

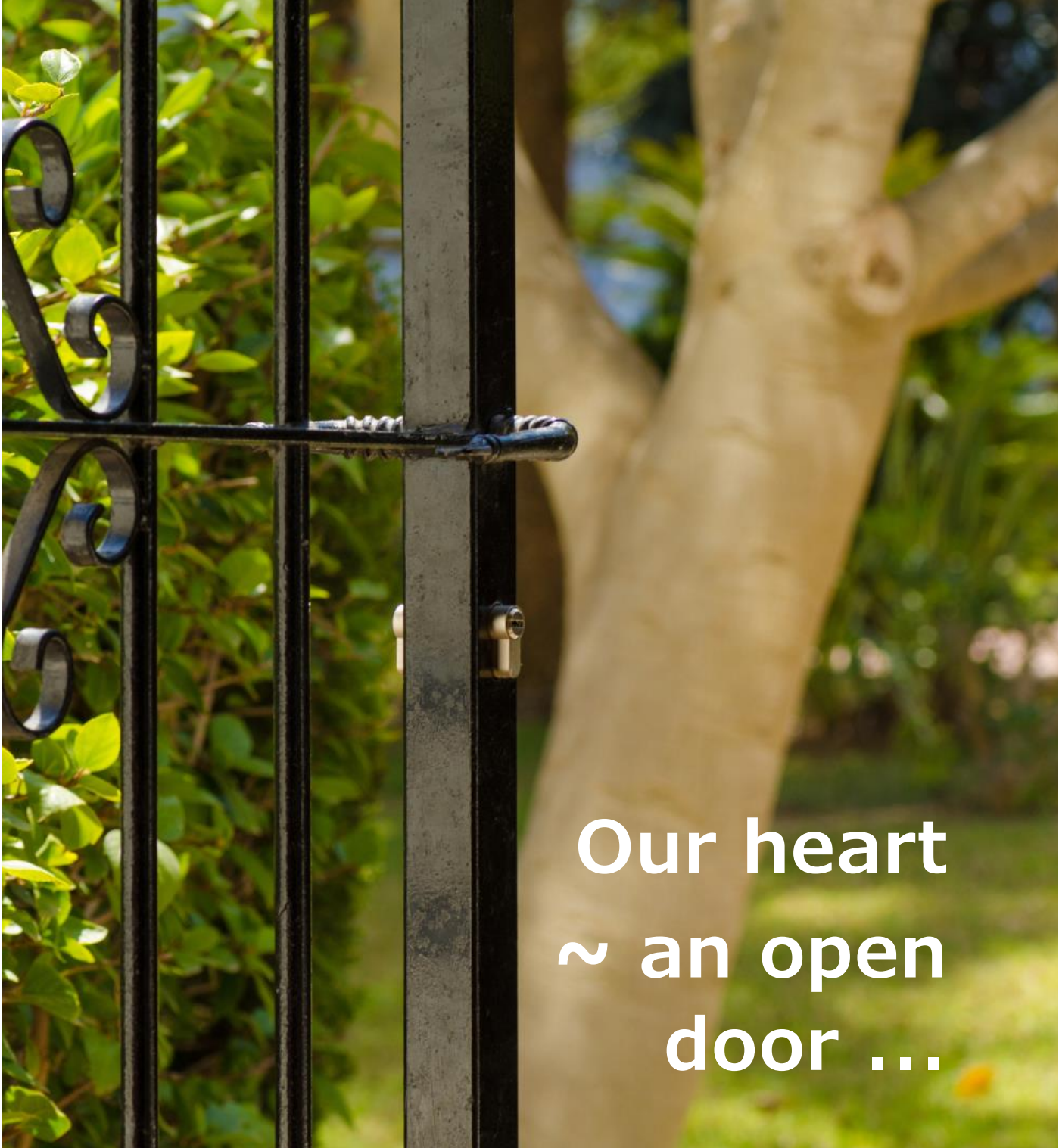


# Words & Deeds

A magazine of the Presentation Sisters Union—North East Ireland

January to July 2022

Volume 2 : Issue 1

A photograph of a black wrought-iron gate with a tree trunk in the background. The gate is partially open, and the background is a lush green garden.

Our heart  
~ an open  
door ...



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# Shafts of Light



## Hearts open to all

The content of this issue of 'Words & Deeds' is affirmation (if indeed one were needed) that particularly in these most difficult and challenging of times, the life and legacy of Nano Nagle continues to speak to us, opening our hearts and minds to be people of compassionate 'just' action in a suffering world.

Our Presentation community in Fethard offer a powerful testimony that '*deeds not words*' count, and that their impact on the hearts and minds of an entire community far outlives the test of time, as Mary Hanrahan shared at the wonderful celebration in Fethard, Co. Tipperary: "*It makes us, as Presentation Sisters so proud to see that the seed of compassion and generosity which was nurtured by the sisters here over the years continued to flourish when we moved on; that you, as a community, are doing much more than we could ever have imagined. Today, we are the privileged ones to be associated with a local parish who are so proactive in reaching out to your brothers and sisters in need.*"

Nor is this '*open heart*' confined to one specific place – from Fethard to Slovakia, Kilkenny to Portlaoise—as practical initiatives on so many levels have mobilised local communities to do their part. We saw volunteers networking and collaborating with local agencies to '*make new homes of welcome*' for those fleeing the horror of war. We know that '*multiple acts of kindness*' as shared by the Cairde Nano Team in Portlaoise can be that vital starting point that changes the way we act and relate to one another, bringing hope, solidarity and solutions to those suffering most. Such seeds planted early flourish all our lives!!!

The powerful impact of the Challenge to Change Presentation Initiative grounded in the SDGs (and open to primary and post primary students) was recently shared as '*an example of good practice*' at the UN High Level Political Forum by Brian O'Toole (Presentation Sisters Justice Desk for Ireland & England) (see page 11).

In fact, this issue is woven through with '*shafts of light shared*' by all ages, inspiring and inspired by '*Just Ways*' of being and doing. Our conversations, reflections, collaborations and exchanges as Church and as Presentation People, are reinforced by the welcome recognitions we receive – as Shane Clarke (outgoing CEO at Nano Nagle Place shared on receipt of the Council of Europe Museum Prize): "*Nano Nagle addressed the needs she saw before her in the 18th Century, and at Nano Nagle Place we continue in that spirit, addressing the societal issues before us today. We are both moved and proud that [this prize] has recognised our twin missions of celebrating the daring endeavours of Nano Nagle in the past, while continuing her work to address new societal issues in the present*".

Nano was passionate about the value and nature of Education. Pope Francis said recently: "*Catholic education is evangelisation: bearing witness to the joy of the Gospel and its power to renew our communities and provide hope and strength in facing wisely the challenges of the present time*".

We hope you enjoy this issue as a gift and witness of hope and thanksgiving to Nano Nagle and to Presentation People everywhere. May our hearts always be open to all!



# Shafts of Light



**Image:** Presentation Sisters of Fethard Convent (2020) pictured on receipt of their unique presentation pieces created by local artist Dóirín Saurus (L-R) Srs. Mari Fletcher, Rosario Treacy, Maureen Power, Kathleen Dooley, Juliana Purcell and Mary Martin.

## Fethard—a parish community gives thanks

“In the summer 2020, in the midst of ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, the last six Presentation Sisters of the Fethard Convent departed quietly bringing to a close 158 years of dedicated service to the local townspeople. It was fitting that those six sisters, Sr. Maureen Power, Sr. Juliana Purcell, Sr. Rosarii Treacy, Sr. Maria Fletcher, Sr. Kathleen Dooley and Sr. Mary Martin, accompanied by sisters who previously served in Fethard and other convents, should return on Sunday, June 5, 2022, to be publicly acclaimed by a grateful Fethard community”.

(Sr. Mary Hanrahan, Provincial Leader).

### A journey into the unknown

Presentation Sisters came to Fethard (Co. Tipperary) from Thurles in 1862 at the request of Very Rev. Dean Cantwell the then Parish Priest of Fethard. The Parish gave the sisters a house, school house and garden free of rent, and also provided limited funds per annum until the Sisters could support themselves. Records confirm that the school opened with 90 children attending on the first morning, and within a few weeks of opening, attendance had grown to nearly three hundred pupils!

Presentation Sisters in Ireland and across the world were traditionally associated with founding schools, following in the tradition of foundress, Nano Nagle, whose mission was to provide free education for poor children and a strong devotion to the Catholic faith.



Joe Kelly writes in the commemorative booklet **‘Presentation Sisters Fethard 1862-2020’** produced for this occasion of celebration (made possible by Fr. Liam Everard and the Parish Team) that the Presentation Sisters in Fethard continued to follow in Nano Nagle’s footsteps, and started a great many new initiatives during their time in Fethard.

