



The Second Annual Dermot Lane Seminar

on 28 th and 29 th September 2024 in The Church of the Ascension of
the Lord, Balally, D16E032

This annual event is held in honour of Fr Dermot Lane, Theologian, Author, Teacher, Ecumenist and Pastor who served as Parish Priest for 25 years in Balally parish and is currently the parish Chaplain. When Fr Jim Caffrey PP was appointed to Balally parish in late 2021, he wanted to find a way to celebrate the prophetic theology and pastoral leadership of Fr Dermot. The plan to have an annual event was agreed with the Parish Pastoral Council. In 2023 the first Dermot Lane event was held with keynote speaker Professor John Fitzgerald, Irish Economist, on Care for our Common Home - putting this into practice. Dr Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury was invited to speak in Balally after Fr Jim and some of the Parish Pastoral Council attended a seminar lead by Dr Williams at the World Community for Christian Meditation in Bonnevaux, France last November.

This year on 28 th and 29 th September 2024 in The Church of the Ascension of the Lord, Balally, D16E032, there will be three presentations by Dr Rowan Williams. The theme of the seminar is “A noisy world in need of Meditation and Service”. This theme is complementary to the mission of Balally parish which is to become disciples of Jesus through Meditation and Service.

On Saturday 28 th September the first session starts at 10:30pm, Dr Rowan Williams will present on Graced by the Holy Spirit of God after which there will be short responses from Fr Dermot and Rev Stephen Taylor, Dundrum Methodist Church. On Saturday afternoon starting at 2pm Dr Rowan Williams will present on Contemplation: Journey Inwards followed by short responses from Fr Dermot and Rev Nigel Pierpoint, Rector of Taney Parish.

On Sunday 29 th September at 3pm, Dr Rowan Williams will present on Working together for justice and the care for our common home. This will be followed by a panel discussion with retired Archbishop Richard Clarke, Author of Playing Dice with God: The Risk of Discipleship (Dominican Publications 2024), Fr Peter McVerry, Social Activist, Dr Margaret Daly Denton, Theologian and Author of John: An Earth Bible Commentary: supposing Him to be the Gardener (London 2017) Jane Mellett, Church Outreach Manager – Trócaire.

All three lectures will conclude with a short question and answer forum. There will also be an opportunity to visit the new Icon Chapel in Balally on Saturday for those who have not seen it yet.

An Ecumenical Service will be held at 4:30pm in Balally on Sunday celebrated by the clergy from the Dundrum Partnership of the Catholic Churches Balally, Dundrum, Ballinteer, Meadowbrook, Church of Ireland Taney/St Nahi and Dundrum Methodist Church.

At 7pm on Sunday evening there will be a Eucharistic Service in Christ Church, Taney celebrated by Archbishop Michael Jackson and Dr Rowan Williams.

Fr Jim Caffrey PP says “honouring Fr Dermot through the annual seminar places his work in an ecumenical context. Having Dr Rowan Williams as the keynote speaker is a blessing. Here in Balally we are trying to build a Contemplative parish and Rowan is a contemplative in action. Recovering our common Celtic and monastic traditions is something all our churches can do together, as they come from a time when we were united. It is one of the great joys of my ministry to work with Rev Nigel Pierpoint and Rev Jane Burns and our friends in Taney “.

This two-day event is a unique opportunity to hear from Dr Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury, a world-renowned theologian, poet and author; and to hear from other expert speakers on the need for Meditation and Service in a noisy world.

Everyone is welcome to attend one, two or all three presentations in Balally and to join as a community in the services and prayers over the two days in Balally and in Taney on Sunday evening.

Martina Kavanagh

Chair Balally Parish Council

Published September 2024:

Archdiocese of Dublin Parish Notices

The Church of Ireland Gazette – Rowan Williams to address Ecumenical Seminar in Dublin