



S S P X



In Principio

Celebrating 50 Years of the SSPX



"Asperges me Domine hyssopo et mundabor; lavabis me et super nivem dealbabor" Psalm 51

Archbishop Lefevre blesses the newly purchased (1985) St John the Evangelist Church in Dun Laoghaire. He is flanked by Fathers Black (left) & Emerson (right).



In Principio
Bulletin of the
Priestly Society of Saint Pius X in Ireland

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Superior's Letter

Rev. Fr Robert Brucciani, District Superior

My dear brethren,

To understand Archbishop Lefebvre's place in the history of the Church, one might list his material achievements: the positions of authority he held, the number of souls confided to his care, the buildings he built and the civic awards he received. He had the profile of a great churchman before founding the Society of Saint Pius X for the formation of priests in 1970. But then his fearless defence of orthodoxy in stubborn opposition to the reforms that followed the Second Vatican Council led to the canonical suppression of his Society in 1975 and sanctions in

1976: an interdiction to ordain priests (*suspensio a collatione ordinum*), quickly followed by an interdiction to administer any sacraments at all (*suspensio a divinis*). His continued defiance of the hierarchy finally resulted in the declaration of his *latae sententiae* excommunication for consecrating bishops without a mandate in 1988.

Mainstream narrative

A promising ecclesiastical career appears to have ended badly, so the mainstream narrative goes, and the Society he founded remains to this day in a state of schism; or if not schism, then in a state of continued

disobedience and canonical irregularity. It is commonly claimed that the Society of St Pius X is 'not in full communion with the Church', but this 'not being in full communion with the Church' is a concept alien to Catholic ecclesiology because communion with the Church is like life – it is a binary thing: just as you are either alive or dead, you are either in communion with the Church or you are not.

Our narrative

But to us and to future generations, Archbishop Lefebvre will be known as a giant of Church history. 'Of course', one might say, 'you are bound to say this because you are a member of his Society.'

This may be true, but there are others who initially disapproved of the Archbishop's defiance of the hierarchy when he went so far as to consecrate bishops without a mandate, but in the course of time, as the auto-destruction of the Church accelerated, they came to see in Archbishop Lefebvre the St Athanasius of the twentieth century. Among these 'others' is Michael Davies, one of the most engaging apologists for Catholic tradition before his death in 2004. Here is a transcript of an extract of a speech Davies gave in 1993:

Today at Mass, I was struck by the gospel of the Good Samaritan and I felt that that gospel has a lot to say to traditional Catholics. We were rather like the man going





Archbishop Lefebvre in Dublin, 1989

to Jericho. After the council, we were spiritually mugged! We were stripped of our inheritance, of our spiritual, aesthetic, liturgical and (for the children sent to a Catholic school) our doctrinal inheritance. We were like the poor man robbed and lying beside the road. The pope came along and we turned to him for help. He didn't quite walk on the other side, but he only threw us a band-aid which was the 1984 indult in which he said that, if any bishop felt graciously inclined, he could allow a Tridentine Mass with all sorts of restrictions which made it

virtually impossible. And, without exaggeration, more than 99% of the bishops throughout the world ignored the 1984 indult. No Tridentine Masses were allowed. We went to our bishops to ask them, and we were finding that practically every bishop was a wolf in sheep's clothing. Although it mentioned in a recent article, 'The plight of the papist priest' of the Pastoral & Homiletic Review, that many bishops now are wolves in wolves' clothing!

They certainly passed us by and I am speaking now for thousands, no tens of thousands of good, honest, faithful Catholics. Paul Johnson, who is not a traditional Catholic (some of you may have read his books) wrote an article in the Daily Mail at the time of the excommunications. He said, actually, the type of Catholics who support Archbishop Lefebvre are the salt of the earth, the people who have kept the Church going all these years, the people for whom faith matters, but thousands of us had got to a state where we began to despair. We thought there was no hope, and then, along came a man sent by God and his name was Marcel. He didn't walk by on the other side. He treated our wounds, our spiritual wounds, and gave us

the spiritual food for which we had hungered for so long and, above all, he gave us the immortal Tridentine Mass which the Second Vatican Council had asked to be preserved and fostered in every way. All existing rites, the Council said, must be preserved and fostered in every way. And what happened? The Tridentine Mass was destroyed.

