hope and love.

150th celebration of St Joseph's Ballyfoyle

by Michael Brennan, Chairman

No doubt the feature building in Ballyfoyle is St Joseph's Church. Built in the 1860s to replace the existing small chapel, from locally sourced limestone it still makes a strong architectural statement in the community. It was dedicated to Saint Joseph by the Most Rev Patrick F. Moran, Bishop of Ossory, on the 8th of September 1872. It was the first church in Ossory that was dedicated to this illustrious Saint. Since then it has been the focal point for the community, a beacon of faith, light and hope for all and has witnessed the journey through life of generations of families here in Ballyfoyle. The Church is the people but the people require a building to call home and as a community we are proud to call it home. The community of Ballyfoyle commenced the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary

of the consecration of St Joseph's church with a concert in the Church on Sunday, 4th September. Following the introductory welcome, ten local musical artists entertained the congregation for over two hours. The songs and music were varied and by the end of the evening the audience was amazed at what talent there is locally. No doubt music and song are the free direct speech of the soul.

On Sunday, 11th September Bishop Denis Nulty, Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Ossory, was chief celebrant at a special Mass of Thanksgiving in St Joseph's. Following his opening welcome Bishop Nulty incensed the Altar and then received a presentation of six gifts symbolic of the occasion. A Statue of Saint Joseph, Patron Saint of our Church. As husband of Mary and guardian protector of the son Jesus, we pray that the Holy family of Nazareth be our model and inspiration. A lighted candle to remind us that Jesus is the light of the world and as parents and godparents we received the baptismal candle and are requested to receive the light of Christ and keep the flame of faith alive in our hearts. In presenting the Bible we are reminded that written on the Ambo here is An Briathar Beo – The living Word. One of the four volumes of Canon Carrigan's History of the Diocese of Ossory, a symbol of the rich heritage that we celebrate

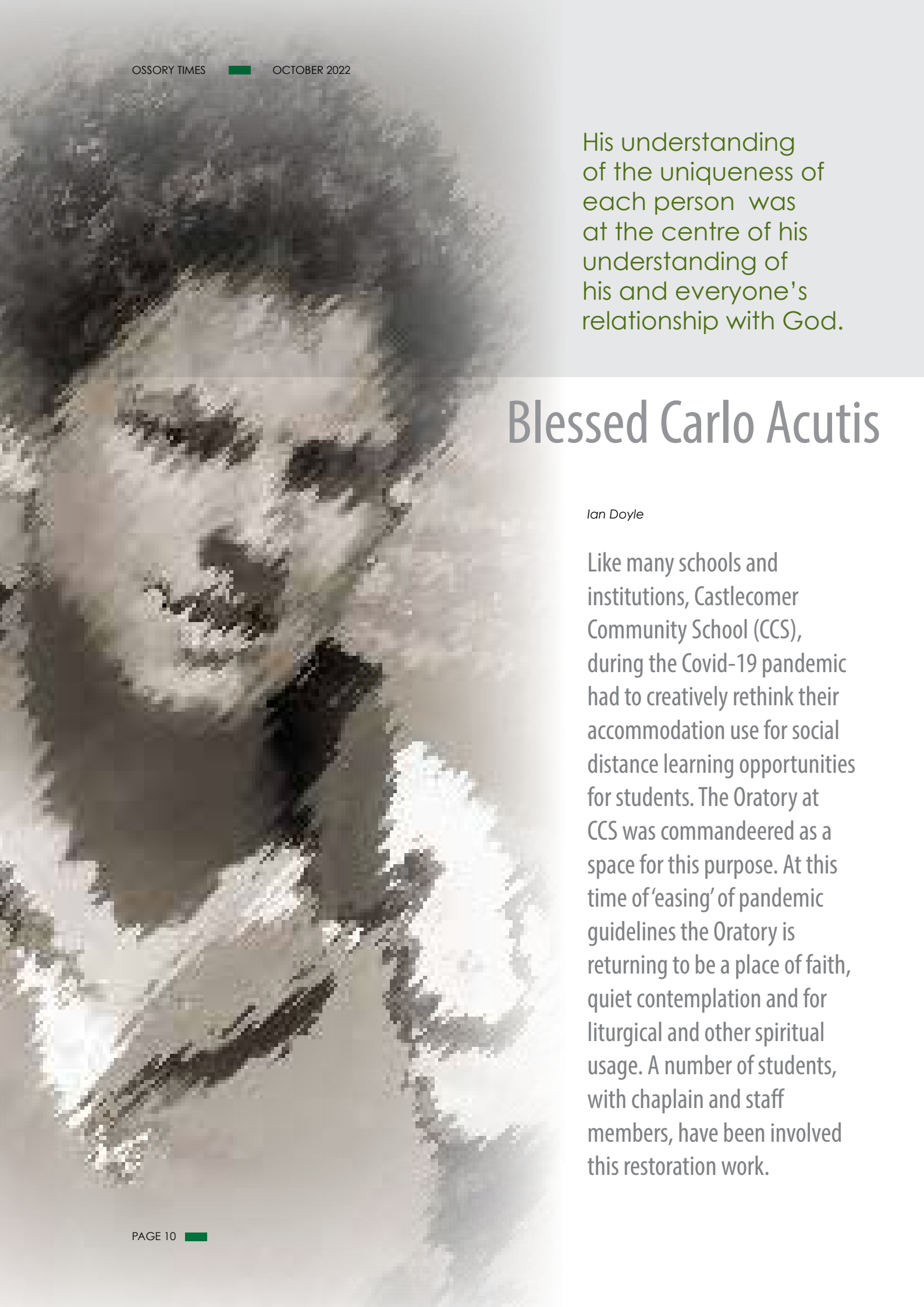
today, the faith and lives of our forebears before and over the last 150 years. A copy of the Apostolic Letter Laudato Si, of Pope Francis. It challenges us to respect all of God's creation, to protect our fragile world and to realise we are all God's children called to live at peace and care for one another.

Bishop Nulty then continued to celebrate a heartfelt and celebratory Mass. The entire liturgy was uplifting. The choir and instrumentals enhanced a wonderful occasion and made the Mass all the more beautiful with specially selected

hymns. Following Mass Bishop Nulty planted a memorial tree in the grounds of St Joseph's, to mark the occasion.

Even the torrents of rain that fell could not dampen the spirits of the people. Smiles all around afterwards in the community hall where the parishioners met with Bishop Nulty and were catered for by members of the local ladies group. Thanks again to Bishop Nulty, Fr Larry Wallace PP, the organising committee and all who participated in making it such a joyous and wonderful celebration of 150 years of St Joseph's Church in Ballyfoyle.





His understanding of the uniqueness of each person was at the centre of his understanding of his and everyone's relationship with God.

Blessed Carlo Acutis

Ian Doyle

Like many schools and institutions, Castlecomer Community School (CCS), during the Covid-19 pandemic had to creatively rethink their accommodation use for social distance learning opportunities for students. The Oratory at CCS was commandeered as a space for this purpose. At this time of 'easing' of pandemic guidelines the Oratory is returning to be a place of faith, quiet contemplation and for liturgical and other spiritual usage. A number of students, with chaplain and staff members, have been involved this restoration work.

Blessed Carlo Acutis has become for many young people around the world a person of spiritual inspiration. He was born on 3rd May 1991. His mother, Antonia Salano, speaks of her son, "We already saw that Carlo, from the age of 4 was very special. He was generous, obedient and docile,....He developed a devotion to Jesus at a very young age, such that he wanted to enter every church we walked in front of."

Carlo was a devotee of Francis of Assisi, and Antonia further recalls, "During the winter, it gets very cold here. He would go out to bring food and hot liquids to the homeless. With his weekly allowance, he bought covers and sleeping bags for them,". Carlo was popular with his fellow students and a defender of those picked-upon or made fun of, or marginalised. He sought every opportunity to evangelise at home, at school, and in the wider community.

