



# *Words & Deeds*

A magazine of the Presentation Sisters Union—North East Ireland

January to March 2021

Volume 1 : Issue 1

- New Life!
- 'Heart-beat' in the Inner City!
- Shafts of Light.!
- A Life Lived on the Razor's Edge!
- The Lantern never goes out!
- We will keep smiling thro'!

**Easter Blessings ...**



# Inside this issue

<b>Foreword</b> .....	<b>03</b>
<b>New Life</b> .....	<b>04</b>
It has opened my eyes—Sr. Marion O’Raw	
<b>Shafts of Light</b> .....	<b>06</b>
‘Heart-beat’ in the inner city—Sr. Pauline McGaley	
<b>‘Just Ways’</b> .....	<b>10</b>
One person can’t do everything—Sr. Angela Dolan	
From the Inter-provincial Justice Desk—Mr. Brian O’Toole	
Racism, Inequality & Inclusion—NEP JPIC Justice Day	
<b>Nano Today</b> .....	<b>15</b>
The Postulator’s Diary—Sr. Anne Lyons	
<b>Our Global Footprint</b> .....	<b>17</b>
Scoil Chríost Rí & Junk Kouture—Ms. Jayne Louise Kelly	
<b>Friends of Nano–Presentation People</b> .....	<b>19</b>
The lantern never goes out—Ms. Anne Dwyer	
<b>Conversations</b> .....	<b>21</b>
We will keep smiling through—Ms. Bernadette Fitzgerald	
<b>Collaborations &amp; conversations</b> .....	<b>23</b>
A new book on the life of Nano Nagle—Sr. Anne Lyons	
Unheard voices about to be heard—Sr. Imelda Wickham	
A long-standing mission to the poor—Prof. Deirdre Raftery	
Nagle & Bishop Francis Moylan—Ms. Victoria Pearson	
Podcasts from Nano Nagle Place	
The AREFD Research Project—Dr. Bernadette Sweetman	
An MA in Christian Leadership & Education—MIC UL	
<b>Still Space</b> .....	<b>26</b>
The Dream of Vocation—World Day of Vocations Message	
Thank you—An Easter Reflection—Ana Lisa de Jong	
<b>Back Page</b> .....	<b>28</b>

# Foreword



## Called to sow seeds of hope ...



This first edition of Words and Deeds is a celebration of life and mission in our North East Province community. Despite the 'dark clouds' of the past months the shafts of light have broken through and the promise of Resurrection is at hand.

Pope Francis reminds us *'that hope speaks to us of something deeply rooted in every human heart'*. Perhaps, we have had to dig deep to uncover this hope of late, but when we do, we find that hope is bold and can make life more beautiful and worthwhile.

The stories of ministry to those on the margins of society (as shared in this magazine) are truly beacons of hope. As Sisters, we are journeying as collaborators with others who share our passion for justice for humanity, and for our planet. Presentation people continue to be inspired by Nano's example of selfless dedication to those in need. Our young people are using their creativity to fight the battle for our endangered environment.

As we come to celebrate the greatest season of hope, that is Easter, we are called to continue to sow seeds of hope wherever we are and to celebrate our oneness with each other and with all of life.

**Christ is risen. Hallelujah! May the miracle of Easter bring you renewed hope, faith, love and joy.**

**Happy Easter.**

Anne Marie Concepta  
Grace Lillie Mary  
Frances

### List of Contributors to this issue:

The Provincial Leadership Team, Imelda Wickham pbvm, Dr. Bernadette Sweetman (DCU MDCCE), Prof. Deirdre Raftery (UCD School of Education), Victoria Pearson (UCC), Brian O'Toole (Director, Inter-provincial Justice Desk), Marion O'Raw pbvm, Anne Lyons pbvm, Jane Louise Kelly & Scoil Christ Ri JK Team, Pauline McGaley pbvm (Director of Warrant Community Educ, Ctr.), Bernadette Fitzgerald (Principal of St. Joseph's College, Lucan), Anne Dwyer (Project Officer, FON Ireland), Angela Dolan pbvm, Margaret Agnew (Communications Officer, NEP).



# New Life



## It has opened my eyes

As we live together in solidarity locally and globally as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the inequalities and vulnerabilities of ‘those kept poor’ in our societies have never been more evident. But they cannot all be blamed on Covid -19. In the words of Pope Francis: *“This is not a time for indifference, because the whole world is suffering and needs to be united in facing the pandemic. May these, the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters living in the cities and peripheries of every part of the world, not be abandoned”*. **Pope Francis, Easter Sunday 12th April, 2020 – Rome.**

**Sr. Marion O’Raw has been based in the Dublin Office of the Peter McVerry Trust (PMVT) since 2017. Here she shares the insight that this experience has given her into the work of the Trust and the extent of Homelessness experienced by those that the Trust supports on a daily basis.**

Working with the Peter McVerry Trust (PMVT) has opened my eyes to some of the difficulties facing those who are homeless and those who are working with them. Some of the homeless persons that I have got to know have been made homeless since the financial crash in 2008, for others it is the result of substance misuse and addiction to drugs and/or alcohol.

The services provided by the Trust include information and advice, prevention, education, homeless services, drug treatment, under 18 and aftercare provisions, and regional services countrywide

No one is turned away by the Trust and each person is treated with respect. Staff show a lot of compassion and no one is

ever judged. In 2020, the charity worked with **over 7,600 people and was active in 28 local authorities across Ireland**. Indeed, the Trust is responsible for 61% of the services delivered under the National Housing First Implementation Plan.

### About Housing First

The Housing First model aims to provide a person sleeping rough, or someone who has been long-term homeless, with their own secure accommodation as well as access to intensive and specialised support services. Housing First is a participant-centred model that focuses on ending homelessness for people who have been homeless for many years or who are particularly vulnerable.

Some of the key principles of the Housing First model are:

- Housing as a basic human right
- Warmth, respect, and compassion
- Commitment to the participant
- Scattered site housing

# New Life

- Separation of housing and services issues/ requirements
- Self-determination and choice
- Recovery orientation
- Harm reduction

Housing First participants all have ready made, time unlimited access to support and treatment services, for as long as the participant requires.

All the funds received by the Trust are used to provide much needed services and materials for the homeless.

## A compassionate dedicated service

Since working behind the scenes in PMVT I have seen at first hand how dedicated and supportive all the workers are to those in need. Key Workers support individuals, single parents or families. It can be challenging at times when they are getting verbal abuse over the phone or in person from those they support. However, this is due to the fact that the majority of individuals that are supported by the PMVT have a lot of personal issues due to substance misuse and/ or addiction. Others have suffered various forms of abuse within their family and have felt that they had no choice but to leave home, ending up on the streets. Some may even have been asked to leave because of their use of alcohol/drugs.

The staff are available '24/7', 365 days a year, and there are always a number of staff 'on call' in case of emergencies. On some occasions they have been called out because someone had attempted to commit suicide or has overdosed by accident, and arrangements are then put in place to provide extra support for these individuals.

In bad weather conditions, every available space is used for the provision of extra beds and meals, and the outreach staff go out onto the streets to encourage individuals to come into the centres for their own protection.

Christmas can be a particularly challenging time for many people, and in the Trust, support staff contact each tenant to ensure that they have everything they need for Christmas, and that the children will have presents on the day.

The staff are always available to help out where they can and are also a great support for one another in the work they undertake.

**Sr. Marion O'Raw**

## Dispelling a few myths

**Most homeless people do not have an addiction problem or a serious mental health problem.** This sub-group frequently get media attention. The majority of people who are homeless today become homeless as a result of eviction from the private rented sector, either because they could no longer afford the increasing rents or the landlord says they are selling the house. Very few of them have an addiction or mental health problem. The cause of most homelessness today is poverty, an inability to afford their own accommodation.

**Homelessness is not an inevitable consequence of economic growth.** Homelessness is a consequence of government housing policy failure over the past 20 or so years. The lack of council housing and the failure to regulate the private rented sector are major causes of homelessness.

**The government is not doing all it can to address homelessness.** Hostels and family hubs do not solve homelessness; they address rough sleeping. Hostels and family hubs provide off-the-street temporary accommodation; *they only manage homelessness*, they do not solve it. But they give the impression that government is addressing homelessness, which is politically important for governments.

*"Affordable, secure housing for everyone is considered a basic human right in 85 countries but not in Ireland! A person, even a family with children, who are homeless have no legal right to shelter, never mind a home. If we were to insert a "right to housing" in the constitution, which is supported by a vast majority of the population, it would put an onus on governments to give housing a priority which it does not presently have". (Peter McVerry, SJ—March 10, 2021)*

See Full article : [Myths about homelessness - Jesuit Centre for Faith & Justice \(JCFJ\)](#)



# Shafts of Light



## 'Heart-beat' in the inner city

**Warrenmount Community Education Centre** celebrated a landmark twenty-fifth birthday in 2020 having first opened its doors in 1995. Reaching the impressive and vibrant age of twenty-five is no mean achievement.

Sr. Pauline McGaley, Director of the Centre has guided its responsive and developmental journey from the very start. It is true to say that Warrenmount Community Education Centre is exactly what it says: *'a community education centre in the heart of the inner city'*.

