

## News

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1916 CENTENARY

# Diocesan publication gives an insight into 1916 leaders' faith

by Daragh Frawley  
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A RARE insight into the faith of the leaders of the 1916 Rising was highlighted this week with the publication of a book produced by Limerick Diocese to mark the centenary of the Rising.

Comprising of short yet detailed faith profiles of the 1916 leaders, from Roger Casement to Patrick Pearse and Limerick's own Con Colbert and Edward Daly, 'The End of All Things Earthly' gives a glimpse at their general faith interactions, including the final moments before their execution.

Published by Veritas, the book was launched by Bishop of Limerick Brendan Leahy, who initiated the project, and Fr Brian Shortall at the Capuchin Friary in Dublin's Church Street. The venue was chosen because of the Capuchin's central role in the 1916 peace negotiations and their ministering to the leaders

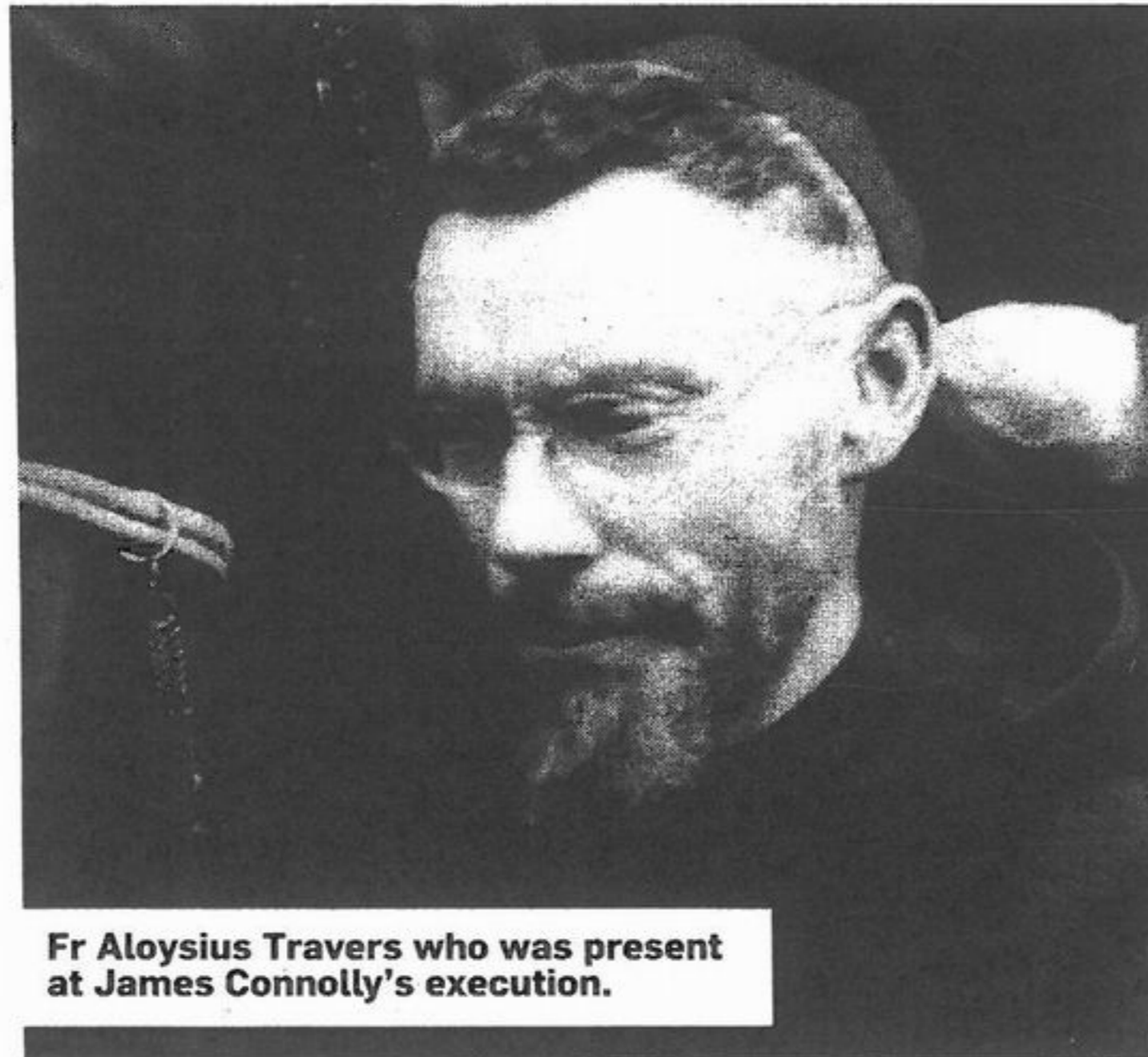
before their execution.

There will be also be a Limerick launch on Tuesday, March 15 in Mary Immaculate College.

Edited by Limerick Diocesan archivist David Bracken, 'The End of All Things Earthly' has contributions from 18 academics and includes personal letters and testimonies of the leaders, as well as rarely seen photographs and transcripts.

