



THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL Seanascal Shaorstát Éireann

Beannacht, Éire.

Lá Fhéile Pádraig sona duit. On this Saint Patrick's Day, I wish to extend my warmest greetings as Seanascal na hÉireann to all those celebrating today, whether they be from Ireland, part of the Irish diaspora or otherwise.

The nation of Ireland extends far beyond the island itself. The celebration of Saint Patrick's Day worldwide stands as a reminder to this. There is a diaspora of Irish people across every continent, and as a result, Irish culture has permeated several other nations, leaving an indelible mark.

Discussing such a subject on Saint Patrick's Day becomes more profound when we remember that the namesake, the patron we celebrate today, was a migrant himself. With this in mind, we must remember the importance of hospitality. As we have seen so many of our brothers, sisters and cousins be displaced, we too should empathise with those who come to us, in any form, seeking a home, whether physical or metaphorical.

The lessons of Saint Patrick's Day are the values of Ireland, and so it is very fitting that it should be our national holiday.

Such a truth prompts me to consider our own place in that world-wide Irish family: many Irish people have found our community itself as an outlet, whether it be people from the Republic, the North, or those born with Irish heritage outside of Ireland, or those with piqued interest in Irishness and Irish culture.

No doubt, in this time of the COVID-19 Pandemic, does our Ireland group offer itself as a home to those suffering with a distance from their community and having little to do. I am grateful to have the opportunity

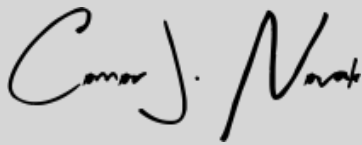
to offer this community to so many others and to share in these experiences with them.

I am also conscious of the implications of standing before the nation as Seanascal on the 17th of March. It has been many years since there was an active and thriving Ireland group able to properly celebrate on this day. I am incredibly thankful that we have been able to accomplish that for this year after many years of waiting.

We were only able to accomplish this goal, once again with the values of our National Day in mind, because we offered ourselves as a home to all, loyalist, republican or otherwise. The nation we have built is indeed intended to be hospitable and homely for everyone. For the nation building so many of us have partaken in to get to this point, I thank you all.

I want to wish a Happy Saint Patrick's Day once more to those celebrating around the world and for good health and fortune to all.

Rath Dé ort,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Connor J. Novak". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Connor" and last name "Novak" clearly legible.

His Excellency, Sir Connor_Novak CIOM SGH GCI GCSG
An Seanascal Shaorstát Éireann