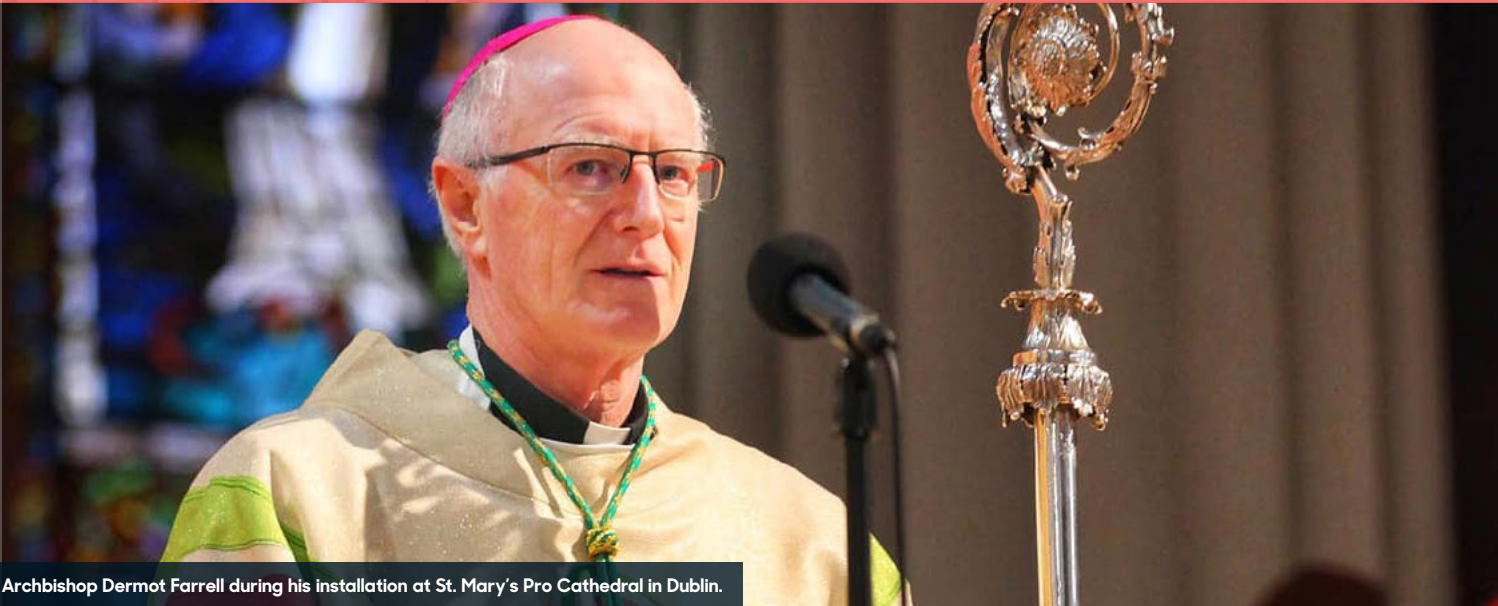




St Patrick's College Maynooth

Spring 2021 Issue no. 10



Archbishop Dermot Farrell during his installation at St. Mary's Pro Cathedral in Dublin.

Former President of St Patrick's appointed Archbishop of Dublin

"I come to you with hope in my heart" were the words Archbishop Dermot Farrell spoke in his homily as he was installed as the new Archbishop of Dublin in St. Mary's Pro Cathedral on 2 February.

A former President of St Patrick's College, Maynooth, Archbishop Farrell said his was not a "naïve hope" - in the face of the global pandemic and the challenges facing the Irish Church. His belief is that this is "a time of grace ...rich in possibilities, already carrying the future, overflowing with Christ. Christ calls us forward ...to accept the responsibility of mission as we experience it now."

Discernment and dialogue will be the key hallmarks of the new Archbishop's pastoral ministry. This will involve "discerning what is life-giving in the faith patrimony of the Church" and as people of faith being "capable of dialogue with society and culture."

In discerning where the Spirit is calling us as a Church, the Archbishop believes that we must follow the synodal way, of all the baptised walking

together, listening and dialoguing together, especially at parish level. "The only viable pastoral plan ...will be that which comes from a genuine dialogue and discernment between the people, clergy and religious. ...the future is God's gift to us," he said.

Archbishop Farrell concluded his homily by thanking God for all those who had been part of his vocation journey: his parents, family, the parish and diocesan communities where he had served as priest and bishop. Recalling his time at the Irish College in Rome, where he was Director of Formation and also St Patrick's College Maynooth, where he served from 1990-2017 as lecturer, Vice-President and President, he thanked the students and staff of both colleges that had helped to form him.

