

Session 3

Wednesday March 24th

"It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me" (Gal 2:20).

The Priesthood of All Believers & The Ministerial Priesthood: today and tomorrow

Most Rev. Seamus Freeman SAC
Bishop of Ossory.

Biography

Bishop Seamus Freeman SAC was born in February 1944. A native of Mullinahone, Co. Tipperary, he entered the Society of the Catholic Apostolate (Pallotines) in 1965, was ordained a priest in June 1971 and was elected Rector General of the Pallotines in 1992. In 2005 he was elected President of the General Coordination Council of the Union of Catholic Apostolate (Pallotine Family in 44 countries). He was ordained Bishop of Ossory on December 2nd 2007 and currently serves as a member of the Irish Episcopal Conference's Department of Pastoral Care.



Session Times

Each session will take place from 4 – 5.45 p.m. and will be repeated on the same evening from 7.30 – 9.15 p.m.

The format of the sessions shall be as follows:

Short Prayer Service

50 /55 minute input from presenter(s)

Tea-break

Discussion (chaired)

Closing Prayer

Booking

Places on a first-come basis.

The venue can accommodate 100 participants per session comfortably.

Cost

A €5 to €10 donation per participant per session towards related costs would be appreciated.

Further Information

Please contact:

Justin Harkin

Director of Pastoral Development,

Church Grounds,

Strokestown,

Co. Roscommon.

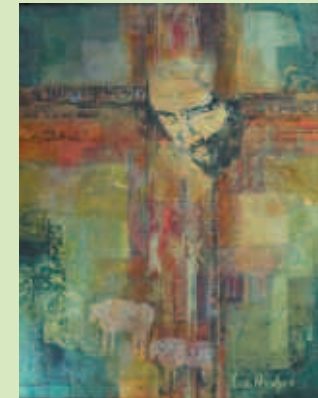
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to the full. The good

Pastoral Development Office
(Diocese of Elphin)

Revisiting Priesthood



A Year of the Priest Initiative

SPEAKERS

Fr. Tom Norris

+ Seamus Freeman

Maria Beirne

Mary Colleary

Martin Kennedy

Fr. Eamonn O'Connor

The Abbey Hotel, Roscommon

4 pm – 5.45 pm or 7.30 – 9.15 pm

(choice of times)

March 9th, 18th & 24th 2010

I have come that they may have life, and have it

shepherd lays down his life for the sheep (Jn 10:10-11)

Dear Reader,

As a diocese we are in the throes of transition. In this context I give thanks for ongoing blessings including the ministry of our priests and religious, evolution of Parish Pastoral Councils, emergence of Scripture Sharing Groups and advances in child protection and youth ministry.



Being Church today, however, calls for another level of engagement. More specifically it calls us to compliment our prayer and commitment to forward planning with a commitment to ongoing education and critical reflection. Christ calls each one of us to answer those who ask us for the reason for the hope that we have (1 Pet 3:15). To my mind no answer is complete without reference to our sharing through baptism in the priesthood of Christ and to the role of the ministerial priesthood in supporting each one of us live in Christ.

St. Peter, in writing to the early Christians, reminded them that they could benefit from stimulation to wholesome thinking (2 Peter 3:1). Such is the thrust of this series and I heartily encourage your participation.

I pray too that it will inspire further conversation throughout our diocese.

Yours in Christ.

+ **Christopher Jones**
Bishop of Elphin

Session 1

Tuesday March 9th

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight" (Mk 1: 3).

The Ministerial Priesthood: yesterday and today

Rev. Prof. Thomas Norris
St. Patrick's College, Maynooth.

Biography

Rev. Prof. Thomas Norris lectures in Systematic Theology in St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. In addition to contributing to the formation of seminarians and lay students studying theology he frequently presents retreats and conference papers on a wide range of topics and takes time to write.

His publications include: *The Trinity: Life of God and Hope for Humanity*, New City Press: New York, 2009; *Living a Spirituality of Communion*, Dublin: Veritas, 2008; *A Fractured Relationship. Faith and the Crisis of Culture*, Dublin: Veritas, 2007; *Getting Real about Education*, Dublin: CMD Book Source, 2006 & *Only Life gives Life. Revelation, Theology and Christian Living according to Cardinal Newman*, Dublin: Columba Press, 1996.

In 1998 he was appointed to the International Theological Commission and was a member of the sub-committee that drafted this body's *Memory and Reconciliation: The Church and the Faults of the Past* (2000).

Session 2

Thursday March 18th

"Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." (Jn 12:21).

Living Our Common Priesthood

Maria Beirne
Mary Colleary
Martin Kennedy
Fr. Eamonn O'Connor

Biographies

Maria Beirne is chaplain in Carrick-on-Shannon Community College and currently serves as convenor of The School Chaplains' Association of Ireland (Western Region). She lives in Aughrim, Co. Roscommon, a parish that recently lost its resident priest. She is married with three young daughters.

Mary Colleary lives in Castlerea and is married with a teenage son. She has an ongoing involvement with Church in a professional capacity as a school chaplain and in a voluntary capacity as a valued member of the Elphin Diocesan Pastoral Council. She has also served as a trainer with the Elphin diocese's Education secretariat.

Martin Kennedy is a free-lance facilitator with church, community and statutory groups, and also with the business community. His church work has focussed particularly on the promotion of lay involvement. He lives in Cavan and is married with two young adult children.

Fr. Eamonn O'Connor is PP in Tarmonbarry, Co. Longford, broadcasts a weekly religious affairs programme on radio and serves on the Elphin diocese's Pastoral Planning Group, Liturgy Commission and Safeguarding Children committee. He also serves as one of the Elphin diocese's four Keeping Safe Child Protection Trainers.