However, it is also a vital 'heart-beat' for the inner-city community around it, as well as for the student community who engage with the range of educational services it provides.

I was fortunate to be able to catch up with Pauline and to be able to share the evolving and responsive life of the Centre in these times. In this interview Pauline sheds light on this 25-year-old lifeline that is gearing up to reach a vibrant 'old age'.

*The Centre is located in the Liberties area of Dublin 8, close to Newmarket Square and St. Patrick's Cathedral.*

See [Mission Statement | Warrenmount Community Education Centre \(warrenmountcentre.ie\)](#)

### **Pauline, how important is community to the life of the Centre?**

I believe that Community is the essence of 'community education'. The reality of community is a bit like a Venn Diagram, where communities overlap each other - a community within a community, that is then linked with another community. Community and relationships go hand in hand.

In real life, we relate to some people and groups better than others, and maybe relate to one or two people who actually understand and accept us when we find it hard to accept ourselves. That is a gift. Relationship and community are to me two sides of the one coin in terms of the variety of communities that we form part of, and who we are within those various settings.

It is community that holds us together, and the generational mix supports dialogue and difference. Community Education supports generational difference and cultural diversity, which in turn expands our thinking and understanding of others.

During the last year, when everything went online, the missing link of meeting with each other in a physical space was, without doubt, the aspect most missed by our student groups and individuals.

**Note:** All images used in this article are courtesy of the Warrenmount Education Centre's Website.

# Shafts of Light

**You have spoken about community and the value of the inter-generational dimension. You are actually building and supporting community in the Education Centre. Can you say something about that transitional journey, where one community informs and supports the other?**

In the past 25 years, my own personal transition, if you like, has been around what has been needed in the Centre. We know that as a Centre we have achieved recognition in our formal accredited educational programmes. Achieving this has meant a lot of compliance with requirements. It takes a great deal of work, much energy and a lot of time to ensure we maintain this. However, if in the midst of this compliance process we forget people's names or we do not bother to know our students by name, we have lost something essential.

For a Community Education Centre like ours, it needs to be big enough to be viable and small enough to know the people who are coming. And that is a hard balance to maintain.

Over the past five to six years, with the help of Lia Clarkson (our Centre Manager) we have completed much of the work that is required to be compliant with the accrediting body, Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI), while our Tutors spend an enormous amount of time ensuring that the material on the programmes is relevant to the learners. However, the gap I still see, or rather, the *'shaft of light'* I want to move towards in these times is exactly that of community.

I see it as the essential need, when we eventually get back together (post Covid-19). We need to celebrate community.

To do this, it will be essential that we, as a Centre, and also as individuals, start to reformulate what has been important in this 2020/2021 experience that we are, and have been living through. Hopefully by the end of 2021 we will be back together physically. However, we need to keep asking the question of each person – *"but what is community for you now"*?

That sense of community is something that people are going to be hungry for. But what

exactly is that need and what does *'being community'* really mean after this? We need to understand this anew, from the perspective of our students, if we are to support them going forward.

**Do you see people's experience of living through this pandemic impacting on the support, growth, and development of this learning community into the future?**

I think that the greatest tragedy of this time would be if we just scanned through it all. We need to *'press pause'*, and talk to each other about it. We need to reflect on this past year and its impact, or we lose the value of it and may fail to learn from it.

I believe that we actually have to take time to reflect, and we have already begun that reflection process with a group of women I work with. Enabling them to share how they are *'in their own skin'* today, is really part of it. It is essential to be able to sift through the experience of the past year and our current life experiences.

The big question is, have we learnt from the pain of it all? It can be very hard to have an understanding of the past because it is all so personal, and we are all so coloured by a range of experiences.

When the Centre first opened, 25 years ago, the first group of women that came never had the opportunity of free secondary education. They were highly intelligent women who wanted the chance to get *'that bit of paper'* that they had made sure that their children had achieved. I remember the palpable excitement that they were going to get a certificate – even if they were only doing one subject in the 'Junior Cert', for them it was – *'I'm doing my Junior'!!* It was

---

***"When Warrenmount Centre opened its doors in 1995 it was not possible to visualise or consider what it might look like twenty and more years later.***

***From small beginnings it now holds its place in the local area, nationally and internationally, as a model of good practice in community education".***

# Shafts of Light

## Ctd from previous page .../

'mega' for them. Getting a job once you reached 14 or 15 was the expectation in the 60's.

In relation to the life of the Centre (post Covid-19) I really believe that we need to be the facilitators that help people find out for themselves what they want to try and what they most need to move ahead with in their lives.

**Pauline, the nature of the work you do is all about being responsive, creative, and supportive to the needs of those who come to the Education Centre – what challenges do you see as part of this process once you 'open up' again?**

The need to move people from the virtual, back to an actual experience of community will be first priority. There is this desire within each of us to have what we think we do not have at the moment. I would hope we would come back together changed, and I do think that it is a really big challenge to provide opportunities for people to sift through what they have learnt from all of this. I don't think it has to be very heavy thinking, but more about *"well I appreciate more now I've missed this more than anything or, I didn't miss this and maybe I should have ..."*. It would be so easy to set things up for what we think people will need, but I believe we also have to prepare for the unexpected outcome.

For me – that is the 'shaft of light' for everybody, to enable us to find that sliver of light that says this is the way I want to go.

**Has the student demographic changed with Covid-19 – has there been a shift in profile?**

I think it is much the same as it was before – except recently we had somebody from Limerick, somebody from Cork – somebody from Brazil, saying I am expecting to come to Ireland next year can I do my language from here now?

We are not a language school – we are trying to facilitate community regardless of who they are, and that has not changed over time.

The language students generally, have no difficulty online as they are used to

trying to connect with their own families far away. They may be trying to work from a phone when they really need a laptop. But no, our language classes would be much the same.

Last week we had 300 people doing courses online – not 300 individuals as you may have some doing a few different classes – say about 230 people. The people that faced more challenges were those who had been coming to the Centre quite happily and then had to change to online, because that is not what they would like to be doing, and it is not what they want to be doing. Meeting up with people is why they come. And that is the community, which for me is the essence of the Centre.

Educational opportunities can be found in so many places. A previous Director of the Education and Training Board (ETB) (now retired) said: *"What you provide in Warrenmount, and in places like it, is invaluable"*. When we check out how people found the Centre it is almost always through 'word of mouth'. And that has not changed even though they now have to go online to register. This is yet another example of the power of community groups.

So, I think that what I notice most in the kind of changeover process we have lived through during the past twelve months, is that there are two groups of people. There is the group who have registered online and they are comfortable working online. And then there are those who registered last March, and then all of a sudden found that they now have to be online. However, I can see a new glow of confidence in the group as they see the progress they have made. *"Your mic is on there Mary ... Oh sorry, I'll mute.. !!!"* I just love that image of seeing people sitting up with the sense that they have arrived in the virtual world! They are a very special group of people.

But the other thing that is really fantastic for us at the Centre is that when we were twenty years of age (five years ago) we received a sum of money as a gift. We bought Chrome Books. This has meant that all our learners have been using chrome books in the classroom for the past five years and we have been working with Google Classroom. I do not think that we could have managed to transfer over to online operations so



# Shafts of Light



Image: Pauline (right) with, Liz, Anne and Cathy.  
(Coffee Morning for Hospice)

smoothly without this experience. In hindsight it was a great blessing.

## How do you keep that passion and creativity going for 25 years?

The passion and creativity is kept alive through people. What kept Nano Nagle going? It was people. She did her praying in the middle of the night. She didn't reduce her time going around the hovels of Cork because she knew she needed to pray. She just took it from sleep time. *(Aside - I don't do that. Everyone needs me to have 8 hours sleep!!)*

*"One of the highlights of the year is the 'Cert Day'. The person that says "This is my first cert" - I never got a cert before in my life", that is the person that keeps alive our passion for education".*

A fellow came to our door in the early years of the Centre and asked "Is this where you are doing the literacy"? And I said – yes, come on in. He was sent by Social Welfare and was in his forties at this stage. He actually thought that he would be sitting in a class with small children. I just thought he was so brave. Who made sure he came? It was his mother. When he was getting his first cert, his mother sent his sister to make sure he came. That sounds like 100 years ago – and it isn't. It is over 20 years ago. But I have never forgotten him because for me, he is what the Centre is all about. So, it is always the person, it is always the one story – and we have had so many stories like this, so many Joes.

It is always, always, always about the people,

and that is what it was for Nano. She took people in to teach them what they needed in order to get a job: basic sewing for women, and the '3 R's' for children to give them a start in life. Life has become more sophisticated – but people and their needs have not changed hugely.

One of the needs of today is a spirituality that people can relate to. Our Keep Well group includes a section on Meditation each week. We use mindfulness techniques in our meditation, which is an invitation into something deeper. It is an opportunity to still the body, it's an opportunity to know what's going on in yourself. But where do you go from there? It is not the end point – but it is a great beginning.

We can offer the opportunity and possibilities for 'beginnings' for those who think they 'may have thrown out the baby with the bath water'. Especially sometimes when it comes to confusing religion and spirituality – using their experience of church and being able to re-discover what is still important to them. We can only do our bit, offering 'shafts of light' into a deeper tomorrow. We never know what tomorrow brings.

