



# *Words & Deeds*

A magazine of the Presentation Sisters Union—North East Ireland

July to December 2021

Volume 1 : Issue 3

- 'Singing a new Song to the Lord'!
- 'Pres. Ballingarry'—150 years later!
- The birth of a new partnership!
- A 15th Birthday for CEIST!
- 20 years of 'Challenge to Change'!
  
- 'Wake Up the World!!
- Annals & Archives:  
Mullingar to Madras!

**A blessed journey ...**



# Inside this issue

## Foreword ..... 03

A blessed journey.  
Words of thanks—Sr. Gabrielle Jin

## Shafts of Light .....04

‘Singing a Song to the Lord’ —Sr. Cecilia Molloy  
Courageous Migrant—Pope Francis  
“If I could be of service”—Sr. Mary Kenny  
Ceiliúradh CEIST Day 2022  
‘Pres. Ballingarry’ - Celebrating 150 yrs—Ms. Angela Cahill  
AONTAS CEN Award 2021  
Twenty Years of ‘C2Change’—Sr. Margaret Mary Healy

## New Life .....14

The birth of a partnership—Sr. Elizabeth Maxwell

## ‘Just Ways’ .....15

From the Inter-provincial Justice Desk—Mr. Brian O’Toole  
The power of care—women, economy, human trafficking

## Nano Today .....19

The Postulator’s Diary—Sr. Anne Lyons

## Annals & Archives .....20

Recording the ‘treasure’ of our lives—Sr. Marie Thérèse King

## Collaborations .....22

Educating for Justice  
Celebrating the Paschal Journey at Mt. St. Anne’s

## Conversations ..... 23

Living justice and peace today  
The Calling (CEIST Charter)  
Education: the hope & future of our world—Pope Francis  
The Synodal Pathway—a new website  
@Mt. St. Anne’s in 2022—Dr. Oonagh O’Brien

## Still Space .....26

Wake Up the World! (World Day for Consecrated Life)  
‘Sharing Moon Cake’—Sr. Carmel Raftery  
‘Being there’—Patricia McKernon Runkle  
In Appreciation

## Back Page .....28



# Foreword



## A blessed journey ...

It is perhaps fitting that the end of year issue of **Words & Deeds** reaches you just now, as we welcome this new year with courage, hope, anticipation and inspiration. These are the very qualities echoed in the *'blessed journey'* shared with you from within these pages.

Echoing the music of the heart, Sr. Cecilia Molloy recounts how, through teaching, writing and composing, she shares *'the music of life'* wherever the opportunity presents itself, continually *'singing a new song to the Lord.'* Sr. Mary Kenny shares how answering God's call (that is also Nano's call to be of service) the Sisters in Carraroe find its expression through all the numerous changes, challenges and developments in their historic journey. Answering God's call in its many and varied expressions is also reflected in how our contributors have shared their experience of responding to need from wherever it arose, be that from Mullingar to Chennai (Madras) in a precious piece from the Annals in Mullingar and Chennai, penned by Sr. Marie Therese King, or in Kildare, Warrenmount (Dublin), or Ballingarry. Congratulations Sr. Pauline McGaley on the important recognition recently received through the AONTAS CEN Awards, acknowledging your special expertise and commitment to community education.

There is also a definite thread of *'education'* weaving its way through this issue – educating for action, educating to save our common home, education in fraternity, education in partnership through CEIST (celebrating its 15<sup>th</sup> birthday) and the Catholic Education Partnership (CEP) just coming of age - the journey to birth shared by Sr. Elizabeth Maxwell! Whether it be education to be able to 'Challenge for Change' in the classroom (Sr. Margaret Mary Healy) or at the UN, or in civil society, through the Inter-provincial Justice Desk actions and interventions shared by Brian O'Toole, there is also the definite joy and gratitude of being able to celebrate 150 years of Presentation education in 'Pres. Ballingarry' with Ms Angela Cahill, the current Principal who writes: *"We are honoured and humbled to be the ones to carry such values into the future"*.

From this vibrant legacy of Nano Nagle continuing to find its expression in our lives today, comes new life, new buds, new 'springtime's', as together each of us share in the reverberating joy of welcoming Sr. Gabrielle Jin as she made her first profession of vows on St. Brigid's Day, (1<sup>st</sup> February 2022).

We look back in this issue, only to be able to go forward inspired, strengthened and reassured by the light of all this life experience so generously shared by our contributors. As Sr. Cecilia Molloy wrote in her song for 'Nano in Kildare': *"Nano, we sing your praises. You are the future of our past."*

**Together on this 'blessed journey.'**

## Words of thanks ...

Dear Sisters,

What an honour for me to be a professed member of the North East Province of the Presentation Congregation. I recall the blessings God has showered down on me through all of you who have encouraged me and supported me along my Presentation Journey, and I am truly grateful for God's call and for your love!

On my profession day, you were there with me, either physically or spiritually, making me feel

truly blessed! I told myself, that it was not my event, but God's event, so I asked the Lord to look after everything, and He did!

May all praise be to Him, and please continue to pray for me, your little Sister. Thank you also for your generous gifts, cards, and prayers. "Freely I have received, and may I freely give"!

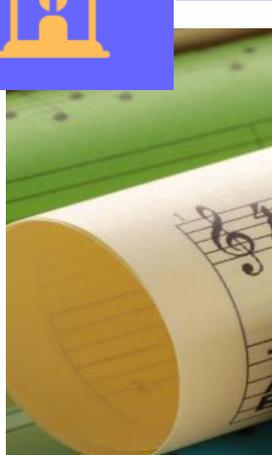
Heartfelt thanks and love,

**Gabrielle**





# Shafts of Light



**Image (R):** Sr. Cecilia Molloy pictured at the Nano300 Day 2018 in Mt. St. Anne's. 'Let us rejoice & be glad' words from the chorus of the hymn to Venerable Nano Nagle.

**Image:** Window detail—St. Cecilia.

## 'Singing a Song to the Lord'

Anyone who knows Sr. Cecilia Molloy would immediately associate her with teaching, writing and composing *'the music of life'* wherever the opportunity presents itself, continually *'singing a new song to the Lord'*. Aptly named after St. Cecilia (see below) I am delighted to be able to share these short snapshots on her life journey, which Cecilia has generously put together for this issue of 'Words & Deeds'.

### A first song

In 1945, at the age of eight, I had my first piano lesson. That was the year in which my father received the first Children's Allowance. A half a crown. The lesson cost exactly that. The allowance was not granted to my two older brothers. I was number three in my family. My dad pointed out that it was a good omen. So, I felt it was important to show value for the investment. I believe I did.

Through my school years in teaching, I made good use of the interest on the half crown. My most productive year was the one spent teaching Junior Infants. We sang our way through every action, lesson, incident and experience. We composed songs for every occasion.

Brendan Kennelly (recently deceased) has spoken of composing. He said: *"You make your own music, always in tune with yourself"*.

Being in tune for me has called for a number of hymns. One important event was my

Religious Profession in Mount St. Anne's in 1961. Though this took place on April 23rd, the homilist spoke of the connection between the three gifts of the Magi (the Christmas story) and the vows which we took at our profession. He reminded me to keep an eye on the *'Star which leads to Jesus'* all my life. That star drew from me a song I named *'Star of Bethlehem'*, at the celebration of my Diamond Jubilee.

*"Star of Bethlehem you still beckon  
Jesus Christ you are light and love  
Hold me close to you on my journey  
Shine your gracious light from above"*.

*(The opening verse).*

### My Name Saint

St. Cecilia is my patron. I was privileged to visit her church in Rome on a school tour back in the days. Privileged too, to be given her name when I entered the congregation. When up against martyrdom she *"sang the praises of the Lord"*.

I find great comfort in Church hymns. There is always a phrase or verse that expresses my feelings or anxieties.