He had a fascination for computer programming and computer games. He undertook to develop a webpage of the Eucharistic Miracles (<http://www.carloacutis.com/en/association/mostramiracoli-eucaristici>) which has been exhibited worldwide.

Having received his First Holy Communion at seven years old Carlo never missed

daily Mass and time for prayer before the Blessed Sacrament before or after Mass. Carlo's desire was, "To always be close to Jesus, that's my life plan." He said to his peers, "All people are born as originals but many die as photocopies." His understanding of the uniqueness of each person was at the centre of his understanding of his and everyone's relationship with God.

At age 15, Carlo was diagnosed with an untreatable leukaemia. He offered up his suffering for others coping with illness and said, "I offer all the suffering I will have to suffer for the Lord, for the Pope, and the Church." Carlo died from his illness on Oct. 12, 2006. At his request he was buried in Assisi because of his love for St Francis. His cause for canonisation began in 2013 and he was designated "Venerable" in 2018. A healing miracle has been attributed to his intercession and he was designated "Blessed" on October 10 2020.

Later this year by kind permission of Carlo's family, and the Diocesan Authorities of Assisi we shall bring to Castlecomer Community School a relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis to be permanently 'housed' in the school oratory, and to be loaned, on a temporary basis to other schools, for prayer and devotional liturgies.

Prayer to Blessed Carlo Acutis

O God, our Father, Thank you for giving us Carlo, model of life for young people, and a message of love for all.

You made him fall in love with your Son, Jesus, making of the Eucharist his "highway to Heaven".

You gave him Mary, as beloved Mother, and with the Rosary you made him sing the praises of her tenderness. Accept his prayer for us. Attend especially to the poor, whom he loved and helped.

Through his intercession, may I receive the grace I need (explain) and fulfil our joy, by placing Carlo among the blessed of your Holy Church, that his smile may shine again for us for the glory of your name.

Amen. (Mons. Domenico Sorrentino)

... a couple should not be embarrassed in requesting a simple stand-alone marriage ceremony.

Possibilities for marriage today

William Dalton

Excerpt from Callan Parish Newsletter 31 July 2022

Getting married in church:
different options available
that people may not be aware of

This is the time of year that is most popular for getting married. Because of covid 19 many marriages were delayed or postponed and some of these may be taking place only now.

In recent years we have been witnessing a growing number of people opting for civil marriage in hotels or registry offices or some open-air venue etc. instead of the traditional church marriage. The couple in question may have had little contact with church since their Confirmation and they now feel awkward or too embarrassed to present themselves for marriage in church.

There is another option that people may not be aware of – a stand-alone wedding ceremony in a church setting. This entails a service of the word, exchange of marriage vows, prayers of the faithful and nuptial blessing etc. This is open to any couple, be they regular church-goers or not, provided they are free to marry i.e. neither of the parties being married already. Many young couples are probably totally unaware of this option. We appeal to parents to remind their children that this is eminently possible and is perhaps what the young couple want or need at this time. In other words their sincere commitment to each other makes them ripe for marriage in their own judgment and indeed in the eyes of God but not just yet ready for Eucharist.

Most people regard reception of the Eucharist as a significant stage in their faith-conversion-journey and rightly so. The personal conviction of not having arrived yet arrived at this stage does not mean that a person is excluded from celebrating their marriage in church. Pope John Paul II, shortly after becoming pope, issued an important instruction on this very matter. The faith-conversion-journey of each person varies; it admits of stages or steps along the way and comes about gradually. It is governed by what one might call 'the principle of gradualness'. This is particularly relevant when it comes to getting married. The grace and blessing of the sacrament of marriage and the gift of children can often fan into a flame a spark of faith and provide the impetus for a new family-faith-oriented-journey.

The christening of the first child and the visit of the parish baptismal team can often be the catalyst that ignites that smouldering ember of faith and desire of the couple to regularise their marriage in the eyes of God and his Church. This is often referred to as 'having one's marriage blessed in the Church' but it is in fact the real marriage that the couple and their families had earnestly longed for but didn't know how to go about it.

Hence, a couple should not be embarrassed in requesting a simple stand-alone marriage ceremony. In many countries this is the standard form of marriage and any priest will be only too happy to facilitate this format. Over the years I have celebrated many such marriages. Unlike those marriages that take place before a lay solemniser in hotels etc. the priest would most likely know the families and be familiar with the riches of the scriptures and church tradition associated with Christian marriage; the church setting, unlike a hotel reception room or registry office, provides that fitting space and environment consistent with the dignity and sacredness of the occasion. Catholics are required by church law to exchange their marriage vows in the presence of a duly authorised/delegated priest and two witnesses for the marriage to be recognised as valid.

Is it possible for a couple who have married civilly to have their marriage blessed in the church? The answer to this query is an unequivocal 'yes'. This form of celebration is becoming increasingly frequent in circumstances of today. It is never too late to have recourse to this in order to have one's marriage blessed in the eyes of God and his Church. Nobody apart from the people themselves need know about it and the ceremony itself can take place in the presence of the couple, two witnesses and the priest.



Theology enables students to achieve an understanding of what it is to flourish in the widest sense in our contemporary culture and society.

Studying Theology at Carlow College

Michael Sherman

Theology Lecturer, Carlow College, St Patrick's

Theology is one of the oldest university disciplines. It has a long and distinguished tradition in Carlow College, St Patrick's (here after Carlow College) having been taught here for over 230 years. Theology enables students to achieve an understanding of what it is to flourish in the widest sense in our contemporary culture and society. Carlow College, situated in the cultural quarter and heart of Carlow town, offers a firm foundation in the history and skills of theology while also placing a keen emphasis on the theology of culture, applied ethics, social justice, and teaching practice. Our students develop the skills to assess critically religious practices and beliefs, cultures and creeds, ideas and values. Theology is a core discipline of the BA (Hons) Arts and Humanities four year degree programme, which means that students take theology alongside the disciplines of philosophy, literature, history, and psychology.

We have a variety of theology modules from which our students can choose to study according to their own career and educational plan. The modules are designed to respond to the social, human, familial, international, religious, and personal needs of contemporary life. These include: Theological Themes in World Literature, Cinema, & Music, Biblical Studies, World Religions, Religion, Conflict, and Peace, The God Question, Social Justice and Applied Ethics, as well as our teaching placement modules in primary and post-primary education.

There is a long tradition of teaching placement as part of studying theology at Carlow College. The two-year teaching placement module is offered to students in years three and four of the Arts and Humanities programme and is overseen by the Co-ordinator of the module. This module is grounded by the support, guidance and participation of cooperating teachers and college



tutors. It provides students with practical teaching experience in primary and post-primary school settings in a way that is structured and supported.

It is designed to give student teachers an opportunity to gain practice in teaching, to participate in school life, and to apply educational theory in a variety of teaching and learning situations. Methodology workshops prepare student teachers for classroom teaching and collective debriefing/reflective sessions provide support throughout placement.

Our theology students have a number of opportunities to explore theology 'outside' of the traditional classroom. These include inter-disciplinary collaborations with staff and students of SETU Carlow and Waterford, study days, fieldtrips, and visits to places of worship with staff and students from TCD including the Irish Jewish Museum, Clonskeagh Mosque, the Gurdwara Guru Nanak Darbar in Ballsbridge, the

Tibetan Buddhist Meditation Centre in Kilmainham, and the Chester Beatty Library (Dublin Castle).

The current offering of modules in the BA (Hons) in Arts and Humanities is designed to offer enough range and depth of credits to study theology at master's degree level. The breadth of offerings also allows students to pursue postgraduate studies in Chaplaincy, Pastoral Studies, and Religious Studies.

Theology at Carlow College also allows students, who wish to teach in secondary schools, to achieve the Teaching Council of Ireland's requirements for the teaching of Religion.