Archbishop Lefebvre has been rightly compared to St Athanasius. He is the Athanasius of our times. Like St Athanasius and like St Eusebius of Samosata, he went into the dioceses of bishops who were not acting as good shepherds to give the people the instruction, the sacramental grace and the pastors that they needed. They were ordained in the dioceses of other bishops, which could be considered as outrageous, as schismatic. And St Athanasius gave this message, which, apart from the word 'Arians', it could be the message that Archbishop Lefebvre gave us: 'Our churches are taken from us and given to the Arians, they have our places, but we have the faith; they cannot rob us of that'.

Now, in my country, during the Protestant Reformation, the Catholics had a secret phrase

with which they met each other. They said, 'Keep the faith' and the reason I would say that hundreds of thousands of Catholics have kept the faith today is entirely due to Archbishop Lefebvre. He hasn't taken people out of the Church, he has kept hundreds of thousands of people in the Church who would have lost their faith or would have gone into Sedevacantism. (YouTube: *'SSPX in schism debate part 2 Michael Davies responds'*.)

Our debt of thanks

The whole speech by Michael Davies is well worth a listen. The work of Archbishop Lefebvre continues today through the Society of St Pius X which he always insisted was a work of the Church. It now has 675 priests, 138 religious brothers, 75 oblate sisters and many third order members. Associated with it are traditional communities of Capuchins, Benedictines, Dominicans and numerous other congregations. It operates in 60 countries of the world, has 6 seminaries and 145 priories, 539 chapels, 105 schools and 11 retreat centres. And this year, it celebrates its fiftieth anniversary.



In Ireland, five chapels are flourishing as the conciliar Church collapses. Four Irish priests bring Our Lord Jesus Christ to souls through their teaching, example and administration of sacraments and five more are in formation. We have a duty of thanks to Archbishop Lefebvre and a duty of thanks to all the souls who have given themselves to his work through the Society of St Pius X: priests, religious, third order members and the laity. They are good Samaritans.

Above all, we must offer our prayers of thanksgiving to Our Lord Jesus Christ, through the Blessed Virgin Mary. As 1 November is the day of the fiftieth anniversary, the Mass on that day will be offered in thanksgiving for the graces that have helped us in some way to realise the ambition of our holy patron, St Pius X, to restore all things in Christ.

In Jesu et Maria,

Rev. Robert Brucciani

District Superior



1980 - 1990

The Beginnings





Previous page: Press conference in Dublin, 1980
Top: First Mass at the newly purchased house in Crawford Ave, Drumcondra
Right, bottom, opposite top: Blessing of St John's in 1985
Opposite bottom: A retreat given in 1988; Easter vigil at St. John's in 1989



1990 - 2000

Growth of the Apostolate



This page: Furnishing and blessing of Our Lady of the Rosary church in early 90s

Opposite: Various events including the blessing of Corpus Christi church in 1995





This page: First Summer Camps of the SSPX in Ireland started by Fr Couture
Opposite: Solemn consecration of St John's, 2 July 1994





Top left: First Solemn Mass of Fr Leo Boyle in 1991
Top right: Ordination of Fr Francis Gallagher with Fr Boyle assisting, 1993
Middle: St Thomas Aquinas School, Dun Laoghaire
Bottom: Frs Lemieux, Couture, Dubroeuq and VanEs
Opposite top: Fr David Sherry's ordination in 2007 and First Mass in Athlone
Opposite bottom: First Holy Communion in Athlone, 2008

2000 - 2010

The Noughties





This page: All Saints' parties

Opposite: Summer Camps





Top left: Blessing of Our Lady of Knock Chapel, Newry, 2006

Middle: Conference in Athlone given by Fr Schmidberger, 2005

Bottom: (left) 1st Communions in Athlone, 2007; (right) Corpus Christi Procession in Athlone, 2009

Opposite top: Confirmations in Athlone, 2011 and Newry Mass Rock, 2014

Opposite bottom: Boys' Eucharistic Crusade Summer Camp, 2013

Opposite bottom right: Br Gerard Nichols, RIP



2010 - 2020

Recent Times





This page: All Saints' Parties
Opposite: Comhaltas Christ Rí (Young Adult Group) Outing, Corrin Wood Forest, Cork, 2016.