In January 2020 we had 'Celebrating 25 years' on our long term agenda. Little did we think that this would be a virtual experience, and it was!

It is wonderful to be part of a dynamic group of people (our Board of Directors, staff, tutors, volunteers, and learners) that are open to shaping the future through our present reality.

**Sr. Pauline McGaley**



# 'Just Ways'



shared their personal ordeals at APT Workshops and Conferences.

A current growing concern Angela explained, is supporting legislative efforts to hold industry and business networks accountable if their supply chains are involved in slave labour. She believes it is important to educate ourselves to know that our purchases are not inadvertently funding Human Trafficking! One huge example of complicity which she cites, where we can unconsciously contribute, is in the use of children in obtaining cobalt for the batteries of our mobile phones. Angela went on to explain that in the Dominican Republic of Congo children as young as five years are working in the mines to extract cobalt for the batteries of our mobile phones.

## Areas of action

Some of the key areas in which Angela has been personally proactive on behalf of APT Ireland include:

**The Gift Box Project** (Global Initiative to Fight Trafficking) a huge undertaking, made possible with the support of Sr. Ann Pender and the Presentation Sisters in Galway. The Gift Box is a unique piece of public art used to raise awareness of human trafficking and modern day slavery. The outside looks like a wrapped gift, covered with promises. However, it is in fact a walk-in installation where members of public can learn more about the deception involved in human trafficking and the suffering of the victims drawn in by traffickers.

Bringing this installation to Galway involved getting permission from the Local Garda Station and from Galway City Council as well as recruiting volunteers for the various tasks, and raising awareness in the local papers, on the local radio station and in parish newsletters. The various Christian Churches and the Hindu and Buddhist communities also placed posters in their places of worship. As a result Angela explained, they were able to engage directly with the many people who visited the installation, and while there were times that the requirements of the project were daunting, and the responsibility overwhelming, the sense of achievement, the positive feedback on the day and the success of raising awareness on human Trafficking made it

all worthwhile. Angela continues to express heartfelt gratitude to all the Galway volunteers who help make it possible!

Other actions undertaken by Angela include:

**An Interfaith Prayer/Raising Awareness:** through an event held in St. Paul's Arran Quay, Dublin.

**Repatriation:** Working with two women in Galway to repatriate a young girl who was vulnerable to trafficking.

**Undertaking Lobbying Activity:** writing letters to TD's, attending Dáil sittings etc.

**Legislation:** (Sexual Offences Bill 2014). Working to change the law to criminalise the 'Buyer of Sex' rather than the victim - women.

**Responding:** to calls from various groups for input on Human Trafficking e.g. the Spiritans in Kimmage, Deanery meetings etc. Talking to 5th year groups in Coláiste Bríde each year.

**Being present:** at the APT Ireland stand at the World Meeting of Families. A key memory for Angela, due to the huge potential it offered to engage with the large numbers who attended the RDS Dublin during this time.

Just prior to the initial outbreak of Covid-19 in Ireland Angela explained, "*we were working to create an alternative model for raising awareness about human trafficking & then everything had to move to Zoom! But the work goes on! I am continually inspired and motivated by the commitment of the other Sisters in the group. Their creativity and passion for the work is almost tangible*". In conclusion, she shared:

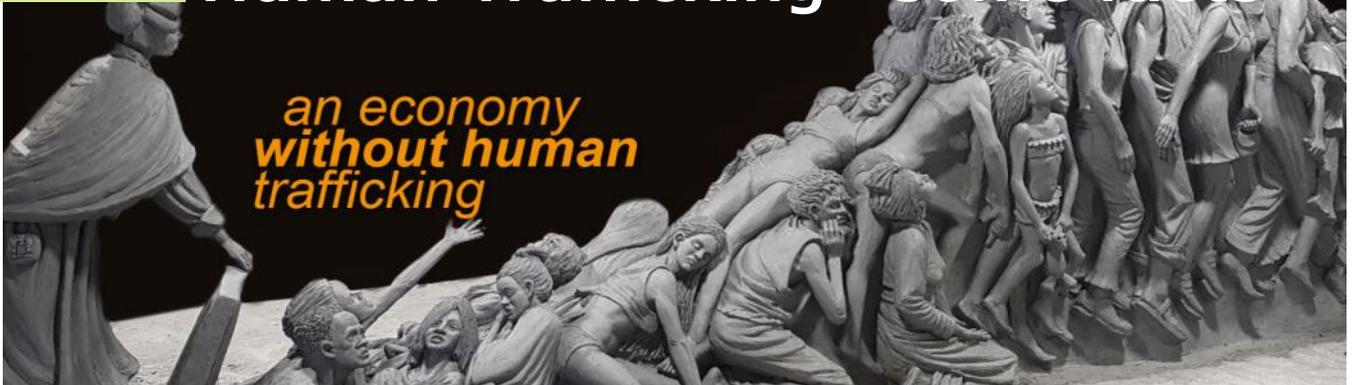
*"There are two key quotes from speakers at our Conferences that keep me motivated & active! One is: 'The eye cannot see what the mind is unaware of'. One victim of Human Trafficking told the group that Trafficking is all around us 'Hidden in Plain Sight', and indeed this was the title we chose for one of our conferences". The other quotation is: "One person cannot do everything, but everyone can do something."* Angela uses this in quote with 5th year students in school as it empowers the students and it continues to empower her!!

**Sr. Angela Dolan**



# 'Just Ways'

## Human Trafficking—some facts



The trauma of every human trafficking victim is life altering, and requires long and intense therapy to heal and recover. Human trafficking is a complex tragedy that interconnects with many other social justice issues. Whenever and wherever people are at risk, they are vulnerable to trafficking.

### Vulnerability

Major causes of trafficking include poverty and conflict, but also discrimination against women and the poor, and inadequate educational and employment opportunities. The Internet has become its quick and easy vehicle and a means for traffickers to market women and children.

Love is a universal human need, the stuff of songs and sonnets, the subject of libraries of literature and countless works of art. It is also, in the wrong hands, a powerful weapon of exploitation. Indeed, it is the most common weapon used in sex trafficking operations.

Contrary to popular misconceptions, sex trafficking rarely begins with kidnapping by a stranger. Instead, sex traffickers groom their victims by using love – romantic love, friendship and familial love – to manipulate them into cooperating in their own exploitation. Human trafficking can happen to anyone but some people are more vulnerable than others. Significant risk factors include recent migration or relocation, substance use, mental health concerns, involvement with the child welfare system and being a runaway or homeless youth. Often, traffickers identify and leverage their victims' vulnerabilities in order to create dependency.

In fact Human Trafficking is the fastest

growing form of slavery today, and only a small percentage of the 2.5 million people trafficked globally are given help and protection by the authorities. Trafficking is big business. The UN estimates that it is a \$36bn global 'industry', as lucrative for those controlling it as the drugs and the arms trade. The pursuit of profit is the key motivation. Women and girls are particularly liable to end up in exploitative forms of work in domestic settings, prostitution and mail-order brides.

### In Ireland

Sadly we know that the many dimensions of human trafficking and slavery have escalated in the ongoing pandemic, however, each one of us can contribute to changing this reality for someone. Sex trafficking is '*hidden in plain sight in Ireland*' with continued failure to meet key international targets to combat global human trafficking. Sister Éilís Coe, Religious Sisters of Charity in Donnybrook, Dublin, is a member of [APT/AMRI](#) (Act to Prevent Trafficking) and [RENATE](#) (Religious in Europe Networking against Trafficking and Exploitation) an international network of religious, who thinks we should do more to target global human trafficking and she spoke to Pat Kenny on The Pat Kenny Show, on Newstalk radio, 6 January 2021, to raise awareness about this crime, hidden in plain sight. **To listen to the interview, please [click HERE](#)** As the anthropologist Margaret Mead encouraged us, "*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world: indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.*"

**Together we can make a difference!**

# 'Just Ways'



## From the Interprovincial Justice Desk

### Ireland and the Universal Periodic review (UPR)



***“The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a unique process which involves a periodic review of the human rights records of all 193 UN Member States. This is essentially a peer review that occurs for each country about every five years, and Ireland is up for review this year. In this review Ireland must declare how it has improved the human rights situation at home, and the UPR will assess the extent to which Ireland respects its human rights obligations as set out in the UN instruments”*** so writes Brian O’Toole sharing this information from the Presentation Sisters Interprovincial Justice Desk for Ireland and England.

Any individual or group could make a submission to the Irish UPR before March 18th 2021.

The Interprovincial Justice Desk has come together with a group of like-minded partners in order to strengthen the message submitted. This joint submitting group is comprised of Edmund Rice International, the Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of the Apostles (OLA Ireland) and the International Presentation Association (IPA). This submission will only take account of the areas of focus of the respective congregations, namely, they will be commenting (and recommending) on Direct Provision, Migrant Citizenship, Migrant Integration, Human Trafficking in Ireland and Violence against Women.

It is intended that the draft submission will then

be sent to other NGOs and services in Ireland (prior to its formal submission) so that they can review, comment, amend etc., thus helping to ensure that the submission is on point, takes account of the primary issues and suggests likely, and possible recommendations.

