

# UNIVERSITAS DUBLINIENSIS



## COMITIA AESTIVA

TERMINO SANCTISSIMAE TRINITATIS

QUINTA POSTMERIDIANA

HABITA DIE QUARTO DECIMO JUNII

MMXXIV

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*Orator Publicus*

## DOCTOR IN SCIENTIIS

LEONARDUS JOHANNES PATRICIUS O'HAGAN

**D**ouina litora amoena hunc genuerunt, patres conscripti, virum doctum et perurbanum, egregia fide ac magnanimitate, peritissimum et negotiis et otiis liberalibus, ut testantur sodales qui festiuit 'Len' eum solent appellare. Reverentia vero magis conveniente oratori vestrae, viri optimi tribus nominibus ac titulis honorificis ad vos duco alumnum et procancellarium illustrissimum sororis nostrae septemptrionalis LEONARDUM JOHANNEM PATRICIUM O'HAGAN, Commendatorem Excellentissimi Ordinis Imperii Britannici, ascitum in senatum patrum regni Britannici atque in permulta reverenda concilia pro meritis negotialibus de patria clarissimis. Miranti vero eius res gestas mihi videtur indaganda esse vis et origo scientiae oeconomicae, qua restant artes et virtutes negotiales. Veteres enim sapientes rei publicae Atheniensis οἰκονομίαν dicebant curam domus ac familiae legibus accommodatam, a qua ortam esse putarunt omnem societatem ac communitatem; quoniam deinde omnem civitatem, ut voluit Aristoteles philosophus, viderunt communitatem quondam existentem et omnem communitatem boni alicuius gratia institutam, maxime autem principalem et omnes alias circumplectentem, quae πόλις vocatur, Latine civitas et communicatio politica; quae facta quidem vivendi gratia, existit autem gratia bene vivendi. Ex quo consequitur ut communem utilitatem commodo lucroque nostro anteponamus. A iuventute tanta doctrina munitus candidatus noster, ventibus belli recentis nondum intermissis, plurimas naves negotiales et salutiferas et liberales magnifice ac magnanime gubernavit ad portus securos ac prosperos utilitati communi Hiberniae. Hiberniam dico, quod utramque partem insulae nostrae curavit aequaliter; immo curat, ut potius dicam, homo multa opera, multa industria liberalissimus. Bina tantum e plurimis exempla liceat laudare, ut clarissime id sit manifestum, huius viri negotia omnia tendere ad commune bene vivendum. Prior exemplum pertinet ad salutem puerilem, qua nihil pluris valet. Eo duce praevalido, artefice pii foederis novissimi medicorum Dubliniensium et Belfastiensium, non iam longinqua litora petunt infantes, pueri ac puellae aegrotantes in insula nostra, ut quaedam vitia cordis ad sanitatem reducantur; nam, ut ipse monuit, domi celerius restitui valetudinem puerilem, parentibus proximis. Quid id est, nisi cultus boni communis? Exemplaris vero opera altera primordium quoddam vitae respicit, aquam dico, cuius ductionem per Hiberniam septentrionalem hic vir regere eiusque copiam et limpidum splendorem inspicere solet, ut ea perdigna sit illa Pindarica laude: Ἄριστον μὲν ὕδωρ. 'Titan, non homo', quispiam dixerit; immo vir sapiens doctissimus. Nonne id docuit Aristoteles ipse, omnem artem et omnem doctrinam, similiter autem et actus et electionem (quibus significavit philosophiam ethicam, artem oeconomicam, politicam et medicinam) bonum quoddam appetere videri? Admirantes nos tot et tam ingentia opera, tam mirabili atque magnanima industria ac doctrina consecuta, laeti libenter virum sapientem acclamabimus doctorem in Scientiis honoris causa.