On average about 20 students per year from the dioceses of Ossory take theology as part of their Arts and Humanities degree at Carlow College.

“At the core of this journey was listening to God and listening to one another”

National Synthesis of the Consultation in Ireland for the Diocesan Stage of the Universal Synod 2021-2023

Gemma Mulligan



On Tuesday the 16th of August 2022, during the Novena at Knock, Dr. Nicola Brady chair of the Synodal Steering Group launched the 'National Synthesis of the Consultation in Ireland for the Diocesan Stage of the Universal Synod 2021-2023'. It marked a significant moment on a Journey that began in October 2021 when Pope Francis opened preparations

for the 2023 Universal Synod gathering in Rome.

The Diocesan phase of the Universal Synod began in the Autumn of 2021 when dioceses across the Island of Ireland and the world carried out widespread consultation and listening and discerning sessions where held. “At the core of this journey was listening to God and

listening to one another"¹ In addition to the meetings held in dioceses, those who were unable to attend meetings in person had the opportunity to make submissions on line. The various syntheses from dioceses as well as other communities and groups were then submitted on May 29th 2022. Following the submissions, a National Pre-Synodal Meeting was held in Athlone on 18th June 2022. The purpose of this meeting was to move towards developing a final national synthesis which is the contribution of the Irish Church to the Universal Synod, it was published and launched on 16th August.

The day in Athlone provided an opportunity for the diocesan delegates and those involved in submitting a synthesis to come together to reflect and share their experiences, to listen to the major themes that emerged from the submissions and to discern further the Holy Spirit's call for the Irish Church. The elements of the day included listening to presentations on the main themes, spiritual conversations, moments of prayerful discernment, round-table discussions and an open forum.

Participants were asked to prepare for the meeting by considering the major themes and reflecting deeply on them. The following themes and issues emerged from the data provided by all the syntheses:

1. Abuse as part of the story of the Church
2. Co-Responsible Leadership
3. Clergy
4. Lay Ministry
5. Sense of belonging
6. the role of women in the Church
7. LGBTQI +
8. Sexuality and Relationships
9. Adult faith formation
10. Liturgy
11. Youth
12. Education and catechesis
13. Family

14. Covid-19 Pandemic

15. Culture

The Synthesis also contained notable issues that were not strongly present from the consultation including the environment and social justice, the sacramental life of the Church, missionary outreach and the wider ecumenical and inter-faith context.

The National Pre-Synodal Day in Athlone concluded with a synodal prayer walk at the ancient monastic site at Clonmacnoise. The prayer walk led those present in a moment of gathering, a proclamation moment, a moment of commitment and renewal and a missioning moment. Archbishop Eamon Martin at the end of the prayer extended a blessing for strength on the synodal journey and enable and empower us all to become a synodal people.

The Preparatory Document, 32 for the Synod says, that the purpose of the Synod is to "Plant dreams, draw forth prophecies and visions, allow hope to be nourished, inspire trust, bind up wounds, weave together relationships, awaken a dawn of hope, learn from one another, and create a bright resourcefulness that will enlighten minds, warm hearts, give strength to our hands."

This vision of the purpose of the Synod, is the continued hope for the next steps on our journey. The continental phase of the Universal Synod is now taking place and in Ireland, the Church will begin to look at the themes and issues that emerged during the diocesan phase. As this unfolds, we continue to pray, to listen and discern what the Holy Spirit is asking of the Church in Ireland at this time?

Copies of the Synthesis of the Consultation in Ireland for the Diocesan Stage of the Universal Synod 2021-2023 are available in every parish.

1 Synthesis of the Consultation in Ireland for the Diocesan Stage of the Universal Synod. 2



Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine...

In God's own time, we will meet again.



CHURCH MATTERS

Albert McDonnell,

Diocese of Killaloe

One of our most sacred and beautiful customs is that of gathering at the resting place of the dead during the summer months and again in November. Our visit for the feast of All Saints or All Souls tends to be somewhat rushed and limited to a short, shared prayer due to the winter weather. The summer is different. The

long days and good weather allow us to celebrate Mass in the cemetery as a faith community and spend time at the individual graves of family, neighbours and friends as well as chatting to the other people present. You get all age groups from the very young carried by their parents to the elderly helped by



their children at cemetery Masses. Each person present carries in her or his heart treasured memories of someone who was dear to them. These wonderful inter-generational gatherings for our cemetery Masses remind me of what our Sunday congregations resembled up to a few decades ago.

Families and communities are great to maintain their cemeteries and graves. The dead are honoured by cutting the grass, maintaining the boundaries, planting and watering flowers, and erecting lights and memorial stones. Social employment schemes have contributed a great deal to helping families and volunteers in this regard. Our County Councils play an important role.

I used to know a man who had lived in America and liked to bring his friends visiting from the United States to the cemetery where his family is buried and where he, himself now awaits the resurrection. The Americans used to be amazed by the experience. First of all, they were astounded that he knew so many of the people buried there. Virtually every headstone triggered a memory and oftentimes several stories. The antiquity of the headstones also impressed them. Many were older than their own country (though the First Nations might view it somewhat differently).

Our ancestors liked to be buried in places made sacred by prayer and penance. Most of our old cemeteries are found in the curtilage of ancient abbeys or monasteries. The graves were used and reused as generation after generation of the same family were buried in the same spot. Many hoped to enter paradise on the slipstream of the holy people buried there. Maybe there is a truth hidden in that belief. After all, *Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine*, we live in each other's shadow, we need each other in life and in death.

One of the most striking thoughts from the funeral liturgy is evoked when the

deceased is welcomed into God's house for the last time. It states that 'We believe that the ties of friendship and affection which knit us as one throughout our lives do not unravel with death'. We are bound together in death just as we are united in life through the love of the one true God. We care for each other in life in many different ways. We can continue that care through our prayer for the dead and by celebrating their memory. Maybe in the past we emphasised prayer for the dead while today we are more inclined to celebrate their lives. At my family grave, many years ago my parents had the words 'kneel and pray' engraved on the kerb. Some of the more recent graves offer a different invitation as they encourage us to 'sit and chat'. Both are good, kind and generous things to do. To pray a Hail Mary for those who have gone before us is a lovely expression of our continuing love for the deceased, just as recalling or sharing a moment from her/his life shows how much we treasure her/his memory.

The rising sun each morning gradually illuminating the final resting places of our deceased loved ones calls to mind the glory of the resurrection in which we place our hope. The beauty of their final resting place is a foretaste of eternal life with Mary and with the angels and saints. Coming together as a Christian family in prayer, and in remembrance and celebration of the dead is an expression of our unity in Christ. In God's own time, we will meet again.

Eternal rest grant onto them, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen

A Tribute to Fr John Delaney

Returned home to God on Ash Wednesday, 2 March 2022 in his 90th year.



Pauline Haughney

This is a personal tribute from one of the 'sheep' who were shepherded by Fr Delaney in his long service to the parishioners of Muckalee Parish, particularly the people of Coon where he lived and ministered and prayed amongst us for thirty-two years. His shepherd's staff and crook reached out to people far beyond the folds of Coon.

Prayer through the adoration of the Eucharist, the Rosary, and in later years, the Divine Mercy were a way of life for Fr Delaney. We were truly 'blessed' to have daily celebration of the Eucharist in our church. As I reflect on those times and the small number of people who attended daily Mass, I recall the words of Jesus, "where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." (Matt. 18:19-20.) It was and is a most powerful way to pray for ourselves and our parish and the world, through it we open the door to let the Kingdom of God come in.

Fr Delaney recounted to us a number of times how he had been prevailed upon to attend a Divine Mercy Prayer meeting in his eightieth year, he agreed to go and as he drew near the venue, the friends who accompanied him informed him, there would be prayer for the infilling of the Holy Spirit, at this, he recalls wondering what he had got himself into? In what was to be

the last decade of his life, his heart always open to the mercy of God, opened wider, through the Holy Spirit, to the inpouring of the Divine Mercy of Jesus. This began what Fr Delaney described as, the 'best years of his life.' For him God had served the 'best wine' last!

