

# St Patrick's

Summer 2023 — No 19

The newsletter of St Patrick's Pontifical University & St Patrick's National Seminary



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## A new dawn for Development in St Patrick's College

**I**n January, Rev Prof Michael Mullaney, President, and Fr Tomás Surlis, Rector, travelled to the U.S. to launch our Development programme, **Beyond2030**. This ambitious project is all about securing the future mission of both the National Seminary and Pontifical University of St Patrick's College, Maynooth, to serve the needs of people of faith in Ireland and across the globe.

The **Beyond2030** campaign is a multi-million euro/dollar development phased over a number of years.

**There are three main elements to the campaign:**

The creation of a new innovative Learning Hub to serve the needs of both seminarians and lay students. This hub will be a 'student-owned' one stop facility for student services and supports and innovative teaching, learning and break-out spaces.

The Seminary Refurbishment which aims to bring the current facilities up to modern standard.

The creation of the Maynooth Centre for Mission and Ministries which will be a key support in the creation of Chaplains, Youth Ministers, Permanent Deacons, Liturgists, Church Musicians, Pastoral Ministers, Catechists and Parish Administrators.

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Overall, the Beyond2030 project will breathe new life into the historic campus and future-proof both the College and its historic buildings.

Our plan is to celebrate the existing Pugin architecture and complement it with the new development. The College and the town of Maynooth are extensions of each other. Consequently we are very conscious of ensuring that our project is developed to the highest standards of accessibility, technology and environmental sensitivity, including open gathering spaces and walkways to the benefit of all.



Proposed Learning Hub



Rev Prof Michael Mullaney, President, Mr Bertie Ahern and Fr Tom Surlis, Rector.

church with their academic and pastoral learning, service and leadership. This year's appeal raised over €50,000 for this purpose and every euro raised will go towards education of seminarians and lay students.

While Ireland is a progressive, prosperous, multicultural country today, there is still a deep yearning for spirituality and wisdom rooted in its religious heritage. St Patrick's College, Maynooth has a significant role to play with so many people who are searching for meaning, purpose, hope, belonging, faith, direction, peace and justice.

The Catholic intellectual tradition, especially its social teaching, has much to contribute to national and international debates, dialogue and discourse on the profound questions and critical issues that we struggle with still in Ireland and indeed everywhere. The academic community at the Pontifical University and the formation team at the National Seminary are vital voices to articulate and communicate to a contemporary generation, timeless values and wisdom.

We cannot do this without funding, and while the long-term financial situation of the College is healthy, we need funding this decade to appoint some high-level staff to lead these initiatives as well as securing funding to support students who otherwise would not be able to attend.

# U.S. Launch of Beyond2030

**The President and Rector were delighted to be able to launch our campaign in the U.S. to audiences in Los Angeles and Florida.**

As these visits coincided with the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday peace Agreement in Northern Ireland, Fr Michael took the opportunity to mention the enormous contribution of John Hume to that peace. John devoted his life to human rights and the pursuit of peaceful ways of settling differences in Northern Ireland. John was also a St Patrick's Maynooth Alumnus. The College were privileged to have two ex-Taoisigh (ex-Prime Ministers) of Ireland lend their support to the launch of Beyond2030.

John Bruton couldn't make the trip with other commitments but sent his best wishes to the audience in a letter read by Fr Michael Mullaney. Bertie Ahern who was committed to events marking the 25th anniversary provided a video message played to both gatherings.

Another essential part of our ongoing development activity is our annual St Patrick's Day appeal. This assists the College in continuing to provide scholarship funding for all who would benefit from such support, enabling them to further their theological, philosophical and pastoral education. These scholarships make a profound difference for students who would not otherwise have the opportunity to achieve their potential and to go on to serve their communities and local



Rev Tom Surlis, Kathy Mulvey, Rev Michael Mullaney, Dan McLaughlin, Sean McGraw

Responding to this need, a number of supporters of the College in Ireland have agreed to establish the *Friends of St Patrick's - Giving Circle*. To join the Circle, people are asked to make a 3-year donation commitment. We are keen to recognise this generous support which we are asking for, and there will be a range of opportunities for donors to engage more deeply with the College, details of which we will issue in due course.