### Giving thanks

The present Parish Priest Fr. Liam Everard writes (in the foreword to this book):

*“They [Presentation Sisters] lived and worked here until 2020. In those intervening years [from 1862], the sisters were powerful, positive, prayerful presence and impacted on the community through their various interactions, not least in the field of education.*

*On behalf of the parishioners of Fethard and Killusty I thank them for all that their presence and*

# Shafts of Light



**Image: (Back L to R):** Fr. David Fitzgerald OSA, Fr. Liam Everard P.P., Sr. Mary Hanrahan (Provincial Presentation Sisters), Archbishop Kieran O'Reilly, Fr. Pat O'Gorman A.P. (Golden), Fr. Tom Breen A.P., and Sr. Catherine Mulcahy. **(Middle L to R):** Srs. Trinita Laffan, Lillie O'Reilly, Mary Martin, Frances Crowe, Maria Fletcher, Fidelis Purcell, Maureen Power, Concepta O'Brien, Rosemary McCarthy, Juliana Purcell, Sheila Fox, Marie Stella Mangan. **(Front L to R):** Srs. Brenda O'Rourke, Nuala Horan, Stephanie Quigley, Kathleen Dooley, Patricia Wall, Rosarii Treacy, Margarita Ryan, and Grace Redmond.

*generous service has meant over those one hundred and fifty eight years”.*

The images and content of this publication captures many of the important moments, achievements, and involvement of the Sisters in the parish. In his homily the Archbishop Kieran O'Reilly said:

*“We have come to look back, and to look forward, to give thanks and to acknowledge all that has passed in that time here in Fethard.*

*I would like to stress that when the sisters did come here in the 1860s, it was a very challenging time for local communities, not least because they were only twenty years after the famine times, the memory was still very, very vivid in people's minds and in family memories. It was a time of great poverty and deprivation and coming from Thurles to Fethard was probably quite a journey into the unknown for the sisters of that time. So much depended on their own resources, and their own talents and their own gifts.*

*It is summed up, by the simplest of symbols that Nano Nagle had, a lamp, and that lamp she needed to find her way through the hovels and the side streets where she was based in Cork. And that was the lamp that she raised up, the lamp of faith, the lamp of hope, the lamp of light. Let us give thanks for the sisters, and the people of Fethard and Killusty who welcomed them and were part of their lives for many generations.”*

Before the end of Mass, Fr. Liam Everard invited Sr. Mary Hanrahan, Provincial of the NE Province

to say a few words. Thanking everyone, she said:

*“Today isn't just about remembering the past, it's a special day to also remember the present. I think it's very fitting that we are celebrating on Pentecost Sunday, the day on which we welcome the gift of the Spirit into our lives. And that same Spirit which led the first Sisters here from Thurles to Fethard continues to inspire all of us today.*

*When war broke out in Ukraine over 100 days ago now, you, here in Fethard were one of the first local community groups to come forward to offer help. In true Presentation spirit, you opened your hearts and made your resources available so that the former Convent building here, which is being used by the Day Care Centre, could become a home for a number of Ukrainian families. It makes us, as Presentation Sisters so proud to see that the seed of compassion and generosity which was nurtured by the sisters here over the years continued to flourish when we moved on; that you, as a community, are doing much more than we could ever have imagined. Today, we are the privileged ones to be associated with a local parish who are so proactive in reaching out to your brothers and sisters in need.”*

Mary also congratulated Joe Kenny, who edited the commemorative booklet & oversaw its publication, *“for painting such a captivating picture of the lives of the sisters here since the beginnings in 1862. It will be a treasured book in the Presentation archives.”*



# Shafts of Light

A parish community gives thanks .../



**Image:** Unveiling of commemorative plaque at the entrance to the Presentation Convent (Fethard) - (L-R) Gus Fitzgerald (Parish Committee), Archbishop Kieran O'Reilly, Sr. Mary Hanrahan (Provincial Leader, NEP), Liam Hayes (Fethard & District Day Care Centre CLG) and Fr. Liam Everard, P.P. (Fethard & Killusty).

## Unveiling of Commemorative plaque

The second part of the commemoration event was the unveiling of a plaque on the pier at the entrance to the Presentation Convent on Lower Main Street. The plaque, which will serve as a permanent acknowledgement of the sisters 'one hundred and fifty-eight years' work in Fethard, was unveiled by Archbishop Kieran O'Reilly in a simple ceremony in the presence of the congregation who had walked down from the Church.

**Images:** Readers who participated in the Mass of Thanksgiving (L to R): Patricia Treacy, Michelle Walsh, Margaret Prendergast, Billy Walsh, Mark Hayde, and Mary Hanrahan. Other readers were Triona Morrisson, Dermot O'Donnell and Liam Hayes.

**And Right**—A large crowd had come along to meet the sisters, celebrate with them and to reminisce about the past.



**Image:** Members of Fethard Historical Society who presented an especially commissioned lantern for each of the six remaining Presentation Sisters to leave Fethard (L to R): Terry Cunningham, Mary Hanrahan, Michael Mallon, Peter Grant, Mary Healy and Pat Phelan.

## A unique presentation

As a fitting end to the celebrations the Fethard Historical Society made a presentation to the six sisters who left on July 20, 2020. Michael Mallon, Chairperson, welcomed the sisters on stage. The Society had commissioned local artist, Dóirín Saurus, to make unique presentation pieces for each individual Sister, inspired by the 'Lady of the Lantern', Nano Nagle.

The Sisters were then each given these presentation pieces by members of the society. Each piece, a votive candle holder in the shape of a lantern, painted in Presentation blue, was inscribed with the name of the Sister receiving it.



Thank you to Srs. Mary Hanrahan and Maureen Power for providing material that gives a real sense of the wonderful tribute paid to the Presentation Sisters by the Fethard Community, as well as to Joe Kenny (editor) of 'Presentation Sisters Fethard - 1862 to 2020' for so generously sharing some of his collection of images. See also article in local paper [Fethard community bids fond farewell to Presentation Sisters - The Premier \(thepremiernewspaper.com\)](#)

# Shafts of Light



**Image:** Olena Petlenko with her children & her sister Maryna & brother-in-law, Oleg.

**Image:** Sr. Frances Crowe meeting some of the Ukrainian children in the converted playroom at Fethard's Presentation Convent.

## A phenomenal story of community support in the heart of Fethard

The Presentation Sisters have enriched the lives of the Fethard, Co. Tipperary for 158 years—living and working there until 2020. The Sisters are delighted to see their old home being put to good use.

*"The sisters have been here for 160 years, always catering to children and the families' education to the people of Fethard, and we're delighted to see such life back in it and also delighted that the ongoing use will be for the community of Fethard. But this is a real bonus to us and we're really happy to have been able to facilitate it,"* said Sr. Frances Crowe.

The entire community rowed in behind the work to get the building ready for habitation. The recently-vacated convent has been repurposed in the last few weeks to become a residential centre for refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine, with the first few arrivals now settling in.

The result is that Olena Petlenko and her children Alina (9) and Damir (4) moved into the convent in recent days and are set to be followed up as many as 50 more of their country people in the coming weeks.

Ms Petlenko's sister and brother-in-law, Maryna

and Oleg Gavrylenko, have lived in Ireland for many years, so it was a relief to all when they arrived after a four-day journey across Ukraine, Moldova and Romania and then on to Ireland.

See [Christian calling sees religious congregations find rooms for ukrainian refugees](#)

And [HERE](#) and [Sound of laughing Ukrainian children fills Fethard convent – The Irish Times](#)



**Image:** Members of Fethard & District Day Care Centre Committee & representatives from the Presentation Sisters and Coolmore Stud who facilitated the modification project at the Presentation Convent to enable Ukrainian families to take up residency. (L to R): Marie Murphy (Fethard Day Care), Mary O'Connell (Fethard Day Care), Liam Hayes (Chairman Day Care Centre), Sr. Frances Crowe (Presentation Sisters' Property Group), Maurice Moloney (Coolmore) and Senator Garret Ahearn.





# Shafts of Light



**Image:** Sr. Louise Eustace (3rd Left) pictured with the group of teachers from the Prešov region of Slovakia at the Award Ceremony on the 16th June, 2022

## 'Sophia Award' for Sr. Louise Eustace



**Images:** Sr. Louise pictured with her 'Wisdom Teacher' Award.

Twenty teachers and twenty students who have excelled in their activities and become a motivation for others were recognised during the 12th Annual Teacher and Pupil Awards in the Prešov region of Slovakia on 16th June, 2022. Prešov is the second largest region of Slovakia with a population of over 800,000. Sr. Louise was nominated for the award by the St. Francis of Assisi Catholic High School in Levoča where she has taught since 2003. The 20 teachers received a plaque entitled "Wisdom Teacher" for the Prešov region. The public elected administrator for the region Milan Majerský PhD, who presented the awards said:

*"I am glad that I can give these awards without distinction to whichever type of school it is, church, private or state administered. You are the best, and that there are tangible results and extraordinary achievements can be seen. I appreciate all the teachers in my area in every single school. Today shows us that a teacher without a student, and a student without a teacher has no ground. Success of pupils is also success for their teachers who prepared them. Congratulations to those awarded, thank you for your successful representation of the school and the region".*

Twenty students also received an Award called "Light of Knowledge" for their extraordinary achievements in the classroom.