Many people came to our small rural church up in the 'hills,' to pray and to receive further outpouring of the Holy Spirit, at the monthly Divine Mercy Prayer and celebration of Eucharist. Fr John Walsh from the diocese of Limerick and his prayer team were regularly in attendance.

Fr Delaney spoke often of his gratitude for growing up in a family of faith. Maternal love prepared his heart for loving Mary, the mother of God. Each time he stood behind the altar and looked out into the body of the church, facing him was the round stained-glass window with Mary holding out her arms. It was an immense joy to us to find a mosaic of Mary in this position to gift Fr Delaney with on his retirement and his 90th birthday last October 2021. From the same artist we commissioned a mosaic of the Divine Mercy as part of our gifts to him. He came from the Nursing Home in which he resided for the last 10 months of his life, (he considered this a re-appointment and ministered in his priestly role to the other residents.) to celebrate his birthday and the birthdays of two parishioners. He gave

one of his finest sermons, a testimony of his life of faith and love for God and the sacrifices and choices he had to make. He spoke of his love for Coon and its people, he had chosen the graveyard of St Bridget's Church to be his final resting place.

Some months before his death, on a visit to him, he told me how he was following the 'little way' of St Therese. He had often over the years, spoken of his love for her and how inspirational she was to him. These words of St Therese may reflect something of the inspiration and encouragement he received from her,

"Do not imagine that love can be found without suffering, for we carry with us our human nature; and yet, what a source of merit it is!"

Perhaps the gentleness of Therese the 'little flower,' and her way of prayer, was the influence that helped soften his sometimes quick-temper, which he acknowledged was his 'thorn in the flesh.' His ability to be vulnerable, to present to us himself with faults, failings and giftings made it possible for us to see that our faults and failings and giftings are acceptable to God and we are never beyond God's love.

He did not put himself nor would he allow anyone to put him on a 'pedestal.' He was

a humble man and lived very simply. His only material treasure was his vast array of books in French, Latin, Greek, English, on theology, spirituality, church doctrine, Scripture, prayer, the lives of people of faith, the lives of the saints, especially St Therese! One book he drew peoples' attention to was by a Benedictine monk on the desire of God's heart for His priests to be present with Him through Eucharistic Adoration for themselves and their parishioners, the book is entitled 'In Sinu Jesu – When Heart Speaks to Heart. The Journal of a Priest at Prayer.' During what was to be my last visit to him, he offered me a copy of this book if I would go to his house and get it. I did get this book, seven months later I am almost finished reading. It is a book that has so much spiritual food in it, I need to read it in a way I can absorb, hence slowly.

None of us know anyone fully, we know in part, and there are others who will have different stories to share. I share my thoughts because there was no doubt in my mind or soul but that he loved God, it was authentic. We need role models of faith. Without acknowledging it as such he was to me and many others a Spiritual Director, pointing to 'The Way' by his life of faith, hope, and love.

The Light of Heaven to you Fr John. I thank you.

Northern Deanery Pastoral Council

Paula Stapleton



Members of NDPC gathered in Durrow on Sunday afternoon 26th June to mark the end of a four year term with liturgy celebration followed by refreshments. Florist

and Durrow Rep Martin Lawlor provided guidelines on commencing and caring for a wild flower garden such as the gardens planted in Durrow Church grounds.



The founding vision of the Forum was synodal in its understanding of the local church as the people of God in Ossory.

Celebrating a significant transition in the life of the Ossory Diocesan Forum

Helen Maher

In brilliant sunshine on Saturday, 9th July a lovely gathering of people came together on the lawn in front of St Kieran's College. The atmosphere was festive as members of different pastoral councils of the Forum, past and present, responded to an invitation to celebrate and give thanks for the faithful, generous commitment of those who have been part of the Deanery Pastoral Councils since 2009 and to pray for a blessing on the ministry of the newly formed Pastoral Area Councils who now take up the baton of pastoral leadership in the Diocese.

Bishop Nulty welcomed everyone to the opening liturgy which was greatly enhanced by beautiful music and singing. The liturgy included readings from Scripture, a homily and prayers of the faithful. Symbolically, the transition from Deanery Pastoral Councils to Pastoral Area Councils was marked by lighting candles from the Forum candle, three at the beginning to represent the Deanery Councils and thirteen at the end to represent the thirteen Pastoral Areas. The grouping of parishes into Pastoral Areas had taken place in 2019. Referring in his

homily, to the Pastoral Areas, Bishop Nulty said: "they are the future structure that is Ossory Diocese – forty-two parishes – thirteen resourced Pastoral Areas."

Last October Pope Francis asked all of us as Church to walk together on what he calls a "synodal path". In the early part of this year we in Ossory Diocese, as did every other Irish diocese, participated in a consultation process in relation to the up-coming Synod on synodality which will take place in Rome next year. Synodality is about journeying together. It is realising that the Holy Spirit can speak through anyone to help us walk forward together as the People of God. Synodality happens through listening to one another in order to hear what God is saying to all of us. Synodality is a call to a new way of being Church.

In speaking about this way of being Church Pope Francis recognises how necessary well-defined channels of communication in the Church are. Speaking with clergy and religious and members of Diocesan Pastoral Councils on a pastoral visit to Assisi in 2014 he said "How needed pastoral councils



are! A bishop cannot guide a diocese without pastoral councils. A parish priest cannot guide the parish without a parish council."

The founding vision of the Forum was synodal in its understanding of the local church as the people of God in Ossory. Its *raison d'être* was to facilitate two-way communication, dialogue and consultation about all that pertains to the faith life of the Diocese through the inter-connectedness of its pastoral councils.

In response to changing circumstances and through dialogue with the members the Forum structures have changed and adapted over time, the transition from Deanery Pastoral Councils to Pastoral Area Councils being the latest. We now have in the Diocese a network of Parish, Pastoral Area and Diocesan Pastoral Councils which leaves us well placed to be the kind of synodal church Pope Francis is calling us to be.

From the beginning the social dimension of the Forum was very much appreciated. The formal and informal comings together over the years and the cups of tea or coffee before or after meetings created a friendly collaborative atmosphere that was as essential as any other dimension of the Forum.

On that lovely Saturday in July, the social dimension of the Forum was very much in evidence. Priests, religious and people from different parts of the Diocese mingled, chatted and reminisced. There was a lot of "catching up", renewing of acquaintances and sharing of news. The picnic tables, spread out on the lawn were very much appreciated as people relaxed and enjoyed a delicious lunch.

The consensus that day seemed to affirm the value of taking time to celebrate and mark significant developments in our diocesan life.



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Michelangelo's
Pietà

Caravaggio in
St Augustine Church

Ecstasy of
St Teresa by Bernini

1st Christian mosaic in
St Pudenziana



One of the central principles of catholic social teaching is 'the common good.'



MORALITY MATTERS

Michael Shortall

Give me a crash course in ... Inflation and Catholic Social Teaching

I enjoy the Autumn colours this time of year.

It's the 'Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness'. Many readers, I am sure, would remember that line of a poem from their school days. This year however as the weather turns colder and the days shorter, very many are seriously worried about rising bills and prices. For the first time in a several decades, there is high inflation in Ireland and throughout the world.

What exactly is inflation?

It is the rate of increase in prices or the cost of living over a given period of time.

Every month the Central Statistics Office compares the prices for a range of items to last year. In July the annual difference was 9.1%. In August it was 8.7%. It was the eleventh straight month where increase was at least 5.0%. And it will certainly continue in the short term, if not longer. As it goes up, it means the same money buys less today than it did a year ago. In other words it is losing its purchasing power. You need nearly ten percent more money to buy the same thing this year as a huge increase to happen so quickly. Everyone is feeling it but some will struggle more than others.