It is hoped that some of these bodies may also co-sign the final document, strengthening the possibility of having some of our joint recommendations adopted. (See full explanatory page on ‘Ireland and the Universal Periodic Review’ prepared by Brian O’Toole, Director of the Interprovincial Justice Desk—[UPR-for-the-NEP-Newsletter .pdf \(presentationsistersne.ie\)](#))

See also link to the information on the Interprovincial Justice Desk together with contact details for Brian [HERE](#)

### Other useful links:

The UPR assesses the extent to which States respect their human rights obligations set out in:

- The [UN Charter \(Full Text\)](#)
- The [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#)
- human rights instruments to which the State is party (human rights treaties ratified by the State concerned)
- voluntary pledges and commitments made by the State (e.g. national human rights policies and/or programmes implemented), and
- applicable international humanitarian law.

Read the Commission’s report to the UN HRC:

[IHREC Submission to the Human Rights Commission under the Universal Periodic Review for Ireland, September 2015](#)

Image: Brian O’Toole—  
Director of the Presentation  
Sisters Justice Desk for  
Ireland & England





# 'Just Ways'

## Racism, Inequality & Inclusion

The observance of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (21st March 2021) commemorates the day in 1960 when police in South Africa killed 69 people who were part of a peaceful demonstration against racist apartheid laws. Today, apartheid lies dead. But, sadly, racism lives on — in all regions and in all societies.

*“Much of today’s racism is deeply entrenched in centuries of colonialism and enslavement. We see it in the pervasive discrimination and exclusion suffered by people of African descent. We see it in the injustices and oppression endured by indigenous peoples and other ethnic minorities.*

*We see it in the repugnant views of white supremacists and other extremist groups. We also see racism and discrimination in anti-Semitism, anti-Muslim hatred, the mistreatment of some minority Christian communities and other forms of intolerance and xenophobia.*

*And we see racism in recent abhorrent violence against people of Asian descent, unjustly blamed for COVID-19. We also see it in the biases built into the codes for facial recognition and artificial intelligence.*

*Last year, people around the globe took to the streets to protest racial injustice. They recognized racism for what it is. A vicious global pandemic. Dangerous. Abhorrent. Ugly. And everywhere.*

*Racism is a deeply rooted evil. It transcends generations and contaminates societies. It perpetuates inequality, oppression and marginalization. Our duty, as responsible global citizens, is to eradicate it.*

*Wherever we see racism, we must condemn it without reservation, without hesitation, without qualification. This includes looking into our own hearts and minds. Each of us needs to ask: Am I and my society racist? And what must I do to correct it?”*

~ UN Secretary-General António Guterres, ([See Press Release HERE](#)).

### Religious Against Racism

The OLA Sisters have partnered with various Religious to highlight some of the concerns and recommendations from the report on Ireland by the UN Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Throughout March, they have been sharing a series of videos on the Report’s findings as relevant to Ireland. This link includes Sr. Helen Dobbyn, pbvm, Sr. Eileen Browne of



the Daughters of Charity and Fr. Stephen Cummins of the Dominicans articulating the issues and their recommendations for action by the Irish Government.. See [\(4\) Facebook](#)

### NEP Justice Day 2021

Addressing racism is not a one-time exercise. Racism is a complex cultural phenomenon. To fight it we have to be proactively anti-racist. As societies become ever more multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multicultural, we need greater social, political, cultural and economic investment in inclusivity and cohesion. We need to harness the benefits of diversity rather than perceiving it as a threat.

The Province Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Commission have chosen the theme for this year’s Justice Day as “**Racism, Inequality and Inclusion**”. The speakers include Dr. Kevin Hargaden, Director of the Jesuit Centre for Faith & Justice and Mr. Paul Frecklington, Project Coordinator of ARD Family Resource Centre, Doughiska, Galway. There will also be the opportunity for a panel discussion.

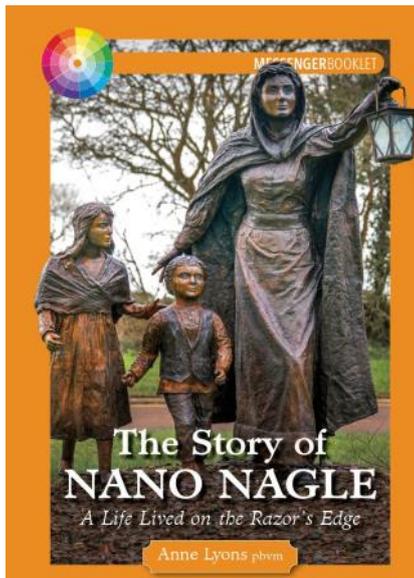
Mr. Brian O’Toole, Director of the Presentation Sisters Inter-provincial Justice Desk for Ireland and England, will be the Event Moderator.

**Date:** Saturday, 17th April 2021 from 11 am to 1.30 pm.

**Place:** An online event (free of charge)

**To attend:** Book in advance by registering [HERE](#) on Eventbrite or with Mariaam Bhatti, NEP JPIC Support Worker at: [nejjustice@presprone.com](mailto:nejjustice@presprone.com) or Tel: 01 416 6122 (Tues before 12pm & Fri 8 am- 6pm).

# Nano Today



## The Postulator's Diary

**By proclaiming Nano Nagle as Venerable in 2013, the universal Church has recognised Nano as a woman of faith, hope & heroic virtue whose vision and work transformed the lives of so many.**

Greetings to each one of you! In February 2020 I received the request from Congregational Leadership Team (CLT) inviting me to consider the role of Postulator for the cause of Nano Nagle. What did I know about this role? What would it entail? These and many other questions swirled around in my heart and mind as I sought to discern my response. Aware of my limitations but also that I held a great passion for this courageous and daring woman of faith, I said 'yes'!

From the outset, I knew that I needed both the prayers, support, and engagement of the Congregation in the ongoing promotion of the Cause for the Beatification and Canonization of Nano Nagle. I view this ministry as one of shared collaboration, rooted in our shared hope that, if God wills it, Venerable Nano Nagle will one day be conferred with the titles of Blessed and Saint.

Communication with members of the Congregation and wider Presentation Family is a priority for me. I hope with the aid of our various communication channels to offer regular updates pertaining to the various activities in which I am and will be engaged, as Postulator. I welcome this invitation to share with you all, something of the threads of the weave of my

postulator's cloak over the past six months.

### Where are you?

'Where are you now?' is a question I am frequently asked!

Presently, due to Covid-19 restrictions I am back in Ashbrook Gardens, Portlaoise. I set out for Rome last September, to begin the first phase of my role as Postulator: to study the Italian Language; prepare for the Course for Postulators and try to network with people and institutions relevant to the role. My initial weeks were spent with the Christian Brothers. Their hospitality was a real blessing as I began to adjust and become familiar with the streets of Rome. In October, I moved to live with an Italian community - the *Congregazione Suore Dorotea di Santa Paola Frasinetti*.

Looking back those early days were daunting for me – adjusting to new culture, language, and people! My hope now is to return in April 2021 when I will take up new accommodation and continue language studies, near the centre of Rome.

### Studies

While I am the named Postulator for our Congregation, there is still a road to travel and requirements to be met before I am officially recognised as such by Rome. 'Studium', the required course for Postulators, is delivered in Italian by the Congregation for the Causes of the





# Nano Today

Saints. The Course is delivered in Italian at the Urbana University. So, a good working knowledge of language is vital. Once again, the present Covid-19 restrictions, have put the Studium course in abeyance. Meantime, I continue to the study of the Italian language online! This is a beautiful language, however, learning to speak it holds many challenges, especially when one is no longer young and away from the cultural context!

## Significant Connections

Another important thread was the significant connections with the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints where I met and spoke with Monsignor Turek and also met with the Irish Ambassador to the Holy See - Mr. Derek Hannon. He expressed a keen interest in both Venerable Nano Nagle, and in the role of Postulator and his desire to be of service by whatever means possible, to help further Nano Nagle's cause. His interest soon took concrete shape with an invitation from him, to participate in a webinar "*Women of Strength and Faith past and present*" on February 1st, St. Brigid's Day this year.

As Postulators, Sr. Brenda Dolphin, RSM, and I were invited to address the life of our respective Venerables; while Sr. Pat Murray, IBVM addressed the role of women today. You can access and view this interesting webinar by clicking [HERE](#)

## Other threads in the weave

### 1. Write a Booklet on Nano Nagle!

I have been quietly amazed at the requests that have come my way over these past months. The first request came from Donal Neary SJ, former director of Messenger Publications to write a booklet on Nano Nagle. I responded to this unexpected invitation for one purpose: an opportunity to make Nano Nagle known and loved to a wider audience. I submitted the text of the booklet last September prior to my departure to Rome. I am happy to share that **The Life of Nano Nagle- A Life Lived on the Razor's Edge**- is now published and is available for purchase [See Link HERE](#) (See Cover Image on previous page).

### 2. Webinars

As Postulator, I have taken the decision to be available in whatever way I can to foster devotion

and appreciation of Venerable Nano Nagle. To date, I have responded to requests via Webinar offering reflections on Nano and other aspects of spirituality with our North India Unit, the English Associates, and Pakistan. It is a privilege to be able to be of service in this manner. I am available for requests, so feel free to contact me.

