



A man who emigrated to Australia, but who never forgot his roots, has come back to check on the progress of a project in Co Cork which sees a former church turned into a clan heritage centre. When John Paul , modern day chieftain of the McAuliffe Clan in north-west Cork, said in 2012 that he and his family would restore the former Church of Ireland building in Newmarket as a clan heritage centre locals were thrilled. See News links this issue

Irish churches to celebrate “Creation Time”

From September 1 to the Feast of St Francis on 4th October, Churches in Ireland will join

Christians throughout the world in celebrating Creation Time.

Creation Time is an opportunity for Christians of all traditions to reflect on the wonder and mystery of God's Creation and to choose better ways to relate to the living earth, ways that reflect God's ways of justice and peace.

Creation Time is promoted by [Eco-Congregation Ireland](#) (ECI) - an inter-church project that encourages churches to take an environmental approach to worship, lifestyle, property and finance management, children's and youth work, community outreach and contact with the developing world.

In 1989 the Ecumenical Patriarch suggested that 1 September, the first day of the Orthodox Church's year, should be observed as a day 'of protection of the natural environment'. Ten years later the [European Christian Environmental Network](#) (ECEN) widened this proposal, urging churches to adopt a Time for Creation stretching from 1 September to the feast of St Francis on 4 October and this was endorsed by the 3rd European Ecumenical Assembly in Sibiu, Romania in 2007, which recommended that the period 'be dedicated to prayer for the protection

of Creation and the promotion of sustainable lifestyles that reverse our contribution to climate change’.

Since 2008 [Churches Together in Britain and Ireland](#) (CTBI) has compiled a programme of resources to encourage and assist churches to observe Creation Time. These include suggestions on a variety of ways in which churches, groups and individuals could choose to focus on a creation theme at this particular time of the year.

Worship material for Creation Time 2016 comes from an ecumenical writing group, with contributors from the Church of Scotland, the Scottish Episcopal Church and the United Reformed Church. This year’s material follows the theme, ‘Followers of Jesus, Caring for Creation’, emphasising the readings from the Gospel of Luke which appear in the Revised Common Lectionary in September. These are available on the [Eco-Congregation Scotland website](#).

For further information, see www.ecocongregationireland.com.

Eco-Congregation Ireland (ECI) is a project of the Irish Inter-Church Meeting. It has developed in conjunction with the Roman Catholic, Church of Ireland, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches as well as the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Ireland. Since it was set up in 2005, ECI has presented awards to parishes and dioceses that have taken environmental steps in four areas - practical, spiritual, community and global.

The Olympics bring us together as 'one human family', says Pope

A more important prize than a gold medal is up for grabs at the Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro: a chance to experience solidarity and contribute to the realisation that all people are members of one human family, Pope Francis said.

Speaking in Portuguese at his weekly general audience on August 3, Pope Francis offered special prayers and greetings to the people of Rio and to the athletes and fans who will gather

in the Brazilian city for the games from August 5-21.

“In a world thirsting for peace, tolerance and reconciliation,” he said, “I wish that the spirit of the Olympic Games would inspire all — participants and spectators — to fight ‘the good fight’ and end the race together, desiring as a prize not a medal, but something much more precious: the creation of a civilisation where there reigns solidarity founded on the recognition that we are all members of one human family, no matter the differences of culture, skin color or religion.”

Pope Francis’ remarks came one day after the release of the monthly video he makes for the Apostleship of Prayer, a Jesuit-entrusted organisation that promotes worldwide prayers for the Pope’s intentions.

In view of the Olympics, the Pope’s prayer intention for August was: “That sports may be an opportunity for friendly encounters between peoples and may contribute to peace in the world.”

The [video](#) features a variety of athletes forcefully striking or throwing balls so hard that they break holes in a wall, symbol of the barriers between people.

“Sports make it possible to build a culture of encounter among everyone for a world of peace,” the Pope says in the video.

Aleppo "humanitarian corridors" proposal deeply flawed say 35 aid agencies

A statement from over 35 Syrian, regional and international humanitarian, human rights and development organisations on the Russia-Syrian proposal to establish "humanitarian corridors" out of Aleppo -

We are extremely alarmed at Russia and Syria's joint proposal to set up so-called "humanitarian corridors" out of eastern Aleppo. We consider the proposal deeply flawed on humanitarian grounds and consider it warning for the International Syria Support Group (ISSG) to urgently step up efforts to end the use of brutal siege tactics and illegal attacks on civilians.

