

Irish Pastoral Centre Newsletter



"We are a Parish without Boundaries."

*Serving the Greater Boston
Irish Community since 1987*

IPC VOLUNTEER INSPIRES YOUNG HURLERS

Irish Pastoral Centre Volunteer, Conor Ryan from County Clare has been reaching out to members of our senior community over the past few months as part of our weekly check in calls. Conor is about to graduate with an MBA from Boston College and we were delighted when he reached out to the IPC to offer some support. Along with a head for the books, Conor is also a former All Ireland hurling champion. He made his Senior Championship debut in June 2013 against Waterford, starting in midfield in a 2-20 to 1-15 victory. Conor was named as the Man of the Match in the drawn 2013 All-Ireland Senior Hurling Championship Final against Cork. And Clare brought home the McCarthy Cup.

On March 5th, young hurlers from Trinity Milton Youth GAA program got to meet and hear from the All Star! Conor was absolutely delighted to puc about with Boston's future GAA stars!



Brendan MacGrath from Trinity Milton presents IPC volunteer Conor Ryan on the right with a Trinity Milton team shirt.



IPC LAUNCHES NEW PROGRAMS AND CALENDAR!

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR NEWSLETTER

We are now mailing our newsletter to 500 people every month! If you would like to showcase your event, organization or business while completely supporting our production, your tax free donation will be most appreciated!,

Email jmolloy@ipcboseon.org for more information or call the IPC at 617-265-5300. We look forward to your support!



**Government of Ireland
Emigrant Support Programme**



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs

IPC NEWS DESK

Dear Friends,

It's certainly been a busy few weeks here at the Centre. With a generous donation of office furniture by IPC friend, John Huntington from Office Resources, we were able to add more storage for our files, dress up our reception area and furnish our meeting room. We added new curtains and we are all enjoying our new and improved look.



On St Patrick's Day the staff and Board of Directors enjoyed a traditional lunch from the Greenhill's bakery and it was the first time that we have gathered together since the onset of the Pandemic. We announced the winners of our Art competition and surprised a Nana in Dublin on video which was lovely. Her granddaughters (who are sisters) both wrote about how for them, Ireland means walks in the Phoenix Park with their Nana and they miss it. We were a bit weepy when they read their stories out to Nana and Nana was weepy too on Facetime!

All of us were disappointed to move the date for Sr. Marguerite's Mass but it was the right thing to do as we continue to follow state and city guidelines. We will gather in time at the Irish Social Club to celebrate her life and legacy. So many people have called to express interest in attending and we will be back to you as soon as we can safely accommodate all who wish to honor our great friend and former Executive Director.

Our Senior Coordinator Mary Gorman and myself visited with our volunteers in Dorchester and West Roxbury and it was great to connect in person. It's clear that we all just want to be together again!

Fr Dan has been so busy with too many funerals—its been a sad few weeks for the Boston Irish community. At the funeral of Mr. Dan Drisoll RIP, Fr Dan quoted the late Tim Russert who wrote a book about his father and he said: "the older I get, the smarter my father becomes" It certainly resonated with me, and I bet many of you agree.

I need to say thank you to all who send donations to us here at the Centre in memory of a friend or loved one. It's quite touching and we appreciate your kindness and remembrances.

Our good friend Johnny Joyce is recovering from a broken hip at the Bostonian Nursing home and we've had many calls wishing Johnny well. Hopefully restrictions will lift soon for visitors to hospitals and Nursing Homes everywhere. Lets keep Ireland in mind also as they are still struggling to emerge from very tight restrictions.

Last week, I was chatting with Volunteer Kathi Sullivan from West Roxbury and I told her how my favorite dessert in Ireland is Pavlova which is not as available here. Well, Kathi arrived with a beautiful pavlova that she made just for us! It was absolutely delicious and a great surprise! Thank you Kathi for spoiling us!

The IPC is delighted to finally create a calendar of events!

We've introduced new programs including a supper club on the first Friday of each month, Fr Dan's Men's Coffee Club every other Friday, Wednesday night cards, Beginners Knitting Club every other Thursday as well as an upcoming art competition, garden competition and a screening of the documentary "Connemara, New England and the Irish Language" on Saturday April 17 at 10am. All are welcome!

We are also working on support groups and music classes, along with a return soon to our weekly cafes in Brighton, Dorchester, and West Roxbury. We have partnered with the Irish in San Francisco for Trivia every Wednesday at 5pm our time. Its healthy banter between Boston and our partner Immigration and Pastoral Centre in San Francisco. It's good fun! Call us here at the Centre and we will send you the link.

Finally, if you would like us to laminate a copy of your vaccine record, please come by. We are hearing that the original should be stored with your documents and that you should carry a copy with you. We are open Monday to Thursday from 9am to 5pm and on Fridays from 9am to 4pm. The kettle is always on!

It certainly takes a village and the IPC has built a great one here in Boston over the last 30 years! I am meeting great people along the way! Let's keep going!

Happy Spring!, *Mary Swanton*



THANK YOU! IPC Volunteer Kathi Sullivan surprised us with this delicious Pavlova dessert in addition to her weekly delivery of home made baked goods. What a treat!

IPC NEWS DESK

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES UPDATE

COLLEGE STUDENTS TAKE NOTE!

Did you know that the Irish Pastoral Centre offers a referral service, whereby employers contact us with job opportunities and we in turn email to job seekers who have signed up with us to receive these notifications?

If you would like to receive our weekly jobs list, please visit our website www.ipcboston.org and under services, select Employment Resources and click on the list to sign up. If you have any questions, please call Audrey at the Irish Pastoral Centre 617-265-5300.

Please note, the Irish Pastoral Centre is only a point of contact for job seekers and employers. We are not responsible for any background checks and do not require job seekers to meet us in person. All employers are advised to complete their own checks and screening they require.

NEW PROGRAMS AT THE IPC

25 Card Night

Every Wednesday 8pm
Begins April 14



First Friday Supper Club
Fish and Chips Night
5PM—7PM May 7th



Fr Dan's Men's Coffee Club
Every other Friday
8am—10am
April 23, May 7, May 21



Knitting Club for
Beginners
Every 2nd Thursday
beginning April 29,
11AM to 1PM



“IRELAND AND ME” CHILDREN’S ART COMPETITION WINNERS



Introducing our Winners: First prize went to Clodagh Rioux- 6 years, and her sister Jessica Rioux- 10 Years from Dorchester. Joint second prizes were awarded to Grace Kelly- 8 years (on right) from Milton, and Julianne McDonagh (center)- 6 years from Quincy. Easter eggs and Gift card prizes were generously donated by Lucky Shamrock!

