

Special Mass Celebrating 250 Years

Ireland South West Unit

6 March 2026



L-R: Srs Sheila Kelleher, Mary Dinneen and Bishop Fintan Gavin

Glorious sunshine greeted the multitudes who filled St Finbarr's South Church in Cork on Friday 6 March 2026. It was an auspicious occasion marking the 250th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Presentation Sisters, by Venerable Nano Nagle. This special day was gifted to us by the Sisters of South Presentation Community.

Presentation Sisters, Friends of Nano, Primary and Post-Primary Presentation students from the diocese of Cork and Ross, along with invited guests and parishioners gathered as a community of faith to celebrate Eucharist.

Sr Mary O'Brien delivered a comprehensive overview of Nano Nagle's life, vision and legacy. Thus prompting those present to ponder Nano's tenacity of purpose and bravery in Penal Ireland.

The Principal Celebrant, Bishop Fintan Gavin, Bishop of the Diocese of Cork and Ross, in his homily encouraged students to take pride in the foundress, Nano Nagle and to strive, as Nano did, to create a world built on justice, truth and love.



L-R: Srs Miriam Martin, Sharon Fagan, Bishop Gavin, Srs Anne O'Leary, Sheila De Sa, Joy Puerta

Bishop Gavin acknowledged the 250 years of selfless service, compassion and faith given by Presentation Sisters in Cork and beyond. He thanked God for the example and inspiration these women offered. He set a challenge for young people, to carry forward the torch of hope enkindled by Nano in 1775. The congregation prayed that young people *may continue to grow in faith, hope and love inspired by the example of Nano Nagle's life of humble service.*

The hymn, *Standing on the Shoulders*, led by the choir from Presentation Secondary School, Ballyphehane, captured the legacy of the 250 years of Presentation presence, while also encouraging the younger generation to follow in the footsteps

of Nano going one step beyond.

Guests were invited to enjoy light refreshments in the Goldie Chapel in Nano Nagle Place.

Submitted by: Lynda Irwin