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EDITOR: Fr Martin Whelan

TYPESETTING/DESIGN: Darina McCarthy

'In the evening of life, we shall be judged on love.'



As I write, it's just over a month since I reached the grand old age of seventy-five, and less than a fortnight since I completed fifty years as a priest. Míle moladh agus altú le Dia!

I'm very conscious of being in the evening of life. St John of the Cross said famously 'In the evening of life, we shall be judged on

love' – a salutary reminder of a profound and simple truth. Jesus Christ is Love: the love of God in flesh and blood. To be like him, and to carry him to others today, to the whole wide world, is the call and task entrusted to every person who bears the name 'Christian'. Within this common baptismal call that all followers of Jesus share, the ministerial priest is ordained to serve and accompany God's people.

Looking back now over my own fifty years, the changes we've lived through would have been unimaginable in 1971. It's a very different world. These changes in society have greatly impacted the Church, as we have known it, at all levels. We see this most obviously in the severe decline in the practice of the faith and in the virtual collapse of priestly and religious vocations. The future of faith and the Church is now calling all of us to work together in new ways, to be young again in our faith and learners anew at the school of Jesus Christ and his Gospel - no matter what our age. This is what the Synodal Process on which the Church in Ireland has embarked on is about.

Above all, reaching these personal milestones fills me with a sense of gratitude. To God above all for giving the call

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GALWAY DIOCESAN PASTORAL CENTRE



Pastoral Outreach News

“Break up the fallow ground, for it is time to seek the Lord!” (Hosea 10:12)

Fallow ground is ground ploughed and harrowed but left for a period without being sown in order to restore its fertility.

Here we are in what is hopefully the closing stages of lockdown, even if we may have to live with the after-effects of this coronavirus for years to come. We find ourselves slowly making our way back to the ‘new normal’, maybe believing or hoping that things will just settle back into our old ways of doing things, our old ways of being Christians.

We have changed, the world has changed, and we remain convinced that God is with us, has continued to be with us, right up to the present moment. As we gather together again as a community we have to take the opportunity to reflect on our lives since March 2020 and discern what the Lord is saying to us. Before we rush back into the ‘new normal’ we need to move into a place and space of reflection and prayer and try to discover what God is asking of us, now. The call to be Church, the call to discipleship, is always a summons to make a new beginning, now. The Spirit at work with us and in us will always enable us to leave behind the past and move into a future that cannot be foreseen.

‘The Living Word in Lent’ series that we ran online via Zoom was very successful, so much so that we continued after Easter with a series of six evenings on the Resurrection narratives from the four Gospels. Seventy-five people registered for both series. We also continued our series on ‘Praying through God’s Word’. We are planning some more online sessions on scripture for the autumn.

At another level, we continue with plans on how we can support parish pastoral councils, our religious education secondary school teachers, and the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) programme within the diocese. We are preparing a short series, perhaps two evenings, on how as parish communities we can reflect on these recent times in order to face our future with hope. Pope Francis has established the lay Ministry of Catechist (see next page for Fr Martin Whelan’s article), and we are also aware of the preparations that will begin to fall into place for the upcoming national synodal assembly.

The fallow ground has been broken up and it is surely time for a new sowing!

*Fr Gerard McCarthy SVD
Pastoral Outreach Co-ordinator*

www.galwaydiocese.ie

Check the diocesan website regularly to stay up to date with news, events and resources.

New Ministry of Catechist

On 10th May 2021 Pope Francis issued a *motu proprio*, *Antiquum ministerium*, that established the role of catechist as a formal ministry within the Church. A catechist is essentially someone who carries out catechesis. The word catechesis comes from the Greek *katekhein* which means “to resound” or “to echo”. Hence, a catechist is someone who echoes the voice of Jesus in teaching the faith. Many people might think that this development is somewhat pointless as lay catechists or teachers have been an essential part of the Church’s mission for its entire history. We have all learnt our prayers from our parents, and we were prepared for the sacraments by our primary school teachers, so what’s new? Even though the *motu proprio* refers to the role of catechist as an “ancient ministry” – hence the title *Antiquum ministerium* – this is the first time it has been named as an official ministry. This will have canonical, liturgical, and educational implications for dioceses all over the world. The first development we can expect is that the Congregation for Divine Worship will publish a Rite of Institution. People who have been selected to become catechists within their diocese will be received into the ministry through a formal liturgy. Although it is not a sacrament, it will be analogous to being ordained as a minister. Bishops’ Conferences across the world are called upon to determine the



criteria for admission into this ministry, and to invest in the educational supports that will be made available to catechists. Finally, bishops, who are the chief catechists within their dioceses, are called upon to

promote and support the ministry of catechists. At this stage it is pure speculation to image how this ministry will take shape in our diocese. We will have to wait for the criteria that the Irish Bishops’ Conference will issue for catechists in Ireland. However, it may be reasonable to assume that primary school teachers and second-level religious education teachers may wish to apply for admission into this ministry as it would provide them with a level of authority and ongoing formation in the faith. The ministry could also be open to parish volunteers who meet the necessary criteria so that they can facilitate local catechetical groups in the name of the diocese. Finally, it may be opportune for the diocese to employ one or two professional catechists who will undertake the provision of faith formation classes throughout the diocese. Being part of this formal ministry will empower catechists in assuring people that they are teaching the authentic Catholic faith and working in harmony with the bishop and the priests of the diocese.

Fr Martin Whelan

‘In the evening of life, we shall be judged on love.’ (...continued)



and sustaining me in it over the years. But gratitude also to the people amongst whom I have had the privilege to minister, and from whom I learned (and was taught) far more than from all of what old people in my childhood used to call “book learnin’”. It is the people, young and old, in the schools and parishes in which I served who have, by your example, called me constantly over the years to faith, to hope and to love. And without the ‘pobal Dé’ amongst whom I was raised I would never have heard the call in the first place. Cumhdach Dé orthu ar fad, idir beo agus marbh.

✠ *Jrenan*

Jubilee Celebrations

2021 golden jubilarians: Bishop Brendan Kelly, Fr Paddy Considine, Fr Denis Crosby, and Fr Martin Moran.
2021 silver jubilarian: An tAthair Dáithí Ó Murchú.