## DOCTOR IN SCIENCE

LEONARD JOHN PATRICK O'HAGAN

**B**orn in Rostrevor on the scenic coast of County Down, our first candidate is affectionately known to his friends as 'Len', a man of unbounded generosity and reliability, with professional skills matched only by his own superb sailing, cycling and skiing techniques. Our Senate will formally greet him with his full name and titles: LEONARD JOHN PATRICK O'HAGAN, eminent alumnus and Pro-Chancellor of Queen's University Belfast, Commander of the British Empire for services to economic development in Northern Ireland, and the recipient of many honours for his exceptional contribution to business and commerce. This man's success invites us to recall the true meaning of the word 'economy.' In the language of Athenian democracy, *oikonomia* is the 'good management of the household'; the household, in turn, is the model of all partnerships intended to achieve a common good; the supreme partnership is the state, which, while coming into existence for the sake of life, it exists for the *good* life (Aristotle, *Politics* 1252a1, 1252b8). You see, then, that economy is measured not so much by production and profit, but by the welfare of a community. These ideas must have guided our candidate since his early days as a graduate in Economics. In his career he has been at the helm of ten different companies and enterprises, from Fitzwilton Plc to the Belfast Harbour Commissioners to the Royal College of Physicians to the Metropolitan Arts Centre Belfast. He has been a magnificent promoter of prosperity in Northern Ireland and of wellbeing on the entire island, building all-important channels of exchange and collaboration since the ceasefire in 1994. Today he continues to do good in eminent positions, which, as so many before, he holds in an entirely voluntary capacity. I mention two examples. He is the Chair of the Board of the All-Ireland Congenital Heart Disease Network, which in less than a decade has transformed the care for children affected by conditions that required them to have surgery in Britain. With a powerful plan of collaboration built up between the new Children's Heart Centre at the Royal Belfast Hospital and Children's Health Ireland in Crumlin, the Network is not only 'the first cross-jurisdictional clinical service in the world,' he reminds us, but also 'a world class service with patients and families at its centre.' What better definition of 'Good' can be found than saving lives and giving hope? The other example is his leadership as Chair of Northern Ireland Water Service, which, he pledges, 'stands ready to ensure that Northern Ireland can fulfill its potential to the cleaner, greener, and more prosperous future.' Not just Good, you see, but 'Best of all things is water', sang the ancient poet (Pindar, *Olympian* 1.1). The variety of fields to which this man has generously lent his time and expertise is just a little less astounding if we remember that, as Aristotle would have it (*Nichomachean Ethics* 1094a), the pursuit of Good is the aim of all practical sciences—ethics, economics, politics, medicine. No-one has fulfilled this mission more completely than our candidate, whose merits deserve our warmest admiration and assent to his proclamation as Doctor in Science.