GAA QUIZ ANSWERS: 1.2001, 2. Ben O'Connor, 3. London, 4. 1998, 5. Waterford, 6. 1998, 7. Bryan Cullen, 8. Cork

IPC NEWS DESK

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY AT THE IPC



IPC STAFF: Anne Finn, Maryann Casavant, Fr. Dan Finn, Audrey Larkin, Neil Hurley, Mary O'Toole Gorman, John Hunter, Mary Swanton and Jennifer Molloy



Our great friend Johnny Joyce!



Boston City Council Candidate Erin Murphy with Fr. Dan.



Fr Dan, Mary Swanton and Board of Directors Maryellen Brett, Della Costello along with Board Chairman Bill Bolger



Margaret Beatty, Kathy Sullivan and Nora McGillicuddy from our Crossroads café in West Roxbury



While the Boston Police Gaelic Column performed on Adams Corner, Saint Patrick himself paid us a visit. He just received his vaccine and was looking for a hurling match! Our Saint Patrick always brings great energy and humor to the IPC! He's definitely related to the Hurleys of Drimoleague!



IPC NEWS DESK

IRISH PENSIONS INFORMATION



Q. *What is the procedure for applying for an Irish Pension while living abroad?*

A. *If a person is residing outside the Republic of Ireland, in an EEA (European Economic Area) Country, they should apply for an EU Pension to the pension institution in their country of residence, in accordance with the procedures of that institution. If a person does not live in an EEA country, they must apply for an EU Pension to the pension institution in the EEA country in which they were last in insurable employment.*

Q. *How do I apply if I live in the USA?*

A. *There are bilateral social security agreements between participating countries that allow people to move between countries and protect their pension entitlements and the USA is included on that list.*

You must contact the Pensions Section of the Department of Social Protection in Sligo 6 months before your 66th birthday.

Notes/Further Information:

For general/follow-up queries, contact The Pensions Services Office, College Road, Sligo.

Tel: + 353 71-915 7100; **Email:** state.con@welfare.ie

Introducing "LE CHEILE" (Together)

Beginning Saturday April 24, the IPC will host a weekly Sobriety Social Support Group from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. All are welcome! Tea, Coffee and Scones will be served. For more information, call us at 617 265 5300



IPC GOLF TOURNAMENT UPDATE

The IPC has made another tough decision to postpone our Annual Golf Tournament until the Fall. We were so looking forward to maintaining our tradition of the 2nd Monday in June. The IPC Golf tournament is a major fundraiser for the IPC and we are hoping that after last years' cancellation due to the pandemic that this year's will be a great event.

If you would like to serve on our Golf tournament committee this year, please reach out to Fr Dan or Mary at the IPC. Your help, support and knowledge will be greatly appreciated.



GALVIN ANNOUNCES SUPPORT FOR FUNERAL COSTS

Those who have had loved ones die of COVID-19 may be able to apply for assistance with funeral costs, Massachusetts Secretary of the Commonwealth William Galvin announced recently that The Federal Emergency Management Agency has announced it will reimburse up to \$9,000 in funeral expenses for those who lost a loved one to the coronavirus after January 20, 2020. Galvin said he's posted information on eligibility and how to apply for the funeral costs on his website, www.sec.state.ma.us.

"So many people have lost loved ones to this pandemic and coping with the loss of a family member is hard enough without needing to worry about the costs of laying that person to rest," Galvin said in a written statement. Reimbursement may be available even if the funeral has already been paid for, he said. Galvin said. More than 17,000 Bay Staters have died of COVID-19-related illness since the beginning of the pandemic.

News from our Senior Community

ZOOM YOGA WILL TAKE PLACE ON THURSDAY APRIL 22 at 11AM. ZOOM BINGO TAKES PLACE EVERY TUESDAY AT 11:00AM. FOR HELP WITH ZOOM, PLEASE CALL MARY GORMAN OR HUNTER AT 617-265-5300.

OUR ZOOM BINGO WINNERS ARE:

Phyllis Hartford and Noreen Molloy who won Dunkin Donut's Gift Cards. Barbara Flaherty won a gift card to West on Centre and Mary Connolly who won a gift card to Greenhills Bakery. Maureen Flaherty won beautiful face masks, made and donated by Mary Morley.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

*Mary Casey
Eileen Collins
Peggy Cormican
Patsy Dineen
Mary Lou Flaherty
Mary Gardiner
Mary Garvey
Mary Henson
Theresa Kelly
Pat Keady
Mary Moynihan*

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

*Mary Bush
Maureen Flaherty
Maureen Egan
Mai Gallagher
Peggy Glynn
Frank Horrigan
Cara Kiff
Mary McKeeney
John Maguire
Lois Morton
Anne Ward
Bartley Collins
Cathy Coppinger*

Happy Birthday!



HARBORHEALTH SERVICES VACCINE ROLL OUT AT FLORIAN HALL IS VERY WELL ORGANIZED.!

APPOINTMENTS ARE GRANTED
WITHIN A COUPLE OF DAYS AND
THE PROCESS IS SUPER EASY!
YOU CAN REGISTER BY PHONE
BY CALLING
1-888-503-0766



**IPC HAS HAD GREAT
REPORTS FROM MANY
PEOPLE!**

UPCOMING LUNCH

**Please call the IPC to
Register your Attendance.
April 22 Waterfords in
Dedham at 12.30**

FR DAN'S MENS COFFEE CLUB
takes places every second Friday.
See you on April 23rd



WE ARE EXPANDING OUR SENIOR OUTREACH PHONE CALLS!

Plans are underway to
re-instate our Senior
Connect program in late
May. If you would like to
volunteer, please reach out
to Mary Gorman at
617 265 5300.

DON'T LAMINATE YOUR VACCINE RECORD!



The CDC is hearing concerns
that the lamination process might damage
cards, smudging the ink or making it
illegible. IPC Board Member Della Costello
brought this to our attention.

Our suggestion is to photocopy the card on
front and back and laminate the photo-
copy. Keep the original with other essen-
tial documents.

IPC is happy to photocopy your card and
laminate the photo copy if you would like.

IPC MONTHLY CALENDAR



CALLING ALL GARDENERS!

Send us photos of your Spring blooms!

Email your photo and phone number to

jmolloy@ipcboston.org

You could win a \$100.00 voucher to Cedar Grove Gardens!

PLEASE ALSO VIEW OUR SPECIAL EVENTS ON PAGE 9

Tuesday, April 13, 2021- Zoom Bingo @ 11AM

Wednesday, April 14, 2021-Senior Lunch Club at Brick & Beam in Quincy @ 12:30PM \$20.00—please call to register.

Wednesday, April 14, 2021-Zoom Trivia with our friends at the IIPC in San Francisco. Call IPC for link.

