

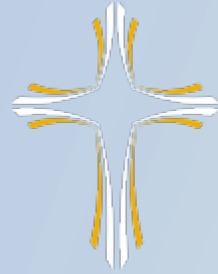


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ACP AGM

2025



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Welcome





Source of Solace

**R: touch our hearts with your
comfort.**





**Divine Compassion,
R: thank you for loaning our
loved one to us for a while.**





**Abiding Presence,
R: be near when we feel grief's
desolation and loneliness.**





Star of Hope,

**R: shine in the dark spaces of
our emptiness and sorrow.**





Holy Wisdom

**R: provide guidance when we
cannot see our way through the
pain.**





Enduring Love,

**R: wrap your arms around us when
we are overcome with sadness.**





Rock of Strength,

**R: assure us of our inner resiliency
and our ability to heal from the hurt.**





Source of Faith,

**R: refine our sense of a life beyond
this one and grant us your peace.**

Amen.





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OPENING PRAYER

AGM – 2025



Psalm 123

**To You I lift up my spirit,
You, who are enthroned
in every heart!**





Psalm 123

**For, as the young child holds tightly
the hand of its parent,**





Psalm 123

**As those in the throes of disease
look to one who brings comfort,**





Psalm 123

**So our spirits seek the Heart of Love,
that we might find mercy
and forgiveness.**





Psalm 123

**Have mercy on us,
O Compassionate One,
have mercy,**





Psalm 123

**that we might turn from our
blind and ignorant ways.**





Psalm 123

**Too long our souls have been veiled
by fear and illusion.**





Psalm 123

**Have mercy, lead us to the
path of wholeness,**





Psalm 123

**that we may know the abiding Peace
of the Beloved. Amen.**





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AGENDA

AGM – 2025

Agenda

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Opening Prayer**
- 3. Apologies**
- 4. Minutes**

Agenda

5. Annual Review 2025

- **Advisory Members**
- **Leadership Members**
- **Operational Report**

Agenda

6. The Canonical Rights of Diocesan Priests

- **Fr. Martin Whelan**
- **Open Forum**

Agenda

7. Shepherding the Shepherds – When Obedience Meets Care: Walking Together in Times of Change

- **Fr. Martin Delaney**
- **Open Forum**
- **Coffee-Break**

Agenda

8. Care of Priests & Synodality

- **Tim Hazelwood**
- **Gerry O'Hanlon**
- **Brendan Hoban**
- **Open Forum**

Agenda

- 9. ACP Membership Fee**
 - Gerry O'Connor**

Agenda

10. Operations

- **Website**
- **Financial Report**

Agenda

11. AOB

12. Conclusion



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APOLOGIES

AGM – 2025

Apologies

- ☐ Pat Rogers
- ☐ John Collins
- ☐ Angela Hanley

Apologies

- ☐ Seamus Aherne
- ☐ David Carroll
- ☐ Michael Brennan

Apologies

☐ Sean McNulty

☐ Brian Darcy

Apologies

- Type in here



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ABRIDGED MINUTES 2024

AGM – 2025

Abridged Minutes 2024

- AGM 2024

November 6th 2024 – Radisson Blu Hotel, Athlone.

Audio Recording:

- [ACP AGM 2024 - Running Order and Audio... - Association Of Catholic Priests](#)

Abridged Minutes 2024

- **Welcome and Opening Prayer – light a candle for deceased members**
- **Apologies/Annual overview
(Introduced Advisory members & Leadership Team)**

Abridged Minutes 2024

- **Press Releases**
- **Leadership Service**

Abridged Minutes 2024

- **Synodal Process**
 - ☐ **Gerry O'Hanlon**
 - ☐ **Michael Conway**
 - ☐ **Open Forum**