## DOCTOR IN UTROQUE JURE

ANNA MAIA McHUGH

PAX ARVA COLAT

**I**nsigni diligentia ac reverentia puellam quandam, sollertem agricolam, pulcherrimum fundum coluisse traditur cum fratribus quinque in aprico agro Lagisio. Nam cum esset XVII fere annos, tamen par esse sapientia videbatur Socrati summo philosopho, qui teste discipulo Xenophonte operis rustici officia sic collaudavit: “Ἐτι δὲ ἡ γῆ θεὸς οὖσα τοὺς δυναμένους καταμανθάνειν καὶ δικαιοσύνην διδάσκει· τοὺς γὰρ ἄριστα θεραπεύοντας αὐτὴν πλεῖστα ἀγαθὰ ἀντιποιεῖ.” Puella cum forte audiret ludos agrestes in proximo vico parari, equo vehementer citato praetorem rusticum appellavit, num ipsam ministram quandam ludorum admittere vellet. Hinc exordium, sodales, non fabulae fictae, sed verae historiae, rerum a puella egregia gestarum honori laudique terrae Hiberniae. Septuaginta per annos bene merita de agri cultura moribusque patriis, tandem ad nos venit ANNA MAIA McHUGH, diva patrona arandi Hibernica, fulgido exemplo mulieribus nostris. Ludi illi agrestes, quos supra dixi, instructi sunt anno MCMLI, cum ad Nobilissimi Praedii Certamina adiverunt agricolae undique insulae nostrae, ut antiquum mos erat in pagis vicis oppidis Hibernicis. Antiquo tamen more viri tantum ludos adire soliti erant. ‘Quidnam mulieres nullae?’ arguebat puella iustissima, ‘tanta inequalitas quam primum corrigenda est.’ Unde primo facta scriba, viginti per annos adsidebat concilio Nobili Praeposito Arvis arandis, quod deinde quinquaginta per annos rexit, atque adhuc regit magnifice. Promissum vero illud aequalitatis amplius ampliusque in annos solvebat: muliebres enim virtutes ad viriles novissime addidit, certantes hinc varia mercatura, hinc cursu equesti, hinc pane coquendo, tot tantisque denique illecebris ludos agrestes augebat, ut nihil usquam terrarum pulchrius vel maius huiusmodi esset quam ludi omnibus gratissimi Hibernici. Ne miremur, sodales, quod nulla mercede, concilio gratis adiuvante, tantum fecit candidata nostra; nam haec mulier optima non tantum est dux praevalida, sed etiam lux alma et piissima, contenta domo sua, parvo oppido Linae, liberali auxilio familiari. Sunt vero qui ludos illos ingentes adaequare soliti sint imperio cuidam sine fine; iniuria, ut puto, quia ad arva frugifera pacifice colenda, non bello vastanda tendit agri cultura. Sed iure victoriam dixerim hanc, vetustate morum servata venustatem iustis principiis recreatam pacifice ac prospere a candidata nostra, indefatigabili patrona salutis ac iustitiae (nonne nunc iudicium quoque certaminis bene vivendi facere solet? Nonne beatam senectutem eloquenter defendit?). Hanc mulierem optimam, dignam quae summis honoribus academicis ornatur, magno cum gaudio salvere iubeamus, ut olim carminibus celebrabatur flava Ceres, alma segetum mater:

Sub iuga bos veniat, sub terras semen aratas

Pax Cererem nutrit, Pacis alumna Ceres.

## DOCTOR IN LAWS

ANNA MAY McHUGH

LET PEACE CULTIVATE THE LAND

Once upon a time there was a beautiful farm in County Laois. A bright young girl lived there with her five brothers, exceptional in her respect and reverence for the land. She was but seventeen years of age, and yet already as wise as Socrates, who believed that ‘Because the earth is a goddess, she also teaches righteousness to those who can learn; for the better she is served, the greater the benefits she gives in return’ (Xenophon, *Oeconomicus*, 5.12). One day, she learned that a competition was taking place nearby, and she cycled down the road to offer her help to the organisers; ‘the rest,’ as she says herself, ‘is history.’ This is no fairy tale, my friends; it is an uplifting chapter in the history of this country. The girl who made history stands before us today, the worthy recipient of countless honours for her seventy years of services rendered to Irish agriculture and culture: ANNA MAY McHUGH is rightfully hailed as ‘the undisputed Queen of Ploughing in Ireland’ and ‘a beacon for women in a man’s world’. The competition that marked the beginning of her incredible story was the National Ploughing Championships of 1951, which brought together farmers from all over the country in a tradition dating back centuries around the villages of the Irish countryside. It was most unusual for a woman to be seen at such events, even less taking an active part. ‘We must do something about that’, she promised. As Secretary of the National Ploughing Association for twenty years and Managing Director since 1973 – a role she plays beautifully to this day – she has kept her promise. Shopping arcades, the Hunt Chase, the Brown Bread Bake competition, are just a few of the additions that have turned the Championships into ‘a real family outing’ (her words), and made it the largest event of its kind in the world. This is an astonishing accomplishment for an entirely voluntary association, and it bears witness to this woman’s unwavering energy and vision. The operation, which our candidate runs from her home in Ballylinan, is so vast that it is sometimes described as an ‘empire’; but the word is at odds with its spirit of peaceful celebration of nature’s life-giving powers. She has peacefully transformed Irish society by fostering its core values and helping recognise the invaluable work of women in a previously male-dominated world. Her deep commitment to equality and community wellbeing is evidenced also in her roles as Live Well champion and Age Friendly Ireland ambassador for County Laois. We are honoured to welcome this extraordinary woman to the highest ranks of our University, and take pride in saluting her with the ancient Roman song in honour of the golden goddess of crops (Ovid, *Fasti* 1.703–4):

Yoke the ox, commit the seed to the ploughed earth.  
Peace is the nurse of Ceres, and Ceres is the child of Peace.

