



CNI



Valuable witness of Irish Methodist City missions

The valuable community engagement work of the Methodist City Missions across Ireland was recognised and celebrated at June's Methodist Church in Ireland's Annual Conference in Belfast, when attendees heard how the City Missions were supporting those most in need in the community and contributing to their local

economies through social enterprises and employability programmes.

There are five City Missions across the island of Ireland, and together they employ 454 staff with an annual turnover of over £11m. 670 volunteers give their time freely to help in the outreach work.

They run two hostels for the homeless with 73 beds and there are more than a dozen diverse programmes supporting the homeless.

To help older people, the City Missions operate four homes and two housing support schemes, while in community support there are over 14 programmes, including counselling and language support.

More than 20,000 meals are delivered annually to people in their own homes. And as well as seven projects engaged in employability, the City Missions deliver four projects focused on children – and eight more working to support young people.

In the area of social enterprise there are four main projects and a support hub, as well as a joint forum where workers from all the City Mission projects can come together to discuss

the way forward, new ways of working together and tips for sharing resources.

The resources and expertise of the City Missions are available to help other Methodist churches throughout Ireland as they engage with their local communities.

The Five City Missions are

- [Belfast Central Mission](#)
- [Newtownabbey Methodist Mission](#)
- [Dublin Central Mission](#)
- [North West Methodist Mission](#)
- [East Belfast Mission](#)

Killyleagh says farewell and thank you to Jerome and Mary Munyangaju

Killyleagh parishioners, local people and clergy gathered in the church of St John the Evangelist on Sunday 26 July to say farewell and thank you to Revd Canon Jerome Munyangaju and his wife Mary.

Jerome has ministered in Killyleagh for 15 years and he and Mary will shortly return home to Kigali, Rwanda. There they will progress the



work of their charity, *Bird of Paradise Ministries* (www.bopm.org.uk), which assists the neglected elderly in Rwanda.

The congregation included the Revd Hiram Higgins and members of the local 1st and 2nd Presbyterian Church congregations, as well as Fr. Eugene O'Neill and members of the local St Mary's Star of the Sea Church. The Very Revd

Henry Hull, Dean of Down, was also in attendance.

During his address, Jerome said that the occasion was not about him but the church. He reflected on his 20 years in Northern Ireland and more specifically his 15 years in Killyleagh. Referring to the twitter tagline of recent Open Golf winner Zach Johnson, “Practice Hard, Play Hard and Pray Hard”, Jerome spoke about how we can be apply these maxims to the demonstration of our faith, particularly in the service of the church.

Following the address, Stewart Poole, Rector’s Churchwarden, thanked all who had come or been involved in the service and finally, offered a “Murakoze” – “thank you” (in the Kinyarwanda language) to Jerome for his 15 years of ministry in Killyleagh.

Gifts were presented on behalf of the parish. Both the Revd Hiram Higgins and Fr. Eugene O’Neil then spoke briefly before making presentations on behalf of their congregations.

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Salisbury Cathedral harmony ruined by row over choristers' school



View of Salisbury Cathedral from the Bishop's Grounds, (oil on canvas) c.1822 by John Constable

Plan to move Salisbury Cathedral School from its home in the Bishop's Palace creates divisions between parents and the church hierarchy

Its views were immortalised by the painter John Constable and to this day it remains one of the most beautiful medieval buildings in Britain,



June Osborne, Dean of Salisbury

home to two of the country's finest choirs and the school which provides its young choristers.

But the harmonious atmosphere of Salisbury's Cathedral Close has been shattered by a bitter row over proposals by senior church figures to move the school from the very buildings which have long provided its home.

The cathedral's Dean, the Very Reverend June Osborne, has unveiled a master plan which involves opening up some of the grounds used by the Cathedral School to allow the public to see the cathedral from the same view captured by Constable in his 1821 masterpiece, 'Salisbury Cathedral from the Bishop's Grounds'.

The proposals also involve displaying a [copy of the Magna Carta](#) held by the Cathedral in the Bishop's Palace – a 13th century building sited on the south side of the Cathedral Close and currently home to Salisbury Cathedral School.