How does it happen?

There are three main ways that it happens. The first is when demand for something increases making the price rise. For example, the average price for a house goes up when there are not enough new houses on the market. Another example might be the rise in the cost of hotels for holidays after the pandemic. Exactly. The second way is when the cost of something goes up because some aspect or part of it gets more expensive. For example, an insurance premium might go up and the cost is passed on to the consumer. Or if there are shortages, like petrol? Like those caused by pandemic lockdowns or the war in Ukraine. And finally, there is the natural inflation that occurs when prices go up because people are able to spend more for what they want or need.

Why is it so high at the moment?

You have mentioned a couple of them. The most immediate reason are shortages. The war in Ukraine has pushed up energy prices very quickly, effecting the cost of everything. But the first reason is also important. There is a demand after the pandemic – such as housing, and the materials to build more houses.

Is inflation a moral issue?

Inflation, it may be said, becomes a moral issue, when it quickly takes away people's capacity to purchase what they need, especially the basic things of life, like food, warmth, and the ability to look after a family or other vulnerable people. These basic goods are necessary for a dignified life.

What does Catholic social teaching have to say?

One of the central principles of Catholic social teaching is 'the common good.' (Gaudium et Spes, 26) The common good is the conditions of that allow people to have easy access to the basic things of life. Significant spikes in inflation – or hyper-

inflation – can quickly undermine that easy access. Importantly, it effects those whose purchasing power is already low, such as the unemployed, the pensioner and so on. It pushes them into poverty, and creates a more unequal society. Catholic social teaching argues that economic activity is meant to provide for the needs of human beings. "Economic life is not meant solely to multiply goods produced and increase profit or power; it is ordered first of all to the service of persons, of the whole man, and of the entire human community." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2426) There is then an important moral duty on the government and others in leadership in society to address this important issue.

What are we to do?

Some decisions are beyond the government to fix immediately, such as the war in Ukraine. At the same time there are other important decisions that should not be delayed, that can help reduce the factors that cause inflation, and help people most at risk at not being able to pay their electricity bill, school bill or rent. There are many ways to do this, and choosing the right way is the difficult path of leadership. But Catholic social teaching would argue that significant inflation cannot be ignored. I would also like to take the opportunity to encourage individuals or families who are struggling to pay their bills to reach out for help. A very good place to start is an organisation is called MABS or the Money Advice and Budgeting Service. Their details are:

Kilkenny

Email: kilkenny@mabs.ie Address: 4 The Parade, Gardens, Kilkenny, R95 VO52
Phone: 0818 07 2610

Laois

Email: portlaoise@mabs.ie Address: Railway Mews, Railway Street, Portlaoise, R32 K298
Phone: 0818 07 2620

Vocations in Ossory

How do I take a first step on
the road of discovery?

How do I know what life path
I should take?

take a first step
on the journey of
discovery...



FR KIERAN O'SHEA
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Indeed the well has not run dry, the gifts of the Sprit continue to spring up in the lives of young people and flow through various taps except the tap of vocations to priesthood it seems!

The tap runs dry but there's water in the well



Kieran O'Shea

VOCATION MATTERS

The number of men exploring the option of priesthood in Ireland has reduced to a trickle with the vocation tap developing a serious airlock. The good news is that an airlock is a problem with the system and does not indicate that the well has gone dry. Water may not be flowing through our taps but around the corner it seems to be flowing freely.

I was conscious as I am sure many of you were of the wonderful work done by members of An Garda Siochana during the difficult days of the Covid Pandemic. It was also noticeable that many of the Gardai were young people who seemed to welcome the opportunity to reach out to those in need in joyful and creative ways. I recall stopping at a checkpoint during Covid and a young `Garda questioning me...on religion and faith and telling me at length how his parents were so disappointed that the could not go to Mass! In sports clubs and many other areas of society, young people were also seen to relish

the opportunity to help in any way they could. Groups of young people from our secondary schools who travel to Lourdes with the Diocesan Pilgrimage provide wonderful evidence of this phenomenon too. I have no doubt that in another time and space at least some of these young people would have considered a vocation to priesthood or religious life.

It reaffirms my belief that the Spirit of the God who is Love is as much part of our DNA today as the Spirit has been since the beginning of time. I believe the Spirit looks for opportunities to manifest God's Self while we are on this earth.

That Spirit, Holy Spirit if you like, makes us pilgrims and seekers, who at some stage in our lives have to stand at a cross roads, consider each and every signpost, and eventually choose a path which will allow who we truly are to be revealed. Young women and men of today encounter these signposts and choices as their forbearers did and perhaps with more idealism. The number of signposts for them to choose from has expanded, the avenues open to them to find fulfilment are numerous. We hope they choose wisely. Many of them do and knowingly or unknowingly proclaim the values of the Gospel with enthusiasm and joy.

Indeed the Well has not run dry, the gifts of the Spirit continue to spring up in the lives of young people and flow through various taps except the tap of vocations to priesthood it seems!

The reasons expounded for this and the proposed solutions are well rehearsed. There is no need to dwell on them in depth here. The scandals, celibacy, the lonely lifestyle, the exclusion of women from the ministry, church teaching on sexuality, and so on. Many of these reasons or aspects of them are certainly problematic and until we are courageous enough to engage with these issues then no amount of plumbing is going to relieve the airlock.

However there is another cause too that we might overlook. The ultimate cause of an air lock is Air! Is the fresh air that young people seek and find in other places blocking any chance of them responding to an invitation to encounter Jesus Christ, to believe not just in something but in Someone? I believe the answer is yes and it provides us with a 'wake up and smell the coffee' moment. Acknowledging the stumbling blocks already outlined, we as a Church need to breathe and emit the Air of Joy and enthusiasm for the Gospel, not allowing it to be trapped in a structure not fit for purpose. Pope John XXIII at the beginning of the Second Vatican Council spoke of opening the windows of the Church to let in the fresh air. For many young people the Church is a stale environment, lacking vision and energy, with little relevance to their lives and having no interest in them. They experience our liturgies as dull and boring and experience no joyful enthusiasm among us for what St Paul describes in his second letter to Timothy as the precious gift that has been entrusted to us to look after. This is reflected in the recent Synthesis document from the diocesan stage of the synodal process which states that 'Multiple dioceses and organisations noted the absence of young people in parish communities and many submissions articulated a view that other youth organisations provide a home for young people that is more welcoming than that in parishes' (ix youth, p. 15)

We talk today of a crisis of faith among young people. If they experience us as lack lustre adherents to the radical message that oozes from the pages of the New Testament then they will hardly be attracted to commit their lives fully to Christ. This may seem harsh but it is something we need to reflect on seriously, particularly those of us who are ordained. In that same passage from 2 Timothy, Paul goes on to say 'I am reminding you to fan into a flame the gift that God gave you when I laid my hands on you. God's gift was not a spirit of timidity, but the Spirit of

power, and love, and self-control. So you are never to be ashamed of witnessing to the Lord.' (2 Timothy 1:6-8,13-14).

In our lives, our ministries, our parish communities, we need to create opportunities to fan into a flame once again the gift we all received at Baptism, at Confirmation, at Marriage or Ordination and never be ashamed of proclaiming from the rooftops the

wonderful life Christ offers - even if the Church system itself has not lived up to our expectations. We must release the fresh air that comes from the Holy Spirit so that blockages to the participation of young people are removed. We must become a tap which facilitates the flow of a variety of gifts and trust that the one who is the living water will direct some of the flow in our direction.

Muckalee Parish Aim High 2022

Teresa Haughney



The members of Muckalee Parish Aim High group 2022 receiving their certificates from Fr Larry Wallace PP Muckalee : L to R- Leah McCarthy, Lauren Joyce, Sean Hunt, Thomas Daly with leaders John Coady and Teresa Haughney. Missing from photo: Rachel Moloney.

