

St Patrick's

Autumn 2022 — No 16

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



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New Student Intake

The new student and staff intake to St Patrick's Pontifical University gives reasons for optimism as we begin the new academic year. Going to print, the final rounds of the CAO process are taking place, but in the region of sixty-five first year students have registered for the Baccalaureate in Theology and Arts programme. This fresh intake of students is the result of the fantastic work of our School Liaison Officer, Ruth Daly.

Our new students come from far and near: Waterford, Mayo, Meath, Westmeath, Cavan, Dublin, Kildare and Amsterdam, to mention a few! This is also the fruit of our marketing team whose activities led to significant increases of our presence on social media, database marketing and the advocacy of our

student ambassadors. In addition, twenty new postgraduate students bring our post-graduate community number to fifty-nine.

Our programmes at the Centre for Mission and Ministries received a boost with thirty candidates being accepted for the Diploma in Diaconate Studies along with thirty-four students registering for the Higher Diploma in Theological Studies. This year also saw the launch of our Diploma in Youth Ministry and Spirituality and the relaunch of our Diploma in Church Music.

The Pontifical University also welcomed four new academic staff members: Anne-Marie Dolan (Youth Ministry), Dr Simon Nolan (Philosophy), Prof Tobias Winright (Moral Theology) and Dr Joshua Furnal (Systematic Theology). Their biographies appear in the newsletter.

Welcoming new students and staff, the President Rev Prof Michael Mullaney said it was heartening to see such a positive response after a challenging two years. All our staff look forward to re-engaging more fully with students on campus in the coming year.

New Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy



Dr Simon Nolan, O.Carm has been appointed as the new Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy. He comes to SPPU with over sixteen years of experience in teaching, administration, and research at third level, most of this at our sister institution, Maynooth University, where he has been teaching in the Department of Philosophy since 2008. Born in Dublin, after studies at

University College Dublin, he entered the Carmelite Order. Having fulfilled the roles of Director of Formation and Director of Vocations, he is currently Prior of the Carmelite Church and Priory at Whitefriar Street in the centre of Dublin City.

Dr Nolan holds degrees in theology, with a master's degree in spirituality. His studies in philosophy culminated in his being awarded a doctoral degree in philosophy (DPhil) at Rome's Pontifical Gregorian University. His main interests in philosophy are medieval thought, philosophy of religion, philosophy of the human person, philosophy of knowledge, metaphysics, and aesthetics.

He has published numerous articles on philosophy, medieval and modern, and his Brill Companion to Richard FitzRalph (1299-1360), former Archbishop of Armagh and Chancellor of the University of Oxford, (co-edited with Professor Michael Dunne) has gone to press and will appear later this year in the prestigious Brill Companions to the Christian Tradition series. A graduate of the Royal Irish Academy of Music, Dr Nolan has published a book on music and the Carmelite Order as well as articles on spirituality and art.

In commenting on his new appointment, Dr Nolan said he felt privileged to be asked to lead the Faculty of Philosophy at Maynooth at this time. Paying tribute to his predecessor as Dean, Professor Tom Casey SJ, and to all the faculty and students, he said he looked forward to working with everyone concerned in building on all that had been achieved, especially since the restoration of the Faculty of Philosophy in 2019. He looked forward to the faculty continuing to establish itself nationally and internationally as a centre of excellence in teaching and learning at undergraduate and graduate levels.

Dr Nolan said that the study of philosophy is of immense importance today, enabling students to develop habits of critical thought and reflection, and to address some of the most basic questions of human existence, such as what a person is, how far our freedom extends, how matter and spirit come together in human nature, where the moral law comes from, how the mind knows reality, and how God can be known through reason and experience.

Furthermore, he hoped the already excellent research culture within the faculty would continue to thrive. Finally, Dr Nolan said he was particularly looking forward to working with colleagues in other faculties and centres at SPPU at this crucial time of strategic planning for the university.

New Lecturer/Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology

Joshua Furnal (Ph.D. Durham) has been appointed Lecturer/Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology at St Patrick's Pontifical University, Maynooth.

He is an Associate Editor of Brill Research Perspectives in Theological Traditions and the co-editor of the Contributions to Philosophical Theology series. Recently, he has been the recipient of four visiting research fellowships: the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies (Italy), the Hong Kierkegaard Library (USA), Gladstone's Library (UK), and the National Institute for Newman Studies (USA).

