



Zambian government minister Dora Siliya and the Archbishop of Central Africa, Albert Chama, greet the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby at Lusaka's Kenneth Kaunda International Airport.

ACC16 - Anglican Consultative Council begins today in Lusaka

A delegation up of bishops, an official welcome from a government minister, a group of journalists, and an 80-strong choir of Mothers'

Union members greeted the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby when he arrived in Lusaka earlier this week for a meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council's (ACC) standing committee ahead of the start today of ACC-16.

The Archbishop of the Province of Central Africa, the Most Revd Albert Chama, was at the airport to greet Archbishop Welby as he stepped down from the aeroplane. Also there to greet him at the steps of the aircraft was the Bishop of Lusaka, the Rt Revd David Njovu; and the acting provincial secretary, the Bishop of Eastern Zambia, the Rt Revd William Mchombo.

Zambia's Energy and Water Development Minister, Dora Siliya, was also at the airport to greet Archbishop Welby on behalf of President Edgar Lungu and the government.

"I know that everybody has been looking forward to this day to come; and finally it has come because you have arrived," the Archbishop of the Province of Central Africa, Albert Chama, said at a welcome reception in front of the media in the airport's VIP arrivals lounge.

"So we say as [the Province of] Central Africa and for Lusaka which is hosting with the Zambian



Mothers' Union members prepare to welcome the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby to Lusaka.

Church together – we are saying you are welcome; and it is our hope and prayer that your deliberations during ACC . . . will bring such a joy and the building up of our church together.”

He said that the local church was grateful that the ACC accepted their invitation to meet in Lusaka, saying that the meeting was “going to be a historic occasion” because it was the first ACC meeting to be held in Central Africa.

Zambian government minister Dora Siliya was the next to welcome Archbishop Welby, and the

ACC, to Lusaka, saying that local Anglicans had been planning for the event “for quite a while now.”

She said: “All Anglicans – and, I think, all Christians in Zambia – look forward to your programme.” The Minister said that the theme for the ACC: “Intentional Discipleship in a World of Difference” was “very, very important and very timely, considering what the world is going through.” She added: “As a country, Zambia will continue to champion peace and co-existence.”

Archbishop Welby said that was “a great honour to be welcomed so hospitably, as is always the case in Zambia.”

He explained that this, the 16th meeting of the ACC, was a “very, very big event” because ACC meetings only happen every three years; and that it was “a very important event because [the ACC] is the only body within the Anglican Communion where not only bishops and clergy but also lay people are centrally involved with principle influence in setting direction and encouraging what we do.”

He said that the ACC was gathering in Zambia at a time and in a world “where our diversity leads

us so often to conflict. . . My prayer is that as we come to one of those countries in Africa which has been effective in its peaceful development under its leadership over the years – this is a country that has been peaceful and dealt with diversity peacefully and with respect – that the ACC can take that theme and live out the unity of the Church in Christ – disagreeing, doubtless, on many things; but centrally focused on the person and the love and the call of Jesus Christ to discipleship and obedience to him.”

Asked what his hopes for ACC-16 where, he joked: “It is my first ACC meeting, so I hope I understand what is going on – that would be a good start” He continued: “My hope is that we are deeply attentive, most of all, to the Spirit of God drawing us forward as to what our part in the work of the Church is globally; and in order to achieve that, that we are deeply attentive and loving to one another; those are my two key things: that the way in which act speaks of the Love and Grace of Jesus Christ.”

C of I couple to return to Zimbabwe

Keith and Lyn Scott were recently selected as CMSI Mission Partners and are hoping to return



o Zambia later this year. This will be their second stint serving in the Diocese of Northern Zambia, having previously spent six years in Kitwe with their children, Adam and Hannah.

The Scotts returned to Ireland in 2008. Since then, Keith and Lyn have been involved in parish ministry in the Diocese of Limerick, based in the Rathkeale Group of Parishes. Adam and Hanna have completed their schooling and are studying and working in England.

In Kitwe, Keith will be involved in teaching and training at St John's Anglican Seminary as well as some involvement in parish ministry. Lyn will be involved in teaching English (academic and theological) to the seminary students, as well as seeking to improve their study and preaching

skills. She's also keen to engage with the work of the Mothers' Union.