A colleague of Sr. Louise, Eva Malíšková PhD said: "For more than 20 years you have worked in our school as a volunteer lecturer of English. Sr. Louise Eustace, an Irish Presentation Sister, has been responsible for English conversation for final year high school students, and helped them prepare for the section of their exam which is oral – using role-play and simulated situations. Her nomination for the Sophia Award in our region for 2022, highlights her tenacity, self-sacrificing approach to youth and her interesting viewpoint of the world as a foreigner in Slovakia. Her lively testimony to her faith and her energy are for us, both motivation and an inspiration". Sr. Louise said that she was humbled and surprised on receiving such a special Award. **(Spišské Podhradie Community in Slovakia).**



# Shafts of Light



## Multiple Acts of Kindness

By 'Cairde Nano Team'

Our teacher Ms. Byrne has set up a Cairde Nano team including only second year students. Our aim - to promote Nano Nagle's kind actions throughout our school. We meet weekly and plan various events, like in the lead up to Christmas, where we made daily announcements and got every form to decorate their classroom door with a Christmas theme.

We marked Presentation Day with a new Nano Trail around the school, where students had to fill out a worksheet using clues randomly hidden around the school. This was fun! We also planted seeds for every form for our first CEIST Ceiliúradh Day. We have also aimed to carry out multiple acts of kindness throughout this school year.

### 'Nano Nagle Kindness Award'

We wanted this to become embedded in the school so we came up with the idea of the 'Nano Nagle Kindness Award.' In 1st and 2nd year, students guided by their tutors, vote for the person they thought was the kindest at the end of each term. Then the tutors collected the votes and tallied them up. We created a certificate for presentation which is signed by the year head.

We have also created positive, kindness boards for the students and teachers in our school for different occasions, and we officially launched a drawing of Nano Nagle by a local artist, on a central window of the school. It now has lanterns around the painting with encouraging and positive quotes for the students' facing upcoming exams.

We were extremely grateful to meet a lady that was training to be a Presentation Sister. Her name is now Sr. Gabrielle. She told us all about her experience of training to be a nun and what made her want to become a nun. We were all really intrigued in learning about her life as a Sister. She has encouraged us to keep doing what we do best, being kind! (Also see page 12 about our fundraising actions for Ukraine).

We are very happy and proud of all the work we did this year, and we hope that the incoming second years will continue these good deeds throughout the school in the upcoming years.

By Robyn O'Callaghan and Emily O'Driscoll



Image: Congratulations to Alla on winning the Nano Nagle Kindness Award in Scoil Chríost Rí Portlaoise.



Image: Members of the 'Cairde Nano' Team (Scoil Chríost Rí, Portlaoise).





# 'Just Ways'



## Celebrating 'Earth Day' Spišské Podhradie

The 22 April 2022 saw the 52nd anniversary of Earth Day, since it was begun in 1950. This annual global event is estimated to be celebrated by around 1 billion people in over 190 countries around the world.

According to the President of Slovakia Zuzana Čaputová, World Earth Day reminds us of the great impact of our activities on the planet and the environment in which we live. The President said that during the current pandemic, nature became a refuge we turned to for encouragement.

*"We became even more aware of our vulnerability and close connection with nature. However, during hikes in our forests, we encountered not only nature's beauty, but examples of human recklessness", she said.*

*"In order to achieve genuine change, we must rely on the responsibility of individuals, as well as states and governments. Slovakia is committed to the common goals of the EU to become climate neutral by 2050 and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 55 percent by 2030.*



*This agreement by all European institutions on the final version of a Climate Law, which was also reached yesterday by the Government of Slovakia will enshrine a commitment to reduce emissions, and is a significant step."*

Here in Spišské Podhradie the Pre-School for Roma children celebrated the day.

### Earth Day activities in the Pre-School

Since 2006, I have been working with this Pre-school offering Educational Support. With their class teacher, Iveta Mlyniarčíková, we celebrated Earth Day through art work, seed planting, composting and recycling.

The boys and girls aged 3 to 7 years of age, did lovely art work and tried to show how we all can protect and save our planet for future generations. They drew trees, birds and hands working together and used all recycled paper and materials. Another group connected with nature physically by planting flowers and herbs in small pots and spent time looking at the materials they were using.

These pots are now placed in the window sills of the pre-school as the children eagerly await their growth and flowering.

A third group collected all 'bio' material from the food eaten in their building in the last few days and went to the local Bio container with it, thus learning about composting.

The final group collected plastic material and bottles and took them to the local plastic bottle bank.

**Sr. Anne McNamara, Spišské Podhradie, Slovakia**

# 'Just Ways'



**DELIVERING SDG 4.7:**  
CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS AND THE LIFELONG FORMATION OF GLOBAL CITIZENS

OFFICIAL SIDE EVENT HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

12 JULY 07.30am-09.00am (NEW YORK TIME)\*

Translation available in English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish

**REGISTER HERE**

\*Click on the time zone (highlighted in blue on the registration page) to view the event time in your region

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**INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATIONS:**

- UNESCO GEMReport  
Aina Cristina D'Adlio
- Global Compact for Education  
Juan Antonio Oyeda Ortiz
- Movimiento 4.7  
Fabiola Fares Sade

**GOOD PRACTICES SHOWCASE:**

- Secondary and High School of Larraona  
Aurora Banegas Collado
- Red Generación 21 project of Fe y Alegría  
Estefanía Vaca
- "Challenge to Change (C2C)" project of the International Presentation Association  
Brian O'Toole
- Maryknoll Lay Missioners  
Elvira Ramirez

## Challenge 2 Change @HLPF2022

The High Level Political Forum (HLPF) at the United Nations, is the central United Nations platform for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the global level.

The theme for the 2022 HLPF is **"Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"**.

As the world is struggling to recover from COVID-19 amidst continuing crises, the HLPF will reflect on how recovery policies can reverse the negative impacts of the pandemic on the SDGs and move countries on to a path to realise the vision of the 2030 Agenda.

The International Presentation Association (IPA) has been a presence at High Level Political Fora for a number of year's now, actively engaged in the valuable discussion and information exchange platforms offered by the various side-shows that run parallel to the main event.

### Showcasing good practice

On July 12th, the IPA was involved in the co—organisation (with JCoR and REDES) of just such a side event to the main Forum, bringing together the voices of faith-based organisations from the Catholic tradition, which have a presence across many global regions, to share good practices and recommendations with respect to the

achievement of SDG 4's Target 7 on the theme: **"Delivering SDG 4.7: Catholic Religious Organisations and the Lifelong Formation of Global Citizens"**.

Brian O'Toole, our IPA Justice Contact in Ireland-England (and Director of the Presentation Sisters Interprovincial Justice Desk for Ireland and England) shared with the attendees the **"Challenge to Change (C2C)" Project** by highlighting how students explore and learn ways of understanding our common home as a contribution to the achievement of SDG 4.7 (**Education for Global Citizenship**).

Challenge to Change is a Presentation Initiative that is grounded in the SDGs, and open to primary and post primary students. Such has been the impact of this initiative that we were honoured to be able to present at the UN High Level Political Forum 2022. and you can watch our presentation here:

The link below to the 10-minute recording of this presentation *'showcasing good practice'* does justice to the many students and teachers past and present formed as 'Global Citizens' ready to act and advocate for change on the very real issues faced by those 'made poor' in our world today.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SuDzWhkOsMY>

See also [Education | Challenge to Change Project](#)



# 'Just Ways'



**Images:** In the background see a notice board for students to write messages of hope and support that shared a common wish for an end to the war in Ukraine.



**Images:** 'Pres' Kilkenny students raise funds to aid those suffering in Ukraine.

## 'Pres Kilkenny' Fundraising for Ukraine

**Here at Presentation Secondary School Kilkenny**, we have a very friendly, generous and kind school community where students can come to feel safe and enjoy learning.

With that in mind, the events surrounding the war in Ukraine have shook not only our school, but the country as a whole. With millions of people, many of them children, left homeless, injured or fleeing violence, our student body felt moved to support the Ukrainian people, both those who have come to Ireland and other countries seeking refuge, and those who remain in Ukraine.

The student council decided to organise an event to raise both awareness and funds for a dedicated charity, Nova Ukraine, which provides humanitarian aid to people in Ukraine.

We chose the 11th of March as our "Day of Peace". We created a notice board for students to write messages of hope and support to Ukraine from 'Pres'. The messages shared our common wish for an end to the war, which we also expressed by wearing white clothing, white being a universal symbol of peace.



The donations were collected during the morning and a total of €1,686 was raised by our generous school community.

In addition to this, our Transition Year students organised a food appeal and a bake sale, gathering non-perishable food items to donate to various aid organisations for distribution in Ukraine, and raising money for the Irish Red Cross.

As the humanitarian disaster continues in Eastern Europe and more people arrive to find refuge in Ireland our school community and student council will continue to try and find ways to support people in their time of need and embody our school values of kindness and compassion.

