

# Network

## England-Ireland



Autumn 2018

## MARY'S INTRODUCTION Network 2018



Dear Sisters,

After enjoying a warm and sunny summer we have also benefitted from a mellow autumn with its rich colours, ripened fruits and plentiful harvest.

In mid-summer we had the Second Part of the Chapter. We rejoice that we have the fruits of the Chapter's work now in the revised Constitutions. Your prayer before and during the Chapter was felt in the guidance of the Holy Spirit during those weeks. Let us keep up our prayer for the approval of the revised Constitutions.

The 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Adelaide de Cicé was a particular focus for us in the past year. Both in London and in Dun Laoghaire we had the privilege of a series of talks during the February Triduum from Noela Polet. She shared, as much as possible in the time available, on her detailed study of Adelaide's life. We can say we met Adelaide at a deeper level and grew in appreciation of the vocation and holiness of our Co-Founder.

Various articles in this edition of Network recall two important events in the life of the Church in England and in Ireland. In August, the World Meeting of Families held in Dublin was a truly uplifting occasion where families from many countries of the world came together to celebrate family life. The highlight of the occasion was the visit of Pope Francis.

From September 7th - 9th the Adoremus National Eucharistic Pilgrimage and Congress in Liverpool brought people from across the dioceses of England and Wales to reflect on the Eucharist in the life of the Church.

Soon, the community in Dun Laoghaire will re-locate to their new home situated at a short distance from the present one, St. Joseph's on Tivoli Road, which has been the community residence since 1860. This house and campus hold so many memories for the sisters who lived and served in the various apostolates that took place there over so many years: the care of the children in the Residential Home, the Retreat House and its numerous retreatants, the Guest House and the retired ladies who lived there, and the various other services that answered the needs of the time. While grateful for the blessings of the past the community now look forward to their new home and the continuation of the present mission.

It is always interesting and edifying to bring something out of our Archives or to recall important events from past history. Thanks to the sisters who have retrieved these treasures, and to the sisters who have written about current happenings.

I wish to express thanks on behalf of all of us to everyone who contributed articles to this issue of Network and to the team that produced it.

United in Cor Unum,

*Mary Brogan*

## OTHER EXPERIENCES OF THE WMOF 2018

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> August:

Having passed the security check just inside the main gate of the RDS (Royal Dublin Society) and wearing my identity badge I was now free to roam around and choose from the various talks, etc. on offer for the day. My first choice was Cardinal Rodrigues' Presentation on Climate Change.

With the help of eager volunteers I was guided to the Hall, took my seat and exchanged greetings with the person beside me. "Did you get your bag?" she enquired, probably noticing its absence. "No, I replied, I didn't delay – I can pick it up later". "But you will probably need the earphone radio for translating", she advised. The "bag" contained it and information it contained for the day and the following days.

I hurriedly retraced my steps, picked up the important bag, was back in my seat in minutes and thanked my observant 'neighbour'. How right she was; the Presentation was delivered in Spanish!

Afterwards she invited me to join her for coffee break during which we shared news and views. Then it was time to move on and without even exchanging names we went our separate ways. I share this experience to illustrate the atmosphere of kindness and solidarity that was characteristic of the entire WMOF2018.



Next I proceeded to the grounds of the Contemplative Nuns nearby. Here was the Contemplative Garden where appropriately I was welcomed by beautiful bird-song. In this garden a summary of the Creation story was told in picture and word in the form of Stations:

Station 1:	13 billion years ago:	The Universe Flares Forth
Station 2:	600 million " "	Earth sees herself for the first time
Station 3:	460 million " "	Plants and animals live on land
Station 4:	330 " " "	Insects take to the air
Station 5	215 " " "	Mammals
Station 6	150 " " "	Birds
Station 7	115 " " "	Flowers
Station 8	100 " " "	Humans (Homo Sapiens)
Station 9	11,000 years "	Agriculture
Station 10	3,000 " "	Classical Civilizations and Religions; the Exodus out of Egypt.
Station 11	Over 2,000 years ago	Jesus, the Eternal Word
Station 12	53 " "	Scientists find evidence of Station 1: A great ball of fire expands outwards into the creation of the Universe: space and time; shadows and light; the universe expands rapidly
Station 13	About 50 years ago	The earth is seen from space



A further set of Stations displayed a photograph and quotation from notables like Robert Kennedy, Jr., Brian Swimme (Mathematical Cosmologist), Patriarch Bartholomew (Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople), Pope John Paul II, Thomas Berry who has said “If we have a sense of the Divine it is because we live amid awesome magnificence (<http://ourdailyblossom.com>), Al Gore (former U.S. Vice President, winner of Nobel Peace Prize 2007, book and film entitled: An Inconvenient Truth), David Attenborough (T.V. Naturalist, the voice of wildlife, conservation and all things that wriggle and roam across planet earth), Rachel Carson (Writer, Scientist and Ecologist, Author of Silent Spring, 1962).

As I walked away from this garden I felt a great surge of gratitude to have the privilege of covering the whole creation story in one sweep. The feeling was similar to being air-borne in a plane, looking down on my own small physical world and with my mind’s eye seeing myself in perspective. I was sorry I didn’t have my camera to take some visuals as I haven’t yet graduated to a smartphone!



### ***I see His Blood upon the Rose***

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

His

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. - Joseph Mary Plunkett

*Eileen Callaghan*



## ***The Holy Father's Visit August 2018*** ***Celebrating A Momentous Week.***

At last the waiting was over and we were in the week of The Holy Father's much anticipated visit to our shores. The Meeting of Families has given rise to what I am sure will be much cherished memories as we look back on this wonderful and blessed occasion.

The Opening Ceremony took place at the RDS Simmonscourt. Archbishop Diarmuid Martin was the main celebrant. He was accompanied by other dignitaries from the Dublin diocese and further afield. There was a very festive and celebratory mood in evidence which was exemplified by the host of flags and banners on display as well as lovely music to entertain all. It included a number of Scripture readings at various times during the ceremony which added to the solemnity of the occasion. To people's surprise the Holy Father addressed us via video link where he spoke with great warmth regarding his impending visit to Ireland.

Following on from the opening ceremony, we had three days which began with morning prayer. This was followed with entertainment for the children, a variety of talks and workshops on family life and related issues. In the evening of each day, Mass was celebrated outdoors and the occasion was blessed with fine weather for the most part. The music, colour and chosen liturgy added to the solemnity of the occasion.