# Shafts of Light

*"I sing a song to you Lord. A song of love and praise.  
All glory be to you Lord, through everlasting days".*

~~~~~  
Because I could not find a suitable hymn for St. Cecilia – I composed one.

*"St. Cecilia, St. Cecilia  
You put your trust in God's word  
You gave your life for Christ your Saviour  
You sang the praises of the Lord.*

*You were martyred for believing  
You were loyal to the end.  
Helping others to be Christian  
Angels were your earthly friends".*

*(The first two verses from the hymn).*

## And the Song continues

Cecilia has been inspired to compose songs and music on so many landmark occasions during her life e.g. for the Venerable Nano celebration in Cork in 2013 she writes:

*"While on a committee preparing for the occasion, I thought, why not a song? This came quickly, mainly because we have given such time and attention to our Foundress back the years. It was a great experience and very special to have a choir from Kilavullen, Nano's home parish, to sing the song. If and when Nano is named a Saint, I hope to be in readiness!"*

*"She brought the light of her lantern  
Helped those in trouble and strife  
Nourished the faith of her people  
Now we thank God for her life".*

*(The third verse).*

## Illuminate, Love, Serve

This is the motto of Kildare Community School, and one very rich in meaning – *'Illuminate, Love, Serve'*. This called for a school anthem which I composed and penned in 2019. However, the Covid-19 pandemic put paid to the singing/performance of the song. But I still have hopes! When I recently retired from the Board of Management in the school, I was presented with a framed copy of some of the words of the song. So I live in hope that the music will continue to inspire. When people sing songs they remember



**Image:** Bronze statue of Nano Nagle, Kildare town.

them while words hanging on a wall may well be forgotten.

## Nano in Kildare

For the Year of Mercy, the Kildare Parish Choir needed a suitable hymn. So, my *'Song of Mercy'* came to birth. Up until Covid-19 entered our world when choirs sang freely at services, this hymn was still in vogue in the parish. Mercy is now much needed by all. The open hands on the door of the church in Kildare is indicative of the open welcome shown to all our Sisters, while we lived in Kildare.

When we left the town we sang our song for *'Nano in Kildare'*. A statue of Nano Nagle has been erected in the grounds of the Church. The Sisters are gone, but Nano remains there.

*From Acorn to Oak is the story that she spoke.  
Nano new Lady of Kildare  
St Brigid found a space  
in the Curragh's holy place.  
Both bring a light for us to share.*

*Nano, the Lady of the Lantern  
Brigid, the harbinger of peace.  
Help us shine a light in the darkness of the night.  
Peace and love to everyone we meet.*

*Nano, we sing your praises.  
You are the future of our past.  
You are here to stay, while we have gone our way.  
May your lantern help the memories last.*





# Shafts of Light

## 'Singing a song to the Lord' ... ctd/



**Image:** Statue of St. Joseph, Knock International Eucharistic & Marian Shrine, Co. Mayo.

*"Hail St. Joseph, spouse of Mary,  
You were called to be her guide.  
Dreamer, carer, and homemaker,  
You were faithful by her side.*

*Joseph, help us to care.  
Worker beyond compare.  
In times of danger show us the way.  
Faithful to Jesus our Saviour".*

*(Extract from 'Hymn to St. Joseph').*

### A hymn to St. Joseph

Currently our church is celebrating a special year to St. Joseph. I felt a need to write a 'Hymn to Joseph', who has been in our prayer-life since early childhood. Recently I presented this hymn to a gathering of Permanent Deacons in our Diocese.

I think Joseph is a good model for these men. Silently, carefully he is active in the service of Jesus. He listened for the voice of God who spoke to him in his dreams. He was, as we say nowadays, a true contemplative.

Last summer at a gathering in Rome, Pope Francis told the assembled deacons that they needed to remain humble without showing off like a peacock or putting themselves at the centre. That they should help the Christian community to spot Jesus in the poor.

My group of Deacons sang the hymn with gusto. I hope the 'Simply Singing Ladies' in our church in Askea, will do the same when they return to church later in the year.

### Sr. Cecilia Molloy



## Courageous migrant

Today I would like to present Saint Joseph to you as a persecuted and courageous migrant.

Joseph is "a just man" (Mt 1:19), furthermore, he proves he is courageous in following the Angel's command. One can imagine the plight he had to face during the long and dangerous journey and the difficulties involved in staying in a foreign country, with another language: many difficulties. His courage emerges also at the moment of his return, when, reassured by the Angel, he overcomes his understandable fears and settles with Mary and Jesus in Nazareth (cf. Mt 2:19-23).

Today I think we need a prayer for all migrants and all 'the

persecuted', and all those who are victims of adverse circumstances: be they political, historical or personal circumstances. Migration is a social scandal of humanity.

**Saint Joseph,  
you who experienced the suffering of those  
who must flee  
you who were forced to flee  
to save the lives of those dearest to you,  
protect all those who flee because of war,  
hatred, hunger.  
Support them in their difficulties,  
Strengthen them in hope, and let them find  
welcome and solidarity.  
Guide their steps and open the hearts of those  
who can help them. Amen.**

*(From a 'Catechesis on Saint Joseph,, persecuted and courageous migrant' - Pope Francis 29 December, 2021).*



# Shafts of Light



**Images: (Left)** An Acadamh – the old primary school where Coláiste Nano Nógla was, now a branch of NUIG.



**Image:** Scoil Chuimsitheach Chiarán built on the site where the Sisters lived at first.

## “If I could be of service...”.

### A new venture

On June 21st, 2021 the last formal connection of the Presentation Sisters with An Cheathrú Rua ended after sixty-two years of ministry in the area.

It all began in 1954 when the then Archbishop of Tuam, Joseph Walsh\*, invited the Presentation Sisters to open a secondary school in Carraroe.

Sr. Rita O’Toole (RIP) and Sr. Nora Somers (RIP) were the two Sisters who began the school there on September 1st, 1959. It was in the abandoned Primary school (now known as the Gael Acadamh – a branch of NUIG). The Tuam convent archives state:

*“It was a sorry site. Even the doors had no locks, only a piece of wire holding it closed... and the school was a shambles”.* Nevertheless, Coláiste Nano Nógla was opened. The Sisters stayed in the convent in Tír an Fhia, nine miles away. As they did not have a car, and as there was no public transport in the area at that time, they were brought to school each day in the mail van which was driven by a gracious and generous man, Máirtín Barrett.

Eventually, they were able to rent a house in Carraroe and other Sisters were able to join Rita and Nora as the school expanded rapidly. From the start, in spite of the poor conditions in

the school and in their living accommodation, the school had high standards, thanks to the commitment and hard work of the Sisters.

Some pupils were successful in getting trained as Primary teachers while others achieved scholarships to the university. One of the first graduates also trained as a Home Economics teacher. Pupils were also prepared for Díospóireachtaí Ghaeil Linn and were successful in competing in many all-Ireland competitions at Senior level.

It is important to acknowledge here, that from the start the Sisters were warmly welcomed by the people. Their presence and work in the area was greatly appreciated by “muintir na h-áite”. This was often shown by generous gifts of milk or vegetables and other necessities being brought to them, and also by the way they supported Coláiste Nano Nógla.

### New Developments

As the numbers of pupils increased, it soon became obvious that a bigger and better school was needed and so began a long saga of planning and development between the Department of Education, Archbishop Walsh and the Congregation. During this time the late George Colley, Minister for Education, was planning to bring the Comprehensive School System to Ireland. This system was offered as a possible solution to the need for a secondary school in

# Shafts of Light

## 'If I could be of service ...' Ctd/

Carraroe. It would be a 'co-ed' school, but the hierarchy, at that time, had huge problems with the idea of co-education. The lengthy negotiations that went on between the Archbishop and the Department cannot be gone into here but those interested might like to read Dr. Catríona Delaney's very interesting work on this topic\*.

When agreement was reached, finally the school could go ahead. Five places were reserved on the staff of the school for the Sisters. It was clear that this was to be a Catholic school and a chaplain was paid by the Department.

### A new Convent

The most suitable site for the new school was deemed to be the site in Carraroe on which the Sisters were living so it was sold to the Department for £10,000 – *"the offer could not be better – it was truly more than any of us expected"* (Delaney: Tuam Diocesan Archives, 1966). The Sisters again had to move to Tír an Fhia. They bought a car which made travelling back and forth easier.

