



St. Patrick's College Maynooth

An Education to Value

Summer
2019



Seminarian Rev. Ricky O'Connor, Diocese of Ferns, incensing the ambo at the Easter Vigil ceremony which was broadcast live by RTÉ television.

Maynooth President to Lead European Federation of Catholic Universities

Reverend Professor Michael Mullaney has been elected President of the European Federation of Catholic Universities. Fr. Mullaney's appointment was confirmed at a General Assembly of EFCU delegates in Antwerp on 18 May.

EFCU is a network of 56 Catholic universities in 15 European countries and Lebanon. Since it was formed in 1991, EFCU has been strengthening links between its members – making academic qualifications of European universities comparable and encouraging the mobility of students, teachers and researchers.

In his acceptance address, Professor Mullaney said St. Patrick's College, Maynooth was honoured by his appointment. *"The focus of my mandate as EFCU President, will be to develop further the international exchange of students and staff between Catholic universities globally - enhancing the current Erasmus and Mundus programmes,"* he said.

Energy would also be devoted to continuing the **"European humanism in the making"** project. This seeks to reinterpret Christian ethics in all fields of culture, thought, art, democracy, diplomacy and economics. Thirteen of EFCU's member universities are developing course modules that address themes such as; extremism, violence, crises, poverty and hope.

"EFCU's mission is to foster academic, scientific and cultural cooperation and exchange between member universities," Rev. Professor Mullaney said. *"In my role as President of EFCU, I will also seek to strengthen the voice of 'Catholic education' at third level within the respective countries of our federation members,"* he concluded.



EFCU President Fr. Michael Mullaney (centre) with new board members; (l-r) Gennaro Iasevoli (LUMSA Rome); Michel Jalakh (Antoine University Beirut); Sophia Opatska (Ukrainian Catholic University Lviv); Thérèse Lebrun (Catholic University of Lille); Nuno da Silva Gonçalves (Gregorian University Rome) and Gregory Woimbée (Catholic Institute of Toulouse).

€41,000 and rising

Thanks to your generosity, more than €41,000 in donations has already been received in the first three months of our **2019 St. Patrick's Day Scholarships Appeal**. These funds will allow us to support the theological formation of even more graduates from the developing world. St. Patrick's College is delighted to welcome priests and religious from Europe, Africa, Asia and South America. By sharing experiences from their diverse cultures and traditions, foreign students enrich the life of our community. Please continue to contribute by post or via the online giving page on our website: www.maynoothcollege.ie/giving



Maynooth College Guided Tours

Twice Daily @ 11.00 and 15.00

10 June to 8 September 2019

01 7086404

www.visitmaynooth.com

Green shoots and anniversaries

Next year St. Patrick's College will celebrate the 225th anniversary of its foundation. Since 1795, over 11,000 men have been prepared for ordination to the priesthood and thousands of lay students have gone on from here to work as Religious Educators, Catechists, Pastoral Assistants, Philosophers and Theologians.

Excellence in education and formation has always been a hallmark of our college. On our splendid campus, we pray, work and journey together as pilgrims in faith. While challenges undoubtedly exist, green shoots abound. Examples include the strong collaboration that permeates between the Pontifical University and the National Seminary; the fruitful working relationship we have with Maynooth University and the strong support we enjoy from our Trustees and the wider Episcopal Conference.

Services such as the annual Christmas Carols and the recent live TV broadcasts of the Good Friday and the Easter Saturday Vigil ceremonies by RTÉ, makes our work more widely known among national and international audiences.

In addition, the presence within the college grounds of Trócaire, as well as the National Centre for Liturgy and the National Office for Safeguarding Children; means that St. Patrick's College is a dynamic hub of Catholic education and formation which concretely, imaginatively and energetically serves the mission of the Church on this island and further afield.

The National Seminary will certainly continue to be at the forefront of the evangelisation adventure because at our heart is a faith-filled, prayerful, hard-working and purposeful seminary community which awakes each day in the name of the Risen Lord to pray, study, recreate and bear witness to the joy that comes from being disciples of Jesus Christ.



