



**Chaim Herzog - born in Belfast  
September 1918, sixth President of  
Israel.**

**Leading role  
of C of I  
Archbishop  
Jackson of  
Dublin in  
International  
Anglican–  
Jewish  
Commission**

The ninth meeting of the Anglican–Jewish Commission of the Chief Rabbinate of Israel and office of the Archbishop of Canterbury was hosted by the former, at the offices of the American Jewish Committee in Jerusalem between the 20th–22nd March

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2018/ 4– 6th of Nisan 5778.

The Commission's mandate is taken from the provisions of the joint declaration of the Archbishop and the Chief Rabbis made at Lambeth Palace on 6th Septemb

**The Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson, Co - Chairman of the Anglican– Jewish Commission of the Chief Rabbinate of Israel and office of the Archbishop of Canterbury**



er 2006 and confirmed at their subsequent meeting in Jerusalem. The meeting opened with the reading of a message from the Archbishop of Canterbury, expressing his support and encouragement for the important ongoing relationship that the Commission represents and his appreciation of the joint recommitment to the Commission made with the Chief Rabbis of Israel at their meeting in Jerusalem in May 2017.

At the opening session Rabbi David Rosen, the International Director of Inter Religious Affairs for the American Jewish Committee, welcomed the members of the Commission to Jerusalem and gave an overview of the work of the AJC globally

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and specifically in Jerusalem. The Most Revd Suheil Dawani, Archbishop of Jerusalem and the Middle East, also shared reflections and offered his support for this important work. The Most Revd Michael Jackson, Archbishop of Dublin, chaired the meeting.

### ***Biblical perspectives on immigration; a reimagining of the identity of migrants as citizens and pilgrims***

The theme of the Commission's meeting was 'minorities and refugees – immigration and integration' and responses were given by both traditions. Papers were presented by Dr Clare Amos, Dr Jane Clements, the Rt Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave and the Most Revd Michael Jackson on a Christian theology of hospitality; Biblical perspectives on immigration; a reimagining of the identity of migrants as citizens and pilgrims; and an exploration of the concept of Sanctuary in contemporary Ireland, respectively. [[You can read Archbishop Jackson's Paper, 'Immigration, Inclusion, Hospitality and Sanctuary – Where Might we Begin to Look for Jubilee in Contemporary Ireland?', here](#)]

Rabbi Dr Rasson Arousi's paper and subsequent contributions from the Jewish delegation explored God's compassion for humanity and the numerous scriptural injunctions to care for the resident alien. He also examined the distinctions between the requirements for the individual to respond to human need and the responsibility of the state to guarantee the cultural and economic integrity, security and stability of society. There was unanimity amongst members of the Commission that all responses to the challenges of immigration and integration must be predicated on the affirmation the sanctity of human life and freedom.

The programme included an opening meal at the Mamilla Hotel for members of the Commission, hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel. It was also attended by Ephraim Mirvis, the Chief Rabbi of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth as well as the Deputy British Ambassador to Israel, Mr Tony Kay OBE. The Commission discussed various matters of concern including a briefing and discussion about the situation of Christians in the

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middle east and in particularly in Israel, led by Mrs Sharon Regev of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Archbishop Suheil Dawani was represented at that particular meeting by the Very Revd Hosam Naoum, Dean of St George's Cathedral.

The participants looked forward to their next meeting in 2019 in London.

*The Most Revd Michael Jackson, Archbishop of Dublin*  
*Rabbi Dr Rasson Aroussi*

### **The following are members of the Commission:**

*Delegation of the Chief Rabbinate of Israel:* Rabbi Dr Rasson Arousi, Rabbi Dr David Rosen CBE, KSG, Rabbi Prof Abraham Steinberg, Rabbi Professor Daniel Sperber, Mr Oded Wiener, Director General, the Chief Rabbinate of Israel

*Delegation of the Archbishop of Canterbury:* The Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson, The Most Revd Suheil Dawani, The Rt Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave OBE, Dr Clare Amos, Dr Jane Clements, The Revd Canon Mark Poulson, Secretary for Inter Religious Affairs to the Archbishop of Canterbury, Katie Hodgkinson, Programmes Coordinator for Inter Religious Affairs at Lambeth Palace

## **Clerical collar is not now required in Presbyterian pulpits**

The traditional clerical collar appears to be going out of fashion in the Irish Presbyterian Church, with more and more clerics now conducting Sunday pulpit services simply wearing a suit and an ordinary collar and tie, the Belfast Newsletter reports

Even clerical robes are now rarely used at Sunday 'Meeting House' services across Ulster these days. However, in most church presbyteries, it is expected that a clerical collar should be worn by ministers at special services of ordination and installation, and,

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indeed, for funerals, and celebration of communion, and on Remembrance Day.

