



Mark Russell, chef executive of Church Army wiith Neville Willerton, Emma Bolster-Rodrigues and Bishops Patrick and John, at St Muredach's Cathedral, Ballina.

Ecumenical launch of first Church Army Centre of Mission in the Irish Republic

Emma Bolster-Rodrigues was commissioned and licenced in St Muredach's Cathedral, Ballina on Monday evening this week. Bishop Patrick Rooke has described her as "the newest member of the Ministry Team of TKA".

Emma will be working in Ballina under the auspices of Ballina Churches Together, a cross denomination partnership involving the four main traditions in Ballina and The Church Army.

Mark Russell, an Irishman who is chief Executive of the Church Army, preached at the inter-church service commented afterwards. He said, "Such an amazing night launching our first CA Centre of Mission in the Irish Republic. It was fitting we did so in the Roman Catholic cathedral named after a disciple of St Patrick.

"As we seek to serve to the people of Ballina it was amazing to launch the project with the Roman Catholic and Anglican Bishops and clergy from the Methodist and Presbyterian churches. I was honoured to be invited to preach and we are thrilled [Emma Bolster-Rodrigues](#) will lead this wonderful new project!!"

In conversation with the diocesan press officer, Emma recalled her faith journey. She said, "I was born and raised in Blarney County Cork. I come

from Carrigrohane union of Parishes and grew up attending Blarney Church of Ireland. Growing up I was influenced by my parent's faith in God, our church youth club which I attended every Saturday evening in the church hall and my yearly trips to Munster Christian Camps. It was at camp that I made great friendships with young people from different church backgrounds where I learned more about following Jesus and sensing a calling to mission and evangelism.

“I met Robson my husband while he was working as a missionary in Spain with a mission organization. We married in 2007 in Cork. In 2011 we moved to Brazil and we lived in the countryside around Rio de Janeiro for almost five years. We have two children, Aaron who is 6 years old and was born in Ireland and Kristen who is 2 and was born in Brazil.”

“At the age of 21 I decided to join Youth with a Mission in England to pursue my heart for Evangelism and Mission. Part of this course brought me to China and Thailand for 5 months on outreach working in orphanages and visiting churches in hill tribes. I loved this work and once I had finished my training I got a place at Moorlands College in Christchurch, England which is connected to the University of Gloucestershire. I did a 3 year (Hons) applied

theology degree. I spent part of my third year in Zambia working in the Copper-belt region.

“Following college, I worked in the YMCA in Cork and in England with Bournemouth churches housing association working with drug addicts and alcoholics.

“In 2011 we left to go to Brazil to start a Mission Centre. While starting the Mission Centre we worked for two years as missionaries in a shanty town which had a lot of drug and social issues. In December 2015, having built our Mission Centre (which is now used for a children’s ministry). We felt it was time to return to Ireland and possibly to the West.

“Ballina is known to me. I have relatives living here and my Mum and her family lived in Ballina in the 1950s. For me it is like coming home. In working for Ballina churches together(BCT) and with Church Army my main aim will be working in the community and bringing people together to tackle the social issues in the area and to provide a safe place for young people to meet, have fun and be listened to, and to provide prayer support.”

Debut performance of Dublin City University's Gospel Choir

A wonderful **Come&C Songs of Praise Service** took place this week in **Dublin City University's Inter Faith Centre**. Led by Church of Ireland Chaplain, Philip McKinley, the theme of the service was 'To respond to human need by loving service' based on the third Mark of Mission of the Anglican Communion. The Church of Ireland Chaplains of DIT, Trinity College Dublin and UCD as well as the Principal of the Church of Ireland College of Education spoke about how responding to human need by loving service looked in their settings. The service also featured the debut performance of the DCU Gospel Choir and the world premier of the 'Come&C' hymn written by Philip McKinley for this Dublin and Glendalough Year of Come&C.

Redemptorists' Jubilee Pilgrimage at St. Peter's Cathedral, Belfast

Jubilee Pilgrimage at St. Peter's Cathedral Belfast celebrating 150 Years with the Redemptorists - May 12, 2016, 7:30 pm – 11:00 pm . Blessed Pope Pius IX presented the Icon of

Our Mother of Perpetual Help to the Redemptorists for veneration in their newly-built Church of Sant'Alfonso, Rome in December 1865. It was solemnly installed there on April 26th 1866.

The Holy Father gave the Redemptorists a mandate: they were to promote devotion to Our Mother of Perpetual Help throughout the world. Just over a year later, the first copy arrived in Mount St Alphonsus, Limerick. <http://www.downandconnor.org/blog/event/follow-icon/...>

First 'Cradle Roll' service in Christ Church Parish, Lisburn

Christ Church Parish, Lisburn, held its first 'Cradle Roll' service on Sunday April 24. Guest speaker was Jill Hamilton, Connor Diocese's Children's Project Development Officer, who was accompanied by her puppet friend, Scruffy.

