

St Patrick's

Spring 2023 — No 18

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



Rev Conrad Forzeh and Rev Frankline Etuge Nkopi (Diocese of Kumba, Cameroon) pictured with Bishop Kevin Doran of Elphin, following their ordination to the Diaconate on the Solemnity of the Epiphany (6 January 2023) in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Sligo.



Visit to Christchurch
page 3



Launch of Diploma in Youth Ministry
page 4



Latest updates from the Dean of Theology
page 5

Ordinations to the Diaconate

The Seminary Community extends heartfelt congratulations to all who were ordained early this year.

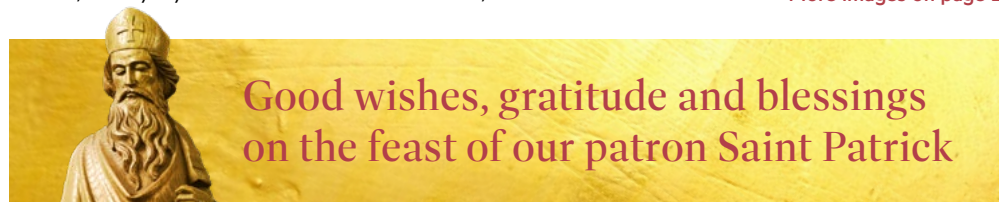
Rev Conrad Forzeh and Rev Frankline Etuge Nkopi (Diocese of Kumba, Cameroon) who were ordained to the Diaconate by Most Rev Kevin Doran, Bishop of Elphin in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Sligo, on the Solemnity of the Epiphany, 6 January 2023.

We also congratulate Rev Stephen Ward (Diocese of Derry) who was ordained to the Diaconate in Waterside (Glendermott) Parish, Derry by Most Rev Donal McKeown,

also on the Solemnity of the Epiphany.

Finally, we congratulate Rev Dawid Aksenczuk (Diocese of Down and Connor) who was ordained Deacon by Most Rev Noel Treanor, Apostolic Nuncio to the European Union and Apostolic Administrator of Down and Connor, in the Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Parish of Drumbo, on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, 8 January 2023. May the Lord who has begun the good work in each of these men bring it to fulfilment in a life of joy-filled service of God and his people.

[More images on page 2](#)



Good wishes, gratitude and blessings on the feast of our patron Saint Patrick



Rev Dawid Aksenczuk (Diocese of Down and Connor) pictured with his parents, together with Archbishop Noel Treanor after his ordination to the Diaconate on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (8th January 2023) in the Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Parish of Drumbo, Belfast.



Rev Mark O'Farrell with Bishop Cullinan following his ordination to the Diaconate on Saturday 28 January in the Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity, Waterford.



Rev Stephen Ward (Diocese of Derry) pictured serving at the altar with Bishop Donal McKeown of Derry during his ordination to the Diaconate on the Solemnity of the Epiphany (6th January 2023) in Waterside Parish, Derry.



Bishop Dempsey with Norvil Caguioa (right) and his wife Antoinette (left) together with members of their family after Norvil received the Ministry of Acolyte.



Admission to Candidacy with Bishop Martin Hayes.



Looking forward to Easter 2023

You are most welcome to join the St Patrick's College Community for the celebration of the Easter Triduum in the iconic College Chapel. Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday (6 April) will be at 7.30pm. The Good Friday Celebration of the Lord's Passion (7 April) will be at 3pm and the high point of the Church's year, the Easter Vigil will be at 9.30pm on Saturday 8 April.

We look forward to welcoming you to the College Chapel on one or all of these three sacred days.



Ministries 2022-23

Bishop Martin Hayes of Kilmore joined the Seminary Community on the 8 December 2022 – the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception – for the Rite of Admission to Candidacy for Ordination as Deacon and Priest. Three of our resident seminarians and two Salesian seminarians were admitted as Candidates, together with three men from the Archdiocese of Dublin who are preparing for ordination as Permanent Deacons.

