

Irish Pastoral Centre Newsletter



"We are a Parish without Boundaries."

*Serving the Greater Boston
Irish Community since 1987*

*"Nollaig Shona agus Aithliain faoi Mhaise
Daoibh.*

May you be blessed with the spirit of the season,
which is peace,
The gladness of the season,
which is hope,
And the heart of the season,
which is love.

In this season of giving, our thoughts turn
gratefully to you
with warm appreciation.
Your support inspires us and is the cornerstone
of our mission to
"welcome the stranger among us"
Go raibh Maith agaiobh



**Government of Ireland
Emigrant Support Programme**



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs



**HONORED BY
THE KNIGHTS**
Cont'd Page 3

IPC NEWS DESK

Dear friends,

As we approach another Christmas the news of the new Covid variant is once again threatening our new year. Here at the centre, we made a very tough decision to cancel our Christmas event and we struggled a lot with that decision. But, given the close proximity to the holidays we didn't want the IPC to be a conduit for a positive Covid test which would lead to isolation and quarantine over the holiday. Although most regrettable, this was the right decision, and we are so looking forward to reuniting again. We will keep a close watch on Omnicron developments, and our schedule will be based on its numbers. Therefore, we are holding off on a new calendar for now.



On a brighter note, we were able to celebrate our great friend Neil Hurley on his recent Fr Dan Finn award! Our staff were delighted to be in attendance at the Knights and Ladies of Saint Finbarr -Cork club Annual Mass for deceased members when this high honor was granted in Malden.

Recently the Irish Pastoral Centre received a donation from the Deer Island Memorial Fund. We are grateful to Ed Forry, John Foley and the Irish Cultural Center who made this award possible. Funds will be used to host annual events at the Deer Island Memorial.

At our supper club we welcomed Vice Consul Shane Caffrey to the centre and we were entertained by Denis O'Gorman. This is a monthly fun gathering and it is our hope that we will be able to resume in January. None of us thought that Covid worries would return and all of us are suffering from Covid fatigue. We are all hoping for a New Year without another Covid surge. Please mind each other over the holidays and do all you can to minimize exposure.

In closing, I wish to sincerely thank all who have donated to the IPC over the last year. Your support allows us to continue to apply and develop great community supports and resources keeping the continued presence of Ireland alive in Boston. My thanks also to our many volunteers who share their gifts of time and talents!

Many thanks and Merry Christmas!

Mind yourselves,

Mary



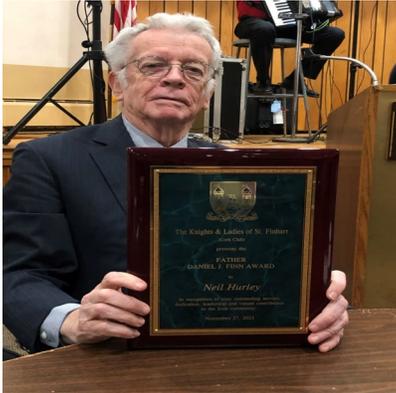
December Supper Club Photos: Denis O Gorman, Vice Consul Shane Caffrey with Neil Hurley consular Officer Anne Byrne, Louise Smith and our great friend and volunteer, Josephine Lacey.

THIS PAGE IS SPONSORED BY NEIL HURLEY

IPC NEWS DESK

Knights and Ladies of St Finbarr Honor Neil Hurley

Cont'd from Page 1



Neil and his award marking over 30 years of service to our community

Audrey Larkin, Richard Archer, Mary Swanton Executive Director, Neil Hurley, Fr Dan Finn, IPC Board Member Della Costello and Maryann Cassavant.

Congratulations to our colleague, great friend and kindhearted mentor Neil Hurley, proud recipient of the Knights and Ladies of St Finbarr -Cork Club, Fr Dan Finn Award. Neil is a Board member here at the IPC and also volunteers his time on our Immigration team. The award was presented at the Knights and Ladies of St Finbarr -Cork Club Annual Mass for deceased members and social at the Malden Irish American Club. On presenting the Fr Dan Finn Award, Club President Richard Archer spoke of Neil’s Cork roots in Enniskeane and Drimoleague. A Somerville native, Neil spent some time in Ireland when he worked for Digital. Prior to the pandemic Neil has travelled over to Cork many times, enjoying time with family in Bantry, For the past 30 years, Neil has worked at Irish Immigration legal clinics throughout the city serving in a voluntary capacity at Rian, formerly known at the Irish Immigration Centre and continues to serve at the Pastoral Centre. “It’s a remarkable commitment”, said IPC Executive Director, Mary Swanton. “Neil holds the archive of Boston’s Irish Immigrant for the past 30 years. His experience and knowledge is always shared with kindness and reverence – many applicants over the years have remarked on his integrity. In all, 2000 people are American citizens due to Neils assistance and support - it’s a stunning result”. As a Board member, Neil brings the history of the IPC to the table and his experience is valued and appreciated.

Special thanks to Richard Archer and all the Knights and Ladies who generously donated the proceeds from their Annual Mass for Deceased members at the Irish American Club in Malden to the Pastoral Centre. We are very grateful, Over 3500 people responded to or social media posts which is testament to his impact on the Boston Irish Community. Heartiest Congratulations to Neil on this great recognition – it’s very well deserved!



IPC Immigration Coordinator Maryann Cassavant with Neil Hurley



IPC Business Manager Audrey Larkin with Neil Hurley

GAA QUIZ ANSWERS: 1. Cork, 2. Shane Kingston, 3. Liam Ryan, 4. John McGrath, 5. Cian Lynch, 6. Oisín O’ Rourke, 7. Mark Coleman, 8. Paddy Purcell

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IPC NEWS DESK

Introducing Patrick Davoren

As we continue to build our team, we are delighted to introduce Patrick “Paddy” Davoren from Moycullen in County Galway as our Media and Communications Officer. Paddy will work on Newsletter production and distribution, manage our social media and salesforce accounts, and provide much needed technical support to all of us in the office. A Film and Documentary Major who holds a Bachelor of Arts Honors degree from GMIT’s Centre for Creative Arts and Media in Galway, Paddy also works at Northeastern University as a Media Services Technician running live-sound for eight different venues across the campus, including Blackman Auditorium, East Village V.I.P room, and the after HOURS nightclub.



Paddy with his lovely partner Aisling Desmond of Milton.

Boston Irish Honors for a lovely lady!



Mary Sugrue CEO Irish American Partnership

It was lovely to see our great friend Mary Sugrue honored at the Boston Irish Awards. Mary is the Chief Executive Officer of the Irish American Partnership where she has worked for over 30 years serving in various capacities before assuming the role of CEO. Originally from Cahersiveen, Co. Kerry, she graduated from National University of Ireland Carysfort College Dublin with a degree in education and spent three years teaching primary school in Ireland. As an Irish teacher by training, she possesses an indispensable perspective for furthering the Partnership’s mission through impactful grants to schools, educational programs, and community development initiatives. Mary is held in such regard in the Boston Irish community. It was great to see Mary acknowledged for her enormous contribution to Boston and Ireland.

DEER ISLAND MEMORIAL

We were delighted to welcome Attorney John Foley, Irish Cultural Centre of New England President Martina Curtin and Boston Irish Reporter Publisher Ed Forry for a wonderful donation in memory of Duxbury residents Bill and Rita O’Connell, who spent years advocating for a memorial on Deer Island to bestow dignity and reverence to the memory of the Irish immigrants who are buried there. Their dream was realized in 2019 with the unveiling of a 16-foot Celtic cross that memorializes refugees buried in unmarked graves. Both Bill and Rita passed away before the Celtic cross was placed at the site. This donation will preserve the legacy of Bill and Rita O’Connell by hosting annual events on the Island. This is a privilege for the Irish Pastoral Centre and we are delighted to honor all those who worked on creating this memorial



Deer Island Celtic Cross Memorial and the late Dr. Bill and Rita O’Connell



Fr Dan Finn, Attorney John Foley, Mary Swanton, Boston Irish Publisher Ed Forry and Irish Cultural Centre President Martina Curtin presenting a check in memory of the late Bill and Rita O’Connell

IPC NEWS DESK

New Irish Arts Center Celebrates Grand Opening in New York

The brand-new Irish Arts cultural center celebrating Irish art, heritage, and performance has arrived in **Hell's Kitchen**. Located at **726 Eleventh Avenue**, the new **Irish Arts Center** is now open to the public following an intimate gathering of elected officials, community leaders, Irish delegates, and supporting patrons.

