

Central Ohio's Largest Irish Organization November 2024 Volume 88 Issue 7

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President's Message



Dear Members & Friends,

It's not going to be long before we dive into yet another holiday season and there is much to look forward to in November! We are kicking off the month with Progressive Euchre in the pub on

Friday, November 1st at 6:30pm. To register, contact bar manager James Moriarty at barmanager@theshamrockclubofcolumbus.com. Not into Euchre but love a good ceili? Columbus Comhaltas is hosting their 7th Annual Ceili on Friday, November 1st, as well. Head over to our website for more information for both events. Our annual JFK Memorial Mass celebrated by Monsignor Cody prior to our General Meeting at 2pm on Sunday, November 3rd. This is a special Mass where we not only remember and honor our first Irish Catholic president, President John F. Kennedy but our members and friends who have passed away. Want to show off your smarts? Mark your calendars for Friday, November 8 and join us at 7pm for Quiz Night! The OSU vs. Michigan Buckeye Bash is happening on Saturday, November 30. Doors open at 10 am. The kitchen will be open but feel free to bring a dish of something delicious to share and come down and cheer on the Buckeyes! Kathy Redmond has pool squares available if you're feeling lucky.

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Chaplain's Comments



Dear Shamrock Club Members and friends:

November is the time and month when Indian Summer comes in all it's glory! Warm or cold days, cold nights and a magnificent display of fall color on the quickly falling

leaves. On my street there are three Maple Trees that are beautifully adorned with gold and gold -orange leaves – when I lived at St. Charles during college seminary, there was a similar gold/orange maple on the east side of the campus. One could clearly see it from the windows facing the east!

November also heralds the coming of Thanksgiving Day, black Friday, and the rush to Christmas in the coming month of December. December 1 is the First Sunday of Advent- a blessed time to prepare for the coming of the Lord! Not only at Christmas, not only at the end of time, but especially as Christ comes to us in the present moment. There are so many ways for us to display our faith in Jesus by collecting food for pantries in the city, contributing some of our hard-earned cash to help the needy, and volunteering our services to the many programs and opportunities to serve the needy and economically challenged, who as Christ tells us, are our brothers and sisters.

The Spirit of Christmas always brings with it a reminder to be generous and helpful to everyone.

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President's Message, cont.

Thank you to everyone who came out to the Friends of Sinn Féin's Commission on the Future of Ireland People's Assembly on October 10. Ciarán Quinn, Sinn Féin representative for North America and our very own Judge Michael Mentel kicked off the event with a short discussion and then we broke up into groups of about 8 to talk about the possibility of the reunification of Ireland. It was an honor for the Shamrock Club and Clann na nGael as a whole to be selected to be part of the conversation that started with the Good Friday Agreement in 1998 and continues today as the drum is beating louder for Irish people to settle the question of a united Ireland. The United States was a key broker in the Good

Friday Agreement in 1998 and and now is our chance to again be agents in the cause of a United Ireland. Check out Ciarán Quinn's latest Letter from Ireland in this issue and keep an eye out for future discussions.

November is a time to pause and take stock of everything we are thankful for in our lives. I, for one, am thankful for my family, friends and this big, loud, Irish community!

Wishing everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving filled with lots of love and laughter.

Slainte.

Megan Dempsey,

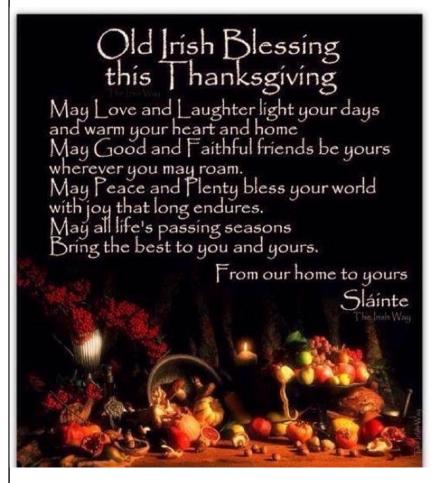
President Shamrock Club 2025

Chaplain's Comments, cont.

