



KNOCK

# NATIONAL NOVENA

*to Our Lady of Knock*

14–22 August, 2023

SPEAKERS AND  
WORKSHOPS



## Welcome

The National Novena to Our Lady of Knock from 14th - 22nd August, offers you the opportunity to step away from everyday life and immerse yourself in prayer in the beautiful, peaceful grounds of Knock Shrine.

Over the course of the nine-day Novena, we will hear from guest speakers each day who will offer insights on a variety of topics, from personal faith stories, to how we are responding to a changing world. You are invited to take this time to reflect, and explore within yourself, on how to embrace the challenges we face in our faith.

Our theme for this year is  
*'Caring for Creation'*

### Daily Schedule:

Novena Ceremonies 3pm & 8pm in the Basilica  
Workshops: 12 noon daily in the 'Novena Village'  
Guided Walks: 10.30am daily. Meeting point is at the Novena Village. All are welcome.

# Novena Ceremonies and Speakers

## Monday 14 August

3pm & 8pm **Fr John Joe Duffy,**  
C.C. Creeslough.

*'Caring for Others'*



Fr John Joe Duffy has witnessed first-hand the devastating consequences of tragedy at the heart of the small, tight-knit community of Creeslough. He will share his experience of helping the community through this unbelievably harrowing time and how his faith sustained him and others.

## Tuesday 15 August, The Feast of the Assumption

3pm **His Excellency Archbishop**  
**Luis Mariano Montemayor,**  
Papal Nuncio to Ireland

*'Mary, Our Mother'*



Archbishop Montemayor was born on 16 March 1956 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He was ordained a priest on 15 November 1985. Between 1991-2008 he earned a PhD in Canon Law, and served at the Apostolic Nunciature in Ethiopia, Brazil, Thailand, and the Secretariat of State.

In 2008 he served as Apostolic Nuncio in Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, Capo Verde and Apostolic Delegate in Mauritania. In February 2023, he was appointed as Papal Nuncio to Ireland.

8pm **Paula McKeown**

*'Created for Heaven'*



Paula McKeown is director of the Living Church, the office for pastoral renewal in the Diocese of Down and Connor. She is from the Parish of Ardkeen, Co. Down and is married to Joe, a youth worker engaged in Youth Ministry and Peace and Reconciliation initiatives in Northern Ireland. They have two children Anna and Lorcán. In 2017 Bishop Noel Treanor appointed Paula to the role of Director of Living Church office, the first Diocesan appointment of a lay woman. She currently serves as Deputy Chair of the Synodal Pathway of the Catholic Church in Ireland.





## Wednesday 16 August

3pm & 8pm **Sean O'Rourke**

*'The Gift of Service'*



Born in Portlaoise, Sean O'Rourke is one of Ireland's best known journalists in print and broadcasting. Educated at Coláiste Iognáid and the University of Galway, he was a reporter and political correspondent with the Irish Press Group before joining RTÉ where he worked for over 30 years as a programme editor and presenter. Now semi-retired, he is currently working on Insights, a series of long-form interviews with public figures for RTÉ's podcast platform. Sean is married to psychologist and broadcaster Caroline Murphy. They have six children and three grandchildren.

## Thursday 17 August - Feast of Our Lady of Knock

3pm & 8pm **Nóirín Lynch**

*'Working Together for a Better World'*



Nóirín Lynch is a pastoral worker of almost 30 years having worked in youth, parish, diocesan and school ministry settings in the Catholic Dioceses of Limerick, Kerry, Cork and Munich-Freising, as well as with the Holy Faith Sisters in Glasnevin. She is currently Director of FCJ Spirituality House - Teach Spioradálta in Spanish Point, Co Clare. When not welcoming retreatants, Nóirín sings, writes and swims, slowly. She is a member of the Laudato Si Working Group for the Irish Bishops Conference.

