

THE CROPPY BOY

MARCH 2026



HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

See inside for all the events and goings ons from the Plymouth division of The Ancient Order of Hibernians



TABLE OF CONTENTS



4

MARCH 2026 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Our full schedule of appearances by the division and events to support our brother Hibernians

6

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

St. Patrick's 2026, 2026 Calendar

11

POLITICAL EDUCATION

Irish leader pressured to cancel White House meeting with Trump on St Patrick's Day after Iran strikes

13

FREEDOM FOR ALL IRELAND

On This Day: IRA prisoner Bobby Sands begins 1981 hunger strike that would change Ireland

16

IRISH HISTORY

Speak Irish this St. Patrick's Day: Free phrasebook launched by Gaelchultúr

18

GOOD & WELFARE

All the important items for the members of our division



Father John Murphy,
The Rebellion of 1798

2026 DIVISION 9 OFFICERS

Michael Schilling
President

Michael Faut
Vice President

Thomas McTigue
Financial Secretary

Brendan Burke
Treasurer

John Sullivan
Recording Secretary

James O'Sullivan
Marshall

John Travers
Sentinel

Stephen Cohan
Standing Committee Chairman

NEW MEMBERSHIP

If any current members are aware of fellow Irish Catholics interested in joining the cause of the Ancient Order of Hibernians please invite them to a monthly meeting. New Membership Applications are readily available.

There is strength in numbers and increasing membership is the first step in maximizing our charitable efforts and performing our call to action!

FROM THE OFFICERS' DESK

DUES

Brothers, this is a friendly reminder that annual dues for the Father John Murphy Division are now due. Dues are \$70 and may be paid by cash or check at this month's meeting, or via Venmo for your convenience. If you'd like to pay by Venmo, please contact us and we'll provide the details.

Thank you for your continued support of the Division.



RAFFLE TICKETS

Dear Brothers,

If you have not received raffle tickets to sell or buy please come to the March meeting. We will also be mailing out tickets to members for purchase in time for March 17th.

This is one of the 3 fundraisers we have for the year.

Thank you!

calendar of events

2026		MARCH					
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
1	2	3	4	5 	6	7 	
8 	9	10	11 	12	13	14 	
15 	16	17 	18 	19	20	21 	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
29	30	31					

5

Monthly Meeting

7:00 pm, Hibernian Hall
36 Cordage Park Circle
Plymouth, MA

14

Free Jacks Stout Fest

8:00 am, Veteran's Memorial
850 Hancock Street
Quincy, MA

7

Cape Cod Parade & Festival

11:00am, Yarmouth for Parade
12:00pm, Festival in Hyannis

15

Mass @ Holy Cross

8:30 am, Cathedral of Holy Cross
81400 Washington Street
Boston, MA

8

Greg Hanley Ceilidh

2:00 pm, JP Ryan's Tavern
246 Brockton Avenue
Abington, MA

17

St Patrick's Day

All Day
East Bay Grille

11

AOH @ Tinker's Son

6:00 pm, Tinker's Son
707 Main Street
Norwell, MA

18

Event @ Scituate GAR

6:30pm, Grand Army Hall
353 Country Way
Scituate, MA

21

Event @ Red Rose Pub

2:00pm, Red Rose Pub
800 Broad Street
Weymouth, MA

musical calendar

Dates, locations and times where you can find Hibernians or Friends of the Division playing in the Plymouth County area.