In January 1970 a new convent was opened in Carraroe and the Sisters had, at last, some comfort. From the start the convent was an open house and this meant that many activities that did not seem possible in other convents could take place there. Very early on the parish choir was glad of a place to practice; a group of local priests used it as a suitable meeting place for prayer; classes in sewing, crafts, dressmaking, Carrickmacross lace, Irish crochet and other crafts were held. The convent also facilitated the school for student retreats and for prayer groups.

Sr. Mary Fahy (Muredach) and later, Srs. Brigid Banks and Elizabeth Connolly (RIP). always had the kettle boiling and a welcoming face for anyone who needed a space to rest and relax. Through all of these groups great friendships were formed and mutual support was given. The convent was an alive and lively place and life was good for all of us. The Sisters supported any activity that they could in the area, for example the local drama group, (Aisteoiri Mhic Easmuinn)

but the Sisters received much more in friendship and support than they ever gave.

### Further change

As was our experience in many other areas, the number of Sisters available to work in Carraroe decreased and in December 1987 the convent was closed. It was later sold to the Department of Education and is being used by the school for some classes. Srs. Anne Donoghue and Kathleen Hallinan lived in a rented house in Gleann Mór and Anne continued on the staff of the school until 2004, having served for twenty-six years, while Kathleen taught French on a voluntary basis. Kathleen and Anne continued to be involved in the Parish as members of Coiste an Pharóiste, the Coiste Cabhrach, Pobal ar Aire, supporting residents in Árus Mhic Dara through craft classes and advocacy and visiting the sick and housebound in the area.

Our final involvement with an Scoil Chuimsitheach ended on June 21st 2021 when I ended my fifteen year term as Archbishop Neary's representative on the Board of Management (BOM). I was left in no doubt about the genuine appreciation the members had for the presence of the Sisters in Carraroe for sixty-two years. I can honestly say that we were privileged to have been accepted into a warm and generous community of people. We were lucky to have had the opportunity to be immersed in the language and culture of the Gaeltacht.

On learning that I would be finishing my term as a Board of Management (BOM) member, Arch-bishop Michael Neary wrote (7th May 2021):

*"We live at a time in history where the voice in Catholic education is needed more than ever before. In the past, in places like An Cheathrú Rua, the Presentation Sisters lived the ethos inside and outside the classroom, and this had a ripple effect throughout the locality and school catchment area.*

*Now the time has come to invite the beneficiaries of your generous service to take up the mantle and carry it forward."*

*We are happy that the future of Catholic education in An Cheathrú Rua is in the very capable hands of*

# Shafts of Light



## 'If I could be of service ...' Ctd/



**Image:** Sr. Anne Donohue giving the keys of the convent to Mr. Tomás Ó Monacháin, Príomhoide.

*a committed Management, Principal and Staff".*

At the final Board meeting I accepted a specially commissioned gift, which was crafted locally and symbolised our commitment and our love for the area and its culture. It consisted of a piece of bog oak with a symbol of a Galway Hooker mounted on it. I accepted it as a tribute to all the Sisters who ministered in Carraroe.

**Sr. Mary Kenny**



**Image:** Members of the Board of Management (Front Row): Máirtín Ó Conghaile (Cathaoirleach), Sr. Máire Ní Chionnaith, Seán Mac Donncha (Príomhoide). (Back Row): Peadar Ó Flatharta, Sinéad Nic Stiofáin (Príomhoide Tánaisteach), Uilic Ó Cualáin, María Uí Chonghaile, Róisín Ni Mhainnín, Dáibhéad Ó Laocha Galway & Roscommon, Education & Training Board (GRET B).

\*Dr. Catriona Delaney: "There seems to be some misunderstanding": (Church-state relations and the establishment of Carraroe comprehensive 1963-67) published in the Irish Educational Studies, May 2021 and can be accessed at the following link: <https://doi.org/10.1080/03323315.2021.1910973>

## Ceiliúradh CEIST Day 2022



The inaugural Ceiliúradh CEIST Day took place on 1st February 2022. CEIST (Catholic Education—An Irish Schools Trust) hope that this will be the start of an annual nationwide school celebration and awareness of the CEIST community and of the tremendous work happening all of the time in CEIST schools..

This was a day to celebrate 15 years of great work in CEIST schools and a day to acknowledge and celebrate the outstanding contribution made to these schools by their founding congregations, as well as sharing the

wonderful work from schools all across the country as a way of marking this special 15th birthday!

Facebook, Twitter and Instagram were alive with videos and photographs of a wide range of events and activities to mark the occasion—ranging from a daily focus on CEIST Values culminating in a display on February 1st of the what these values mean, to linking the story of St. Brigid to that of CEIST, to Native Irish tree Planting. All the many actions & events undertaken and shared contribute to the realisation and acknowledgement of a vibrant and dynamic CEIST community. See [Ceist | Catholic Education | An Irish School's Trust](#)





# Shafts of Light



**Images:** (L) St. Joseph's Convent, Ballingarry (Est. 1871), and the Presentation Secondary School extended, refurbished and opened (2015).

## 'Pres. Ballingarry' - Celebrating 150 years (1871–2021)

There has been a school on the same site in Ballingarry, Thurles, Co. Tipperary for nearly 150 years. The first school was a primary school, a boarding school for girls followed. A day school for girls was added to the boarding school, and then a mixed secondary school emerged. The schools have always changed as educational demands changed. The schools were established by the Presentation Sisters, arising from a desire to meet the needs of the people and educate the young. The current school – Presentation Ballingarry – is now under the Trusteeship of CEIST, but it still holds very strongly to its Presentation ethos and values.

### Beginnings

The Convent in Ballingarry was established under the directorship of Archbishop Leahy of Thurles. On August 22nd, 1871, Rev. Mother Aloysius Greene, Mother DeSales Ryan, Mother Regis Croke and Sr. Magdalene Lynch came to Ballingarry. Archbishop Leahy celebrated Mass and blessed the new convent dedicating it to St. Joseph.

On October 24th 1871 – Primary School classes were formed and school work commenced. One hundred children enrolled, and this rose to one hundred and six students by November 21st that year (Presentation Feast Day).

Sixteen years later, in 1887 the Sisters opened a Boarding School with an initial enrolment of forty students. While the Boarding School and the Primary School were flourishing – the Sisters novitiate was

also expanding, resulting in an extension to the Convent which opened in 1889. Then, in 1939 another wing was added to the Boarding School to cater for growing numbers.

A day school was opened in the 1900's with an initial enrolment of forty pupils. Students were prepared for their Intermediate and Leaving Certificate, Teacher Training and Civil Servant Exams. All subjects were taught through the medium of Irish – with all teachers drawn from the Sisters of the Presentation Order.

### Global reach

During World War Two the Red Cross asked if the sisters would take in French refugees, and as a result three young French girls stayed at the Convent in Ballingarry until the end of the war – returning home in 1945.

In 1952, the Archbishop of Wellington, New Zealand arrived seeking a foundation of Sisters for his Diocese. In 1953, two sisters from Ballingarry (Sr. Elizabeth and Sr. Consillio)



# Shafts of Light



**Image:** Presentation Sisters: Stanislaus, Xavier, Dolores, Rosario, DeRicci, Celestine and Madeline, (1965).



**Image:** Srs. Patricia, Miriam & Teresa celebrate their contribution to Presentation Ballingarry.

travelled to New Zealand with four Sisters from Thurles and founded a convent there.

## Developments & changes at home

Meanwhile, the school in Ballingarry opened its door to boys in 1965 with the resulting surge in enrolments leading to the first pre-fabricated buildings in Ireland to be built and erected on site.

Sadly, the 1990's marked a decline in the numbers entering religious orders and despite their best efforts – the Boarding School was forced to close in 1996. Two years later in 1998, the Convent was sold with just three Sisters remaining in the parish – Sr. Teresa Walsh (a Ballingarry native), Sr. Miriam O' Byrne and Sr. Patricia Wall. Teresa was the last serving sister on the teaching staff while Sr. Patricia served as Principal overseeing the building of a new school, Scoil Mhuire which was built and opened in 1983.

This school was further extended in 2013 – with a two-storey extension and refurbishment and renamed – Presentation Ballingarry.

In recent years Sr. Teresa and Sr. Miriam have moved to other communities, while Sr. Patricia remains in Ballingarry.

## The Presentation legacy

Presentation Ballingarry is extremely proud of its historical association with the Presentation Sisters. We know that we are merely standing on the shoulders of all the greatness that has gone before us.

