

# St Patrick's

Winter 2023 — No 21

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



**Student Achievements**  
page 2



**Philosophy Update**  
page 3



**Renewing Relationships**  
page 4

## 'Be an agent of Kindness'

**T**he parting message from Pro Chancellor of SPPU, Archbishop Kieran O'Reilly to the graduating classes of 2023. Archbishop O'Reilly spoke of the troubled times we live in and the need for people to have hope, to forever begin anew. He encouraged graduates to commit their lives to peace in our world, a world that at present has too much anger, bitter public discourse and disharmony. The antidote to negativity being acts of kindness, something the world badly needs at present.

Graduates were also encouraged to fill the 'haversack of their minds' with the wonderful memories stored up from their years at St Patrick's Pontifical University. Archbishop O'Reilly reminded all present to reflect not just on what they learned academically but also to

ponder the informal education they've gained, the friends that were made, and the influence of others.

In offering his congratulations to all who graduated and to their families as well he reminded those assembled to put what they've learned to good use to allow them to bring their best to this world.

In summing up, the Pro Chancellor said making a positive difference to this world boiled down to one word: kindness, and graduates of SPPU were uniquely positioned to be able to ask themselves: 'how can I be an artisan of peace?'

A special mention was given to those who graduated from the Diploma in Youth Ministry and Spirituality as this class is the first cohort to have completed this new Diploma.



Faculty and recipients pictured at the annual Student Award and Prizegiving evening.



Student Ambassadors Eimear Faulkner, Aoife Ryan, Luka Pranciūskas and Jack Yore with Pro Chancellor Archbishop O'Reilly.



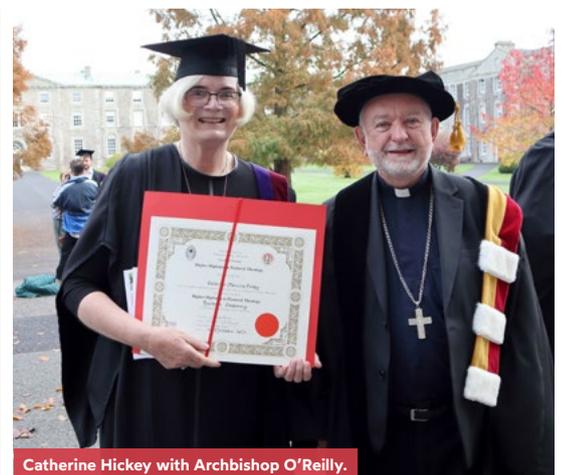
Joseph Bernard Odiahi and family with Archbishop Kevin O'Reilly

## Recognising Student achievement at St Patrick's

Undoubtedly one of the most satisfying evenings on the college's calendar is the Student Award and Prizegiving evening, held on the evening before Graduation. This year was no exception. Those gathered were treated to an inspiring keynote address from Rev John Kelly, Director of Pastoral Care, Tallaght University Hospital.



Rev John Kelly, Director of Pastoral Care, Tallaght University Hospital, delivering the keynote address at the annual student prizegiving ceremony.



Catherine Hickey with Archbishop O'Reilly.



# Faculty of Philosophy Update

**T**he Faculty of Philosophy at SPPU continues to consolidate its 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: numbers are well up this year. We have also welcomed new students on all our postgraduate programmes. Last year our Bachelor of Philosophy (BPhil) degree was re-launched, both as a three-year full-time degree and a one-year top-up degree. It has proved to be a popular choice. The listing of our BPhil on the CAO from next year will, we hope, attract students to study Philosophy at SPPU in good numbers, especially from Ireland and Britain. We have been heartened this year by the healthy number of Erasmus international students who continue to come to us. Also, we have been able to welcome international students from Maynooth University who are, for the first time, able to register for Philosophy modules at SPPU.

An exciting development is the appointment of Professor William Desmond to a Visiting

Chair in the Faculty of Philosophy at SPPU beginning this academic year. The pre-eminent Irish philosopher on the international scene, Professor Desmond is the David R. Cook Chair in Philosophy at Villanova University and professor emeritus of philosophy at KU Leuven, Belgium. Professor Desmond will teach a postgraduate module in the second semester each year and will give public lectures. This is a major development in keeping with the spirit and aims of our faculty and it is a true honour to welcome Professor Desmond among us.