Before coming to Maynooth, he held a tenure-track teaching and research position at Radboud University in the Netherlands. Prior to Nijmegen, he held postdoctoral positions as a Visiting Research Fellow with the Leslie Center for Humanities and a Lecturer in the Department of Religion at Dartmouth College. Also, he has been a Visiting Professor in the Faculty of Catholic Theology at the University of Tübingen, and a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Durham University (UK) in the Department of Theology and Religion.

His primary area of expertise is the history of modern Christian theology and philosophical theology from the 20th century to the present. He has published on a variety of topics including the philosophical theology of Søren Kierkegaard, the Thomist philosopher Cornelio Fabro, and 'ressourcement' theologians in relation to Vatican II. His first monograph, Catholic Theology after Kierkegaard (Oxford University Press 2016) discovered that Kierkegaard's writings had a surprising impact on influential Catholic thinkers during the twentieth century.

His current academic research focuses on the legacy of the influential Italian Thomist philosopher, Fr. Cornelio Fabro CSS (1911-1995) who was also one of the most important European interpreters of Kierkegaard in the twentieth century. His next monograph is provisionally entitled 'Being before God: Cornelio Fabro's Thomistic approach to Kierkegaard's Theology', which presents the first systematic treatment of Fabro's interpretation of Kierkegaard and explores the dialectical relation of faith and reason, and the doctrine of creation ex nihilo in Kierkegaard's philosophical theology.





New Programme Coordinator for the Diploma in Youth Ministry & Spirituality.

Anne-Marie Dolan has been appointed to the role of Programme Coordinator for the Diploma in Youth Ministry & Spirituality.



Anne-Marie will be responsible for providing key input to design, delivery, development and enhancement of the Diploma in Youth Ministry & Spirituality programme. The role includes ensuring that the programme complies with quality and standards through validation/ review events, programme monitoring, accreditation events and periodic reviews.

The programme in Youth Ministry and Spirituality is designed to be a pathway for someone with sufficient working experience in youth ministry but who does not have a previous degree in theology or youth ministry. Such a candidate may desire to develop their conceptual, theoretical, and practical skills, and to receive a professional qualification in youth ministry.

Prior to joining St Patrick's Pontifical University, Anne-Marie held roles in Religious Education, Chaplaincy, Ethos and Spirituality and was a Pastoral Coordinator, Teacher and Chaplain at Clongowes Wood College.

Anne-Marie brings a wealth of experience to her new role, including teaching of Religion, Music, SPHE, CSPE, Director and co-ordinator of Pastoral Care (Chaplaincy) and Ignatian Formation Programmes for students, staff, and parents, co-ordinator and Chairperson to the Amber Flag Committee, School Wellbeing co-ordinator, Clongowes delegate on the Alberto Hurtado Programme Bursary Programme, delegate on the Jesuit Identity Committee, delegate on the Jesuit Province Ignatian Formator's Group and on the Jesuit European Committee for Primary and Secondary Education.

As a Pastoral and Theological reflection facilitator, Anne-Marie also helps seminarians of St Patrick's National Seminary, Maynooth to better engage and better self-reflect on themselves and their ministry contexts.

As Pastoral Practice Module Lead Anne-Marie will also be the Theology representative on the College Life Board and Professional Programmes Board.

New Professor of Moral Theology

Tobias Winright has been appointed Professor of Moral Theology. His areas of teaching and research interest include fundamental moral theology, the Catholic social tradition, the ethics of war and peace, bioethics, environmental ethics, and criminal justice ethics. A cradle Catholic and originally from rural northwest Ohio, his childhood years were spent there on a farm, as well as in Indiana and the Gulf coast of Florida.

As the first (and only) person in his family to attend university, he worked full time as a law enforcement officer in a maximum security jail during the four years that he was a student at Saint Petersburg College and the University of South Florida, where he received his B.A. in political science. Because of his interest in moral questions that arose during his experience in criminal justice, he subsequently studied theology and ethics at Duke University Divinity School, where he received his M.Div., and the University of Notre Dame, where he was awarded a Ph.D. in 2002.