Presentation Sisters are known worldwide for their inclusion, generosity, equality and their determination to help make things better.

We are honoured and humbled to be the ones to carry such values into the future.

**Angela Cahill**  
Principal, Presentation Ballingarry



You can view the Centenary Video prepared by Presentation Ballingarry on their website link [Presentation Secondary School, Ballingarry Home \(presballingarry.ie\)](http://PresentationSecondarySchool.BallingarryHome(presballingarry.ie))

**Image: (L to R)** The Official Opening of Presentation Ballingarry in 2015 : (Veronica Maher (Chairperson Board of Management), Ger Dowling (Deputy Principal) Jan O' Sullivan (then Minister for Education), Angela Cahill (Principal), Dr. Marie Griffin (then CEO: CEIST).



# Shafts of Light



## AONTAS CEN Award 2021

On Tuesday, 16th November, AONTAS held its final Community Education Network (CEN) meeting of 2021. The CEN brings together independent community education practitioners from across Ireland to collaborate, share knowledge and engage on key areas relating to community education. This particular CEN meeting was unique in the sense that it gave AONTAS the opportunity to recognise and celebrate the outstanding commitment of five women who were instrumental to the establishment of the CEN and, *'unsung heroes of their local communities'* according to Dr. Niamh O'Reilly, AONTAS CEO. Sr. Pauline McGaley (Director of Warrenmount Community Education Centre) received this award as recognition of her contribution to grassroots community education over very many years.

### About the award

This award is an opportunity to showcase the remarkable achievements and grassroots contribution of these five women in shaping community education while also acknowledging their special expertise and commitment to the AONTAS Community Education Network, over many years. Niamh O'Reilly, AONTAS CEO acknowledged the significant contribution each of the women have made as leaders and innovators in community education. Speaking about succession, and holding onto this sectoral knowledge when so much of it has been built by volunteers and largely by women, Niamh said:

*"While there is a huge community of expertise within the CEN, clear professional career paths and sustainable multiannual funding are required to attract and retain community educators".*



**The five awardees are:** Bríd Connolly (Maynooth University), Catherine Aylmer (Limerick Community Education Network), Marian Donegan (Access 2000), Anne Flannery (The Larkin Centre) and Pauline McGaley (Warrenmount Community Education Centre).

**Warmest congratulations Pauline!**



### Warrenmount Centre

You can follow the work of Warrenmount Community Education Centre through its website: <https://warrenmountcentre.ie/> and their media platforms:

**Facebook:** [@warrenmountcentre](https://www.facebook.com/warrenmountcentre)

**Twitter:** [@WarrenmountCED](https://twitter.com/WarrenmountCED)

**Instagram:** [@warrenmountcentre](https://www.instagram.com/warrenmountcentre)



## CHALLENGE TO CHANGE

# Take Action

Challenge to Change - a Development Education Project

[Check out our latest NEWS](#)

[About](#) [News](#) [C2C 2021-2022](#) [Previous Projects](#) [Outline Project Plan](#) [Contact](#)

## Twenty years of Challenge 2 Change

### About the award

Twenty years ago, Challenge to Change (C2C) was a Project for Presentation students in Ireland. Interested schools responded to the invitation to participate and then spent some time discerning, discussing and finally deciding which particular angle they would work on. "Work" became the operative word from then onwards. Interim reports were submitted and perhaps some minor adjustments made, until finally the day came round for the Seminar.

Amazing projects were presented to others as a challenge to them to change some aspect of their behaviour for the benefit of humanity and our environment. Guests of all ages went home with some wonderful new and very practical ideas. Sharing always makes us happy and so it was, on every Seminar Day. It was always a happy occasion.

### Current times

We were delighted to welcome thirty-five schools to the project in 2019-2020. However, due to COVID-19 and subsequent school closures we were unable to bring the project to its usual conclusion. Challenge to Change 2020-2021 did not take place either, due to the ongoing pandemic. We gratefully acknowledge the commitment of Principals and teachers in facilitating students with their projects and thank the Presentation Trustees for their generous funding.

### So, what now?

Schools have been invited to take the next challenge, **Challenge2Change 2021-2022**. Challenge to Change is much bigger now than a school project. It is a global challenge. Almost every day, we are reminded that unless we take up that challenge, Planet Earth, our beautiful home, is doomed.

*What aspect of our behaviour would you like to see change for the good of all creatures?*

Participants this C2C year are invited to 'Think about it, talk about it and tell us what they think!' This can be the opportunity to join with local groups such as Tidy Towns, County Councils etc.?

The focus for participants in C2C 2021-2022, is '**Climate Change, its impact on our Common Home**'.

Some interesting project topics received from schools to date include: Climate Change is Unjust, Biodiversity, Going Extinct, The Promotion and Practical Application of Biodiversity in our School, Waste Free Oceans – the time is now!, We speak for the Trees, There is no planet B, Sustainable Sustenance, Climate Refugees.

We plan to hold our Challenge2Change Seminars once again, in early May 2022.

See [Education | Challenge to Change Project](#) for up-to-date info. & contact details.

**Sr. Margaret Mary Healy**



# New Life



**Image:** The first Catholic Education Partnership (CEP) Meeting at Mount. St. Anne's, September 2021.

## The birth of a partnership

An advertisement in the IRISH TIMES on February 5, 2021, inviting applications by the Catholic Education Partnership (CEP) for the role of Chief Executive Officer, probably went unnoticed by the majority of Sisters in Ireland. This is understandable given that the majority of teaching Sisters are now retired or only marginally involved in supplying ancillary services in the realm of adult education or other support projects for young people with learning difficulties. So what's the story with CEP? Where did it originate? What is its purpose? Sr. Elizabeth Maxwell outlines the historic and visionary journey (over a twenty year period) that has culminated in the birth of this partnership and it finally becoming a legal entity in December 2020.

### A visionary journey

A journey that goes back more than 20 years, the recent foundation of the Catholic Education Partnership (CEP) is the outcome of seminal work done by Sr. Teresa McCormack, pbvm, who, in her role as Director of Education in the Conference of Religious of Ireland (CORI), initiated a study of the meaning of Trusteeship of schools. The outcome was the clarification of the role of Trustees as two-fold:

- 1) legal ownership of the property and land on which the educational enterprise took place, and
- 2) the fiduciary responsibility to protect, foster and proclaim the founding intention of the school whether by a religious founder or the Bishop of the diocese in which the school was situated.



Sr. Teresa was conscious that the Management of schools was ably served by the Association of Management of Catholic Secondary Schools (AMCSS), an organisation established in the early 1980s by CORI and the Bishops. It supported Boards of Management, gave guidelines for the employment of staff, represented the school owners with the Dept. of Education, assisted with the amalgamation process of schools, etc. It functioned as a highly professional body and was a significant support in the day to day functioning of schools.

Teresa was a prescient woman. She foresaw the gradual reduction in the numbers of religious and priests on the staffs of Catholic schools. These were the carriers, the embodiment of the vision of education handed down by the founders. How would their ethos be carried into the future?



## The birth of a partnership Ctd.../

### The future of Trusteeship

The Handbook on Trusteeship, which the Education Commission of CORI produced, proved to be the catalyst which initiated study of founding intentions in every religious congregation and efforts to animate staffs in their schools to embrace them. Sadly, Teresa died before she saw the fruit of her work.

To further explore the future trusteeship of Catholic schools, The Education Commission of CORI wrote to the Education Commission of the Bishops' Conference requesting a meeting.

This request resulted in the establishment of a Strategic Planning Group consisting of six Congregational leaders engaged in education and six Diocesan Bishops. Increasingly denominational education was being challenged by a growing secular society. Religious congregations were collaborating in the process of establishing canonical Trusts for their schools. The diocesan schools were slow to take the same path.

However, in 2008, the Irish Conference of Bishops issued the VISION 08 document, articulating the inspiration, the spiritual and academic values and the community dimension of the Catholic school. It was an articulation of the trust each Catholic school was obliged to honour within the particular charism of its founder.