The Faculty of Philosophy Seminar Series has become an established part of the university calendar. This semester we have already welcomed scholars from the Institut Catholique of Toulouse and from the University of Durham.

The seminar series, together with other new initiatives, continues to put the Faculty of Philosophy at SPPU 'on the map'.

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



## International Congress of the European Society for Catholic Theology

Faculty of Theology members from SPPU, Dr Andrew Meszaros, Rev Dr John-Paul Sheridan and postgraduate student Louise Gordon attended the International Congress of the European Society for Catholic Theology, in Pécs, Hungary from Aug 30 to Sept 2 last. The topic for the conference was - Europe: Spiritual Resources for the Future.

SPPU contributions included: "Tradition and Imagination: A Theological View from an American European"- Dr Andrew Meszaros, "A man without education has no humanity at all. Erasmus on Education and its Continued Significance Today - Dr John-Paul Sheridan," and "Encounters between Mathematics and Theology in John Henry Newman's A Grammar of Assent"- Louise Gordon.



**Rev Prof Michael Mullaney, President and Chief Sponsorship and Mission Officer at Bon Secours Health System, Andrew McCarthy pictured at the signing of the agreement where SPPU will provide Professional Programmes to BSHS staff in areas of Pastoral Care and Chaplaincy.**



**Pictured at the annual Corish Lecture, Rev Prof Michael Mullaney with keynote speaker Prof Kathleen Sprows Cummings and Prof Salvador Ryan.**



Rev Prof Michael Mullaney with John, Tim and Matt Mullen.



Jim Delaney and Rick Welsh.



Larry McMichael, Trish Wellenbach and Rev Dr Tomás Surlis.



Rev Prof Michael Mullaney with Diane Welsh.

# Renewing relationships in the US

**T**hese past months saw a renewed effort to rebuild relationships with friends and donors in the US.

During the summer months we were delighted to welcome both Eddie Dowling and Jim Delaney for a tour of our Maynooth campus. Eddie was delighted to bring his mother and extended family to see the Dowling family plaque on the College's donor wall. Eddie had also arranged an event in Frenchman's Reserve Florida for potential new friends to meet with Fr Mullaney and discuss future plans, there are also plans for a larger follow up event in February.

We were delighted to be able to host our friends in Philadelphia for the annual St Patrick's College Dinner, where guest speaker Jim Delaney gave an account of insights he has gained from a lifetime of engagement with



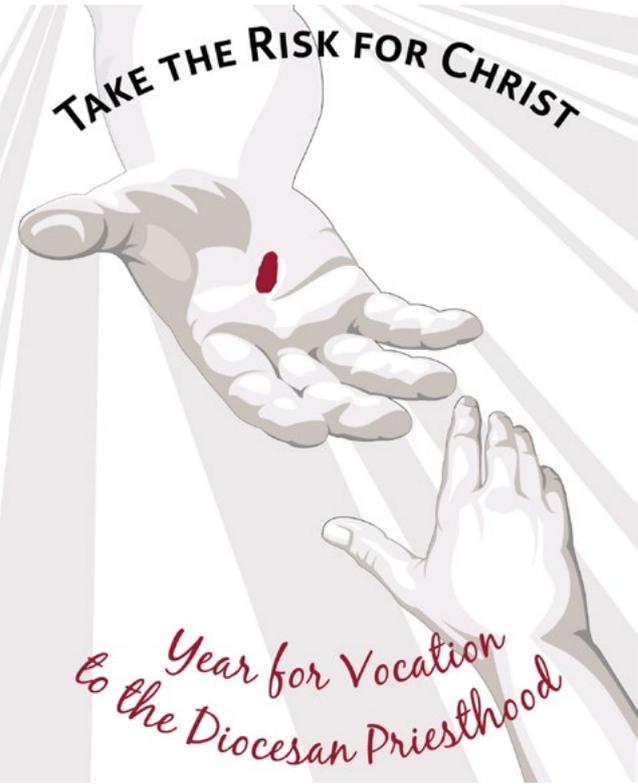
Eddie Dowling & Family in Maynooth.

catholic organisations, the changes he has witnessed and the challenges and opportunities he sees ahead, not just for us in St Patrick's but globally for the Catholic Church.