We celebrate our faith in Christ especially when we make an effort to be generous to those in need. Parishes have giving trees, and non-perishable food to make available to those who have little as the holidays approach. As the old saying goes: "God loves a cheerful giver!" Thanksgiving, Christmas, Advent and the coming holiday season afford many occasions and opportunities for us to be generous and self-sacrificing. May the good Lord be ever close to us as we prepare for His coming, and in imitation of Saint Theresa of Calcutta, may we see the face of Christ in the poor, the hungry and the suffering people in our communities. And do our best to help alleviate some of the sadness that can come to people who, for what ever reason, are lacking in what most of us take for granted. Have a blessed holiday season!

In Christ,

Msgr. John Kelly Cody, Chaplain



Officers

President: Megan Dempsey

Vice-President: Patrick Conley

Secretary: Rich Finn

Treasurer: Doug Dempsey

Chaplain: Msgr. John K. Cody

Director: Molly McCandless

Director: Jamie Porter

Director: Kathy Redmond

Director: James Feeney

Sg-At-Arms: Jay Fulton

Office Administrator

Tina O'Grady

Pub Supervisor

James Moriarty

Seanachai News Jim Casey's New Email Address

jjcasey973@icloud.com

The deadline for articles is the 21st of the month.

Seanachai Information

- 1. The electronic version will be delivered to the members every month by the meeting date.
- 2. The printed version will be delivered whenever the USPS gets around to it.
- 3. The **deadline for articles is the 21st** of the month preceding the month of publication.
- 4. The articles should be submitted as an email, a Word attachment to email or as a jpeg.
- 5. The preferred font is Times New Roman, 11pt or 12pt.
- 6. No handwritten articles will be accepted.
- 7. **Seanachai ad prices are:** \$300 per year, \$175 per six months and \$50 per one month.

MarkYour Calendars

Shamrock Club Meetings

Sunday Nov 3rd Sunday Dec 1st

Nov 1 Euchre

Nov 1 Ceili

Nov 3 Meeting & Memorial Mass

Nov 8 Quiz Night

Nov 30 OSU/Michigan Bash

Dec 14 Children's Christmas Party

E. Board Meetings 3rd Mondays

Corn Hole 1st & 3rd Thursdays Mens Darts Wednesdays 7 PM



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Jim Casey's New Email Address

<u>jicasey973@icloud.com</u>

Sunshine Committee Report

Congratulations to Michaela Dempsey & Michael Kelly who were married September 21st

Continued prayers for Gerry Curran, Sharon Selby, Dick Pulse and Tyler Brown. Also Continued prayers for the growth of The Shamrock Club and all members of the Irish Community.

Happy 46th birthday to the Daughters of Erin

Remember if you have any news for our Sunshine Committee just send it to: themightymary@gmail.com or Kafinn1@aol.com

Mary and Karen



Membership Report

Membership activity through October 5, 2024

- 1602 total members (1553)
- 727 renewed members
- 819 new members
- 56 lifetime members

49 additional members (all categories) since the last report (September 8)

Membership by category

- 421 family (including children)
- 219 general
- 659 pub (449 pub*)
- 247 senior
- 56 lifetime members

If you have questions about your membership card(s), please ask me. You can also contact the Shamrock Club office. Tina will relay the message to me and I'll get you the information you seek.

Next year's (2025) renewal process is coming soon.

Questions about membership? Ask Julie Fulton. < <u>julie.m.fulton@gmail.com</u>>

Thirty Five Years Later: The British Government Launches Inquiry into Patrick Finucane's Murder

Judge Michael C. Mentel*

On February 12, 1989, Patrick Finucane (/ fi'nu:kən/) and his family were enjoying a Sunday dinner at their kitchen table in their Belfast home. Without warning, two members of the loyalist paramilitary organization the Ulster Defence Association (the "UDA"), using a sledgehammer, smashed through the front door of the Finucane home and quickly moved into the kitchen. Once there, the UDA lovalists opened fire on Finucane with a Browing Hi-Power 9mm gun and a .38 caliber revolver. He was shot fourteen times. After hitting him with two rounds, the loyalists stood over Finucane's body and fired twelve shots directly into his face.

