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## Magdalene survivors visit the President

Two hundred and thirty women who had spent time working in the Magdalene Laundries all over Ireland were invited recently to meet the President.

President Michael D Higgins and his wife Sabina welcomed the women to Áras an Uachtaráin for a special reception followed by a dinner in the Mansion House. The women, many of whom are in their 80's, came from all parts of Ireland and from as far away as the UK, America and Australia for the occasion. The event was organised so that these women would be given a chance to share their stories of the time spent in these institutions and also to give their views on how the Magdalene Laundries should be remembered in the future.

For almost 100 years women who had babies outside marriage, orphans and women who were seen as being trouble makers were all sent to these laundries to work. From 1922 more than 11,000 women spent time in these laundries in various parts of Ireland, many of them spent their entire lives there. Most of them were treated very badly and not allowed to leave. The last laundry closed in 1996.



President Higgins apologised to the women on behalf of the State for the wrong done to them and the abuse they received at the hands of the church

and the State. He said it was a dark shame on our country to know that many thousands of women were robbed of their human rights and hoped that they could find it in their hearts to forgive.

For many of the women who travelled from abroad this was their first time setting foot in Ireland since they left the laundries and had never before shared their stories of time spent in them. Hundreds of people lined the streets to cheer the women as they travelled on buses to the Áras and to the Mansion House.



In its 12<sup>th</sup> year Bloom once again attracted huge crowds to the Phoenix Park in wonderful sunshine to enjoy the country's largest garden and food exhibition.

70 acres of show gardens, plants, flowers garden furniture and food and drink tents were enjoyed by garden lovers of all ages from professional garden designers to ordinary garden lovers eager to enjoy the day out.

## Pope Francis to visit Ireland



Pope Francis is to visit Ireland on August 25 & 26 this year as part of the World Meeting of Families.

The pope who is 81 will attend a large gathering in Croke Park and the following day will say mass in Phoenix Park. He will also visit to Knock Shrine in Co Mayo. It is also believed that he will pay a visit to the Capuchin Day Centre in Dublin which gives dinners to more than 1500 people daily. He has also asked to visit a prison.

The last visit by a pope to Ireland was in 1979 when Pope John Paul visited here. 2.7 million people went to see him on that occasion. Although the number of Catholics in Ireland has become smaller since then, it is believed that many people will still turn out to welcome Pope Francis. Tickets for the 3 events which are free will be available online from June 25<sup>th</sup> by visiting [www.gov.ie/popeinireland](http://www.gov.ie/popeinireland).

## Ireland says yes

In the recent referendum 67% of Irish people voted in favour of changing the 8<sup>th</sup> amendment. This means that the government can now pass a law allowing abortion to become available in Ireland.

Although the law has not yet been fully discussed or debated by the different parties, it is thought that a woman choosing to have an abortion within the first 12 weeks of her pregnancy will no longer have to travel outside the country to do so.

Words ending in ous (sounds like us)

|            |          |          |          |            |            |
|------------|----------|----------|----------|------------|------------|
| courageous | enormous | fabulous | gorgeous | marvellous | prosperous |
| dangerous  | famous   | generous | jealous  | nervous    | ridiculous |

Choose a word from the list that has the **same meaning** as these

- brave \_\_\_\_\_
- likes to share \_\_\_\_\_
- well known \_\_\_\_\_
- beautiful \_\_\_\_\_
- afraid \_\_\_\_\_
- very big \_\_\_\_\_
- wonderful \_\_\_\_\_
- wealthy \_\_\_\_\_
- Bitter about what another person has \_\_\_\_\_
- very risky \_\_\_\_\_
- silly \_\_\_\_\_
- amazing \_\_\_\_\_

**Maths problems**

1. Mary is half Paul's age. Tim is twice Paul's age and Ann is  $\frac{3}{4}$  of Tim's age. Paul will be 50 in 10 years time. What is the current age of

- a. Paul? \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Mary? \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Tim? \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Ann? \_\_\_\_\_

2. When Bernie has driven 60 miles she will have  $\frac{2}{3}$  of her journey completed. How many miles is her total journey?

3. Half a dozen apples will cost me €4.80. How much will I pay for 4 apples?

4. If Tom saves €25 a month, how much will he have saved after a year?

The answers to the crossword are all **days, months and seasons**

**Across**

- 4. The first month of the school year
- 5. Pope Francis is coming to Ireland in this month
- 7. In America this season is known as "The Fall"
- 8. All Ireland finals are always held on this day
- 9. RTE'S Late Late Show is always on this night
- 11. Halloween falls in this month
- 12. Bank holidays usually fall on this day
- 13. Season when young lambs are born

**DOWN**

- 1. Pancake \_\_\_\_\_ the day we usually eat pancakes
- 2. St Patrick's Day is in this month
- 3. Shortest month of the year
- 6. The season we have at present
- 10. Christmas falls on this month

**Maths answers: Q1 a) 40 b)20 c)80 d)60 Q2 90 Q3 €3.40 Q4 €300**