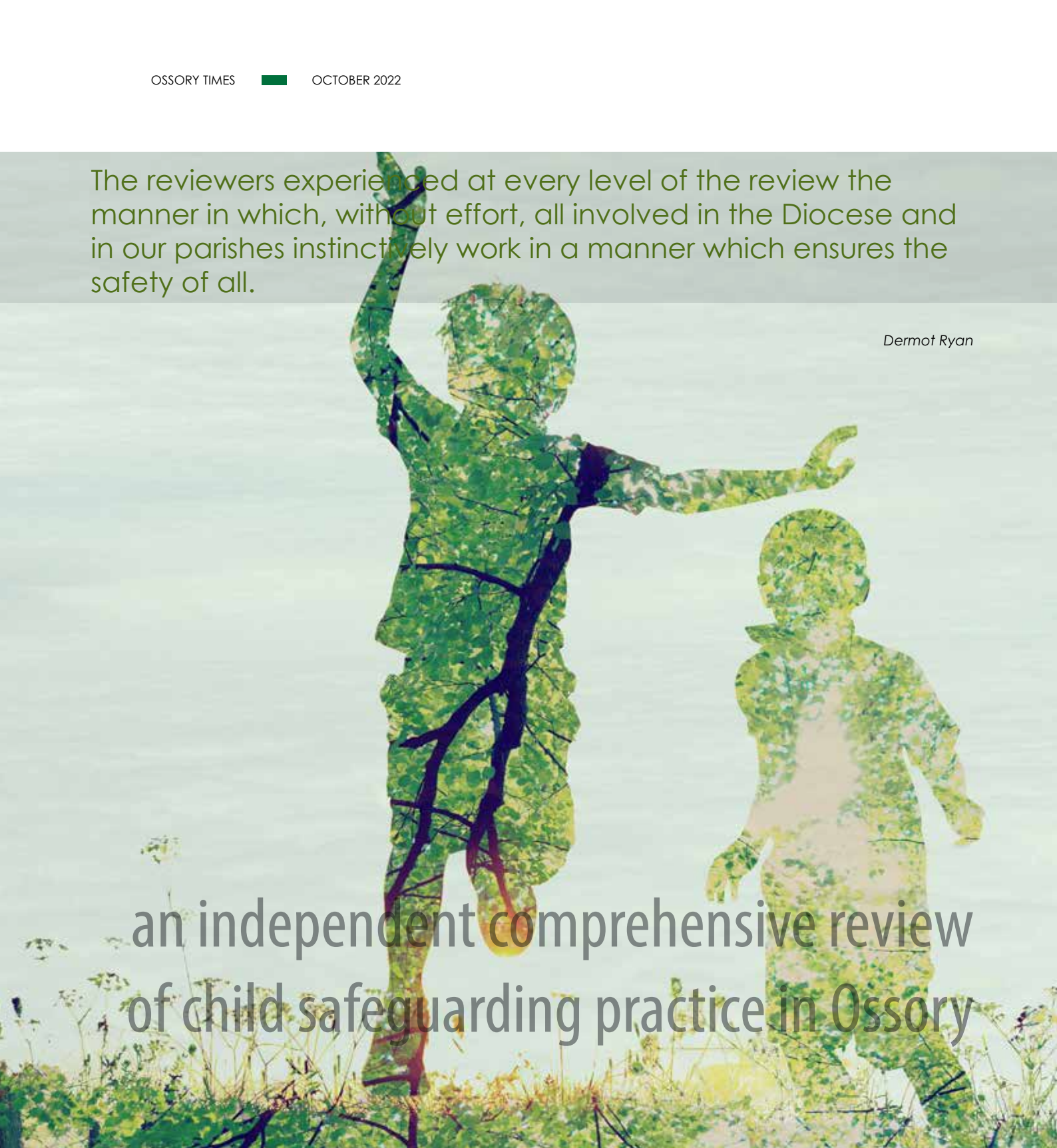
The group involved themselves in many Parish and other activities during the year including:

- Designing posters for the Church seasons
- Making Altar displays for Lent
- Reading the Word at Mass and doing various reflections
- Writing letters to local residents of Nursing Homes
- Visiting Castlecomer Day Care Centre
- Distributing candles for November

We wish them every success in the future and hope they will continue to grow in Faith.

The reviewers experienced at every level of the review the manner in which, without effort, all involved in the Diocese and in our parishes instinctively work in a manner which ensures the safety of all.

Dermot Ryan



an independent comprehensive review of child safeguarding practice in Ossory

Safeguarding lies at the very heart of what we do as a Church community. It should always be central to our living of the faith together. In recent years much has been done to ensure that best practice, in this area, is continually maintained. A key element of this is the work of the National

Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland - a group that was established in 2006 to provide advice, services and assistance in furtherance of the development of the safeguarding of children within the Roman Catholic Church on the Island of Ireland and to



monitor compliance with legislation, policy and best practice.

In these past months, Bishop Denis invited the National Board to undertake an independent comprehensive review of child safeguarding practice in Ossory in order to assess our compliance with

the 2016 Standards (cf Safeguarding Children: Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland, 2016).

The independent review of the Diocese, which was evidence based, was commenced and undertaken during a time when some government restrictions in relation to Covid-19 continued to be in place. In spite of this, the co-operation of all throughout the Diocese ensured that the reviewers obtained a comprehensive picture of safeguarding practice in Ossory. The fieldwork element of the two independent reviewers was conducted on March 21st and 22nd, 2022. As part of this process a series of meetings with all relevant personnel was undertaken - the reviewers met the Apostolic Administrator of Diocese; the Priest Secretary to the Apostolic Administrator; the Director of Safeguarding/Designated Person; the Diocesan Secretary; the Vetting Administrator / Trainer / former Director of Safeguarding Diocesan Secretary; the Diocesan Safeguarding Committee; those involved in Diocesan Youth Ministry; the Ossory Diocesan Pastoral Council Coordinator; the Safeguarding Trainers; members of the Lourdes Youth Pilgrimage Organisers; A Respondent Priest; a Priest Advisor; A Complainant; a Complainant Support Person; some Parish Priests; some Parish Organisers of Children's Liturgy; some Parish Safeguarding Representatives; a number of Altar Servers; some Youth choir members; several Sacristans; and a Parish Administrator.

A key finding of the review, which will be published in full once the final report issues, was the very positive culture of safeguarding that existed in Ossory. The reviewers experienced at every level of the review the manner in which, without effort, all involved in the Diocese and in our parishes instinctively work in a manner which ensures the safety of all. The reviewers were very taken by the ease with which this safeguarding was lived in Ossory and even noted how it was that

young choir members had developed their own set of best practices to guide safeguarding above and beyond what was the already exceptional Diocesan standard. They noted how all in Ossory are to be commended for their support of, and care for, children and young people who are involved in the life of the Diocese and, in fact, they noted that this provided an excellent example of the Church community's embrace of a proactive and positive culture of safeguarding.

Ossory is fortunate to have a highly skilled, and committed Diocesan Safeguarding Committee and this in turn supports the many wonderful people in our parishes who do so much to ensure the safety of all. The Diocese has in this past year employed a Director of Safeguarding

to oversee and monitor this important area, and her excellent work continues to help all in Ossory do the very best in this important space. Notably, it was wonderful to see how it was that, the reviewers made particular mention of the manner in which there is a team approach to safeguarding in the diocese and how it has become "everyone's business" rather than the work of a few.

So as we await the publication of the full report we can with some considerable pride acknowledge the wonderful commitment of all in our Diocese to this important area of safeguarding. We thank, then, all who do so much to ensure that this wonderful culture of care for, and the protection of, the young people in our midst is a real part of the day to day of our lived faith in Ossory.

