

***LAUNCH***  
*of the*  
***Year of Celebration in Honour of the***  
***of 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary***  
*of the*  
***Founding of the Presentation Congregation***



***‘TAKE YOUR FLAME’***

Nano Nagle Place, Cork  
20 December 2025

## ***Introduction***

Sr Ann Marie Quinn  
Chair of the Launch Event Committee

## ***Formal Welcome and Opening Address***

Sr Sharon Fagan, Congregational Leader  
Union of Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

## ***Special Greetings from Across the Globe***

Sr Anne Lane, Society President  
Presentation Society of Australia and Papua New Guinea  
(to be read by Ms Clare Axman, Core Team)

Sr Carmen Hernandez, Congregational Leader  
Sisters of the Presentation, Dubuque, Iowa

Sr Stephanie Still, President  
International Presentation Association Board of Directors  
(to be read by Sr Noreen Flaherty, IPA Treasurer)

## ***Ritual***

Sr Miriam Martin, Sr Prema Antony, Sr Margaret Coleman  
Ritual Committee

## RITUAL

### **Gathering Song: Silent Night**

Silent night, holy night / All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child  
Holy infant so tender and mild  
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night / Shepherds quake at the sight  
Glories stream from heaven afar/ Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia  
Christ, the Saviour is born / Christ, the Saviour is born.

Silent night, holy night / Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth / Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

*Soloist and Music Leader: Ms Gemma Magner*  
*Violins: Aoibheann and Clodagh O'Driscoll*  
*Piano: Sr Anne O'Leary*

### **Opening Prayer: Calling on the Spirit**

*Prayer Leader: Sr Miriam Martin*

## GOSPEL

### A Reading from the Gospel of Luke (4:16-21)

Reader: *Sr Grace McKernan*

Then Jesus came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. As was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath. And when He stood up to read, the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. Unrolling it, He found the place where it was written:

*The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because He has anointed Me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.*

Then he rolled up the scroll, returned it to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fixed on him, and he began by saying, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

The word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God

## NANO'S STORY

**Song:** *Take your Flame*

*Sr Miriam Martin and Ms Gemma Magner*

**Dramatic Presentation ~ ‘Nano Nagle’ by Ms Judie Chalmers**

**Nano’s Companions ~ *Mary Fouhy, Elizabeth Burke and Mary Ann Collins***

*(Srs Prema Anthony, Frances Crowe, Mary Ivers)*

**Reading: From the South Presentation Annals**

*Reader: Sr Mary Hanrahan*

*1776 24<sup>th</sup> January*

*On this day, our holy and venerable Foundress, Miss Nano Nagle, received the Holy Habit of her newly associated Congregation; and the name of Saint John of God, being then in the fifty-fourth year of her age. Her three companions had the happiness of being received with her; they having chosen as their patrons Saints Joseph, Augustine and Angela.*

*From this year we may date the foundation of the “Presentation Order”. On first establishing it, Miss Nagle did not ambition it receiving any other appellation than that of a “Congregation” - She intended its members to be devoted solely to works of charity among the poor – Her views were so humble, that it did not occur to her to bind them to enclosure, or, by solemn vow – she merely wished them to become (what she herself was) the servants of the Poor; and to be free, to seek them out, in their hovels of misery and want, and woe – she wished them to deserve its being said of them, as it was of her, that, “there was not a single garret in Cork, which she did not visit, and did not know” – this was the road pointed out by Miss Nagle, to be*

*trodden by members of her Congregation – She walked in it herself – her example traced the way to them – and they faithfully followed it.*

## **RITUAL OF LIGHT ('Passing the Flame')**

Invitation to stand and receive Nano's flame. *Those online are invited to light their own lantern / candle.*

### **Song: Take Your Flame**

Take your flame from Nano's lantern,  
Its fire still burning bright  
Take your flame from her lantern  
Let it be your guiding light  
Take your flame, join the circle of all  
who've gone before  
Take your flame from Nano's lantern,  
The heart of love ablaze once more.



Take your flame from Nano's lantern,  
Its fire is burning bright  
Take your flame from her lantern  
It will be your guiding light  
Take your flame, join the circle welcome all that's yet to be;  
Take your flame from Nano's lantern,  
The fire of love ablaze eternally.

