



Pope gives his blessing to Formula E racing

Saturday's inaugural Formula E motor race in Rome was given a papal blessing earlier in the week. Race car drivers, mechanics and team representatives met with Pope Francis at the Pope's Santa Marta residence on Wednesday.

Formula E features high-performance streamlined cars similar in appearance to Formula 1 motor racing cars, with one chief difference: the racing cars are electric powered, so they are less noisy, have lower emissions and are much more environmentally friendly. The race series also helps to promote the wider use of electric vehicles generally.

Approved by the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA), motor racing's international governing body, Formula E, officially

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known as the ABB FIA Formula E Championship, held its first race in Beijing in September 2013.

This year, the championship will involve races in ten cities on five continents. Saturday's race in Rome was the first time a Formula E event has been held on the streets of the Eternal City. It will be interesting to see how the Italians take to this electric-powered version of motor sport in the land of Ferrari and Lamborghini.

Racing these electric vehicles competitively helps improve the performance of both carbon neutral engines and car batteries, which will benefit both the ordinary motorist and the natural environment, something which the Vatican's press office said is in line with the environmental message outlined in the encyclical *Laudato Si' – On the Care for Our Common Home*.

This year, Formula E races involve 20 drivers competing in 10 teams and it is reckoned that more than half of those competing in Rome were at Santa Marta to receive the Pope's apostolic blessing.

Pedalling for Health – Home and Away

Robbie Syme is taking to his bicycle once more.

Having cycled around Ferns Diocese last year in aid of the organ in St Mary's church Enniscorthy, this year his focus is on health issues both at home and overseas. Following some comments that Robbie's endeavours were only around a part of the diocese, this year he will undertake a visit to all six cathedrals of our joint diocese from Ferns to Old Leighlin, to Kilkenny, to Cashel, to Lismore and finally to Waterford.

This year Robbie is seeking to raise funds for two extremely worthy causes, firstly the Home element, to assist the fundraising for an M R I scanner for Wexford General Hospital, and the Away portion is to raise money for a roof for a health centre in Nyamagana which is a district of Shyogwe diocese in Rwanda.

The need for a new MRI scanner in Wexford General is well documented. The community has undertaken to raise 250,000 euro towards the cost of this scanner and currently the fund stands at

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some 150,000 euro. It is hoped that the funds raised in this venture will help in some small way in reaching the target. After all Charity begins at home!!

The “away” portion is a really important cause as the provision of a health centre in Rwanda changes the whole provision of health services to a community.

Robbie has been visiting Rwanda since 2002 along with a group of friends from Whitechurch Parish in Dublin, and to date the group, loosely formed into the “Friends of Shyogwe Diocese” have succeeded in contributing towards the upgrading of two dispensaries to health centres.

The original dispensaries consisted of one-roomed buildings which just dispensed some medicines whereas the upgraded health centres provides primary health care to approximately 25,000 people.

This healthcare in particular provides safe childbirth and maternity services along with the care of minor illnesses, fractures etc. The centres also provide HIV/AIDS treatment and most importantly, are allowed to operate the “Mutuel” – this is a form of health insurance which while costing in our terms a very small amount – €1.30 per adult per year – it gives the insured access to subsidized medicines and access to the health centre.

In Rwanda there are hospitals but they are very overcrowded and they find it difficult to deal with small cases, childbirth etc. so the health centres are vital in improving the health of the community.

An example of the effect is that infant mortality has been almost eliminated from communities which have access to the health centres. The health centres also provide young mothers with nutritional advice and operate the World Health Immunisation Programme. As an incentive to prospective mothers, the health centre offers mosquito nets to those who sign up for antenatal classes. This has greatly reduced the incidence of malaria which is still a killer in Rwanda. The Local Bishop regards the provision of health centres as a central plank of the church’s mission.