Bishop Leahy said that the question of how faith and armed rebellion could be compatible had exercised much conversation from the time of the rising to the present day. However, the book didn't seek to adjudicate on this but gave a sense of what faith meant to the leaders.

"They clearly had varying degrees of faith. But what is striking is the closeness with God in the final moments before execution, including for those with little Catholic faith prior to this. It's a piece of work we are very proud of and indebted to all involved, including our own David



Fr Aloysius Travers who was present at James Connolly's execution.

Bracken for his effort in pulling it together and to all other contributors."

The book includes vignettes on 16 of the leaders, including those with Limerick links, Con Colbert and Edward Daly (both natives of Limerick) and Seán Heuston, who lived on O'Connell Street for a period. The book touches on areas such as:

\* Cappuchin priest Fr Aloysius' engagement with James Connolly in the last days before his execution. Fr Aloysius, who heard Connolly's last confession in the hours before he was shot, stood behind the firing party as Connolly was placed on a chair and executed and remarked afterwards, "It was a scene I should not ask to witness again. I had got to know Connolly - to wonder at his strength of character.....(and) now I

had to say goodbye"

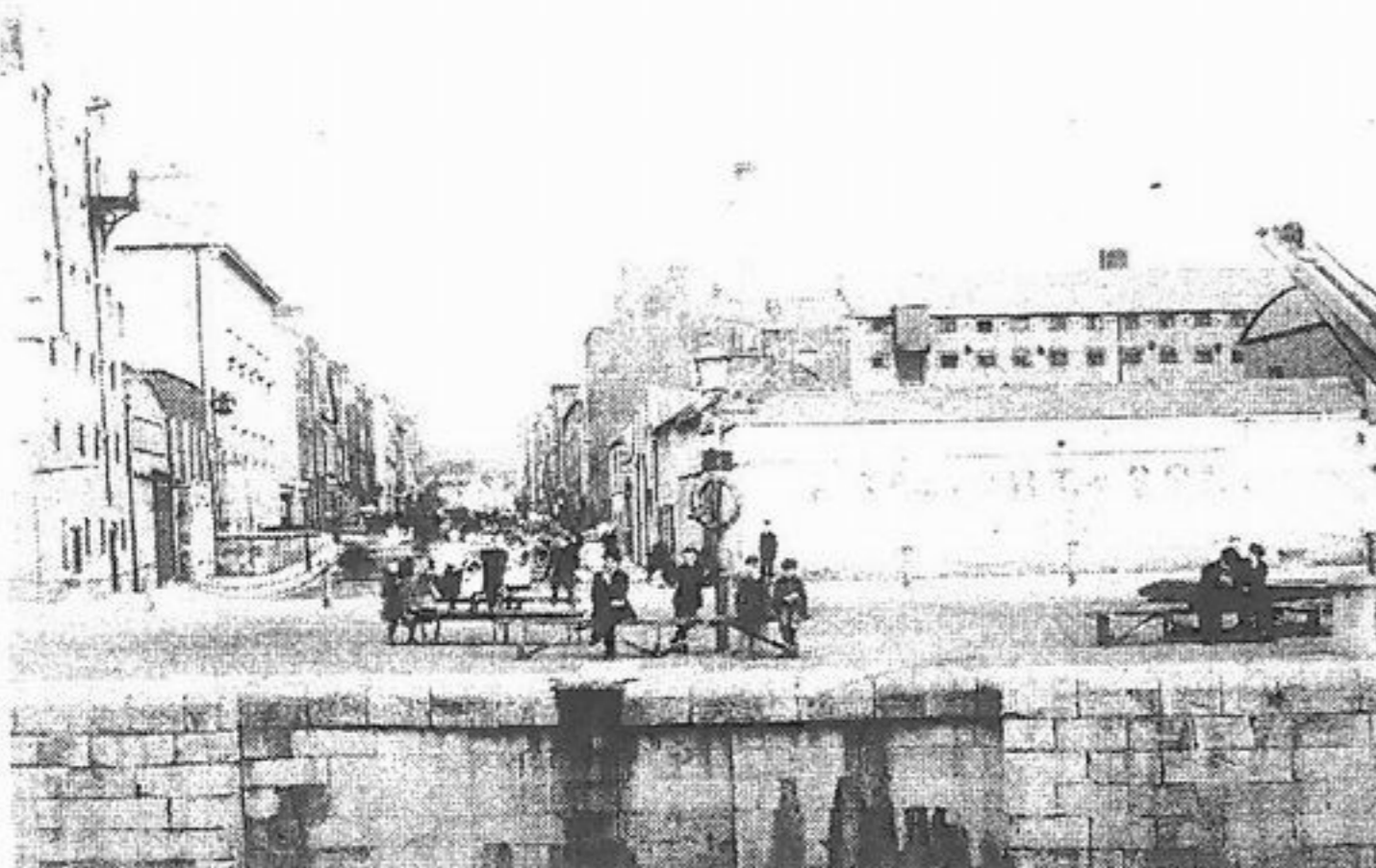
\* Roger Casement formally embracing Catholicism and receiving his first Holy Communion just before his execution

\* Con Colbert telling a prisoner that he expected to be executed and adding "We are all ready to meet our God"

\* Seán Heuston reciting acts of faith, hope, love and contrition as he faced his death at just 25 years of age

\* Thomas Clarke - of whom there was little evidence of faith - refusing to repudiate his involvement in the Rising. He said "I was not sorry for what I had done.....I was not going to face my God with a lie on my tongue"

The book will be available in book stores around the country.



