

# Irish News



by Marie Beirne

***“Not that Pentecost has ever ceased to be an actuality during the whole history of the Church, but so great are the needs and the perils of the present age..., that there is no salvation for it except in a new outpouring of the gift of God. Let Him then come, the Creating Spirit, to renew the face of the earth”***

***Pope Paul VI - Gaudete in Domino***

## ***Pentecost Celebration Citywest Hotel Saturday May 26<sup>th</sup> 2012***

There seems to be a great excitement and expectancy as Pentecost draws near-a real belief in the word of Jesus *“How much more will my Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask”* (Luke 11.13). All over the country people have been asking, thirsting, praying and running Life in the Spirit Seminars with a burning desire for a new Pentecost. AND NOW you are just in time to start a Pentecost Novena (Ascension Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May-Sat 26<sup>th</sup> May) in the company of Mary who enables us to pray with that expectant faith that releases the power of God. At our last NSC meeting to plan and prepare for the Pentecost celebration, Mary seemed very present, telling us *“Do what He says”*. With a mother’s concern on seeing that the wine of Renewal has run low she seemed to be moving Jesus to act, and to be hastening the *“Hour of the Lord”* (Jn 2;4).

In 1974 Cardinal Suenens said, prophetically, that if Charismatic Renewal was to fly over the whole world it would have to be empowered by the Holy Spirit and borne on two wings - Mary (Mother of the Church) and Peter (visible head of the Church). A few years ago, at our National Conference in Athlone, Charismatic Renewal in Ireland was consecrated to Mary. Mary our mother, as you prepared the disciples in the Upper Room, prepare us now to receive the Holy Spirit in a new Pentecost in Ireland. Usher in the *“Hour of the Lord”* as you remind your Son that the wine has run low. **LORD LET YOUR “GLORY APPEAR”** (Jn 2:11)

I look forward intensely to meeting all of you on May 26<sup>th</sup> to renewing old acquaintances and forging new friendships as we come together in Citywest to praise our wonderful God and humbly ask Him to bless and heal our land.

*Marie*

## **Regional Network in IRELAND FOR CCR**

### **Ardagh and Clonmacnoise**

Mrs Marie Beirne 071-96-24404

### **Cashel and Emly**

Mrs Ita Felle 086-311 6271

### **Clogher**

Philp Mc Ardle 042 9661572

### **Cork and Ross**

Sr Bridget Dunne 021- 425 1100

### **Derry**

Evelyn Heaney

### **Down and Connor**

Jim Corr Belfast 779496

### **Dublin**

John Gorevan 01 - 298 0862

### **Ferns**

Ms Mary Curran 053-47111

### **Galway**

TBA

### **Kerry**

Grace Condra 066 712 5462

### **Killaloe East**

Sr Helen Byrne 061- 501477

### **Killaloe West**

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### **Kilmore**

Agnes Cormack 0863066983

### **Limerick**

Emer Williams 063 - 20817

### **Meath**

Sr Philomena Gallagher 044- 48976

### **Ossory**

Sr Margaret M. Cooney 056-77-65774

### **Raphoe**

TBA

### **Waterford and Lismore**

Tom O’Dwyer 051- 832554

**Chaplain** (TBA)

**Liason Bishop** Martin Drennan

# Great Expectations for a New Pentecost in Ireland

by Dymphna Sheehan



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How many of you remember the American TV series “Have Gun, Will Travel”? It’s a long time ago since I last saw it but as I remember, the main character (or to use the colloquial term –“the chap”)—a sharp shooter, hired himself out to avenge the wrongs being visited on people and towns in the developing and pretty lawless “West” in US. He was a hero,—a saviour to those in dire circumstances. He always got the villains and rode off into the sunset leaving dead bodies strewn around the streets but everyone happy that good had triumphed over evil. The “chap”, though seen as a saviour was one to be feared, avoided and certainly not offended. He was a loner, dark and forbidding. Not one you would readily travel with. He was very different to the Saviour we know, the one who redeemed through his death.