Before the new building was completed, the former Irish Arts Center operated out of a three-story converted tenement building with a modest performance space on the ground floor. To expand its operations, the center purchased an adjacent building on Eleventh Avenue and joined them to form a unified four-story structure. "The Government of Ireland is proud to have supported this new building, which is a new cultural landmark in New York, a celebration of Ireland-US relations and a platform for creativity, innovation, and diversity," said Ireland's Prime Minister, Michael Martin on a recent visit.

Today, the new Irish Arts Center boasts a 199-seat theater and a second, more intimate 99-seat performance space, as well as multiple classrooms, exhibition and gallery areas, and a cafe. Scheduled performances include a mix of dance, spoken word, plays and musicals, film, and comedy, all with a focus on Irish-born and descended artists.



DO YOU HAVE SOME FREE TIME?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN OUR TEAM OF WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS?

THE IPC HAS SEVERAL OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE:

- Weekly Senior Phone Calls
- Data Entry
- Newsletter print and prepare for monthly mailing
- Assist at Weekly Coffee Groups in Brighton, Dorchester and West Roxbury
- Special Events

CALL THE IPC AT 617 265 5300 AND ASK FOR PEGGY OR PATSY

IPC SOCIAL WORK UPDATE

The IPC has now established our new Social Work program. Appointments can be made for Monday evenings between 5.30pm and 7.00pm. Please reach out to Peggy or Patsy at the IPC if you would like an appointment to meet with our Social worker Danielle Owens LICSW



THIS PAGE IS SPONSORED BY KATHI SULLIVAN

NEWS FROM OUR SENIOR OUTREACH PROGRAM

The Irish Pastoral Centre
 Serving the Greater Boston Irish Community since 1987
 "We are a Parish without Boundaries"

 **JOIN THE TEAM**
WE'RE
HIRING!



"ANSEO LE CHEILE" – HERE TOGETHER

SENIOR COORDINATOR VACANCY

The IPC is currently seeking to fill the role of Senior Coordinator. If you know someone who is interested, please reach out to Mary Swanton by phone at 617 265 5300 or by email at mswanton@ipcboston.org. A knowledge of Boston's Irish community is essential along with Microsoft Excel experience.

We are also seeking a part time coordinator in the Brighton Area to develop and host our Cara Club on Mondays. This new team member will assist our Senior Coordinator in growing our program. Also, If you are interested in developing a weekly senior program on the South Shore on Tuesdays, please reach out – we have had many enquiries to host weekly events in Weymouth and/or Hanover.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Eileen Burke | Kay Gannon |
| Joan Cavanaugh | Rita Grady |
| Alice (Joan) Coffey | Margaret Hynes |
| Nora Connolly | Kathleen Keady |
| Noelle Crysts | Kathleen Lahy |
| Christina Duffy | Jane Mahon |
| Evie Dunne | 'Norah Mahon |
| Sally Feeney | Ann McKeeney |
| Mary Fenton | Kathy McKenna |
| Barbara Flaherty | Maureen Meaney |
| | Mary Prior |
| | Chris Shields |



Our Thanks to the Consul General of Ireland, Laoise Moore for the beautiful poinsettias that we delivered throughout our Senior Community. Thanks also to Consulate officer Anne Byrne for assisting with deliveries! What a thoughtful gift!



FR. DAN'S PAGE



Have a Happy Gerard Manley Hopkins Christmas Soul seeking By Michael Leach

Hopkins, an English convert to Catholicism, was born in 1844 and died of typhoid at age 44 after a futile career as a priest and poet. Today, he is recognized as the greatest Catholic poet since Dante Alighieri, and to many is a saint. I love Hopkins because his poems help me to see everyone and everything with the eye of my soul, to behold the “dearest freshness deep down things,” and feel the energy of love in a world “charged with the grandeur of God.”

Hopkins wrote many Easter poems during his life but just one Christmas poem that we know of. It is called “Moonless Darkness”:

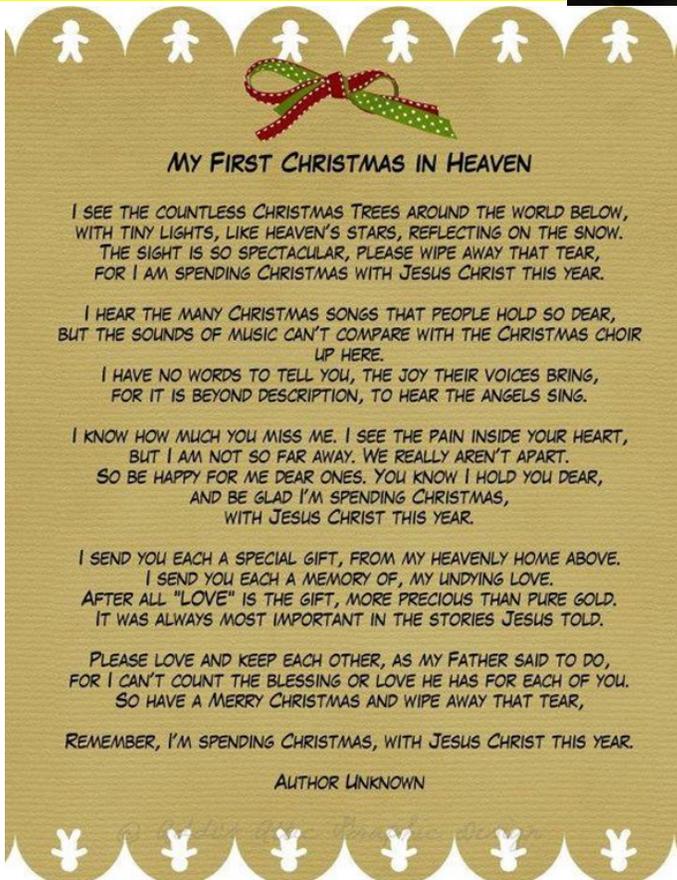
**Moonless darkness stands between.
Past, the Past no more be seen!
But the Bethlehem -star may lead me
From the self that I have been.
Make me pure, Lord: Thou art holy;
Make me meek, Lord: Thou wert lowly;
Now beginning, and always:
Now begin, on Christmas day.**



And that is why I want you to love Gerard Manley Hopkins, especially this Christmastime. He was “a man of sorrows” (Isaiah 53:3) who looked for love in all the right places. He bowed to a God who went from “infinity to infancy” on Christmas Day, and prayed for a taste of eternity in God's creation. It's a sad, sweet world we live in, and only a poet in pain can show us the sweetness. Christmastime is a sad time for many of us, for many reasons, even without a pandemic. Hopkins says to us: don't give in to gloom, keep on looking for beauty, and “give beauty back, beauty, beauty, beauty, back to God, beauty's self and beauty's giver.” I was once where you are, keep on, and the lord of life will send your roots rain.

**After all,
There lives the dearest freshness
Deep down things;
And though the last lights off the black West went
Oh, morning, at the brown brink
Eastward, springs-
Because the Holy Ghost over the bent
World broods with warm breast
And with Ah! Bright wings.**

And so, it was. On his deathbed, Hopkins said, “I am so happy. I am so happy.”



A New Year Blessing Especially For You



May the road you walk be a smooth one,

May your troubles be few - if any,

May the days and years that lie ahead

Be healthy, happy, and many,

May you have friends in abundance,

May the sun shine bright around you,

May the world be a wonderful place to live,

And may God's love always surround you.

IN LOVING MEMORY

We remember those in our community who have recently passed away. Our thoughts and prayers and with all the bereaved families, and we hope that in time lovely memories will surround them. May they Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory.

