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# An Turas

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- » [Journey of Illumination](#)
- » [Local groups](#)
- » [Reflection](#)
- » [Monthly Marley Meeting](#)
- » [Upcoming Events](#)
- » [Recent Events](#)
- » [RITEs Team gathering](#)

## Journeying Together

Dear {First Name},  
Welcome to the "Male Journey" – August 2017. Here are some thoughts for you to ponder... and maybe to go out and live, if it resonates with you...

### ***"Old Ways and Holidays"***

When I was in school we often had interesting discussions with our teachers on all kinds of topics. Times were different then, we were not constrained by politically correct language, or acceptable views (to a large extent). We usually just said what we thought. On reflection, I am surprised by the freedom we had to discuss almost anything.

Having spent the succeeding forty years in various education settings I am beginning to realise that school has lost that freedom to a large degree. There are huge pressures now to keep the classroom focused, to cover the course and to get the points at the end. Teachers seem to be younger and they seem mostly to be females. Meanwhile Headmasters or Principals are dealing with computer package updates and the person on reception asks if you have an appointment. There has, since my student days, I believe, been an erosion of something,

## In Other News:



### **Do you have time for Meditation or Yoga?**

Anam Wellness Centre (run by John O'Flynn) hold daily and weekly yoga and meditation sessions at their centre in Tallaght.

For more details visit [anamwellnesscentre.com](http://anamwellnesscentre.com)

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### **M.A.L.E.s Kildare**

M.A.L.E.s Kildare continue to meet on the last Tuesday of the month in Ballycane Church in Naas. The next meeting is on Tuesday the 29th August. Doors open at 7:15pm. For further information email Gerry at

[maleskildare@gmail.com](mailto:maleskildare@gmail.com)

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### **Circle of men - Belfast**

The Circle of Men - Belfast continue to meet

something ephemeral, intangible, interactive - you could even say Spiritual.

Perhaps the corrosive mind-set of Monetarist economics that drove the Thatcherite era still lives in the education world. Seems to me to be so. The driving forces are now concerned with "outcomes", "planning" and "timeframes". It all must be measured, delivered efficiently and evaluated against targets.

But, how can you evaluate a good laugh? How can you evaluate and expression of kindness and a listening ear? How can you evaluate three minutes of prayerful silence? How can you evaluate, measure, and report on friendship? How can you measure the respectful regard between teacher and pupil as they explore " life" together, each at a different point on his life-journey?

We had a day up in Glenree earlier this year. We all did a bit of sharing. Now a few months have passed since that glorious sitting in the Sun. Today it occurred to me that it was this experience of my youth in a Christian Brothers school in Dublin that was touched and resurrected in that sharing. It was the boys and the leader (teacher/brother) again, exploring and just being together. It reminded me of a time when we had Education as opposed to Schooling.

It was like the old days and I hadn't realised it until today. I miss the "old ways". They were good.

But now, back to the Silence...and the holidays

This Summer, yes, try the "s"s. But take some time out, intentionally, and listen to the " silence". You might be surprised at what you hear.

***Ger Fagan***

We hope that you can join us on this journey!

**Reflection:**

in the Pathfinder Hut,  
Ardnally outdoor  
centre. For more  
information email Jonny  
at

misterjonny@aol.com

## **HOLIDAYS.**

Ah, HOLIDAYS!

Sun, sea and sangria.

Yes - and there's another

"s" in there too.

Mmmmmm?

No, ...not "sex"!

Try "silence".

Listen to the "silence"-

it's not as easy to do

as you might think.

Go into the silence-

Listen to the wind.

Listen to the birds.

Dogs barking, children crying,

sirens and buses,

seagulls and crows.

In the silent memory-

A song... somewhere.

Listen to your heartbeat,

... And to your breathing.

Listen to life.

## Monthly Marley Meeting - Saturday 19th Aug.

Our regular gathering takes place on the 3rd Saturday of each month (starting at 10am with a cuppa and biscuits) and is open to all men. Men are invited to join us in this space to sit and share their stories with other men in a safe, confidential and supportive environment.



All men are welcome. Men of faith and no faith, married or single and of any sexual orientation.

### Why not join us!

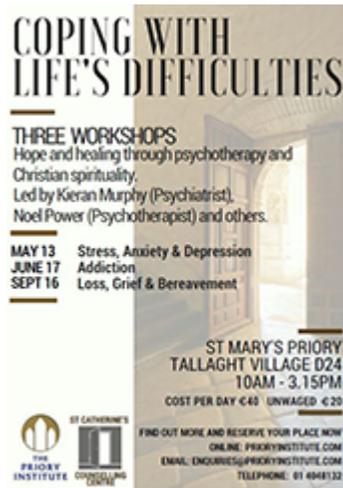
Follow this link for directions; [Monthly Marley Meeting](#)

## Upcoming Events:

### Coping with Life's Difficulties

Kieron one of our brothers at our Marley meeting is giving a course on "Coping with Life's Difficulties" over three days.

[Click here](#) for more details



### **RITes Team Gathering:**

This is a gathering for initiated men with a view to building up a team of RITes Elders to carry out the RITes here again in Ireland and for any man

interested in joining the Elder Council and those interested in setting up local groups throughout the country. It will be held in Kiltegan on Monday the 28th August. Registration is from 9:30am. It promises to be a very enriching day and it will be a day for all of us to re-connect with each other and the great Mystery.

[Click HERE to view the event and to book](#)

### **Recent Events:**

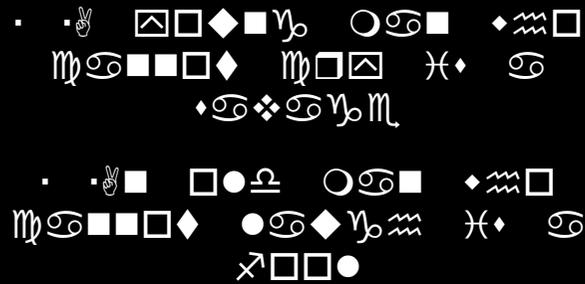
On behalf of M.A.L.E.s Ireland we would like to express our deepest sympathy to Jim Nugent on the passing of his Father Paddy and to George Kearns on the passing of his Sister Kay. May they both experience the ever lasting peace that transcends all understanding.

If you have any upcoming events that you would like us to place

here email info@malejourney.ie



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