



A Life of Service

Sr Agnes Hunt has been a valued member of ICPO for over a decade. She was professed as a nun in 1952 and this year celebrates her diamond jubilee. In this edition of ICPO News we look back at her life's work and her unwavering commitment to prisoners and their families.

Sr Agnes Hunt first began working with prisoners in January 1978 when she started a placement in the RC Chaplaincy at HMP Wormwood Scrubs in London, following a number of years teaching at a secondary school in Zambia.

It was a huge change, both in terms of the work itself and the environment in which it was to be carried out. Of the move, Sr Agnes says, "I moved from the open plateau of Zambia way out in the bush, where the whole world is your parlour and the place is full of exotic blooms to a concrete jungle, which was Wormwood Scrubs".

This placement was part of a pastoral theology course Sr Agnes was undertaking and was supposed to last just one year. As it turned out, Sr Agnes was to spend nearly 16 years at Wormwood Scrubs, when at the end of her initial placement she was asked to take up the position of Assistant RC Chaplain.

Her relationship with the prisoners in Wormwood Scrubs and their families was the main reason she decided to stay. As she points out, "When someone tells you his whole life story and he's not going to tell anybody else...you can't just walk away".

During her time at Wormwood Scrubs Sr Agnes was responsible for chaplaincy receptions, which involved meeting every Catholic prisoner as he came into the prison. Each prisoner had already been through the official prison reception, which Sr Agnes describes as a very demeaning process, during which each prisoner has an intimate body search and is stripped, bathed and medically examined.

"I may be the first person they see alone after they come into prison. We discovered that prisoners can be so shocked and frightened that they can't really hear what you say so we typed out a letter for each prisoner. We put into the letter how they could see us again and what services went on in the Church...That first contact was very important".

Reflecting on her work, Sr Agnes sees the role of the prison chaplain as both spiritual and practical: "All the needs of prisoners, whatever they present with, can form part of it".



Sr Agnes hard at work in the ICPO Maynooth office

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The ICPO

It is estimated that at any one time, there are up to 1000 Irish people in prison overseas. The ICPO has contact with Irish people in prisons in more than twenty countries, the majority of whom are in the UK followed by the US, Australia and a range of countries in Europe, South and Central America and the Far East.

The Irish Council for Prisoners Overseas (ICPO) was established by the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference in 1985, in response to serious concerns regarding the number of Irish men and women in UK prisons. These deeply held concerns related to their trials and subsequent imprisonments.

In recent years the ICPO has been able to offer a more comprehensive service to prisoners and to expand our existing services to prisoners' families. Currently the ICPO works for all Irish prisoners wherever they are: it makes no distinction in terms of religious faith, the nature of the prison conviction, or of a prisoner's status.

The objectives of the ICPO are to:

- Identify and respond to the needs of Irish prisoners abroad, and their families;
- Research and provide relevant information to prisoners on issues such as deportation, repatriation and transfer;
- Focus public attention on issues affecting Irish prisoners (ill-treatment, racist abuse, etc);
- Engage in practical work in aid of justice and human rights for Irish migrants, refugees and prisoners at an international level;
- Visit Irish prisoners abroad where possible both in the UK and elsewhere.

STAFF

Maynooth

Joanna Joyce, Brian Hanley and Catherine Jackson.

London

Fr. Gerry McFlynn, Liz Power, Breda Power and Russel Harland.

Volunteers

Maynooth: Sr. Agnes Hunt, Eileen Boyle, Joan O'Cléirigh and Sr. Anne Sheehy.

London: Sr. Maureen McNally, Sr. Cecelia Snape, Rev Stephen McKenna, Sr Agnes Miller and Kathleen Walsh.

Interns

London: Ellena Jade Costello and Sara Thompson.

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How we may be contacted:

ICPO, Columba Centre

Maynooth, Co. Kildare, Ireland
Tel: 01-505-3156 Fax: 01-629-2363
Email: icpo@iecon.ie

ICPO, 50-52 Camden Square

London NW1 9XB, England
Tel: 0207-482-4148 Fax: 0207-482-4815
Email: prisoners@irishchaplaincy.org.uk

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IRISH CATHOLIC
BISHOPS' CONFERENCE



Society of St Vincent de Paul



AN ROINN GNÓTHAÍ EACHTRACHA
Department of Foreign Affairs

A Note From the Editor

In this edition of the newsletter we pay tribute to Sr Agnes Hunt, a volunteer with ICPO since 2000. This is a special year for Sr Agnes as she celebrates being 60 years professed. Over the years she has demonstrated incredible dedication to prisoners and their families and we are extremely lucky to have her as part of the ICPO team.

Bernie Martin provides an interesting account of the opening ceremony of the 50th International Eucharistic Congress, which was held in Dublin from 10th-17th June. The work of the Councils and Agencies of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference, including the work of the ICPO, was on show at the Eucharistic Congress.

We have included a summary of the report released by the Minister for Justice and Equality in April on the operation of the Transfer of Sentenced Persons Acts. This report shows the number of repatriation applications received and approved during the period 01 January 2011 to 31 December 2011. This edition also contains an update on the EU legislation due to be implemented in Ireland this year.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to our poetry page and to those who submitted book reviews. We are interested in hearing more about your daily lives so we are running an ICPO writing competition: "A Day in My Life". The best piece will win a prize of €50 and be published in the autumn edition of ICPO News. You can write or type your entries and send them to us by the closing date which is 31st August.

I would like to extend special thanks to Eoin O'Mahony, author of the sports update, and to Caitriona ní Bhaoil, author of this month's 'Smídín Gaeilge'. We are very grateful to them for their contribution to ICPO News.

I want to take this opportunity to welcome back Brian Hanley, former ICPO Coordinator, who has returned to the Maynooth office as a caseworker.

Finally, I would like to thank Eileen Boyle, Joan O'Cléirigh and the rest of the ICPO staff and volunteers for their hard work in putting this newsletter together.