Wednesday, April 14, 2021- Weekly Card Night 8-10PM @ IPC (Twenty-Five Card Game)

Thursday, April 15, 2021- Mother's Day Art Competition launch

Saturday, April 17, 2021- Connemara, New England and Irish Language documentary 10 AM @IPC (see flyer on pg 9)

Monday, April 19, IPC CLOSED

Tuesday, April 20, 2021-Zoom Bingo @ 11 AM

Tuesday, April 20, 2021- Legal Clinic (by appt)

Wednesday, April 21, 2021- Zoom Trivia with our friends at the IIPC San Francisco. Call IPC for link

Wednesday, April 21, 2021- Card Night 8-10 PM @ IPC (Twenty-Five Card Game)

Thursday, April 22, 2021—Zoom Yoga @ 11 AM

Thursday, April 22, 2021- Senior Lunch Club at Waterford's in Dedham @ 12:30 PM.

Thursday, April 22, 2021- Westwood Music School Open House @ 6:30PM (See Flyer on pg 9.)

Friday, April 23, Fr. Dan's Men's Coffee Club 8am

Saturday, April 24, 2021- Le Cheile (Together) IPC Sobriety Support Group @ 6PM

Tuesday, April 27, 2021- Zoom Bingo @11

ART COMPETITION

Mother's
DAY

Send us a story along with your art work reflecting a memory of you and your Mom. Open to all ages!

The winner will receive a surprise, generous gift voucher! Winner announced on Mothers Day!

Email your submissions to jmolloy@ipcboston.org

Fr Dan's Page



The following passages remind me of our mission here at the Centre especially during this pandemic:

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

The Resurrection of The Lord Promise and Joy

Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said. Matthew 28:5-6

Although we do not fully understand all the implications of the Resurrection, this we do know: Easter celebrates not only Jesus' resurrection, but the resurrection that has already begun in each one of us. Wherever fragile life is cared for, where tears are wiped away, where the lonely are visited, where forgiveness is extended, where a hungry child is being fed, where honesty and integrity abide, where genuine peace is established, where an unjust situation is being made just, all of these are seeds of the Resurrection, seeds of new life. The Resurrection is not only a past event or future event. It is already in process here and now. This is Easter's promise! This is Easter's joy! What else could we say but Alleluia!

We Are Christ to One Another

For if I do not go, the Advocate will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. John 16:7

"We know Jesus was born, lived and ministered for three years. We know that he was crucified, died and buried. Yet, do we go the next step and realize that this advocate that he promised actually means that he did not leave us, but lives in and through us? Do we really comprehend that in offering a kind word or a helping hand, we are being Christ to one another?"

As Richard Kipling wrote "God could not be everywhere, and therefore he made mothers". And I might add, fathers and friends, doctors and nurses, teachers and coaches-indeed, all who touch the lives of others. The wisdom of God is truly mind-blowing!



Kind words
CAN BE
short and
easy to speak,
but their
echoes
are truly endless.
MOTHER TERESA

Christ has no body on earth

**but yours,
no hands
but yours,
no feet
but yours.**

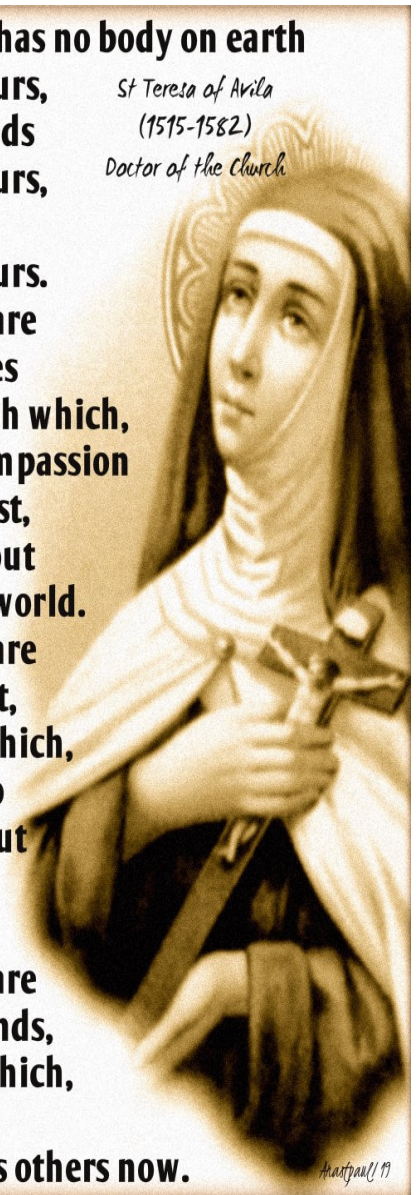
St Teresa of Avila

(1515-1582)

Doctor of the Church

**Yours are
the eyes
through which,
the compassion
of Christ,
looks out
to the world.**

**Yours are
the feet,
with which,
He is to
go about
doing
good.
Yours are
the hands,
with which,
He is
to bless others now.**



Amazigh/19

IRISH PASTORAL CENTRE SPECIAL EVENTS

EXPLORE IRISH MUSIC
LESSONS IN ADAMS CORNER
AT THE IPC!



WESTWOOD
MUSIC SCHOOL
OPEN HOUSE
@ IPC
THURSDAY,
APRIL 22ND,
AT 6:30 PM

Are you interested in
learning to play an
instrument?
Come explore lessons in
Violin, Tin Whistle
and
Button Accordion



THE IPC WILL SCREEN THIS
DOCUMENTARY ON SAT APRIL 17TH
AT 10AM. JOIN US FOR TEA AND
SCONES!



CUMANN NA GAELIGE I MBOSTON
Irish Language Society of Boston

The University Archives and Special Collections at UMass Boston
with
Cumann na Gaeilge i mBoston
invite you to attend

**Connemara, New England, and the Irish Language
Living Stories that Connect Us**

April 17th 10 a.m. EST ~ 3:00 p.m. GMT

Irish Oral History Interviews Online

special speaker

Máirtín Ó Catháin

Emigrants Commemorative Centre Carna

Michael Connolly (Maine Irish Heritage Center), Seán Ó Coistealbha (Muintearas)
together with panelists Natasha Sumner, Gregory Darwin, and Brian Frykenberg
open discussion to follow

Advance registration is required for this virtual event
Please sign up using the form available by following the TinyURL link below
tinyurl.com/irish-language-event



Government of Ireland
Emigrant Support Programme

An Roinn Gnóthaí Eorpacha
Department of Enterprise Affairs



massHUMANITIES



THE EIRE SOCIETY
OF BOSTON

Mothers Day Lunch

Join us at the Cottage in
Weymouth!

THURSDAY MAY 6
12:30PM

Pre-Registration is required.

\$20.00

*Please call the IPC at
617-265-5300 to register your
attendance.*

Limited to 50 guests.



IMMIGRATION NEWS

Good News about the “Public Charge” test:

In March the Biden administration announced that it will not implement the 2019 “public charge” rule proposed by the Trump administration. This rule was criticized by some because it created a “wealth test” for new immigrants and had a chilling effect on immigrant families’ seeking access to health care and safety net programs. Instead an earlier version of the rule implemented in 1999 will be followed.