His wife, Geraldine, was also wounded in the attack. His three children took cover under the kitchen table, watching as their father was executed. That was thirty-five years ago.

Patrick Finucane was not a member of a paramilitary organization nor was he an elected official. He was a criminal defense attorney well known for representing Republican and loyalist paramilitary members alike. Finucane was also a noteworthy human rights attorney. He rose to prominence in the 1980's after obtaining several high profile verdicts against the British government for human rights violations. Among Finucane's most notable clients was Bobby Sands MP who died on hunger strike on May 5, 1981 in Long Kesh prison. He also represented other hunger strikers who, along with Sands, died during the 1981 strike.

Since 1989, the British government has refused to conduct a public inquiry into Finucane's murder and the RUC and UDA collusion behind it. Several investigations were conducted following Finucane's murder however, none were at the level of a public inquiry. To be clear, a public inquiry could have been called for by the government at any time following the murder. The government simply chose not to conduct one.

On September 11, 2024, Hilary Benn, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland announced that an independent public inquiry would be launched into Patrick Finucane's murder. "[T]he plain fact is that two decades on, the commitment made by the Government – first in the agreement with the Irish Government, and then to this House [of Commons] - to establish an inquiry into the death of Mr. Finucane remains unfulfilled. It is for this exceptional reason that I have decided to establish an independent inquiry into the death of Patrick Finucane under the 2005 Inquiries Act."

The Inquiries Act of 2005 allows the British government to conduct investigations, hold hearings, to call witnesses, and determine if, and to what extent, any individuals or organizations were involved in the murder.

The murder of Finucane was believed by several human rights organizations at the time to be a collaborative between the RUC and the UDA. In 1986, Raymond White, the former head of the RUC special Branch, met with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. White voiced his general concerns to Thatcher about the collusion and the management of informants embedded in the paramilitary organizations. After his meeting with Thatcher, White was instructed to "carry on, but don't get caught."

In 2003, an interim report on Finucane's murder was released by Sir John Stevens, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Service. The report was called the "Stevens Enquiry."

Stevens stated in his report that he "uncovered enough evidence to lead [him] to believe [that] there was collusion" between the RUC and the UDA in the murder of Patrick Finucane.

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Thirty Five Years Later: The British Government Launches Inquiry into Patrick Finucane's Murder, cont.

Steven's report also stated that the "[c]ollusion [was] evidenced in many ways," ranging "from the [willful] failure to keep records, the absence of accountability, the withholding of intelligence and evidence, through to the extreme of agents being involved in murder."

In 2015, Michael Mates, the former Conservative MP and minister of the Northern Ireland Office during the 1980's, admitted that collusion between the British government and loyalist paramilitaries existed. He stated in his public revelation that collusion between the government and the paramilitaries was far more substantial then he thought at the time.

The government's announcement of the public inquiry thirty-five years after Finucane's murder was welcomed news for many. Geraldine Finucane, Patrick's widow, stated that "I welcome the announcement of the Secretary of State [in the House of Commons], that an independent statutory public inquiry will be established into the murder of my husband, Patrick Finucane. After 35 years of campaigning for such an inquiry, I believe this announcement represents a significant step forward for my family in our fight to uncover all of the circumstances behind Pat's murder."

Sinn Féin President Mary Lou McDonald also welcomed the announcement of an inquiry. "For 35 years, Mrs. Geraldine Finucane and her family have led a dignified and determined campaign for truth and justice, seeking a public inquiry into Pat's murder, efforts Sinn Féin have strongly supported throughout this time," she said.