Pictured at the recent certificate ceremony were Sarah Cooney, Paul Hurley from Marketing, Caroline Tennyson, President's Office, with Student Ambassadors: Luka Pranciliauskas, Jessica Lennon, Jack Yore, Eimear Faulkner, Aoife Ryan, and Niall Carey (in absentia).

# Key milestones in the undergraduate calendar

**I**t's that time of year again when we recognise our team of student ambassadors for their assistance during the past academic year.

A big thank you from all at St Patrick's Pontifical University for all your hard work during the year, and best of luck with your studies and exams.

Pictured at the recent certificate ceremony were Sarah Cooney, Paul Hurley from Marketing, Caroline Tennyson, President's Office, with Student Ambassadors: Luka Pranciliauskas, Jessica Lennon, Jack Yore, Eimear Faulkner, Aoife Ryan, and Niall Carey (in absentia).



Prof. Cyril O'Regan

## Analogy, Desire & Imitation

**Prof. Cyril O'Regan, the Catherine F. Huisiking Professor of Theology at the University of Notre Dame, pictured having given the Faculty of Philosophy's Annual Lecture in Christian Philosophy. The lecture was entitled "The Later Heidegger: Philosophy, Myth, and Revelation."**

The Faculty was also proud to present a workshop titled: "Analogy, Desire, and Imitation" in April. Pictured here is Dr. Philip Gonzales presenting. This workshop was one of Philip's major agreed outcomes from the Widening Horizons in Philosophical Theology grant awarded from St. Andrews, funded by Templeton Religion Trust. It brought analogical thinkers into conversation with representatives of mimetic theory in order to widen the horizons of philosophical theology in the continental tradition.



Prof Mona Siddiqui

## Cultural Disruption or Enrichment?

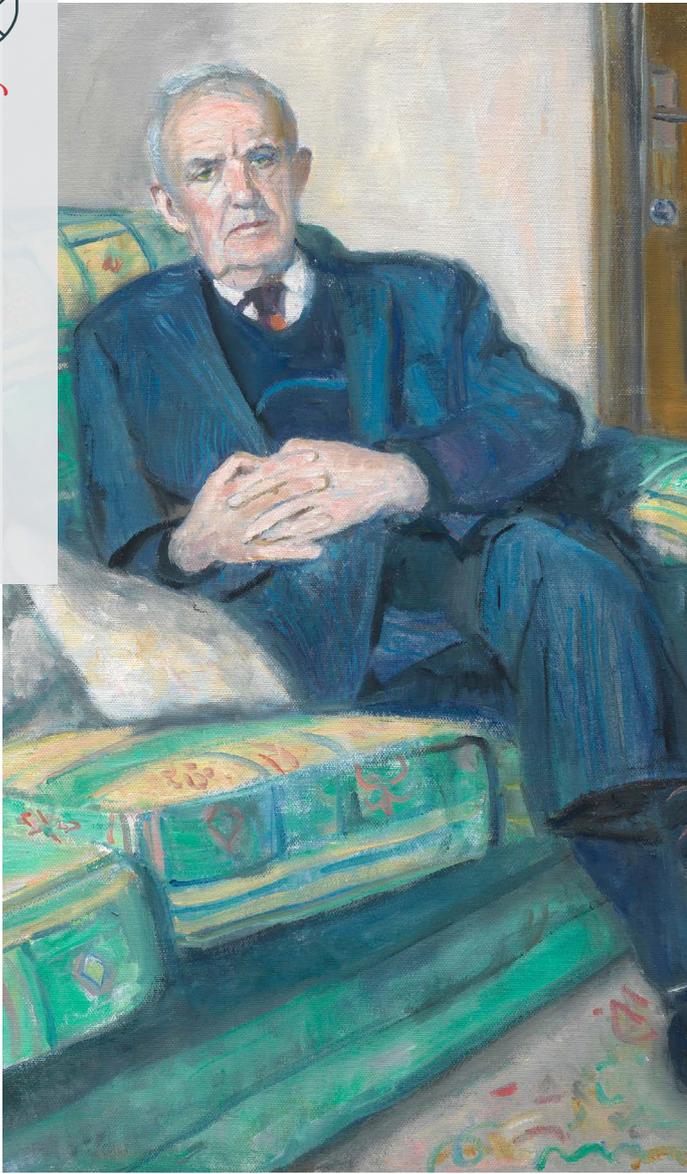
**The annual Devlin Lecture took place in the Aula Maxima on campus on 19th May.**