Fr. Tomás Surlis
Rector of the National Seminary

Human rights and Catholic social teaching

The leading moral theologian Prof. David Hollenbach SJ delivered the prestigious Devlin Lecture at St Patrick's College in March, on the topic of **"Human Rights in Catholic Social Thought: A Living Tradition and Some Urgent Challenges Today."**



Prof. Hollenbach is renowned for his views on how faith intersects with broader culture. Questions of broad socio-economic concern have been of great interest to him throughout his career. His recent work on refugee rights is regarded as being of profound significance.

An American Jesuit, Prof. Hollenbach's lecture guided the audience through a whistle-stop tour of the dramatic shifts within Roman Catholic attitudes around human rights in the last 200 years.

In the mid-1800s, Papal promulgations compared human rights to a social "delusion." Today, prominent scholars and activists testify to the Roman Catholic Church's long standing commitment to protecting the rights of the marginalised around the globe.

Prof. Hollenbach expertly explained the role of historical events – especially the trauma and horror of the World Wars – in prompting the internal development of thinking within the church.

However, his talk was much more than a historical recounting of intellectual evolution. The substance of his argument related to the disputed status of forced migrants. Prof. Hollenbach compellingly argued that human rights must extend universally, especially so in a culture of increasing populist political sentiment.

A recurring theme throughout the presentation was the reality that each generation can suffer blind-spots where they cannot see the ways in which they support, collude with, and even generate unjust oppressions.

Turning at the end to consider the rights between the sexes, Prof. Hollenbach suggested that gender equality might be one such area where further development was needed.

Making history at the Easter Triduum

A small piece of television history was made over Easter when, for the first time ever, RTÉ broadcast the Good Friday and Holy Saturday Vigil celebrations live from St. Patrick's College, Maynooth. Viewers in more than 110,000 homes in Ireland, and others overseas, followed the ceremonies on TV.

They experienced the splendour of the college's extraordinary neo-gothic chapel, regarded by many as one of the finest churches ever built in Ireland.

Three new pieces of music by Irish composers were commissioned especially for this televised Easter Triduum in the college. *"The atmosphere of the chapel is always spiritual and evocative,"* says Rev. Tomás Surlis, Rector of the National Seminary. *"With a choir of 30 voices, expertly conducted by our Director of Sacred Music, Dr. John O'Keeffe, these ceremonies were particularly special."*

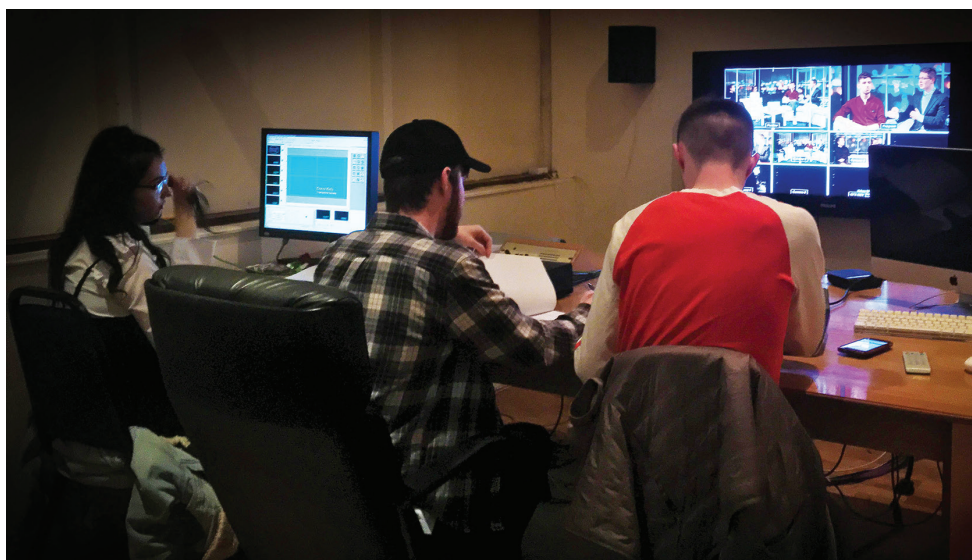
The congregation comprised local parishioners, family and friends of seminarians, lay students from St. Patrick's Pontifical University and Maynooth University as well as faculty and staff members from both.



