Irish Pastoral Centre Newsletter



"We are a Parish without Boundaries."

Serving the Greater Boston Irish Community since 1987

Celebrating St Patrick in a Virtual World

As another subdued St Patrick's Day approaches, there is a host of great online programs available. From concerts, shows, film festival and presentations, the Boston Irish Community has quite a catalog to choose from! Many of those events are listed in this edition.

Live music is returning also and we are delighted to know that our local musicians who were so impacted by this virus are returning to work at last!

Spring is in the air and the vaccines are bringing confidence finally!

We must remain vigilant as we move forward and masks and social distancing will remain for quite some time. Vacations to Ireland are still beyond our reach but we are hopeful! Cont'd on Page 2

St Patrick Himself paid us a visit! We believe he is related to our great friend Neil Hurley!



FAREWELL TO OUR GOOD FRIEND!



After 5 years in Boston, our popular Community Outreach Coordinator,

Veronica Keys has returned to her native Donegal. She is much loved and greatly missed! Page 3



Government of Ireland Emigrant Support Programme



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha Department of Foreign Affairs



IPC NEWS DESK

CONT'D from Page 1: Here at the Centre, we've been Spring cleaning and preparing for our return to social events and activities. We are working on our calendar which of course will remain tentative pending state guidelines. We will celebrate Mass together in memory of Sr Marguerite on March 31 at the Irish Social Club and we are forming a new Men's coffee group here at the centre on the second Friday of each month from 8am to 10am. All of us feel a renewed sense of purpose and we remain hopeful that life as we knew it is making a comeback.



It is most important to note our appreciation to the Government of Ireland's Emigrant Support Program. We have just completed our annual grant application which gave us pause to reflect on how we have benefitted from this support and yours, since our inception. Fundraising for all organizations has changed completely and we hope that this year will enable us to return to our critical community support initiatives like our Annual Golf Tournament on June 14. In the meantime, Happy Spring! Happy St Patrick's Day! The kettle is on and our doors are open at last! Please reach out to me if we can be of assistance. My phone number is 617 265 5300 ext 19 and my email is mswanton@ipcboston.org. All the best,

Mary Swanton

IRISH APOSTOLATE USA WELCOMES BACK SR. MARIE PREFONTAINE, SNDdeN

The Irish Apostolate USA is very pleased to welcome back Sr. Marie Prefontaine, SNDdeN as its National Coordinator, having previously held the role from 2015 – 2018. Sr. Marie brings with her a wealth of

knowledge and experience regarding the organization.



"The board of IAUSA is delighted that Sr. Marie is returning to continue her work with the organization and our Chaplains here in the United States," states Fr. Brendan McBride, President of the IAUSA Board of Directors & Chaplain for the Irish Immigration Pastoral Center in San Francisco. "Marie knows the

Irish Apostolate, and also has significant experience in immigration and refugee ministry. We look forward to working with her again to continue to support the mission of IAUSA."

Sr. Marie was previously involved in the leadership and founding of the Office for Ethnic Apostolates of the Archdiocese of Boston, the Office for Ethnic Ministries, Worcester Diocese and worked for U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in the Office for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Refugees in Washington, DC to provide coordination for pastoral, educational and legal outreach among immigrants, refugees and migratory populations served through parishes and other Catholic institutions. Her resume also includes overseas ministry, parish ministry and teaching. Sr. Marie continues to serve as Executive Assistant to the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur Province Leadership teams for the United States.

"I am very happy to be continuing my work with the Irish Apostolate and the Chaplains throughout the United States," says Sr. Marie. "I look forward to working through the IAUSA to provide pastoral care and services to Irish nationals and their families living in the U.S."



Our new Operations and Programs
Assistant Jennifer Molloy from Quincy
presented Fr. Dan with his Greenhills
Bakery birthday cake on February 25th,
Having posted Fr Dan's birthday on
Facebook he was shocked when we printed
out all the wonderful messages! Over 200
comments, over 200 likes and a reach of
6000! Fr. Dan had no idea that he is so
well loved on Social Media! Humble as
always, Fr Dan expressed his thanks and
appreciation to all!

The Irish Pastoral
Centre newsletter
can be mailed to
your home or
business each
month!
Call 617-265-5300 for
details.

IPC NEWS DESK

THANK YOU VERONICA!



After 5 years, the Irish Pastoral Centre bid farewell to our great friend Veronica Keys. Our Donegal native leaves a big void here and her presence is greatly missed. Veronica brought kindness, warmth and care to so many people in Boston and developed a great presence for the IPC in Adams Village. By creating thoughtful programs that reflected our heritage, our culture and our well being. Veronica quietly led the mission of the centre. Her role here was as broad as her smile and Veronica could swiftly and skillfully adjust from planning community events to supporting a person or family in crisis. Those she served knew they were in good hands.

Fr Dan referenced this lovely quote by Fr. Aengus Finuncane while reflecting on Veronicas role here at the IPC. "Do as much as you can, as well as you can, for as many as you can, for as long as you can." It's certainly very fitting.

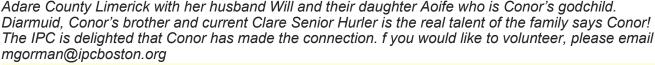
Veronica left for home quietly. We really wanted to bid her a tremendous farewell in appreciation for her commitment and caring. Covid prevented this and Veronica wanted no fuss.

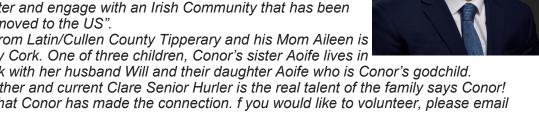
Local artist Vincent Crotty is working on a painting of Adams Corner - Veronica's home for 5 years. It's a fitting gift that will follow her home to Donegal, to her idyllic cottage nestled in the mountains. It's sent with love, gratitude and best wishes always!