Taoiseach [/tēSHək/] Simon Harris welcomed the Secretary of State's decision, saying that it was "...a vindication of Geraldine Finucane and her family who have campaigned over decades for truth and justice." President Michael D. Higgins released a statement saying, "[The] confirmation by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland that the British Government will establish a public inquiry into the murder of Pat Finucane is very welcome."

In contrast, the Democratic Unionist Party ("DUP") leader, Gavin Robinson, was critical of the public inquiry. Robinson stated that the inquiry "perpetuates a hierarchy," and sends a message "that this murder was more deserving of investigation than others." Robinson failed to recognize that an inquiry into Finucane's murder was promised years before by the British government but, was reneged on by them.

The Traditional Unionist Voice ("TUV") leader, Jim Allister, also expressed his opposition to the inquiry saying that the ICRIR (the investigative body formed under The Legacy Act of 2023) should have been used to launch the inquiry. Allister added that it, the ICRIR, was good enough for other families who suffered losses during the Troubles but "not for the Finucane family." Allister obfuscated the fact that the British government promised a public inquiry into Finucane's murder years earlier.

Now that an independent public inquiry has been called for the Finucane family's journey to uncover the truth about the murder, and unmask the government's collusion in it, has finally reached a critical step. Let us hope that the steps following the public inquiry will lead to justice for Patrick Finucane and his family.

*Judge Michael C. Mentel is the Presiding Judge of the Ohio Court of Appeals for the Tenth District and a member of the Patrick Pearse Div. #1, Franklin County.

2024-2025 Calendar of Events

November 2024

Sunday, Nov. 3 - General Meeting 2pm Friday, Nov. 8 - Quiz Night in the Pub - 7 pm Monday, Nov.18 - Executive Board Mtg. - 6:30 pm Saturday, Nov. 30 - OSU vs. Michigan Watch Party

December 2024

Sunday, December 1 - General Meeting & Holy Family Soup Kitchen Food Drive - 2pm Saturday, December 7 - Christmas Concert Friday, December 13 - Quiz Night in the Pub - 7 pm Saturday, Dec. 14 - DOE Children's Christmas Party Monday, Dec. 16 - Executive Board Mtg. - 6:30 pm

January 2025

Saturday, January 4 - Past President's Luncheon Sunday, January 5 - General Meeting - 2 pm Friday, January 10 - Quiz Night in the Pub - 7 pm Sunday, January 19 - General Meeting - 2 pm Monday, January 20 - Executive Board Mtg. - 6:30 pm

February 2025

Sunday, February 2 - General Meeting - 2 pm Friday, February 14 - Quiz Night in the Pub - 7 pm Saturday, Feb.15 -Mark Dempsey Memorial Triathlon Sunday, February 16 - General Meeting - 2 pm Monday, Feb. 17 - Executive Board Mtg, - 6:30 pm

March 2025

Sunday, March 2 - Mass & General Meeting - 2 pm Friday, March 7 - Proclamation Day Sunday, March 9 - Mass & General Meeting - 2 pm **Monday, March 17 - St. Patrick's Day** Monday, March 24 - Executive Board Mtg. - 6:30 pm

April 2025

Sunday, April 6 - General Meeting - 2 pm Friday, April 11 - Quiz Night in the Pub - 7 pm Sunday, April 13 - Election of Officers - Noon - 3 pm Saturday, April 19 - DOE Children's Easter Egg Hunt Monday, April 21 - Executive Board Meeting - 6 pm

Quiz night

October's Quiz night was another night of fun! Quiz Masters, Terry Hickey and Nick Hammond did an awesome job! If you haven't participated in their Quiz night be sure to attend next month, Friday, November 8th. Shamrock the Casbah won again! They signed their name to the Quiz Night Shamrock which hangs behind the bar. Team Shenanigans won the spinner's pick (drink tickets)

50/50 this month went to the Ashville, NC's Community. Everyone was very generous! We raised \$215 (a big thank you to Mike Mobley who won and donated his winnings back)

Join us at our **next Quiz night, Friday, November 8th** at 7:00pm (ish). Check emails and Facebook for updates.