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As many people may know Robbie suffered a heart attack approximately two years ago and as he says he survived thanks to God and to the God-given skill of a good surgeon. This venture is therefore partly a celebration of a return to fitness together with a wish to continue supporting the mission of the diocese of Shyogwe where the church is giving hope to a community with very few resources. Please therefore support this venture as best you can.

To date, the community in Nyamagana, with funding from Ireland largely organised by Canon Ian Poulton, former rector of Clonenagh, who was centrally involved in the initiation of this project, have completed the walls of the health centre building up to roof level. However, further funding of approximately €9000 is required in order to erect the roof.

It is hoped that the funds from Robbie's cycle together with some further fundraising by the "friends of Shyogwe diocese" will be sufficient. Currently it is envisaged that a group from Clonenagh parish will travel to Rwanda to assist in the physical completion of the roof structure, thus enabling the building to be well on the way to completion by the end of 2018.



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Rwanda as a country was ranked the 17th poorest country in the world in 2016. While incomes in Rwanda have improved over the past 10 years or so as the country recovered from the dreadful genocide, wages are still only some €1.50 per day and most of the population are subsistence farmers with very little land.

Nyamagana is a community and parish in Shyogwe diocese in Rwanda. It is envisaged that approximately 25,000 people will be allocated to the health centre when completed.

Nyamagana is roughly 50 miles southwest from Kigali which is the capital of Rwanda and some 30 miles from the border with Burundi. It is a mostly rural community surrounding the town of Ruhango, which is the provincial centre.

In Rwanda, if the community provides the infrastructure, the government will employ and pay the medical staff of the health centre and will provide the medicines. To date it has been largely the churches that have provided the health centre buildings and in Shyogwe diocese Nyamagana is the last of the five dispensaries to be upgraded to health centre status. The effect on the communities of the other health centres in the diocese has been marked with the incidence of malaria much reduced and infant mortality all but eliminated. Thus, it is hard to over-emphasize the need to complete Nyamagana health centre and the project is one which the "Friends of Shyogwe diocese" really want to complete.

Robbie's proposed Pedalling schedule is as follows:

Ferns Cathedral 22nd April; Old Leighlin 23rd; St Canices 24th;
Cashel 25th; Lismore 26th; Waterford 27th

New reconciliation resource

"Be Reconciled" is a new biblically-based small group resource to inspire and equip the local church in Northern Ireland in peacemaking.

It was created by Rev Catherine Simpson and developed in partnership with Evangelical Alliance NI, with support from leading figures from across the denominations. It can be adapted for use in

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a youth group setting - for further info and free downloads visit:
www.bereconciled.co.uk

Church leaders meet with BBC



On Friday last Irish church leaders met with press officers, Peter Johnston and Mark Adair BBC NI and Martin Bashir, Religious Affairs correspondent who also met with various cross-community groups to discuss broadcasting of community and religious programmes.

Return visit by Dr Os Guinness

Dr Os Guinness, is making a return visit to Northern Ireland to speak at the Whitla Hall at Queen's University tonight, Monday, 16th April at 8pm. Belfast is one of the locations on his 2018

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Reasons for Hope tour, being organized by Christian Unions Ireland.

Oz Guinness - left

Further details available on <https://www.cui.ie/blog/95/reasons-for-hope-2018>. This is a free event but registration on Eventbrite is advisable.

New resource from Down youth worker on Amazon

“Inspire” is the title of a new resource now available. The 306 paged book is described as a resource for the busy youth worker. Costing 15 pounds, it was written by Magheralin & Dollingstown (Diocese of Down & Dromore) Youth Pastor [Paul Martin](#).

https://www.amazon.co.uk/INSPIRE-resource-busy-youth-workers/dp/1976841720/ref=redir_mobile_desktop?encoding=UTF8&dpID=41-cfyW-xaL&dpPI=1&keywords=inspire%20resource%20volume%201&pi=AC_SX236_SY340_FMwebp_QL65&qid=1523608033&ref=plSrch&ref=mp_s_a_1_2&sr=8-2

Clones inter-church Celebration of the Life of St Tighernach

This evening there will be a Celebration of the Life of St Tighernach with a community event in **St Tighernach’s church, Clones**, at 7pm to remember St Tighernach, his ministry and his significance to the cross-border parish and to the Diocese of Clogher and Clones.