### 3. Reading and Resource Materials

Another ongoing thread is reading and updating my knowledge and appreciation of Nano Nagle. I was grateful to have had an opportunity to spend a brief period with Sr. Rosarie Lordan in the Archives at Nano Nagle Place (Cork) prior to my departure for Rome, and I hope to have more time there when it is possible to do so.

I have much to learn and I need to immerse myself in time with any material that will help to further my appreciation, knowledge, and love for Nano Nagle and that will be of assistance to me in the role of Postulator. I am grateful for the wisdom figures in the North East Unit, who have been most generous with their knowledge and support of me when I have called on them.

## Cause of Venerable Nano Nagle

As a Congregation we took the decision to continue with the process towards Nano's Beatification and Canonisation, should this be God's will. I am gradually learning how lengthy such a process can be. Core questions arise in me: How do we continue to keep aflame the passion and enthusiasm for Nano's cause? How can I/ We actively promote, foster and further a lively devotion to Nano Nagle? Without this active and lively devotion her Cause will not progress. I am most interested to learn of the various ways devotion to Nano Nagle is being fostered in the North East Unit. Recording is another important aspect of this work, so please do contact me with any stories, updates or favours received through Nano's intercession. There is a saying: "*We are all angels with only one wing, so we must embrace one another if we are to fly.*" As the Postulator, I am but one wing! I take this opportunity to reach out to you and ask you to be that other wing. Together let us embrace this sacred work.

**Sr. Anne Lyons**

**Contact Email:** [annelyonspbvm@gmail.com](mailto:annelyonspbvm@gmail.com) and/or [postulator@pbvm.org](mailto:postulator@pbvm.org)

# Our Global Footprint



'Peace Unfolds' - Model Sarah Tuohy (ctr), with Gráinne McCaul, and Elise Finn.

## Scoil Chríost Rí—'JK Team' Winners

**Junk Kouture (JK)** was founded in 2010 as a platform for creative students to find their tribe. Incorporating elements of environmental sustainability, fashion, art, design, and engineering, Junk Kouture annually showcases aspiring designers aged 13–18-years from across Ireland as they rise to the challenge to create wearable fashion – but the golden rule is that everything used must be 100% recycled!

### How Junk Kouture has grown?

With an average of around 4,500 students taking part in the programme each year, Junk Kouture has become the largest youth sustainable education event in Ireland in just 10 years having started with just 200 entrants.

A great many of you will remember the vibrant presence of students displaying their wonderful designs on the catwalk at the annual Challenge to Change (C2C) Seminars each May, which show-cased the incredibly creative participation by primary and post-primary schools of Presentation ethos. The C2C projects completed by students brought about a heightened awareness, a social consciousness, a broader vision and an appreciation of development issues with the Junk Kouture ethos fitting in well alongside this.

It is no surprise then to realise how delighted we were to hear from Scoil Chríost Rí that one

of their students was a Junk Kouture Finalist in the recent 2020 Award Ceremony which took place virtually on 4<sup>th</sup> March and which was broadcast by RTE2.

### A Junk Kouture (JK) Finalist

Jayne Louise Kelly, who is Art Teacher in Scoil Chríost Rí shared her delight and that of the entire school, saying:

*"What an amazing experience this has been, and such a proud moment for Scoil Chríost Rí! I was on the edge of my seat "on the sofa" at home watching my student's take to the catwalk in the Junk Kouture Grand Final on RTÉ2 this year!*

*Both 'Peace Unfolds' modelled by Sarah Tuohy, and 'Canine'99' modelled by Jade Laffen where absolutely stunning! What a wonderful keep sake it is to have footage of the students JK performances alongside all the other wonderful grand finalist creations, now saved on the Sky Box at home!*

*I am chuffed for Team 'Peace Unfolds' winning the Enterprise Award! Sarah, Gráinne and Elise have been a wonderful team! They worked their socks off consistently, creating and making their dress. They shared and promoted their creation, concept and Junk Kouture journey on social media*

# Our Global Footprint

platforms using photography and videography though-out the year.

Well done Gráinne, Sarah, Elise and well done to all the Transition Year Scoil Chríost Rí Junk Kouture teams from 2019-2020 who entered the competition. They were all wonderfully creative students and always showed huge support and encouragement towards each other.

They have all won the most special prize of all throughout their JK experience, and that is friendship and the magical memories that they made along the way".

## The concept behind 'Peace Unfolds'

This is how the Student Creators in the JK Team describe the concept behind their design title: 'Peace Unfolds'. Sarah Tuohy (Model), Gráinne McCaul, Elise Finn (Designers).

"The concept behind the design is to make a statement against violence in our world. The main colour in this design is white, a symbol of peace. The hard and soft materials used reflect the differences in our societies and how they can complement each other, once used correctly

This is difficult to achieve and can easily 'unfold' in the same way that peace can crumble. We hope that our white dress may be a symbol of the need for peace and harmony in today's world".

They go on to describe the materials used to create their design which included over 120 non-recyclable plastic art folders previously owned by art students in their school, 2 damaged skipping ropes from a local primary school, beads from an old children's jewellery-making kit, old communion gloves and gems from old project work. The skill of sewing was instrumental to their design as each plastic diamond was hand-stitched to the skirt.

"We were so shocked to see our name announced as the Enterprise Winners. But it was so rewarding to see that our hard work had paid off, from sewing to implementing our promotional campaign across social media for our sustainable design from the 'get go of our journey', and everything in between. We were absolutely thrilled to have come away with an award, especially the Enterprise Award as it's one that was

important to us, because of all the extra work that went into campaigning and promoting our dress".

They continue:

"The support we received leading up to the final and afterwards was immense, and we couldn't thank everyone enough for voting and following our journey in general, via Instagram. We're also really looking to celebrating together when it's safe to do so!" ~ Elise, Gráinne and Sarah

**School:** - Scoil Chríost Rí, Portlaoise, Co. Laois

**Art Teacher:-** Jayne Louise Kelly

**Junk Kouture Creation:** - 'Peace Unfolds'

**Student Creators:** - (Model) Sarah Tuohy, Gráinne McCaul, Elise Finn.

**Junk Kouture Grand Final 2020:** - Enterprise Award Winners

(Photos taken by Local Photographer Patrick Ryan).

## Junk Kouture Resources

Junk Kouture aims to tackle climate change differently, challenging young people to become micro-influencers for change through creativity and self-expression.

Using the [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#) as its guide, JK has devised an ambitious 10-year Sustainability Policy, taking pride in helping inform young people of how they can create and influence positive change in the world. Junk Kouture's three areas of focus are creativity, sustainability and entrepreneurship.

Students and teachers can also keep up to date with all things Junk Kouture on all social media channels, @junkkouture, and by downloading the competition handbook at [junkkouture.com](http://junkkouture.com).



# Friends of Nano



A Presentation Day Pres. Ballingarry (L-R) Mr. Brian Moran (Deputy Principal), Dearbhla Morrissey (Head Girl), Bill Ryan (2nd Yr student) with the School Principal, Ms. Angela Cahill & Mike McGrath (Head Boy).

## The Lantern never goes out

**“Nano Nagle entered my life at a very early age”, writes Anne Dwyer, who is Project Officer for the Friends of Nano (Ireland).**

### Early memories

My first memories are of the Presentation Sisters was in Thurles. My life was intertwined with the Sisters as this was where I completed both my primary and post primary education. I have nothing but good memories from my ‘spin’ in Sr. Bonaventure’s wooden car in the Nagle Hall to my shorthand and typing classes with Sr. Eucharía.

So many women dedicated to continuing Nano Nagle’s mission, and to providing an education rooted in faith, for each of us. Like Nano Nagle the Sisters reached out in compassion to help us through life’s journey and its many twists and turns. A strong foundation for life was formed.

### The story of Nano

It was also here that I discovered the story of Nano Nagle, and I was enthralled by her early life and many privileges. She was a woman of faith with a vision and passion for the poorest of society.

As a lay person she started, and financed seven schools in Cork, to educate the poor and enable them to break the cycle of poverty. She inspired other lay people who shared her vision to work with her. Nano was a woman who was passionate about justice and she worked tire-

lessly to alleviate the misery of the sick, poor and destitute women in Cork. She founded the Presentation Sisters to continue her work.

### Associates and Friends

In 1989 the Presentation Sisters encouraged lay women and men who shared their values, and who were inspired by the spirit of Nano Nagle, to collaborate with them. So the Presentation Associates began with lay men, women and Sisters supporting each other to create a more just and sustainable world.

Over subsequent years, in several countries and provinces, Associate Groups were formed.

In 2009, the Sisters saw the strength in linking the Presentation Associates and all who are inspired by the spirit of Nano Nagle worldwide. This led to an International Gathering involving lay people from all countries in the Presentation Union taking place in 2011 in Ballygriffin, Co. Cork (Nano Nagle’s birthplace). The ‘Friends of Nano’ Movement was born.

Now the ‘Friends of Nano’ are linked across the globe, a network which could enable all who are inspired by the charism of Nano to strengthen and share in living ‘Nano’s Dream.’