INTRODUCING IPC VOLUNTEER CONOR RYAN

IPC Volunteer Conor Ryan is a former All Ireland Clare Hurler (2013) who grew up in Cratioe County Clare. Currently enrolled in Boston College, he will graduate with an MBA in May. Conor reached out to the IPC when he heard of the Senior outreach program. He has hosted Bingo and participates in the weekly wellness calls. Conor states that he is "thrilled to be able to work with the Irish Pastoral Center and engage with an Irish Community that has been so supportive since I moved to the US".

Conor's Dad Philp is from Latin/Cullen County Tipperary and his Mom Aileen is from Blackrock County Cork. One of three children, Conor's sister Aoife lives in





SEEKING COMMUNITY PARTNERS! If your business serves the Irish Community, please consider joining us as an Irish Pastoral Centre community partner. We have several opportunities for you to showcase your event, organization or business while completely supporting the IPC, Email mswanton@ipcboston.org for more information or call the IPC at 617-265-5300. We look forward to welcoming you!

QUIZ ANSWERS: 1Eoin Liston, 2 Kerry 3 Dublin and Tipperary, 4 Limerick claimed the Liam Mc Carthy Cup in 1923, 5 Hayes Hotel, Tipperary, November 1884, 6 Dublin beat Galway in 1932, 7 Michael Cusack, 8 A London born Gael who established a GAA London board in the 1890's, 9 1928, 10 Paddy Harrington was a well known Cork and Munster footballer in the late 1950s, early 1960s.

IPC NEWS DESK

President Biden's Proclamation on Irish-American Heritage Month,

Since before the founding of our Nation, Irish immigrants have arrived on our shores with an unyielding spirit of determination that has helped define America's soul and shape our success across generations. Driven by the same dreams that still beckon people the world over to America today, so many crossed the Atlantic with nothing but the hope in their hearts and their faith in the possibility of a better life.

That's what brought the Blewitts from County Mayo and the Finnegans of County Louth to the United States. For years, they brought Ireland into their homes in America. Working hard. Raising families. Remembering always where they came from. By 1909, my grandparents Ambrose Finnegan and Geraldine Blewitt met and married in Scranton, Pennsylvania, and passed on to my mother, Catherine Eugenia Finnegan Biden, a pride and a passion that runs through the bloodstream of all Irish-Americans.



IRELAND 2016

The story of the Irish the world over is one of people who have weathered their fair share of hard times, but have always come out strong on the other side. From often humble beginnings, Irish Americans became the farmers, servants, miners, factory workers, and laborers who fed our Nation, kept our homes, and built our industry and infrastructure. They became the soldiers who won American independence, died to preserve our Union, and fought in every battle since to defend America and its values.

Irish Americans became the firefighters and police officers who have protected us. They are the activists who organized unions to give voice and strength to America's workers. They are the educators who taught generations of American students and the public servants who have answered the call to service in the halls of the Congress, the Supreme Court, and the White House.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the Irish-American inventors and entrepreneurs who helped define America as the land of opportunity. Irish-American writers pollinated America's literary landscape with their love of language and storytelling, while Irish lyricism has brought poetry, art, music, and dance to nourish our hearts and souls.

As I said when I visited Dublin in 2016, our nations have always shared a deep spark — linked in memory and imagination, joined by our histories and our futures. Everything between us runs deep: literature, poetry, sadness, joy, and, most of all, resilience. Through every trial and tempest, we never stop dreaming.

The fabric of modern America is woven through with the green of the Emerald Isle. This month, we celebrate the sacrifices and contributions that generations of Irish Americans have made to build a better America, and we renew the bonds of friendship that will forever tie Ireland and the United States.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR., President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 2021 as Irish-American Heritage Month. I call upon all Americans to celebrate the achievements and contributions of Irish Americans to our Nation with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-fifth...

JOSEPH R BIDEN

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IPC NEWS FROM IRELAND

Your Chance To Win A Beautiful Home On The Donegal Coast

A Donegal family is raffling their traditional farmhouse with an adjoining hostel in the hope of raising funds for lifesaving equipment at Beaumont Hospital.



They are doing so in memory of their beloved parents Ben and Lyndall Gallagher who died within eight weeks of each other in 2018. Their family home in Bruckless holds many cherished memories for the sisters. They hope that by raffling it and including a cash sum in the prize, another family can build a good life for themselves and make their own precious memories.

Tickets for the farmhouse in Bruckless with an adjoining hostel and outbuildings and stunning views over Bruckless Bay and the Wild Atlantic Way are only STG£10 each. Furthermore, the winner also gets STG£50,000 cash to help them get started in their new home. Tickets and further details are available on donegallive.ie.



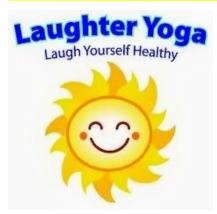


The RTÉ Short Story Competition 2021 Is Now Open For Entries

Entrants have until Friday May 7 to submit their short story to the competition, which is open to Irish passport holders worldwide may enter the competition. The 35-year-old literary prize, set up in 1986 to honor writer and broadcaster Francis MacManus. recognizes and rewards the best new Irish fiction writing for radio. The top prize is €3000. Ten stories will be shortlisted and broadcast. Free to enter, last year's competition, which coincided with Ireland's first lockdown, attracted record numbers of entries – over 4,000. For competition rules information on how to enter, and to read and listen to past winning stories, see www.rte.ie/writing.