More than 30 children aged three and under attended the service, along with a number of older children, and the parish Junior Choir sang for the first time. Rector, the Rev Paul Dundas, said: "In the past few years we have seen quite a few families move into Lisburn, and we have

been working with families who have had their children baptised here. “

Paul said much of this ongoing work, and the organisation of the service, was down to the team of Beth Harris, Roberta Thompson, Debbie Reilly and Harry Allen. “The Cradle Roll is a way of building connections with our young families and encouraging them in their faith,” said Mr Dundas. The team will continue to maintain the Cradle Roll, with another Cradle Roll service envisaged in three years time.

Packed closing Mass for Scoil Carmel secondary, Limerick

Students and staff, past and present, gathered to bid a fond farewell to what has been affectionately named ‘The Mount’ after nearby Mount St Vincent Convent in Limerick.

The closing Mass on Sunday (24 April 2016) for Scoil Carmel secondary was celebrated by Bishop Brendan Leahy, Canon Donal McNamara, Fr P O’Sullivan and Fr O Plunkett.

“The day was a very emotional day for many. The huge turnout was extremely gratifying and everyone was so positive, delighted to be there and many acquaintances were renewed and



memories shared,” Ann O’Reilly, Acting Principal, Scoil Carmel, told CatholicIreland.net.

“The formal liturgy was so moving and symbolic, while the reception back at the school gave people the chance to interact in a more informal way.”

The Church, with a capacity of over 400, was packed with many standing.

Mercy sisters from Mount St Vincent and Westbourne convents were present as was the Provincial Team from Naas.

Also in attendance was CEIST CEO Dr Marie Griffin and Dr Amalee Meehan.

There were several previous principals and deputy principals, past staff and pupils and parents some who attended on behalf of their daughters’ who are living abroad. The liturgy was held in St Joseph’s Church.

“Sunday was a beautiful closing ceremony and very apt considering we had every major occasion of school lives, from joining to graduation, in St Joseph’s Church. The singing was lovely and the hymns so familiar, that we were transported back 30 years or more singing ‘As I kneel before you’ and ‘Ave Maria’,” Margaret, Ann and Mary Foley who are sisters and their cousin Mary McAleer (nee Foley) said.

It cited “insurmountable” challenges including demographic changes and the economic downturn for the closure.

At the time there were 300 students and 30 staff including teachers, administration and caretakers.

The Catholic secondary school is under the trusteeship of CEIST which has other schools in the city including Ardscoil Mhuire in Corbally and Presentation Secondary School in Sexton Street.

The long lead up to the closure facilitated the current pupils in completing Junior and Leaving Certificate examinations at Scoil Carmel.

The teaching staff who catered for the needs of Scoil Carmel during the transition period, will be re-deployed with the help of the Department of Education.

“Scoil Carmel is still a functioning school with all our students facing state examinations in June so it is a difficult time for current staff and pupils but we all worked really hard to make this day a success and we were delighted that it was such a success. The affection and support shown by past members of the community is a great support,” said Ann O’Reilly. “I really believe that the day was a true celebration of the legacy of 60 years of Scoil Carmel.”

The theme for the day was based on the school motto *Scaipimis an Solas -Let us spread the light.*

Scoil Carmel began life as a” secondary top” run by the Sisters of Mercy who understood the importance of education for girls in Limerick.

Cathedral and choral

Christian Aid Ireland invite you to an evening of Brass and Voices featuring [Ceara Grehan](#), [Downshire Brass](#) and [Voices Together Community Choir](#). All donations are in support of [Christian Aid Week](#) and the [David Gordon Memorial Hospital](#), Livingstonia, Malawi. David Gordon Memorial Hospital is a hospital run by the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP). **The concert is in [Fisherwick](#)**

[Presbyterian Church](#), 4 Chlorine Gardens, Belfast, BT9 5DJ on Saturday 7 May 2016, 7:30pm . **Tickets:** £10 Please purchase tickets online using the Eventbrite form below, or by calling the Belfast office on 028 9064 8133.<http://www.christianaid.ie/getinvolved/events/an-evening-of-brass-and-voices.aspx>

The **Irish Church Music Association** holds its 47th Summer School from Wednesday, 6 July to Saturday, 9 July 2016 in St Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. Theme: God Full of Mercy. One of the presenters will be Tony Alonso, one of the most prominent voices in contemporary liturgical music. Please see <http://www.irishchurchmusicassociation.com/> for details