Joanna Joyce
Coordinator

A Life of Service

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She believes that the spiritual dimension is important for everyone: "When you're locked up in a cell with no latch on the door and nothing in your hand and you're not able to read and you have nothing...people mightn't admit it but they do say a prayer...They mightn't even call it God, but you have to go beyond yourself to cope with it".

Working in the prison chaplaincy Sr Agnes says it was important to take each person as you found him. "Everybody has his own story, is his own person. Labelling people is dreadful". She also found it was important to share something of herself with the prisoners and to listen: "What we had to do was hold out a ray of hope and listen to them gently and not jump in with solutions".

Two of the things Sr Agnes enjoyed most during her time at Wormwood Scrubs were the evening discussion groups and the weekly choir practice. She has fond memories of the men sitting around the alter singing 'The Fields of Athenry' and 'Danny Boy' after they had finished practicing the hymns for the week ahead. Another positive aspect of working in the chaplaincy was the sense of teamwork between the staff and volunteers.

Sr Agnes found that the apostles in the prison were the prisoners themselves and she respected how the prisoners in Wormwood Scrubs treated one another. "What I admired in the prison was the way prisoners cared for one another and reached people that we couldn't always reach".

She first came into contact with the ICPO shortly after it was founded in 1985 and became involved with the organisation when she returned to Ireland in the late 1990s. 34 years after her first day in Wormwood Scrubs Sr Agnes remains committed to supporting prisoners. Every week she comes into our Maynooth office to write to prisoners serving life sentences in the UK, many of whom she has known since her time at Wormwood Scrubs.



Sr Agnes and Fr John Fitzpatrick in the Chaplaincy office at HMP Wormwood Scrubs in 1986

The commitment and empathy she demonstrates as she serves ICPO clients has touched many lives and is an inspiration to us all. Breda Power from the ICPO London office has known Sr Agnes for many years and pays her this tribute:

"Sr. Agnes has championed the plight of prisoners, particularly those serving lengthy sentences for many years now. Her commitment and contribution to the incarcerated is second to none. To the families she is a 'towering strength'; to those without family, a 'saving grace'. It is impossible here to put into words or to do justice to such a wonderful person. We would therefore just like to say "Thank you, Sr. Agnes, for your loving kindness, support, example and inspiration to all".

Joanna Joyce
ICPO Coordinator



50th International Eucharistic Congress

The 50th International Eucharistic Congress was held in Dublin from the 10th-17th of June. Bernie Martin provides an interesting account of the opening ceremony of the Eucharistic Congress at the RDS in Dublin.

The Arena of the RDS was lit with bright sunshine. On your left, as you entered, you could see the large stage which could be accessed by steps up to the altar in the centre. On either side of the stage was a see through dome structure which housed the choirs who would sing for the liturgies during the week. Beside these domes on either side was a large screen which would make it easier for the crowd to see what was taking place in the altar area.

The backdrop on the stage was a reproduction of the mosaic of the last supper by Fr Marko Rupnik. Fr Rupnik is a Slovenian Jesuit based in Rome, whose beautiful mosaics adorn churches at Fatima and Lourdes as well as the Pope's private chapel. Fr. Rupnik works in the ancient tradition of sacred iconography. The mosaic was commissioned for the College Chapel in the Irish College in Rome. It depicts Christ in the centre holding an open book which proclaims "ego sum pastor bonus: I am the Good Shepherd" and the expression on Christ's face reminds us of the loving care he has for the sheep that he has come to find, gather, lead and save. To Christ's right and left are the figures of Mary and John the Baptist, followed by Irish saints.

Beside Mary is Saint Patrick, Patron of Ireland, shamrock in his hand. Next is Saint Columbanus, one of the many Irish missionary saints that preached the Gospel in Europe during the seventh, eighth and ninth centuries. The last figure on the left-hand side of the mosaic is Blessed Columba Marmion, Beatified in September 2000, Marmion was a student at the Irish College and ordained for the Archdiocese of Dublin in 1881. On the right-hand side, behind Saint John the Baptist is Saint Oliver Plunkett. Next to Saint Oliver is Saint Brigid, the Patroness of Ireland,



A view of the opening ceremony

who holds her distinctive cross in her hands. The last figure on the right, depicted without a halo but with the palm of martyrdom, is Father Ragheed Ganni (1972-2007). Fr Ragheed, an engineering graduate from the University of Mosul, Iraq, was a student at the Irish College from 1996 to 2003. Ordained in 2001, he celebrated his first Mass in the Irish College Chapel. Following the completion of his studies, he returned to his native Mosul where he received many death threats, and experienced attacks on his family, his house and on his church, Fr Ragheed insisted that he should stay in Mosul to minister to his fellow Chaldean Catholics. He was murdered together with three sub-deacons as he emerged from celebrating Mass on 3 June 2007.

The mosaic is comprised of hundreds of colours and hundreds of thousands of stones and tiles, called tesserae. This is a very beautiful and fitting backdrop for the Eucharistic Congress altar.



The Mosaic in the Irish College in Rome

It was 1pm and many people were taking shelter in the covered stands away from the strong sunshine, the sky was cloudless and after the terrible rain of the previous week it was as if God was smiling a blessing of sunshine on us all. About halfway down the arena on either side RTÉ had installed two towers which had a large TV camera sitting on top of them. There was also a camera on a hoist near the right of the stage which swung forward and back over the crowd and provided close ups of the choirs and the stage.

The arena was filled with the sound of singing and the loud hum of people talking excitedly and greeting those they knew. A group of ladies from Zimbabwe were wearing brightly coloured dresses made out of material which depicted the logo of the Congress, Dublin and the dates of the Congress. The material was also used to make bright turban like hats which contrasted with their dark brown skin. These ladies came equipped with umbrellas which now were used to keep off the strong rays of the sun.



Two areas of seating at the front of the stage were set aside for Bishops and priests. These men, some very old, many middle aged and some young, were vested in long white robes and cream and orange stoles. There was great excitement in that area as priests caught up with old friends whom they had not seen in years. In the front few rows sat Cardinals and Bishops with pink skull caps, some wore mitred hats and all looked very warm in their long robes.

