



MU worldwide president Lynne Tembey with members of the Mothers Union of Rwanda

Mothers' Union role in re-building Rwanda

Rwanda's capital city Kigali was festooned with blue and white decorations on 31 July as the Anglican Church of Rwanda [Province de

L'Eglise Anglicane au Rwanda] Mothers Union (MU) celebrated a 50th jubilee. Joyous singing and dancing poured forth from a ceremony at the Anglican Kibagabaga Parish. Archbishop Onesphore Rwaje, a member of the World Council of Churches (WCC) Central Committee, led the congregation in song. Rwaje is also the husband of MU-Rwanda president Josephine Rwaje.

The first lady of Rwanda, Jeannette Kagame, was the guest of honour. She acknowledged the role mothers have played in rebuilding Rwanda. She urged the men to value their wives, saying even the Bible shows that "he who finds a wife, finds a good thing, he obtains favour from the Lord." (Proverbs 18:19).

In nation building, she said, women and men are necessary and must work together. She drew smiles from the crowd when she likened a good family to a little heaven on earth, and said it is disheartening to see the rate of family breakdown because this affects the whole nation.

She implored church leaders to do what they can to ensure families are stable because frustrations at home lead to more instances of sex abuse, drug abuse and crime. She also encouraged

church leaders to guide parents on how to talk with their children especially about sexuality, and to do everything possible to encourage the children to stay in school. “We must work hard to train our children to embrace the real values of hard work, honesty and focus,” she said.

She promised that she was committed to work with all mothers in Rwanda.

Lynne Tembey, worldwide MU president, said that she felt truly privileged and honoured to be at the jubilee celebration, adding that, during her visit to MU-Rwanda, she has seen its work, achievements and hope for the future. She said that the MU was a wonderful movement of women serving God in different ways, both big and small.

She said that we must work to defeat the things that continue to bring women down, mainly sexual and gender-based violence, child abuse, rape and other forms of violence. Since taking office, she has visited South Sudan, Congo and now Rwanda and said she has been amazed by seeing the struggles of the African women and seeing how they work to overcome these struggles, especially how they support each other.

Her prayer, she said, is that the MU vision will be a lived reality. She encouraged the women of Rwanda with the words of Jeremiah: “For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans to give you a hope and a future.” (Jeremiah 29:11)

Knock Novena 2016 on the theme ‘Merciful Like The Father’

The annual novena will take place from 14 to 22 August at Our Lady’s Shrine, Knock on the theme ‘Merciful Like The Father’, echoing the theme of the Jubilee Year of Mercy, which is taking place in the universal Church until 20 November 2016.

Daily ceremonies will be held in the Basilica at 3.00pm and 8.30pm and workshops will take place at 12noon and 6.00pm.

The 2016 novena will begin at the National Marian Shrine on Sunday 14 August with Bishop Michael Smith, Bishop of Meath, who will preach on the theme ‘Merciful like the Father’.

On Saturday 20 August Bishop Philip Boyce, Bishop of Raphoe, will preach on ‘The name of God is mercy’. On Sunday 21 August Bishop



Kevin Doran, Bishop of Elphin, will preach on 'The Joy of the Gospel – no easy recipe' and on the same day Father Richard Gibbons, Rector of Knock Shrine will preach on 'Knock, an engagement with mercy'.

Workshops at the novena will focus on 'Mercy and Healing for People with Addictions', 'Forgiveness', 'Feed the hungry, shelter the homeless – challenge for today', 'God's love in family life – finding God in the messiness'. and other themes of mercy. Workshop presenters include Father Richard Leonard SJ, Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference; Ms Breda O'Brien, Teacher and Columnist; Rev Ruth Patterson, Director of Restoration Ministries; Father John Harris OP, Dominican; and Mr Gerard Smyth of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society.

For details of all the speakers and workshops please see www.knockshrine.ie and click [here](#) to watch a short promotional video for this year's Novena.