## DOCTOR IN UTROQUE JURE

COLMANUS OLIVERUS O’GORMAN

Λυδία μὲν γὰρ λίθος  
μανύει χρυσόν, ἀνδρῶν  
δ’ ἀρετὰν σοφία τε  
παγκρατῆς τ’ ἐλέγχει  
ἀλάθεια.

**V**era quidem dixit Bacchylides poeta vetustus de virtute Veritatis. Hanc olim petebat Socrates omnium sapientissimus, cuius dictum ‘Γνῶθι σεαυτὸν’ adhuc in inlustri positum monumento intueri solet; hanc item petit apud nos COLMANUS OLIVERUS O’GORMAN, qui indefessa industria miraque eloquentia civitatem suam iubet impavide quaerere verum, cuius luce clarissima illuminetur via virtutis, iustitiae ac libertatis. Sed quam arduum iter fuerit, omnibus constat. Puerum enim taetras in tenebras abreptum tenebat pravitas hominum nefanda, tam nefariis facinoriis in patria Menapia subiectum, ut adulescens fugeret miser. Cum primum domum redit, iniuriam ausus ulcisci, nocentibus in iudicium adductis, et se vindicavit et multitudinem miserorum, quos flagitia oppresserant scelerissima. Intrepidi viri praecipue laudantur vera pietas et spes et fiducia humanitatis; quibus virtutibus, ut omnibus constat, cives suos duxit ad gloriam iustitiae atque aequalitatis. Praesidio enim miserrimis pueris, prava alicuius libidine violatis, solacia ac hospitia instituit, ne vulneribus omnino conficerentur, ne salutem futuram despereant. Deinde quattuordecim per annos fortissime duxit patrios custodes universae pacis atque humanitatis, ubicumque homines periclitentur iniuria paupertatis, inopia domuum, vel perturbationibus immanibus et corporis et caeli. Nunc eum audimus vehementer defendere turbam magis magisque increscentem profugorum in insulam nostram: ‘exules crudelitate inopiae bellive benigne accipere placeat familiae communi Hibernicae!’ Nam familiae vincula sacra veretur candidatus noster, iam filius dilectus, nunc pater optimus; nonne ad cenam lautissimam nos omnes cotidie adducere solebat, cum, taeterrimo morbo insaevente, in deserto arido soli superstites esse videbamus? Hunc spectamus, sodales, fortem fautorem iustissimae patriae; hunc disertum decoraverunt discipuli nostri aureo emblemate societatis historicae; huic gratias denique maximas agunt cives, quos suasit ut, omni reticentia, ignavia, molestia sui cuiusque flagitii praeteriti demum seposita, libertate sibi vindicata, vera fundamenta firmarent rei publicae iustae, honestae, sollicitae, benevolae, denique liberalis atque humanissimae. Nihil enim honestius vel humanius quam hominem homini bene velle. Ne dubitetis, academici: huius viri virtutem experta est Veritas ipsa. Fidem facit Maria illa patrona iustissima, prima praeses ac cancellaria nostra: in cordibus hominum primum pulchre inscripta esse iura omnia aequitatis ac libertatis.

