



Susan Dowling

Our host for this evening

Susan studied in the College of Music under the instruction of Ms. Ulliman. She also studied under the esteemed late Cait Cooper – Lanigan, and the late Mother Cecily, while a student in Loreto College, Crumlin. She has 40 plus years' experience in Music Liturgy and is passionate about this work especially music in her funeral Ministry. She has sung at many prestigious services while a member of the Dublin Diocesan Group under the instruction of Fr. Pat O'Donoghue. Susan keeps herself updated with new work and has a wide repertoire. She has performed on radio and television on many occasions. Susan completed a Graduate Diploma in Leadership and Pastoral Care, in All Hallows College, Drumcondra in 2010 and was the family mass coordinator in St. Agnes's Church for 16 years and in Holy Spirit Church, Greenhills... she is a Funeral Director and Soloist with Brian McElroy Funeral Director in Crumlin Village.

Susan says.....

"I believe music can touch and heal the hearts of many, at a time when words can be difficult to find.



Mary Louise O' Donnell

Our Musical Director for the Evening

Mary Louise is a musician and musicologist who has performed extensively throughout Ireland, Europe, Africa and Asia as a soloist and with various ensembles. She began her Irish harp studies with Sr Eugene McCabe and later studied pedal harp with the celebrated French harpist Sebastian Lipman. She has always been fascinated with the history of harps (of various kinds) and the

intriguing figures that play them. Consequently, she has tried to balance a busy performing career with her passion for research and scholarship. She was awarded a doctorate by the University of Limerick in 2009 and, since then, has published widely on topics relating to Irish cultural history, semiotics and performance studies; her first book, Ireland's Harp: The Shaping of Irish Identity c. 1770-1880, was published in 2014 by UCD Press. Mary Louise has received many awards and grants to further her research, including an Irish Research Council Postdoctoral Fellowship, Fulbright Scholarship, Centre Culturel Irlandais Fellowship and a Dobbin Scholarship (Ireland Canada University Foundation).

In 2016, she was appointed musical director at St Agnes Church, Crumlin where she is responsible for planning music for all liturgies. In 2019, she was appointed Musician-in-Residence with Fingal County Council and in 2020, was awarded a bursary by Fingal Arts Office to commission Rhona Clarke to compose a new work for voice/harp; Music, Stars & Atoms was premiered in May 2021.



Mary Flynn - Soloist

Mary has been singing from the time she was in school and holds a Teaching Diploma in singing from the Royal Irish Academy of Music. Mary is a highly versatile singer with a vast repertoire of music from Sacred to Classical and Popular to Contemporary. She

has performed on RTE television many times and has been a soloist for many state occasions.

In her capacity as cantor in St. Mary's Pro-Cathedral, Dublin, Mary has sung for many dignitaries, including members of the government, judiciary and diplomatic corps.

Mary was awarded a Certificate of Professional Practice in the Kodály Concept of Music Education from the British Kodály Academy in 2017.

She is currently a Music Educator with Music Generation South Dublin on their vocal programme for primary schools.



Patricia Bourke D'Souza - Soprano

For over 30 years Patricia has sung in a wide variety of settings spanning genres from inspirational to spiritual to healing to classical, contemporary and Celtic music. She has performed as soloist for many televised and state occasions. Patricia is no stranger to recording. She released her first solo album 'Echoes in Time' in 2009 and is featured on many albums and singles since then. Patricia is currently Choir Director for Bonnybrook Parish. When not singing she works as a trauma therapist, trainer and supervisor and works with a variety of organisations including the National Concert Hall and First Fortnight where she manages creative therapy centers for children and adolescents and adults who are at risk of or who are homeless.



Denice Doyle - Violinist

Denice is one of Ireland's most talented and versatile violinists enjoys a career as an established soloist, chamber musician and orchestral musician. She holds a first-class Honours Masters Degree in String

Performance and is an award winning multi-instrumentalist with a diverse range of musical interests including Musical Director/Organist of St. Francis Xavier Church, Gardiner Street. She has performed extensively around Ireland and the world including the prestigious Carnegie Hall, New York and as soloist with the RTE National Symphony Orchestra at the NCH. Denice has performed as soloist on both RTE Radio and Television on numerous occasions over the years as well as performing for numerous dignitaries and celebrities around the globe.