On a lighter note, the concert held in Croke Park provided great entertainment. There was lots of music, Irish dancing, entertainment and the craic which is very much a part of our Irish tradition. The concert also provided an opportunity for His Holiness to speak to the people assembled. He emphasised to all those present by stating "How much better our family life would be if we used the words.....Please, Thank You, and I'm Sorry", a short, simple message to all present. Many of the banners preceding the Pontiff's visit had this message inscribed on them.

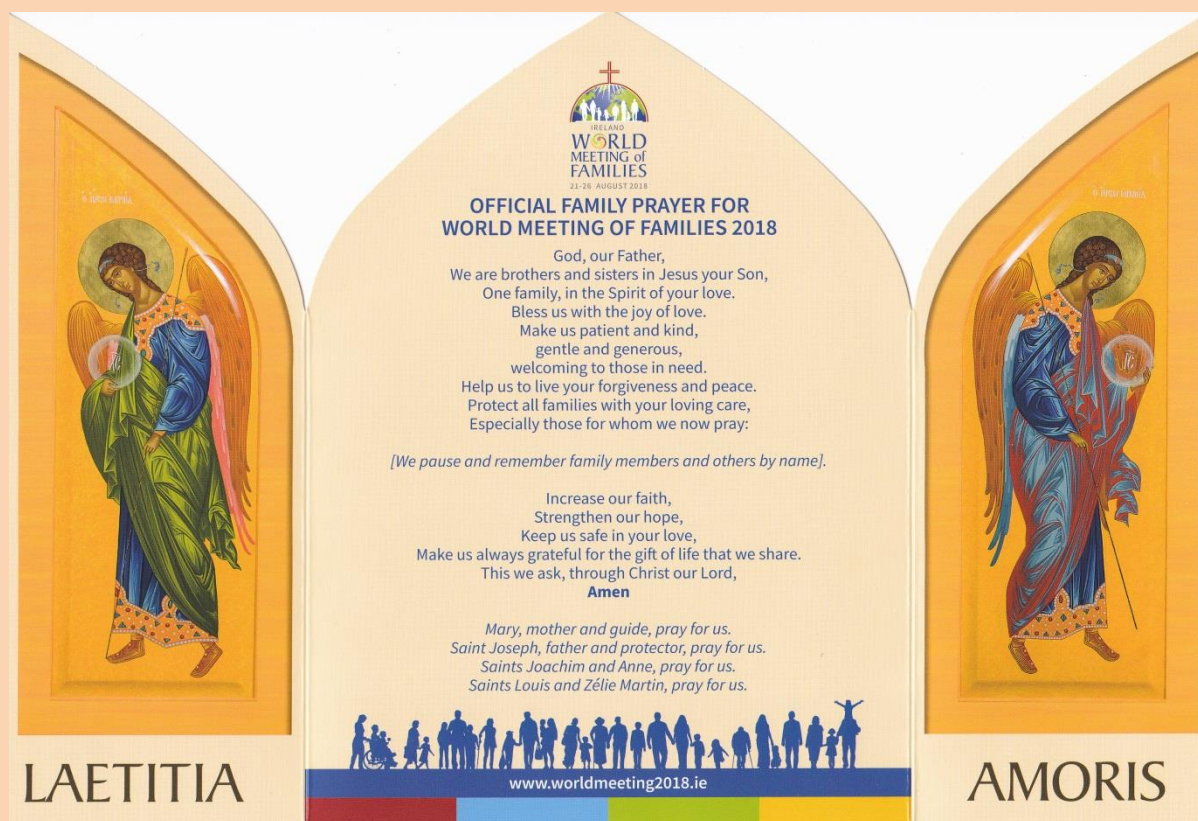
The Pope's visit culminated with a solemn celebration of the Eucharist in Dublin's Phoenix Park. It was a joyous and unique event despite the changeable weather.

In conclusion, we pray that the graces, blessings and prayer for all who participated may have a lasting effect on all concerned. A **great** and joyous experience, Deo Gratias.





**OUTSIDE VIEW OF ICON**



**INSIDE PANELS OF ICON**



## ***A RIVER OF JOY***

A high point in the entertainment at the Festival of Families was the famous 'Riverdance'. The words of a song come to mind as a way of describing the performance on the night: "Bit by bit the river grows, till all at once is overflows...."

These words aptly describe the special performance for Pope Francis that night.