Bishop Paul Dempsey of Achonry presided at the Rite of Institution of Acolytes on Sunday 29 January 2023 during the Seminary Retreat before the

beginning of the second semester of the academic year. Two of our resident seminarians, Killian Heney (Cashel and Emly) and Jordan MacGabhann

(Kilmore), received the Ministry of Acolyte together with Norvil Caguioa, a Permanent Diaconate Candidate from Dublin, who was joined by his family and friends for the celebration.

Our sincere thanks to Bishop Hayes and Bishop Dempsey for joining us for these important and joyful occasions which are important milestones on the journey to Ordination.



Visit to Christchurch Cathedral & Dublinia Exhibition

On Thursday 26 January, the Seminary Community had a relaxing day out in Dublin after the rigours of the January exams! Together with Ciarán Coughlan (MU/SPPU Chaplaincy) we visited Christchurch Cathedral and the Dublinia exhibition. Tours of the ancient cathedral and the nearby exhibition afforded fascinating insights into the multi-layered religious, social and cultural history of Dublin from the 12th to the 21st centuries. We are very grateful to Ciarán and the MU/SPPU Chaplaincy for making this trip possible and highly recommend a visit to both Christchurch and Dublinia when next you are in the Capital.

Science for Seminaries arrives at SPPU

Science & Divine Action Conference

St Patrick's Pontifical University has successfully applied for funding from the Templeton Foundation through ECLAS (Equipping Christian Leaders in an Age of Science) in order to institute a Science for Seminaries program here in Maynooth.

The program serves not only to expose the seminarians to scientific discourse and cultivate their confidence in asking scientific questions, but also to help them better appreciate scientific insights and how these insights can enhance the practice and understanding of their ministry.

The project includes a year-long module for seminarians dedicated to the theme, "Divine Action and the Sacraments," which will introduce seminarians and postgraduate students at the SPPU to key concepts and themes in discourse at the intersection of the natural sciences, philosophy, and theology. The Head of the Vatican Observatory, Br Guy Consolmagno SJ, opened this year's program with a lecture on "The Things They Ask the Pope's Astronomer."

On another occasion, Andrew Pinsent (University of Oxford) spoke about the Catholic contributions to science and science's relationship to the life of grace. Peter van der Burgt (MU) discussed the relationship between science and religion.

The project will conclude with a public international conference on 18-19 April on "Science and Divine Action." Scientists and philosophers from all over the world will come to speak on evolution, the big bang, chemistry, and the sacraments, including seven keynote speakers from the US, Canada, Argentina, UK, and Ireland. All are welcome!

More details and to book your place, visit sppu.ie/science-for-seminaries



Pictured at the signing ceremony are Fr Michael Casey, Vice Provincial Salesians Ireland with Dr Jessie Rogers, Dean of Theology at SPPU, accompanied by Fr Paddy Hennessy and Fr Cyril Oda from Salesians Ireland and Maurice Garde and Dr Aoife McGrath SPPU.



Pontifical University

Launch of Diploma in Youth Ministry

There was a great buzz in Pugin Hall on the evening of 18 January. The Salesians of Don Bosco Ireland, faculty and staff of SPPU and invited guests had come together to celebrate the Salesian-SPPU partnership and the launch of the Diploma in Youth Ministry and Spirituality.

SPPU and the Salesians share a commitment to education, to empowering young people and to equipping people to engage in youth ministry. The ceremonial signing of the Memorandum of Understanding marked a key moment in the relationship and a commitment to future development. Joy and hope are integral to Salesian spirituality; those sentiments were powerfully captured in the beautiful rendition of "How Great Thou Art" which wrapped up the formal proceedings.

The Diploma is designed to give people without a formal qualification in theology a professional qualification while developing their skills and honing their ability to bring faith and practice into

fruitful dialogue. It is also designed for students or graduates of primary degrees in theology who need an appropriate methodological and pastoral qualification to engage in research in youth ministry at post-graduate level. In line with our other pastoral programmes, the practicum and academic learning run alongside each other. Classes and theological reflection groups take place on Thursdays and Fridays on campus, leaving the rest of the week to undertake supervised placement. This arrangement allows students to be part of a vibrant learning community while facilitating placements across a broad geographical spread. We look forward to building on connections made and strengthened at the launch as we develop and grow the programme.

