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**UNITED IRELAND**

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## A week is a long time in clichés

### A letter from Ireland

a Chara,

When writing, I tend to avoid clichés like the plague. Last week, I wrote about the Irish Presidential election campaign. Then, there were three candidates; now there are two. A week is a long time in politics.

The Taoiseach, Micheal Martin, promoted Jim Gavin to be the Fianna Fáil candidate. On paper, he looked great: a former military pilot, he coached Dublin to six All-Ireland Championship wins and was widely credited with pioneering the new rules that have reshaped Gaelic football. But then the rubber hit the road.

In an effort to broaden his appeal outside of urban Dublin, his team released a video of him on a farm, wearing white trousers and leaving gates open. In a campaign in which authenticity is currency, the video was ridiculed. A further series of campaign blunders followed, including the use of illegal drone footage for a candidate who, in his day job, is responsible for aviation rules and safety. A photograph of the candidate with the head of the armed forces had to be removed as it broke campaign protocol.

After the first debate, Gavin had fallen from bookies' favourite to third place in a three-horse race. He was looking like a bad bet after only two weeks of the campaign.

The second debate was scheduled for last Sunday. On the Saturday, a newspaper reported that sixteen years ago, a tenant of Mr. Gavin had overpaid rent by €3,300 and sought repayment, which was refused. During the debate on Sunday, Gavin

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journalist and deputy editor of a national Sunday newspaper, had gone to considerable lengths at the time to retrieve the over payment, including issuing legal letters.

It is the cover-up that gets you. By Sunday night, Mr. Gavin had withdrawn from the campaign, too late for his name to be removed from the ballot paper.

Meanwhile, the Fine Gael and second government candidate, Heather Humphries, travelled to Belfast to promote her all-Ireland image. Coming from the border county of Monaghan, she has repeatedly claimed to know and understand the North. In the video accompanying her visit to Belfast, her campaign team included stock footage of Belfast City Hall for context, except the footage was actually of the Bundestag in Berlin. We had moved from the sublime to the ridiculous in one quick edit. An apology was issued and the video recut.

The third candidate, endorsed by Sinn Féin, Catherine Connolly, is ahead of Humphries in the polls. In a sign of the times, a video surfaced while out on the campaign trail, playing soccer and basketball with a group of kids, she was so skillful that online opponents claimed that it was AI-generated!! It wasn't. Welcome to our world.

With the election date set for October 24th. With two weeks left to go and a reduced field, it is all to play for.

Have a great weekend.

Ciarán

**Ciarán Quinn is the Sinn Féin Representative to North America**

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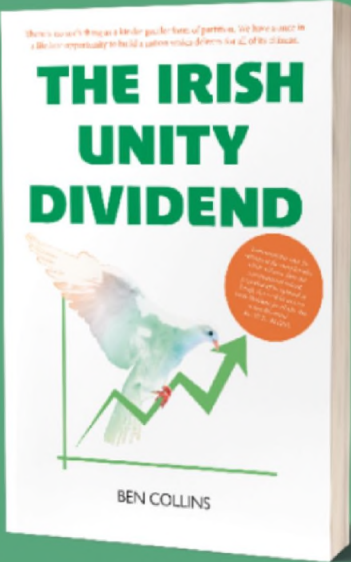
## **Irish Unity Education Webinar Series**

### **October Guest: Ben Collins**


Join us on **Saturday, October 25** at 12:00 noon ET for the third in our Irish Unity Educational Webinar Series. We will be joined by **Ben Collins**, author of the new

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**FRIENDS OF SINN FÉIN  
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**OCTOBER GUEST: BEN COLLINS  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25 - 12 NOON ET  
Free & open to all - bígí linn!**



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## Irish Unity on presidential election agenda in spite of Mícheál Martin

**Taoiseach misrepresents Good Friday Agreement**

By Mícheál Mac Donncha

Irish Unity is firmly on the agenda in the presidential election with all three candidates saying they support unity. This is despite the best efforts of Taoiseach and Fianna Fáil leader Mícheál Martin to bury the issue.