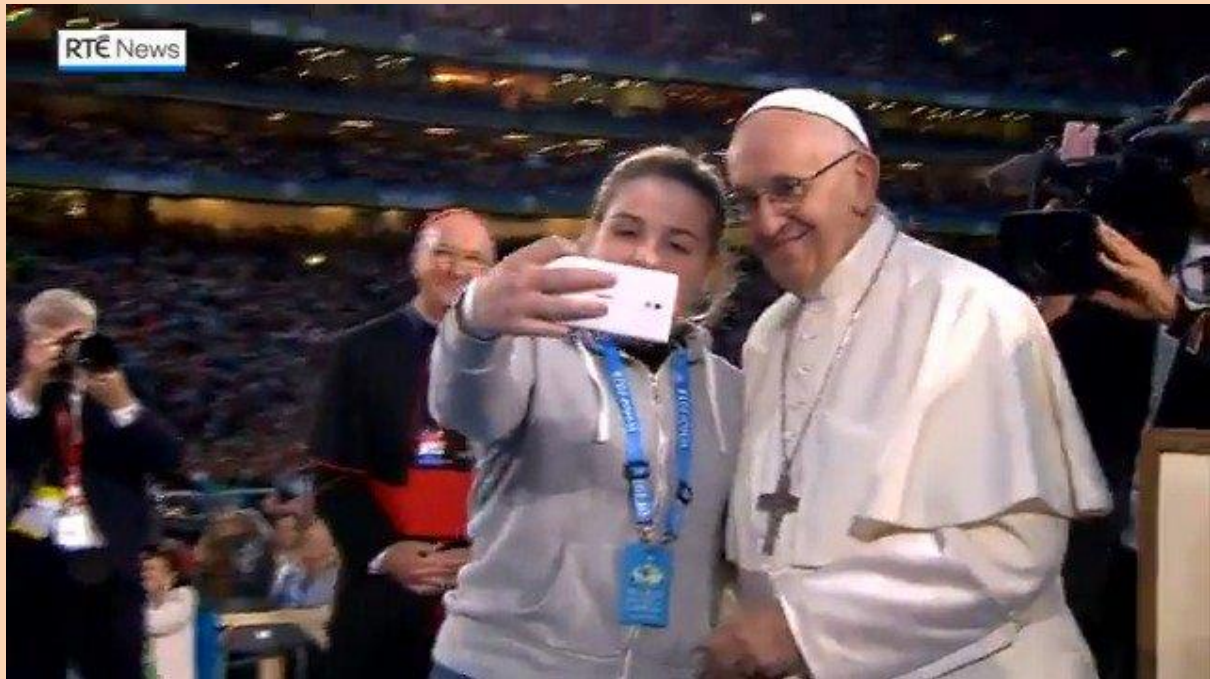


The dance overflowed onto the pitch surrounding the audience seated in its centre. Children, teens and young adults took part in this amazing spectacle. Some words of a hymn express the emotion felt by the audience as people cheered: "Joy is flowing like a river.... Joy certainly flowed that evening, as did love, peace and hope, words also contained in the same hymn.

A personally exciting moment for me: As Pope Francis moved through the crowd and passed by our group, I called out: "Look this way, Pope Francis". He did, but his Popemobile has just moved on. I wasn't as fortunate as Alison Nevin, mentioned above, but full of gratitude to be within calling distance of our distinguished guest!

Ireland is experiencing its own turbulence in our time. This is an added reason why we are deeply grateful to Pope Francis for taking the time to visit our part of his Flock as we struggle to hold on to the "Faith of our Fathers (and mothers)" at a time of changing values.

## A COURAGEOUS YOUNG GIRL GETS HER WISH



“She’s absolutely over the moon” said her mother Brigid. Twelve year old Alison Nevin from North Dublin took a courageous step at the Festival of Families in Croke Park. She and her mother (Travellers) had received 2 tickets and Alison had been brought to the stage by one of the speakers, a Traveller representative of their Community.

“She had been thinking of asking Pope Francis if she could take a selfie with him but didn’t tell anyone” her mother explained afterwards. So when the golden opportunity arose Alison seized it and of course Pope Francis didn’t disappoint.

Brigid said her daughter is quite religious and “she over the moon as she starts secondary school”.





Opening Ceremony Tuesday 21 August 2018



Dublin Castle: Signing the Visitor's Book in the presence of our Prime Minister Leo Varadkar



A section of gathering, Festival of Families, Croke Park Sports Stadium, Saturday evening 25 August



A family interviewed by the Media



Crowds participating in Eucharistic Celebration, Sunday 26 August



Pilgrims: faith renewed and spirits lifted



Our DHM, Jessie, Eva, Mary and Nora, en route to Festival of Families



Thank you, Pope Francis, for walking among us. Slán agus Beannacht (Farewell and God Bless you)!



*"The joy of love, a joy for all the Family,  
The joy of love, transcending time and space,  
Our love for each other mirrors God the Father's Love,  
"The joy of love, a joy for all the earth...."*

*Eileen Callaghan*



## Joy for the World

The theme chosen by Pope Francis for this year's World Meeting of Families (WMOF 2018) was **"Celebrating the Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World."**

WMOF is an international event which is celebrated every three years and Ireland had the pleasure of hosting it from 21<sup>st</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> August 2018.

It consisted of:

**A National Opening**, which took place in every diocese in Ireland.

**A Three Day Pastoral Congress** which was held in Dublin. This included a programme of: for adults keynote speakers, workshops, testimonies and discussions; an exciting programme for young people as well as fun activities for children.

**A Festival of Families.** This was a most joyful and invigorating event which took place in Croke Park Stadium. The programme included various testimonies of Faith and of living the Joy of the Gospel. Entertainment was provided by Andrea Bocelli, Celine Byrne (Ireland's leading soprano), 'The Priests', the renowned River dance troupe accompanied by 500 young dancers from various Dance Schools throughout the country and many other artists.

Pope Francis was present and gave a powerful address which was relevant to family life today. It was most encouraging and greatly appreciated!

**The Final Mass** was celebrated by Pope Francis in the Phoenix Park on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> August. Many Cardinals, Bishops and Priests con- celebrated. The compassion, concern and empathy shown by Pope Francis for those who have suffered was very evident during the special Penitential Rite. The relics of St. Therese and her parents Louis & Zélie Martin were present in the Sanctuary during the celebration of Mass.

I was very touched by the whole occasion and I enjoyed the very positive and joyful atmosphere around the various events. This was truly a sign of HOPE for the Irish Church, which has taken some bashing in recent years. It was also very uplifting to see so many families present from around the world. Estimates suggest that people were present from more than one hundred countries. It was a wonderful occasion for so many Irish and International families to come together to celebrate the joy of being a family!

Pope Francis had a hectic programme from the moment that he arrived until his departure some 36 hours later. He attended some formal as well as informal events. His visit to the Day Centre run by the Capuchin Community showed his genuine love and concern for the poor and the marginalised in our society. Also on the Saturday afternoon he addressed a gathering of engaged and recently married couples. He also included a visit to our Lady's shrine in Knock on Sunday morning where he delivered the Angelus address before an estimated 45,000 people. At each venue he was driven round in his "Popemobile" to the delight of the cheering crowds!



He spoke many words of encouragement and I would like to share some of these with you:

"I have found great faith in Ireland. .... The Irish people have a faith that is rooted and strong".

"We know that love is God's dream for us and for the whole human family. Please never forget this."

"The first and most important place for passing on the Faith is **the home**. It is in the home that we learn to believe, through the quiet daily example of parents who love our Lord and trust in his Word. In the home, which we call the **domestic church**, children learn the meaning of fidelity, integrity and sacrifice. In this way, children can breathe in the fresh air of the Gospel, and learn to understand, judge and act in a manner worthy of the legacy of faith they have received. The Faith Is passed on around the family table, at home in ordinary conversation, in the language that persevering love alone knows how to speak."

"Our world needs a revolution of love! The world needs a revolution of love! Let that revolution begin with you and your families!"

The next World Meeting will be held in Rome in 2021.