Speaking after his installation, SPCM

President Rev. Professor Michael Mullaney described Archbishop Farrell as a man of deep faith, pastoral zeal and collaboration with the people he has ministered to.

The College and the Pontifical University pledges its prayerful support and commits to working closely with Archbishop Farrell in facing the future and its challenges with fresh hope.

"In the coming years, Archbishop Dermot will bring a new energy and vision to the Archdiocese of Dublin and the wider Church in Ireland," Fr. Mullaney concluded.

The full text of Archbishop Dermot Farrell's homily is available at:
<https://www.dublindiocese.ie/installation-of-dermot-farrell-as-archbishop-of-dublin/>

Year of St Joseph honours humble & courageous father

Pope Francis is well known for his devotion to Saint Joseph – Husband of Mary, Foster Father of Jesus, and Patron of the Universal Church. So, it shouldn't have come as a surprise that the pontiff would announce a Year of St Joseph which will run until 8 December 2021.

A powerful meditation on Saint Joseph, called *Patris Corde – With a Father's Heart* was written by Pope Francis in order to "to share some personal reflections on this extraordinary figure, so close to our own human experience." The Pope's reflection have a special relevance to those who are on the path of priestly formation and for those who are ministering as deacons and priests in our parishes and dioceses.



St Mary's Oratory was reordered to commemorate the Great Jubilee of the Lord's birth 2000 AD with the generous assistance of St Joseph's Young Priests Society founded in 1895 by Olivia Mary Taaffe to promote and support vocations.

earthly shadow of the heavenly Father: he watched over him and protected him, never leaving him to go his own way," says Pope Francis.

With this portrayal of Joseph as a beloved, tender, loving, insightful, humble, creatively courageous, guardian of the treasure of God, the Pope presents a model of behaviour and attitude for all fathers and in a particularly important way for spiritual fathers.

Fr. Tomás Surlis

Rector of the National Seminary



In *Patris Corde* we are invited to get to know Joseph better as a man who lived his life, as we do, in the midst of a challenging and changing world. For Joseph, the only real constant was his trust in God, born of a lived faith, which knew that God is always true to his promises and that he is with us in every moment.

While all of us can learn from Saint Joseph's faith and fidelity, what is particularly relevant for seminarians, deacons and priests is the reflections offered by the Pope on the fatherly role of Joseph. For Francis, he is a father who is *beloved* of Jesus and Mary. He is a *tender and loving* father. He is *obedient* to the will of God as it is made known to him through prayer and reflection. He *accepts* with trust that which he does not fully understand, knowing that God sees the bigger picture.

He is a *creatively courageous* father who teaches us that "*the first stage of all true interior healing is to accept our personal history and embrace even the things in life that we did not choose.*" He is a father who understands the importance and the dignity of work "*as a means of participating in the work of salvation.*" Finally, Joseph is a *father in the shadows* in the sense that "*Joseph was the*



New Director of Formation

The seminary community is delighted to welcome Fr Sean Corkery as our new Director of Formation. Previously a Director of Adult Faith Formation and Diocesan Advisor on Education for Cloyne diocese, Fr Sean brings with him a wealth of experience in pastoral ministry. We wish him 'heart agus sonas' (strength and happiness) in his new role.



RTÉ celebrates Patron's Day Mass 2021

On 17 March, the National Seminary will celebrate the televised Mass on RTE 1 in honour of Ireland's patron saint. We look forward to joining our voices in word and music in honour of the College's patron, Saint Patrick.



Transformative plans for the Pontifical University

A bold and ambitious strategic plan for the future development of the Pontifical University is beginning to take shape. The academic changes required to realise this vision are being undertaken by all faculty members under the leadership of the Registrar, Dr. Michael Shortall.



"Every successful journey needs a map and milestones," says Fr. Shortall, "It's exciting to report that some elements of our Academic Strategic Plan are already being rolled out."

The Pontifical University is currently reviewing its existing courses and plans to expand the range of taught programmes it provides in the future. How these courses are delivered – especially taking advantage of blended learning – will also change. "COVID-19 has actually provided a fillip to this," Fr. Shortall admits. "This in turn will lead to a redesign of our physical and virtual **'learning landscape'** so as to modernise the student learning experience."

In spite of the myriad challenges of the current pandemic, the roll out of these initiatives is gathering pace. Plans for the creation of a new **Centre for Mission and Ministries** are being finalised. "This unit within the Faculty of Theology, will focus on the PU's desire to continue to serve the church through education and formation of lay leadership in parishes and church

related organisations all over Ireland in the decades ahead."
Fr. Shortall's advice: "Keep an eye on our website and this newsletter in the months ahead. We're looking forward to sharing more updates with you."

