

St Patrick's

Advent 2021 — No 13

The newsletter of St Patrick's Pontifical University & St Patrick's National Seminary



Pictured right to left: Archbishop Eamon Martin - Chancellor of SPPU, Rev Prof Michael Mullaney - President, Dr Jessie Rogers - Dean of the Faculty of Theology, Rev Dr Michael Shortall - Director of Postgraduate Studies and Rev Dr John Paul Sheridan - Director of Education Programmes officiated at the 2021 graduation ceremony in the Gunn Chapel.



In-person ceremony for 2021 graduates
pages 2 & 3



Papal knighthood for Dr John O'Keeffe
page 5

Welcome to our new look St Patrick's newsletter. We hope you'll enjoy the more modern design of this quarterly update on the achievements and activities of St Patrick's Pontifical University and the National Seminary.

Greater simplicity & sustainability needed for climate survival

Graduates of St Patrick's Pontifical University have been entrusted with great gifts and should use their knowledge and appreciation of theology, philosophy, science and the arts to help address the immense challenges that lie before humanity, according to Archbishop Eamon Martin.

Speaking at SPPU's graduation ceremony on 21 November, which was also the final day of the UN's COP26 in Glasgow, Archbishop Martin said that while we all shared responsibility for the problems facing our world, we also shared responsibility for finding solutions. "Each one of us must accept our personal and collective need to change and make sacrifices," he said.

From a faith point of view, Archbishop Martin believes that God is calling us to be caring stewards of creation; "to protect and nourish our planet and its resources, and

not to selfishly waste them or ruthlessly and excessively exploit and destroy them."

Archbishop Martin referenced a recent meeting that Pope Francis and other faith leaders held with international climate scientists and experts, during which the Holy Father said: "We are currently at a moment of opportunity and truth. Future generations will never forgive us if we squander this precious opportunity. We have inherited a garden: we must not leave a desert to our children."

“At a personal and community level we are called to greater simplicity and sustainability in our families, workplaces, schools and universities. This will also mean accepting our own share of the pain necessary for ecological conversion.”

Archbishop Eamon Martin



Arnold Hensman, Master's in Theology, Dublin



Felix Okolo, Doctorate in Theology, Nigeria



Christina McCambridge, BATH, Antrim

St Patrick's graduates will bring life & light into many dark places

It rained at Graduation this year and the colours of the graduation tree had not quite reached their full autumnal glory, leaving Faculty members to dash around between raindrops to connect and congratulate. But neither wind nor heavy rain could dampen the joy of being there in person to celebrate the achievement of our graduates.

They had persevered through a closed campus, meeting online and studying at home, navigating all the challenges and uncertainties that the pandemic had thrown at all of us. Add to that the hard work that attaining a degree or diploma entails even in normal times.

If SPPU has taught theology well, then our graduates should care enough and have the resources to live and act in ways that bring life and light into dark places. They will make a positive difference wherever they find themselves. At the end of the day, their ability and willingness to do that is the only measure that really justifies our existence.

“ Each and every one, those present and those absent on the day, deserve to be celebrated.”

If we have done our work right, then St Patrick's Pontifical University has unleashed on the world another group of graduates who are fluent in the Catholic intellectual tradition, open, integrated and socially engaged. God knows, the world needs people like that just now. The environmental crisis, the inequalities that the pandemic has exposed and exacerbated, the growing harshness of social media interaction and public debate, the closing of hearts and the circling of the wagons against those fleeing war and the economic effects of climate change, are indicative of an angry and frightened world in need of hope.



Dr Jessie Rogers, Dean of the Faculty of Theology



Philosophy lecturers Dr Gaven Kerr (left) and Dr Philip Gonzales with Rev Prof Thomas Casey, Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy (centre)

Warm welcome for MU's new President

Maynooth University's newly appointed President, Professor Eeva Leinonen, joined faculty members and students of St Patrick's Pontifical University for the 2021 graduation ceremony

Warmly welcoming MU's new president, Rev Prof Michael Mullaney, cited the deep roots both institutions shared and the joint educational journey each had followed over recent decades. "This is a shared history - to be valued and built upon in future collaborations and partnerships" Fr Mullaney said.