People were walking up and down the aisles, looking for friends or trying to get the best vantage spot from which to watch the proceedings. In different places people were trying to communicate in different languages, there was

much smiling and nodding and hand signals and everyone was in good humour. Volunteers in high vis jackets helped people to their seats, distributed bottles of water where needed and made sure those taking part in the ceremony were where they should be.

There was a steady stream of pilgrims arriving for the 3 o'clock mass and there was entertainment in the form of the Palestrina Choir, the Eucharistic Congress Choir, Maynooth Gospel Choir and soloists. Bryan Dobson of RTÉ and Roisin Ní Thomain appeared on the large screens and for a minute I thought I was at the Eurovision Contest. It was all very glamorous and professional and there was a great buzz in the crowd and a sense of intense expectation.

Bryan Dobson introduced the Irish Tenors who took their place halfway down the stadium in the raised area which contained the ambo for readings of the mass and also contained the famous Congress Bell which had visited almost every parish in the run up to the Eucharistic Congress.

The Tenors sang two songs the second of which was "The Prayer" made famous by Andre Bocelli. Bryan Dobson announced that they would be accompanied by the Dublin Deaf Choir for this song. Almost at once the crowd started paying attention and all watched intently as the blue robed figures took their place on the steps at the front of the altar.

How can a deaf choir sing, my companion asked? The Irish Tenors started singing:

"I pray you'll be our eyes,
and watch us where we go,
and help us to be wise
in times when we don't know.

Let this be our prayer
when we lose our way
Lead us to the place,
Guide us with Your grace
To a place where we'll
be safe."

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All eyes were on the stage as the choir started signing the words. Eight pairs of hands moved together in perfect synchronisation which added a spiritual depth and graceful beauty to the words we heard. For the first time that day the focus of the entire audience was on the stage. The song ended too soon and the choir left the stage to a massive applause. It was a very special moment and for me set the tone for the week to come.

Fifteen thousand people from all over the world converged on Dublin city in the name of Jesus Christ, Shepherd, Saviour, Prisoner, Redeemer, Son of God, for a week of talks, prayers, and meeting others. What would be the outcome of such a gathering in Ireland, will it help to renew the Church? Only time will tell.

Bernie Martin
ICPO Maynooth

About the Eucharistic Congress

- A Eucharistic Congress is an international gathering that normally takes place every four years.
- The aim of the Eucharistic Congress is to promote an awareness of the central place of the Eucharist in the life and mission of the Catholic Church.
- A Eucharistic Congress was last held in Dublin in June, 1932. Almost one million people attended the final mass which was held in the Phoenix Park in Dublin.
- The work of the Councils and Agencies of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference, including the ICPO, was highlighted at this Eucharistic Congress at a stand in the RDS.
- T-shirts worn by staff of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference at the Eucharistic Congress were embroidered by prisoners at Arbour Hill Prison in Dublin.

Eucharistic Congress Prayer

Lord Jesus,

You were sent by the Father

to gather together those who are scattered.

You came among us, doing good and bringing healing,

announcing the Word of salvation

and giving the Bread which lasts forever.

Be our companion on life's pilgrim way.

May your Holy Spirit inflame our hearts,

enliven our hope and open our minds,

so that together with our sisters and brothers in faith

we may recognise you in the Scriptures

and in the breaking of bread.

May your Holy Spirit transform us into one body

and lead us to walk humbly on the earth,

in justice and love,

as witnesses of your resurrection.

In communion with Mary,

whom you gave to us as our Mother

at the foot of the cross,

through you

may all praise, honour and blessing be to the Father

in the Holy Spirit and in the Church,

Now and forever.

Amen

Update from London ICPO Office

It's hard to believe that we are now half-way through the year! The past six months have been busy with the usual round of prison visiting and casework.

Prison visiting and outreach:

Our outreach service continues to expand. **Breda Power** now visits all the London prisons on a regular basis and does the follow-up casework. The female prisons, Downview and Holloway, are visited regularly by **Sr Agnes Miller** and **Kathy Walsh** respectively. **Sr Maureen McNally** has been visiting prisons in Devon and Dorset for many years. We have recently acquired the services of **Sally Murphy** from Irish Community Care Merseyside. Sally has agreed to visit five prisons in the north-west for us, including Styal prison near Manchester. **Kate O'Hara**, now visits Manchester prison on a regular basis and **Stephen Ashmead** of Manchester Irish Community Care looks after the Travellers there.

Fr Gerry McFlynn oversees all the prison visiting and casework and also visits prisons which have either not been visited before or in a long time. We hope to have volunteer prison visitors for the East Midlands and other regions in the coming months. The plan is to have volunteer prison visitors based in the regions who will visit one or more prisons and send their reports back to the London office for follow-up action. **Liz Power**, our main caseworker, deals with the casework resulting from the visits made by volunteers throughout the country. She also visits a couple of prisons herself from time to time. **Russ Harland** is employed one day per week as caseworker and **Ellena Jade Costello**, a volunteer, is a great help in the office with the casework. We also get a huge amount of help from **Declan Ganley**, who, apart from his other duties as administrator, still makes time to help with ICPO work. A good start has been made to our outreach service, but much remains to be done.

Thanks to the initiative of Breda Power and Paul Ryan, a wing officer at Brixton, in conjunction with Governor Mortimer, a small **arts and crafts 'hobby' project** has been set up for Irish prisoners on B wing. The project is funded by ICPO and to date has been very successful. Wing officer Ryan said: "It is great for the Irish Chaplaincy to have been such a help to the prisoners and what with the HMP Brix-

ton having such a strong link with the Irish past and present ... this will show people inside Brixton and outside the skills in arts and crafts that these prisoners be they Irish or from any other background have".



An example of some of the work achieved by the prisoners

Prisoners may be interested to learn that there is now a pressure group campaigning for the abolition of **IPP (Indeterminate Sentence for Public Protection)** sentences. Anyone interested in finding out more about the campaign should contact Amanda Goodall, IPP Prisoners Campaign, 24 Chevallier Street, Ipswich, IP1 2PD.