Under this 1999 guidance, it is safe for immigrants and their families to access health, nutrition, and housing programs for which they are eligible without fear of immigration consequences.

PUBLIC CHARGE

The Trump Administration’s version of the Public Charge test ended on March 9, 2021.

USING PROGRAMS LIKE THE ONES BELOW WILL **NOT** AFFECT YOUR IMMIGRATION APPLICATION:



- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, “EBT” or “Food Stamps”) and P-EBT
- Women, Infants and Children Nutrition Program (WIC)
- Food pantry, grocery, and prepared meal programs



- Boston Rental Relief Fund
- Public housing and Section 8 assistance
- Housing aid through the Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) program
- Emergency Assistance shelter



- COVID-19 testing, treatment, and vaccination
- MassHealth (except long-term institutionalized care), Health Safety Net, Medicare, Health Connector Coverage
- Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)



- Donations
- Any COVID-19 relief funding
- Unemployment assistance
- Small Business Administration (SBA) loans and grants
- Help paying for child care

*The Public Charge test still exists for some immigration applications, but it **ONLY** applies to these benefits:*

- Government cash benefits (e.g. TAFDC, EAEDC, SSI)
- Long-term care paid for by the government (e.g. nursing homes)

Questions? Call 311 or contact the City of Boston Mayor’s Office for Immigrant Advancement at 617-635-2980 or immigrantadvancement@boston.gov. For more information about Public Charge, visit boston.gov/immigrants.

IMMIGRATION NEWS

SAFE HOME IRELAND

Safe Home Ireland is an Irish emigrant support service that provides a range of services to more than 2,000 people each year. We provide an advice and information service, undertake outreach visits and provide housing assistance to eligible applicants.

Safe Home Ireland was established in the year 2000 to assist older qualifying Irish born emigrants to explore the option of returning to live in their native areas. The organisation was set up as a Pilot Project by a local GP and our current Chairperson, Dr. Jerry Cowley.

Over the years, Safe Home has evolved from simply providing a housing option for older Irish born emigrants. Our work is now spread across the 26 counties and we provide supports to our applicants at every stage of their journey from the initial enquiry abroad to actual return home.

OUR VISION: To ensure that anyone considering returning or moving to Ireland is given every opportunity to make an informed decision.

OUR MISSION: To act as the LINK for Irish emigrants both at home and abroad by providing advice, information, guidance and supports for those seeking permanent repatriation as well as those who chose to stay in their adopted country.

OUR VALUES: Safe Home Ireland is committed to working in partnership with all relevant agencies at home and abroad to offer a professional and person centered service to our client group.

For more information about Safe Home Ireland please visit their website: safehomeireland.com



Update on the DACA Program:

On Jan. 20, 2021, President Biden introduced a memo focusing on the preservation of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, program. In this memo, "the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Attorney General, shall take all actions he deems appropriate, consistent with applicable law, to preserve and fortify DACA."

DACA is an immigration program that was implemented in 2012 by the Secretary of Homeland Security. This program allows certain undocumented individuals who entered the United States as children to be safe from removal for a period of up to two years if they meet the following eligibility requirements:

- The applicant was under the age of 31 as of June 15, 2012;
- The applicant came to the United States before reaching their 16th birthday;
- The applicant was physically present in the United States on June 15, 2012;
- The applicant had no lawful status on June 15, 2012;
- The applicant was in school, graduated or obtained a certificate of completion of high school, obtained a general education development (GED), or was an honorably discharged veteran of the Coast Guard or Armed Forces of the United States; and
- The applicant has not been convicted of a felony, significant misdemeanor, or three or more other misdemeanors, and does not otherwise pose a threat to national security or public safety. An applicant granted this relief is eligible for work authorization, a social security number and various federal benefits.

On Feb. 4, 2021, Sens. Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Lindsey Graham (R-SC) introduced The DACA Dream Act of 2021. This bill will provide individuals who were brought to this country as children and who grew up in the United States the opportunity to apply for lawful permanent resident status and eventually citizenship if certain requirements are met.

While the existing DACA program has been fully reinstated and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is required to accept new DACA applications, there is still pending litigation in the Southern District of Texas that threatens and ultimately seeks to do away with the program. Many remain hopeful, however, that the current administration will continue to make DACA a priority and create a pathway for citizenship for these individuals who have been in the U.S. since childhood.

IMMIGRATION NEWS

A reminder from our friends at Massachusetts Immigration & Refugee Coalition:

Remember! There will be NO immigration consequences for seeking COVID-19 testing, treatment, or vaccination. If you or a loved one are sick or know you've been exposed to the coronavirus, don't hesitate to get tested and treated, regardless of your immigration status or insurance coverage.

COVID-19 VACCINE FAQ



ENGLISH

MIRA strongly encourages everyone to get vaccinated as soon as they are eligible, regardless of immigration status. To find out if you are currently eligible and to learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine, please visit mass.gov/vaccine.



Q CAN I RECEIVE THE VACCINE IF I'M UNDOCUMENTED?

Yes! Everyone can and should get vaccinated as soon as they are eligible, regardless of immigration status. The only way we will beat this virus is to vaccinate as many people as possible, as quickly as possible, and continue practicing social distancing and mask guidelines.

Q DOES IT COST MONEY TO RECEIVE THE VACCINE?

No! The vaccine is free for everyone, regardless of immigration status or whether you have health insurance. You will not be asked for a credit card or to make any payment at any point during the process.

Q ARE THERE IMMIGRATION CONSEQUENCES FOR RECEIVING THE VACCINE?

No! There will be no immigration consequences for receiving the vaccine, or any form of COVID-19 treatment. It will not influence the public charge determination and your immigration status will be kept confidential. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection will not conduct enforcement operations at or near vaccine distribution sites or clinics. There might be a security presence, such as the National Guard, but this is purely precautionary and not a cause for concern.

Q DO I NEED A DRIVER'S LICENSE, ID OR HEALTH INSURANCE FOR THE VACCINE?

No! You do not need any identification card or a health insurance card to get the vaccine. You might be asked for an ID or an insurance card when you arrive, and if you have them, you should bring them, but they are not required.

If you don't have identification, you may have to attest to your eligibility, such as confirming your age, by signing a form.

Q IS THE VACCINE SAFE?

Yes! COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective. All approved versions of the vaccine went through rigorous testing. Millions of people in the United States have already received COVID-19 vaccines under the most intense safety monitoring in U.S. history and serious side effects are very rare.

You may experience mild side effects, like a sore arm or mild fever-like symptoms, but these are normal and a sign that the vaccine is working.

IMMIGRATION NEWS

Naturalization Civics Test UPDATE

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

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

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

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

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

The test items and study guides can be found on the [Citizenship Resource Center](#) on the USCIS website.

