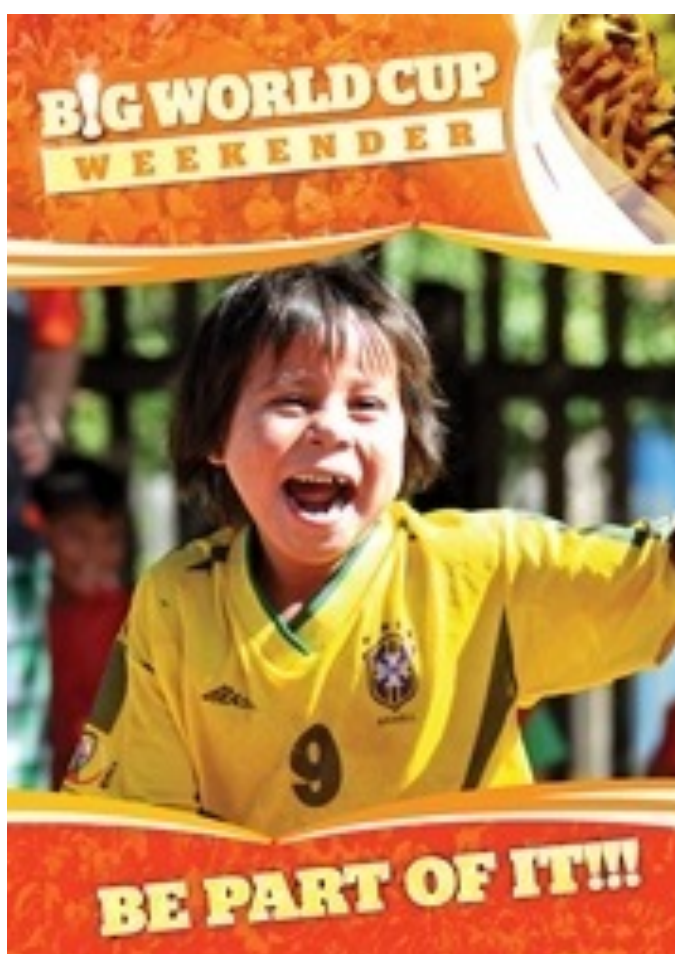




The essential daily brief on the Irish churches



The Big World Cup Weekender Resource

SAMS UK & Ireland have produced 'The Big World Cup Weekender', a resource to help you and your church make the most of the upcoming 2014 World Cup in Brazil. What a great opportunity share quality time with people in an informal setting.

The resource comprises a weekend template:

- Friday night is packaged as a 'Men's Night', with a full on football quiz!
 - Saturday night is presented as a 'Community Night' which combines food and games for all ages.
- Sunday morning has several levels including a sermon, children's ministry resources and a challenging resource for teenagers. SAMS has also added in a small group resource.

It's a flexible resource which you can tailor to your context and community so be creative and cut and paste where appropriate! Download at -

<http://www.samsukireland.com/2014/05/16/world-cup-resource/>



The Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference - of which Cardinal Seán Brady (right) is president and Archbishop Diarmuid Martin (left) is vice president - has called on first time voters to make their voices heard in the local and European elections.

Catholic bishops urge first time voters to make ‘voices heard’

The Catholic bishops have appealed to first time voters “to ensure that their voices are heard in the important policy decisions before the European Union” in the European elections.

Irish Times - In a statement issued today, the bishops “encourage all voters to exercise their democratic franchise based on an informed conscience.”

They point out that [Pope Francis](#), in his Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel) issued last November, highlights “the need for a greater penetration of Christian values in the social, political and economic sectors, and a real commitment to applying the Gospel to the transformation of society.

“The forthcoming elections provide an important opportunity to demonstrate that Christian commitment,” they say.

The bishops say that “as Christians we are called to articulate the fundamental values of human life which can then find expression in political activity. It follows then that we all have a responsibility to support our elected representatives by actively engaging in the political life of our society.”

They continue that “in examining the policy issues before us in this election, we need to look at the impact of European policy on the pressing issues of youth employment and unemployment, social protection, income and working conditions, all of which have a major impact on family life. European economic and social policy needs to be an authentic reflection of our value”.

