



IRISH CATHOLIC  
BISHOPS' CONFERENCE  
COMHDHAIL EASPAG CAITLICEACH ÉIREANN

*Dare to Hope*

**YOUNG ADULT FAITH  
GATHERING**

2025





# PROGRAMME

***Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup> 2025***

## REGISTRATION

09:30am – 10:30am

Registration, Tea/Coffee & Breakfast

**Knock Youth Village**

## WELCOME

10:30am – 11.00am

Opening Prayer & Welcome

**Knock Youth Village**

## GUEST SPEAKER

11.00am – 11:30am

Fr. Conor McDonough OP

**“Dare to Hope”**

**Knock Youth Village**

## WORKSHOPS

*11.45am – 1.30pm (see details & locations below)*

## LUNCH & FREE TIME

*1.30pm– 3.00pm*

*(There will be catering truck will be on site. Lunch can be pre-ordered at registration).*

Take time to explore Knock Shrine in your own time, at your own pace

See options below



# PROGRAMME

***Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup> 2025***

## **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

*There are two sessions available for each workshop  
Workshops take place at 11.55am & 12.40pm*

## 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 Joseph's

## 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)



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## 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.

St. Joseph's 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



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## 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



Ireland's International Eucharistic  
and Marian Shrine

This is a place where Heaven touched earth,  
a reminder of the power of the Divine and the  
miraculous. We invite you to be open to the mystery  
that unfolds before you and hope that you will leave  
this peaceful place renewed in faith and refreshed  
in spirit.

***Here at Knock Shrine, there are many  
opportunities before you today, as you  
take the time for personal prayer and  
reflection.***

***If time allows, we encourage you to  
experience as many aspects of this  
sacred place as possible.***







### Say a Prayer in the Apparition Chapel

The Apparition Chapel encloses the site where the heavenly vision took place here on a wet harvest evening on Thursday, August 21st 1879. It was to this very spot that the families of this small rural village rushed excitedly from their homesteads, full of wonder and awe, to gaze upon the miraculous sight before them at their parish church. Reflect on this unique moment, when Heaven touched earth. Ponder the hope of the generations who have come before you in search of comfort and consolation. Immerse yourself in the sacred silence of this unique place. Take time to reflect on your own personal reason for your presence here today.

### Find Quiet Spaces for Prayer and Reflection

**The Chapel of Reconciliation.** This peaceful subterranean chapel is lit by one single shaft of natural light. The calm atmosphere lends itself to spending time in quiet meditation, as you prepare to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

**The Imogen Stuart Beehive Meditative Cell** is located in the this chapel. The hand-carved wooden cell is based on the beehive cells in which early Irish monks and hermits lived. Spend some time in the cell and experience the peace and tranquillity of the space.





## Spend Time In The Blessed Sacrament Chapel

The representation of the Eucharist is the central and unique element of the Knock Apparition. This chapel is a dedicated space in which to spend time in the presence of the Lord during your time here at Knock Shrine.

## Discover Unique Artistic Works

Throughout the Shrine, you will discover a wide range of artistic works by renowned Irish and International artists. Working in a range of specialities, from glasswork to sculpture, the spirit is lifted by beautiful pieces, in each of the churches and throughout the grounds.



The **Apparition Mosaic** in Knock Basilica is an awe-inspiring representation of the Apparition scene. One of the largest of its kind in Europe, the mosaic contains over 1.5 million individual pieces of hand-cut glass and marble.

The **Stations of the Cross** in Knock Basilica depict the Passion and death of Jesus with dramatic effect. The large linen panels take account of the scale of the Basilica and yet transcend the limits of their physical

surroundings. Take time to contemplate the Way of the Cross.

Other artistic pieces in the Basilica celebrate the rich ecclesiastical heritage of Ireland. These include the **Replica Windows from Ancient Irish Abbeys** that divide each of the five chapels and the stunning tabernacle that is inspired by the Book of Kells.

### Bring Home Some Knock Holy Water

Water blessed at Knock Shrine is valued and cherished by pilgrims and few leave Knock without filling a container to take home with them. There are 18 outdoor Holy Water Fonts located in front of the Apparition Chapel. These Portuguese sandstone fonts are the work of Imogen Stuart and each one depicts an image from Scripture relating to water. You are welcome to bring your own containers to fill.



### Hear Our Compelling Story at Knock Museum



At Knock Museum you will discover the intriguing story of the Apparition that occurred here in 1879. See how the witnesses lived in the thatched cottage. The scale model of Knock depicts the village as it was on the evening of the Apparition. Continue from here to the Apparition Chapel, and pray a decade of the Rosary for your intentions and those of the people who have asked you to pray for them.

