



# KNOCK

Ireland's International Eucharistic  
and Marian Shrine



***‘Whispering with God’***  
*How Do You Pray?*

**NATIONAL NOVENA**  
*to Our Lady of Knock*

14–22 August 2024

# Welcome



The National Novena to Our Lady of Knock takes place from 14 to 22 August 2024. This nine-day programme offers you the opportunity to take time for personal prayer and reflection. As this year has been dedicated as Year of Prayer by Pope Francis, the theme for this year's Novena is **'Whispering with God' How Do You Pray?**

Each day, our inspirational guest speakers will discuss how prayer in all its forms plays an important part of their daily lives. Workshops will also take place daily on a variety of themes. Themed prayer sessions will take place in the Prayer Centre each day.

We invite you to take the opportunity to spend time with us during this special time at Knock Shrine.

**- Fr Richard Gibbons, P.P.**  
Rector, Knock Shrine

## Daily Novena Schedule:

Novena Ceremonies 3pm & 8pm in Knock Basilica.

Workshops: 12.45pm daily in St. John's  
Welcome Centre.

Themed Guided Prayer: at 11.15am and 5.15pm  
daily in the Prayer Centre.

Witness Walk, Wednesday 21 August at 6.45pm

## Guest Speakers

**Wednesday, 14 August:**

**3pm & 8pm Dr. Austen Ivereigh**

*'Hope for a changing Church'*



Dr Austen Ivereigh is a British writer and journalist known for his two biographies of Pope Francis, as well as *Let Us Dream* (2020), a bestselling book written in collaboration with him. His most recent book, published this year, is *First Belong to God: On Retreat with Pope Francis* (Messenger). He is Fellow in Contemporary Church History at the Jesuit-run Campion Hall, University of Oxford, and a theological expert at the assemblies in Rome of the current Synod.



**Thursday, 15 August:**

**3pm & 8pm Fr. Richard Leonard SJ**

*'Keeping Mary close'*

Fr Richard Leonard is a Jesuit priest. Fr Richard did graduate studies at the London Film School and has a PhD from the University of Melbourne. Dr Leonard is an Honorary Fellow of the Australian Catholic University and has been a visiting scholar within the School of Theatre, Film & Television at UCLA and a Visiting Professor at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. He has lectured on faith and culture all over the world. His latest book, *Why God? Stories to Inspire Faith* has just been released.



**Friday, 16 August:**

**3pm & 8pm Toni Pyke**

*'Mission Possible'*

Toni Pyke PhD is the Justice, Peace and Ecology co-ordinator with the Association of Leaders of Missionary and Religious of Ireland (AMRI). She has worked at the Archdiocese of Boston and the US Catholic Bishops Conference in Washington DC in the Office of the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Refugees. She has lived in Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Ireland, and worked on issues of international development and development education. She has lectured at Maynooth University and the University of South Africa.

**Saturday, 17 August:**

**3pm Msgr Kevin Gillespie**

*'Mary, Model of Eucharistic Prayer'*



Msgr Kevin Gillespie serves as Diocesan Administrator of the Diocese of Raphoe, which is awaiting the appointment of a new Bishop. A native of Gaoth Dobhair, Co. Donegal, Monsignor Gillespie also continues as Administrator of St. Eunan's Cathedral, Letterkenny. Previously he served as an official of the Congregation for Clergy, Rome, during which time he assisted in the Papal liturgies as a Master of Ceremonies to both Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis.

8pm

**Donna Taggart**

*'To Sing is to Pray Twice'*



Donna Taggart is an Irish singer-songwriter. Her early career influenced her songwriting as she witnessed first-hand the darker side of life while working in a refuge centre for women and children affected by domestic violence. Donna also worked as a youth worker for young people at risk of homelessness and as a behavioural therapist to children with autism. Her caring, helpful nature has shaped the artist she is today.



**Sunday, 18 August: Family Day  
at Knock Shrine**

**3pm Bishop Kevin Doran**

*'Praying the Mysteries of Creation'*

Bishop Kevin Doran is Bishop of Elphin and Apostolic Administrator of Achonry. He serves as Chairperson of the Council for Life of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference. He is also Chair of the Committee for Theology and a member of the Council for Justice and Peace and the Council for Doctrine. 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 Judith King**

*'Pilgrimage: A walk with God'*

Judith King has deepened her interest in pilgrimage in recent years with further research and study. This study builds on years of interest in theology as well as years of professional work with Religious Congregations, Religious Justice Ministries, Diocesan Clergy and Leadership Teams in Ireland and abroad, who all seek to find new ways of bringing the life-giving invitation and messages of the Gospel to a radically changed culture. Somehow in the midst of all the profound changes, as people choose more secular ways of celebrating and living life, including their spiritual lives, pilgrimage still endures. This enduring quality of pilgrimage and its many unexpected gifts, deserves our special attention.

**Monday, 19 August:**

**3pm & 8pm Sr Orla Treacy**

*'Everything starts from a prayer'*



Sr Orla Treacy is a Loreto Sister from Bray, Co Wicklow. After living and working in various parts of Ireland, Orla volunteered in 2006 to join a new mission in Rumbek, South Sudan. Today, Orla is the Director of a girls boarding secondary school, a primary school for boys and girls, and a child centre clinic. Orla studied at Mater Dei Institute of Education, furthered her education with a Masters from DCU and Manchester University, and holds a Doctorate in the field of Missiology. She has received numerous awards, including the Distinguished Service Award for Irish Abroad.

