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## **Message from the Secretary General**

Greetings! As our country begins to re-open thanks to the observation of public health guidelines and the increase in the number of people receiving the vaccine, we can dare to hope for brighter days as summer beckons.

Our churches, shops and public spaces have begun to welcome us back, albeit in a limited way, and it's good to be back! I received notice of my own vaccination at the weekend, and I feel a sense of relief that I will receive it and the protection it will give.

The AMRI executive and staff have continued to work online throughout the pandemic, and several new projects have begun: on good governance in religious life, the experience of women religious, the voice of laypeople, divestment, vaccine justice, education, Covid advice, communications, and archives. Thanks to the many of you who attended recent webinars on some of these topics, providing energy and insight as we take them forward.

Safeguarding is a central part of our work. Thanks to the very many of you who completed the survey on vulnerable adults. This will provide important baseline data for a new national church policy to be developed in partnership with the bishops.

The Religious Formation Ministry Programme (RFMP) is planning to begin in October this year and several students are already registered to take part. We have advertised for a new team member in this newsletter.

Action to Prevent Trafficking (APT) has continued to meet and have revised and updated all their resources available for presentations on anti-human

trafficking and awareness-raising initiatives.

The religious conference of Myanmar and Bishop Medhin in Tigray have expressed their deep gratitude to you for remembering them in solidarity and in prayer at this most difficult time in their countries.

This is a snapshot of some of our work, more details can be found on our revamped website: [www.amri.ie](http://www.amri.ie)

Stay safe, stay well, as summer arrives

David Rose.

In this week's **Leaders noticeboard**, you will find:

- Request for advice on getting PPE gear to India:
- Two job opportunities

### **Upcoming Events**

- Summer Retreat '*Being a Disciple of Jesus Today*' 12th - 17th July. Led by Fr Laurence Gallagher CSsR, Fr Seamus Enright CSsR and Fr Gerard Moloney CSsR, from Mount Saint Alphonsus, Limerick.

### **Items of Interest**

- Biodiversity Awareness Campaign and Laudato Si Week (17th - 23rd May)
- Publication of *Family Homelessness and Human Trafficking* from Unanima International
- Vocations Ireland's plans for COP26 : Would your congregation like to be involved?
- Book release by Christine Anderson FCJ '*Discerning the Gold in Human Experience*'

### **Request for advice on getting PPE gear to India:**

A congregation with sisters in India would welcome advice on getting PPE gear to their communities in India. Please email: [communications@amri.ie](mailto:communications@amri.ie)

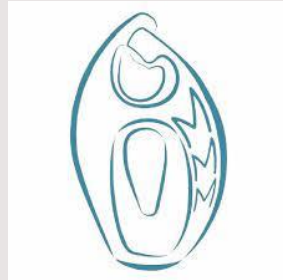


### **Religious Formation Ministry Programme**



**Requires a TEAM MEMBER for August 2021** at Willow Park, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. The Religious Formation Ministry Programme, under the auspices of AMRI has proved to be a challenging and life-giving programme for participants from many cultures. The programme, which takes place in a cross-cultural setting, has evolved over the last 39 years and has helped people prepare for roles in formation, leadership and transition to new ministries. We hope to start the 2021/2022 programme in October 2021. Being a Team Member is a challenging and rewarding experience for anyone with relevant aptitudes and experience. To download job specs and how to apply, please [click here](#)

**Medical Missionaries of Mary**  
are seeking a **PART TIME OFFICE SECRETARY**



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This is a permanent part-time, job share position with 20 hours a fortnight, based at Congregational Centre, Rosemount, Booterstown.

The Medical Missionaries of Mary (MMM) is an International Missionary Congregation of women religious founded by Mother Mary Martin in Nigeria, in 1937 [www.mmmworldwide.org](http://www.mmmworldwide.org). Desiring to share Christ's Healing Love, our members live within marginalised communities focusing on the care of mother and child and the fostering of family life. We go to places where the need is greatest and work in the areas of health, sustainable development and human rights. Presently, MMMs are serving in 12 countries around the world with Sisters coming from 19 countries and are trained in a variety of health-related professions. In Ireland, our Motherhouse is in Drogheda Co. Louth.