There are many Friends of Nano groups throughout Ireland who meet regularly to support each other in building a more just and sustainable world.

[SEE FON Ireland Facebook Page](#)

# Presentation People

## Our Core Values

- **Partnership with the Divine**  
*(We attend to God each day, our actions are informed by this commitment)*
- **Passion for the Poorest**  
*(We stand with the poorest in society)*
- **Covenant with Creation**  
*(Honouring all Creation, we live and promote sustainable lives).*

We meet to pray, reflect and respond to our local needs and support the activities of the Presentation Sisters.

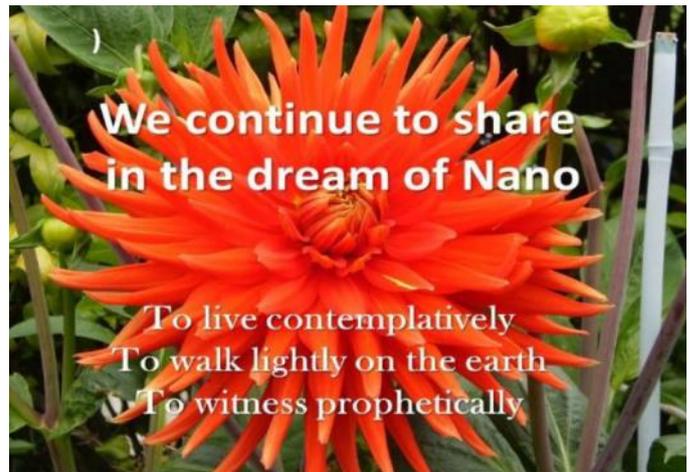
This year we undertook to promote and personally change our ways in order to ensure we 'Don't Waste Food'. For example, Stephanie in Limerick cut out the use of plastic packaging in her weekly shopping by bringing her own refill containers. She helped and encouraged us to think about the effects our choices have on the environment and the livelihood of others. Now all our members are making this effort.

**Nature and Technology** have helped keep us connected in these challenging times.

The wonder of nature and its constancy has been a source of great joy to us all. Enjoying the green fields, bird song, spring buds, digging in the garden—we all have our own favourites. God of Creation is all around us, and all our members have remarked so many times on the calm and hope nature has brought to their lives connecting them to their own inner peace.

Our members and groups have embraced technology in order to stay connected. Some FON groups phone each other regularly, others use emails and some of our groups have mastered FaceTime, WhatsApp and Zoom meetings. There has been a great sharing of skills with a number of our groups continuing to meet regularly on Zoom or join Zoom courses or Webinars. Our Friends of Nano groups have a whole new technological future ahead.

Our future is full of new ideas and Spirit too. The young people in our primary schools love to hear the story of Nano Nagle's life as well as those of



the Presentation Sisters. They enjoy presenting her life through drama, song and art. As the students' progress through secondary school full of questions about God, Justice and life they find Nano's story influences and touches their hearts.

Her work with children who did not have access to education is special to them.

In some of our schools we have Young Friends of Nano groups blessed with energy and enthusiasm and gently guided by dedicated teachers. Nano would greatly admire them as they bring new life and adventure to our Movement.

They are moved by the justice and environmental issues of our time and want to get involved in being the solution to these problems. Nano animated people and through her story we now want to animate young people to keep her spirit, story and work alive.

### Anne Dwyer, Project Officer (FON Ireland)



*Friends of Nano gather to pray at the tomb of Nano Nagle (Nano Nagle Pace, Cork) during their Annual Gathering in 2019.*

For further information see [Friends of Nano | Presentation Sisters Union North East Ireland \(presentation-sistersne.ie\)](http://www.presentation-sistersne.ie)



## We will keep smiling through

Catholic Schools Week (CSW2021), celebrating the faith and resilience of teachers and students alike, takes place each year in Ireland from 24th—31st January. The theme this year was *'Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith and Resilience'*.

As we live through an unprecedented time of challenge and uncertainty, our faith and our resilience can be tested. We can ask questions like *'Will things ever be the same again?'*, *'When can we get back to normality?'*, *'Where is God in all of this?'* In response to this, we reflect upon how Catholic schools are communities of faith and resilience.

**Bernadette Fitzgerald**, is the principal of St. Joseph's College, Lucan and a former member of the Nano300 Commission in the NE Province. The Commission worked to realise the wonderful celebrations and events that took place during the Tercentenary Year of Nano Nagle's Birth in 2018. In the Archdiocese of Dublin, St. Joseph's is a vibrant school community of faith and learning for girls, founded by the Presentation Sisters, and is now under the trusteeship of CEIST.

During CSW2021 Bernadette shared the following article ***'Catholic Schools Week: We will keep smiling through this time'*** which appeared in The Irish News about her experience of 'being a school community' in these Covid-19 environment. The article is reproduced here.

Teaching and learning have been disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic, presenting huge challenges for students and teachers alike. In spite of the difficulties, Catholic schools have been a *'compassionate community where we look out for each other'*, says principal Bernadette Fitzgerald, who reflects on the theme of this year's Catholic Schools Week - *'communities of resilience and faith'*.

The sudden shift to remote teaching and learning - and the organisation of education around kitchen tables and digital devices - occurred overnight. It forced us to recreate, in an online space, the daily life of our secondary school community here in Saint Joseph's College, Lucan, in Co Dublin. This year has been a Catholic Schools Week like no other.

As with all schools across the island, we have been stretched very far this year. The summer months were spent renovating, restructuring, planning and re-planning to ensure our building was as safe as it could be for everyone. In September staff returned to a radically changed and challenging workplace with a commitment and determination to get through this strange time in collaboration with students and colleagues.

It was quite sad to see the fresh faces of first years obscured by masks, our library and canteen converted to classrooms, tours and trips abandoned and



# Conversations

assemblies avoided.

A new language evolved among staff and students, to communicate the need to "Keep your distance" or go directly to the 'safety station' if feeling unwell.

An unspoken, yet shared acceptance that 'We are all in this together' was at odds with the practical necessity that each student must take a turn in our 'satellite station' - a live-streaming centre designed to maintain physical distancing by facilitating a small group of students, who are removed from their larger class group, to connect to the main classroom via digital technology.

Not only is learning disrupted since last March but lives are also upended. At times the atmosphere is bleak and dreary and everyone is feeling glum.

The loss of many grandparents, sometimes without an opportunity to say goodbye to their grandchildren, has been the experience of a significant number of our students and it has shattered the intergenerational bonds in families.

Being cut off from friends, enduring severe exam stress and coping with uncertainty about the future is giving rise to a worrying mental health fallout among our students.

While much has changed, the heart of our work has remained the same. With creativity, grit and perseverance we have continued to connect with and support our students through this pandemic - not just academically, but socially, personally and emotionally.

In recent weeks, countless Chrome Books were distributed to students to enable remote engagement with school staff; subject helpdesks are up and running; counselling phone lines are in operation; Google Meets allows the sharing of unmasked smiles between our teachers and students; our student support team and special needs assistants are keeping in touch with students. Our response to this latest closure has revealed that we are learning to bounce back.

Author and thinker Andrew Zollie describes resilience as *"the capacity of a system, enterprise or person to maintain its core purpose or integrity in the face of dramatically changed circumstances"*.

We are maintaining mission integrity through collective resilience. From the onset of the pandemic our students, staff and parents have illuminated how we are a compassionate community where everyone looks out for each other.

Students are also aware of the circumstances of those in the local community and are responsive to their needs. Before Christmas, our students' thoughtful letters and wellbeing cards to residents in a nearby nursing home received heart-warming responses which lifted all of our spirits.

The spiritual needs of our students have been met through liturgical experiences, designed as small group rituals or online services for the whole school.

In November the Religion teachers collaborated with students in finding meaningful and imaginative ways to give expression to their thoughts, memories and prayers for loved ones who have passed away. Our annual Carol Service and Presentation Day Mass were recreated as remote gatherings of the whole school, with music, prayer and reflection. For the latter we were joined by Fr Tom Kennedy from St. Mary's Parish, thus enabling us to remain connected to the parish.

Who knows what the coming months will bring? A prolonged school closure is a dismal time indeed, but we have a choice as to how to go forward. So much depends on how we look at things. We will keep smiling through this time.

There is so much wisdom to be gained from how others have remained resilient in the face of adversity - the words of Anne Frank spring to mind: *"I don't think of all the misery but of all the beauty that still remains."*

Within our school community there is much of beauty to be grateful for, such as friendship; empathy; spirituality; love; kindness; solidarity; care; and of course, hope for September.

**Bernadette Fitzgerald,**  
**Principal of St. Joseph's**  
**College, Lucan.**

This article first appeared in The Irish News during CSW 2021 on 28 January 2021.