Our Vision

"By 2030, SPCM will have become a leading, internationally renowned centre for theological, philosophical and pastoral education that it is contributing positively and creatively to the social, cultural and spiritual 'landscape' of Ireland."

COVID-19's impact on faith communities

More than fifty people from across Ireland and overseas attended a virtual conference on 21 January exploring the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic on faith communities everywhere.

Topics discussed included: one parish's journey through

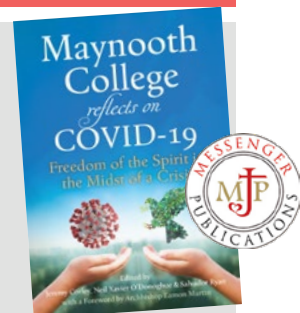
the pandemic, highlighting the importance of lay involvement; philosophical consideration of the problem of suffering in relation to belief in God and the question as to whether the pandemic will mark the "final rupture" in the habit of Mass attendance in Ireland?

The gathering offered an online preview of many of the sixteen reflections, contained in a new volume entitled **Maynooth College Reflects on COVID-19** which is due to be published by Messenger Press on 12 April 2021.

<https://www.messenger.ie/product/maynooth-college-reflects-on-covid-19-new-realities-in-uncertain-times/>

The aim of the volume is to assist anyone searching for spirituality during these difficult times.

Recordings from the conference are available on www.maynoothcollege.ie



Calendar

March 2021

9th **Postgraduate Open Day** – Virtual



9th **6.30pm GMT – Annual Trócaire Lecture**

"Caring for the Human Family and our Common Home"

Keynote address by **Cardinal Luis Antonio Gokim Tagle**.

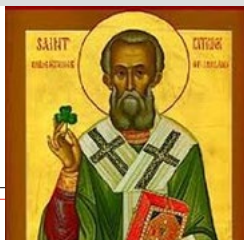
Please register for this free online event via: https://trocaire-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_bLnu0_aLSYSONMPEi3AYpg



11th **7.30 – 8.45 pm**

"Liturgy in a Time of Pandemic – Taking Stock"

Free tickets available on <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/liturgy-in-a-time-of-pandemic-taking-stock-tickets-139936380481>



April 2021

24th **Spring Open Day**



22nd – 24th **2.00 – 5.00pm**

"Vatican I After 150 Years (1870–2020): Dei Filius and Theology Today"

Free tickets available at <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/vatican-i-after-150-years-18702020-dei-filius-and-theology-today-tickets-140828611167>



29th **1.40 – 6.00 pm**

"The Future of Christian Metaphysics"

Free tickets available at <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/the-future-of-christian-metaphysics-tickets-140850528723>



Due to Government & HSE COVID-19 Guidelines, the exact dates of future events may be changed. Please check maynoothcollege.ie for the latest information.

St. Patrick's College welcomes your support. For more information please visit maynoothcollege.ie/giving or call Caroline Tennyson on **+353 (0)1 708 3964**



Maynooth College Alumni Our Pride, Our Joy

Keep up to date with Maynooth College News & Events: maynoothcollege.ie/alumni

For more information please contact: alumni@spcm.ie

News in Brief



Cardinal Tagle's Trócaire lecture goes virtual

A visit by Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle to St. Patrick's College Maynooth on 10 March 2020, was an early casualty of the first COVID-19 lockdown. Now one year on, his keynote address for Trócaire Annual Lecture, entitled "**Cry of the Poor, Cry of the Earth**" will be delivered online.

Cardinal Tagle, who hails from the Philippines, is known to be very close to Pope Francis and shares his synodal vision for a missionary church. As a sign of the high esteem in which he is held, he was elevated to the rank of cardinal bishop by Pope Francis in May of last year.

In his role as Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelisation of Peoples, Cardinal Tagle oversees the transmission and dissemination of the faith throughout the whole world, with particular focus on the dioceses of Africa, Asia and Oceania.

See Calendar of Events for registration details.

150th Anniversary of Vatican I

It is generally accepted that the Second Vatican Council was the most significant religious event of the 20th century. But a century and a half earlier, there was Vatican I (1869–1870), which for most Catholics is a largely forgotten council.

While Vatican I is most famous for its definition of papal infallibility, the council also addressed the rising secular rationalism of the day – by summarising the principles of the Catholic faith in a document called Dei Filius: What is reason and revelation? And how are faith and reason compatible?

A symposium, open to all comers, dedicated to examining the teachings of Dei Filius, will be hosted by St. Patrick's College on 22–24 April 2021.

See Calendar of Events for registration details.



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Maynooth

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