The pope, they recall, “has stated that ‘[THE] dignity of each human person and the pursuit of the common good are concerns which ought to shape all economic policies. At times, however, they seem to be a mere addendum imported from without in order to fill out a political discourse lacking in perspectives or plans for true and integral development’.”

The European Union’s external relations with developing nations “do not yet live up to our commitments to fairness, equality and social justice,” they say.

“The plight of those migrants who have lost their lives in recent months while attempting perilous journeys to [Europe](#) by sea is a stark reminder of the extremes of inequality we continue to tolerate in our world. More at -

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/politics/catholic-bishops-urge-first-time-voters-to-make-voices-heard-1.1800287>

Full text at -

<http://www.catholicbishops.ie/2014/05/18/statement-of-the-irish-catholic-bishops-conference-for-the-european-parliament-and-local-council-elections-2014/>

New St Hilda’s ‘A Blessing To The Whole Community’

The dedication and consecration of the new St Hilda’s Parish Church, Dunmurry, by the Bishop of Connor on Sunday 18 May drew a capacity crowd.

Among the guests were the Mayor of Lisburn, Councillor Margaret Tolerton, and Lagan Valley MP Jeffrey Donaldson.

The original building for the parish of St Hilda, a dual purpose church and hall, was dedicated in May 1958 as a daughter church of St Colman’s, Dunmurry. With the expansion of the parish a new separate church building was consecrated in December 1970.

By 2005 it had become apparent that the buildings needed to be upgraded

and repaired and a roof appeal got underway in 2008, raising £40,000.

A year later the Bishop of Connor, the Rt Revd Alan Abernethy, put St Hilda's in contact with a developer interested in building a nursing home on the site and offering to build a new church and hall in return.



The Bishop of Connor, the Rt Revd Alan Abernethy, and the rector of St Hilda's, the Revd David Boyland, welcome the Mayor of Lisburn, Councillor Margaret Tolerton, to the Service of Dedication and Consecration.

Agreement was reached in 2011 but subsequent delays meant the parish was 'homeless' for three years, with services being held in a mobile at the primary school next door.

Parishioners have just moved into their new home, a modern, user-friendly building suitable for emerging outreach ministries. As well as the church, it includes offices, a prayer room, a hall with high ceilings suitable for all forms of activities and a minor hall.

There is also a small café which will be run by the parish, providing a focal point for the local community to meet for tea or coffee and a chat.

The rector, the Revd David Boyland, said: 'The development, whilst benefiting the church directly, will also make a very significant impact on the overall community. The cost of the project is in the region of £5.3 million

'During the construction phase there have been a significant number of jobs created with permanent jobs coming on stream with the imminent completion of the nursing home. This has and will continue give a great boost, in an area that has very high unemployment.

'The Nursing Home will provide 76 beds that are greatly needed in an area with an ageing population.'

David continued: 'Our vision for the new church and hall is that it will be a blessing to the whole community as they come in and experience the love and healing power of Christ as we seek to serve them.'

At the beginning of the service, Bishop Abernethy knocked on the doors of the Church asking that the door be opened, and marked the threshold with the sign of the cross with the pastoral staff as he entered.

Following the service, refreshments were served in the spacious hall on the first floor.

PCI Minister visits Zambia Synod

Rev Stephen McCracken is currently on a short visit to the Zambia Synod of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP).

Stephen who is currently minister in Derramore and Drumachose congregations, in Coleraine and Limavady Presbytery, previously served with [CCAP](#) in Malawi from 1999 to 2007.

Stephen is going first to visit Chasefu Theological College at Lundazi in eastern Zambia. The principal of the College is Rev David Chiboboka, and Stephen and he were colleagues when they both taught at Zomba Theological College (Malawi) several years ago.

At the beginning of next week Stephen will meet with the leadership of [CCAP Zambia Synod](#) in Lusaka before returning home.

Zambia Synod has grown significantly over these last decades and faces the challenges of leadership for its many congregations.

In 1984 when the Synod was first constituted there were only 16 congregations with fewer than 10,000 members and four ordained ministers. Now there are over 70 congregations with over 65,000 members and 52 ordained pastors.