This year's lecture, titled 'Cultural Disruption or Enrichment? Religion, Politics and the Challenge of Hospitality' was delivered by Professor Mona

Siddiqui OBE, Professor of Islamic and Interreligious Studies at the University of Edinburgh and Erkkko Chair at Helsinki Collegium. In what was a very successful event, a stimulating and thought-provoking lecture was followed by an engaged Q&A which continued over the concluding coffee and beyond.



Dr. Philip Gonzales



## An appreciation: Tom Corcoran

**G**enerations of Maynooth students and staff have fond memories of Tom Corcoran who dedicated his life in the service of the College and the Irish Episcopal Conference.

Unassuming, gentle, unfailingly good humoured and discreet, Tom had a kind word for everyone. With a particular interest in current affairs, sport and Church life, he was easy company and well informed. After retirement, Tom became the local parish sacristan and had a wide network of friends throughout the town of Maynooth.

These parish friends and former colleagues were loyal and regular visitors to Tom in his latter days in Moyglare nursing home. Tom was laid to rest in the College cemetery. May he hear the words of the Lord: Well done good and faithful servant. To his family and friends we extend our sympathies.

# Update from the Dean of Philosophy

**I**n the Faculty of Philosophy at SPPU we have been keen to consolidate our position as a centre of excellence in teaching and research within the Christian tradition, while also embarking on a number of new initiatives. We continue to see a steady stream of incoming students at undergraduate level. Our Bachelor of Philosophy (BPhil) degree has been re-launched, both as a three-year full-time degree and a one-year top-up degree. We are delighted to announce that the BPhil will be listed on the CAO from next year.

At postgraduate level we currently have six full time doctoral students, with one student undertaking a doctoral foundation year. We have a number of applications for doctoral studies, with continued international interest. In a previous update we mentioned the launch of an attractive and flexible MPhil programme (with various options for combining taught and research elements) which affords graduate students the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of philosophy through specialised study, personal work, and research. This is already proving to be an attractive option for students coming to us, as is the more established licentiate programme. We are conscious in our Faculty of our role in forming philosophy teachers of the future.

We recently welcomed an ERASMUS scholar to the Faculty, Dr Marian Kuna, from Slovakia, who joined us in February to deliver lectures in social and political philosophy to our postgraduate students – very much a mutually enriching experience.

Members of the Philosophy Faculty have been publishing widely, including articles and books, and have been presenting at numerous academic conferences in recent months, in Toulouse, New Orleans, Rome, Leuven, Leeds, and Oxford. Together with this, Philosophy academics have also been publishing in local media, speaking on podcasts, radio shows, and providing interviews for Maynooth social media.

A high point of the academic year has been the international workshop *Analogy, Desire, and Imitation* organised by Dr. Philip Gonzales at the end of April. This coincided with our Annual Lecture in Christian Philosophy which was delivered by Professor Cyril O'Regan of the University of Notre Dame, USA. Our new Faculty of Philosophy Seminar Series continues to establish itself, bringing academics from Ireland and abroad to Maynooth.