November 6, 2021, Henry Christopher Varian, Weymouth, County Cork
 November 11, 2021, Bridie T. (Lydon) Clancy, Norwood, County Galway
 November 21, 2021, Bridget A. "Bridie" (Nolan) Kingston, County Galway
 November 29, 2021, Bridget (McDonagh) Nee, Braintree, County Galway
 December 2, 2021, Kathleen (Barrett) Killeen, Dorchester, County Galway



Mother of Irelands premier Sports Commenter, much loved Marty Morrissey dies

Tributes have been paid following the death of Marty Morrissey's mother, Peggy Twomey, who died in a road traffic collision in Co Clare recently. Ms Twomey, aged in her 90s, was the sole occupant and driver of the car. Gardaí at Kiltrush garda station have issued an appeal for information. RTÉ sports commentator Morrissey, who was the only child of Peggy and her late husband Martin Morrissey, has been left devastated after the death of his mother. Tributes have since been paid by Morrissey's RTÉ colleagues and several others. RTÉ sport journalist Darren Frehill described the death of Ms Twomey as "desperately sad" and a "devastating loss", adding that the Peggy was "extremely popular" in her Co Clare community.



Irish nurse hit and killed by car outside hospital in Boston

The nurse of 33 years was hit and killed by a car while crossing the street on December 16th Irish nurse, Ann O'Flaherty, was killed outside St. Elizabeth's Medical Center, in the Brighton neighborhood of **Ann O'Flaherty, originally from Co. Mayo described as a "nurses' nurse" is survived by her husband and three children. The investigation into her death is ongoing.**

Ann O'Flaherty, a nurse at St. Elizabeth's Medical Center, in the Brighton. Was struck by a car and killed on Wednesday (Dec 15) at around 6am. O'Flaherty had been a nurse at St. Elizabeth's since 1988. She is survived by her husband and three children, the Massachusetts Nurses Association told Boston 25 News.

The veteran nurse had been crossing the street outside the hospital, at the intersection of Washington and Cambridge streets, when she was struck by a silver Audi and killed. She was pronounced dead at the scene the Boston Globe reported. The driver remained at the scene.

In a statement Ellen MacInnis, a St. Elizabeth's emergency department nurse and a member of the union's board of directors, said "Ann was a nurses' nurse. After working on Cardinal Medeiros 6, a medical/surgical unit, Ann became an accomplished ICU nurse. Recently she took a position in the Endoscopy unit, She added Ann oriented me when I went to the ICU some years ago. Her practice was superb and she always took the most wonderful care of her patients. We're sad beyond words."

An earlier statement from the hospital said "We are heartbroken by the news of this tragic accident and are providing support to the victim's family and our colleagues during this very difficult time."

Boston police are now investigating the incident. They are checking the brakes and safety features of the Audi, registered to a local address. No charges or citations have been announced.

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IPC YEAR IN REVIEW



JANUARY –
We said farewell to our great friend Sr Marguerite



APRIL –
IPC assists with Vaccine Appts



JULY –
IPC Marathon team starts training



OCTOBER –
Our Marathon team crosses the finish line!



FEBRUARY –
Our Social Worker Veronica Keys returned to Ireland and is now working in Galway



MAY –
Mothers Day Celebration in person – finally!



AUGUST –
IPC hosts College workshop



NOVEMBER –
IPC welcomes Ireland's Ambassador to the USA Dan Mulhall and Consul General Laoise Moore



MARCH –
St Patrick manged to visit!



JUNE –
We walked to raise funds for Suicide prevention



SEPTEMBER –
Our IPC Golf Tournament returned!



DECEMBER –
We close out the year hoping for an end to Covid restrictions!

NEWS FROM IRELAND

Cork Airport expects return of Transatlantic flights

The head of Cork Airport said they are confident of securing a return of a transatlantic route from the airport within the next three years despite the fragile recovery of the global aviation industry. Niall MacCarthy said there are potentially five or six airlines that could operate routes from Cork to the east coast of the US or Canada and said they remain in discussions with some of them but the key issue will be the market demand for such services.

Prior to the pandemic Norwegian Air operated two flights from Cork to the east coast of the US but these flights ended in 2019.

He said larger aircraft such as the 787 Dreamliner can land at Cork Airport but airlines would want to be sure the demand is there to fill 300 seats in and out each week.

Following a major project to overhaul Cork Airport's main runway, Mr MacCarthy said they were now in a strong position to recover much of traffic and routes lost as a result of the devastating impact the pandemic has had on aviation but that it would take time.



Cork Airport Managing Director Niall MacCarthy

Come Home to Mayo 2022!



Mayo people abroad are being asked to come 'Home To Mayo' during the month of May, 2022.

Under an initiative launched by Mayo County Council in partnership with Fáilte Ireland and the Department of Foreign Affairs, Emigrants are being encouraged to return to their native County as part of next year's Mayo Day celebrations commencing on Saturday 30th April, 2022 and continuing right through the Month. If culture, music, and history inspire your curiosity find out the treasures of Mayo; come in touch with legends, myths, and stories, get a haunting sense that here the past is a living spirit. We can't wait to welcome you home to Mayo! www.hometomayo.ie

Identical twins celebrate their 99th birthday with each other in Cork nursing home



99-year-old twin sisters Joan Barrett and Kay Bogan pictured celebrating their joint 99th Birthday with staff members Hillary Farran and Teresa Litton at Darraghlynn Nursing Home, Cork city. The siblings were born on December 10th, 1922 at North Main Street in Cork with Kay entering the world first and Joan following forty minutes later. Joan moved to Boston in 1972 and became a nanny to two children there. She remained with this family for over twenty years, even though the kids had grown up and left home. The family brought Joan on vacations to Martha's Vineyard and to Florida. They included her in all their social engagements, including Kennedy weddings.

Pic Daragh Mc Sweeney/Provision

"IRELAND" Documentary

Liam Neeson has narrated a new documentary film called 'Ireland' set to be released in select IMAX and giant-screen theatres across the US in February 2022. Giant screen theatres use specialized sight and sound technologies to deliver the ultimate cinematic experience.

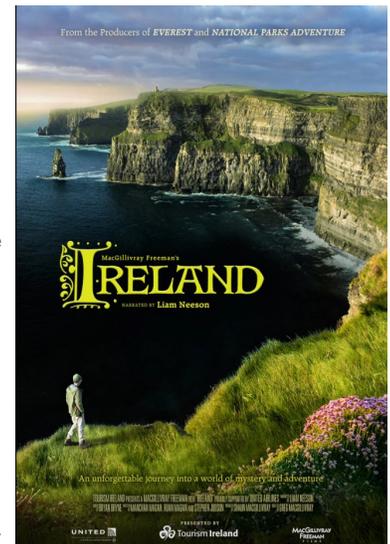
The film, which has been produced by MacGillivray Freeman Films and will be sponsored by Tourism Ireland, will take audiences across Northern Ireland and the island of Ireland, following writer Manchán Magan and others on an action-packed journey from Dublin to Belfast and from Kilkenny to Cong. Viewers will see breath-taking footage of places like the Giant's Causeway, Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge, the Cliffs of Moher and the Skellig Islands.

The Hollywood actor said that that he is "delighted" to be involved in the film.

"There is a movement in Ireland to reconnect with our heritage, to rediscover what it means to be Irish, and I am delighted to help bring the joy and diversity of all that Ireland has to offer, both the old and the new, to IMAX and giant-screen audiences worldwide," he said.

"As viewers experience Ireland's great beauty and humanity on the world's largest screens, they will fall in love all over again."

Niall Gibbons, Chief Executive of Tourism Ireland said that the film is hoped to "restart travel" from the US to Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.



NEWS FROM IRELAND

EATING A full Irish breakfast could actually help you shed those unwanted extra pounds!

That's according to new scientific research extolling the benefits of a full Irish fry. Scientists from Lubeck University in Germany found eating a bigger breakfast provides a significant boost to the body's metabolism.

They found that starting the day with a large breakfast, like a fry-up, can help the body burn anywhere up to two-and-a-half times the number of calories compared with a small breakfast.

It means that eating a plate featuring the familiar combination of bacon, sausages, baked beans, eggs, mushrooms, grilled tomatoes with a bit of toast on the side and a hot mug of tea isn't just delicious - it's now scientifically recommended.



