Circles of Life

2020 ▣ An Irish Calendar ▣ 2021

THE HASSETT LAW FIRM P.L.C.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Irish Calendar. During that time, I've focused on telling the story of Ireland and her people in words and pictures. These stories have included the 1916 Easter Rising and Ireland's long march to freedom, the tale of St. Brendan's voyage across the Atlantic in 700 A.D., and Irish immigrant stories (including my own). We've celebrated the Good Friday Peace Agreement, Celtic music and literature, and have hosted a photography competition in support of Arizona's Irish Cultural Center.

Throughout all of this, I have endeavored to provide a perspective on "Real Ireland," rather than a portrayal of "Hollywood Ireland." In doing so, I welcomed submissions from nearly all of Ireland's 32 counties. Some came from friends, others from total strangers who became friends of the Calendar. I also included photographs of my own, not because I thought they were better photographs, but to better tell the story of my homeland.

In a way, the 10 years of Calendar photography and storytelling have been an extended love letter to my points of origin. Those origins are a mix of places and experiences, but are mostly rooted in my family. I would not be here without my mother and father. Sadly, my father passed away long before I produced any calendars, but I have tried to evoke his memory with many shots of seafaring, his life's passion. We lost my mother in 2019 and this year's Calendar honors her in ways large and small, with a focus on nature and her beloved Cork Harbor.

My family has often accompanied me on photographic journeys, with my brother, Bryan, providing waterborne transport to otherwise inaccessible coastal nooks and crannies. My wife Carolyn and son Barry have endured numerous detours to out-of-the-way places so I could find the "perfect shot," never complaining even if it meant a delayed meal or a longer journey home.

Photo: Barry Hassett

Perhaps most of all, I've been enriched by my dialogue with the many photographers who have contributed images in the past 10 years. These included professional photographers who gladly authorized use of their work for little or no reward, visitors to Ireland who posted pictures on the Internet, as well as distant relatives whom I might not otherwise have encountered. To this wonderful community of photographers, I owe an immense debt of gratitude.

After ten wonderful years, this is my last Irish Calendar. In its "Circle of Life" the Calendar has connected me with contributors and readers alike, forging a bond for which I will be forever grateful. I hope the stories and pictures have inspired you to voyage to my homeland, whether in dreams or reality. If I have succeeded in bringing a little piece of Ireland into your life, I am enriched in mine.

▣ Myles Patrick Hassett ▣

ON THE COVER: For thousands of years, sunset on the Winter Solstice has been marked along the axis of the Dromberg Stone Circle, a place of ritual, ceremony, and burial overlooking the Atlantic Ocean near Glandore, Co. Cork.

My thanks to this year's contributing photographers Anne Kleindienst (April's Old Head of Kinsale), Áine Dillon (Mother's Day Connemara Sea Pinks and January's Puffin on Skellig Michael), and Niamh Treharne Andrews (December's Sacred Heart Church in Snow). Some other photographers are unknown, especially on older family pictures, but they are appreciated too for the legacy left by my mother in her lovingly assembled photo albums. The remaining photographs are my own, largely taken during my multiple trips to Ireland in 2019 to visit my mother during the last year of her life — I love you, Mum, and am blessed to see the world through your lens.

My special thanks to Kathy Morgan of Morgan & Company (morganandcompany.com), who yet again inspired me to tell my stories in pictures and words, while grounding me in the realities of calendar production and presentation. I will miss our collaboration, but will never forget how hard Kathy worked over the years to make the Irish Calendar as beautiful as the land it portrays. The Calendar is printed by Americopy in Mesa, Arizona.

The windswept view from Templebreedy overlooking the entrance to my mother's beloved Cork Harbor, the beginning and end point for the circle of her life, which I celebrate in this year's Calendar.

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The cruise ship CMV Columbus entering Cork Harbor destined for the town of Cobh, the last port of call for the ill-fated Titanic in 1912. Cobh (named Queenstown by the British) is now home to tourist attractions including the interactive Titanic Experience and The Queenstown Story, a history of Irish emigration.