**Alexandra Murphy (Student)**

## Cairde Nano Action for Ukraine

**The 2nd year Cairde Nano team in Scoil Chríost Rí Portlaoise**, set up a Ukraine appeal for those in need of supplies. We knew they needed multiple supplies including clothes, food and hygiene products. We asked teachers and students in our school to bring in as many of these supplies as possible.

# 'Just Ways'



## Cairde Nano Action for Ukraine .../

We were very grateful for everything we got, and we were very surprised by the amount of supplies donated. Because of this the people in Ukraine will be able to take care of themselves and stay safe.

We did this by asking students and teachers to drop their supplies in to a room in our school, where we categorised all the items as well as packaging them all up for the Martley's bus company who drove three articulated lorry loads of items from our school and from the Christian Brothers School beside us.

**Robyn O'Callaghan & Emily O'Driscoll**



**Image:** Some of the 'Cairde Nano' Team (Portlaoise) help to load supplies.

## The Pope's Clear Position on Ukraine

Extract from a piece by Austin Ivereigh



Wars make strange bedfellows, and their first casualty is truth. War is always the hour of darkness, when disorder reigns, brute power sets the rules, and the innocent are crushed; when human appetites — lust, greed, rage, revenge — are unleashed and given free expression.

What we hear is happening now in Ukraine is nothing compared to what later we will learn, when the full impact of Vladimir Putin's invasion is unveiled. If this war is like all previous wars in human history, the victims will not be only on one side and the aggressors on the other. Just think of the more than 15,000 mothers in Russia unable to mourn their dead sons—many of them teenaged conscripts—because Putin will not allow their bodies to be repatriated for fear of the impact on

morale. The price for war is always paid by the poor, and its profits are reaped by the wealthy who trade in arms.

Austin Ivereigh writes— that we too often lose sight of the truth about the evil of war itself but, that uniquely among the world's leaders of nations or faiths, Pope Francis has spoken virtually every day since February 24 about this horrendous war. He has named the truths about it and pleaded for an end to it; and every day, in ways that cannot always be made public, he has acted to try to bring it to an end.

For the brutal truth is that the longer this goes on, the more weapons will flood in, outrages will continue to pile upon outrages. And, the harder it will become to escape what Francis calls "the



# 'Just Ways'

## The Pope's Clear Position on Ukraine /

diabolical and perverse logic of weapons.”

St. John Paul II famously described war as *'un'avventura senza ritorno'*, a venture from which there is no return, a downward spiral of violence. That is why, even while Ukraine is morally justified in fighting to protect its homeland, this cannot be, even for Ukraine, a 'just' war.

War as a means can never be just, because it sacrifices the poor and innocent, and so is always an injustice.

Pope Francis names this truth, and defends the other logic—God's logic, the path of mercy—even after most of us have given up on it.

God's logic recognises the depth of human relationship. It demands our mutual recognition as fellow creatures.

God's logic is that we are all still united by a shared dignity in spite of the horrors we have inflicted on each other.

The pope's stance needs no clarification. It could not be clearer. Amidst the roar of weapons and cries of grief, he stands among the victims, their blood on his cassock, begging for peace, and ready to talk to anyone and to do anything to bring it about.

### Austin Ivereigh

(This is an extract from an article by journalist Austin Ivereigh, for 'Where Peter Is'. See [The Pope's Clear Position on Ukraine - Where Peter Is](#) to listen to or read the full text of the piece).



**Image:** Mary holding a protective veil, as an echo of the Pokrov apparition, on October 1, 911.

## A Blessing for Ukraine

God, the unthinkable has happened.  
Swiftly, relentlessly,  
by stealth and through open destruction,  
the peace and beauty of the ordinary,  
has been shattered in a day.

O God of justice and might,  
We call to you to come and bring this suffering  
to an end.

Comfort these trembling hearts.  
Shield the vulnerable.  
Strengthen those with the resources and the resolve  
to protect what they love  
in the face of such overwhelming force.

Grant wisdom to the nations of our world, to our  
leaders, and to us,  
to grasp the unfathomable,  
to see evil in its true light,  
and come against it unflinchingly.

Dear Ukraine,  
though we shudder to watch what is happening  
We will not look away.  
(Blessing—by Kate Bowler).

# 'Just Ways'



**Image: (L-R)** Peter McVerry SJ, Sean Duggan, and Ian O'Donnell, panellists with Imelda Wickham, PBVM.

**Image:** Sr. Imelda speaking at the 'Unheard Voices' Conversation held in Mt. St. Anne's on 23rd May 2022.

## Irish Prison System needs 'urgent' overhaul

Sr. Imelda Wickham is relentless in her demand for a restorative rather than a punitive criminal justice system. After 20 years as a prison Chaplain, she articulated her arguments in a book launched last year by Messenger Publications: **'Unheard Voices: Reflections of a Prison Chaplain'**.

In Mount St. Anne's Retreat & Conference Centre on 23rd May, Imelda headed up a public event with experts in the field, in an effort to find new and creative ways of developing a more humane and holistic justice system. Ian O'Donnell, Professor of Criminology at UCD, Seán Duggan, Head of Irish prison Chaplaincy Services, and Peter McVerry SJ founder of the Peter McVerry Trust joined Imelda to discuss options with an engaged public audience.

They called for a public debate on how we can

improve our outdated and ineffective system and contribute to a change of mindset among politicians and the public at large, to reduce recidivism, support re-engagement with the community and develop a more holistic system.

Imelda urged people to use their voices, expertise and influence to generate this seismic change – and not to allow her book and their work to go the way of the Whitaker Report (1985).

*"We need game-changers like Imelda to call out a broken system, but she needs a broad spectrum of support to roll up their sleeves, bring the discussion to the public square, in order to generate seismic change"*, tweeted Messenger Publications after the event.

See also [Irish prison system needs 'urgent' overhaul \(thetablet.co.uk\)](https://thetablet.co.uk)

## Ukraine—Some facts & figures (April 2022)

The United Nations (UN) currently estimates that well over 4.3 million Ukrainians have fled to neighbouring countries to the West, (Poland 2.5 million, Romania 662,000, Hungary 404,000, Moldova 401,000, Russia 350,000, Belarus 18,000 and Slovakia 341,634), since the invasion of their country by Russia on 24th February, 2022. This marked an escalation of the Russo-Ukrainian War which began in 2014, when Russia annexed Crimea and the Donbas region. The UN also estimates that another 6.5 million are displaced inside the war-torn country itself. The refugees leave by any means possible - train, bus, car and on foot. Reception centres have been set up at all border countries, where they are given food, medical care, information and accommodation if necessary. Many seek advice about onward travel. The EU has granted Ukrainians who flee the war a right to stay and work throughout its 27 member states for up to three years. They will also receive social welfare benefits and access to housing, kindergartens, schools and medical treatment.



# 'Just Ways'



Image: At the border between Slovakia and Ukraine.

## A Haven for Ukrainian Refugees

Every day we read and see the information that thousands of people are trying to leave Ukraine and flee their homes because of the invasion of their country by Russia. 'The Ukraine' is a country two and a half times the size of the United Kingdom, about twice the size of Italy, slightly smaller than the US state of Texas and three quarters the size of Pakistan.

It has a population of over 41 million and is the second largest country in Europe after Russia, Ukraine became independent in 1991. Eighty-eight percent of the population are Christian, and Ukrainian customs are heavily influenced by Orthodox Christianity. In this article, Sr. Anne McNamara shares her first-hand experience of the Presentation Sisters in Slovakia responding, welcoming and supporting Ukrainian Refugees fleeing the ongoing war.

The Main Train station in Bratislava is a cross-roads for refugees from the Ukraine. They can go on from there directly to Budapest, Frankfurt, Prague, Vienna, Paris, Lisbon etc. Free trains have been specially put on to these destinations for refugees from the Ukraine.

It isn't clear how many have decided to stay in Slovakia, a country of around five and a half million people. Some arrive to Slovakia with a clear destination in mind with family or friends and others are given temporary accommodation in Slovakia in hotels, guest houses, schools, church buildings and private homes. Time will tell how long these refugees will be displaced and many want to leave as quickly as possible and return to their homeland and families.

### Hospitality of heart

We, Presentation Sisters in Slovakia, currently have an un-occupied 3 bed -roomed flat in Bratislava, within easy access of the city, bus stops, train station and schools.

The Irish Provincials (Srs. Mary Hanrahan and Grace McKernan) raised the question of offering this flat to a Ukrainian family in need of accommodation and safety. Preparations were made, and a 9-month contract was drawn up with the Founder of the St. Elizabeth's College of Health and Social Work in Bratislava, Professor Vladimír Krčméry, DrSc.

