

*The University of Winchester in association with The London Irish Centre presents*

# ***Dissonant Voices: Faith and The Irish Diaspora Conference***

**Venue:** The Presidential Suite, The London Irish Centre, Camden Square, NW1 9XB

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2014, 9:30 AM — 5:00 PM**

The Catholic Church in Ireland has often been defined as a conservative, authoritarian and severe organisation. This is only one side of the story.

The ***Dissonant Voices: Faith and the Irish Diaspora Conference*** will explore the other radical and yet thoroughly orthodox tradition and legacy of the people of the Irish Church. The Conference will examine the politically and socially engaged faith of the Irish and the Irish diaspora.

The Conference will survey the historical contribution to Europe of Irish Church men and women. The Conference will hear from contemporary voices in Ireland, influenced and influencing the universal Church in its option for the poor and the oppressed.

The legacy of this outspoken faith will be examined by contributors from Ireland and from the Irish diaspora who are fired by this radical but often unpublicised Irish Church.

**Admission:** £15 **Register at Winchester Online Store:** <http://bit.ly/1kixy3I>

**Further information available from Conn Mac Gabhann:** [voices@winchester.ac.uk](mailto:voices@winchester.ac.uk)



***Dissonant Voices: Faith and The Irish Diaspora***

**Conference Topics**

***On His Majesty's Secret Service: Irish Clergymen and the exiled Stuart Court in late Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century Ireland***

**by Dr Éamonn Ó Ciardha**

Éamonn Ó Ciardha, a native of Scotshouse, County Monaghan, holds a BA in History and Irish from UCD, an MA from the NUI and a Ph.D from Cambridge University. He has published and edited books and articles on Jacobitism, the Flight of the Earls, the Plantation of Ulster, law and order and the use of Irish language sources for seventeenth and eighteenth-century Irish History. Formerly a research assistant at the University of Aberdeen, a researcher on the Royal Irish Academy's Dictionary of Irish Biography (Cambridge, 2009), and a visiting professor at St. Michael's College University of Toronto, and the Keough Institute for Irish Studies, University of Notre Dame, he is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Irish Language and Literature, University of Ulster.

***Vatican II and The Irish Response***

**by Fr Des Wilson**

Father Des has been living and working in West Belfast since 1966. In 1975 he went to Ballymurphy, one of the most impoverished and demonized areas of the city. For over forty years he has drawn inspiration from the community around him. In turn, he has inspired and supported many people to develop their own responses to the many social, economic and political crises confronting the community. Father Des has written a number of books including *An End To Silence* and numerous pamphlets dealing with political and social injustice.

***Ireland and The Theology of Human Rights***

**by Msgr Raymond Murray**

Priest, human rights activist and Irish scholar, Raymond is a native of South Armagh. He has been a leading campaigner on human rights issues throughout the Troubles, lobbying parliamentarians and policy-makers across the world. He has written numerous pamphlets regarding rights abuses in Ireland and a number of books including *State Violence: Northern Ireland 1969-1997* and *The SAS in Ireland*.

## ***English Catholicism in the Nineteenth Century: The Irish Contribution***

**by Dr Oliver Rafferty SJ**

Oliver is a native of Belfast. He is a member of the Jesuit order. He was educated at London and Oxford Universities and Trinity College, Dublin. He received his D. Phil. on the topic *The Church, the State and the Fenian Threat, 1861-75*. Dr Rafferty has taught at several universities in the United Kingdom and Ireland and has held visiting professorships of history in the United States, Australia and Korea. His recent publications include *The Catholic Church and the Protestant State: Nineteenth-Century Irish Realities*, the edited collection *George Tyrrell and Catholic Modernism* and the collection *Irish Catholic Identities* (Manchester University Press, 2013).

## ***When Hope and History Rhyme: The Return of Colmcille***

**by Frank Cottrell Boyce**

Frank is a British screenwriter and novelist who was born into an Irish Catholic family in Rainhill. He is best known for his children's fiction and for his collaborations with film director Michael Winterbottom. He has recently achieved fame as the writer for the 2012 Summer Olympics opening ceremony and for sequels to *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang: The Magical Car*, a children's classic by Ian Fleming. Frank has won the 2004 Carnegie Medal for *Millions* and the 2012 Guardian Prize for *The Unforgotten Coat*, which was commissioned by a charity. Frank was the creator of *The Return of Colmcille* for Derry City of Culture 2013.

## ***An Irish Liberation Theology: Learning From the Universal Church***

**by Fr Joe McVeigh**

Fr Joe was born in Ederney, Co. Fermanagh. He studied for the priesthood in Maynooth and has been working as a priest, mostly in Fermanagh, since 1971. Joe is the author of *A Wounded Church* and *Renewing the Irish Church: Towards An Irish Liberation Theology*. Fr McVeigh has been one of the outstanding radical voices in the Irish Church over the past decades.

## ***Fidelity In the Terror: Penal Era Priests in Ireland and Europe***

**by Dr Peter Smith**

Peter is from Omagh, Co. Tyrone. He is Lecturer in Irish at the University of Ulster. He was previously employed as Professor in Irish at the University of Notre Dame and Lecturer in Celtic at the University of Bonn. He took his primary degree in Early and Modern Irish at Trinity College, Dublin. He studied for his doctorate in Celtic at the University of Oxford. Peter has held scholarships at Trinity College, Dublin; Jesus College, Oxford and the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies. His research fields include medieval Irish poetry, medieval Irish scholarship, and the Irish manuscript tradition.

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