Thanks for a very fun and successful October Quiz night! Nick, Terry, Nancy, Christina, and Beth



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PROGRESSIVE &UCHRE IN THE PUB FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1 @ 6:30PM \$15 PER PERSON

Required Registration - sign up in-person at the pub or email James
Moriarty at barmanager@theshamrockclubofcolumbus.com.

State of Play: there will have eight players at two tables, each player will
play eight hands with a different partner every time, keeping track of their
score with each player.

Prizes: The individuals with the highest totals after playing with everyone at the two tables will receive \$50 (1st), \$30 (2nd) and \$20 (3rd) prizes. The last loner of the night will hold on to the Loner Cup (\$20) that is continually passed around as loners are achieved. Ties will be split accordingly. Plan to play until you have played eight hands with seven coplayers, approximately 2.5-3 hours.

We hope to have as many games of eight people as possible. In the event we're short four people, we may have one group play with twelve people. The game will be longer, and the pot will be as follows: 1st (\$60); 2nd (\$45); 3rd (\$30); 4th (\$20); 5th (\$10) and Last Loner \$15.00. Due to time constraints, a group of twelve will only be permitted if we are short players to make another table by the start of the game.

Again, signing up is critical; and, if it's necessary to cancel, you must notify the bar so we have time to recruit additional players.

DOE Children's Christmas Party

Shamrock Club 60 W. Castle Rd., Saturday, December 14, Doors open at 11:00

Come join us for the annual kids party. Just bring a wrapped gift with your childs first and last name on it. Also, bring money for our fabulous raffle and don't forget your wonderful kids.

We will provide a free lunch to you and the kids, clowns who do face painting, crafts that your child makes, goody bags and lots and lots of fun.

Santa usually arrives weather permitting around noon. You are welcome to take pictures of your child on Santas lap. If have any questions just give Mary a call 614-316-8278





Shamrock Club of Columbus 2024 Ireland Trip

For many (many, many) years, I have been composing limericks in commemoration of significant events – family birthdays, graduations, weddings, funerals, retirements and other of life's happenings that make the limerick-worthy cut.

The Shamrock Club of Ireland's 2024 Trip was a life's dream and after dreaming about it for a lifetime, things synchronistically fell into place and I set my first foot in Ireland on my actual birthday, September 28. The cotravelers sang happy birthday to me on the tour coach while traveling to our first night's hotel. From that point on, it was magical and I began to think – this is definitely headed into limerick-worthy territory.

Throughout the trip, I found myself constantly jotting notes and soon they appeared in this limerick. Kudos to the members of The Shamrock Club of Columbus who made it possible for many of us to be together and share the bonding that occurs when magic happens.

Slainte mhor agus a h-uile beannachd duibh Good health and every good blessing to you!

Patricia "Darlene" Brady

A LIMERICK FOR THE SHAMROCK CLUB OF COLUMBUS IRELAND TRIP 2024

By: Patricia Darlene Brady

At times it seems so long ago
But in fact is short per day
That we boarded that plane in Columbus
And left the U. S. of A.

Straight across the Atlantic Through the night we flew And only shortly thereafter Began seeing cattle, rams and ewe

Toured all around City Dublin With new friends now in our fold Stopped off for a pint together Where Guinness is made and sold

Connemara, yes, what a beauty
Was next up on our list
Kylemore Abbey, walled gardens, and ponies
So happy that wasn't missed

From the summit of Croagh Patrick
To the Pub of Matt Malloy
A full gamut of the good life
For our festive group to enjoy

Knock Shrine then on a Sunday Where mass some did hold dear And where years ago at the gabled wall Our Lady did appear

And now the joys of Ireland Rest deep within our hearts Dear friends, we've shared our lives and dreams 'Twas a blessing to have been a part Page 10 Seanachai

2024 - 2025 President's Club Members

Joining the President's Club or becoming a C-Note Member is one way you can help ensure your Clubs financial future for the upcoming year. Currently the President's Club and C-Note Club run on the Presidential Year which is May 1st to April 30th. The President's Club is \$1500.00 a year and the C-Note Club is \$100 a year.