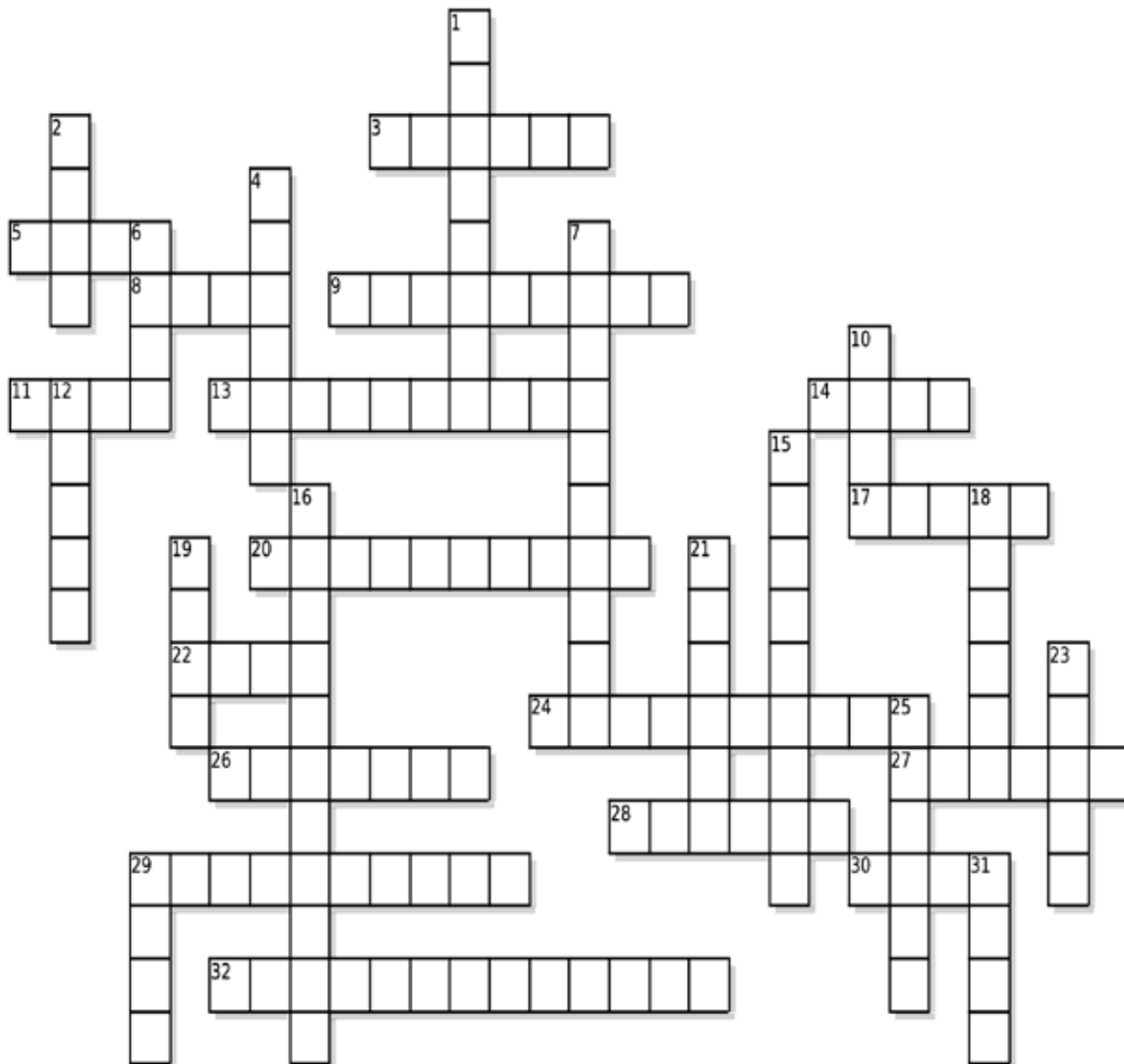
Clontubrid Church

Eilish Costelloe



Pentecost Sunday in Clontubrid church

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 3 This Saint of Ballyfoyle church
 5 Second letter of an alphabet
 8 Jamaican Catholic track great
 9 South Kilkenny home to a Durrow man PP
 11 Wife of Tobit
 13 Heart of Mary
 14 Biblical measure
 17 Exodus mountain
 20 Teaching Letter from Pope
 22 CC less than M
 24 Noah's father's father
 26 Ritual prayer
 27 11th century theologian
 28 Catholic Actress and Singer Gomez
 29 Word of God
 30 Catholic actress award winner "Hud"
 32 To see winter gone, College motto

DOWN

- 1 The areas are the future in Ossory
 2 Gaudium et
 4 Our Lady of
 6 Name for Jesus' Father
 7 To reserve the Sacrament
 10 Little devils
 12 Prize won by Mother Teresa
 15 Kandle pitched a tent here recently
 16 Hill of the causeway and home of an abbey
 18 Blessed Carlos
 19 The gate that leads to destruction
 21 The Mass is one
 23 Fell in Jerico
 25 Father of Noah
 29 Charitable group (Abbr.)
 31 Home of St Rose

Send your entries, with your name, address, email and mobile number, to:

"Ossory Times Competition",
 Ossory Adult Faith Development,
 St Kieran's College,
 College Road,
 Kilkenny,

by 11th November 2022 first correct entry from the hat wins!

Prize for age 5-8

Colouring Competition

€20 Voucher
Gift Voucher
for Toy Shop

Prize for age 8-13

Wordsearch Competition

€30 Voucher
Gift Voucher
for Toy Shop

Prize for Adult Crossword Competition

€50 Voucher
Gift Voucher
for Chapter House Bookshop

Congrats to the winners from the Ossory Times Issue 29 competitions:

Adult Crossword:
 Padraig Swift

Children's Wordsearch, age 8-13:
 Sammy Lawlor

Children's Colouring, age 5-8:
 Susan Fitzgerald

Colouring Competition



Wordsearch Competition

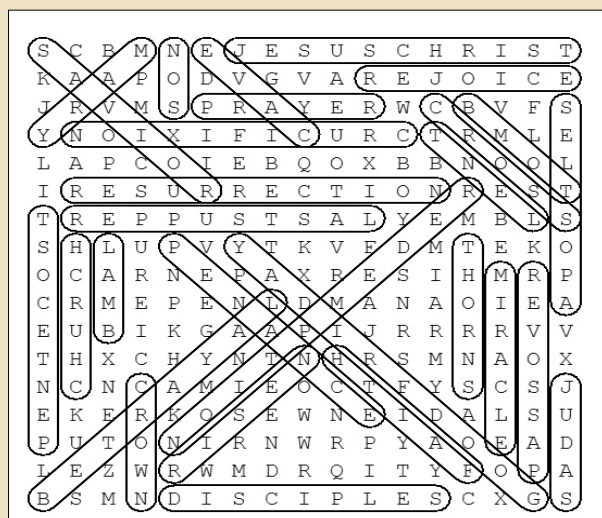


OCCUPATIONS IN THE BIBLE

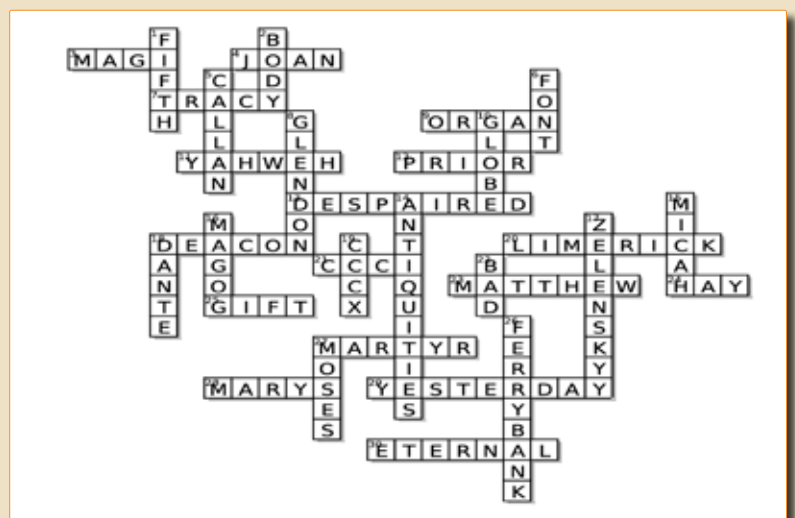
R X T F T R Z Q D A Y V M R I
E C H W A B E N E S N C I E N
P Q U C A R P E N T E R D H N
E O L P Q O M J T R J J W C K
E R P U B P H E V O A S I A E
K O D H O E N M R L I T F E E
E R O E I G A V A O L R E T P
T E T R R L K R A G E P A P E
A P S A T N O R E E R D T H R
G M V M A I D S E R V A N T C
Z E M R Q G A H O A R A H P C
R T N A H C R E M P L P S Y I
H T I M S K C A L B H Z V I L
E H A R P I S T X H E E I T I
W A R R I O R Q J J D I R F L