Because of the traditional pattern of worship in the Church of Ireland (Anglican tradition) and the Roman Catholic Church, the wearing of vestments is obligatory for clerics and priests conducting a service or a mass. An ordinary collar and tie and a lounge suit would be totally inappropriate in this setting.

Notwithstanding opinions on the carb worn by clergy in Non-Conformist denominations like the Presbyterian Church, the most important credential for any preacher is the spiritual message conveyed in a sermon and how it impacts on those in the pew.

There is also the wearing of the Geneva Gown, also called a pulpit gown, pulpit robe, or preaching robe. This is an ecclesiastical garment customarily worn by ordained ministers in Christian churches that arose out of the Protestant Reformation

## **Scratch choir in Ballyclare**

The United Parish of Christ Church and St John's Ballyclare, put together a 'Scratch Choir' for Easter Sunday morning.

This is a choir of people who have either never sung before or who don't think they are good enough for a choir.

The rector, the Rev Jonny Campbell-Smyth (aka TV's Gareth Malone!) gathered volunteers together for one hour on Holy Saturday and the Scratch Choir then performed 'O Happy Day' on Easter Sunday morning.

## **Belfast Cathedral Easter Egg Hunt an eggs-traordinary success**

Belfast Cathedral hosted 'The Biggest Indoor Easter Egg Hunt in Belfast' on Easter Tuesday, with more than 200 children coming to join in the fun!





**Dean Stephen Forde helps count eggs collected by some of the young participants in the Easter Egg Hunt in Belfast Cathedral.**

It may have been grey outside, but inside the Cathedral there was no shortage of colour, with children hunting brightly coloured eggs, trying their hands at a variety of arts and crafts, and taking on the challenge of the Belfast Cathedral Easter Trail.

Dean Stephen Forde was on hand to check all was in order with the full egg boxes that were returned and hand over chocolate treats, with a prize for every child.

The grown-ups seem to enjoy the fun as much as the under 12s, and when they needed a break they were invited to help themselves to complimentary tea and coffee.

Jill Hamilton, Children's Project Development Officer with the Diocese of Connor, brought along a range of Messy-Church style Easter craft activities. Among other things, children were able to make a biscuit tomb, paint their own crosses, decorate Easter Eggs and butterflies, pitch their skills at the ping-pong basketball.

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As the volunteers who helped out will testify, it was definitely messy but it was great fun!

The Easter Trail devised by Visitor Services Manager Helen Graham introduced visitors to some interesting facts about St Anne's Cathedral in a fun way.

Dean Forde said: "Our Easter Egg Hunt was a phenomenal success, and it was wonderful to see the smiles on the children's faces as they filled their egg boxes. Thanks to Jill and all our volunteers for helping make this such a great event, and thanks especially to all the families who came along. We hope to see you again soon."

## **Climate Change: Science, Justice and Theology – Free seminar for clergy and church leaders**

The Church and Society Commission (CASC) of the Church of Ireland is organising an information morning on climate change later this month. Clergy and church leaders of all denominations are invited to attend the seminar on Thursday April 26 from 10am to 1pm in the Science Gallery, Trinity College, Pearse Street, Dublin 2.

The morning will be hosted by the Archbishop of Dublin, the Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson and Archdeacon Andrew Orr, Chair of Eco-Congregation Ireland.

Topics covered in the seminar will be:

- The Science of Climate Change – Professor John Sweeney, Emeritus Professor of Geography, Maynooth University
- Joining the Dots on Climate Justice – Dr Lorna Gold, Trócaire
- Theology and Environmental Ethics in Changing Climate – Dr Cathriona Russell, Dungannon and Beresford Assistant Professor in Theology, Trinity College Dublin

The morning will conclude with a light lunch at 1pm. Attendance is free. Details of the timetable are below.

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Places are limited and will be allocated on a first-come/first-served basis.

To secure a place, please email [seminar@ireland.anglican.org](mailto:seminar@ireland.anglican.org) or contact Caoimhe Leppard in Church of Ireland House, Dublin, 01 4125608. Information on how to find the Science Gallery, Trinity College, can be found here [https://dublin.sciencegallery.com/find\\_us](https://dublin.sciencegallery.com/find_us).

Booking email: [seminar@ireland.anglican.org](mailto:seminar@ireland.anglican.org) / +353 (0)14125 608

## Archbishop of Canterbury honours hero Muslim imam

The Archbishop of Canterbury has honoured a Muslim imam, Mohammed Mahmoud, who intervened to prevent violence against a driver who ran down worshippers outside the Finsbury Park Mosque in January.

Mahmoud was one of the recipients yesterday afternoon of the Lambeth Awards honouring those who have made a particular contribution to prayer, evangelism and peacebuilding.