But that could see the school forced to move out to a new building nearby, angering parents and former pupils who fear the plan could threaten to weaken the ethos and long-standing traditions of the school, which has been sited in the Cathedral Close since 1319.

[More at -](#)

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11776259/Unholy-row-over-plans-to-move-Salisbury-Cathedral-School.html>

Scots minister's shed is focus of vocation video video

The first video to follow up the success of the Church of Scotlands 'Tomorrow's Calling' feature released in May stars Rev Tommy McNeil talking about his resurgent ministry in Stornoway. More than 55,000 people watched the original 'Tomorrow's Calling' video within the first 3 weeks of it going online, and plans are in



place for a series of follow up videos promoting the work of ministers across the country.

The new video features Tommy talking about his vision for ministry, and how it led to the transformation of a derelict shed behind his Martin's Memorial church into a thriving community hub. The change has mirrored the transformation in Tommy's congregation, which has been turned around to enjoy sustained growth through his ministry. In the 6 minute film, he explains how 'The Shed' was key to his ambition to move away from being a one day a week service church, to a seven day a week serving church.

Tomorrow's Calling is an initiative developed to promote the ministry of the Church to those who may feel called to enter minister training.

Tommy's congregation has proved remarkable in this regard, with 4 candidates drawn from Martin's memorial now in training for ministry of word and sacrament. He says "I think for folk out there, they need to realise how exciting, demanding and challenging ministry is. To be able to serve God, bringing something of His heart to the people of Scotland is, I think, one of the most blessed jobs you can do."

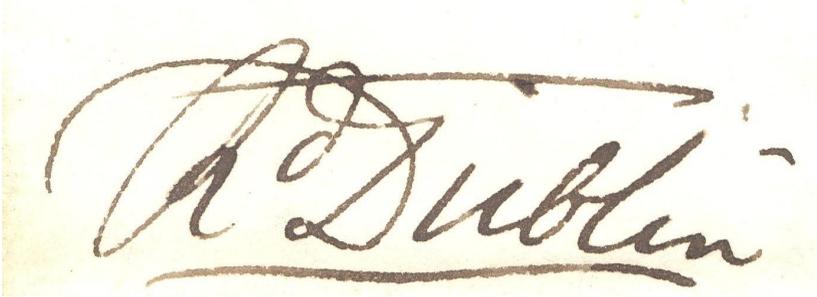
Rev Neil Glover, Convener of the Church's Ministries Council which developed 'Tomorrow's Calling' says it's important the momentum generated by the success of the campaign is not lost. "We have all been delighted by the positive response to the original video, and the feedback we received at the General Assembly. It's certainly brought the fact we need more ministers to people's attention, as well as the terrific satisfaction people can get from serving the Church in parish ministry. Tommy is a great example of what can be achieved, and he is not alone. We have plans for more videos and promotional activity highlighting our ministers work in the coming months ahead of the next vocations conference in Coatbridge in November."

The videos are designed to be viewed and shared on social media, and are a useful resource for anyone seeking more information about the work of the Church. It's hoped people across the church will share the videos as widely as possible within their own circles.

Neil says 'We know ministry is often considered to be one of the best jobs in the world, and the media attention 'Tomorrow's Calling' has received showed us there is great curiosity about the work of parish ministers in the wider population. The campaign is not just about recruitment, it's about reminding people what the Church does, and why it continues to be a vital part of modern Scottish society. In secular Scotland, people sometimes forget that, and we need to show them why we are here.'

Archive focus on the Most Revd Richard Whately, Archbishop of Dublin 1831–1863

Another recently-catalogued collection at the RCB Library comprises a selection of the papers of the Church of Ireland's most dynamic prelate of the 19th century – Richard Whately (1787–



1863) who served as archbishop of Dublin between 1831 and his death in 1863. Highlights from this collection, together with the complete catalogue list, feature as August's Archive of the Month, which were released today (Saturday August 1) at this link: www.ireland.anglican.org/library/archive

Previous presentations have revealed how materials created during of the careers of bishops and archbishops are relatively rare survivals for documenting Church of Ireland history . Two recent exceptions include the letters of Richard Mant, bishop of Down, Connor and Dromore 1823–1848 (available permanently here: <http://ireland.anglican.org/about/164>) and the papers of the Right Reverend William Shaw Kerr, bishop of Down and Dromore 1945–1955 (and available here <http://ireland.anglican.org/about/186>).