Abridged Minutes 2024

- **Care of Priests/ GDPR**
 - **Tim Hazelwood**

Abridged Minutes 2024

- **National Office for Suicide Prevention**

Abridged Minutes 2024

- **ACP Future**
- **ACP Website**
- **ACP Finance**

Abridged Minutes 2024

- **AOB**
- **Conclusion**

2024 AGM Minutes

- **Thank you to Liamy/ Paul for the minutes**



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ANNUAL REVIEW 2025

AGM – 2025

ACP Advisory Team



ACP Advisory Team

- **Pat Donnellan**
- **Seamus Ahearne**
- **Bernard Cotter**

ACP Advisory Team

- **Brendan Hoban**
- **Tony Flannery**
- **John Collins**

ACP Advisory Team

- **Gerry O'Hanlon**
- **Frank Conlisk**
- **Donagh O'Meara**

ACP Advisory Team

- **Marie Morrissey**
- **Maire Lawless**
- **Sean McNulty**

ACP Leadership Team

- **Roy Donovan**
- **Tim Hazelwood**
- **Gerry O'Connor**
- **Administrative Secretary: Liamy McNally**

ACP Operational Report

- 1. Press Releases**
- 2. Leadership Meetings**
- 3. Advisory Meetings**



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PRESS RELEASES 2025

AGM – 2025

Press Releases 2025

The ACP critical of the way Nuns are being portrayed

8th Jan 2025

19th Mar 2025

C McGregor in the Oval Office –
ACP Statement

Press Releases 2025

Pope Francis RIP

21st Apr 2025

21st Aug 2025

Allianz Insurance and the Irish Church

Press Releases 2025

Irish Open Golf Tournament 2026
(Doonbeg/ D Trump)

12th Sep 2025

31st Oct 2025

ACP Calls for Greater Protection
of Elderly Rights in Light of New
Legislation



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LEADERSHIP MEETINGS

AGM – 2025

Leadership Meetings since last AMG, Nov 2024

- **Six Leadership Meetings**

Leadership Meetings since last AMG, Nov 2024

2024

- 22nd November 2024

Leadership Meetings since last AMG, Nov 2024

2025

- 6th February
- 16th April
- 14th August

Leadership Meetings since last AMG, Nov 2024

2025

- 14th October
- 21st October

Leadership Meetings

Themes/ Agendas

- ☐ AGM 2024 Review
- ☐ PR on Sisters
- ☐ Fundraising
- ☐ AMRI
- ☐ GDPR Update
- ☐ CMG Press Release

Leadership Meetings

Themes/ Agendas

- ☐ Advisory Group
- ☐ Priests Files
- ☐ Synod Update
- ☐ Operational Plan
- ☐ Finance Committee
- ☐ Bullying of Priests by Bishops

Leadership Meetings

Themes/ Agendas

- ☐ AGM Planning
- ☐ Martin Downey RIP
- ☐ Care of the Elderly
- ☐ Child Protection Policy
- ☐ Finance

Leadership Meetings

Themes/ Agendas

- ❑ Worth observing that quality time was allocated to discussing the future/sustainability of the ACP into the future

Leadership Service

- ☐ Listening
- ☐ Phone Calls
- ☐ Accompaniment
- ☐ Representation
- ☐ Engaging with journalists

Leadership Service

- ☐ Radio Interviews
- ☐ Queries from the Public
- ☐ Social Media
- ☐ Calls from the Public
- ☐ Research support



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ADVISORY MEETINGS

AGM – 2025

Advisory Meetings since last AMG, Nov 2024

2025

- 30th April
- 14th October

Advisory Meetings Themes/ Agendas

- ☐ AGM Review
- ☐ Care of Priests
- ☐ Synodal Process
- ☐ Podcast

Advisory Meetings

Themes/ Agendas

- ☐ Press Releases
- ☐ Finance
- ☐ AGM Planning
- ☐ Membership

Advisory Group Members



**Two Meetings
per Year**



**Can attend by
Zoom**



**Role is sincerely
valued**



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CANONICAL RIGHTS OF DIOCESAN PRIESTS

