



The Latin Mass Society

For the Promotion of the Traditional Roman Rite

LMS/PR/irish1

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PRESS RELEASE

Latin Liturgy groups appeal for Masses and Prayers over the Irish abortion referendum as the battle to save the right to life for the unborn continues

Four lay-led organisations promoting the ancient Latin liturgy are today appealing for Masses and prayers for the forthcoming Referendum on abortion, due to take place in the Republic of Ireland in late May or early June. The referendum will ask voters if they wish to abolish the 8th Amendment of the Irish Constitution, which protects the unborn. If the amendment is removed, it will be possible for legislation permitting abortion to be brought forward.

The groups are the Latin Mass Society of Ireland and Una Voce Ireland, the Latin Mass Society of England and Wales, and Una Voce Scotland. They work to support celebrations of the Traditional Catholic liturgy, celebrated in Latin, the ‘*Vetus Ordo*’ or Extraordinary Form.

John Briody, President of the Latin Mass Society Ireland, said:

The act of abortion, the direct killing of an innocent person, is never permissible. Many prolife groups are engaged in valiant campaigns to educate people on the reality of abortion and its effects. The role of God's grace is recognised too in the prayer campaigns which have commenced. What better way to implore God's grace than to offer the ultimate prayer, the Mass, in its most worthy form – to implore Almighty God to enlighten Irish citizens so that we better understand and fight this evil, which not only kills the bodies of our unborn brethren, but deprives their souls of baptism, the gateway to spiritual life (vitae spiritualis ianua)? (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1213, quoting the Council of Florence).

Joseph Shaw, Chairman of the Latin Mass Society of England and Wales, commented:

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‘The significance of this referendum is world-wide. Over many decades, Ireland has demonstrated that a developed nation can protect the unborn and mothers at the same time, with one of the best records for maternal mortality in the world, giving the lie to the claim that access to abortion is necessary for the protection of women.

This is an issue which is close to hearts of our members and supporters, who are well represented in the Pro-Life movement.

It behoves us as Catholics to pray and offer Masses to protect our brothers and sisters in Ireland.’

Masses to be offered for this intention include the Latin Mass Society of England and Wales’ annual Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Caversham, in Reading, on Saturday 24th February, and its annual Pilgrimage to Preston on Saturday 5th May.

Notes for Editors

The Latin Mass Society (England and Wales), founded in 1965, is an association of Catholic faithful dedicated to the promotion of the traditional Latin liturgy of the Catholic Church, the teachings and practices integral to it, the musical tradition which serves it, and the Latin language in which it is celebrated.

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The Latin Mass Society of Ireland, founded in 1999, is an association of Catholic faithful dedicated to the preservation of the “ancient form of the Roman rite” as a legitimate usage of the Church’s liturgy.

The society is composed predominantly of lay members drawn from every age group and walk of life, but also includes a number of priests who minister to all who “continue to adhere with great love and affection to the earlier liturgical forms”. The Society is currently headed by Mr John Briody President.

www.latinmassireland.com/

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Una Voce Scotland, founded in 1965, supports the celebration of the Traditional Mass throughout Scotland.

<http://www.unavoce-scotland.uk/>

Chairman: Fred Stone: chairman@unavoce-scotland.uk

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Una Voce Ireland was founded in 2014.

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