**Rev Dr. Simon Nolan, O.Carm**  
Dean of Philosophy





# Another busy and fruitful semester

The life of the Seminary and wider college community continues to be very active and the second semester has been as busy as any before Covid. As the days brighten and lengthen, so the life of the College has been ever more filled with the buzz of gathering and sharing, planning and praying. The Seminary Motto *Precari et Pascere* has certainly been lived out every day.



Rev Tom Surlis, Rector, Archbishop Eamon Martin, Sr Carmel, Archbishop Fisichella, Archbishop Dermot Farrell.

There have been more groups visiting the College for major conferences, such as the ECLAS Conference on Science and Divine Action and a conference on Evangelisation and Mission organised by the Council for Vocations with the theme Priesthood in a Synodal Church. A full house was addressed by the keynote speaker, Archbishop Rino Fisichella, Pro-Prefect of the Dicastery for the Evangelisation, who reminded delegates including Bishops, Priests, Religious, Catechists, Seminarians, Laity involved in the evangelising mission of the Church, that 'The internet certainly represents an opportunity for dialogue, encounter and exchange among people, as well as access to information and knowledge', and he added that the real question 'is not how to use new technologies to evangelise, but how to become an evangelising presence on the digital continent'.

During Holy Week, large crowds joined the Seminary Community in the celebration of the Easter Triduum in the College Chapel from Holy Thursday to the Easter Vigil 6-8th April.

On Thursday 25th May, the Seminary Community gathered with the President and SPCM staff, supporters and benefactors, pastoral placement facilitators and friends of St Patrick's College for the End of Year celebration of Vespers in Thanksgiving, followed

by a banquet in Pugin Hall. It was a wonderful evening that encapsulated the joy and vigour that are the hallmarks of the community of faith, education and formation that is St Patrick's College, Maynooth.



Rev Dr. Andrew Pinsent, Dr. Andrew Meszaros, Dr. Ignacio Silva

## Science for Seminaries

Over the past year, Seminarians participated in a Science for Seminaries Project (ECLAS) entitled: *Divine Action and the Sacraments*.

This was an initiative jointly facilitated by *St Patrick's Pontifical University and St Patrick's National Seminary*. The ECLAS website sets the scene for this initiative: 'In the 21st century, science is always part of the vernacular. From banner issues – such as evolution, neuroscience, and reproductive technologies – to daily questions about medicine and public policy, ministers need a grounding in science to preach persuasively, pastor responsively, and

spread the gospel'. The initiative involved three lectures on science-engaged theology in the core curriculum. The lectures built towards an international Conference and a study day for seminarians. The delegates at the Conference joined the Seminary community for Evening Prayer on April 18th.

## Seminary Soccer Trip to Salamanca

A group of seminarians from St Patrick's College, Maynooth recently visited the Royal Scots College in Salamanca, Spain, on the annual inter-Seminary soccer trip. Accompanied by Fr. Michael Shortall and Fr. Shane O'Neill, seven of our seminarians were kindly hosted by the staff and Propaedeutic seminarians of the Scots College from Saturday 11th to Tuesday 14th March. This coincided with the March midterm reading week.



After a tense and close game with the seminarians from the Scots College, the Maynooth seminarians secured victory with a comfortable 5-2 win. Highlights of the trip also included liturgies and social gatherings in the Scots College, walking tours of the city and cathedral, and a visit to the historic Dominican monastery of San Esteban. There was a profound sense of appreciation among the group in visiting such a historic place as Salamanca, a place connected in history with great saints such as St. Ignatius, St. John of the Cross and St. Teresa of Avila.