A special anthem was composed for the WMOF 2018 and the chorus has the beautiful message, "**our love for each other mirrors God the Father's love.**"

## **Official Prayer for the world Meeting of Families 2018**

*God, our Father, we are brothers and sisters in Jesus your Son,*

*One family, in the Spirit of your love.*

*Bless us with the joy of love.*

*Make us patient and kind, gentle and generous,  
welcoming to those in need.*

*Help us to live your forgiveness and peace.*

*Protect all families with your loving care,*

*Especially those for whom we now pray:*

*(We pause and remember family members and others by name.)*

*Increase our faith, strengthen our hope,*

*Keep us safe in your love,*

*Make us always grateful for the gift of life that we share.*

*This we ask, through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

*Mary, mother and guide, pray for us.*

*Saint Joseph, father and protector, pray for us.*

*Saints Joachim and Anne, pray for us.*

*Saints Louis and Zélie Martin, pray for us.*

*Margaret Brennan*



## **Adoremus- National Eucharistic Congress Liverpool 7th to 9th September**



We, Gloria and I were looking forward to this big event in the history of the Catholic Church of England and Wales – the Adoremus- the National Eucharistic Congress after almost a hundred years!

When the big day arrived, we left Wimbledon at 5.00 am to catch the train at Euston, London. When we arrived at Liverpool Lime Street station, we had to take a taxi to the ACC Echo Arena- the Conference Centre. We shared a taxi with a group of total strangers who were going to the same conference. To our great surprise, when we reached the Centre, the ladies would not accept any money from us. There are angels everywhere.

This Adoremus conference was a reminder of the power of the Eucharist. 20,000 Catholics attended this conference and it gave us a strong sense of reawakening. Archbishop of Liverpool Malcolm McMahon reminded us that the Eucharist and the devotion to the Blessed Sacrament will make us more aware of social justice issues, will make us more caring for each other and allow us to share what we have but also give our time and ourselves to other people.

On Saturday, the highlight came in the form of two keynote speeches from the Auxiliary Bishop of Los Angeles, Robert Baron. He is well known for the You Tube users and it was a special privilege to see him so close. His insights included reflection on the deeper meaning of the Mass and the roads we travel as Christians, which he defined as ‘find the Centre, know you’re a sinner, and realize your life is not about you’. The liturgy is like an open door that allows us to have a glimpse into the infinity, the eternal, the divine. In the liturgy we experience both the loving presence of God and the communion of brothers and sisters. But there is even a greater joy, the joy of having an encounter with Jesus Christ.

Robert Baron gave us a lovely image when he talked about the meaning of the word, Adoremus, adoration. It literally means ‘mouth to mouth’ and in a way praying before the Blessed Sacrament is being face to face with the Lord’.

After the tea-break, after some time of silent adoration, we had the benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Since it was the Nativity of Our Blessed Mother, we decided to attend the evening Mass at St Vincent de Paul Church. When we came out of the Church, it started to rain. A kind lady gave us a lift all the way to the train station. Our day ended with another touch of the angels.

Sheela Valavi

## General Chapter 2nd Phase– Experience of Cor Unum

The Capitulants met again in Paris for the 2nd phase of the General Chapter. Since it was the continuation, we all knew each other and this time we experienced the Cor Unum in a very special way. We felt a very strong bond uniting us. This was again an echo-friendly, paperless Chapter. Sr Laurence did a marvellous job as our coordinator. The 3 free days in between helped us to work without undue tension.

All the Commissions and the secretaries kept us up-to-date with their tireless work.

Marie Adelaide's Centenary Celebration added deep joy to the Chapter.

Our Eucharistic celebration at Medaille Miraculous Chapel and at Mission Etrangers deepened our attachment to Our Blessed Mother and our Founders.

The community at the Mother House took care of our physical needs– we were inundated with varieties of fresh fruit.

Both the opening and closing ceremonies which were conducted in our Chapel, strengthened our communion with one another as a Society, especially the aspect of service and mission.

During our study and discussion of our Constitutions 2 aspects stood out: availability and commitment.

I am encouraged more and more to live our Constitutions more faithfully in my daily life.

When we are worried about our diminishing numbers in Europe, we also have to rejoice at the increasing numbers in Africa and South East Asia.

May our Holy Founders intercede for us.

**Sheela Valavi**









## **RUTH PFAU- A LIFE TRULY GIVEN IN PRAISE AND THANKS TO GOD**

The first time I remember hearing Ruth Pfau's name mentioned, was when she was already gravely ill. I learnt that she was a medical doctor who was on her way to India. Whilst waiting for a visa to get to India she was taken to the railway station in Karachi where she found leprosy patients with no care, since the authorities did not provide any medical help. She never got to India. She stayed with the patients, serving them for the rest of her life.

Her name was mentioned many times in praise in our community while I wondered why. She was a doctor and called by God so what else would she do but follow her heart's desire? Besides, she was a Daughter of the Heart of Mary!

Then God called her home and the press in Pakistan and the world made her better known (to me) in an outpouring of praise and grief and loss and so much love. I read the book published so soon after she went to God and I then understood what all the fuss was about. I hope every one of us DHM will take time to read the book.

Ruth had allowed God to work in her in such a wonderful way and it was a very difficult journey lasting many decades but it was very rewarding and so adventurous and mostly miraculous! Whenever Ruth found herself in a terrifyingly tight spot she would remind herself of Jesus' saying "Do not be afraid I am with you" or when things were unbearable and there was not much she could do to help, the scriptures consoled her as she remembered the Lord's words "When I was hungry you gave me food ....". Ruth always placed herself in God's hands and pondered the great mystery of love and death - "love and death - they are life, and life hurts" and "love can only be preserved and only prove itself in its essence, when it is maintained in the face of futility" and I feel Ruth learned to forgive and live by this philosophy even from childhood. Another of her sayings which I have taken to heart is "If Christians don't have the courage to be crazy, to be fools for Christ, what is Christianity for?". You could say Ruth's life was crazy and mostly very precarious. Ruth realised her main labour of crazy love by eradicating leprosy in Pakistan in her lifetime and I am sure "her boys" will faithfully build on her legacy with enthusiasm.

She has been a companion of my heart and thoughts since the moment she went to Heaven and I thank God for our Ruth Pfau a true Daughter of the Heart of Mary and ask her intercession often for myself and our Society.

PRAISE BE TO OUR GOD, FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT

**Gloria Beg**

## **A VERY SPECIAL OCCASION**

On 26<sup>th</sup> April 2018 our community celebrated a special Mass in honour of Adelaide de Cicé. We were happy that Fr. Cecil Johnston, who is now in a Nursing Home, was able to be the Celebrant as he had been for so many years. We were joined also by friends and neighbours who were free on the day.