President's Club Benefits:

- Sponsorship recognition at the following Shamrock Club events Installation Banquet, Irish Music Festival, Corn Roast, Halfway to St. Patrick's Day Party, Harvest Festival, the St. Patrick's Day Parade and Irish Family Reunion and in the monthly Seanachai.
- Red Tee Sponsorship at the Irish Golf Classic held in July; a complimentary twosome with a paid twosome and 4 meals at the post outing luncheon.
- Sponsorship of the 2023 St. Patrick's Day Parade including a transferrable entry into the parade (walking, car or float), a reserved table for ten (10) at the 2023 Irish Family Reunion.
- Event admission to all Shamrock Club events including: two (2) tickets to the Installation Banquet, ten (10) tickets to the Irish Music Festival, ten (10) tickets to the annual Corn Roast, ten (10) tickets to the Halfway to St. Patrick's Day party.
- Newsletter recognition on the back of our monthly newsletter which is currently mailed or emailed to over 1,100 households throughout Central Ohio. The newsletter is also posted on our website, providing a hyperlink for advertisers to their websites. Please submit ad as a .jpg

2024 - 2025 President Club Members

Byrne's Pub, Riverside Bank of Dublin, Judge Kim Brown

The Gaelic Corner

Fáilte ar ais ó na sídhe ar Samhain Sauin! You can start an Irish November by catching one of the last shows of Bram Stoker's *Dracula* by the Columbus BalletMet. Stoker was born in Dublin in Black '47 to a Sligo-born Mother who had survived and fled a Cholera epidemic that preceded An Gorta Mór in Sligo town. Undoubtedly, her stories to a sickly young Bram produced an Irish writer who created the horror genre in Western literature!

And the Irish are not done in theatrics! The new wave of Irish Hollywood stars will all be on the big screen starting this month: Cillian Murphy of *Oppenheimer* fame returns to an Irish setting in *Small Things like These*, Saoirse Ronan stars in *Blitz* (and just had a cinema run with *The Outrun*), and Paul Mescal fights his way through *Gladiator II*. For your at-home listening pleasure, Irish historians Damian Shiels and Fin Dwyer (of the excellent *Irish History Podcast*) are releasing new episodes of "Transatlantic - an Irish-American History Podcast"

Go n-eirí an bóthar leat

Chris Connell, chris.connell3@gmail.com

2024 - 2025 C-Note Club

At our first Executive Board meeting we discussed and voted on a much needed C-Note revamp that will go into effect in April 2025. We've streamlined the package to include two admission tickets to both the Irish Music Festival and the Halfway to St. Patrick's Day party as well as recognition in the Seanachai. In addition, C-Note holders will be able to gift two General Memberships to anyone of their choosing. The hope is that these new members will take advantage of what the club has to offer and renew their membership in January. Current C-Note members are invited to take advantage of the new program this year.

OLD C-NOTE

\$100 Donation

Justin Flickinger

5 Tickets to the Irish Music Festival

5 Tickets to the Halfway to St. Patrick's Day party

Recognition in the Seanachai

NEW C-NOTE-STARTS IN APRIL 2025

\$100 Donation

2 Tickets to Irish Music Festival

2 Tickets to Halfway to St. Patrick's Day party

Recognition in the Seanachai

Additionally, each C-Note Club member will be given two (2) General Memberships to give out to prospective new members. These new members will be given:

1 Ticket to the Irish Music Festival

1 Ticket to the Halfway to St. Patrick's Day party

The new memberships will expire on December 31st of the calendar year.