Transfers to prisons in Northern Ireland continue to be problematic. There are only three prisons operating there - Maghaberry, Magilligan and Hydebank - and all are full. Priority for places is given to those with current addresses in Northern Ireland and there is a waiting list for transfers.

Repatriation: The process can take up to 18 months to finalise and there is a sliding scale of priority requirements. Only those with strong family ties will be considered: parents, spouse, children. Aunts, uncles and cousins come well down the list.

Fr. Gerry McFlynn
ICPO Project Manager

Transfer Issues

Repatriation Figures 2011

In April the Minister for Justice and Equality released a report on the operation of the Transfer of Sentenced Persons Acts 1995 and 1997. This report shows the number of repatriation applications received and approved during the period 01 January 2011 to 31 December 2011.

Ireland has been a party to the Council of Europe Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons since the Transfer of Sentenced Persons Act came into effect in November 1995. The Minister's report states that the policy of the Convention is "to overcome the difficulties posed for prisoners serving sentences in foreign jurisdictions, such as absence of contact with relatives and differences in languages and culture. In this regard, it has been long established Government policy that, whenever possible, prisoners should be permitted to serve their sentences close to their families".

In 2011 28 new applications for repatriation were received. Of these applications, 19 were from the UK, three were from Spain, two were from Belgium and there was one each from Northern Ireland, the Netherlands, Costa Rica and Australia. One prisoner was transferred into this jurisdiction from Italy and five applications were refused. There were 32 inward applications active at the end of 2011.

Since the Act came into effect in Novem-

ber 1995, 445 applications for transfer into Ireland have been received and 142 prisoners have been transferred into Ireland from abroad.

Inward Transfers Processed in 2011:

Number of Applications Received in 2011	28
Number of Applications from previous years active at start of 2011	11
Number Transferred in 2011	1
Number Refused	5
Number Withdrawn	0
Number Deemed Closed	1
Number Released	0
Number of applications active at end of 2011	32

(Table A, Report from the Minister for Justice and Equality)

Transfer of Sentenced Persons Acts

There are a number of conditions that you must satisfy if you wish to be repatriated to Ireland under the Transfer of Sentenced Persons Acts 1995 and 1997:

- You must be an Irish national or have close ties with the country;
- The sentence imposed on you must be final and there must not be any outstanding appeals;
- There must be at least 6 months of your

Transfer Issues

sentence left to serve (except in exceptional circumstances);

- The offence you have been convicted of must also be an offence in Ireland;
- There must be three-way consent to the transfer- you must consent to the transfer and the two countries involved must consent to the transfer (i.e. the country in which you are serving your sentence and Ireland).

When an application for repatriation is made the Department of Justice and Equality must exchange information with the other country involved. This information will include a copy of the court judgment and reports from An Garda Síochána and the police force in the other country.

The length of time it takes for an application to be processed depends on the case but it currently takes on average 18 months. If you are applying for repatriation you need to be sure to supply accurate, up-to-date information to the Department of Justice and Equality. If inaccurate or inadequate information is supplied it might cause delays in processing the application.

The ICPO is grateful to the Department of Justice and Equality for allowing us to monitor repatriation applications on behalf of our clients.

EU Legislation on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons

The new EU legislation on the transfer of sentenced persons has not yet been implemented into Irish law. The legislation is due to be implemented this year but it is not clear when exactly this will happen.

Until the new legislation is implemented all prisoners must apply for repatriation to Ireland under the Transfer of Sentenced Persons Acts 1995 and 1997 (as set out above).

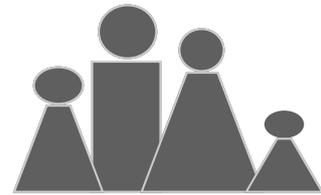
The new EU legislation only applies to those imprisoned in EU Member States so even after the legislation is implemented into Irish law those imprisoned outside of Europe will continue to apply for repatriation under the Transfer of Sentenced Persons Acts.

Even after the new legislation comes into effect prisoners will not automatically be transferred back to Ireland to serve the remainder of their sentence. The process for transfer under the new legislation is likely to be similar to the process under the existing legislation.

We will keep you informed of any developments in this area in future editions of ICPO News.

Joanna Joyce
ICPO Coordinator

FAMILY ISSUES



This section is for families who have a loved one in prison.
Do you have useful information that may be helpful to other families?
Have you a question you would like to see answered on this page in the future?
If so, please contact Anne Sheehy, Support Worker, ICPO, Maynooth.

Transferring Money to a Loved One in Prison

For some families, one of their most pressing concerns can be how to deal with requests from loved ones in prison asking for money. This money can be used to buy additional supplies from the prison canteen or, in some instances, to help prisoners buy basic necessities such as food or medicines. While a family may wish to help their relative, it is not always possible and certainly more difficult now in these challenging economic times. For those who do wish to send money it can be difficult to understand the various prison rules and procedures which govern sending money to a prisoner.

ICPO can and do send grants from its Hardship Fund to prisoners in dire need. However, with increasing demands on limited resources, it is not possible to meet every request.

This article looks to provide some guidance on what to do if you wish to send money to a family member in prison. Given the many countries in which Irish people are imprisoned and the different rules prisons apply, it is not possible to give specific advice in each case. The best advice is to contact ICPO Maynooth or London in advance of trying to send money, so as to avoid potential disappointment and frustration.

UK

Prisons in England and Wales generally accept **sterling** cheques, drafts and postal orders. While a person **cannot** buy a sterling postal order in the Republic of Ireland they **can** purchase a sterling draft from a post office or bank. It will take approximately 3 weeks from the time the prison receives the draft to when it is lodged in the prisoner's account. Families need to be aware of this so they can plan ahead, for example, if they wish to send something for Christmas or a birthday. Families also need to be aware that there is a charge when buying a sterling draft. The prisoner's name and number must be written on the back of the draft in addition to the senders name and full address. Depending upon the prison, the draft must be made out to specific parties. For example, some prisons require drafts to be made out to 'Her Majesty's Prison Service' while others need to be made out to 'The Governor'. This needs to be clarified with the prison prior to posting the sterling draft and ICPO can advise you as to what is required by the various prisons.

