

# Irish Pastoral Centre Newsletter



*“We are a Parish without Boundaries.”*

*Serving the Greater Boston  
Irish Community since 1987*

## SHOCK AT SHANNON AIRPORT

Aer Lingus has announced that it will permanently close its Shannon cabin crew base and lay off its Cork crew for three months.

The cabin crew in the Shannon base will have the options of enhanced severance terms or base transfer to Dublin where possible, according to The Irish Examiner.

The 45 Shannon-based ground crew will continue to be laid off.

Between September 12th and November 22nd, 198 Cork-based staff are to be temporarily laid off without pay – 60 ground staff and 138 cabin crew.

Cork Airport will be closed between these dates to facilitate a complete upgrade of its main runway.

The company has notified the Government that all of its Shannon-based crew are “in scope for redundancy” and is seeking to reduce the Cork headcount by 10.

Aer Lingus has warned of possible further lay-offs after it lost €103 million in the first three months of 2021. This is on top of a €361 million loss in 2020. CONT'D ON PAGE 18

## IPC SOLACE SUNRISE WALK

### BOSTON, MA SUNRISE WALK

DATE: JUNE 12, 2021

TIME: 4 AM

ADDRESS: CASTLE ISLAND  
2010 WILLIAM J DAY BLVD  
BOSTON MA, 02127



FOR MORE INFO VISIT:

[HTTPS://SOLACEHOUSEUSA.ORG/SUNRISE-WALK](https://solacehouseusa.org/sunrise-walk)

Join us for our  
first IPC  
Fundraiser  
for  
Mental Health  
Support Programs

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Government of Ireland  
Emigrant Support Programme



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha  
Department of Foreign Affairs



# IPC NEWS DESK

Dear Friends,

Time is flying by and we are loving this weather! We've had a good month of reconnecting with old friends and making new friends all along the way.

Mothers Day introduced us to the Cottage Bar in Weymouth where we were treated like royalty and enjoyed delicious roast beef and roast turkey dinners followed by Brownies and Apple pie! This was our first Annual Mother's Day celebration and all of our Moms were welcomed with beautiful flowers from the Irish Consulate. It is our hope to begin a South Shore Café and we will keep you posted as to its development.



Special thanks to Lopez florist, the Cottage Bar, the Irish Consulate, the Greenhill's Bakery and Adams Fish Market. Our First Friday Fish 'n' Chips night was a great success!

Our coffee clubs resume in June and we are all so happy that restrictions are lifted. Please welcome new neighbors and friends and we are happy to add them to our newsletter list.

This week, we welcomed the Solace House USA team from New York who will work with us on developing our Mental Health Support program, We are still in the infancy stage and we look forward to rolling out this partnership late summer. Please consider joining us for our first annual Solace Sunrise walk at Castle Island on June 12th. All funds will be donated back to IPC and you can register at [solachouseusa.org](http://solachouseusa.org) .

It's lovely to be out and about again and we are grateful to all who support!

Best to all,

Mary Swanton

## OUR KNITTING CLUB IS OFF TO A GREAT START!

Pictured here are talented crafters: IPC Board member Della Costello and Mary Riordan who brought the most delicious homemade raisin bread. We are all enjoying this class very much!

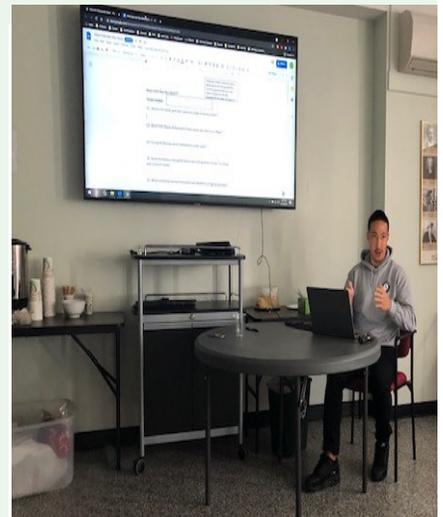


Join us for our next class On Thursday May 27th at 11am. All levels are welcome!



## IPC STAFF TRAINING

We are upgrading our systems at the IPC and our Americorp student, John Hunter has played a big role in its development and roll out. Armed with the patience of a Saint, Hunter has developed a great training model and we are all fortunate to learn from him. He is an excellent teacher!



If you need support with technology on your iPad, lap top or smart phone, give us a call. Hunter has been helping many of us and he can help you too!

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# IPC NEWS DESK

## GOING TO IRELAND SOON?

While the Irish Government continues to advise against non-essential travel, please be aware that: you need to be fully vaccinated to be exempt from mandatory hotel quarantine.



You must fill out a Passenger Locator Form and your passport number is required

You must have a negative PCR test that you have received 72 hours before you LAND not FLY!

## UPDATE ON U.S. CITIZENSHIP SERVICES AT THE IPC:

The Irish Pastoral Centre is delighted to welcome Sister Gerry Stanton as a new volunteer. Sister Gerry is a retired teacher and has used her vast teaching skills to help people prepare for the “citizenship test” which is part of the application process for U.S. Citizenship. Sometimes, the idea of a “test” can be intimidating and discourages eligible people from applying for U.S. Citizenship and the resulting benefits Citizenship can provide. If you are considering applying for U.S. Citizenship please reach out to the IPC. We can help you to determine your eligibility, guide you through the application process, schedule a consult with an immigration attorney if necessary, and connect you with Sister Gerry if you would like support preparing for the “test”. Read about Sr. Gerry on page 16.



**GAA QUIZ ANSWERS:** 1 – 13, 2 – Westmeath, 3 – 2010, 4 – 1937 and 1984, 5 – 30, 6 – 1998, 7 – 1982, 8 - 11

## IPC PROGRAMS

**25 Card Night**  
Every Wednesday 8pm



**First Friday Supper Club**  
**Fish and Chips Night**  
5PM—7PM JUNE 4TH  
Call in advance



**Fr. Dan's Men's Coffee Club**  
Every other Friday  
8am—10am  
May 21



**Knitting Club**  
Every 2nd Thursday  
May 27 and June 3rd  
11AM to 1PM



**Sobriety Support Group**  
Every Saturday  
6pm to 8pm  
All are welcome

**LE CHEILE**  
(Together)

**Immigration Clinics**  
First Monday and third  
Thursday of each month



## MOTHER'S DAY ART CONTEST WINNER

Congratulations to our Mother's Day Art Competition winner Kiera Manning! Kiera, who is in 5th Grade at South Boston Catholic Academy drew this lovely sunset with her and her mother at Castle Island.

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# IPC NEWS DESK

## MOTHER'S DAY LUNCH AT THE COTTAGE



Audrey Larkin and Nuala Conroy on left. Ronnie Stanley, Anne Byrne and Eileen Collins



Sally Feeney, Della Costello and Anne Byrne



Peg O'Connor



IPC Board Member Neil Hurley and Jennifer Molloy

## MEET THE MARYS!



Left to Right: Mary Cody, Mary Swanton, Mary Connolly, Mary O'Riordan, Mary O'Toole-Gorman, Mary Garvey, Mary Fitzgerald, Mary Colleary, Maureen Egan and Mary (Maureen) Ahern

# IPC NEWS DESK

## HONORARY DEGREES

Congratulations to Ireland's Ambassador to the USA. Dan Mulhall and his wife Greta were both recently conferred with Honorary Degrees by Neumann University in Pennsylvania.



## *LE CHEILE" (Together)*

The IPC hosts a weekly informal Sobriety Social Support Group every Saturday from 6:00pm to 7:30pm. All are welcome! Enjoy Tea, Coffee and Scones!

For more information, call us at 617 265 5300



## MEMORIAL MASS FOR SR. MARGUERITE KELLY



The Irish Pastoral Centre will celebrate the life of our dear friend  
Sr. Marguerite

on

Thursday June 10th  
at the Irish Social Club.