Freedoms to Share - Methodist Prayer Handbook 2016/2017

Each new edition of the Methodist Prayer Handbook connects Christians from different times, places and walks of life. Classic prayers are interwoven with new contributions from Methodists across the districts and around the world. Arranged as a 31-day prayer cycle, the Handbook also includes a daily lectionary with a suggested hymn (from Singing the Faith) to accompany and guide you through the year.

Eminently suitable for individuals as well as groups, churches are free to use the prayers in public worship and reproduce up to ten in newsletters during the year, providing acknowledgement is given.

Freedoms to Share - looks at how we find freedom in Christ and share the freedoms he gives us with others, by listening, learning and responding. We remember not only those fragile lives crying out for shelter from persecution, fear



and suffering, but also those ensnared by materialism, selfishness and sin.

The title comes from the hymn *God of the Poor (Beauty for Brokenness)* by Graham Kendrick, Singing the Faith, 693.

If you are ordering ten or more copies, the Prayer Handbook standard edition is available for £3.50 per copy:

<https://www.methodistpublishing.org.uk/books/9781858524122/methodist-prayer-handbook-20162017>

Calcutta prepares to celebrate canonisation of Mother Teresa

Although the canonisation of Mother Teresa will take place at the Vatican on September 4, preparations are already well underway for celebrations in Calcutta.

Scholars, priests, students and artists are continuously holding seminars, exhibitions and prayer meetings every day across the city to promote “Mother Teresa’s philosophy towards humanity” and a group of young independent photographers are taking part in the crowdsourced Sainthood Project. Photographs taken throughout the city will be displayed in several locations in Rome in early September, to coincide with the canonisation of Mother Teresa.

The photographers are volunteers, trying to highlight aspects of the young Mother Teresa, who founded the Missionaries of Charity to serve the “poorest of the poor” in India. The young people are funding their own travel to Rome to participate in the ceremony and exhibit the photographs in open-air galleries.

“This is our tribute to Mother,” said Srijita Deb Burman, 25, a business professional. “These images will depict the inspiration that must have attracted Mother to this city.”

Meanwhile, artist artist Sunita Kumar, a Sikh who volunteers for the Missionaries of Charity, said she has “made several new paintings depicting (Mother Teresa’s) ideology that will be exhibited at the arts exhibition at St Xavier’s School in Calcutta until her canonisation.”

Park Street, a popular meeting place for young people in Calcutta, has already been renamed Mother Teresa Sarani and special festivities will continue in that area until Christmas.

At Mother Teresa’s home, the headquarters of the Missionaries of Charity, the doors are open for all, and followers and admirers come every day, visiting and praying in her tomb. Many say they have been doing so for a long time and vouch that their prayers have been heard. Some people drop in to be counseled by the sisters, asking for solace; others come looking for medicine or other daily items.

“Mother Teresa has always been the icon for the confluence of faiths, and that’s why I have such devotion for her saintly powers,” said Aarti Kumari, a Hindu and a regular visitor who comes for counseling from the nuns on family issues.

Mother Teresa’s home is already a place of worship, where novices and ordinary people can be seen carrying their books to the tomb seeking blessings.

Cathedral and choral news

+++ Both Westminster Cathedral and Westminster Abbey are to be floodlit in red in November this year to highlight the plight of persecuted Christians in the Middle East.

In an [article](#) for the Catholic Truth Society online, Lord Alton of Liverpool announced: “In November, ACN (Aid to the Church in Need) is arranging for Westminster Cathedral and Westminster Abbey to be floodlit in red to commemorate the persecuted. If every parish in the country did the same it might at last wake up our political classes to the scale of the suffering.”



Westminster Cathedral will be floodlit in red

Lord Alton wrote: “In more than 100 countries Christians are persecuted...In Parliament I hosted a meeting of the charity, Aid to the Church In Need (ACN). We heard of how a Christian pastor in a village of Aleppo was told to convert or die. He was forced to watch as his 12-year-old son was tortured: the boy’s fingers cut from his hand. Neither the father or son renounced their faith, and both were executed.

