

# St Patrick's

Summer 2022 — No 15

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



Pictured at the reception are (l-r) Paraic Duffy, Eugene McGee, Archbishop Dermot Farrell, and Rev Prof Michael Mullaney.



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## Vespers to mark Archbishop Dermot Farrell's appointment

"When I entered Maynooth in 1972, I never dreamt that one day I would be standing here as the Archbishop of Dublin ... I did not seek out this new pastoral assignment, but allowed myself to be called, and accompanied."

**T**hese were the opening words of Archbishop Dermot Farrell in his address to the College community and guests at a Solemn Vespers in the College Chapel on 12 May, deferred due to the public health restrictions, to mark the occasion of his appointment as Archbishop of Dublin.

After the Vespers, College President, Rev Prof Michael Mullaney, presented Archbishop Farrell on behalf of the College community with a specially commissioned pectoral cross, a silver replica of a penal cross in the College Museum, dating from 1738. The cross was cast by local artist Jarlath Daly.

Archbishop Farrell's association with the College spans twenty-seven years as student, lecturer, President, now Trustee and Ordinary of the diocese in which the College is located. He is the third president of the College to become the Archbishop of Dublin, following Archbishops Daniel Murray and William Walsh.

Archbishop Farrell shared three "cardinal points, landmarks or touchstones", which after forty-two years of priesthood were helpful in sustaining him; "things that endure rather pass away."

The first is that Jesus must become the centre of our vocations and our lives. We must come to know him, not just his words, but his

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life, his priorities and values, his suffering, death and resurrection. Each one of us must develop and own our own image of Christ, who “matures as we mature.”

The second is that we must have a care for people. Our lives are lives of service for the other; the social call of the gospel must never be beyond our horizon. There is a danger that after almost two centuries of a very socially engaged Catholicism in this country, that we might retreat from that, but that would not just be a loss, it would be a deep misreading of our call.

Thirdly, we must discover the wisdom to know how to be respectful for the person who is from me. It is essential today to be able to connect with people and acknowledge them even if they hold views that are different from the Church in whose name I speak and act. There is a need “to lower the emotion so that reason can be heard; nobody is defined by an adjective.”



## Undergraduate Open Day

This year has seen the return of in-person Open Days. A very successful last week in April included meeting and presenting to students in the Connaught Air Dome Schools Summit followed by the Spring Open Day on campus in Maynooth. Ruth Daly, Schools Liaison Officer, and Jeremy Corley gave an inspiring talk at the Open Day with assistance from marketing and the student ambassador team. There was great interest from students and parents alike with Ruth in demand for follow up consultations and questions after the talks had ended.



Dr Gaven Kerr with Dr Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury.

## Future of Christian Thinking conference

The Faculty of Philosophy at St Patrick’s hosted an international conference on the Future of Christian Thinking from April 27th to 30th. Twenty keynote speakers along with over 100 participants attended over the course of the conference with the Aula Maxima filled at each session. Topics ranged from the practice of philosophy within a Christian context, engagement with historical figures, the future shape of philosophy and indeed Christian thinking, and the spectre of the end of Christian thinking.

The atmosphere at the conference, on campus, and indeed in the bars and restaurants in Maynooth was

buzzing. A spotlight was shone on philosophy at St Patrick’s Maynooth establishing the faculty as one of high international repute.

The Faculty of Philosophy is very proud to have hosted this conference, and we are grateful to the President and all of those who worked in the background for their support, in particular a word of thanks is due to our indefatigable doctoral students for their daily support. Philosophy at St Patrick’s continues to go from strength to strength since the Faculty was re-established in 2019, and this conference is testimony to its place not only in St Patrick’s but also on the international stage.

**Dr Gaven Kerr**



“This College can play a vital part in the moral, spiritual, and intellectual life of the Irish people. It can ask questions that go beyond the temporal and material concerns that occupy most of our waking hours in modern Ireland. ... if, as a society, we avoid questions like these, we are, in a sense, not living our lives to the full.”

John Bruton

# Bringing new expertise on board

**T**hirty-eight people from the fields of education, ministry, politics, law, as well as alumni of the College participated in an Easter ‘summit’ on 23 April to hear about the College’s strategic objectives for the future and to offer their experience, expertise, and wisdom.

The purpose of the gathering was to build up a network of friends and advocates and seek their advice to chart the way forward for the College in challenging and uncertain times. The participants were engaged, eager to share their ideas and were enthusiastic about the mission and future of both the National Seminary and the Pontifical University.