News from our Senior Community

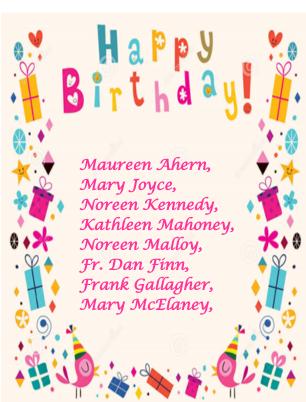


ZOOM YOGA WILL TAKE PLACE ON THURSDAY MARCH 11 AND 25 ZOOM BINGO TAKES PLACE EVERY TUESDAY.

FOR HELP WITH ZOOM, PLEASE CALL MARY GORMAN OR HUNTER AT 617-265-5300. ITS EASIER THAN YOU THINK AND ALL ARE WELCOME!

OUR FEBRUARY ZOOM BINGO WINNERS ARE:

Michael Weston and Mary Morley who won Dunkin Donut's Gift Cards. Evie Dunne and Peggy McDonough who won Common Market Gift Cards.



NEW PROGRAM:

MEN'S COFFEE CLUB!

We are launching a Mens coffee club here at the Centre on the 2nd Friday of the month beginning Friday April 9th from 8am to 10am here at the Centre. Due to Covid, please call to 617 265-5300 to register your attendance.



SAVE THE DATE! MARCH 31ST! LIMITED SEATS AVAILABLE

We will be having a **Mass in memory** of **Sr Marguerite** at 11:00am followed by lunch at The Irish Social Club in West Roxbury.

We will keep you updated on cost and maximum amount of people who can attend.

Please call our RSVP line 855-479-2472 and leave your name and telephone number. You must be on the list to attend.



The IPC has always thrived on the support of our great Volunteer Network and we've really missed you! As the Centre slowly re-opens, we look forward to re-connecting with our Volunteers and we welcome new Volunteers also! Plans are underway to return to our programs in Brighton, West Roxbury and Dorchester and our weekly wellness phone calls are ongoing. Please give us a call at 617 –265-5300 if you'd like to join our Volunteer Corp.

Each month, the IPC features a Senior Spotlight Story. Please reach out to Senior Coordinator Mary Gorman at mgorman@ipcboston.org if you know someone who would like to be featured. Page 7 December 2020

Fr Dan's Page

Enjoy the Lord — Now.

I no longer call you servants but friends: *John 15:15* Why did God make you?

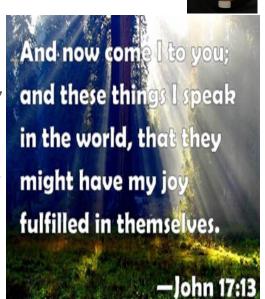
A rather fundamental question! I can hear the old catechism answer buzzing around: "God made me to know love and serve him in this world and be happy with him in the next".

That answer has probably driven more people out of the church than any other! A God who wants us to *serve* him here and be happy with him *only someday* out there? That's not our God!

God the Father and God the Son and God the Holy Spirit were completely happy enjoying each other to the full. Well, what do you want to do when you are very happy? You want to share your happiness!

The Trinity looked around and there was no one with whom to share their happiness so that's why God made you and me: to share the happiness of the Father Son and Spirit. And not just some day off in the Sky but right here and now. At the Last Supper after opening his heart to us - "I no longer call you servants but friends because I make known to you all that I have heard from my Father" (John 15:15), Jesus said to his Father: "I say these things that they may share my joy and that their joy may be complete". (John 17:13).

Lord during this lent, let me discover what a joy it is to have you as a friend. By *Fr Basil Pennington*, *OCSO*



St. Patrick's Day, March 17



Saint Patrick pray for us!

St Patrick Prayer!

As I arise today, may the strength of God pilot me, the power of God uphold me, the wisdom of God guide me. May the eye of God look before me, the ear of God hear me, the word of God speak for me.

May the hand of God protect me, the way of God lie before me, the shield of God defend me, the host of God save me. May Christ shield me today.

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ on my right, Christ on my left, Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit, Christ when I stand, Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me, Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me, Christ in every eye that sees me, Christ in every ear that hears me.

Amen





'Waxy's Pub Group in Lexington, MA is currently seeking a talented and passion-driven Chef Manager that has the ability to create innovative menus and motivate, inspire, train, and lead the kitchen team to the highest level. Interested candidates, please submit resume to email: Lexington@waxyspubgroup.com



ST PATRICK'S DAY VIRTUAL EVENTS

IRISH FILM FESTIVAL Boston

RTE LATE LATE SHOW SPECIAL ON MARCH 17



The Boston Irish Film Festival is excited to announce a virtual Irish Film Festival (IFF) this year. Kicking off on St. Patrick's Day, from March 17 - 21, IFF will screen over 40 films showcasing the best of Ireland and the Irish on screen. IFF is partnered with Irish Film Institute and Culture Ireland, as they launch their new streaming service. For the full program of Irish features, documentaries, short films, and to pre-book

RTE'S Ryan Tubridy has called for Irish people abroad to be a part of a virtual audience in a St Patrick's Day special of the Late Late Show. "People cannot come to Ireland this year, and we can't go visit, so what we can do is put on an extravaganza that celebrates the joy, beauty, and passion of being Irish with some big names and familiar faces and an evening of celebration and escapism." said Tubridy recently on RTE. The popular chat show will be broadcast on March 17, a Wednesday night, for the first time in its 59-year history. Viewers worldwide can tune in for free on RTE Player



WGBH's A St. Patrick's Day Celtic Sojourn with Brian O'Donovan is making its return virtually this year, March 11-17. The popular variety show celebrates St. Patrick's Day in true Irish style, drawing together award-winning artists for audiences to experience the joy in song, dance and literary traditions from across the Celtic world. Each show will be livestreamed in real time, but will also be available on-demand starting the day after purchase until Sunday, March 21. This year's line-up of musicians brings together veterans of shows past from around the world: Keith Murphy returns to his role as Music Director (a position he's held since 2012); singer Matthew Byrne will be joining from his home in Newfoundland; fiddlers Nathan Gourley and Laura Feddersen, two of America's most highly regarded young players of traditional Irish music, will bring their mastery of traditional twin fiddling; internationally acclaimed dancer Emma O'Sullivan will join from her home in Connemara, Co. Galway with her exponent of the sean-nos (old style) traditional dance. A full line-up of artists, as well as a link to purchase tickets (\$42.50), can be found at www.celticsojournlive.com.





