



# Rubicon 2016 Explores 100 Years of Irish Culture, Arts and Faith

This year Rubicon will explore 100 years of Irish culture, arts and faith—"1916–2016: Before, Between and Beyond". Rubicon 2016 takes place this Saturday, April 16, from 9.30 am to

4.30 pm in the Church of Ireland College of Education, Rathmines.

**Rubicon** is a yearly boutique conference that gathers to intentionally collaborate and explore ideas about how faith can be expressed within our cultural context. The contributors are numerous and varied and are drawn from the areas of media, arts, sports, politics, entrepreneurism and philosophy in a "TED–esque" format with interaction, table discussion and tea.

**RUBICON 2016 CONTRIBUTORS KEYNOTE SPEAKER:** Brian Zahnd, Pastor and Author of "Water to Wine", "A Farewell to Mars" and "Beauty Will Save The World" from Minnesota, USA.

**DUBLIN WE ARE** Stephen James Smith – Slam Poet, Writer and Performer

MERCY ON THE STREETS Sr. Denise Boyle – Director of MECPATHS (Mercy Efforts to Counter Child Prostitution and Trafficking in the Hospitality Sector)

**AN INTERVIEW WITH THE AUTHOR** Shane O'Doherty – Author of the autobiography "The Volunteer: – A Former IRA Man's True Story"

**IRELAND: 100 YEARS ON** Canon Patrick Comerford of the Church of Ireland Theological Institute

CREATING THE FABRIC OF DUBLIN Brendan Joseph – Textile Design Artist

**GUT LEGISLATION: THE LAW, THE HEART AND THE MIND** Dr. James Gallen – Lecturer in the School of Law & Government, DCU

**BEHIND BARS – BEYOND WALLS** Sr. Imelda Wickham – Wheatfield Prison Chaplain

SLOW POUR: BUILDING COMMUNITY ONE COFFEE AT A TIME Ferg Brown – Founder and Owner of Roasted Brown

## COMPOSING BEAUTY & INNOCENCE Natasa Paulberg – Dublin Composer

**FAITH AND THE AIRWAVES** Rob Clarke – CEO of Spirit FM

MITIGATING AGAINST THE COST OF SUCCESS Rabin Das- Nutrition Lecturer at UCD Sport & Fitness

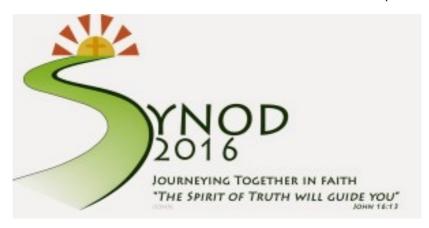
**Hosted** by Rev. Rob Jones of Holy Trinity, Rathmines and Greg Fromholz of Rubicon **Details:** Rubicon April 16, 9:30am–4:30pm Church of Ireland College of Education, Rathmines

**Rubicon+** April 17, 12pm–3pm Holy Trinity Rathmines With Brain Zahnd and special guest singer–songwriter Jason Upton

Book Tickets now at www.wearerubicon.com

# 97 of 100 proposals approved at Limerick Synod

Over 100 proposals to create a more unified, inclusive and accessible Church in the Diocese



of Limerick were voted on at a three-day Synod in Limerick over the weekend.

Some 97 of the 100 proposals were approved across six themes covering a wide range of issues, from dealing with hurt in the Church to enhancing its faith formation, hospitality and welcome.

The 100 proposals at what was the first Irish synod for 50 years were decided on by 400 delegates, over 300 of them lay. It was also the first Synod in Ireland to have such a large lay representation.

In addition to presiding over the proposals for positive change to the Church, a range of 'Universal Issues' beyond the jurisdiction of the diocese were also discussed at the Synod.

Speaking at the end of the three day session, Bishop Brendan Leahy, who called the Synod back in September 2014, said that the synod marks a moment in the history of the diocese and a new beginning.

"We have been on an incredible journey over the past 18 months and started this because we wanted to hear from the people exactly what they are concerned about and what we can do in the future to improve our Church and how it serves the people.

"The great thing about it is that it has been a people-led journey. The people decided what would be on the agenda and the people voted. We now have a new beginning and go from this with the challenge of implementing almost 100 proposals, probably hundreds of initiatives in total, to make sure our Church serves as it should in the future.

"Arising from this, we have a lot of change to implement and it won't happen overnight. But we will get there."

Synod Director Fr Eamonn Fitzgibbon commented, "We did this because Pope Francis has invited us to look again at our Church life and renew it. We completely opened up, asked 5,000 people what was wrong, what was right,



Meeting of Church Synod for Limerick Diocese

how the Church can best serve in the future and we will now implement change on the basis of what they have said."