In an extraordinary interview in New York Martin again displayed his hostility to any talk of Irish Unity or a border poll. He stated:

“I’ve watched Sinn Féin over the last decade blow hot and cold on the border poll. They kind of invented it after Brexit .”

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Mícheál Martin was a member. Responding to Mícheál Martin, Sinn Féin President Mary Lou McDonald said, “Micheál Martin in New York wrongly and bizarrely stated that Sinn Féin ‘invented’ the border poll after Brexit! No such thing. That the leader of Fianna Fáil shows such ignorance is astonishing.”

Martin also dismissed any idea of a border poll before 2030 and made clear that he and his Fianna Fáil-Fine Gael-Lowry government don’t want one and certainly won’t push for it. The Taoiseach’s personal hostility to this fundamental element of the Good Friday Agreement is plain throughout the interview.

After Martin’s interview remarks Mary Lou McDonald said, “Twice in a week, the Taoiseach has shown complete disregard for the Good Friday Agreement in relation to Irish Unity...Now he is attempting to cherry-pick the Agreement.

“Nobody can have a veto on progress. The constitutional duty is on the Taoiseach and a future president to champion Ireland’s future and to lead the preparation for referendums.

“Inch by inch we are getting closer and closer to Irish Unity and the only person pretending that is not the case is the person whose job it is to lead and to prepare for the constitutional change that is coming. It is beyond reckless to keep his head in the sand at such an important moment for our island.

“The commitment to holding referendums must be honoured. That is what is in the Good Friday Agreement and that is what the people voted for.”

Speaking at the 27 September Sinn Féin national conference ‘Building for Unity’ in the Helix, Dublin, Mary Lou McDonald urged all Sinn Féin activists to strengthen the party in preparation for the unity poll. Attended by delegates from across the 32 Counties, the conference gave a standing ovation to presidential candidate Catherine Connolly whose candidacy was endorsed a week earlier by the Sinn Féin Ard Chomhairle.

Catherine Connolly addressed the conference and expressed her support for Irish Unity, stating that in Bunreacht na hÉireann unity is expressed as “the firm will of the people”. She called for a “courageous and independent voice” in Áras an Uachtaráin and thanked Sinn Féin for its support:

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ourselves, bigger than me, and bigger than the differences between parties.”

Both Fine Gael candidate Heather Humphreys and Fianna Fáil candidate Jim Gavin expressed support for Irish unity in the first week of the campaign and the issue is set to remain on the agenda until polling day 24 October.



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## Watch Irish Unity Education Webinar with Professor Colin Harvey

Did you see our conversation with Professor Colin Harvey about how to best prepare for a new and United Ireland? You can watch it and find links to resources and ways to learn more right here:

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## Irish Unity People's Assemblies in Hartford, Boston, & Philadelphia in October with Mairéad Farrell TD

Irish Unity People's Assemblies for the Diaspora will be in New England in late October.

[Click here to register for Hartford, CT](#)

[Click here to register for Boston, MA](#)

[Click here to register for Philadelphia, PA](#)

This is a historic moment in the history of Ireland, and we want you to you join us as we hear from Mairéad Farrell TD, and dive into the work of planning and preparing for the creation of a new and united Ireland!

Join us for a conversation with special guest speakers, Irish diaspora, descendants of Ireland, and all those who support Irish unity.

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# ON THE FUTURE OF IRELAND



**Oct 25 - Hartford, CT**  
**Oct 28 - Boston, MA**  
**Oct 30 - Philadelphia, PA**

A conversation with the diaspora, the descendants of Ireland, and all those who support Irish unity.

AN COIMISIÚN  
UM THODHCHAÍ  
NA hÉIREANN



**Featuring Mairéad Farrell TD**

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## British Solvency Issue as a Path to Irish Unity

By Dylan Egan for the Irish Echo

Economics is often made far too complicated. Talk of bonds, gilt yields, and fiscal multipliers often dull even the sharpest of minds.

