



"Welcome to our new AMRI newsletter, a format we hope will keep members up-to-date, connected and informed throughout the year. As we begin this new year with all the challenges that are presented before us, we pray that we find rejuvenation and energy in our lives and our ministry. The new year has brought changes to our AMRI team and we are delighted to welcome two new staff members, Toni Pyke and Helena Connolly."

*David Rose*

*AMRI Secretary General*

**Welcome to AMRI's New Team Members**



**Above: Toni Pyke - Justice, Peace and Ecology Coordinator.**

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"The late Nelson Mandela famously said: "Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is an act of justice. It is the protection of a fundamental human right, the right to dignity and a decent life." The dignity of the human soul, the thirst for justice and the realisation of rights for all of creation, has been the compass with which I have navigated my life's journey. Grounded in Catholic Social Teaching my work journey began when I joined the pastoral care team for Migrants and Refugees at the Archdiocese of Boston and at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington DC. After completing an MA in International Development from the Development Studies Centre, Kimmage, I focused on community development among Traveller and Gypsy

communities in Ireland and the UK and with local communities and NGOs in Nigeria, Zambia, South Africa and Uganda. Over the years I have worked with the development education sector in Ireland highlighting and raising awareness of issues and experiences of global injustices. More recently, after completing a PhD from the University of East Anglia, UK I have been teaching International Development and Gender and Development at the University of Maynooth. Throughout this journey I have sought to create, what Pope Francis is calling us all to create – a ‘culture of care’ for our planet and for all of creation that shares this home. This journey has brought me to AMRI and I am looking forward to working together with the AMRI team and the members of the AMRI network. Along with the AMRI JPIC committee, I see the AMRI justice ‘desk’ as further supporting the justice work of the wider AMRI membership. I ask that you please introduce me to your justice network and add me to your justice contacts. I look forward to hearing from you and working with you over the coming months.”

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**Above: Helena Connolly Communications Coordinator**

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“As a deeply committed lay person I have worked in the Catholic Church for the past 15 years. I am a qualified secondary school music teacher and school chaplain however much of my adult working life has centred around diocesan and pastoral work; this has included leading a diocesan youth ministry initiative in the Diocese of Clogher for three years (Clogher don Óige), and working within the areas of adult faith, music ministry, liturgy and pastoral renewal in the Diocese of Kerry for nine years. More recently, I have worked in prison education in Limerick and have led parish missions and novenas across Ireland and the UK as part of the Irish Redemptorists parish mission team. I am passionate about Communications and I am delighted to begin my new role in

AMRI as Communications Coordinator! This past year of the Covid19 pandemic has dramatically changed the way we interact and work with one another showing us the possibilities within the digital world: Zoom meetings, 'live' online masses, webinars and social media have become the new normal for many of us. Part of my role is to help guide us through the changing landscape of communications within AMRI. It is an important and necessary role as AMRI moves forward into this new year. I hope to use a variety of platforms to communicate issues that lie at the heart of Association members and their congregations and I aim to strengthen the connection of the members by supporting and energizing the various ministries. I would love to connect with anyone working in Communications within the various religious orders and missionary groups. Please feel free to pass on my contact details below"

Contact : Email [communications@amri.ie](mailto:communications@amri.ie) or

[Helena.connolly@amri.ie](mailto:Helena.connolly@amri.ie) / Mobile: +353 (0)87 275 9023

## Upcoming Events and Courses



*Mount St Anne's Retreat and Conference Centre, Killenard, Portarlinton, Co. Laois* [www.mountstannes.com](http://www.mountstannes.com)

All Courses are at 19.00-21.00 (UTC) on ZOOM

- Mindful Mystic: February 2,9,16,23. (John Doherty)
  - Emerging spirituality in light of our Cosmic Story – the relationship between spirituality and ecology: February 3,10,17,24 (Niamh Brennan)
  - Evolution and Spirituality in the 21st Century March 2,9,16,23 (Diarmuid O' Murchu)
  - "Has God spoken only through Moses?" (Num 12:2) Travelling the Easter story with the women of scripture. March 3,10,17,24 (Gráinne Doherty)
- €100 for each course. To book a place email [secretary@mountstannes.com](mailto:secretary@mountstannes.com) 057 8626153

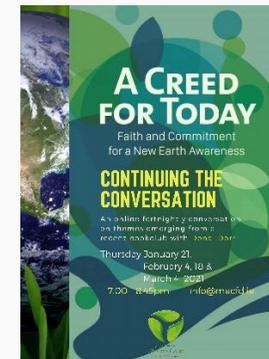


The Lumen Dominican Centre is located on the Dominican Campus in Sion Hill, Blackrock, Co Dublin [www.lumenop.ie](http://www.lumenop.ie). This spring they are offering a programme of modules and courses that seeks to promote the dialogue between faith and culture. It is an ecumenical programme that enables all participants to undertake various forms of service or ministry in Church and society. The online modules are open for registration. Full information can be found on their website, by calling 01 288 2075 or email [info@lumenop.ie](mailto:info@lumenop.ie)

### MAKING CONNECTIONS:

With his upcoming 'sold out' second series of conversations, Donal Dorr's book 'A Creed for Today' is a must read. Here he explores the interplay between ecology theology and spirituality and considers the radically different cultural situation in which we live today. The deeper understanding of our faith which has evolved over the centuries lays the ground-work for a compelling vision in how we should live at both a spiritual and practical level. Donal Dorr's book is available at Veritas bookshop.

*Donal Dorr*  
*'A Creed for Today'*



The Networking Intentional Christian Communities (NICC) project <https://www.nicc.network/> is a continuation of the Monastic Pastoral Care (MPC) project that took place in 2018-2019. As a result, 25 authors agreed to publish an article on their specific knowledge and experiences. Since both the MPC project and the NICC project are carried out in Germany and the Netherlands, the homepage is written in Dutch. To view the English translation, click on the English language flag at the top right of the homepage.

## Catholic Archives Society

Eileen Head, the General Secretary of the Association of Provincial Bursars, is now collating the obituaries for the Catholic Archives Society. If you are aware that a current or former member of the Society has died recently, could you please let Eileen know? The names of the deceased members are included in a Mass for deceased members offered at the Society's Annual Conference. Eileen may be contacted on 07989 128848 or [eileen.head49@gmail.com](mailto:eileen.head49@gmail.com)

The logo for 'FORGING VOICE' is displayed in white text on a black rectangular background. The word 'FORGING' is positioned above 'VOICE', and the letter 'i' in 'FORGING' is lowercase and blue, while all other letters are white.

Forging Voice is a 35-min documentary filmed, edited, and co-produced by Kathryn Common that features interviews with some of the first women religious scholars. The film features interviews with eleven pioneering feminist and womanist scholars in theology and religious studies. It explores topics of gender, race, theology, and navigating careers in higher education. To watch this short film, go to [commonportfolio.com/forging-voice](http://commonportfolio.com/forging-voice)