The multifaceted nature of the strategic plan and the recently revised governance structures designed to enable the College to deliver its mission, will require more lay involvement

bringing the comprehensive skillsets and experience required for the College to continue to make an educational, pastoral, and spiritual impact.

The moderator of the day was Deacon Dermot McCarthy. After the President and the Rector shared their strategic objectives and ambitions for the National Seminary and the Pontifical University, former Taoiseach, Mr John Bruton, gave the gave a personal reflection outlining the current challenges and opportunities facing the Church in Ireland.

“Helping a new generation of Irish people, lay and religious, to find the right path, to learn from mistakes, and to correct course, when necessary, will be the task this College will undertake, through the priests and laity it educates,” he added.

Panellists included former minister for Education Mary Hanafin, Dr Fáinche Ryan, Dr Eugene Duffy, Dr David Chiddick, David Kennedy, and College alumni. There was very positive feedback from all the participants and a number of other supporters who were unable to attend on the day. The summit is the beginning of a process of engagement, and this will continue with follow-up discussions with the participants during the coming months.



## End of Year celebration

Our postgraduate community came together on campus to give thanks and mark the end of another academic year. The day started with mass in St Joseph’s oratory, concelebrated by Fr Michael Shortall, Fr Neil Xavier O’Donoghue and Fr John-Paul Sheridan. Following a short, pleasant stroll back through St Joseph’s square the event was completed with lunch in Pugin.



A very successful first year of the Student Ambassador programme was marked with a ceremony in Pugin Hall with some end of term chat and delicious treats courtesy of the Pugin catering team. Front (l-r): Niamh Palmer, Mark Paul Behan, Luka Pranciliauskas. Back (l-r): Caroline Tennyson, Alex Balfe Vivicic, Colm McGolrick, Aoife Ryan, Shauna Murphy, Paul Hurley. Not pictured: Aoife Ward.



Members of the Seminary Community pictured at Our Lady's Shrine, Knock on the occasion of the annual pilgrimage on Sunday 15 May 2022. The group first visited the Carmelite Sisters for midday prayer. They also participated in the afternoon devotions and Mass in the Basilica, together with the diocesan pilgrim groups from Achonry, Clonfert and Galway.

# A busy and fruitful second semester in St Patrick's National Seminary

**T**he second semester of the seminary year has seen a marked increase in the level of activity in and around St Patrick's College. As the days have begun to lengthen and brighten, so the campus has begun to be busier and filled with the hustle and bustle of university life. There have been more groups visiting the College for major conferences, such as *The Future of Christian Thinking*, and within the seminary, we had the welcome return of

guests to join in the celebration of the Easter Triduum in the College Chapel from Holy Thursday to the Easter Vigil 14-16 April.

On Saturday May 8th, there was the very well-attended launch of *A Better Vision – Understanding, Living and Sharing the Catholic Vision for Human Sexuality* written by our Spiritual Director, Fr Chris Hayden and launched by Most Rev Kevin Doran, the Bishop of Elphin in the College Chapel. On 12 May, we welcomed Archbishop Dermot Farrell for Solemn

Vespers to mark his appointment as Archbishop of Dublin. On 14 May, we had the pleasure of welcoming the Dublin Diocesan Congress of the *St Joseph's Young Priests Society*, with inputs from the Rector and from Sr Anne Codd pbvm. On 15th May, we had the welcome return of the annual pilgrimage to Knock Shrine. And on 19 May, we had a beautiful celebration of Vespers in St Mary's Oratory, followed by dinner in Pugin Hall, to give thanks for the year that has passed and to mark the departure of those seminarians who have completed their time in initial formation at St Patrick's National Seminary.

At the time of writing, the seminarians and students of St Patrick's Pontifical University are taking exams and it is fair to say that all are looking forward to the summer break after what has been an intense, lively and joyful year of journeying in faith and hope on the path of education and formation which are the hallmarks of this venerable college.

# 2022 Ordinations

On Sunday 24 April (Divine Mercy Sunday), Rev Antun Pašalić was ordained to the Priesthood in the Cathedral of Ss Peter and Paul in Ennis by the Most Rev Fintan Monahan, Bishop of Killaloe. On Sunday 8th May (Good Shepherd Sunday), Michael McCaul was ordained to the Diaconate in St Eugene's Cathedral, Derry, by the Most Rev Donal McKeown, Bishop of Derry. On Sunday 26th June, Rev Stephen Wilson will be ordained to the Priesthood by Most Rev Éamon Martin, Archbishop of Armagh in St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh. We pray God's blessing upon the newly ordained theachtairí Chríost and upon their ministry of service of God and his people.