2021 St. Patrick's Day Celebration



MONDAY MARCH 15, THE IRISH AMERICAN PARTNERSHIP VIRTUAL ST PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION.

Transatlantic supporters across the United States and in Ireland will enjoy an inspiring program celebrating this most Irish of days, with musical performances, special guest appearances, and messages of thanks. Please visit irishap.org to register your virtual attendance.

News from the Irish Consulate



Dear Friends,

Beannachtaí na Féile Pádraig oraibh go léir ó Ard-Chonsal na hÉireann i mBostún – St. Patrick's greetings to you all from the Consulate General of Ireland in Boston.

The month of March has arrived, and for the Irish among us that means one thing in Boston – St Patrick's Day events! Despite the challenges of the past year, so many of you have organised and attended virtual events celebrating your interest in all things Irish. We are delighted to bring you our jam-packed Programme of Events for St Patrick's Day 2021 as hosted by the Consulate, and our community partners across New England.

From cinema, to James Joyce, to virtual parades and networking events, there is something here for everyone! Our programme is still developing even further with more events in the final stages of preparation that will be announced in the coming days. To ensure you are notified of all of these events, be sure to follow us on Twitter @lrelandBoston to view all events as well as our newsletter. Tá súil againn go mbainfidh sibh taitneamh as na himeachtaí i mbliana - We hope that you enjoy this year's events! Lá Fhéile Pádraig sona daoibh – Happy St. Patrick's Day!



Weeks 02 & 03

Finnegans Wake - Made Easy!

James Joyce's final work, *Finnegans Woke*, has a reputation as a difficult book to read. The Here Comes Everybody Players have been dramatizing excerpts from the book for many years.

In this Zoom performance they will bring out some of the humor, humanity and linguistic playfulness of the work with excerpts that will delight both those who have never heard of the book as well as those who are familiar with it. More details and RSVP here: https://bit.ly/300xbsV

March

11

Theatre

The Irish Influence - Manchán Magan

Each week Professors Mike Cronin and Joe Nugent of Boston College explore how the culture of Ireland has shaped and still shapes the story of America through conversations with leading academics, officials, artists, and more.

12

March

This week's guest is writer and filmmaker Manchán Magan, who has made over 30 travel documentaries focusing on issues of world cultures and globalisation. He presented No Béarla, a documentary series about travelling around Ireland speaking only Irish. He writes travel column for The Irish Times and his show The Big Adventure, on RTÉ Radio 1, explore: adventure holidays. RSVP and more details here: https://bit.lv/2MtiefG

Travel

Irish American Club / Maine Irish Heritage Centre Virtual Parade

While the traditional march can't be held this year, the Irish American Club of Maine will be hosting a virtual parade featuring participant video submissions! There will be 3 types of videos: The Crowd, The Marchers, and The Floats, Music & Dancing. Dress in your best Saint Patrick's Parade finery to make it fun and festive! Anyone can submit in one of the categories and we welcome a colorful display much like parades in the past.

Learn more here: https://bit.lv/3bMzUM1

March

14

Celebration

March

St. Patrick's Day Celebration with the Irish American Partnership 🗸

At IAP's 26th annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration you will enjoy an inspiring program celebrating this most Irish of days, with musical performances, special guest appearances and messages of thanks

1

Featuring honoured guest, award-winning actor Cillian Murphy. As Patron of the UNESCO Child & Family Research Centre at the National University of Ireland, Galway, Cillian Murphy shares the Partnership's interest in empowering young people to actively engage in their communities. More details and RSVP here: https://bit.lv/3aWC5wY

Celebration



ST PATRICK'S DAY (and beyond!)

March

17

The ICC is delighted to invite everyone to their St. Patrick's Day festivities. While the Pub is serviing Corned Beef & Cabage all day (take out meals are available), enjoy live Trad music also available to be streamed at home!

Three sittings are planned: 1:30 PM / 3:45 PM / 6:00 PM. Reservations are required. Email: ICCPub@lrishCulture.org

Irish Cultural Centre of New England St. Patrick's Day Celebration

Celebration

The Irish Influence - Ambassador Dan Mulhall

Each week Professors Mike Cronin and Joe Nugent of Boston College explore how the culture of Ireland has shaped and still shapes the story of America through conversations with leading academics, officials, artists, and more.

This week's guest is Ambassador of Ireland to the U.S. Dan Mulhall. Since joining the Department of Foreign Affairs in 1978, he has served in numerous posts around the world including Ambassadorships to Malaysia, Germany, and most recently the United Kingdom.

More information and RSVP here: https://bit.ly/2NF0tkU

March

19

Service



Ard-Chonsalacht na hÉireann | Bostún Consulate General of Ireland | Boston

In Loving Wemory

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.

Way they Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory.

