



Archbishop Diarmuid Martin launches '1916: The Church and the Rising' at the Capuchin Sacred Heart Hall in Dublin. See Faith Focus on CNI today

C of I Commission on Episcopal Ministry did not inform Dublin about transfer of parishes

In a Pastoral Letter to parishes in Dublin and Glendalough which was read yesterday, Archbishop Michael Jackson states, "When CEMS visited the Diocesan Councils in

December 2015 to consult about the proposals to be brought before General Synod in 2016, this proposal was not mentioned. Neither was it mentioned when members of the Commission consulted members of Dublin and Glendalough Diocesan Synods in October 2014. Neither has it formed any part of the Commission's reports made to General Synod on an annual basis."

The Archbishop had commented earlier in his Pastoral Letter, "The Commission was established four years ago by the General Synod to reform the dioceses of the Church of Ireland and their composition. Its aim has been to make dioceses more fit for mission by attempting to even up the number of parishes across the church in each diocese under one bishop. The Bill to be brought before General Synod 2016 for enactment as legislation includes the removal of six parishes from the United Dioceses, specifically from Glendalough Diocese, and their annexation to the Dioceses of Meath and Kildare. It requires the removal from Dublin and Glendalough of six out of the fifteen existing parish groupings of Glendalough Diocese in perpetuity: Athy with Kilberry, Kilkea and Fontstown; Narraghmore, Timolin, Castledermot and Kinneagh; Blessington with Kilbride,

Ballymore– Eustace and Hollywood; Celbridge with Straffan and Newcastle–Lyons; Donoughmore with Donard and Dunlavin; and Leixlip and Lucan. A total of twenty individual churches and parishes is affected by this decision.”

The Episcopal letter concluded.”I have called an extraordinary meeting of Diocesan Synods in Athy, by kind permission of the rector and Select Vestry, on Wednesday 20th April, beginning in St Michael’s Church with a celebration of Holy Communion at 7pm to enable discussion of the content of this forthcoming Bill. The meeting may continue as long as is required on that evening to facilitate a full and open discussion and debate around an issue that touches the heart of each and every one of us. I urge everyone who has been elected to serve to attend. I also urge parishioners right across the United Dioceses to consult in any appropriate way and to consider the issues that affect all of us as members of our diocesan family with your rectors, Members of Diocesan and General Synods and Members of Diocesan Councils so that your voice may be represented and heard at this extraordinary Synod.

“I feel duty bound to alert members of parishes to the inevitable financial consequences of the Bill if enacted for the whole of the United Dioceses. The financial arrangements internal to each of the twelve dioceses in the Church of Ireland are significantly different. The content of the Bill to come before General Synod 2016 (May 12–14) will increase the financial provision required from each constituent parish unit of the United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough.

“As your archbishop and bishop, I am fully committed to the flourishing of each constituent parish of the existing United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough. As things stand, in our 800th year of united and shared witness, we have a wonderful combination of rural and urban life that we share with one another and with others within the love of God. As we move forward together in mission and service, all of you remain in my prayers as together we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and seek to discern God’s way.”

Full text of Episcopal letter at -

<http://dublin.anglican.org/news/2016/04/Archbishop-Issues-Pastoral-Letter-on-Proposed-Diocesan-Boundary-Changes>

Details of the proposal of the Commission on Episcopal Ministry and Structures can be seen at:

<http://dublin.anglican.org/news/2016/03/Extraordinary-Synods-Meeting-Called-to-Discuss-Changes-to-Dublin-and-Glendalough-Diocesan-Boundaries>

Limerick's historic synod opens, first in Ireland in 50 years

The first Synod in the diocese of Limerick in 80 years and the first in Ireland in 50 years officially commenced yesterday evening with Mass at St John's Cathedral in Limerick city.

The Mass opened a week-long series of events, culminating with the official Synod, a gathering of 400 delegates from Friday to Sunday, 8-10 April.

At this gathering, over 100 proposals across six separate themes for the future direction of the Church in Limerick will be discussed and voted on.

On Monday, at Cathedral House beside St John's Cathedral, a papal blessing for the Synod will be handed over by the Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Charles Brown.

The Synod was convoked by Bishop Brendan Leahy of Limerick in December 2014 to look at ways of reinvigorating the Church and how it operates in the diocese so that it best meets the spiritual and pastoral needs of the people of Limerick in the years ahead, taking into account the good work and challenges of the past and challenges and opportunities of the future.