BROTHER STEVE KERR

Traditional Sessions

The Snug Pub - Hingham, MA, Mondays 5:30pm

The ICC Pub - Canton, MA, Fridays 7:00pm

Malachy's Saloon - Quincy, MA, Wednesdays 6:00pm

Indie Ferm - Plymouth, MA Every Other Sunday 2:00pm

WEEKLY TRADITIONAL SESSIONS

THE SNUG PUB

116 North St., Hingham, MA

Mondays, Starting at 5:30pm

THE TINKER'S SON

707 Main St., Norwell, MA

Wednesdays, 6pm - 9pm

THE COTTAGE BAR

26 Union St., Weymouth, MA

Thursdays, Starting at 6:30pm & Sunday afternoons

THE AULD TRIANGLE - WEEKLY IRISH MUSIC

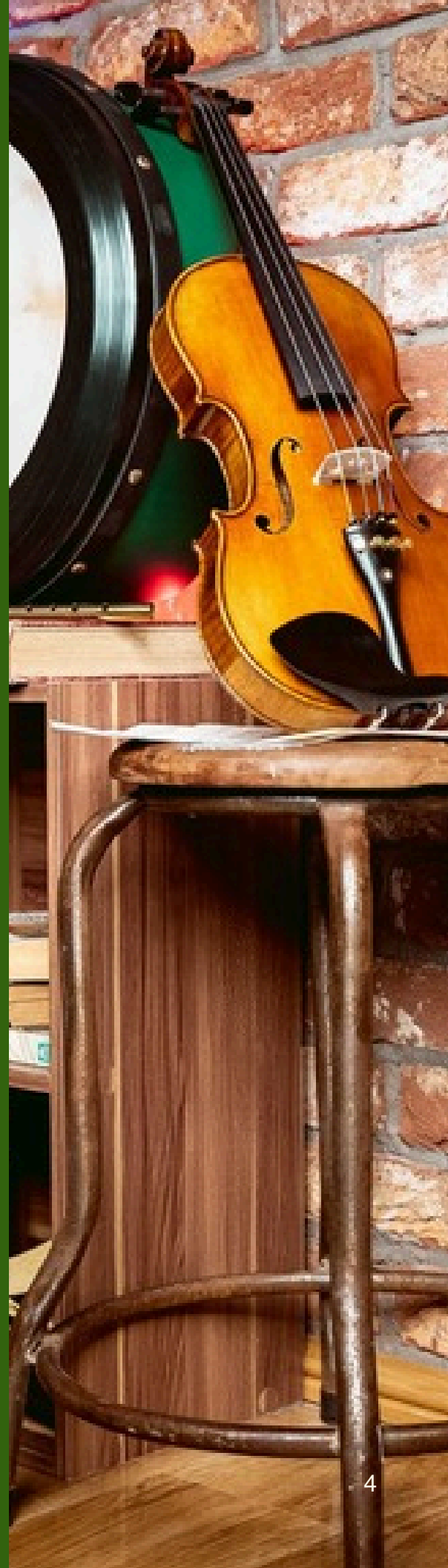
42 Main St., Hyannis, MA

Saturdays, 7pm - 10pm

INDIE FERM BREWERY - EVERY OTHER SUNDAY

127 Camelot Dr., Plymouth, MA

Sundays, 2pm - 5pm



St. Patrick's Day Festivities

In the following pages you will see some flyers for events that are referred to in the March calendar.

The outline for the rest of the events will be discussed at the March meeting but the basics are as such:

Cape Cod Parade & Festival - March 7th

We will be going with a limited parade presence and focusing more on the festival at the Cape Cod Irish Village. This is to maximize one-on-one interactions with the public as well as selling tickets to our annual raffle. We will have a single vehicle to promote the division and then those members will meet at the festival.

Greg Hanley Ceilidh - March 8th

Brother Hibernian Greg Hanley is having an event at JP Ryan's Tavern on Sunday March 8th starting at 2pm. He has graciously said that the division can have a presence at the event, promoting the organization and sell raffle tickets. Any brothers that wish to attend and work the event please let us know.

Sunday March 15th

The Scituate St. Patrick's Day Parade has been postponed to Sunday, April 12th so therefore there is no event for March 15th other than the St. Patrick's Day Mass at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross. Archbishop Henning has requested that AOH members be ushers for the Mass. I would definitely press upon all members if they have the ability to attend to do so. Usually our schedule conflicts with attending the Mass and from all accounts it is a wonderful celebration.

St. Patrick's Day - March 17th

On Friday of this week there will be a meeting to discuss the current situation at East Bay Grille and if the usual tent setup will be achieved with the current snow. Once we know the details of those decision we will let everyone know if the plan for St. Patrick's Day is as usual or if we will need to pivot.

Stay Tuned.....

You're Invited: Division Social, Live Podcast & Wednesday Session

CRAIC
ON THE
COAST

SPOTLIGHTS

SOUTH SHORE SESSIONS

Recording Craic on the Coast!

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11TH | 6PM

Special Presentation to Owner
Brian Houlihan by the
AOH South Shore!

Annual Raffle Tickets on Sale
Grand Prize: A Week in Ireland!

The Tinker's Son, Norwell, MA

Tickets to our annual raffle will be
the grand prize: A week-long trip to Ireland!

The Tinker's Son, Norwell, MA

Raffle Tix Available Here! →

AOH.

AOH South Shore

New England Free Jacks

The New England Free Jacks have approached the division and proposed becoming “Community Partners”. This would come with being involved in joint events as well as the division being able to be at games throughout their season to promote our organization and what events we may have going on.