## Our weapon is the Word of the Lord

Thinking about the series’ title “Have Gun Will Travel” I was reminded of joking that, I “Have Passport, Will Travel”, indicating that I would be off at the drop of a hat given the invitation. This led me to thinking about “Go out into the whole world and proclaim the Good News” (Mt 28:19). Most of us are not called to travel the world evangelising. We live simple, ordinary lives and our arena of service, our opportunities to witness to the Good News may be confined to a very small place. The distance we have to go need not be farther than our every-day journeys. It’s how we travel I think that matters. It’s our way of travelling and the way we witness that counts. Our constant companion has to be the Lord. With Jesus beside us, in our hearts we are safe. There is no need to

fear anything, nor anyone. He is our rock, our stronghold, and our strength. We don’t need any luggage. In fact all we need is the Word of God, so easy to carry. In the letter to the Hebrews we are reminded that “*The word of God is living and effective, sharper than a two edged sword. It pierces to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and marrow and judges the intentions and thoughts of the heart*” (Heb 4:12). Our weapon is the Word of God, the penetrating power of God. And He will carry us along “the Way” in the power of the Holy Spirit. With Him our journey will be graceful, joyful, peaceful no matter what trials or obstacles come our way.

When I first encountered the Charismatic Renewal over thirty years ago I noticed among other things how vibrant, how alive and how joyful the people were at those first prayer meetings. They spoke about the Lord Jesus as their friend. They knew Him. They quoted Scripture freely. They prayed freely and naturally, the words and prayers pouring out from open hearts. They sang hymns and psalms and clapped and danced to the Lord. They sang magnificently in tongues as the Spirit led the song. And they stayed in deep, rich silence listening till the Word of God was spoken in prophecy. There was an immediacy and intimacy with the Lord that was tangible, an excitement and holy reverence in God’s presence. There was also an obvious love, understanding and tolerance of one another as people, young and old, from different backgrounds came together, drawn by their hunger for a deep relationship with God.

I was young then and knew I needed something more in my life. Happily married with three darling children my life was full but I

knew there was something missing. I wasn't praying very much, had become a Sunday Catholic, busy with life but not busy teaching my children about God. I'd grown up in a good Catholic prayerful home and had a very good grounding in the faith. As a child I had longed to experience Pentecost in a real way. I knew of the events of that first dramatic descent of the Holy Spirit on the apostles and wished I could at least see one little flame flicker over the head of our priest each year at Pentecost. Hard as I looked and hoped to see the flames not even a puff of smoke was visible to me. I'd worried about elderly neighbours whom I knew to have "lapsed" or joined other Christian churches. I wished I had the courage to drop religious magazines in their letterboxes to draw them back to the Church. I knew that at Confirmation I had received the mark of being "a full and perfect Christian" a "soldier of Christ", but I was not doing much soldiering. By the time I got to my first charismatic prayer meeting I'd realised that my practice of the faith was more in the nature of an insurance policy against God rather than the joyful celebration of abundance of life offered.

### Invitation to Life in the Spirit Seminars

I am very thankful to God for the invitation I received to attend a Life in the Spirit Seminar. I'd heard about Charismatic Renewal and the amazing outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our time. I'd read about the huge gatherings of people, the healings and miracles and spontaneous praying in tongues being experienced at Conferences and meetings throughout the world. This all sounded amazing but slightly "off the wall" to me. However my invitation to the seminar came from a priest I loved and admired and whose wisdom I held in high regard. I began the Seminar cautiously. God works in mysterious ways. At the first meeting my difficulty was around the beautiful but strange sounds of tongues praising God all around me. Next day, troubled, I asked the Lord to show me if this was a safe undertaking for me. The opening lines of the Magnificat came to my mind and I went to St Luke's gospel where I knew I'd find the full prayer. It was titled "Mary's Hymn of Praise" An immediate answer to my question. I knew I was on the right path. If Mary could praise God, I need not be worried about tongues.

A few weeks later at the International Charismatic Conference I went to the Blessed Sacrament chapel to pray. I did not know how to pray. But kneeling there I had an outpouring of the Holy Spirit that changed my life. I felt myself being rocked in the loving arms of the Father while bathed in the most beautiful white /golden light. I realised that the Spirit was praying in me as I repeated over and over again the Holy Name of Jesus, speaking the name with a reverence and love that came from a place deep within me. I knew myself blessed, loved and filled.

### Change came over me

I know now that this initial release of the Holy Spirit in me was a wonderful experience, a moment to remember and cherish forever. But more importantly the change that came about in me and the graces received ever since are to me astounding:

- Firstly, the Scriptures came alive. Every word I read in the Gospels seemed to be for or about me. Jesus' words spoke clearly to me.

- I became hungry for prayer often (in those exciting new-love months ) waking in the night praising God, marvelling at the beauty of creation.

- Life, my marriage, my children, relationships, friendships all took on a richer meaning and quality.

- Joy was the emotion I seemed to live. I wanted to share this newfound faith with everyone. I could not keep silent about the Lord and what He was doing in my life and could and would do in everyone else I met.