MU President Professor Eeva Leinonen and Rev Prof Michael Mullaney conferred graduates with Bachelor in Arts and Theology (BATH) degrees which is jointly taught and accredited by SPPU and MU.



Ruth Terren Hogan & Lucia Diamond



Maynooth's Director of Sacred Music, Dr John O'Keeffe has been made a Knight of St Gregory by Pope Francis in recognition of his significant services to liturgical music in Ireland. Pictured following his investiture, which took place during sung vespers in the Cathedral of Christ the King in Mullingar on 21 November, are Dr John O'Keeffe, his wife Gráinne, the Bishop of Meath Most Reverend Tom Deenihan and the National Seminary's Chapel Choir.

Pope Francis awards Knight of St Gregory to Dr John O'Keeffe for services to liturgical music



Liberty Bell, Philadelphia

Reconnecting with loyal friends in the US

In January 2022, the President and Rector plan to travel to the United States to meet with faithful friends and supporters of the College. Due to the pandemic, such visits have been impossible for almost two years. During a number of small gatherings in New York and Philadelphia, Fr Michael Mullaney and Fr Tom Surlis will update American supporters on the College's **Strategic Plan 2030** which outlines a new vision for the renewal and transformation of both St Patrick's Pontifical University and the National Seminary.



National Seminary refreshes its online presence and sigil

Over the past year, much energy has been expended on revitalising the Maynooth College website. Our hope is that the refreshed layout and updated content will be helpful to those wishing to learn more about the life and work of the seminary, as well as being a useful resource for information about priestly formation.

The National Seminary's original sigil (logo), dating from the foundation of the college in 1795, has also been updated. The figure of our patron, St Patrick, is surrounded by the words of our new motto, *Precari et Pascere*. The motto was devised by Msgr Brendan Devlin, Professor Emeritus of Modern Languages at Maynooth University. *Precari* is 'to pray' - in a focused way for a special intention; *Pascere* is to shepherd - in the sense of feeding and

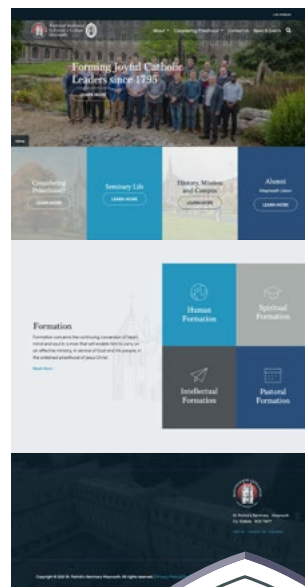
caring for the sheep. *Precari et Pascere* reminds us of the founding intention of the National Seminary, which holds as much truth and meaning today as it did 226 years ago.

Our role is to prepare men to go forth joyfully and full of faith into the fields of mission, to gather the flock of Christ together and to care for them with the nourishment of the word of God and the sacramental life of the Church.

At the heart of this work of the National Seminary is the second seminary motto *as Gaeilge*, again devised by Msgr Devlin: *Dia agus Dúthracht* (God and loving dedication to one's duty).

The updated website and sigil are testament to the vitality and commitment of the whole seminary community, for which we give prayerful thanks.

seminary.maynoothcollege.ie



A postcard from Galway Cathedral

Following my ordination in August, I was appointed to Galway Cathedral and my first weeks here have been a whirlwind of new insights, introductions and inductions. Staff, volunteers and parishioners have all been very welcoming.

I am so fortunate to be working alongside my wonderful mentor, Msgr Peter Rabbitte. His wise guidance has made my transition from seminary life to parish work much smoother than I'd expected.

