

The Synodal Pathway

The Irish Bishops' Conference has announced it has proposed to embark on a synodal pathway for the Catholic Church in Ireland leading to the holding of a National Synodal Assembly within the next five years. The initial two-year phase of embarking on the synodal pathway and leading, in time, to a National Synod, helpfully coincides with preparation for the 2022 Ordinary General Assembly of Bishops in Rome entitled, *For a synodal Church: communion, participation and mission*. Before embarking on the Synodal Pathway consultation, between Easter (5 April) and Pentecost (23 May), 2021, bishops are inviting submissions to reflect on what methods/models to adopt in these coming two years of conversations.

For example: focus groups, questionnaires, deep-listening sessions; written submissions; family-focused gatherings; summary of findings of assemblies that have already taken place across dioceses; and/or conferences. For more information about the Synodal Pathway and how to submit your response, see www.catholicbishops.ie/synod

Irish Bishops Launch Synodal Pathway Website Support

As an aid to preparation for the proposed synod of the Irish Church, the Irish Bishops' Conference has launched a website offering information and background on the project. It can be accessed at

<https://www.catholicbishops.ie/synod/>

Rerum Novarum

May 1st is the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker (May Day). The church broke new ground with this encyclical which had far reaching implications, both for society and the church. May 2021 is the 130th anniversary of the landmark papal encyclical, *Rerum Novarum (On the Condition of Workers)*. This was a landmark moment for the church. Prior to 1891, encyclicals were all about church matters. This was the first encyclical to address the suffering of people in their daily lives and the economic policies and ideology which created that suffering. It resulted in huge opposition to the pope, from business leaders but also from many bishops and cardinals in the church (Pope Francis isn't the first pope to meet opposition from within the church!) The issue Pope Leo XIII addressed was the appalling conditions of the working class: In any case we clearly see, and on this there is general agreement, that some opportune remedy must be found quickly for the misery and wretchedness pressing so unjustly on the majority of the working class ... Hence, by degrees it has come to pass that working people have been surrendered, isolated and helpless, to the hard-heartedness of employers and the greed of unchecked competition ... To this must be added that the hiring of labour and the conduct of trade are concentrated in the hands of comparatively few; so that a small number of very rich people have been able to lay upon the teeming masses of the labouring poor a yoke little better than that of slavery itself. (No. 30)

Pope Leo's criticism was based on the dignity of the human person. This entitles people not to be treated just as instruments for the economic benefit of others.

And he made three demands:

- 1. The right to an adequate wage:** Leo's insistence on this right sent shock waves through the society and the church of his time. The ideology of the day was based on the notion of a 'free contract' between the worker and the employer. Thus if the worker agreed to a particular wage, no matter how inadequate, that was the end of the matter. Leo insisted that it was not the end of the matter. The worker has agreed to an inadequate wage only because the alternative, namely the threat of starvation, forced them to agree. Many believed the church has no business interfering in economic affairs. They believed the church's role was to administer the sacraments and save people's souls, not their bodies. Pope Leo insisted that the church has not only the right, but also the obligation, to interfere when the dignity of the human person is at risk. He was, in fact, rejecting a central feature of the prevailing Western capitalist ideology, namely that labour is a commodity whose price is determined by the law of supply and demand. Today, building on the affirmation of the dignity of every human person, Pope Francis has called for a universal basic income for all.
- 2. The right to private property:** Leo intended this to be a defence of the poor (today it is most frequently used as a defence of the rich!) He realised that the reason workers often agreed to inadequate wages was that they had nothing to support them if they refused. Hence, by insisting on the right to retain the results of their work in the form of private property, Leo was trying to guarantee them the material conditions which would preserve that dignity and allow them to bargain with an employer with greater freedom.
- 3. The right to form trade unions:** Again, this right did not find favour with employers or even many church people of his time. Again, Leo insisted on it as a defence of workers against exploitation. *Rerum Novarum* ranks as one of the great documents of the church. It led some church personnel to become more involved in the problem of poverty, seeking to analyse its causes and find effective means to overcome it. It gave heart to the workers who were willing to listen to its message. Above all, perhaps, it widened the whole concept of 'justice' in the church's thinking, moving away from a narrow individualist concept to place the whole issue of 'social justice' firmly in the centre of the church's agenda.