The past 16 months have involved a 'Listening Process' with over 5,000 people from across the diocese, out of which the six themes for the Synod gathering of over 400 delegates and priests next weekend were chosen.

The delegates – 70% of whom are lay people – are representative of the faithful across the diocese, with delegates drawn from all socio-economic backgrounds and ethnicities and including all ages, from older citizens to even primary school students.

Buncrana's Amazing Grace festival had a wide range of inspiring events

Now in its fourth year, the festival last weekend focussed on raising awareness of homelessness

with special guests including homelessness campaigner, Fr. Peter Mc Verry.

The community festival celebrates the anniversary of John Newton's arrival in Lough Swilly on 8 April 1748 at the most pivotal moment in his life. Transformed by God's "Amazing Grace", John Newton went on to become a clergyman and hymn writer and campaigned with William Wilberforce for an end to the Slave Trade.

With history, music, dance, art, exhibitions, family fun, modern-day faith stories, walks and talks, the festival (which is run entirely by volunteers) truly offered something for everyone.

This year's theme was "Home", taken from the line in the song "...and grace will lead me home".

The festival explored what "home" means to each one of us and highlighted the issue of homeless, raising much-needed funds for homeless charities - North West Simon Community, Focus Ireland and the Peter Mc Verry Trust as well as the Magoso School and Orphanage in Kenya.

“Here in Buncrana, we can be rightly proud of our vital connection to the story of John Newton and Amazing Grace,” explained festival organiser Ruth Garvey-Williams.

“Today the song ‘Amazing Grace’ is beloved by millions of people all over the world. We hope that the festival will continue to be a welcome addition to our community calendar as well as attracting visitors from around Ireland, Northern Ireland and overseas.”

For more information visit www.amazinggrace.ie

Music in Context, St Patrick's Lunchtime April lectures

Music in Context at St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, a new series of lunchtime lectures, takes place on Tuesdays in April at 1.10 pm in the Lady Chapel of the Cathedral.

Tuesday 5 April 2016 MEDIEVAL MUSIC AT ST PATRICK'S: THE DUBLIN TROPER – Frank Lawrence, University College Dublin

Tuesday 12 April 2016 POST-RESTORATION MUSIC AT ST PATRICK'S: THE ROSEINGRAVES

– Kerry Houston, DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama

Tuesday 19 April 2016 NINETEETH-CENTURY
MUSIC AT ST PATRICK'S: THE VICARS
CHORAL – Paul Arbuthnot, Westminster Abbey

Tuesday 26 April 2016 'LIKE A MADRIGAL
RISING IN THE SKY': DUBLIN'S CATHEDRAL
MUSICIANS IN THE LONG TWENTIETH
CENTURY – Harry White, University College
Dublin

Admission is free and all are welcome.
Supported by the Friends of St Patrick's
Cathedral Dublin.

Details online here: [http://
www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/media/file/Music
%20in%20context.pdf](http://www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/media/file/Music%20in%20context.pdf)

Paul Mullen organ recitalist C of I Cathedral, Armagh

Paul Mullen will give the eighth recital in this
year's organ series on Sunday 17 April 2016 at
4.15pm in St Patrick's Church of Ireland
Cathedral, Armagh.

At the age of twelve, Paul started to learn the pipe organ with Dr David Adams as part of the Archbishop of Dublin's Certificate in Church Music (ACCM), and has continued his studies with Dr Adams at the Royal Irish Academy of Music.

Paul has competed in the Dublin Feis Ceoil, winning the Fitzgerald Woodworth Cup for Senior Organ in 2010, the Stanford Prize in 2011 and the Fitzgerald trophy for Advanced Organ in 2012. While studying for his Leaving Certificate, he achieved a Licentiate Diploma in organ performance from Trinity College.

Currently a student in Actuarial and Financial Studies in University College Dublin, Paul is also an Ad Astra Performing Arts Scholar for the organ. He has attended workshops led by Roy Goodman and Therese Timoney, as part of the Ad Astra programme, and has participated with the other musicians in various projects and concerts.

Paul has given organ concerts in Tullamore, Portlaoise and Monkstown, County Dublin, and has participated in a range of master classes. Since 2009, he has been the organist of St Patrick's Church, Greystones in County Wicklow.