- The Sacraments and particularly the Eucharist became rich and important to me

I look back now on the journey I've had with the Lord (and confidently look forward to continue) with awe and with gratitude for the paths He has taken me on, the people I've met with Him, the gifts He gave to me, and the ways in which He has allowed and enabled me to serve Him. I have faced and lived through joyful and sorrowful times with Him. Through the long and painful years of our son's terminal illness we, as a family, were abundantly blessed and supported. Many, many people walked the extra mile with us when we were low. They were Jesus to us as I hope I have been to others on occasions. This New Life in the Spirit is still new. It is always rich. It is totally Grace?

### Expectation Week

I've told you a little of how my life was changed by God by the power of the Holy Spirit. I had a hope and expectation of great things, "great expectations". Looking through the dictionary I came upon a new term for me "Expectation Week" defined as: the ten days between the Ascension and Whitsunday during which the Apostles and followers of Jesus gathered in Jerusalem to pray in expectation of the gift of the Holy Spirit.

If we expect great things from God and don't limit Him, He can turn the ordinariness of our lives into the beauty and wholeness that is His plan for each of us. I pray for this for you and for me.

Are you willing to travel for the Lord? You don't need a gun, you have the sword of truth. You don't need a passport, you have a mandate. "Go" and you will be led by the Spirit and empowered by Him because God's plan is that He will be known throughout the world. And you will be shown what you have to do.

*"But God's mercy is so abundant and his love so great that while we were spiritually dead in our disobedience, he brought us to life with Christ. It is by God's grace that you have been saved. In our union with Christ Jesus he raised us up with him to rule with him in the heavenly world. He did this to demonstrate for all time to come, the extraordinary greatness of his grace in the love he showed us in Christ Jesus. For it is by God's grace that you have been saved through faith. It is not the result of our own efforts, but God's gift, so that no one can boast about it. God has made us what we are, and in our union with Christ he has created us for a life of good deeds which he has already prepared for us to do" (Ephesians 2:4-10)*

**HEALING**

**EMMANUEL HOUSE OF PROVIDENCE**, Clonfert, Ballinasloe.

- **HEALING DAY** with Eddie Stones on the last Saturdays (no December), 10am-4pm. Bring packed lunch.

- **HEALING SERVICE** Wednesdays at 12pm and Thursdays at 7pm. Contact 057 87 3262

**MARRIAGE**

**PREMARRIAGE PREPARATION AND TRAINING COURSES** The Nazareth Community (Dun Laoghaire) supports family life and regularly run pre-marriage preparation/training courses. Call Ciara Mahony tel 01 282 1899 or Peter/Fiona Perrem 01 2896647

**KOINONIA JOHN THE BAPTIST** Contact: *Northern Ireland* David O'Connor, 14 Glencree Park, Jordanstown, Co Antrim BT37 OQS tel 028 9086 7984 or *Southern Ireland* Rita Martin, Derrycramph, Cavan Town, Co Cavan. Tel 049 433 2981 or [www.koinoniagb.org](http://www.koinoniagb.org)

**PRAYER GROUPS**

**AVILA CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP** Wednesdays 8pm Avila Prayer Centre, Dublin. Tel: 01 643 0200

**AGAPE CCR PRAYER MEETING** held in presence of Blessed Sacrament Tuesdays 8pm-9.30pm. (Mass last Tuesday of month) at Disciples of the Divine Master Oratory, Newtownpark Ave, Foxrock, Dublin. All welcome tel 087 650 9465

**BREAD OF LIFE PRAYER GROUP** Mondays 8pm Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Bachelor Walk, DUBLIN 1. Call: 01 872 4597

**BALLYGALL** Tuesdays 8-9.30pm. The oratory, Our Mother of Divine Grace, Ballygall Road, East Dublin 11. Call 01 8379596

**MONAGHAN CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP** Mondays 8pm. St Louis Convent Chapel. Details from Philip and Breda Mc Ardle tel: 042 966 1572 email: [info@mcpg.net](mailto:info@mcpg.net)

- **Healing Masses** are held on the second Mondays. For details see [www.mcpg.net](http://www.mcpg.net)

**THE BLESSED TRINITY Charismatic Prayer Group** Tuesdays, 7.30-9 pm, Edmund Rice Heritage Centre, Barrack Street, Waterford. Tel: 087 2701311; e-mail: [sbgrant@live.com](mailto:sbgrant@live.com)

**ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST Charismatic Prayer Group**. Mondays, 7.45-9.30 pm, St. John's Church, Parnell Street, Waterford. Tel: 087 2136812

**RETREAT CENTRES**

**IRISH SCHOOL OF EVANGELISATION (ISOE)** Contact: Jean O'Callaghan 01 282 7658 web <http://www.esatclear.ie/~isoe>

**TIME ALONE WITH GOD?** St Anthony's retreat centre, near Buncrana in Co Donegal has special purpose built hermitages. Spiritual guides are also available. Contact Fr Neal Carlin, St Anthony's Retreat Centre, Dundrean, Burnfoot, Co Donegal 00353 74 93 68370.