Fr. Dan will celebrate Mass at 11am which will be followed by lunch and music with Mossie.  
Please call the RSVP line to register your attendance

**855—479—2472**

## County Sligo Association of Boston

14th Annual Golf Tournament  
In Memory of Marion and Nathy Quinn  
On Friday June 4, 2021

Proceeds will benefit our Annual Scholarships

BROOKMEADOW COUNTRY CLUB

100 Everton Road, Canton, MA

781-828-4444

Registration: 1:00 PM

Shotgun Start: 2:30 PM

Dinner & Awards: Following

at Brookmeadow Banquet Facility

For more info: Ray McVeigh (617)293-4069;

Will Colleary (781)254-2690;

Mary O'Toole-Gorman (617)293-7047

Hole Sponsor Coordinator Christine McCarrick (617) 304-6554

Kindly respond on or before Friday, May 28, 2021

We are a 503(c) Nonprofit Organization

## News from our Senior Community

### OUR ZOOM BINGO WINNERS ARE:

Helen Loney, Kathleen Keady, Barbara Flaherty and Mary Morley are this month's Zoom BINGO winners. Helen won a gift card to Devlin's, Mary won a Stop & Shop gift card, Kathleen won a gift card to the Corrib, and Barbara won a gift card to Greenhills Irish Bakery. Come join our weekly BINGO for a great time and your chance to win a prize!

**MARGARET BEATTY**

**MARY CODY**

**MARY CONNELLY**

**ANGELA DURKIN**

**MARGARET GREENWAY**

**MARK PORTER**

**MARY HEALY**

**MARY SWANTON**

**CHERYL MCDONALD**

**MARY MCELANEY**

**CLAIRE WESTON**



## BRIGHTON, DORCHESTER, AND WEST ROXBURY CLUBS RESUME AT LAST!

We are pleased to announce that effective Monday June 14, 2021 we will be resuming our weekly coffees groups, with of course some temporary changes to our locations:

The Cara Club (Brighton) group will be meeting on Mondays at The Elks, 326 Washington Street, Brighton MA 02135. 1-3pm, there is limited parking available at the back of the Elks. The parking lot entrance is on Winship Street.

The Cafe Eireann (Dorchester) group will be meeting on Wednesdays in the outside seating area at the rear of The Landmark Restaurant and Greenhills Bakery from 10am-noon, addresses are 772 Adams Street and 780 Adams Street, Dorchester, MA 02124.

The Crossroads (West Roxbury) group will be meeting on Thursdays at The Elks Club on Morrell Street in, West Roxbury, MA 02132. from 1-3pm

### FIRST FRIDAY SUPPER CLUB



JOIN US ON FISH AND CHIPS NIGHT! - EVERY FIRST FRIDAY FROM 5PM—7PM

### WE ARE EXPANDING OUR SENIOR OUTREACH PHONE CALLS!

Plans are underway to increase our senior phone calls. If you would like to volunteer, please reach out to Audrey Larkin 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 photocopy. Keep the original with other essential 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@ipcbosoton.org](mailto:jmolloy@ipcbosoton.org)

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

*Friday, May 21, 2021- Men's Coffee @ 8AM*

*Saturday, May 22, 2021- Le Cheile- Sobriety Support Group @ 6PM*

*Tuesday, May 25, 2021- Zoom Bingo @ 11AM*

*Wednesday, May 26, 2021-Zoom Trivia @ 5PM*

*Wednesday, May 26, 2021-Card Night @ 8PM*

*Thursday, May 27, 2021-Knitting Club @11AM*

*Saturday, May 29, 2021-Le Cheile- Sobriety Support Group @ 6PM*

*Monday, May 31, 2021- MEMORIAL DAY- IPC CLOSED*

*Tuesday, June 1, 2021- Zoom Bingo @ 11AM*

*Wednesday, June 2, 2021-Zoom Trivia @ 5PM*

*Wednesday, June 2, 2021- Card Night @ 8PM*

*Friday, June 4, 2021- Men's Coffee @ 8 AM*

*Friday, June 4, 2021-Supper Club @ 5-7 PM*

*Saturday, June 5, 2021- Le Cheile- Sobriety Support Group @6 PM*

*Monday, June 7, 2021- Legal Clinic by Appointment*

*Tuesday, June 8, 2021-Zoom Bingo @ 11AM*

*Wednesday, June 9, 2021- Zoom Trivia @ 5PM*

*Wednesday, June 9, 2021-Card Night @ 8 PM*

*Thursday, June 10, 2021- Memorial Mass for Sr. Marguerite @ 11AM @ Irish Social Club*

*Saturday June 12, 2021- Solace Sunrise Walk @ Castle Island @ 4 AM*

*Saturday, June 12, 2021- Le Cheile- Sobriety Support Group @ 6PM*

*Monday, June 14, 2021-Cara Club @ 1 PM*

*Tuesday, June 15, 2021- Zoom Bingo @ 11 AM*

*Tuesday, June 15, 2021- Legal Clinic by Appointment*

*Wednesday, June 16, 2021- Café Eireann @ 10 AM*

*Wednesday, June 16, 2021-Zoom Trivia @ 5 PM*

*Wednesday, June 16, 2021-Card Night @ 8 PM*

*Thursday, June 17, 2021- Crossroads Café @ 1PM*

*Friday, June 18, 2021- Men's Coffee @ 8 AM*

*Saturday, June 19, 2021- Le Cheile- Sobriety Support Group @ 6PM*

*Monday, June 21, 2021- Cara Club @ 1PM*

*Tuesday, June 22, 2021- Zoom Bingo @ 11 AM*

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**MG<sub>2</sub>**



## AN APRON IS A HOLY THING

***He took a towel and tied it around his waist. -John 13:14***

After my mother died, we divvied up her things. One thing I wanted badly was one of her aprons. You know the kind: large bib, long strings and at least one pocket. Now every time I don that apron, I kiss it reverently and say a little prayer for Mom. I also pray that I may serve as generously and as joyfully as she did.

An apron is a holy thing. At the Last Supper Jesus himself donned a makeshift apron when he wrapped a towel around his waist before he washed his disciples' feet. Aprons are also symbolic. They remind us that serving others is not always neat. Our various forms of loving can get messy at times.

As we celebrate Memorial Day, May 31, our hearts are filled with gratitude for all who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom and for all for whom we don our apron, following in the footsteps of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

***Servant Jesus, may I serve the people in my life as generously and graciously as you did.***  
Sr Melanie Svoboda, S.N.D.

## Standing on the Shoulders

I am standing on the shoulders of the ones who came before me,  
I am stronger for their courage, I am wiser for their words.  
I am lifted by their longing for a fair and brighter future,  
I am grateful for their vision, for their toiling on this Earth

We are standing on the shoulders of the ones who came before us,  
They are saints and they are humans, they are angels, they are friends  
We can see beyond the struggles and the troubles and the challenge,  
When we know that by our efforts things will be better in the end

They lift us higher than I could ever fly, Carrying my burdens away  
I imagine our world if they hadn't tried, we wouldn't be here  
celebrating today

I am standing on the shoulders of the ones who came before me,  
I am honored by their passion for our liberty  
I will stand a little taller, I will work a little longer  
And my shoulders will be there to hold the ones who follow me.  
*-Joyce Johnson Rouse*



REMEMBER



& HONOR

# IPC NEWS FROM IRELAND

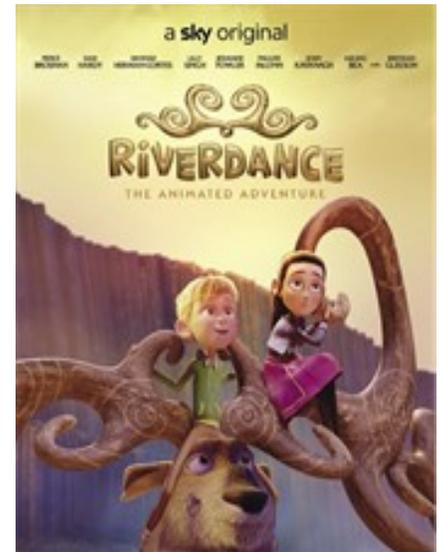
## Riverdance – Now an Animated Adventure

The Grammy-winning stage phenomenon of Irish dance is being reborn as a new CGI family adventure in *Riverdance: The Animated Adventure*.