Every day I am greatly encouraged by the number of people who come through our doors to pray, to join in the sacraments, or to simply sit still in this oasis of prayer and peace.

John Gerard



Welcome to Galway
Fr John Gerard



Fr John Gerard Acton was ordained by Bishop of Galway Kilmacduagh and Kilfenora Brendan Kelly on 1 August 2021 at Galway Cathedral.

Calendar

December 2021

15 **Christmas Carol Service
Live-streamed on
maynoothcollege.ie**



February 2022

20 **Memorial Mass for
Prof Enda McDonagh**



March 2022

6 **Haydn's The Creation**



8 **Trocaire Annual Lecture**

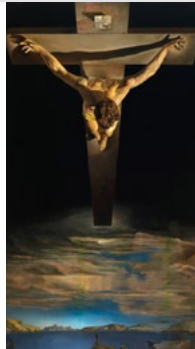


April 2022

30 **SPPU Undergraduate &
Postgraduate Open Day**



27 - 30 **Faculty of Philosophy
hosts International
Conference on
*The Future of
Christian Thinking.*
Register at
maynoothcollege.ie/the-future-of-christian-thinking-international-conference-27th--30th-apr-2022**



June 2022

14 - 15 **Maynooth Union
Annual Gathering**



Due to Government & HSE COVID-19 Guidelines, the exact dates of future events may be changed. Please check maynoothcollege.ie for the latest information.

Maynooth College welcomes your support.

For more information please visit maynoothcollege.ie/giving or call Caroline Tennyson on +353 (0)1 708 3964



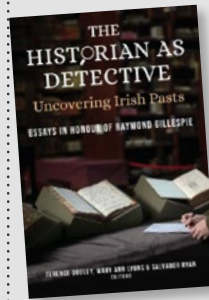
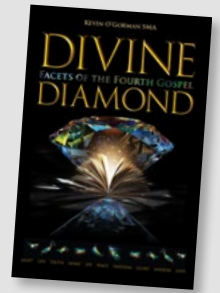
To you and your Family,
May you have the gift of Faith,
the blessing of Hope and
the Peace of the Christ Child's Love
this Christmastide

Recent publications

In *Divine Diamond - Facets of the Fourth Gospel*, the themes of the Gospel of John are highlighted and held together like light falling on a diamond and flowing from facet to facet.

This accessible study by Kevin O'Gorman focuses on ten themes including those of light, love, truth, mission and joy. It draws on the commentaries of scripture scholars and the writings of theologians. Kevin O'Gorman SMA is a lecturer in moral theology at St Patrick's Pontifical University, Maynooth.

messenger.ie/product/divine-diamond-facets-of-the-fourth-gospel



The Historian as Detective - Uncovering Irish Pasts. Essays in honour of Raymond Gillespie edited by Terence Dooley, Mary Ann Lyons & Salvador Ryan.

This collection of short essays presents the fruits of over eighty scholars of history, who have delved into Ireland's past and pieced together fragments of evidence to uncover the fascinating truth behind an array of curious tales about intriguing characters, events and vestiges of by-gone days. The contributions attest to the breadth of Raymond Gillespie's curiosity, interests, expertise and influence.

fourcourtspress.ie/the-historian-as-detective



Christmas season of glad songs

Maynooth Carol Service 2021

Rehearsals are well advanced for this year's carol service, when Maynooth's finest choirs gather to celebrate and savour the music of Christmas. In the midst of tight COVID-19 lockdown restrictions, last year's carols had no audience present in the Gunn Chapel, nonetheless the service was livestreamed and viewed online by more than 17,000 people at home and abroad.

The **College Chapel Choir** will be joined by the singers of the **Schola Gregoriana**, led by Dr Darina McCarthy and **Maynooth University Chamber Choir**, under the direction of Dr Michael Dawson.

Following public health guidance, a much reduced audience will attend this year's carol service, which will be livestreamed on Wednesday 15 December at 7.30pm and will also be broadcast worldwide via the Shalom TV platform.



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