Parish of Ahamlish and Inishmurray

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Fifth Sunday of Easter

“Make your home in me
As I make mine in you”

John 15:4

Visit us on ahamlish.com

&

Ahamlish Parish Sligo Facebook Page.

Join us every Sunday 12noon for Mass through our FB Page.

Pope's Intention (universal) for May 2021

Let us pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.

National vocations office: Contact us, tel: 01505318, email:eric.cooney@vocations.ie

Affordable Live-in Homocare provides live-in carers for the elderly in your area. If you are looking for a live-in carer for your relative, please call Eileen or Tom today on 087 9916791 or 087 7440729. Our website is www.alhomedcare.ie

Holy Hour Online

Elphin Youth Ministry with Elphin NET Team will host a Holy Hour every Tuesday evening which will be broadcast on Facebook live and Instagram. It can be accessed via any of the links below. Music, Prayer, Reflection, Healing and Blessing. Facebook Live: <https://www.facebook.com/elphindiocese/live> Instagram: Instagram.com/elphinnetteam

Accord – Relationship Counselling

Accord is open for relationship counselling in these difficult times. Professional Counsellors are available to help explore any difficulties you may have in your relationship in a safe and friendly atmospheres. Please contact Ann at 087-6765425 for more information. All HSE guidelines observed for Counselling.

Accord Counsellors

Accord is recruiting experienced practitioners to train in the specialism of Couples and Relationships Counselling. Successful applicants will have an opportunity to follow a 16 day Level 6/Level 8 Certificate programme in Couples Counselling (in-person/blended learning) and a further 105 hours training in online and telephone counselling with individuals and couples with an external provider commissioned by Accord. Do you have: Minimum Level 5 (UK)/Level 7 (RoI) qualification in Counselling/Psychotherapy? Substantial experience of working in the Person-Centred style? Minimum 100 counselling hours post-graduation? A current supervised caseload? **If you can answer yes to all four questions above, please contact www.accord.ie for further information about this unique Couples Counselling training package. Final date for receipt of applications 07/06/2021.**

Focolare

Focolare is an ecclesial movement with the aim of contributing with others to the fulfilment of Jesus' prayer, "Father, may they all be one." To achieve this goal, members engage in various forms of dialogue, committed to building bridges of fraternal relationships among individuals, between cultural groups and in every area of society. Founded by Servant of God, Chiara Lubich, in 1943, it is present in 182 nations with more than two million people sharing in its life and work. Members include Christians of different denominations, members of the major world religions and people of no particular religious belief. In Ireland, it has centres in Dublin, Belfast and Kildare, and groups/ followers in Antrim, Letterkenny, Newry, Monaghan, Cavan, Navan, Wexford, Waterford, Cork, Limerick, Galway, Sligo, and Kilkenny. The General Assembly of Focolare is its highest organ of government which meets every six years. For further info visit www.focolare.org/ireland. The election of Palestinian woman as third president of Focolare – Margaret Karram from the Holy Land suggests a new era for Focolare.

Mary's Meals

Mary's Meals needs your help. War rages on in Tigray, Ethiopia, and much of the world remains unaware. The stories we are hearing from our trusted local partner The Daughters of Charity, about what people have gone through since the conflict began last November are nothing short of horrific. But with communication channels only partially open and much of the country still in 'blackout', global media remains largely silent. To find out more please go to www.marysmeals.ie or call Patricia Friel on 086-3140814.