AGM – 2025

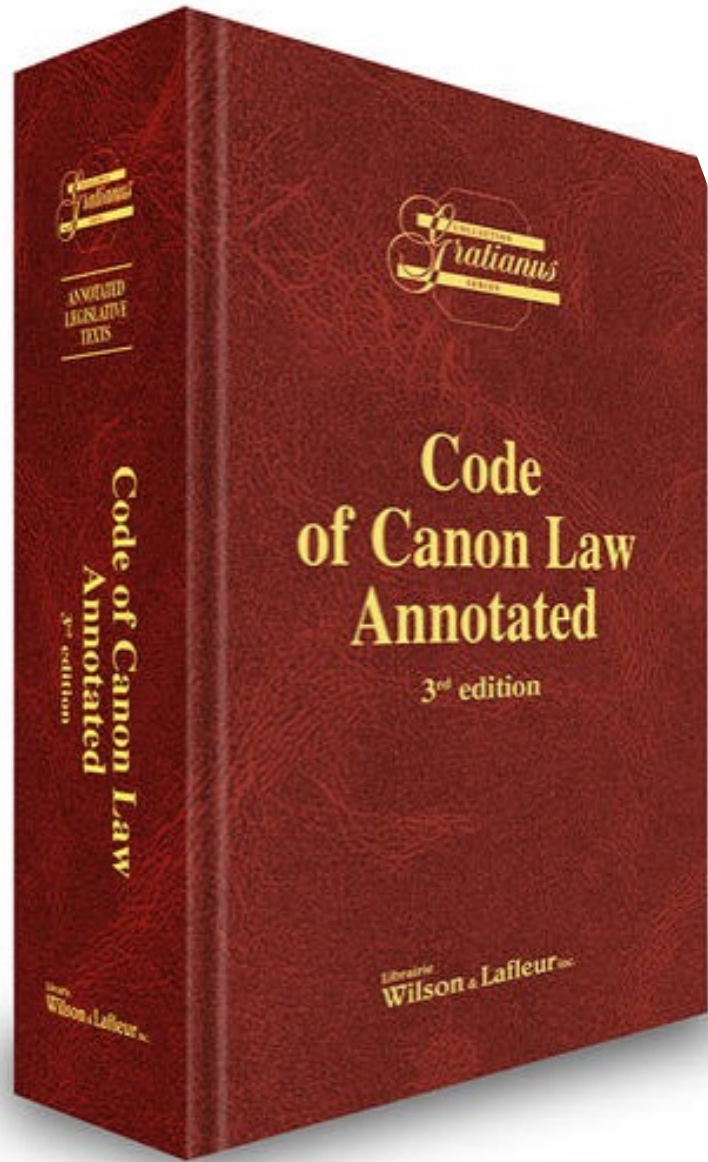


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Fr. Martin Whelan





-
- The Rights of Diocesan Priests in the Code of Canon Law
 - Martin Whelan
 - Diocese of Galway and Kilmacduagh



- Purpose: to understand the rights that support and protect diocesan priests
- Focus areas: jurisprudence, identity, key rights, structure, modern reforms



- Who is a diocesan priest
- Incardinated into a diocese (canon 265)
- Serves under a diocesan bishop
- Shares in the bishop's ministry as the sacramental sign of Jesus Christ in a particular Church (diocese) (canon 384)
- Distinct from religious order priests or members of apostolic societies



- Key Canonical Rights
- Right of Association (canon 278)
- Right to Adequate Support (canon 281)
- Right to Ongoing Formation (canon 279 and *Ratio Fundamentalis Institutionis Sacerdotalis* (2016) 82)
- Right to Participate in Governance (canons 496 – 501)
- Right to Canonical and Civil Protection by Bishop (canon 384)

- Right of Association (canon 278)
- Priests may form association compatible with the clerical state
- Encourages fraternity and mutual support
- Bishop's approval, not necessary, but ensures unity and orthodoxy





- Right to Support and Welfare (canon 281)
- Just remuneration for ministry – distinct from a stipend or salary
- Social and medical welfare in sickness and old age
- Reflects justice and dignity of priesthood