During the ceremony a Daughter of the Heart of Mary gave a very comprehensive presentation on the history of our Society. We felt it was a fitting way to mark this great occasion as our extended praying community, were very happy to learn more about Adelaide and the foundation of our Society. It enabled them to appreciate in greater depth the richness of our heritage, the uniqueness of our Charism and the troubled times in which our Foundress led our early sisters with the guidance of our Co-Founder, Fr. de Cloriviere S.J.

Following the Eucharist, our guests were invited to a festive meal where we shared in lively conversation and reminisced on the past. We owe much to the many departed DHM of our own Reunion, who “bore the labours of the day” over 160 years from the time Mary Ann More O’Ferrall brought the Society to Ireland. Like Adelaide they were faithful to the Lord’s call, serving him in the the people of Dun Laoghaire and further afield since its foundation in 1856.

For many years Annie Thewlis was the face of St. Joseph’s for the numerous people who came to our front door. The following poem, written by Annie who is long since deceased, has been retrieved:

### ***St Joseph’s – as the Portress saw it!***

*If perchance to St. Joseph’s a visit you pay,  
You’ll be made very welcome any hour of the day,  
For you see we are sisters to whom all are dear,  
And that’s why we’ve callers throughout the whole year.*

*Now on Festivals our friends are especially good,  
Bringing gifts - oh so varied! - and all kinds of food,  
To each our thanks we sincerely convey,  
While ‘Reward them, O Lord’ we twice daily pray.*

*And of all the callers to whom we are kind,  
Among them surprises we often do find,  
For the poor we have always – the young and the old,  
If we’re wise we’ll not believe every story we’re told.*

*There’s the big and the small, the short and the tall,  
Among the many who come for a meal in the “Hall”,  
Which are needy or hungry – sure it’s hard to tell,  
While one steps right-in with “Hope you’re all keeping well”.*



*There's the oil-man, the gas-man, the seller of ware,  
We try to be pleasant, though we'd wish them elsewhere,  
Just at this hour – sure it's not the very best time,  
Then on second glance – see the length of the line!*

*We have always the caller who comes in by 'phone',  
The unseen enquirer – we know just by the tone,  
For there's also the lady trying Guest House to book –  
And that we can't do before we first have a look.*

*Thanks again to all those who give of their plenty,  
With it we help others, whose pockets are empty,  
We share too with the children from out of our store,  
For that's as it should be – they wish we had more.*

*Now with priests, rich and poor folk, who all come our way,  
Not to mention retreatants and the many who stay,  
Let's try always kind and cheerful to be,  
Remembering He said 'If done to them, then to Me'.*

*So whatever the future, the challenge we'll meet,  
Saying 'for You Lord we'll use head, hands and feet,  
Answering bell after bell, hoping someday to find,  
The Aspirant or two, which You must have in mind'.*

#### **FROM PAST TO PRESENT**

As we write this issue of Network we are also in the process of down-sizing and saying 'goodbye' to our home on Tivoli Road. Thanks to Divine Providence our new home is just ten minutes' walk away. It will still be approximate to our School and within our Parish of St. Michael, thus assuring continuity of ministries.

A number of former residents of our Home for Children are also paying a last visit to this place of memories for them.

St. Joseph will be moving with us from his place in the garden to take up his new position as our guardian into the future. We thank the Lord for all his Blessings and entrust our future to Him.

*Eileen Callaghan*

## ***Bicentenary Celebrations***

### **Adelaide de Cicé**

During the bicentenary year of Adelaide's death, we had the joy and privilege in Dun Laoghaire community of welcoming Noela Polet, DHM from Belgium, to share her doctoral thesis on Adelaide de Cicé with us.

Noela highlighted many aspects of the life of Adelaide.

During her presentation she spoke about Adelaide's desire to do God's will. She sought spiritual direction from Abbé Boursoul who encouraged her to live in God's presence. It seems that her desire to do God's will and live in His presence were highly sustaining and motivating factors in her life when she could exclaim "It is the Lord".

She had the joy of spending the last period of her life in the tribune of Missions Étrangères, Paris, where she died in His presence.



*The plaque commemorating the death of Adelaide  
in the tribune of the Church of Missions Estrangers*

"It was there that on Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> April, 1818, about four o'clock in the morning, her soul passed quietly away in the peace of the Lord".

Nora Neary



## Triduum Time Again!

Being the year of Adelaide we knew it was important to focus on Adelaide and her gift to us DHMs and to the world. I immediately thought of Noela Polet, a DHM from Belgium whom I had known from our time in Ethiopia together.

Many years later I was to meet Noela in Paris when she came to meet Hazel and her Council, and to present her desire to do a doctorate on *Women Mystics* to us.

Hazel re-directed her desire to Adelaide. Noela generously let go of her own desire and welcomed Hazel's suggestion. Subsequently she was to make many visits to the Archives in Paris to research the life and writings both of Adelaide and Clorivière.

To the joy of all DHMs Noela presented the Defense of her Doctorate on Adelaide in September 2017. Noela has presented the fruit of her work to the Cor Unum group, to the General Council, and to the gathering in Paris for the bi-centennial celebrations for Adelaide.

Our Province had the joy of having Noela in February for our Triduum. She had given the Triduum in London a week previously and followed on with a Triduum here in St. Joseph's. We were greatly enriched by her refreshing approach to Adelaide, yes historical, but deeply imbued with Adelaide's spirit.

The weekend renewed our love for Adelaide in this bi-centennial year.

Anne Boland



## **Our Celebration of the bi-centenary of Marie Adelaide`s entry into Heaven**

We decided to take the time of our Triduum in February of this year, as a preparation for Adelaide`s entry into Heaven. Input was given by Noela Polet from Belgium, who had taken the life of Marie Adelaide for her thesis. As a community, we were encouraged by the reflections that Noela could give and also were inspired through the insights she gave of Adelaide`s courageous answer to the plan of God for her. It was good to return to our history and realise something of what Adelaide had accomplished, especially when she was responsible for the two Societies during the time when Father de Cloriviere was in prison. The phrase used by Carmen in her letter, speaking of Adelaide`s “relentless search for the will of God”, also helped us to re-discover her continued search for Gods` plan, in spite of, or because of the dangers and many difficulties of the time in which she lived.

