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Earthquake leaves 159 dead in central Italy

SURVIVORS were last night still being pulled from the rubble hours after a magnitude 6.2 earthquake hit central Italy, killing at least 159 people.

The quake struck in the early hours of yesterday when most of the residents were asleep, razing homes and buckling roads in a cluster of communities 140km east of Rome.

The quake hit near the Umbrian town of Norcia, in an area popular as a summer holiday destination.

Tremors could be felt for 20 seconds in Rome, as far north as Bologna and as far south as Naples.

The worst-hit towns were believed to be Accumoli, Amatrice, Posta and Arquata del Tronto.



A nun checks her mobile phone as she lies near a makeshift stretcher following an earthquake in Amatrice, central Italy.

Full story, p10-11

School lunches making teens fat

Katherine Donnelly

LUNCHES provided by schools are contributing to the growing obesity problem in children, new research reveals.

Two in five teenagers are actually eating junk food at school, according to the new study from Dublin City University (DCU).

While 60pc of those aged 15-17 bring in a homemade lunch, the rest rely on what is sold in school, the local shop or a fast food outlet.

However, these lunches contain much higher levels of calories, sugars and fat.

Typically, school or shop-bought fare is low in nutrients and features processed foods such as sausages or breaded chicken rolls, chips and high-calorie soft drinks. But homemade lunches are more likely to contain wholemeal bread, cheese, red meat and fruit - and have fewer calories.

The findings of the research, carried out under Dr Mary Rose Sweeney at DCU's School of Nursing and Human Sciences, are published in the 'Journal of Public Health Nutrition'.

Many schools rely on private catering companies and vending machines to provide lunches and snacks.

While there are healthy eating policies from Government departments and agencies, schools have free rein.

Full story, Pages 14-15

Bishops clamp down on Maynooth 'behaviour'

■ Hierarchy admits 'unhealthy atmosphere' at seminary amid gay app row

Sarah MacDonald

BISHOPS have now admitted concerns about an "unhealthy atmosphere" at the Maynooth seminary in the wake of the 'gay culture' revelations.

Following claims that trainee priests at St Patrick's College are using the gay dating app Grindr, church leaders have ordered

a review on the "appropriate use of the internet and social media" at the college.

The country's most senior bishops, who make up the college's board of trustees, have also ordered an overhaul of its approach to whistleblowers.

The bishops met for crisis talks after Archbishop of Dublin Diarmuid Martin confirmed he

Sarah MacDonald

Future of seminary in balance as numbers fall page 15



was boycotting the seminary.

As 14 new seminarians began their six years of training for the priesthood at St Patrick's College this week, Maynooth's trustees issued a range of directives aimed at rebuilding the seminary's tarnished image.

In a tacit acknowledgment of the problems that have beset Maynooth in recent months,

the trustees warned in their statement: "There is no place in a seminary community for any sort of behaviour or attitude which contradicts the teaching and example of Jesus Christ."

A source in Maynooth told the *Irish Independent* that the clampdown goes further than the directives announced. **Reports & Analysis, p15**

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Church leaders admit an 'unhealthy atmosphere' at college amid gay app row

Sarah MacDonald



Review: St Patrick's College in Maynooth

THE Catholic Church hierarchy has admitted concerns about an "unhealthy atmosphere" at the country's main seminary amid claims trainee priests there are using the gay dating app Grindr. Church leaders have ordered a review on the "appropriate use of the internet and social media" at the centuries-old St Patrick's College in Maynooth, Co Kildare, as well as an overhaul of its approach to whistleblowers.

The college trustees - four archbishops and 13 senior bishops - met for crisis talks after the Catholic Archbishop of Dublin Diarmuid Martin confirmed he was boycotting the seminary.

As 14 new seminarians began their six years of training for the priesthood at St Patrick's College this week, Maynooth's trustees issued a range of directives aimed at rebuilding the seminary's tarnished image.

In a tacit acknowledgment of the problems that have beset Maynooth in recent months, the trustees warned in their statement: "There is no place in a seminary community for

any sort of behaviour or attitude which contradicts the teaching and example of Jesus Christ."

They ordered Maynooth's seminary authorities to evaluate and review its policy regarding "the appropriate use of the internet and social media".

A source in Maynooth told the *Irish Independent* that the clampdown goes further than the directives announced by the trustees.

Earlier this month, Dr Martin announced he was withdrawing his seminarians from

the Co Kildare college and sending them to the Irish College in Rome.

In an RTE interview, the Archbishop spoke about the "poisonous" atmosphere in the college.

He described gay dating app Grindr as something which promoted promiscuity - and was therefore contrary to the teachings of the Church and the celibacy demanded for Catholic priests and seminarians.