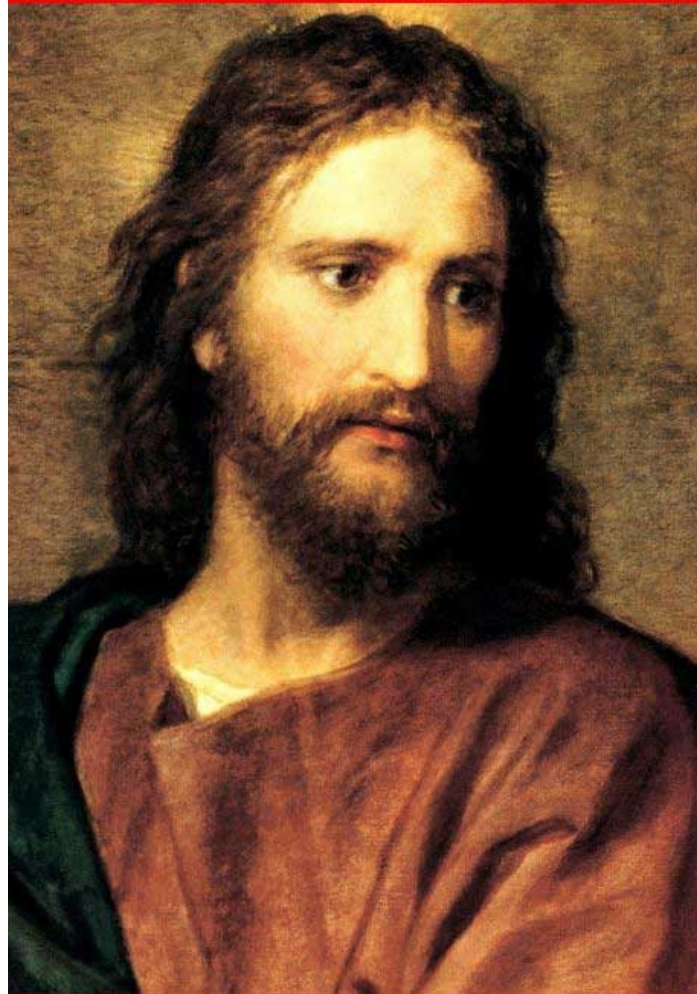
- Right to Ongoing Formation (canon 279)
- Lifelong learning in sacred, spiritual, and pastoral studies
- Right to attend pastoral courses and theological seminars
- Supported and facilitated by the diocese



- Rights within the diocese
- Participation in governance via the presbyteral council (canon 495-501)
- Right to be heard in diocesan matters (canon 500)
- Right to stable office and just procedures (canon 1740)

- Post 1983 Legislation Affecting Priests
- *Ad tuendam fidem* (1998) – on fidelity to the Magisterium
- *Omnium in mentem* (2009) – clarified priest/deacon distinction
- *Ratio Fundamentalis Institutionis Sacerdotalis* (2016) – on priestly formation, initial and ongoing
- *Pascite gregem Dei* (2021) – due process in penal law





- Conclusion and Reflection
- Rights protect priestly dignity and enable ministry
- Bishop's duty (canon 384) to protect and support priests
- *Rights serve the mission* – freedom for service, not a privilege
- “The law is at the service of the person, of love, and of communion.”
(Pope Francis, Homily, Casa Santa Marta, October 31, 2014)

Canonical Rights of Priests

❑ **Open Forum**



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Shepherding the Shepherds

**When Obedience Meets Care:
Walking Together in Times of Change**

AGM – 2025

Fr. Martin Delaney



Shepherding the Shepherds

When Obedience Meets Care

Ordination promise

“Respect and obedience to your bishop.”

Two case studies

**Short quotes (“I wasn’t heard.” /
“The light’s gone out.”)**

HSE definition of elder abuse

“A single or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust, which causes harm or distress to an older person or violates their human and civil rights.”

Table

**Safeguarding principles applied to
clergy moves**

Reflection questions before a move

Pope Francis

“A synodal Church is a Church that listens.”