The IPC Can Help:

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

Current Immigration Fees:

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

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

EASILY ACCESS IRISH BIRTH, MARRIAGE AND DEATH CERTIFICATES

Did you know that you can access your Irish birth, marriage and death certificates online? **Certificates.ie** is a website initiated through the Health Service Executive in Ireland which provides straight forward steps at reasonable cost. You can also download forms to receive your certificate by mail.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

MEET CONNIE MCELHENEY:

A lovely reflection on his life with his wife Mary



Being one of a family of twelve in Donegal in the 30's, 40's, and 50's brings back many happy memories but also sad ones too. Emigration was the only cure so off to foreign lands we went with a suitcase in hand.

My first stop was Scotland where like many from Donegal we found a new home. Work was plentiful on building sites and trips back home in the summer and at Christmas was something you looked forward to.

In 1957 after being in Scotland for six years I decided to seek greener pastures so Canada was my next stop, getting closer to the United States with every move.

After a brief visit back to Donegal to bid farewell to my parents, family and friends and after the Irish Wake it was back to Scotland again to board the Ocean Liner "Castle Felice" from Greenock Scotland on May 8, 1957.

As I sailed past Malin Head and Tory Island I went on a journey taken by thousands before me. Saying goodbye to the Hills of Donegal fading away in the distance I settled down for nine days before reaching Montreal.

Work was very scarce at that time and being only allowed to have 50 pounds when leaving Scotland didn't help.

There were no steak dinners for me in Canada. After weeks of no hope of getting a job, my cousin Peter McGaffigan came up from Boston and brought me to the U.S.A.

My aunt, Celia McGaffigan, a great lady from Leitrim, knew a friend who gave me my first job in America learning to be a meat cutter. The company was the Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company, the largest retail company in the US at that time.

Eighteen years after landing that job I went to work for the M.B.T.A. in the automotive department. I retired from the T in 1997 and have been enjoying life with my lovely wife, Mary, who I met over 60 years ago.

It all happened in that famous hunting ground of the Dudley Street dance halls. My wife Mary Ann Gallagher from lovely Leitrim made a pit stop in Boston on her way back to California in 1959. Mary was living with her uncle and working as a salesgirl at Jordan Marsh. It was love at first sight. She never reboarded the plane.

It was a fast romance, but why wait? We walked together down the aisle on October 15, 1960. We have six great children, Theresa, Neil, John, Mary, Cathy, Kevin and five grandchildren. We love them all and they are all doing well in their jobs. They live not too far away and visit us often so that is a plus.

Mary and I love travelling and have visited Australia, China, Israel, Nova Scotia, Canada and we have done the Lewis and Clark expedition route and travelled via train to British Columbia

The Donegal Association has always been close to my heart since I joined it in the late fifties. Being elected President for eight years I enjoyed working with all the members in planning all the events we ran in those happy times. Many of those great members are gone to their eternal reward. Their memories will live forever in the annals of the Donegal Association May They Rest In Peace.

One of my proudest moments with the Donegal Club was working with Michael McCarron and the members in booking Daniel O' Donnell for his first appearance in the U.S.A. It was one of the best nights of entertainment in the history of the Association.

The G.A.A. in Boston keeps my mind active in retirement with being treasurer of the North East Division for eight years and Honorary President for seven years. I also had the honor of being Honorary President of the Donegal G.A.A. It was a great honor for me to be asked by the G.A.A. Board to sing the American National Anthem on the day of the finals in Canton. I thank them sincerely for asking me to perform. Many changes have occurred in the Irish Clubs in the past sixty years. Boston had nineteen clubs in 1957, fourteen of them Irish County Clubs.

I believe this is a great idea of the Pastoral Centre to put a written program like this together. So much information is lost as we all get older and forgetful.

Back in the mid thirties the Irish Government had a program somewhat similar to this where children at school were asked to talk to their older relatives and neighbours to record their life story and write it down as homework and return it to school.

It was called Folk-Lore and those stories still appear in school books to this day.



IPC ARCHIVES



In Loving Memory

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

February 14, Mary Hurley, County Cork
February 20, Kathleen Conneely Fewer, South Boston and County Galway
February 20, William J Mostyn Jr, Eastham and County Cork
March 5, Ann Branczewski, Dorchester and Co. Galway
March 9, Kathleen Naughton, Braintree and Co. Galway
March 10, Patrick Clarke, Braintree, Co. Meath
March 11, Aidan Coyne, Milton Ma
March 12, Julia Walsh Folan, Dorchester and County Galway
March 13, Patricia Connors, Arlington and County Galway
March 14, Gertrude Blake, Braintree and County Galway
March 16, Mary Roche, Brighton and County Roscommon
March 22, Helen Schrameier, West Roxbury and County Galway
March 24, Winifred Hayes, South Boston and County Galway
March 27, Nora Connolly, Westwood and County Galway
March 28, Theresa Lasio, Milton and County Clare
March 29, Eddie McDevitt, Dorchester, County Donegal
March 28, 2021, Theresa Lasis, Milton and County Clare
April 6, 2021, Edward F. Kerrigan, Pembroke and County Cavan
April 7, 2021, Nora Morrissey, Dorchester and County Galway
April 7, 2021, Daniel Driscoll, Dorchester and Skibbereen, County Cork
April 8, 2021, Mona O'Connor, Dorchester and County Galway

CORK CLUB REMEMBERS JOAN WILSON



Joan Wilson, Secretary of the Cork club passed away on February 2, 2021 from complications of Leukemia. Joan a very efficient and friendly lady joined the Cork club back in 2014 and became Secretary which she held for several years. Always a vibrant, efficient and happy person, Joan was liked by all who came in contact with her. Joan was the beloved wife of the late Thomas Wilson and the mother of Sandra and Susan. During her early years in High School Joan excelled in Field Hockey and Basketball and was inducted into the Lexington High School Hall of Fame. She was named Woman of the Year by the Cork club in 2018. Joan was a member of many of the Irish clubs in the Greater Boston area and attended their dances with her friends and officers of the Cork club each Saturday evening. She loved to dance and hang out with her friend for over fifty years, Eileen Keating.

Joan also enjoyed Friday evenings at Bickford's listening and dancing to the music of Mossie Coughlin. She loved her family, her grandchildren and great grandchildren and her greatest joy was to help others if needed. She was an avid Red Sox and Patriots fan and never missed a Patriots game. There are so many things that could be said about Joan and the good things she did in her lifetime, even up to when she was confined to hospital. She will be missed by all the officers of the Cork club and her many friends so now it's time to collect her eternal reward back with her husband. May the good Lord welcome Joan into his kingdom. Rest in Peace dear friend. You will be missed.

Grief

I had my own notion of grief.
I thought it was the sad time
That followed the death of someone you love.
And you had to push through it
To get to the other side.
But I'm learning there is no other side.
There is no pushing through.
But rather,
There is absorption.
Adjustment.
Acceptance.
And grief is not something you complete,
But rather, you endure.
Grief is not a task to finish
And move on,
But an element of yourself-
An alteration of your being.
A new way of seeing.
A new definition of self.