**Men prayed after the attack on the Finsbury Park mosque. Mohammed Mahmoud stepped in to prevent an attack on the driver of the van.**



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**Speaking at the ceremony, Justin Welby urged the importance of hope in the face of despair, saying: 'Throughout the world – and I by no means exclude this country – it is the poorest and weakest who suffer most from the selfishness and injustice visited upon them by the rich and the strong.'**

He said: 'It would be easy to despair. But I do not despair. My own faith in God and in our Saviour Jesus Christ teaches me that I must be always hopeful. I must never give in to hopelessness. And one of the things which lightens my darkness is the knowledge that there are good women and men, throughout the world, who have also refused to give into despair.'

He said the Lambeth awards represented the thanks of the Church of England and the Anglican Communion, but were also a public acknowledgment that the recipients were 'examples to be followed'. 'I want others to see what these people have done and understand that, in their different fields, they show forth values which are our values, Gospel values of love for humanity, reconciliation and selfless service; and, more widely, values common to all people of good will – values of common decency and a refusal to bow to false gods,' he said.

The 30 recipients included Christians from Africa, the Far East and the UK. Among them were Canon Dr Paula Gooder, who was recognised for her biblical scholarship and service to the Church of England, Canon Grace Kaiso, who received an award for his service to the Anglican Communion, including his leadership on conflict resolution and peacebuilding in Africa, and Rev Dr John Bell, recognised for his Christian witness through hymn-writing, broadcasting and social action.

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**Canon Grace Kaiso receives the Cross of St Augustine for services to the Anglican Communion from Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby**

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## **Services of commemoration held in Washington and Westminster on 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King assassination**

Wednesday 4 April marked the 50th anniversary of the assassination of American civil rights activist and Baptist minister Dr





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Martin Luther King. Across the US, marches, ceremonies, and services took place to commemorate Dr King and his work in the civil rights movement.

In Memphis, crowds gathered for a day-long tribute in the Lorraine Motel courtyard where Dr King was killed. It featured speeches, videos, singing, and an interfaith liturgy. In Atlanta, Dr King's youngest child, Bernice King, spoke at a service at the historic Ebenezer Baptist Church, where she stressed her father's work to "ensure the inclusion of all." She also told reporters that her father would have been involved with and excited by modern-day civil rights movements such as Black Lives Matter, March for Our Lives and other efforts to curb gun violence, and the #MeToo campaign against the abuse of women. At 6.05 pm Central Time (11.05 pm GMT), bells tolled across the nation in solemn memorial.

Thousands of marchers arrived in Washington DC in honour of Dr King and his work and for the A.C.T. to End Racism March on the National Mall. Many Jewish, Muslim, Christian, and secular leaders were present for the event. Presiding Bishop of the US-based Episcopal Church, Michael Curry, while originally listed to speak at [churchnewsireland@gmail.org](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.org)



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the event, instead provided a video message due to poor weather.

In his video, Bishop Michael encouraged

## **Westminster Abbey, London**

the marchers and fellow Americans to continue in Dr King's footsteps to eradicate racism. "On this day and the days going forward, we as Episcopalians join with our fellow Christians and other people of goodwill and of all faiths and

types who seek to make this world something that more closely resembles God's dream and not a human nightmare," he said.

The National Cathedral in Washington D.C. organised several events, including evensong, a broadcast of Dr King's final sermon, and a bell toll in solemn reflection. Sunday 8 April will feature a commemoration of Dr King's final Sunday sermon.

Westminster Abbey in London also held a service in honour of Dr King. The service began with the laying of wreaths at the Innocent Victims' Memorial and beneath Dr King's statue above the Abbey's

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Great West Door. In his bidding the Dean of Westminster, Dr John Hall, said “Today, working together with Christian Aid, we hope again to learn from the example of Martin Luther King and to commit ourselves afresh to keeping the dream alive of justice for all peoples under God and of peace in the world.”

## **Pope’s new apostolic exhortation on holiness will be published on Monday**

“Rejoice and Be Glad,” Pope Francis’s new apostolic exhortation on “the call to holiness in the modern world,” will be released on April 9, the Vatican has announced.

**The document, called “Gaudete et Exsultate” in Latin, will be presented at a Vatican news conference by Archbishop Angelo De Donatis, the papal vicar for the Diocese of Rome.**

Joining the archbishop will be Gianni Valente, an Italian journalist working for Fides, the news agency of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, and Paola Bignardi, an educator and past president of Italian Catholic Action.

The title of the apostolic exhortation is the phrase used in Matthew 5:12, the end of the Beatitudes, which reads: “Rejoice and be glad for your reward will be great in heaven.”

Pope Francis, 81, has published two previous apostolic exhortations, both of which offered reflections on meetings of the Synod of Bishops.

“Evangelii Gaudium” (“The Joy of the Gospel”), published in 2013, focused on proclaiming the Gospel in the modern world and included proposals from the 2012 synod on new evangelization.

“Amoris Laetitia,” (“The Joy of Love”), was released in 2016 and focused on ministry to and with families. It included proposals discussed during sessions of the Synod of Bishops in 2014 and 2015.

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