DESIRE TO FLOURISH

ANNUAL REPORT (2016-2017)
of the Faculty of Theology,
Pontifical University, St. Patrick’s College, Maynooth
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Welcome to our new President

The Trustees of Saint Patrick’s College, Maynooth have appointed Reverend Professor Michael Mullaney as President of Saint Patrick’s College, Maynooth for the next three years, with effect from 1 September 2017.

In welcoming the appointment Archbishop Eamon Martin, Chairman of the Trustees, and Chancellor of the Pontifical University said:

“I warmly congratulate and send my prayerful good wishes to Father Michael Mullaney on his appointment to the role of President of Saint Patrick’s College, Maynooth. Saint Patrick’s College, Maynooth is not only home to our national seminary, but its Pontifical University offers courses to almost one thousand students – women and men, full time and part time, resident and non-resident, seminarians and religious from all over the country. The Trustees are firmly committed to the College as a key contributor to the future of the Church in Ireland as it prepares both clergy and lay people to fully exercise their baptismal calling and bring their gifts to the service of God’s people”.

Archbishop Eamonn Martin continued: “I wish to thank Monsignor Hugh Connolly for his dedication and commitment to the staff and community of Saint Patrick’s College over twenty years, including two full terms as President […]

This is a time of opportunity for Saint Patrick’s College as it strengthens its outreach to lay people who wish to study Theology whilst continuing to develop its long tradition of seminary formation. I want to assure the staff and students of the College of remembrance in my prayers”.
2016-17 was a productive year for the Faculty. At management level a new structure, the Council of Studies, was put in place. This body will offer advice to the President in terms of developing policies and making decisions on all aspects of the Pontifical University from staff recruitment, contracts and overall monitoring of the Strategic Plan. It was agreed that the Council of Studies, comprising the President, Dean, Registrar, Financial Officer, Director of Postgraduate Studies and Head of Philosophy, will continue to meet monthly during term.

The Pontifical University is keen to develop and strengthen relations with similar institutions in Europe. Thus, valuable links have been made to date with theology faculties including Würzburg, Tilburg, Salamanca, Leuven and Durham. This year two theologians from Würzburg came to the College for a week as visiting lecturers subsidised by the Erasmus programme and it is hoped that some academic staff from St. Patrick’s will visit our international partner institutions in the current academic year.

At the undergraduate level, a strong marketing strategy was put in place to recruit students to the BATH programme which resulted in just under sixty students registering in October of this year. The challenge of retaining students after first year remains, however, and lecturers on the first year of the programme have worked closely to enhance the delivery and overall coherence of the modules in first year. This, alongside a proposed initiative to offer some scholarships to new students, may help to maintain numbers at their current levels and reduce student dropout or transfer after first year.

At postgraduate level, there has been much work done by the Postgraduate Director and Post Graduate Board to tighten up entrance procedures (including English language standards), preparation of doctoral proposals, and the overall monitoring of student progression on the Masters, Licentiate and Doctoral programmes. A post-graduate student identity is beginning to emerge across the theological disciplines. A highlight in this regard has been the recent Maynooth-Salamanca postgraduate symposium where students of both institutions presented their current research to their peers.

A working group has been established to devise a new Evening Certificate in Theology to begin in September 2018.

Foreign students including those on Erasmus programmes (about a dozen or so) as well as those from various American Colleges continue to enhance our programmes.

Thanks to the fundraising work of the outgoing and incoming Presidents an impressive scholarship fund has developed. The College will advertise scholarships again this year for high calibre post-graduate students to pursue postgraduate research in theology. We also intend to offer some scholarships at undergraduate level and encourage visiting scholars to spend a semester at the college. This first such scholar will arrive from the US next February for the second semester. A Research co-ordinator has been appointed from among the staff whose role it will be to encourage the research activity of the Faculty. A Sabbatical Leave policy for the purposes of research was recently approved by Faculty.

Among the important Faculty events this year was the annual British New Testament conference in the late summer hosted by the Scripture Department with over 150 delegates in attendance. In November the Faculty has organised an international conference on priestly formation with an impressive line-up of speakers. And the Pastoral Department has agreed to start work on a conference on the family to coincide with the World Meeting of Families in Ireland next year.

The Devlin and Corish Lectures in the Autumn will feature the distinguished lecturers: Prof. Amy Jill Levine from Vanderbilt and Prof. Candida Moss from Notre Dame.

A further welcome development is the link between our Faculty of Canon Law and a similar institution in Ottawa which will lead to a collaborative post-graduate programme in Canon Law with some modules being delivered at SPCM.

The website has been revamped with input from across the Faculty and this will go live in late October.

A Performance Appraisal System has been devised in co-operation with a Consulting Company and the President and Dean have held individual meetings with all full-time academic staff. It will be a mechanism to provide feedback to management and staff regarding the implementation or otherwise of agreed goals and tasks.