Directed by Eamonn Butler and Dave Rosenbaum and featuring an original score from Grammy Award-winning composer Bill Whelan.

*Riverdance: The Animated Adventure* stars an impressive Irish voice cast, including Pierce Brosnan, John Kavanagh, Brendan Gleeson and Aisling Bea

*The Animated Adventure* follows an Irish boy named Keegan (Sam Hardy) and a Spanish girl named Moya (Hannah Herman Cortes) as they journey into the mythical world of the legendary Megaloceros Giganteus, who teach them to appreciate Riverdance as a celebration of life. Moya Doherty, who produced the film alongside Peter and Adam Nagle, said “This beautiful story brings *Riverdance* into a new and exciting phase, one which will allow families to enjoy the spectacle together. It reinforces the deep connection of *Riverdance* to Irish culture both at home and across the globe, and one which introduces *Riverdance* to a new, young audience many of whom will be experiencing *Riverdance* for the first time.”



## DUNMANWAY SHOP JOB ADVERT GOES VIRAL !

### PUBLISHED IN THE IRISH EXAMINER

A Co Cork shop has seen a job advert go viral for its tongue-in-cheek tone.

Sam's Gala in Dunmanway posted the advert on social media, setting out specifically what sort of applicants it was looking for. The shop isn't looking for people “who cannot work on Sunday because it's their next-door neighbour's third cousin's First Communion” but young people who “want to make the transition from pocket money to earning their own”.

Since going on [Facebook](#), the advert has been liked more than 2,000 times.

Mr O'Sullivan said that he wanted young people to show initiative and to look for jobs themselves instead of getting a parent to help them. “They'll appreciate it an awful lot more if they had to go out for the first time in their lives and go looking for work. As a result of the advert, Mr Sullivan said that he would love to have a job for everyone who applied and that he has met some “fabulous people”

### What we DO NOT want are;

Daddies asking for a job for their son because he's a big strapping lad, is a good footballer, feeds the neighbour's goldfish when they're on holidays and cuts the lawn every Saturday.

Mammies asking for a job for their daughter and telling us she's great around the house, emptied the dishwasher at Christmas, cleans her bedroom every Saturday and loves meeting new people yet is sitting in the car outside the door!

People coming in, handing in their CV over the counter and running out the door like Paddy Cullen running back into the goal in 1978 to catch Mikey Sheehy's free.

People who cannot work on Sunday because it's their next-door neighbour's third cousin's First Communion.

People asking for a “job” instead of asking for work as the country is full of people with jobs who don't do a tap of work.

### What we DO want are;

Teenagers who want to make the transition from pocket money to earning their own to come into the shop unaccompanied by parents, ask to speak with Noreen or Colm and simply tell us why they want to work for the summer.

**Top Tip;** “My mother doesn't want me hanging around the house for the summer” or “my Dad told me to call down” are not the correct answers

## IPC 2021 MARATHON TEAM

The Irish Pastoral Centre Marathon team is on the run again! Our runners are already in training and looking forward to participating in person once again this year! This is a major annual fundraiser for the Pastoral Centre and we are most grateful to all for their time and talent.

### Maria McMahan, Quincy, MA



Growing up, Maria always loved to play sports. As family and work obligations increased, more time was spent running 5K races on the weekend with friends. Running a Marathon was never on her radar. Then in 2009 her son, a member of the US Marine Corps, was deployed to Iraq. This was the first time she set the goal to run a Marathon to honor and show support for her son and his comrades. Since then, with the encouragement of Mary Varden, guiding schedules and personal training opportunities, and friendship of the **Y We Run** group, Maria has run several more marathons including the Marine Corps Marathon in 2019, ten years after her first.

Through Maria's friendship with Mary and others who have run the Boston Marathon for Team IPC, she understands the IPC Mission and how solidarity in the face of hardship and community bonds, mirrors the deep rooted feelings Maria had running her first marathon. It is truly an honor to be able to run the 2021 Boston Marathon to support this amazing organization and all it stands for to help members of the community.

### Patricia Deasy, Quincy, MA



Tricia never imagined that she could run 26.2 Miles and honestly wondered why anyone would want to endure those long miles. But then with the 'gentle' encouragement from Family, Personal Trainer - Mary Varden and the "Y We Run" Friends she was able to finish her 1<sup>st</sup> Marathon in Chicago in 2015. That Marathon was supposed to be a "One & Done" experience but since then she has completed 8 Marathons.

Tricia was born in the Boston Area, but her Husband Francis emigrated from Co. Cork, IRL in April 1984 and the Irish Pastoral Centre was there to welcome and support him as he applied for Residency & then US Citizenship in 1999. In addition, the IPC also assisted their Son-In-Law Chompon (Boong) who emigrated from Thailand in obtaining his "Permanent Residency" in 2018. Tricia and her Family are extremely grateful for the support they have received from the Irish Pastoral Center.

In 2018 & 2019, Tricia ran the Boston Marathon for "**Team IPC**" and is excited to again to be running on behalf of this amazing Organization.

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IRISH PASTORAL CENTRE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

# IMMIGRATION NEWS

## Lorna Riach, Quincy, MA



My name is Lorna and I am beyond thrilled to run for a second time in support of “Team IPC”! The Irish Pastoral Centre supports the core values of community and charity which fully align with my own upbringing, being the child of Scottish immigrants who benefited and contributed in a very similar spirit. In addition, I have been a resident of Dorchester for over 20 years and am proud to be part of a neighborhood that has such wonderful community services in the IPC.

I’m a bit of a “slow and steady” runner (hence the natural nickname of “Speedy”) and one whose initial ambitions were simply to run a 5K. However, having met Mary Varden in 2012 and being the recipient of Mary’s supportive, kind, and consistent approach to training, I was able to run my first marathon in 2014. One of my absolute favorites was the Dublin marathon where I also had the privilege to spend some time in the beautiful country of Ireland. Since that first marathon, I have run nine more (most recently for the IPC in 2019) proving “slow and steady” can pay off!

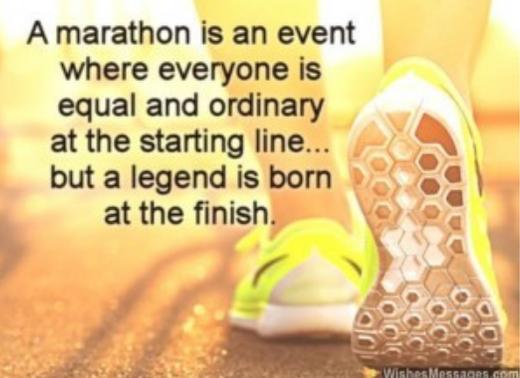
I’m incredibly humbled to have received such wonderful encouragement and investment from Mary, from the local running community which has benefited me in rewarding friendships and in ways I can not describe. I will use such as ambition to raise funds in honor of the IPC’s mission to support its continued investment in the community and lives of others! Let’s run!

## Chris O’Brien, Quincy, MA

Chris always enjoyed working out and running in short races over the years but did not start getting interested in running a marathon until she met Mary Varden and the running team of “Y We Run”(YWR) in Quincy.