Dr Juliane Richter, who led the study, explained that bigger meals at the start of the day trigger something called diet-induced thermogenesis or DIT, which generates more heat in our bodies and results in more calories being burned.

"Our results show a meal eaten for breakfast – regardless of the number of calories – creates double the DIT as the same meal consumed for dinner" Dr. Richter explained.

"This finding is significant for all people as it underlines the value of eating enough breakfast."

DUBLIN AIRPORT WELCOMING MANY CHRISTMAS VISITORS

AN ESTIMATED 850,000 people are due to travel through Dublin Airport this Christmas compared to almost 1.5 million people who passed through the airport during the comparable period in 2019.

That represents a decrease of 42% compared to pre-pandemic levels.

However [Dublin Airport](#) will see an increase of 615,000 passengers compared to last year, when just 235,000 passengers travelled through the country's principal airport.

From Friday, 17 December to Tuesday, 4 January 2022 there is expected to be an average of 45,000 departing and arriving passengers each day.

This compares to an average of 12,000 passengers per day over the [Christmas](#) season last year, and 77,000 per day during the same period in 2019.

The busiest day during the Christmas season is expected to be 19 December, followed closely by 23 December.

However, the airport has said new travel restrictions introduced by the government for arrivals into Ireland have made forecasting difficult, "so final passenger numbers may vary if passengers decided not to travel that have already booked."

It also reminded passengers and members of the public to comply with Covid-19 measures that will be in place. Access to the terminal buildings is limited to passengers, crew and airport staff, and anybody planning to greet passengers should arrange to meet them outside of terminal buildings.

Face masks are also mandatory at Dublin Airport and must be worn when in the terminal buildings. In addition, social distancing protocols should be observed and there are more than 1,000 hand sanitisers located throughout the Dublin Airport campus.

The airport will also be unable to host its normal Christmas entertainment music programme for the second year in a row.

The last flight to depart Dublin Airport before it closes on Christmas Eve is an Air Moldova flight to Chişinău at 11.10pm, while the final arrival is an Aer Lingus flight from Tenerife, which is due to arrive at 11.35pm.



News From The Irish Consulate

Happy Christmas!

WE HOPE YOU HAVE A JOYFUL HOLIDAY SEASON AND LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN THE NEW YEAR.

-YOUR FRIENDS AT THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF IRELAND, BOSTON

COVID-19 Travel Advice



Ard-Chonsalacht na hÉireann
Consulate General of Ireland



dfa.ie/boston



@IrelandBoston

Since Sunday 5 December 2021, passengers to Ireland are asked to show a negative test for COVID-19.

| Your status | Antigen test | RT-PCR test |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| Vaccinated or recovered | Negative test no more than 48 hours before you arrive | Negative test no more than 72 hours before you arrive |
| Not vaccinated | Not valid | Negative test no more than 72 hours before you arrive |

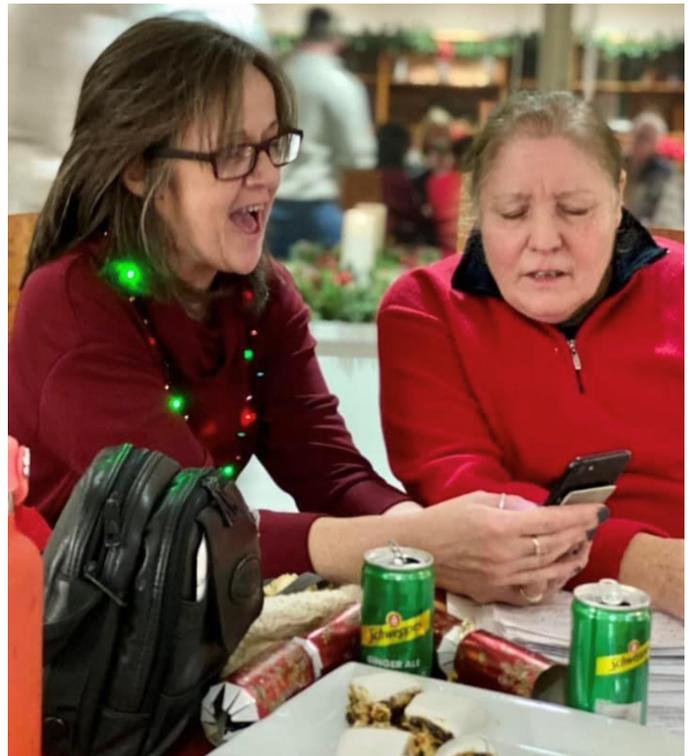
Dear friends,

It's hard to believe that we are already approaching the end of the year. Like its predecessor, 2021 was unpredictable. While these past twelve months were not without their challenges, there was also hope and resilience. As I reflect on 2021, I am very grateful for this community. I am also grateful that, this year, we have been able to gather in person again. Enclosed are holiday events scheduled for the coming weeks, and a few highlights from past events. You will see that "To Be Irish at Christmas" is back with a full programme that promises fun for the whole family.

As you may be aware, the requirements for travel into Ireland have changed and all travellers are now required to present a negative COVID-19 test prior to travel (more information on this below). Should you be travelling home to Ireland for the holidays, it is imperative to monitor the gov.ie website (for travel into Ireland) and the cdc.gov website (for travel into the United States). Wherever you will be this Christmas, the holiday still looks different this year. Regardless, I hope you are able to take time during this special season to relax and celebrate.

Looking forward to seeing you all in the New Year. Meantime, Happy Christmas, Happy Holidays from all at the Irish Consulate in Boston.

- Laoise Moore
Consul General



Consular Officer Anne Byrne singing Christmas carols with Maureen McNally at the Irish Consulate Chat Night with representatives from all local Irish organizations. A wonderful evening with caint, ceoil agus craic!

News From The Irish Consulate

Reminders December 2021

CONSULATE GENERAL OF IRELAND BOSTON

- We ask all costumers to conduct their business with us by phone, email or mail. The quickest way to contact us is at +1 617 267 9330 or by email at bostoncongen@dfa.ie.
- Queries may also be directed to the Contact Us page on our website dfa.ie/boston
- All passport renewals and applications must be completed online. The Consulate does not process any passport applications. If you have a paper application on hand please dispose of it and use the new online service. For more information please see dfa.ie/passportonline
- For assistance with your passport, please use the Passport WebChat service, which can be accessed through the Contact Us section on our website dfa.ie/boston

If you are an Irish citizen with a genuine emergency please contact our office at +1 617 267 9330 and leave a message. The emergency line is monitored 24/7 by our duty officer. Email is monitored during normal business hours only.



**An Roinn Gnóthaí
Eachtracha agus Trádála**
Department of
Foreign Affairs and Trade

Fadó - Long Ago in Ireland

An Irish Christmas - Then and Now

by *Bridget Haggerty RIP*

If it snowed on Christmas Eve, Irish children were told that geese were being plucked in heaven. A new moon was a lucky omen. And cold, frosty weather was welcome, because this meant a mild spring and an absence of illness. On the other hand, mild weather on Christmas Eve was cause for concern because, according to the old Irish proverb, "A green Christmas makes a fat churchyard."

Regardless of the weather on the day before or on the day itself, the weeks preceding Christmas were spent in great preparation.

In the old days, the menfolk would be responsible for cleaning everything outside of the house and the women everything else inside of it. All of the structures would receive a fresh coat of whitewash, and linens, furniture, pots and pans would be washed, scoured, scrubbed or polished until they were spotless. It was up to the children to scout the countryside for appropriate decorations to be cut and brought home on Christmas Eve. Holly was especially prized because of its bright red berries and so were long tendrils of ivy and boughs of laurel which could be made into garlands. Mistletoe was rare in Ireland, but a child lucky enough to live near Limerick or in South Co. Wicklow, might have been able to add this ancient symbol of good fortune and fertility to the gathering of the greens.