January 12, Mary Wilkins, Weymouth and County Sligo

January 29, 2021. Michael Hession, Dorchester and County Galway

February 1 2021, Elizabeth Flaherty, Quincy and County Galway

February 3rd, John Folan, Dorchester and County Galway

February 2, Mary Feeney, County Sligo, mother of Greg, Brendan and Ronan Feeney, Boston

February 12, Stephen Patrick O'Callaghan, Melrose and County Kerry

February 22, Michael Gavin, West Roxbury and County Galway

February 22 Kathleen Fewer, Quincy and County Galway

February 25, John Conneely, Plainville and County Galway

Heartbreak at death of talented teen from Kerry family who died in New York crash

17 year old Sarah Lynch died in a single vehicle road collision in New York. Sarah was a member of the St Brigids GAA club and was well known as a very talented Irish Dancer, musician and all round entertainer in the Scór community

and beyond. She was the beloved daughter of Shane Lynch and Joanne O'Connor from South Kerry, and the family have spent every summer in Ireland, where they have a home in Renard, Caherciveen. Here in Boston, Timothy O'Sullivan from Weymouth and family mourned the loss of their cousin. The teenager, whose life was tragically cut short this week, was hoping to attend university in Ireland. We extend our deepest sympathy to the Lynch and O'Sullivan Families.

Death is nothing at all

"Death is nothing at all. I have only slipped away into the next room. I am I, and you are you. Whatever we were to each other, that we still are. Call me by my old familiar name, speak to me in the easy way which you always used. Put no difference in your tone, wear no forced air of solemnity of sorrow.

Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes we enjoyed together. Pray, smile, think of me, pray for me. Let my name be ever the household word that it always was, let it be spoken without effect, without the trace of a shadow on it. Life means all that it ever meant. It is the same as it ever was; there is unbroken continuity. Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight? I am waiting for you, for an interval, somewhere very near, just round the corner.

All is well".

Renowned traditional musician Joe Burke dies aged 81

Tributes have been paid following the death of renowned traditional musician Joe Burke at the age of 81.A native of east Galway, Burke was a master accordion player who inspired generations of younger musicians. He performed and recorded music for over 50 years and was acclaimed by audiences worldwide for his style and technique. Among his many awards was the 1997 AIB traditional musician of the year, he was also named as RTÉ's Traditional Musician of the Year in 1970, and won an award in Musical Mastery from Boston College in 2000.Burke was born in 1939 in Kilnadeema in Co Galway and began playing at age four. He bought his first accordion the 1950s.He was also proficient on the fiddle, tin whistle, flute and uilleann pipes, but was known nationally and internationally as the musical giant of the button accordion.

He was a founding member of the Leitrim Ceili Band in 1956 and toured the US in 1961.Burke's first solo LP, Galway's Own, was released in 1971. He lived in the US between 1988 and 1991, and returned to east Galway in 1992, where he continued to teach and perform music.

He is survived by his wife, musician Ann Conroy Burke. May he Rest in Peace.



Fadó Fadó - Long Ago in Ireland

ST PATRICK'S Day. Home. The Early 1970s.

By Nuala McCann, The Irish News

Outside the church, a man would be selling small bunches of shamrock bunched up and wrapped in a crumple of tin foil, laid out on a wooden trestle table. People pinned a bunch of the green to their jackets. Or they wore green for the day that was in it.

Inside, we'd be at early Mass, anxious for the priest to rattle through it: for us all to stand, chests puffed like proud pigeons for a rousing chorus of Hail

Glorious St Patrick. Sometimes we'd have Faith of Our Fathers too – we were big fans of the dungeon, fire and sword bit. It was fierce.

And then we'd be free to gorge on the full Lenten hoard of sweets because the saint's day was a day off from Lenten penance and it was a day for gummed up jellies and dolly mixtures and Bazooka Joes all saved over the long hard days of Lent. And it was Lent that weaned me off sugar in my tea. I stopped taking it one year and never went back on again because, frankly, it was putrid.

And back in those days, after Mass and breakfast, a parent drove us to the slopes of Slemish, opened the doors of the old Volkswagen, lent us an old blackthorn walking stick and released us, like wild hares free to range the slopes. Was it so long ago?

We struggled up our holy mountain and climbed to the top and it was never that easy. But once there, there was always that 'top of the world, ma' moment, the wind whipped the rushes and the view was magnificent – you felt you owned it. Slemish was forever my holy mountain. Yet it is only a hill.

In early school days, we learned that it was once a volcano – or maybe I imagined it. Sometimes I wondered how we'd cope if it erupted, pouring molten lava on the fields and the sheughs, a miniature Pompei in downtown Ballymena. But for those first 18 years when I lived and slept with my sisters at the backroom of our house, it was the view from the window, a painting and a backdrop to the dramas of our lives.

At the desk in the bedroom, as O and A levels loomed, mathematical equations danced on the page before my eyes and chemistry was a conundrum I could never unlock. But I'd look out and rest my eyes on that distant hill and think of the boy Patrick, huddled behind a rock, sheltering from winter winds on the slopes where he minded the sheep. His national day also spelled Spring. It meant the light was back, the old druid could struggle from his dark cave, the snowdrops poke small noses out of the soil.

So each year, we stormed the slopes and arrived at the top to gorge on our Lenten sweets. And then, we'd dander down and start in to the long walk home. Was it 10 miles?

It never felt like it. We were fit for it. I see us still, four friends, laughing and larking and dragging a blackthorn stick along the hedges on a country road.

And now one of us is long gone from this world and the others have struggled through their own stormy days, but are still beautiful.

For my mother, the day has another meaning – it was the day long ago when she first met my father. Ah, what a romance was there. But that is another story and it is hard to believe that 29 years have passed since he died.

