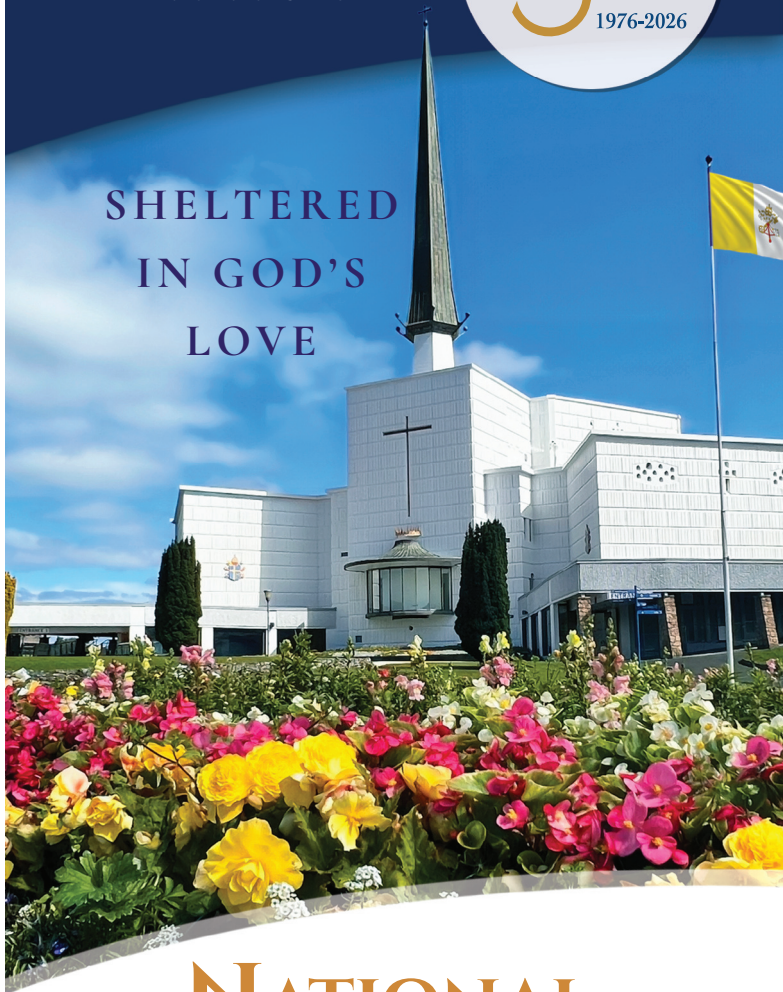


KNOCK

Ireland's International Eucharistic
and Marian Shrine



SHELTERED
IN GOD'S
LOVE



NATIONAL NOVENA

TO OUR LADY OF KNOCK

13–21 August 2026

Ceremonies 3pm & 8pm | Workshops 12.45pm



National Novena to Our Lady of Knock



'Sheltered in God's Love'

Welcome to the National Novena to Our Lady of Knock. As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Basilica of Our Lady, Queen of Ireland, we give thanks for a landmark that has welcomed generations of pilgrims to Knock. Since 1976, the Basilica has stood as a beacon of hope, prayer and faith.

The theme for this year's National Novena to Our Lady of Knock, *'Sheltered in God's Love'* resonates deeply with this milestone. For fifty years, the Basilica has provided a place of refuge, comfort and spiritual renewal for all who come to Knock seeking hope and healing.

May it continue to be a sacred shelter for pilgrims and may Our Lady of Knock guide us always on our journey of faith.

Fr. Richard Gibbons, PP
Rector of Knock Shrine

Daily Novena Schedule, 13th–21st August:

Novena Ceremonies 3pm & 8pm in Knock Basilica.

Workshops: 12.45pm daily in the Prayer Centre.

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

Guided Tours: Daily at 11am.

Novena Guest Speakers

Thursday, August 13th

3pm & 8pm **Mary Kennedy**
Faith in Full View



Mary Kennedy is one of Ireland's best-known broadcasters, presenting programmes including Open House and Nationwide. She has covered major national and international events and she is the author of six books. Beyond broadcasting, she is committed to charitable fundraising, travelling across Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe to support awareness, development and aid initiatives.

Friday, August 14th

3pm & 8pm **Aidan Gallagher**
From Addiction to Healing



Aidan is a member of the Cenacolo Community, an international Catholic community founded to help people rediscover hope, purpose, and freedom through a life of prayer, friendship and shared work. Living within the community in Knock, Aidan embraces a way of life centred on prayer, mutual support, hard work and trust in God.

Saturday, August 15th

3pm **Bishop Niall Coll**
*Our Lady: A Quiet Shelter
of God's Love*



Bishop Niall Coll is the Bishop of Raphoe. Ordained to the priesthood in 1988, he has combined parish ministry with a distinguished academic career in theology and religious education. He previously served as Bishop of Ossory and is widely recognised for his commitment to faith formation, education and pastoral leadership in the Irish Church.

8pm **Niamh McCann**
Beyond The Rainbow



After her 21-month-old son, CJ, passed away from brain cancer in 2023, Niamh McCann helped establish CJ's Rainbow Charity Cycle which raised over €280,000 for childhood cancer charities. She shares her family's journey through grief and resilience, inspired by C.J.'s enduring message to "never stop living."