February 2020

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March 2020

April 2020

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 *Daylight Savings Start*	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 *St. Patrick's Day – Sláinte!*	18	19 *Spring Equinox*	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

My mother Helen Hassett (1938–2019) embodied the indomitable spirit for which the Irish are known, twice circumnavigating the globe on cruise ships, once visiting South America and flying over Peru's ancient Nazca Lines, fantastical geoglyphs carved in earth and visible only from the air.

These Croatian anglers told me they left the aftermath of war-torn Bosnia for the peace and prosperity of modern Ireland, surely a measure of how far my homeland has come since the 1998 Good Friday Agreement brought an end to decades of sectarian strife.

March 2020

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April 2020

May 2020

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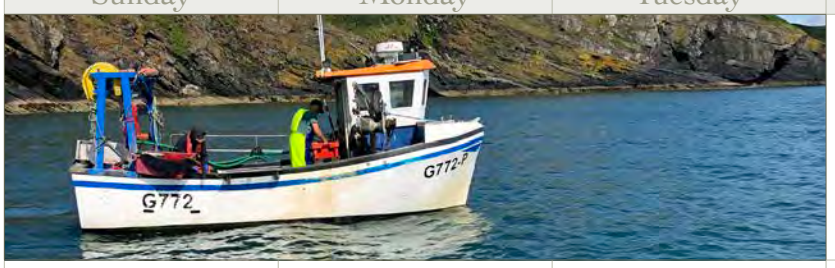
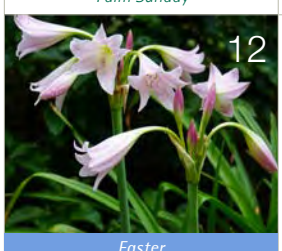
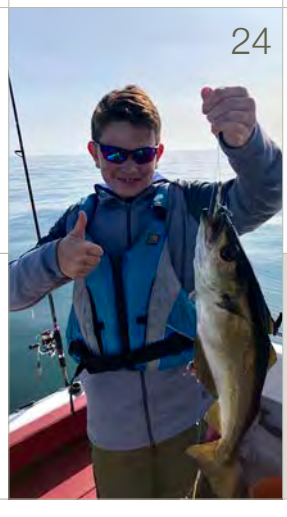
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 *April Fool's Day*	2	3	4
5 *Palm Sunday*	6	7	8 *Passover Begins*	9	10 *Good Friday*	11
 12 *Easter*	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 *Earth Day*	23 *Take our Daughters & Sons to Work Day*	 24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

A day fishing with my brother Bryan leads to buying lobster and crab straight from the source (and a prize catch for his godson Barry!)

In 1879, Richard Caulfield, Librarian of Queen's College, Cork, wrote "the name Kinsale is derived from two Irish words, *Ceaun*, which signifies the head, and *Saile*, the sea or salt water," and that the harbor "from March to June is crowded with a flotilla of Manx fishermen, ships from Norway laden with ice, and large steam-vessels" preparing to transport herring and mackerel to foreign markets.

April 2020

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May 2020

June 2020

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Photo: Anne Kleindienst			The nearby Old Head of Kinsale, known to seafaring Spaniards as "Cabo de Velbo," was variously occupied by Celts, Vikings and the Norman French and is today internationally famous for its Golf Links.		1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Photo: Áine Dillon 10 *Mother's Day*	11	12	13	14	15	16 *St. Brendan's Feast Day*
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 31	25 *Memorial Day*	26	27	28	29	30

Garnish Island (*Ilnacullin*), bought in 1910 by John Annan Bryce, is famed for its Italianate gardens. When Bryce's initial plantings did not do well, he enlisted Scottish gardener Murdo Mackenzie to develop a sheltered microclimate that allowed rare plants and flowers to thrive. The Bryce family donated the island to the state in 1953, but Mackenzie remained in charge until his retirement in 1971.

May 2020

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June 2020

July 2020

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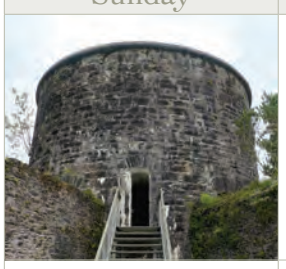
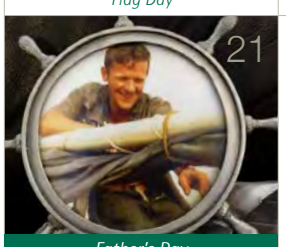
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 *Flag Day*	15	16	17	18	19 *Juneteenth*	20 *Summer Solstice*
 21 *Father's Day*	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Garnish Island features a Martello Tower (above left), one of many small, circular forts built by the British to defend the Irish coast against possible invasion by the Napoleonic French forces in the early 1800s.

