

Desirable: Designer Joanne Hynes wants the piece back



Designer wants to buy back Jean's chunky neck piece

HER statement necklace caused a Twitter sensation on Sunday's Six One News, with some comparing weather forecaster Jean Byrne's appearance to Xena the Warrior Princess.

But one watcher was delighted Jean's showed such neck - Joanne Hynes, the creator of the chunky piece.

Now the Ringsend-based designer - best known for her crystal neck pieces and the funky tights she designs for Pretty Polly - says she'd like to get the necklace back.

She told Evoke.ie that the piece was called Even A Stopped Clock Tells The Right Time Once A Day and that it was made as a once-off for a show in London.

'I think it made was six years ago. I'd love to get my hands on it because I am hoping to do a retrospective at some stage so I might have to call on Jean to see if I can get it,' she said.

'She's bought a lot of things from us that we would've done as one-offs, so I'd love to actually get my hands on it - I'll have to try and see if I can buy it back from her.'

Joanne, who lives in Wicklow with her partner and their two-year-old daughter, Fainche, praised Jean Byrne for her fashion choices and said the Met Éireann meteor-

Irish Daily Mail Reporter

ologist was a good customer of hers.

'I can't remember [how much she paid] but the retail price was €800,' Joanne said. 'She likes her designer accessories and she is good in terms of buying pieces. She's bought a good few from us anyway.'

'I think it's great that she wore it. In a world of mediocrity, I think it's great.'

'She's her own woman, she can wear what she likes, when she likes and how she likes,' she told the

'She has raised a few eyebrows'

website. She's purchased a good few pieces from us, neck pieces and things like that.

'And I suppose the way she wears it causes a bit of a stir. I know she has worn some things that have raised a few eyebrows in terms of her choices.'

In 2009, Jean impressed viewers with a daring, space-age skintight silver dress and in 2011 she made headlines with a revealing slashed frock.



Bold front: Jean Byrne's necklace turned heads

No priests for funerals within the next decade

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there will be a situation where there will be no priests available for weddings, baptisms and funerals'.

The Mayo-based priest said that this may result in 'priests having to marry several couples at the same time, and having funeral Masses where there are up to ten coffins in the church at the same time'.

The founder of the body which represents over 1,000 priests said most dioceses had already been forced into clustering parishes in the short term, while the number of Masses being celebrated had already dropped considerably.

In June, the Mail revealed that the shortage of priests could leave parishioners without access to the sacraments within a decade.

But even as the number of priests available to celebrate funerals dwindles, the demand is set to increase exponentially.

More than 22,000 couples tied the knot in Ireland in 2013, the vast majority of them still preferring to marry in church, and the vast majority of those marrying in Catholic churches.

Ireland's mortality rate has increased steadily from 2008 to 2014, from less than six per 1,000 of population to over 6.3. The number of deaths from 27,961 in 2010 to over 29,000 last year - just around 80 deaths per day.

But the rapidly ageing population signals a sharp increase in mortality in coming years.

The Central Statistics Office

projects that by 2021 the number of elderly people will have grown by 200,000. The over-80s population will rise from 128,000 in 2011 to between 470,000 and 484,000 in 2046; by 2046 there could be up to 560,000 more elderly people than young. At the same time, with the average age of priests currently standing at 65, the current population of 4,500 remaining priests will fall by a quarter in the next 20 to 30 years.

Rathgar and Beechwood parishes in Dublin had to decide between them who got to hear Mass on a Sunday. Two priests in Mayo and Cork have warned parishioners that when they retire, there will be nobody to replace them.

'The numbers have disappeared'

Figures released by the Irish Catholic Bishops Conference earlier this year found that three-quarters of all the priests in Ireland were aged between 45 and 74, with the largest group aged 65 to 74.

Fr Hoban added: 'Only 13 went into Maynooth this year to start studying and if you compare that to my year, 40 years ago, there were 84 new students. The year before that, there were 110.'

'And that's not allowing for all those lost to all the seminaries closed in Carlow, Wexford, Kilkenny, Waterford and

Thurles - all closed gradually over the past two decades because the numbers have just disappeared.'

'And this year that's 13 coming in, that doesn't mean there'll be 13 coming out. The average figure would be about a 50 per cent dropout rate.'

The number of Catholic diocesan priests in Ireland dropped 13 per cent in the decade between 2002 and 2012 according to the Statistical Yearbook of the Church and Fr Hoban warned that the diocese of Killala, which currently has 30 priests across 22 parishes, in 15 years would have just seven priests and only two vast parishes.

'And that kind of figure is being replicated elsewhere,' Fr Hoban said. 'The most dramatic figure in Dublin is that there is only one, only one diocesan priest under the age of 40 working within the parishes, and there are 199 parishes.'

In a meeting with the bishops in June, the ACP called for the ordination of suitable married men and the ordination of women as deacons.

The President of Maynooth College, Monsignor Hugh Connolly, said the vocations crisis was faced '20 or 30 years ago' by countries such as Germany and France and Ireland had a clear path to follow.

'I think we need to continue what we're doing and continue to open up pastoral positions for new people from the lay community.'

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