Please pray for Keith and Lyn in this time of preparation and transition. There will be a chance to meet them at the upcoming [Shine](#) event in Swords.

Moderator visits Cavan agri college

Attended by over 1,000 students, the College is one of the Republic of Ireland's leading providers of agriculture and forestry training. Set in 360 acres of grassland, it is part of Teagasc, the Agricultural and Food Development Authority, the national body that provides integrated research, advisory and training services to the agriculture and food industry and rural communities.

"I am aware that many farmers across the Republic of Ireland have been badly affected by a particularly wet winter and a very cold start to spring, which has adversely impacted livelihoods and is still causing problems. The widespread flooding that has caused so much disruption and damage to both land and property, reinforces the need for investment in flood defences and long-term planning," Very Rev Dr. Ian McNie,

Moderator of the Presbyterian Church said during a recent visit to the college.

“Many of the issues that we discussed are common to farming communities throughout the island. These included financial pressures, ‘succession’ in family run farms, educational and employment opportunities for young graduates from the College and farm safety.



“I also got a sense of the isolation often felt by farmers and the mental health issues that

sometimes arise as a result of the challenges they face. It was therefore good to get the perspective of the teaching staff, students, local farmers and rural community reps who I met.”

Welcoming the visit, college principal John Kelly said that the Moderator had come at an opportune time. “In many respects it seems like we have had an extended winter. Our own cattle are still inside on account of the wet cold spring and the flooding in December, both of which has severely affected our grass growth, so we are very reliant, for the time being on our stocks of silage and meal.

“We were able to tell Dr. McNie both how we are managing the situation on the college farm relating to the weather. We also had the opportunity to explain the compound effect more generally for rural communities and farm incomes, of the poor weather and poor prices for farm produce, due to oversupply in a time of reduced demand.

“While this is a difficult time, demand to study at the College is high with approximately 10% of students going on to farm full-time. The remainder move into the agri-food sector, or use

their experience here to better manage their holdings where they farm part-time.” Mr. Kelly said.

During his visit, Dr. McNie was accompanied by members of the Church’s Council for Church and Society and the Clerk of the Church’s Monaghan Presbytery. He also met dairy, beef and pig farmers from Counties Donegal, Monaghan and Cavan.

“Farmers and those who work on the land, have for many generations, been the backbone of Ireland. I met Northern Ireland farmers and representatives of the farming community back in September, and like then, this visit has been very useful, especially in a pastoral sense.” Dr. McNie said.

Life in the Spirit Seminars in Omagh

Life in the Spirit Seminars in Omagh will take place over a period of seven weeks in conjunction with 7.30pm Holy Mass in the Sacred Heart Church, Omagh, Co Tyrone beginning on Thursday 14th April 2016. The seminars are designed as an introduction to a

life lived in the power of the Holy Spirit. They provide an opportunity for people to find out more about that life, and to be helped in taking the first steps of a new relationship with the Lord. "Let him who is thirsty come; Let him who desires, Take the water of life without price" Rev. 22:17

Holy Mass at 7.30pm each Thursday in Sacred Heart Church.

Thursday 14th April God's Love Fr Frank Tobias

Thursday 21st April Salvation Fr Eamon Kelly

Thursday 28th April The New Life Bishop Donal McKeown

Thursday 5th May Receiving God's Gift To be Confirmed

Thursday 12th May Baptism in the Spirit Fr Columba Jordan

Thursday 19th May Growth Fr John Keane

Thursday 26th May Transformation To be Confirmed

Please pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on our people

Dean's Vicar appointed to Belfast Cathedral

The Revd Mark Niblock, Priest-in-Charge of Rathcoole Parish, Diocese of Connor, has been

appointed Dean's Vicar at St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast. He succeeds the Revd Canon Denise Acheson.

Mark, 38, is married to Cherry and father to two boys, Jason aged six, and Rowan aged two. A native of Bangor, he is a former student of Bangor Grammar School. He read Theology at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, and after graduation worked for James Brown and Sons Funeral Directors from 1999 to 2006.

Before he was ordained, Mark studied for a Master's degree in Christian Spirituality at Milltown Institute, Dublin. Mark was curate assistant in Agherton Parish, Portstewart, from his ordination in June 2008 until his move to St Comgall's, Rathcoole, in May 2012.