Both Bishops of Clogher, the Right Revd John McDowell and the Most Revd Joseph Duffy, will attend and there will be music by Ballyreagh Silver Band, Lynda Lindsay and Ballybay Country Gospel Group.

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Limerick Cathedral recital

The lunchtime recital in **St Mary's cathedral, Limerick**, on Wednesday will be given by pianist, Malcolm Green, who will play works by Haydn, Sibelius, Debussy and Chopin.

Cork conference on dementia care

On Thursday at the Radison Blu Hotel, Little Island, Cork, the Bishop of Cork, Cloyne & Ross, Dr Paul Colton, will deliver the opening address at the **Annual Conference of Saint Luke's Charity, Cork**. He will speak on 'Innovations in Dementia Care'.

Dublin & Glendalough Holy Week in photographs

Look back at Holy Week and Easter 2018 in parishes throughout Dublin & Glendalough through the lenses of photographers the

FAMILY SINGING WORKSHOP
SATURDAY 21 APRIL 2 to 4.30pm
ST MARY'S PRO-CATHEDRAL
ALL WELCOME
(with or without previous singing experience)



RSCM Ireland is inviting children, parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents, cousins and any other members of the family to take part in this festive and upbeat gathering on Saturday 21 April at the Pro-Cathedral. It is aimed to help families prepare, in song, for the World Meeting of Families 2018.

Under the musical direction of Blánaid Murphy, the workshop afternoon will consist of singing well-known and loved hymns, fun worship songs, the official hymn of the World Meeting of Families 2018 and plenty more, followed by a short service of prayer for the success of the World Meeting of Families and the Papal Visit.

Cost is €5 per person or €10 per family
For further information or to sign up, please call:
086 8963984.

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length and breadth of the dioceses. Appreciate the wonderful photographers who took pictures to record events in their parishes. Holy Week and Easter 2018 in Dublin & Glendalough from Dublin & Glendalough on Vimeo.

Church Education Society AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the **Church Education Society** will be held on Wednesday, 18 April 2018, at 4.15pm, in Church of Ireland House, Rathmines, Dublin.

Free concert at pro-Cathedral, Dublin

ESCOLANIA  **MONTSERRAT**

THURSDAY 19 APRIL, 8PM, PRO-CATHEDRAL

PALESTRINA CHOIR  **DUBLIN**

A special evening on Thurs 19th April at 8pm at Pro-Cathedral. Famous Escolania de Montserrat and Palestrina Choir give a joint concert at 8.00 pm. Free entrance. All very welcome.

Sing in Armagh opportunity

Fantastic opportunity for singers - the Charles Wood festival is open for applications until April 20.

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Young English adults still value church weddings, survey shows

Research conducted for the Church of England suggests that almost three quarters of unmarried adults under the age of 35 still dream of getting married. The figure is taken from a survey conducted by 9Dot-Research for the C of E's Life Events team. It would appear to contradict statistics for the actual number of weddings which show a continuing decline in both absolute numbers and in the rate: figures for opposite-sex marriage in 2015 show that there were 21.7 marriages per thousand unmarried men

President's Diary

REV. DR. LAURENCE GRAHAM



From 15th - 22nd of April

Sunday:

Omagh and Fintona Circuit.
Portadown Circuit.

Monday:

Visiting Comber Methodist, Co
Down

Tuesday:

Meetings in Abbey St, Dublin.

Wednesday:

Home Office based + filming for
Christian Aid RTE service,
Dublin

Thursday:

Speaking at St Finians
Church of Ireland,
Belfast

Friday:

Church Leaders
meeting, Armagh

Saturday:

Off

Sunday:

Londonderry Circuit

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and 19.8 marriages per thousand unmarried women – the lowest rate on record.