By now a number of religious-owned Trusts had been established, Catholic Education—An Irish Schools Trust (CEIST) in 2007, ERST in 2008, the Presentation Brothers School Trust (PBST), followed by Le Chéile. They were recognised ecclesiastically as Public Juridic Persons with lay membership and accountable annually to the Bishops' Conference. The Loreto and Jesuit schools' trusts reported directly to their Major Superiors in Rome. The ownership of the Catholic schools, the ethos of the schools and the entitlement to be part-funded by the State while retaining its denominational character were constantly under attack in the media. Trusteeship was the ground on which the battle was now being fought.

A Planning group was established composed of representatives of the existing Trusts and Fr. Michael Drumm, to make recommendations regarding the future structures required to bring about cohesion between Management and Trusteeship in the Catholic sector. It was facilitated by organisational consultant, Peter Nolan, and chaired by Sr. Elizabeth Maxwell, pbvm. The final proposals were presented to the Congregational Leaders, the Trusts, and the Bishops at meetings in Dublin and Maynooth, and were agreed.

### The CEP becomes a legal entity

The Catholic Education Partnership (CEP) as a legal entity came into being in December 2020. The first formal meeting of Directors took place by Zoom more than 20 years after the publication of the Trustee Handbook initiated by Sr. Teresa McCormack. The first face to face meeting of the CEP and the introduction of the CEO, Gillian McGrath, took place in Mt. St. Anne's in September 2021.



**Sr. Elizabeth Maxwell**

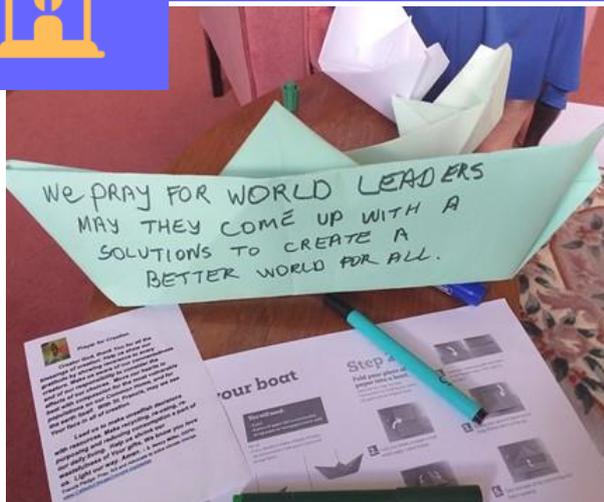
### A note on the financial costs of creating the new entity, CEP

All Religious Congregations and Dioceses were invited to make contributions towards the enterprise and almost all responded positively. As one who fronted the fundraising, I can reveal that the most generous contributions came from the Irish Provinces of the Presentation Sisters who made their donations in honour of Venerable Nano Nagle, the pioneer of Catholic education in this country over 3 centuries ago. As Presentation Sisters we can be proud of our involvement in Nano's dream

The ongoing costs of the operation of CEP, payment of salaries, etc, will be funded by contributions from the established Trusts and other schools committed to the support of the partnership in the future.



# 'Just Ways'



**Images:** Sisters (L-R) Margaret McCarthy, Kathleen Berriman, and Frederica Britto (Matlock) involved in 'Rise to the Moment – Prayer Boat' one of three pre-COP26 challenges undertaken by Sisters and Friends.

## From the Interprovincial Justice Desk

Already, there is much to plan and organise, and new projects are being undertaken. I will start by bringing you up-to-date on what we have planned at the Justice Desk for the coming year, while also giving you some idea of our most recent work. Through our collaborative work with others, uniting our collective voices we can often be stronger and louder than we might otherwise be, if we worked alone.

### UK Universal Periodic Review

Just before Christmas we began research for the upcoming United Kingdom Universal Periodic Review (UPR). Once again we will be working with Edmund Rice International (ERI) and the Christian Brothers in both Northern Ireland and England. By collaborating (IPA with ERI) we can offer a much longer submission than would ordinarily be the case if either of us went alone. We have already worked together successfully in the past for the submission to the Irish UPR last November and have settled on two distinct issues that we will comment on in this current new submission.

- (1) on the serious issue of homelessness in the North of Ireland where ERI work through the Westcourt Centre, Belfast, and
- (2) the issue of Refugees, Migrants and Asylum Seekers in



the UK, given the implications of the New Borders Bill that will criminalise those who seek asylum.

### AMRI - AEFJN Ireland

Since October of last year we have been involved in the foundation of the **Africa Europe Faith and Justice Network - Ireland Antenna**. We have been meeting twice monthly initially to create a sustaining momentum for the new year.

To this end I have built a website for this new Antenna [here](#) that will fill you in on all our work to date and campaign plans for the **Trocaire - Business and Human Rights Campaign**.

This month we will be planning a strategy to involve all in lobbying the Irish Government on their responsibilities, and over the next short period we will be sharing details of how people can become involved.

### Convention on the Rights of the Child

In an effort to further our [submission to the Irish UPR](#) last March, we will submit again, on the same issues, but this time on the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Ireland will be examined on its performance record on these rights later in the year and we hope to collaborate with Our Lady of the Apostles, Edmund Rice International, The Cork Migrant Centre

# 'Just Ways'



## From the Interprovincial Justice Desk

and the Presentation Brothers in Cork. Our work must be completed by May 1st 2022.

### Climate Justice and The Young Activist

I was asked to write an article by 'Global Citizenship School' on climate change and the primary school child in the context of intergenerational climate change. This was published in the November/December issue of the 'InTouch' Magazine, the teachers' magazine sent to all primary school teachers in Ireland (44,000 copies sent). You can read the full article [here](#)



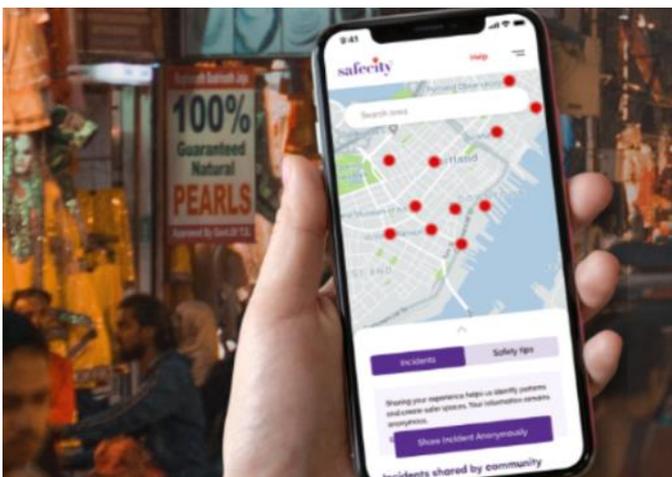
Dublin Climate March (image courtesy of Brian O'Toole).

### IPA Commitment & the Safecity Red Dot Foundation App

In November 2021, the Presentation Sisters in Ireland and the International Presentation Association, in partnership with the Red Dot Foundation Group (RDG), launched the Safecity Platform among their communities in Ireland.

This is in line with the ongoing Presentation commitment to work towards the elimination of violence against women and children.

The Safecity platform empowers individuals, communities and police to create safer public and private spaces by anonymously recording incidences of violence on an App (or on their website). We are encouraging all to download the APP, familiarise themselves with it and then ask others to do the same. You can check into the site to find out more <https://www.safecity.in/>.



### COP26—where to?

Unfortunately COP26, which promised all manner of change did not deliver as we had hoped, but we should remember that COP is really a process, and when there are advances and achievements, no matter how small, they are to be celebrated and built upon.

At the behest of the Presentation Sisters (English Province) we advertised a campaign that we called '**3 Presentation Asks COP26**', whereby through practical action Sisters and Associates found out more about the detail of the COP26 and its implications for all, especially those left furthest behind. The actions involved writing a letter, signing a petition and creating a prayer boat that would be sent ahead to arrive in time for the COP negotiations. This latter action was supported collaboratively by many Presentation People around the world.

### Brian O'Toole—Director of the Presentation Sisters Justice Desk for Ireland & England

#### Contacting the Desk:

If you have an idea, action, event, article or indeed, anything else that you think might be worth sharing then please contact the Justice Desk—we would love to hear from you. See [HERE](#)





# 'Just Ways'

International Day of Prayer and  
Awareness Against Human Trafficking  
Light against Trafficking

**The power of care**  
women, economy,  
human trafficking  
February 8th, 2022



**THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF  
PRAYER AND AWARENESS  
AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING**



**8 FEBRUARY**  
FEAST OF  
SAINT BAKHITA

## The power of care—woman, economy, human trafficking

The theme of the eighth **International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Trafficking in Persons** is "The Power of Care - Women, Economics, Human Trafficking".

Trafficking is one of the deepest wounds inflicted by the current economic system. It impacts on all dimensions of life, personal and communitarian. Indeed, the pandemic has increased the "business" of human trafficking and has exacerbated the pain: worsening the situations of vulnerability that involved the people most at risk - disproportionately women and girls.

According to the United Nations statistics on trafficking in persons (2020 UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons) women and girls represent 72% of identified victims of trafficking, and the percentage of women and girls increases significantly in the context of trafficking for sexual exploitation; a market that represents 2/3 of the profits generated by exploitation. Writing on this theme for 2022 ([preghieracontrotratta.org](http://preghieracontrotratta.org)) say:

*"Care is a lifestyle and is Jesus' way of loving, as he proposes to us in the parable of the Good Samaritan (Lk 10: 25-37), taken up by Pope Francis in his Encyclical Letter Fratelli Tutti.*

*We have to take care to transform our relation-*

*ship with nature and with social and economic relationships, which too often are centred on an aggressive competition that impedes all forms of cooperation and respect for human dignity".*