Church growth is supported by organised house groups (sections), preaching stations (prayer houses), congregations, presbyteries and Synod. The Synod



organises evangelism outreach campaigns with the help of the Men's Guild, Women's Guild and the Christian Youth Fellowship (CYF).

Stephen writes, "*Pray for the church in Zambia that it will continue in its "faith in Christ Jesus and of the love [it] has for all the saints" (Col 1.4) and that it will be a faithful witness to Jesus Christ in these challenging times.*"

Malahide Annual Open Air Ecumenical Service

St Doulagh's Church, Malahide Road, (R107) Balgriffin, reputed to be the oldest stone roofed church in Ireland still in continuous use as a centre of Christian Worship, is holding its annual Ecumenical Open Air Service of Praise and Thanksgiving on Sunday May 25 at 3.30 pm in St. Doulagh's Field beside the church.

Music will be provided by 1st Dublin Company Boys' Brigade Brass with Singing by You! The special guest speaker will be the Revd Norman McCausland. A collection will be taken during the service in aid of Aoibhneas who work to help those who are victims of domestic violence.

Parking is available by kind permission in the grounds of St Doolagh's Park, opposite the church. Bus numbers 42 and 43 stop outside. Bring a stool or folding chair and friends and family. Guided tours of the church will be available after the service.



New Wine in Sligo in July

Every July, people from all over Ireland come to the Sligo Summer Conference to worship God, to hear his voice, to catch his vision and to enjoy his presence.

Sligo14 (6 Jul 2014 — 11 Jul 2014) will be a mix of worship, teaching and ministry for everyone. The programme is a combination of groups and gatherings that will help each of us to know God more and to know more of God.

David Parker from Desert Vineyard, California will be leading us through our morning Bible teachings each day, taking a fresh look at aligning ourselves with what God is saying to us through his Word. Then every evening a different speaker from Ireland and beyond will be challenging and inspiring us, all in the context of worship, stories and prayer ministry.

Alongside this, a full kids and youth programme will be running, as well as Our Place (a programme for those of any age with a learning disability) to allow us all to meet with God.

There is so much more going on than this, and we don't have space to tell you it all. There are seminars, forums, workshops, firepits, fun days, prayer rooms, quizzes, cafes, sunshine, beaches, and things we haven't yet thought of. So keep checking back here to get a fuller picture.

There are different ticket options depending on your age and what time of year you book. You can pay in sterling or in euro.

Later in the year you will also be able to book part time places but if you think you will be there for at least half the week it is best to book before 30/05/2014 to get the best price. See -

<http://www.newwineireland.org/node/140>

From Hawaii to Adare

Bishop Trevor Williams of Limerick has announced the appointment of Canon Liz Beasley as the new incumbent of the Adare group of parishes.

The appointment had been made before Easter but the announcement was deferred pending the arrangement of visas and work permits. Happily these have been sorted out.



Canon Liz has been Currently serving as Canon to the Ordinary (similar to an Archdeacon!) in the Diocese of Hawai'i, Canon Liz is originally from Norfolk, Virginia.

Ordained in 1997 she has served in various parishes and roles in Indianapolis, Massachusetts and Hawai'i. Canon Liz first came to Ireland as a

new university graduate to work in the print industry, where she spent 3 years. She returned to Ireland in 2011 to spend 6 weeks sabbatical studying structures and workings of the Church in Ireland in rural areas.

Canon Liz is married to Kirk; has two step-daughters, and two sisters – one of whom is living in Kent (UK). A date for an Institution is not yet set, but is hoped to be sometime in July. We wish her and her family every blessing as they prepare for their island hopping move.

From Germany to Derry

A large congregation gathered to celebrate the Institution of Rev Robin Stockitt to Donaghadee Parish on Tuesday 6th May. The Service took place in St James's Church in the village of Donamona.

Rev Stockitt has been the minister of the Anglican Church in Freiburg from July 2001 till April 2014. His first career was in education, teaching in schools in England and Nigeria, then in a college and a prison. He was ordained in 1997 and has studied theology in Cambridge, St. Andrew's and Tübingen. He is married to Joan and they have three adult children.

The Service was conducted by Bishop Ken Good. Following the installation there were refreshments and speeches of welcome for Rev Stockitt and his family in the adjacent parish hall.



