



Shillelagh Sentinel



AOH, Thomas Francis Meagher Division, PO Box 1916, Helena, Montana 59624

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December(Mí na Nollaig) 2020



Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year to you and yours

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Presidents Message

It is often difficult for me to develop a theme for my message each month. After writing several disjointed paragraphs ranging from Irish music, storytelling, and poetry, I decided to tie the Advent message to the work of our Division. I also have an ask.

advent /'æd.vent/ noun

1 Advent [noncount] in the Christian religion: the period of time beginning four Sundays before Christmas.

2 [singular]: the time when something begins or arrives: the first appearance of something.

I find parallels in the period of time of the Advent of Christmas and the advent of next year's work. When we give of our spiritual gifts, we honor God and serve Christ through our work. As we prepare our Division's work for the coming year, let us pray for what is to come.

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Hibernian Dates to Remember

AOH MEETING

KC HALL

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2020

6:30 PM

Regular monthly meeting

AOH MEETING

KC HALL

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2021

6:30 PM

Regular monthly meeting

ST PATRICK'S DAY

WEDNESDAY

MARCH 17, 2021

This Month in Irish History

December 1, 1848 - The paddle steamer The Londonderry, with immigrants fleeing the famine, takes shelter in Derry harbour. When the covers are removed from the hold it is discovered that 72 men, women and children had suffocated.

December 1, 1946 - Singer Gilbert (Richard) O'Sullivan is born in Waterford.

December 3, 1792 - Beginning on this date and continuing through December 8, a Catholic Convention is held in Tailors' Hall, Dublin to demand abolition of the remaining penal laws; a petition is presented to the king in London.

December 4, 2009 - Liam Clancy of the Clancy Brothers passes away

December 6, 1921 – Representatives of the Irish government appointed by President Eamon de Valera, and those negotiating for the Crown sign the Anglo-Irish Treaty, ending the Irish War of Independence against England. Michael Collins declares: "I have signed my own death warrant"

This Month in Irish History

December 9, 1995 - Seamus Heaney Wins Nobel Prize for Literature.

December 6th - In the liturgical calendar, today is the feast of St. Nicholas.

December 7, 521 –Birth of Saint Columcille, Irish bard and monk, honored in all the Celtic lands.

December 8, 1831 - Death of James Hoban, the Kilkenny architect who designed the White House. He also designed the state capital in Columbia, South Carolina

December 13, 1862 - the Irish Brigade of the Army of the Potomac suffered horrendous casualties during the Battle of Fredericksburg.

December 1653 - Oliver Cromwell becomes Lord Protector of Ireland.

December 20, 1891 – Annie Moore left Queenstown, Cork, Ireland today for Ellis Island.

December 21, 1919 - Dáil Éireann meets for the first time and elects Eamon de Valera as President of Ireland.

December 23, 1688- English King James II flees to France and William of Orange seizes the throne of England.

December 24, 1601 - The Battle of Kinsale. . Hugh O'Neill and Red Hugh O'Donnell are heavily defeated by Mountjoy.

December 27, 1886 – Margaret Cruse wife of Thomas Cruse passes away after childbirth. Thomas Cruse was a major contributor to the building of the Cathedral of St. Helena.

December 28, 1880 - The trial of Parnell and others for conspiracy begins on this date

December 31, 1759 – Arthur Guinness signs a 9,000-year lease on four acres of ground at St James's Gate, Dublin, for an annual rent of 45£, including water rights.

Veteran Notes

Greetings Brother and Sisters,

Today's note will be a little more somber than usual. While this time of year is normally festive and full of love and friendship, we need to remember that during the Holiday Season the rates of depression and suicide go up for most people and especially for our Veterans. The rate of suicide among Veterans is at least 1.5% higher than the average citizen and of those Veterans who have not availed themselves of the VHA Programs, it is 2.4% higher.

(For those of you who want to look a little deeper, or those of you who are strange and like statistics, I have attached the 2020 National Veteran Suicide Report: [2020 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report \(va.gov\)](https://www.va.gov/vetaff/2020-national-veteran-suicide-prevention-annual-report))

Please remember that as Veterans we still have a duty to our brothers and sisters in arms, regardless of Service, sex, experience or membership in the AOH/LAOH.

Reach out and check on people: "How are you doing?", "Are you OK?", "Is there anything I can do or help you with?". These are simple questions that show that you care and that you want to help. Please use them or ask another question, but try to help, that is the important thing. I know that most of us are not trained in this sort of thing, but we can still help connect people with the professional help they need.