Confidentiality # Secrecy

Catechism quote – CCC 1903

“Authority is exercised legitimately only when it seeks the common good of the group concerned.”

Shepherding the Shepherds

□ Open Forum

New Book

Soline Humbert

A DIVINE CALLING

*One Woman's Life-Long Battle for
Equality in the Catholic Church*



Soline Humbert

Foreword by Mary McAleese

Break

Enjoy your Coffee!





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CARE OF PRIESTS

AGM – 2025



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Fr. Tim
Hazelwood





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A Safe and Welcoming Church

**Safeguarding Children Policy and
Standards for the Catholic Church
in Ireland, 2024**

National Office Advice

If the respondent is asked to step aside from ministry, he is given the details of the complaint and informed of the enquires undertaken.

National Office Advice

Consideration is given to the content of any public announcement. He will be advised that temporary withdrawal of ministry at this stage is precautionary.

National Office Advice

The financial supports made available to the respondent are at the discretion of the bishop.

National Office Advice

“It is not contained in the NBSCCCI guidance that the financial supports made available to the respondent are at the discretion of the bishop...”

National Office Clarity

I had included that in my email to you as my understanding is that a bishop will consider this on a case-by-case basis...

National Office Clarity

The bishop's duty to ensure that his priests are provided for is a canonical matter – Canon 281 S.1-2 & Canon 1350 S1...

National Office Clarity

You might consider seeking the opinion of a canon lawyer to better answer your query.”

National Office Guidelines

R10

A Guidance when preliminary investigation find that there is no case to answer or that the allegation is Manifestly false or Frivolous (Return to Ministry)

National Office Guidelines

It is important that all outstanding matters are addressed prior to any return to ministry.

National Office Guidelines

Therefore, in preparation, the respondent should be provided with counselling and support to assist them to deal with any residual anger/distress.

National Office Guidelines

This preparation for a return to ministry should include spiritual direction, reflection and discussions with the Church authority.

National Office Guidelines

It is understandable that the respondent may be angry at the process, but this anger should be addressed appropriately so as not to interfere with future ministry.



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Irish Synod 2025



The Synodal Pathway
of the Catholic Church in Ireland



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Fr. Gerry O'Hanlon





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Rome Synod 2025



Fr. Brendan Hoban



Care & Rights of Priests

□ Open Forum

Synodal Process?

□ **Open Forum**



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SUSTAIN- ABILITY

AGM – 2025

ACP Future

□ Open Forum

- **Need**
- **Future**
- **Sustainability**

ACP Website/ Social Media

□ Update

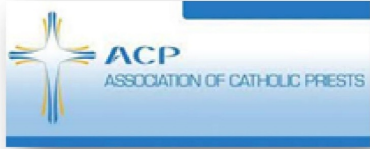
- **Bernard Cotter**
- **Liamy McNally**
- **Pat Rogers**

ACP Website/ Social Media

- ☐ Twitter
- ☐ Facebook
- ☐ Website
- ☐ Liturgy Pages

ACP Website/ Social Media

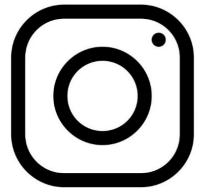
- ☐ Homilies
- ☐ Presider Page



ACP WEBSITE/ SOCIAL MEDIA



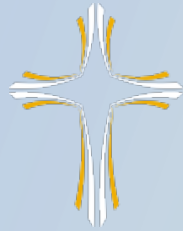
www.associationofcatholicpriests.ie



[@ACPinIreland](https://www.instagram.com/ACPinIreland)



[@AssociationofCatholicPriestsIreland](https://www.facebook.com/AssociationofCatholicPriestsIreland)



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ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC PRIESTS

FINANCIAL REPORT

AGM – 2025

ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC PRIESTS

INCOME/EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT 31 AUG 2025



INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
	2025		2025
Members & Donations*	21,569.36	AGM 2024	1,153.90
Other	250.00	Stationery/Postage	0000
		+ Soundcloud	99.00
		Salary (Admin Sec)	20,796.00
		Bank Charges	59.62
		Website Upgrade	1,115.61
		Post	211.00
		Sundry	68.20
Total Income	€21,819.36	Total Expenditure	€23,503.33