RSCM International Summer School in Liverpool from Monday 8 August - Sunday 14 August 2016. Theme: One Church, One faith, One Lord - Towards harmony in the post-Reformation church. Presenters include: MYC director and choral expert Adrian Lucas Graham Kendrick, often called the "father of the worship-song movement" and many others. The booking deadline is Friday 29 April 2016. It is possible to attend on a daily basis if you plan to be in the area on holiday. Please see

<http://www.rscm.com/courses/international-summer-school/>

Glenstal Abbey Summer Organ Improvisation School at St Patrick's College, Maynooth with Ansgar Wallenhorst. Tuesday 12th July to Thursday 14th July 2016. This workshop is open to organists at every level of ability who wish to develop their own creativity in improvisation either in the context of liturgical services or in concert performance. Please see http://www.liturgy-ireland.ie/uploads/8/4/2/9/8429650/improvisation_workshop_2016.pdf

Durham Cathedral's organist has been honoured by the Archbishop of Canterbury. At a ceremony held at Lambeth Palace, **James Lancelot**, the master of the choristers and organist, received The Cranmer Award for Worship from Archbishop Justin, who worked with him while he was Bishop of Durham.

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News briefs

Shankill Baptist Church, in Tennent Sreet, Belfast celebrated 120 years of witness in the community last weekend.

The guest speaker at the special services was Steve Brady from Moorlands Bible College.

The **Bishop of Cork**, Dr Paul Colton, visited a number of schools on **Proclamation Day** and, following the various ceremonies and presentations, took the opportunity to illustrate to students how richly diverse our country has become, and how complicated the history of 1916 is by speaking about his own family, all of whom were in the army of the day. The Bishop also shared his memories of the 1966



No prizes for guessing the C of I rector in Derry diocese who recently celebrated his 60th birthday

commemorations in St Luke's National School, Douglas, Cork. Students have written their own

‘Proclamations for a New Generation.’ These were presented by school children and teachers during the Civic Eucharist on St Patrick’s Day in St Fin Barre’s Cathedral, Cork and have been on display since in the ambulatory of the Cathedral.

Clontarf Parish celebrates the 150th anniversary of the Church of St John the Baptist with a Festival of Flowers over the weekend of May 13 to 16. The festival begins with a special launch concert with Cara O’Sullivan on Friday May 13 in the church. Tickets for the concert cost €25 and are available by contacting 087 9091561. The Festival of Flowers is open from 10am to 7pm on Saturday May 14 and Monday May 16 and from 2pm to 7pm on Sunday May 15. A service of thanksgiving for to mark the 150th anniversary takes place on Sunday May 15 at 10.30 am. This will be presided over by Archbishop Michael Jackson and Archbishop Richard Clarke will be the guest preacher. Concert – €25, Flower Festival – €10

Lost in Wonder, Love and Praise! Is the theme of a **flower festival in Movilla Abbey Methodist Church, Newtownards** from Friday 20 to Sunday 22 May 2016 Groups and individuals welcome. Full catering available. Ample parking

for cars and coaches. Friday, 20 May, 2016 - 10:00 to Sunday, 22 May, 2016 - 17:00 Movilla Abbey Methodist Church, Movilla Road Newtownards Co. Down BT23 8EZ.
Email: movillaflowerfest16@gmail.com

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

Irish is considered among the hardest and least interesting subjects in school

The Journal

More and more students are getting exemptions.

<http://www.thejournal.ie/irish-language-school-2733847-Apr2016/>

BBC

Report that MPs have voted against an attempt to force the government to allow 3,000 unaccompanied child refugees into the UK from Europe. The Labour amendment to the Immigration Bill was rejected by 294 to 276. Ministers argued that offering sanctuary to lone children who have already reached Europe could mean more fall into the hands of traffickers.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-36134837>

Times/Exp

Reports that Prince Harry laid a wreath in a dawn service at the Wellington Arch in central London on Monday to mark Britain's commemoration of Anzac Day. Thousands attended the service at Hyde Park Corner in memory of

the dawn landings at Gallipoli by Australian and New Zealand troops in 1915. A service was also held at the Westminster Abbey and several hundred took part in a parade before wreaths were laid at the Cenotaph.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/dawn-salutes-for-the-100th-anniversary-of-anzac-day-zz2scmnxq>

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/royal/664274/Prince-Harry-attends-dawn-service-honour-Anzac-heroes-100>

Guard

Further report that Westminster city council has rejected an application to place a life-size bronze cast of Homeless Jesus, in front of Methodist Central Hall on the grounds it “would fail to maintain or improve (preserve or enhance) the character or appearance of the Westminster Abbey and Parliament Square conservation area”. The sculpture depicts a figure shrouded in a blanket and stretched out on a bench. The only clue to the person’s identity are his feet, poking out and bearing visible wounds of crucifixion.

<http://www.theguardian.com/society/2016/apr/25/westminster-council-turns-away-homeless-jesus-statue-parliament>

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