2024- 2025 C-Note Club Members

John Archibald Michael Patrick Flynn Robin Nakkula & Alan Dormire George & Vanessa Arnold Jay & Amy Fulton Tina O'Grady Kenneth H. Bowen Julie O'Keefe McGhee Julie M. Fulton Greg & Janell Brown Kevin O'Reilly, MD **Greg Hines** Jim Brown Michael & Margaret O'Sullivan Michael Hines Tom Byrne Jerry Keffer Mollie O'Reilly & Scott Paynter Jim & Judy Casey Dick & Kathy Pulse Brian Kelleher John & Tracee Collins Ed & Terri Kelly In Memory of Michael H. Quinn Pat & Kim Conley Bruce Kotlinski **Townsend Quinn** James Corrigan John Lynch Mike & Kathy Redmond St. Patrick & Annie Curran Terri Maloney-Houston Carson & Tierney Reider Daughters of Erin **Donald Manley** Gary Michael Rundio Joe & Charlotte Davis Glenn & Jill Maurer Mickie Stiers & Jason Shaw Douglas Dempsey Christina McConahay Andrew Shuman 2021-2022 In Memory of Mark Dempsey In Memory of Jeff McGowan Michael Patrick Sullivan Tim & Christine Feeney Sean & Eimile Moore Tim & Tricia Timlin Rich & Karen Finn Jim & Patty Murnane Dave & Maureen Veeley Rod and Kathy Flanagan Mike & Nancy Murphy

Tom & Christine Murphy

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A Letter From Ireland

a Chara,

Do you know the best question that an activist can ask? "How can we help?"

That was the first question asked by a member of the audience at the Commission on the Future of Ireland People's Assembly in the Shamrock Club in Columbus, Ohio last week.

I had never been to Columbus before, but walking into the Shamrock Club I knew I was amongst friends. It all felt very familiar. The pictures on the wall, the layout of the hall, the craic in the bar, a Harp Lager lighted sign, and a copy of the Proclamation.

Everyone in the place seemed to know each other, and we were immediately drawn into conversations and greetings.

This was the second Commission hearing that Friends of Sinn Féin had hosted. I gave an opening comment setting out the context for the meeting, which was followed by a fireside chat with Judge Mike Mentel. After the presentations, activists discussed answers to prompts in small groups facilitated by local volunteers.

The key message is that we are living in a time when we have the opportunity to deliver a united Ireland by peaceful and democratic means.

The Good Friday Agreement presents the pathway to securing and winning Irish Unity referendums north and south. Political changes now mean that we have the potential to win these referendums.

A few weeks ago while in Washington, I came across a quote from Martin Luther King Jr, "Change does not roll on the wheels of inevitability, but comes through continuous struggle".

That is why the question, "How can we help?" is so important. We live in a time of great cynicism, and the best antidote is to realize the power of activism. Those in power want us to believe that there is nothing we can do to deliver change, but our history tells us differently.

For thirty years, the conflict in Ireland was deemed intractable. Irish America saw the possibility of the peace process being developed by Gerry Adams, John Hume, and Martin McGuinness.

They advocated for a new approach by the United States. President Clinton broke with 80 years of foreign policy and adopted a new approach to Ireland that was independent of Britain. He provided a visa for Gerry Adams to visit the US and appointed a Special Envoy, Senator George Mitchell, moves all opposed by the then British Government.

The rest, they say, is history, and we have enjoyed 27 years of relative peace. The next chapter of Irish history is being written: the building of a new and united Ireland.

"What can we do?" was answered by those in the room.

"To secure and win unity referendums will require an Irish Government to plan, prepare, and advocate for unity."

"The US should continue to protect the Good Friday Agreement and Unity Referendums are part of the Agreement."

"To win referendums there is a need to demonstrate that people's lives will be better in a United Ireland."

"We need to build support across the US to vindicate the right to referendums as per the agreement."

The people in the Shamrock Club have a role to play like others across the US and Canada and at home in Ireland.

A united Ireland is not inevitable, but it will come about through activism.

Have a great weekend.