Gwen Flowers

Fadó Fadó - Long Ago in Ireland

SHOPPING IN RURAL IRELAND

By *James Reddiough*

When this scribe was a child my cousin and I used to cross the fields to the local shop Strogens in Cartron in the parish of Attymass. It was a room in the house and we loved to go there on messages so that we could buy sweets and enjoy them on the way home – innocent and halcyon times they were.

Some time back whilst imbibing in Foxford I met a man whose parents once owned what is now Guiry's pub on the corner of the Main Street. They had a public house and a shop on the bridge side. His mother's people had a large shop in Atty-machugh and this was a major rural business and family – owned at one time. They sold groceries and feedstuffs and cloth and fabric too. They had a lorry or two on the road and travelling shop also.



The rural shop was once an important part of the social fabric of the countryside and people would go there not just to shop for the few commodities but they would gather news and information there as well as socialise. These shops were often only a room in a house and they sold the basic needs for the household which was largely self-sufficient at the time.

They sold tea and sugar and paraffin oil and that sort of thing and they survived the ravages of the rationing of the Second World War. The counter would be in a room and inside the door, items were on shelves on the wall inside the counter there was no self-service in those days.

The travelling shop was very important in rural parts before the mass ownership of cars. The women would bring eggs to the shop keeper and they would exchange them for groceries a form of barter and the merchant would then grade the eggs and bring them to the port at Dublin for export. This writer well remembers the travelling shops that came to our area in the 1970's with Gallagher, John Kelly before this and John Judge on the road each week Tuesday for one and Thursday for the other and this writer indeed used to travel on part of the route to help out and would get 50p to spend on sweets before the travelling shop returned to the village.

The children on their way to school would visit the shop for a few sweets or a penny or six penny bar in what was then the world of pounds shillings and pence prior to 1971. These shops were popular and widespread during the 1940's and before and up to the 1950's until the advent of the car and the larger shops in the towns and villages closed them down.

They would have string and brown paper for wrapping the goods in and this was before there was such a thing as packaging of goods. The post office in the village was a shop too and would have items for people when they came to collect their payments should they wish to buy. The shop and the post office are often in the same building today, but this does not always mean that the people use their money in the shop after using the post office, but it was that way at one time. There were shops dotted throughout the townlands and they did a brisk trade and then there were larger merchants in the nearby villages where as the saying goes you could buy anything from a needle to an anchor.

In the evenings people and the young in particular would gather in the small townland shop and they would congregate outside after having shopped for their parents and have a chat and a laugh like a scene from the song "the stone outside Dan Murphy's door."

The townland shops came to an end in the early 1960's a water shed time for the life of rural Ireland and the place was never the same again and the young left the place desolate and yet in the villages the small shops with the room survived into the 1970's and in some cases 1990's

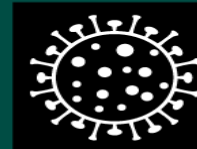
NEWS FROM THE IRISH CONSULATE

The Government of Ireland continues to advise against all non-essential international travel at this time. Travel restrictions are in place to protect public health and to mitigate the risk of new variants of COVID-19 entering the country. Details of these measures are available on the travel section of the gov.ie website.

Travel to Ireland from specific designated States is now subject to mandatory hotel quarantine. As of 4am on April 15th the United States will be considered a designated State and all passengers arriving into Ireland that have been present in the US, including transit, during the prior 14 days will be subject to a period of mandatory hotel quarantine.

This must be pre-booked in advance of travel, further information on booking can be found [here](#). **These arrangements apply to any passenger who has been in any of the [designated states](#) in the previous 14 days, even if only transiting through one of these countries and even if remaining airside.** The list of designated states can change at short notice and passengers should check gov.ie for full details before travelling.

Passengers arriving into Ireland from all countries, including the US, are required to show a negative result of a **pre-departure PCR COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours of arrival in the State.** Checks will be made by the Border Management Unit at Dublin Airport and by An Garda Síochána at other points of entry. **Mandatory quarantine at a designated facility will be required for passengers who arrive in breach of the pre-departure negative/'not detected' PCR requirement.** Children aged six and under are exempt from this requirement. Please visit gov.ie/quarantine for more information.



Coronavirus
COVID-19
National
Programme

Mandatory Hotel Quarantine

If you or someone you know needs to travel to Ireland, **please be aware of Ireland's quarantine requirements.**

For more information
Visit gov.ie/quarantine



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

NEWS FROM THE IRISH CONSULATE

CURRENT OPERATING STATUS **CONSULATE GENERAL OF IRELAND BOSTON** **APR 2021**

1. The Consulate is operating with revised procedures. We ask all our customers to conduct their business with us by phone, email or mail only in the interests of everyone's safety.

2. During this period the quickest way to contact us is at +1 617 267 9330 or email at bostoncongen@dfa.ie

3. Passport application processing is currently suspended due to Level 5 restrictions in Ireland. A new online service for first-time applicants from the U.S. will be live at the end of April. The Consulate is no longer sending out paper applications in anticipation of this new service. For more information please see dfa.ie/passportonline, and keep an eye on our Twitter and Website for updates. Any applications previously submitted to us will be processed once normal operations resume.

4. If your passport is less than five years expired you **must** renew online here: dfa.ie/passportonline

5. Visa services are temporarily suspended except in cases of genuine emergency. Please refer to the INIS website for more information: inis.gov.ie

6. Any queries may be directed to the Contact Us page on our website dfa.ie/boston or +1 617 267 9330.

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

PUBLIC ADVISORY



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COMMUNITY FOR
30 YEARS.

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and Sandwiches

DAILY HOT LUNCH SPECIALS INCLUDE:

Monday: Chicken Pot pie, Shephard's Pie

Tuesday: Roast Turkey Breast, Stuffing, Gravy and Cranberry

Wednesday: Greenhills Baked Ham, Shephard's Pie

Thursday: Irish Boiled Dinner with Irish Boiled Bacon, Corned Beef, Cabbage, Spuds, Veg and Homemade White Sauce

Friday: Chicken Pot Pie, Chicken Curry, Rice and Fish dinner

Saturday: Shephard's Pie, Full Irish Breakfast

Sunday: Full Irish Breakfast



IT'S IRELAND ON YOUR PLATE!



ACT THREE



SALAD DAY BY DEIRDRE KINAHAN

Join **The Here Comes Everybody Players** for a short play about two elderly people who, confined in a Dublin nursing home, plot a daring escape into the sunshine!

First performed at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin in 2009 and later developed and expanded into a full length play called *Halcyon Days*, which played at the Dublin Theatre Festival in 2012 and the Edinburgh Festival 2013.