Let There Be Light

The pitch-dark chapel was illuminated by hundreds of candles held aloft by the congregation

Calling all students



Students of the Postgraduate Diploma in Christian Communication and Media Practice will be trained by industry professionals and learn the practical skills needed for working in a contemporary media environment.

St Patrick's College, Maynooth offers a range of courses for prospective students. If you are thinking of studying Theology and want to find out more, why not attend our Open Day at the college on Saturday 22 June from 10.30am-3pm.

Held in conjunction with Maynooth University, the Open Day gives students and their families an opportunity to explore their academic options by chatting to lecturers, admissions staff and current students.

Wondering what studying Theology is all about and what kind of career it could lead to? A 20-minute Theology Talk, presented by one of the faculty, gives potential candidates the chance to learn about the subject and to ask any questions they might have.

Student Ambassadors will also be on hand to bring visiting students on guided tours and to share their first-hand experiences of student life in Maynooth.

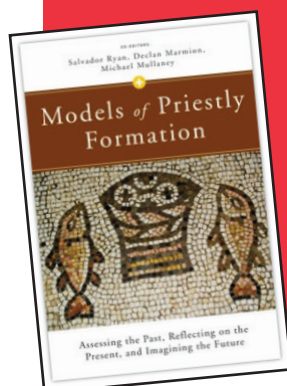
For those interested in postgraduate study, more details on courses such as our Post-Graduate Diploma in Christian Communications and Media Practice can be obtained from our admissions office. The Post-Graduate Diploma in Christian Communications and Media Practice is taught by media professionals, and provides students with a strong practical knowledge of a wide range of media practice such as camerawork, editing, TV Studio, Live Radio production, presentation and social media engagement.

For more information about the Open Day or any of our programmes, contact Barbara Mahon, Admissions & Marketing Officer, at:
☎ 01 708 4772 ✉ admissions@spcm.ie 🌐 www.maynoothcollege.ie

New Models of Priestly Formation

A book resulting from the 2017 SPCM conference entitled: *Models of Priestly Formation, Assessing the Past, Reflecting on the Present, and Imagining the Future*, edited by Salvador Ryan, Declan Marmion and Michael Mullaney will be published by Liturgical Press this August.

To pre-order your copy, visit: <https://litpress.org/Products/6412/Models-of-Priestly-Formation>



Future proofing formation

The preparation of new priests for ministry currently faces closer scrutiny than at any time since the Reformation. Consequently the importance of effective priestly formation has perhaps never been clearer in the history of the Church

In the summer of 2017, leading theologians, psychologists and seminary formators from Ireland and overseas came to St. Patrick's College to consider the reality of priestly formation since Vatican II, discuss the many current challenges facing seminary formation, explore current best practices internationally, and imagine what the future of such formation might look like.

Central to our discussions was the *'The Gift of the Priestly Vocation'*, a document published by the Congregation for the Clergy in Rome in 2016. Here the various dimensions of priestly formation – human, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral – are seen as being of a piece. The emphasis is on the integration of all four dimensions linked together in the journey of discipleship.

Formation is a life-long process and the challenge is to form a 'disciple cleric' who is missionary in spirit. Pope Francis has urged priests of today: to be priests who 'accompany' God's scattered people and heal their wounds, who will be shepherds who know 'the smell of the sheep,' who are missionaries, witnessing to 'the joy of the Gospel.'

Seminary formation will need to jettison the old clericalist model of Church – one that perpetuated a separated, exalted and elitist priesthood - and promote in its place a model based on discipleship, service and mercy.