The Irish Theological Quarterly, the journal of the College, continues to flourish with articles being submitted from across the globe. This is an internationally recognised and peer-reviewed journal published by SAGE in London, and gives an important academic profile to the College.

Prof. Declan Marmion, Dean of the Faculty of Theology
Report of the Director of Post-Graduate Studies

In the academic year (2016–17) the Faculty of Theology offered 22 semester-length postgraduate courses, and six year-long reading courses to 63 postgraduate students at PhD, STL, and Masters level. Of these, 14 graduated at Masters level in November 2017. In the current academic year (2017–18), there are 23 semester-length PG courses on offer, along with four year-long reading courses for 64 postgraduate candidates. It is to be noted again that this formal postgraduate offering—comparable with that of continental Catholic faculties—far outweighs the postgraduate offering of any theological institution in Ireland, or of any Catholic faculty in these islands.

A number of important emphases emerged in Postgraduate Studies in 2016–17. First of all, the Faculty—through the work of the Postgraduate Board—continues to address the challenges of change in the academic, cultural, and ecclesiastical dimensions of the life of the Pontifical University and of its students. One key challenge has been to provide programmes which balance the diversity of the academic endeavour and offering of a large faculty, with the need to have courses which have sufficient enrolments to create a good learning environment and foster a community of learning. To this end, a two new core inter-disciplinary modules have been developed for candidates in the taught Masters programmes. This approach will continue in 2017–18, with a particular focus on the deeper integration of the postgraduate offering in Pastoral Liturgy and Ecclesiastical History.

Given the broad palette of the postgraduate offering, and the diversity of academic background of the postgraduate cohort, it has become important to offer more clearly defined foundations within our programmes. Therefore, the first year of the doctoral programme has been styled the Doctoral Foundation Year. Candidates in the Doctoral Foundation Year must complete four modules to an adequate standard and outline a research area before being permitted to undertake their dissertation. In the STL, the delivery and assessment of reading courses has been regularised, so that common workloads, expectations and assessments may be delivered with greater facility.

Related to the above is the question of admissions and admission standards. The main challenge is to find candidates of promise with the requisite theological formation, whose knowledge of English—both spoken and written—is sufficient to ensure not only that they progress, but that they may partake in the broad academic and cultural of the Maynooth Campus (seminars, colloquia, conferences, access to on-campus research institutes, cultural and inter-cultural initiatives). In the case of the former, a number of qualifying programmes have been introduced (e.g., the Doctoral Qualifying Year) so that candidates may have an opportunity to obtain a qualification of the standard set forth by the Pontifical University. The issue of language requirement is being addressed directly. It does mean that certain promising candidates who are linguistically challenged may have admission delayed or denied.

The past academic year (2016–17) has witnessed a significant raising of awareness, discourse and action, on the inter-relationship of research, publication and teaching. It is to be noted that 10 of the 12 new postgraduate courses, flow from the most recent research and publication of Faculty members. The diversity of that offering—with modules on the sensus fidei, the theology of language, theological hermeneutics, God in the New Testament, among others—witnesses to the breadth, depth and vibrancy of research among members of the Theology Faculty. This enhanced research awareness has been fostered by the bi-monthly Staff and Postgraduate Research Seminar, by the generous financial support by the President and the Maynooth Scholastic Trust for attendance at conferences and towards publication, and by the more overt evaluation of research and publication in the newly introduced Staff Performance Review. An specific concretisation of this can be seen in the forthcoming publication of the papers of the Joint Research Seminar with the Universidad Pontifical de Salamanca on biblical pneumatologies in May 2017, edited by Drs Jeremy Corley and Jessie Rogers, Missed Treasures —Biblical Pneumatologies and their Distinctiveness. This development displays the many dimensions: international academic encounter and engagement (with scholars from Ireland, Spain and Germany), at multiple levels (doctoral candidates and experienced academics), resulting in the publication and diffusion of the research involved.

The appointment of a Research Coordinator from within the Faculty to promote and develop this culture of research and publication is a welcome strategic development. In the year ahead, the matter of raising our postgraduate intake remains the key challenge. It is hoped that strengthening our network of partners in Africa, developing new partnerships in Asia, and attending to admission pathways for people in Ireland will address this issue.

Prof. Séamus O’Connell • Director of Postgraduate Studies
Programme Reports

Higher Diploma in Theological Studies

There were 11 students registered on the Higher Diploma in Theological Studies for the academic year 2016/2017, and one student who undertook the Certificate in Theology. The numbers were down from previous years (we were averaging approximately 25 students per year for the 3 years prior to this). All candidates successfully completed the programme and will be conferred this coming November.

The Extern Examiner's Report was very positive in terms of the quality of teaching, content of the course, and variety of assessment used. Dr. Ethna Regan did recommend that in instances where all students achieve marks within the same marking band that a second internal read of assessments might take place. Otherwise, her comments were positive, and she was happy to sign off on the marks awarded.