Now a third exception is represented by materials relating to the career of the Most Revd Richard Whately, archbishop of Dublin 1831–1863, which was transferred to the RCB Library in 1995 from St Patrick’s Cathedral, Dublin, where they was found among a tranche of unrelated materials concerning the business of the cathedral. The collection has been accessioned in the library as MS 707/.

Collections of Whately’s papers survive in Lambeth Palace Library, while many additional papers and letters were reproduced in the two-volume biography published shortly after his death by his daughter E. Jane Whately, *Life and Correspondence of Richard Whately, Late Archbishop of Dublin* (London, 1866). Both the manuscript and printed collections throw a great deal of light on Whately’s eventful and often controversial career, as well as the wide variety of subjects in which he was interested.

Additionally, the RCB Library collection consists of miscellaneous original drafts of outward correspondence and papers, much of it in the archbishop’s hand; as well as a run of original correspondence with two of his most trusted confidants and domestic chaplains – the Revd Dr Charles Dickinson (1792–1842) who served in that capacity from 1833 (when this collection

commences) and up until his appointment as bishop of Meath in December 1840; and secondly with Canon John West (who succeeded Dickinson in the role as archbishop's chaplain) from around 1840.

The papers are significant for three reasons. First, they relate to a very concentrated period of time during the archbishop's long and distinguished career both as a spiritual leader but also Liberal politician renowned for his innovative and often controversial ideas –many of which demonstrated that he was ahead of his time in his thinking. They centre on the years 1834–40, when he was most active in the House of Lords, with odd snippets before and after that period, and also a considerable number of undated items which we must assume fall roughly into the main period.

Second, of interest to historians and Whately's biographers will be the fact that the bulk of the material has not been published or known about before and thus is likely to generate new interest in his political and religious ideas, not just Irish in origin, but in general.

Finally, much of the correspondence is addressed to his successive chaplains, Dickinson and West, giving insight to the close

and trusted working relationship that existed between archbishop and confidants, demonstrating for example how on many occasions, simply because of the volume of political and spiritual work before him, he entrusted them to re-work drafts of papers; recommend candidates for offices; and even send out letters bearing his signature.

The online exhibition, which includes a selection of images from the collection as well as a 33-page catalogue list of its full contents, speculates about the how it may have ended up in St Patrick's cathedral, Dublin, amongst unrelated materials. The common denominator appears to be Canon John West (1805–1890) who served amongst many other roles as dean of that cathedral from 1864 to his retirement in 1889. As well as being his successor as chaplain to the archbishop, West was also son-in-law to Dr Charles Dickinson and thus in Dickinson's (and indeed Whately's) inner circle. Following Dickinson's unexpected death in 1842 (after just one year in the post as bishop of Meath) West edited the *Remains of Charles Dickinson, Lord Bishop of Meath with a Biographical Sketch* (London, 1845) as a tribute to Dickinson's work, giving particular attention to his support for Archbishop Whately. It seems likely that many of the papers found in St Patrick's were used by

West to reconstruct the story of their working relationship. Researchers should find much absorbing additional detail not published before.

Available online here:

www.ireland.anglican.org/library/archive

New York holds last mass services before dozens of Catholic church closures

Teary-eyed and angry Catholic parishioners across New York attended final mass services on Friday in some of dozens of churches closing or stopping regular worship services.

The closures follow an announcement by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York in November that it would consolidate 368 parishes into 294, reflecting a national trend of parish closures in the United States caused by low attendance, a shortage of priests and financial troubles.

Parishioners expressed sadness at the shuttering of churches like Our Lady of Peace, a red brick church with an ornate interior on

Manhattan's Upper East Side that is more than 100 years old.

"It's like a death in the family," said Manhattan resident Lola Skaro, a retiree in her late 70s, who became emotional when talking about the church she had visited everyday since her retirement.