"This has been a really unifying and inclusive process and we now have a lot to do but look forward to doing this together."

According to delegate and Faith Coordinator for Limerick Diocese, Lorraine Buckely, "We are all energised by this process. What it said to us was that the Church here in Limerick knows that there has to be change and that it wants all in the Church to combine on this."

"Personally I am, of course, really pleased with the recognition that women have been given in this Synod. That's so important for women but also for the Church. It sends a real message of freshness and an appetite for change coming through in the Church here."

"Professionally, I am delighted also with the interest in faith formation. That's really encouraging as people want to work at their faith and want support in that."

Giving an outline of initial analysis of voting at the end of proceedings, Synod Facilitator Martin Kennedy said that five topics had clearly emerged as key issues for the Synod.

'Lifelong Faith Formation' – initiatives for children, young adults, parents and adults – was one.

"People want to hear the good news of the Gospel at all stages of their lives and want people to be equipped to deliver this. This would appear to be one of the strongest issues from the initial reading," he said.

"Another key issue is lay leadership and lay ecclesial ministries with equal roles for women. Another key issue was support for priests; that there would be team ministry. The idea that it

won't be possible for priests to continue for ever as lone-rangers for the parish but would have to work together in cluster formations very much came across also."

"When we weighted the votes vocational promotion also came out very strongly. The Synod said we value the role of priests and on the wider horizon we would like to see a future for the role of priests in our parishes. Another key issue was safeguarding and this is no surprise given its importance."

# Church Army's Belfast launch of 'Open Door Lunch' for the homeless

Connor Diocese's Church Army Evangelists will this week launch an initiative to reach out to those who are homeless and sleeping rough on the streets of Belfast.

'Open Door Lunch' will be based at St Anne's Cathedral and will offer a free hot lunch every Tuesday from 12 noon until 1.30pm.

The project will operate out of St Anne's Cathedral Hall, accessed via Talbot Street, and Evangelists Karen Webb and Stephen Whitten will be supported in the initiative by staff from the Diocese of Connor, parishes in Belfast, and



Cathedral staff. The project also has the support of a number of local businesses.

Karen, Lead Pioneer Evangelist with Connor's North Belfast Centre of Mission, said: "After a recent visit to a project in Dundee where the Church Army, in conjunction with Dundee Cathedral, meet and feed the homeless community, we were inspired to initiate a similar

lunch on a weekly basis in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast.

"Homelessness is a growing issue in the UK and particularly in Belfast and we felt we had a call to, in some small measure, reach out and engage with the homeless community around us. We have been challenged by the quote from \*Shane Claiborne "How can we worship a homeless man on Sunday and ignore one on Monday."

Karen and Stephen expressed thanks to local businesses who are supporting the Open Door Lunch.

The lunches get underway in the Cathedral Hall at noon on Tuesday April 12.

# Come and sing Messiah favourite choruses in Limerick

Joini in with the choir of St Mary's Cathedral in Limerick and directed by Peter Barley, RSCM Ireland invites you to come and sing some of the favourite choruses from this wonderful work by G.F. Handel, on **Saturday, 23 April 2016 at 2:00 PM**  The event is open to all singers, individuals and choirs alike, affiliates and non affiliates. A performance will follow the rehearsal and refreshments.

The cost is €10/€8 (concession). Please complete the booking form available here.

http://www.rscmireland.com/events/

# Death of C of I cleric who was an authority on the Orange Order

Rev. Canon Dr. S.E. Long passed away peacefully at Faith House, Finaghy on Saturday in his 103rd year. His funeral is at Knockbreda Parish Church at 12 noon, today, Tuesday with burial afterwards at St John's Parish Church, Dromara.

Pictured here with Bishop Harold as he celebrated his 100th birthday, Canon Long was, we believe, the oldest minister in the Church of Ireland.

He was also one of the world's oldest published authors, having written "Renowned Reformers" (Slieve Croob Press) in 2015, 'Famous Clergy' (Slieve Croob Press, 2013) and



Bishop Harold with Canon Ernest Long

his autobiography 'The Long of it' (Slieve Croob Press 2009).

As an author Canon Long wrote much on Church and Society, Orange Order history and philosophy, Unionism and Protestantism. He was a recognised authority not only in Ireland, but throughout the world and was the Senior Grand Chaplain of the Grand Loyal Orange Lodge of Ireland.

Canon Long wrote much on social and missional issues for the Church of Ireland, and represented the church at various events and functions.

