



IRISH CATHOLIC
BISHOPS' CONFERENCE
COMHDHÁIL EASPAG CAITLICEACH ÉIREANN

Dare to Hope

**YOUNG ADULT FAITH
GATHERING**

2025





PROGRAMME

Saturday, June 14th 2025
9.30am to 5.30pm

REGISTRATION

09:30am – 10:30am

Registration, Tea/Coffee & Breakfast

Knock Youth Village

WELCOME

10:30am – 10:45am

Opening Prayer & Welcome

Knock Youth Village

GUEST SPEAKER

10:45am – 11:15am

Fr. Conor McDonough OP

“Dare to Hope”

Knock Youth Village

WORKSHOPS

11.30am – 1.30pm (see details below)



PROGRAMME

Saturday, June 14th 2025
9.30am to 5.30pm

AFTERNOON PROGRAMME

3:00pm – 3:50pm: Panel Discussion

“Living Hope”

With Fr Conor McDonough, Bishop William Crean, Hannah
Keogh & Austin Bourke

PREPARATION FOR THE EUCHARIST

3:50pm – 4:30pm

Followed by Procession to Knock Basilica

Elation Ministries

CELEBRATION OF EUCHARIST

4.30pm – 5.30pm

Chief Celebrant & Homilist

Bishop Fintan Gavin
Bishop of Cork & Ross



WORKSHOPS

11.30am to 1.30pm

DISCERNING GOD'S VOICE IN YOUR DAILY JOURNEY

Bishop Alan McGuckian and Br. Simon Fernandes

Wondering what God wants for your life? Join us for a practical workshop that will help you tune into God's voice, make decisions with confidence, and find real purpose in your everyday life.

The Taize Room – Knock Prayer Centre

HOW TO SPEAK ABOUT YOUR FAITH

Eoin McCormack and Angela Agito

"How to Speak About Your Faith" is an interactive workshop that uses role-play to help you share your beliefs with confidence and authenticity. Inspired by Pope St. John Paul II's call to propose—never impose—the faith, this session will equip you to navigate real-life conversations with clarity, charity, and courage.

The HUB – St Josephs

CREATION WALK

Jane Mellett and Róisín Alexander

Take a reflective journey through time at the Creation Walk, exploring the wonder of the universe and the beauty of God's creation. Along the way, faith meets science as we encounter the "divine spark" present in all of creation.

The Creation Walk (behind Knock Museum)



WORKSHOPS

11.30am to 1.30pm

REDISCOVERING RECONCILIATION IN A FRAGMENTED WORLD

Fr Conor McGrath

In this workshop we'll explore how the Sacrament of Reconciliation offers not only forgiveness, but a pathway to authentic freedom and deeper relationship with God and others.

Whether you're a regular at confession or haven't been in years, come experience reconciliation as a gift that meets you exactly where you are.

The Reconciliation Chapel

GOD'S WORD AS IT SPEAKS TO ME TODAY

Lorraine Buckley and Sheila Kelleher

Let's explore together how God's Word can guide and inspire us.
Discover how Scripture can lead us to live a life rooted in hope and purpose.

Location: Knock Prayer Centre – Room 2



WORKSHOPS

11.30am to 1.30pm

HOW TO PRAY THE ROSARY

Gerken Donnelly and Sr Catriona Cavanagh

Discover the sacred beauty of praying the Rosary in this practical workshop, where you'll learn how to enter deeper into meditation on the life of Christ through Mary's intercession. Experience how this powerful prayer invites grace, peace, and spiritual renewal into your daily walk with God.

St Joseph's Chapel

SERVING JESUS ON THE EDGE

Fr Columba Jordan

Take time to reflect on what it truly means to serve others as Jesus did — with compassion, humility, and a heart open to everyone — especially to those who are struggling or living on the margins of society.