Dr. Krčméry works with refugees and has a large number of volunteers, who among other activities, provide a night-run soup kitchen and medical aid for the homeless in Bratislava. Sr. Rita Carberry and Sr. Anne McNamara signed the contract on behalf of the Presentation Sisters on 17th March. Dr. Krčméry chose a family who had fled the city of Dnipro during heavy bombing and shelling. The family moved into our flat on 19th March. They are two blood sisters, Julie and Eugenia and their girls aged 3, 5 and 10 years. They travelled over 1,000 km by train and bus from this city in central Ukraine. They told us that Dnipro is experiencing fighting on all three sides, as it is surrounded by Russian forces, owing to its location.





# 'Just Ways'



Julie and Eugenia spoke of hearing daily air raid sirens, explosions and of seeing sandbags stacked around the city. They said people are sheltering everywhere and with a population of over 1 million people, wounded soldiers are coming to the hospitals every day.

This city of Dnipro is very strategic for Russia as it bridges eastern and western Ukraine over the Dnieper river. Both sisters spoke of their sincere gratitude to the Presentation Sisters for the use of the flat, which they described, on hearing the news of the availability of a flat as “incredible”, “unbelievable” and “Heaven away from hell”. They also spoke of their sadness that their husbands and elderly mother and grandmother have stayed behind in the Ukraine. All three children have begun attending kindergarten and school and Julie has found a part-time job.

## Bringing aid to those suffering

Vyšné Nemecké is the usual border crossing from eastern Slovakia to the Ukrainian city of Uzhhorod.

On 9th of April, Srs. Louise Eustace, Rupa Xavier and I travelled there by car (a distance of 150km). We took with us some food, toiletries and blankets. We were met by a Slovak soldier guarding the border crossing. The soldier was very friendly and directed us to a tent that was accepting donations for in-coming refugees.

We entered the tent and met an Irish woman who was a volunteer with the Red Cross and had travelled from Dublin to help. Other volunteers were in the tent too, and spoke about the waves of people who come over the border, some in the evening or at night or early morning. Many children come and are naturally frightened and upset.

The volunteers had welcome packs for the children to try to distract them from the trauma of the crossing and the prospect of further journeys around Europe. It was so obvious the care, thoughtfulness and concern shown to all refugees crossing, from both police, fire-brigade, ambulances, medical staff, soldiers, volunteers and donors. The Slovak Migration Office also has a tent there showing and explaining people their legal rights, responsibilities and checking and helping with documentation.

In Vyšné Nemecké there are a large number of aid groups helping people crossing over from the Ukraine by day or night.



Image: Srs. Rupa and Louise leaving the donor tent..

Generosity and solidarity towards the Ukrainian refugees are evident everywhere in Slovakia. Temporary shelter, free public transport, humanitarian aid points, simplification of access to Slovakia, health and safety services as well as access to the labour market are supports offered to all Ukrainians fleeing the conflict. Ukrainian language hotlines and hotspots provide help and protection.

A recent online survey (by the Institute for Sociology and Research in Social Communication) found that the majority of Slovaks agree with the country's official response to the invasion of the Ukraine by the Russian Federation. Seventy-seven point eight (77.8%) of respondents expressed support for Slovakia's humanitarian aid and 74.6% said that they believe that Ukrainians fleeing the on-going war should be welcomed into Slovakia.

Slovakia is truly a haven at this time. Let us pray with Psalm 16:

*“Keep them safe O God, you are their hope”.*

## Sr. Anne McNamara, Spišské Podhradie, Slovakia



Image: Donor Tent at Slovakia-Ukraine border.



# 'Just Ways'

## WORKING FOR CHANGE TO SUSTAIN PEOPLE AND EARTH



### Women and Children

We advocate on issues such as education, health and violence.

[Read more...](#)

### Care of the Earth

We respond to the cry of the earth, to protect people and planet.

[Read more...](#)

### Indigenous & People

We support comm with culturally appropriate enga

[Read more...](#)

## An IPA—Action Update

### Our new website goes 'live'

On June 10th our new IPA website went 'live'! The website is our digital home, enhancing the vital online interface of the International Presentation Association as a window to *our mission* across the IPA Network, and *our advocacy work* at the United Nations.

Its primary focus is on our action for justice as well as informing visitors about 'us' as an organisation.

We consulted with a great many people in our initial exploratory phase last summer, and again throughout the design process in order to arrive at this stage. The feedback we received guided the design and content of the final outcome. We were greatly appreciative of the comments from everyone, and for the professional feedback from those Congregations who engaged with their Directors of Communication.

We are indebted to Trish Groves from 'Five Trees Digital', the content writer for the website, and 'Sprout Studios' who designed and built the site.



It was envisaged, that in developing the website we might also design a new Logo.

We then paused on this, and decided instead to refresh the existing logo.

If you look closely, you will notice that we have retained the integrity of the original work while making it just a little bit sharper for viewing online.

Our new website also has a new web address (known as the 'URL'). See [International Presentation Association – International Presentation Association \(globalpres.org\)](https://www.internationalpresentationassociation.org). A long URL can be difficult to type into a search bar, especially for people for whom English is not their first language, so happily we have chosen to go with 'globalpres.org'.

The good news is that during the changeover process (a bit like redirecting post) we can keep both addresses and simply redirect everything to the new address.

This is YOUR website: a living space where we focus on our continuing action for justice. The launch of the site is therefore not the end; it is a starting point. To keep things up to date, we would love to receive your photographs and stories, as a window to how you are living the IPA mission today.

# 'Just Ways'



## An IPA—Action Update ... Ctd/

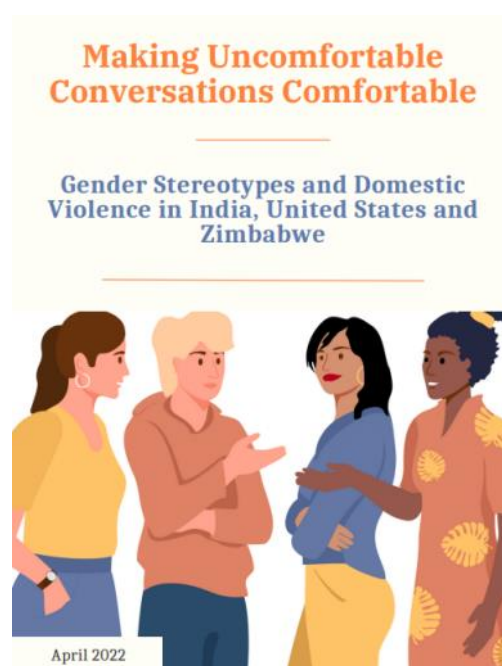
### Making Uncomfortable Conversations Comfortable

In early 2020, when we were collectively enduring and witnessing a time of great upheaval due to COVID-19 pandemic, the IPA had identified **"Elimination of Violence Against Women and Children"** as its specific UN Advocacy Focus. The focus emerged from the **IPA Priority Action "Women and Children"**, intersecting with **Priority Actions to "Honour and Advance the Rights of the Earth and the Rights of Indigenous and Tribal people"** as well as the Sustainable Development Goals framework. The COVID-19 global pandemic, intensified and worsened violence against women. The confined living conditions of lockdown, with severe health, economic and social impacts, amplified existing inequalities and power imbalances and disproportionately affected those most vulnerable worldwide.

During COVID-19 pandemic, Presentation Sisters and People have actively engaged in various projects for minimizing violence against women. As leaders in their missions and professions, they work in partnerships with women and their communities to educate and empower them with skills in all aspects. Promoting gender equality has been a critical part of preventing and addressing violence against women. This includes interventions, at global and local level, that address the entrenched beliefs and cultural norms from which gender inequalities develop in order to reduce gender-based violence. Gendered stereotypes and attitudes might influence the likelihood of a gender-based violence survivor feeling comfortable or uncomfortable, being able or unable, to seek help and report to the support services. The monumental impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on entrenching gender roles and patterns of gender-based violence was the pressing reason for the current publication.

Our particular interest lies in providing a voice to women experiencing gender stereotypes and domestic violence - presenting not only their experiences, but also their needs going forward, as reflective of their culture and society.

**(This publication was launched on 25th May 2022).**



This research publication, **'Making Uncomfortable Conversations Comfortable'**, has been conducted by Ella Rayment, Research Fellow International Presentation Association under the supervision of Dr. Despoina Afrodit Milaki, the IPA NGO Representative at the UN, as a response to the unparalleled entrenchment of gender stereotypes and domestic violence as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Setting the stage for developing IPAs advocacy work in the future, this publication will be the first of many to work with survivors and advocates to privilege experiences and present solutions to gender stereotypes and domestic violence.

As 'IPA' may we continuously be awakened with a global consciousness to the woundedness and pain of our world, standing with people in their struggles, while speaking and acting for justice, healing and hope for all.

See [Resources – International Presentation Association \(globalpres.org\)](https://globalpres.org)

**Sr. Ann Marie Quinn**  
Executive Director, IPA



# 'Just Ways'



## From the Interprovincial Justice Desk

### Collaboration

The Presentation Justice Desk is a collaborative mission of the English, North East and South West Provinces and three times per year we collaborate prayerfully on a significant day as we encourage all in our three provinces to pray with us.