Chris always enjoyed working out and running in short races over the years but did not start getting interested in running a marathon until she met Mary Varden and the running team of “Y We Run”(YWR) in Quincy. At the age of 48 and through the coaching, mentoring and support of Mary and the running group of YWR Chris decided that she was going to give it a shot. Through the training, support and team work of Mary and all of the YWR team Chris was able to complete her 1<sup>st</sup> marathon in Chicago in 2015. Chris realized that she was able to complete this marathon and has been able to complete five marathons since then. This year, through the generous support of the Irish Pastoral Center Chris will be able to participate in the Boston Marathon which has been her dream to complete since finishing her 1<sup>st</sup> marathon in Chicago. As the 10<sup>th</sup> child of 13 this will be exceptionally special for Chris to dedicate her marathon to her Dad, John J Mulvey from Roscommon Ireland.



# IMMIGRATION NEWS

## The Work and Family Mobility Act So ALL can drive safely

A note from our friends at the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Coalition (MIRA) about the The Work and Family Mobility Act. This proposed Massachusetts legislation would enable *all qualified state residents to apply for a standard state driver's license, regardless of immigrant status. This standard license could only be used for driving, not for benefits, boarding a plane, or voting.*

Driving is essential to mobility in Massachusetts, especially outside Greater Boston. Public transit options are far too limited to enable most residents to get to work, take their children to the doctor, or buy groceries. Indeed, 78% of workers in our Commonwealth rely on personal vehicles to get to their jobs.

But under current law, you can't get a driver's license in Massachusetts without proof of U.S. citizenship or lawful presence. For as many as 250,000 undocumented immigrants in our communities, this can create enormous hardships.

And for those who can't avoid driving, it greatly increases the risk of family separation, as even a routine traffic stop can lead to arrest and then to ICE detention.

MIRA is proud to be part of the Driving Families Forward Coalition, which is advocating for the Work and Family Mobility Act).

This bill would enable *all qualified state residents to apply for a standard state driver's license, regardless of immigrant status, while keeping our Commonwealth in full compliance with REAL ID requirements. It has been endorsed by over 230 organizations, including the Mass. Major City Chiefs of Police, as well as dozens of businesses.*

**16 states, Puerto Rico and D.C. already offer licenses to all qualified drivers. Let's make it happen in Massachusetts!**



### What can you do?

- ☒ Call or email your legislators and urge them to prioritize this bill, or [use the DFF letter-writing tool. It can be found at: https://actionnetwork.org/](https://actionnetwork.org/)
- ☒ Follow the Driving Families Forward campaign and share their posts!

## IRISH PASSPORT SUPPORT SERVICES

The Irish Department of Foreign Affairs is currently transitioning to an all on-line process for all Irish Passports. Passport processing has been on-line only for passport renewals (passports expired less than 5 years) for some time. At present no paper applications for first time passports or for those expired for more than 5 years are being accepted by the Irish Consulate in Boston. The DFA is expected to be issuing guidance soon for how applicants applying from the United States can apply on-line.

The IPC offers passport support services. If you have questions or need assistance applying for a new Irish passport, or renewing your expired or expiring Irish passport, please give us a call. We have trained staff to help guide you through the process, and computers available for your use to submit the applications. Call the IPC to schedule an appointment.



### IRISH PASTORAL CENTRE FREE LEGAL IMMIGRATION CONSULTATIONS 2021

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

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

Please call 617-265-5300 or email [mcasavart@ipcoston.org](mailto:mcasavart@ipcoston.org) with questions or to schedule an appointment

**All issues discussed remain confidential**

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

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

Irish Pastoral Centre, 512 Gallivan Blvd., Suite 201, Dorchester, MA 02124  
Tel: 617-265-5300 [www.ipcboston.org](http://www.ipcboston.org)

## IMMIGRATION NEWS

### Meet Sr. Gerry!



Hello, my name is Sr. Gerry Stanton. I am a Sister of Notre Dame de Namur. I am a "Dorchester Girl". I grew up in St. Peter's Parish, went to school at Archbishop Cushing, Emmanuel College and Salem State College. I've taught in a few Dorchester schools as well as in South Boston. After many years away I have returned and live again in Dorchester. Some call this going full circle.

I retired from teaching in elementary school after 48 years and moved on to teaching adults for citizenship. I did that formally for 12 years and now I continue to thoroughly enjoy doing it as a volunteer. Since the Covid Pandemic I have been doing it via Zoom. It has proved to be very successful. I do miss the direct contact but it does the trick of preparing adults of all ages to succeed in passing the interview and "test" for Naturalization.

Citizenship is an important part of life for all immigrants intending to remain in their new country. Some are wary of taking the "Giant Step" to accomplish this but it really is not as foreboding as you may think. Teachers/tutors can be of great benefit.

Personally, I love helping anyone who wants to take the leap. All you need is to give yourself the chance. Assistance, practice and encouragement go a long way. In my experience I have seen hundreds succeed. So give yourself the opportunity to receive the gift of a lifetime. Assistance is available. Contact the IPC if you are interested.

## 2022 Diversity Lottery Winners Selected

Winners of the 2022 Diversity Immigrant Visa Program (DV-2022), better known as the visa lottery, were announced Saturday, May 8, 2021 by the U.S. State Department. Visa lottery entrants can now check the status of their application at the Department's Bureau of Consular Affairs website: [dvprogram.state.gov](https://dvprogram.state.gov)

All DV-2022 program participants must search for their names in the [Entrant Status Check](#) search tool available on the Bureau's site. The Entrant Status Check function is the only way in which the Department of State notifies DV-2022 entrants if they were selected, according to the official instruction manual for the [2022 Diversity Immigrant Visa Program](#).

Below is the update provided by the U.S. State Department on Twitter:

2022 Diversity Visa Program entrants may check their status at <http://dvprogram.state.gov> beginning May 8, 2021 at 12:00 PM EDT, through September 30, 2022. Check your status at off-peak hours, like during the evening, for quicker service.

Have you been selected for the Diversity Visa Program? Starting May 8, 2021, check your DV-2022 status by entering your confirmation number online.

Entrant Status Check at [dvprogram.state.gov](https://dvprogram.state.gov) is the ONLY way to check your status.

## IPC SPECIAL EVENT

# IPC Fundraiser for Mental Health Support Programs

Starting at 4:00 am, in the dark & early hours of the morning, friends of the Boston Irish Pastoral Centre will walk together on June 12th as the dawn breaks and sunlight emerges.

The Solace Sunrise Walk invites people from across the country to embark on a journey symbolic of the path many of our clients experience while attending our counseling services making one's way from a place of darkness and loneliness to a place of hope and healing. This extraordinary event continues to bring our community together each year, as we walk in solidarity, fighting the fight against suicide. Join us this summer, as we continue to break down the stigma and create awareness around suicide and mental health.

Walk with your community at Castle Island to reinforce the message, you are not alone. Walk with us to raise awareness and funds for free mental healthcare. Together we will work towards a world without suicide. All funds raised for this walk will be applied to the development of the Irish Pastoral Centre's new Mental Health Support Program, in association with Solace House USA, launching summer 2021.