“Despite Resolutions being passed in the House of Commons, the American Congress, the European Parliament and the Australian House of Representatives, the British Government still fails to name these events for the genocide that

they are – or to lay a Resolution before the Security Council.”

He urged readers to take action in order to raise awareness about the scale of persecution.

He wrote: “It’s high time we stood with those who are suffering or dying for their beliefs – with the Christians of the Middle East; with the Iranian, Saeed Abedini, who was imprisoned for 10 years for ‘undermining national security’ by hosting Christian gatherings in his home; with Chinese Catholics like the late Bishop Cosmas Shi Enxiang, who died last year at 94 years of age, having spent half his life in prison; with the Chinese Christians who, since the beginning of 2016, have seen 49 of their churches defaced or destroyed, crosses removed and a pastor’s wife crushed to death in the rubble as she pleaded with the authorities to desist; with the Christians targeted by groups like ISIS, the Taliban, Al Shabab, and Boko Haram.”

In a 2013 report by ACN, entitled ‘Persecuted and Forgotten’ the charity investigated 30 countries where Christianity is under threat and concluded that in some areas it risked being wiped out altogether.

In 20 of the 30 countries assessed, the situation for the faithful has worsened since 2011. In others where the problems were already extreme, there has been little or no change.

+++ Charles Woods Summer School Singers' Concert - Paul Farrington's lessons and vocal workshops will culminate with a concert on Saturday 27th August at 12noon in First Armagh Presbyterian Church. It's a wonderful opportunity to hear some of the singers who have worked with Paul during the week.

+++ Philip Orr of the Road to the Somme - The first of St Anne's Cathedral's annual Autumn Talks for 2016 takes place on Wednesday September 7 when Philip Orr speaks on The Somme. A former teacher, Philip is an author and playwright and consultant to various museums. His best known work is his 1987 book The Road to the Somme.' Talks begin at 12.45pm and last 45 minutes.

News briefs

+++ Major works at Lambeg church - Major works to stop damp invading the baptistery in the

historic tower of Lambeg Parish Church are nearing completion. For many years the Lisburn church, which dates to 1737, has suffered from ingress of moisture in the baptistery and numerous attempts to correct this have failed. The baptistery is housed in the church tower which is the oldest part of the present building, having been completed some 279 years ago.

Last year, the Select Vestry made a successful application to the Government-sponsored *Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund* and was awarded £20,000 towards a major project to repair the ineffective rainwater disposal system in the tower. The Select Vestry and parishioners of Lambeg Parish Church are most grateful for this government assistance. Having received professional advice on the project from Chris McCollum, Building Conservation Surveyor, Dungannon, and following a tender process, the contract was awarded to J S Dunlop Ltd of Ballymoney.

The work, which commenced in April this year, consisted of raking out all of the old pointing in the tower walls, pumping in grout to seal off the voids and fissures in the centre of the old walls, and then re-pointing the surface again. Special

mixtures of grout were used and in all it took some 91 bags to seal off all of the internal voids discovered in the ancient structure. The ledges on the tower were also sealed to give protection from the elements and a new storm glaze cover erected to protect the stained glass window.

+++ Woman bishop for New York - The Very Rev. Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe was elected Aug. 6, to be the 11th bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Central New York. She currently serves as the rector of St. Peter's in the Woods Church in Fairfax Station, Virginia.

+++ Youth Evangelism Officer appointed - Jimmy Dale has been appointed as the Church of England's first national Youth Evangelism Officer in response to the Archbishop of Canterbury's focus on evangelism. Jimmy will take up the role in October. He will hold a national remit to develop and disseminate models of evangelism among 11 - 18 year olds. This new role aims to promote the mission of the church to and by 11-18 year olds. In collaboration with Dioceses, Jimmy will develop, pilot and evaluate effective models of youth evangelism that enable young people to reach their peers with the Gospel. Working alongside bishops,

clergy, youth advisers and youth workers, he will then ensure that parish leaders have ready access to those models.

