

LAUNCH
of the
Year of Celebration in Honour of the
of 250th 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 24th 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)

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 250th 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*