# Collaborations



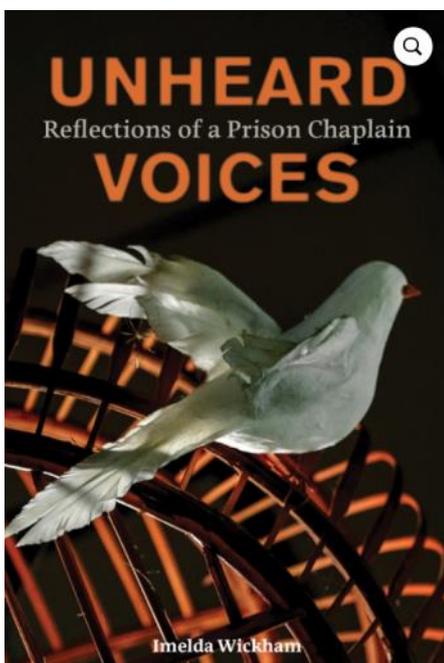
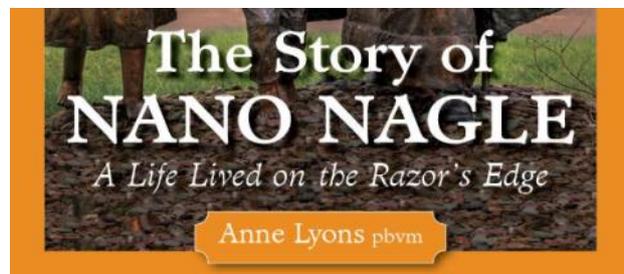
## A new booklet on the life of Nano Nagle

One never tires of discovering the story and life journey of Nano Nagle through each different, and other perspective/insight written and shared, brings light and understanding to a life that still continues to inspire prayer, action and commitment in our times. It is a bit like hearing someone talk about a person we thought we knew, and they then share yet another insight into their life, that helps us understand and love that person all the more.

The creation of this new booklet by Sr. Anne Lyons evolved as a result of an initial request (from Donal Neary SJ, a former director of Messenger Publications) to her, to write a booklet on Nano Nagle. Anne saw this as an unexpected opportunity to bring Nano Nagle to a wider audience. (see *The Postulator's Diary*—

page 15). **The Life of Nano Nagle- A Life Lived on the Razor's Edge** has just been published this month.

Nano Nagle faced persecution and hardship as both a Catholic and a woman in Penal Ireland, and in the centuries since her death in 1784 her message of courage and hope continues to reach all around the world, changing the lives of the poor and forgotten. Nano Nagle chose to abandon the salons and ballrooms of Paris to work tirelessly in the poorest parts of Cork city. The impact of Nano's continually evolving legacy is immeasurable. To purchase see: [HERE](#)



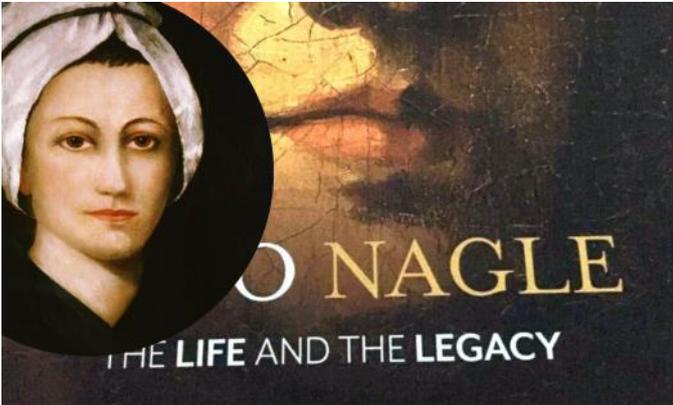
## Unheard Voices—about to be heard ...

Sr. Imelda Wickham has ministered for over 20 years as a Prison Chaplain. A period in her life when she has met the homeless, the addict, the unwanted and the outcast. In an interview in 2019 for our Province Magazine, Imelda said: ***“..as a prison chaplain (and a Presentation Sister) I am called to challenge unjust systems, to be a voice for the voiceless...”***. See [Restoring the wilderness](#)

This book provides an insight into life behind bars in one of our penal institutions. Imelda challenges the use of prisons to deal with addictions, mental health issues and homelessness, arguing that true justice lies in healing for all involved in criminal behaviour, including victim, perpetrator and society. It also gives voice to prisoners' reflections on the reality of life within a prison cell. *To pre-order—See [HERE](#)*

# ... and Conversations

## A long-standing mission to the poor



During our Province celebrations for the Tercentenary of Nano Nagle's birth in 2018 **#Nano300**, **Deirdre Raftery** (leading education historian), with **Catriona Delany** and **Catherine Nowlan-Roebuck** produced not only a vital new biographical study of Nano Nagle but also a study of thousands of Irish women who joined the Presentation Sisters and taught in their schools all over the world. It is a beautiful and valuable reference work.

So then, imagine our increased joy to receive a recent communication from Professor Deirdre Raftery sharing with us this wonderful book review by Maria Patricia Williams, in the Journal 'History of Education' (Routledge, Taylor and Francis Group).

As Deirdre says about the content of the review:

***"It shows terrific insight into congregational history, and has picked up all the elements that account for the growth of Presentation education and their long-standing mission to the poor.***

***I know some of the Sisters will appreciate the way the author refers to Nano's daughters, and to what is meant by the 'charism' of a congregation or order. [ ... ] We were pleased to read that the reviewer also sees it as being 'meticulously researched' and that it makes a substantial contribution to Irish social history and the history of education".***

The entire reviews is well worth a look. See the link [Nano Nagle the life and the legacy by Deirdre Raftery Catriona Delaney and Catherine Nowlan Roebuck](#)

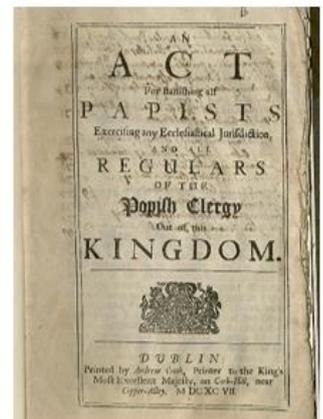
## About Nano Nagle & Bishop Francis Moylan

Victoria Anne Pearson is currently reaching completion of her PhD at University College Cork (UCC). On International Women's Day (March 8th) Victoria spoke as part of the Queen's University Belfast (QUB) Irish Studies Series on: *'Breaking the Penal Laws': The life and work of Francis Moylan, 1735-1815*.

In the preamble to her presentation she wrote:

*"Francis Moylan's life (1735-1815) spanned a complex and tumultuous period in the emergence of modern Ireland. A close friend and collaborator with Nano Nagle, Moylan put in place the infrastructure that made Catholic Poor School Education a fundamental feature of modern Irish society".*

In the recording she speaks inspiringly, knowledgeably and passionately about the professional relationship between Nano Nagle and Francis Moylan as being a defining one for Francis Moylan's contribution and legacy to Catholic Poor School Education etc.



You can: [listen here](#)

## Podcasts from Nano Nagle Place (NNP)

This podcast series explores the history and creation of Nano Nagle Place as it stands today through a series of audio interviews. You can pick it up on this website link [HERE](#) or at this link [Listen Notes](#) or on their social media platforms.



## The (AREFD) Research Project—Phase 2

Wendy Grace from Spirit Radio spoke recently to Dr. Bernadette Sweetman, from Dublin City University (DCU MDCCE) Mater Dei Centre for Catholic Education about their initial research survey which took place in May 2020 on church closures and the impact of the pandemic on those who practice their faith.



This 3-year Adult Religious Education and Faith Development (AREFD) research project (started 2018) explores the nature, scope and potential of religious education and faith development for adults in Ireland. Funded by the

Presentation Sisters North East Province, the project is already enhancing public awareness of the great work already happening in communities, parishes and groups. ([See HERE](#)).

Phase 1 of the project measured the impact of COVID-19 restrictions on adult churchgoers in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, and took place in collaboration with York St. John University who were investigating the

impact for churchgoers in England, Scotland and Wales.

Now, in January 2021, MDCCE are launching a follow-up study (Phase 2) called **COVID-19 & Church-21**. The research team aims to get a sense of how clergy and lay people are coping after many months of varying restrictions.

A link to participate in this significant online survey can be found below. It will take you about 20 minutes to complete, and is designed to be taken by people from any Christian denomination in the UK and Republic of Ireland. Most of the questions simply require you to tick boxes, though there are options to specify your particular circumstances, and an opportunity at the end for you to tell us your views in your own words.

The survey can be completed on your mobile phone, though it is more quickly completed on devices with larger screens such as tablets or computers. You can access using the following link: [HERE](#) Listen to Spirit Radio Interview [HERE](#) (Dr. Sweetman is featured 25 minutes into the podcast).

## MA in Christian Leadership in Education

The MA in Christian Leadership in Education in Mary Immaculate College (UL) is an innovative, specialist programme to enhance the development of leadership capacity in the primary and second-level sector. It was created in response to the widespread desire for an authentic personal spirituality and to address the acknowledged 'deficit' in theological literacy and the widespread hunger for justice and inclusiveness in Irish society. The Department of Theology & Religious Studies recently announced

5 bursaries for this programme. These unique awards have been generously funded by the Presentation Sisters North East Province. Closing date for application: 1st June 2021. See: [HERE](#)





# Still Space



“I pray that you will experience this same joy, dear brothers and sisters who have generously made God the dream of your lives, serving him in your brothers and sisters through a fidelity that is a powerful testimony in an age of ephemeral choices and emotions that bring no lasting joy. May St. Joseph, protector of vocations, accompany you with his fatherly heart”!