An tAthair Dáithí Ó Murchú celebrated his silver jubilee with Mgr Peter Rabbitte, Bishop Brendan Kelly, Fr Vivian Loughrey & Fr Hugh Clifford.

Bishop Brendan was presented with a stole to mark the occasion.



Parishioners and friends surprised Fr Martin Moran with a socially-distanced celebration of his golden jubilee.



SEÁN LYDON
PHOTOGRAPHER

Sincere thanks to SEÁN LYDON PHOTOGRAPHER for Fr Martin's photos.

E: info@lydonimages.ie
T: +353 87 2463583



Forthcoming Ordination for the Diocese

My name is John Gerard Acton and I am from Knockaunranny in Moycullen. I am the youngest of four siblings. Please God, I will be ordained a priest for the diocese by Bishop Brendan at 3.00pm on 1st August in the Cathedral of Our Lady Assumed into Heaven and St Nicholas, Galway.

Faith is something that was always very important to us at home and my sense of calling to the priesthood was by no means sudden – it was something that gradually increased over many years. I attended both Scoil Bhaile Nua in Moycullen and Coláiste Chroí Mhuire in Spiddal. I went on to study for four very happy years in GMIT and obtained a BA in business and communications.

I spent a number of years working in Debenhams department store before taking up a position in Park House Hotel on Forster Street shortly after graduation. It was during this time that I began to give the possible call to ordained ministry the attention it deserved. I enjoyed my work in the hotel very much, and this made my decision to apply to the diocese all the more difficult. However, I knew that I needed to tease out the notion of priesthood.

I began my initial formation at the national seminary in St Patrick's College, Maynooth, in August 2015. My six years there provided me with the opportunity to take a small step back and to discern what God really wanted me to do with my life.

I am very grateful to my parents Séamus and Maureen, family, friends and colleagues in the diocese and all those who have travelled this journey with me. I have been humbled by the support that I have received these past years in particular and I ask you to please continue to pray for me as I approach my ordination to priesthood and my forthcoming appointment in the diocese. Due to the current restrictions, attendance at the ordination will unfortunately be limited. I would be delighted if you would join us online. The live-streaming link will be available in due course at www.galwaydiocese.ie/ordination

Incardination into the Diocese of Galway



Congratulations to Fr Kevin Keenan and Fr Richard Flanagan who were incardinated into the Diocese of Galway on 1 May this year. Fr Keenan (pictured left) was originally ordained for the Society of the Divine Word in 1992. For many years he worked as a missionary in Brazil. He first came to the Galway diocese in 2006 to minister to the large Brazilian community in Gort. He is currently the parish priest of Sacred Heart Parish, Galway.

Fr Richard Flanagan (right) was ordained for the Society of the Divine Word and served as a missionary in Argentina. He first came to the diocese in 2010, and since then has served as administrator of Ballyvaughan, Co Clare.

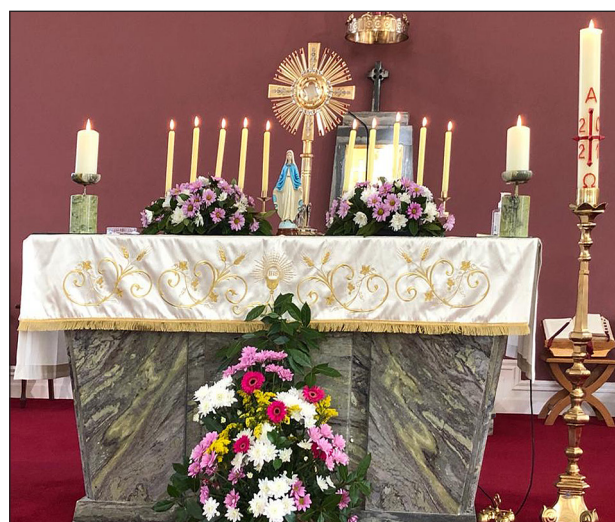


Both priests are now officially attached to our diocese, and we wish them many happy years among us.



*Ave Maria, mo ghrá Ave.
Is tusa mo mháthair is máthair Dé.*

Traditionally the annual Queen of the May altar celebrates Mary the Mother of God and our Mother in a very special way. The Moycullen parish May altar was on display at An Chillín, An Fuarán, Maigh Cuilinn.



Pope Francis & the May Rosary in Moycullen

This is a time to choose what matters and what passes away, a time to separate what is necessary and what is not. It is a time to get our lives back on track with family, others and with God. (Pope Francis)

Pope Francis recommended the recitation of the rosary every evening during the month of May to pray for the end of Covid-19. In our lovely church, Fr Robert McNamara, known to his parishioners as Fr Rob, organised and recited the rosary every evening with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. He included a reflection on each decade and a hymn which signified the meaning of each mystery. The rosary was watched every evening by our parishioners and was also on our webcam all over the world. Our webcam allows our parishioners to unite in prayer with their families throughout the world.

Many people received wonderful healing and direction from Fr Rob during the height of the Covid pandemic and many requests were received for prayers for ill-health, for families, and for the cessation of violence in our own country and throughout the world. Prayers were said for the bereaved and our beloved deceased relatives and for people having difficulty coming to terms with a bereavement.

When the government announced the opening of the churches in May, parishioners were able to attend in person and join in the rosary. As Fr Peyton, a priest in the USA from Attymas, Co. Mayo said: "The family that prays together stays together".

Sadly for our parishioners here in Moycullen, Fr Rob was recently appointed Administrator in Craughwell parish. We wish Fr Rob every blessing in his new ministry. Thank you, Fr Rob, for your devotions during November, the Advent and Lenten Scripture Reflections, and our devotions during the month of May. These gave us the courage to get through all the restrictions of the lockdowns.

Our rosary continued under the direction of our parish priest, Dean Michael McLoughlin, assisted by his parishioners. Our evening rosary ended on Monday 31st May 2021 and it was a wonderful experience for everyone. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament resumes on Wednesdays, 8.00pm to 9.00pm and Fridays 10.00am to 11.00am. Sunday evening 7.00pm exposition and rosary.