They explain, that any system that excludes women, and other vulnerable social groups, is not only an "inequitable" system, but also an "inefficient" one, because it does not maximize its capacity to promote integral human development.

Due to the pandemic, society and institutions have rediscovered the value of caring for one another as vital to social cohesion, alongside the commitment to care for our common home, in order to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change and environmental degradation, which mainly affects the poorer.

This day of prayer is intended to shine a global 'Light Against Human Trafficking' with interventions from all around the world.

On February 6, there was the opportunity to participate in the Angelus with Pope Francis see [HERE](#). (The Pope acknowledged the work of the Sisters involved in [Talithakum](#) and blessed their statue of St. Josephine Bakhita). You can also download a prayer to St. Josephine, a Sudanese nun, whose feast day is 8th February. As a child she had the traumatic experience of being a victim of human trafficking. [English.pdf \(preghieracontrotratta.org\)](#) .



## The Postulator's Diary

### A brief update from Rome

Sr. Anne Lyons has returned to Rome and as you can imagine it is a daily experience of many challenges as 'exam time approaches'. No mean task at the best of times in one's native tongue—but well, in *'Italiano'* that's another story!

Anne writes: *"Our first semester has concluded and exams are on the horizon! I have two exams: 'Il Diritto Canonico' - (Canon Law on February 9th) followed a few days later by another, 'Storia della Chiesa Antica' (Church History). This is indeed a great challenge because the exams are totally in Italian, and my proficiency in spoken Italian, not to mention at this high academic level, gives me cause for nervousness!*

*The second semester then commences on February 21st and runs until May, with the final first year exams in mid-to end June".*

So a 'full on' schedule for Anne—all in the cause of Nano!

We hold you in our prayers Anne for these exams, and for all you are living at this time. Entrusting it all to the care of Ven. Nano Nagle.

### Sr. Anne Lyons

#### Nano Nagle ...

You were possessed and driven by God calling you into *A Great Love-Conspiracy* to make a difference in a hurting world [...]

Blessed are you, Nano,  
lover of the poor & lost,  
Blessed are you!

May your sisters continue to shine your light in dark spaces,  
loving one another, and keeping alive -  
*Your Great Conspiracy of Love.*

*(An extract from 'Nano Nagle' ~ a Poem by Edwina Gateley written in honour of Nano being made Venerable in 2013).*



**Image:** Sr. Anne Lyons (2nd right) pictured with those studying with her for the 1st Year Postulators' Course with Monsignor Fabene (Lecturer who works at the Congregazione delle Cause dei Santi; with his secretary Don Antonio Saldhana; (L-R): Sr. Celita, Sr. Noemi, Mons. Fabene, Don Antonio Saldhana, Brother Venance, Sr. Ann Lyons and Sr. Leonora.

### 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. 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. As the Postulator, I take this opportunity to reach out to you and ask that together we 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)

*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.*





# Annals & Archives



The memorial in the grounds of the local parish church in Rahan (Co. Offaly) commemorating those Sisters who travelled from Rahan to help establish the foundation in India.



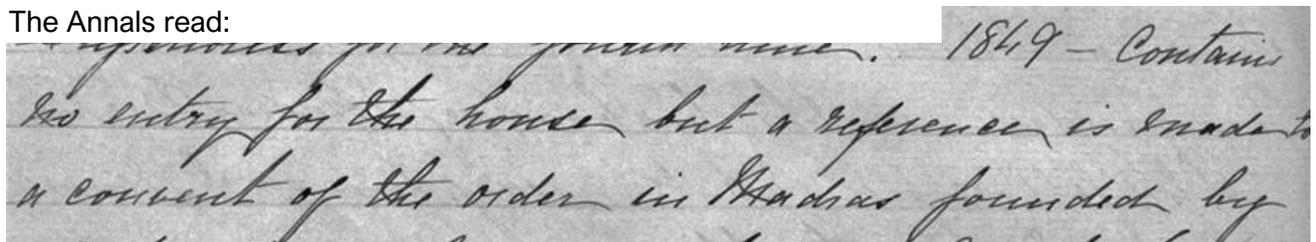
Image: A map of India in 1857.

## Recording the 'treasure' of our lives

It is not unusual to find a Sister gazing pensively into the middle distance, pencil poised or mouse at the ready, as she wonders how she is going to ignite her new role as Community Annalist! Her terror is that she will arrive at the end of the year with nothing recorded!

On one occasion in Mullingar this seems to have been the reality.

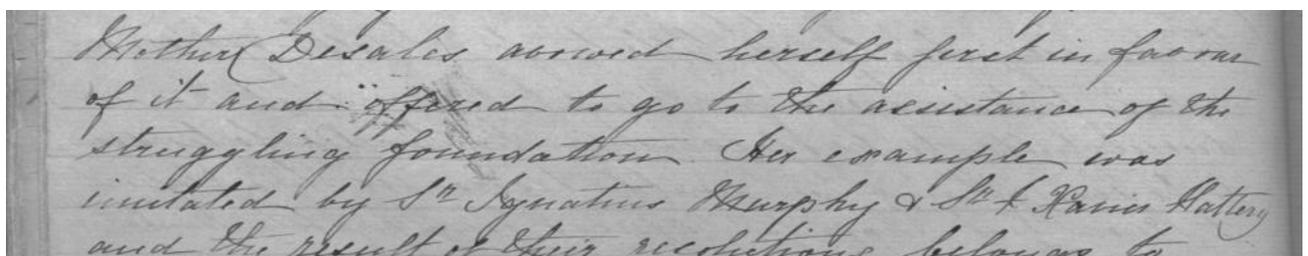
The Annals read:



(It reads: '1849—contains no entry for the house but a reference is made to a convent of the order in Madras').

And of course, that is where the story takes off. The Mullingar Annalist focused in on Madras, with her entry for 1849 telling us that Madras was “founded by Sisters from Maynooth and Mother Francis Curran of Rahan”.

Significantly, both Mullingar and Rahan are in the Diocese of Meath and it is likely that there would have been an on-going exchange of correspondence between Mother Francis Curran in Madras and the nuns in Mullingar. From this page of the Mullingar annals, we learn that: “The foundation was nearly exhausted in its resources of money and members when its wants became known here. They became subject of very general conversation and a missionary spirit soon developed itself”.



# Annals & Archives



**(It reads:** *Mother DeSales arrived herself first informed of it “..and offered to go to the assistance of the struggling foundation”).* Her example was imitated by Sr. Ignatius Murphy, and Sr. Xavier Flattery and the result of their resolutions belongs to history.

## So, what was the result of their resolutions?

To answer that question we will have to undertake a journey to Chennai (Madras) with which experience I was blessed in 2015. The answer is to be found in the Annals of Presentation Convent, George Town, Chennai.

*“20 December 1850: Mother Mary De Sales Nugent, Sr. Mary Xavier Flattery and Sr. Ignatius Murphy, professed nuns from Presentation Convent, Mullingar in Ireland with Mary Anne Mangan, a native of Dublin and a postulant for the religious habit, landed at Madras and joined the Community of this Convent.”*

As we can imagine these resolute women brought with them not just their initial enthusiasm but the bravery and dedication to mission, which was so vital to the survival of the Madras Community at that time and to the present day.

The words *“bravery and dedication”* are not used lightly: these founding Sisters in some cases paid for their enthusiasm with their lives. The average age at time of death of the first seven founding Sisters was 47 years. The eighth, foundress, Sr. Francis Curran, formerly of Rahan Community, who went to India in 1841, died in 1875 at the age of 85 years.

So those of you, newly assigned to the role of Community Annalist, be prepared to welcome



surprises!

Brief notes, whether they be electronically preserved or pencilled down on a jotter, can be invaluable especially if they contain a date or give context to an event. Context and retrospect go hand in hand.

I would encourage our new annalists to make notes, no matter how rough, in order to have something to look back on when the time for choosing, with integrity, what to hand on to the future. You too might have to start your account for the year confessing that the annals *“contain no entry for the house but...”* It is what follows the “but” that will make all the difference!

**Sr. Marie Therese King**  
**Province Archivist**

## Presentation Sisters in India

The first Presentation Mission in India began in 1842 when four pioneering sisters came from Ireland to Madras (Chennai). The mission spread to many other states in the Indian sub-continent including Rawalpindi (which was later to become part of Pakistan).

Sisters from India also established Mission foundations in England (Matlock) Zimbabwe and Zambia. More recently Sisters from India have been serving people in Thailand, Slovakia, Ireland, and the Holy Land.

The India South Unit came into being in 2015 and was previously part of a single Unit covering all of India. See [India South – PBVM](#) and to learn more about Presentation Sisters in India North See [HERE](#).





# Conversations



University  
of Glasgow

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS AND CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME  
RISING TO THE CHALLENGE OF LAUDATO SI

**Lorna Gold**

MONDAY 25TH APRIL  
5-6 PM

Lorna worked at a senior level in Trócaire, the official overseas development agency of the Catholic Church in Ireland. She is a leading voice on faith-consistent investing within the Catholic Church and supported the Irish Bishops' Conference to divest from fossil fuels in 2018. She is Acting Chair of the Board of Directors of the Laudato Si' Movement (formerly the Global Catholic Climate Movement) and a member of the Vatican's Covid Commission Economics Taskforce. She lectures part-time in climate justice and social policy at Maynooth University, Ireland. Her publications include *New Financial Horizons – The Emergence of an Economy of Communion* (NCP, 2011) and *Climate Generation – Awaken- ing our Children's Future* (NCP, 2018).

## Educating for Justice

Often described as 'the Church's best kept secret', Catholic Social Teaching has much wisdom to offer us for addressing societal challenges such as climate change and migration. This online seminar series, hosted by the Saint Andrew's Foundation, explores the Catholic Social Teaching tradition and how it can be applied today within Catholic educational settings. The series consists of five seminars, one of which will be given by Dr. Lorna Gold, familiar to us from our Province Justice Day 2018.

You can register for this seminar on **Monday 25th April from 5-6 pm** using this link: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#) You can also explore the other seminars available [Educating for Justice - Pdf. Doc.](#)