Is mise,

Ciarán

Ciarán Quinn is the Sinn Féin Representative to North America

Andy's Corner¹

"Saints Preserve Us."

This common phrase has often been used around Catholic households to show surprise or ask for the assistance of the holy men and women who are venerated for pious lives and their perseverance in times of trouble. You may still hear people say "Jesus, Mary, and Joseph," which can be used in good times and bad. Someone once told me they would put the letters JMJ at the top of their tests in school in order to gain special blessing upon their answers. In Irish tradition, there are many saints to chose from as Ireland was once declared The Land of Saints and Scholars.

We are all familiar with Ireland's Patron Saints, St. Patrick and St. Brigid. They began the conversion of the Celtic tribes at the end of the 5th century. They were followed by the monks and abbots, such as St. Finnian, who established a monastic school at Clonard in County Meath. His school is said to average several thousand students, during a period usually considered the Dark Ages. Twelve of St. Finnian's students are referred to as the Twelve Apostles of Ireland for their missionary work. Among them were St. Columba (Colmcille) and St. Brendan (the Navigator). St. Columba, the third Patron of Ireland, established monasteries in Scotland, Great Britian and parts of the European continent. Modern scholars credit this period with saving western civilization as the Irish copied all the literature they could find while the rest of Europe was descending into the Dark Ages. Remnants of this time can be seen across Ireland in the many monasteries, abbeys and bee-hive huts where aesthetics prayed, and pilgrims made their rounds. Names like Ita, Enda, Athracht and Eunan were among nearly 1000 men and women recognized as early Christian Irish saints.

Of those last few I mentioned, two of them have special connection to my time in Ireland. A year ago, it was pointed out to me by a fellow traveler that Aer Lingus names all of its planes. When we left Dublin on August 11, the plane we were traveling on was named after St. Athracht, a Sligo nun known for her hospitality towards travelers. It just so happens that August 11 was also her feast day. On my most recent trip with members of the Shamrock Club, our bus driver introduce himself and explained that he was named for an Irish saint. Eunan said it was the one thing he can't forgive his mother. St. Eunan was a learned man from Donegal known for writing a biography of St. Columba and a treatise on holy sites and centers of pilgrimage. Bus driver Eunan was from Dundalk, but said he was not much for school. However, he was a great storyteller and full of knowledge like his namesake. Throughout the trip he shared great histories of the areas we traveled through and even shared a joke or song when prompted. Several of his stories involved other work he did with the Order of Malta, similar to our Red Cross, and one story about reversing through Connemara to raise money for charity. He drove a bus backwards on those famously narrow and winding roads with an escort from the Garda. We were also stumped when Eunan asked if we could name the four canonized saints of Ireland (Hint: I have not named any of them above).

Much to my surprise, there had not been a formal process for canonization until 993 AD. Since then, there have been four Irish saints canonized. St. Malachy (an 11th century mystic who could work miracles), St. Lawrence O'Toole (a reformer at the time of the Norman Invasions), St. Oliver Plunkett (a martyred priest during the Cromwellian period), and St. Charles of Mount Argus (a 19th century priest with healing powers). Unfortunately, there is not enough time or space to tell you more about these saints, but I hope you might look them up. There are several fascinating stories about the relics of St. Oliver Plunkett and St. Lawrence O'Toole.

In parting, I will leave you all with a blessing from Morey Brady's old Irish aunt. "May troubles neglect you and the saints protect you." Until next month, I'll see you down at the pub, I suppose. -- ANDY

1. Andy's Corner is provided by Past President Andy Shuman (2021, 2022) whenever an article comes together.

Shamrock Club of Columbus 60 W. Castle Road Columbus, Ohio 43207





OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM 614-491-4449 Email

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MEETINGS

All at 2 pm Sunday Nov. 3rd Sunday Dec. 1st

Club Happenings

Wednesdays: Men's Darts Thursdays: Cornhole Friday 5pm Happy Hour Saturday Closed Sunday: Meeting Days only

All Subject to Change

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