To download the job specs and how to apply, please [click here](#)

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Mount St Alphonsus

# Summer RETREAT

Being a Disciple of Jesus Today.

12th - 17th July 2021

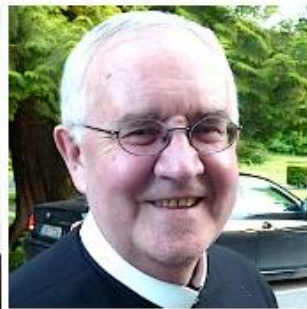
Join us Online

10am: Mass    11am: Conference  
12 Noon: Adoration    4pm: Conference

[www.novena.ie/webcam](http://www.novena.ie/webcam)



Fr Laurnce  
Gallagher CSsR



Fr Seamus  
Enright CSsR



Fr Gerard  
Moloney CSsR

## **Biodiversity Awareness Campaign: 17 – 29 May 2021**

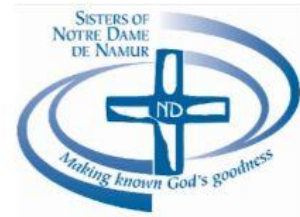


The Sisters of Our Lady of Apostles (OLA) and Society of African Missions (SMA), in collaboration with Elders for Earth, SHEP Earth Aware, and Green Spaces for Health, are running a two-week biodiversity awareness campaign from 17 to 29 May 2021. This campaign coincides with the International Day for Biological Diversity on 22 May as well as Laudato Si' Week.

### **Week One: Introductory Educational resources (17 – 23 May)**

Week One seeks to raise awareness about biodiversity and ecosystems by providing introductory educational resources in the form of articles and brief video essays. New educational resources will be posted on the OLA website each day and shared on the OLA and SMA Facebook pages. Content will include resources explaining biodiversity and ecosystems, as well as resources outlining community efforts to protect biodiversity and natural habitats.

We encourage everybody to make use of these resources and to share them on social media! See <http://www.olaireland.ie/biodiversity/> and the OLA Sisters Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/OLASisters>



Recently *Unanima International* launched their Publication on *Family Homelessness and Human Trafficking*. This publication is now available. Please [Click here to download](#)



Vocations Scotland have been invited to create a spiritual presence during Cop 26 and to be available to young pilgrims from all over the UK as they arrive in Glasgow this November. As a result Vocations Scotland, NovUK and Vocations Ireland have formed a working group to develop a plan.

Some of the plans already in place include:

- A **Mercy Bus** around the St Enoch's area of the city where Eucharistic Adoration and Reconciliation will be available.
- Venues will be available outside of the main arena where there will be Coffee served and an opportunity to charge phones and view some presentations by religious involved in Laudato Si and climate change projects.
- The Cathedral will host an exhibition of *Carlo Acutis* where young people will have the opportunity of seeing his story and praying to this young witness of the faith. He is the first millennial to be declared 'Blessed' on October 10<sup>th</sup> last year.
- There will be a *Night Fever* held also on the Saturday night.

- Religious will distribute recycled envelopes displaying congregation's websites. Inside will hold seeds to be planted at home. Rosary and medals will be available at the exhibition.

### **Would your congregation like to be involved in Cop26 in Glasgow?**

Would you be able to offer a presentation either through zoom or power point at one or two of the venues?

Would there be a youth group who might be able to contribute with a presentation on how their understanding of climate change and in what way they might be currently involved in doing something about it?

Are there young people who could offer some prayer initiative in relation to Laudato Si'?

Perhaps the congregations in Ireland might be able to encourage and accompany young pilgrim groups to Glasgow in November?

Not everyone will be able to actually attend the large conference centre in Glasgow so it is hoped that by offering some input, prayer and reflection people will feel involved.