Prior to his move to St. Patrick's Pontifical University, he was an Associate Professor of Theology and Health Care Ethics at Saint Louis University, located in St. Louis, Missouri. There he also held the Maeder Endowed Chair in Health Care Ethics from 2015 to 2020. Previous appointments in higher education include Walsh University in North Canton, Ohio (2003-2005) and Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa (1998-2003). While

teaching at the latter, he also taught ethics for the Des Moines Police Department and served as a reserve police officer. He is currently also an Associate Member of the Las Casas Institute for Social Justice, Blackfriars Hall, University of Oxford. He has authored, co-authored, edited, and co-edited 7 books, and has authored nearly 50 peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters, 65 book reviews, and another 50 popular articles in periodicals and magazines such as *The Tablet*, *America*, *Commonweal*, *Sojourners*, *Christian Century*, *National Catholic Reporter*, *FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin*, and *Taekwondo Times*.

He served as co-editor of the *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics* (2013-2017) and book review editor for *Political Theology* (2011-2015). Currently he is an associate editor for *Healthcare Ethics USA*, and he serves on the editorial board of the *Journal of Catholic Social Thought*. From 2019 to 2021 he was vice president of the College Theology Society. He has been married to Elizabeth since 2002, and they have 2 daughters, Clare Niamh and Lydia Maeve. In his "spare time," he is a runner and practices taekwondo (black belt, 1st dan).





Faculty of Theology - Dean's Update

The Theology Faculty's *Centre for Mission and Ministries* continues to evolve in response to the challenge of equipping the people of God to minister in a rapidly changing landscape.

Our expanding suite of programmes remains faithful to our bedrock commitment to integrated formation for the flourishing of students as whole persons and the development of their professional practice. At the same time, the *Centre for Mission and Ministries* is actively enabling new models of lay leadership and the co-responsibility of laity, religious, and clergy in the service of the Christian mission.

This September we welcome our first cohort of students on the Diploma in Youth Ministry and Spirituality which is offered in partnership with the Salesians of Don Bosco. This partnership connects us to the Salesians' vast experience in youth ministry and a dynamic international network.

We also welcome just over thirty candidates for the permanent diaconate who are embarking on the new Diploma in Diaconate Studies. This substantially revised offering takes on board the learnings from an extensive review. It is nested within a broader formation programme that is structured to provide ample time, resources and support for integrated formation, including structured reflection and practice.

In response to the growing need for lay-led liturgies, we have relaunched the programmes in pastoral liturgy at diploma and higher diploma level. These one-year programmes are designed around the needs of working people and are offered in a blended learning mode, with online learning being complemented by six on-campus weekends.

Research is indispensable for keeping the Centre for Mission and Ministries rooted in ongoing scholarship and creatively responsive to the signs of the times. We are contributing to a project to map the future of a catholic presence in healthcare in Ireland, and one that is exploring ways to support parents of young children as they seek to nurture faith in the home. We are also conducting an evaluation of a diocesan formation and academic programme for parish catechesis and pastoral care. All of these activities contribute to our profile as a learning organisation committed to collaboration, service, and theologically reflective engagement with human lived experience in church and world.

Dr Jessie Rogers

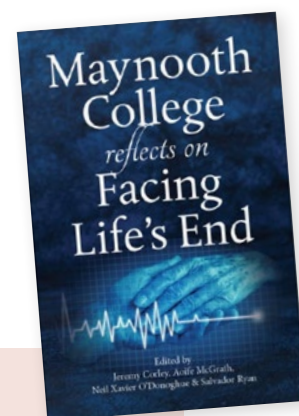


Facing Life's End Publication

A new volume, introduced by Archbishop Dermot Farrell, offers 20 reflections by members of St Patrick's Pontifical University and others with professional experience of working with the dying.

Among the topics covered in the book are: the transformative power of palliative care; spiritual care at the end of life: a philosophical perspective on death, dying, and dignity; prudential judgment in end-of-life decision making; perinatal death; compassionate accompaniment of the bereaved; honouring the sacred story of the dying; reflecting on the Order of Christian Funerals; scriptural perspectives on mortality; the significance of music in the funeral liturgy; how the afterlife has been imagined within the Christian tradition; and the 'liturgy' of the Irish Wake.

We may not always like to talk about it, but we are each moving closer to the day of our death, which will come sooner or later. Does this thought fill us with fear, or does our Christian faith give us hope? Before the time arrives, can we learn from the reflections of philosophers and theologians, as well as the experience of palliative care physicians and hospice chaplains? This book offers us help and hope. The volume, edited by Jeremy Corley, Aoife McGrath, Neil Xavier O'Donoghue, and Salvador Ryan, is due to be published by Messenger Press on 27th October. We plan to hold a book launch in Renehan Hall on 16th November, 7.30 pm—details to follow on the website.