2025: Excess of Excess of Expenditure over Income €23,503.33
 - €21,819.36 = **-€1,683.97.**

ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC PRIESTS

Comparative INCOME/EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT 31 AUG 2024 & 31 AUG 2025

INCOME			EXPENDITURE		
	2025	2024		2025	2024
Members & Donations	21,569.36	19,147.05	Meetings/Room Hire/AGM	1,153.90	778.80
Other	250.00		Stationery/Postage	211.00	0
			Speaker Fees + Soundcloud	99.00	99.00
			Salary (Admin Sec)	20,796.00	20,796.00
			Bank Charges	59.62	64.18
			Pix Copyright	Nil	000000
			Website	1,115.61	881.91
			Other	68.20	400.00
Total Income	€21,819.36	€19,147.05	Total Expenditure	€23,503.33	€23,019.89

Finance

□ 2025

Excess of Expenditure over Income
€1,683.97

Finance

□ 2024

Excess of Expenditure over Income
€3,872.84

Finance

☐ Bank Balances

31.8.23 €7,320.81

31.8.24 € 3,447.98

31.8.25 € 1,764.00

Funding Appeal

Engaging proactively with crucial
debates in church and society



Well-Being of Priests

Primary of Conscience

Participation of all the Baptised

Service Rather than Power

**Full Implementation
of Vatican II Vision**

Forum • Advocate • Voice

Funding Appeal

Funding Appeal

HOW YOUR GIFT WILL BE USED

- Funding an Administrative Secretary
- Supporting Participative Regional and National Meetings
- Developing protocols to support the well-being of priests
- Accompanying priests at threshold moments in their lives
- Facilitating the voice of the baptised to be heard as Pope Francis visits Ireland.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Complete the attached Standing Order Form and give regularly
- Become a Patron contributing €1,000 per year in support of the ACP mission
- Make a once-off donation in accordance with your means



Annual General Meeting of the Association of Catholic Priests 2016



ACP

ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC PRIESTS

Funding Appeal

STANDING ORDER

Please pay to the AIB Bank Westport
for the account of

Association of Catholic Priests

Account No. 37810-017

NSC: 93-71-69

Bank Branch: AIB Bank, Westport, Co Mayo

IBAN: IE75 AIBK9371 6937 8100 17

BIC: AIBKIE2D

The Sum of € _____
Monthly / Quarterly / Annually (please specify)

commencing on ____/____/____

Name of your Bank _____

Your Bank Address _____

Your Bank Account Number _____

Signature _____

Your Address _____

Once-Off Contribution: € _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please return completed form to
Association of Catholic Priests
Sheeaune, Westport, Co Mayo

The ACP Today



**The ACP is a lean
and modest
organisation**



**The ACP has a
deep empathy for
the wellbeing of
priests**



**The ACP is an
advocate for the
needs of priests**



**The ACP is an
advocate for the
full potential of
priests in Ireland**



**The ACP is
constructively
trying to forge a
future for the Irish
Church**

Helping the ACP to Thrive

Annual Subscription of €30

Make a once-off donation in accordance with your means

Complete the Standing Order Form and give regularly

Become a Patron and offer a €1000 per year in support of ACP Mission

Ask Potential Supporters to make a Once-Off Donation

Ask Potential Patrons to donate a €1,000 per year

Proposal to Increase ACP subscription?

□ **Open Forum**

To €60?

To €100?



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AOB

AGM – 2025

AOB

- Thank you:

- ☐ Paul Daly

- ☐ Media

- ☐ Hotel

- ☐ Members



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CONCLUSION

AGM – 2025

Conclusion

“The truth is, a farm swallows you up, takes everything you have, and then asks for more. It is also an exercise in humility: you can’t do it alone.”