We had a prayerful community celebration to end the Triduum, in which the community, after reflecting on Adelaide`s life and work, and her writings, chose different quotations, which inspired our period of Adoration together. The day ended with a festive meal which was a joyful occasion for all present. DHM from Liverpool were expected to join us but, due to illness, were prevented from coming. We were very sad that they could not be with us.

On 26<sup>th</sup> April, we had a special Mass offered by a Jesuit Priest who knows well our Ignatian and DHM spirituality, at which he gave an inspiring homily which all found helpful. He well knows our members over many years and also the lives of our Founders, above all, Father de Cloriviere since he too was a Jesuit. We invited our inter-active group of Ignatian and DHM Spirituality for this Eucharistic celebration. This day also concluded with a festive meal.

As part of our continuing reflection during this year, we have replaced the photograph of Adelaide in our community room with a photograph of Adelaide which is a recently discovered copy of the original, now kept in the Archives in Paris. The beautiful story of how this came into the possession of a Priest, whose Aunt is a DHM. He then gave the picture to his Aunt who recognised it as a photograph of our Foundress, and sent it to our Archives in Paris. We are grateful to have this new photograph of Adelaide in our community.

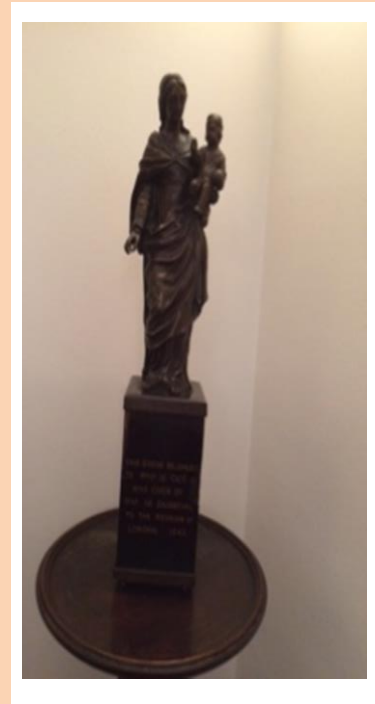
We are hoping to have a programme of light and sound on the life of Adelaide for next year and continue our prayer for her intercession. We try to follow the plan of God for our own lives in being faithful to our calling and our mission in today`s world, as she was so faithful in her day.

Anne Coughlan

## The origin and history of the statue of Our Lady in Wimbledon Reunion

Account written by Lucy Gressier of the origin and history of the statue given to the London Reunion by Mme de SAISSEVAL

When I left Paris with our very dear Mother de Goisbriand in 1846, in compliance with the wish of the Right rev Bishop Griffiths, the then Vicar Apostolic of the London district, who having heard of our Society, thought it would be very useful in his diocese, Madame de Saissaval, whose great desire was to see the Society established in England, promised me that if we could succeed in beginning a foundation, she would give me this statue of Our Blessed Lady, which had belonged to Mademoiselle de Cice, the first Superior of the Society, to be as a bond of union between England and the Mother House.



Accordingly, when a little later two of our Sisters were sent over to help me, this dear Reverend Mother fulfilled her promise by sending me the statue, with a note in which she says that so much as she values it as having belonged to our first Mother, she parts with it willingly in order to give it to England. I had it placed in our little Chapel, where it remained until the death of Bishop Griffiths, when the affair, being taken out of my hands, and moved to Clapham, this statue was removed there, with the altar and the rest of the Chapel's furniture.

Sometime after, having opened a school I borrowed the statue to make an altar for the month of May, and seeing that later on the affairs of the Society did not progress as we could wish, I did not hurry to return the statue for fear we might lose it. And so it remained with me. But when at length I saw the Society established, I spoke of it to Reverend Julianne and proposed to bring it to Kensington, Mlle. Julianne submitted it to our Mother General, who decided that I should bring it and with it the little note in Mme de Saisseval's writing by which she had consigned it to my care. This I accordingly did and so it remains now to preside over our reunions.



## A Tribute to Marie Adelaide

We look up to you Marie Adelaide  
You are our inspiration  
Your fearless faith and immeasurable love  
Have won our admiration.



God's choice of you from your early days  
Caused you to open your heart  
To receive the graces coming from Him  
To help you to play your part.  
As the years went by, you searched for a way  
To make sense of the Plan you received  
Was there someone who could understand  
Someone who really believed?

And so to the waters of Dinan you came  
Fulfilling indirectly God's design  
When Pierre Joseph you met and disclosed your Plan,  
What followed just fell into line.

You served the poor and the helpless with joy  
And in court to fight your cause  
They rose up and witnessed in your favour  
The case was dismissed with resounding applause.  
Your motto: "It is the Lord"  
Was part of the fabric of your day,  
It kept you vigilant and alert,  
Ready to respond come what may.

Thank you for the legacy you left us,  
It was clear right from the start,  
To honour Mary and walk in her way,  
As Daughters of her Heart

**Charmaine Bourbon**



## Marie Adelaide Association



### Rule of Life

Morning Offering

Act of Consecration each day

Five minutes reading of the Gospel

Five minutes chat with our Lord

Each day (either at home or before the Blessed Sacrament)

If possible—one extra Mass weekly.

### Act of Consecration

O Mary my Mother, I offer myself to you this day.

Teach me to gaze on Your Divine Son as You did, so that living in His Presence I may imitate His love for the Father and His life of service for others.

Amen



The Marie Adelaide Association for teenage pupils, attending St Agnes` Secondary School for girls, in Liverpool, in the late nineteen-sixties and early seventies met weekly, at Speklands, our community house, at that time. Marie Battersby and Mary Brennan were members of the teaching staff.

## **God's Gift to the Sacred Heart Parish Community**

For almost three years, the Sacred Heart Parish Community in Wimbledon, has been specially blessed, with the active involvement of Canon Voitech Elias in serving the Parish.

Father Elias with his cheerful spirit, his genuine warmth and his ever present smile, soon won the hearts of the faithful. He referred to himself as "a Czech immigrant". When through an unforeseen set of circumstances, Fr Elias realised his original plan of coming to London was radically changed, Canon John Clark, Parish Priest at Sacred Heart, asked Fr Elias to take care of the ministry to the sick in the Parish. At Fr Elias' farewell party Canon John Clark, in his speech, spoke of Fr Elias' limitless giving to the sick of our Parish.

Fr Elias in his farewell letter to our parishioners on 30th September 2018, wrote: "I have felt so happy here: first of all because I love Jesus and I have found here so many people loving Him too. I love the Church as a Mystical Body of Jesus and I have found the local parish as a real part of her..... the Church is not self-made, she was created by God and She is continuously formed by Him".