The concert programme in Armagh will include pieces by Baroque and Romantic composers from both France and Germany. Speaking of his choices for the programme, Paul says, “Liszt’s ‘Prelude and Fugue on BACH’ and Vierne’s ‘Carillon de Westminster’ are the two major works in the recital. Liszt takes advantage of German musical notation to spell J S Bach’s surname as the theme of his work. ‘Carillon de Westminster’ is a fantasia on the famous tune of the Westminster chimes.”

The Very Revd Gregory Dunstan, Dean of Armagh, says, “ Paul is a most promising young musician, combining a commitment to the highest standards of performance with service to the Church and a rigorous academic discipline. We look forward to welcoming him to the Cathedral, and to hearing a programme which will display the versatility of both the organist and the instrument.”

As is the format with recitals in the Cathedral, admission is free, with a retiring collection towards the further endowment of the Cathedral choir through the Archbishop’s Choir Fund.

Irish seminarians ordained as deacons served Pope Francis at Easter Vigil

On Easter Tuesday, in the beautiful Roman basilica dedicated to Saint Mark in the year 336AD, steps away from Piazza Venezia, in the heart of Rome, Bishop Donal McKeown ordained two students of the Pontifical Irish College, Rome, as deacons for service in the Diocese of Derry and in the Archdiocese of Dublin. The seminarians had served Pope Francis at the Easter Vigil in Saint Peter's Basilica over the weekend.

Reverend Malachy Gallagher (32) from Coleraine, Co Derry, and Reverend Bill O'Shaughnessy (28) from Castledermot, Co Kildare, were joined for the celebration by their fellow seminarians from the Pontifical Irish College as well as by a large group of family and friends who travelled from Ireland to this ordination ceremony.

In his homily during the Mass, Bishop McKeown encouraged the deacons, "not to be afraid to accompany their contemporaries on their

journeys. Have a divine patience and love for those to whom you will be sent to proclaim the Resurrection ... Learn how to speak of the hope that is in Jesus Christ.”

Bishop McKeown continued, “I encourage you to listen to what the Spirit is saying to the Churches – and especially to the churches of Dublin and Derry. The uncomfortable word of God that calls us to repent has to be heard by us before we can ask others to repent and be baptised. The temptation for Church in modern Ireland is to retreat behind ramparts of self-righteousness and fear. That is where many would like us to be, roaring from behind the walls but talking only to ourselves. The Irish Church is being renewed, not so much to fit in with contemporary culture, as to stand out from it.”

Following the uplifting ceremony, the Rector of the Pontifical Irish College, Monsignor Ciarán O’Carroll said, “It is with great joy that we celebrate the ordination to the diaconate of two of our seminarians. On behalf of everyone in the College I warmly congratulate Bill and Malachy on their ordination. I wish them every happiness and blessing as they commence their diaconal ministries of service and charity, of leadership in

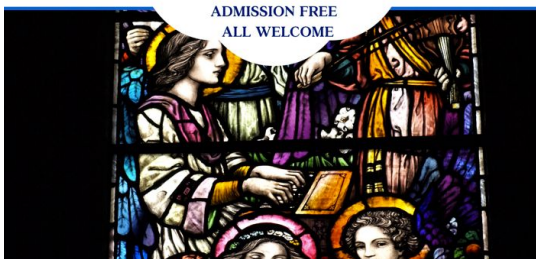
prayer and liturgy, and of witness and proclamation of the Gospel message, during this Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy.”



SAINT
PATRICK'S
CATHEDRAL
DUBLIN

MUSIC IN CONTEXT
TUESDAYS IN APRIL AT 13.10

- Tuesday 5 April: Medieval Music. Frank Lawrence, University College Dublin
- Tuesday 12 April: Post-Restoration Music. Kerry Houston, DIT Conservatory
- Tuesday 19 April: Nineteenth Century Music. Paul Arbuthnot, Westminster Abbey
- Tuesday 26 April: Dublin's Cathedral Musicians in the Long 20th Century
Harry White, University College Dublin



ADMISSION FREE
ALL WELCOME

New light on the foundation of Christ Church Cathedral

Dagmar Ó Riain Raedel (University College Cork) will deliver a lecture entitled 'New light on the foundation of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin' (a

churchnewsireland@gmail.com

Mícheál Ó Cléirigh Institute Seminar) on Friday 8 April at 4.00pm in Room K114, Newman Building, UCD Belfield Dublin 4.