*Please note this outdoor event is contingent on state regulations and maintains the possibility of postponement. We will take all necessary measures to ensure the safety and health of participants. Additionally, this is a limited capacity event; therefore, we will max ticket sales according to city & state parks occupancy permission.*



## BOSTON, MA SUNRISE WALK

DATE: JUNE 12, 2021

TIME: 4 AM

ADDRESS: CASTLE ISLAND  
2010 WILLIAM J DAY BLVD  
BOSTON MA, 02127



FOR MORE INFO VISIT:

[HTTPS://SOLACEHOUSEUSA.ORG/SUNRISE-WALK](https://solacehouseusa.org/sunrise-walk)

**All funds raised for this walk will be applied to the development of the Irish Pastoral Centre's new Mental Health Support Program, in association with Solace House USA,**



# IPC ARCHIVES



PLEASE SEND US YOUR IPC PHOTO MEMORIES! THERE ARE 34 YEARS OF MEMORIES! JUST TAKE A PHOTO OF YOUR PHOTO AND SEND TO JEN AT [jmolloy@ipcboston.org](mailto:jmolloy@ipcboston.org)

## 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.*

March 27, 2021, Mary (Kelly) Bavis, Brookline, County Donegal  
 April 6, 2021, Bridget M. "Bridie" Kelly, Quincy, County Galway  
 April 7, 2021, Sally Ann (Devine) O'Leary, West Roxbury, County Galway  
 April 12, 2021, Kathleen B. (O'Sullivan) Armstrong, Quincy, County Offaly  
 April 14, 2021, Maureen T. Whalen, Weymouth, County Galway  
 April 15, 2021, Lawrence P. Donnelly Jr., East Milton, County Wicklow  
 April 16, 2021, Bernadette Brett-Coleman, Needham, County Sligo  
 \* April 16, 2021, Tom Kieran Larkin, Port Charlotte Fl, County Roscommon  
 April 22, 2021, Michael Francis "Frank" Finn, West Roxbury, County Cork  
 April 29, 2021, Patrick M. Faherty, Quincy, County Galway  
 May 3, 2021, Margaret Mary Cawley, Watertown, County Sligo  
 May 3, 2021, Mary Geary, Quincy, County Galway  
 May 6, 2021, Catherine (Kiernan) Walsh, Jamaica Plain and County Meath  
 May 7, 2021, Barbara Devane, Quincy, County Galway

### REMEMBERING TOM HICKEY

Tributes have been paid to Irish actor Tom Hickey who starred on the RTE programme *The Riordans*.

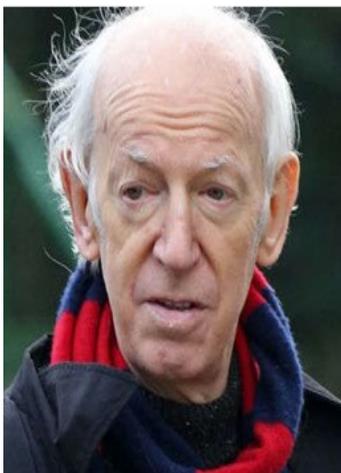
Hickey was in his 70s and had been a leading figure in the Irish acting world for more than six decades.

Born in Kildare, Tom Hickey became one of the founding members of Dublin's Focus Theatre and worked with many leading directors and actors. President Michael D Higgins said: "It is with great sadness that Sabina and I learned of the death of Tom Hickey, one of the greatest actors of his generation, giving over six decades to his profession. "He leaves an indelible imprint on Irish theatre. "He will be so missed. It was a privilege to know him as a friend."

Hickey also appeared in the Sky comedy *Moone Boy* and the show's creator and star Chris O'Dowd has paid tribute to the veteran actor. "Very few are capable of such divelment and empathy in a single look. Rest well Tom, thanks for sharing your talents with us all."

"I had the joy of being in a play with him once and sharing a dressing room. Such fun. Brilliant film actor too. In Loach's *Raining Stones* he was brilliant. And his role in *Garage*. It has an honour to write for him. RIP."

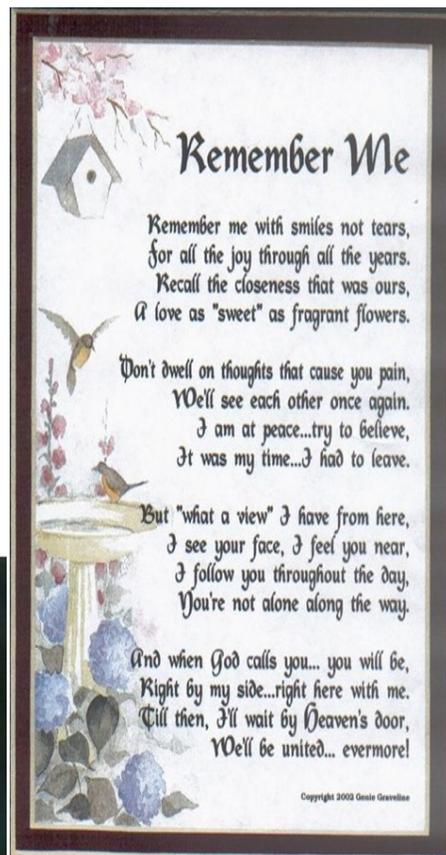
Having trained with Deirdre O'Connell at the Stanislavski Studio while working as a cameraman at RTÉ, Tom Hickey became one of the founding members of the innovative Dublin Focus Theatre, playing in a number of ground-breaking productions, including *Miss Julie*, *Antigone*, *Uncle*



As Benjy in the *Riordan's*, Tom Hickey became a household name. Ireland's long lasting soap opera featuring "tea, taboos and tractors" was the second Irish soap opera made by Raidio Telefís Éireann (then called *Telefís Éireann*). It ran from 1965 to 1979 and was set in the fictional townland of Leestown

Its location filming with [Outside Broadcast Units](#), rather than using only TV studios, broke the mould of broadcasting in the soap opera genre and inspired the creation of its British equivalent, *Emmerdale Farm* (now called *Emmerdale*) by Yorkshire Television in 1972. The *Riordan's* opened the door to a new series named *Bracken* which was followed by *Glenroe*.

Among his colleagues in the acting community he was regarded as an artist of total commitment to performance, to his art and to his community.



## Fadó Fadó - Long Ago in Ireland

### Something To Declare: My Grandmother's Mangled, Invaluable Ring

That airport morning, after I checked in for my Boston-bound flight, I had time for a café breakfast. For once, I could take my time completing the mandatory U.S. Customs Declaration form.

Usually, on every trip back from my native Ireland, I completed this form with my mind on dimmer switch, inserting names and ticking boxes while also texting my siblings a last goodbye.

But that morning, I was dreading Question 15, asking the total value of all goods I was bringing back to the United States.

At my café table, I unzipped my carry-on backpack to check for the jewelry box that, two hours earlier, I had tucked into a white sports sock. Inside that box was my late grandmother's engagement ring.

The night before, over the traditional goodbye dinner that my four siblings jokingly call "your American wake," we decided to finally divvy up my late mother's and grandmother's jewelry. I got Grandma's ring. It had long lost its diamond, and on one side, the gold band had separated from the setting.

#### Just how much is a 98-year-old ring worth?

As I nibbled on my eggs and toast and fried blood pudding, Question 15 sat blank as my brain ticked and clicked, Wheel-of-Fortune style. \$30? \$100? \$500? Just how much is a 98-year-old ring worth?

As in many rural households, our maternal grandparents lived with us — a three-generational setup that wasn't without its adult quarrels and silent grudges. But for us five kids, it brought a daily feed of history and songs and stories.

One of my earliest memories is of Grandma pulling a flannel pajama top over my head. I'm sitting on her lap and her tweed skirt itches my fat toddler legs. In a later scene, we've all moved off the farm to the nearby village, where I'm a moody teen in a navy-blue school uniform. In her gossamer white hair, Grandma persists in calling me "Nan," her childhood nickname for me and her personal antidote to the surliest teenage pout. Her octogenarian's eyes sparkle with mischief as she whispers: *Ach, you know what I always say about you, Nan? Your bark is much worse than your bite.*

But mainly I remember her telling stories, hands looping and cutting through the air for dramatic emphasis.

#### Her octogenarian's eyes sparkle with mischief as she whispers: Ach, you know what I always say about you, Nan? Your bark is much worse than your bite.

My favorite story was how, at 19 years old, she got herself engaged. It was circa 1916, at the zenith of World War I and, closer to home, Ireland's long and bloody struggle against British rule.

To uphold the law and keep the peace, the British had appointed a troupe of Irish recruits, including my grandfather. These policemen, called the Royal Irish Constabulary, were often regarded as traitors by the local Irish.

As a young rookie cop, my grandfather was stationed at a rural outpost over five hours' from his childhood home. There he met a girl who was pretty as a picture, bold as brass and game to date across the political divide.

They talked of marriage, but he was dispatched to a city barracks. How could he propose without incurring my great-grandparents' wrath or outright forbidding?