Worldwide Rosary in the Month of May

Pope Francis invites Catholics and Marian Shrines around the world to dedicate the month of May to praying for an end to the Covid-19 pandemic. The initiative involves 30 Marian Shrines from various parts of the world, including Knock Shrine. It takes place under the theme "The whole Church was fervently praying to God," which recalls a verse in the Book of Acts (12:5). Pope Francis will open the Marian month of prayer on 1st May with a Rosary broadcast across Vatican Media's platforms. Each day will see Vatican News broadcast the recitation of the Rosary at 5pm Irish time from the various Shines taking part in the initiative. The Pope will also close the initiative on 31st May with another specially-broadcast Rosary. www.vaticannews.va/en

Masses Grange - All these masses available on Facebook

Day	Time	Mass
Sat 1 st May	9.30am	Feast of St. Joseph the Worker
Sun 2 nd May	12.00	Dr. Frank Maguire (6 th Anniversary) Paddy Joe Connolly, Rasperry Hill (9 th Anniversary) Paddy + Mary Gorevan (17 th + 14 th Anniversary) Mary Ludden (17 th Anniversary)
Mon 3 rd May	9.30am	Feast of Saints Philip + James For the People of the Parish
Tue 4 th May	9.30am	Private Intention
Wed 5 th May	7.30pm	Tommy McHugh (10 th Anniversary)
Thur 6 th May	9.30am	
Fri 7 th May	9.30am	First Friday Mass Enrolment Mass
Sat 8 th May	9.30am	Mary Kate McGloin + great grandson Dylan Gallagher
Sun 9 th May	12.00 1pm	Sixth Sunday of Easter Terry McCabe (2 nd Anniversary) John Hennessy (2 nd Anniversary) Patricia Keaney (32 nd Anniversary) Baptism

Collections: Grange Collection (April 4th/11th/18th/25th): €2990

Please remember in your prayers:

Tony Farrell, Ballyscannell, Ballinful; died 26th April at Sligo Hospice. Our sympathy to his sister Mary Feeney, Carrowmaddow + brother-in-law Seamus and nephew John, nephews + nieces in Wicklow, England and Australia. Predeceased by his parents Jack + Mary, his triplet John (England) brothers Noel (England), Michael (Australia), sisters Kathleen (Wicklow) + infant sister Elizabeth. Funeral Mass took place in Grange on Wed 28th April at 12.00 with burial in family plot in Ahamlish Cemetery.

Ann Cosgrove (nee Feeney) died Wed 28th April. Our sympathy to the Feeney Family, Carnamaddow + Derrylehan. Predeceased by her husband John Ricardi Cosgrove, buried in Ahamlish in 2000.

Athlone IT Research – Irish Centenarians

Are you or someone you know aged 100 years or older? Athlone Institute of Technology is currently researching the lives lived by Irish centenarians and is actively looking for participants. Contact Alison via email at a.fagan@research.ait.ie for more information on this project.

Drumcliffe Goes Digital

Join us online for the launch of our new Audio Tour Mobile Application and website on Sat 24th April at 7pm. The live feed will be available across our social media platforms and via drumcliffgoesdigital.com

Veritas

"Coming of Age * Navigating Parish Pastoral Council Responsibilities * A Benedictine Perspective." **By Justin Harkin**
Co-launched by Abbot Brendan Coffey and Donal Harrington with singing by Noirin Lynch. Veritas will launch a new book on Tue 4th May from 6.30pm to 7.15pm. If you wish to join, via zoom : <https://zoom.us/j/93123471237> .
You are warmly welcomed to join.

Irish Hospice Bereavement Support Line

Many people have experienced the death of someone they love during the COVID-19 pandemic. It may have been a COVID-related death or a death from other causes. In the face of such loss, our Irish Hospice Foundation Bereavement Support Line, in partnership with the HSE, is there to provide connection, comfort and support for anyone grieving in these exceptional times. It is a national free phone service 1800 80 70 77, available from 10am to 1pm, Monday to Friday.

Galilee Spirituality Centre

In the Age of the Spirit: An Eastertide Series, Tuesdays 4th and 11th May, 7.30-9.00pm, Galilee Spirituality Centre. All Welcome. Booking and link: info@galilee.ie €5 donation.