

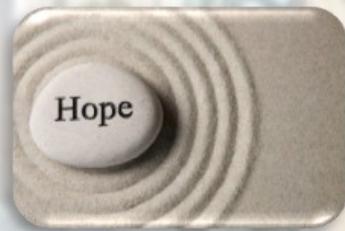


EASTER 2017

AMRI NEWS

“We have won back our Hope”

The phrase ‘We have won back our Hope’ was the delighted exclamation of an Irish mother this week when she learned that the Government had sanctioned the supply of Orkambi medication for those suffering from cystic fibrosis. About 600 patients had waited in hope, had believed in their dreams, had picketed the Dáil day and night for this. While questions had been raised about the costs – about €250 million has been mentioned – this now means life over suffering, life over death for so many.



Easter is about HOPE! Life is about HOPE! At the General Audience on 1st February 2017 Pope Francis explored the theme of Hope in the New Testament. “*We Christians are men and women of hope,*” he said. Basing his catechesis on the first letter to the Thessalonians he outlined how the young community of Thessalonika celebrated with enthusiasm and joy the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus “*despite their many difficulties and the many trials.*” (L’Osservatore Romano, Friday 3 February 2017)

In that letter to the Thessalonians St Paul had said that hope is something to wear on our heads like a helmet. It is particularly important in times of trials and when life is difficult. Pope Francis said: “*When we speak about hope we can be led to interpret it according to the common meaning of the term, that is, in reference to something beautiful that we desire, but which may or may not be attained... Christian hope is not like this. Christian hope is the expectation of something that has already been fulfilled; the door is there, and I hope to reach the door. What do I have to do? Walk toward the door! This is how Christian hope is: having the certainty that I am walking toward something that is, not something I hope may be. This is Christian hope. Christian hope is the expectation of something that has already been fulfilled and which will certainly be fulfilled for each one of us... To hope is to learn how to live in expectation. Learn how to live in expectation and find life.*”



During these days of Holy Week as we look towards the memory of the Resurrection of Jesus it is important to remember, as Pope Francis advises, that living in hope does not come easily, it has to be learned. It entails having a humble heart, a poor heart. “*Those who are already full of themselves and of their achievements, are not able to place their trust in anyone other than themselves.*” His concluding prayer was “*Let us ask the Lord to teach our heart to hope in the resurrection, this way we can learn to live in the certain expectation of the encounter with him...*”

Hope and Imagination

One of my favourite pictures of hope is that of George Frederick Watts (1817-1904) which hangs in the Tate Gallery in London. It shows a young girl, blindfolded, sitting on the globe with a lyre. Its title is simply 'Hope.' She holds the lyre very steadily in her left hand and rests her head on her right hand. All the strings on her lyre are broken except one and with her blindfold she is unable to see it, unable to play any tune. Yet one string remains intact. Will someone come to her rescue? Will some friend, colleague or family person unfold her blindfold, touch that remaining string and allow the music of life to raise her to new life? Mary Grey in her book *The Outrageous Pursuit of Hope* (2000) quotes the Ghanaian theologian Mercy Amba Oduyoye, who says African women 'wear hope like a skin' because "*the more desperate a situation is, the stronger the hope*" and to be without hope is to be trapped. Grey says "*To live by hope is to believe that it is worth taking the next step: that our actions, our families, our cultures and societies have meaning, are worth living and dying for.*"



*"God is energizing
the outrageous
pursuit of hope"*
Mary Grey

Jesus touched the lives of the women who came with their tears and their spices to anoint what they thought was dead. He touched the men who shuddered with fear and huddled together lest they too might meet the fate of their Master. Now it is our time to unfold what may be blinding us, to touch the strings of hope deep within us, and allow the Easter song of Alleluia to resound far and wide.

AMRI Update

Here at AMRI we are experiencing next steps following the emergence of the new entity, the new company on March 7 last. The members of the Executive elected or co-opted to date are: Marc Whelan, Phyllis Behan, Edmund Garvey, Kathleen McGarvey, John Hennebry, Geraldine Fitzpatrick, Thomas O'Connor, Sally Roddy, Michael McCabe, Rita Kelly and John Denny.

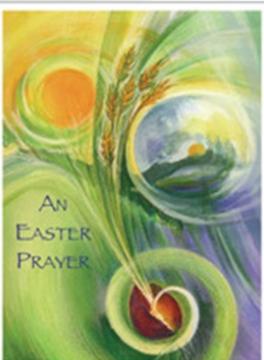


To date the members of the Executive have met twice and will meet again on Wednesday April 19. An "away day" is planned for 24 May. Marc Whelan Csp, has been elected as President of AMRI, and Phyllis Behan RSC, as the Vice President.



The AMRI website, still in its infancy is found at www.amri.ie where you will find latest news, upcoming events, photos, documents and publications, and contact details of each of the staff members.

Much updating is required in terms of company and charity legislation, financial management, Towards Healing, and linking anew with various networks. You will be kept informed over the coming months.



For now all at the AMRI office wish you this Easter prayer:

May all that God has planted within you rise vibrant and growing this Springtime.

Happy Easter.

Liz Murphy