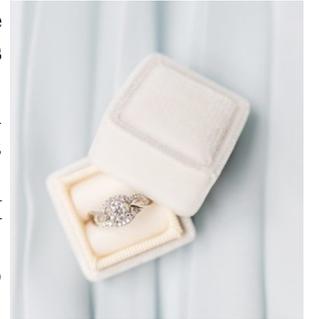
My grandfather found an accomplice. He mailed the ring and a written marriage proposal to the girl who worked at our village post office, not his sweetheart. Then, on a seemingly innocent girlfriend outing, the post office clerk slipped the envelope to my grandmother.

Six years later, in 1922, the Constabulary was disbanded as British rule was replaced by the newly minted [Irish Free State](#). So Granddad hung up his British uniform to become a small-time farmer on his wife's family farm.

Grandma wore her ring as she birthed each of her 11 children, including my mother. She wore it as she waved goodbye to each of her four American-bound siblings, and, a generation later, her two British-emigrant sons. She wore it at the graveside of her 16-year-old-daughter and, later, her husband. She wore it as she teased me, nicknamed me, dressed me and told me what to look for and avoid in a suitor.

New or old, scared or bold, here's what every immigrant knows: Lying to the U.S. government is a stupid move. So there at that airport café table, in bold, black ink, I declared what I hoped was a plausible value for an old, broken ring: \$200. (CONT'D ON PAGE 18)

Áine Greaney was raised on a farm in County Mayo. She became a primary school teacher but in 1986 she gave that up and moved to the United States to live in Boston. She works as an editor and writer with a number of books, essays, articles and short stories published across the US, the UK and Ireland.



# NEWS FROM THE IRISH CONSULATE



## Food Evolution

A Forum on the Future of Food

With **Leo Varadkar**, Tánaiste (Deputy Prime Minister) and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, **Julie Sinnamon**, CEO, Enterprise Ireland and **Georgiana (Jojo) de Noronha**, Director, Northern Europe Kraft Heinz



Thursday 27 May

09:00 ET / 14:00 GMT+1 / 15:00 CEST



### AER LINGUS CLOSES SHANNON BASE (Cont'd from Front Page:)

**Cont'd from Front Page:** According to the Irish Times, is a stark reminder of the state of the aviation industry right now and the lack of a restart plan from the Government.

This decision has come in spite of an acceleration in the pace of Ireland's vaccine programme, and major steps towards reopening the economies in both Britain and the United States, Ireland's two most important markets for visitors – which should be giving us hope that air travel can resume in a meaningful way in the very near future. Instead, the Government remains silent for now.

As one senior aviation executive quipped to me, “There’s a restart plan for the dog parlour industry but not for aviation, which is crucial for tourism.”

There remains an eerie quiet at Dublin Airport, the big beast of Irish aviation, with about 4,500 passengers a day compared with about 100,000 daily in pre-pandemic times.

Taoiseach Micheál Martin described the Shannon closure as “very sad” news. He said that next week the Government would “decide on the broader issue of travel and participation in the digital green certificate”, which is being established by the European Commission from June 1st to try and facilitate a safe resumption of flying. This “is central to the plan for reopening later in the summer in respect of the aviation industry”, Martin said.

### A MOTHER'S DAY REFLECTION (Cont'd from page 17)

Seven hours later at Boston's Logan Airport, I joined all the other trans-Atlantic travelers at the luggage carousel and then in the queue for customs.

When it was my turn, the uniformed man glanced at the green card I then held, my passport photo, my sleepy face. Then, he scanned my completed customs form and that place where I declared that, except for a gift item of \$200, I was not carrying any “commercial merchandise or articles for sale.”

With a flick of his head he waved me through, a middle-aged woman with a suitcase and a backpack and, inside, a priceless inheritance.

# NEWS FROM THE IRISH CONSULATE



## ONLINE RENEWAL SERVICE

### Adults & children can renew online

Ireland's United States Ambassador Daniel Mulhall welcomes United States Secretary of Labor Martin Walsh to the Irish Embassy in Washington



[Passport Online - Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade \(dfa.ie\)](https://www.dfa.ie)

The **Bealtaine** Virtual Exhibition is live at the Carrickahowley Gallery at the Maine Irish Heritage Centre! Now through the end of July .



**CARRICKAHOWLEY GALLERY**  
AT THE MAINE IRISH HERITAGE CENTER

**BEALTAINÉ EXHIBITION**

GALLERY ONE

Virtual - May 1 - July 31, 2021

See the full exhibition at  
[www.maineirish.com](http://www.maineirish.com)

*Joe Kelly*



*Vincent Crotty*





*Sara Weldon*

# SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

## A Memorial Day Reflection: The McCarthy Brothers, Veterans from Killorglin, Co. Kerry

It was a Boeing Constellation 4 engine Aer Lingus plane that brought Patrick McCarthy to Boston from Killorglin in March 1949 to the South End where he stayed with his aunt. Pat had an avid interest in aviation and considered signing up for the Air Force. However, he was refused because at the time the Air Force required US citizenship. So in 1951, Pat enlisted in the United States Army. He is a veteran of the 504<sup>th</sup> Airborne Regiment, affectionately known as “The Devils in Baggy Pants”, part of the 82nd Airborne Division. He learned fast in his new life as a paratrooper that life as he had known it was no longer his own.

The chaplain assigned to Pat’s unit was Fr. Phillip McConville from South Boston who became their “Airborne child of God”. He jumped out of aircrafts with a wooden box as large as a foot locker hooked to his harness. It contained all that he needed to say Mass in the field, and often on the hood of a Jeep that served as an altar.

Training was intense and it wasn’t long before Pat was ready for qualifying jumps. When the pilot gave the green light, Pat jumped and soared in “God’s clean air 1500 feet above ground”. He passed the test and moved on to Infantry training. Pat volunteered for service overseas but his request was denied as he did not have enough time left to serve. He returned home to Boston, eligible for citizenship. He started work as an assistant steel-heat-treater in Dorchester for the Meisel family who originally manufactured printing presses, later diversifying into the making of aircraft engine parts. Demand decreased post-war and Pat was laid off. He found work in office supplies and supplemented his income with part-time work at the Delaney Estate in Milton. Pat fondly recalls this experience. A great memory is saddling one of the horses for excursions in the Blue Hills. He then sat the Postal Service Exam and retired from there.

Pat’s brother Liam, followed Pat to Boston and registered for the draft. He was working in Malden when he was called to report to Camp Hill in Virginia, an artillery camp for basic training. He was shipped to California for transfer to Korea and was badly wounded at Chip Jon Ni while he was covering a retreat. Alone on a Korean mountainside during an enemy attack he got hit at midnight and was not found until daylight by their chaplain, a young priest. He was giving Liam the last rites when he noticed a flutter in Liam's eyes and raised the alarm. Medics gave him 10 pints of blood and saved his life. Liam spent almost four years in hospitals. At the Veteran’s Hospital in Jamaica Plain, Liam retired from the US Army. Persevering with his injuries, he was also employed at the Postal Service.

The brothers did their part. They would do it again. We all thank you for your service.



# SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Yearning for a visit to Killorglin, the boys returned for a visit. Their fifteen year absence felt like a few days as all the familiar sights appeared amid the annual Puck Fair. Another emigrant returned from England and Pat's heart soared when he saw her. Margaret had just finished nursing and that meeting became the beginning of their life together for over 50 years. They settled in Quincy and welcomed Liam also. They joined the St Brendan's Society – otherwise known as the Kerry Association. They welcomed a son, Joseph and a daughter Catherine.