Analogy, Desire & Imitation

An international workshop titled *Analogy, Desire and Imitation* will be hosted by St Patrick's Pontifical University on 28-29 of April 2023. Speakers will include William Desmond, Cyril O'Regan, John Betz, Grant Kaplan, Wolfgang Palaver, Michael Kirwan, Joshua Furnal and Philip John Paul Gonzales.

There are limited tickets available for this event, which can be found at eventbrite.ie/e/analogy-desire-and-imitation-an-international-workshop-tickets-473376330347



Update from the Dean of Theology

Over the last few years SPPU has been focused on increasing our research activity. A quick scroll of the News and Events section of our website gives a good sense of the many talks, conference papers and publications for both academic and more general audiences.

The *Maynooth Reflects* series is an initiative in which SPPU faculty together with invited contributors address contemporary issues in a manner accessible to a general audience. The first two volumes, on Covid and on End of Life, have already been published and many of us are studiously writing for the third, on Catechesis.

The University recently introduced Honorary Research Fellowships and we currently have two fellows. Dr Alexander O'Hara is a historian who specialises in medieval monasticism and hagiography as well as being Ireland's National Director for Catechetics. Maria Cimperman RCSJ of Catholic Theological Union is spending part of her year sabbatical with SPPU. Her research in synodality, the consecrated life, reconciliation and peacebuilding holds great relevance for Ireland. SPPU is organising several conferences and international symposia, including the *Science and Divine Action* conference in April and an international symposium on *The Future of Systematic Theology* in June.

We are undertaking a major review of some undergraduate programmes to ensure they remain relevant in a rapidly changing landscape. Although most of our students choose a bachelor's degree that combines Theology with Arts subjects, we identify a small but significant cohort who are looking for a more thorough grounding in the Catholic tradition. The most significant element of the revision of the BTh will be the introduction of Primary Text Seminars in which students, throughout their three-year programme, would read and discuss classic works crucial to a fuller grasp of the Catholic intellectual tradition, from Aristotle and Augustine to Julian of Norwich and Dorothy Day.

Dr Jessie Rogers
Dean of Theology



Centre for Mission & Ministries

The Universal Synod on Synodality and Ireland's own Synodal Pathway are putting the spotlight on the calling of all the baptised to participate in the life and mission of the Church.

The question animating our discernment here in Ireland is: "What does God want from the Church in Ireland at this time?" What indeed? It is all too easy to answer that question by putting forward our own visions or preferences. But what we are being called to do is much more exciting - much more radical - than that. We are invited to trust that God is at work and that God is inviting us to work alongside God to bring to reality some of God's dream for Ireland and for the world. That demands openness and curiosity, a willingness to pay attention.

The Centre for Mission and Ministries, rooted in the Catholic tradition and

open to the work of the Spirit of God in the world, seeks to support and develop a wide diversity of callings and giftedness among the people of God. We are forming youth ministers, healthcare chaplains, permanent deacons, liturgists, musicians, and pastoral ministers from Ireland and abroad. And we are doing this in collaboration with an ever-expanding community of partners-in-ministry who provide supervised placement sites for our pastoral students. A concentrated focus on the practical element alongside an emphasis on theological reflection is a real strength of our pastoral programmes. It could not be done without the generosity and commitment of our partners. Collaboration is key!

Aspal & St Patrick's Pontifical University

We are delighted to work with the Adult Faith Development team in the Ossory Diocese to deliver cutting edge digital catechesis right into the hands of people all across Ireland and further afield. Our collaboration allows for people in the comfort of their own homes to engage with the highest quality ongoing faith formation. This new means of digital catechesis - the future of faith learning - has been made possible thanks to the support of the Benefact Trust.

Digital Faith Formation is the future of our helping people to know God in a deeper way. We are delighted in this collaboration to lead people on this journey.

To register for a course simply log onto Aspal.ie and register for the course you want to follow. A member of the Aspal Team will contact you and get you set up on the system so that you can start your learning.