Opposite: Youth Group events
This page: Parish events
Bottom: Frs Abbet, Boyle & Petrucci respectively



Above left: Youth Group, Pilgrimage to Rome, 2010

Top right: Archconfraternity of St Stephen trip to Germany, 2019

Bottom, right and opposite: Eucharistic Crusade Summer Camp





Opposite: St Declan's Way Pilgrimage (Ardmore - Cashel)
This page: Inaugural Knock Conference, Sept. 2019
The event began with entertainment and a candlelight rosary procession followed by a day of conferences from a panel of speakers. The final day concluded with a Solemn High Mass and the traditional pilgrimage





Above: In the past decade many young men and women have left the world to follow Christ, most notably Fr Thomas O'Hart (top) who was ordained in 2018. Please keep these courageous young men and women in your prayers and continue to pray for more vocations. **Right:** Fr Kimball celebrates Mass at a Mass Rock in Cork.



Calendar of Events Winter 2020-21*

Oct 17-18 **Youth Group Outing** (Tipperary)
24 **Slane Pilgrimage** (tentative)

Nov 1 **All Saints' Parties**
7 **Youth Group Study Session (Dublin)**
14 **Eucharistic Crusade Outing** (tentative)
28-29 **Youth Group Outing (Athlone)**

Dec 20 **Nativity Plays**

Jan 2-3 **Youth Group Outing**
23 **Youth Group Study Session (Dublin)**

** Because of the uncertainty of events due to the current situation all events are subject to change or cancellation. Please refer to the website for the most recent information.*

Priestly Society of Saint Pius X in Ireland

DUBLIN St John the Evangelist Church

1 Upper Mounttown Road Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin A96 P793
T: (01) 284 2206

Mass Times
- Sunday 9am and 11am
- Monday - Friday 11am and 6:30pm most days
- Saturday & Wednesday 11am only

Saint Pius X House

12 Tivoli Terrace S, Dún Laoghaire
Co. Dublin A96 KV65
T: (01) 284 2206

Resident:

Rev. Fr Patrick Abbet (Prior)
Rev. Fr Leo Boyle
Rev. Fr Marcel Ockerse
Rev. Fr Patrick Kimball
Rev. Fr Jules Doutrebente

ATHLONE Corpus Christi Church

Connaught Gardens, Athlone
Co. Westmeath N37 E671
T: (01) 284 2206

Mass Times
- Sunday 10am (check website, can be 4pm)
- Monday & Saturday 10am
- Friday 6:30pm

BELFAST Saint Pius V Chapel

78 Andersonstown Road
Belfast, Co. Antrim
BT11 9AN
T: (028) 9445 3654

Mass Times
- Sunday 12pm

CORK Our Lady of the Rosary Church

Shanakiel Road Sunday's Well,
Co. Cork T23 T389
T: (01) 284 2206

Mass Times
- Sunday 11am (check website, can be 4pm)
- Saturday 11am

NEWRY Our Lady of Knock Chapel

Unit 5 Richbrook Business Park,
Mill Road, Bessbrook,
Newry, Co. Down BT35 7DT
T: (048) 30 825730

Mass Times
- Sunday 8:30am

Society of Saint Pius X



S S P X

The Society of St. Pius X is an international priestly society of common life without vows, whose purpose is the priesthood and that which pertains to it.

Since its foundation by Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre in 1970, the Society has formed priests according to the immemorial teachings of the Catholic Church. By offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in the traditional Latin rite and administering the sacraments according to the traditional rites in vigour in 1962 (before the Second Vatican Council 1962-5), the Society's priests perpetuate what the Church has taught and done throughout its history. By the exercise of the teaching office of its priests, the Society fights against the errors that presently afflict the Church.

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