Maureen Brown

The Revival of Irish Mass Rocks



Aid to the
Church in Need
ACN IRELAND

Following the Easter octave this year, Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) Ireland launched a special campaign, inviting priests in each of the 26 dioceses of Ireland to celebrate the Holy Eucharist at a Mass rock located in their diocese. The intention of each of these 26 Mass rock Masses was for the renewal of the faith in Ireland through the intercession of Irish martyrs. Priests in each of the 26 dioceses returned to these secluded and sacred places of historical worship where once countless Irish martyrs and their companions risked their lives to receive and celebrate the Eucharist.

Between 1534 and 1714, millions of ordinary Irish men, women, and children lived in difficult times – including poverty, famine, and other hardships – as a result of anti-Catholic persecution under the penal laws. The settings for Mass rocks were wide and varied and yet all stunningly and uniquely beautiful; whether it be in a glen, on a bare rugged coastline, on a still, serene mountaintop, in a grassy green field covered in fresh dew or under a canopy of pine trees, with the soothing sounds of a gentle stream nearby... every Mass rock had one thing in common: it was found in a sacred wilderness and in a place of great serenity and closeness to God.

ACN Ireland would like to express their most sincere and heartfelt gratitude to all the priests who participated in the holy sacrament of the Mass at one of the 26 Mass rocks; the places where eternal life was offered for those who regularly risked their temporal life to receive Jesus. ACN Ireland invites you to join them in praying for the renewal of the faith in Ireland through the intercession of Irish martyrs. For further information on the ACN Ireland Mass Rock Campaign, please visit www.acnireland.org/mass-rocks



Fr Robert McNamara celebrating Mass at the Mass rock near Moycullen, Co. Galway.

The Mass Rocks Campaign is organised and run by ACN Ireland for the benefit of the faithful and the support of persecuted Christians worldwide. ACN Ireland supports persecuted Christians in 149 countries around the globe and is Ireland's leading Catholic charity for protecting the rights of Christians. More than 200 million Christians face extreme persecution for their faith. As a Catholic charity, ACN Ireland supports the faithful wherever they are persecuted, oppressed or in need.

Each year ACN funds more than 5,000 projects in over 140 countries around world, helping to support the Church in its mission, and bringing hope and solidarity to millions of people. ACN supports important projects which are undertaken by the local Church in the countries where ACN provide aid, all thanks to private donations, as the foundation receives no public funding.

From building churches to providing catechetical books to emergency aid, ACN projects range from big to small and cover a whole range of ideas to help nurture the faith internationally and support persecuted and suffering Christians wherever they are in need. For further information on the work of ACN Ireland, please visit www.acnireland.org

For more comprehensive site information on Mass rocks, see findamassrock.com

New tabernacle for St Kieran's Church, Doorus, Kinvara

Up until recently, there was no tabernacle in St Kieran's Church in Doorus. In Kinvara, it is St Joseph's Church that is open throughout the week for prayer, whereas, usually, the church in Doorus is open only for 9.00am Mass on Sundays. Therefore, it was seen as more respectful not to reserve the Blessed Sacrament in Doorus church. However, it seemed to me that it would be more fitting to reserve the Blessed Sacrament in the church than to carry it away in a container to St Joseph's Church on my way to the next Mass in Ballinderreen each Sunday. I consulted with parishioners involved in St Kieran's Church, and found an enthusiasm for the idea of reserving the Blessed Sacrament in the church. It

was felt that the Real Presence of Our Lord would bring a new dimension to prayer in the church, and would be important for when bodies repose in the church overnight before a funeral Mass.

A tabernacle was kindly donated to the parish by the Mercy Sisters, Western Province – an appropriate link, considering the historical links between the Mercy Sisters and Kinvara parish. The plinth for the tabernacle was crafted in wood by Mr Charlie Duignan of ICS Church Furnishers, and some matching sanctuary chairs were also purchased from that company.

Very Rev. Dr Hugh Clifford, PP



National Conference on Liturgy: Taking Stock

Fr Joseph Roche, parish priest of Ardahan and Kilchreest, took part on behalf of the diocese in an online conference which examined the impact of Covid-19 on the celebration of liturgy. The conference was facilitated by the National Centre for Liturgy, St Patrick's College, Maynooth, and took place on 11 March 2021, which marked the anniversary of the first Covid-19 lockdown. Over 70 participants from across the country participated in the event, which sought to take stock of how the various lockdowns impacted liturgy, and how the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions will continue to shape the way we worship.

The facilitator of the conference was Fr Neil Xavier O'Donoghue, secretary for liturgy at the Irish Episcopal Conference. Four speakers, presenting the geographical provinces of Ireland, made contributions based on the lived experience of parish communities within their regions. Fr Damien McNiece spoke on behalf of Leinster, Sharon Dunne on behalf of Ulster, Fr Turlough Baxter on behalf of Connacht, and Frances Rowland on behalf of Munster. The four presentations largely reflected common experiences throughout the whole country: the adaptability of the Irish Church, the importance of webcams and online ministry, the loss of liturgical music and choirs, the pain of not being able to attend funerals, a more meaningful celebration of First Holy Communion and Confirmation, and uncertainty over the future.

The conference concluded with a talk by Rev. Prof. Liam Tracey, Professor of Liturgy at St Patrick's College, Maynooth. Prof. Tracey suggested that we apply the notions of 'crisis' and 'apocalypse' in facing our uncertain future. However, we are not to apply these notions according to their common parlance. Rather, we are to look towards their biblical meaning. In sacred scripture, crisis does not refer to a disaster, but rather to a moment of decision. The ongoing Covid-19 crisis provides us with an opportunity to make decisions that we have long avoided but knew were inevitable. Before covid-19 we had relied on habits and structures that were not fit for purpose. We now have an opportunity to adjust our schedules and engage new talent. The word apocalypse does not necessarily mean the end of the world. In scripture, the word originally meant 'revelation' or 'a lifting of the veil'. Covid-19 has lifted the veil on a lot of things: how vulnerable we are as a species, the fragility of our faith. etc. It has also revealed the many strengths of the Irish Church – our adaptability in spite of decline, our creativity in the face of sparse resources, and the loyalty of our parishioners. Despite secularization, countless people love their Church and have stepped up to mark in order to ensure the provision of services. On the other hand, many services have been discontinued without any real hope of return. Tragically, covid-19 may mark the end of many choirs across the country. What is important is that we learn from the past year, cease to harbor illusions about ourselves, and face the future knowing that God is with us.