From Cloyne to Glendalough

The appointment of the The Revd Brian O'Reilly as Rector of Rathdrum, Derralossory with Glenealy in the Diocese of Glendalough was announced by Most Rev M Jackson, Archbishop.

The Revd Brian O'Reilly is currently Rector of Cobh and Glanmire in the Diocese of Cloyne. Monday August 25 (St Bartholomew) has been set as the date of Institution.

Brian was ordained deacon in 2007 and served his curacy in the

Parish of Seagoe (Down and Dromore). Prior to his ordination, he worked as a land surveyor, having completed his surveying studies in the College of Technology, Bolton Street (now DIT) in 1984.

Brian grew up in Dublin, but spent some of his early working years in the UK. He is married to Karen and they have a son Cillian (13 years old). Karen, before the arrival of Cillian, worked as a nurse in the Adelaide Hospital. In addition, the family are the proud *servants* of two loveable Cavalier King Charles spaniels, Taylor and Charlie.

Churches back Street Pastors pilot for Coleraine area

After months of meetings, a councillor has described her delight that eight of Coleraine's churches have signed an agreement from the Ascension Trust to formally and legally begin Street Pastors.

Coleraine Times - The pilot project will first take to the streets in the next few months. CRB checks and training will take place in the meantime.

Councillor Stephanie Quigley, who has co-ordinated the initiative, said: ““This is the church in action – on the streets.

“I am delighted that these churches have taken seats on the management committee and will have a very real impact on our streets. I may be new to politics, but as a mum of five and having lived in Coleraine my whole life, I understand the genuine value of people from every background coming together for the good of the whole community.”]

Councillor Quigley said that as a result of the information nights over 40 people have signed up as potential Street Pastors. Volunteers will receive 50 hours of thorough training, in part provided by the police, to ensure they are prepared for the problems they might face.

The pastors will be identifiable by their bright blue coats with ‘Street Pastors’ emblazoned on the back.

Ricky Wright, Director of Vineyard Compassion, said the project is an opportunity “to release churches to engage with the vulnerable in our communities and offer them hope.”

Rev. Charles Keaney P.P. Parish of Dunboe, Macosquin and Aghadowey, agreed: “It is important that as many denominations come together and are actively involved in this vitally important work to witness to the healing power of Christ in our lives.”

Pastors Joe and Donna Kelly from Living Rivers Northwest said: “Only when a tragic event happens we say – ‘If only someone had been there; If only I had acted! Street Pastors removes the ‘if only’ with ‘we do’. Street Pastors is the body of Christ standing together, showing love through action.”

The churches who now form the management committee of Street Pastors Coleraine are: St. Patrick’s Church of Ireland, Causeway Coast Vineyard, Upper Room, Living Rivers Northwest, St. John’s Parish, Castlerock Fellowship, Terrace Row Presbyterian, Church of the Redeemer.

The committee will meet quarterly along with Council and PSNI members to maximise the positive impact of Street Pastors in the night-time culture of Coleraine.

NZ Synod recommits to gender balance

The Anglican Church in New Zealand has sharpened its goal of equal gender representation in provincial leadership.

Last week Synod passed a motion brought by Archdeacon Carole Hughes, strengthening General Synod’s standing resolution (SR05) on gender balance in the make-up of the church’s decision-making bodies.

Synod has recommitted to its aim of equal representation of women and men on governing and consultative bodies, and has now agreed to seek such balance in the leadership of public worship and official gatherings.

In support of the motion, Archdeacon Carole presented a gender representation survey by the Anglican Women’s Studies Centre, which found gender disparity in the leadership of General Synod/Te Hinota Whanui boards, committees, councils and commissions.

Of 27 official bodies listed by the survey, only one had a female chairperson – the Women’s Studies Centre Council.

Archdeacon Carole reported on the disappointing example of a high-profile liturgy, where women were strongly outnumbered in the sanctuary by men and had a small minority of worship leadership roles.

Along with the motion seconder, Rev Jacynthia (Tai Tokerau), Archdeacon Carole hopes the revised standing resolution will call the church to attention and keep promotion of women's leadership as a priority.