(Pope Francis, St John Lateran, Rome 19 March 2021).

## The Dream of Vocation

In his message for the 2021 World Day of Vocations (25th April) Pope Francis writes:

*“I wrote the Apostolic Letter **Patris Corde**, whose aim was “to increase our love for this great saint”. St. Joseph is an extraordinary figure, yet at the same time one “so close to our own human experience”. He did not do astonishing things, he had no unique charisms, nor did he appear special in the eyes of those who met him. He was not famous or even noteworthy: the Gospels do not report even a single word of his. Still, through his ordinary life, he accomplished something extraordinary in the eyes of God”.*

Pope Francis adds that the priesthood and consecrated life greatly need these qualities nowadays, in times marked by fragility but also by the sufferings due to the pandemic, which has spawned uncertainties and fears about the future and the very meaning of life. He goes on to explain that St. Joseph suggests to us three key words for each individual’s vocation.

### Dream

St. Joseph let himself be guided by his dreams without hesitation because his heart was directed to God; it was already inclined towards him. This applies also to our calling: God does not like to reveal himself in a spectacular way, pressuring our freedom. He conveys his plans to us with gentleness. He does not overwhelm us with dazzling visions but quietly speaks in the depths of our heart, drawing near to us and speaking to us through our thoughts and feelings. In this way, as he did with St. Joseph, God sets before us profound and unexpected horizons.

### Service

The service and sacrifices made by St. Joseph were only possible because they were sustained by a greater love: For St.

Joseph, service – as a concrete expression of the gift of self – did not remain simply a high ideal, but became a rule for daily life.

### Fidelity

There is a third characteristic of St. Joseph’s daily life and our Christian vocation, namely fidelity. He did not yield to the temptation to act rashly, simply following his instincts or living for the moment. Instead, he pondered things patiently. He knew that success in life is built on constant fidelity to important decisions. For a vocation – like life itself – matures only through daily fidelity.

Do not be afraid: these words the Lord also addresses to you, whenever you feel that, even amid uncertainty and hesitation, you can no longer delay your desire to give your life to him. He repeats these words when, perhaps amid trials and misunderstandings, you seek to follow his will every day, wherever you find yourself. They are a refrain accompanying all those who – like St. Joseph – say yes to God with their lives, through their fidelity each day.

This fidelity is the secret of joy. See [HERE](#)



Sisters & staff in the Shalom community (Co. Kildare) on St. Patrick’s Day, 2021.

# Still Space



## An Easter Reflection

Everything is thank you  
if you look carefully.

The trees that lose their leaves  
still raise their limbs.

The earth farewells the sun,  
and moves around again.

Those we love draw tears and smiles  
from us in unison.

Everything is grace,  
and begins again.

We know this because each new day  
speaks of redemption.

[...]

Each small death, brings life,  
and each gift of surrender,  
is an offering.

A down payment  
for the new day coming.

Yes everything is thank you  
if you look carefully.

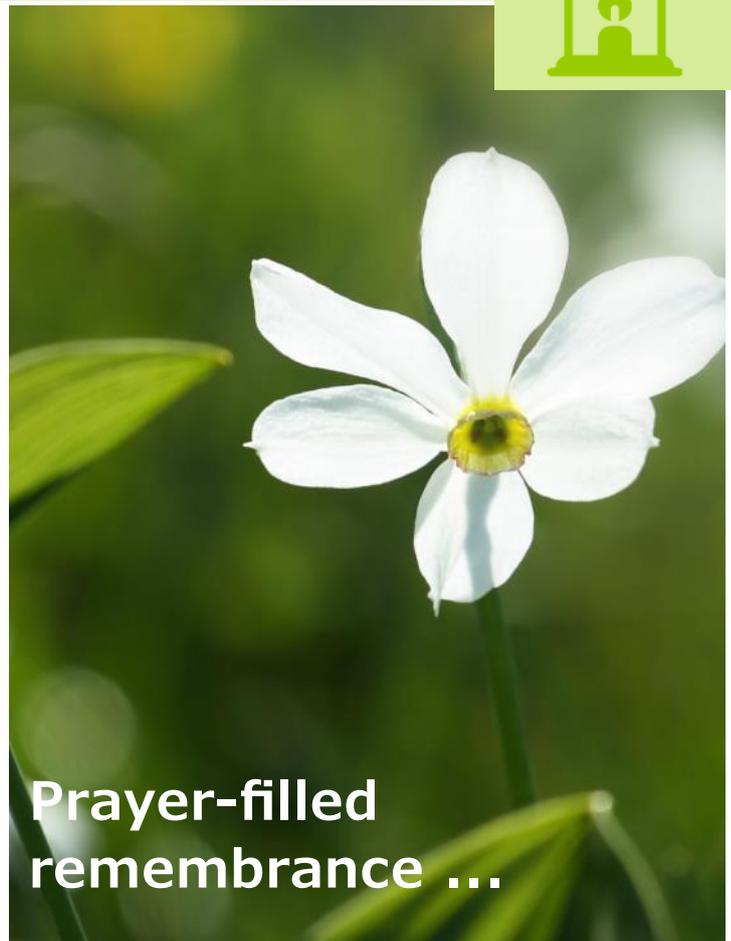
Everything in nature, love and life  
reveals the resurrection.

He who bore our sin, pain and grief  
lives again.

And our cross, so hard to bear  
we find lifts us to heaven.

Yes everything that happens  
we can thank Him.

For we know our story lives in His,  
without an ending.



**Prayer-filled  
remembrance ...**

### ***For each of our Sisters who have died in recent months:***

We continually remember and give thanks for the life, ministry, support, friendship and blessing that the lives of each of our Sisters have gifted to so many during their life's journey.

We remain inspired by their faithful responsiveness to the charism of Nano Nagle. May we remember that although we are separated for a time, we will all rejoice one day when we are reunited together in God's presence. We pray that our memories and recollections will be a special comfort to uplift and support all of us who feel their loss greatly. May they rest in joy and peace. Amen

## In appreciation

To all the Sisters in the Province, I wish to express my sincere thanks to you all for your Mass cards, phone calls, texts and prayers on the unexpected death of my brother Ger, RIP. A mass has been offered for your intentions.

~ Sr. Bernadette Joyce, (Corrib Pk., Galway)

-o0o-

On behalf of the Somers & Geraghty families, and on my own behalf, I sincerely thank each of the communities and individual Sisters for their kind expression of sympathy on the occasion of the death of my dear sister, Nora. Your support by way of prayer, phone calls, caring letters and Masses has been very much appreciated. May God reward each of you.

~ Sr. Dorothy Somers, (St. Joseph's, Tuam)



# Presentation Sisters



## Who we are

Living in these times of great uncertainty  
We dwell in possibility  
Faithful to the promise of the fullness of life.

***“I have come that you may have life and have it to the full”. (John 10:10)***

Called to live as consecrated women, we strive to witness to joyful, reflective, compassionate service, constantly calling ourselves to be aware of, and where possible to help those who find themselves on the edge, forgotten and neglected.

*(An extract from the Vision Statement, of the Leadership Team, NE Province - August 2020).*

***“The quality of our presence, our prayerfulness, and the gift of our lives, are of untold value for Presentation life and mission” ~ Our Way of Life, C11.***

We are sustained in our commitment by our contemplative practices, and our life and relationships in community. Together with Presentation People everywhere, we continue to share in the dream of Nano Nagle (Founder of the Presentation Congregation) to:

***Live Contemplatively ~ Walk Lightly on the Earth ~ Witness Prophetically***

*(Our Congregational Gathering, (CG2018).*

## Contact Us

### Presentation Sisters North East Province (Ireland)

Presentation Provincialate  
Acorn Centre  
Warrenmount  
Blackpitts  
Dublin  
D08 W2X8

Phone: 01 416 6010

Fax: 01 416 5787

Email: [secretary@presprone.com](mailto:secretary@presprone.com)

Web:

[www.presentationistersne.ie](http://www.presentationistersne.ie)

### Social Media Links



And

[@JoinPresentation](#)

[Friends of Nano Group](#)

[@WhatAboutTheBees](#)

## Words & Deeds

The motto inscribed on the Nagle family's coat of arms was **‘Not Words But Deeds’**. Nano Nagle and the Presentation People who followed her example have always taken these words to heart.

This motto can be said to sum up almost two hundred and fifty hundred years of active ministry and mission as Presentation Sisters spread across Ireland, and eventually to other parts of the world. Wherever the Sisters went, they responded in practical ways to address the needs of those kept poor. They continue this outreach today. Presentation Sisters are currently present in 24 countries.

### A change of name

We have changed the title of our Province Magazine to “Words & Deeds” which is rooted in this Nagle motto, as our Magazine is a place where ‘words’ are used to highlight and celebrate the ‘deeds’ of Presentation people in our Province and beyond.

## Sharing Words & Deeds

If you have enjoyed reading this magazine, please feel free to share your copy with someone else who may not be familiar with the life of Presentation people. As a new reader, if this is your first contact with Presentation Sisters (North East Province) please also visit our website or follow us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram using the links on this page (these are already live and active on the E-copy of this magazine by just clicking on the logos). The E-version of this quarterly magazine is also available to read online on our website.