~~~~~  
*This series will be of interest to school leaders, teachers, senior school pupils and students and anyone who wants to learn more about issues of migration, militarisation, and climate justice, before concluding with an in depth look at practical ways for teaching Catholic Social Teaching in schools.*

## Celebrating the Pascal Journey at Mt. St. Anne's

Celebrating the Pascal Journey in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century  
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2022

*This Triduum programme consists of creative liturgies around the death and resurrection of Jesus as experienced in the sufferings and hopes of our world today. Each liturgy will be accompanied by a theological and scriptural analysis of the new approach being used.*

*Participants will be engaged in dialogue, reflection and liturgical participation.*

**Facilitated by Fr. Diarmuid O'Murchú**

Cost: €300 Residential

Bookings/Enquiries to:  
The Secretary, Mount St. Anne's  
Email: [secretary@mountstannes.com](mailto:secretary@mountstannes.com)  
057-8626153

Mount St Anne's Retreat & Conference Centre, Killenard, Portarlinton, Co. Laois

From the 14<sup>th</sup>—17<sup>th</sup> April 2022, this programme will consist of participation in creative liturgies around the death and resurrection of Jesus as experienced in the sufferings and hopes of our world today. Each liturgy will be accompanied by a theological and scriptural analysis of the new approach being used. Participants will be engaged in dialogue, reflection & liturgical participation. Facilitated by Fr. Diarmuid O'Murchú. (Bookings direct with MSA).



## Living justice and peace today

The author of this recently published book, **'Catholic Social teaching – A User's Guide'** is Fr. William O'Neill, SJ is professor emeritus of social ethics at the Jesuit School of Theology at Santa Clara University. He is currently working with the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) in Nairobi, Kenya.

He describes Catholic social teaching (CST) as the Church's modern answer to an age-old question. When Jesus begins his public ministry in Nazareth, he quotes from the prophet Isaiah:

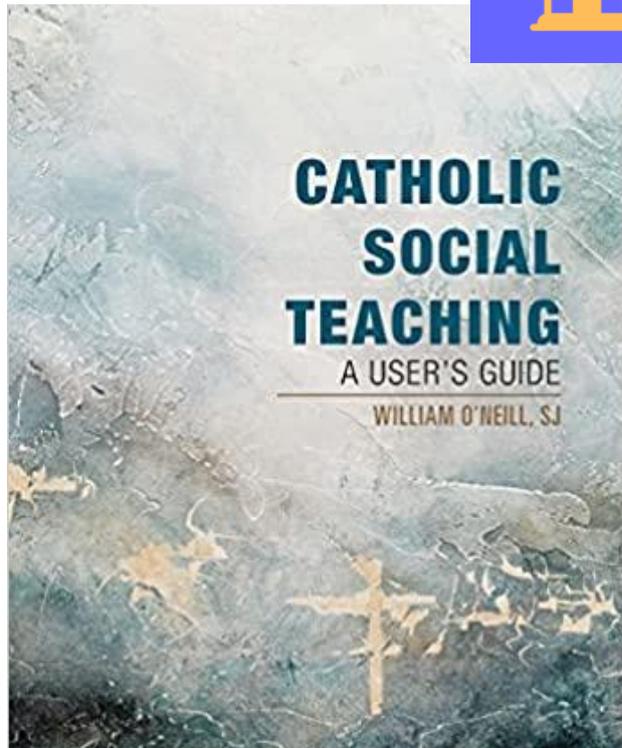
*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me to proclaim good news to the poor."* In covenant fidelity, the Lord God is revealed in releasing captives and restoring sight to the blind, freeing the oppressed, and establishing a year of favour (Lk 4: 16-21). Jesus tells us that *"Today, this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."* But in Luke's Greek, the fulfilment lasts in history, as invitation and command.

Fr. O'Neill suggests that every generation must ask how the prophetic message becomes Gospel, Good News, *"today, in our hearing"*?

### Living justice & peace today

As the Church seeks to translate the biblical demands of justice and peace into a modern, secular idiom, he writes, it is important to recognise that Catholic social teaching is also *"catholic"*—in the Greek sense of being universal or intended for all. Dignity and rights bind us in solidarity as we seek justice for those most vulnerable. Catholic Social Teaching defends the rights of workers, migrants, and refugees, mindful that women and children are invariably among those consigned to society's margins.

In the same spirit, the Church pursues a *"ministry of reconciliation"* (2 Cor. 5:18) in the face of war and ethnic strife, seeking a genuine peace (shalom) that can only be founded on justice. Fr. O'Neill reminds us that Pope Francis has already reminded us in his encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, that the *"cry" of the poor* is the *"cry*



*of the earth."* An *"integral humanism"* presumes an *"integral ecology."*

The author suggests, much like learning a game of football or chess, that the principles of CST must be embodied in a way of life, a prophetic commitment to what Pope Francis calls our common *"struggle for justice, love, and peace."* And teaching is always learning, inspired by the lives of prophetic witnesses like Dorothy Day, Dom Hélder Câmara, Saint Oscar Romero, Mother Teresa, and (we can add) Venerable Nano Nagle.

The author's teaching and writing is informed by his own experience of ministry over many years. Part One of the book offers a brief overview of the history, development, and key themes of the tradition; while Part Two addresses a range of issues, including the priority of labour over capital, poverty, racial and gender bias, the ethics of war and peace, forced migration, and social reconciliation. The author's hope is that it will be a helpful guide for all who are committed to the *"struggle for justice, love, and peace."*

**'Catholic Social Teaching: A User's Guide'** by Fr. William O'Neill, SJ (Paperback – Orbis Books) is readily available from all good book sellers.



# Conversations



## The Calling

God of Love,

We thank you for the gift entrusted to us by our founding congregations.

We heed “Your calling”:

To Serve

To be Just

To be Responsible

To seek Excellence in all we do

To be Curious, Compassionate, Consoling,  
Courageous

To build Community in an atmosphere of Care,  
Love and Joy

To treasure the Spiritual

To honour and value the Person

To honour and value our World

To include all, celebrate all, embrace all

To model Respect

All to give glory to You.

May our CEIST Schools be places and spaces  
of Hope, of Kindness, of Welcome and  
Discovery as we give witness to your unending  
love for us.

May our Words give witness to Your unending  
love for us

May our Actions give witness to Your unending  
love for us.

May Christ be encountered in every Word, in  
every Action, in very School, by every Person,  
everyday.

The CEIST Charter used by Schools during the  
Ceiliúradh CEIST 15th Birthday celebrations.  
**See** page 9, ‘Words & Deeds’.

## Education—the future & hope of the world

In his Message for the World Day of Peace celebrated on 1 January this year, Pope Francis sought to highlight several factors that he considered essential for promoting a culture of dialogue and fraternity.

He said:

*“Education holds a special place, since it trains the younger generation, the future and hope of the world.*

*Education is in fact the primary vehicle of integral human development, for it makes individuals free and responsible. The educational process is slow and laborious, and can lead at times to discouragement, but we can never abandon it.*

*It is an outstanding expression of dialogue, for no true education can lack a dialogical structure. Education likewise gives rise to culture and builds bridges of encounter between peoples.”*

**See:** [LV World Day of Peace 2022 - Dialogue Between Generations, Education and Work: Tools for Building Lasting Peace | Francis](#)

**New  
website!**

[WWW.SYNOD.IE](http://WWW.SYNOD.IE)



**The Synodal Pathway**  
of the Catholic Church in Ireland

**See:** [Home - Irish Synodal Pathway](#)

**See also:** [Synodality is not new, but a tradition the church has drifted from, professor says | Global Sisters Report](#)



# @Mt. St. Anne's 2022



## Spring Courses Online—2022

**Reading John (18-19) for all it is worth.  
March 8, 15, 22, 29 (Kieran O'Mahony).**

The traditional category of “redemption” is problematic for many today. This short programme will explore alternatives found in the Gospel according John. An overview of John’s “salvation theology” will be presented and then illustrated with selected readings from John (18-19).



**Exploring the Synodal Pathway: The Ongoing Reception of Vatican II**

**March 9, 16, 23, 30 (Janet Forbes and Oonagh O'Brien, featuring Sr. Nathalie Becquart and Rafael Luciani).**

This course will explore the upcoming Synod as the continuation of the Second Vatican Council with a particular focus on the Spirituality of Synodality; the participation of all especially young people and the need for structures and resources to support the local church.