Our next day of special collaboration will be on August 9th centring our attention on the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples 2022. See [International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples | United Nations](#)

Also [Indigenous & Tribal People – International Presentation Association \(globalpres.org\)](#)

### Standing Together Against Direct Provision

The International Presentation (IPA) has joined the newly formed coalition of organisations standing against Direct Provision. STAD (the Irish word for stop) – **Stand Together Against Direct Provision** - are calling for the Government to fulfil the commitments it made to end direct provision by 2024 in the White Paper on Ending Direct Provision published in March 2021.

See [gov.ie - White Paper on Ending Direct Provision | Executive Summary in various languages \(www.gov.ie\)](#)

We are calling for a humane alternative that respects the human rights and dignity of the international protection applicants.

Direct Provision (DP) came into being in 1999 as an emergency measure to accommodate asylum seekers who arrived in Ireland during the Celtic Tiger times when the Irish Economy was booming. The system has been criticised by human rights organisations as illegal, inhuman and degrading. Currently there are about 7,400 people living in DP in 38 centres across 17 counties in Ireland. Approximately 1700 of these are children.

From a humble beginning of 7 organisations there is now 37 organisations in this Coalition that counts in its membership, The Refugee Council, Amnesty International, Crosscare, Immigrant Council of Ireland, Afri, AkiDwa, Comhlámh, Irish Council for Civil Liberties, Irish Network Against Racism, National Youth Council of Ireland, Oxfam, Spirasi and now the International Presentation Association.

See [STAD – Coalition to End Direct Provision](#)

This is just a current selection from the vast 'Justice landscape' that the Inter-Provincial Justice Desk feeds into—you can see further details through the **Monthly Updates** link [Monthly Updates 2022 \(google.com\)](#) shared at the beginning of each month.

# 'Just Ways'



## From the Interprovincial Justice Desk ./

### #addthe10th

At the Justice desk I am privileged to be an ATD board member representing the Presentation Sisters in Ireland. ATD Ireland are part of an important alliance called #addthe10th.

The purpose of this group is to have socio-economic status recognised as the tenth ground of discrimination in Irish equality legislation, namely the Equal Status Act and the Employment Equality Act. Those with an experience of poverty are “*constantly fall through the cracks*” of equality legislation.

Socio-economic discrimination can occur in many forms and can be experienced both individually and collectively. Discrimination is often felt within public services, such as in healthcare, housing and accommodation, when seeking employment, education, social welfare, or with the police.

### Measuring Ireland's Progress (SDGs)

[Measuring Progress: The Sustainable Progress Index 2022](#) ranks 14 comparable EU countries based on their delivery of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Written by Prof. Charles M.A. Clark of St John's University, NY; Dr. Catherine Kavanagh of UCC; and Colette Bennett of *Social Justice Ireland*, the index compares 14 EU countries across all UN SDGs, assesses their performance on each individual SDG; creates a ranking table for performance overall; and provides national and local-level policy proposals to improve Ireland's progress towards the Goals.

All 17 SDGs have been referenced but the results have been collated to indicate the degree to which we have implemented the SDGs to account for our Economic, Social and Environmental Progress. Overall Ireland stands about 10th out of 14. Below us are Portugal, Italy, Greece and Spain. We scored highest in SDG 4—Quality Education where we came 1st out of 14 but we scored poorly on SDG #13—Climate Action (11th out of 14). There is no

### Measuring Progress: Economy, Society and Environment in Ireland



doubt that COVID-19 has had an impact on our ability to achieve full implementation of the Goals and the 2030 deadline looms large. Much done – more to do as they say.

### Alliances

Over the course of the last year much of our work was online and at a distance from people. 'Zoom' allowed attendance at three or four meetings per day whereas beforehand the pace was definitely gentler with more thinking time for all. We continue to work particularly closely with the Religious in Europe Networking Against Trafficking and Exploitation (RENATE), AEFJN Ireland, COALITION 2030, Altogether in Dignity (ATD) Ireland, Edmund Rice International, Social Justice Ireland and Our Lady of the Apostles and others.

**Brian O'Toole**  
Director, Interprovincial Justice Desk

### 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](#)





# Nano Today



**Images:** (Right) Sr. Anne Lyons with Patricia O'Brien, Irish Ambassador, to the State of Italy, and (Left) pictured with some of the Irish Religious working in Rome at Villa Spada, (the residence of the Irish Ambassador).

## The Postulator's Diary

Saluti da Roma! C'è sole with the temperature to rise into the 30's this coming week. I can affirm that Rome is open for business post Covid 19, as evidenced by the buzzing sounds of laughter at the nearby Trattoria; not to mention the long trail of visitors to Basilicas, the Colosseum and the Roman Forum which are all within walking distance of the Pontifical University. Oh, to be a tourist!

### Student Life

While tourists enjoy the delights of Rome, I continue to live the life of a *'studentessa'* at the Lateran Pontifical University. Lectures for the second semester of Year 1 have just concluded. Exams scheduled for June- dates 10th, 15th and 22nd have been completed, with your prayers most welcome, as I stammered my way along with limited Italian for Oral Exams!

I am looking forward to July and to once touching the 'green grass of home'. I return early September to Rome continue the second year of the Advanced Postulators Diploma Course for Postulators. Our second year will not be short on content or challenges: twelve courses, exams, a written 50 page *'tesina'* and finally the defence of a large tome titled: *'Cause dei Santi'*. All this study is in the service of becoming officially recognised as Postulator for our congregation.

### St. Patrick's Day

There was a great buzz and energy around the Irish College for the celebration of St. Patrick's Day this year. The last public celebration had been March 2019. From the beginning of the day, the Irish College was host to many dignitaries religious, and representation from Ireland of the Junior Minister for State, Mr. Tom Byrne accompanied by his wife, and the Irish Ambassador to the Holy See, Mr. Derek Hannon.

Also present at the Mass, was the recently appointed Irish Ambassador to the State of Italy, Ambassador Patricia O' Brien. She spoke with deep appreciation of her own education in Wicklow and her deep regard for Women Religious. Before departing, she expressed delight at meeting Irish Sisters and that she would very much like to invite us women Religious to join her at the Villa Spada, her residence in Rome.

### Villa Spada, Roma

The invitation duly arrived for May 12th and a group of Irish Religious joined the Ambassador at her residence at the Villa Spada located on Via Giacomo, Rome, for afternoon tea. It was a most welcomed and enjoyable change to the world of study, at least for an afternoon!

We enjoyed a lovely afternoon with garden tea party in the company of the Ambassador and other members of her staff. For a few hours one

# Nano Today



felt transported from the world of books lectures and study to the world of interesting conversation, great interaction and listened with appreciation to Ambassador Patricia recount the various posts and places where she had previously represented Ireland.

During the visit, I was delighted to meeting with Siobhán Kelly, a member of Ambassador O' Brien's staff. She proudly declared that she was a former past pupil of Presentation, Terenure. In my subsequent conversation, I listened as she recalled with fondness her memories of Sr. Claire Grant and Sr. Joseph Hanley and Sr. Pauline Mc Galey. (Photograph with Siobhán).

## Book Launch

On May 19th, I was invited to join the Loreto Sisters on the occasion of the book launch commissioned by Teresa Ball and Loreto Education -Convents and the Colonial World 1794-1875. It was an occasion filled with great joy and celebration. Professor Deirdre Raftery in the preface, highlighted how *'the importance of writing women religious into the historical narrative has been recognised over the past few decades by scholars.'* (Photo of Book)

## Canonisation

A group of priests and some lay people stayed at the Villa Irlanda for the canonization by Pope Francis of ten men and women. Among those being canonised are Blessed Charles de Foucauld, Founder of the Congregation of the Little Brothers of Jesus, and the Dutch Carmelite Blessed Titus Brandsma, martyred in Dachau concentration camp. Among his many gifts was the ministry of journalism and his courage to speak and write the truth. The world now has a canonised saint for Journalism!

## Nano's Cause?

People enquire as to what is happening regarding the process for Nano's Canonization. I visited the Congregation for the Cause of Saints some months ago. The response I received to this question is: *"il caso di Nano Nagle dorme"* – "The case for Nano Nagle sleeps.". It will awaken when we receive news of a miracle through her intercession!

I am reminded of the wonderful occasion for our



**Image:** Siobhan Kelly, Past Pupil of Presentation Terenure with Sr. Anne Lyons.

Congregation on October 31st, 2013, when Pope Francis declared Nano Venerable. In this act, her life of heroic virtues were publicly recognised and we await in hope the next stage of the process – her Beatification.

This remaining step before beatification is the approval of a miracle, evidence of the intercessory power of Venerable Nano. I invite you to continue the great work that you are doing to promote devotion to Venerable Nano and to making her known and loved. This is our ongoing task in the process. We await God's will and desire to use her as His instrument of healing grace, to grant us the required miracle, to move forward her case for beatification and eventually canonisation.

Do keep up the record keeping of any ongoing cause in which you may be presently involved. Records will be vital in any future investigation. For now, every good wish and I ask you for keeping me in your prayers at this exam time once again!