Student feedback at the end of the year was very positive. They all appeared to gain a great deal from the course, and were very appreciative of the time and attention that lecturers gave to the programme.

For this current year (2017/18) we have 15 students registered, and a possible 3 additional students who registered late.

Dr. Suzanne Mulligan

Diploma in Catholic Education

Six students undertook the diploma this year from both the primary and post-primary sectors. The courses were taught based on one evening a week and one Saturday a month during term time and one week in Summer School. There were also a number of retreat opportunities during the year, including one organised at Kylemore Abbey, with post-graduate students from the Marino Institute of Education and Mary Immaculate College's Master of Arts in Christian Leadership in Education. We also held a number of community nights with supper, the celebration of the Eucharist and a guest speaker from the sphere of education in Ireland. This was to attempt to maintain the three pillars of the University of Notre Dame’s Alliance for Catholic Education: Professionalism, Spirituality and Community. The Summer School was held again at the Notre Dame and was funded by the Alliance for Catholic Education. This is the last year when any assistance will be received from Notre Dame, as they are diversifying their educational interests in Ireland. The presence, assistance and wise counsel of John O’Malley, the ACE coordinator was missed this year as he has returned to full time post-primary teaching.

Dr. Suzanne Mulligan

Certificates in Catholic Religious Education and Theological Studies

The two certificates are now in their fourth year at St. Patrick's College, Maynooth with approximately 321 students studying for the certificates (257 BEd and 64 PMEd students). The BEd students receive 152 hours of Theology and Religious Education over their four years, with the two modules undertaken as part of the BEd included in the Certificate. The two-year PMEd students receive 70 hours of Theology and Religious Education, which also include the modules completed in the Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education. In his report on the programmes, the external examiner, Professor Robert Davis (University of Glasgow) stated the following, “A singular strength of what I have reviewed on this occasion is the integration of genuine theological ambition with pragmatic educational application. This is not of course straightforward for all students and there are places where formative assessment and comment could in my view nurture student competence more methodically. Nonetheless, the opportunity afforded students to examine the connectivity of their own theological learning and spiritual formation with their professional practice is affirmed by many and results in sincere, reflective and cogently argued answers to often taxing assessment questions.”

Dr John Paul Sheridan

Affiliated Programmes

The Faculty of Theology continues to support many off-campus programmes accredited by the Pontifical University. Of particular note this year was the number of graduates – 25 in total – of the Diploma in Diaconate Studies. In all, Maynooth College works with five centres in overseeing the academic quality of the programme – Sligo, Thurles, Armagh, Belfast and our newest partner Carlow. Our programmes cover a variety of ministries, including spiritual direction (Manresa), youth work (Shekinah) and counselling (ACCORD) and we are proud to work with many partners including the Church of Ireland Diocese of Cashel and Ossory. We are continuing to work with our partners towards new programmes to service of the church and community in faithfulness to our mission and mandate.

Dr Michael Shortall
The Irish Theological Quarterly

The Irish Theological Quarterly is an international and peer-reviewed journal of systematic, moral, and historical theology, and of sacred scripture, founded in the Pontifical University at St Patrick’s College, Maynooth. We are fortunate to be able to publish high quality constructive and critical theological scholarship from across the globe, especially from the English-speaking world.

The journal’s primary emphasis is on classical and contemporary theological issues and it is rooted in the Catholic tradition. It aims to be a place of discussion informed by this tradition, while also encouraging an ecumenical and interfaith exchange in its presentations.

The ITQ carries articles by leading theologians who are international experts in their respective fields and is also a forum for young theologians to publish their research findings. It also furnishes competent book reviews to keep readers informed about the current state of scholarship in theology, biblical studies, church history and cognate disciplines.

We receive many excellent theological articles from around the globe including the USA, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the UK and Ireland. The journal receives support – financial and otherwise – from St. Patrick’s College. The publishers of the journal are SAGE publications based in London and with whom we enjoy an excellent working relationship.

Increasingly with the academic journal publishing there is a move away from traditional print subscriptions to electronic download of journal articles. The ITQ is in an overall healthy state in this regard as some of the performance metrics below indicate. A recent meeting with SAGE in London has helped identify ways in which we can increase the profile of the journal, encourage more active involvement of our advisory board, and offer authors the opportunity to publish their work online prior to the print version (SAGE online first).

ITQ Performance Metrics – 2016-17
Circulation
• 8,336 total circulation in 2016
• 7,987 total circulation in 2017 YTD
Online Usage
• 28,901 full-text downloads in 2016
• 23,446 full-text downloads in 2017 YTD

Dr Declan Marmion, Editor
Annual Lectures and Conferences

This year past witnessed many annual lectures and conferences hosted by or jointly run by St Patrick’s College, Maynooth. They included:

The Annual Monsignor Patrick J. Corish Lecture
Prof Carlos Eire of the Department of History, Yale University delivered the 2016 lecture entitled Ecstasy as polemic: Mysticism and the Catholic Reformation (18 October 2016)

The Paul Walsh Memorial lecture
The Third Annual Paul Walsh Memorial Lecture in cooperation with the Maynooth University School of Celtic Studies took place on Friday 30 June 2017. Entitled Vexilla Regis: From the Banner of St Peter to the Banners of Rome, it was presented by Prof Richard Sharpe of the University of Oxford.