*The focus will be primarily on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> November.*



**May 16-25, 2021.**

This year is a Special Laudato Si' Anniversary Year as we celebrate the progress of the whole Church on its journey towards ecological conversion. Laudato Si'



Week 2021 is also a time to reflect on what the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us and prepare for the future with hope’.

<https://laudatosiweek.org/>



**LAUDATO SI' WEEK 2021**

*Common Prayer*  
**for the Sixth Anniversary**  
*of Laudato Si'*

**Creator God,** we thank You for the gift of life which you lovingly wove into being.

We confess we have not cared for your creation. Your world grows hotter, hungrier, sicker, and the people and planet cry out for hope.

In Your love, Lord, we answer for we know that things can change.

Give us the courage to bring Laudato Si' to life to care for all communities and species suffering from environmental harm.

Bless all who labor for an integral ecology that they might inspire others to discover Your face in our suffering and beautiful world.

We ask this in Jesus's name.

**Amen.**

A decorative blue background with white line art of plants and a sun. The text is arranged in a central column with a torn paper effect at the bottom.



**May 16:**  
Laudato Si'  
Week begins



**Tuesday,** May 18  
Laudato Si'  
Dialogue on  
Education



**Thursday,** May 20  
Sowing Hope for  
the Planet /  
Creation Care  
Prayer Network.



**Saturday,** May 22  
Laudato Si' Festival  
"Songs for Creation"



**Monday,** May 24  
Roundtable about WASH  
(Water, Sanitation and  
Hygiene) in Catholic  
health care facilities



**Monday,** May 17  
Laudato Si' Dialogue:  
Critical Opportunities in  
2021 to create change:  
call for an integral path.



**Wednesday,** May 19  
Laudato Si' Dialogue  
on Energy and Fossil  
Fuels: Global Catholic  
Divestment  
Drumbeat



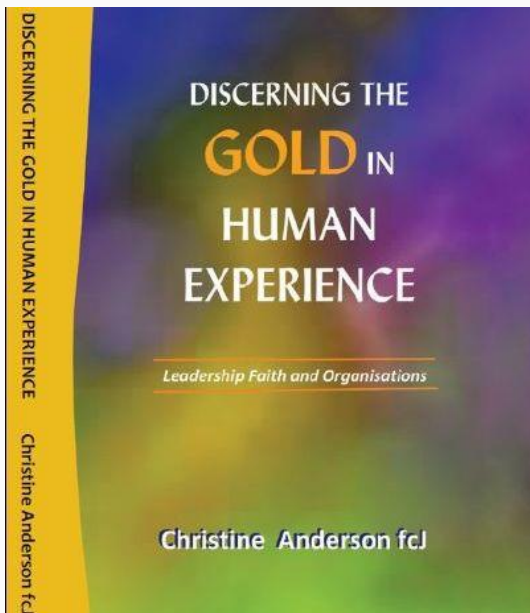
**Friday,** May 21  
Global Action Day  
for Our Common  
Home



**Sunday,** May 23  
(Pentecost). Laudato Si'  
Special Anniversary Year  
Closing Praying Gathering  
/ Missionary Sending



**25 May:** Official  
Launching of  
the Laudato Si'  
Action Platform.



## **New Book release Christine Anderson FCJ**

This book is a passionate and enthusiastic account of the life of a Religious Sister in the twenty first century. Christine Anderson FCJ is a member of the Society of the Faithful Companions of Jesus. She is the founder of Faith and Praxis for Global Leadership in Rome, Italy and Craighead Institute of Life and Faith in Glasgow, Scotland.

As an experienced Facilitator and Organizational Consultant, Christine has worked in many countries of the world. Her passion is the integration of Life and Faith and she is constantly developing methodologies for groups to address this area of life.



**We need to talk!**  
**A discussion around a national voice for laity  
within the Irish Church**

***Date: 24th May***

***Time: 7 – 9pm***

Link for registration

[https://us7.list-  
manage.com/survey?u=553eeacfc0a758e79433e24f8&id=dced55  
26bb](https://us7.list-manage.com/survey?u=553eeacfc0a758e79433e24f8&id=dced5526bb)

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