**Tuesday, 20 August:**

**3pm & 8pm Fr Michael McCullagh CM**

*'With Due Respect...'*



Fr Michael McCullagh CM is a priest of the Congregation of the Mission (Vincentians). His ministries have included teaching, prison ministry, parish ministry, ministry with the Traveller community and spiritual direction in Britain, USA and Ethiopia and in St. Patrick's College, Maynooth. He is currently based at Knock Shrine with his Vincentian colleague, Fr. Aidan Galvin, CM. They provide 'A Listening Heart Ministry' – a support ministry to priests programme. He is the author of *'With Due Respect - Taking A Second Look At God, At Self, At Others'*.

**Wednesday, 21 August: Anniversary of the Knock Apparition**

**3pm Dr Gráinne Doherty**

*Prayer: Discovering the extraordinary in the ordinary.*



Dr Gráinne Doherty works in pastoral ministry, retreat leadership, adult faith formation, and facilitation. Prior to becoming self-employed, Gráinne was part of the Theology Department in All Hallows College (Dublin) for many years, while also working in pastoral leadership at both parish and diocesan level. Her Veritas publication "Joy of Love: A Family Perspective" (2018) is a book of spiritual reflections and prayers which situates the writings of Pope Francis in the reality of family experience today.

**6.45pm Witness Walk**

Join us as we commemorate the Anniversary of the Knock Apparition and follow in the footsteps of the Witnesses as they made their way to the Parish Church.

**8pm Fr Richard Gibbons**

*'Prayer is where the impossible happens'*



Fr Richard Gibbons was appointed as curate to Knock in 2003 and has ministered as Parish Priest and Rector of Knock Shrine since 2012. Fr. Richard will lead this special celebratory Mass on the evening of the 145th anniversary of the Knock Apparition.

**Thursday, 22 August:**

**3pm & 8pm Fr Jos Moons SJ**

*'Why is God so silent?'*



Jos Moons is a Jesuit priest who works as a lecturer at KU Leuven (Belgium). After he focused in his doctoral work on the Second Vatican Council's view of the Holy Spirit, he now explores how to build up a more inclusive and participatory, synodal Church. Besides his academic work, he trains people in spiritual direction. He published amongst others, *"The Art of Spiritual Direction: A Guide to Ignatian Practice"* – a concrete practical book on Spiritual Accompaniment.

# Daily Workshops, 12.45pm in St. John's Welcome Centre

## WORKSHOP THEMES

- August 14th: **"From Holy Saturday to Galilee: the courage to change"**  
Dr Austen Ivereigh
- August 15th: **"Mary, Our Mother Through Thick and Thin"**  
Fr Richard Leonard SJ
- August 16th: **"Daring to Hope: Embracing the Unknown"**  
Toni Pyke
- August 17th: **God Whispering: Praying with Guidance**  
(The Work of Knock Prayer Centre)  
Knock Prayer Guides
- August 18th: **"Pilgrimage as portal to the Sacred – Talking through the many blessings of pilgrimage"**  
Judith King
- August 19th: **"Finding God where we are"**  
Sr Orla Treacy
- August 20th: **God Whispering: Praying with The Senses**  
Knock Prayer Guides
- August 21st: **"Discovering the extraordinary in the ordinary"**  
Dr Gráinne Doherty
- August 22nd: **"Seeking the Way Forward Together: on synodality and the discernment of spirits"**  
Fr Jos Moons SJ

## 'God Whispers' – Guided Prayer Sessions at Knock Prayer Centre at 11.15am and 5.15pm

- August 14: Praying in Hope for Personal Transformation
- August 15: Praying in Hope for Unity and Community
- August 16: Praying in Hope for Youth and Future Generations
- August 17: Praying in Hope for Healing and Health
- August 18: Praying in Hope for Families
- August 19: Praying in Hope for Justice and Equality
- August 20: Praying in Hope for World Peace
- August 21: Praying in Hope for All Creation
- August 22: Praying in Hope for To See with New Eyes



# ‘Walking With God’



## ***Witness Walk – Meeting Heaven at Harvest Time***

**Wednesday, August 21st at 6.45pm from the Apparition Chapel.** Journey back in time to the evening of Thursday, August 21st, 1879. Together we will meet each of the witnesses as they journey from their homesteads in the village and make their way to the gable wall of the Parish Church, the site of the Apparition. We will conclude at the Apparition Chapel.

## ***Daily Guided Walks***

This tour will focus on the Apparition witnesses and the events of the evening of the 21st August 1879. Tours begin at Knock Basilica at 11.00am each day during the Novena.

## ***Creation Walk***

The Creation Walk begins at Knock Museum car park and meanders through the natural woodland pathways along the grounds at Knock Shrine. These pathways offer a quiet space in which to take time to appreciate nature, to listen to birdsong and to take time for personal reflection.



## ***Daring to Hope***

***Irish Religious Sisters Embracing the Unknown (1923-2023)***

## **14 – 17 August at St. John’s Welcome Centre**

Told through photographs, videos and stories, the portable exhibition reveals how Sisters often worked within a context of poverty, war, racial discrimination, strict religious and social mores, political unrest and grave injustice. *Supported by AMRI Executive Council*





# FAMILY DAY

*Sunday, August 18th 2024*

## Blessing of Families

This year we begin Family Day with a Special Blessing for Families. This ceremony will take place at 11am in the Apparition Chapel.

## Family Day on the Basilica Green

Family Day is a lovely opportunity for families to get together and enjoy a fun day out at Knock Shrine.

All events and activities are free of charge and will take place on the beautiful grounds of Knock Shrine, close to Knock Basilica.

There will be a range of outdoor activities taking place on the green 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
- Tea and Coffee and snacks
- Ice Cream & Crepes