## DOCTOR IN LAWS

COLM OLIVER O’GORMAN

While gold is tested by the  
Lydian stone,  
man’s virtue is tested  
by wisdom and all-powerful  
Truth

(Bacchylides, fr. 14)

**T**he pursuit of Truth is our next candidate’s life-long mission, guided by the wisdom of the Socratic motto, ‘Know yourself’. ‘Who am I?’, ‘Who are we as a nation?’ ‘How can we be true to ourselves?’ These are the questions that COLM O’GORMAN raises, in his own life and through his public voice, in his relentless advocacy of Truth as the guiding light towards freedom and justice. Of darkness, exile and injustice he had direct experience. No words can describe the abominable abuse he suffered when growing up in Wexford better than the title of his own memoir: *Beyond Belief*. But he would not want us to dwell upon his courage in speaking up about an outrageous past, although it helped vindicate many victims; today we celebrate his ‘confidence in the goodness that lies at the heart of humanity’, and his active belief in this country’s future with compassion, dignity and integrity at its centre. These values have informed his entire working life. He was the founder and former director of One in Four, the organisation supporting victims of childhood sexual violence. He was Executive Director of Amnesty International Ireland for fourteen years, defending the fundamental human rights to housing, health, safety in this tormented world. As Global Director of Community Engagement at the Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative, and Board Member of The Open Community, he now stands up for the rights of refugees to feel protected and welcome, as in a new family. He is a loving family man himself, and even in the isolation of the Covid lockdown he found a way of building community by sharing delicious food recipes. His contribution to public discourse has been immense, as recently acknowledged by the award of our Historical Society Gold Medal. His memorable campaigns for marriage equality and the constitutional reform of abortion law helped Ireland rise to become a world leader in human rights. If you ask him, ‘Who are we as a nation?’, he will tell you of a country that breaks the silence, casts off shame and trauma, takes collective responsibility for its past and finally embraces the true ancient values on which its republican democracy rests: ‘equality and self-determination, mutual regard and respect, care and caregiving.’ If you ask him what ‘activism’ means to him, you will be moved by his answer: ‘it’s about creating opportunities for humanity to be its very best, and for *love* to manifest.’ Have no doubts, my friends: our candidate’s action is the living proof of this profound truth: ‘Human rights are inscribed in the hearts of people; they were there long before lawmakers drafted their first proclamation’ (Mary Robinson).

## DOCTOR IN UTROQUE JURE

HERMANNUS VAN ROMPUY

‘**O**ὐδεις γὰρ οὕτω ἀνόητος ἐστὶ ὅστις πόλεμον πρὸ εἰρήνης αἰρέεται· ἐν μὲν γὰρ τῇ οἱ παῖδες τοῦ πατέρας θάπτουσι, ἐν δὲ τῷ οἱ πατέρες τοὺς παῖδας.’ Sic pater historiae Herodotus in loco saepe commemorato a viro diserto, qui ultimus in podium procedit. Quare id faciat si quaeritis, aures, quaeso, praebeatis. Studiis feliciter excultis in Philosophia primo, in Scientiis deinde Oeconomicis Applicatis apud Catholicam Universitatem Lovaniensem, historia quoque est peritissimus Comes HERMANNUS VAN ROMPUY, illustrissimus Praeses Emeritus Concilii Europaei. Iuvenis primum inter mensarios Belgicos officium insigne obtinuerat, sed brevi tempore in rem publicam inducebatur. Officiis omnibus functus, quindecim abhinc annos in summo fastigio rei publicae Belgicae erat, cum subito principes nationum Europae consociatarum eum arcessunt, qui praesideret Concilio Europaeo nuperrime ad consulendum rite condito. Si vero memoria tenetis orationem eius inauguralem, compertum habetis viro magnopere curae fuisse ut faveret foveretque fideli securitate societam illam foederibus paciferis fundatam. Ut par Belgico ingenio, vir est natura proclivis ad sermones inter homines conferendos, ad sententias conciliandas, ad concordiam denique partibus cum partibus constituendam. Quae virtutes, ut arbitror, aptissimae sunt moderatori rei publicae tam variis nationibus conditae; totas autem vires suas expertus est in discrimine periculi. Nova enim mala necopinato undique exorta – ut dira gentium inopia, Scythia incursu Sarmatico oppressa, res omnes, inquam, incertae ac periclitantes, quas ipse dilucide descripsit in libro de temporibus suis – ea omnia velut tempestatem fortiter sustinuit, ut Europae nationes societate et foedere coniunctas defenderet praesidio paci communi. Nam universali bello secundo finito, adeo concordēs vivebant civitates Europae consociatae ut viginti fere abhinc annos ab academia Suetica summo decore ornarentur pro pace gentium promovenda. Tunc autem virum audivimus gratulantem quidem, sed etiam veridicis monitis vaticinantem: bellum strenue avertendum esse et in pacis temporibus, nam malum, quod vix fieri posset, nihilominus id forte futurum esse. Eheu decem fere post annos repente miseri periclitamur, horridis bellis fato adiectis ad pericula securitatis salutisque universae; unde vehementius vir, cuius pietas eximia universe extollitur, nos exhortatur ut sacro foedere coniuncti concordēs resistamus temporum iniquitati. A Concilio illo diu profectus, nunc a summa cathedra vetusti collegii, nunc a solio consilii recentioris, incessanter perseverat in monitis societatis nostrae tuendae, ut decet civitatem bonam, sive εὐτοπίαν, ut legitur in vetere libello de optimo statu reipublicae: ‘Bellum utpote rem plane beluinam, nec ulli tamen beluarum formae in tam assiduo atque homini est usu, summo opere abominantur, contraque morem gentium ferme omnium nihil aequè ducunt inglorium, atque petitam e bello gloriam.’ Fidem igitur servemus, cives optimae rei publicae, et sonorissimo plauso concordēs confirmemus.



