

The man for whom tv and radio was made

Michael Commane

There has been much written and spoken in the last days about Gay Byrne.

He was a giant in his profession. Radio and television were made for him.

Anyone who does a top television programme for 37 years and a morning radio show for 27 years has to be 'Right Man, Right Time, in Right Place' as was the heading on the John Bowman piece in the Gay Byrne supplement in 'The Irish Times' on Tuesday.

And then there were the outstanding moments, those interviews that are etched in the national memory

It's true to say that he broke the mould. He brought radio and television into a comfortable place. He was a type of catalyst that allowed us to talk to one another. Listeners and viewers phoned Gay to have a chat. He made them feel so at ease that they forgot they were talking to the nation.

He highlighted many taboo subjects and did it all with seemingly extraordinary ease. Again, it appeared like a fireside chat.

In 1968 in a church in Cork, a priest preaching at a Sunday Mass referred to an item on 'The Late Late Show' the previous night. In doing so he called the programme 'The Hate Hate Show'. A group of students was present at the Mass. They spontaneously laughed and were all in agreement that the priest was talking nonsense and was gratuitously insulting Gay Byrne, the audience, and the programme.

One of the young men said: "He can't have spent much time or thought preparing his sermon. The Late Late Show was just that, on late last night." The priest was out of order, all he was doing was alienating people with ill-prepared words. I was one of the young men in that church that Sunday and can vividly remember the episode.

I later got to know the priest. He was a gentle, kind man, who had very fixed ideas on things.

But he had not the remotest idea about how to speak engagingly to people in a public forum.

The story of Gay Byrne's broadcasting career is in so many ways a paradigm for the story of Ireland over the last 60 years.

But who are the people today who are breaking taboos and telling it as it should be told?

Who are the prophets, who are the people, who have the courage and insight to keep us on our toes?

Can it make one ounce, or the metric equivalent, of sense, that 26 people own the wealth of half the world's population?

Beechwood Parish

As and from Sunday 17th November 2019,
the Irish Mass will be celebrated at **9.00am.**
and

Monday to Friday
Mass will be celebrated at **9.00am**

Collections 1st and 3rd November 2019

Offertory Collection: €1,439
Share Collection: €950

Thank you for your support for these collections, and for your contributions to the Parish Fund each month.

St Vincent de Paul monthly collection takes place after all Masses this Sunday. Your ongoing generosity is very much appreciated

Kyuso Concert

The annual concert in aid of our partner parish in Kyuso, Kenya will take place on
Friday, November 29th at 8.00pm
in the Church.

This year it will be The Eurovision Show, starring Johnny Logan.

Tickets at €35 will be on sale after all Masses. They will also be available from our usual outlets and at
rathgarconcert@gmail.com

Annual Remembrance Mass. Thank you to the Bethany Team, and to all who helped make our annual Remembrance Mass. The remembrance candles will be lit during all Masses today.

Holy Land Pilgrimage 2020 11 Day Pilgrimage to the Holy Land from Feb 12th to Feb 22nd 2020 cost €1,475.00 deposit €450.00 Spiritual Director Canon Paddy McGinn, Still a small number of places left, further details contact Brenda Murray-Flynn on 041 6863390 or brenda.murray-flynn@travelcounsellors.com Philip on 087 250 8043 or pmcardle006@gmail.com.

Volunteers: The Irish Cancer Society is looking for volunteers to assist in supporting and providing information to patients and families in their Dublin Daffodil Centres. For more information please contact: Deirdre on 01 231 0564 or dmurphy@irishcancer.ie

The Bethany Bereavement Group meeting will be held in Rathgar Parish Centre, 52 Grosvenor Road, Rathgar on Wed 13th November at 8.00pm, and at The Milltown Parish Centre on Wed 20th November at 8.00pm. Please phone Anne at 086 3602198 for further details.

St Joseph's Young Priests' Society monthly meeting will take place on Thursday 14th November at 10.30am in the Sacristy. New members welcome.

Saint Laurence O'Toole (1128 - 14 Nov 1180), who is the Patron Saint of Dublin, was elected as Archbishop of Dublin during the Norman Invasion, the first Irishman to do so. In a city that was in the middle of an economic boom, Laurence was seen as the one who stretched out his hand to care for the poor and the neglected. There was appalling poverty in Dublin at the time and each day he fed the poor of the city in his home, and also established care centres for orphaned children. Due to the great number of claimed miracles that rapidly occurred either at his tomb or through his intercession, he was canonised only 45 years after his death in 1225 by Pope Honorius III.