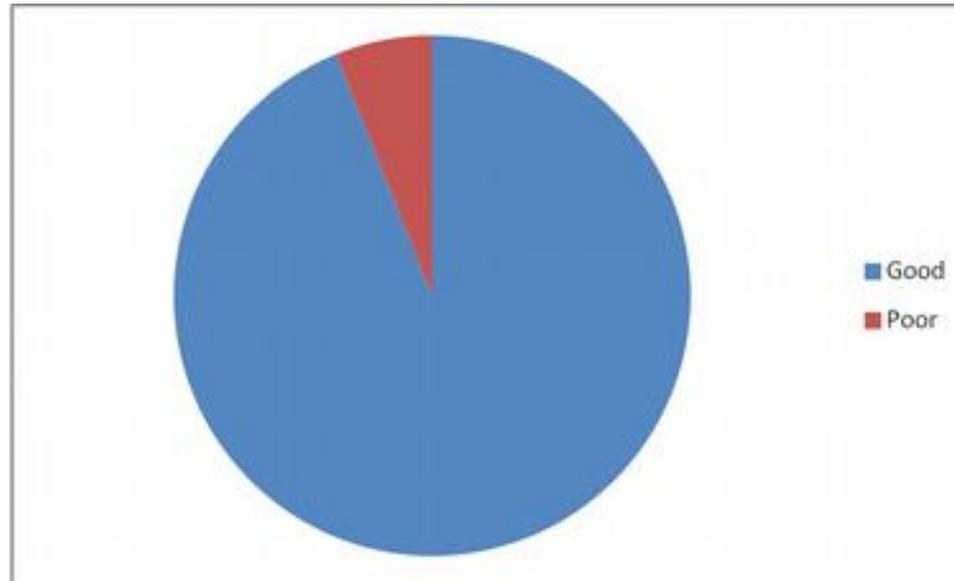


Review – Calvary



Good - 32	Poor – 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Graphic and shocking in places. The film addressed a lot of difficult issues. The soundtrack was excellent too.• Not a bundle of laughs, despite being billed as a dark comedy, but excellent treatment of various themes - the nature of goodness, the role of the Catholic Church in Ireland, the role of leaders or pastors in society. Very thought provoking with some impressive performances.• Extremely good film. Interesting concept and riveting throughout. Though not a good advert for the Irish Tourist Board! Are there any films that show the Catholic Church in a good light?!!	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Really not my type of film, I found it boring and pointless and also quite difficult to understand some of the dialogue. Can't enjoy them all.

Thanks again for a good choice of programme and for the Cava and cake.

- Powerful. Well acted. I found the Irish dialect difficult to understand so missed out on some of the jokes. After the brutal ending, the daughter's half smile of forgiveness towards the murderer looked odd and unconvincing.
- Although I had problems hearing some of the dialogue, some of the 'jump' editing was a bit distracting and in places it seemed slow. Brendan Gleeson very good in the central role. (Nothing to do with the film but could whoever is making announcements:
a) go on the stage so that we can see who is talking and
b) use the mic. for those of us whose hearing ain't quite so good!)
- An incredibly powerful film and an unusual take on the controversy surrounding child abuse and the priesthood. I was very interested in the way the priest was depicted as someone rather out of date but tolerated by a community floundering in doubt. It reminded me of "Under Milk Wood" with its cast of characters and coastal location. Brendan Gleeson was fantastic and the only false note was the woeful miscasting of Kelly Reilly whose only good scene was the final one when she didn't speak.... This film will stay with me for quite a while, so much food for thought.
- Wonderful film, this was second time and was even more powerful.
- I thought the film was very good and shows vividly the issues facing the Catholic Church and its systemic abuse of children.
- One of the best films the Club has shown and certainly the most powerful & emotional. Had to sit quietly afterwards to recover. Words fail with the acting ability of Brendan Gleeson who I think was in every scene & never failed to impress. We just need to know the name of the village so we can steer clear of it on any visits to Ireland.
- A really powerful film which conveyed the devastation caused when institutions and individuals betray those who put their trust in them.
- Absolutely brilliant. Stunning performance from Brendan Gleeson. Excellent supporting cast.
- Brilliant - both the content and the filming of it. I'm sure we could all write an essay on it, rather than a few words! The opening scene in the confessional was stunning. The narrative which followed all led up to an innocent man choosing to go to his death for the sins of others; admittedly this took place on a beach not on top of a hill, but how referential is that! The final scene, in its silence, spoke volumes, and full marks to the actors for that. Brendan

Gleeson's performance was immense. Thank you for selecting this one.

- A powerful, provocative, film with moving portrayals.
- Very good!
- I thought it was good. Enjoyed it and the cake and cava.
- Great film with surprising ending, even though the title and theme ought to have been a giveaway. More films like this please.
- First of all, thank you very much for the Cava and cake - it was a lovely touch. I thought the film was very good; very powerful and dark. I am slightly biased as I used to live in Ireland and have been a big Brendan Gleeson fan for ages. I met him a couple of times and have seen him onstage in Dublin and he's a truly brilliant actor. Leaving that aside, I think if I weren't a fan I would have become one after watching his sensitive performance in the film. There were other great performances as well including Chris O'Dowd, Dylan Moran and Domhnall Gleeson. I was less happy with the daughter. My friend and I thought she was a bit wooden and we also found the actor playing the Ivory Coast character difficult to understand. All in all though, it was a very good film which makes a clear statement about the way the Catholic church has come to be perceived in Ireland.
- Excellent film, brilliant acting, beautifully filmed and held your attention to the shocking end.
- Absolutely fantastic! Brilliant.
- Very fine. Much to think about. The burden of sin - his own and that of others - on a priest. Moreover, a priest seen as representative of a faith that had abused boys.
- So thought-provoking, well-made, directed, acted; plus the sweeping scenery. Very sad, of course, but with that touch of black Irish humour which means the writer and director know their subject well. Yet another Irish film which it was very brave of the Irish Film Board to support. Thank you for giving it a screening.
- Thought provoking. At first the people and events not directly related to the impending killing seemed disconnected but their role in illustrating the range of goodness of the protagonist was pinned down in the closing snapshots, as was the point that life just went on without him. The closing music 'Subo' by los Chiriguanos took a little tracking down as the details passed so quickly but its relevance to the Christ like priest's ascension also became clear (at home, a couple of hours later!).

- Really enjoyed the film. A really interesting story of a complex man who was a good priest, whose faith remained strong despite the aggressive doubters in his community. Brendan Gleeson's performance was very strong. The priest was a man of relatively few words, a listener, but Gleeson communicated so much through his facial expression and body language.
- Although it had a very dark in tone and I can't say it was enjoyable to watch it is a film I would highly recommend at least one viewing. Brendon Gleeson's performance was mesmerising and has haunted me since Thursday evening. Most of the rest of the cast were faultless (not a huge fan of Dylan Moran - in anything) and the stunning scenery - its beauty a sharp contrast to the ugliness in the hearts and souls of the parishioners. Therefore, my rating is Good (or if we had such a category - A*plus). Thank you Programming Committee.
- I thought it was very good and especially liked the cinematography. However, I did leave feeling that describing the film as a 'dark comedy' was maybe stretching the use of the word comedy.
- Not good but excellent. It was thought provoking and you knew what it was about in those first moments in the confessional. I liked the photography, especially when the priest and his daughter were talking in the confessional. You couldn't help but like all the characters, even the murderer because you could sympathise with what he had been through, although what a shame he had to kill that nice priest to make his point! One of my guests did not get it at all. Shame on her!
- Thought the film was very good