When Fr Elias was asked by a parishioner, "What had made him happy being in our parish", he replied: "The regular rhythm of prayerful life", which he sees as "eternity calling". He said: "He regards the "prizes" in his life as a priest here, are the close relationships he has built in Wimbledon with many parishioners who have become his friends. His previous duties in the Archdiocese of Prague has been as a manager and administrator, but he believes that, while at the Sacred Heart Parish, he has been able to fulfil the real vocation of a priest, which is to be close to and serve people".

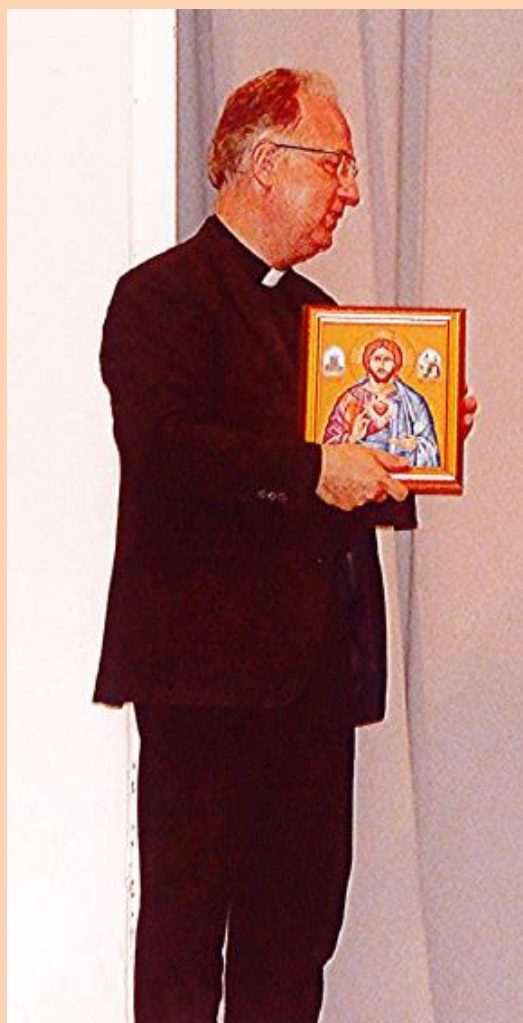
During our August Triduum, Fr Elias came to reflect with us on Priesthood and Religious life in to-day's world. Fr Elias shared that for him to live the truth in love was the key. "If we live by the truth and in love, we shall grow in all ways into Christ..." (Eph.4:16) He reminded us that truth and love are inseparable. From that realisation, obedience meant that for more than thirty years, his ministry, as a priest, was very different from the one he would have chosen himself. From his sharing it became obvious to us, that we were listening to a priest, who had received the gift of inner freedom.

Fr Elias has also been a member of the community that welcomes enquires to explore faith and what it means to be a Catholic Christian in to-day's world. He shared his profound knowledge of Scripture and his own prayerful reflection on Scripture. His deep love for the Church, enabled him to reflect on the Eucharist and the Sacraments. But above all Fr Elias shared with us his faith-filled, simple life-style, lived in the awareness of God's presence in the daily routine. In his farewell letter he wrote: "These three years have allowed me to go deeper into my faith. I think faith is a profoundly personal contact with God, which touches me in my innermost being and places me in front of the living God in such a way that I can speak with Him, love Him and enter into communion with Him. But at the same time this reality pertains to the community- to the excellent community of priests especially with Canon John and Fr Ted and then to the community of all our parishioners".

Thank you, Canon Elias for the joy you brought to our Parish Community. We will continue to pray for you in your new ministry as Parish Priest of St Ludmila, in Prague.

"We shall not cease from exploration  
And the end of all our exploring  
Will be to arrive where we started  
And know the place for the first time".  
(Four Quartets: T.S. Eliot)

**Mary Brennan**





## DEMOCRACY AND FRACKING ORDERED AT Blackpool DESPITE THE COUNTY VOTING AGAINST IT

Blackpool has been hit by four earthquakes just days after the controversial practice of fracking began again in the area. The latest quake hit this afternoon at levels where scientists say the process should 'proceed with caution.' Fracking was stopped for years after two earthquakes in Lancashire and experts have now raised fears that 'there may be trouble ahead.'

Fashion designer Dame Vivienne Westwood campaigns with fellow anti-fracking protesters gathering near the entrance to the Preston New Road drill site where energy firm Cuadrilla Resources have commenced fracking (hydraulic fracturing) operations this week.

David Smythe, Emeritus Professor of Geophysics, University of Glasgow, told Metro.co.uk: 'Recent research by Stanford University shows that these tiny tremors can be indicators of bigger quakes to follow – like canaries in a coal-mine. The problem for Cuadrilla is that if it carries on regardless, bigger earthquakes may well be triggered. To quote Cole Porter; "There may be trouble ahead". Cuadrilla's only safe option is to cease fracking.'

Blackpool, Lancashire, has been at the centre of the angry debate over fracking after two earthquakes in 2011 forced the practice to stop. Initial studies by the British Geological Society suggested the quakes were linked to the fracking activities while an independent report found 'most likely, the repeated seismicity was induced by direct injection of fluid into the fault zone.' Earlier this week, gas firm Cuadrilla announced they were back at one of their shale gas drilling sites after campaigners lost a last-minute legal challenge at the high court. Less than 72 hours later, Blackpool was hit with three minor quakes on Thursday at 3.48pm, 10.54pm and 11.44pm.



Dame Vivienne Westwood helps to campaign in Blackpool, she is preparing the banners for the campaign on 20th October to try and raise awareness and stop the Fracking.

They were at minus levels and the low levels of seismic activity meant they would not have been felt by residents. However on Friday afternoon at 1.20pm, Blackpool was hit by quake with a 0.3 magnitude, which experts are now monitoring because it has reached a level where fracking should be reconsidered.

Rose Dickinson, Friends of the Earth campaigner told said that 'Today has been seismic activity at the fracking site in Lancashire hitting amber on the government's own monitoring scale, meaning Cuadrilla has to "proceed at caution".'