Rest of the World

In this short article it is not possible to go through the various rules pertaining to each country. The best advice is to contact ICPO as to how money can be transferred. Consular Services at the Department of Foreign Affairs in Dublin and ICPO prison visitors have assisted the ICPO in transferring money to prisoners. Cheques, money orders and Western Union transfers are utilised depending on the circumstances and often it is necessary to have somebody in the country where a person is imprisoned to facilitate the transfer of money. Some prisons have individual prisoner accounts into which money can be lodged directly from Ireland.

While it may be difficult, it is usually possible to find a way of transferring money to a prisoner overseas. ICPO staff have experience in transferring money to prisons all around the world and will be happy to assist you. Please contact ICPO Maynooth at 00353 1505 3156 or ICPO London at 0044 207482 5528.

Brian Hanley
ICPO Caseworker



Family Information Day 2012

Our Family Information Day was held in All Hallows College, Drumcondra, Dublin on Feb 14th 2012. Despite the fact that it was Valentine's Day it was lovely to see so many family members attend. Some travelled long distances; thankfully the weather was pleasant.



The day started with thirty minutes meditation '**Taking Care of Yourself**' by Sr. Anne Sheehy, ICPO Maynooth, which helped people to relax. Catherine Jackson, ICPO Maynooth, spoke on '**Applying for a Transfer**'. Families were particularly interested in this topic as visiting in some cases is very difficult because of the location of some prisons.

Charlie Sweeney, Chaplain at HMP Onley & HMP Rye Hill, spoke at length on '**Helping someone to Prepare for Release**'. This can be a very difficult time for families and prisoners alike, particularly if there has been a long absence due to incarceration. There are so many emotions to be considered and Charlie touched on many of these. A former ICPO client spoke and was an excellent example of '**Life after Prison**' and availing of the facilities available to prisoners on release.

Lunch break gave families the opportunity to mingle and discuss their situation with others, many of whom had problems greater than their own. They could also meet the speakers and arrange a one to one with them in the time allocated at the end of the programme.

After lunch Breda Power, ICPO London, gave an update on prisons in the UK. This was followed with the **Open Forum**. Questions from the floor were addressed by all speakers and families found this extremely helpful.

Joan O'Cléirigh
ICPO Maynooth

Liz Power, London Office National Caseworker, and I joined our colleagues in Maynooth, who organised a very well attended and successful Family Day in February this year.

The day got off to an excellent start with a relaxation session given by Sr Anne Sheehy. As in the words of one of ICPO's family members, "I have never been this relaxed before, not even before the nightmare".

Following Sr Anne's wonderful meditation there was a host of guest speakers talking on various prison issues including Repatriation and Preparing for Release. After the lovely meal provided by ICPO Maynooth, where staff and clients could sit together and chat, Liz and I brought an update from London. The feedback during the day was that useful and interesting information was delivered and a kind of feeling of being taken care of - albeit for just one day.

The event gave Liz and I the opportunity to meet families of some of our clients as well as the opportunity to spend the day working with colleagues in Maynooth. It was particularly enjoyable to have the pleasure of Sr. Agnes' company on the day.

Breda Power
ICPO London Caseworker

Preparing for Release

This article aims to answer some of the questions you may have if you are preparing for release from prison overseas. Making the transition can be difficult and, if possible, it is best to begin preparing for release well in advance.

Will I be deported?

This depends on the country in which you are detained. Some countries will automatically deport an overseas prisoner if they have served a certain amount of time in prison or if they have any previous criminal convictions. It is very important that you hold on to whatever documentation you are given in respect of your imprisonment and subsequent deportation. This material will be helpful in obtaining benefits.

Will I be entitled to social welfare?

To be entitled to certain social welfare payments you must satisfy the *habitual residence condition*. This just means that you have a close link to Ireland. Proving that you are habitually resident here relies heavily on the facts and applications are dealt with on a case by case basis. Deportation is usually considered to be an exception to the habitual residence condition, i.e. people who are deported are not subject to the habitual residence condition. This is why ICPO clients are encouraged to keep all paperwork relating to their deportation. We can refer you to *Cross-care Migrant Project*, an information and referral organisation for migrants in vulnerable situations, and they will be able to advise you on this issue.

How can I find accommodation?

There are a number of residential programmes available to help people who have recently been released from prison and ICPO may be able to refer you to one of these programmes if it is suitable to your needs. If you wish to get private rented accommodation you may be entitled to rent supplement.

How can I find a job?

While in prison it is a good idea to avail of any work and training opportunities that are available as this may help you to get a job when you are released. If you would like help in accessing further training or in getting advice about employment ICPO can refer you to *The Linkage Programme*, which aims to place people with an offending background in employment.

You may need to get a Personal Public Service Number (PPSN) if you do not already have one. You will need to fill out an application form and provide proof of your identity. You will be required to produce certain documents, including the long version of your birth certificate and photographic ID, such as your passport. If you need help in getting these documents please contact ICPO.

You may be entitled to Jobseeker's Allowance while you look for work and you can apply for this at your Social Welfare Local Office.

Will I be entitled to free healthcare?

If your income is below a certain level you may be entitled to a medical card. This allows you to visit the doctor free of charge. You must have a PPSN in order to apply for a medical card. You can get an application form for a medical card from your Local Health Office when you return to Ireland.

A Cautionary Tale

I am writing this at the suggestion of one of our clients in a European prison. He recently found out that he and his family had been scammed by someone passing himself off as a lawyer. This man charged our client's family a substantial sum of money and now that a trial date has been set, it turns out that he is not a lawyer.