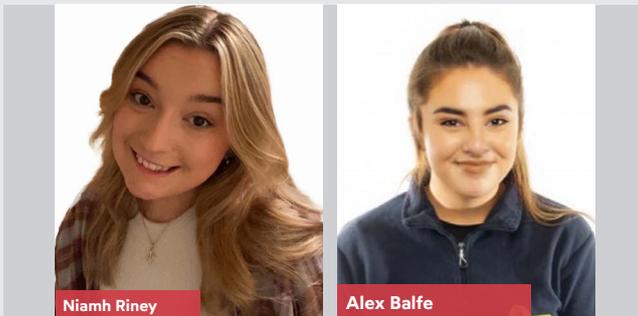
## Ordinations to the priesthood

During the coming months we look forward to celebrating the ordination to the Priesthood of those who were ordained to the Diaconate within the past year:

Rev. Dawid Aksenczuk, Rev. Frankline Nkopi Etuge, Rev. Conrad Folikik, Rev. Chris Garrett, Rev. Mark O'Farrell and Rev. Stephen Ward. May the Good Shepherd continue to guide and accompany them in their prayerful preparations.

# SPPU Students elected to MSU roles

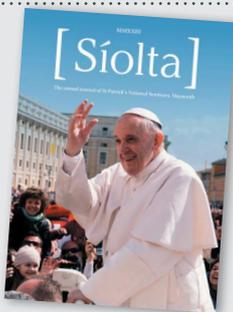
Congratulations to Alex Balfe, Alumna and former SPPU Student Ambassador on her election as Maynooth Students Union (MSU) President-elect and Niamh Riney, former Marketing Intern at SPPU on her election as VP Welfare & Equality at MSU.



## Síolta 2023

This year, *Síolta* celebrates the 10th anniversary of the election of Pope Francis as Bishop of Rome.

The magazine is produced and written by the seminarians themselves, and has a number of articles by students of the Pontifical University and Maynooth University, as well as interviews with Bishop Paul Tighe, Baroness Nuala O'Loan and Rev. Dr. D. Vincent Twomey SVD. This beautifully-presented edition offers insights into the life and work of the Seminary community and the pastoral issues to which the Church in Ireland seeks to respond in this digital age.



**The annual Seminary journal is now available for purchase.**

*Síolta* can be purchased in Pugin Hall or to order your copy, please contact [seminary@spcm.ie](mailto:seminary@spcm.ie)  
Cost €7.50 each or 2 for €10 (including postage).



### Maynooth College Alumni Our Pride, Our Joy

Keep up to date with Maynooth College News & Events:  
[maynoothcollege.ie/alumni](http://maynoothcollege.ie/alumni)

For more information please contact: [alumni@spcm.ie](mailto:alumni@spcm.ie)

### Maynooth College welcomes your support.

For more information please visit [maynoothcollege.ie/giving](http://maynoothcollege.ie/giving)  
or call Caroline Tennyson on +353 (0)1 708 3964



## An appreciation: Hon. Dr. Owen T. Smith

We were saddened at the recent passing of our long-time friend and supporter, Owen Smith who died recently at the age of 85. Owen and his wife Bernadette Casey Smith have both had a long deep association with St Patrick's College, stretching back decades.

Owen grew up in Manhasset where his parents ran iconic restaurants for 40 years. Resisting the temptation to become a restaurateur himself, Owen instead became a lawyer, graduating from Trinity College, Connecticut and St John's University, School of Law. Later, Owen did satisfy his interest in hospitality going on to own the Milleridge Inn in Jericho and George Washington Manor in Roslyn.

Owen's Law career began in the 1960s at Hall, Casey, Dickler and Howley and he served as chairman of many boards including the Nassau County Planning Commission and the State Board of Elections and as Professor of Law, Economics, and Government at C.W. Post Campus of Long Island University. He later became influential in government circles, working as a top aide to Republican County Executive Fran Purcell and for many years was Chairman of the Institute of World Politics in Washington D.C.

Among the many tributes paid to Owen included those from U.S. Senator Alfonse D'Amato from Island Park who stated: 'Owen Smith was a true patriot, he loved his country and served his community of Nassau County with great distinction. He was a man who when he gave his word you could count on it'.

Owen will truly be a loss to his family, friends and community as well as to the fields of politics, law and economics. We at St Patrick's will also miss the opportunity to spend time with Owen as we did on many an occasion over the years.

**To Bernadette we extend our deepest sympathy.**



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