A true humanitarian operation would not force the people of Aleppo to choose between fleeing into the arms of their attackers or remaining in a besieged area under continued bombardment. No one should be forced to flee or remain, and measures must be put in place for the UN to ensure and monitor the safety and protection of anyone voluntarily evacuating.

Far from averting a humanitarian catastrophe in Aleppo, we are gravely concerned that the proposal for "humanitarian corridors" forewarns of a significant risk to civilians who remain. A 'safe passage' offer does not mean that those who stay behind become legitimate military targets. The city cannot be allowed to become another theatre for mass slaughter.

If Russia is serious about averting a humanitarian disaster in Aleppo it should strongly support the UN's call for an immediate weekly 48-hour humanitarian pause to ensure safe, unimpeded and immediate humanitarian access – both for aid to get into Aleppo and for civilians to leave voluntarily. As long as the bombing, shelling and fighting continues, and in the absence of any genuine confidence-building measures, civilians cannot be expected to trust in the safety of

walking through these proposed corridors. All efforts of the ISSG must focus on pushing for a sustained ceasefire, and for an immediate end to the shameless and unacceptable attacks on hospitals and civilian targets.

The statement is supported by Christian Aid, Trocaire and Tear Fund

World Youth Day in Panama will be a 'Latina fiesta', says bishop

Panama, which will host World Youth Day in 2019, is a small country, but the head of its bishops' conference has no doubts the church will be able to organise the event.

"Panama, with its canal, is a bridge between two continents, and we'll also make it a symbolic bridge between young people, especially in Latin America," said Cardinal Jose Lacunza Maestrojuan of David, Panama.

At a news conference in Krakow on July 31, the cardinal said Panama was well-placed for air, road and sea communications with North and South America and would give the World Youth Day a distinctive character.

“We truly hope this will be a blessing for our country, placing it at the centre of the whole world’s attention,” Cardinal Lacunza said.

Bishop Manuel Ochogavia Barahona of Colon-Kuna Yala said Panama was “a multicultural country, incorporating all the world’s races,” and would make World Youth Day a “fiesta Latina,” adding that plans would include “a lot of sun and salsa.”

Archbishop Jose Domingo Ulloa Mendieta of Panama told journalists Pope Francis had “once again surprised us” by choosing Central America as a venue, adding that World Youth Day would be an opportunity to “promote the region’s youth.”

“Panama’s youngsters are suffering from mass emigration, unemployment, violence and (human) trafficking — so this will be a great stimulus for us to start again,” the archbishop said. “It’ll also be important for following the Pope’s call to bring the faith to the peripheries. Panama is one of those peripheries, and the World Youth Day will achieve this end.”

Panamanian President Juan Carlos Varela attended the final weekend of World Youth Day

with his wife, Lorena Castillo, visiting Wadowice, hometown of St John Paul II, and the former Nazi concentration camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp. He accepted rosaries at a Spanish prayer service at Krakow's Divine Mercy Sanctuary and met the Pope after the closing World Youth Day Mass.

In a July 31 statement, he said he was happy Pope Francis had recognised that Panama's values of "peace, dialogue and coexistence" were similar to those of World Youth Day, adding that his government would back the Catholic Church in facilitating "an event which includes every part of society."

Catholics traditionally make up three-quarters of the 3.3 million inhabitants of Panama.

News briefs

+++ Centenary of St Mary's Star of the Sea, Portstewart - parishioners were in celebratory mood on Sunday 10th July as they marked the centenary of their church of St Mary's Star of the Sea which was dedicated on 9th July, 1916. Bishop Noel Treanor celebrated a special Mass and concelebrants were Fr Austin Mc Girr, the

Parish Priest, Fr Raymond Mc Cullagh, University Chaplain and Fr Sean Mc Cartney, a native of the parish. Good wishes were also received from Fr Eamon Adams from Portstewart who is working in Korea as a Columban missionary.

Bishop Treanor expressed his delight at being present “in this place of prayer, worship and Christian charity which people have visited together and alone, in times of joy and sorrow to be re-energised and to regain strength through faith.” The Bishop referred to the “Centenary History of Star of the Sea”, published some months ago, which celebrates the achievements of people in the past hundred years and the inventiveness and imagination of today’s organisations and initiatives and points to the future of the parish. He dwelt on the challenge which demands that future generations care for people in crisis including migrants, asylum seekers and refugees. He went on to stress the importance of participating in public discourse on issues which are crucial to our survival including respect for the dignity of the human person, care for our world and ways of managing markets. At the close of the homily, he urged the congregation to “salute the work of the last

hundred years, take notice of to-day's work and contribute to the moulding of public opinion on critical issues in the decades ahead."