Looking forward to his new role in Belfast Cathedral, Mark said: 'I am excited about a new area of ministry that I have not had prior experience of and am looking forward to the team aspect of working in St Anne's. I think the change will be both stretching and rewarding.

'I have missed choral input over these last few years and look forward to reconnecting with that.'

Lay Dominicans Celebrating 800 Years 1216-2016

Lay Dominicans in Down & Connor are celebrating the 800th anniversary of the founding of the Dominican Order, the Order of Preachers, with a Jubilee Mass, with Bishop Noel Treanor presiding, on Sunday May 1st at 2.30 pm in the Chapel of Dominican College, 38 Fortwilliam Park, Antrim Road Belfast.

This will be followed by refreshments, talks and prayer.

This is an excellent opportunity to celebrate the great contribution of Dominicans in our Diocese and also to find out more about the Dominican Charism and about the apostolate of the Lay Dominicans in particular.

All are welcome, especially Dominican past pupils and friends.

Pope's exhortation today will focus on 'dialogue', says Vatican

Pope Francis's document on the family, to be published today, Friday, will be a call to dialogue,

according to a Vatican “reading guide” sent to bishops around the world.

The apostolic exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia*, follows two synods on the family. It is expected to discuss the question of whether divorced and remarried couples should be invited to take communion.

The reading guide, issued by the Vatican’s office for the Synod of Bishops, says that the exhortation will be “first and foremost a pastoral document”.

The document, which has been obtained by the *National Catholic Reporter* and Italian news sources, says: “To talk about the family and to families, the challenge is not to change doctrine but to inculturate the general principles in ways that they can be understood and practiced.”

In one of several references to “dialogue”, the document says: “The Pope’s vision of society is inclusive. Such inclusion involves the effort to accept diversity, to dialogue with those who think differently, to encourage the participation of those with different abilities.”

The document was sent to bishops along with summaries of the Pope's recent Wednesday audiences on the family, and of John Paul II's *Theology of the Body*, described as an "important source" for *Amoris Laetitia*.

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

BBC

Report on the sentencing of a vicar from Reading, Revd Peter Jarvis, who has been jailed for 15 months after he pleaded guilty to sexually abusing two teenage girls. The Bishop of Reading, Andrew Proud, apologised saying it was a matter of "sorrow and regret" for the Church.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-berkshire-35966853>

Guard/Sun/Mirror/Premier

Reports that the Archbishop of Wales has said the Government must save the steel industry after spending billions bailing out the banks. Speaking in his Presidential Address to the General Synod of the Church in Wales, Dr Barry Morgan warned lives and communities could be crushed if steel plants closed. "It raises the question of an industrial strategy for the UK, since steel is the foundation of the manufacturing base of this country and affects many other industries," he said.

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/apr/06/tata-tells-javid-it-will-wait-for-a-port-talbot-saviour>

<http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/politics/7055710/Steelworkers-issue-15bn-SOS-call-in-rival-bid-to-buy-Port-Talbot-plant.html?redirect=true>
<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/tata-steel-shut-down-would-7703289#ICID=nsm>
<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/You-saved-the-banks-you-must-save-steel-Archbishop-warns-government>

BBC/[Christian Today](#)/Pink News

Reports a pastoral letter issued by the [Bishops of the Church of Wales](#) which apologises "unreservedly" to gay couples for discrimination they may have faced within the Christian community. The statement opens, "the Church should be a place where gay and lesbian people can be honest and open, respected and affirmed".

Introducing the letter, the Archbishop of Wales says, "We are not ready, as a church, to take the step of authorising same-sex marriage, the debate is not over."

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-35976249>
<http://www.pinknews.co.uk/2016/04/06/archbishop-of-wales-says-church-is-not-ready-yet-for-same-sex-marriages/>

Guard

Review of one-off dramas (contrasting them with series) which includes reference to *Marvellous* (scroll down article) a TV biographical drama about Neil Baldwin, a Staffordshire man who overcame learning disabilities to become a significant figure in football, higher education, clowning and the CofE, played by actor Toby Jones.

<http://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/tvandradioblog/2016/apr/06/forget-the-series-tvs-one-night-stand-is-back>

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