Reek Pilgrimage on Croagh Patrick

The annual Reek Sunday Pilgrimage on Croagh Patrick will run this year for four days per week during July, with the indulgence for the pilgrimage extending throughout the summer until the end of September. During July on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, confession will be available on the summit at 11:00am and Mass will be celebrated at 12:00pm. On Saturdays Mass will be celebrated at 10:00am with confessions at 11:00am.

Masses will be limited to the numbers permitted for outdoor gatherings at the time. Pilgrims are asked to plan their trip to Croagh Patrick as early as possible and keep in mind that mid-week is traditionally a quieter time to climb.

The extended plan will involve three times the usual number of priests, and Westport Administrator Fr Charlie McDonnell is appealing to priests all over the country for help.

See www.westportparish.ie/reek-sunday for further information.

St Mary's College, Galway – end of an era but a new beginning: Closing of the Academic Year Mass: 27 May 2021



Eamon Veale (Principal)

Commencement Speech

Good afternoon colleagues, students, parents, Rev. Fathers, and friends of St Mary's. I am delighted to welcome you all here to our end-of-year Mass in the church of St Mary's College. I feel that a great honour is bestowed on me today to represent the school community in welcoming you to our final Mass here today. The history books have been written and at some stage someone will add to that history in telling of our final St Mary's Mass. In 1912 a chalice was commissioned for the inaugural Mass, and today, over 109 years later, that same chalice will be used to celebrate Mass again.

I have read all three accounts of the history of St Mary's college. The first was compiled after 50 years and was called *Altra*. The second was called *Cuimhní Linn* and recorded the 75th anniversary; and the third was the centenary book in 2012. They all recorded specific chapters on the major aspects of life in St Mary's College. They include educational, cultural, sporting, and vocational events, and memories – particularly stories of the boarders, who up until 2003 played a vital part in college life.

The first students entered St Mary's college on 25th August 1912, and you will leave here tomorrow on the 28th May 2021. However, you will return at the end of August, when the traditions, gospel values, respect, dignity, moral values, and development of the person will continue and grow into the future under the new name of Coláiste Muire Máthair. The new school does not signify the end of St Mary's, but the beginning of the next chapter of history on this site in the heart of Galway city. I am sure that the past in St Mary's has given us a wonderful legacy to build upon. I want to take this opportunity to wish the new students, staff and Ms HERNON and her management team all the very best of luck as they begin a wonderfully exciting new chapter.

For all of us this year the coronavirus pandemic has been a testing and challenging time. The necessary school closures resulted in complications for staff and students in relation to online learning and social distancing on students' return to school. I have been greatly impressed and encouraged by your cooperation and patience throughout this pandemic. Both students and teachers rose admirably to the challenges presented by Covid-19 and these characteristics are what makes a school community like the one we have here.

This week is a historic week. It is an emotional week for many as the new chapter begins. From a geographical context I have no doubt that the tributaries that make up St Mary's and Our Lady's colleges will combine together to form a greater river that too will stand the test of time and serve the pupils of Galway city for many years to come. Without further delay I will ask Mgr Rabbitte to begin our special Mass today.

Concluding Speech

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mgr Rabbitte for saying today's Mass, and all the other priests for attending and concelebrating. I would like to thank our school chaplain, Fr Martin Whelan. His visible presence in the school over the last two years has been greatly appreciated, as has his weekly attendance at our pastoral care meetings. It is great to have his support which I'm sure will continue into the new school.

It's not often that I publicly get an opportunity to thank the staff. I would like to thank all of our teaching staff for their dedication and devotion to their students. The eight SNA staff for their commitment to the students they work with and their flexibility in looking after the students that need it most; to our ancillary staff – Emer, Fiona, Kevin and Frank – you are the people who make the school run smoothly and your commitment to your job is exemplary. I would like to thank my deputy principal, Kieran, and thank him for all his support and work over the last year, and also his predecessor Kieran Sweeney. To Pat Sheridan our school manager I want to pay tribute: his unbelievable appetite and dedication to his work is second to none.

I would like to thank Karina O'Grady, chairperson of our Parents' Association, for all her invaluable work over the last two years. The choir sounded beautiful today and I particularly want to thank Richie Bell, Darragh Kerrigan, Emer Cunningham and Emily Griffin. Well done to all the students involved in today's Mass, and to Mr Murphy for organising the wonderful procession to the altar.

Finally I want to thank you the students: all 420 of you. You are the reason we are here. I never forget that. Do your best, set achievable goals and go for them. To our Leaving Certificate students – the very best of luck to you all as you face into your Leaving Certificate on 9 June. Yes, these are important, but they will not define you as a person.

I will leave you with the Latin phrase that is on our school crest: *Veritate et aequitate* ... truth and justice. Be true to yourselves and let justice be your guiding vision. Thank you.

End of Year Mass Homily

There's a man I know who after almost 20 years of driving the same car decided that it was time to change. The time had come for a new car. It was time to let the old diesel model go and replace it with one of these new high-tech hybrid models. When the day arrived to pick up the new car the man described to me how he was filled with nostalgia because the "old lady" has served him so well. It was always very reliable, safe and sturdy. But it had grown old and had become outdated and there were issues with repairs, parts and emissions. The man is still getting used to the new car, with all the new equipment and screens, but it's a car that's "forward looking", connected and compliant. The new car is a car for the future and for a world that is not standing still.

Today we come to look back and look forward. We

look back on a college, an institution that for 109 years lived up so well to the expectations and aims of the founders. The foundation stone was blessed on the 26th May 1910, 111 years ago yesterday. It was a Thursday and the newspaper accounts of the event speak of about 12,000 people gathering on a hill outside the city. People walked as a kind of procession from the city to the hill where we now stand. Two years later the first students entered on Monday 26th August 1912. At this stage in the Irish church it was felt that each diocese should have two institutions: a cathedral as a fitting place of worship; and a college, the role of which in the words of the then Bishop Thomas O'Dea was for "the training of men for the priesthood and the advancement of the Catholic laity".

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End of Year Mass Homily

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There was a rush to build and open the college as money was granted in a will for this purpose. As we know the cathedral only came 50 years later. This also indicates that education was a priority.