**Listening in Lent Series: Four evenings of Spiritual Music, Reflection and Prayer.**

**April 5, 12, 19, 26 (Deirdre Ní Chinnéide).**

Each evening Deirdre guides us on a journey of light through darkness as we listen to the invitation Home to the presence and guidance of God in our everyday lives. Using Scripture, music, poetry and prayer, these evenings offer

an opportunity to gather with others and share the beauty and power of the Lenten Message. Drawing on our Celtic Christian Heritage, we shall weave together an experience to inspire, nourish and prepare us for the ‘Easter Message of Hope’.



**“Jesus set his face towards Jerusalem” (Lk. 9:51): Journeying Through the Easter Story.**

**April 6, 13, 20, 27 (Grainne Doherty).**

The co-existing of death and rebirth is core to all creation. With Easter Sunday falling on April 17, Gráinne Doherty uses the four Wednesdays of April to break open the different aspects and stages of the Easter Story, and explores how it can speak to our lives today. Focussing particularly on scripture, each session will consist of input, reflection, and discussion.



**All the courses are online and are at 19.00-21.00 (Irish Time) on ZOOM.**

**The cost of each Full Course—€100.00.**

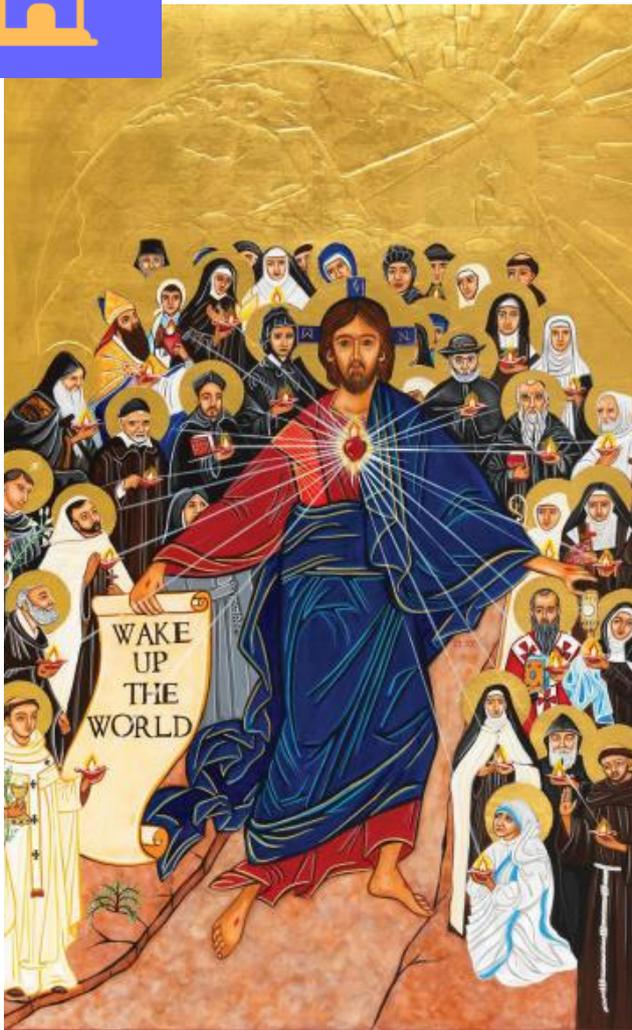
**To book please email:**

[ceo@mountstannes.com](mailto:ceo@mountstannes.com)

**For further information visit the website: [Mt. St. Anne's » Retreats & Courses \(mountstannes.com\)](http://Mt.St.Anne'sRetreats&Courses.mountstannes.com). Mt. St. Anne's Retreat & Conference Centre Killenard, Portarlinton, Co. Laois Tel: +353(57)8626153.**



# Still Space



The beautiful "Wake up the world" icon was written by Vivian Imbruglia.

## Wake Up the World!

### World Day for Consecrated Life

In 1997, Pope Saint John Paul II instituted a day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life. This celebration is attached to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2nd. The Feast is also known as Candlemas Day, the day on which candles are blessed symbolizing Christ who is the light of the world.

So too, those in consecrated life are called to reflect the light of Jesus Christ to all people.

The celebration of World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life 2022 has been transferred to the following Sunday (6th February) in order to highlight the gift of consecrated persons for the whole Church.

### First profession of Vows

Remembering in joyful prayer, Gabrielle Jin who made her first profession of vows as a Presentation Sister, on Feb.1st, 2022 in the parish church of St. Peter and Paul in Portlaoise, Co. Offaly. (See p.3, 'Words of Thanks' from Gabrielle).

*"Entrusting Gabrielle to Our Lady, Our Mother and Mother of the Church, faithful woman, may you be strengthened in your living and loving faith, certain and joyful hope, humble and active charity". Amen (after Pope Francis).*

## 'Sharing Moon Cake'

Earlier this year, Gabrielle Jin, our Presentation Novice was living on placement with us, here in Presentation Convent, Athenry. It was a privilege for us to live with one, whose culture and traditions are so different. She shared easily with us and we with her, participating fully in our community life and prayer, visiting our places of ministry, attending cultural, pastoral and educational events as well as meeting our neighbours and town's people. Fr. Brendan Kilcoyne our Parish Priest invited her to speak on the Church in China to the Congregation at the Sunday Mass. Gabrielle was warmly welcomed, and got a rousing applause. Later she met many parishioners who wished to speak to her.

One of the highlights for us was to share "The Mid-Autumn Festival" or "Moon Cake festival" with Gabrielle on September 21st. This is a traditional family festival in China when families come together to celebrate and eat "moon cake" while admiring the full moon.

To mark the day, Gabrielle prepared and cooked a most delicious Chinese meal for the community and staff, and we finished off eating "moon cake"! In this way, Gabrielle felt at home with us and we, with her. We thank Gabrielle for her time with us and we hope that she has been enriched by her participation in the Presentation way of life, as lived out in a small town in the West of Ireland.

**Sr. Carmel Raftery**

# Still Space



## Being there ...

When you meet someone deep in grief  
Slip off your shoes and set them by the door.  
Enter barefoot this darkened chapel,  
hollowed by loss, hallowed by sorrow,  
its grey stone walls and floor.

You, congregation of one  
are here to listen, not to sing.  
Kneel in the back pew, make no sound.  
Let His presence speak.

**Patricia McKernon Runkle**

## In appreciation

I wish to express my sincere thanks to all the Sisters for your kind expression of sympathy on the deaths of my sister, Cathleen and her husband Liam. Your support was deeply appreciated. Mass will be offered for your intentions.

*Sr. Monica McGrath (Thurles)*

-oOo-

I wish to thank you, our Leadership Team, communities and Sisters for your support and thoughtfulness expressed in so many beautiful and comforting ways following the deaths of my nephew, Jackie and my sister, Mary. I ask God to bless you and to keep you safe and well. As a token of gratitude my family and I have included you in Masses and prayers offered at Our Lady's Shrine, Knock.

*Sr. Ann Fox (Presentation Road, Galway)*

-oOo-

Sr. Genevieve and the Kilbane family, wish to thank you for your kind expressions of sympathy on the recent death of their brother, Fr. Seamus (York, England). We thank you for your many masses, phone calls, letters, texts and online expressions of support during a difficult



time. Your kindness shown to us again, for the third time recently, is deeply appreciated and will never be forgotten. A novena of masses for all your departed will be offered in November as a token of gratitude.

*Sr. Genevieve Kilbane (Athenry)*

-oOo-

Thank you to each and all for so much kindness and understanding during the past while. It has been tough, but your support, prayers, messages, masses and phone calls have been a great help. All very much appreciated.

*Sr. Sheila Fox (Clonmel)*

-oOo-

Srs. Pauline and Martina Morris would like to say a sincere thank you to all communities and individual Sisters for their kind expression of sympathy on the occasion of the death of our sister-in-law, Eileen Morris. Your support at the time of our sad loss was much appreciated. May God reward each of you.

*Srs. Pauline and Martina Morris (Presentation Road, Galway) and (Athenry)*

-oOo-

**Remembering our Sisters who have died:** 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. 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. May they rest in joy and peace. Amen.



# 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.

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

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 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.

### 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 clicking on the logos). The E-version of this quarterly magazine is also available to read online on our website.

### List of Contributors to this issue:

The Provincial Leadership Team, Gabrielle Jin pbvm, Carmel Raftery pbvm, Brian O'Toole (Director, Interprovincial Justice Desk), Dr. Oonagh O'Brien (CEO, MSA), Cecilia Molloy pbvm, Elizabeth Maxwell pbvm, Anne Lyons pbvm, Marie Thérèse King pbvm, Mary Kenny pbvm, Margaret Mary Healy pbvm, Angela Cahill (Principal, Presentation Ballingarry), Margaret Agnew (Communications Officer, NEP).