To conclude, Fr Austin Mc Girr thanked Bishop Treanor for his "insightful ,inspiring and challenging words." He also expressed gratitude to the concelebrants and the choir and Mr Terry Cloughley, Head of Music at Dominican College who played the organ and conducted in the absence of John Donnelly who is in hospital. He thanked harpist Cariosa O'Harte , the Parish Council, those in charge of refreshments and all who had helped to prepare for this day. The celebration concluded with tea in a packed Parish Centre to the strains of music provided by the Mc Mullen family.

+++ Christian Aid's Strangford Sportive -

Online registration is now open for the annual Strangford Sportive cycling event, taking place on Saturday 1 October. Online registration ensures a swift departure on the day, so it's well worth doing. Choose from routes of 40km, 80km or 120km. See -

http://www.christianaid.ie/getinvolved/events/cycling/strangford-sportive.aspx?_tj=tsid:57200%7Ccgn:20160803-ire-enews-nir

%7Ckw:txt-body-participate&utm_source=ire&utm_medium=email&utm_content=txt-body-participate&utm_campaign=20160803-ire-enews-nir

+++ Ecumenical pet service - To mark the 40th Anniversary of the Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind, an Ecumenical service for the blessing of pets will take place in Monkstown Parish Church on Sunday August 21 at 3pm. All pets and their owners welcome! A special collection will take place for the work of Irish Guide Dogs and the Blue Cross Animal Charity.

+++ Connor Chapter installations - The Rev Derek Kerr, rector of Drummaul, Duneane and Ballyscullion, recently appointed Prebendary of Cairncastle, will be installed in Lisburn Cathedral on Thursday September 8 at 8pm. The following will be installed in new positions in the Chapter: The Rev Canon George Graham – Chancellor; The Rev Canon John Budd – Precentor; and the Rev Canon Jim Carson – Treasurer. The Chapter also comprise: Dean – The Very Rev Sam Wright; Archdeacon of Connor – The Venerable Stephen McBride; Archdeacon of Dalriada – The Venerable Stephen Forde; Prebendary of Kilroot

– The Rev Canon William Taggart; Prebendary of Rasharkin – The Rev Canon Chris Easton; Prebendary of Connor- The Rev Canon Peter Galbraith.

+++ Garvagh sparks into life - Forty young people are taking part in the fourth annual SPARK Week, which is under way in Garvagh. The week-long initiative, based at St Paul's Church of Ireland, brings young people from across the community together to build new friendships and help their community.

SPARK (Servants Pursuing a Radical Kingdom) was launched in 2013, when it had 14 teenage participants and four leaders. Since then attendance has virtually trebled and the local Rector, the Reverend Paul Whittaker, says with 40 teenagers now taking part, the project is fully subscribed. Mr. Whittaker says the initiative chimes perfectly with the Diocese's Year of Opportunity 2016. "We are being challenged to reach out and engage in Mission, Generosity and Children. The SPARK programme is doing all three. It is incredibly rewarding for the team here at St Paul's to help young people – aged between 13 and 17 – to form new friendships that will impact on them for the rest of their lives.

In that sense, SPARK can be truly life-changing - in a positive way.”

The young people’s daily routine begins with breakfast at 10 am, followed by worship in the church, teaching in the parish hall, and parish-based activities, including litter picks, fence- and shed-painting, weeding in local gardens and public areas, and community engagement. This year the programme has a team of ten young adult leaders, led by Melissa Andrews, and the main facilitator is the Diocesan Youth Officer for Derry and Raphoe, Martin Montgomery. The leaders are backed up by a dozen volunteers who provide meals for the teenagers and leaders.

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

Down and Connor seminarians will still use Maynooth despite boycott over allegations of a 'gay culture'

Irish News

http://www.irishnews.com/news/northernirelandnews/2016/08/03/news/down-and-connor-will-still-send-seminarians-to-maynooth-despite-dublin-boycott-634033/?mc_cid=589bd15fba&mc_eid=23f2f80c40

Ruth Davidson claims Northern Ireland will soon back same-sex marriage

Herald Scotland

Practising Christian and unionist Ruth Davidson recently became engaged to her partner Jen Wilson and has said she would love it if the **Church** of ...