Long ago, and also in the house in which I was raised, 'bringing home the Christmas' was a day filled with excitement. In times past, several members of a family would go to the nearest town for the Margadh Mor or Christmas Market. People from the country brought butter, eggs, poultry, vegetables and other farm produce to sell, and from the money they made, they purchased special, once-a-year items such as candy and toys for the children, new clothing, and ingredients for the Christmas dinner. In addition to selling their wares, this was also the day they brought gifts to relatives and friends who lived in the town. These were reciprocated in kind with gifts of 'town goods' and children lucky enough to accompany their parents were rewarded with coins slipped into their hands or pockets. The shopkeepers were also filled with generosity; they gave 'Christmas boxes' to their customers, each gift proportionate to the business they'd received that year. And in the pubs, all was merry and bright. Since then, many of the old customs have faded into antiquity, but I do remember my brothers and I eagerly waiting for dad on the day he was to bring home the Christmas.

Sure enough, and even though, as mum said, "he'd had a few on him," he arrived just before our bedtime. Even our mother had a look of eager anticipation on her face as he opened the big sack. There was always a large slab of bacon - that was to go with the goose for Christmas dinner; there were Kit Kat bars for us to eat immediately; a big turnip he'd carve out later for the Christ candle; sprigs of holly, a bunch of mistletoe, and, best of all, a box of Christmas crackers; these weren't edibles - they were bright foil-wrapped slender cylinders which we pulled during our Christmas dinner. There'd be this loud pop and inside would be a toy and a paper hat.

Oh, what a luxury! We didn't always have crackers*, but when we did, it was a great sign of good times. And every year, no matter what, there was always something wrapped up for our mother. As much as we begged and badgered, she'd always smile and say, "I think I'll save this one for later on." Dad would get this silly look on his face and it was just like the kissy-face part at the Saturday morning picture show



Fadó - Long Ago in Ireland

Nowadays, especially in cities like Dublin, Christmas has become almost as commercial and glittery as just about anywhere else. But in the past, it was beautifully simple. The greenery was placed on the mantle, the holly was positioned above the holy pictures and children were put to "work" making chains out of brightly colored paper; these were strung across the ceiling. Not until relatively recently did Irish families put up a Christmas tree; even at that, the ones I remember were no more than two or three feet tall and the only decorations were foil-wrapped chocolate ornaments, paper chains, and something we used to call "lametta" which was similar to American icicles. The tree was always placed in the middle of the sideboard, and, unless Father Christmas left something really big, the gifts were placed on either side. As I recall, we didn't have a manger scene at home, but we did look forward to visiting the big one at our church on Christmas morning. It was always put up on Christmas Eve, but the only things in it were the animals and a crib or creche filled with straw. Magically, on Christmas Day, the baby Jesus was in His crib, Mary and Joseph were on either side of Him, and shepherds with their sheep looked on in adoration.

As with most Irish families, my parents made every effort to have a plentiful supply of fuel for the holiday season. During the 1950s in London, we had coal fires, but in Ireland they burned peat, and in the old days, they'd have a special log for the fire called a bloc na Nollag or Christmas log. It was also customary to provide for poorer neighbors and villagers would pool their resources to make sure everyone had enough food and a warm fire. One tradition that was widespread years ago was the mutton raffle; enough people would contribute to cover the cost of a sheep and then, for several evenings, they would play cards until, by process of elimination, a winner was declared. Generally, the winner would share the prize with family, friends, neighbors and the poor. "Calling the Waites" was also a well-known custom and took place two weeks before Christmas. Musicians would serenade the inhabitants of a town several hours before day-break, calling out, in intervals, the time of the morning and whether the weather was cold, wet, frosty or clear. A similar practice was that of young men and boys going to the tops of small hills, blowing salutes to the season and answering each other from hill to hill. On the morning of Christmas Day, they'd awaken the people with loud salutes and then would often accompany villagers on their way to early Mass, still blowing cheerfully but also helping the elderly and small children over any rough spots in the road.

Back then, the Christmas season in Ireland was filled with mirth, merriment and good will toward men. Much has changed over the years. But, while new customs are replacing the old, (as in eating turkey for dinner and watching Willie Wonka's Chocolate Factory on the telly afterwards), an Irish Christmas is still very similar to the old days, with most families staying at home to enjoy the festivities. Since we didn't have television until I was almost a teenager, I well remember my mother tuning in Radio Eireann so we could listen to Irish music and my dad contentedly sipping a Guinness, his feet tapping in time to a jig or reel. Simple times became wonderful memories!

100th anniversary of the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty

December 6th marked the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty in London.

The Treaty formally ended the War of Independence, set the stage for British withdrawal from most of Ireland, and the handover of power to an independent Irish government.

It was signed in 10 Downing Street in the early hours of 6 December 1921.

It was signed on the Irish side by delegates Arthur Griffith, Michael Collins, Eamon Duggan, Robert Barton and George Gavan Duffy.

On the British side were Prime Minister David Lloyd-George, Winston Churchill, Austen Chamberlain and FE Smith, Lord Birkenhead.

The signing of the Treaty was acclaimed in Ireland, Britain and around the world, but it was immediately surrounded by controversy.



Our Community Shepherd



‘SO ABUNDANTLY BLESSED’ Fr. Dan Finn reflects on 35 years of tending to all of Dorchester

By Peter F. Stevens
June 4, 2015

In May 2022, we will gather to celebrate Fr Dan's 50th year in the priesthood. Here's a look back on his retirement from parish life. Here is an article from 2015 highlighting Fr. Dan

In multiple ways, Father Dan Finn embodies the parish priest who renders his spirit to the entire community, not merely to his own flock. This month, the County Cork native will embrace the next step of his pastoral and personal journey as he takes his leave of St. Mark's parish after 22 years as its pastor, and 35 years overall of serving the people of Dorchester. Much has changed in the city's largest neighborhood, and in all of Boston, since Dan Finn arrived here more than three decades ago. But what has not changed in that time is his tireless, compassionate, and firm commitment to communities that have grown increasingly diverse since his ministry's early years when the faces of his parishioners mainly revealed their Irish heritage. His familiarity with that heritage was a home-grown experience, to which he gave expression in an interview with the Boston Irish Reporter in 2005 where he related that he was the oldest boy in a family of seven (two older sisters, four younger brothers) and was raised in the rural farming community of Kanturk, Co. Cork, before coming to Boston in his late teens with his parents and siblings. The family lived a "simple, straightforward, church-centered life," he said. His father, James, was a mechanic and his mother Christina, one of 16 children, was a housewife. To Dan Finn, Kanturk was a "big extended family," and he took great pleasure in playing sports (Irish football, hurling, and handball) and in being part of a team. It never dawned on him to become a priest until at age 18 he went to live in North Billerica with an aunt, whom he fondly calls his "Statue of Liberty." On leaving home? "There wasn't much in Ireland for me in those days. I needed a way out." The young immigrant was enrolled as a senior at North Billerica High School, as strange a venue for him as the bar scene in Star Wars. "I didn't know where to go or what to do." But a guidance counselor finally helped him find the handle, asking probing questions about what he wanted to do with his life. "Until then, no one had ever asked me," Finn recalled. "There were no choices before." He took the challenge as a word from the Lord and over time realized he had a calling to the priesthood. After graduation, he attended Somerville High School for a year of Latin, a prerequisite before entering the seminary. He then enrolled at Cardinal O'Connell Seminary in Jamaica Plain for two years before attending St. John's Seminary in Brighton in preparation for his ordination. His first assignment was to St. Catherine's in Norwood; six months later he transferred to Sacred Heart in Roslindale where he stayed for seven years. He was then assigned to St. Peter's in Dorchester for 13 years where he became assistant pastor before becoming pastor in 1993 at St. Mark's. Recently, Father Finn spoke with the Reporter about his love for the community while reflecting on his years in Dorchester and across the city. A passionate advocate of all immigrant causes – Irish, Haitian, Dominican, Vietnamese, and other newcomers to the city – he has always considered Boston as "a vibrant place with an ethnic mix that is exciting to me and, in their attention to church activities, good for the parish."

Q. "As you wrap up your ministry in Dorchester, what thoughts spring immediately to mind?"

A. "Thirty-five years – half my life – has been in Dorchester. All three parishes, and so many wonderful people over the decades here. They have all been such an example to me. I can't think of a better place to have spent all these years. Although so many parishioners, so many friends here, have passed, they are still my cheerleaders, still keep me on the road."