Sunday, August 16th

Family Day at Knock Shrine

3pm

Bishop Kevin Doran

**Rebuilding the City of God –
Pope Leo XIV and the New Technology**



Bishop Kevin Doran is Bishop of Achonry and Elphin and Chairperson of the Council for Life of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference. He also chairs the Committee for Theology, serves on several national councils, represents the Conference at the Anscombe Bioethics Centre and liaises with Irish pro-life groups.

8pm

Sandra Cullen

Faith in the Era of A.I.



Dr Sandra Cullen is Associate Professor of Religious Education at Dublin City University. With over 25 years in initial teacher education, she has worked with RE teachers, chaplains, deacons and parish pastoral workers and supervised doctoral research. She has both a national and international profile in RE policy, research networks and conferences.

Monday, August 17th

3pm & 8pm

Sheila Murphy

**From Mass to Meadow:
Living Our Faith Outdoors**



Sheila Murphy, Mayo County Council Biodiversity Officer, is an experienced ecologist with over 15 years' experience in the field of ecology and community engagement. She is passionate about how we can positively contribute towards the management, restoration and protection of our habitats and ecosystems. Sheila works closely with local authority staff, community groups and stakeholders towards positive outcomes for biodiversity.

Tuesday, August 18th

3pm & 8pm

Mario Nunis

Faith in My Pocket



Originally from Dublin, Mario is currently studying at UCD. His faith is central to his life and is reflected in his involvement with the Legion of Mary, Shalom and FOCUS. He has also volunteered with VAKS at Knock Shrine, where he developed a strong commitment to serving others.



Wednesday, August 19th

3pm & 8pm **David Wells**
**Enjoy Your Life –
 Make it Happen**



David Wells is a conference speaker across the English-speaking world, having addressed over 2000 gatherings of teachers, catechists and volunteers. He has written four books, including *The Reluctant Disciple*, and works in diocesan and national ministry. He has a passion for teaching and for making theology accessible and attractive.

Thursday, August 20th

3pm & 8pm **Deacon Mark Paine**
A Church For Everyone



Deacon Mark Paine is a permanent deacon in the Archdiocese of Birmingham, serving the Catholic Church with a focus on inclusive, welcoming communities. He is part of the Catholic Stream disability theology network and advocates for neurodivergence. He is autistic and a father of autistic children, he has 28 years' experience in primary education and special educational needs.

Friday, August 21st Anniversary of the Knock Apparition

3pm **Fr. Paul Murphy**
The Healing Power of Love



Fr Paul F. Murphy is a priest of the Diocese of Waterford & Lismore and has served as chaplain to the Irish Defence Forces for 12 years, based at Mellows' Barracks, Galway, including six overseas deployments to Syria, Lebanon and Israel. In 2024 he survived an attempted murder and publicly offered forgiveness to his attacker.

6.45pm **Witness Walk**

The walk begins at the Chapel of Reconciliation.
 For further details, see page 7 of this brochure.



8pm **Fr Richard Gibbons**
Sheltered in God's Love



As the National Novena at Knock draws to a close on August 21st, Fr. Richard Gibbons leads the evening ceremony as we mark the anniversary of the Apparition. We gather in prayer and thanksgiving, reflecting on the enduring message of faith, hope and devotion that continues to inspire generations at Knock today.

Daily Workshops

12.45pm | The Prayer Centre

WORKSHOP THEMES

- August 13th: **'Come Away To A Quiet Place'**
Knock Shrine Prayer Guidance Team
- August 14th: **'Hope House: Where Recovery Begins'**
Sr Dolores Duggan and Sr Attracta Canny
- August 15th: **'CJ'S Rainbow: Never Stop Living'**
Niamh Mc Cann
- August 16th: **'Who Will Show Us The Way?' (Ps. 4:6)**
Sandra Cullen
- August 17th: **'Church Return To Nature'**
Sheila Murphy
- August 18th: **'Youth Ministry In Action'**
Knock Youth Ministry Team
- August 19th: **'Do Not Give Up Meeting Together! Rethinking The Meetings We Hold'**
David Wells
- August 20th: **'A Church for Everyone: Building a Community Of Welcome'**
Deacon Mark Paine
- August 21st: **'Sheltered In God's Love'**
Knock Shrine Prayer Guidance Team



Daily Guided Tours

Join our experienced team of tour guides from Knock Museum. These tours will focus on a number of themes including behind the scenes tours of Knock Basilica, Artworks at Knock Shrine and the Apparition Witnesses.

Tours begin at the Information Office beside Knock Basilica at 11.00am each day during the Novena. The tour lasts approx. 45 mins.



Family Day

Sunday, August 16th 2026

Blessing of Families:

We begin Family Day with a special blessing for families at 11am in the Parish Church.

Games on The 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. There will be a range of outdoor activities taking place on the green with indoor workshops, games and more.

Events and Activities will include:

- Kite Making
- Face Painting
- Drumming
- Puppetry
- Outdoor Games
- Giant Inflatable Games
- Bubble Magician
- Tea, Coffee and Refreshments
- Ice Cream and Crepes

Sensory Space available in St. Joseph's throughout the day.

Witness Walk

The Witness Walk takes place on Friday, August 21st at 6.45pm, at the Chapel of Reconciliation. 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.



BASILICA 50 1976-2026

‘An Acre of Shelter’

Celebrating 50 years of Knock Basilica

As part of the Basilica 50 celebrations, a temporary exhibition at Knock Museum marks the 50th anniversary of Knock Basilica, an enduring place of hope, healing and quiet consolation that has touched countless lives over the past fifty years.



Photographs © Seamus Mallee, Irish Press and Liam Lyons. Courtesy of Knock Museum.