Church spokeswoman and third-generation parishioner Janice Dooner Lynch said she was angry about the shutdown, which was under way during mass with workers beginning to change locks on Friday morning. "They couldn't even wait for our last mass to be over."

The closures in three New York boroughs and several counties in the state come ahead of Pope Francis' first tour of the United States, which will include a stop in New York City in September. A spokesperson with the Vatican was not immediately available for comment.

Challenges facing New York's Catholic parishes are experienced elsewhere in the nation, where churches have started increasingly closing since the early 2000s, said Mark Gray, a senior research associate at the Center for Applied Research on the Apostolate at Georgetown University.

"The church's population and the parishes are no longer closely aligned," he said.

The building for Our Lady of Peace will remain a church, but it will be used on special occasions only, Zwilling said.

The parish has filed an appeal to the Vatican opposing the closure, Dooner Lynch said.

As the last mass, about 250 parishioners packing the pews snapped pictures and patted the priest's back with affection.

"It was always home for me, this place," said Father Bartholomew Daly in his homily. "So I have to say to people that you will see my ghost," he said.

See also -

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/01/nyregion/catholic-church-closings-in-new-york-bring-sadness-and-anger.html?_r=0

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/irish-priest-s-fight-to-save-beloved-manhattan-church-1.2300057>

Media digest

Mail/Tel/Guard

Further articles discussing the Government response to Calais refugee crisis and comments made by Bishop of Dover, Trevor Willmot who accused senior political figures, including the Prime Minister, of forgetting their humanity and attacked elements of the media for propagating a "toxicity" designed to spread antipathy towards migrants.

They say Home Office Minister, **James Brokenshire** announced that the Government would withdraw the automatic entitlement to payments of £36.95 a week for immigrants with children, amid growing concern that migrants are risking their lives to reach the United Kingdom because they believe they will enjoy a better lifestyle in this country.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-3183372/PETER-MCKAY-great-Calais-crisis.html>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/conservative/11779195/Calais-crisis-Government-will-prove-to-migrants-UK-not-land-of-milk-and-honey.html>

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/aug/02/concerns-raised-plan-strip-failed-asylum-seeker-families-benefits>

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/aug/02/calais-haunt-america-eu-referendum-showreel>

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/reuters/article-3182876/Britain-France-urge-EU-wide-action-Calais-migrant-crisis.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490

Mail/Tel

Further reports on how the church of England has spoken out against a growing trend to get permission to take remains of deceased relatives when families move away from an area noting that permission has to be sought either from the Justice Secretary or Church of England in the case of exhumations from consecrated ground. A CofE spokesman is quoted saying that since there is a presumption that Christian burial was permanent and that remains should not be portable, a faculty (the licence to carry out work) for

exhumation would only exceptionally be granted.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3182914/Officials-receive-25-applications-WEEK-exhume-human-remains-Church-criticises-trend-taking-loved-ones-people-home.html>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11779209/Church-warns-against-treating-bereaved-relatives-as-portable-remains.html>

BBC

Report on a church service in Barnsley to remember seven-year-old Conley Thompson, who died on a building site last week. It says special prayers were held for Conley and his family during the morning service at St. Thomas and St. James Church in Worsbrough Dale. The Revd Trevor Keightley is quoted saying people were "still in shock" over the tragedy.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-south-yorkshire-33751517>

Guard

Article on how loss of faith can be like grief. Brandon G Withrow says he was surprised at how powerful the loss of God could feel, saying, "it seemed more like a family member had died. And like any death of a loved one, there is a grieving period." He writes that some people who are rejected by **family and community** as a result of exiting their faith often experience deep grief.

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/aug/02/give-up-faith-grieve-community-secular>

Ind

Article on comments from Vatican officials about possibility of life on other planets. Father José Gabriel Funes, is quoted saying, "The discovery of intelligent life does not mean there's another Jesus," and that if there was intelligent life on another planet he didn't see it as a contradiction with the Christian faith.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/the-vatican-on-space-the->

August 4

discovery-of-intelligent-life-wouldnt-mean-theres-an-alien-jesus-somewhere-in-the-universe-10433527.html