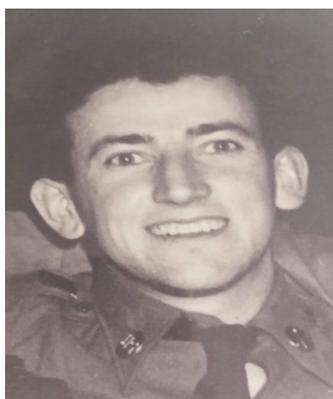
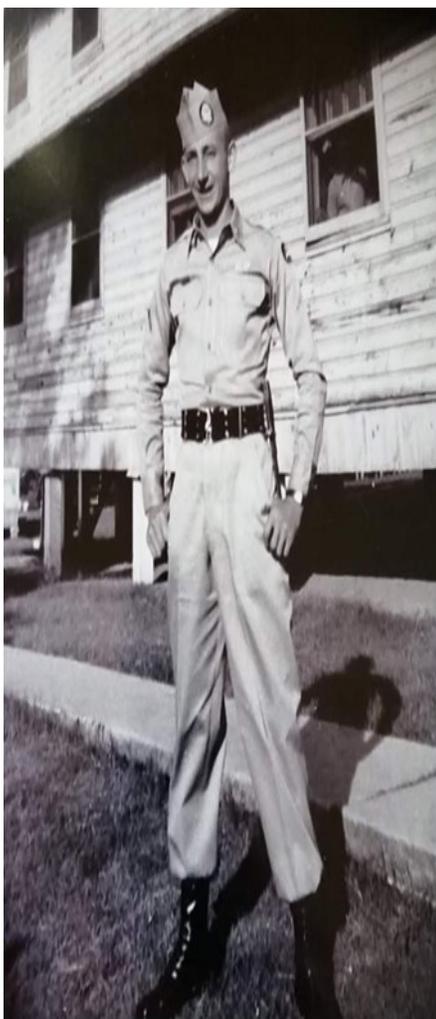
Liam McCarthy passed away in 1995 and was buried in his beloved Killorglin.

Pat and Margaret still live in Quincy and Pat is now 96 years young. The Irish Pastoral Centre is grateful to Pat and Margaret for their warm welcome and we are honored to share this story.

Pat has written a book called REFLECTIONS AND RUDAI EILE which is a lovely recollection of a life well lived and a story well told. Although hale and hearty, Pat has penned his own obituary and it reads in his book as follows:

*“Thankful to God for a lifetime of happiness with my lovely wife Margaret (Harmon) and two great children son Joseph daughter Catherine and her husband party eight grandchildren 2 great grandchildren and enough nieces and nephews to populate a small town.*

*“If you should happen to pause by my gravestone, smile. Do not allow your pain and sorrow to take control. No need for weeping because God has always been my constant companion. Even when jumping out of aircraft in flight, He was holding my hand”*



Brothers Pat McCarthy on left (1950), Liam (Bill) McCarthy RIP (1951), Nostalia poem on right written by Pat McCarthy, pictured above at his home in Quincy.

## Nostalgia

From Killarney's lakes a river breaks  
Through holy ground so calm and fair  
By mountains high 'neath a clear blue sky  
Where skylarks sing without a care  
And it winds it's way to the stormy sea  
As wondering strangers come and go  
And the waters smile and linger awhile  
By the wooded hills of Aghadoe  
And it's banks are kissed by an Irish mist  
Rolling down from the mountains blue  
To make this scene such a living green  
That even the rainbow is jealous too  
And wandering wild like a playful child  
Through fords and pools where salmon play  
Quite content on no rampage bent  
The river runs on it's peaceful way  
On a westward trend around the bend  
By an old stone bridge by man built there  
The waters know as they ebb and flow  
That the hand of God is everywhere  
There's a ruined shrine from a bygone time  
Ere freedom's light began to fail  
Those empty halls and crumbling walls  
Could tell us many a wondrous tale  
On it's time worn way by night and day  
Guided by some eternal rule  
It flows in scorn by fields of corn  
Down to Gorrie's sultry pool  
There's a quaint old town a long way down  
Where folks take time to pause and pray  
As the Angelus tolls from St. James' old  
To mark the end of parting day  
This is my home where e'er I roam  
This my river and my sea  
And someone there I know will care  
And maybe sometime think of me  
God, keep this land at your Right Hand  
And guide my river to Dingle Bay  
God, guide my friends to happy ends  
And keep the ones I love, I Pray.

# The Celtic Scribe

## Bluebells for Love

(Extract) (Patrick Kavanagh 1904-1967)

There will be bluebells growing under the big trees  
And you will be there and I will be there in May;  
For some other reason we both will have to delay  
The evening in Dunshaughlin - to please  
Some imagined relation,  
So both of us came to walk through that plantation.

We will have other loves -or so they'll think;  
The primroses or the ferns or the briars,  
Or even the rusty paling wires,  
Or the violets on the sunless sorrel bank.  
Only as an aside the bluebells in the plantation  
Will mean a thing to our dark contemplation.

We'll know love little by little, glance by glance.  
Ah, the clay under these roots is so brown!  
We'll steal from Heaven while God is in the town--  
I caught an angel smiling in a chance  
Look through the tree-trunks of the plantation  
As you and I walked slowly to the station.



***If you have a talent for writing poems, stories and memories that you would like to see featured here, please send your submission to [jmolloy@ipcoston.org](mailto:jmolloy@ipcoston.org).***

***If you prefer putting pen to paper, please mail your submission to Jennifer Molloy at the Pastoral Centre***

## Volunteers

Peter Groome, 2021

Imagine how lonely some would be,  
without the volunteers we see?  
From adolescents to retirees,  
they show up sharing their love for free.

We see them at the shelters,  
with the homeless on the street,  
or chatting with the old folk who rarely a  
person meet.  
They stop and chat for a while,  
always bringing with them a smile!

Food pantries are always staffed  
where one is greeted no questions asked.  
The volunteers are always there to fill a  
bag  
and show they care.  
You'll see them in the hospice too,  
quietly whispering a prayer or two.

The countless different things they do,  
just to make the world better for me and  
you.  
Cleaning a beach or saving a bird,  
helping kids in the neighborhood.  
Meals on wheels, hot soup from a van,  
handing out blankets  
doing whatever they can.

Into the prisons they go where there's  
darkness  
and despair,  
never judging the men and women,  
they don't ask, they don't care.

So here's to those who volunteer  
and love us for who we are  
I want to say thank you for being who  
You Are!!!!

Peter Groome, 2021

## Notable Quotes

IF YOU HAVE THE WORDS,  
THERE'S ALWAYS A CHANCE THAT  
YOU'LL FIND THE WAY.

*-Seamus Heaney*



## IPC 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](http://Vincentcrotty.com)

# LOCAL SPORTS

## GALWAY TO BOSTON: RUGBY AND THE NFL

Source 42.ie

THERE HAS ALWAYS been a joy in the art of kicking for Tadhg Leader and now the former Connacht and Boston Irish Wolfhounds man is hoping his passion will lead him all the way into the NFL as an American football kicker. Many in Boston will know Tadhg from his camps at the Irish Cultural Centre and as a Boston Irish Wolfhound's Coach.

It was as recently as 2019 that Leader made his Test rugby debut for the US, winning two caps after qualifying on residency grounds, but the 28-year-old has decided to pursue a very different pathway in 2021.

Having only started properly kicking American footballs during the initial Covid-19 lockdown last year, Leader is already part of the upcoming Spring League – a developmental league that allows NFL hopefuls to showcase their skills.

His cannon of a right boot – he has hit 65-yard field goals – will be closely watched.

The eight-team Spring League began earlier this month, with one game per round broadcast live around the US by Fox. Leader is on the Aviators team playing out of Indianapolis, having initially joined the Blues in Houston, Texas only days before.

Life was good last year and Leader was a key man for the New England Free Jacks in Major League Rugby when Covid struck and the world slowed down. The Irishman's power off the tee had always led to Americans telling him he should try football and he decided to scratch that itch, hooking up with a high school football coach last spring. "I kicked two or three balls and he just said 'Wow' and called some of his friends," says Leader. "20 minutes later, there's three of them watching me. People walking around the field stopped to watch too, so I thought there might be something here."