Q. What aspects of the church have you seen as being constant throughout your ministry?

A. "For me, the Mass remains the constant, the compass for any parish. My message has always been for people – including me – to take the messages of the gospel and the sermon out with us on the street. I urge people to act the same on the street as in church."

Q. "How has the problem of declining attendance at Mass and for the church in general impacted your ministry?"

A. "When I was first ordained, people came to church in big numbers. St. Mark's used to have 8,000 coming to Mass on Sundays. Now it's 1,000-1,500. It shows that there's a great need to reconnect with people and engage them both in and out of church. Pope Francis puts this very well and is returning the church to a more pastoral role. The church must be inclusive – just look at how the pope has worked to start healing the problems between the US and Cuba."



Dorchester Reporter Greg O'Brien contributed to this report via his interview in 2005.

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Immigration News

Immigration and Citizenship Support Services Program

The IPC's Immigration and Citizenship Program provides information and support to immigrants from Ireland and elsewhere on matters related to Green Card applications and renewals, visas, U.S. Citizenship eligibility, and applications for U.S. Citizenship. The IPC can also provide information about Irish passports and Irish Citizenship. Staff is available during normal business hours to help answer questions related to these matters and direct people to appropriate resources. Additionally, the IPC offers bi-monthly Legal Immigration Clinics where individuals can have a free and confidential phone conversation about their particular immigration situation with a volunteer immigration attorney.

Upcoming Legal Clinic Appointment

Dates:

Tuesday, December 21st

Appointments are scheduled in advance.

If you would like to schedule a phone consultation with an attorney, please contact Maryann Casavant at 617-265-5300 or by email at mcasavant@ipcboseon.org

The Holy Family's Similarity to Modern-Day Refugees

Pope Francis has said that Christmas is a time that awakens charity and "calls us to reflect on the situation of so many men, women and children of our time – migrants, refugees and displaced persons – who are marching on to escape wars and misery caused by social injustice and climate change." The Pope has reflected that like many migrants and refugees today, the Holy Family experienced "the anguish of persecution" when fleeing to Egypt. "Little Jesus reminds us that half of today's refugees in the world are children, blameless victims of human injustice." (Pope Francis, Vatican, December 14, 2018)

Earlier this year, the Pope devoted his message for 2021's World Day of Migrants and Refugees to the theme, *Towards An Ever Wider "We."* In his message the Pope shared the following prayer that reminds us that we are one with migrants, refugees and displaced persons, and we all are entitled to the gifts of this earth that is our common home:

Holy, beloved Father,
your Son Jesus taught us
that there is great rejoicing in heaven
whenever someone lost is found,
whenever someone excluded, rejected or discarded
is gathered into our "we",
which thus becomes ever wider.
We ask you to grant the followers of Jesus,
and all people of good will,
the grace to do your will on earth.
Bless each act of welcome and outreach
that draws those in exile
into the "we" of community and of the Church,
so that our earth may truly become
what you yourself created it to be:
the common home of all our brothers and sisters. Amen.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 3 May 2021
Feast of Saints Philip and James, Apostles
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Immigration News



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CIIC is generously funded by:
Government of Ireland
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PROMOTING COVID-19 SAFETY: TRAVEL TO U.S. ENTRY UPDATES

The Biden Administration, in collaboration with the CDC, has announced additional protocols to strengthen the safety of international travel due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the discovery of new virus variants.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>COVID Vaccination (effective 8 Nov 2021)</p> <p>ALL adult nonimmigrant travelers MUST be fully vaccinated to enter the U.S.</p> <p><i>*Subject to limited exceptions</i></p> | <p>COVID Testing (effective 6 Dec 2021)</p> <p>ALL travelers 2 years & older MUST show negative viral COVID test result taken NO MORE than 1 day before travel to the U.S.</p> <p><i>*PCR or antigen tests</i></p> | <p>Mask Requirement (extended to 18 Mar 2022)</p> <p>Masks are REQUIRED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. airports • U.S. commercial flights/airlines • All forms of public transport in the U.S. |
|---|---|---|

Authorized Vaccines
(*FDA/WHO approved)

- Johnson & Johnson
- Moderna
- Pfizer-BioNTech
- Oxford-AstraZeneca/Covishield
- Sinopharm
- Sinovac

Full Vaccination
14 days after an approved vaccine protocol
Proof Required

Quarantine/Isolation Protocols
Follow state/local regulations
Recommended:

- Test 3-5 days after travel (viral test)
- Self-monitor for symptoms
- If you do not get tested post travel, self-isolate for 10 days

More details: bit.ly/32Nj5iY

See our full graphic on required mask wearing

COALITION OF IRISH IMMIGRATION CENTERS
Follow @IrishCoalition
Additional CDC Info: bit.ly/3pAlmpq

REQUIRED MASK WEARING RELATED TO TRAVEL WITHIN AND TO THE U.S. MANDATE EXTENDED UNTIL 18 MARCH 2022

BE AWARE
In compliance with CDC Guidelines, Masks required for **ALL** operators & passengers on **ALL** modes of public transportation & at public transportation hubs

| | | |
|---------------------|--------|------------------|
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| SHIPS BOATS/FERRIES | BUSES | TAXIS RIDESHARES |

Transportation Hub: any airport, bus terminal, marina, seaport or other port, subway station, terminal, train station, U.S. port of entry or any other location that provides transportation.

Mary's Christmas Candle

In a house on Clonfert Road,
Her Christmas candle softly glows.

A mother sits in peaceful trance,
Watching the flames' peaceful dance.

Bit by bit wax melts away,

As Mary waits for Christmas Day,
Her silhouette rocks to-and-fro,

As she remembers long ago.

Behind the white lace a candle shines,
On Christmas Eve each year.

The lone candle holds seasons of old,
Winter sadness, springtime cheer.

Though our homes are far apart,
This candle light unites our heart

All is calm, all is bright,
You're with me on this Christmas night.

Author: Peter Groome

The Celtic Scribe

A Christmas Childhood

By Patrick Kavanagh

One side of the potato-pits was white with frost –
 How wonderful that was, how wonderful!
 And when we put our ears to the paling-post
 The music that came out was magical.
 The light between the ricks of hay and straw
 Was a hole in Heaven's gable. An apple tree
 With its December-glinting fruit we saw –
 O you, Eve, were the world that tempted me
 To eat the knowledge that grew in clay
 And death the germ within it! Now and then
 I can remember something of the gay
 Garden that was childhood's. Again
 The tracks of cattle to a drinking-place,
 A green stone lying sideways in a ditch,
 Or any common sight, the transfigured face
 Of a beauty that the world did not touch.
 II
 My father played the melodion
 Outside at our gate;
 There were stars in the morning east
 And they danced to his music.
 Across the wild bogs his melodion called
 To Lennons and Callans.
 As I pulled on my trousers in a hurry
 I knew some strange thing had happened.
 Outside in the cow-house my mother
 Made the music of milking;
 The light of her stable-lamp was a star

– And the frost of Bethlehem made it twinkle.
 A water-hen screeched in the bog,
 Mass-going feet
 Crunched the wafer-ice on the pot-holes,
 Somebody wistfully twisted the bellows
 wheel.
 My child poet picked out the letters
 On the grey stone,
 In silver the wonder of a
 Christmas townland,
 The winking glitter of a frosty dawn.
 Cassiopeia was over
 Cassidy's hanging hill,
 I looked and three whin bushes rode across
 The horizon — the Three Wise Kings.
 And old man passing said:
 'Can't he make it talk –
 The melodion.' I hid in the doorway
 And tightened the belt of my box-pleated
 coat.
 I nicked six nicks on the door-post
 With my penknife's big blade –
 There was a little one for cutting tobacco.
 And I was six Christmases of age.
 My father played the melodion,
 My mother milked the cows,
 And I had a prayer like a white rose pinned

From Collected Poems (2004). Edited by Antoinette Quinn, Allen Lane. An Imprint of Penguin Books, by kind permission of the Trustees of the Estate of the late Katherine B. Kavanagh, through the Jonathan Williams Literary Agency.