For all of us, Veteran or not, the National Suicide Prevention Hotline number is 1-800-273-8255, and for Veteran specific help, press 1 at the main menu. This number can save lives. I have it programmed into my phone, along with Poison Control. It is a kind of be prepared thing, like carrying an umbrella.

Online you can go to: www.veteranscrisisline.net or www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide_prevention to name just a couple of sites, there are many more out there.

If you are struggling, please reach out to someone, anyone, it can be that easy!

Depression and suicidal thoughts can affect anyone, so be prepared to help, not just a Veteran or an AOH/LAOH member, but anyone who needs help. Remember the part of our Motto that says "Christian Charity", I can think of no greater Charitable gift than that of Life.

One last thing: Happy 384th Birthday to the National Guard on December 13!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Patrick Flaherty

Thomas Francis Meagher Division, Helena Montana

Veterans Affairs Chair (Division and State), Member National Cmte

President's Message (continued from page 1)

Dying to self and giving. Becoming part of something greater than ourselves. Who we are as Irish and Catholic goes directly to the heart of what I'm going to ask of each of us. I ask each Hibernian to begin a conversation about the AOH Degree program. There are several considerations to ponder. Two of which captured my attention.

-Encourage members to live the ideals and practice the virtues which have distinguished the Irish people from the earliest ages.

-Strengthen them in their faith, make them practical in their duties and loyally observant of the precepts of the Catholic Church.

I also ask that we adopt the vision of our National President, O'Connell, National Director, Mehrens and Division officers to establish the AOH Degree Program within the TF Meagher Division.

We are beginning anew to prepare the way. To die to self and prepare to become a gift to others. We prepare through prayer and ritual as it is the way to build community.

Christopher Small states of ritual and traditional Irish music that; "ideas held in common about how people ought to relate to one another, of course, define a community, so rituals are used both as an act of affirmation of community, as an act of exploration, and as an act of celebration." These are not destinations, but a journey into the Irish soul and knowing who we are as a race.

Our work is never done, but it is in our work that we find purpose. Be proud of the work you have done, for the joy is in Friendship, UNITY and Christian Charity.


Nollaig Shona Duit (Merry Christmas)

Jim President ♣


1980 -2020

Let us remember

My Lord And My God Bless Them




BOBBY SANDS
BELFAST
Died 5th May, 1981
(Day 66)
Aged 27 years




FRANCIS HUGHES
SOUTH DERRY
Died 12th May, 1981
(Day 59)
Aged 25 years

MY LORD AND MY GOD
BEHOLD THY CHILDREN

R.I.P.




JOE McDONNELL
BELFAST
Died 8th July, 1981
(Day 61)
Aged 30 years




MARTIN HURSON
EAST TYRONE
Died 13th July, 1981
(Day 46)
Aged 24 years


My Lord And My God Have Mercy On Them



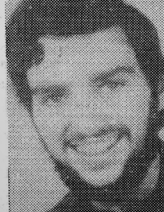
KEVIN LYNCH
NORTH DERRY
Died 1st August, 1981
(Day 71)
Aged 25 years



KIERAN DOHERTY
BELFAST
Died 2nd August, 1981
(Day 73)
Aged 25 years



RAYMOND McCREESH
SOUTH ARMAGH
Died 21st May, 1981
(Day 61)
Aged 24 years




PATSY O'HARA
DERRY CITY
Died 21st May, 1981
(Day 61)
Aged 24 years


IS DEANNAICÉ IAD SIN AN A MBÍONN
OCRAS AGUS CARR AR SON NA CÓRA ÓIR
IS LEO RÍOCT HEIME.

A múire, mátair Dé, zúí ortú

THEY DIED ON HUNGER STRIKE FOR US




THOMAS McILWEE
SOUTH DERRY
Died 8th August, 1981
(Day 62)
Aged 23 years



MICKY DEVINE
DERRY CITY
Died 20th August, 1981
(Day 60)
Aged 27 years

In Memoriam



"The fools, the fools, they have left us our
fenian dead." — P.H. Pearse.

O Sacred Heart of Jesus have mercy on the souls of

<p>BOBBY SANDS FRANCIS HUGHES RAYMOND McCREESH PATSY O'HARA JOE McDONNELL</p>	<p>MARTIN HURSON KEVIN LYNCH KIERAN DOHERTY THOMAS McILWEE MICKY DEVINE</p>
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"We remain what we are — Political
Prisoners of War." — Bobby Sands.



Issued by R.V.H. Workers Against H-Block/Armagh.