## Friday 18 August

3pm & 8pm **Geraldine Mullan**

*'From a Site of Sadness Blooms Hope.'*



"Faith, Hope & Love"....are 3 tenets Geraldine Mullan holds onto dearly. Tragically, on 20th August 2020 her life changed irrevocably for the worst when she and her family were in a car accident and she lost her beloved husband John, aged 49 and their children Tomás, aged 14 and Amelia, aged 6. She will speak of her journey since that fateful night and how she continues to look for hope each and every day.

## Saturday 19 August

3pm **Most Rev. Alan McGuckian SJ,  
Bishop of Raphoe**

*'Faith and Hope in a Sea of Change'*



Bishop Alan McGuckian, born in 1953 and entered the Jesuits Novitiate in 1972, he ordained a Priest in 1984 and Bishop of Raphoe in 2017. Bishop McGuckian is the Irish Episcopal Conference





representative to ICEL; Chairman of the Council for Justice and Peace/NICCOSA, Member of the Council for Pastoral Renewal and Adult Faith development, Liaison Bishop with Pax Christi Ireland.

8pm

**Juliann Moran, General Secretary of the Synodal Pathway**



*'The Synod: Are We There Yet?'*

Juliann Moran is the General Secretary of the Synodal Pathway of the Catholic Church in Ireland. She was formerly the National Secretary for the Society of Missionary Children at Missio Ireland, where she spent her time raising mission awareness and developing evangelisation resources for dioceses, parishes, and schools across the island of Ireland. From 2010 to 2016 Juliann was the Project Officer for the Council for Pastoral Renewal and Adult Faith Development with the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference and has much expertise in delivering workshops, training, and other programmes that focus on enabling people to discover and develop their faith.

## Sunday 20 August

3pm

**Most Rev. Kevin Doran, Bishop of Elphin**



*'Stewarding Creation'*

Bishop Kevin Doran currently serves as Chairperson of the Council for Life and of the Consultative Group on Bioethics of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference. He is also a member of the Council for Justice and Peace and the Committee for Doctrine & Theology.

He represents the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference at the Anscombe Bioethics Centre (Oxford) and is the liaison between the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference and Irish pro-life groups.

8pm

**Elma Walsh**

*'Donal's Legacy'*

Elma Walsh is a native of The Kerries, Tralee. Sadly, her son Donal was diagnosed with cancer when he was just twelve years and passed away aged 16. In the final months of his life, Donal spoke on national media of his journey and asked young people to value and cherish the gift of life. Elma and her family started the 'Live Life' foundation after Donal's passing in the hope of spreading his message of hope to young people all over the country and further afield. Elma regularly visits schools all over Ireland to speak to young people and to share Donal's story.

The Donal Walsh Day takes place at Knock Shrine in May each year where Donal's legacy of 'Live Life' continues to grow and inspire.



## The Anniversary of the Apparition Monday 21 August

3pm **Fr Shane Costello**

*'Vocation: Why Risk It?'*



Fr Shane Costello, a native of Taugheen, Claremorris, originally trained as a Primary School teacher before joining the National Seminary, Maynooth in 2014. He was ordained to the priesthood at Knock Basilica, for the Archdiocese of Tuam in August 2020 and afterwards began his ministry in the Parish of Westport. For the past two years he has been a curate in Castlebar Parish.

6.30pm **'Witness Walk'** - meet at Novena Village

*Step back in time on Monday 21st of August* as we commemorate the events of a wet August evening in 1879 and retrace the steps of the witnesses from their humble homes to the Parish Church.

8pm **Fr Richard Gibbons** Parish Priest  
and Rector Knock Shrine

*'Caring for the Future'*

Fr Richard Gibbons is a native of Louisburgh, Co. Mayo and Parish Priest and Rector of Knock Shrine. He studied at the Pontifical Irish College, Rome and was ordained for the Archdiocese of Tuam in 1999.



In 2003 he was appointed to Knock as curate and in 2012 was appointed Parish Priest and Rector. Fr Richard is the author of the 'Knock Prayer Book', a beautiful collection of prayers which was published in 2018 by Columba Press.