**CARMELITE RETREAT CENTRE DERRY** Further details Carmelite Retreat Centre, Termonbacca, DERRY BT48 9XE email [ocdderry@otmail.co.uk](mailto:ocdderry@otmail.co.uk)

**YOUTH**

**YOUTH2000** ministry to young people and adults runs prayer groups, retreats and social

activities. Marian spirituality with emphasis on adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the Eucharist, Reconciliation and testimony. Contact: National office Aras Treasa, 5 Coppinger Row, Clarendon St, Dublin 2 Tel 01 675 3690 [www.youth2000.ie](http://www.youth2000.ie) *Northern Ireland*: Clement Kennedy 028 81647672 (nb replace 028 with 048 from South)

## KNOCK PENTECOST VIGIL

"The Spirit Comes To Help Us  
In Our Weakness". ROM 8:26

**Saturday 26 May, 2012**

9 p.m. - 1.00 a.m. Holy Mass at 12 midnight  
Celebrant: Fr. John Harris O.P.



VIGIL LED BY:

Fr. John Harris O.P. National Spiritual Director Youth 2000  
Irish School of Evangelisation - Dublin  
Youth 2000 - Dublin

**IRISH SCHOOL OF EVANGELISATION (ISOE).**

Contact: Jean O'Callaghan 01 282 7658  
website: [www.esatclear.ie/~isoe](http://www.esatclear.ie/~isoe)

### "You will have power"



by **Martin McTiernan**

In the fourteen short years since being blessed with the gift of Baptism in the Holy Spirit, many little gems and one-liners have stuck with me as I progress stumblingly along the road of deepening my experience of what my Christian faith is all about. For some reason a sentence from a talk by the late, great Fr Jack McArdle stands out, when he proffered the opinion that many Catholics "got off the train at the wrong stop" thinking that the salvation journey ended at Easter. In fact the train went on to Pentecost and the birth of the Church, the fulfilment of the promise of Jesus that when the Holy Spirit came "you will have power" – the power to be a disciple, the power to know deep within that Jesus is alive and that He loves me.

The approach of Pentecost 2012 excites me. I believe it is providential that we will host a major celebration in Citywest on Pentecost Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> May in the same year that Ireland is hosting the International Eucharistic Congress. When we lift our hands and voices in prayer and praise to our wonderful God in Citywest we will do so on behalf of a country and a Church that is crying out for a new Pentecost. We will raise our Church and our land up to God and humbly ask Him to bless and heal

them. "Let Him then come, the Creating Spirit, to renew the face of the earth" in Pope John Paul VI's words (see Marie's piece on page of this section).

A lovely idea originated from the Waterford prayer groups that the bus journey to the Citywest celebration would form part of (indeed the culmination) of their Pentecost Novena and in my own prayer group (Mohill) we intend to link up with neighbouring groups to do the same thing. In the lead up to the first Pentecost, the disciples "gave themselves to constant prayer" (Acts 1.14), and by making our journey to Citywest a pilgrimage of prayer we would prepare ourselves to receive the fresh outpouring of His Holy Spirit that God wants to give us. I look forward to seeing you there.

#### LIFE IN SPIRIT SEMINARS

**15<sup>th</sup> April-27<sup>th</sup> May  
3pm**

Milltown, Co. Kerry,  
Speaker for 15<sup>th</sup> April:  
Marie Beirne.

**Contact: Ben Perkins  
087 7693244**

**email: benperkwork @  
hotmail.com**

**COME & EXPERIENCE  
THE FIRE OF A NEW PEN-  
TECOST - May 26<sup>th</sup>**(10.00am  
– 6.45pm approx). Citywest Hotel, Saggart, Co Dublin - **Speakers:** Fr Pat Collins & Rev Dr Ruth Patterson. Praise, worship, healing & prayer for the power of a new Pentecost on our land. **Organised by the National Service Committee for Charismatic Renewal in Ireland. For more info call 01 6670570.** Optional Donation to cover costs