As we all know hindsight is 20/20 but our client did mention that thinking back there were some suspicious signs. The fake attorney always had an excuse as to why he could not visit his client in prison. Legal visits are often held in private and at times that are not available to the general public. As a result lawyers are usually vetted by the prison authorities to determine that they really are lawyers so a fake lawyer would probably not take the chance of visiting someone in prison. Another sign was there was no indication of the lawyer's name anywhere on his letterhead.

Remember it is easy enough to set up a website and to have fake stationary printed up. Most embassies or consulates will have a list of English speaking lawyers. The embassies/consulates will not be in a position to recommend a lawyer but at least someone appearing on a list provided by an embassy/consulate is likely to actually be a lawyer.

Catherine Jackson
ICPO Caseworker

ICPO Writing Competition "A Day in My Life"

We know from reading the letters you write to us here in ICPO that you really enjoy reading stories by your fellow Irish prisoners in many countries throughout the world. They help to give you a sense that you are not alone and that many others are going through similar experiences.

With that in mind we have decided to run a competition to encourage more people to share their experience. The title of the article is '**A Day in My Life**' and it should be between 600 and 800 words.

The competition is open to all ICPO clients. A prize of €50 (or equivalent) will be awarded for the best entry which will be published in the autumn edition of ICPO News. Other entries may be published in future editions.

A good story might include some of the following:

- Some of your thoughts on how you found yourself to be in prison;
- A typical day in your life there;
- Conditions in the prison;
- Refer to the things you do to pass the time - hobbies, courses etc.;
- How you have coped and more importantly, your hopes and dreams for the future.

Your entries (which can be handwritten or typed) must reach us here at: ICPO, Columba Centre, Maynooth, Co Kildare no later than **31st August 2012**.

P o e t r y C o r n e r



My Pen

The delicate texture it leaves when you script
Tells a story about the person and the pen you've
picked
Parker, ballpoint, gel and bic,
A pencil is best used if drawing a pic.

Bullies

Bullies try to act all big but
Soon back down after you give them a dig

Bullies hide behind a bad boy structure
Bullies push you to the point of destruction.

Ninety nine per cent of bullies were bullied them-
selves
So think bullying others will help.

Pay somebody to give me a crack
Don't do it yourself in case I hit you back.

Prison Life

My prison cell is small and tidy
I have a bed and my son's picture beside me

Three and a half years is a long, long time
Especially when I haven't committed a crime.

My solicitor's trying to get an appeal
And the probation don't care how you feel.

I've wrote to John Prescott and my local MP
Wish I'd never bothered, the good it's done me.

I've wrote to those who are in a position
I also wrote to the criminal cases review commis-
sion.

L.W., UK

The Hero to Zero

There's rules in prison that go unspoken
We have them there not to be broken
To grass some that's doing time

Now that's what you call a crime
To sneak around just like a spy
I thought I really knew this guy

He smiles so loud he shakes your hand
He thinks he's clever and oh so grand
And all the time you're taken in
At times you've even worshipped him

His stories sound really brave
But behind your back he digs your grave
He don't care and he don't think
About the others in this clink

One day soon he will have to run
He hasn't thought about what he's done
What he's done, it is not nice
His freedom comes at any price
Those prison rules that should not be broken
Those dirty words that are never spoken
I hope he sleeps well at night
I wouldn't like to have his life
He really has been a fool
And now he's just the prison stool.

T.M., Thailand

Beyond the Dreaming

Despairing poets rip their hearts out
In blind self tortured rage;
As like butterflies; captured passion dies
Eloquently nailed on bloody page.

For words are but random fragments
Of creation's divine harmony;
The shattered debris of a perfection
That even just glimpsed ceases to be.

They gaze upon the gypsy camp fires;
Once so bright now burning low;
Restless spirits forever condemned
Always to wander with nowhere to go.

But through early morns mountain mists
With untamed heart; deep celtic soul;
Along the ancient sacred secret paths;
Róisín Dhu my love and I shall ever stroll.

James Finn, UK

BOOK REVIEW

ANGLO REPUBLIC By Simon Carswell

Names, places, dates- a close-up of the shocking and unbelievable way of banking and regulation in Ireland.

A runaway train comes to mind while reading this very detailed, well written and entertaining (if it weren't real) story.

The END of the PARTY By Bruce Arnold and Jason O'Toole

An enlightening tale of complete and utter mismanagement and incompetency. This book, broadly and accurately, with no punches pulled, describes the well deserved end of a political party by self destruction.

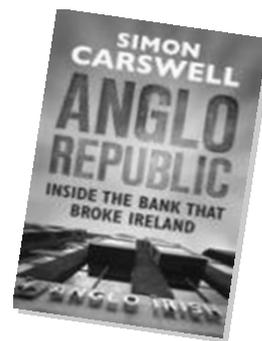
A no-holds barred, as is proper, expose of the out of control, law breaking deserters of the Constitution and the People of Ireland by the very people entrusted by

However, inevitably derailment came as there were no superheroes to pull the brakes- in fact no one even knew how to pull the brakes with disastrous consequences. Inadequate oversight, inadequate consequences.

the people. Not only Cowen and Lenihan but all their cronies and yes-men are exposed starkly for once and for all.

Well written, detailed and fascinating, not to mention depressing, for all Irish citizens and diaspora.

M.W., USA



PAVANE By Keith Roberts

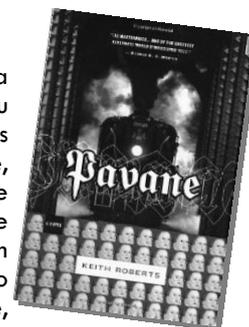
An alternative history/world, book originally written and published in 1966, Pavane is a must read. The writer places it in his top ten books he has ever read.

A timeless tale which crosses from then to now and is not dated. Anyone who indulges in this genre will as SF Review stated 'linger over the last few pages,

unwilling to let it end'. And no truer words have ever been said.