Details are available here: <https://penitentials.wordpress.com/relevant-events/other-micheal-o-cleirigh-events/>



Young People from St. Louis House, Belfast, celebrated Good Friday with their traditional Stations of the Cross from Hillhead down to

St Michael the Archangel Church, Finaghy Road North.

The event was co-ordinated by Rachel Doherty, Head Girl, St Genevieve's, Jonathan McCarthy, Deputy Head Boy, La Salle, and Connor Crawford, St Louis House Leader - under the supervision of Sr Luca and Sr Anne and several other St Louis House Leaders.

Jesus was portrayed by Marco Lenzi, La Salle, and Katie Murphy played the part of Mary. Fr David Delargy PP St Michael's concluded the very moving Service.

Belfast Gospel Choir's Omagh concert

Belfast Gospel Choir states "We're looking forward to heading to Omagh for the first time as a choir this April!! Catch us at St. Columba's Parish on 16th April. For more info and tickets contact Ann on 07947 854577.

"Omagh and South Tyrone - are you ready to feel the joy? Let us know of any audience birthdays,



anniversaries or special occasions and we might just do a shout out for you!”

Presbyterian Retreat Centre at Lucan available for groups

The Lucan Retreat Centre is truly up and running. As a Presbyterian Retreat Centre under churchnewsireland@gmail.com

the Dublin and Munster Presbytery, the venue, located just west of Dublin city is offering a 10 per cent discount to Presbyterian groups throughout Ireland, looking to use it during the summer and autumn months. The venue is ideal for any church or youth group weekend away, a community retreat or as a comfortable relaxing base. The Lucan Centre sleeps 40 in comfortable en-suite rooms, and offers a fully equipped conferencing area seating 80. For more information visit lucancentre.ie.

Churches unite to support Welsh steel workers

Leaders from the churches and chapels in the Welsh town of Port Talbot have formed an ecumenical ministry team to support thousands of local workers who could lose their jobs following the announcement that the Indian steel company Tata, which owns the majority of the UK's steel works, is looking to divest from its operations in the country.

Tata made the announcement earlier this week, saying that the Tata Steel Board “has advised the Board of its European holding company – Tata Steel Europe – to explore all options for portfolio

restructuring including the potential divestment of Tata Steel UK, in whole or in parts. Given the severity of the funding requirement in the foreseeable future, the Tata Steel Europe Board will be advised to evaluate and implement the most feasible option in a time bound manner.”

As a result of the decision, some 15,000 people are at risk of losing their jobs – 4,000 of them at the Port Talbot plant which is Britain’s biggest steel works. The Port Talbot site is reported to be losing £1 million a day. If the sites do close, job losses could be considerably higher as jobs in the supply chain are also at risk.

“Local churches and chapels are supporting Tata workers through prayer and pastoral care and I am very pleased to have a ministry team on call to be with those workers feeling particularly stressed,” Tata’s chaplain, the Revd Rick Hayes, said. “All the workers feel at risk at the moment and there is a lot of confusion and anxiety.”

The Vicar of Port Talbot, the Revd Mark Williams, whose father was a project engineer at the steel works for 40 years, said his message to the steel workers was quite simply: “We’re walking alongside you.”

Mr Williams added: “It’s too early to know yet what the best way for us to respond is and what practical help we can offer. However, we have just celebrated Easter, a time when we are reminded that there is hope in our despair. And as Jesus walked alongside followers on the road to Emmaus, so we are walking alongside the steelworkers, listening, praying and supporting them and offering them fresh hope.”

He said that the atmosphere in the town was one of both resignation and frustration. “Everyone knows things are going to change, that the steelworks can’t stay as they are. There is frustration because we don’t know what’s going to happen next – and that’s very raw at the moment.”

A ministry team of 16 leaders from the town’s churches and chapels are working alongside Tata’s chaplain to support people struggling with stress. They are offering debt advice through a Christians Against Poverty counsellor and preparing foodbanks for anticipated extra demand.

The church leaders have also organised a special prayer service for the town, which will take place at the Ebenezer Chapel at 3 pm on 24 April 24.