Irish Conference of Medievalists
This conference was hosted by the Department of Early Irish, Maynooth University in association with St Patrick’s College, Maynooth (29 June – 1 July 2017)

In particular the Irish Theological Quarterly sponsored a panel, entitled ‘New Directions in Medieval Religion’.

British New Testament Conference
The Faculty of Theology hosted the 2017 British New Testament Conference (BNTC) from August 30th to September 2nd 2017. Attending were 155 academics and their doctoral candidates from the approximately 40 universities and colleges in the UK where theology or religious studies are offered, along with New Testament scholars from Germany, Holland, Denmark, Estonia, the United States and from Ireland.

As well as four keynote papers by leading international scholars, the delegates had a could participate in one of 9 major seminars in which were offered 53 seminar papers and major reviews.

To balance the intense academic programme, was a varied cultural programme comprising of a scholars’ viewing of the Chester Beatty Papyri, a more general visit to the Book of Kells, specialised visits of the Russell Library, and a choral and voice concert in the College Chapel at which John O’Keeffe, Director of Music at SPCM, organist William Woods, and the Schola Hyberniae vocal ensemble under the direction of Giovanna Feeley, offered the Conference participants a programme of ancient, classical, and contemporary music from their broad church and Gaelic repertoire.

The Conference not only permitted scholars in Ireland to engage with some of the finest New Testament research currently on offer, but also permitted a large international public see all aspects of Maynooth—Pontifical University, the John Paul II and Russell Libraries, the Seminary, as well as campus accommodation and catering services—working together as an international centre of academic discourse and hospitality. The words of thanks from Professor John Barclay, President of the British New Testament Society to the College President, Father Michael Mullaney, capture the achievement: “the setting, the buildings, the chapel, and the concert will live in the memory for a very long time, but above all your sense of shared commitment to the study of Scripture, and the deep spirituality that inhabits the place, made a deep impression on us all.”
International Research Seminar

Maynooth–Salamanca (SPCM– UPSA) Symposium

It was the turn of the St Patrick’s College Maynooth to host the Maynooth-Salamanca Symposium. Entitled Missed Treasures – Biblical Pneumatologies and their Distinctiveness. A near years event, it took place on the 5th May 2017, and was attended by staff and students from both Pontifical Universities and beyond.

- Francisco García Martínez (UPSA)
  The Identity of the Holy Spirit: Some Difficulties and a
- Erik Eynikel (Regensburg)
  Setting a Scene: Pneuma in the LXX
- Jeremy Corley (SPCM)
  The Spirit in the Letter of James?
- Álvaro Pereira Delgado (Granada)
  Eschatological Revealer: The Holy Spirit in 1Cor 2:6–16
- Luke Macnamara OSB (SPCM)
  The Holy Spirit and the Transformation of Saul (Acts 9:3–18)
- Carmen Yebra Rovira (UPSA)
  Pneumatology and Iconography: Biblical Perspectives
- Jessie Rogers (SPCM)
- Jonathan Burroughs (MIC—Thurles)
  The Spirit as God’s Presence and Power in Matthew
- Séamus O’Connell (SPCM)
  Beyond Power: the Holy Spirit and Purity in Mark
- Round Table Discussion: The Variety and Richness of Biblical Pneumatology - The Promise of Pneumatology for Western Theology
Maynooth Research Seminar

The Maynooth Research Seminar is growing from strength to strength. Each year, post-graduates and researchers share their current field of interest. In 206-2017, the following papers were delivered:

Tuesday 11th October 2016
- Timothy Mejida: Obedience in the Letter to the Philippians.
- Nicole O’Riordan: Characterization in the Story of David and Saul

Monday 14th November 2016

Tuesday 6th December 2016

Wednesday 8th February, 2017

Wednesday 22nd February, 2017
- Jessie Rogers: Overcoming Writer’s Block

Wednesday 8th March 2017
- Chris Donnelly: “Paul’s View of Law in the Corinthian Community.”
- Prof. Michael Duggan, St Mary’s University, Calgary: “Rethinking Catholicism in Light of Judaism since Vatican II.”
- Prof. Tobias Winright, St Louis University, USA: “Reflections on the Just War Theory and Mercy”

FRIDAY 24th March, Trinity College Dublin. Annual Shared TCD—SPCM Research Seminar, Loyola Institute
- Prof. Jan Joosten: “Language, Exegesis, and Creative Writing in Chronicles”

Wednesday 29th March, 2017.