Leader kicked for three hours straight that first day and he couldn't shake the scent in front of him thereafter. And so, Leader connected with former Super Bowl champion and two-time Pro Bowler John Carney – who remains fifth on the NFL's all-time points scoring list – and moved out to San Diego to begin training with him.

The first week went well and last November, Leader made a decision to go after American football – cutting off a rugby career that had still been growing before the pandemic.

"I felt I had enough skill and talent to warrant jumping headfirst into this," says Leader. "Trust me, it wasn't easy. A few people were asking why I would leave rugby now after getting caps.

"I just love kicking and it gives me pure joy. I felt I had to take this opportunity."

It has been an eye-opening experience for Leader, who continues to learn every day and expects his involvement in Spring League will be invaluable in that sense.



## NORTH AMERICAN CURRACH ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES 2021 REGATTAS

Boston Irish Currach Club has announced a return to racing! Season! Here is the tentative regatta schedule:

Philadelphia June 26,

Pittsburgh July 24,

Milwaukee Aug 21

Boston Sept 4, Albany

Sept 18, Annapolis Sept 25

Leetsdale, PA Oct 9

Thanks to all the NACA Clubs for keeping the faith through the canceled 2020 season.



# LOCAL SPORTS

## Boston - Moylagh JFK 50 Mile Challenge

### In Aid of Irish Cancer Society

Saturday, July 31 2021, will see the Boston-Moylagh 50 Mile Challenge take place on the Massachusetts south shore. The objective of the challenge is to raise funds for the Irish Cancer Society and associated services. Cancer is a disease that hits close to home for all of us, you would be hard pressed to find somebody who does not have a love one affected by this disease, it not themselves.

This effort is a continuation of what started as the Moylagh JFK 50 Mile Challenge in 2011 by the Moylagh GAA Club in County Meath. The "JFK" aspect of the challenge stems from the President John F. Kennedy military challenge of 1963. In 1963, then President John F. Kennedy challenged his military officers to meet the requirements that Teddy Roosevelt had set for his own military officers at the dawn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The Roosevelt requirement was for all military officers to be able to cover 50 miles on foot in 20 hours to maintain their commissions. Since then, "JFK Challenge" events have been organized in several different parts of the world for causes ranging from ultra-marathons to charity walks.

Each GAA Club in Boston entering a team (or more than one team) for the challenge will help drive the effort to put the total raised at or over the 1M Euro goal. Each participant can walk the 50 miles (if you are up to the challenge) or a team of participants can cover the 50 miles between them. E.g. A team of 10 walks 5 miles each. Teams can set their own fundraising goals, and any amount raised is most welcome. There are also sponsorship opportunities where a \$500 donation will get you a Gold sponsorship. The location for the challenge has yet to be finalized. It will take place at a south shore venue once permits are approved.

So, the challenge is set! Any and all support is greatly appreciated. Contact information is below for the organizers.

**John Farrell – 617 699 4936,  
Pat Nee – 617 901 6760,  
Mary McKenna – 617 869 0522,  
Eilis Nee – 617 590 5486,  
Mickey Feeney – 857 234 0632,**

Welcome back to all young Boston GAA Players!

Pictured here are future GAA stars from Trinity Milton. The IPC wishes Boston Northeast GAA a great 2021 season



**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR THIS PAGE, PLEASE CALL THE IPC AT 617-265-5300**

## Sports News From Ireland

### LOWRY COMMITS TO OFFALY!

Shane Lowry is to become an official partner of Offaly GAA for the next five years.

Son of the county's former All-Ireland winner Brendan, the county has confirmed that the 2019 British Open golf champion "will support Offaly GAA's commercial and fundraising initiatives to help progress improvements in our underage coaching programmes and develop educational bursaries for our young players."

Offaly GAA are in the process of preparing a Strategic Plan which will have a significant focus on player development.



"As an elite international sportsman," and Offaly GAA statement outlines, "Shane has offered his experience and expertise to inspire and help improve the development of our players.

"The people of Offaly are immensely proud of everything that Shane has achieved. He comes from a family steeped in the history of Offaly GAA and he is himself a devoted supporter of Clara GAA and Offaly GAA.

"Like many other counties, Offaly GAA experienced a very difficult financial year in 2020 and the county is presently on a fundraising drive following a very successful Grand Canal Walk to support the county and clubs.

"In support of our fundraising drive to put Offaly GAA on a more sustainable financial footing, Shane has also pledged a personal annual financial contribution to Offaly GAA over the next five years."

Offaly chairman Michael Duignan has thanked the 34-year-old for his contribution.

"We are all excited by the prospect of working with Shane in the coming years as we strive to improve the fortunes of the county," he said.

## GAA QUIZ—KILKENNY HURLING

1. As of 2013 Cork have been runner up in 18 All-Ireland finals. How many of these have they lost a final to Kilkenny.

2. In 1982 Kilkenny scored 7-31 to 0-13 in the Leinster semi final. This was Kilkenny's biggest ever score (52 points), their biggest ever winning margin (39 points) and the biggest total score in a game involving them (65 points). Who did they beat?

3. From 2006 up to 2012 Kilkenny have won every All Ireland Final with the exception of Tipperary winning one. What year did Tipperary win that All Ireland?

4. Since 1935 Croke park has hosted every All Ireland Final with the exception of 2. What years did FitzGerald Stadium, Killarney and Semple Stadium, Thurles hold these finals?

5. From 1889 - 2012, how many times have Cork won the All Ireland?

6. What year did Brian Cody take over Kilkenny?

7. In what year did Cody captain Kilkenny to an All-Ireland title?

8. How many Liam MacCarthy Cup titles has Cody won as manager?

**ANSWERS ON PAGE 3**



THIS PAGE HONORS THE MEMORY OF  
DAN DRISCOLL RIP

## Sports News From Ireland

### Ballina Stephenites Senior Hurlers Are Reborn



Co. Mayo: With the country opening up again it's a good time for new beginnings, which is why the rebirth of senior club hurling in Ballina Stephenites feels serendipitous. With Caiseal Gaels also fielding a senior team in 2021, Mayo now have six senior hurling clubs which is a 50% increase in the space of just two years.

Ballina's rebirth wouldn't have happened without a good deal of work behind the scenes first. The initial spark came from Adrian Hession, Mayo GAA's Games Promotion Officer who is responsible for underage hurling development in the county. He could see that Ballina were producing some talented hurlers at underage level where the club was still active, but many of them were withering on the vine because without a senior team to eventually graduate to they had nothing to aim for.

"It was a lovely feeling to see 30 lads on the field on Saturday for the first training session because until then it wasn't quite real. "There was a great buzz, but hurling in Mayo is a big challenge so we have to work at it as much as we can. "It's not like football where lads will just turn up. Barrett is going in with his eyes wide open because he knows from previous experience that hurling's share-price in Ballina can be prone to wild fluctuations.

Back in the late noughties the game was in fairly rude health in the town, and he was one of the key players on the Ballina team that won what was only their third ever Mayo senior title in 2007. "What really hit us was recession in 2009," says Barrett. "Hurling was always bottom of the pile because they didn't see the point so instead they'd play football, soccer, or rugby which might be more traditional sports than hurling in Ballina even though hurling has been pretty well placed through the '80s, '90s, noughties. "For the past 10 years hurling died a little bit but I suppose when things go that bad you can take the positive out of it because things can only get better." Already, it feels like the project is gathering momentum. The senior hurlers are getting great backing from the club, new recruits are joining all the time, and the prospect of playing their first competitive match in June is something really tangible to aim towards. There are still obvious challenges to overcome and high on Barrett's list is sourcing a sponsor for the team that will enable them to purchase some much-needed playing equipment. "People are saying to me it's a big undertaking, but when something is a passion it's never a problem. That's why I've no problem making the commitment."

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