"To think back on the way I have travelled brings emotions of pleasure and pain. There was so much for which to be thankful and so many whose kindness left me constantly indebted to them." (S.E. Long, 'The Long of it: Insights and Reflections', Slieve Croob Press, 2009).

### **Doing God's Bidding in Maghera**

Artworks, a golf fourball, camping equipment and a family ferry journey are among the many items up for grabs at a parish auction in Maghera, on Friday 15th of April, in aid of St Lurach's Church of Ireland.

The event, in the town's Lurach Centre, will see around 300 lots coming under the hammer. The evening will be presided over by one of Northern Ireland's best-known auctioneers, Daniel Clarke, from John Ross's Antiques in Belfast.

Bids will be invited for lots ranging from the highly practical – half a tonne of coal and heating oil – to the more sophisticated – paintings by the renowned artist Liam Horner. There'll be signed



football and GAA shirts available for sports fans, as well as lots of furniture and household items.

The lots will be available for advance viewing at the Rectory, in Maghera, from 10-11.30am on Saturday 9th April, and from 7-9pm each evening from Monday 11th till Thursday 14th April.

The auction will begin at 7pm on Friday 15th.

### **News briefs**

The Revd Brian Cruise, currently rector of Kildress & Altedesert in the Diocese of Armagh, has been appointed incumbent of the **Parish of Tullylish in the Diocese of** 

**Dromore**. The institution will be on Wednesday 6 July at 8.00 pm.

St Andrew's Glencairn, Belfast, was successfully reopened on Sunday. After a gap of nearly a year and following much renovation and redecoration, St Andrew's Parish Church, Glencairn, reopened for worship. Special guests at the reopening service were the Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev Alan Abernethy, and the Rev Canon Dr Heather Morris, former President of the Methodist Church in Ireland. The Bible reading was John 21: 1-19, and Bishop Alan and Dr Morris held a dialogue on 'Ministry, Mission and Community Engagement.' More photographs can be viewed on the Glencairn Parish website.

http://glencairn.connor.anglican.org/ 160410\_reopening/index.html

St Patrick's cathedral, Dublin is the venue for a lunchtime lecture today, Tuesday at 1.10pm when Dr Kerry Houston, from the DIT Conservatory, will talk about the cathedral's post–Restoration music.

In **St Mary's cathedral**, **Limerick** tomorrow, Wednesday the Shannon Golf Club Choir will give a lunchtime recital of works by Sibelius,

Verdi and Dvorak. At 7pm in the Boardroom of the Church of Ireland College of Education the AGM of the **Church Education Society** will be held. In **Kilternan parish church** at 8pm the Archbishop of Dublin will institute the Revd Rob Clements as rector. Mr Clements, who was ordained in 2012, has been curate in Enniskillen.

**Divine Healing Ministries** is hosting a series of **training evenings** for those who would like to be involved in the ministry of divine healing.

These will be held in St Anne's Cathedral Hall, Belfast, on Thursdays April 21 and 28 and May 12, 19 and 26 at 8pm. The training will be both teaching and practical, and will be conducted by David Jardine and some experienced members of the team of Divine Healing Ministries.

David said: "People are free to come for a variety of reasons – to work with Divine Healing Ministries, to use the skills learnt in their own setting, or just to learn more about the ministry of healing."

There is no charge for the training, but on the final evening there will be an opportunity to make a voluntary contribution.

Anyone interested in attending should contact Divine Healing Ministries at 32 Townsend Street, BT13 2ES.

Representatives of the many different Christian communities in Rome gathered at the **Methodist Church at Ponte Sant'Angelo** on Wednesday 6 April for the dedication of a new Methodist Ecumenical Office.

Leaders of the World Methodist Council gathered for the dedication and met with Pope Francis on Thursday 7 April. Among them was Irish lay leader Gillian Kingston, vice-president of the World Methodist Council.

# News links to reports on faith, politics and education

### Women must play bigger role in church, Synod hears

Irish Times

A motion to establish a working group to explore and scope out how and where women can play a leadership role in the governance of the **church** ...

http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/women-must-play-bigger-role-in-church-synod-hears-1.2605556

## VIDEO: Expand role of women in the Church, synod told

Irish Examiner

"The **Church of Ireland** has readers who look after the liturgy on a Sunday if an ordained minister cannot be present. We are going to have to get used ... http://www.irishexaminer.com/ireland/video-expand-role-of-women-in-the-church-synod-told-392305.html

# Church 'should hold lay-led services on weekdays' due to priest shortage

Independent.ie

http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/church-should-hold-layled-services-on-weekdays-due-to-priest-shortage-34615842.html