## Cause of Venerable Nano Nagle

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)



# Reflections

## Making God Visible

“A mosaic consists of thousands of little stones. Some are blue, some are green, some are yellow, some are gold.

When we bring our faces close to the mosaic, we can admire the beauty of each stone. But as we step back from it, we can see that all these little stones reveal to us a beautiful picture, telling a story none of these stones can tell by itself.

That is what our life in community is about.

Each of us is like a little stone, but together we reveal the face of God to the world.

Nobody can say: “I make God visible.” But others who see us together can say: “They make God visible.” Community is where humility and glory touch.”

~ Henry Nouwen



Image: 'Mosaic' by Lucas Baberini.

## 'In old age they will still bear fruit'

**Sunday, July 24, 2022, is the Second World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly** and will be celebrated throughout the universal Church.

The theme chosen by the Holy Father for the occasion is **"In old age they will still bear fruit" (Psalm 92:15)** emphasising how grandparents and the elderly are a value and a gift both for society and for ecclesial communities.

The theme is also an invitation to reconsider and value grandparents and the elderly who are too often kept on the margins of families, civil and ecclesial communities. Their experience of life and faith can contribute, in fact, to building societies that are aware of their roots and capable of dreaming of a future based on greater solidarity.

In his Message for this day Pope Francis writes:

*“Dear grandparents, dear elderly persons, we are called to be artisans of the revolution of tenderness in our world!*

*Let us do so by learning to make ever more*

*frequent and better use of the most valuable instrument at our disposal and, indeed, the one best suited to our age: prayer.*

*Let us too become, as it were, poets of prayer: let us develop a taste for finding our own words, let us once again take up those taught by the word of God.*

*Our trustful prayer can do a great deal: it can accompany the cry of pain of those who suffer, and it can help change hearts. We can be “the enduring ‘chorus’ of a great spiritual sanctuary, where prayers of supplication and songs of praise sustain the community that toils and struggles in the field of life”.*

See [EN - Message of His Holiness Pope Francis - II World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly \(littlesistersofthepoor.org\)](https://www.littlesistersofthepoor.org/)







## The Synodal Pathway: When Rhetoric meets Reality

In March 2021, the Irish Catholic Bishop's Council announced a Synodal Pathway for the Catholic Church in Ireland focussing on the question: **'What does God want from the Church in Ireland at this time?'**

According to Professor of Theology at MIC, Prof. Eamonn Conway: *"The concept of synodality and the convening of synods is nothing new in the Catholic Church, yet recent focus upon it nationally and globally has taken many priests and people by surprise. Even after a year of launches, conferences, talks, homilies, pastoral letters, scholarly articles and popular social media contributions, there remains confusion and not an inconsiderable degree of concern in regard to synodality."*

*Without in many instances a proper understanding of what it is actually about, some people are already anxious that synodality will not go too far in terms of demanding Church reforms while others are equally concerned that it will not go far enough."*

This new book **'The Synodal Pathway: When Rhetoric meets Reality'** (co-edited by Mary Immaculate College (MIC) academics, Professor Eamonn Conway, Dr. Eugene Duffy (emeritus, MIC) and Dr. Mary McDaid (St Patrick's Sanctuary), is a collection of fifteen essays from leading scholars from Ireland and wider Europe, as well as Australia and the USA.

The book analyses the ongoing self-reflection of

the Irish Church and the opportunities and stakes of finding a place in the modern world. It brings together expertise that is global and local, theological, pastoral, legal and practical, and offers it as a companion for those who wish, to contribute to the synodal journeys and processes now underway here in Ireland and globally.

In its exploration, the book works through three key objectives. Firstly, it provides a basic understanding of the meaning of synodality and its foundations within the Catholic tradition. Secondly, it strives to make the case for synodality as precisely *"that which God expects from the Church of the third millennium"*. Finally, it aims to show why, having embarked the church upon a synodal path nationally and globally, failure to arrive at a destination of sincere and meaningful Church reform may well leave the Catholic Church in a worse situation than if it had ever embarked upon a synodal path in the first place. According to Professor Conway: *"The third objective of the book is to make the point that the stakes are high and it is time to get real."*

*The Synodal Pathway* was presented to Pope Francis in Easter Week when Professor Conway and Dr. Dan O'Connell (also of MIC) [led a team of 38 Catholic Educators to the Vatican for a private meeting with His Holiness](#) on their work, as well as to Cardinal Grech who heads up Pope Francis' work on synodality for the Vatican. *The Synodal Pathway: When Rhetoric meets Reality* is published by Columba Books and can be found [by clicking here](#).



# Conversations



## An Oral Statement to the UN Human Rights Council (UN HRC)

In March, the [Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of the Apostles \(OLA\)](#) together with their partners, the [Presentation Sisters](#), [Christian Brothers](#) and [Edmund Rice International](#), were invited to make an oral statement to the [Human Rights Council](#) on the outcome of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Ireland. This oral statement was a follow-up to the joint civil society submission to the UPR of Ireland made last year (see a summary of UPR Submission here: [Universal Periodic Review of Ireland 2021 – Civil Society Submission](#)).

This was a collaborative effort with Br. Brian Bond of Edmund Rice International, Br. Donal Leader – Advocacy Officer for the Christian Brother, and Brian O’Toole – Justice Officer for the Presentation Sisters. The submission was facilitated by Edmund Rice International who have an office in Geneva.

### The Universal Periodic Review

Every four and a half years, the UN Human Rights Council hosts a universal periodic review (UPR) of each country’s record on human rights. As part of the process, civil society organisations are invited to lodge submissions outlining their concerns about specific human rights issues affecting their country. Ireland’s review took place on 10 November 2021. Our submission covered three interrelated human rights issues: human trafficking, domestic and gender based violence, and migrants’ rights. The concerns and recommendations raised in our submission helped to

inform the interactive dialogue with Ireland on 10 November.

Following this interactive dialogue, the Irish Government accepted several of the recommendations and noted others. Among the recommendations accepted, several addressed the concerns raised in our submission.

### Invitation to Make an Oral Statement

In March of this year, several civil society organisations were afforded the opportunity to make a follow-up oral statement during the Human Rights Council session at which the report on Ireland was adopted. Through our partnership with Edmund Rice International, we were invited to make an oral statement. This allowed us to further draw attention to the key recommendations in our 2021 civil society submission. As a result, Brian O’Toole recorded a two minute oral statement which was televised at the 44th meeting of the **49th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva on 24 March 2022**. Our statement was one of only 15 made by civil society groups in response to the outcome of Ireland’s UPR.

To view the recording of the proceedings of the 44<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the 49<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of Human Rights Council (Ireland, UPR Report Consideration) follow the link:

<https://media.un.org/en/asset/k16/k16xn7xygi>

*The oral statement, delivered by Brian O’Toole, begins 32 minutes into the recording.*

# Collaborations



**Image:** Sophia started their celebration of 25 years of providing homeless services, joined by of the Religious of Ireland. (Image courtesy of Sophia Website).

## Sophia Housing—25 years of Partnership

***“The book of Ecclesiasticus tells us that for everything under the sun there is a season ... a time to be happy, and a time to cry; a time to remember, a time to forget. This time in the life of Sophia is a time to remember and a time to reflect and a time to be joyful as we celebrate 25years of service to those who have experienced homelessness”.***

Sophia Housing has been a national provider of housing and homeless services for 25 years.

As the celebrations began, Sr. Jean Quinn, DW acknowledged that it had supported hundreds of people including families, to get out of homelessness but that *“ this could not have been achieved without the vision and courage of the religious congregations who wanted to continue their social justice mission through Sophia”*, she said.

Jean also highlighted that religious congregations had also *“been to the forefront in the response to the Ukrainian refugee crisis by making the property they have available to house families fleeing the terror of war, and through Sophia they have enabled hundreds of people to move out of homelessness”*. (see page 7). In fact, as far back as 1997 Sophia has acted as a conduit for religious congregations in addressing homelessness by making their lands and property available for homes.

An example of one of Sophia’s upcoming projects is in the town centre in Portlaoise where fifty-two homes will be created. This scheme involves the Department of Housing, Laois County Council, the local parish, and the

Presentation Sisters’ former Sacred Heart Secondary School there, and the surrounding lands.

Sophia fittingly started their celebrations with representatives of the Religious of Ireland, all of whom are continuing to leave a unique contribution to those left furthest behind in Ireland.

