

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

**Tell your own story in 12 words**

Michael Commane

Some weeks ago there was an obituary of Michael Boland in 'The Irish Times'. He was president of the World Organisation of Family Doctors (Wonca) between 2001 and 2004.

Among the various jobs he did in his 32 years as a GP in Skibbereen was chairman of the Office of Tobacco Control, which oversaw the introduction of the smoking ban.

In 2004 he was asked by The Irish Times to describe himself in 12 words. His reply: 'Failed obsessional; relaxed Catholic; unelected politician; international Irishman; specialised generalist; ageing juvenile'. Isn't it pure genius? It has a great sense of humour about it too.

I am a failed obsessional. How many times do I go back and check the hall door, at least I did, in those halcyon days when I could leave the house. All the times I get out of bed to make sure I turned off the tap in the bathroom.

No doubt Dr Boland is talking about deeper and more consequential matters. I'm a 'relaxed Catholic', and know exactly what Dr Boland is saying. I can imagine I would have agreed with him on most of his 'relaxed Catholic' views. As to being an unelected politician, I have never been elected to any position in the Dominican Order. Something I see as a badge of honour.

During my younger years travelling backwards and forwards to Germany, I fancied myself as an international Irishman. As to being a specialised generalist, I'm inclined to consider myself a specialised messer.

But it's the last one that bowls me over. He sees himself as an ageing juvenile. It fits me to a tee. If anyone tells me I don't look my age, of course I'm chuffed but quickly reply that I have never acted my age and am delighted about that now.

**Trócaire Boxes** This time of year, Trócaire would usually receive tens of thousands of boxes but that will not be possible this year. If you can, please donate online or over the phone, and hold onto your boxes, until we are in contact about how to return them when it is safe to do so. Donations can be made online at:

<https://www.trocaire.org/donate/make-a->

**New Parish Webcam**

As the Government and health authorities have mandated a 'stay at home' policy, Mass will be celebrated in Three Patrons via our new webcam on the website:

***rathgarparish.ie***.

The following is the schedule for this week:

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 12 noon**

*Divine Mercy Mass 3.00pm*

**Monday 11am**

**Wednesday 11am**

**Friday 11am**

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Mass on the **Beechwood Avenue webcam** is as follows:

**Sunday 10.00am**

**Tuesday 11.00am**

**Thursday 11.00am**

**Divine Mercy Sunday** will be celebrated this Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April at 3pm, and all are welcome to join in on the webcam at **rathgarparish.ie**.

**Daily Adoration** is cancelled until further notice, but the Church will remain open from 11am – 6.00pm for personal prayer and visitation.

**Easter Competition  
for younger parishioners**

The Art Competition was a great success, and we had several entrants in each of the categories. It was a difficult decision, but the eventual winners were:

Ciara Treacy  
Ruby Brennan  
Grace Carroll  
Leah Brennan  
Cristina Johnson  
Holly Brennan  
Áine Treacy  
Molly Devaney  
Anna Carroll

Congratulations to all, and prizes will be distributed as soon as we can get together again.

**Three Patrons Art Gallery** Jackie Hearne, our Pastoral Worker, has now set up a new Whatsapp group called Three Patrons Art Gallery, where children's artwork will be displayed, and there will be a different topic each week.

If you would like your child to be part of this group, please contact Jackie at: 087 7422653