### Explore The Creation Walk

The Creation Walk begins at Knock Museum car park and meanders for 0.5km through the natural woodlands at Knock Shrine. This way-marked trail offers a quiet space in which to appreciate nature and take time for personal prayer and reflection. The stops along the way tell the story of this wonderful planet from the 'big bang' to the present day.



# THE APPARITION AT KNOCK

AUGUST 21<sup>ST</sup> 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

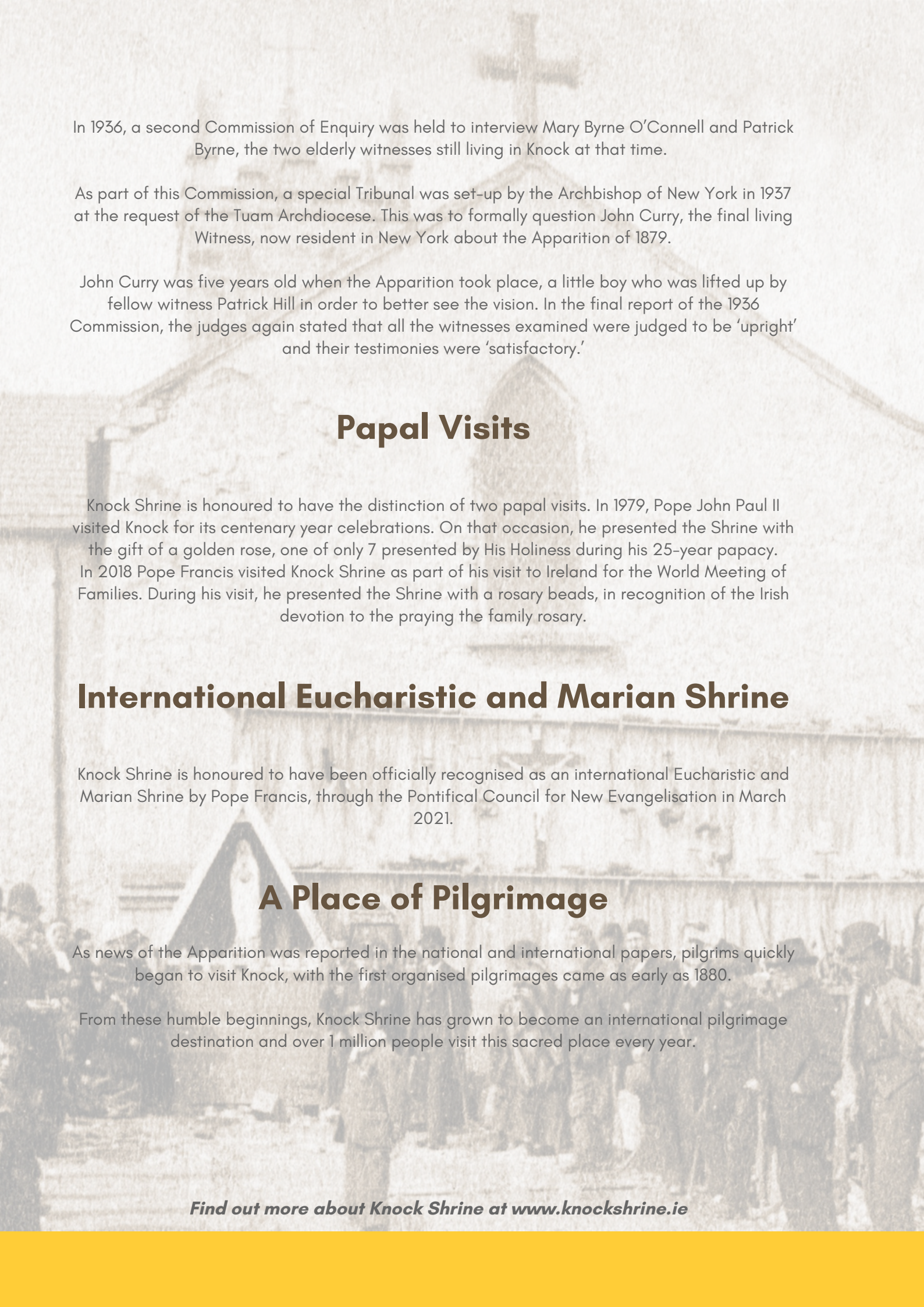
The witnesses clearly saw the Blessed Virgin Mary dressed in white robes, her hands and eyes turned towards heaven in prayer. On her head was a gold crown and where the crown fitted the brow, a single golden rose. On her right, bowed respectfully towards her, was St. Joseph. He appeared older, his beard 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](http://www.knockshrine.ie)*



# 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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