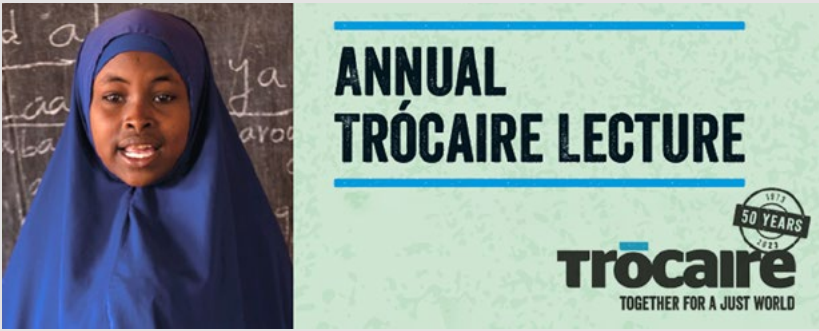
You can follow the course from the Aspal.ie website simply by logging in with the username and password that is given to you at registration or you can download the Aspal App to engage with your learning anywhere and even on the move.



Current Courses include:

- Introducing Synodality
- Formation for Ministers of the Eucharist
- The Kiss of Christ
- Pathways to Ministry
- Pastoral Council training & planning
- Foundations in Youth Ministry
- Advent course - Emmanuel - God with us

For more information and to register for online courses visit aspal.ie



Annual Trócaire Lecture

Dr Ethna Regan CHF (Associate Professor of Theology and Ethics, Dublin City University) and Cardinal Michael F. Czerny (Prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development) will co-deliver the annual lecture: *"How can Catholic Social Teaching help*

us to navigate fragility and lead us to local power and global justice in times of unprecedented crises?"

Eileen Dunne (broadcaster) will act as moderator. The event will take place in person on 7 March in Renehan Hall, St Patrick's College, Maynooth from 7pm - 8.30pm.

Calendar

March 2023

7	Annual Trócaire Lecture	
7	Postgraduate Open Evening - TSI Building North Campus	
26	Choral Concert	

April 2023

18-19	Science and Divine Action Conference	
22	Undergraduate Open Day	
28-29	Analogy, Desire, and Imagination - an international workshop	

June 2023

8-10	The Future of Systematic Theology - an international symposium	
24	Undergraduate Open Day	

Maynooth College welcomes your support.

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

Future of Systematic Theology Symposium

St Patrick's Pontifical University is proud to host an international symposium on 8-10 June, which brings to Maynooth a talented group of Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant theologians to present their latest research in Systematic Theology.

This event is ideal for postgraduate and doctoral students in Systematic Theology seeking new research pathways and potential supervisors at the top of the field. This initiative is being led by Dr Joshua Furnal, Lecturer in Systematic Theology at SPPU.

Joshua Furnal commented: "I'm very pleased that St Patrick's sees itself as a research hub for Systematic Theology, which will invite the next generation of scholars to engage one another in an ecumenical direction".

President of SPPU, Rev Prof Michael Mullaney said: "I'm delighted that we can host this international symposium in Maynooth. It will no doubt provide a catalyst for future theological research that will further position St Patrick's toward meeting the goals outlined in our 2030 vision".

Tickets available to book on Eventbrite: eventbrite.ie/the-future-of-systematic-theology

On-site accommodation available by contacting maynoothcampus.com

Speakers:

- Emmanuel Gabellieri** - Lyon Catholic University
- Ross McCullough** - George Fox University
- Joel Rasmussen** - Oxford University
- Lewis Ayres** - Durham University
- Hjördis Becker-Lindenthal** - Cambridge University
- John Betz** - Notre Dame University
- Boyd Taylor Coolman** - Boston College
- Rebecca L. Copeland** - Boston University
- Paul DeHart** - Vanderbilt University
- Nikolaos Loudovikos** - University Ecclesiastical Academy of Athens
- Medi Ann Volpe** - Durham University & Wesley House Cambridge
- Joshua Furnal** - St Patrick's Pontifical University
- Andrew Meszaros** - St Patrick's Pontifical University
- Philip Ziegler** - Aberdeen University



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