Rev. Professor Declan Marmion – Dean of the Faculty of Theology

Pioneering leader and esteemed ecumenist honoured

Honorary Doctorates in Theology were conferred on the former director of Trócaire, Eamon Meehan and the renowned biblical scholar and ecumenist, Fr. Brendan McConvery by Archbishop Eamon Martin, Chancellor of St. Patrick's College.

Eamon Meehan who headed Trócaire from 2013-2018, was recognised for being a pioneering and prophetic voice for climate justice, for highlighting the ecological debt that exists between the global north and south and for spearheading Trócaire's response to the Syrian refugee crisis, the biggest humanitarian disaster since World War 2.

In his citation address, Rev. Professor Michael Mullaney said that under Eamon Meehan's leadership 'Trócaire had been vocal and strong, and above all Trócaire had made a difference.'

Fr Brendan McConvery was being honoured, said Prof. Mullaney "for being a skilled and passionate historian, a biblical scholar, a deeply admired teacher and a committed ecumenist." During his teaching career, Fr. Brendan enriched the lives of countless students in all the leading theological centres in Ireland: Milltown Park, All Hallows, Mater Dei and for twenty five years, St Patrick's College, Maynooth. Fr. McConvery was particularly commended for shaping the strategic thinking which led to his monastery of Clonard on the Falls Road in Belfast becoming the most significant spiritual centre for ecumenism and unity among the divided churches and communities of Northern Ireland. "Clonard was the cradle of the peace process which ultimately led to the Good Friday peace agreement," concluded Rev. Professor Mullaney.



Honorary Doctorates in Theology
Mr. Eamon Meehan (left) and Fr. Brendan McConvery received their honorary doctorates from the Chancellor of St. Patrick's College, Archbishop Eamon Martin.

Preserving St. Patrick's architectural heritage

Work on the complete refurbishment of the roof of St. Patrick's building is well underway. The building which is the front section of the neo-Gothic quadrangle, designed by the renowned ecclesial architect Augustus Pugin was built in the mid-1800s.

Chimneys have been carefully dismantled before being rebuilt, wooden windows are being restored and 30 tonnes of leading will be replaced. A team of 15 skilled craftsmen are involved in the €0.5m project which will take six months to complete.

A huge hive of bees that had taken up residence in one of the unused chimneys was safely removed to a new address on campus.



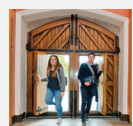
St. Patrick's building has a number of conference suites and more than 30 rooms available for guests who may wish to stay in the heart of the university campus.

Reservations: ☎ +353 (0)1 7086400 ✉ info@maynoothcampus.com
🌐 www.maynoothcampus.com

Calendar of Events

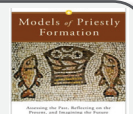
June 2019

- 2nd **Diaconate Sunday**
- 4th-8th **"The Child in our Midst" Summer School & Conference.**
Tickets available on www.eventbrite.ie
- 11th Annual **Maynooth Union** meeting, celebrating anniversaries and jubilees of ordination
- 11th **Theology Talk @ Maynooth University Summer School**
- 22nd **Undergraduate Open Day** for prospective students, 10.30am - 3pm
- 28th **Deadline for O'Faich Scholarship** for Northern Ireland Students



August 2019

- 15th **Book publication: "Models of Priestly Formation, Assessing the Past, Reflecting on the Present, and Imagining the Future"** eds. Salvador Ryan, Declan Marmion and Michael Mullaney



October 2019

- 3rd **Launch of 225th Anniversary of College with St. Patrick's Community Open Day**
- 22nd **Leading theologian, Professor Bradford Hinze** of Fordham University, New York, will deliver the annual Devlin Lecture; **"Can We Find Our Way Together? The Challenge of Synodality in a Wounded and Wounding Church"**



November 2019

- 9th **Pontifical University Graduation Ceremony**
- 29th-30th **Undergraduate Open Days** for prospective students



December 2019

- 16th-18th **Christmas Carol Services**



St. Patrick's College welcomes your support.

For more information:

- ✉ maynoothcollege.ie/giving
- ☎ Caroline Tennyson +353 (0)1 708 3964



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