During the last century this building with its limestone and granite façade has become a landmark in the city. It also has become an educational landmark over the years, within the city and the surrounding areas and throughout the diocese. But the winds of change are always blowing; our world never stands still. If you are a fan of Man United you heard mention of change in the sport news last night. If you are a golfer you may have been following the changes purposed at the Portmarnock Golf Club. In the last few decades the city and the surrounding areas have grown and expanded greatly. Galway has changed. With this expansion we have seen the growth of local secondary schools in there local communities. We have seen the shift away from single-sex schools and the disappearance of boarding schools. Those considering a vocation to the priesthood or religious life are now older and come from more diverse backgrounds. The handing on of the faith is now seen as a task for the family at home supported by the school.

Today, as we look back we give thanks to God. We thank the Lord for the foresight of the founders of St Mary's College. We give thanks too for the generosity of generations of staff. The photographs on the wall tell the story of the huge contribution made by staff over the years. So much voluntary effort. We thank the Lord for the tens of thousands of pupils who were the life of the college over the years. Here they were encouraged to expand their gifts and talents in the classroom, on the pitches and on stage. They left here bringing with them skills that they had learnt well. These skills enriched the lives of their families and communities long after these pupils left St Mary's College. Today, you and I have so much to be grateful for because of St Mary's College. We give thanks to God for all of that.

Today, we look forward too. Like the man with the new hybrid car we are preparing for the future. We are looking ahead. All of you pupils and staff are busy preparing for next September. You are in our prayers today. Your anxieties and concerns are natural as you break new ground and as you move into unfamiliar

territory. Today we pray that Coláiste Muire Máthair will bring you into the future. The readings that you have chosen for today's Mass are pointing towards the future too. They are looking ahead with hope and enthusiasm.

The first reading from Genesis speaks of creating something new, something good and fruitful. Combining male and female into a new co-ed college. A place where whole families are accommodated together. No doubt this new college will have a new mission statement and the best of policies for the smooth running of the school. But today's second reading from St Paul speaks of raising the bar, raising the standard of our relationships in all of our dealings with each other. In this reading we heard words like 'compassion', 'kindness', 'humility', 'gentleness', 'patience', 'forgiveness', and 'love'. It is our prayer today that these words will colour all of your relationships within this new college community in the years ahead.

The Gospel is always challenging and today we heard how we are called to be salt of the earth and light of the world. A few years ago Pope Francis was preaching on this particular Gospel passage. He spoke of Christians being called to add flavour to the life of others around them and to shine the light of faith upon their neighbours. He went on to say that both salt and light are for others, not for oneself. Salt does not add flavour to itself, light does not illuminate itself. It's all about others.

On behalf of Bishop Brendan Kelly, who regrettably is unable to be with us today, and so many in our city and across the diocese I wish all of you who will be part of the new Coláiste Muire Máthair well. We all wish you every blessing as you settle into your new school a few months from now. We look forward to hearing of your successes and achievements in the future. Above all, we look forward to learning that you have created a community where all gifts are recognised and all people valued.

Let us take a quiet moment to pray as we look back and look forward today.

Mgr Peter Rabbitte

Post-Primary School Chaplaincy

The primary role of a school chaplain is that of a faith presence in the school community, rooted in gospel values. This presence is offered inclusively to the whole school community to promote human flourishing, so that all may achieve their potential.

The chaplain ensures that the characteristic spirit of the school, embodied in the school’s mission statement, finds expression and is fostered through the liturgical life of the school. Chaplaincy responds to the spiritual needs of the students and staff in a Christian context, while respecting the religious and personal convictions of all.

The chaplain accompanies the school community: staff, students, and families, and ‘walks’ with them on a shared journey. The chaplain provides support when it is needed; offering time to listen, to encourage, to reflect, to challenge and at times to simply ‘be’. The biblical account of the Road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35) encapsulates this shared journey.

As chaplain of Gort Community School, it is a privilege to accompany the school community on the journey of life. The capacity to welcome another person in every human situation, emotion, or difficulty and to ‘walk’ with that person is, undeniably, very humbling. This journey is an act of love, as interpreted by Richard M. Gula S.S.:

Love as compassion enters the world of others without intruding on their privacy or manipulating their vulnerability. Love is moved by what another is experiencing, grasps the meaning of that experience, and stays with the other in whatever way is needed.

In a world of change, the message of God’s unconditional love remains constant. The chaplain seeks to enable both students and staff, to kindle a spark of faith that endures.



Orla Duggan, Chaplain, Gort Community School

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Education & Schools

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Catholic Education Services

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A Resource for Religious Education Post Primary Teachers

REPP is open to all post-primary religious education teachers: see repp.galwaydiocese.ie

The platform provides a forum for teachers to share with each other resources in various formats which might be useful for their teaching work: text documents, videos, audio, and a chat forum.

Diocese of Galway & Kilmacduagh
& Apostolic Administration of Kilfenora

Diocesan Office, The Cathedral, Galway

T. 091 563566

E. info@galwaydiocese.ie

W. www.galwaydiocese.ie

SAVE THE DATE!

Invitation from the Diocese
for
Religious Education Teachers

to attend a morning of discussion and presentations

Tuesday 28th September 2021

A schedule for the morning will be circulated nearer the date.

Confirmation Day 2001

The 5th of May marked 20 years since I received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Perhaps, considering the current situation when Confirmation season has been suspended because of Covid-19, the memories of my own Confirmation day is very much on my mind.

There were about 80 of us from St Patrick's Boys National School, Lombard Street (St Pat's) for Confirmation. The ceremony was held in Galway Cathedral at 11.00am on Saturday 5th May 2001. The two sixth-class teachers, Mr Danny Whelan and Br. Niall, guided us through the year. They prepared us for the sacrament, helped us learn the gifts and the fruits of the Spirit, taught us hymns and instilled in us a sense of the sacred. They talked us through taking the pledge, the choosing of a Confirmation name and the significance of both.

In St Pat's we were made feel like we were the ones in charge. We were the prefects. We now wore red ties, not navy. That year was a meeting point between childhood and adulthood. Once Confirmation was over, there were only a few weeks left until the summer holidays. Then the unknown and unfamiliar territory of secondary school.