First and second Year Seminarians with the Community of Formators on pilgrimage to Faughart and Monasterboice during the Introductory Course 2022.

A New Formation Year Begins at St Patrick's National Seminary

The First Year Seminarians arrived on Sunday 4th September together with the Second Years and an Erasmus Seminarian from Prague who will be a member of the seminary community for this academic year. The group had a week-long introductory course, which is designed to help them to transition smoothly into the rhythm of seminary life at St Patrick's College. Those seminarians who are on Pastoral Year returned for their induction programme (5th-10th September) on the same day.

The rest of the community returned on Sunday 11th September to take part in a three-day Human Formation workshop, facilitated by Fr Hugh Lagan SMA and then a three-day retreat directed by Baroness Nuala O'Loan DBE MRIA. This period of preparation focusing on human, spiritual and pastoral formation meant that the entire community was ready for the beginning of the new academic year on Monday 19th September. We pray God's blessing on each of them as they continue through the journey of discernment to grow as men of communion who are preparing to serve the Church as pastors after the heart of Christ the Good Shepherd.

2022 Ordinations

The late spring, summer and early autumn witnessed the celebration of the ordinations of six men who completed the journey of initial formation in St Patrick's National Seminary.



Rev Antun Pasalic (Killaloe) was ordained Priest on Sunday 24th April in the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul, Ennis by Bishop Fintan Monahan. Rev

Michael McCaul (Derry) was ordained to the Diaconate on Sunday 8th May in Christ the King Church, Cappagh Parish, Derry by Bishop Donal McKeown. Rev Stephen Wilson (Armagh) was ordained Priest in Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh on Sunday 26th June by Archbishop Eamon Martin. Rev Mark Moriarty (Kerry) was

ordained to the Diaconate in St Mary's Cathedral, Killarney on Sunday 7th August by Bishop Ray Browne. Rev Chris Garrett (Elphin) was ordained to the Diaconate in St Patrick's Church, Castlerea, Co. Roscommon on Saturday 17th September by Bishop Kevin Doran. Rev Ronan Sheehan (Cork & Ross) was ordained Priest in the Church of St John the Baptist, Newcestown, Co. Cork on Sunday 25th September by Bishop Fintan Gavin.



The seminary community wishes each of the newly-ordained joy and blessing in the priestly and diaconal ministry. May their collaborative prayer and work with the Bishop, Priests, Deacons, Religious and People of their dioceses bear rich fruit as the Church in Ireland continues on the synodal path together, seeking to discern and do God's will in humble service of the Pilgrim People of God.

New Director of Formation

Fr Shane O'Neill

Fr Shane O'Neill, a Priest of the Diocese of Waterford and Lismore, has joined the Community of Formators as the Director of Formation (Co-ordinator of Human and Pastoral Formation) for the seminarians in the Stage of Discipleship (which includes Philosophical Studies). We are delighted to welcome Fr O'Neill and wish him every success and blessing in his new role.





Maynooth Union 2022

On the 14th-15th June 2022, the Maynooth Union held its first in-person gathering since 2019.

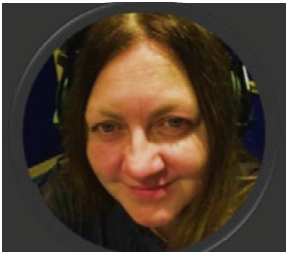
It was special being back on campus following the pandemic restrictions which halted so much in our lives in recent times. With the blessing of glorious June weather, Diamond, Golden and Silver Jubilarians amongst others participated in a two-day event which this year had the format of a conference and social gathering.

The event honoured many former students of the College along with spending time reflecting on matters of interest in the Church under the title A Synodal Church: Adapting for Mission. Friendships were rekindled, memories were shared, and gratitude was expressed for all that has been and for the opportunity to be back in the College once more. We look forward to June 2023 and our next time to gather and give thanks for priesthood and the continuing work of priestly formation in the Church today.