At nearby Glengarriff (left), one can catch sight of the home where actress Maureen O'Hara, famous for her roles in *The Quiet Man* and other movies, lived for many years.

The Drascombe Lugger *Pleiades*, named for the star cluster that guided the ancient Greeks, approaching Roches Point Lighthouse at the mouth of Cork Harbor. The Lugger is a Gunter rigged yawl that traces its lineage to the Viking longships that once raided these waters.

June 2020

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July 2020

August 2020

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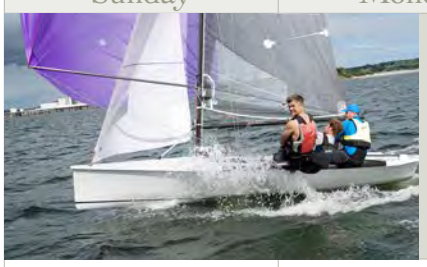
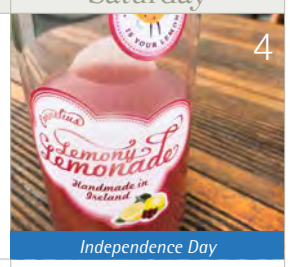
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		The Royal Cork Yacht Club, founded in 1720, is the world's oldest yacht club and this year celebrates its 300th anniversary with a "Great Gathering" of yachts and sailors from all around the world.	1	2	3	 4 *Independence Day*
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

Photo: Áine Dillon

The Atlantic Puffin spends most of the year on the open ocean, colonizing rocky islands like Skellig Michael when breeding between April and August. Below, the Skellig Islands are eight miles distant—but a world apart—from Glen Pier on the mainland.

July 2020

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August 2020

September 2020

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27	28	29	30			

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				"I tell you, the thing does not belong to any world that you and I have lived and worked in: It is part of our dream world." *– George Bernard Shaw* *Following a visit to Skellig Michael in 1910*		1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 30	24 31	25	26	27	28 *My mother's "pet" heron waiting for supper on the shore outside her house.*	29

The view to Fennell's Bay from Bunnyconnellan, a popular restaurant housed in an old cottage that supposedly derived its name from four children born to the original owners, the Trant family: Bunny, Conn, Nell and Ann. As with many such stories in Ireland, the tale may be more colorful than the reality...

August 2020

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September 2020

October 2020

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Visitors to Ireland are often surprised to see palm trees and other subtropical flora growing at 53 degrees north (the same latitude as Labrador, Canada), a phenomenon made possible by the Gulf Stream bringing warm waters from the Tropics to Ireland's southwestern coast.		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 *Labor Day*	8	9	10	11 *Patriot Day*	12
13	14	15	16	17 *Halfway to St. Patrick's Day*	18 *Rosh Hashanah Begins*	19
20	21	22 *Autumn Equinox*	23	24	25 *St. Finbarr's Feast Day*	26
27 *Yom Kippur*	28	29	30		This year's calendar is dedicated to my mother Helen, who nurtured her beautiful garden by the sea, coaxing flowers and shrubs from "slips" of plants that she usually (but not always!) snipped from a friend's yard.	

Cronin's Pub, Crosshaven, Co. Cork, began life as Kennefick's Hotel, catering to visitors who journeyed there by train in the early 1900s from Cork City. Although you can no longer book a room for the night at Cronin's, you can find excellent food and drink there and study the maritime history of Cork, encapsulated in the many rare photographs on its walls.

September 2019

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October 2020

November 2020

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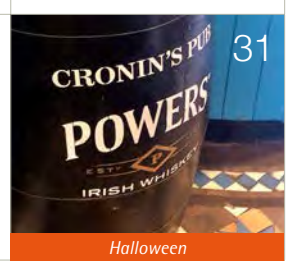
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Unable to compete with cars and buses, the Crosshaven rail line closed in 1932 but was replaced in recent years with a scenic river walk along its original path.		1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 *Indigenous People's Day* *Columbus Day*	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31  *Halloween*

Happy Thanksgiving! Homemade dessert treats at Blairscove House & Restaurant, Durrus, on Ireland's 1,600-mile-long Wild Atlantic Way.