I remember the excitement leading up to the big day. All of a sudden we were there ready to go, parents proud and delighted, cheering us on before the start of Mass: "Go on lads, ye will be great." I remember our opening hymn was 'Enter, Rejoice and Come in, lift up your hearts to the Lord'. Eighty of us boys singing in full triumphant voices lifting the roof of the cathedral. The smells of that Mass, the candles, the incense, and the flowers all spring to mind.

Bishop James Mc Loughlin reminded us in our homily that all fruits begin as seeds. The fruits of the Holy Spirit also begin quite small. Like all seeds they needed to be cared for, nurtured, and watered daily. If they are not, they will die. He said the greatest nourishment we provide is daily prayer to the Holy Spirit. Bishop Mc Loughlin then asked all of us to look down at the sixth Station of the Cross: Veronica wipes the face of Jesus. He asked us what was it that Veronica needed most to make her walk out in front of a roaring crowd and wipe the bruised and beaten face of Christ? "Courage", a classmate shouted out.

"Precisely", replied Bishop McLoughlin. He continued by telling us that, in our own lives and in secondary school, third-level and beyond, we would also need that same courage as Veronica. Like her we too, at times, would have to go against the crowd to do the right thing. And doing that would not always make us popular.



After the memorable sermon came the laying on of hands. The bishop and all the priests present extended their arms in a solemn gesture to call down the Holy Spirit. Brother Niall and Mr Whelan had taught us that this was the central part of the ceremony. I remember it still. In my head and heart I knew that my life was now changed. It was as if the cathedral went silent. God was here. 'Come Holy Ghost, Creator Come' echoed loud and clear through the great space of the cathedral. Then we lined up around the altar rails. Our sponsors stood behind. The bishop anointed our heads with the oil of chrism. Now we were confirmed. We had the Spirit within us. We could face the future with courage!

Rev. Daniel Gallagher, CC, Oranmore

Theology of Child Safeguarding

Throughout 2021 and leading up to the National Conference in October, the National Board for the Safeguarding of Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland (NBSCCI) has commissioned theologians, spiritual directors and other experts to produce a video every month on various aspects of the theology of child safeguarding. These ten-minute videos can be accessed online at www.safeguarding.ie/national-conference-2021 (and on the Galway diocesan website under the 'Links' menu). The speakers and their chosen topics published so far include:

January — Fr Hans Zollner SJ, Professor of Psychology at the Gregorian University, Rome: *The Theology of Safeguarding Children*.

February — Sr Nuala Patricia Kenny, Paediatrician and Medical Ethicist: *Ministry to Survivors of Abuse*.

March — Dr Ethna Regan, Associate Professor in Theology and Ethics in Dublin City University: *Safeguarding and Human Rights*.

April — Fr Paddy Boyle, Scripture Scholar and Safeguarding Trainer: *Safeguarding and Sacred Scripture*.

May — Una Allen, Founder and Coordinator of Towards Peace: *Spiritual Support for Survivors of Abuse*.

June — Jessie Rogers, Dean of Theology at St Patrick's College, Maynooth: *How can the Church take seriously Jesus' action of putting a child in their midst?*



A common theme that runs through all of these presentations is the *imago Dei* (image of God) within all children as the theological foundation for safeguarding. All our ministries need to focus on creating an environment where the *imago Dei* can flourish in each and every child. The crime of abuse is horrific because it violates the most vulnerable, and it is a direct offence against the presence of God in children. The theology of safeguarding is not just about creating environments where children can flourish, but it is also about confronting the presence of evil in our Church. A misguided understanding of our *Holy, Apostolic, and Catholic Church* blinded

many people to the reality of abuse for a long time. As a Church we occupy a middle ground between sanctification and perdition. Yes, the presence of the Spirit makes our Church holy, but the reality of human sinfulness means that abuse and neglect is also part of the Church's story. Our concern in ministry should not be limited to safeguarding future generations, but we also have a duty of care towards victims, families, and whole communities that have been deeply hurt by abuse. The demands of justice are not just a legal concern, but also personal and theological.

Fr Martin Whelan

The Impact of Covid-19 on Funeral Rituals and Practices in Ireland: A Survey

The challenges of Covid-19 public health guidelines have had an impact on every aspect of life, and this pandemic may bring about unexpected changes to the customs and practices of Ireland long into the future. One important facet of Irish life it has affected is how people accompany the bereaved: the traditional Irish funeral and ways of grieving changed literally overnight. A study team in the Centre for Mission and Ministries at the Pontifical University, St Patrick's College, Maynooth, (Dr Michael Shorthall, Registrar, and Dr Aoife McGrath, Director of Pastoral Theology) are looking for participants to take a survey to:

- identify the way people accompany dying, deceased, and bereaved persons,
- understand how bereavement support is offered by those in formal positions of responsibility and informally as 'neighbours', and
- learn how the pandemic impacted Catholic funerals from participants' perspectives.

The online survey takes about 15 minutes. It will help gain insight into what is an important experience. Participants' responses will help paint a picture of what is currently happening, and possible trends into the future. There are also opportunities for a follow-up interview.

For full information see <https://maynoothcollege.ie/covid-19-and-funeral-rituals-and-practices-a-study>

An island of Ireland pilot Study

St Patrick's College Maynooth

The Impact of COVID-19 on Funeral Rituals & Practices in Ireland

Public health measures to deal with the pandemic meant that bereaved families have had to adjust to dramatically different circumstances. We would like to explore the impact. We invite you to participate in our study.

This online research is being conducted by the Centre for Mission & Ministries at the Pontifical University, St Patrick's College, Maynooth.

The survey can be accessed at: maynoothcollege.ie/covid-19-and-funeral-rituals-and-practices-a-study

Very Rev. Edward (Ned) Kelly (1926–2021)

- 06/1950: Ordained at St Patrick's College Maynooth.
- 07/1951: Masters in Theology, St Patrick's College Maynooth; Professor, St Mary's College.
- 07/1952: Curate, Rossaveal, Co. Galway.
- 02/1954: Dean, Coláiste Éinde, Salthill, Galway.
- 07/1954: Curate, Liscannor, Co. Clare.
- 07/1956: Curate, Ennistymon, Co. Clare.
- 07/1962: Curate, Gort, Co. Galway.
- 07/1964: Curate, Oughterard, Co. Galway; Co-founder/teacher, St Paul's Secondary School, Oughterard.
- 06/1973: Parish Priest, Peterswell, Co. Galway.
- 12/1976: Parish Priest, Mervue, Galway.
- 09/1983: Parish Priest, Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare.
- 09/1990: Assistant Administrator and Judge, Galway Regional Marriage Tribunal.
- 03–07/1993: Administrator, Galway Cathedral.
- 07/1998: Canon of the Diocesan Chapter.
- 07/1999: Retired from the Galway Regional Marriage Tribunal.
- 29/05/2021 Called home to God.