The first one being there St. Patrick’s Day Festival on Saturday, March 14th. This is an all day festival with different events going on. It is a great for our division to exposure and be able to sell tickets to our St. Patrick’s Day Raffle.

Participants will have to pay the entry fee of \$40 but they are willing to do a group rate so if brothers could let me know how many tickets they would like I can coordinate with the Free Jacks.



The
Scituate
Historical
Society



MADE OF STONE



**COLLAR & ELBOW
WRESTLING**



**IRISH STICKFIGHTING
STRENGTH. REVIVED.
THE ANCIENT IRISH TRADITION
OF STONELIFTING & MARTIAL ARTS.
PAST. PRESENT. FUTURE.
ALL AGES WELCOME.**

**WEDNESDAY. MARCH 18.
6:30PM START**

**GAR HALL
353 COUNTRY WAY
SCITUATE, MA**

SCITUATEHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG

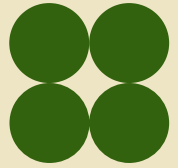


South Shore Irish Road Bowling League



POLITICAL EDUCATION

IRISH LEADER PRESSURED TO CANCEL WHITE HOUSE MEETING WITH TRUMP ON ST PATRICK'S DAY AFTER IRAN STRIKES



irishstar.com

Irish leader Micheal Martin is under increasing pressure to cancel his St Patrick's Day trip to the White House after Donald Trump ordered strikes on Iran.

The Labour party has joined appeals for the Taoiseach to call off his St Patrick's Day trip to Washington, where he is scheduled to meet US President Donald Trump. It's a long-established tradition for the Taoiseach to present a bowl of shamrock to the President in the Oval Office.

Sinn Féin announced it is boycotting St Patrick's Day events at the White House.

However, the US embassy indicated the party was never invited, and it was never anticipated they would attend, reports the Irish Mirror.

Labour's foreign affairs spokesperson Duncan Smith said "at this stage" he believes the Taoiseach should scrap the meeting.

He said: "We were here with Venezuela, when is enough enough, and what are we going to benefit from it? I think a message does have to be given at this stage."

"It just would feel totally incongruous if the bowl of shamrock is handed over, if there was a different choreography around it, if it was a meeting across the table to discuss the issue at hand, to discuss global insecurity, then have that.

"But to have a friendship event with that photo at the end... that would fail incongruously and I think that's something we shouldn't do this year and I don't say that lightly."

Social Democrats Senator Patricia Stephenson stated she doesn't believe the Taoiseach should call off his trip.

However, she stated Mr Martin must seize this as a chance to challenge President Trump,

saying: "Last year Trump was denigrating the EU and there were jokes being made about the housing crisis and Micheal Martin just laughed, we cannot see a repeat of that.

"I don't relish the prospect of a bowl of shamrock being handed over on behalf of the Irish people, and it makes me very uncomfortable, the whole imagery of it. It fills me with no joy to think about it. But I also believe in political dialogue.

"You can't bomb your way to peace. We know that. And I think dialogue is really important, and having those channels of communication are important."

Speaking earlier today, the Taoiseach indicated there was "no question" that US strikes on Iran occurred without a UN mandate, as he urged "de-escalation" and "a return to the negotiating table".

POLITICAL EDUCATION

When questioned about the US administration's assertion that the region would be safer following its intervention, Mr Martin responded: "The UN is in urgent need of reform and the Security Council as it's currently constituted is not fit for purpose because of its composition.

"And Iran has been a very malign force in the Middle East. The Middle East has not been safe for quite a long time, and Iran must take a significant degree of responsibility for that, and particularly in terms of its arming of Hezbollah, its support of Assad, its arming of Hamas.

"And notwithstanding a lot of treaties over about 20 years, Iran has never pulled back from nuclear enrichment programme, so a lot of that has been, I think, a factor in the instability in the Middle East that we witnessed."

He added: "We will wait and see where how this conflict evolves. I think it's important de-escalation would occur, that we would get to negotiating tables as quickly as possible, bring back stability."

Mr Martin highlighted a "dilemma" regarding how the international rules-based community could interact with or "ensures change" in "regimes that are as repressive as Iran is".



Freedom For All Ireland

On This Day: IRA prisoner Bobby Sands begins 1981 hunger strike that would change Ireland

By Frances Mulraney
irishcentral.com, March 1st, 2026

On March 1, 1981, an Irish republican prisoner began refusing food in Long Kesh prison to demand recognition as a political prisoner and to oppose the removal of special category status. His staggered strike drew international attention, propelled Republican electoral gains, and left a lasting mark on Northern Irish politics.