Maynooth's trustees have asked the Irish Bishops' Conference to commission an independent audit and report of governance and statutes in Irish seminaries. This would cover, in addition to Maynooth, the Irish College in Rome and St Malachy's College in Belfast.

In tandem with this, the bishops have been asked to "urgently" develop a uniform national policy for admissions to Irish seminaries.

No such uniform national policy currently exists and so individual dioceses make the decision.

It is also expected that a pre-seminary year will become a mandatory requirement for all

candidates for formation to the priesthood.

Another significant development will see the establishment of a sub-committee to examine the pastoral needs of priestly training in contemporary Ireland.

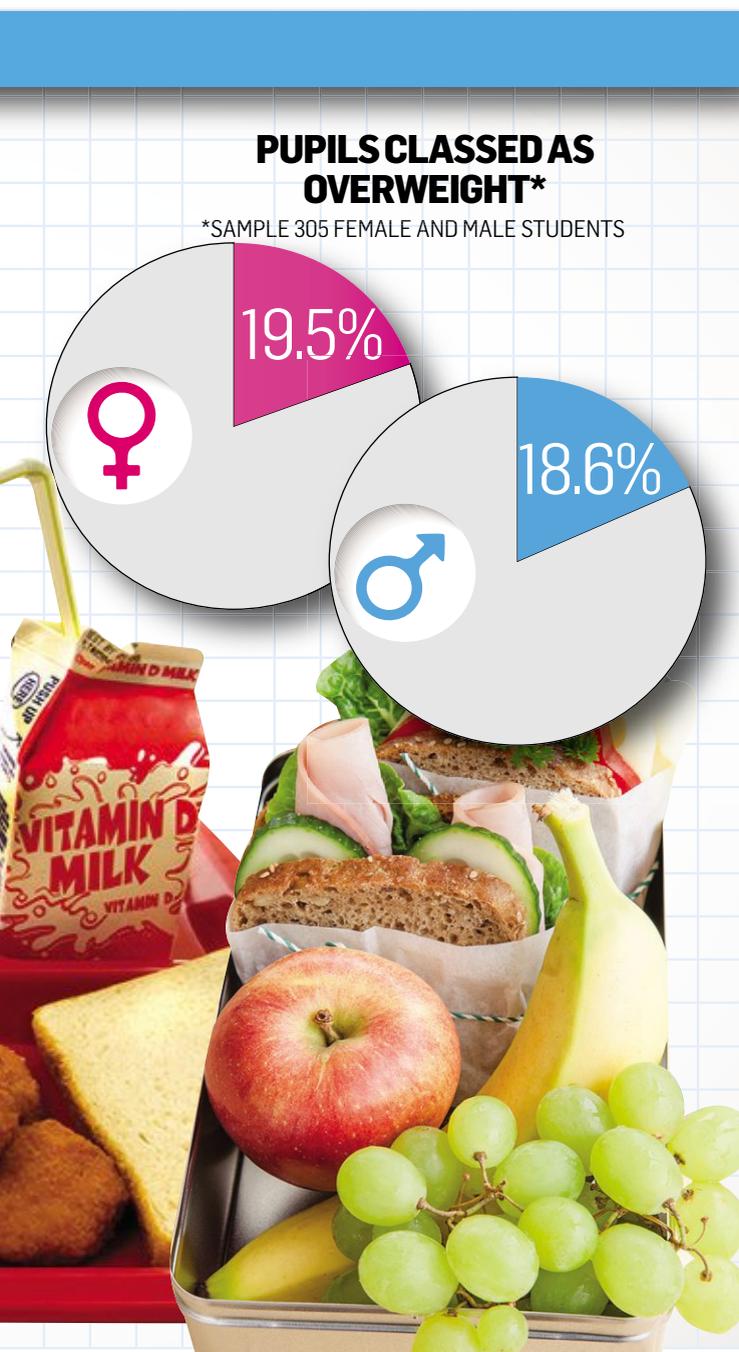
This sub-committee will involve lay people, families and "especially" women in priestly formation, as recently recommended by Pope Francis.

On the issue of whistleblowing, Maynooth's trustees have ordered a review of current policies and procedures for reporting complaints.

This is a matter of particular concern to those seminarians who claimed they were intimidated into silence when they witnessed inappropriate behaviour.

They said this has been directed with a view to adopting best practice and procedures for 'protected disclosures', or whistleblowing.

Founded in 1795, Maynooth College was once the largest seminary in the world. It was built to train 500 trainee Catholic priests every year, but numbers have fallen to just over 40.



obese and overweight children and this research showed how effective food marketing was.