Wednesday 26th April, 2017
- Michael Shortall: “My questioning was an attentive spirit”: Reading Book X of the Confessions by St Augustine.”
International Links

New Partnerships

Other initiatives this year include the development of academic links with the University of Wurzburg, Germany. Two theologians from Wurzburg visited the Faculty this year and gave some lectures and seminars; Msgr Connolly was also a visiting professor there during his sabbatical year. It is hoped this can be reciprocated by SPCM Faculty next year.

Another promising initiative is the Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Faculty of Canon Law, St Paul’s University, Ottawa. St Patrick’s College will be an out-reach campus for the residential component of a mostly distance learning programme for the Licentiate in Canon Law over four years. In addition, the theology faculty of Tilburg/Utrecht will deliver its theology programme in English from the beginning of the academic year in 2018. This will create more opportunities for student/ staff exchanges and other academic co-operation.

Erasmus

In Semester I we welcomed eleven Erasmus students to Maynooth. Five were here for the first semester and six for the full year. In the Semester II we welcomed a further four students. Most of the students came from Germany. There were also students from the Czech Republic, France, Finland and Switzerland. Of the German students, two were seminarians on their Frei-Yahren.

In the opposite direction there was one BATH student in Leuven for the full academic year.

Erasmus agreements have been signed with the Technische Universität Dortmund (Germany) and the Catholic University of Ružomberok (Slovakia), with the Faculty of Theology at the University of Paderborn and with the Catholic Theological Faculty at Charles University in Prague (Czech Republic). This brings to thirty the total number of Universities with whom St. Patrick’s College, Maynooth has learning agreements.

In addition to their presence and participation in class there were a number of social gatherings which they attended during the year. Many were regular attendees at the Thursday evening community mass and opinion would suggest that they enjoyed their time here on campus. The work of Ms. Barbara Mahon in the Admissions Office has been invaluable in assisting the Erasmus students and dealing with their various needs and concerns.

Dr John-Paul Sheridan, Erasmus Coordinator
Visiting Lecturers and Scholars

During the year, we are honoured to host the following guest lecturers:

- Dr Erik Eynikel (Regensburg) visited the college as part of the Erasmus programme and was present at the Maynooth-Salamanca symposium in May 2017 where he presented a paper entitled “Missed Treasures—the Biblical Pneumatologies and their Distinctiveness”.

Honorary Awards

In celebration of the Sisters of Mercy

On Monday, 3rd of October, St. Patrick’s College, Maynooth, awarded an honorary doctorate to the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy. As Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy, Irish Jesuit Tom Casey was there.

Maynooth pulled out all the stops to celebrate the Sisters of Mercy: special lectures, a guided tour of the college chapel, sung evening prayer with a full choir, a procession of lecturers in academic gowns, and a sit-down dinner for the hundreds of guests who attended the celebration.

Catherine McAuley, the founder of the Sisters of Mercy, came across as an Irish version of Teresa of Avila, a woman of vision and conviction, a genuine “Year of Mercy” woman, practicing the corporal and spiritual works of mercy long before she even set up her congregation: “God knows that I would rather go hungry than that the poor should suffer want”. To hear about the early history of the Mercy Sisters was fascinating: the astonishing growth of the Sisters of Mercy throughout the English-speaking world in the 19th century is every bit as impressive as the growth of the Jesuits in the 16th century. In 1854, just over a dozen years after Catherine McAuley’s death, five Sisters of mercy sailed off – at a day's notice – to care for soldiers in the Crimean War. They had such an impact that Florence Nightingale, not easily swayed, became one of their greatest admirers. The following decade Sisters of Mercy tended the wounded during the American Civil War. “Veritable angels of mercy” were the words President Abraham Lincoln applied to them, and as a result he specially commissioned a painting of a Sister of Mercy.

It was heartening to celebrate their special charism of mercy as this Extraordinary Year of Mercy draws to a close.
Publications, International Conference Papers and Presentations, Ecclesial Service

Prof. Salvador Ryan

Edited Works


Edited Works about to go to press

- Marriage and the Irish: a Miscellany (Dublin: Wordwell, going to press late October, 2017)
- The Cultural Reception of the Bible: Explorations in Theology, Literature and the Arts (Dublin: Four Courts Press, going to press early November 2017)

Articles and Book Chapters

- ‘Remembering the Reformation, 1517: Then and Now’, Doctrine and Life (October, 2017).