## Tuesday 22 August

3pm & 8pm **Fr Tony O'Riordan**

*'Finding God in the Service of Others'*



Fr Tony O'Riordan SJ is a Jesuit priest from Kilmichael, West Cork and a graduate of NUIG, he completed his postgraduate studies in Theology in Oxford University.

In 2021 Tony was appointed Country Director of the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) in Syria. In this role he leads a team of 400 volunteers providing life-saving supports in Syria.

In February of this year, as one of the few Westerners on the ground in Aleppo at the time of the deadly earthquake, Fr Tony played a significant role in highlighting to the outside world the devastating impact of the earthquake. Since February he has led efforts that have brought relief to over 100,000 people affected. Fr Tony was instrumental in establishing the Peter McVerry Trust and was its first chairperson. He has over 20 years of experience of visiting prisons and supporting prison chaplains in Ireland and the UK.



## Workshops at the 'Novena Village'

A unique feature of this year's Novena is the 'Novena Village', a special space on the grounds where you are invited to attend workshops each day at 12 noon. The Novena Village will be located on the grounds adjacent to the Basilica.

### NOVENA WORKSHOPS Daily at 12 noon

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|--------------|--|
| Monday 14    | Úna Nolan, Director of Sacred Music at Knock Shrine  |
| Tuesday 15   | Paula McKeown: Meditating with Mary  |
| Wednesday 16 | Paula McKeown: Meditating with Mary  |
| Thursday 17  | Ciara Murphy, Environmental Policy Advocate, Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice                             |
| Friday 18    | Jane Mellett, Laudato Si Officer, Trócaire   |
| Saturday 19  | Fr Eugene Duffy, Lecturer in Theology and Religious Studies, Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick |
| Sunday 20    | Family Day   |
| Monday 21    | Jane Mellett, Laudato Si Officer, Trócaire   |
| Tuesday 22   | Fr Tony O'Riordan  |





# Daily Guided Walks

Guided Walks - 1879 in Focus: Historical Guided Walking Tours of Knock Shrine & Knock Museum. The 1879 Apparition from the perspective of the Knock Witnesses. (1 hour duration)

Join the team from Knock Museum as they unfold the story of the Apparition with a special focus on the fifteen witnesses. Meeting point at the Novena Village at 10:30am  
Booking not necessary.

For more information contact museum staff on:  
t. 094 93 75034 / e. [museum@knockshrine.ie](mailto:museum@knockshrine.ie)  
or for general enquiries visit [www.knockshrine.ie](http://www.knockshrine.ie)





## Daily Screenings of 'THE LETTER'

Screenings of 'The Letter - A Message for Our Earth' take place throughout the Novena. We will be joined by the team from Trócaire who will offer daily screenings of 'The Letter', a powerful film which tells the story of four people from very different backgrounds and the roles they are playing to care more deeply for our common home.

Daily Screenings will take place at the following times:

11:00 - 11:40	The Letter (Part 1)
12:00 - 12:40	The Letter (Part 2)
1:00 - 2:30	The Letter
6:00 - 7:30	The Letter

Location: The screenings will take place in a marquee situated outside St John's Welcome Centre. There is no charge to attend and all are welcome.

## SACRED MUSIC

Throughout the Novena, music plays a key role in



enhancing the Novena Ceremonies. Music for the nine days is chosen carefully to compliment the overall theme of the Novena, and of the daily liturgies. Schola Cantorum Basilicae is the resident Choir for the duration of the Novena, joined for some ceremonies by Knock Parish Choir, Knock Youth Choir and by a number of invited choirs, soloists and musicians. All this combined, endeavours to raise our hearts and minds closer to God through the beauty of sacred music.



# FAMILY DAY

*Sunday 20th August*

11am - 3pm at the Novena Village  
Knock Shrine

On Sunday 20 August, we will host a family day where children and families can join in a range of fun activities. Family Day is a lovely opportunity for families to get together and enjoy a fun day out at Knock Shrine.