Christmas Eve

By Ruth and Celia Duffin

A cup of milk And a wheaten-cake,
 And a spark of fire
 For the
 Travellers' sake.
 A door on the latch, A light in the pane,
 Lest the Travellers' pass In the wind and rain.
 For food and fire And candlelight
 The Travellers' blessing On us this night

Notable Quote

"My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple: loving others. Come to think of it, why do we have to wait for Christmas to do that?"

— Bob Hope

Local Poets CORNER

An Exiles Christmas

Martin O'Hara © 29/11/2021

It was Christmas eve in London,
 And an Irishman, called Joe.
 Stood by an upstairs window
 That looked on the street below.
 He could see the shoppers passing by,
 Their voices filled with cheer.
 As they shouted happy Christmas,
 And a prosperous new year.
 As he looked around the little room,
 That for years had been his home.
 He was fifty years in London,
 Since he crossed the ocean foam.
 His youthful days behind him now,
 And his working days Long gone.
 In retirement, his days were spent
 On his own, to carry on.
 He could hear a church bell ringing,
 On the street across the way.
 Where mass was celebrated, on
 The eve of Christmas day.
 Then a choir started singing, and
 The strains of silent night,
 Came drifting through the window.
 Into Joe's old flat that night.
 As he listened to the singing,
 He began to shed a tear.
 For he always felt emotional,
 On Christmas eve each year.
 When old memories came flooding back,
 And his thoughts began to stray.
 To his childhood days in Ireland,
 Long ago and far away
 He could see again the old thatched
 house,
 At the corner of the lane.
 Oh what he'd give to be a lad, and be
 back there once again.
 The candle in the window,
 To light a Welcome way.



For the virgin and the Christ child,
 On the eve of Christmas day.
 The Holly and the ivy, and the cards
 Around the fire.
 And his mothers Christmas cooking,
 That would fill you with desire.
 The boxes left for Santa Claus,
 In the hopes that he would call.
 With the toys to play on Christmas
 day,
 The happiest times of all.
 As his memories began to fade,
 reality
 Set in.
 He was back once more in London,
 In his little flat again.
 And he drew his coat around him, as
 he
 Sat back in his chair.
 And for all those in his memories, he
 began to say a prayer
 And he asked the Lord, to grant
 them rest,

In the land beyond the sky.
 All the folks he once shared Christmas
 with,
 In the happy years gone by.
 Tomorrow at the centre, he will meet his
 Old friend Jack, an Irishman just like
 himself.
 That never made it back.
 They will have their Christmas
 Dinner,
 and a glass or two of beer,
 As they join their old acquaintances,
 And the friends they love so dear.
 Everybody has their party piece,
 To raise a bit of cheer.
 At their Christmas get together.
 In the centre every year.
 So to all our Irish exiles, in lands
 far off and near.
 The blessing of this Christmas time we
 wish you all this year.
 And although we are divided, by land
 and sky, and foam,
 A very merry Christmas, from the Irish
 Folks at home.



On December 3, The Irish Consulate Book Club met in person to discuss "When All is Said" by Anne Griffin. We will keep you up to date on 2022 Consulate Book clubs.



If you have a talent for writing poems, stories and memories that you would like to see featured here, please send your submission to mswanton@ipcbooston.org.

If you prefer putting pen to paper, please mail your submission to Mary Swanton at the Pastoral Centre

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- Wednesday: Greenhills Baked Ham, Shephard's Pie
- Thursday: Irish Boiled Dinner with Irish Boiled Bacon, Corned Beef, Cabbage, Spuds, Veg and Homemade White Sauce
- Friday: Chicken Pot Pie, Chicken Curry, Rice and Fish dinner
- Saturday: Shephard's Pie, Full Irish Breakfast
- Sunday: Full Irish Breakfast

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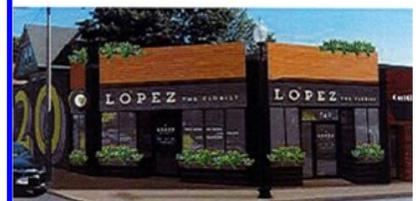
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2022 Boston Irish Live Events



THE RETURN OF WE BANJO 3!

Billboard No.1 Selling Artists and Galway band We Banjo 3 are returning to Massachusetts in 2022! The “Celtgrass” artists combine traditional Celtic music and Bluegrass for a sound that is totally unique.

Tickets are \$35 and will require masks and proof of vaccination.

WHERE: The Sinclair, Cambridge MA

WHEN: Thursday Jan 20 2022, 8 PM (18+ show)

TICKETS ON SALE AT: [axs.com](https://www.axs.com)

THE REAL IRISH COMEDY FESTIVAL!



Join Sean Finnerty (*The Tonight Show*) David Nihill (*Drybar Comedy*) Martin Angolo (*RTE 2*) and Mick Thomas in the Seaport for a night of authentic Irish Comedy. Not only Irish eyes will be smiling this St. Patrick's Day. Come get a blast of blarney and Irish laughter just in time for the big day. The Real Irish Comedy Fest showcases the best blend of Irish Comedic talent, accents included and are coming to Boston for one night only.

Tickets are \$25 excluding fees

WHERE: Laugh Boston, Boston MA

WHEN: Sunday Mar 6 2022, 6 PM

TICKETS ON SALE AT: [laughboston.com](https://www.laughboston.com)



ONCE RETURNS ONCE MORE!

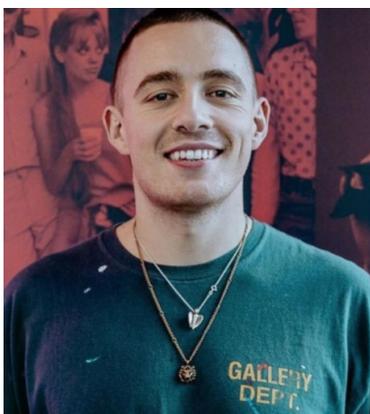
Glen Hansard and Market Irglova are reuniting for a run of limited shows here in the USA to commemorate the film *Once* (2007) turning 15 years old in 2022, and Boston is on the list! The pair came to prominence starring in the 2007 film *Once* and winning the Academy Award for Best Original Song with their composition “Falling Slowly” in 2008.

Tickets are \$25 excluding fees

WHERE: Emerson Colonial Theatre, Boston MA

WHEN: Tuesday Mar 15 2022, 8 PM

TICKETS ON SALE AT: [emersoncolonialtheatre.com](https://www.emersoncolonialtheatre.com)



DERMOT KENNEDY TO PLAY TD GARDEN!

Irish music sensation Dermot Kennedy is returning to Boston once more. After a sold-out show in Leader Bank Pavilion in Boston's Seaport this summer, it was announced that Dermot would play support to Canadian pop-superstar Shawn Mendes at Boston's biggest Arena, the TD Garden

Tickets are range from \$59—\$154 excluding fees

WHERE: TD Garden, Boston MA

WHEN: Friday Aug 5 and Saturday Aug 6 2022, 7 PM

TICKETS ON SALE AT: [ticketmaster.com](https://www.ticketmaster.com)

This list is compiled by Patrick Davoren. If you are Irish and performing in the area, send your press kit to :

pdavoren@ipcoston.org

Sports News From Ireland



Limerick's Cian Lynch and Tyrone's Kieran McGeary named 2021 Hurler and Footballer of the Year

By Fintan O'Toole

It is a landmark moment for Lynch as he wins the award for the second time, after being previously honoured in 2018. Kilkenny great Henry Shefflin is the only other player to have won Hurler of the Year more than once, since this GAA scheme was established in 1995, with Shefflin winning it on three occasions. Lynch saw off Limerick team-mates Sean Finn and Kyle Hayes, the other nominees for the hurling award this year. The Patrickswell man also won his third All-Star award for his exploits this season. It's the second successive year a Limerick player has landed the top award after Gearoid Hegarty succeeded for his 2020 displays. In football, McGeary has won the Player of the Year honour for the first time, in the same year that he won his first All-Ireland senior medal and won his first All-Star. Tyrone team-mate Conor Meyler and Mayo defender Lee Keegan were also nominated. It is the fourth time a Tyrone player has secured this accolade after Peter Canavan (1995), Stephen O'Neill (2005) and Sean Cavanagh (2008) were previous winners. Mayo's Oisín Mullin and Kilkenny's Eoin Cody have collected the Young Player of the Year awards for their displays in the 2021 GAA championships. It is the second season in a row, where this duo have landed the young player honours, previously awarded last February after their 2020 performances. AFL-bound Mullin, who is set to join up with Geelong to play Aussie Rules, also won an All-Star in 2020. Galway's Matthew Tierney and Tyrone's Darragh Canavan were the other nominees here. It is the seventh time a Mayo player has won the young footballer award after Keith Higgins (2006), Cillian O'Connor (2011 and 2012), Diarmuid O'Connor (2015 and 2016) and Mullin last year were previous recipients. Cody won out against the claims of Cork's Shane Barrett and Clare's Aidan McCarthy, who were also on the shortlist. It is the fourth time a Kilkenny player has won this award, all members of the Ballyhale Shamrocks club with Cody preceded by James 'Cha' Fitzpatrick in 2006 and Adrian Mullen in 2019.