The research company surveyed 1,085 unmarried people between the ages of 18 and 35 on 14th and 15th November 2017. Just 07 per cent of this initial sample said that they “had no intention of ever being married”. They were excluded from the latter part of the survey on factors that would influence their wedding plans, giving a sample size of 1,012.

Almost six in 10 (59 per cent) said that they would like to marry at some point.

Just over one in 10 (12 per cent) said they were engaged and planning their upcoming nuptials. Significantly, the survey also suggests that millennials – a nickname given to people reaching young adulthood in the early 21st century – attach a special importance to church weddings, with more young people preferring to marry in a

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church or chapel (47 per cent) than a register office or town hall (34 per cent).

Those who would consider a church wedding were asked why it appealed to them from a list of options. Almost a third said that it felt like a “proper” wedding (31 per cent). Marrying before God or receiving a blessing, was also in the top 10 (the seventh most chosen option). Millennials were also strongly drawn to “traditional / conventional” wedding venues (72 per cent).

The research shows that for those considering marriage, almost one in six (17 per cent) said that faith or religion had influenced their wedding ideas. The survey also shows that of those hoping to marry, just under half (43 per cent) had thought about their wedding day by the time they reached 16. Women were more likely to have envisioned their wedding by that age (54 per cent) than men (32 per cent).

“It’s encouraging to see that young people are still thinking and planning for a wedding,” the Revd Dr Sandra Millar, the Church of England’s head of Life Events, said. “Research suggests marriage

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is seen as the 'crown' on a long-term relationship, and despite the fact that many may be delaying or choosing not to marry at all, the idea of a special, beautiful wedding day is still one of life's big dreams.

"For many, a church wedding is still part of fulfilling that dream, in churches throughout England."

The Life Events team has been set up to help dioceses and churches minister at key moments in people's lives. It includes infant and adult baptisms, confirmations, weddings, funerals and vocations.

Commentators suggest that the wedding of Prince Harry to US actress Meghan Markle at St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle next month could lead to a short-term increase in the number of weddings taking place in the next couple of years; as young couples respond to the high media profile of the service.

Cardinal Willem Eijk to speak in Waterford and Lismore on experience of the Church in Holland

Cardinal Willem Eijk, Archbishop of Utrecht in Holland, will offer a series of talks today, Monday 16 and Tuesday 17 April in the Diocese of Waterford and Lismore on recent experiences of the Catholic Church in Holland.

The first talk will take place on Monday 16 April at the Park Hotel, Dungarvan in Waterford from 7.30pm until 9.30pm on. The theme of this talk will be 'What the Irish Church could learn from the recent history of the Church in Holland' and will focus on the the diminishing number of practicing Catholics in Holland.

The following day, Tuesday 17 April, from 7.30pm to 9.00pm, Cardinal Eijk will speak at the Granville Hotel as part of the ongoing 'Café Theology' series on the theme 'Euthanasia in Holland – Could it happen here?'

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As part of his visit to the diocese Cardinal Eijk will serve as chief celebrant at Mass in the Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity in Waterford on Monday at 10.30am. Bishop Alphonsus Cullinan, Bishop of Waterford and Lismore, will be concelebrating the Mass.



On the Tuesday at 10.30am, Cardinal Eijk will celebrate Mass in St Joseph and St Benildus Church in Waterford, with Parish Priest Father Liam Power concelebrating.

Cardinal Eijk will also speak on WLRfm on Monday morning at 11.30am.

His Eminence, Cardinal Willem Eijk, is Metropolitan Archbishop of Utrecht in Holland. He was created a Cardinal by Pope Benedict XVI in February 2012 and participated in the conclave of March 2013 which elected Pope Francis. A former medical doctor, Cardinal Eijk serves as a moral theologian, medical ethicist and physician. He is a member of the Pontifical Academy for Life. All are welcome to attend the talks and the celebration of Masses. For more information please see www.waterfordlismore.ie