October 2020

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November 2020

December 2020

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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 *All Saint's Day* *Daylight Savings End*	2	3 *Election Day*	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 *Veteran's Day*	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 *Thanksgiving Day*	27	28
29	30		Located in a restored Georgian House, Blairscove offers accommodation in addition to locally sourced food in its wonderful "farm to table" restaurant.			

Photo: Niamh Treharne Andrews

Sacred Heart Church, Monkstown, Co. Cork encircled my mother's life as the location of her baptism in 1938, marriage in 1962 and funeral service in 2019.

November 2020

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December 2020

January 2021

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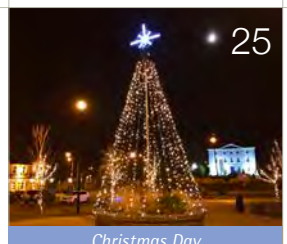
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	My parents' engagement announcement in *The Cork Examiner*, December, 1961.	1	2	3	4	5
6	7 *Pearl Harbor Day*	8	9	10 *Hanukkah Begins*	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 *Winter Solstice*	22	23	24 *Christmas Eve*	25  *Christmas Day*	26 *Kwanzaa*
27	28	29	30	31 *New Year's Eve*	*Swans, seen here in Monkstown Bay, are known to mate for life.*	

ENGAGEMENTS

Mr. B. Hassett — Miss H. O'Byrne — The engagement is announced between Barry, son of Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Hassett, St. Declans, Doyle Road, Turner's Cross, Cork, to Helen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Myles O'Byrne, 7 Alta Terrace, Monkstown, Co. Cork.

Listed by the *Irish Times* as one of the most beautiful coves in Ireland, Nohoval Cove boasts a history of exporting local slate by ship from its tiny slipway for use as roofing material on fine 19th century Georgian houses in Dublin and London.

December 2020

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January 2021

February 2021

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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
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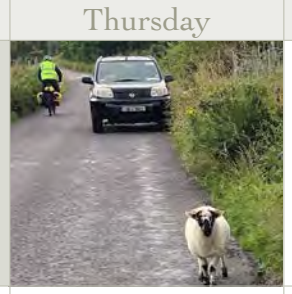
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	If you happen to be searching for Nohoval Cove, ignore the left-pointing signpost and instead turn right down the boreen until you see the ruins of the castellated lime kilns. Or, follow the wandering sheep...				1 *New Year's Day*	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 *Martin Luther King, Jr. Day*	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 *Happy Birthday, Mum!*	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Irish birdwatchers thought they were seeing a new species when these orange-headed birds first appeared, but investigators at Birdwatch Ireland determined that they were just common starlings that had developed a taste for the recently-introduced New Zealand flax plant.

January 2021

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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
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February 2021

March 2021

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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Feeding on the flax plant's sticky nectar, the starlings' heads become coated with orange pollen, making a fashion statement of sorts as they go from flower to flower.	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12 *Lincoln's Birthday*	13
14 *St. Valentine's Day*	15 *Presidents' Day* *Washington's Birthday (Observed)*	16	17 *Ash Wednesday*	18	19	20
21 28	22 *Washington's Birthday (Actual)*	23	24	25	26	27

Cork Harbor viewed from Camden Fort Meagher, named for the Irish patriot Thomas Francis Meagher (1823–1867) who led the Young Irelanders in the rebellion of 1848. Deported by the British to Van Diemen's Land (now Tasmania), Meagher escaped to the United States where he became a lawyer, led the Irish Brigade during the Civil War, and later served as territorial governor of Montana until his death in 1867.

February 2021

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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
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March 2021

April 2021

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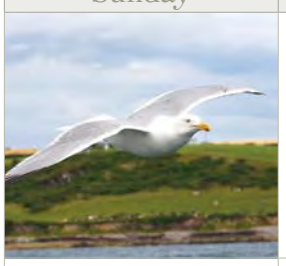
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 *Daylight Savings Start*	15	16	17 *St. Patrick's Day*	18	19	20 *Spring Equinox*
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 *Passover Begins*
28 *Palm Sunday*	29	30	31				