Pavane starts in 1588 with the assassination of Queen Elizabeth allowing the Spanish Armada to take England down in defeat, thus changing the history of the world in which the church reigns supreme and holds technology back to the level of the steam

locomotive. But the ending in a twist upon a twist is just why you will be unwilling to let the pages end. And will have many people, including this writer, going to the lengths of wanting to visit the very places named therein, even though it is fiction. Just to see. So beg, borrow and if need be, (sorry ICPO) steal this book, for it's worth the read.



OFF ARMAGEDDON REEF, BY SCHISM RENT ASUNDER, BY HERESIES DISTRESS, A MIGHTY FORTRESS By David Weber

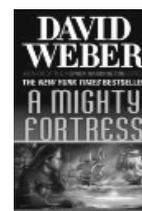
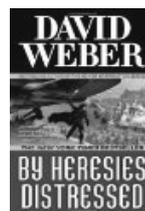
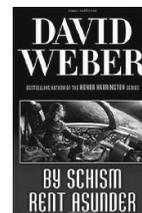
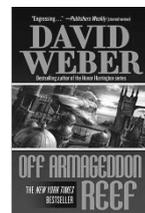
A four book series with more to come. Earth had fought for forty years a ruthless species known as the Gbaba. The end had come for earth so mankind's only hope for survival was Operation Ark, earth's final colonization to built a new civilization hidden from the Gbaba.

Nimue Alban volunteered to serve on the flagship of the fleet meeting the Gbaba knowing that she and all aboard would die. Which is just what happened. She was surprised when she awoke on a new world called Safehold and that the administrators of Operation Ark created a false and brutally suppressive world in which forbidden technology cost the ultimate price. A faction of the administrative body opposed the monstrous creation and gave Numue a hidden cache of

technology and the body of an android which fully contained her memories. But in a world dominated by men, she must present herself as a man, thus becomes Merlin Athrawes the mystic warrior monk and unknown cypernetic avatar, who battles the 'Group of Four' to show how potential the power of human freedom truly is.

Great read, can't wait for the next book in the series.

P.K., USA





Sports

By Eoin O'Mahony

Gaelic Games

May and June belong to the new championship season and already, in football at least, there have been a few surprises to make this season an intriguing one. Already we have seen Kerry beaten by Cork who were by far the stronger team on the first full weekend of fixtures and Sligo overcoming Galway in Salthill to make it to the Connacht final again. Dublin seem a little slow to going for the reigning champions but expect the boys in blue to come out of Leinster with few teams seem willing or able to knock them from their powerful position.

In Ulster, Tyrone rallied late in the second half to derail an Armagh comeback in their Ulster Football Championship quarter final at the Athletic Grounds in Armagh. Mickey Harte's charges led for the majority of the second half but the sending-off of Kevin Dyas on 55 minutes proved to be a catalyst for an Armagh revival. Wexford edged out Longford and Carlow and Meath will have to play again with a 1-12 draw. In the Senior Hurling Championship Laois, Westmeath, Dublin and Offaly all came through their opening fixtures and Tipp edged out Limerick. It is still too early to say who will lift silverware in September.

Soccer

Euro 2012 (Poland & Ukraine) kicked off on June 8th with one of the hosts, Poland,

playing Greece. The game was marked by great elation at two of Europe's lesser footballing nations celebrating a new tournament of soccer. It turned into a bit of a farce with two sendings-off that allow questions of UEFA's referee training programme to persist. Over the days that followed, many of the games reflected the high quality of the 16 teams' players. For example, Russia over-ran a puzzled Czech Republic 4-1 and Spain and Italy drew in their opening game but the quality of the play was excellent. Spain and Italy are two of Ireland's group C opponents with an opening game against Croatia. It is a cliché to say that there are no easy games in international football, particularly at this level. Trapattoni's team could not face a harder challenge. The opening game against Croatia saw the boys in green go down three goals to one on a torridly wet night in Poznan. Croatia opened the scoring with an easy header. Ireland equalised a few minutes later to the delight of the 25,000 Irish fans in the stadium and millions watching on television and the web. Two soft goals against a dispirited Ireland team followed either side of half time and the second half saw the Croats over-run the midfield, particularly around Tottenham's Modric.

Ireland now face Spain and Italy, between them the champions of the last three championships in World Cup 2006, Euro 2008 and World Cup 2010. Make no bones about it, this is going to be a very hard job for Ireland and chances are that we will



not make it out of Group C. This has not stopped many thousands of Irish fans travelling across to Poland to cheer on their team and have some craic. Perhaps attention might shift then, if they make it, to England's chances who have a slightly easier round of games in Group D: Sweden, Ukraine and an inconsistent France.

The domestic league is taking a break for now but it is becoming clearer which team might snatch the league title from Dublin's grip: Sligo Rovers. Under new manager Ian Baraclough, Rovers go into the mid-season break in the Airtricity League Premier Division six points clear after they drew 0-0 with Bohemians in what was a highly entertaining game in Dalymount Park. After 14 games, St Patrick's Athletic take second spot with Shamrock Rovers and Drogheda United trailing on 24 and 23 points respectively. While out of the cup the Bit O'Red won two years in a row, it remains to be seen if they can keep their winning ways until later in the season and wrest that title from Tallaght. It would be the first time since the 1976-77 season that they would win it.

Olympics, London 2012

Since 1948, this is the closest Ireland has ever been to staging an Olympic Games of its own. With the Olympic flame currently doing a tour of Britain

and Ireland, there is no greater symbol of the lead into the world's greatest track and field event. Expect strong performances from Ireland's greatest world champion, Bray's Katie Taylor who may well be the sensation of the games, it being women's boxing first time. Taylor has just won her fourth successive World title at the 2012 AIBA Women's World Boxing Championship having won the Gold Medal at the EU Women Boxing Championship last year. In athletics, there is not too much hope for Ireland's athletes as funding for programmes has been cut. However, Gillick in middle distance running and Rheinisch in sailing might well prove to rallying points for Ireland fans. No doubt many people will take advantage of our proximity to London during the games and travel across the sea to see the great spectacle which always finds new stars to shine.



