

We need a country built on equality and justice

Once known as the land of saints and scholars Ireland today is better known as the land of scandals and tribunals. Politics, banking, the church, business, medicine, law and the Gardai have all suffered from an erosion of public confidence in the wake of an astonishing proliferation of scandals. Moreover, Ireland has undergone rapid social, economic and political change over the last decade, which has had a profound impact on our value system. For example, the decline in authority and influence experienced by the Catholic Church in recent years has forced many people to seek other sources for ethical and moral guidance.

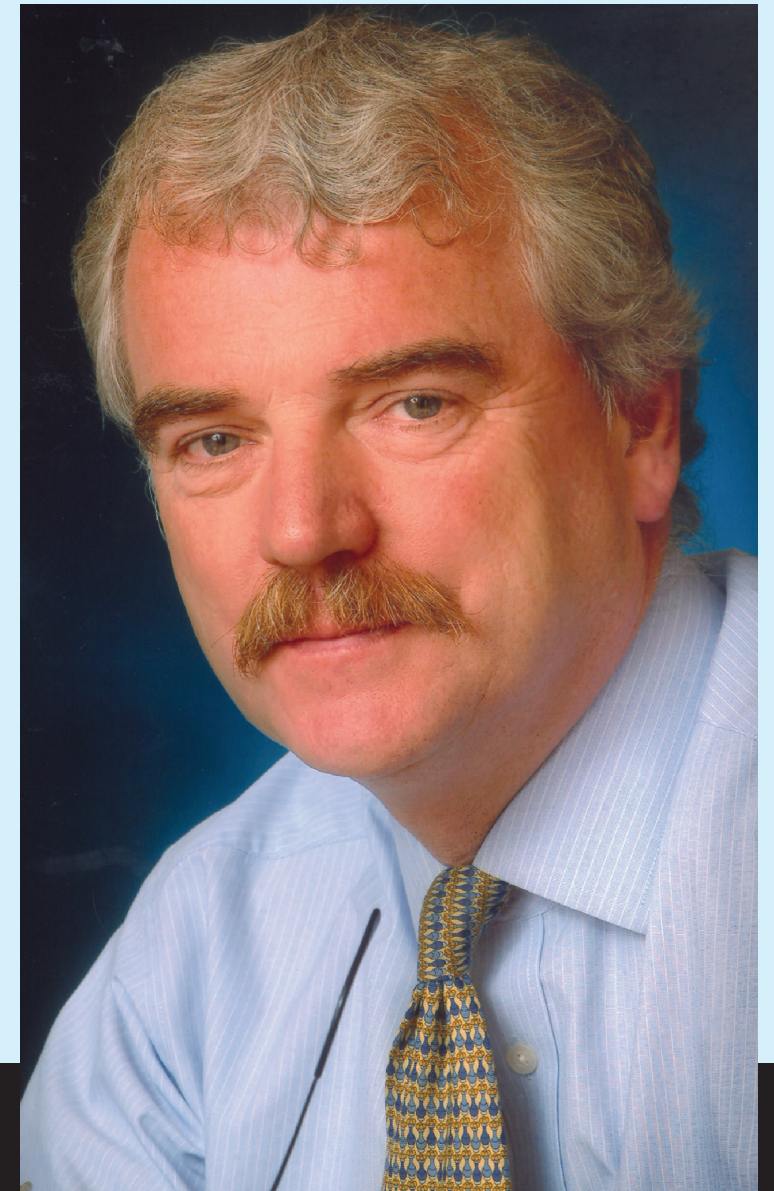
Ireland at the beginning of the 21st Century is a fairly prosperous country, yet this created dilemmas of its own. Difficult decisions about the distribution of resources raised awkward questions for society. How is the tension between the rights of individuals and the overall good of society to be resolved? And who do we look to for guidance? The political elite? The Christian Church? The medical or legal professions,

Business leaders? All have had their credibility seriously tainted by damaging scandals.

Finian has made these challenges in the Dail and in the wider society. He voted against the budget because it was unfair. People with disabilities and carers face a cut of 4%. People in receipt of blind pensions will suffer this drop in income which equates to about €450 a year.

Ministers take a 5% pay cut when cleaners in their offices are taking a greater cut. Public servants are attacked and vilified by politicians and the media. Attempts are being made to divide public sector and private sector workers. Finian is trying hard to end this division. He is also fighting for the hard pressed mortgage holders that are now being hammered.

Finian McGrath has stood up for these workers and will continue to fight for a better future for us all. This future has got to be built on Equality and Social Justice.



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