Sr. Jean Quinn (now working at the UN in New York and Geneva) quotes Jane Goodall in recognising the work of all those involved within Sophia and all those with whom Sophia has collaborated, now and in the past:

*“ ... above all we must realise that each of us makes a difference with our life. Each of us impacts the world around us every single day. We have a choice to use the gift of our life to make the world a better place – or not to bother”*

*She continues saying of Sophia: “We together, we have bothered and together we are making a unique mark on our world”.*

### At the United Nations

In 2019, the United Nations (UN) invited Sr. Jean Quinn, alongside fifteen other experts, to go to



# Collaborations

## Sophia Housing: 25 yrs of Partnership./



*“Pope Francis recently expressed his hope for a growth in communion between the members of our Institutes, calling us to step out more courageously from the confines of our respective institutes and to work together, which would make for a prophetic witness.*

*Well, we did that with Sophia 25 years ago, where we were open to an encounter with each other, we listened, we dialogued, and we came up with a positive response which is now called Sophia”.*

(This article is based on copy taken from the following articles: [25 Years of Partnership \(sophia.ie\)](#) and Irish Times Article [HERE](#)).

the UN in Nairobi to prepare the Secretary General’s Report for the Commission on Social Development, 2020. The experience of Sophia was included as an example of Best Practice. Jean regards this as a significant moment for all involved, resulting in a successful outcome at that commission.

Jean sees her work at the UN, and the work continuing development and co-emption of projects locally and nationally by Sophia as a confirmation (if one were needed) “... that the mission we set out to do together 25 years ago continues quietly in Wisdom Sophia’s unique way.

*I truly have a heart full of gratitude for all the Congregations have done for Sophia, and I know you will continue to do in the coming years. We will continue to be called to be change makers in the homeless sector in Ireland”.*

## Pride of Place Award for Cork Migrant Ctr.



**Image:** Congratulations to Rayaa, a participant of Cork Migrant Centre (Nano Nagle Place) who has been selected for a seat on the @Eurochild\_org Children’s Council, making her the first migrant child to represent Ireland on the committee! A huge achievement

See [Eurochild Children’s Council – Eurochild](#)

The Cork Migrant Centre Young Person’s Anti-Racism Group, Cork City has been awarded an IPB Pride of Place Award 2022 for its anti-racism youth project created as a response to the Black Lives Matter (BLM) Movement. In the citation the judges said they were :

*“... in awe as they heard the personal stories of a group of fantastic young people detailing their emotional, physical, social and cultural journeys in making Ireland their home. Their work in bringing change and being a voice in their communities is deserving of the highest praise”.*

The IPB Pride of Place Award is an all-island competition that recognises improvements made by local communities to create civic pride in their area. The competition focus is about people coming together to shape, change and enjoy all that is good about their area.

See [Cities Section: Category Six – Community Based Youth Led Initiative - IPB Pride of Place Awards](#)

# Recognitions



Image: Celebrations with An Taoiseach, Micheál Martin at Nano Nagle Place.

## ‘Nano Nagle—A true European’

*“It’s a huge honour to win the Council of Europe Museum Prize. Nano Nagle was a true European. Having spent her youth in France, she also looked to Europe for help and inspiration when she invited the Ursuline Sisters to come to Cork. Nano Nagle addressed the needs she saw before her in the 18th Century, and at Nano Nagle Place we continue in that spirit, addressing the societal issues before us today. We are both moved and proud that the Culture Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe have recognised our twin missions of celebrating the daring endeavours of Nano Nagle in the past, while continuing her work to address new societal issues in the present”. (Nano Nagle Place CEO Shane Clarke)*



It was with great joy, the European Museum Forum shared the decision by the Council of Europe that the winner of the Council of Europe Museum Prize 2022 would be awarded to Nano Nagle Place (Cork, Ireland).

Nano Nagle Place not only commemorates the educational and religious work of Nano Nagle,

who founded schools for the Catholic poor in Cork at a time when it was illegal, but equally it continues the same mission to provide support and care for people in need. The charity which runs the museum continues the order’s educational and spiritual work through the Cork Migrant Centre, providing services for asylum seekers and refugees, and the Lantern, which runs community education and development services.

According to committee representative for the Museum Prize, Roberto Rampi (Italy, SOC), “despite being rooted in the specific religious tradition of Roman Catholicism, with nuns still living on the site, there is a strong sense of caring based on need, not on doctrine. Nano Nagle Place has a very strong and coherent mission which is in line with the Council of Europe’s human rights values and principles”.

See [Cork’s Nano Nagle Place wins prestigious European museum award \(irishtimes.com\)](https://www.irishtimes.com/news/cork/nano-nagle-place-wins-prestigious-european-museum-award-1.4567890)

And [Cork’s Nano Nagle Place wins prestigious European Museum of the Year Award - Cork Beo](https://www.beo.ie/news/cork-nano-nagle-place-wins-prestigious-european-museum-of-the-year-award)

You can listen to the short video of Shane Clarke (CEO) Nano Nagle Place accepting the Council of Europe Museum Prize 2022 [20+](https://www.facebook.com/nanonagleplace) [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/nanonagleplace)



# Still Space



## 'Catholic education is evangelisation'

*"Catholic education is evangelisation: bearing witness to the joy of the Gospel and its power to renew our communities and provide hope and strength in facing wisely the challenges of the present time".*

With these words Pope Francis welcomed a group of Catholic educators from Mary Immaculate College (MIC, Limerick) who enjoyed a private reception with Pope Francis in the Vatican in April this year as part of a research trip to Rome.

Eight members of staff, from students and eight recent graduates made up the majority of the thirty-six present from the Global Researchers Advancing Catholic Education (GRACE)\* project who were in Rome to study Pope Francis' initiatives in Catholic education.

Pope Francis continued:

*"I trust that this study will inspire each of you to rededicate him or herself with generous zeal to your vocation as educators, to your efforts to solidify the foundations of a more humane society in solidarity, and thus the advancement of Christ's kingdom, of truth, holiness, justice and peace. What you do is a beautiful thing. We must break that idea of education which holds that 'educating means filling one's head with ideas. That's the way we educate automatons, cerebral minds, not people.*

*Educating is taking a risk in the tension between*

*the mind, the heart and the hands: in harmony, to the point of thinking what I feel and do; feeling what I think and do; of doing what I feel and think. It's a balance".*

According to Dr. Daniel O'Connell, lecturer in Religious Education at MIC and Project Leader of the GRACE Project:

*"Meeting with Pope Francis and other speakers was such a gift, a source of encouragement and inspiration for us all. While the experiences we shared engaged us on many levels, I think they spoke most of all to our hearts. We were left with a renewed confidence in Catholic education and a sense of belonging to a wider community".*

\*(The GRACE project is an international research – based partnership between MIC, Boston College, the University of Notre Dame (Australia), and St. Mary's University (London, UK)).

### Nano Nagle Bursaries for MA in Christian Leadership in Education (MIC)

Ten Nano Nagle scholarships have been funded by Presentation Sisters (North East and South West) and made available for the taught Master's programme (part-time) that commences (just now) in the Summer Semester of 2022. The scholarships are covering course fees and some additional expenses for these students participating in the MA in Christian Leadership Programme at MIC. See [HERE](#)

# Still Space



## The dead are not distant or absent ...

They are alongside us.

When we lose someone to death, we lose their physical image and presence, they slip out of visible form into invisible presence. This alteration of form is the reason we cannot see the dead.

But because we cannot see them does not mean that they are not there.

[ ... ]

Though they cannot reappear, they continue to be near us and part of the healing of grief is the refinement of our hearts whereby we come to sense their loving nearness.

When we ourselves enter the eternal world and come to see our lives on earth in full view, we may be surprised at the immense assistance and support with which our departed loved ones have accompanied every moment of our lives.

JOHN O'DONOHUE

Excerpt from his books, *Beauty: The Invisible Embrace* (US) / *Divine Beauty* (Europe)

## In appreciation ...

My thanks to all who supported me with words and prayers and messages of sympathy on the death of my brother John RIP.

*Sr. Mary Brennan (Clondalkin)*

-oOo-

I wish to express my gratitude to all the Sisters for their kind letters of sympathy, phone calls and texts during my recent bereavements. Your intentions are remembered in Mass. Blessings.

*Sr. Bernadette Joyce (Corrib Park, Galway)*

-oOo-

Sincere thanks to the Sisters in the Province for their Mass cards, expressions of sympathy, phone calls and attendance at the removal and funeral services for my brother Jack.

*Sr. Attracta Heneghan (Tuam)*

-oOo-

The family of Sr. Anne Lyons, thank you most sincerely for your kind expression of sympathy on the death of their mother, Anna Lyons.

The Holy sacrifice of the Mass has been offered for your intentions.

*Sr. Anne Lyons (Postulator, Rome)*

-oOo-

**Remembering our Sisters who have died:** We 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](https://www.instagram.com/JoinPresentation)

[Friends of Nano Group](https://www.instagram.com/FriendsOfNanoGroup)

[@WhatAboutTheBees](https://www.instagram.com/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, Spišské Podhradie Community in Slovakia, Ann Marie Quinn pbvm, Brian O'Toole (Director, Interprovincial Justice Desk), John O'Donohue, Emily O'Driscoll and Robyn O'Callaghan (Scoil Chríost Rí Portlaoise), Alexandra Murphy (Student, 'Pres Kilkenny'), Anne McNamara pbvm, Anne Lyons pbvm, Austin Ivreigh, Cairde Nano Team, (Scoil Chríost Rí, Portlaoise), Kate Bowler, Margaret Agnew (Communications Officer, NEP).