Prof Staines said the work also supported the 'No-Fry Zone' campaign, to stop fast food outlets opening near schools. One in four Irish children are overweight or obese and the

World Health Organisation recently predicted Ireland was on course to be the fattest country in Europe by 2030.

One-fifth of the energy intake from a child's diet today comes from sugary drinks, biscuits, confectionery, chocolate and cake.

way on healthy food

opportunity to offer healthy foods to develop healthy habits for life."

Fast and processed foods are a culture now firmly embedded in secondary schools in Ireland - cultures are hard to change and can take years.

Legislation will be more effective and would result in changes occurring more quickly.

We are calling on the Department of Education and Skills and schools to consider policies that improve school food practices and minimise students' exposure to unhealthy food environments. Initiatives that encourage teenagers to opt for homemade lunches are also recommended.

Recent school reforms in the UK include mandatory

nutrient standards for school meals as well as restrictions on the availability, frequency and portion sizes of high-sugar and high-fat snack foods. These improvements related to macronutrients composition, increased dietary fibre as well as vitamin C.

Research in the UK has indicated that these standards are improving the nutritional intake of students who avail of school lunches, compared with home-sourced lunches.

Jamie Oliver's highlighting of the importance of school nutrition in the UK has led to the improvement of school food there. Ireland could benefit from such a champion.

Future of Maynooth seminary in balance as number of student priests plummets

IN 2011, Pope Benedict XVI's SWAT team of apostolic investigators swooped on the national seminary in Maynooth in search of immorality.

A year later, a summary of their findings was published. The report's venal criticisms undoubtedly prompted a collective sigh of relief within the Irish hierarchy. Nothing too untoward was uncovered and with a few screens and locked doors installed, seminary life went on as usual. But, as we all know, a wound left to fester is not likely to heal.

The future of Maynooth as a seminary hangs in the balance. A college which once catered for the spiritual needs of up to 500 men has seen the number of student priests plummet to roughly 50 this year. Fourteen men embark on six years of training this week.

Some will stay and some will drop out. Even if all of them stayed, it wouldn't be nearly enough to meet the needs of a church facing a vocations crisis and a rapidly ageing clergy.

The series of directives which emerged from the emergency meeting of the

Sarah MacDonald Analysis



national seminary's trustees on Tuesday confirm what many have suspected for a long time.

Dysfunctional behaviour within the hallowed walls of this 200-year-old college has ruptured the camaraderie among the student body and the staff. It has shocked the faithful and diminished the priesthood in their eyes. Pockets supporting the training of priests may prove less deep in the future.

Some commentators have criticised the prurient interest in what seminarians

get up to, arguing that as they are not ordained, they should be free to have the space to explore themselves.

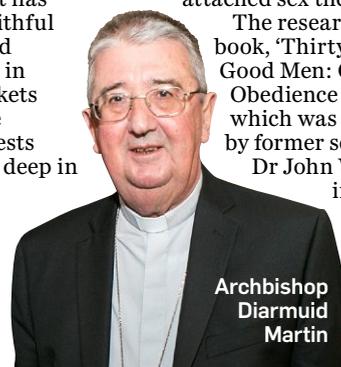
If they are on Grindr - so what?

But the days of hordes of seminarians joining the college straight from school are long gone. Most of these men are at least in their late 20s and therefore they know what they are getting into. If they can't hack celibacy, then they should realise that this calling is not for them.

What many lay people find galling is the hypocrisy of conservative men pontificating to them on marital fidelity and no sex before marriage while indulging in no-strings-attached sex themselves.

The research for the book, 'Thirty-Three Good Men: Celibacy, Obedience and Identity', which was carried out by former seminarian

Dr John Weafer, interviewed Irish priests on a number of issues. The research showed a difference



Archbishop Diarmuid Martin

between the ages on the issue of celibacy with older and middle-aged priests finding it difficult to see any positive side to celibacy, while younger priests regarded it as "key" to their priesthood.

That doesn't stack up with the "strange goings-on" in Maynooth.

One of the interesting directives to emerge from the trustees is the request that the bishops "urgently" develop a uniform national policy for admissions to Irish seminaries. No such uniform policy currently exists, which means the criteria for prospective seminarians vary from diocese to diocese. That can result in haphazard standards among candidates.

The introduction of a propaedeutic (pre-seminary) year for all applicants for priestly training is an attempt by the trustees to distil those who are serious about this life of service from those who may be drawn to priesthood for the wrong reasons. If Archbishop Diarmuid Martin's proposal for an apprenticeship model gains traction, then those keen to retain Maynooth as a seminary will need some good arguments to hold sway.