Our Autumn trip also allowed us to catch up with some friends in New York. We continue to build plans for further engagement with friends and supporters in the US and welcome the assistance we are receiving from individual members of the IEDF and from the board collectively.



Feel free to contact us at any stage should you wish to hear more about our ambitious future plans or indeed if you are planning to attend any of our 2024 events.



Rev Sean Corkery addresses the 'Come and See' weekend.

# Successful Come & See Weekend

**T**he Seminary was delighted to host a 'Come and See' weekend which was organised by the National Vocations Office. 36 men from all over the country joined us in prayer, conversation, table fellowship and recreation to learn a little more about what initial formation in the Seminary is like.

As well as prayer together, one of the most important aspects of the weekend was the time that these men got to spend with our resident seminarians, to share their own

stories and to hear from those who are a little further along the path of discernment. The event took place as part of the national Year for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood, which runs for 12 months from Good Shepherd Sunday 30th April 2023. The increase in the number of men who are exploring a possible vocation to the Diocesan Priesthood is very encouraging as the Church in Ireland continues along the Synodal Pathway, discerning the will of the Father, through the Son, united in and guided by the Holy Spirit.



Vocations Cross.

## Prayer for Peace

The Pope's invitation to pray and offer sacrifice for peace for an end to hostilities in Israel and Gaza has found a resonant echo in the hearts and minds of the staff and students of St Patrick's College.

In the Seminary, we have united our prayers with those of the Church across the globe. In October, a Holy Hour for Peace was offered by the Seminary Community, and we united in prayer for peace with Pope Francis in a special way on Friday 27th October, during the universal day of prayer.



The annual blessing of the graves in the College Cemetery took place after Mass for deceased Students, Staff, Benefactors and Friends of the College on Sunday 12th November. We were joined by a large number of the members of the family of the late Msgr Brendan Devlin whose Month's Mind was celebrated. Go dtuga Dia suaimhneas síoraí daoibh go léir.



# Susan Durack Retirement

Susan Durack recently retired from the Russell Library team after 44 years of service. Susan possesses a wealth of knowledge of the Russell Library's collections over the centuries. Susan was always a welcome facilitator of tours and many a guest of St Patrick's College benefitted from her warm delivery during campus tours. We wish Susan well in her retirement and thank her for her lifelong dedication to the Library and the wider college community.

## Calendar November 2023

9	Science Night in the Museum – a celebration of the impact of Nicholas Callan	
10	Annual Student Prizegiving	
11	Graduations	
16	Philosophy series – Lecture	
20	Book Launch – <i>Reforming the Church - Global Perspectives</i>	
24-25	Undergraduate Open Days	



Susan with the President, Rev Prof Michael Mullaney.

## December 2023

7	Annual Philosophy Lecture	
12-13	Carol service	

**Save the Date – Tuesday 11th June 2024**

## Maynooth Union 2024

Each year, St Patrick's College welcomes back its alumni celebrating Diamond, Golden and Silver jubilees, other significant anniversaries of ordination, and those recently ordained. In 2024, there is a special invitation to the following Jubilarians: Diamond (1964), Golden (1974) and Silver (1999), and to the classes of 1954, 1959, 1969, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 2004, 2009, 2014, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 & 2023.

More details to follow: [seminary.maynoothcollege.ie](http://seminary.maynoothcollege.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



## Peter Mullin An appreciation

President Rev Prof Michael Mullaney attended and spoke at the memorial service for Peter Mullin in Los Angeles in October. Peter a longtime supporter of the college recently passed away in September.

Peter Mullin was an American businessman, passionate car collector and renowned philanthropist who founded Mullin Consulting and was the founder and director of the

Mullin Automotive Museum in Oxnard, California. Peter was also a founding board member and former board chair at the Petersen Automotive Museum.

To his wife Merle, extended family and all of those affected by Peter's death, we wish to extend our sympathies.



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