'It's only been 4 days since they started fracking. This is why it's right that this site has to be so closely monitored, and it should continue to be.' Fracking, or Hydraulic Fracturing, involves pumping vast quantities of water and chemicals into unstable rock to release combustible gas. Drilling for shale gas is still at an exploratory phase. However, reserves of shale gas have been identified across large swathes of the UK, particularly in northern England.

The Government has been pro-fracking despite concerns over climate change. When Theresa May came to power, she announced householders living near shale wells would enjoy a 'frackpot' payout of up to £10,000

each. However the UN's Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change launched a new report only two weeks ago bringing forward the dangerous limits of climate change and calling on world leaders to take immediate action to bring global warming under control by 2040. The extensive list of measures required includes a diverse energy mix of 85 per cent renewables and practically no coal, oil, or gas. The same government that has granted 100 licences for fracking has denied licences for wind farms in remote areas. The government also denied permits to harness wave power, yet the UK is an island that can easily change to renewable energy. We need to change hearts and minds and move forward into energy sources that will not destroy the environment.

**Gina Eastwood**



## Tragedy off the Coast of Dún Laoghaire 10.10.1918

Just about 9:00 am on the morning of 10<sup>th</sup> October 1918 the Royall Mail Steamer (RMS) *Leinster* began its final voyage from Carlisle Pier, Dún Laoghaire (then Kingstown) to Holyhead, Wales.

An estimated 803 passengers were on board, comprising of the ship's crew, postal sorters working on board in the ship's sorting room, civilian passengers, and military, medical and support personnel involved in World War 1.

Soon after it passed the Kish Light (then a vessel) and shortly before 10:00 am a torpedo fired by UB-123 missed the ship, passing across the bow. A second torpedo soon afterwards struck the ship on the port side in the vicinity of the mail room. While attempting to turn, the ship was struck on the starboard side by another torpedo. It sank quickly. What unfolded was the greatest maritime disaster on the Irish Sea with the loss of 565 lives or possibly more.

Survivors struggled in the rough sea, in life boats and clinging to life-rafts and wreckage awaiting help. But it was some hours later before any attempts to rescue the survivors were finally made. This was because other ships were ordered not to assist for fear of more torpedoes. Many of the victims were buried at sea. There were more Irish people killed on the *Leinster* in 1918 than on the *Titanic* in 1912 or the *Lusitania* in 1915. Many children were orphaned as a result of the tragedy.

This awful "act of war" happened just a little more than four weeks before the ending of WW1 on the 11.11. 1918.

Those on board came from Ireland, England, Australia, New Zealand, America, Canada, France and Guernsey. Soon after the horrific tragedy, while attempting to return to Germany, UB- 123 hit a mine and its entire crew died as well.

100 hundred years later during October 2018 many events and exhibitions will take place in Dún Laoghaire to re-call the horrors of war and warfare on land and sea! On the morning of 10<sup>th</sup> an Inter-Church Service will be held our Parish Church. It will be followed by an official commemoration to mark the centenary of the tragedy and to remember all those who lost their lives. All are requested to observe a minute of silent reflection on Wednesday morning 10.10.2018 in memory of all those who perished. There will be a wreath - laying ceremony at sea, close to where the disaster happened.

Many descendants of those who lost their lives in the horrendous tragedy continue to live in the vicinity of Dún Laoghaire.

The hope is that by commemorating these and other tragic events of warfare we remind ourselves of how precious peace is and of the futility of all warfare!  
peace of the Lord.

May all the victims rest in the

*Margaret Brennan*



### Kindness is Never Forgotten

Frequently in the media we hear a lot about inhumanity and selfishness but what I experienced recently was in direct contrast to that! So I decided to put pen to paper!

During the severe weather which we had in the month of March, with the heavy snowfall I received numerous texts, phone call and visits from kind and caring people.

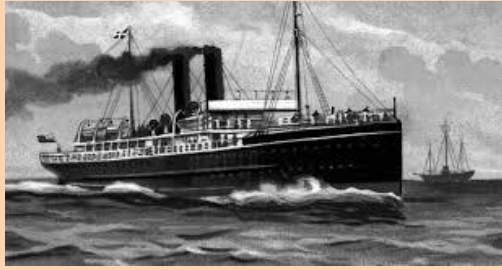
I noticed that people were helping others to Mass and to the shops and were very vigilant in their concern for others. On the Saturday morning when I looked out the door of my home, eager to go to Mass, a kind person whom I never met before offered to help me to the Church. As we went along I noted that there were no public transport visible as the roads were treacherous! In the course of our conversation I mentioned that I had received an invitation to a wedding in Co. Cavan for that afternoon but regretted that I would not be able to travel!

Then sometime later when I had returned home my doorbell rang and I got a big surprise when my friend called with travel details for me to get to the wedding. Not only that, but also an offer to take me into the city in order to catch the one and only coach for Cavan on that day. Needless to say I accepted the kind offer and before too long I was boarding the coach on route to Cavan. I arrived safely and bride and groom as well as my family and friends were over joyed to see me!

On reflection I believe that this was one of the “daily miracles of grace.” We talk about miracles but I must say that for me this was one found in the kindness and goodness of a stranger.

Pope Frances talks about the joy of living the Gospel in relation to families. “The Joy of Love experienced by families is also the joy of the Church.” (Amoris Laetitia No1) Through the kindness of this good person I was able to experience this joy of family life and love. Also it was appropriate to have had this experience in this “Year of the Family” with its themes of faith, hope, love and joy.

**Nora Neary**



Here the Leinster is seen setting sail

+ + + +

### **THE CROSS IN MY POCKET**

*I carry the cross in my pocket*

*A simple reminder to me  
Of the fact that I am a Christian  
No matter where I may be*

*This little cross in not magic  
Nor is it a good luck charm  
It isn't meant to protect me  
From every physical harm.*

*It's not for identification  
For all the world to see  
It's simply and understanding  
Between my saviour and me.*

*When I put my hand in my pocket  
To bring out a coin or a key  
The Cross is there to remind me  
Of the price He paid for me.*

*It reminds me, too, to be thankful  
For my blessings day by day*

*And to strive to serve him better  
In all that I do and say.*

*It's also a daily reminder  
Of the peace and comfort I share  
With all who know my Master  
And give themselves to His care.*

*So I carry a cross in my pocket  
Reminding no one but me  
That Jesus Christ is Lord of my Life  
If only I'll let Him be. (Author Unknown)*

*Máire O'Carroll*



***"Almighty God, Help me,***

***My boat is so small***

***And the sea is so vast"***

***Breton Prayer***