St John's Welcome Centre – Room 2

HOPE IN HIS PRESENCE: ENCOUNTERING CHRIST IN ADORATION, SILENCE & SONG

Elation Ministries

Spending time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, guided by prayer and music, is a quiet yet powerful encounter with His real presence. In the stillness, prayer becomes a conversation of the heart—sometimes through words or song and sometimes in silent adoration. As we sit before Him, we are gently drawn into His peace, our burdens lightened, our hearts opened, and our faith renewed. It is a sacred pause in which we simply rest in His love, listen, and let Him lead us deeper into His grace.

The Blessed Sacrament Chapel

THE APPARITION AT KNOCK

AUGUST 21ST 1879

On a wet dark August evening in 1879, the people of Knock village had spent the day doing the usual work of the harvest time of the year. As evening approached, the heavy mist that had been persistent throughout the day, turned to a steady downpour. The villagers gathered around the turf fires in their homes, taking comfort and shelter on a terrible night.

At about 7.30pm, word began to spread throughout the village that something extraordinary was happening at the Parish Church and so they hurried to the churchyard, where they witnessed a heavenly vision surrounded in a brilliant white light. Men, women, and children gathered in prayer, reciting the Rosary together. And so began the story of Knock, Cnoc Mhuire – Our Lady's Hill, as we know it today.

