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# UNITED STATES UNITED IRELAND

## The votes are in...

### A letter from Ireland

a Chara,

By the time this email lands in your inbox, voting will be underway in the Irish Presidential elections. It is expected that the result will be known by late afternoon on Saturday, October 25th, Irish time.

This has been an election like no other. The first two weeks of the campaign were marked by high drama as one of the three candidates withdrew from the race. Jim Gavin started as the favourite, was the nominee of one of the governing parties, Fianna Fáil, and had been championed by the Taoiseach, Micheal Martin.

Due to a series of mishaps and poor media performances, his campaign struggled from the get-go. It then went from bad to worse when a previous tenant claimed that Mr Gavin had failed to repay overpaid rent. This was denied by Fianna Fáil, and the candidate claimed to be unaware of the issue.

The tenant was able to provide evidence of solicitor's letters and a record of efforts to reclaim the overpayment. Mr Gavin exited the race, apologised, and repaid the former tenant. His name still lingers on the ballot paper.

That left two candidates to contest the position, Heather Humphreys, the Fine Gael nominee and now the sole candidate of the government parties and Cathrine Connolly, an Independent TD from Galway with the backing of the main opposition parties.

As the campaign began, Connolly was trailing the field.

Sinn Féin consulted its membership as to whether to support a party nominee or an independent candidate. When that consultation ended, Sinn Féin President Mary Lou

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campaign underway, Connolly began to grow in the polls. Each debate demonstrated the strength, depth and vision of the candidate.

We have been out on the doors in support of Catherine Connolly, and last week we were joined by other Sinn Féin party members from the North of Ireland. They came to canvass, despite being denied a vote in the election.

The Irish President is not like a US President; their legislative role is to protect the constitution and rights of citizens, to be the head of state and more to represent the Irish nation, our culture, values and aspirations.

The Irish nation is not confined by partition or seas. It lives beyond the border of the state, with Irish Citizens in the North, the US, Canada, Britain, Australia and across the globe. It is in the hearts of generations of the diaspora.

In many ways, the office of the President is above politics. That is why, as the campaign has progressed, Catherine Connolly has become the frontrunner. She has offered a vision of a new republic, a President independent of the government and a united Ireland.

In response, the campaign of Heather Humphreys grew more negative. Her former party colleague and Minister advised the campaign to “smear the bejassus” out of Connolly. Advice that the campaign has taken on board. It remains to be seen if these low tactics for such a high office pay dividends for Humphreys, Fine Gael and their government partners.

By Saturday evening, we will know the name of the new President.

Have a great weekend.

Ciarán

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

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## **New Video Update - Watch Now!**

Sinn Féin Representative to North America Ciarán Quinn and Friends of Sinn Féin Executive Director Greg O'Loughlin discuss the latest in Irish politics, including the Presidential election, recent Irish Unity People's Assemblies, and more.

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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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## Irish Unity Education Webinar Series

### October Guest: Ben Collins

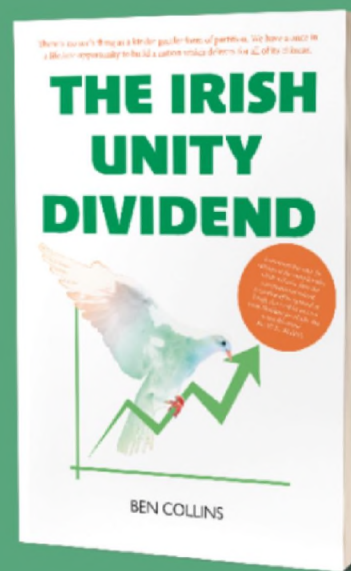
Join us on **Saturday, October 25** at 12:00 noon ET for the third in our Irish Unity Educational Webinar Series. We will be joined by **Ben Collins**, author of the new book, [The Irish Unity Dividend](#). This event is free and all are welcome! [Register here](#).

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## FRIENDS OF SINN FEIN IRISH UNITY EDUCATION WEBINAR SERIES



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



## Delargy expresses disappointment following acquittal of Solider F

Sinn Féin MLA Pádraig Delargy has expressed huge disappointment following the decision not to convict ‘Soldier F’ of murder.

Speaking from outside the court, the Foyle MLA said, “Today’s decision is deeply disappointing for the Bloody Sunday families and the people of Derry.

“It represents one of the most extreme examples of ‘justice delayed is justice denied’ in our history.

“For more than 53 years, the Bloody Sunday families have fought courageously and relentlessly in pursuit of truth and justice. Every bit of progress they have made has been a result of their tenacity and resilience.

“It took decades for the British state to finally admit what it did on Bloody Sunday, yet still, in 2025, not a single British combatant has been convicted for the shameful role played.

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accountability.

“While this is a setback in their campaign for truth and justice, Sinn Féin will fully support whatever steps they decide to take next and we will continue to stand with the families.”

Sinn Féin’s Vice President Michelle O’Neill said, “The continued denial of justice for the Bloody Sunday families is deeply disappointing.

“Fifty three years ago, the British Army indiscriminately murdered civilians on the streets of Derry.

“Over fifteen years ago, the then British Prime Minister publicly acknowledged the role of British soldiers on Bloody Sunday.

“Yet, not one British soldier or their military and political superiors has ever been held to account.

“That is an affront to justice.

“I want to commend the courage and determination of the Bloody Sunday families.

“For more than five decades, they have campaigned with dignity and resilience for justice for their loved ones, their deeply cherished sons and fathers, uncles and brothers.

“I extend my full solidarity to the families and to the wider community of Derry who will be hurting today.

“I will continue to support you all in whatever steps you choose to take next in pursuit of justice.”

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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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## 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

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