Pope Francis promulgates new penal code for the Church

On 23 May, Pope Francis issued the document *Pascite Gregem Dei* (Feed God's Flock) which introduced the new penal code for the Roman Catholic Church. This code will come into effect on 8 December 2021. As in civil law, a penal code is a collection of canons (laws) that deal with criminal behavior.

The document is worth reading because it gives a good explanation as to why the Church needs laws that define criminal behaviour, and provides instruction on how to deal with canonical crime when it emerges. The Church has had a troubled history over the past thirty years in dealing with crime, especially clerical child sex abuse, within its community. Part of the problem lay with the Church not having a clear system for dealing with complaints, and not confronting perpetrators in accordance with civil law and basic Christian ethics.

To understand why this happened, and why the new code is so important, we need to look back at the changes that took place in the Church following the Second Vatican Council (1962–1965). Up until that council the Church had a very strict attitude towards personal morality. This strictness manifested itself in a very authoritarian and legalistic Church. The Second Vatican Council tried to correct this rigid culture with a more pastoral code of canon law, which was published in 1983. Even though the new code of canon law was far more pastoral than previous Church law, it is now widely acknowledged that it was grossly inadequate in dealing with criminal activity within the Church.

The enormity of the sex abuse scandal, together with the dysfunctional way in which it was handled, led to new law being written in accordance with the needs of victims, the demands of justice, and the prevention of future crime. The new penal code, which is referred to as Book VI of the Code of Canon Law, is a systematic collection of the reforms introduced by Popes John Paul II, Benedict XVI, and Francis over the past thirty years. It would be a gross mistake to think that the new penal code is just about child sex abuse. It also introduces new regulation for financial management within the Church. There is a broader definition of fraud, and new penalties for the mismanagement of Church assets for both clerical and lay administrators.

There has always been an uneasy attitude towards law within the Church because some people are inclined to think that the regulation of behaviour is the concern of the State while the Church should be about mercy and forgiveness. This is a mistake that Francis addresses in *Pascite Gregem Dei*. Charity or love does not exclude discipline. Very often mercy requires that we enforce the law; not make excuses. There are certain crimes which are so insidious and harmful to the faith community that "negligence of the Pastor in the use of the penal system shows that he is not fulfilling his role uprightly and faithfully." (Pope Francis, *Pascite Gregem Dei*)." As the American Founding Father, James Madison, said: "If men were angels, no government would be necessary."

Fr Martin Whelan

Trócaire

A word of thanks for your generosity to Trócaire

Following their Summer General Meeting, the Irish Catholic Bishops thanked the public for its continued generosity to Trócaire, which works in support of people affected by poverty, conflict and injustice worldwide.

The bishops noted that Trócaire's support brought positive change to the lives of 2.7 million people in 25 countries over the course of the last challenging year. The Lenten campaign is essential in enabling Trócaire to carry out this work, and in expressing their gratitude, the bishops commented that Covid-19, combined with the threats of climate change and conflict, have put many more millions of lives at risk of extreme poverty.

Individuals are encouraged to make their Lenten return either through their parishes, or by donating by post, phone or online at trocaire.org/donations/now/

Better News for Church Choirs!

The most recent edition of the HSE’s booklet, *Covid-19 Guidance for Places of Worship*, is dated 21 June 2021. It contains some welcome updates on choirs, music groups and other liturgical music, starting on page 18. The full booklet is available on the diocesan website under the ‘Parish Resources’ button. This quotation is from page 19:

Small groups of singers can perform following implementation of any mitigation actions identified by risk assessment. The number of people in a small group depends on a number of factors including layout and size of building. Singers should use a fixed group/pod system to reduce contacts. These groups should remain consistent and rehearse and perform together whilst generally maintaining physical distancing among themselves.

In order to sing without a face covering, the singers/pods should be physically located behind a plexiglass screen as far away as possible (more than 2 metres in all directions) from the congregation and other individuals, including the musical accompanist and the celebrant. Extended physical distancing (more than 3 metres) should be considered if possible. Any screen used should be cleaned regularly.

Thorough risk assessments should be carried out for all music ministry activities, and the HSE booklet includes information on how to do this.



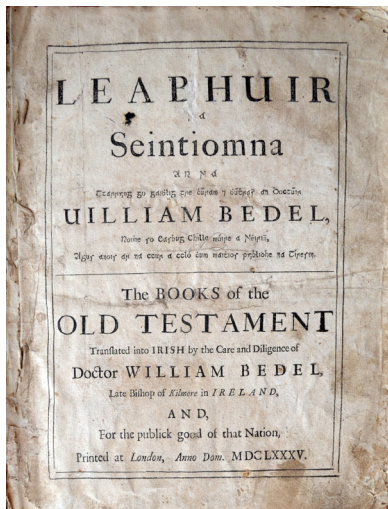
Galway Cathedral Organ Concerts 2021

The 2021 series of summer concerts in Galway Cathedral is online only again this year as covid-19 restrictions continue. The good news is that they’re free! Watch ‘live’ from the comfort of your armchair at 8.00pm each Thursday in July, or anytime later on demand. See recitals.galwaycathedral.ie