Jon Henderson - Guitarist

Jon has been playing professionally for over 20 years and enjoys a diverse and interesting musical career, which has made him a very versatile guitarist and musician. He has toured extensively throughout Europe as a soloist and with a number of ensembles. It was during this period of musical journeys that he was to develop his understanding of the guitar and expand his repertoire from Classical, Jazz, Rock and Pop music, to Spanish and South American music. He was resident guitarist at the Café Royal's Green Room in London's West End which hosted many artistes such as Patti Boulaye, Alan Price, George Melly, Cybil Shepherd, Rita Coolidge, Jason Donovan, David Soul, John Barrowman- to name but a few. He also enjoys teaching, composing, arranging, musical production and has collaborated with musician and producer David Foster, the composer of 'The Prayer' on some interesting recording projects. He loves being involved in as many avenues that making music can provide with gratitude and thanks for the privilege.



Padraic Cawley – Our MC for the Evening

Working in the Funeral Industry since 2004, Padraic continued his professional training with a recognised funeral training body in the UK in 2011 to become one of Ireland’s first qualified Civil Funeral Celebrants. Padraic has been a panelist on many radio programmes, both local and national, discussing the rise in popularity of civil funerals in Ireland. He is a regular contributor to the trade press and is a member of both the Institute of Civil Funerals and the Irish Association of Funeral Directors and has become a recognised expert in the area of Civil Funerals in this country. - <https://www.padraiccawley.ie/>



Teresa O'Donnell - Harpist

Teresa O'Donnell has worked as a freelance pedal and Irish harpist throughout Ireland, Europe, North America, Africa and Asia. She began her harp studies with the late Sr.

Eugene McCabe at Mount Sackville School, Dublin. Teresa lectured in music at St. Patrick's College, DCU and was awarded a Foras Feasa fellowship to research a PhD which she completed in 2021. She has performed with the Irish Chamber Orchestra and has been a musician in residence with Fingal County Council since 2019. Teresa has appeared on several TV networks including, RTÉ, TG4, BBC, CNN and NHK (Japan). In collaboration with her sister, Mary Louise, they

have released an album of music for the Irish harp by Brian Boydell, entitled, *Heavenly Harps, Heavenly Cloths*.

Fr Tony O'Shaughnessy – PP – St. Agnes's Church, Crumlin Village

Adm. of Crumlin, Mourne Road and Clogher Road Parishes. Ordained in Castledermot, Co. Kildare, 1981, the birth place of Saint Laurence O' Toole who was elected Archbishop of Dublin in 1152 and is the patron saint of the Dublin Diocese. Fr. O' Shaughnessy has worked almost 40 years in various Dublin Parishes, being appointed Adm. in 2019.



Brian McElroy – Funeral Director

Established in 2006, Brian McElroy Funeral Directors – Crumlin ~ Clondalkin ~ Tallaght ~ are the first new family name in the Funeral Industry in Dublin city in several decades. We have, for many years, conducted many services locally and are honoured to offer you during your time of need, the same excellent standard of services with a family warmth and feeling. We achieve this with a staff who perform to the highest standards given their training is to the highest industry standards and understanding. Our beautiful and comforting funeral homes have been renovated to ensure the bereaved feel their homely environment and with the knowledge their loved one is in the highest expertly care possible, in a dignified, luxurious resting place.



Absent Friends – Rob Treloar and Evan Heneghan

Absent Friends specialise in live-streaming funeral services for family members and friends who are unable to travel to the funeral of a loved one. They provide a broadcast quality, multi-camera livestream of the funeral

service. The livestream can be viewed by anyone with a phone, tablet or computer once they have been given the private link. For more information visit absentfriends.ie