

# Nano

Mark 10: 17-21

*As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, 'Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: "You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honour your father and mother." ' He said to him, 'Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.' Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, 'You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.'*

'In Nano Nagle's childhood years she was fashioned and formed in a secure loving Christian family home amidst the beauty of the landscape of Ballygriffin, Co Cork. In this environment, Nano's respect for the dignity of people and human rights was rooted, and her appreciation of the beauty and wonder of creation nurtured daily. In one of her letters she writes: "If I could be of any service in saving souls in any part of the globe, I would gladly do all in my power."

*Take down your lantern from its niche and go out!  
You may not dwell in firelight certainties,  
Secure from drifting fog of doubt and fear.  
You may not build yourself confining walls  
And say: "Thus far, and thus, and thus far shall I walk,  
And these things shall I do, and nothing more.'  
Go out! For need calls loudly in the winding lanes  
And you must seek Christ there.  
Your pilgrim heart  
Shall urge you still one pace beyond,  
And love shall be your lantern-flame.  
Raphael Consedine pbvm*

Living Justice: Nano

'As an adult, the city of Cork of her day where she ministered was marked with violence and bloodshed – often caused by the ignorance of the many and the oppression of those in power. Her vision was of empowering the disenfranchised through education which in turn would lead to a more just and peaceful society where all could flourish and fulfil their potential. Today, those who walk in the footsteps of Nano are at the frontline of human rights activity, tackling inequality, creating awareness and taking action to influence global policy.

'Protecting the planet and promoting sustainability is a core part of ensuring that the dignity of those living on earth can be maintained. It is also a way of demonstrating respect to the earth and cosmos that God has created for the human race.'

Nano Nagle text sourced from [nanonagle.org/justice-peace-integrity-of-creation/](http://nanonagle.org/justice-peace-integrity-of-creation/)

The following excerpts taken from: Consedine, M. Raphael: *One Pace Beyond: the Life of Nano Nagle* pp210-213

*'If I could be of service in saving souls in any part of the world, I would willingly do all in my power.'*

Nano is a 'Champion of freedom of thought in a minority –dominated society; fearless upholder of the church's right to direct the teaching of its children; foundress of a great religious family; pathfinder for many other Irish Congregations...' these are all titles attributed to Nano Nagle.

21 years after the death of Nano Nagle in 1784, after the final solemn seal of the Church's approval of the Congregation of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary was approved by the Vatican–growth was small but definitive and groups soon departed for Newfoundland, America, Australia and New Zealand.

'In 1866, sisters left for Tasmania, to Melbourne in 1873, then in the '90's to NSW, Queensland and Western Australia.' The 'Unknown Southland' of Nano's girlhood was to have its hundred centres from which the work would be carried far.'

Now, the spirit of Nano Nagle is present and active all over the world. From our more familiar 'Wellsprings for Women' and 'Presentation Family Centre' as part of Kildare Ministries to the inspirational Cork Migrant Centre visited by our own pilgrims in Ireland; all these missions and hundreds more share the same commitment to justice and the desire to boldly push the boundaries of the status quo and challenge the conventional institutions and thinking of our time – to go 'one pace beyond.'

