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# FURROW

*The*

A JOURNAL FOR THE  
CONTEMPORARY CHURCH

*Michael G. Olden*

Ronan Drury

December 2017

# Ronan Drury

## Editor of *The Furrow* 1977-2017

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On behalf of the Trustees of *The Furrow* I invite you to join us in sorrow at the death on Thursday 16 November of our beloved and talented editor Ronan Drury. In a special place I mention the readers of *The Furrow* who, month after month, have been offered food for Christian living and thought, provocative and encouraging ideas, well written comments on the Church, and especially on the Irish Church and its efforts as well as its shortcomings. Under the influence of a tireless and gifted editor the style was well mannered, a sense of surprise was engendered as one stepped from one contribution to another, leaped from dark into light, from complaint into praise, from caution to challenge. In every issue Ronan Drury was the helmsman, adjusting the sails to a theologian here, a poet there, a critic where criticism was called for.

In his passing the Irish Church and Maynooth College has lost a professional editor, a caring and wise professor, and especially a happy priest. He was indeed a man for all seasons and for all kinds of people. The men and women, Catholic and otherwise, who have written in *The Furrow* have been helped by his encouragement and approval and, indeed, by his fearless correction when necessary.

In our sorrow for ourselves we must try to avoid selfishness and indulgence. We salute his family and the people of Mullagh, County Cavan, whom he held very dear and in whose presence he chose to be laid to rest. He belonged to them ever before he entered Maynooth or met any of us. May the memory of him always remain an inspiration to them.

The Trustees of *The Furrow* also extend sympathy to Ronan's many friends and supporters. They are legion and they are far flung. We convey the sad news of his death to friends of his and of *The Furrow* in distant places: Australia, New Zealand, U.S.A., Canada, U.K., Italy, Germany and Missionary Centres throughout the world.

One person deserves special sympathy and special gratitude: Maria Flood, secretary of *The Furrow* and, like her father before her, loyal and gentle to *The Furrow* and to the editor. That loyalty was deeply expressed in her attentiveness to Ronan during long months of illness. Maria has been indescribably helpful and we all echo Ronan's personal gratitude to her.

## THE FURROW

As we grieve his passing it is appropriate that we humbly pray that Ronan will maintain his interest and influence on *The Furrow* and enable it to continue its mission to Ireland and other places. May he guide its new and promising editor to lead *The Furrow* to new and sunny uplands. Ronan must answer our prayer.

Michael G. Olden

### **Resurrection**

There will be a day in the end  
When there will be no need  
To explain anything,

When we will row  
Across the short channel  
To the island

And find You standing  
Where the white shingle  
Drops steeply into sea,

Waiting to gather us  
Under Your russet coat.

– PÁDRAIG DALY, *Clinging to the Myth* (Dublin: Dedalus Press)