### Why can't a la carte catholics be recognised on the census form?

Irish Independent

http://www.independent.ie/opinion/columnists/marykenny/why-cant-a-la-carte-catholics-be-recognised-onthe-census-form-34615698.html

## Very few students attend campus religious services, figures show

Irish Times

http://www.irishtimes.com/news/education/very-few-students-attend-campus-religious-services-figures-show-1.2605741

# Ulster cleric's prayers for Archbishop of Canterbury after paternity shock

#### Belfast Newsletter

A leading **Church of Ireland** figure has offered his support and prayers for Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, after the Englishman confirmed that ... http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/northern-ireland-news/ulster-cleric-s-prayers-for-archbishop-of-canterbury-after-paternity-shock-1-7321371

### Church choir member killed in motorway accident

**News Letter** 

Warm tributes have been paid to 80-year-old Maureen Buchanan who died after an horrific six-vehicle crash while travelling to a ladies church weekend.

http://www.newsletter.co.uk/former-mp-s-tribute-to-m1-crash-victim-maureen-buchanan-1-7321292

### Belfast Telegraph

M1 fatality Maureen Buchanan (80) was a 'gracious, warm and friendly Christian lady'

http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/m1-fatality-maureen-buchanan-80-was-a-gracious-warm-and-friendly-christian-lady-34612362.html

## Recognising contribution of police who fell in the 1916 fighting

Irish Examiner

He was posthumously awarded the Constabulary Medal (Ireland), which is the ... RIC Head Constable William N. Rowe (Castlehyde **Church of Ireland** ...

http://www.irishexaminer.com/viewpoints/analysis/recognising-contribution-of-police-who-fell-in-the-1916-fighting-392295.html

### Mail/Times/Tel/Premier

Further coverage of how the Archbishop of Canterbury has responded to the news that his father was not Gavin Welby, as he had always believed, but the late Sir Anthony Montague Browne. The *Times* reports that leaders from the Jewish, Catholic and Coptic faiths joined Anglicans in their support for the Archbishop following the announcement. In its comment section Matthew Syed praises the Archbishop's "wonderfully dignified" personal statement.

The *Telegraph* reports that the Archbishop is looking forward to meeting his half-sister.

http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/faith-leaders-givepraise-to-the-illegitimate-archbishop-qv5gnkmgx http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/comment/paternityproblems-are-a-ticking-time-bomb-wgswwfp5r http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/lovers-family-hadworked-out-truth-three-years-ago-5ztnxf390 http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/04/10/justin-welbyplans-to-meet-half-sister-he-never-knew/ http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3533148/Asnation-eagerly-follows-scandal-surrounding-Justin-Welbys-true-father-mother-judged-youthful-slip.html http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3533129/Thesociety-seducer-sired-Archbishop-DNA-bombshell-Justin-Welby-s-true-father-mother-far-woman-fall-Anthony-Montague-Browne.html http://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-3533158/ DOMINIC-LAWSON-final-proof-doctors-really-paypackets-patients-lives.html

http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Reaction-Faith-leaders-praise-Welby-over-response-to-father-revelation

#### Guard

Reports oil giant BP is facing criticism over its green targets and pay at its AGM this week. The report highlights the work of the Aiming for A coalition, which includes church investors and pension funds, which is putting forward a resolution on climate risk to the AGM of Rio Tinto also to be held this week.

http://www.theguardian.com/business/2016/apr/10/bp-environment-targets-pay-agm-shareaction

#### Times/Guard/Mail

Profile of British golfer Danny Willett who has become the first England Masters champion since 1996. A Yorkshire man, articles also note he is the son of a CofE vicar. http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/yorkshire-son-of-a-vicar-shows-sheffield-steel-to-rule-augusta-7s7fsx7cl http://www.theguardian.com/sport/2016/apr/11/danny-willett-masterrs-2016-jordan-spieth-lee-westood http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/golf/article-3533073/Danny-Willett-wins-80th-Masters-sensational-final-round-Jordan-Spieth-collapses-commanding-lead-Augusta.html?

### Comment

**Telegraph:** Justin Welby has taught the world a lesson in humility

http://www.telegraph.co.uk/opinion/2016/04/10/justin-welby-has-taught-the-world-a-lesson-in-humility/

**Mail:** Euro MP Daniel Hannan writes a critical article on why "charities, quangos and lobbyists are desperate to keep Britain in the EU".

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3533191/ EXPOSED-Pro-EU-cheer-leaders-Brussels-payroll-Continuing-devastating-series-Euro-MP-DANIEL-HANNAN-reveals-REAL-reason-charities-quangoslobbyists-desperate-Britain-EU.html? ITO=1490&ns\_mchannel=rss&ns\_campaign=1490

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