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

PSNI chief constable wants 'more catholic officers'

BBC News

The Chief Constable of the PSNI, George Hamilton, says he wants the service to be 50% catholic to reflect NI society.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-35943944>

De La Salle College: School trustees appeal to west Belfast parishioners for calm

BBC News

The trustees of De La Salle College in west Belfast appeal for calm as efforts continue to resolve "a range of issues" at the school.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-35950162>

Unique 'street party' to mark World Autism Day

UTV News

<http://www.u.tv/News/2016/04/02/Unique-street-party-to-mark-World-Autism-Day-56736>

Irish Muslim leaders launch anti-extremism declaration

Irish Times

Both Shaykh Owaisi and Shaykh Dr Umar Al-Qadri, chairman of the **Irish** ... I believe that the sanctity of human life overrides the sanctity of **religious** ...
<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/irish-muslim-leaders-unveil-anti-extremism-declaration-1.2594312>

Financial Times

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, writes about the Easter Sunday bomb attack in Lahore, Pakistan, which killed more than 70 people and injured 300 others and the plight of Christians and other religious minorities around the world. In the article he says that it is vital that concrete action is taken to uphold the right to freedom of religion and belief. (See above)
<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/8a9594ac-f76a-11e5-96db-fc683b5e52db.html#axzz44ZYzYbaS>

Christian Today

Wide ranging interview with the Archbishop Justin conducted during his week of mission in Sittingbourne Deanery in Canterbury Diocese. The article tackles a number of areas including evangelism, the Brussels attacks and the Anglican Primates meeting earlier this year.
<http://www.christiantoday.com/article/evangelism.in.an.age.of.terror.homophobia.and.indifference.an.interview.with.archbishop.of.canterbury.justin.welby/83040.htm>

Times

Feature on how churches are responding to the refugee crisis by forming social enterprises to help people settle in Britain. The article cites the charity Upbeat Communities, started by Karina Martin in 2005, which has helped hundreds of displaced people in Derby and another faith-based social enterprise Hope into Action which encourages church communities to buy houses for refugees to live in.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/christians-sew-friendship-with-asylum-seekers-r9cq7ddq0>

Mail/Tel

Further reports on the decision that students reading theology at Oxford University will no longer have to complete a compulsory component on Christianity in their last two years. The Mail article quotes Andrea Minichiello Williams, of Christian Concern.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3519363/Oxford-theology-students-won-t-study-Christianity-degree-complaints-lack-diversity.html>
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/2016/04/01/oxford-theology-students-can-skip-christianity-lessons/>

BBC

Further report on the case of CofE vicar Stephen Crabtree, jailed on Thursday for three years by Lincoln Crown Court after he admitted sex offences against a teenage girl in the early 1990s.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-lincolnshire-35943474>

Christian Today

Report on findings from the Populus Hope not Hate survey showing that practising Christians are the most likely among faith communities in England to support the Eurosceptic 'Brexit' position. The survey shows that Muslims are the most pro-Europe of all the religious groups

<http://www.christiantoday.com/article/muslims.most.likely.to.be.pro.europe.while.christians.back.brexit/83140.htm>

Observer/BBC

Justice Lowell Goddard writes in the Observer (reported on BBC), addressing what she describes as some inaccuracies of recent commentators specifically around reports that the inquiry relates solely to those of public prominence.

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/apr/03/child-sex-abuse-inquiry-lowell-goddard>
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-35952862>

SMail

Peter Hitchens writes in his blog (scroll down) that the Archbishop of Canterbury has defended the Church of England's handling of a legal civil claim regarding sexual abuse against Rt Revd George Bell. A group including lawyers and a former police officer have published their own review of the circumstances around the case.

<http://hitchensblog.mailonsunday.co.uk/2016/04/privatisation-free-trade-shares-for-all-the-great-con-that-ruined-britain.html>

Observer letters (scroll down)

Comment on reaction from the National Secular Society to an article about the Bishop of St Albans' contribution to the EU debate and surprise from the letter writer that the bishop's comments were described by the Observer as an, 'intervention', 'The bishop is a British citizen, and has as much right as anyone else in this country to make a public declaration of his opinion'.

<http://www.theguardian.com/theobserver/2016/apr/03/letters-academies-schools>

And finally...

Reports that Peter Atkinson, Dean of Worcester, is to undertake a 1,000 km sponsored bike ride in Normandy in support of the cathedral's Friends who are raising funds to repair the Edgar Tower, built by King John in 1216.

<http://redditchstandard.co.uk/news/dean-worcester-cathedral-cycle-1000k-deans-challenge/>

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