ASTROLOGER	BLACKSMITH	CARPENTER	CHARIOTEER
CUPBEARER	EMPEROR	ENGRAVER	FARMER
GATEKEEPER	HARPIST	INNKEEPER	JAILER
MAIDSERVANT	MERCHANT	MIDWIFE	PHARAOH
PHILOSOPHER	POET	TEACHER	WARRIOR

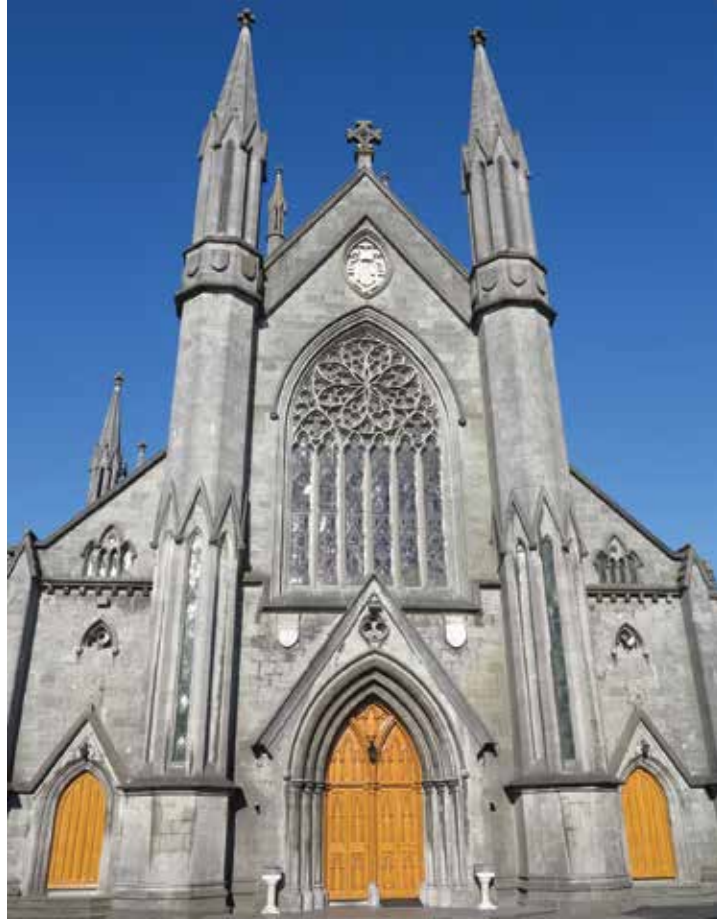
Answers to Ossory Times Issue 29



Answers to Ossory Times Issue 29



ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL RESTORATION FUND DRAW 2022/2023



12 MONTHLY DRAWS

September 2022 to August 2023

MONTHLY PRIZES

1st Prize	€2,000
2nd Prize	€1,000
3rd Prize	€500
4th Prize	€300
5th Prize	€300
6th Prize	€200
7th Prize	€200
8th Prize	€100
9th Prize	€100
10th Prize	€100

Promoters' Prize

€100 1st Prize Winner Promoter

€100 2nd Prize Winner Promoter

Subscription €10 per month. Draw will be held at 8pm on the last Wednesday of each month in the Chapter Room, St Mary's Cathedral, James's Street, Kilkenny. All are welcome to attend.

For further information contact Ossory Diocesan Office, James's Street, Kilkenny. Tel: 056 7762448

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

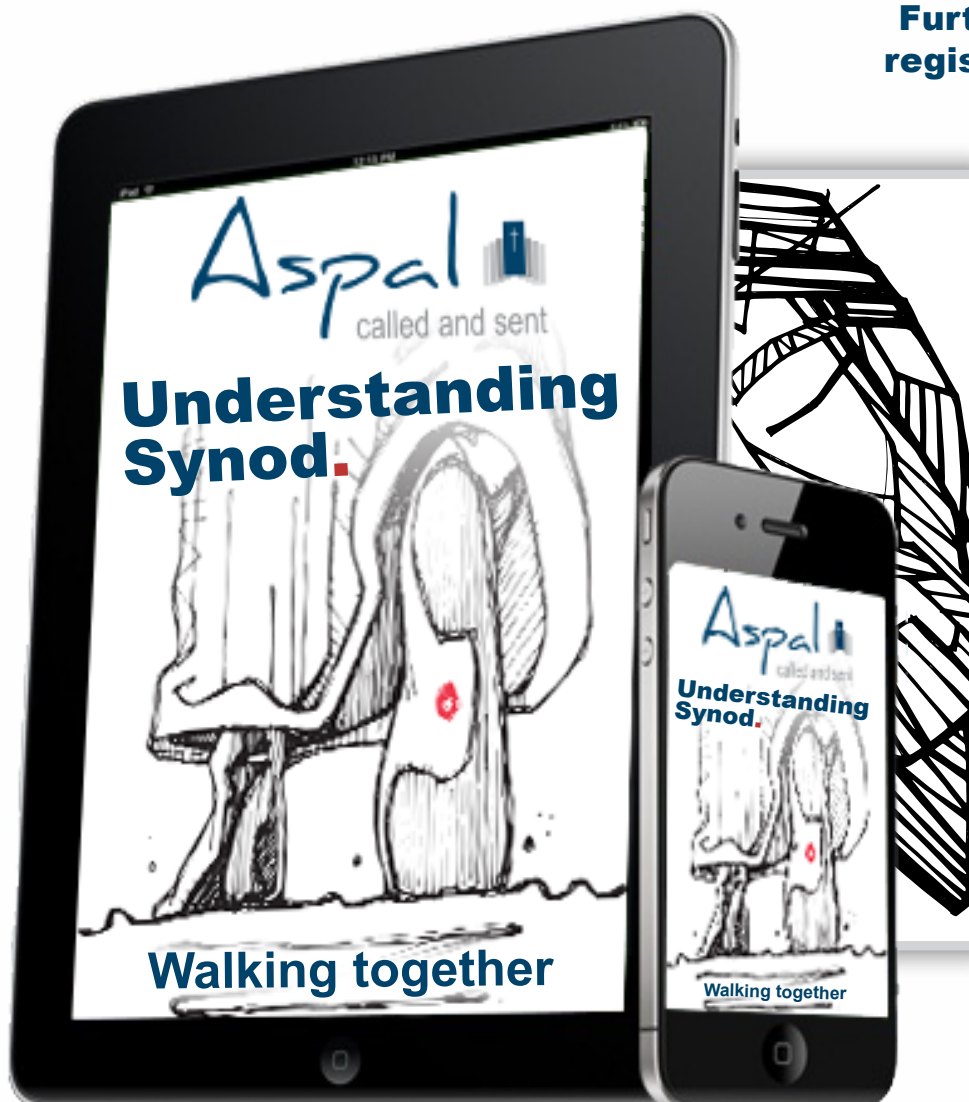


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