James Rebanks

Conclusion

“When I get up in the morning, I can’t wait to go down the fields, because I want to see what’s new, what’s turned up.”

James Rebanks

Conclusion-Age

The years between fifty and seventy are hardest. You are always being asked to do things, and yet you are not decrepit enough to turn them down.

George Eliot

Conclusion- Listening

“In recent years I would hear my father say ... ‘Your cows will be there before you ... and all you’ll have to do is fall in behind them and they’ll find the way for you.’ ... It was how I knew him, walking behind his cows ... I learned ... that deepest wisdom comes to us sitting behind cows in a cow-stall, sitting there quietly, listening to them chewing the cud.”

John Moriarty

Conclusion- Synodality

“This demands commitment, hard work and patience. Letting go is not easy, not knowing can be very painful, surrendering can be frightening, dying daily can demand every ounce of courage that we can muster.”

**from “*Growing into Synodality*”
by Thomas O’Loughlin**

Conclusion

“Every baptized person is called to be a protagonist of mission ... The Church is called, in synodal synergy, to activate the ministries and charisms present in her life and to listen to the voice of the Spirit ... Synodality is the particular style that qualifies the life and mission of the Church.”

Cardinal Mario Grech,
Address on Synodality

Conclusion- Shepherding

“Shepherding is beautiful and interesting. It’s a dignified and decent way to live.”

James Rebanks

Conclusion

For the 13th century mystic Rumi- the shepherd represents someone who is both patient and vigilant, showing unconditional love and care.

Conclusion

Rumi explains that the shepherd's heart is attuned to the needs and desires of the flock.

Conclusion

He **listens to the cries** of the sheep and knows when to lead, when to comfort, and when to simply be present.

Conclusion

The shepherd's flute, symbolic of the divine call, represents the guidance that leads the sheep home.

Conclusion

Rumi speaks of God as the Shepherd of the soul, ***constantly calling us home***, guiding us through life's challenges, and holding us in divine love.

Conclusion-Gifts

“Synodality is at the core of his heart ... there is no flock without a pastor, as there is no pastor without a flock. ... the more the Church becomes synodal, the more it becomes aware of the innumerable gifts that really enrich the people of God.”

on Pope Francis’s vision

Conclusion

Be a lamp, or a lifeboat, or a ladder. Help someone's soul heal. Walk out of your house like a shepherd. Shepherds lead, they don't push.



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CLOSING PRAYER

AGM – 2025



Psalm 23

**O my Beloved, You are my shepherd,
I shall not want;**





Psalm 23

**You bring me to green pastures
for rest and lead me beside still
waters renewing my spirit;**





Psalm 23

You restore my soul.

**You lead me in the path of goodness
to follow Love's way.**





Psalm 23

**Even though I walk through the
valley of the shadow and of death,
I am not afraid;**





Psalm 23

**For You are ever with me;
your rod and your staff
they guide me,**





Psalm 23

**they give me strength
and comfort.**





Psalm 23

**You prepare a table before me
in the presence of all my fears;**





Psalm 23

**you bless me with oil,
my cup overflows.**





Psalm 23

**Surely goodness and mercy will
follow me all the days of my life;**





Psalm 23

**and I shall dwell in the heart of the
Beloved forever. Amen.**





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Email: info@associationofcatholicpriests.ie

www.associationofcatholicpriests.ie

ACP Information Card

1. When contacted by your Bishop/Superior always insist on knowing what it relates to.
2. Bring someone with you who is of strong character and aware of the process. (ACP can provide someone.)
3. We advise you to say nothing at the meeting.

4. Request the diocese to resource a canon lawyer and civil lawyer of your choosing.
5. Sign nothing and give no verbal undertaking at the meeting.
6. Do not be persuaded to ignore or bypass these guidelines no matter how often they say it is in your own best interest.
7. Ask the person who accompanies you to take notes of the proceedings and to sign them.

These Guidelines are in keeping with recommendations made by The National Board for Safeguarding Children.

Contact Tim Hazelwood 087-1337164