

Nollaig Shona Dhuit

Many Irish people are being forced to travel abroad in the hope of making a new life for themselves, leaving behind loved ones and creating a void in Irish families and in parish communities. As we celebrate Christmas it is important that we remember our emigrant population. In particular we remember those emigrants who for a variety of reasons may find themselves vulnerable, isolated and alone. We also remember families who suffer the pain of separation and are without a loved one this Christmas.

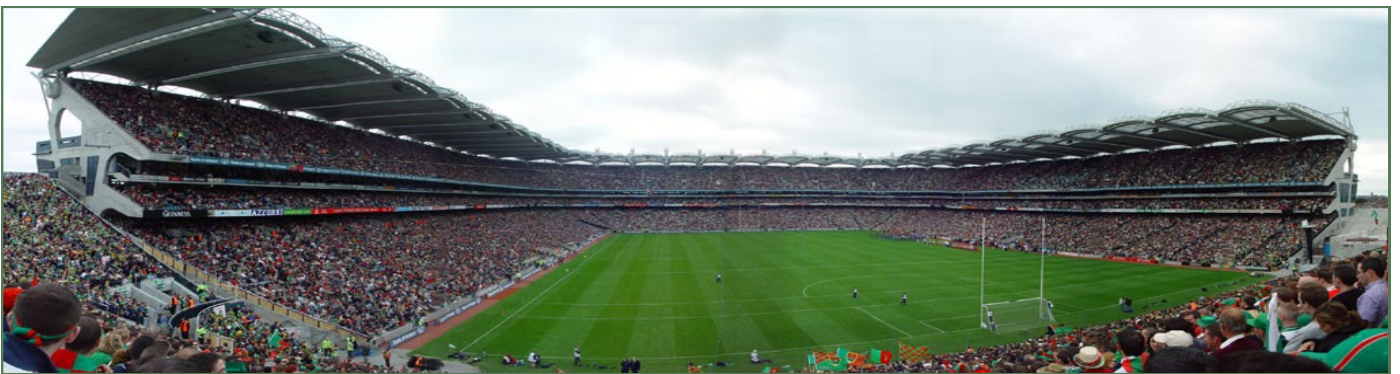
Lord,

Some may know the bleakness of life,
its capacity to disappoint,
the waning of energy or health.
Yet they have a place in the soul which time
cannot touch, a wisdom and beauty from lives
deeply inhabited.
May all of them know the warmth of their
soul,
the natural shelter around their lives.
In dignity and freedom may they return home
to themselves.

Amen.



The number of Irish people who emigrated in the past two years would more than fill Croke Park.



Irish Episcopal Council for Emigrants

A Council of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference

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