His death, along with those of nine other hunger strikers, sent shockwaves through Ireland and the world, fueling Republican resistance and reshaping Irish politics.

Sands was born on March 9, 1954, in Rathcoole in North Belfast, a predominantly loyalist area. His family had succeeded in living reasonably peacefully in the area by keeping their own religion under wraps. When word spread of the Catholic Sands family, however, intimidation and threats began, forcing the family to move when Sands was just ten years old.

Intimidation followed Sands throughout his life, and at 18, he was forced out of his apprenticeship as a bus builder because of threats.

Once again, the family was threatened out of their home in 1972, and after 18 months of pressure, they relocated to the newly built Twinbrook estate on the fringe of nationalist West Belfast.

At 18 years of age, Sands joined the Republican movement, writing, “My life now centered around sleepless nights and standbys dodging the Brits and calming nerves to go out on operations. But the people stood by us. The people not only opened the doors of their homes to lend us a hand, but they also opened their hearts to us. I learned that without the people, we could not survive, and I knew that I owed them everything.”

In October 1972, he was arrested

for the first time for the possession of four handguns and spent the next three years in Long Kesh prison, where he was regarded as a political prisoner. During this time, Sands used his imprisonment to learn Irish and read widely.

On his release in 1976, Sands returned to his original role with his local IRA unit, as well as working to tackle the social issues that faced the Twinbrook area as a community activist.

Within six months, Sands had been arrested again. Captured by the RUC following a bomb attack and a gun battle, Sands and six others were taken to Castlereagh Detention Centre and brutally interrogated, but Sands refused to give any information other than his name and address. He was held on remand for 11 months. When his case finally came to trial in September 1977, he refused to recognize the court, as he had previously done when first arrested.



Although unable to prove Sands' involvement in the bomb attack, he and the other three passengers in the car at the time of his arrest were each sentenced to 14 years in prison for the presence of a handgun involved in the gun battle in the car.

By this time, the “political prisoner” status of those charged with acts of terrorism had been removed, sparking five years of protest by convicted paramilitary prisoners. The withdrawal of “Special Category Status” meant that these prisoners were no longer treated as prisoners of war – they now had to wear prison uniforms and perform prison work.

The withdrawal of this special status was part of a policy undertaken by the British government to criminalize such prisoners.

The protest against the withdrawal of “Special Category Status” began in 1976 with a blanket protest, in which prisoners refused to wear prison uniforms. This was followed in 1978 by a dirty protest after a number of attacks on prisoners leaving their cells to "slop out" (i.e., empty their chamber pots). Prisoners refused to wash and covered the walls of their cells with excrement.

The first hunger strike began in October 1980. Seven men - IRA members Brendan Hughes, Tommy McKearney, Raymond McCartney, Tom McFeely, Sean McKenna, Leo Green, and INLA member John Nixon - were selected to take part. The number seven was chosen as it matched the number of signatories on the 1916 Irish Proclamation of Independence. In response to the apparent British Government concession to their Five Demands, the hunger strike ended after 53 days on December 18, 1980.

The Five Demands outlined were:

1. the right not to wear a prison uniform;
2. the right not to do prison work;
3. the right of free association with other prisoners, and to organize educational and recreational pursuits;
4. the right to one visit, one letter and one parcel per week;
5. full restoration of remission lost through the protest.

When it became apparent that the British Government had no intention of upholding its commitment to meeting these demands, a second hunger protest began.

Sands was an influential figure within the Maze by this time, having previously been elected as the IRA's commanding officer within the prison. He was the leader when the second hunger strike began on March 1, 1981. On that day, Danny Morrison issued a statement on behalf of the "republican POWs in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh:"

"We have asserted that we are political prisoners and everything about our country, our arrests, interrogations, trials, and prison conditions, show that we are politically motivated and not motivated by selfish reasons or for selfish ends. As further demonstration of our selflessness and the justness of our cause a number of our comrades, beginning today with Bobby Sands, will hunger-strike to the death unless the British government abandons its criminalization policy and meets our demand for political status."

Unlike the first strike, prisoners joined at staggered intervals, hoping to gain more public attention and support.

Just five days after Sands began his hunger strike, the independent Republican MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone, Frank Maguire, died, which resulted in a by-election for the



The desired attention was finally drawn towards the H-block. Despite hopes of a compromise, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was unwilling to negotiate.

"We are not prepared to consider special category status for certain groups of people serving sentences for crime," Thatcher said during the 1981 hunger strike. "Crime is crime is crime, it is not political."

