



**PRESS RELEASE: For Immediate release**

## **Renowned US Historian to Speak at MIC Conference on Martin Luther's Reformation**

### **Conference to explore Luther's Impact on Ireland in 16<sup>th</sup> Century and Today**

The **Department of Theology & Religious Studies at Mary Immaculate College (MIC)** together with the **Irish Province of the Augustinian Friars** will host a conference **marking the fifth centenary of Martin Luther's Reformation** on 7 October in MIC with the renowned US historian Prof. Carlos Eire as keynote speaker.

In October 1517, an Augustinian Friar, Martin Luther, posted 95 theses in Wittenberg, dealing with issues such as the forgiveness of sin, indulgences, good works and the authority of the Pope. This event and his ongoing challenges to various aspects of the Church's teaching and practice at the time led to a series of radical breakups and reforms in the Church which have changed the course of European history, the consequences of which are still with us.

According to **Conference Co-Convenor Dr Eugen Duffy, Department of TRS, MIC**, this conference will explore the thinking of Luther, its impact on Ireland in the sixteenth century and beyond. It will also review the current state of the ecumenical dialogues between the Roman Catholic Church and the Churches associated with Luther's Reformation.

An international panel of speakers will address the Conference, including leading historians and theologians with keynote speaker **Professor Carlos Eire**, Professor of History and Religious Studies at Yale University, where he has served as chair of the Department of Religious Studies and the Renaissance Studies Program. He has taught at St John's University in Minnesota and the University of Virginia, and has been a Fulbright scholar in Spain, and a Member and Fellow of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton. He is the author of *War Against the Idols* (1986), *From Madrid to Purgatory* (1995), *A Very Brief History of Eternity* (2009) and *Reformations: Early Modern Europe 1450-1700* (Yale, 2016), for which he received the R.R. Hawkins Award for best book and the American Publishers Awards for Professional & Scholarly Excellence (PROSE) of 2017. He is also co-author of *Jews, Christians, Muslims: An Introduction to Monotheistic Religions* (Prentice Hall, 1997). His memoir of the *Cuban Revolution, Waiting for Snow in Havana* (Free Press, 2003), won the U.S. National Book Award for Nonfiction and has been translated into many languages. A second memoir, *Learning to Die in Miami* (November 2010) focuses on the early years of his exile in the United States.

More recently Prof. Eire has published a magisterial work on the implications of Luther's Reformation, entitled, *Reformations: The Early Modern World* (2016), chronicling the two-hundred-year era of the Renaissance and Reformation. In this volume Eire pays particular attention to issues that persist as concerns in the present day, connecting the Protestant and Catholic Reformations in new and

profound ways, and demonstrates convincingly that this crucial turning point in history not only affected people long gone, but continues to shape our world and define who we are today.

Other speakers at the event include: **Archbishop Michael Jackson**, who has been Archbishop of Dublin, Bishop of Glendalough and Primate of Ireland since 2011. He has held many positions in the Church of Ireland and is currently Co-Chairman of the Anglican-Lutheran Porvoo Communion. **Bishop Brendan Leahy**, Bishop of Limerick, has previously served as professor of systematic theology at St Patrick's Pontifical University, Maynooth and is currently the Chair of the Ecumenical Advisory Committee of the Irish Catholic Bishops Conference and Co-Chair of the Irish Inter-Church Meeting. **Colmán Ó Clabaigh** OSB, is a monk of Glenstal Abbey and a medievalist specialising in the history of monastic and religious order in Late Medieval Ireland. **Dr Marian Lyons** is Professor of History at Maynooth University. She is the Conference Secretary and Trustee of the Catholic Historical Society of Ireland and joint organiser of the international *Reformation 500* Conference which will take place in Dublin in October 2017. **Kieran J. O'Mahony** OSA is an Augustinian priest and biblical scholar. He works as the Academic Coordinator of Biblical Studies in the Archdiocese of Dublin and is currently one of two ecumenical canons at St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin. **James F. Puglisi** SA is a Franciscan Friar of the Atonement. He has served on several projects of the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches dealing with Baptism and Christian Initiation as well as ordained ministry.

A Conference Marking the Fifth Centenary of Martin Luther's Reformation takes place Saturday 7 October, TARA Building, MIC, from 9.30am – 5pm.

Admission is free but registration is essential.

For more information and bookings see [here](#).

ENDS

For further information contact:

**Ciara Ní Shúilleabhain**

**Director of Corporate Communications**



MARY IMMACULATE COLLEGE

South Circular Road, Limerick, Ireland



+353 61 204595



[www.mic.ul.ie](http://www.mic.ul.ie)