LIMERICK'S CIAN LYNCH and Tyrone's Kieran McGeary have been announced as the PwC GAA-GPA Player of the Year award winners for 2021.

2021 Football All-Stars:

- 1 Niall Morgan (Tyrone)
- 2 Pdraig Hampsey (Tyrone)
- 3 Lee Keegan (Mayo)
- 4 Tom O'Sullivan (Kerry)
- 5 Conor Meyler (Tyrone)
- 6 Kieran McGeary (Tyrone)
- 7 Peter Harte (Tyrone)
- 8 Brian Kennedy (Tyrone)
- 9 Matthew Ruane (Mayo)
- 10 Niall Sludden (Tyrone)
- 11 Paudie Clifford (Kerry)
- 12 Ciaran Kilkenny (Dublin)
- 13 Darren McCurry (Tyrone)
- 14 David Clifford (Kerry)
- 15 Ryan O'Donoghue (Mayo)

2021 Hurling All Stars

- (* denotes first award)
- 1 Eoin Murphy (Kilkenny) 3rd award
 - 2 Seán Finn (Limerick) 4th award
 - 3 Conor Prunty (Waterford) *
 - 4 Barry Nash (Limerick) *
 - 5 Diarmaid Byrnes (Limerick) 2nd award
 - 6 Declan Hannon (Limerick) 2nd award
 - 7 Kyle Hayes (Limerick) 2nd award
 - 8 Will O'Donoghue (Limerick) *
 - 9 Darragh O'Donovan (Limerick) *
 - 10 Gearóid Hegarty (Limerick) 2nd award
 - 11 Cian Lynch (Limerick) 3rd award
 - 12 Tom Morrissey (Limerick) 2nd award
 - 13 Tony Kelly (Clare) 3rd award
 - 14 Séamus Flanagan (Limerick) *
 - 15 Peter Casey (Limerick) *

Image: Brendan Moran / SPORTSFILE

Sports News From Ireland

2022 SENIOR FOOTBALL AND HURLING PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP DRAWS - GAA.IE

Tyrone will have to travel a long road to successfully defend their All-Ireland in 2022 after the draw for next year's Ulster Senior Football Championship paired them against Fermanagh in the Preliminary Round. If they come through that match, things don't get any easier thereafter as the winners of Tyrone-Fermanagh will play Derry in the Ulster SFC Quarter-Final. Arguably the stand-out tie of the Ulster SFC draw though is the quarter-final pairing of Donegal and Armagh. There are some juicy ties too in the other provinces, with the Connacht Quarter-Final clash of Galway and Mayo an obvious stand-out. The two traditional powers in Munster, Kerry and Cork, also came out on the same side of their draw and will play one another in the Munster semi-final. While in Leinster, defending champions Dublin will play the winners of Offaly and Wexford in the provincial quarter-final. The provincial hurling championships will return to a round-robin format in 2022 and both should start with a bang. In Leinster, managerial newcomers Henry Shefflin (Galway) and Darragh Egan (Wexford) will face off against one another in Round 1. Shefflin's keenly awaited duel with former master, Kilkenny manager Brian Cody, comes in Round 3. While in Munster, reigning provincial and All-Ireland champions, Limerick, will begin the defence of their titles with a re-run of last year's All-Ireland Final against Cork.

FOOTBALL

Ulster Senior Football Championship

Preliminary round:

Fermanagh v Tyrone

Quarter-finals

Donegal v Armagh

Antrim v Cavan

Monaghan v Down

Derry v Fermanagh/Tyrone

Semi-finals

Donegal/Armagh v Antrim/Cavan

Monaghan/Down v Derry/Fermanagh/Tyrone

Connacht Senior Football Championship

Quarter-finals:

New York v Sligo, London v Leitrim, Mayo v Galway

Semi-finals

Roscommon v Sligo/New York, London/Leitrim v Mayo/
Galway

Munster Senior Football Championship

Quarter-Finals

Tipperary v Waterford, Clare v Limerick

Semi-finals

Kerry v Cork, Tipperary/Waterford v Clare/Limerick

Leinster Senior Football Championship

First round

Louth v Carlow, Laois v Wicklow, Offaly v Wexford

Quarter-finals

Dublin v Offaly/Wexford, Meath v Laois/Wicklow,

Kildare v Louth/Carlow, Westmeath v Longford

HURLING

Munster Senior Hurling Championship

Round one

Cork v Limerick, Waterford v Tipperary

Round two

Limerick v Waterford, Tipperary v Clare

Round three

Clare v Limerick, Waterford v Cork

Round four

Cork v Clare, Limerick v Tipperary

Round five

Tipperary v Cork, Clare v Waterford

Leinster Senior Hurling Championship

Round one (16/17 April)

Dublin v Laois, Wexford v Galway, Westmeath v
Kilkenny

Round two (23/24 April)

Kilkenny v Laois, Wexford v Dublin, Galway v
Westmeath

Round three (30 April/1 May)

Laois v Wexford, Galway v Kilkenny, Westmeath v
Dublin

Round four (14/15 May)

Dublin v Kilkenny, Laois v Galway, Westmeath v
Wexford

Round five (21/22 May)

Kilkenny v Wexford, Galway v Dublin, Laois v
Westmeath



Local Sports

O'Toole Knockout in New Hampshire

Galway cruiserweight Thomas O'Toole produced a brutal first-round knockout to take down Mark Malone in New Hampshire recently. Fighting on the undercard of the Demetrius Andrade-Jason Quigley WBO world middleweight title bout, 23-year-old O'Toole made a serious statement as he floored his opponent with a devastating left hand after just 90 seconds.

The Connemara man was an Irish champion in 2019. He'd been due to graduate from university in Galway with a business degree, but instead flew to the USA to make the most of a big opportunity in what was his second pro fight.

"I was meant to graduate from college but when I got the call for this, you can't turn it down," O'Toole told DAZN. "For the last four years, I was thinking of my college graduation and I couldn't wait to celebrate it but being invited to the biggest stage in boxing is amazing. I'm happy to be here."

A New Generation

GAA Boston PRO Officer Rory O'Donnell came to Boston a long time ago now. So did Stephen Murray. Rory was involved with Scoil Uí Chonail and Stephen with St. Joseph's OCB Dublin. Now their sons are playing Gaelic football together with Trinity Milton in Boston and a new generation unfolds.



2021 All-Ireland Hurling Championship Quiz

(sportsjoe.ie)

1. Who did Limerick beat in the first round of the Munster championship?
2. Who was the only player to score four goals in the 2021 Championship?
3. Who scored the point, eventually awarded by hawk-eye, that Eoin Murphy brought down from over the posts only for Conor McDonald to score the re-bounce?
4. Which Tipperary forward did Waterford keeper Shaun O'Brien save from in the last minute?
5. Who laid the ball off to Kyle Hayes before his wonder-goal against Tipperary?
6. Who split the Galway defence with the pass that set up Chris Crummey's goal against Galway?
7. Which Cork player knocked Walter Walsh with a shoulder, to stop a near certain goal in the All-Ireland semi-final?
8. Which Laois player scored three goals in the championship?

ANSWERS ON PAGE 3!



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Nollaig Shona Duit

Merry Christmas to you

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