Many St Patrick's Days have passed since we climbed the slopes. Once, in recent days, my brother and I took my son and our three nephews to the top and, it must be said, it felt like a hairy enough climb. We carried the youngest up between us, and my knees screeched 'torture' on the way back down. But it was worth it for the breeze on your face at the top and the sense of satisfaction.

It is hard to confess that I'm much worse at Lenten abstinence than I was back then. I fall off the wagon repeatedly and would go to hell for a square of chocolate. But the sugar in the tea is my back up plan – my sacrifice that is nothing of the sort.

I'm not sure St Patrick would approve.





SENIOR SPOTLIGHT



MEET MARGARET BEATTY

Margaret A. Beatty (Foley) has been a Bostonian for 61 years since coming from the small village of Geevagh, located in the hills of County Sligo on Patriots Day 1960, at the young age of 16. She arrived in Boston with her sister Mary, initially settling into her aunts home in Mission Hill, first obtaining work as a nurse's assistant at the Shattuck hospital in Jamaica Plain. After a few months with her aunt, she moved to Brighton with a few friends she met along the way and continued working in the area.

In a few short years, she met her future husband John 'Joe' Beatty of County Galway, when attending the weekly dance held at the State Ballroom in downtown Boston. They'd marry in 1964 and shortly after in years to come, they welcomed two daughters, Mary & Meg, and a son many years after. In those early days in Boston for Margaret and Joe, they worked hard and were a staple at their local parish, St. Theresa's of Avila, in West Roxbury. One to wear many hats, Margaret not only ran a wonderful household but also volunteered at her sons elementary and high school while also working full time as a caretaker for a jet-setting couple of doctors in Brookline. She took tremendous pride in her ability to mutli-task and to seemingly be in many places at one time.

It was in 1997 that her duties grew more as tragedy sadly struck the Beatty home when a car accident took the lives of her daughter Mary and the two eldest grandchildren, when visiting family back in Connemara, County Galway. With Joe's health being poor at the time, the accident threw many people in West Roxbury, the Irish community throughout Boston as a whole, into a tailspin yet Margaret's calm and gentle demeanor remained steadfast and she worked tirelessly to keep everyone at ease in such a trying moment. This trait would be needed time and time again as loss continually afflicted the family, yet Margaret was always ready with a pleasant word and still remains a rock today, her faith in God being a very important impact on her daily life.

These days, when she's not found near St. Theresa's or attending one of the many wonderful events

put on by the pastoral center or ICC, you can stroll down to the Corrib restaurant in West Roxbury where she is often seen enjoying a meal with friends or one of her 9 grandchildren, dishing out and listening in on all the local news. Another wonderful trait she possesses is one of communication and Margaret is great for keeping up with her brothers and sisters back in Donegal, Kerry, London and beyond, getting news on happenings there and regaling them in all that Boston has going on. Recently her son Jay was married and the nonstop calls from back home prior to and since then, has kept her on her toes and full of news that the whole family can enjoy.

The home Margaret and Joe shared, was always a popular gathering spot for many of their longtime time friends from Ireland and here in Boston alike. Joe's leadership within the Laborer's Local 223 had him always busy assisting others to find work and he was keen on helping others, a characteristic that Margaret always found endearing, one of the many reasons they were a lovely and happy couple. If it wasn't business dealings within the home, it was often afternoon cups of tea or weekend dinners, or perhaps nights of melodies supplied by none other, than our very own, Fr. Dan Finn.



Margaret continues to host a bright and cheery home and hopes in time, after the onset of the pandemic has long moved away, she can have all the familiar, smiling faces back at the house in West Roxbury. All the best and be well!

10001GRATION NEWS

Immigration and Citizenship Support Services Program

The IPC's Immigration and Citizenship Program provides information and support to immigrants from Ireland and elsewhere including obtaining legal status, adjusting status, 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 and applications for Irish passports. Our staff is available during normal business hours to help to answer questions related to these matters.

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. Appointments are scheduled in advance. If you would like to schedule a phone consultation with an attorney, please contact Maryann Casavant at the IPC's office by phone at 617-265-5300 or by email mcasavant@ipcboston.org.

Upcoming Clinic dates are Monday, March 1st, **Tuesday, March 16**th, **and Monday, April 5**th. Check the IPC's website at ipcboston.org or follow us on Facebook for the most up-to-date schedule.

Consider Applying for U.S. Citizenship

Has your Green Card expired? Is it expiring soon? Before you renew that Green Card again, consider applying for U.S. Citizenship.

"Naturalization" is the process to become a U.S. citizen if you were born outside of the United States. If you meet certain requirements, you may become a U.S. citizen either at birth or after birth.

Eligibility for Citizenship: To apply for naturalization to become a U.S. citizen, you must:

- Be at least 18 years of age at the time you file the application;
- Have been a lawful permanent resident for the past three or five years (depending on which naturalization category you are applying under);
- Have continuous residence and physical presence in the United States;
- Be able to read, write, and speak basic English;
- Demonstrate good moral character;
- Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of U.S. history and government;
- Demonstrate a loyalty to the principles of the U.S. Constitution; and be willing to take the Oath of Allegiance.

Did you know? Ireland permits "dual citizenship." You can hold both an Irish passport and a U.S. passport.

Some benefits of U.S. Citizenship include the Right to Vote and:

- Eligibility for Federal jobs.
- Eligibility to become an elected official.
- Ease of travel and right to live in another country and return to the U.S.
- Eligibility to receive public benefits
- Unlike a Green Card once you obtain U.S. Citizenship, there is no need to ever "renew."

Fees involved: The current application fee for renewing a Green Card is \$455, plus an \$85 biometric fee, for a total cost of \$540. The current application fee for applying for U.S. Citizenship is \$640, plus an \$85 biometric fee, for a total cost of \$725.

