

AGM

Wednesday, 15th November 2017, Egan House, St Michan's Church
Our **Annual General Meeting will take place on Wednesday, 15th November at 2pm**. If you come early you can avail of a light lunch from 1.15pm in Egan House. Everyone is welcome at the AGM, but do please email the office (hello@ministryofhealing.ie) or give us a call at 01 8727876 if you plan to come so that enough food can be prepared.

Annual Appeal

As an organisation that relies entirely on donations, legacies and investments received we remain ever grateful for all contributions from individuals, Diocesan Committees and parishes around the country. If you are able to financially contribute to the work of the Ministry then please send a cheque, money order, or donate directly to our AIB bank account number 04267097 (IBAN: IE58AIBK93122504267097).

Healer Prayer Groups

Turning our attention to the pain and suffering of others is one of the most difficult, but also one of the most authentic, acts a person of faith can do. In many parishes, groups of lay people have committed to doing just that, praying for those in need of God's healing in body, mind, or spirit. These groups of intercessors are called Healer Prayer Groups (or Unions) and their commitment is a great support to the Church's Ministry of Healing and to those who are upheld in loving prayer. We offer a booklet "**Called to Prayer - Information and Guidelines for Healer Prayer Groups**". We also offer support to existing groups and to those exploring setting up a new group.

Resources

CMH:I has designed and produced a selection of prayer cards and bookmarks for use in ministering to those who are ill, distressed, or grieving. Examples of these cards can be viewed on our website www.ministryofhealing.ie and requests for copies can be made through the office.

Contact

The CMH:I Board of Directors chairman is Rev Canon Dr Daniel Nuzum. Dr Iva Beranek is our Ministry Facilitator and can be contacted at iva@ministryofhealing.ie or 085 8671678. Olwyn Cross is our Administrator and can be contacted on Tuesdays and Fridays between 10am and 3pm at hello@ministryofhealing.ie or (01)8727876.

Newsletter
Autumn/Winter 2017

Church's
Ministry
of Healing
Ireland

The change from autumn to winter is a time when the natural cycle of nature in this part of the world invites us to reflect on the reality of change and the inevitable process of ageing and death. It is no coincidence that at this time of the year we often reflect both personally and liturgically on the memories and lives of those who have died. November in particular is a poignant month of remembrance on so many levels. What is it though to remember? For those who are bereaved, it can be an unsettling mixture of deep love and sadness at the same time; a deep love for the person we remember and of course a very human sadness because we miss them. In the Christian tradition we live daily with the mystery of death and life where as followers of Jesus Christ we proclaim his victory over death and rejoice in eternal life. While society and popular media often struggle to describe the reality of death through euphemisms such as 'passed away' our funeral liturgy gives a clear reminder that someone has died. Why do we find it hard to talk about death? As people of faith, we have an opportunity this November to talk meaningfully and pastorally about death and remembrance. We can do so knowing that yes it can bring a tear to our eye as we miss someone close to us, but that is OK. In fact it is important. To be remembered is to be cherished. We have an opportunity to offer healing as we accompany those who are bereaved, no one else can do their grieving but we can accompany them with a tender presence as we speak of their loved one.

As we celebrate All Saints' and All Souls' Day in early November may we be inspired by those who have nurtured us, inspired us and loved us. May we mention their names and in the timelessness of eternity feel their communion and fellowship.

As ever, thank you for your ongoing support of the ministry of the Church's Ministry of Healing: Ireland. Your support, prayers and encouragement are very much appreciated as we seek to serve you, Christ and his Church.

Rev Canon Dr Daniel Nuzum
Chairman, Church's Ministry of Healing: Ireland

Synods and Other Events

We have been attending Diocesan Synods in September and October, where we support the ministry around the country by providing our material and building connections. We are always grateful for the welcome we receive wherever we have our stand.

Washington D.C.

Iva was invited to take part in the Summit on 'Faith, Resistance and Healing' organised by 'Sojourners', which took place in Washington D.C. in June. It was at the same time a learning experience, as well as an opportunity to share some of the experiences from Ireland. There was a variety of workshops to attend and five core conversations where all the participants were in attendance. Iva took part in the final core conversation that was on healing. Over the course of three days she attended workshops on 'courageous conversations' and 'rape as a weapon of war'. It was both challenging and informative. Featured participants included famous writers as well as activists in the American social justice movement. The voice of black women was especially prevalent and impressive. Iva brought some of our prayer cards and printed material to the Summit, and whatever was left is now in Sojourners office for people to use.

Annual Thanksgiving Service

We held our Annual Thanksgiving Service on Saturday 17th June in Christ Church Cathedral. Our Chair, Rev Canon Dr Daniel Nuzum, was the preacher and he invited us to experience prayer ministry in silence, which was new to most of us and it touched many. Rev Dr Christine O'Dowd-Smyth was the celebrant, and Rev Dr Lady Stella Durand also took part. Although numbers were down on previous years those present had a memorable afternoon. We thank Christ Church Cathedral for their warm welcome.



left to right: Rev Dr Lady Stella Durand, Rev Dr Christine O'Dowd-Smyth, Dr Iva Beranek, Rev Canon Dr Daniel Nuzum. ©Lynn Glanville, D&G Diocesan Communications Officer

School Chaplains' Conference

Carol Casey and Dr. Iva Beranek attended the chaplaincy conference for Secondary School Chaplains, which took place on 12th October in Wilson's Hospital School. They were there from the morning where chaplains had an interactive workshop with Miriam Kierney. Miriam is a chaplain and a Development Worker for Chaplaincy Central from the UK. She was very creative, showing practical ways of how to help students engage with very real life and faith issues. In the afternoon, there was opportunity to present initiatives that different organisations offer to Secondary School. Carol and Iva spoke about our Power of Presence initiative. Carol and Iva were very impressed with the other organisations as well, and encouraged by meeting the chaplains who are passionate about what they do.

Mental Health and Wellbeing Summit

CMH:I had a stand at the Mental Health and Wellbeing Summit in Aviva on 13th October. This was the second time the Summit was organised in Ireland, and the second time we took part. Many people stopped by to talk to us, take our leaflets and prayer cards, or to buy one of the books that we have on offer. We engaged with a number of people in meaningful conversations, some of whom were also there at the Summit with their own organisation. Again, we were the only organisation that promotes healing and wellbeing from a spiritual and a church based background. We attended some of the talks, and people came to tell us that a few speakers mentioned that lack of spirituality and meaning will affect our mental health.

Wellspring

We continue to successfully offer our one day retreat, Wellspring, in St Patrick's Church, Dalkey. Our next day is coming up on Saturday 25th November. During Wellspring we try to create a space for people to meet with God on a very personal level. Out of this relationship with Jesus, healing comes. This day is an opportunity for you to rest and reflect on what is surfacing within you at this time of your life. During the day you will be nurtured in silence, encouraged to engage with Scripture, healing prayer and mindfulness. There will be time to walk outside; to participate in guided reflections; to avail of one-to-one discussion with a spiritual director; or just take time to relax and read. If you would like to attend, please contact the office. We would also be happy to bring Wellspring to your part of the country. Feel free to contact us if you would like to explore this option.