After 66 days on hunger strike, Bobby Sands died on May 5, 1981. Three further strikers were to die in the next two weeks: Francis Hughes, Raymond McCreesh, and Patsy O'Hara. Thatcher still refused to negotiate.

The further deaths of Joe McDonnell and Martin Hurson caused concern amongst the hunger strikers' families and ratcheted up the pressure to find a way to end the strike.

The strike began to falter on July 31 when the mother of Paddy Quinn requested medical intervention to save her son's life. More deaths followed: Kevin Lynch, Kieran Doherty, Thomas McElwee, and Michael Devine.

As more families announced

their intent to allow medical intervention to save their sons, the strike was officially called off on October 3, but not before a total of ten hunger strikers lost their lives.

Despite the apparent initial failure of the hunger strike, its main figures, especially Sands, became heroes within the Republican movement and helped further support for Sinn Féin as a mainstream political party.

Although Thatcher seemed to have defeated the strike, she became a figure of Republican hatred, and IRA recruitment was boosted by the heroic nationalism of the strike's martyrs. Sands' election, in particular, was seen as a massive propaganda victory for the movement.

Irish History



Speak Irish this St. Patrick's Day: Free phrasebook launched by Gaelchultúr

Irishcentral.com, March 3rd, 2026

The largest provider of Irish language courses, Gaelchultúr, has released a free audio phrasebook to help anyone use authentic Irish phrases confidently at St. Patrick's Day celebrations worldwide.

With St Patrick's Day on the horizon, Gaelchultúr, the world's largest provider of Irish-language courses and resources and Ireland's Best Language School, is inviting people around the world to celebrate Irish culture in a meaningful way - by using authentic Irish phrases with confidence.

St Patrick's Day is recognised worldwide as a celebration of Irish identity. Gaelchultúr is encouraging people to go one step further this year by reconnecting with one of the world's oldest living languages and bringing it into everyday conversations and celebrations.



A brick building with a window and a sign for Gaelchultúr. The sign features the Gaelchultúr logo, which consists of a stylized 'G' and 'C' in green and blue, followed by the word 'Gaelchultúr' in green. Below the logo, the text 'Bainfidh tu suim as' and 'You'll enjoy' are visible. There is also a small illustration of a person in a red shirt and white pants, and a green speech bubble. At the bottom of the sign, the website 'www.gaelchultur.com' and the phone number '(01) 484 5220' are listed.

To mark the occasion, Gaelchultúr has launched a free Irish-Language Phrasebook for St Patrick's Day. The downloadable resource features carefully selected, authentic Irish expressions, each with English translations and high-quality audio recordings.

Whether you are greeting friends, raising a toast, or sharing a message online, this practical resource makes it easy to use Irish in a way that feels natural, accurate and confident.

"St Patrick's Day is a powerful global celebration of Irish identity, and the largest celebration of Irish culture worldwide," explains Clíodhna Ní Chorráin, Gaelchultúr's Marketing Executive.

"For many, it sparks a curiosity about the Irish language. We want to make Irish feel accessible and welcoming - whether someone wants to learn a few phrases for the day or begin a longer language-learning journey with Gaelchultúr, Ireland's Best Language School."

With decades of experience in delivering expert-led Irish-language

education, Gaelchultúr has built a vibrant global community of more than 50,000 learners. From Dublin to Sydney, New York to Berlin, people are choosing to reconnect with Irish through Gaelchultúr's dynamic and engaging programmes.

Driven by a belief that Irish belongs in modern life, Gaelchultúr makes learning the language accessible, practical and fun. Whether someone is rediscovering their heritage, encountering Irish culture for the first time, or simply curious about the language behind the St Patrick's Day celebrations, Gaelchultúr creates welcoming pathways that turn interest into confidence and connection.

Get your free copy of Gaelchultúr's audio phrasebook here.

For those wishing to continue their learning beyond St Patrick's Day, Gaelchultúr offers a comprehensive suite of online Irish-language courses - including live, instructor-led programmes and flexible self-paced options on ranganna.com, providing clear pathways for learners at every stage.

Good & Welfare

Division 9 Scrapbook

From all the items that have turned up in the moving of the hall we have decided to create a division scrapbook. We are looking for a volunteer to put this together. Anyone interested please let Mike Schilling know at the next meeting.

PRAVERS FOR.....



Gaeltacht CORNER

Greeting:

English - Happy St. Patrick's Day

Irish - Lá Fhéile Pádraig sona duit

/'Lah leh Pah-drig Sun-uh gw-itch'