

# St. Patrick's Day Parade Marshals

## ***Grand Marshal: Former Taoiseach Enda Kenny***

A native of Castlebar, Co. Mayo, Enda Kenny became Ireland's Taoiseach (Prime Minister) in 2011 just as Ireland was trying to recover from the economic downturn caused by the housing crisis. He stepped down as Taoiseach in 2017 after Ireland's economic recovery was well underway. First elected to the Dáil (Irish Parliament) in 1975, he was the longest serving Dáil member when he declined to run for reelection in the recent Irish General Election. In 2013 he was the first serving Taoiseach to pay an official visit to Seattle. A former elementary school teacher, he and his wife Fionnuala have three children, and he returns to Seattle this time with Fionnuala.



## ***Honorary Grand Marshal: Jim Cummins***

Jim Cummins, a native of Co. Offaly, has lived in Kennewick with his wife Eloise for the past 44 years. He was Warden at the Walla Walla Penitentiary when he retired in 1995 after 25 years with the Washington State Department of Corrections. Jim helped found the Irish Immigrant Support Group in Seattle in 2001 and served as Chair for 15 years. He served for six years as National Treasurer of the Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers around the US and still helps organize our Senior Luncheons. Jim is an invaluable member of the Seattle's area's Irish community and we're delighted to have him as Honorary Grand Marshal of this year's Parade.



## ***Galway Mayor Mike Cubbard***

Mike Cubbard was first elected to the Galway City Council in 2014. On what was his second term on the Council, he served as Deputy Mayor of Galway from 2017 – 2018, and became Mayor this past June, the first time he was elected to serve as the city's first citizen. With nearly six years of political experience, he is an independent voice on the City Council not belonging to any political party. An insurance broker by profession, he is married to Karen, and they have three young boys aged 9, 5 and 4. This is the Mayor's first ever visit to Seattle and we wish him and Karen a sincere Céad Míle Fáilte (One Hundred Thousand Welcomes) as they visit Galway's sister city of Seattle.