London 2012 Olympic Torch
(www.london2012.com)



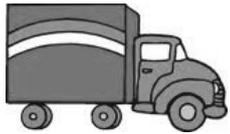
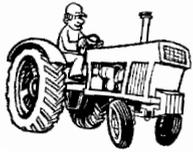
Smídín Gaeilge

Corn na hEorpa - European Cup

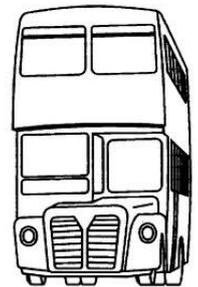
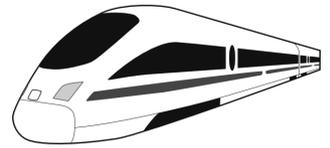
Caitheadh isteach	Coh-ha-ishtock	Throw-in
Ionsaigh	Un-sig	Attack
Cosaint	Cus-int	Defence
Bainisteoir	Bon-ish-tore	Manager
Lucht leanúna	Luct lan-oo-na	Fans
Ionaide	Un-ad-a	Substitute
Cúl Báire	Cool Boy-ra	Goalkeeper
An Feadóg Deireanach	On Fad-owg Dare-nock	Final Whistle
Ag deireadh an Lae	Egg Dare-a on lay	At the end of the Day
Cluiche an Lae	Cli-ha on lay	Match of the Day

Liathróid	Lee-road	Ball
Cúl an Eangaí	Cool-on Ang-gee	Back of the Net
Cic Píonóis	Kick-Pee-no-sh	Penalty Kick -
Lárchiorcal	Lawr C-ur-cal	Centre Circle
Buntáiste	Bun-taw-shta	Advantage
Saorchic	Sayr Kick	Free Kick
Cic Cúinne	Kick Coo-nya	Corner Kick
As an imirt	Os on Imirt	Offside
Liathróid láimhe	Lee-road law-va	Handball
Titim bhréagach	Tit-im bray-gok	Dive
Ag cur bac leis an imirt	Egg Cur boc lesh on imirt	Obstruction
Carta Dearg/Buí	Cor-ta Jarg/Bwee	Red/Yellow Card

Transport



B M W D Y S T I E W M P B P W
 O L O R T R A I N L A M I O C
 Y B R T A X E R D Y R L C Y V
 P O H C O M E D N A T R Y Y A
 L I T D J R C A R C E Y C A N
 T O H B P E B Q J T R R L C G
 R R O S L V V I P S R R E H K
 G A U V E J J O K R Y E V T M
 T D I C K O C E Y E P F P A Z
 A A A N K I N E T O M Y I U T
 T F A R L H D A D V H W A G A
 W S G E Q F G B C J V I K V S
 L Z H A E R O P L A N E J U L
 F A O J J A H I G K H Z B J X
 M M X E A E O Q Q M H R H M P



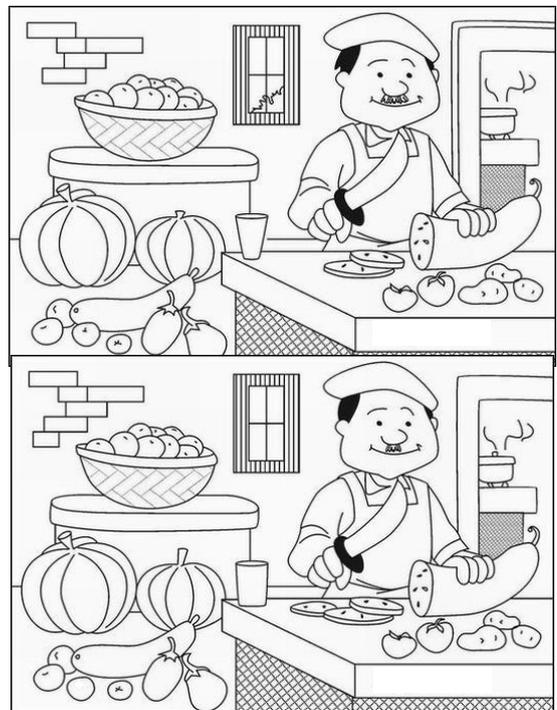
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|-----------|---------|------------|--------|---------|
| Aeroplane | Bicycle | Boat | Bus | Canoe |
| Car | Ferry | Helicopter | Jet | Lorry |
| Motorbike | Raft | Ship | Tandem | Tractor |
| Train | Tram | Truck | Van | Yacht |

SuDoKu

	8	2	6				4	
9			1					
	1		5			2		
		4				7		
6	3			4			2	8
		9				3		
		6			3		5	
					6			3
	9				8	6	7	

Each Sudoku grid has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing. Enter digits from 1 to 9 into the blank spaces. Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, as must ever 3x3 square.

Can you spot 10 differences between these two pictures?



Spot the Difference Answers: 1- Bricks on wall; 2- Window View; 3-Chef's hair; 4-Chef's moustache; 5-Door frame; 6-Pot on Stove; 7-Pumpkin stem; 8-Apple stem; 9: Glass shape; 10: Number of cucumber slices.



RECENT EVENTS IN IRELAND

Ireland Knocked Out of Euro 2012



Ireland were the first team knocked out of the European Football Championship after losing 4-0 to Spain



50th International Eucharistic
Congress Held in Dublin



*The opening mass at the Eucharistic
Congress in Dublin*

Ireland's Favourite Painting

A recent RTÉ documentary entitled 'Masterpiece: Ireland's Favourite Painting' asked people to vote for the nation's favourite painting. The winner was this piece by Frederic William Burton entitled 'The Meeting on the Turret Stairs', which hangs in the National Gallery of Ireland.

Burton was born in Corofin, Co Clare in 1816 and painted this piece in 1864. It depicts a meeting between Hellelil and Hildebrand, a princess and soldier who have fallen in love. The princess's father has deemed the soldier to be an unsuitable match for his daughter and ordered that he be killed.



The painting can only be viewed for three hours each week because it is so sensitive to light.