Fr Seán Corkery - Secretary



Maynooth Union Conference Speakers



Brenda Drumm

Brenda Drumm is Communications Manager at the Disability Federation of Ireland and was previously Communications Officer of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference. She was formerly the Media and Communications Manager for the World Meeting of Families 2018. Brenda curates the Digital Hub platform on www.catholicbishops.ie which is a resource centre for parishes and dioceses on digital media. She writes a monthly digital media column in Intercom magazine and conducts regular workshops on social media. Brenda is the producer and presenter of the Faithcast podcast and is also the moderator of a monthly online global Faith Café hosted by the Catholic Grandparents Association.



Nathalie Becquart

Nathalie Becquart, XMCJ, is a French Catholic religious sister and member of the Congregation of Xavières. From 2008 to 2018 she oversaw the National Service for the Evangelisation of Young People and for Vocations (SNEJV) within the Bishops' Conference of France. On 24 May 2019, she was appointed, along with four other women and one man, as consultor to the General Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops in the Catholic Church. It is the first time a woman was appointed to that position. She saw the appointment as a part of Pope Francis's effort "to implement synodality at every level of the Church's life" and to benefit from the important contribution that women can make. In 2021 she was named as one of the undersecretaries of the Synod.



Dr Brendan O'Keefe

Dr Brendan O'Keefe is a human geographer and social scientist with a practitioner background in rural development. He is an independent consultant working in the fields of social research, local development, community planning, evaluation, project management and organisational change. As an academic, he was a senior lecturer in geography and Director of Quality in Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick.



Stephen McWhirter

Stephen McWhirter is the Archdeacon of Tuam, Killala and Achonry, and is also Rector of the Killala Group, seven parish churches which encompass Killala Bay. He has been with the Diocese for seven years and was part of the working group which negotiated the uniting of the new Church of Ireland Diocese of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe. He is married to Canon Jen McWhirter and they have two daughters.



Baroness Nuala O'Loan

Baroness Nuala O'Loan, DBE, MRIA is a member of the House of Lords. She is Chair of the Catholic Council for England's Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse. She was formerly the Chair of the Governing Authority of Maynooth University, Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland and held the Jean Monnet Chair in European Law at the University of Ulster. She is the recipient of a number of honorary doctorates in recognition of her work and is a member of the Royal Irish Academy.



Bishop Paul Tighe

Bishop Paul Tighe serves as secretary of the Dicastery for Culture and Education. He was ordained bishop on 27 February 2016. He previously served as adjunct secretary for the Pontifical Council for Culture and as secretary of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications. Before that he was director of the Office for Public Affairs for the Dublin diocese and taught moral theology at the Mater Dei Institute. He was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Dublin in 1983.





Richard and Diane Welsh

New Chairperson of the Irish Education and Development Foundation





Mr Richard Welsh was elected the new Chairperson of the Irish Education and Development Foundation at a meeting of the Board of the IEDF on 19th July. He succeeds Dr Barbara Gannon who chaired the Board for many years. Both Rick and Diane Welsh are long-time friends of St Patrick's College and have been actively involved in organising the annual IEDF dinners in Philadelphia for many years. As a former Vice-President of Wells Fargo Bank he brings a wealth of experience to the Board of the IEDF. The new Chairperson, President and Rector will work with the IEDF board to revitalise our fundraising efforts in the U.S.

Calendar

October 2022

2	Ceol na gCairde	
11	Opening of Academic Year Mass	

November 2022

11	Awards Night	
12	Graduation	
13	Cemetery Sunday	
20	Fauré's Requiem	

December 2022

13-14	Carol Service	
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Maynooth College welcomes your support.

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

Fauré's Requiem

Fauré's Requiem – In Memoriam Dr David Connolly (Maynooth 2000 – 2020)

A special performance of *Fauré's Requiem*, with the University Choral Society, guest soloists and organists, will be held in the College Chapel on the afternoon of Sunday, 20th November, to mark the sad passing in April 2020 of Dr David Connolly, Maynooth alumnus, choir director, performer, scholar and teacher. This represents the first opportunity, following two years of severe restrictions on choral singing, to pay a proper tribute to a much-loved musician and friend of Maynooth.



Over the twenty years of his association with the campus, David served as conductor of the University Chamber Choir, founder-director of *Altus*, organist and teacher of generations of undergraduate students including those of St Patrick's College, Maynooth, where he served as Organ Scholar in the National Seminary. An ever-courteous and supportive colleague and a deeply sensitive musician, his contribution to musical life on campus was rich and wide-ranging and, though affiliated in various ways with other institutions, there is no doubt that he regarded Maynooth as his musical and spiritual home.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam uasal.

John O'Keeffe



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