

The Benefits of Religious Practice

This year's **Iona Institute** conference will deal with the very important and topical subject of religious practice. Religion is often criticised as divisive, socially harmful and even delusional. However, a mounting body of evidence now testifies to its numerous social and personal benefits.

These benefits are listed in a growing number of sociological and psychological studies. Religious practice is associated with lower rates of illness, both physical and mental. It is also associated with lower levels of family breakdown and overall with higher levels of personal well-being. These findings are not yet well known.

Our conference will highlight some of these studies. The keynote address will be delivered by **Professor Patricia Casey** who has written a new paper for The Iona Institute which summarises these studies called 'The psycho-social benefits of religious practice'. This paper will be launched at the conference.

Venue:
Davenport Hotel, Dublin 1
Friday, April 3, 2009

Admission free

9:30	Registration
9:45	Welcome and introductory remarks: David Quinn
10:00	The Psycho-social Benefits of Religious Practice Professor Patricia Casey
10:50	Coffee break
11:10	Men and Religious Practice Dr W Brad Wilcox
12:00	Is Religion a Delusion? Professor Andrew Sims
12:40 to 13:00	Questions and closing remarks.



Speakers

The Benefits of Religious Practice

Patricia Casey is Professor of Psychiatry at University College Dublin and a Consultant Psychiatrist at the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital. She is also a patron of The Iona Institute.

Andrew Simms is Professor of Psychiatry at Leeds University. He was President of the Royal College of Psychiatrists and is founding editor of *Advances in Psychiatric Treatment*. His latest book is called 'Is Faith Delusion?'

Dr W. Bradford Wilcox, Ph.D., is associate professor of sociology at the University of Virginia and a member of the James Madison Society at Princeton University. He studies marriage, fatherhood, parenting, and religion.

Registration

Please complete and return to:

The Iona Institute, 23 Merrion Square, Dublin 2

Name

Address

.....

Telephone Email

Alternatively, please book by calling **01 6619 204**
or by emailing **info@ionainstitute.ie**

The Iona Institute is a non-governmental organisation dedicated to strengthening civil society through making the case for marriage and religious practice.

The Iona Institute, 23 Merrion Square, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 6619 204
Email: info@ionainstitute.ie Web: www.ionainstitute.ie