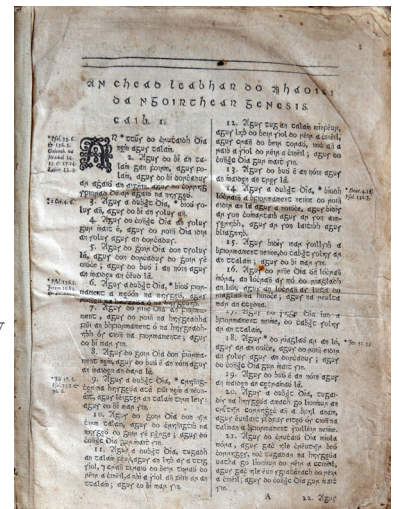
DATE	PERFORMER
8.00pm Thursday 1 July	Robbie Carroll (organ). Robbie is Assistant Director of Music at St Fin Barre’s Cathedral, Cork. He plays music by Franck, Grayston Ives and Jongen.
8.00pm Thursday 8 July	David Grealy (organ) & Conor Prendiville (tenor). David is organist of St Mary’s Pro-Cathedral, Dublin, and plays an all-Vierne programme in which Conor sings the song-cycle <i>Les Angélus</i> .
8.00pm Thursday 15 July	Mark Keane (organ). Mark is Director of Music at the Cathedral of the Assumption, Tuam. He plays Cocker, Stanford and Mulet.
8.00pm Thursday 22 July	Niall Carroll (organ). Organist of Athenry parish church, Niall plays the complete <i>Symphonie Mariale</i> by Léonce de Saint-Martin.
8.00pm Thursday 29 July	Raymond O’Donnell (organ). Ray is Director of Music at Galway Cathedral and Artistic Director of the annual concert series. He plays music by Buxtehude, Mendelssohn and Liszt.

Two books of interest from the Diocesan Archives

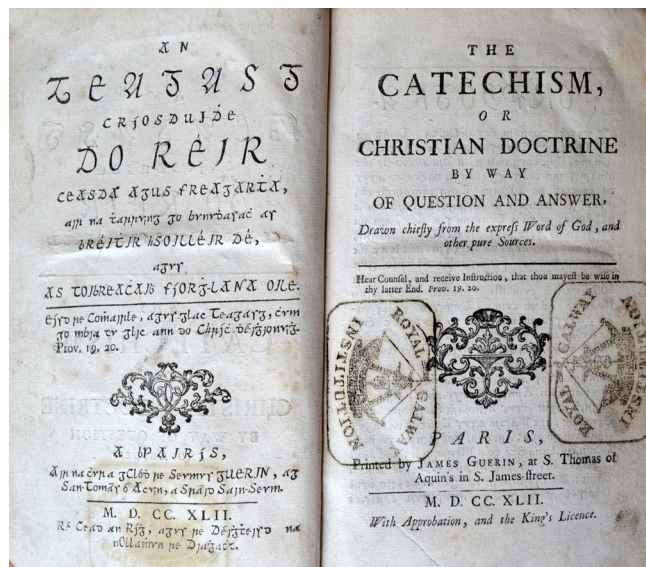
The diocese has a small collection of antiquarian religious books. These wouldn't attract the interest of collectors, as most of them are in poor condition – but looking on the positive side, it means they were much-handled and well used for hundreds of years. The printing revolution sweeping through Europe during the 16th and 17th centuries had little impact in Ireland, which retained its hand-scribed manuscript tradition. The earliest printed book in Irish was a Protestant catechism, produced in Dublin in 1571 and paid for by a Dublin Alderman, John Usher. The next major Irish publication came in 1602: a translation by William O'Donnell of the New Testament. Publication of these books was part of an evangelising effort to bring Protestantism to the Irish in their own native language. Sadly, the diocese does not have a copy of of these early prints.



William Bedell (1571–1642) came from Essex and learned Irish during his time as Provost of Trinity College, Dublin. He was appointed bishop of Kilmore & Ardagh in 1629. In 1630 he commissioned a translation of the Old Testament, employing Gaelic scribe Murtagh King, a convert from Catholicism. The project was completed by 1640 but was almost lost during the 1641 rebellion. It was sent for safe-keeping to London, and 500 copies were finally printed more than 40 years later in 1685. The covers and page edges of the diocesan copy are damaged but the main book is intact. It measures 190mm wide by 240mm tall, and is 75mm deep; there are 1,142 numbered pages.



The earliest Irish-language Catholic printing was done in the clerical colleges of mainland Europe – for instance the Franciscan order in Louvain, which by 1611 had a printing press with an Irish typeset. Like Protestant Irish fonts (such as Bedell's bible) this typeface reproduced the appearance of handwritten Gaelic manuscripts. During the 18th century most continental printing of Irish texts was done in Paris. Two important Paris publications, using an Irish typeset set up there in 1730, came from Rev. Andrew Donlevy (1680–1746), prefect of clerics at the Paris Irish College from 1722 until his death. The first of these was an English-Irish dictionary, and the second was Donlevy's dual-language 1742 catechism: *An Teagasg Criosduidhe Do Réir Ceasda agus Freagartha*.



The catechism was intended for use in Ireland, so it had to be imported. By 1822 a second edition was produced in Dublin, and in 1824 Archbishop Kelly of Tuam advised a Committee of Lords that it was being used in his diocese. A third edition was published through Maynooth in 1848, but this was more for language revivalists than catecheticists. The diocese has a first edition Paris copy; as can be seen from the picture, its owners included the Royal Galway Institution. The front cover and flyleaf are detached but the body of the book is in good condition. It measures 125mm wide by 195mm tall, and is 40mm deep; there are 518 numbered pages. Between two of the pages in the preface is a small bunch of dried pressed leaves – how lovely it would be to know the story behind these!

Dr Darina McCarthy



COPE Galway

Let's help together

COPE Galway is a local charity with a vision of an improved quality of life, in a home of their own, for people affected by homelessness, women and children experiencing domestic abuse, and older people. We work together with community partners, groups, businesses and individuals, to help some of the most vulnerable and isolated men, women and children in Galway.

Homeless Services for individuals and families — Domestic Abuse Service for women and children — Senior Support Services for older people in need of support

Advocating on behalf of our clients is a key aspect of what we do. COPE Galway advocates for policy and social change on across a range of issues at local and national levels, including improved access to housing and accommodation, access to benefits and entitlements, and contributing towards debate and dialogue.

Visit www.copegalway.ie



The national Age Friendly Ireland Programme supports cities, counties and towns across Ireland to prepare for the rapid ageing of our population by paying increased attention to the environmental, economic and social factors that influence the health and well-being of older adults.



<https://agefriendlyireland.ie/>



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www.galwaydiocese.ie

Deoise na Gaillimhe
Chill Mac Duach & Chill Fhionntrach

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