** The immigration fee increases that were expected in October 2020 remain on hold. **

100001GRATION NEWS

GOOD NEWS:

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced it is reverting to the 2008 version of the naturalization civics test beginning March 1, 2021.

On Dec. 1, 2020, USCIS implemented a revised naturalization civics test (2020 civics test) as part of a decennial test review and update process. USCIS determined the 2020 civics test development process, content, testing procedures and implementation schedule may inadvertently create potential barriers to the naturalization process.

The 2008 civics test was thoroughly developed over a multi-year period with the input of more than 150 organizations, which included English as a second language experts, educators, and historians, and was piloted before its implementation. USCIS aspires to make the process as accessible as possible as directed by President Biden's request to review the process thoroughly.

The civics test is administered to applicants who apply for U.S. citizenship through naturalization and is one of the requirements for naturalizing. Applicants must demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals of the history, principles, and form of government of the United States.

Applicants who filed their application for naturalization on or after Dec. 1, 2020, and before March 1, 2021, likely have been studying for the 2020 test; therefore, USCIS will give these applicants the option to take either the 2020 civics test or the 2008 civics test. There will be a transition period where both tests are being offered. The 2020 test will be phased out on April 19, 2021, for initial test takers. Applicants filing on or after March 1, 2021, will take the 2008 civics test.

The test items and study guides can be found on the <u>Citizenship Resource Center</u> on the USCIS website.

The IPC Can Help:

If you have questions about eligibility for U.S. Citizenship, questions about how to apply, or need help with the process, please reach out to the IPC. Staff is available to assist you and can direct you to helpful resources. If there are some questions, or your situation is a bit complicated, we can schedule an appointment for you with one of our experienced immigration attorneys at one of our Legal Immigration Clinics.



IRISH PASTORAL CENTRE FREE LEGAL IMMIGRATION CONSULTATIONS 2021

Immigration, Visa, and U.S. Citizenship questions answered
Hosted by: Attorneys Chris Lavery and Maura Kelly
[Members of the American Immigration Lawyers Association]

Free confidential phone consultations are available by appointment with experienced immigration attorneys. Evening appointments are available on the first Monday* and the third Tuesday of each month.

Please call 617-265-5300 or email mcsavant@ipcboston.org
with questions or to schedule an appointment

**All issues discussed remain confidential

MONDAY Appointment Dates
Monday, February 1
Monday, March 1
Monday, April 5
Monday, May 3
Monday, June 7
*Tuesday , July 6
Monday, August 2
*Tuesday , September 7
Monday, October 4
Monday, November 1
Monday, December 6
* Tuesday due to holiday

TUESDAY Appointment Dates
Tuesday, January 19
Tuesday, February 16
Tuesday, March 16
Tuesday, April 20
Tuesday, May 18
Tuesday, June 15
Tuesday, July 20
Tuesday, August 17
Tuesday, September 21
Tuesday, October 19
Tuesday, November 16
Tuesday, December 21

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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 Por Pie, Chicken Curry, Rice and Fish dinner

Sazurday: Shephard's Pie, Full Irish Breakfasz

Sunday: Full Irish Breakfast



IT'S IRCLAND ON YOUR PLATC!





HAPPY ST PATRICK'S DAY!



IRISH PASTORAL CENTRE ARCHIVES



The Celtic Scribe

Saint Patrick 2021

"Hello," said he, "hello?"
....Sure, there wasn't a soul to be seen as old St. Pat took a walk round St. Stephen's Green.
So off he went to O'Connell Street, expecting there huge crowds to meet.
No pipes, no drums, no children having fun, Surely, the whole country can't be on the run?

So he transported himself, or whatever Saints do, to get from A to B, "By God," said he. "I'm heading for Tralee."

Now when he got to Tralee, to his dismay, not a rose nor a shamrock on the streets was displayed.

The pubs were closed, churches too. "Sure that's not possible. Have they all gone mad trying something new?"

It was the same old story wherever he went from Co. Cork, to Co. Down, Co. Carlow, and all around.

He couldn't understand,

Were the people of the 32 Counties all underground? Then all of a sudden from the corner of his eye, there was St. Brigid wearing some disguise.

"Brigid," said he "I'm over here, it's not Halloween, it's the 17th!!"

Brigid yelled back, "O I know well what day it 'tis, and if you want to talk to me you'll wear one of these. "Now Patrick," she said, "where have you been, haven't you heard about Covid- 19?"
Brigid stood on the other side of a wall, looking at St. Patrick with his gob wide open, trying to make sense of it all.
She shared with him all the terrible news of all the suffering and loss, and he wasn't amused.

He said to St. Brigid,
"Tell me, what can I do, to help all those friends,
who think of me and you?"
"Well, first," she said, "you can cover your mouth,
wash your hands when you can,
and don't be going out.

And if you set a good example, when all this is over, I may treat you to a drop to wet the clover!!!



St. Patrick's Day

BY JEAN BLEWETT

There's an Isle, a green Isle, set in the sea.

Here's to the Saint that blessed it! And here's to the billows wild and free

That for centuries have caressed it!

Here's to the day when the men that roam, Send longing eyes o'er the water!

Here's to the land that still spells home

To each loyal son and daughter!

Here's to old Ireland—fair, I ween, With the blue skies stretched above her!

Here's to her shamrock warm and green,

And here's to the hearts that love her!

P.G., 2021



Notable Quotes

Being Irish is very much a part of who I am. I take it everywhere with me.

Colin Farrell



And that is how the Irish saved civilization."

— Thomas Cahill, American scholar, and writer.

"When anyone asks me about the Irish character, I say look at the trees. Maimed, stark and misshapen, but ferociously tenacious." <u>Edna O'Brien</u>, Irish novelist, memoirist, playwright, poet and short story writer.