Reviews

- Robin Harris, Stepinac: His Life and Times (Leominster: Gracewing, 2016), The Furrow (forthcoming)
- Donnchadh Ó Corráin, The Irish Church, its Reform and the English Invasion (Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2017), The Irish Review (forthcoming)

Magazine / Newspaper Articles:

- ‘Pope Paul III: Trent’s Unlikely Reformer’, Reality (September, 2017)
- ‘There’s something about Mary: Our Lady as Problem-Solver’, Intercom (June, 2017)
- ‘The Irish tradition of Vernacular Theology’, The Irish Catholic (16 March 2017)
- ‘Remembering the Historical Patrick’, National Catholic Register (17 March 2017)
- ‘Invitation offered on Ash Wednesday not just verbal, it is tangible’, Irish Times (1 March 2017)
- ‘Commemorating Five Hundred Years of the Reformation’, Reality (October, 2016)
- ‘Martin Luther: 500th Anniversary: Medicine for the Church?’, Intercom (October, 2016)
- ‘From Martyrs to Women: the Changing Face of Sainthood’, Irish Independent (10 September 2016)

Conference Papers / Guest Lectures:

- ‘How should we remember the Reformation?’, Ecumenical Bible Week lecture, Holy Cross Diocesan Centre, 9 June 2017.
- ‘East meets West in a 13th century Irish Franciscan exempla collection’, paper delivered at the Norwegian Institute, Athens, Greece, 9 May 2017.
- Opening Address for series of lectures in Renehan Hall to mark the conferring of an Honorary Doctorate Honoris Causa to the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy. St Patrick’s College, Maynooth, 3 October 2016.

Conferences / Guest Lectures Organised

- Co-organiser of international conference on Models of Priestly Formation, to be held at Maynooth in November 2017.
- Co-organiser of the Irish Conference of Medievalists, 29 June – 1 July 2017, hosted by Maynooth University in association with St Patrick’s College, Maynooth.

Media Contributions:

- Guest on Today FM’s The Last Word, Ash Wednesday, 1 March 2017.

Additional Professional Service:

- Member of Editorial Advisory Board, British Catholic History (Cambridge University Press).
- Review Editor of Irish Theological Quarterly.
- Member of International Advisory Board, Journal of Baroque Studies.
- Co-patron, Archivium Hibernicum
- Treasurer, Irish Catholic Historical Society.
Publications, International Conference Papers and Presentations, Ecclesial Service

Dr Jeremy Corley
Conference presentations

Published articles

Dr Luke Macnamara OSB
Invited Lectures / Presentations
- “A Study of the Community Rule (Qumran 1QS) and a Comparison with the Rule of Benedict”. Submitted to the American Benedictine Review – currently in Peer Review process.

Publications
Articles

Reviews

Reviews submitted for the Irish Theological Quarterly

Review submitted for the Catholic Biblical Quarterly

Retreats
- St Andrew's Abbey, Valyermo, California. June 2017.

Pastoral outreach
- Arranged and participated in a series of Saturday lectures at Kylemore Abbey in the Summers of 2016 and 2017 at which several doctoral candidates presented.
- Arranged and participated in a series of Sunday lectures in Advent 2016 and Lent 2017 at Glenstal Abbey.
Publications, International Conference Papers and Presentations, Ecclesial Service

Prof Michael A Conway


Dr Kevin O’ Gorman SMA

Publications

- ‘Betrayal and Blessing’, *Spirituality*, 23 (September-October 2017), 301-303.

Membership

- Member of Council for Healthcare, Irish Episcopal Conference

Presentations

- To Clergy of Kilmore Diocese, October 2016 – 3 Talks on *Amoris Laetitia*
- To Clergy of Archdiocese of Cashel & Emly, November 2016 – Talk on *Amoris Laetitia*
- Two Workshops on ‘Sport, Virtue & Life’, Knock Novena, August 2017.

Dr Andrew Meszaros

Monographs


Dr Andrew Meszaros

Monographs


- Book Launch: 31 October 2016 at Blackfriars Hall, Oxford, UK.

Articles


Reviews


Lectures (by invitation) and Presentations

- “What makes the Church prophetic?” Theology Research Seminar, SPCM, 6 Dec 2016.
- “Twentieth-Century Catholic Debates on a Theology of History.” Catholic Theology Research Seminar, Durham University, 8 Nov 2016.
Publications, International Conference Papers and Presentations, Ecclesial Service

Dr Aoife McGrath

Publications:

Ecclesial Service:
- Light through the Cracks: Life in Local Communities. Knock Novena. 20 August 2017. Workshops at 12noon and 6pm, and 8.30pm Mass.
- Becoming Sensitive to the Spiritual: A Workshop on Pastoral Care in the Context of Accord’s Catholic Marriage Care Service. The Glenroyal Hotel, Maynooth. 16 September 2017. Eight hours Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for Marriage Preparation Facilitators and Marriage & Relationship Counsellors.

Annual/Bi-annual Lectures and Conferences:
- Professional Ethics in Pastoral Ministry: The Virtue of Authenticity. Association of Teachers of Moral Theology, Leeds. 4-6 November 2016. [Paper.]
- The National Maternity Hospital, Ireland: Ownership & Clinical Independence. Association of Teachers of Moral Theology, Leeds. 5-7 May 2017. [Case Study.]
- The Future of Catholic Theological Ethics Conference. Heythrop College, University of London. 20 January 2017. [Delegate.]