**Reading from the Annals:** "If I could be of service ... in any part of the globe ..."

*Reader: Sr Anne Lyons*

Continuing to read from 24 January 1776 Annals

*(Nano's) zeal was most unremitting and most ardent. Those who have been intimately acquainted with her, have declared, that she would cheerfully have gone to the very extremities of the earth, could she by this means, promote the salvation of a fellow creature.*

**Roll Call of the Countries: *'The Flame Expands from Ireland'***

***1775 Ireland***

***1833 Canada: Newfoundland***

***1836 England & 1999/2015 the Holy Land***

***1842 India***

***1854 United States of America & Foundations***

***1866 Australia***

***1895 Pakistan***

***1949 Zimbabwe***

***1951 New Zealand***

***1960 Philippines***

***1968 Papua New Guinea***

***1970 Zambia***

***1982-1989 Latin America (Chile, Ecuador, Peru)***

***1999 Thailand***

*Celtic Alleluia: Sung and repeated*

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

**Litany for World Peace** (adapted from [www.stjamesstjames.org](http://www.stjamesstjames.org))

*Readers: Sr Riffat Sadiq and Mr Pat Breslin*

God our Father, we bring before you our world – an amazing world filled with troubles and divisions, a world touched by conflicts and disasters – a world that you have created in beauty and love. In this time of jubilee and the celebration of our Lord’s birth we pray together for peace:

**Response (All): Make us one in your peace.**

For wisdom in choosing the paths of peace ... **R.**

For solidarity with the suffering of the dispossessed ... **R.**

For generosity in sharing fairly the world’s resources ... **R.**

For respect in conversation with people of other faiths,  
and none, ... **R**

For grace to change and be changed as you love and  
teach us ... **R.**

For the leaders of all the nations, looking for ways to work  
together beyond fear and suspicion ... **R.**

For people of goodwill, responding generously to the needs of suffering communities ... **R.**

For the Church and all who lead and serve within it, that it continues to be a beacon of light and hope for the world ... **R.**

For all who work for good inspired by the light of Nano's lantern ... **R.**

For Christ to bring healing and comfort for those we love, who are sick or in mourning ... **R.**

For Christ to bring us, with all who have died in faith, to a joyful resurrection .... **R.**

God of all peace, give us your light and peace as this day we celebrate together the birth of the Presentation Congregation and the flames of love and peace you have brought with Nano's lantern. Be with us as we prepare for the great feast of the birth of your Son.

In this time of jubilee and thanksgiving,  
we make our prayer with joy through Jesus  
Christ our Lord,

**All: Amen.**



## **SOLEMN BLESSING**

**by +Bishop Fintan Gavin, Bishop of Cork and Ross**

Let us pray:

Lord our God, in your loving kindness

You sent your Son to be our shepherd and guide.

Continue to send workers into the vineyard to sustain  
and direct your people.

Bless the sisters and extended members of the family of the  
Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Let your Spirit  
uphold them always as they continue to walk in the footsteps  
of the Lady of the Lantern making the values of Justice and  
Equality at the heart of all they continue to do.

Lord God,

from the abundance of your mercy

enrich the members of the Congregation of the Presentation  
of the Blessed Virgin Mary on the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
of their foundation and safeguard them.

May they always be thankful

and continue to live lives as followers of Venerable Nano  
Nagle in praise and glory of you now and always.

**All: Amen**

The Lord be with you

**All: And with your spirit.**

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

**R: Amen**

May He let His face shine up on you and show you His mercy. **R.**

May He turn His countenance towards you and give you His peace. **R.**

And may Almighty God bless all of you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **R.**

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### **CLOSING HYMN: CITY OF GOD**

Awake from your slumber! Arise from your sleep!

A new day is dawning for all those who weep.

The people in darkness have seen a great light.

The Lord of our longing has conquered the night.

**Refrain: Let us build the city of God.**

**May our tears be turned into dancing!**

**For the Lord, our light and our love,  
has turned the night into day!**

We are sons of the morning we are daughters of day.

The One who has loved us has brightened our way.

The Lord of all kindness has called us to be  
a light for his people to set their hearts free. (Chorus)

God is light in him there is no darkness.

Let us walk in his light, his children, one and all.

O comfort my people make gentle your words  
Proclaim to my city the day of her birth. (Chorus)



*“A sincere Thank You to the members of the  
Launch Event Committee and to all involved for  
making this such a wonderful celebration.”*

*The Presentation Sisters*

*Launch Event Committee*

*Sr Ann Marie Quinn, Sr Miriam Martin, Sr Prema Antony  
Sr Anna Sheehy, Ms Mary Rourke, Mr Pat Breslin*

