Editorial

Quarryman literary journal has been in on and off again publication since 1913, beginning its life as a university newsletter featuring poetry by UCC's students. It's possible to now find this first issue on our website, and it's remarkable to see how the journal has persevered despite its occasional periods of dormancy. *Quarryman* has greatly changed since its first issue, but its main goal remains the same, uplifting students' creative writing and creating a space where people can share their works and connect with one another. The world now is also much different to the one in which *Quarryman* first came to be, yet it is also very much the same. We are still living in political instability, still fighting for our rights, still hoping for a better future.

It's not easy to share one's work, in fact, it takes a great deal of courage. I am incredibly grateful to everyone who took the plunge and sent us their poems and stories. It was such a joy to read them, to briefly enter these inner worlds and to have this fleeting kinship with the author. It's a great honour to have been able to be involved with *Quarryman* and to be able to work with all of these incredible submissions. They really are something special. For this volume, we are very lucky to be able to feature a poem by Gerry Murphy, an alumni of UCC who had his works published with the journal in 1980 and 2015. He has kindly allowed us to publish one of the poems from his upcoming poetry collection, '*My Last Day as an Altarboy*.'

Lastly, I would like to thank Sarah Fitzgerald, who was the most excellent of co-editors; Liam McDonagh, for all his advice with

everything *Quarryman*; Paul Davidson who helped us to get *Quarryman* online; and the *Quarryman* subcommittee for the time and work they have invested into making this issue come to life.

Inga Balchaites