## Síolta 2022

The Síolta annual Seminary Journal is now available for purchase. The theme this year comes from the new Seminary Motto: *Precari et Pascere (To Pray and to Shepherd)*.

The magazine is produced and written by the seminarians themselves, and has a number of articles by guest writers, including the recently appointed Archbishop of Tuam, Most Rev. Francis Duffy and Dr Nicola Brady, Chair of the Synodal Pathway Steering Group.

This beautifully presented edition offers insights into the life and work of the seminary community and the pastoral issues which the Church in Ireland seeks to address today. To order your copy, please contact [seminary@spcm.ie](mailto:seminary@spcm.ie) Cost €5 (including postage).



## Reflections on the Erasmus experience

My experience as an Erasmus student at St Patrick's College has been very enriching. I was part of the seminary community, where I made very good friends. I also enjoyed my time with other the Erasmus students and we formed a strong community with the help and guidance of the Erasmus coordinator. The formation here has been a blessed part of my journey to the priesthood. The study of theology at the Pontifical University was a good opportunity for me not only to grow intellectually but also to integrate study with my personal prayer life and my relationship with God. Finally, the faculty was highly professional with a friendly approach.

Ján Kotlarcik



## Preparing for Holy Week

The Seminary Community prepared for Holy Week - the 'Great Week' of the Church's Year - by entering into the Lenten Retreat from Friday 8 to Sunday 10 April under the direction of Fr Craig Morrison O.Carm of the Pontifical Biblical Institute (Biblicum), Rome. Choosing *From Your Heart to Their Hearts* as the theme for the retreat, he led us into a profound reflection on passages from the gospels of John and Luke, as we traced the journey of discipleship from "What do you seek?" to "having a share" with Jesus, and into "Confronting the Cross on the Road to Emmaus." We are very grateful to have had these grace-filled days to help us prepare well for the celebration of the central mysteries of our faith in Holy Week.

# Calendar

June 2022

14 Summer School for 2nd level students with MU



14 - 15 Maynooth Union Annual Gathering



25 Undergrad Summer Open Day



July 2022

1 CAO Change of Mind see our [CAO Info Hub](#) for course closing dates.



4 - 8 European Humanism in the Making  
FUCE Summer School  
livestream public sessions  
Register [bit.ly/FUCE-2022](https://bit.ly/FUCE-2022)



September 2022

Start of new academic year



Maynooth College welcomes your support.

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



## Maynooth College Alumni Our Pride, Our Joy

Keep up to date with Maynooth College News & Events: [maynoothcollege.ie/alumni](https://maynoothcollege.ie/alumni)  
For more information please contact [alumni@spcm.ie](mailto:alumni@spcm.ie)

# New Professor of Moral Theology

Tobias Winright has been appointed Prof of Moral Theology at St Patrick's Pontifical University. Tobias brings nearly 25 years of experience as a Catholic moral theologian to his new role at SPPU. His most recent academic appointment was at Saint Louis University in St. Louis, Missouri from 2005 to 2022.

He has authored, co-authored, edited, and co-edited seven books, most recently the T&T Clark Handbook of Christian Ethics (T&T Clark 2021) and Serve and Protect: Selected Essays on Just Policing (Cascade Books 2020), as well as numerous articles in peer-reviewed journals and popular opinion pieces in periodicals, including The Tablet and America magazine.

He teaches and writes in the areas of fundamental moral theology, war and peace, criminal justice, theological ecology, and bioethics.

Speaking following his appointment Prof Winright said, "It is an honour to become a part of SPPU, a world class institution of Catholic higher education, and to work with respected colleagues as we facilitate its, and our students', flourishing in the future."



# ITQ lecture explores Integral Ecology

On 10 May last, Dr Celia Deane-Drummond, Director of the Laudato Si' Research Institute and Senior Research Fellow in theology at Campion Hall, University of Oxford delivered the 2022 Irish Theological Quarterly (ITQ) lecture online entitled: Theological Foundations of Pope Francis' Integral Ecology.



In her lecture Dr Drummond explored the concept of 'integral ecology' particularly in relation to Pope Francis' recent writings including Laudato Si'. She spoke of the need for a new ecological culture, one that is in tune with the natural world. This is, moreover, an

invitation to a different way of approaching economics and offers an alternate vision of human progress. In the lecture and subsequent discussions, Dr Drummond teased out these ideas. Her full lecture will appear later in the year in the theological journal of St Patrick's College, the Irish Theological Quarterly.

Rev Prof Declan Marmion



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