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

New counselling services to be offered to grieving families for child bereavement

Irish Examiner

<http://www.irisht Examiner.com/breakingnews/ireland/here-are-the-new-counselling-services-to-be-offered-to-grieving-families-for-child-bereavement-749140.html>

Attacker of Catholic judges to remain at top of AOH

News Letter

A republican who branded Catholic judges and prosecutors in Northern Ireland “traitors” who would be dealt with as “collaborators” looks likely to remain an office holder in a leading Catholic organisation.

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/gerry-mcgeough-keeps-hipernians-post-after-branding-catholic-judiciary-traitors-1-7519464>

Bishop Edward Daly: to some in Foyle Hospice he was Your Grace, to others he was Eddie

Irish News

<http://www.irishnews.com/news/northernirelandnews/2016/08/08/news/bishop-edward-daly-to-some-in-foyle-hospice-he-was-your-grace-to-others-he-was-eddie-for-my-family-he-was-the-centre-of-o-642777/>

Chaplain at the Rio Olympics

Jules Wilkinson - an Oxford diocese parishioner - speaks from the Rio Olympic Village about the atmosphere there and her role as a protestant chaplain. <http://bit.ly/2aYXU2J>

Christian Today

Reports that the C of E is to ban protests at the consecration of female bishops after a campaign mounted by Women and the Church (WATCH). The organisation wrote to the Archbishop of Canterbury following protests that disrupted the last four consecrations of women bishops. WATCH have now reported that: "The Archbishop of Canterbury has informed us that conversations are in progress with the relevant people so that, in future, objections such as that at Canterbury Cathedral in June will not be allowed."

Premier

Report that parents in Kent unsure how they will afford new school uniforms for their children this September are set to benefit from a new church-backed scheme.

Trousers, t-shirts, jumpers and skirts donated to *the Community Wardrobe* in Sittingbourne this summer are being cleaned, repaired and ironed before they're re-distributed later this month. The Revd Lesley Jones, assistant curate at All Saints Church - one of four congregations supporting the project - said on a [C of E](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.com) churchnewsireland@gmail.com

[podcast](#), "So many of our families are struggling financially on a daily basis.

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Kent-churches-help-fix-school-uniforms-for-poor-children>

Premier/Mail

Reports that tourists at the tallest cathedral spire in England can now take a more detailed look than ever before after Robert Stiby, one of the cathedral's volunteers, donated £5,000 for new lights. Thanks to new LED lighting, visitors to Salisbury Cathedral in Wiltshire will no longer have to navigate the 332 narrow steps in partial darkness. The Sub-Dean Canon Edward Prober is quoted.

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Volunteer-gives-5k-for-cathedral-upgrade>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3731270/And-light-light-good-Volunteer-cathedral-guide-donates-5-000-install-LEDs-inside-180ft-spire.html>

Blogs

C of E Communications: Holidays to recharge the soul - how rural churches can help smooth the rugged heart

<http://cofecomms.tumblr.com/post/148692371457/holidays-to-recharge-the-soul-how-rural-churches>

Jewish News: Lord Bourne, UK Minister for Faith & Integration - 'My faith tour day'

<http://blogs.timesofisrael.com/my-faith-tour-day/>

The Centre for Theology & Community: Summer internship stories

<http://www.theology-centre.org.uk/summer-internship-stories-finding-my-place-in-peckham/>

Archbishop Cranmer: There's nothing British about banning the burqa

<http://archbishopcranmer.com/theres-nothing-british-about-banning-the-burqa/>

Law and Religion UK: Objectors to female bishops update

<http://www.lawandreligionuk.com/2016/08/09/objectors-to-female-bishops-update/>

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