Featuring

Carmel O'Reilly as *Patricia*
Donal O'Sullivan as *Sean*

Directed by Cathal Stephens

April 15th 2021 // 7:00 PM ET

Register on Zoom Here: <https://bit.ly/3sf2rRn>



Ard-Chonsalacht na hÉireann | Bostún
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The Here
Comes
Everybody
Players

The Celtic Scribe

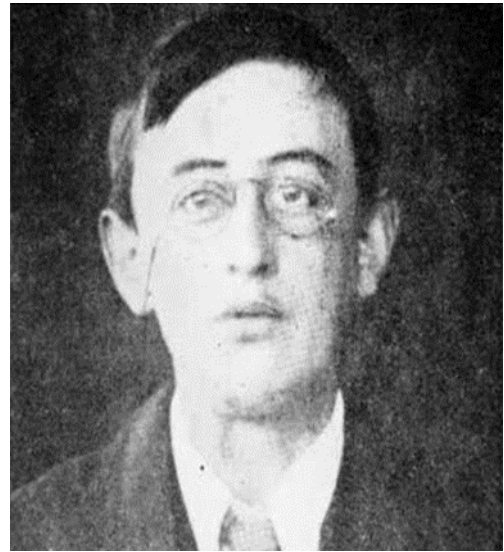
I SEE HIS BLOOD UPON THE ROSE

Joseph Mary Plunkett

*I see his blood upon the rose
And in the stars the glory of his eyes,
His body gleams amid eternal snows,
His tears fall from the skies.*

*I see his face in every flower;
The thunder and the singing of the birds
Are but his voice-and carved by his power
Rocks are his written words.*

*All pathways by his feet are worn,
His strong heart stirs the ever-beating sea,
His crown of thorns is twined with every thorn,
His cross is every tree.*



An assessment of 'I See His Blood Upon The Rose' by Dr Lucy Collins

'I See His Blood Upon the Rose' is a poem in the mystical tradition, expressing the intensity of Plunkett's Christian faith. These simple verses testify to the presence of the divine in the world, reading in nature the iconography of the crucifixion. At the centre of the poem lies the conviction that Christ's suffering will never be forgotten, as long as God's word remains the bedrock of existence. Here the deeply personal becomes universal through an unworldly directness of address.

Plunkett's commitment to the revolutionary process suggests how shared intentions may find expression in individual action, and indicates the redemptive power of personal sacrifice. Yet this is also a poem about what it is to see - about the significance of the act of writing as a form of revelation. It reflects our need to move beyond the narrow confines of the self in the search for human meaning.

Dr Lucy Collins is a lecturer in English at University College Dublin (UCD). She is the curator of 'Reading 1916', a forthcoming exhibition at UCD Special Collections.

WHEN ALL THE OTHERS WERE AWAY AT MASS

by [Seamus Heaney](#)

When all the others were away at Mass
I was all hers as we peeled potatoes.
They broke the silence, let fall one by one
Like solder weeping off the soldering iron:
Cold comforts set between us, things to share
Gleaming in a bucket of clean water.
And again let fall. Little pleasant splashes
From each other's work would bring us to our senses.

So while the parish priest at her bedside
Went hammer and tongs at the prayers for the dying
And some were responding and some crying
I remembered her head bent towards my head,
Her breath in mine, our fluent dipping knives—
Never closer the whole rest of our lives.



GOING TO MASS, KILRONAN, ARAN
ISLANDS, COUNTY GALWAY
BY IVAN SUTTON

The Celtic Scribe

The following poems were submitted by Claire Weston of Brookline a member of our Senior Community.

Reflections In My Mirror

As I look in the mirror, I see my face and hair changing.
I think back to my younger days and how I used to look.
I compare my youth with my getting older.
It's a reflection only the mirror can show.
Life has moved so quickly.
I cannot go back,
So, I move forward slowly, with a smile upon my face.

Moving On In My Life

As I move on in my life,
I'm making changes.
Change is not easy for me.
I try to put the past behind me.
I miss the wonderful friends I used to have
who have moved away or passed on.
I am meeting younger friends as I get older.
Almost everyday there is some reason for me to feel thankful.
My new friends make me laugh.
We know how to give each other good advice.
We can be ourselves because we trust each other.
Life is precious. I move on, making changes in my life.

Thank you to our regular contributor Peter Groome who submitted the following reflection:

During this Easter season, let us remember those who fought during the Easter Rising of 1916. As we close Women's History Month in the United States, let us especially remember those women who played an important part in that significant event in Irish History.

Women of The Rising:

They traveled to Dublin at Easter time,
with love in their hearts,
and fire in their veins.

Teachers, housewives, nurses and maids,
all of whom
great Soldiers made.

Brigid, Winnie, The Countess and Grace,
fighting for freedom,
from the Empire's hate.

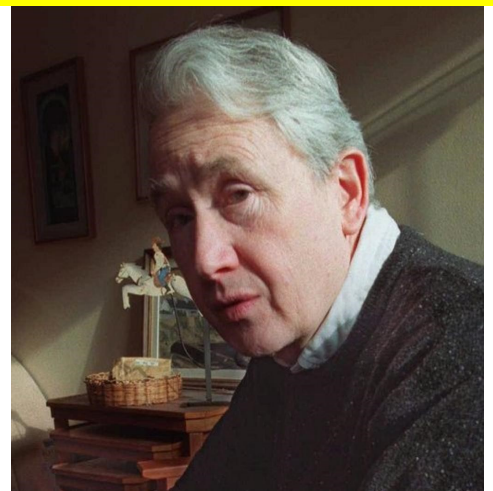
Beaten, bloodied, chilled to the bone,
twas their passion for Ireland
that kept them going.

Some sentenced to Kilmainham's
damp dreary cells.
Others to the soil
past the tolling bell.

Notable Quotes

*"You have to study and learn so that you can make up your own mind about history and everything else but you can't make up an empty mind.
Stock your mind, stock your mind.
It is your house of treasure and no one in the world can interfere with it."*

Frank McCourt, Pulitzer Prize Winner



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

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

Sports News From Ireland

The GAA Releases its updated Master Fixtures Calendar for the 2021 season.

The inter-county season will run from the weekend of May 8th/9th with the start of the Allianz Hurling League, to the weekend of August 28/29 when the All-Ireland Football Final will be played. County and Provincial Club Championships will be played in the months of September, October, November, and December with the All-Ireland Club Finals scheduled for February 2022. The inter-county fixtures programme will be run off in a 20-week period and guarantees a minimum of five games for each Senior County Football and Hurling team with all bar three counties guaranteed six games in hurling.



2021 Allianz Football League: The Allianz Football League will run from the weekend of May 15/16 to the weekend of June 19/20 with Divisions split into North and South as originally planned in December.

Four teams will be in each group based on geography with three Round Robin games per team. The top two in each divisional group will advance to the league semi-finals followed by a league final.