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collects, with Northern Ireland being a major contributor to that unsustainable equation. However, within that imbalance may lie a formula for solving the historic Irish question: how can  $26+6=1$ ?

The U.K.'s fiscal imbalance is fast approaching a cliff's edge. The price of borrowing is increasing, government spending is at an all-time high, and they are now struggling to maintain a tax base with rising rates and an ailing economy. The result is that more borrowing is needed just to service existing debt, which further undermines investor confidence, raising borrowing costs again – a vicious cycle, known ominously on Wall Street as a “debt doom loop.”

Economic growth through international trade and investment is often the key to resolving sovereign debt crises. Ireland emerged as a leading global economy after the Celtic Tiger and the IMF bailout, thanks largely to strong international relations and significant investment from multinationals seeking access to the European market.

This is an unlikely solution for the British government, which voluntarily abandoned the world's largest free-trading bloc and, in the process, damaged its credibility by threatening to break several international treaties on the way out. A performance that left few international partners auditioning for a sequel.

This leaves the British government's Chancellor of the Exchequer with a stark choice: slash government spending or print money to cover debt, with significant inflation and higher interest rates a definite consequence of the latter.

[\*\*READ FULL STORY HERE\*\*](#)

## **Catalpa Anniversary Event in New Bedford, MA - October 27, 2025**

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**CATALPA 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**





### THE GREATEST ESCAPE IN IRISH HISTORY

**7:00 PM**  
**MONDAY - OCTOBER 27<sup>TH</sup>**  
**SEAMEN'S BETHEL NEW BEDFORD**

CELEBRATING




ANNIVERSARY

**NEW BEDFORD CONNECTION**

The Catalpa rescue refers to a famous mission where the American whaling ship Catalpa, sailing out of New Bedford, Massachusetts, in 1875, rescued six Irish Fenian prisoners from Fremantle Prison in Western Australia in 1876. The mission was a culmination of secret planning by Irish exiles in America and was led by Captain George Anthony, a New Bedford native. The daring escape was a major propaganda victory for the Fenians, ultimately securing the freedom of the six men and symbolizing the fight for Irish independence.





**Sinn Fein TD Mairead Farrell**  
Represents Galway West and South Mayo, and serves as the party's spokesperson on Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform, and Digitalisation.

**Marcus Howard**  
The Independent Historian and Filmmaker  
"The Greatest Escape in Irish History: Voices From The Tomb" Catalpa Rescue - 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Talk



Sponsored by The Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick New Bedford

**INQUIRIES:**  
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**Budget is a missed opportunity to  
advance constitutional change – Senator**

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Sinn Féin Leader in the Seanad, Senator Conor Murphy, has said that Budget 2026 is a missed opportunity to advance constitutional change. He called on the government to establish a Citizens' Assembly on Irish Unity.

Senator Murphy said, "Economists have predicted a financial dividend from reunification, but the truth is that senior government figures have set their face against it.

"They claim the time isn't right to begin planning for unity, yet little is done to remove the obstacles to fulfilling the economic potential of our country.

"It is telling that former Taoiseach Leo Varadkar has also alluded to this dead hand approach when he says that the Irish government has put up an 'artificial barrier' to united Ireland poll.

"Real ambition for the future of this island would see government led active planning, through the establishment of Citizens' Assemblies on Irish Unity supported by appropriate budgets.

"Imagine the enhanced resilience and productivity of our economy with a single business sector, agri sector, arts sector, tourism sector.

"There are huge growth areas in retrofitting for the green economy, for the development of renewable energy that simply make no sense to address in a partitioned way.

"I also note comments made this morning by Former Secretary of State for the north, Shaun Woodward, who said "We are approaching the point when the people of Northern Ireland should be entitled to express their view, in the next few years".

"The volume of public discourse on this topic is accelerating daily, and I am calling on the Irish and British governments to advance these discussions and set a date for the unity referendums."

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