"Knowing, within two minutes of meeting someone, where they are from, where they are going, who they went to school with and at least one person you have in common".

Shane Hegarty, Irish Time Journalist "Being Irish, he had an abiding sense of tragedy, which sustained him through temporary periods of joy."

— <u>W.B. Yeats</u>, Irish poet.



"We Irish prefer embroideries to plain cloth. To us Irish, memory is a canvas—stretched, primed, and ready for painting on. We love the "story" part of the word "history," and we love it trimmed out with color and drama, ribbons and bows. Listen to our tunes, observe a Celtic scroll: we always decorate our essence."

- Frank Delaney, Irish novelist, journalist, and broadcaster.

Where Irish Eyes Are Smiling Irish Ancestry as a Percentage



ource: 2012-2016 American Community Survey Data Profiles DP02 and DP02PR Selected Social Characteristics in the United States and Puerto Rico www.census.gov/acs

Sports News From Ireland

Dublin's Brian Fenton is Footballer of the Year while Limerick ace Gearóid Hegarty takes hurling top spot



DUBLIN star Brian Fenton has scooped the Footballer of the Year for 2020 while Limerick ace Gearoid Hegarty has landed the hurling equivalent.

BOTH men were key cogs in their county's All-Ireland conquests. 2018 winner Fenton now becomes only the second footballer to win the award twice, following in the footsteps of Meath great Trevor Giles.

He was at the heart of Dublin's sixth All-Ireland title on the bounce and remarkably still has not tasted defeat in his Championship career.

The Raheny man's rise to become one of the finest players of his generation is all the more incredible considering he never made the Dublin minors.

Treaty half-forward Hegarty meanwhile, was in blistering form all campaign as they completed an undefeated season across all competitions.

He contributed 0-20 across their Championship and produced his finest display on the biggest occasion as he notched 0-07 in the final against Waterford.

The Young Player of the Year gongs went to Kilkenny's Eoin Cody and Mayo's Oisin Mullin respectively.



RECORD NUMBER

In Limerick's case it was a record-equalling haul and the county's largest ever representation — eclipsing 1994 and 2018 when on both occasions the Treaty men won six awards.

In this, the 50th year of the awards scheme, nine players is the joint-highest tally by any county on an All-Star hurling team — Limerick equalling the achievements of Kilkenny in 1983, 2000 and 2008.

Hegarty, Goalkeeper Nickie Quaid, defenders Diarmaid Byrnes and Kyle Hayes and Tom Morrissey are all first-time All-Stars. Quaid's inclusion also sees the family become only the fourth father-and-son pairing to have received hurling All-Stars. Seán Finn (third All-Star), Dan Morrissey (second All-Star), Cian Lynch (second All-Star) and Aaron Gillane (second All-Star) are the other four Limerick players selected.

Donegal All-Ireland Eamonn McGee and Leo McLoone winners join U20 management team

Donegal All-Ireland winners Éamonn McGee and Leo McLoone have joined the county's Under-20 management team. The duo will be part of Gary Duffy's set-up after the Buncrana clubman was confirmed as manager for 2021. McGee and McLoone were key members of the Donegal senior football panel which won the county's second All-Ireland title in 2012 under Jim McGuinness and reached the 2014 decider, while they won three and five Ulster championships respectively.



Sports News From Ireland

New York GAA's Larry McCarthy Is First-Ever Overseas GAA's President

New York GAA's Larry McCarthy became the first overseas Uachtarán of the GAA at a virtual Annual Congress recently.

McCarthy succeeded outgoing President John Horan and became the 40th President of the GAA.



The incoming GAA President told RTÉ's Marty Morrissey that his main objective is to get teams back on the pitch again. GAA competitions are currently suspended due to Ireland's public health restrictions and McCarthy said that he hopes that competitive action will resume quickly and that crowds will return to stadiums in the future.

"Getting the clubs back up and operating in their communities is the main priority. Everything else will flow from that. Our business model is predicated on attendance. As soon as we have attendance back, we will be able to generate some income," McCarthy said on Saturday.

McCarthy is currently isolating following his arrival in Ireland and received his second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine before leaving New Jersey.

He told the Irish Examiner that he was due to arrive in Ireland earlier this year to prepare for his role but that he decided to postpone his trip when his first vaccination was scheduled for early February.

GAA QUIZ

1In Gaelic Football who had the nickname the Bomber?

- 2 In Gaelic Football who were the first team to achieve 4 in a row?
- 3 Which two Inter County teams played Croke Park on Bloody Sunday 1920?
- 4 When was the first Liam McCarthy Cup awarded?
- 5 In what hotel was the GAA founded?
- 6 Who won the first All Ireland Camogie final?
- 7 The first General Secretary of the GAA was a Clare man. What was his name?
- 8 The All Ireland Hurling Cup is the Liam McCarthy cup -Who was Liam McCarthy?
- 9 What year did the Sam Maguire cup make its first appearance?
- 10 Irish golfer Padraig Harrington had a famous father. For what was he famous?

 ANSWERS ON PAGE 3





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OISSION STATEMENT

The Irish Pastoral Centre is committed to welcoming the 'stranger among us.' We believe in justice for all, solidarity in the face of hardship, and that the bonds of community are rooted in the best of what it means to be Irish. We provide a grassroots response to individuals in need offering spiritual, social, legal, and educational support.



Artist Vincent Crotty's
Stunning Window Designs at the
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Vincentcrotty.com

We Are A Parish Without Bounda-



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FROOD ALL OF US AT THE IRISH PASTORAL CENTRE, WE WISH YOU ALL A HAPPY SAINT PATRICK'S DAY!