## DOCTOR IN LAWS

### HERMAN VAN ROMPUY

‘No man is so foolish as to desire war more than peace: for in peace sons bury their fathers, in war fathers bury their sons’ (Herodotus, *Histories* 1.87). Our last distinguished candidate often cites these ancient words in his charismatic addresses. If you wonder why that is, kindly listen on. Count HERMAN VAN ROMPUY, President Emeritus of the European Council, holds a B.A. in Philosophy and a Master’s in Applied Economics from the Catholic University of Leuven, but his command of history is formidable. After a long career, first as an economist at the National Bank of Belgium, then serving his country as Senator, Member of Parliament, Minister of State (among many other roles) and Prime Minister, he was appointed as first full-time President of the European Council in 2009, when the forum of Heads of Member States was formalised as an institution to define the political direction of the European Union. He inaugurated his five-year tenure with the promise of promoting ‘dialogue, unity and action’, of ‘building trust among leaders, institutions, countries.’ This programme was congenial to him: the Belgians, he says, have a tradition of talking to each other, listening, building consensus and reconciling interests, and that is ‘the DNA of the European Council.’ He was also eminently suited to tackle unprecedented crises such as the global recession and the first Russian invasion of Ukraine. The danger of instability was masterfully captured in *Europe in the Storm*, one of his many books. He made sure that Europe kept its promise of peace, which was the reason the European Union rose from the ashes of World War II. In the speech delivered on the historic occasion of the Nobel Prize for Peace awarded to the European Union in 2012, we heard him utter prophetic words: ‘War in Europe is now inconceivable; but that does not mean it is impossible: the history of peace is not a book we can close after a happy ending.’ Ten years later violent conflict joined financial, health and climate challenges to form the phenomenon now known as ‘permacrisis’. His support of initiatives intended to mitigate the effects of these perils has been invaluable. The honours bestowed on him are innumerable. His commitment to unity, solidarity and peace-building is indefatigable. He comes to us today as Chair of the College of Europe, the oldest postgraduate institute of European Studies, and Honorary President of the European Policy Centre devoted to European integration. The message he articulates loud and clear to today’s leaders is one of political will, determination and a vision of ‘togetherness’. There is no room for war in *The Good Place*, he reminded us in his celebration of the quincentenary of Thomas More’s *Utopia*. Open that book, my friends, and reflect on this paragraph: ‘War as a thing very beastly (and yet to no kind of beast in so much use as to man) they do detest and abhor. And contrary to the sentiments of almost all other nations, they deem nothing more inglorious than glory gained by war.’ Let our unanimous acclamation be the pledge of our own unfaltering allegiance.