The bottom two in each divisional group will play relegation semi-finals with the two losers of those matches relegated. The bottom teams in Division 4 will play a Shield semi-final and final.

League finals will only be played on June 19/20 if counties involved are not playing in the championship the following weekend. If they are, then joint winners will be declared for Division 1 and joint winners and promotion for Divisions 2, 3, and 4. London will not be participating in the 2021 Allianz Football League.

2021 Allianz Hurling League: Divisions 1 and 2 of the Allianz Hurling League will run from the weekend of May 8/9 to the weekend of June 12/13. Division 3 of the Allianz Hurling League will run from the weekend of May 15/16 to the weekend of June 19/20.

There will be no Division 1 Hurling League quarter-finals, semi-finals, or Final played. There will either be joint winners for 2021, or if the teams that win Div 1A and Div 1B meet in the Championship, this will double as a League Final.

The Division 1 Hurling League Relegation Play-off will be played as curtain raiser to Senior Hurling Semi Final in August.

Divisions 2 and 3 will not have League Finals either. The top team in each Division will be crowned champions. The bottom team in Divisions 2A, 2B, and 3A will be relegated.

2021 All-Ireland Senior Football Championship will be played as a straight knock-out competition from the provincial series forward. There will be no Qualifiers and New York and London will not be involved.

2021 Liam MacCarthy Cup: There will be a provincial knock-out championship with back-door qualifiers like there was in 2020, but now also with the introduction of relegation to the Joe McDonagh Cup.

There will be a preliminary round in the qualifiers between the two defeated quarter-final team in Leinster with the winners progressing to Round 1 of the Qualifiers and the losers relegated to the Joe McDonagh Cup in 2022.

Competing counties

Munster: Limerick, Waterford, Tipperary, Clare, Cork.

Leinster: Kilkenny, Galway, Wexford, Dublin, Laois, Antrim.

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Local Sports

MCBRIDE IS BACK!

Evander Holyfield to fight Kevin McBride in June for legend's first bout since 2011. [Josh Peter](#): USA TODAY

Evander Holyfield will fight Kevin McBride after negotiations for a bout with Mike Tyson fell through, according to Kris Lawrence, an adviser to Holyfield. The eight-round exhibition match will take place June 5 in Miami on the undercard of a fight between Teofimo Lopez, the undisputed lightweight champion, and George Kambosos Jr. Holyfield, 58, will be fighting for the first time in more than 10 years and against a boxer most famous for scoring a TKO against Tyson in what was the last fight of Tyson's pro career. With Tyson at least temporarily out of the picture, Holyfield has chosen to fight the last man to beat Tyson. McBride scored a TKO against Tyson in 2005, when Tyson failed to come out for the seventh round.

It was the last fight of Tyson's pro career. "So if you can't fight Tyson, you got to fight the last guy that knocked him out," Lawrence said. "It's not like Evander went deep into the well and found some geriatric guy." McBride, 47, is nine years younger than Holyfield. He fought last in 2011, when he was knocked out in the fourth round Mariusz Wach. Holyfield also fought last in 2011, when he beat Brian Nielsen with a 10th-round TKO. The Holyfield-McBride fight is scheduled for eight, two-minute rounds and will be held at Marlins Park.



It was a historic night for Boston and Ireland when Kevin McBride took down Mike Tyson. (photo on left) Tyson lost to the 6ft 6in Irishman from Clones after the referee stopped the fight before the seventh round of their meeting in 2006.

Irish Boston is once again making plans for the Holyfield showdown in Miami.

Best of luck to the "Clones Colossus."



BOSTON IRISH WOLFHOOUNDS TRAINING ANNOUNCEMENT:

The Wolfhounds will be holding weekly non-contact trainings this Spring as we prepare for a return to full rugby.

April - Thursdays 730-9pm at Moakley Park Stadium

May - Wednesdays 730-9pm at Roberts Playground field, Dorchester.

Trainings will be a mix of skill-building drills and touch game variations, and will be in compliance with City of Boston COVID-19 safety guidelines including mask-wearing. We welcome all interested to come out and train with us - if you want access to all team communications, please message us on FB with your email or cell to request for us to add you to our SportEasy app. **BIW YOUTH RUGBY** takes place on Wednesday and Friday evenings from 5:30—7:00PM for U9, U12, Middle School (U15), High School (U18) at the Irish Cultural Center (ICC) 200 New Boston Drive, Canton. For registration details, contact Steve Pagana via email: BIWYRO@gmail.com

Sports News From Ireland

IRISH JOCKEY Rachael Blackmore has made history by becoming the first female to win the Grand National.

The Killenalee-born rider secured her place in the history books on April 10, after riding to victory aboard Minella Times in the world's most famous horse race. It came as part of a memorable afternoon for Irish trainer Henry de Bromhead, who completed a memorable one-two with another of his horses, Balko Des Flos, coming in second.

Owner JP McManus also had two reasons to celebrate, with another of his horses, Any Second Now, finishing third. This triumph marked McManus's second Grand National victory, coming 11 years after Don't Push It won in 2010.



Ireland dominated proceedings at Aintree, with each of the top five finishers coming from Irish trainers and owners. Riding on the 11-1 shot Minella, the Co Tipperary rider delivered a perfect race, biding her time early on before gradually creeping up into contention as the race entered its second circuit.

Her win represents a watershed moment for horse racing and a much-needed positive story around the sport after several months of negative headlines involving Irish racing.

Speaking to the *Racing Post*, an ecstatic Blackmore was in shock at her victory. "I cannot believe it," she said. "He gave me an absolutely sensational spin. I'm so lucky to be riding him and I can't believe we've just won the Grand National, it's unbelievable.

"He was incredible and jumped beautifully and I was trying to wait for as long as I could. When we jumped the last and I asked him for a bit he was there. I don't feel male or female right now, I don't even feel human! This is just unbelievable." It was a triumph that drew reactions from across the world of politics and beyond in Ireland.

President Higgins was among the first to show his appreciation after Blackmore's historic win: "My congratulations to Rachael Blackmore on an historic achievement at Aintree," he tweeted. The win is both a personal and sporting success, and comes only a month after her groundbreaking wins at Cheltenham.

GAA QUIZ

1. What year was the backdoor system introduced into the All Ireland Football Championships
2. Who captained Cork to the 2004 All Ireland Hurling Championship?
3. What team has competed in 5 All Ireland Football Championships but has never won one?
4. In what year did Offaly fans stage a sit down protest on the pitch when their All-Ireland semi-final against Clare ended five minutes early?
5. Davy Fitzgerald managed which county first?
6. In what year was Brian Cody appointed Kilkenny Manager?
7. Stephen Cluxton captained Dublin to six of their seven All Ireland Championships. Who was captain for the other?
8. Who did Clare beat in a replay to claim the All Ireland title in 2013?



ANSWERS ON PAGE 3

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ipcboston.org

MISSION STATEMENT

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



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

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