Prof Declan Marmion

Book

Article

Book Review

Public Lecture
- ‘From Foe to Friend: Martin Luther’s Legacy in Catholic Perspective.’ Lecture (Patrick Finn Lecture Series) at St. Mary’s Church, Haddington Road, Dublin 4 on 23 March 2017. To be published in The Furrow (October 2017)

Dr Noel O’Sullivan

Publications
- ‘I Believe in God,’ The Furrow (June, 2017), 323-327.

Lectures/Retreats
- Guest speaker at International Conference of Good Shepherd Sisters, Angers, France. June 2017
- Guest Speaker at Intercession for Priests, Dublin, August, 2014
- Gave workshop on priesthood to students and staff of the Irish College, Rome, November, 2011
- Gave workshop to the priests of the Derry diocese on ‘Eucharist and Parish,’ September, 2010

Other Current Responsibilities
- Dean of the Diocese of Cork and Member of the Cathedral Chapter
- On Board of the Honan Trust in University College Cork (UCC)
- On Chaplaincy Advisory Board of UCC
Publications, International Conference Papers and Presentations, Ecclesial Service

Prof Liam Tracey
Publications, Conference Papers and Presentations
- ‘Sundays of Advent 1-4’, In Scripture in Church September 2017.
- The Sacrament of Baptism, Annual Day for Artists and Architects, St Patrick’s College Maynooth, 9 February 2017.
- The Liturgical Role of a Deacon, Annual Gathering for Permanent Deacons, St Patrick’s College Maynooth, June 2017.
- The Pentecostal Deficiency in our Worship, Glentstal Abbey Liturgical Conference, October 2017.
- Book Proposal Reviewer, Brepols, Bloomsbury
- Review Editor, Irish Theological Quarterly

Ecclesial Service
- Council for Liturgy
- Working Group on the Rite of Christian Marriage
- Workshop on Preaching for the Diocese of Kilmore October 2016

Conferences attended
- Association of Irish medievalists, MU, June 2016
- Societas Liturgica, Louvain, August 2016
- BNTC, Maynooth, August 2016

Dr Jessie Rogers
Publications

Invited Talks and Conference Papers
- “Give us this day the bread of the age to come”, UPSA-SPCM Colloquium, Maynooth, 5 May 2017.
- “Who is my neighbour? Insiders and outsiders in the Bible” Theology In the Public Square Series, Waterford Institute of Technology, 25 Apr 2017

Dr Michael Shortall
Publications
- Ossory Times, “Give me a Crash Course …” (various)

Presentation

Ecclesial Service
- Chair of the Irish Theological Association
- Secretary to the Bioethics Consultative Committee of the Irish Episcopal Conference
- Member of the Board of Clergy, Dublin Diocese
Congratulations goes to Dr Aisling Mulhern on her recent appointment to St Angela’s College, Sligo. Dr Mulhern graduated from St Patrick’s College Maynooth in 2016.

- The BA in Divinity – Third Year Prize: Liam O’Donovan
- The BA in Divinity – Second Year Prize: Yanbo Chen & Stefano Taddei
- The BA in Divinity - First Year Prize: Ronan Sheehan
- The BA in Theology & Arts – Third Year: Patrick Wilson
- The BA in Theology & Arts – Second Year: Sarah Doran & Sean Tunney
- The BA in Theology & Arts – First Year: Ricky Sarpong
- The Dominican Sisters Award for Religious Education: Marie Casey & Katie Kavanagh
- The Archbishop McNamara Memorial Prize – Higher Diploma in Pastoral Theology: John Harney
- The Higher Diploma in Theological Studies Prize: Shauna Dowd
- The Pontifical Mission Societies Prize: Christopher Quinn
- The Fitzpatrick Prize in Canon Law – Third Divinity: Liam O’Donovan
- The Cunningham Prize in Canon Law – Second Divinity: Yanbo Chen & Carlos Esteban Rojo
- The Kenney Prize in Ecclesiastical History: Ronan Sheehan
- The Marsh Prize (Third Year BATh Systematic Theology): Patrick Wilson
- The Huxley Biblical Greek Prize: Ronan Sheehan
- The Huxley Patristics Prize: Shane Costelloe
- The Daughters of Charity Prize (Diploma in Philosophy & Arts): Antony Bibin Kurian
The following students have been awarded scholarships and awards. We are grateful to our benefactors for their support.

- St Patrick’s College Scholarship: Maria O’Keeffe
- Mulvihill Scholarship: Agnes Agborn
- Loughlin Sweeney Scholarship: Ann Marie Guinee
- Maynooth Union Scholarship: Stephen Giblin
In Memoriam

Rev Monsignor Joseph Spelman and Rev Monsignor Padraig Ó Fiannachta RIP
Maynooth bade a final farewell to two renowned former professors within the space of just a month:

Rev Monsignor Joseph Spelman, Pastor Emeritus. Parish of Kilvarna, Collooney and formerly of Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon departed this life on Friday June 24th. He was the first Professor of Mathematical Physics in St Patrick’s College.