All activities are free of charge and will take place on the beautiful grounds of Knock Shrine, near the award-winning Knock Museum and Café le Chéile.

There will be a range of outdoor activities taking place on the green (weather permitting) and marquees with indoor workshops, games and more.

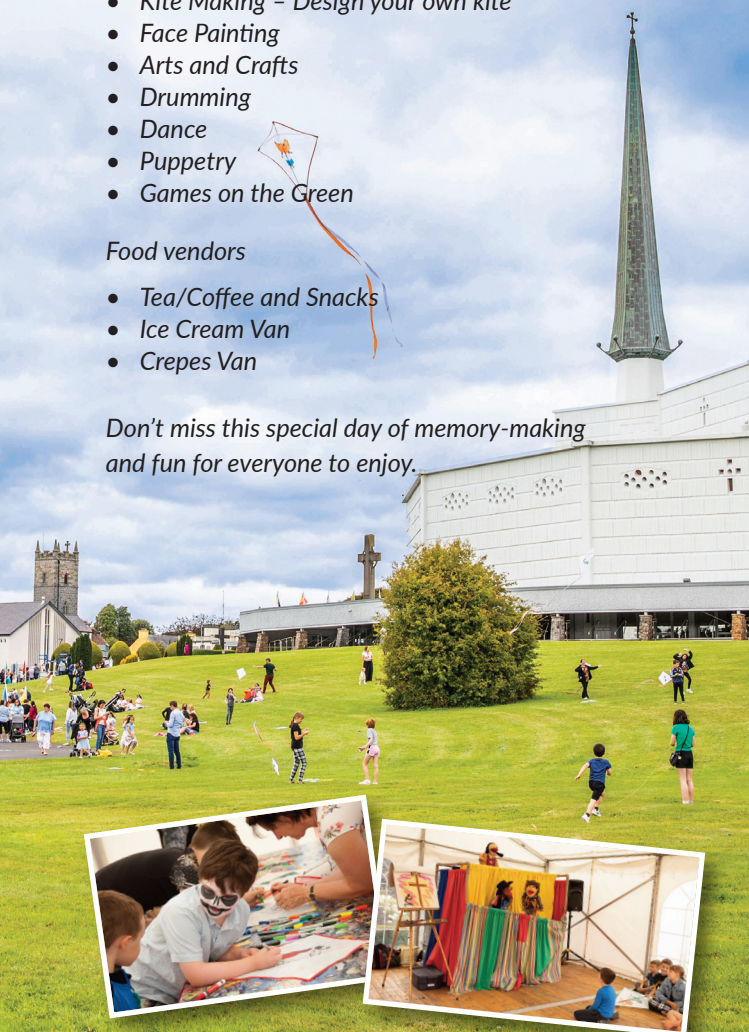
*Events and activities will include:*

- *Kite Making – Design your own kite*
- *Face Painting*
- *Arts and Crafts*
- *Drumming*
- *Dance*
- *Puppetry*
- *Games on the Green*

*Food vendors*

- *Tea/Coffee and Snacks*
- *Ice Cream Van*
- *Crepes Van*

*Don't miss this special day of memory-making and fun for everyone to enjoy.*



# THE CREATION WALK



Launching in Autumn 2023

*“God has written a precious book.  
Its letters are the multitude of created things.  
Creation is a continuing revelation of the Divine.”*

- Laudato Si

Our new Creation Walk will be launched in the Autumn to coincide with the ‘Season of Creation’.

On the ‘Creation Walk’, you are invited to embark on a journey through beautiful, peaceful wooded areas of Knock Shrine grounds. The Creation Walk has developed from a simple idea of bringing you, our visitors and pilgrims, further into nature, to connect with the natural environment in all its glory, to take time to appreciate the wonder of God’s creation, to take time in your day to admire the wonderful variety of trees, shrubs and flowers and to hear birdsong echo an accompanying tune to your footsteps.