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14657682.Ruth_Davidson_claims_Northern_Ireland_will_soon_back_same_sex_marriage/

'Sham baptisms': Priests struggle with reasons behind the ceremony while parents feel hypocritical

thejournal.ie

There are local Catholics (category one), then there are Catholics from further afield, **Church of Ireland** is category three, and then there are other ...

<http://www.thejournal.ie/sham-baptism-divestment-reasons-ceremony-2873282-Aug2016/>

School children tell us what they think about how they learn about religion

thejournal.ie

The debate on **religion** in **Ireland's** schools can become dominated by **religious** institutions, ...

<http://www.thejournal.ie/school-children-religion-education-2905978-Aug2016/>

Emigrant returns from Australia to fund North Cork heritage centre

Irish Examiner

... said in 2012 that he and his family would restore the former **Church of Ireland** building in Newmarket as a clan heritage centre locals were thrilled.

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/ireland/emigrant-returns-from-australia-to-fund-north-cork-heritage-centre-413554.html>

Ireland's new migrant integration policy to be published in the autumn

The Sunday Business Post

"The Muslim faith is the third largest religious group in the State, behind the Catholic and **Church of Ireland** faiths," Stanton said. Stanton said that "we ...

<https://www.businesspost.ie/irelands-new-migrant-integration-policy-to-be-published-in-the-autumn/>

Guardian

Editorial on slow progress of accepting refugees to the UK. Reference is made to the Dubs amendment, a commitment to accept child migrants travelling alone. The article says there has been slow progress with only 20 children entering the UK in the last three months.

Councils are also criticised for patchily fulfilling their commitments, noting that it took 10 months for a family sponsored by the Archbishop of Canterbury to arrive a Lambeth Palace.

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/aug/02/the-guardian-view-on-the-refugee-crisis-action-not-words>

Exp

Report that the UK's borders are at growing risk of exploitation by people traffickers and terrorists following the migrant crisis, according to a Commons Home Affairs Committee report.

Amongst other findings article says that gangs are switching people-smuggling activities from Calais to UK ports including Hull, Tilbury, Purfleet and Newhaven. Previously the Archbishop of Canterbury has described the migration crisis as "colossal".

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/695974/EU-migrant-crisis-Britain-borders-threat-terrorists-smugglers-home-office-border-force>

Premier

Reports that the Archbishop of York has called on President Robert Mugabe to leave power.

Archbishop Sentamu has said the country has "become rubble" during his leadership. The 92-year-old president has been in power since 1987. It is estimated that around five million people in Zimbabwe are in need of assistance as a result of the ongoing drought in southern Africa. The Archbishop said, "Step down while there is time, and allow someone else to take over Zimbabwe and rule it, so they'll be no violent coup which

again will drive people more and more into poverty."

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/World/>

[Archbishop-of-York-urges-Robert-Mugabe-to-quit](#)

Christian Today

Reports that the C of E is the fastest growing religious group in Finland thanks to a boost from large amounts of refugees arriving in the country. Attendance in C of E parishes has risen by 20 per cent according the Church's Assistant Area Dean for Finland. The recent surge was prompted by arrivals from countries with dominant Anglican presences such as Sudan and South Sudan. In [a blog](#), the Suffragan Bishop in Europe, David Hamid said on a recent trip to Helsinki he confirmed people both from the local St Nicholas church and from overseas. "The service was in English, Arabic and Finnish. The priests assisting me were Finnish, Sudanese and Nigerian in origin. Yes, this is the Church of England!"

BBC/Christian Today/Mail/Exp/Mirror

Reports that the Home Office has won an appeal against a landmark ruling allowing four Syrian refugees living in Calais' so-called Jungle camp to come to Britain. In January, a British judge

ruled three teenagers and a 26-year-old man could immediately come to the UK to live with relatives already in the country. The Home Office appealed, arguing all refugees should apply for asylum in the first EU member state they reach. The refugees, who are already in the UK, will not face deportation. The Bishop of Barking, Peter Hill, is quoted.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-36952013>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3719605/Home-Office-WINS-immigration-appeal-reverse-ruling-let-unaccompanied-migrant-children-Calais-Jungle-live-relatives-UK.html>

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/695705/Government-wins-appeal-against-landmark-ruling-allowing-Jungle-refugees-into-UK>

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/home-office-wins-court-appeal-8544641>

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