Priest, Professor, Poet and Pastor Emeritus Pádraig Ó Fiannachta died on Friday the 15th of July. Born in Ballymore in County Kerry, Ó Fiannachta was ordained at Maynooth in 1953. He was appointed Professor of early Irish at Maynooth in 1960, followed by Modern Irish in 1982. He taught at the College and subsequently the University until his retirement in 1992, when he returned to Kerry to serve as parish priest in An Daingean
Ar Dheis Dé Go Raibh Siad
Desire to Flourish: Overview

**Mission:** Drawing on its Catholic tradition, St Patrick's College, Maynooth is committed to the highest level in teaching and learning, research, and publication. As an institution it promotes the intellectual, human, and professional development of its students within an environment that respects autonomy and diversity.

The Faculty of Theology, further, strives to communicate, to conserve, and to innovate from within the Christian theological tradition and so contribute creatively to the wider church, society, and culture.

Therefore we will:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Enrich our Identity</th>
<th>2. Enhance Student Experience</th>
<th>3. Increase Staff Capacity</th>
<th>4. Augment Staff Capacity</th>
<th>5 Build Relationships with Partners</th>
<th>6. Strengthen Governance and Infrastructure</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Celebrate and deepen a distinctive identity that is rooted in our mission and Catholic tradition, and practiced in an inclusive and supportive community</td>
<td>Provide a helpful and challenging learning environment in which our students become reflective, skilled and confident graduates</td>
<td>Increase recruitment, retention and progression of students of diverse backgrounds</td>
<td>Enhance staff capacity in areas of research related to our mission, pedagogical best practice, administrative effectiveness, and wellbeing</td>
<td>Foster partnerships, nationally and internationally, with other higher education institutions, statutory bodies, ecclesial and other relevant organisations and individuals who share our mission</td>
<td>Review and propose sustainable means to strengthen organisation, infrastructure and funding</td>
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**Invite**

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<th>1.1 Into an inclusive community rooted in a Catholic identity</th>
<th>2.1 Into a personable learning environment, especially in first year</th>
<th>3.1 Potential new cohorts</th>
<th>4.1 Qualified, skilled and diverse staff</th>
<th>5.1 Collaboration with HEIs</th>
<th>6.1 Supplementary skills and experience into governance</th>
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**Dialogue**

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<th>1.2 With other Christian and religious traditions, society and culture</th>
<th>2.2 Towards fuller participation of students</th>
<th>3.2 Towards identify collaborative opportunities</th>
<th>4.2 Within academic disciplines</th>
<th>5.2 With organisations that share our mission</th>
<th>6.2 Towards a review of corporate governance</th>
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**Effect**

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<th>1.3 Contributions to church, society and culture</th>
<th>2.3 Innovations that foster graduate attributes</th>
<th>3.3 New programmes and flexible modes of delivery</th>
<th>4.3 Professional development</th>
<th>5.3 Sustainable agreements</th>
<th>6.3 New internal organisational structures</th>
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**Value**

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<th>1.4 The liturgical and spiritual life of the community</th>
<th>2.4 Highest standards in teaching and learning</th>
<th>3.4 Progression, especially of postgraduates</th>
<th>4.4. Staff well-being</th>
<th>5.4 Our alumni</th>
<th>6.4 A resourced administration and infrastructure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Promote**

| 1.5 Visibility | 2.5 Student achievement | 3.5 Targeted initiatives and marketing | 4.5 Research culture | 5.5. Community and academic engagement | 6.5 Financial Stability |
Strategic Priorities for 2017-2018

The following Strategic Priorities will guide the coming academic year (2017-2018)

- **Increase Student Recruitment**
  - Marketing of international students (strengths include relatively low costs, English speaking, and experience of Irish culture)
  - Not to remain passive in the face of declining vocations.
  - Identification of New Cohorts / Programmes Eg The Certificate in Theology

- **Marketing**
  - A unified plan of action, with identified roles of responsibility, is required
  - Marketing needs to be seen as more than provision of information. Need to identify the deeper psychology that would enhance SPCM as attractive – a story that draws in, the word of mouth, the personal experience etc.

- **Retention**
  - Fears about rate of transfer from Year 1 to Year 2. Importance of the First Year academic and personal experience. Resource support of the new subcommittee addressing first year orientation and transition into higher education

- **Connecting with Alumni**
  - Utilising the Website in a significant way
  - Attempt to source where they are
  - Utilising their knowledge to shape the curriculum to facilitate the future needs of our students

- **Appointment of Research Coordinator**
  - To provide an overview and be supportive of projects and potential synergies
  - Staff Development and IT skills
  - Teaching and Online Knowledge
  - Consideration of workload and staff well being

- **Institutional Profile**
  - Utilising the website for more active presentation of the events that take place
  - Supporting staff to be active in the public sphere / media
  - Raising the profile of how the Faculty serves the church

- **Containing Costs**
  - Concerns were raised about deficits. It is important to keep costs down, across the various parts of SPCM, as revenue streams tighten.

Agreed the Faculty Away Day, May16th 2017