Spaight's on Bedford Row, Limerick where Ned Daly worked before joining the rebellion and ultimately facing death.

## WATER CHARGES

# Keep them under pressure

by Alan Jacques  
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ANTI Austerity Alliance councillor Cian Prendiville is urging those boycotting water charges to "keep up the pressure".

And the man who came within 278 votes of taking the seat from Education Minister Jan O'Sullivan in the recent General Election has also hit out at Limerick TD Willie O'Dea over comments made on national radio encouraging those boycotting water charges to pay up.

The City North representative pointed out that when asked about water charges during an interview on Newstalk last week, the Fianna Fail poll-topper commented: "Our position is that we cannot refund people, people paid, it was the law.... People who haven't paid have an obligation to pay."

Cllr Prendiville was not at all impressed with Deputy O'Dea's answer and is encouraging people to keep up the boycott.

"This attempt to push people into paying will not work and the boycott will grow and it will finish off the Irish Water quango," he warned.

"The only reason the abolition of water charges is even on the agenda is because people boycotted. That boycott took power out of the hands of the politicians and is making this charge simply unworkable.

"People shouldn't fall for Fianna Fail's tricks, they had originally planned to introduce water charges of €500 a year. People should keep up the pressure on the politicians by building the boycott."

According to Cllr Prendiville, many of those who did pay the

charges were "scandalously intimidated by Irish Water and the government". He believes they should now be refunded.

"Those who previously followed the advice of O'Dea and paid should

not throw good money after bad. They should join the boycott. Boycotting is a totally justified form of civil disobedience, used by countless campaigns throughout history," he concluded.

In response, Deputy O'Dea commented: "It is regrettable that Cllr Prendiville has taken a small section of a long interview and blown it out of context. The Fine Gael and Labour Government brought in legislation to enact water charges, legislation which I and Fianna Fail vehemently opposed.

"However, although it is currently the law of the land, I fully subscribe to Fianna Fail policy that Irish Water and water charges should be abolished and I am confident that if Fianna Fail are in Government there will be no water charges."

““”

**I am confident that if Fianna Fail are in Government there will be no water charges.**

DEPUTY WILLIE O'DEA

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Going green

■ TWO Limerick retail outlets are seeking the public's vote to help them win the 'Go Green with Green Angel Skincare' challenge to find Ireland's most creative shop window. The Guaranteed Irish-backed competition challenges Green Angel stockists to produce the country's best St Patrick's Day-themed window featuring the successful Irish skincare brand. Hogans Pharmacy, Upper William Street and Grays Pharmacy, Castleroy Court are registered for the public vote, which closes on March 14. All entries are posted on the Green Angel Skincare Facebook page where the public can vote for their favourite store.

### Into the light

■ ON Saturday, May 7, Limerick city, Kilmallock and Newcastle West will host 'Darkness Into Light', the early morning fundraising events which begin in darkness at 4.15am as thousands of people walk or run a 5km route while dawn is breaking. 'Darkness Into Light' will take place in more than 100 locations in Ireland, the US, the UK, Scotland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the Middle East and Asia. This year's event was launched in Limerick's Strand Hotel on Wednesday evening by Joan Freeman, founder of suicide and self-harm crisis centre Pieta House.

### Lowering emissions

■ ENVIRONMENTAL Protection Agency (EPA) figures released this week show that Ireland is unlikely to meet its 2020 EU greenhouse gas emission reduction targets and cast doubts over efforts to transition to a low carbon economy in the long term. Ireland's EU target for 2020 is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the non-emissions trading scheme (non-ETS) sector by 20 per cent on 2005 levels. The non-ETS sector covers emissions from agriculture, transport, residential, commercial, non-energy intensive industry and waste sectors. EPA director general Laura Burke said that with Ireland's economy beginning to grow again, we must balance our focus on growth with a focus on becoming more sustainable and reducing emissions.

### Joanne fund

■ There are two upcoming events in aid of the Joanne Mc Mahon thanksgiving fund for the national burns unit. Mairead Ambrose and friends are holding a coffee morning in Ardagh Community Centre on Saturday, March 12 from 11am to 1pm. Meanwhile, Tom Fitzgerald and family of the Railway Bar in Abbeyfeale are hosting a night of music and dancing on Saturday night, March 12.

### MEP appointment

■ MUNSTER MEP Deirdre Clune has been appointed as a negotiator for the European Parliament in the upcoming discussions with the European Commission on a new EU wide aviation strategy. Ms Clune, described the position as an opportunity to influence and shape aviation policy in Europe over the next 20 years. "There are many issues that need to be tackled including airport congestion, airport charges, environmental impact, passengers rights, protection of regional airports and liberalisation of the markets so that we can ensure that airfares remain competitive and that we continue to offer a diverse range of air routes into and out of Europe," she said.