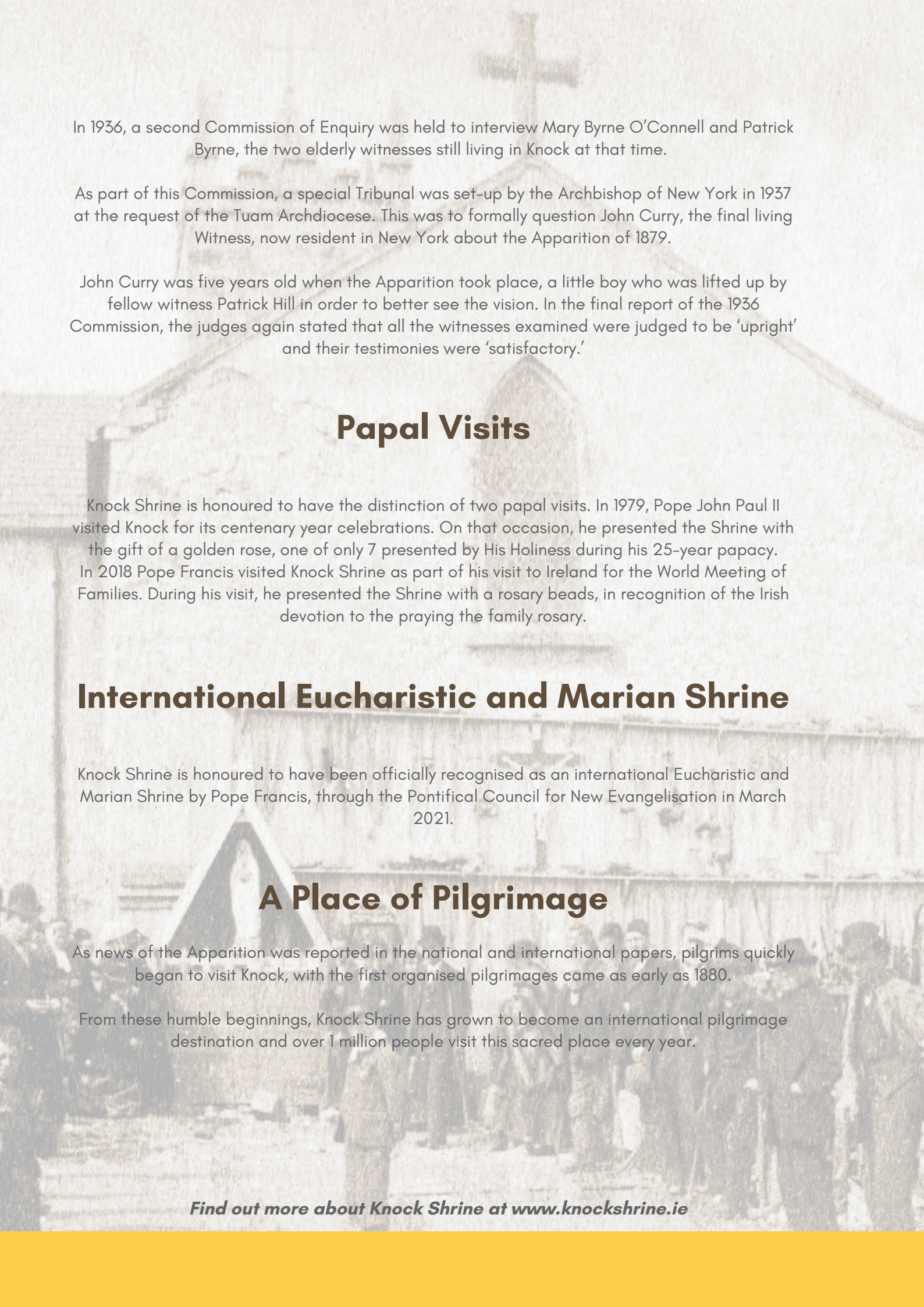
The Vision

The witnesses clearly saw the Blessed Virgin Mary dressed in white robes, her hands and eyes turned towards heaven in prayer. On her head was a gold crown and where the crown fitted the brow, a single golden rose. On her right, bowed respectfully towards her, was St. Joseph. He appeared older, his beard and hair were grey and, like Our Lady, he was barefoot.

To Our Lady's left stood John the Evangelist vested as a bishop, wearing a small mitre. He held an open book in his left hand and in its pages the lines and letters could clearly be seen. He appeared to be preaching but no voice was heard. He stood so that his back was neither turned to the Virgin or to the Lamb that stood upon a simple plain altar. Behind the Lamb was a Cross. The witnesses watched and prayed for over 2 hours and though they were wet, they noticed that no rain fell on upon the Apparition or on the gable.

Commissions of Enquiry

Shortly after the Apparition, a Commission of Enquiry was established to hear the testimonies of the witnesses. The Commission convened several times for deliberations on all of the evidence. They concluded that, 'the testimonies of all, taken as a whole, is trustworthy and satisfactory.'



In 1936, a second Commission of Enquiry was held to interview Mary Byrne O'Connell and Patrick Byrne, the two elderly witnesses still living in Knock at that time.

As part of this Commission, a special Tribunal was set-up by the Archbishop of New York in 1937 at the request of the Tuam Archdiocese. This was to formally question John Curry, the final living Witness, now resident in New York about the Apparition of 1879.

John Curry was five years old when the Apparition took place, a little boy who was lifted up by fellow witness Patrick Hill in order to better see the vision. In the final report of the 1936 Commission, the judges again stated that all the witnesses examined were judged to be 'upright' and their testimonies were 'satisfactory.'

Papal Visits

Knock Shrine is honoured to have the distinction of two papal visits. In 1979, Pope John Paul II visited Knock for its centenary year celebrations. On that occasion, he presented the Shrine with the gift of a golden rose, one of only 7 presented by His Holiness during his 25-year papacy. In 2018 Pope Francis visited Knock Shrine as part of his visit to Ireland for the World Meeting of Families. During his visit, he presented the Shrine with a rosary beads, in recognition of the Irish devotion to the praying the family rosary.

International Eucharistic and Marian Shrine

Knock Shrine is honoured to have been officially recognised as an international Eucharistic and Marian Shrine by Pope Francis, through the Pontifical Council for New Evangelisation in March 2021.

A Place of Pilgrimage

As news of the Apparition was reported in the national and international papers, pilgrims quickly began to visit Knock, with the first organised pilgrimages came as early as 1880.

From these humble beginnings, Knock Shrine has grown to become an international pilgrimage destination and over 1 million people visit this sacred place every year.

Find out more about Knock Shrine at www.knockshrine.ie



JUBILEE PRAYER



The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.

Amen



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