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| ***Star of the Sea***  (2002)  By  **Joseph O’Connor**  (1963 - ) | Irish Cultural Center / McClelland Library  Book Discussions  Saturday, January 23, 2021  10:30 AM – 12:30 PM  **Zoom**  (To receive link, ensure that your  email is listed on the website.) |

**Discussion Guide**

► The *Star of the Sea* reflects one of the oldest narrative patterns, the voyage. Think about how O’Connor enhances this pattern with other narrative strategies. Notice the strategies that he borrows from Victorian novels. Do you think them effective? How do these influence the reader?

► As with Friel’s *Translations*, we are dealing with history in *Star of the Sea*. How well has O’Connor blended factual accuracy with fictional license?

► What individual stories are brought together in this novel? Is this association “natural” or “forced”? What does the novelist attempt to achieve by bringing these particular lives together?

► Is there a main character in this novel? Support your choice. Follow one character closely. Imagine yourself a witness for him or her. How would you explain that character’s actions? (Beware of unreliable narrators.)

► Did you enjoy reading this novel? Why or Why not? What do you think O’Connor wanted the reader to learn or appreciate in the narrative?

► Poems by Eavan Boland: “The Famine Road,” “Quarantine,” and “The Emigrant Irish.” All three of these poems are read on the web. (If you are willing to read one of these before we discuss it, please contact us

([info@azirish.org](mailto:info@azirish.org).) LINK to poems

**Some other works by Joseph O’Connor:**

*Cowboys and Indians Redemption Falls*

*Ghost Light Shadowplay* (2019 Irish Novel of the Year Award)

**►►► Looking ahead: February 27: *Book of Evidence* (1989) by John Banville**